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Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

February 8, 2008

Ten candidates on SLLA ballot

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

It's now ten candidates vying for one of four seats in the upcoming Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board Elections, which will be finalized at the Annual Meeting on March 16.

Southsider Sally Kindsvatter added her name to the ballot by presenting a petition signed by 181 residents during the January 30 SLLA General Meeting. She becomes the lone woman running for the Board this year.

Douglass reported that her reconstituted nominating com-

mittee had contacted each of the other nine candidates to make sure they wanted to stand for election, and had determined that each met the qualifications laid out in the Bylaws.

Douglass said she had received calls or emails suggesting that five of six of the candidates should be excluded for one reason or another, but all met the requirements laid out in the Bylaws.

A four-seat race

During the same meeting, the Board in effect increased the number of seats to be filled in the

(See "SLLA Election," p. 16)

Board votes to censure Hudson

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors voted three-to-two during the January 30 General Meeting to censure Treasurer Steve Hudson for attempting to unilaterally set Board policy with regard to the use of attorneys.

Thwarted in his attempt to bring up the matter of mounting attorney fees in a January 7 Special Meeting, Hudson contacted the Association's two primary attorneys, Hunter Stovall and Henry Jones, and informed

them that any further consultations would have to be approved in advance by the Board. Hudson announced his move in an article in the January 11 *Seven Lakes Times*, touching off a lengthy rebuttal from President Truesdell during the January 14 Board Work Session.

Director Douglass made the motion to censure Hudson after offering him an opportunity to admit that he had acted in error and apologize. Hudson said he did not believe he had exceeded his authority as Treasurer

(See "Censure," p. 23)

Military Week at WEE



Staff Sgt. Jerry Dalton, a member of Army Co. 105 Engineering Battalion from Raeford, visited with children of the West End Elementary After-School Program during their recent military week activities. Sgt. Dalton also collected and will send overseas letters written by the students to deployed soldiers.

Sales tax vote set for May

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

When Moore County offered voters the chance to approve a new Land Transfer Tax at the ballot box last November, the response was overwhelming — an overwhelming "no thank you."

Yet the same voters overwhelming approved nearly \$70 million in bonds to fund capital projects for Moore County Schools and Sandhills Com-

munity College. The Board of Commissioners had hoped that voters might see the transfer tax as a way to pay for the school bonds — an alternative to raising ad valorem property taxes.

During their Monday, February 4 meeting, the Commissioners voted unanimously to offer taxpayers yet another option — an extra quarter-cent sales tax. Voters participating in the May Primary Election will be asked to

approve the additional levy, which would raise the sales tax rate in the county to an even seven percent.

"We need to do whatever we can to give citizens options — and communicate to them what those options are," Commissioner Larry Caddell said before voting for the motion.

"We have an issue about how we are going to fund the bond issue," Commissioner Tim Lea

(See "Sales tax," p. 37)

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West End Presbyterian offers Lenten Series

Four prominent ministers and one layperson will be the featured speakers at the Adult Academy's Lenten Series entitled "Teach Us to Pray." This four session series begins on Thurs-

day, February 21. This Lenten event will be held in the Crawford Center at West End Presbyterian Church from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm on four consecutive Thursdays.

The Adult Academy is open to all members of the Moore County community, and is sponsored by the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines and West End Presbyterian Church. There is no charge for this program and registra-

tion is not required.

On February 21, Bob Urie, a retired Presbyterian minister with a specialty in counseling, will lead a session on "An Acrostic of Prayer."

The February 28 session will be led by Dudley Crawford and Paul James. Dr. James is a lay speaker who leads groups in religious studies. Rev. Crawford retired in 2005 after twenty-three years as pastor of the

West End Presbyterian Church and is well known in the area. James and Crawford will lead a session on "True Confessions and Other Prayers."

"Will you Pray for Me? - Intercession and Supplication," which is scheduled for March 6 will be led by Don Welch, pastor at The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, and McDonald's Chapel. Rev. Welch is known in the community for his singing as well as

his preaching.

Larry Lyon, minister of the West End Presbyterian Church will conclude the series on March 13. His topic is "Prayer that Keeps on Giving." Dr. Lyon came to West End in 2006 from Blowing Rock following a ministry of more than eight years at Rumble Memorial Presbyterian.

Please join the Adult Academy for this Lenten Series.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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 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.

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast March 1

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club will be holding their 25th Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 1, 7:00 am to 11:00 am. The cost of the breakfast is \$6 per person (children 6 and under eat free).

Come join in the best event in Seven Lakes for a great meal and support the Club with their annual fundraiser. Tickets for the breakfast are available from any Kiwanian and at the door.

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Pray the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude help of hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day for 8 days and then publish. Your prayers will be answered, It has not been known to fail.

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Civic Group Annual Meeting moved to Tuesday, Feb. 19

Dave Kinney, President Seven Lakes Civic Group

The Annual Meeting of the Seven Lakes Civic Group has been rescheduled to Tuesday, February 19 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.


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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**



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RENOVATED GEM - New listing in SL North, located near Sequoia Beach area. Super condition with master BR on the main level and 2 BR above. Fireplace in great rm, separate family rm, workshop, huge bonus rm . . . **\$229,500**



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**



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**



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113 Winsford Circle -
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117 Primrose Circle -
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#3389 - Lake Auman - \$299,000

GOLF FRONT

#2147R - 1 Acre on 4th Hole - \$29,500
#2188 - SOLD! - \$35,000
#2396 - 4th Hole - \$35,000
#6146 - View 3 Holes at BRCC - \$59,500

COMMERCIAL LOTS

#114 - \$8,000

INTERIOR

#1012 - Large Lot with Good Perc - \$25,000
#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

INTERIOR (CONT.)

#2495 - Private - \$20,000
#2514 - Good Perc - \$24,900
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Move to unseat Truesdell runs aground

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Though it was proceeded by some procedural wrangling during the January 30 General Meeting, the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors ultimately defeated in a simple up or down vote a Bylaws amendment offered by Treasurer Steve Hudson that would have made it easier to remove a sitting director.

Hudson has been trying for weeks to place a recall of President Don Truesdell on the ballot for the March election. So far he has been unsuccessful in the attempt.

During the January 16 Board Work Session, Hudson offered a revision of Bylaw 6.4 that would have spelled out how a recall election is called, and changed the number of votes needed to actually effect a recall.

Hudson's proposal would have

allowed any two directors — or ten percent of resident property owners, by petition — to place the name of a sitting director on the Annual Meeting ballot or call

Seven Lakes Landowners Association Meeting

1/30

a Special Meeting on the proposed recall.

The current wording Bylaw 6.4 provides that a Director may be replaced by a vote of a majority of resident landowners, which would require that nearly 600 members vote for removal. SLLA Annual Meeting elections seldom — if ever — attract 600 voters in total, so the existing language makes the removal of a director highly unlikely.

Hudson's proposal would have lowered the bar, requiring only

that the majority of those voting in the recall election vote for removal, as long as at least ten percent of eligible landowners participated. Technically, that would allow a special meeting of approximately 120 to consider removal of a Director and a majority of 61 to effect the

removal. In practical terms, such a meeting would likely attract more interest.

Though Hudson proposed the change in the January 16 Work Session, expecting to have it voted on during the January 30 General Session, Hudson's original motion was not seconded before Truesdell made a motion to table the matter until after the upcoming elections. Truesdell's motion was seconded, so it appeared alone on the agenda for the January 30 meeting. Hud-

son pointed out that, if his motion had no second, it died without any need to table it. So the Board moved on.

Then, late in the meeting, Hudson moved approval of the change again, and this time won a second from Secretary Michael Florence. Truesdell once again moved to table the matter until after the election, but his motion was defeated by Florence, Hudson, Donna Stephan, and Randy Zielsdorf.

When it came time to vote for Hudson's proposal Zielsdorf said

he felt the amendment was "a bad one because it sets up a circular firing squad for the directors."

"I agree with Randy," Laura Douglass said. "You might as well just put a conveyor board up here if this passes." Donna Stephan said she too thought the bar for removal was set too low.

When the roll call vote was taken, only Hudson and Florence voted in favor of Hudson's amendment.

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Get your Valentine a song!

If you are looking for the ultimate in romantic gifts for your loved one this Valentines Day — look no further. The Golf Capital Chorus is making quartets of the chorus available as Singing Valentines for lovers throughout the Sandhills!

Quartets will come to homes, places of business, churches, hospitals, senior citizen residences, and restaurants [or anywhere you want them to appear!] and sing two romantic love songs and present the recipient with a rose, a note from you, and a

box of chocolates for Valentine's Day. The quartet will also supply Kleenex for the tears!

The quartets will be conducting the Singing Valentines program on February 13 and 14 this year. To schedule a quartet for your loved one, simply call Dick Curl at 215-9796 or e-mail him at dickcurl@nc.rr.com.

The cost is only \$40. All money raised by the Golf Capital Chorus goes to local Sandhills charities.

This year the Chorus will continue the program begun last

year of delivering a free Singing Valentine to wives [sweethearts, mothers, too] of deployed servicemen. The Valentines are provided by donors/sponsors in partnership with the Chorus.

If you know of eligible ladies or interested sponsors, including yourself, call or e-mail Dick Curl.

We will provide as many Valentines as possible with our limited number of quartets. We will sing on post, Bragg or Pope, and within a mile or two off-post.

Thank You!



To everyone in the Seven Lakes communities —

On our third year anniversary in our office, we want to thank you for your support, loyalty, referrals and friendships. We feel really blessed to have relocated in such a wonderful area abounding with Southern hospitality and good people. We also love being close to our sons and families as well as the great weather and the golfing opportunities.

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Jackson retires as Captain after 25 years

After twenty-five years of dedicated service to the community of Seven Lakes and the surrounding area, T. Ray Jackson has decided to step down as captain of Seven Lakes Emer-

gency Services, Inc. Jackson will continue to respond to medical calls as a regular member of the team. He has been a member for twenty-five years and was instrumental in organizing Seven Lakes EMS in 1983. He served as captain for many of those years.



Standing Watch

Robert L Haan

We are grateful to him for his efforts over the years and thank him for his contributions to the benefit of Seven Lakes.

T. Ray and his wife, Joanne, built their house in Seven Lakes in 1979 and moved here permanently in 1982. He had been in public education both as a teacher and an administrator in the Cleveland, Ohio area for twenty-five years.

There was no ambulance service in Seven Lakes when they arrived. The fire department was the only emergency service at that time. Jackson realized that this community was attracting a lot of retirees and that there would be a substantial older population here. He felt that as the area grew that there was going to be a need for medical help. He talked to the fire chief.

There were a couple of firemen who were thinking about taking the EMT [Emergency Medical Technician] course. He joined the fire department and the process of organizing an ambulance service began.

They went through all the processes, got people interested, and in July of 1983, they ran their first call. They had an ambulance [purchased through donations], four certified EMT's, a nurse, two other firemen and T. Ray. The squad now has fifteen members and replaced their first ambulance in 1997 with a sec-

ond one and they respond to approximately 500 calls per year.

It is difficult to tell how many people's lives have been saved as a result of his efforts. In addition to directly saving lives as an EMT, Jackson has been an instructor at Sandhills Community College teaching the Emergency Medical Technician and Medical Responder classes. Many of the EMTs and paramedics in Moore County have had him as their instructor and Jackson has indirectly saved many lives through them.

The community will have an opportunity to show its appreciation to T. Ray for this dedicated service. On March 15, there will be a "Pig Pickin'" at the West Side Community Center from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Attend-

ees will have an opportunity to recognize his achievements, eat, socialize, and maybe even roast him a little. The ticket cost

is \$8.00 per person and are on sale at the Seven Lakes EMS building or from any Seven Lakes EMS member.



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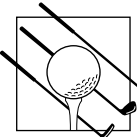
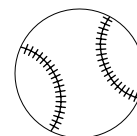
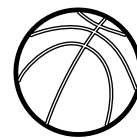


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Kiwanis Bingo

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North Clubhouse

Bring a Friend!

Lots of ways to make a difference for WEE

by Amanda Keller
WEE PTA

The West End Elementary School PTA coordinates several ongoing fundraisers throughout the year to benefit special projects and initiatives for students, including an upcoming two-week campaign sponsored by Food Lion and a new way to search the Internet.

Beginning Monday, February 18 through Saturday, March 1, keep your Food Lion grocery receipts, as a percentage of all receipts collected, up to \$3,000, will be donated to West End Elementary. Collection boxes will be located at Seven Lakes Food Lion store and at the WEE administrative office.

Another simple way you can help the PTA raise much needed funds is to register your Food Lion MVP card. To register your card, visit www.foodlion.com and every time you use your card, a percentage of your purchase will be donated to WEE.

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny a search, to the charities its users designate. The search engine can be used just as you would any other, and donations can quickly add up. To use this service, visit www.goodsearch.com and select your charity [West End Elementary School in West End, NC].

Two traditional fundraising campaigns continue: Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Soup Company "Labels for Education."

A recent change to the Campbell's Soup program requires submission of the UPC code from the back of the label, rather than sending in the front panel. Many cans now have colored UPC codes with point values printed, and some soup cans, such as Chicken & Stars and specialty soups, have a bonus five point value. These five point products are marked on the front label of the soup, but in order to receive credit, the PTA can only submit the UPC code and not the label itself. A collection container for soup labels and box tops is located outside the WEE administrative office.

Remember, "Together, WEE Can Make A Difference!"



