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Holloman may face charges

From Staff, Wire Reports

The state Board of Elections has asked Wake County prosecutors to consider filing criminal charges against state Sen. Robert Holloman, a Hertford County Democrat.

Holloman, the elections board reported last week, has been accused of failing to report

\$23,375 in campaign contributions since 2002, the year he won his Senate District 4 seat.



Holloman

Holloman told the board on March 9 that he had not intentionally violated campaign donation reporting rules.

"My reports may have some errors and mistakes," the Associated Press reported last week, "but I'm going to tell you today ... Robert Holloman has nothing to hide."

Holloman did not return a phone call Tuesday seeking comment for this story.

Elections board member Larry Leake reportedly had a difficult time fully believing Holloman.

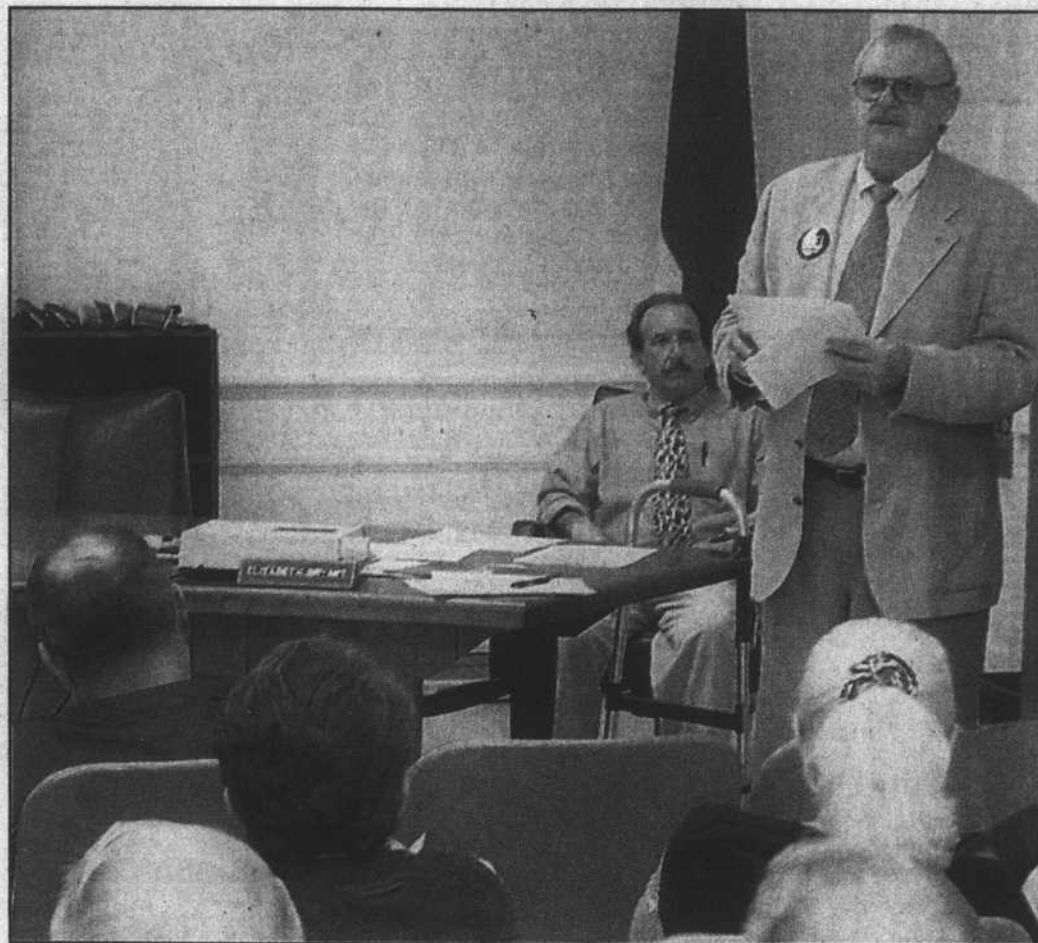
"It is difficult for me to accept that a mistake of that magnitude (\$23,375) is an innocent mistake," Leake said, according to an Associated Press report on March 10.

