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The four demand a jury trial; pray for the court to enter a judgment in favor of Lance, Owenby, Nichols and Ensley for what they say was an assault on their character, and a malicious charge of criminal conduct, which has damaged their families and businesses in an amount to be proven at trial; award reasonable expenses and attorney fees incurred in the case; and grant such relief that the court deems equitable and just.

Tom Daniel, of Daniel, Lawson, Tuggle & Jerles is representing the four directors.

Directors Ronald Burch and William Prather did not join the other directors in the counter claim.

The suit was filed Jan. 2 in Towns County Superior Court on behalf of BRMEMC members Krista L. Gooch, Larry Williams, Andrew Stephens, and Barbara Moss, on behalf of the BRMEMC

membership. According to the 219-page lawsuit, they seek a jury trial to decide the case. No trial date had been set at press time.

They ask for a judgment in favor of the membership against General Manager Matthew Akins, and directors Burch, Prather, Ensley, Lance, Nichols and Owenby, according to the suit.

The suit also seeks the dismissal of Akins, legal counsel Lawrence Sorgen, and auditor Gene Allen, according to the suit.

The suit also seeks a judgment in favor of the plaintiffs for the benefit of the membership against the six directors and Akins for breach of fiduciary duty in an amount to be proven at trial.

The suit claims that the membership has been damaged by a result of the actions of the six named Board of Directors and Akins.

The suit claims the

directors named in the suit failed to discharge their duties in good faith and with the degree of diligence, care, and skill, which ordinarily prudent men would exercise under similar circumstances in like positions and are therefore liable to the membership for breach of fiduciary duty under O.C.G.A. Sections 46-303 and 46-3-303-1.

The suit stems from the disclosure that former BRMEMC President Terry Taylor was allowed to carry a significant debt, and retain electrical service to both his commercial operation and residential dwelling for a number of years.

The suit also alleges that Taylor, who first became BRMEMC president in 1997, was in conflict with the Board of Directors for having commercial contracts that allowed the president to benefit financially from the construction of the BRMEMC headquar-

ters project.

The suit by the membership group claims that more than one of the Board of Directors knew about the debt incurred by Taylor and Taylor Construction, and Terry Taylor's residential account, which also was in arrears.

The suit claims that Akins, in addition to allowing Taylor to continue the indebtedness to BRMEMC, perjured himself and damaged BRMEMC by filing false reports in 2011 and 2012 on IRS Form 990.

The claim is that Akins had knowledge of a conflict of interest arising out of Taylor receiving compensation from BRMEMC at the same time that Taylor and Taylor Construction and Taylor personally, had an unpaid balance with BRMEMC; as well as Taylor and Taylor Construction doing work on the BRMEMC corporate headquarters project.

Ag Day ...from Page 1

Drive Green event, the FFA can have their auction, and we can also have vendors set up at the Farmers Market.

"What we ran into last

year was, the wives that were there didn't care about looking at the equipment and they didn't want to stay around," Nelson said. "But this time, they will have some stuff to go look at, at the Farmers Market while the husbands can look at equipment to bid on, or do the Drive Green event. Both auctions were great events but running them back-to-back just took too long."

It might be called Ag Day, but it's actually a two-day affair. On Friday night, the FFA will hold their livestock and small animal auction at the Union County High School barn at 7 p.m.

"The (small animal) auction will be a consignment auction where anyone can buy or sell," said Pettit. "Last year we had chickens, goats, rabbits, ducks, and turkeys. Almost anything and everything."

The equipment auction

will take place on Saturday at the Farmers Market, along with Nelson's Tractor's Drive Green event, with test-drives available. Most of the equipment will be available for a preview on Friday afternoon at the market, where 20 to 30 vendors are expected to set up on Saturday morning.

Among the vendors will be Union County schools, which is raising money for the school system's newly created STEM program.

"The school has been really promoting the integration of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)," Pettit said. "Students will be selling concessions on Saturday to raise money for that program. Academically, our school is off the charts, you hear about it all the time how we're always one of the top 5 school systems in the State."

"One area that Mr. Stepe and Dr. Williams have

been pushing is the integration of academics with the real world," Pettit said.

With the Union County FFA and Nelson's Tractor teaming up, this weekend's FFA Ag Day is a can't miss event with something for everyone available. It also will serve as the unofficial opening of the Farmers Market as springtime officially begins Saturday.

"This is going to be a great event," Nelson said. "We're trying to get the FFA some exposure at the Farmers Market. We're also trying to get the Georgia Cattle Association involved."

"But the real reason we are doing this is for the FFA kids, to give them exposure, not only on the agriculture side, but on the business side, and we're hoping that this event grows and gets bigger and bigger, and more people get involved," Nelson said.



Union County FFA's R.J. Brown and Austin Brys get ready for Friday night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

YHC Guitar Ensemble Concert

Young Harris College's Division of Fine Arts will present the YHC Guitar Ensemble in concert on Thursday, March 26, at 7 p.m. in Susan B. Harris Chapel on the YHC campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Under the direction of YHC Assistant Professor of Music Richard Knepp, D.M.A., the seven-member student ensemble will present an evening of Baroque and classical pieces for guitar solo, duo, trio, and quartet. NT(Mar18,Z1)CA

Lego Party at UC Library

Union County Public Library will be hosting its first Lego Party in the library's community room on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 4 p.m. This will be an informative party to get feedback from parents and young builders about our future Lego Club. The age limit for this event will be 2 years - 18 years. Children under 10 years of age must be accompanied by a parent. For more information about the party, our future Lego Club or our children's program please call 706-745-7491. N(Mar18,Z19)CA

Career Coach at UC Library

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission's Workforce Development Career Coach is visiting the Union County Library on Tuesday, March 24th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The library is located at 303 Hunt Martin Street in Blairsville, GA.

We will be helping area residents search and apply for jobs, write resumes and cover letters, and discern their career interests. We will also be providing information about tuition assistance and on-the-job training programs. N(Mar18,Z5)CA