The Property Center

125 West Plaza Drive, Seven Lakes, North Carolina

TOUR OF HOMES!

SUNDAY, FEB 10TH, 1 PM — 4 PM

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3BR, 3.5BA \$785,000



Outstanding Lakefront
467 Longleaf Drive, SLW
3BR, 2.5BA \$717,000



Beautiful View
104 Sunrise Point, SLW
4BR, 3.5BA \$659,900



Outstanding Lake View
147 Andrews Drive, SLW
4BR, 3.5BA \$492,000



New Construction
130 Fawnwood Drive, SLW
4BR, 3.5BA \$415,000



Golf Front Home
266 Longleaf Drive, SLW
3BR, 2BA \$316,000



Nearly New
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4BR, 3.5BA \$299,900



Like New
273 Longleaf Drive, SLW
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135 E. Devonshire, SLS
3BR, 2BA \$299,000



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135 Lancashire Lane, SLS
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West End Elementary Principal Johnnye Waller cuts the ribbon to help celebrate the grand Opening of Seven Lake's newly remodeled Food Lion.

Food Lion celebrates Grand Re-opening here

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Kicking off a six-week period of special customer appreciation events, Food Lion Store Manager Joe Callihan and Allen Chickering, Director of Operations for Central Region 1, presided over the Grand Re-Opening of the Seven Lakes location held on Wednesday, January 16.

"We celebrate a fresh new day at Food Lion," said Callihan. "We are glad to be able to

give something back to the community for their support through the [renovation] process."

Various sampling events, health screening opportunities, a customer appreciation day, and remote radio broadcasts will be held over the next month and half.

In addition, Callihan announced Food Lion's partnership with West End Elementary [WEE]. During a two-week period in February, receipts will be col-

lected with a percentage to be assessed. That percentage of funds, up to \$3,000, will be presented to WEE.

Principal Johnnye Waller, was invited to cut the ribbon. Also in attendance were PTA President Beth Goodwin along with several students, teachers, and volunteers, and Seven Lakes Fire Chief Cal Loy.

Shaver speaks on Islam at Kiwanis



General Manila Shaver with Kiwanian Frank Hayes,

by Frank Krohn

Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Major General Manila 'Bud' Shaver, U.S. Army [Ret] gave an interesting presentation on Islam and its comparison to other religions as the guest speaker at the January 22 meeting of the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club.

Providing a historical narrative about the beginning of Islam and how it has grown during the centuries, Shaver's presentation was helpful to those trying to understand Islam and the Muslim world.

He stressed the very real menace that the radical element of Islam presents to the world, and especially the United States.

While the current conflict is centered in the near eastern world, the Islamic threat to western world is very real.

When asked about victory over the Muslim threat, Gen. Shaver said that we can expect this conflict to go on for generations.

According to Shaver, the Muslim rationale is steeped in religious belief and overcoming those religious tenets will take a very long time.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club meets every Tuesday at Noon at the Seven Lakes Country Club.

Everyone is welcome.

Beaconettes Season starts February 28

The Beaconettes, a nine-hole ladies golf team, will begin their 2008 season on February 28 with the Unity Day Breakfast and golf afterward.

The Beaconettes held their annual Christmas awards luncheon at Beacon Ridge Country Club on December 13.

President Mary Hauck welcomed the group of forty women and thanked everyone for making the 2007 season so successful.

Josh Dahnke, the head golf pro at Beacon Ridge, was also in attendance.

Awards were given to Paula Hill for Most Improved Handicap, Nancy Cunningham for Lowest Gross for the year, and to Mary Snead as 2007 Club Champion.

Karen Milligan, the incoming 2008 President, introduced the new board members for next season.

They are: Karen Milligan, President; Linda DeBrine and Carol Johnson, Co-Vice Presidents; Nelda Cocksman, Secretary; Carol Skau, Treasurer.

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Chuck and Michelle Bolton

Reverend Brown is real 'Renaissance man'

We have a Renaissance man in our midst here in Seven Lakes. He actually lives in Whispering Pines but spends a good deal of time here in Seven Lakes. He is the Reverend Robert H. Brown, Vicar at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church on Seven Lakes Drive.

What is a Renaissance man you say? Well, when you think of the renaissance period in Europe, great art and music comes to mind. It was also a time of exploring the world and the universe. Artists such as Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo explored the world beyond their art.

Father Bob has explored all of these mediums during his life. He is a singer, musician [he plays the oboe, piano, guitar, and violin], artist, photographer, electrical engineer, and community activist.

Born in Philadelphia, his journey to the Sandhills has led him to various universities, and four years of service in the Navy. For many years he was with an engineering company that specialized in medical care facilities. During all these years, he and his wife Jean encouraged their daughter and three sons on their path to be successful people.

He coached all his kid's teams, and was a scout leader for twenty-two years, receiving the Silver Beaver Award, the Order of Merit, and was a vigil member of the Order of the Arrow for his service to scouting.

Bob started singing in church choirs when he was seven and was active in church and other choirs for years. When he was nine years old, he was given a Brownie special camera by his grandfather, a photographer and artist who was one of his inspirational mentors. He was immediately bitten by the photo bug. His family also took notice that he had an aptitude for drawing and sketching and was encouraged by his grandparents to pursue that talent. He continues to do wonderful sketches of scenes from his travels.

At one time he had two Minolta X-700s; one for color film, and one for black and white. Because Bob is color-blind, black and white is his preference and passion. Recently he has entered the digital age and is becoming handy with all the technology that discipline requires. Since

he has been in this area, he has been an exhibiting and award-winning member of the Sandhills Photography Club.

The Gallery at Seven Lakes is hosting a one-person show featuring some fifty examples of Bob's photography. They cover a half century of reflection of how he has seen life "from plus sixty inches." He describes this

as his eye-level view as he looks through his camera lens.

Bob likes to quote the poet Rod McKuen's description of a subject photographed as "winked into permanence." This photo display encompasses Bob's real life views "winked into permanence" from around this and other countries. He sees with an artist's eye scenes that he can

return to when the light or season would make it more tantalizing. He loves to tell a story through photography. He composes his scenes in the lens rather than with the computer.

When Father Bob preaches he is a careful wordsmith, who skillfully leads you into the scriptures. When Bob, the Renaissance man, is behind the camera, or has a sketch pen and paper in hand, he is an artist who leads you into life.

The exhibit of Father Brown's

artistic photography opened on January 30 and will continue through Thursday, February 21.

The Gallery at Seven Lakes is



Reverend Bob Brown



People & Steeples

Rev. Carol Burgess

located in the St. Mary Magdalene Building, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. The Gallery is open each Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Watch for the sign in the garden and the Open flag flying.

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Thomas celebrates 30 years

by Cal Loy
Seven Lakes

Volunteer Fire Department

Deputy Chief Eddie Thomas recently celebrated thirty years of dedicated volunteer service to the Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Calvin Loy presented Thomas with a plaque for his service.

Over the past thirty years,

Thomas has held various positions in the department, and has served on the Board of Directors.

He has helped guide the direction of the department and his past wisdom and knowledge will

continue to inspire new and old members of the department.

The department extends their congratulations to Deputy Chief Eddie Thomas and look forward to many more years of service with him.



Deputy Chief Eddie Thomas receives a plaque recognizing his 30 years of service from Seven Lakes Fire Chief Cal Loy.

Join Project Linus for make a blanket day February 15

On Friday, February 15, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Bookshop by the Lakes and The Coffee Scene will host a special Project Linus Make a Blanket Day workshop. Volunteers will be on hand demonstrating how to make blankets and how to tie fleece blankets that are donated to children.

The mission of Project Linus is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers."

Project Linus also includes in their mission the opportunity of volunteer service to benefit children in local communities through a rewarding and fun activity.

Project Linus Make a Blanket Day workshops will be held all over the country. Come out and support the Seven Lakes chapter and help them craft blankets especially for children in need in Moore County.

Participants dropping off a completed blanket, quilt or afghan, checking out a blanket kit, or donating materials or funds for Project Linus can register for a prize drawing of a quilt book donated by Bookshop by the Lakes.

Please call Pat Weber at 673-1457, if you have any questions or would like to make a donation to Project Linus.



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In memory of . . .

Clara Kirk Hartsell, 85, of West End, died Thursday, January 24, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Hartsell was born in Moore County, a daughter of the late Harvey Monroe and Mary Clayton Kirk. She was a member of Taylor Memorial Church for over forty years and was a pianist for both Taylor Memorial and Deep Creek Baptist Churches.

She is survived by three sons, Samuel Hartsell of West End, Lloyd Kirk Hartsell of Aberdeen, and Vic LeRoy Hartsell of Sanford; and one daughter, Mary Elizabeth Minor of West End.

Funeral services were held Sunday, January 27, at Taylor Memorial Church. The Rev. Zeb Moss and the Rev. David Hicks officiated. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Taylor Memorial Church, 4164 Hoffman Road, Jackson Springs, NC 27281, or to Deep Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 3452, Pinehurst NC 28374.

Boles Funeral Home of Pinehurst assisted the family.

William Michael Walsh Sr., 75, died on Thursday, January 24, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, to the late John J. and Florence Luscher Walsh, he grew up in Fitchburg, MA and graduated from Fitchburg High School in 1949. He graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute class of 1953 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. After college, Mr. Walsh joined the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War.

For several years he was employed with Pratt and Whitney Corp, in East Hartford, CN and also worked for Tyrol and Wethey Corp as a Construction Supervisor until retirement in 1988.

He was a past president of the Friend for Music, from 1978 to 1979, and member of the Exchange Club and former president of the Executive Board Finances of V.N.A in Glastonbury, CN.

Survivors include his wife of forty-eight years, Joanne [Gross] Walsh of Pinehurst; one daughter; Judy Blasko of West End; a son, William Michael Walsh Jr. of

Columbia, CN.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, January 27 at Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Southern Pines.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Disease research 22512 Gateway Center Drive. P.O. Box 1950 Clarksburg, MD. 20871-1950

Boles Funeral of Pinehurst served the family.

Edwin "Bran" Parks II, 34, of West End, died Saturday, January 26, at his residence.

Mr. Parks was born in Moore County. He graduated from Pinecrest High School in 1993. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of West End.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Trent Parks.

He is survived by his fiancée, Jaime Vieregge, and her daughters, Kelly Vieregge and Megan Vieregge, all of West End; a

son, Byron Gunner Parks, of Vass; his mother and stepfather, Darlene and David Plowman; a stepbrother, Randy Plowman; his grandmother, Christine Comer, all of West End; and three stepgrandparents, Mary Beam, of Aberdeen, and William and Sheri Plowman, of Carthage.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 30, at First Baptist Church in West End. The Rev. Ken Cross and the Rev. Robbie Gibson officiated. Burial followed in the West End Cemetery.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes served the family.

Esther McKenzie Bosworth, 95, of West End, died Sunday, January 27, at her residence.

Mrs. Bosworth was a native of Moore County, the daughter of the late Daniel K. and Callie Lee McKenzie.

She was preceded in death by

her husband, Moody J. Bosworth; three brothers, Morris, Homer, and Duncan McKenzie; and a grandson, Myron Bosworth Jr.

Mrs. Bosworth is survived by a daughter, Janet Wicker of Fayetteville; four sons, David Bosworth, Myron Bosworth, Randy Bosworth, all of West End, and Mike Bosworth of Alexis; a sister, Helen Wright of West End; twenty grandchildren; forty-seven great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 30, at Culdee Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Chris Bobo officiated. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Barium Springs Home For Children, P.O. Box 1, 156 Frazier Loop, Barium Springs, NC 28010, or to FirstHealth Hospice Foundation, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Alberta Roine McCune, 96, of Pinehurst, died January 31, at FirstHealth Hospital.

Mrs. McCune was born in Lima, OH, and grew up on a farm near Cridersville, OH.

Mrs. McCune was a professional dancer and teacher. She graduated from Lima Business College and worked for Colonial Finance and Webb Insurance Agency. She was a long-time

(Continued on page 11)

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In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 10)

member of the National Secretaries Association and served as president of the Lima Chapter.

Mrs. McCune was a long-time member of the Central Church of Christ and later the First Evangelical and Reformed Church of Lima, the Indian Lake Community Church of Russells Point, the Beverly Hills Community Church of Beverly Hills, and the West End United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband of seventy-one years, Gerald Denton McCune; parents, George and Stella Berndt Stombaugh, her brother; Herman Stombaugh; and her sister, Arwilda Roser.

She is survived by her son, Larry Clinton McCune of Seven Lakes; two grandsons and three great grandchildren.

Entombment will be at Memorial Park Mausoleum in Lima, OH. Chiles-Laman Funeral Homes of Lima are handling the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to West End United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 276, West End, NC 27376.

Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines is serving the family.

Sherry Ann Green Horner, 31, of Eagle Springs, died Friday, February 1, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Horner was a native of Moore County and was formerly employed by Klausner Furniture.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Carolyn Williams Hussey; and her grandparents, Claude W. Williams and Fannie Bullins.

She is survived by a daughter, Sherry Leann Carpenter of the home; her fiancé, Chris Carpenter of Robbins; her parents, Gurnie E. Green Jr. and Helen

Williams Green of Eagle Springs; a sister, Marie Williams Ryan of Robbins; a brother, Vernon Ray Freeman, Jr. of Eagle Springs; her maternal grandmother, Lessie Williams, of Eagle Springs and paternal grandparents, Gurnie E. Green Sr. and Willa Mae Green of Seagrove.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, February 5, at Pine Grove Baptist Church. The Rev. Billy Reynolds and the Rev. Brad Harrison officiated. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be sent to The American Heart Association, 300 Silver Cedar Ct., Chapel Hill, NC. 27516.

Kennedy Funeral Home of Robbins assisted the family.

Kathie Delapp Monroe Oliver, 56, of Eagle Springs, died Saturday, February 2, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Oliver was born in Wilson, the daughter of the late Mike Delapp and Hilda Gray Delapp Amerson. She was employed as a contract manager of Sandhills Mental Health with thirty years of service.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Bert Monroe.

Mrs. Oliver is survived by her husband, Richard E. Oliver, of the

home; two sons, Evan S. Monroe of Eagle Springs, and Erin W. Monroe of Jackson Springs; two step-daughters, Lauren Oliver of Raleigh, and Catalina Shorkey, of Baltimore, MD; a step-son, Kelsey Oliver, of Plano, TX; two sisters, Gayle Roberts of Newport News, VA, and Missie Delapp of Virginia Beach, VA; her step-father, Steve Amerson, of Morehead City and five grandchildren.

Memorial services were held Tuesday, February 5, at Bensalem Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Thomas Williams and the Rev. Dr. Mark Andrew Carver officiated.

Memorials may be made to Bensalem Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 157, Eagle Springs, NC 27242, or to Greenview Foundation, Hepatitis C Research, 2773 Holyoke Lane, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Phillips Funeral Home of Star assisted the family.

Peter Joseph Sundheim Jr., 86, of Seven Lakes South, died Sunday, February 3, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Sundheim was born in East Orange, NJ, the son of the late Peter and Elsa Seaman

Sundheim. He graduated from East Orange High School in 1939, and from Cornell University in 1943.

After college, he joined the U.S. Army and served during World War II. He was a member of the 280 Combat Engineer Unit and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He received the Bronze Star Medal, a World War II Victory Medal, an American Campaign Medal, and the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal. He met his

wife, Jane Conkey, on the French Riviera during the war.

After the war, Mr. Sundheim worked for the National Biscuit Company for ten years. He later went to work as an engineer for the M&M Candy Co., designing and developing machinery to aide in the designs of chocolate products. From 1968 to his retirement in 1983, he was in partnership with his brother Paul, and with the help of his older brother, Fred, they purchased

(Continued on page 12)



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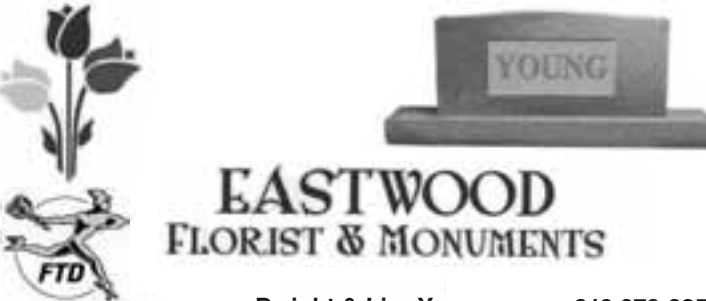
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In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 11)

the Woodport Boat Basin on Lake Hopatcong, NJ.

He was former administrator and director of the Sparta, NJ Recreation Commission, and was very active in Little League

and midget football. He was also a deacon at First Presbyterian Church in Sparta.

Mr. Sundheim was known in Seven Lakes for his love of darts and bocci games.

He was preceded in death by

two brothers, Paul Sundheim and Fred Sundheim.

He is survived by his wife of sixty years, Jane Conkey Sundheim; two sons, Peter J. Sundheim III of Lynchburg, VA, and Thomas J. Sundheim, of Denver,

CO; a daughter, Beverly Donofrio of Pitman, NJ; and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, February 9, 11:00 am, at Chapel of the Pines Church in Seven Lakes with the

Rev. Charles Hinson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter, 966 Moore County, 5680 Seven Lakes, NC. 27376.

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West End native opens business in home town

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Sara Luck McBride, owner of The Nail Spa, located at the West End traffic light next to Nardo's Barbershop, looks right at home in her new shop.

Of course as a fifth-generation

West Ender, she should.

Born and raised in this community, the newlywed McBride said this was the perfect time in her life to begin a new venture.

"I've watched this area and seen how much it has grown and knew this would help my

business," said McBride. "There's so much opportunity here and I'm young and have the support of my husband so I saved my money and opened for business on January 16."

McBride and her husband, Jefferson, live in Seven Lakes West.

"His job is with finances so he keeps me focused on the financial side of it. He has helped me quite a bit and I wouldn't be here without his support," said McBride.

McBride graduated from Sandhills Community College and is a licensed manicurist. Previously she owned a salon in Robbins and had worked as a manicurist at The Spa at Pinehurst. McBride also spent several years as a bank teller at the BB&T branch in Seven Lakes.

"After three years working with

nails, I wanted to try something different and joined BB&T. The best part was getting to see so many people each day," explained McBride.

However, she said the one-on-one environment of the Nail Spa is what she prefers.

"This is my passion! Life is too short to not do what you enjoy," exclaimed McBride.

McBride describes the Nail Spa as comfortable for both men and women clients and in a great location between D&D Design and Nardo's, with lots of parking spaces safely off the road behind the building.

"I want to provide a relaxing experience so I set appointments one person at a time. Each customer gets my full attention and I cater to and pamper them," said McBride.

A grand opening party will be

held on Saturday, February 23, from 1:00 pm to 4:00pm at the Nail Spa with refreshments and prize drawings for special treatment packages. McBride said she is looking forward to meeting new people and visiting with old friends too.

"Living in a small town is all that you make it," said McBride. "My family is all here, my friends are all here, and you make the best of it."

McBride is the daughter of Kathy Hess, granddaughter of Priscilla and Everette Cole, and great-granddaughter of Louise Smith, all of West End.

The Nail Spa is open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and evenings by appointment. McBride can be reached at 673-1073.



Sara Luck McBride of The Nail Spa in West End

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ELECTIONS

Candidates' Night finds five Westsiders in race

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The Westside Candidates' Night had just gotten underway when the when the field of contenders was reduced from six to five. Jo Nicholas, chair of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Nominating Committee, welcomed landowners with the news that Carol Johnson had pulled out of the race, throwing her support behind her husband, Candidate Jim Johnson.

Nicholas then introduced moderator Linda Tableman, President of the Moore County Chapter of the League of Women Voters, to the nearly 150 Westsider who attended the event.

Background

The first of several prepared questions asked that candidates asked to speak about their background and their qualifications to serve on the Board. [Detailed candidate biographies have been published in a special edition of the SLWLA newsletter, so we provide only brief summaries here.]

Jim Johnson said he had moved the community in 2006 and saw service on the Board as

"my last hurrah before I start on the bucket list." He brings to the task and engineering degree and thirty-four years experience as an electrical engineer, most of that spent managing large projects. "I'd like the job because it offers an opportunity to give back to a community that is a great community," Johnson said.

Lionel Kuhn was unable to attend the forum but prepared written answers which were read by Joe Doster. Kuhn who retired from his Seven Lakes dental practice in 2006, settled in the community in 1990 and served on the Westside Landowners Association Board in the mid-1990s. He said he was most proud of working out an agreement with the developer to get the community its first security gate.

Pennsylvania native **Karen Milligan** brings a background in merchandising and marketing, including running her own commercial and residential design firm. She, her husband and three teenaged sons moved to Seven Lakes West in 2006. "I joined the recreation committee right away," Milligan said. "My life experience has taught me to be self-motivated, be positive, be completely honest and open to

ideas other than my own."

Ron Shepard said he bought his lot in Morgan Wood seven years ago and moved down from New York four years ago. He spent his career in the medical device industry, working with both large and small companies in marketing and general management positions. Community involvement has always been a part of Shepard's life he said, and included serving as a volunteer fireman, and serving in various adult and youth recreation programs. Shepard said he has attended most Board meetings and so is familiar with the issues facing the community. Offering extensive management skills, he said he has "no preconceived agenda other than promoting the best interests of community as a whole."

Ed Silberhorn, whose supporters offered a considerable number of letters endorsing his candidacy in the January 11 issue of *The Times* said those letters were greatly appreciated but amounted to "an embarrassment of riches." Educated at

Vanderbilt University and the University of Cincinnati's Law school, Silberhorn is an attorney who served as a prosecutor and in private practice in Florida. His work included representing municipalities and landowners associations, which "should prove invaluable in assisting the board as its Legal Affairs Director" he said. Silberhorn has been active throughout his career in volunteer organizations, including the Kiwanis and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and is active in a number of Westside organizations. He serves as the Board's "Community Advocate," who is charged with brining cases before the Judicial Committee.

Question 2: Best Contribution.

The second question asked candidates in what area of the Board's responsibility they could make the best contribution.

Lionel Kuhn said he was interested in working with the Recreation Committee. Noting that he lives near the Johnson Point recreation area, he said "the

right kind of recreation can bring people together" and help promote a sense of community.

Karen Milligan also expressed an interest in serving as Recreation Director. "I love being part of this hard working group and have lots of ideas and would try to promote new events." Her service on the committee gives her a good understanding of the way the committee operates and the budgets it has at its disposal, she said.

Ron Shepard said he is willing to serve in any capacity, though, not being an attorney, would pass on the position of Legal Director. His past experience would allow him to contribute to the Architectural Review and Recreation Committees, Shepard, said. He noted that he had been heavily involved as a leader and organizer of a wide range of recreational activities involving a variety of age groups. "But filling the void left by the departure of the ARB director would probably make the most sense for the Board and the

(See "Near & far," p. 33)

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SLLA Candidate Erskine lays out positions

As a candidate for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board, and so that you know just who I am and the position I take on issues of importance to the community, let me say the following.

I have been residing on Lake Sequoia since 1995 but did not really become active in community issues until I heard those who frequented the board meetings described as the "faithful few who regurgitate" the same complaints meeting after meeting. My contention is that the board should encourage the landowners to express their opinions and that they should pay attention.

Having been in sales and marketing my entire business career, I found it valuable—indeed mandatory, to be a good listener and to be able to apologize when wrong. Let's remember that the landowner is the customer and without him or her, Seven Lakes wouldn't exist.

Other than the development of a long-range plan, the most inflammatory and important issue of the day is the future of the club's present driving range. I adamantly oppose high-density housing on this very visible area. It violates the intent of our founders and the covenants as originally written.

I also believe that the community is overwhelmingly opposed to it and that we should have been asked. Not only were we not asked, we were lulled to sleep by the statement that there was "nothing to report" when indeed there was. And, a deal with the Country Club was consummated within days and passed by the narrowest of margins by an e-mail vote of the board. A vote which overturned an unanimous vote of the Board

taken just a few months earlier. Whatever one's stance on this issue, there is little doubt that it has contributed mightily to the dysfunctional board we have today.

Rather than dwell on the range, let me tell you what changes I would like to see. I'd like to see the establishment of

tentious issues. If such a committee had existed we might not be in litigation today. Perhaps these committees could be combined and termed Long Range Planning & Oversight.

While discussing committees, all of them, other than Building, Judicial, Election, and Personnel, which are covered

specifically in our By-laws; should meet at least six times a year, be comprised of at least five members, and

chaired by someone other than a board member.

This applies to the Lakes & Dams Committee which I now chair, as well as to Community Standards, Finance, Maintenance, Recreation, Rules & Regulations, and Security. Each board member should be encouraged to attend committee meetings of his or her choice, but he or she has enough to do without being asked to chair a commit-

tee to which he or she may have been appointed and in which there may be little or no real interest.

Serious thought should be given to increasing the size of the board to nine members rather than seven. The workload for board members, many of whom are employed, should be reduced so that each area of assigned responsibility will receive more attention.

I also believe that a larger board would be less likely to form unwanted "blocs" of a consistent nature. I see no reason why we shouldn't look for four or five candidates for two-year terms rather than the three or four candidates we seek out today. The committees described in the preceding paragraph would be an excellent source.

It's also my belief that our needs include a more responsive and responsible community management. A group who will take the time necessary to respond expeditiously to customer's

requests and who have the interest and ability to exercise greater care and control over our costs, our infrastructure, including our lakes and dams, our roads, our maintenance personnel, procedures, and the maintenance area itself. That this area is a disgrace is a given and allowing it to exist for months on end is indicative of the community's apathy and lack of pride.

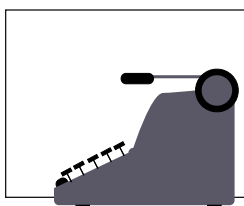
I would be in total accord with any board decision to replace the association's professional counsel and auditors. We need the backbone to defend our residents who volunteer their time and not succumb to threats of frivolous lawsuits, and we need auditors who will insist on being able to review a decent set of accounts with real controls in place. In a nutshell, we need a new perspective in both instances.

Finally, we are in desperate need of a functional Board of Directors.

Thanks for listening.

Your Turn

Ron Erskine
SLLA Board
Candidate



a Long Range Planning Committee, independent of but reporting to the board. I can think of no more worthy individual to chair it than Dave Kinney who has done such a superb job with Small Planning Area A planning. I also believe that we would profit from an independent Oversight Committee comprised of non-partisan highly respected residents to whom the board could look for advice on con-

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SLLA Election

(Continued from front page)

March elections, by appointing the fourth-highest-vote-getter in that election to replace Director Laura Douglass, who has announced she will not serve out the second year of her term.

The bylaws assign to the Board the task of appointing a replacement for Douglass, but she put forward the idea that the Board should use the election as the mechanism for making that appointment. In effect, she asked that the Board name the fourth-place-finisher in the election as her replacement, rather than naming a specific individual.

Both Secretary Michael Florence and Treasurer Steve Hudson objected to the move on the grounds that it was contrary to the plain sense of the bylaws. "To me it looks like we are dancing around [Bylaw] 6.5 because it is already on the books," Hudson said. "I've got a problem with it. We have a bylaw that states exactly how we ought to do it."

After Directors Randy Zielsdorf and Ed Nuti expressed support for the idea, Director Donna Stephan asked Douglass what she planned to do if the Board refused to go along with the idea.

"I'll hold onto my seat until after the elections and negotiate with the new Board" to make sure the seat was filled from the election, Douglass replied.

President Don Truesdell said Douglass' proposal "takes politics out of the equation and gives you the landowners the right to choose."

Douglass' resolution was approved in a roll call vote with Hudson and Florence opposed, making the SLLA election, in effect, a ten candidate race for four seats — a majority of the Board.

Candidates Night, Feb 25

The Seven Lakes Civic Group will host an SLLA Candidates' Night on Monday February 25 at 7:30 pm in the west Side Park Community Center, Civic Group President Dave Kinney announced during the meeting.

Times editor Greg Hankins will moderate. Candidates will be asked to prepare in advance responses to questions developed by the Civic Group, as well as respond to audience questions

submitting in writing during the meeting.

Election Committee & Ballot Handling

Also during the January 30 meeting, the Board appoint Ray Pardue to head up the Elections Committee, which is responsible for counting the Annual Meeting ballots. They asked Pardue to gather a committee of at least five members; its membership will have to be approved by the Board.

At the request of Michael Florence, Community Manager Dalton Fulcher reviewed the involvement of SLLA office staff in handling ballots. Florence noted that Candidate Gary Caulk is the husband of SLLA Bookkeeper Debbie Caulk and said he wanted to "forestall any complaints by members."

"This year Debbie will not be involved with handling of ballots in any shape or form," Fulcher said.

When the mail is sorted by another staff all mailed in ballots will be deposited unopened into a locked box to which only Elections Committee Chairman Pardue will have a key. In previous years, the staff has partially opened the ballot envelopes to check for dues payments that landowners sometimes include with their ballots. That will not be done this year.

Landowners who come to the Landowners Office to vote in person will have their name checked off the list as having voted, and will deposit their ballot into a locked ballot box. Again, Pardue will have the only key.

Nominating Committee

During its January 30 meeting the Board discussed but did not act on proposed revisions to Bylaw 6.3, which lay out the composition of the nominating committee. Donna Stephan proposed several changes to the current procedure:

- The Board Member heading the committee should not be standing for reelection.
- The two non-board members of the committee should be approved by the Board.
- The committee should "take special cognizance" not only of representation for both the North and South side, but also of prospective candidates'

backgrounds and how those address the needs of the community.

- The recommended slate of nominees would be presented by the committee to the Board, which would then approve the slate.

Director Nuti objected to both Board approval of committee members and Board approval of the slate of candidates. "It's not our job to select candidates," he argued.

Former SLLA President Dennis Roberts said, "There should be something in there that ensures that you don't exclude people. It makes sense to form

a committee to get expertise. But we don't want to get into the idea of vetting people."

A straw poll of Board members showed that all but Nuti supported the idea of having the

Nominating Committee members approved by the Board.

After discussion, Truesdell asked Nuti to bring back new language for consideration at the February Work Session.



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Studebaker is new owner at Southern Grace

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

With plenty of previous business experience in retail and real estate investments, Patty Studebaker decided the time was right to put her love of gardening and flowers to work.

Studebaker took over as the new owner of Southern Grace Flowers and Gifts, on January 1. Floral designer and previous owner Toni Felix has stayed on to assist as has Cassie Hamilton, the shop's all-around Girl Friday. Both Felix and Hamilton live in Seven Lakes South.

"I enjoy meeting people and like to create flower arrangements," said Studebaker noting that flowers do not necessarily

have to be arranged in a traditional form.

"Besides centerpieces, we can make birthday cakes out of flowers, plus soda pops, martinis, and margaritas all made with flowers. We even made football arrangements for the Super Bowl!" exclaimed Studebaker.

A resident of Seven Lakes West for nine years, Studebaker and her husband, Ed, have two daughters; Meredith who lives in Texas and Morgan, an eighth-grader at West Pine Middle School.

Felix's daughter, Amanda, is also a student at West Pine Middle School and her daughter, Amy, is a fifth-grader at West End Elementary. Her husband,

Brad, is deployed overseas with the military.

"We are very family friendly and the girls come into the shop after school and help out in the afternoons," explained Studebaker.

Southern Grace Flowers and Gifts also specializes in silk arrangements, party balloons, and gourmet and gift baskets. Gift baskets can be filled with fruit, candies and sweets, stuffed animals and balloons, and of course flowers.

Studebaker provides free flower and basket delivery to hospi-

tals, funeral homes, and Sunday arrangements to area churches. Sunday church arrangements are also provided at a discount.

Studebaker said a highlight for her is when relatives of family living in the area come to visit and stop in to say how much they liked their arrangement.

Felix agreed, "My favorite part of the job is seeing the faces of the people when they receive their flowers."

All three of the ladies said the location of Southern Grace is wonderful and how much they enjoy their neighbors at Mocha

Mama's coffee shop.

"It's just a fun atmosphere," said Studebaker. "We all get along really well. We're a team and it's a team effort."

Southern Grace Flowers and Gifts is located between the Food Lion in Seven Lakes and Mocha Mama's.

The shop is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and on Wednesday and Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Studebaker can be reached at 673-5689.



Cassie Hamilton, Patty Studebaker, & Toni Felix of Southern Grace Flowers & Gifts

Forum is February 21

Robert Boone, Vice President of FirstHealth Professional Services presents 'Surviving a Flu Pandemic' at the Seven Lakes Forum on Thursday, February 21 at West Side Park Community Center. Boone currently chairs the FirstHealth Disaster Preparedness Committee and the Pandemic Flu Sub-Committee.

These committees focus attention on preparedness and a formalized plan for FirstHealth in the event of a flu outbreak, or other disaster.

Refreshments will be available at 9:00 am, with the formal session beginning at 9:15 am. Participants should plan for about a two-hour session.

All women and men from Seven Lakes, and their guests, are invited to attend.

For further information, please contact Don Welch at 673-6701, or Bill Mamel at 673-8970.

The Seven Lakes Forum to be held on March 20 will feature Myths Associated with the Use of Nuclear Power.

Rodney Tolentino, P.T.

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For more information about FirstHealth's Golf 4 Life Program, call (910) 715-1825.

Rodney Tolentino, P.T.
Licensed Physical Therapist

Rodney Tolentino, P.T., works at FirstHealth Moore Rehab and coordinates the Golf 4 Life Program. He graduated from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, in 1997 with a degree in physical therapy. He is also a Certified Golf Fitness Instructor through the Titleist Performance Institute.

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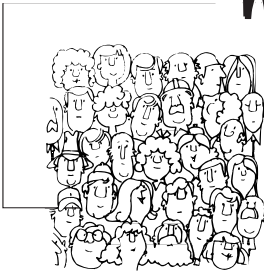
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- **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.
- **Wine Tasting: Values From Around the World** – 7 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Sponsored by Seven Lakes West Recreation Committee, Robyne Anne James from The Wine Cellar and Tasting Room will present samples of eight wines from eight countries, all valued at \$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.

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 repeats 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,

**What's When Calendar**

- chicken cacciatore, fettuccine Alfredo, cheese tortellini, in vodka pink sauce, garlic bread and rolls, topped off with a sherbet bar. All-inclusive price members \$22; \$27 for non-members. 673-1100.
- **Square Dance** – 7 pm - 9 pm, Moore County Senior Enrichment Center. Square Dance caller Tommy Wells will entertain at this free square dance. Beginners are welcome. 215-0900.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- **NARFE Meeting** – 10:30 am, Community Congregational Church at 141 N. Bennett St in Southern Pines. The National Active & Retired Federal Employees Sandhills Chapter 1895 welcomes all Federal, including USPS, active employees, retirees, spouses, and surviving spouses to monthly meetings. Guest speaker Matthew Moriarty.

Information, Vilma Geisert 215-5898, or George Sandoval 246-9881.

- **Attracting Backyard Bluebirds** – 2 pm - 3 pm, Moore County Senior Enrichment Center. Moore County Master Gardener Dolores Muller will demonstrate the use of native plants to provide a tempting habitat for your favorite backyard birds. A free program. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat.
- **Preventing Teen Pregnancy Workshop** – 6 – 8 pm, Agricultural Building in Carthage. Sponsored by MooreHealth, event is free and open to parents and teenagers. Workshop will also be held Tuesday, February 12 at Sandhills Community College, Van Dusen Hall, Room 210; and Monday, February 28 at First Baptist Church in Robbins. Light refreshments will be provided. Information 715-3487.
- **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.sandhillsphtoclub.org

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- **Seven Lakes West Landown-**

ers Association Work Session – 8 am, West Side Park Community Center.

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – 12:00 pm, Seven Lakes Country Club. A special Valentines dinner with the Golf Capital Chorus. Visitors welcome.
- **Marketing Analysis Workshop** – 12:00 pm, Moore County Chamber of Commerce. George Harrison, MBA, instructor for the Department of Mass Communications, UNC Pembroke is the guest speaker. \$10 for members, \$25 non-members. Event is possible in partnership with Life 103.1. Registration 692-3926.
- **Tree & Shrub Pruning Workshop** – 2 pm, Agricultural Building in Carthage. Taylor Williams, Moore County Agricultural Extension Agent will conduct a workshop and demonstrate how to correctly prune shrubs, landscape, and fruit trees. Bring your shears

and a notebook. Information 947-3188.

- **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.
- **Herb Gardening for Your Health** – 7 pm - 8 pm, Moore County Senior Enrichment Center. Moore County Master Gardener Dr. Gloria Polakof will discuss growing herbs and their usage for healing. A free program. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat.
- **Trinity Music Academy Faculty Concert** – 7 pm, Trinity United Methodist Church, at the corner of Russell & Blair Street in Troy. Bach's 'Grand Toccata and Fugue in F Major' on the Clara Capel Memorial Organ by Dr. Paul Chandley, and Liszt's 'Mephisto Waltz' on the Rachmaninoff Steinway by Sophia Pavlenko-Chan-

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Lot 6189 Banbridge Dr. Seven Lakes West \$70,000
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dley are featured. As a duo, they will perform Aaron Copeland's 'Variations on a Shaker Melody from Appalachian Spring' and Tchaikovsky's 'Waltz from Sleeping Beauty.' Adult \$12, youth \$6. Information 910-576-4186.

- **Temple Theatre: Lisa Dames** – 7 pm, Temple Theatre in Sanford. Her album "No One Like Me" released in 2006, includes country songs with a penetrating and occasionally humorous view of life from a woman's perspective. Tickets for this event are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the Temple Theatre Box Office, located at 120 Carthage Street in downtown Sanford. Box office at 919-774-4155.
- **Foxfire Village Council Meeting** – 7:30 pm, Town Hall.

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 'Treat Yourself Sweetly' at their Winter Card Party. Tickets \$14. Reservations Carole Gorman 673-3988, or Jane Lowe 673-2118.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- **Make a Blanket Day** – 11 am – 4 pm, at Bookshop by the Lakes and The Coffee Scene. Celebrate 'Make a Blanket Day' with Project Linus and help tie a fleece blanket, sew on a label, crochet, or knit. Treats, door prizes, and balloons! Drop by to say hello, donate a blanket, or find out how you can become a Project Linus Blanketeer.
- **Pinecrest Air Force JROTC Auction & BBQ** – 5:30 – 8 pm, Pinecrest High School Cafeteria. Sponsored by the Pinecrest High Air Force JROTC Booster Club, auction & dinner to raise money for the Cadet Scholarship Fund & trips for Top Flight Class & Drill Team. \$6 includes BBQ, beans, slaw, drink, & dessert. Tickets 692-7455.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- **Moore County Board of Commissioners Meeting** – 6

pm, Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- **League of Women Voters Meeting** – 11:30 am, Longleaf Country Club. Gerald Galloway, retired Police Chief, Southern Pines, will speak about his political experiences and his run for the NC House of Representatives. Public welcome, \$12, includes lunch. 944-9611.
- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – Noon, Seven Lakes Country Club. Guest speaker is Maureen Krueger, the Moore County District Attorney. Visitors are welcome.
- **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 20

- **American Red Cross Blood Mobile Drive** – 1 pm – 6 pm,

Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. No longer an upper age limit, donors must be at least 17 and least 110 pounds. Appointments 673-4931.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- **Seven Lakes Forum** – 9 am, West Side Park Community Center. Robert Boone, Vice President of FirstHealth Professional Services presents 'Surviving a Flu Pandemic.' A two-hour session. Don Welch 673-6701, Bill Mamel 673-8970.
- **Artist Marc Chagall's Jerusalem Windows** – 11 am - 12 pm, Moore County Senior Enrichment Center. Free

program sponsored by the NC Humanities Council. 215-0900.

- **Adult Academy: Lenten Series** – 7 pm – 8 pm, Crawford Center at West End Presbyterian Church. Bob Urie, a retired Presbyterian minister with a specialty in counseling, will lead a session on "An Acrostic of Prayer." First in a four-part series. Free program is open to all.
- **Seven Lakes Garden Club Meeting** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. (Note change of date to third Thursday due to Valentine's Day.) Speaker Billy Hartness, a NC Park Ranger at Weymouth Woods.

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The Explainer —

Alan Shaw and dues: A tale of two agreements

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Twice in as many weeks, the question of whether Southsider Alan Shaw is a dues-paying member of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association has come up during Board of Directors meetings.

Shaw, along with six other Seven Lakes residents, is currently suing the Association and Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC] in an attempt to derail an agreement involving the residential development of the Club's five-acre driving range that lies near the entrance to Seven Lakes South.

Though Shaw's home lies within in the boundaries of Seven Lakes — on a five-plus acre lot at the end of Sandham Court — Shaw is not an SLLA member, does not pay Association dues, and does not have access to the community's recreational amenities. President Don Truesdell made the point that Shaw, a frequent critic of SLLA policies and management, "is not a dues-paying member" of the SLLA during the January 16 Board Work Session, prompting Director Donna Stephan to ask for a fuller explanation of the point. Evidently unsatisfied with the response, Stephan again asked for an explanation during the January 30 General Meeting.

Shaw's relationship to the SLLA is laid out in two agreements signed by two SLLA officers, one dating to 1992, the other, to 2006. Taken together, they tell the story.

Shaw owns not only the out-sized lot on which his home sits,

but several other Southside lots, as well as an undivided 6.2 acre parcel that lies to the southeast of Devonshire Avenue, due south of Sherwood Drive. He acquired these properties in 1992, when then lead developer Don Billings' Seven Lakes Development Company [SLDC] persuaded Shaw to take property in the townhouse area of Seven Lakes South to satisfy a \$140,000 debt to Shaw, who had also been involved in the development of Seven Lakes.

Billings created SLDC as a vehicle to pull the Seven Lakes development out of bankruptcy. But SLDC had difficulty selling lots quickly enough to pay its creditors and eventually found itself facing the possibility of an involuntary bankruptcy.

Billings persuaded creditors — including Shaw, First Bank, and Seven Lakes Investment Group — to take lots in lieu of payment. But that solution created a problem: Once the developer transferred the lots to the creditors, those creditors would have to begin paying dues on the undeveloped lots — not an attractive prospect for the creditors.

The solution was for SLDC to ask the SLLA Board to extend developer rights — including an exemption from paying dues — to the creditors. The SLLA Board, perhaps feeling another developer bankruptcy was the last thing the community needed, agreed and approved SLDC's request on May 12, 1992.

An agreement dated July 9, 1992 and signed by the SLLA Vice President provides that "Shaw shall not be required to pay landowners dues on the

lots listed on Exhibit A." The attached "Exhibit A" lists nine numbered lots and other "unsold property" on the South Side and references a map which includes both the current site of Shaw's home — since designated Lot 2999 — and the undivided six acre parcel south of Sherwood.

And so the matter stood until 2002, when Shaw began building his home on the five-acre Southside tract. As that project developed, Shaw gave the Association a ten foot buffer strip around the outside of the Sandham property and installed perimeter fencing on the association's behalf.

A dispute with a painting contractor led to Shaw's arrest on felony charges by Seven Lakes Company Police Chief Dennis Lombard. The charges were ultimately thrown out in a District Court probable cause hearing.

Shaw owned, lived in, and paid landowners dues on, a home on the North Side when the 1992 agreement was struck on the Southside lots. The Northside home was not part of that deal, so Shaw continued to pay dues on the property.

After his arrest, Shaw refused to pay dues on his Northside property, which led to a complicated back-and-forth involving dues liability and the value of the fencing Shaw had installed. The dispute came to a head in the latter half of 2005, ultimately leading to a meeting that included Shaw and SLLA Directors Loren Swearingen and Don Truesdell.

That meeting resulted in a second agreement between Shaw and the Association, signed

by SLLA President Jack Fathauer on March 13, 2006.

Acknowledging the dispute regarding dues on Shaw's Northside and Southside properties and the desire of the parties to compromise, the 2005 agreement provided that:

- Shaw would paid the back dues on the Northside property, which was later sold.
- The SLLA would not consider Southside lot 2999 — the lot on which Shaw's home sits — "a membership lot and will make no further assessment on Southside Lot 2999 for annual membership dues from Shaw, for as long as Shaw continues to own such property. No membership rights will vest in Shaw due to his ownership of Southside Lot 2999."

In other words, the Association collects no dues on Shaw's residence and Shaw is not, based on his ownership of that lot, a member of the Association.


Although SLLA President Truesdell, along with Swearingen, negotiated the deal that led to the 2006 agreement, in both the January 16 Work Session and January 30 General Session, he said that he has asked the

SLLA attorney to review the 1992 agreement between Shaw and the Association.

It is not clear that Lot 2999 is covered by that agreement, Truesdell said during the January 30 General Meeting.

[Puzzled by something in the news? Maybe we can help. mail@sevenlaketimes.net]

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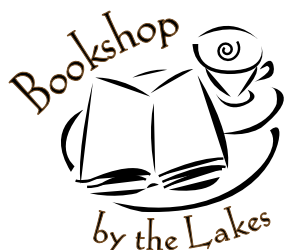
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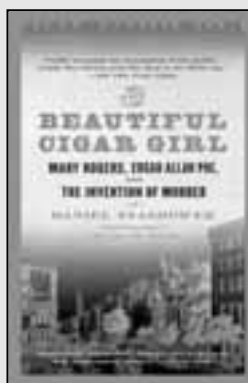
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Local Vietnam Vets kick off annual raffle



VVA Chapter 966 Director Jim Schrum thanks Gulley's Garden Center business owner Pete Gulley for allowing the chapter to setup a raffle display.

by Joe Kristek
VVA Chapter 966

The membership of Vietnam Veterans of America, Moore County Chapter 966, is kicking off their annual fund raising raffle for 2008.

This year's prizes include golf packages from Mid Pines Inn and Golf Club, Beacon Ridge

Golf and Country Club, Seven Lakes Country Club, as well as pottery from O'Quinn Pottery located in Seagrove and Fire-shadow Pottery located in Eagle Springs.

Chapter 966 members will be selling raffle tickets for the next few weeks at local businesses in the community and tickets may

also be purchased at Gulley's Garden Center in Southern Pines.

As always, all proceeds will go towards helping veterans and Chapter 966 sponsored community programs.

For more information, contact Jim Schrum at 690-6315 or Joe Kristek at 673-4562.

Kennel Club honors Rowland

by Nona M. Burrell

Moore County Kennel Club

Blaine Rowland, a resident of Seven Lakes West and an exceptional member of the Moore County Kennel Club received the prestigious Forsyth Award from the organization at their meeting in January.

Presented by Club President Steve Watson, the award's inscription states that it is "In appreciation for years of outstanding service to Moore County Kennel Club of NC, Inc. and the Sport of Pure Bred Dogs."

Rowland, a board member of the club, is one of the club's most ardent supporters and works diligently on all the shows, trials, and matches that the club presents throughout the year.

"Putting together the many events that the Moore County Kennel Club does throughout the year would be impossible without the help of members like Blaine," said Watson noting the award was presented to a worthy member who went "above and beyond" in his service to the club.



Members of the Moore County Kennel Club present the Forsyth Award to Westsider Blaine Rowland.

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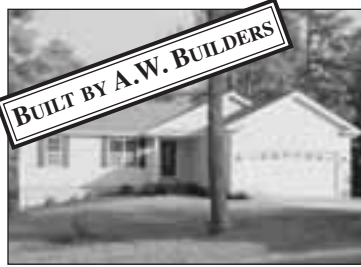
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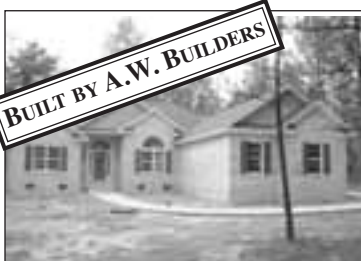
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Editorial

The rules of engagement

These words were penned on Super Tuesday — a day when voters in nearly half the states of the Union made known their preferences for President. Seven Lakes finds itself in the midst of a much more local brand of politics — the election of directors to serve on the boards of its two landowners associations.

The Times begins in earnest its coverage of these races in this issue, with a report on the Westside Candidates Night. We'll follow up in our February 22 issue with interviews with all fifteen candidates. Our March 8 issue will include coverage of the SLLA Candidates Night, scheduled for February 25. Our March 22 edition will present the election results.

Keep it civil

Our election coverage begins with this issue, but the politicking has already begun, with letter writers promoting their favorite candidates. It is the long-standing policy of *The Times* to print all the letters we receive, so long as they aren't libelous or in poor taste. We've turned down very, very few letters over the years.

In the last election cycle, letter writers, particularly on the West Side, frankly abused our desire to host energetic political debate. If you reread our February and March 2007 editions, you will find that our open door policy allowed intemperance and incivility to flourish. Name-calling, innuendo, and something approaching character assassination were the order of the day. Watching it unfold, we found ourselves hamstrung by our own policy, unable to throw a flag, blow a whistle, or send the intemperate opponents to cool off in their respective corners.

We do not intend to repeat that mistake. Hardball politics is the order of the day in these United States. But hardball politics played at the hyper-local level of a landowners association may, once the election is over, make it impossible for the opponents to dust themselves off, shake hands, and continue to live as neighbors.

Long-term, that is not good for this community, no matter who wins the election.

So, we have polished our green eyeshades, tightened the garters on our shirtsleeves, sharpened our red pencils, and purchased a new high-capacity circular file. If you find yourself signing an election letter to the editor that includes name-calling, innuendo, character assassination, unsubstantiated allegations, rhetorical questions, a large number of words in all capital letters, or sentences that end with multiple exclamation points, you should save yourself the postage.

If, on the other hand, you would like to make a civil contribution to a lively political debate, we, and our readers, would love to hear from you.

Keep it brief

We asked, in our January 25 edition, that endorsement letters be limited to 200 words, and those who offer endorsements in this edition have been kind enough to comply. We'd ask that others writing on election topics do the same. Frankly, very few folks are going to read an election-oriented letter that exceeds that limit.

Candidates' positions

SLLA Candidate Ron Erskine submitted a letter for this issue that amounts to a position statement, telling voters where he stands on some issues that he considers important and suggesting some improvements he'd like to pursue.

That's a nice idea and a worthwhile addition to the Candidate's Night questions and *Times* interviews. We'd be happy to have similar statements from other candidates. We'd ask that you limit those position statements to 500 words. Longer submissions will be edited to fit.

Political ads

In the past couple of local election cycles we've carried political ads, and we're happy to have them. Unlike political ads for County Commissioner or State Senator, these aren't regulated by the state. But we intend to treat them according to the same rules.

That means each ad will need to display, prominently, the name of the person or organization placing the ad. If placed by an organization, the ad will need to carry the name of that organization's treasurer or other responsible party. We will need that party's name, address, and phone number for our political advertising file, which is open to public inspection during our regular business hours. The goal is to simply make clear who is responsible for each political ad.

The Times reserves the right to refuse any advertising. It would be a mistake to assume that purchasing a political ad is a shortcut to the name-calling, innuendo, character assassination, or multiple exclamation points that we intend to avoid in the letters to the editor that we publish.

Read, evaluate, and vote.

The Seven Lakes political season is shorter than the national campaigns. But the decisions are no less important. The quality of life in our neighborhoods depends on strong, smoothly-functioning Associations. Picking intelligent, hard-working, community-spirited candidates is critical to the future of Seven Lakes.

If you have something to share about a candidate or an issue, by all means, write it up in a letter and share it with our readers. Don't let the warnings above scare you off — but do let

Real leadership needed on Board

[Former Seven Lakes Landowners Association Director JoAn Moses addressed the current Board of Directors during the January 30 General Meeting. After thanking each Board member individually for their work, she offered the following thoughts.]

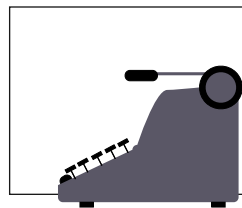
Several years ago when each of you took office and gave your list of responsibilities

room to have your Work Session, don't you need to leave your dislikes of one another at home? Don't you need to leave your mistrust and lack of respect for each other at home? Don't you need to leave your power plays, ego trips, and hidden agenda at home? And come to your Work Sessions with a cooperative spirit to do what is in the best

interest of our community? If you cannot do this, then do you need to serve as a director of our Seven Lakes Landowners

Your Turn

JoAn Moses
Seven Lakes North



and how you plan to carry them out, I was very impressed and told you so at the meeting.

Since that time it has become apparent to me that something has gotten in the way of this same kind of feeling about our Seven Lakes Landowners Board. It appears that the ill feelings toward each other, the lack of cooperation, trust, and respect for each other have gotten in the way of you taking care of the landowners business. Whatever the reason for this, whether it be a power struggle, ego trip, hidden agenda, or not getting enough hugs from your significant other, this hostile environment among the landowners directors needs to stop and stop this very night.

When you come to the board

Association?

I say this not only to you but to every candidate running for this board. Our community does not need to be embarrassed any longer by the actions of our landowner board of directors.

I challenge you to raise your level of leadership and behavior while serving on our landowners board and to cut out all this ill feelings toward each other and stop fighting your battles in the newspaper. Do it in the Work Sessions so that you can conduct our Open Meetings as a united front for what is best for our community.

I also challenge all Seven Lakes landowners to raise our level of leadership and behavior so that together we can assist

(See "Moses," p. 27)

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Laura Douglass, Reporter

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J. Sherwood Dunham, Alfred C. Gent,
William C. Kerchof, Ruth H. Sullivan, and Thomas J. Tucker

What veggies are hiding in your brownies?

If the secret really was in the sauce, then you kindred chick flick fans know exactly what happened to Ruth's estranged husband in what my Darling Hubby refers to as "that tomato movie."

Said spouse had recently wandered into the room just as this critical plot twist was revealed and was duly horrified as I patiently explained that women consider the Barbeque a la Bennet lunch special served at the Whistle Stop Café just desserts for a wife beater, like old Frank.

This pretty much solidified reason ninety-eight why my husband doesn't watch movies starring Kathy Bates. [Misery and that three-hour ode to chickdom,

Titanic, both come to mind.]

However our discussion brought up the very good point of whether you ever really know exactly what you're eating?

With two little people underfoot requiring constant feedings, plenty of questionable meals have been known to come out of my kitchen. The nutrition and contents of some of which are best left out of one's imagination — such as what's actually in a hot dog. My standard excuse for this greasy spoon fare is, "I've got one kid who can't eat anything and one kid who won't eat anything."

On those occasions when I splurge and take them out to

dine, read — fast food, I further justify my domestic failures by convincing myself that it's also important to teach children how to



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

order and eat meals in public.

And come on, growing bones and bodies need a little fat and sodium in the diet, right?

A close friend with a young daughter also disinclined to eat

anything more exotic than a chicken nugget has taken a more drastic culinary approach. Abandoning threats, pleas, and coercion, she's

opted for outright deception and bought that new cookbook written by a celebrity wife with, apparently, considerably more leisure time to spend slaving over a stove than the rest of us mommies.

Hmm, beets hidden in brownies, cauliflower camouflaged in spaghetti sauce, sweet pota-

toes simmered in beef stew? And the most amazing part, not a single gagging noise or frown at the dinner table!

Here's the secret: those stealth veggies are pureed first.

It seems good cooking — and some ultra fine grinding — can mask just about any vegetable ... or sin. Even her finicky husband is none the wiser.

I'm sure there's a lesson in all of this. Though I'm not sure whether it's I should start pulverizing my produce or just avoid dinner at my girlfriend's house when she announces pulled pork is on the menu.

Because in tomato sauce, as in life, the devil is in the details!

Was dam design faulty?

Dear Editor:

I assume the original dam design was intended to last more than twenty years and that the road built atop the dam also should provide for traffic use longer than twenty years!

According to an article from *The Seven Lakes Times* [August 31, 2007]: "Dr. Dan Marks found that water is seeping through the top layer of the dam in a manner contrary to the design of the structure, soaking the earth on the back side of the dam..."

If Dr. Marks states that water seepage is contrary to the design of the structure, then I believe our board must act upon his findings by exploring financial recourse

options with the engineers and state authorities who originally signed-off on the construction project twenty-some years ago. The implication is faulty design engineering and construction workmanship for not only the earthen structure, but the roadway atop the dam.

A recent board report now recommends permanently closing the road over the dam because traffic vibrations will amount to expensive wear-and-tear on the dam structure caused by using the roadway. The active use of the road and views from the road over the dam is appealing to all the residents of Seven Lakes West.

Let's not take it for granted that the residents of Seven Lakes West can financially sustain the expenses associated with potentially faulty design and construction. I would like to urge the board to explore any recourse with the departments within the State of North Carolina responsible for the original project.

By the way, Director MacKay is absolutely correct in assuming that Dr. Dan Marks, dam engineer, should present his findings regarding the dam to the community in a general session, allowing time for adequate Q&A.

Tom Wittel
Seven Lakes West

Moses

(Continued from page 26)

you in making our community the best place to live. This cannot be done by putting ads in the newspaper trying to get rid of someone or circulating a petition to get rid of someone. This only stirs up the pot of anger and mistrust in our community.

I speak to you as a former board member and as a fellow landowner who loves Seven Lakes and the wonderful caring and talented people who live here.

Tonight, I ask each of us to pledge ourselves to working together for the betterment of our community.

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It seems like Seven Lakes is under seige

Dear Editor:

I have been a resident of Seven Lakes for over twenty years, and am now horrified by the discontent that has pervaded our once congenial community.

Our landowners meetings have turned into out of control shouting matches with uncalled for disrespectful name calling. People have the right to disagree but being disagreeable doesn't solve problems.

Current property values are beginning to decrease because of all the negative publicity. Through the past years the association's board has faced other controversial issues but once a course of action was researched and voted upon, everyone shook hands and decided to move on. In addition previously, the board members have had different opinions on agendas; they certainly did not degrade the others in public.

The heart of the lawsuit is whether or not the association's board had the legal right to enter into an agreement with the Seven Lakes Country Club's decision to sell the existing driving range. If this land is truly the club's property to with as it wishes then it becomes the right of the club's



members to vote for or against its' disposition. Many are for, and yet many oppose. A court will have to make a judgement regarding the merits of the lawsuit.

Mr. Hudson exercised his right to run again for the board of

Seven Lakes Landowners Association. I agree he should be allowed, last time I checked America was a democracy. I personally will not vote for him, as someone suing me doesn't give me a warm and fuzzy feeling. Yet that same group wishes to take the right to vote away from the members of the country club.

In conclusion, I, like many others, am guilty of being lazy and not attending the landowners meetings during the last year.

I have asked Mr. Hankins of *The Seven Lakes Times* to remove me from his mailing list. He appeared shocked. I explained I was tired of reading the negative articles and what Mr. Shaw, Mr. Leach, Mr. Erskine, Mr. Oliver, and Mr. Swearingen, have to say over and over again. Potential residents reading these articles and letters to the editor quickly decide that the Seven Lakes community is not for them.

If you don't believe it ask one of our local real estate agents.

To all the residents of Seven Lakes, please read what each of the candidates are espousing as their platform and submits

for your vote.

Our forefathers suffered poverty, hard work, and wars for your right to vote. Do it!

Peg Berger
Seven Lakes South

Conflict of interest

Dear Editor:

Representing the Landowners Association as Treasurer and having a lawsuit against the Landowners Association is a conflict of interest.

Any group of people acting on the board will be dysfunctional while this conflict exists.

If I was the Association's Treasurer, I would be honorable and either resign my position from the board, or drop the lawsuit against the landowners.

Don Kolva
Seven Lakes North

Try prior notice on big ideas

Dear Editor:

The current practice of a Landowners Association Director presenting a motion or resolution without the other directors having received a copy prior to the meeting seems not only inconsistent with accepted decorum, but is both time consuming and unfair to the other directors and the public.

Reflecting upon the ninety-minute plus board meeting of January 30, directors could not possibly render serious consideration regarding at least two lengthy motions [one a Bylaws revision]. After some discussion, they were deferred until the February Work Session.

Suggestion: A board policy be established whereby a copy of each motion or proposed resolution be sent by email or other means to the other directors at least three days in advance of a meeting.

This will provide all directors with a chance to absorb its content and make constructive com-

ments or suggest important changes.

Such a policy can only improve meeting procedure and shorten

meetings.

Hal Blake
Seven Lakes South

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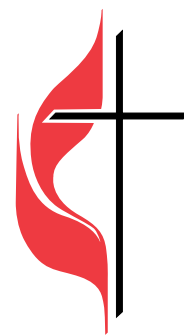
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Silberhorn well-qualified as legal director

Dear Editor:

You have already read several letters in the last edition of *The Times* which supported Ed Silberhorn's election to the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board, listing his education, background, and experience and encouraging you to vote for him in this year's election.

There is no question that he is well qualified to serve on our Board as Chair of Legal Affairs.

Don't vote on single issue

Dear Editor:

Once again the SLWLA Board Nominating Committee has done an excellent job in giving association members a number of well qualified candidates for the upcoming election. This makes selecting only three to be a very deliberative process.

I have one concern, that of traffic accessibility to the dam, that is of interest to me. A number of the candidates, and many current board members, are all too ready to never allow dam traffic again based on one person's opinion. However, the intent of the original design and layout of this community was to have a road across the dam. With proper repair of the current seepage problem [probably not caused by traffic] light traffic once again should be allowed.

If I based my candidates selection on this one issue it would be different than what I believe are the best candidates at this time for our community.

Considering several factors, and not focusing on just this issue, I believe Ed Silberhorn, Ron Shepard, and Karen Milligan should be elected. When they are seated on the board, I feel they will give thoughtful consideration to opening the dam to traffic.

Eddie J. Jackson
Seven Lakes West

Allow me to give you a view from one who served in that job for three years as well as served as your Community Advocate for an additional three years, a job which Ed took over last year. I know of no one who has ever served on the Westside Board in that capacity, myself included, who was better qualified, bet-

ter trained, had better experience, or a better temperament to handle the requirements of that job than Ed Silberhorn.

While practicing law, and germane to this election, he represented the Town of Indialantic, Florida [it had a somewhat larger body of water than ours but otherwise the community was

quite similar], for over a decade as the town attorney, and also represented various homeowner and condominium boards as well as community associations as part of his overall commercial law practice. He is already conversant with the North Carolina Planned Community Act and our governing documents.

Could there be a better fit?

I will vote for Ed and enthusiastically encourage you to vote for him also. Our board needs his talents, experience and judgment over the next three years to meet the challenges this community faces.

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Shepard and Silberhorn are right for job

Dear Editor:

I compliment the SLW nominating committee volunteers for their diligence and for coming up with an excellent slate of candidates for our 2008 elections. I also remind residents that two critical functions should be refilled

- Legal Affairs and Architectural Review.

I strongly recommend Ed Silberhorn because of his expertise and his commitment to open, honest service to the community. Ed has thirty years' experience as attorney for businesses, and

for town and community boards. Since retiring, he has served as SLW Community Advocate, taught at Sandhills Community College, and worked for community clubs. He is currently helping with a lake water usage study. He truly wants to "give

back to our wonderful community," and he has the means to do that.

Equally strongly, I recommend Ron Shepard. He's an effective, proactive worker. He has extensive management experience from large/small, developing/established businesses. He has organized and executed community improvements and major fundraising projects.

Importantly, he has served on an architectural review board. He's a "finisher." I've personally seen him return to "completed" projects to administer corrections or finishing touches that made big differences to final quality.

*Dr. Robert C. Fewkes
Seven Lakes West*

We need Ed Silberhorn

Dear Editor:

Ed Silberhorn's election would provide an ideal and perfect fit in satisfying the needs and requirements of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Board. By applying his proven professional expertise and experience, he would, at the same time, be making unusually thoughtful and carefully reasoned contributions to the deliberations and decision-making efforts of the board.

Ed served as a town attorney over a period for more than ten years. He had experience representing various homeowners organizations and condominium boards. He also has had experience, and as a matter of

fact, is still currently teaching law and business courses as a part-time instructor at Sandhills Community College. Clearly he is well qualified for the tasks ahead.

Ed has demonstrated his interest in community affairs by actively participating in several civic

organizations and activities.

As a friend and neighbor, and as a former member of our Seven Lakes West Landowners Board, I heartily and enthusiastically support Ed Silberhorn's election to the Board.

*Jay Mikula
Seven Lakes West*

Awe

In all the aspects of living, like caring, striving, reflecting, and thanking God for the priceless gift of life in its many forms moving across the surface of the Earth, or flying overhead, or swimming in brooks, ponds, lakes, rivers, or oceans, or the earth-yielding examples of flo-

ral diversity, or the sun, the moon, the stars, I'll always be awed by the immensity of the universe. Occasionally, my head becomes bowed by it all. I give silent thanks where I stand. It's hardly enough. But it's something.

What is a greater stimulus on our path than to open the door to living and loving, and welcoming the reflection the morning sun creates upon those gorgeous little flowers we just planted?



Mason's Musings
Mason Gould

WEE can make a difference

Dear Editor:

The West End Elementary [WEE] PTA would like to thank everyone for supporting us by ordering Poinsettias. This holiday program raised \$480 towards our awning fund!

A special Thank You! goes to Lou, the owner of The Arbor Nursery in Pinehurst, for working with us and providing us with his beautiful home-grown Poinsettias!

Together, WEE CAN Make A Difference!

*Amanda Keller
Seven Lakes North*

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Ballfield decision was the right decision

Dear Editor:

First, I acknowledge the right to free speech and your obligation to publish statements from your readers. However, reading Sandi Burrell's letter to the editor in your January 25 edition, I believe there is much more to the story and feel that it would be a great idea to find out Mrs. Waller's side of the story.

I am proud to know that West End Elementary School [WEE]

has a principal that is taking much needed control of our school.

Fundraising for the ballfield and for other WEE programs and activities needs to be firmly in control of the Principal and not in control of volunteers who are not employed by Moore County Schools.

Mrs. Waller has every right to disband a group of people raising money in the name of WEE

ballfield. After all, she is our principal.

When WEE became an elementary school WEE lost their "Warriors" ball team. The field has since been used by Moore County Parks and Recreation to accommodate the players of the West End School District area. I wonder just how many readers of this paper even have children that use the WEE field. I would love to see the field

restored, but would feel better if the improvements were handled by school personnel.

Mrs. Burrell and other ballfield committee members can put their skills to work for a more worthwhile cause, such as the education of our children. They can help raise money to buy books, paper, and pencils for children who need and may not be able to afford these learning tools.

Mrs. Waller has been nothing short of great for our school and our community. She is committed to the success of our children and their education.

It is time for Mrs. Burrell, the ballfield committee, and the rest of the WEE community to move on and join Mrs. Waller in that commitment.

Sue Bass
West End

Ballfield volunteers deserved better treatment

Dear Editor:

I could not let the article written by Sandi Burrell in regards to the WEE Ballfield go unnoticed without adding my opinion to the mix. For what it is worth, I am not part of the Seven Lakes Community nor do I have children that attend any of the schools in the area but I do own a business that advertises and donates money to various school fundraisers.

My business, The Clothes Horse, was one of the sponsors Sandi solicited last year and because of this, I feel compelled to voice my concerns.

Although I signed an agreement stating the funds would be used for upkeep and maintenance of the field and have learned this is not the case, my issues lie much deeper. It was the way the situation was handled which led me to write this letter.

I am puzzled why a school or organization would get rid of the one person who had whole heartedly put so much of her time and energy into one project. I know how hard Sandi worked to resurrect the field and make it a place not only the kids, but the community could be proud of.

I cannot even fathom the amount of hours she put in getting sponsors, donations, the endless phone calls made, and always going the extra mile. And, this was all done in the name of charity.

But obviously, all of her efforts went unnoticed to some because she was told she was no longer needed at the field and the Ballfield Committee that was newly formed was disbanded before they were even able to make any decisions going forward.

It has pained me to watch this

situation deteriorate in the way it has. Sandi has tried to resolve this matter privately but to no avail. Her different attempts at having meetings with various individuals have left no resolution what so ever.

Unfortunately, when dealing with school boards and school authorities, politics always come into play and nothing can be done.

I want everyone to know what this woman has had to endure and the way she was treated for all of the volunteer work she has done.

In closing, I wanted to give credit and appreciation where it is due. I hope all of the hard work and dedication Sandi has put into the ballfield as well as all

of the other endeavors she took on are recognized. I know for a fact the school and the children have lost someone who cannot

be replaced and I'm sure she will be missed.

Kelly Ward
Pinehurst



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St. Andrews says thanks

Dear Editor:

The Equestrian Team and Coach Carla Wennberg of St. Andrews College, in Laurinburg,

would like to thank the people in Seven Lakes for helping with the Shoebox Project for our troops in Iraq.

Many letters and cards have been received from our soldiers stating their gratitude for their gift from home and for showing how

much we care!

One letter said how lonely he felt at Christmas and when he opened his box, he felt great joy. He ate the goodies and then brushed his teeth with his new toothbrush and paste that was also in the box.

Thanks to Phoenix Fashions, *The Seven Lakes Times*, the kind ladies of Seven Lakes Nancy Wennberg and Sandi Carl, and to Bill Carl.

Carla Wennberg
St. Andrews College

SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 23)

for Association-related expenses. Both were deferred to a later meeting in order to give Directors more time to study the proposals.

- Heard Truesdell and Fulcher respond to a request from Stephan for an explanation of why Southside resident and developer Alan Shaw does not pay SLLA dues. Fulcher explained that 1992 and 2006 agreements between Shaw and he the SLLA exempt his Southside residence from Association dues, though Truesdell said the 1992 agreement was under review by the SLLA Attorney. [See page 22.]

- Heard from Steve Hudson that a drop-in input session on the proposed Fiscal Year 2008-2009 budget will be held in the North Clubhouse from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Wednesday, February 13. Fulcher characterized the proposal as a "hold-the-line budget," that will add \$103,000 to reserves.

- Heard from Donna Stephan that she would like to present at the next Board meeting a revision of a decades old policy that determines when the Association will correct drainage problems on private lots.

- Heard from Randy Zielsdorf that a new procedure for processing Community Standards complaints appears to be speeding up the process, as well as obtaining compliance from violators.

- Heard from Stephan that the Architectural Review Board had approved one home and two fences and denied a third fence.

- Heard from Douglass that

preparations are underway for the St. Patrick's Day parade on March 15 and that registration is open for the Little Miss Seven Lakes competition.

- Heard from Douglass that the Recreation Committee plans to repeat the successful Seven Lakes 7K and May Follies event and fundraiser, this year with the race sanctioned by a local running organization, the Sandhills Striders.

- Heard from Chad Beane that three bids have been received for the resurfacing of the Northside pool deck. The project is likely to cost \$32,000 and will include some work to the sidewalks in front of the Landowners

Office and North Clubhouse. Beane will check contractor references before submitting a winning bid for Board approval.

- Was encouraged by Nuti to take a careful look at and make recommendations for proposed rules of conduct for Board members.

- Unanimously approved an amendment regarding the parking of boats at residences, designed to minimize the visual impact of boats in the neighborhood.

- Approved the recombination of lots 609 and 948.

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Newcomers event was a hit. Thanks!

Dear Editor:

The Women of Seven Lakes wants to thank the twenty-one clubs, groups, and volunteer organizations for coming out on January 24 for our Newcomers Open House.

We appreciate the new residents coming and hope they

found it informative and helpful.

The Seven Lakes Country Club welcomed us all and provided the refreshments, thanks to them as well.

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Near & long term issues

(Continued from page 14)

community at this time," he added.

Ed Silberhorn said that when he was contacted by the Nominating Committee, he learned that current Legal Director Hugh Beckwith would not be running for another term on the Board. "I understand that no one else is chomping at the bit to serve in that capacity," he said. Throughout his career as an attorney, Silberhorn said, he was known as a "deal maker not a deal breaker." His goal is always to "find a viable ethical way to skin the cat." "I have talked with Hugh, and he has briefed me on the issues," Silberhorn added.

Jim Johnson said "It is my understanding that, as a group, the Board has overall responsibility for managing the activities and budgets of Seven lakes West, and we are not really running for a position as a particular committee head. However, the area that I can probably help most at is ARC, infrastructure, and long-range planning."

Question 3:

Near and long term issues.

Question 3 asked candidates what issues need to be addressed in the next one to three years and whether they

saw long term issues as well.

Karen Milligan named security, water conservation, and public safety as near-term issues that need to be addressed. "We need to make our perimeter less accessible," Milligan said, suggesting perimeter fencing and strict control on gate passes as strategies for accomplishing that. Noting that she had lived under severe drought conditions in Australia, she said residents in Seven Lakes and Moore County could do much more by way of water conservation. Milligan said the West Side needs to find "a way to slow traffic on our roads to the speed limits posted." Noting that she is "seeing more and more pedestrians and cyclists on the roads," she said, "we need to slow the drivers."

"The key issues facing our community are the dam remediation project, mail delivery, security, and adequate reserves," **Ron Shepard** said. The dam repair project is underway and moving forward, he said, and appears to be under control. There are pros and cons on the various mail delivery options which may be complicated by work on the Lakeway Drive railroad crossing and the possible need to relocate the gate. Secu-

rity begins with the individual homeowner, and then extends to community watch programs, better security at the gates, and perimeter fencing in selected areas. Speeding needs to be dealt with through a marketing and education campaign, combined with stepped up enforcement, Shepard said.

Echoing Shepard's comments **Ed Silberhorn** listed the dam, the reconfiguration of the front gate, mail delivery, security and speeding among the top issues to be dealt with. Perimeter fencing and security cameras may be tools that can be used in addressing security issues, he said. He added that a review of the voluntary septic management program is appropriate, since a sizable minority have elected not to participate. More education or other measures may be necessary to ensure that the lake remains unspoiled.

"My fundamental concerns are that we have a realistic long range plan which includes building financial reserves and a timely resolution of issues," **Jim Johnson** said. "The number one item on the list is the dam. It's our number one asset — we have to protect it. I don't think all the questions have been answered. I have a question:

Did anyone consider a bypass road? Now we are effectively two separate communities . . . Do we know the cost projections for rehabilitating the dam with use of the road? Has that been looked at? I don't know."

"Security is an ongoing concern," **Lionel Kuhn** said, which

will need to be addressed with "a number of approaches." "Funding for the dam — not only the current repairs but those down the road will be a big concern," he added. "We have to look at the use of dam with regard to traffic and whether or not there are

(See "Capital," p. 34)

Kuhn clarifies position on dam

by Lionel Kuhn, D.D.S.

There is a correction that needs to be made in the biography that was included with the ballot that you received within the last several days. In the original biography under future projects for study was:

"Proposed future use of dam with regard to traffic"

This was inadvertently changed to suggest that I was in favor of automobile traffic on the dam.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

All West Siders know that the desire to resume driving on the dam will come up once the dam is repaired. I was advising that it become a subject for study once dam engineers could answer questions we all have on the impact of automobile use on the structure of the dam.

I hope this clears up any misunderstandings that arose due to my not being present at the Candidates' Night.

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Capital funding

(Continued from page 33)

ways to bypass it." [See box below for a clarification on this point.] Kuhn also mentioned mail delivery as a near-term concern — and noted that one downside that must be weighed when home delivery is considered is the growing problem of identity theft.

Question 4: Funding Capital Needs

Question 4 asked the candidates "How would you proposed funding the two-plus million dollars in capital needs identified by the Long Range Planning Committee [LRP]?"

The Long Range Planning Committee has put valuable time and energy into the Long Range Planning, but the community doesn't know the specifics," **Ron Shepard** said. The plan should be better publicized, we need to agree on implementation, and funding should be updated regularly. "We should all be on the same page," he added. "Whether the current dues will fund our growth is the big question." The options for increasing reserves are raising dues or floating special assessments. Once dues parity is reached, Shepard said, we need to rebuild reserves with small yearly increases. Noting that he doesn't like assessments, Shepard added, "We also have to watch spending."

Calling it a "hard question," **Ed Silberhorn** said capital needs need to be prioritized in order to build reserves for the essential items. Second tier, "nice to have" items could be debated by the board and, if necessary, funded through dues increases or assessments. "We should simply shelve those items that are just not needed or are too expensive," he added. Funding to build reserves should first come from finding ways to cut costs and bring operating line items in under budget, Silberhorn said. The Board will also need to consider whether small incremental dues increases are appropriate. "We will not have necessary monies to handle the top items down the road unless we start accumulating reserves," he said. We will reach dues parity in 2009, and can then work on an equitable basis to build reserves.

The funding of long range

capital needs "needs to be shared equally by everyone," **Jim Johnson** said. "Sometimes hard decisions will be necessary. Sometimes you have to tell the mother the baby is ugly," he elaborated, briefly throwing the room into a paroxysm of laughter. "My approach would be to get to parity so that everyone shares equally, and then implement dues increases as necessary to go to reserves and pay for expenses." Assessments should be seen as a last resort and the Board needs to be very conservative when minding its budget, he added.

It's no secret that we have four sources to fund capital projects, **Lionel Kuhn** said. Reserves, assessments, dues increase, and borrowing. "Eight years is a long time," he said referring to the eight years mentioned in the question. We shouldn't get locked in to any one strategy but stay flexible. Noting the current turmoil in housing markets, Kuhn said the community's needs will depend on how and how quickly it grows — which, at the moment, can't be predicted with any certainty.

Karen Milligan said she found the question difficult to answer. Contacting the long Range Planning Committee to get a better idea of the more than \$2 million in capital needs mentioned in the question, "what I found was that I could not find \$2 million in capital needs in the next eight years" she said. She found road paving, a new entrance, gate, and a new a new mailhouse among the projects, but "I don't think there was enough research to develop the need for those projects," she said. "The costs listed did not look like actual costs." Milligan questioned whether it made sense to begin repaving Westside roads when the community is only half built out and construction traffic is likely to continue to be a factor for a number of years. "We should do paving as interior roads are built out," she said. "I do believe in a gradual increase in dues to cover rising cost-of living expenses, and I am not opposed to one-time assessments for special projects," she added.

Question 5: Improvements.

Question 5 asked candidates

to identify specific changes or improvements they would seek if elected.

"Rather than push for radical changes," **Ron Shepard** said, "I would push for continuity of ideas and purpose," bringing fresh thinking and ideas into the process by recruiting new committee members to joined the existing seasoned volunteers. The idea is continued growth in a smooth fashion, Shepard said. The ARC is important in enforcing community and architectural standards, he added, noting that he had spoke with current ARC Director Bill Mamel and learned that current ARC members will continue to serve after Mamel's departure and Mamel

himself will assist in the transition. Shepard said he was glad to see a spirit of cooperation among Board members and expected, if elected, to contribute to the continuation of that spirit.

Ed Silberhorn said he would "ask the Board to consider instituting a legal affairs committee" that would include members knowledgeable in the legal matters affecting the community. The new committee could advise the Board and legal affairs director, as well as offering a "statesmanlike resource to the community to ensure only highest quality well-thought recommendations are made on their behalf. Silberhorn said he had spoke

with past Legal Affairs Directors and found enthusiastic support for the idea. He said he would also like to create an archive of SLWLA legal documents and records, which are currently scattered among the offices of various attorneys and past Legal Affairs Directors. "We need a complete set ourselves," Silberhorn said, noting that the archive would save legal expenses incurred when an attorney must be asked for a copy of SLWLA documents.

There are two simple things we need to focus on," **Jim Johnson** said. "Open communications between the board and the community, so everyone

(See "Reopen," p. 35)



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Reopen the dam road?

(Continued from page 34)

understands what is happening, and where we are going. And we need to proactively address the issues and not let some of them drag on and on 'til they become a problem."

Lionel Kuhn said he would advocate an enhanced emphasis on funding for beautification. Beautification efforts enhance property values for all residents by creating a best first impression for visitors when they enter and tour the community. Visitors are often asking themselves is this a community they would like to invest in and live in. We want them to answer yes, Kuhn said.

"I have no hidden agendas; I am not for any special interest group," **Karen Milligan** said. "I want to promote a sense of unity among all the demographic groups that make up Seven Lakes West."

Audience Questions.

Having completed the prepared questions, Moderator Tableman then asked the candidates to answer question submitted by audience members. Lionel Kuhn was unable to attend the meeting and so could not respond to audience questions.

Question: What are your sentiments regarding hiring a community management firm. Would you support doing this within the next year?

Jim Johnson: "It's a interesting idea, but probably not."

Karen Milligan said she had attended the Board Work Session where the Personnel Committee made a presentation on the idea. "The information provided was very positive; it seemed to offer the community a lot of advantages. I thought it was a good idea."

"I agree with Karen," **Ron Shepard** said, noting that he was not opposed to hiring a professional community management organization. The Board should continue to interview firms, check out their references, do a cost analysis, make a decision, and, if appropriate, move forward," he said.

"I think it can make sense," **Ed Silberhorn** said. "Transition is always key." Having the management firm hire some existing employees can help smooth the transition, he noted. "It can be

cost effective from the point of view of payroll taxes. I would certainly look at it. But we don't need to rush into it. We should take it easy . . . Walk before we run on it."

Question: Are you in favor of reopening the dam to motor vehicles?

Karen Milligan: "Would I love to see it open? Of course. Is it possible? Maybe." Milligan said she would have to study the matter carefully before coming to a firm position on the issue.

"I would leave the decision to the experts," **Ron Shepard** said. "None of us in this room have the knowledge to make that call." He noted that a close friend, who is an architect, when visiting Seven Lakes West for the first time asked him "What in the world is a road doing on this dam?" "We must be extremely careful with the dam," Shepard said.

"Dr. Marks [SLWLA's dam engineer] is the preeminent expert in the state," **Ed Silberhorn**. "He

teaches the other engineers." Noting that he had heard one solution that would allow traffic back over the dam would involve lowering the lake level 20 feet in order to build a retaining wall. "But how many years would the lake take to refill? How much we would be willing to pay? I'd love to have it," he added. "It's awful not being able to go over it."

Jim Johnson said he respected Mr. Marks, but "he is not the only dam expert in the country. I think we need to make sure we investigate all the alternatives. Maybe we have. But I haven't seen the facts. Has anyone looked at a by pass road below the dam? Maybe we could put enough curves in it to slow the traffic down. We need to look at that."

Question. As a potential new Board member would you revisit implementing the \$110,000 in expense cuts identified by the current Board but not included in the budget?

"\$110,000 is a lot of money,"

Ron Shepard said. "If you don't have to spend it, don't spend it. Just because it's budgeted doesn't mean you have to spend it — this isn't the government. Yes, I would say, try and cut down the expenses."

"I think, as our president Jim Haggard said, it was a shining moment for the Board," **Ed Silberhorn** said. "I was at the workshop when the cuts were identified . . . I would consider those proposed cuts as guidance to see whether we could replicate those cuts. You all have the first say, by voting on the budget in March."

Jim Johnson: "I would focus on using prudent management by the board to try and accomplish as much of the \$110,000 as we could."

"I read over those cuts," **Karen Milligan** said. "\$110,000 is a lot of money. I think some of the cuts were good cuts. I thought some of them weren't. If the budget doesn't pass, I hope to implement some of them. I'm not sure I would approve of the security cuts."

Question. Funding reserves should take priority over any future spending, why or why not?

Ed Silberhorn said he had seen the latest pavement management report that updates timelines for repaving. "We should not repave until the heavy construction is done, but we will need to start paving again. The

(See "Lucas," p. 36)

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— 1 Corinthians 13:13

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Lucas Road exit?

(Continued from page 35)

timeline is constructed to build those reserves. I believe in annual incremental additions to reserves." He said building a "rainy day fund" is essential to preserving property values.

That's a pretty blanket statement," **Jim Johnson** said. "I really can't make a blanket statement that says reserve build up has to be the number one irrevocable deal. But we need to build, not spend."

I believe that we always have to have reserves," **Karen Milligan** said. "We have reserves and have them to pay for the dam. But should we build reserves at all costs? No." Annual small dues increases can be used to build reserves to an appropriate levels, she said. She noted that she had a good bit of difficulty obtaining information on long range planning budgets.

We have to look at both aspects," **Ron Shepard** said. "We have to spend on some things and have to build reserves. Over the past few years, with no dues increase, we have all become complacent. Now we

have to build reserves and make up for lost time."

Question. Should the community open another exit onto Lucas Road or provide some other an alternative to the road across the dam?

Jim Johnson: "My first thought would be I'd rather see the road across the dam reopened, because it provides more for the community — it makes us more cohesive. Those who have driven down Lucas Road will tell you: It's not a garden spot . . . I'm not sure why anyone would want an entrance there."

Karen Milligan: "No, I don't see another entrance in the budget."

Ron Shepard: "I believe Ray [MacKay] spent time looking at this and it probably doesn't make sense . . . An access road around the dam would be a multi-million project that no one is actually going to be interested in and, from a personal aspect I don't want that traffic through the front of my house."

Ed Silberhorn deferred to

the comments of others, including Ron Shepard, who he said was "creative and objective."

Question. How would you determine which contractors should be asked to bid on projects?

Karen Milligan said that, when she was running her own design firm, she would go for bids to the two to six contractors she used regularly for particular aspects of a job and see who could come up with the best quality work for the price.

Ron Shepard said "That shouldn't be too difficult." You look for experience, reputation, quality, and a good price.

"I agree," **Ed Silberhorn** said. "We need to use the lowest and the best — which gives us the discretion to evaluate quality."

"I think the first thing is start with a bid document that defines the objectives you are trying to achieve so the bidders can give a quality proposal at a reasonable price," **Jim Johnson** said. "You then do an in depth analysis . . . check references . . . and

then give the job to the guy with the lowest price — but look at what he offers to get the best job you can secure."

Question. If current budget won't support funding reserves, would you ask for a dues increase?

Ron Shepard: "I am in favor of small dues increases and it only makes sense on a long term basis, so you don't get hit with a fat charge later on."

Ed Silberhorn: "I am in favor of annual incremental dues increases" in order to build up reserves. "We ought to do that before we institute any new spending programs." Adequate reserves are important to maintaining property values, Silberhorn said. "Folks won't buy into a community if they anticipate a big assessment."

Jim Johnson: "How about a simple yes?"

Karen Milligan: "As I said before, Yes. Cost of living."

Question. Communication is important. What current plan or action of the board is a positive

one and what communications strategy would you support for keeping residents informed?

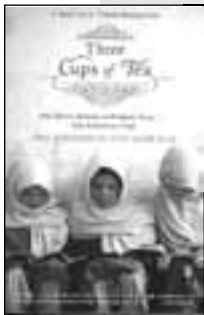
Ed Silberhorn said there has been a "tremendous" upgrade in the level of communication coming from the Board to the community in the past year. "To my knowledge hasn't been a real education program on Long Range Planning," he added. Noting that he has read minutes of LRP meetings and reports the committee has produced, Silberhorn added, "They know what they are doing, but the community doesn't know what the LRP is doing, so we can test it and see if we agree, and then can get behind it."

Jim Johnson said, "We need multiple avenues of communication, including email, the printed newsletter, and utilizing *The Seven Lakes Times*. "The best thing we can probably do is do a good job of communicating so we minimize or eliminate surprises." It's easier for landowners to buy into Board decisions if they feel they are well informed, he added.

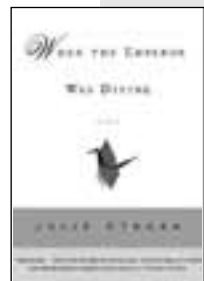
(See "Closing," p. 37)

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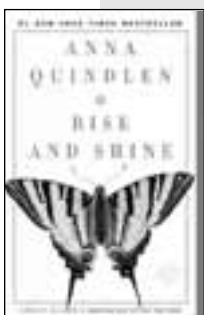
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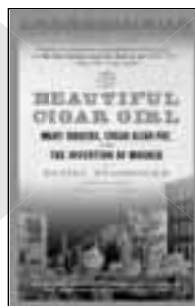
Books West
**THREE CUPS
OF TEA**
by Greg Mortenson



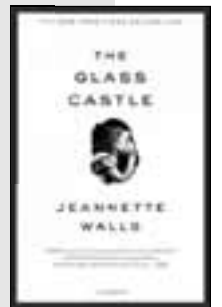
7 Lakes Bookies
**WHEN THE EMPEROR
WAS DIVINE**
by Julie Otsuka



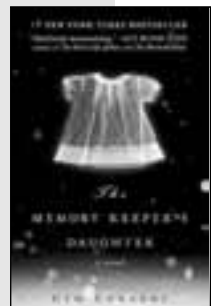
Sandhills Book Club
RISE & SHINE
by Anna Quindlen



BookGroup by the Lakes
THE BEAUTIFUL CIGAR GIRL
by Daniel Stashower



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by Jeannette Walls



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**THE MEMORY
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Sales tax

(Continued from front page)

agreed. "This gives them an option. It allows the voters to decide."

Caddell noted that one advantage of the sales tax is that visitors to the county, as well as residents, must pay sales tax, while the property tax levy falls strictly on property owners.

After passing a resolution to put the additional sales tax on the ballot, the Commissioners unanimously passed another resolution pledging that funds derived from the levy would be dedicated to major capital projects for

the schools, college, and county.

Fund from the new sales tax will be "deposited in the County Major Capital Reserve Fund to pay the debt service of County major capital projects and prioritized to the extent of funding resources as follows: Moore County Schools major capital building projects, Sandhills Community College major capital building projects, major capital government facilities and water and sewer infrastructure needs."

The Commissioner passed a similar resolution last year to

explain how they would have used the proceeds from the land transfer tax.

Other business

In other business, the Commissioners:

- Awarded to Hydrostructures, P.A., a \$389,500 design contract for the Old Town Pinehurst Sewer Rehabilitation project. Public Works Director Dennis Brobst said the "massive project" will upgrade 11 miles of sewer lines — some 120 years old — and 141 manholes in the village. The total

project cost is estimated to be \$5.5 million.

- Were encouraged by Seven Lakes Civic Group President Dave Kinney to move quickly to make concrete some of the suggested water supply strategies recommended in the

recently delivered McGill & Associates study of the county's water needs. Kinney urged Commissioners to "finish the needed homework, come to the 'best bet' decision and authorize Public Utilities to take action."

Closing statements

(Continued from page 36)

Being on the communication committee has afforded me an opportunity to see how they strive to communicate," **Karen Milligan** said, noting in particular the website, the new breaking news sign, and a drive to better utilize the Area reps. "I think our community does a pretty good job of communicating, and I feel it will only get better," she said.

Since the new Board was installed last spring, "communications have turned around 180 degrees," **Ron Shepard** said, noting that Board Work Session are now open. He said he sees better communication among Board members and better communication from the Board to the community. The Long Range Plan "needs to be publicized so that we are all part of it and can buy in and move forward," he added.

Closing statements.

After answering audience questions, candidates were given an opportunity to offer closing statements.

I am passionate about this community and its residents," **Karen Milligan** said. She said she expects to stay here for the foreseeable future.

"I have fully participated in community," **Ron Shepard** said, noting his participation in volunteers efforts like stocking the lake with fish and watering the plants at the mailhouse. He said he has the business background skills and experience to start, monitor, and complete projects. "I'm not afraid to get my hands

dirty," Shepard added, saying he can work well with a broad range of people. He noted that his offers a "positive, can-do attitude and sense of humor."

Ed Silberhorn said he decided to run for the Board as a way of using his legal expertise to give back to the community. He ran with the expectation of filling the Legal Director position, he noted, and said he hopes he will be given the opportunity to contribute in that capacity. Silberhorn said he believes that reserves can be built through small, incremental annual dues increases and, if elected, would hope to be able to create the Legal Affairs Committee he proposed earlier in the evening.

"I have the background and experience to be an effective Board member," **Jim Johnson** said. "If elected, I will work for each and every resident of the community. Everyone needs representation. I would appreciate and value your vote."

Ballots; coverage.

SLWLA Annual meeting packets, which include the ballots for the Board of Directors elections, have been mailed to landowners. The Elections will be finalized at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 16.

The Times expects to interview each of the Westside candidates for our next edition.



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Seven Lakes Times
February 8, 2008

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SEVEN LAKES WEST – Pond front townhome – \$210,000
SEVEN LAKES WEST – Lake Auman Executive home – \$725,000
SEVEN LAKES NORTH – Lakefront & view cottage – \$229,000 Contact Lisa Stewart, Broker, **Premier Property Real Estate**. 910-603-4500.

HOUSES FOR SALE – SL North, 4BD/3BA, 2700 sf, near Sequoia Point. \$235,000. Call 673-1108 or 673- 9123. *Brokers Welcome.*

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When you look at the summary of

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The creditors have 30 days to respond in writing to justify the accuracy of their records. Should they fail to respond within that time

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