The elections board also determined that Hunter failed to file required fundraising reports for his 2002 and 2004 re-election campaigns. Hunter's case would not require the board to request any criminal charges be filed, Leake said.

The original complaint that alleged Holloman and fellow state lawmaker Rep. Howard Hunter, also a Hertford County Democrat, had undertaken illegal campaign activity was filed by Democracy North Carolina, a Carrboro-based voters' rights group.

If charged, Holloman would face misdemeanor violations. He is currently seeking his third two-year term representing District 4, which includes Chowan County.

Taking aim at the House



Sean Jackson/The Chowan Herald

Dare County Republican Dan Beall addresses fellow GOP members during the Chowan County Republican Convention on Saturday. Beall pledged, if elected, to work to stem the flow of illegal immigrants into NC. He also charged that Gov. Mike Easley is already seeking ways to divert lottery proceeds away from public education. "He's already got his hand in that pie," Beall said.

Beall: "It's time to return to good government"

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

A Dare County Republican said his current bid to win a seat in the North Carolina General Assembly would be his last if he's defeated again by a Democrat.

Dan Beall told fellow GOP members during the annual Chowan County Republican Convention in Edenton on Saturday that this is his final bid for a state office, if he's unsuccessful again.

However, Beall said North Carolinians may be growing weary of alleged corruption within a Democratic-majority state legislature.

"It is time to return good government," to the General Assembly, he told the nearly 30 Republicans on hand for the event at the Town Council Chambers. "North Carolina Republicans are prepared to enact those changes."

During his 10-minute address

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Pembroke Hall appeal to be heard Monday

BY REBECCA BUNCH
The Chowan Herald

Next Monday afternoon the Town of Edenton Board of Adjustment will hear an appeal in the case of Marvin B. "Jerry" Smith III involving the future of Pembroke Hall, one of the oldest homes in Edenton, which is located in the town's Historic District. The public meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

The appeal was filed in response to a ruling by the Edenton Historic Preservation Commission handed down Nov. 14, 2005 and formally issued Jan. 13 of this year.

In its ruling, the commission rejected a proposal by Smith that would have allowed construction of four new structures - all of them new homes - on the grounds surrounding the historic property. A standing room only audience waited over four hours to hear the decision which followed a

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Fostering a love of sports, family and life

It hasn't always been easy for the Coleman brothers, but they've turned life in foster homes into a passion for hoops

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Trevon Coleman still smiles when he talks about his buzzer-beating shot that sent his rec league team to a tournament victory last month.

Coleman, 10, poured in the last 10 points of the game, sending the Hornets to a dramatic, come-from-behind victory. Coleman and his brother, Tay'Quan, 8, played for the boys' 7-9 year-old team in the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department's basketball leagues this winter. The brothers, who have lived in foster homes for much of their lives, had resided in Chowan County prior to moving to Pasquotank County, where they attend P.W. Moore Elementary School in

Elizabeth City.

Team coach Jonathan Perry said the brothers remained close throughout the season.

"They get along good," Perry said prior to an all-star team practice last week. "They stick together like glue."

Both are backcourt players, with the older brother carrying most of the load for the Hornets - on both ends of the court.

"Trevon was my primary point guard," Perry said while the Coleman brothers (they have another sibling who lives outside of their current home) warmed up at the gym inside the old D.F. Walker School in Edenton for Trevon's all-star team practice.

In fact, Perry added, Trevon poured in more than 90 percent

of the Hornets' points during a 3-win, 4-loss regular season, averaging nearly 13 points per contest.

"He had great leadership," Perry said. "Everyone on the team likes Trevon."

Trevon had confidence last week that his all-star team would be unbeatable.

"We're going to go all the way," he said of upcoming games against all-star teams from Hertford and Gates counties.

The brothers both said that Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal is their favorite NBA basketball player, but only after Trevon decided he couldn't count the retired Michael Jordan as his top hoopster.

Trevon and Tay'Quan said they learned their hardcourt skills primarily on their own, shooting on backyard courts and, indoors, on Nerf goals.

At their new home in

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Tay'Quan Coleman, 8, ponders his next move as he awaits his turn to practice free throws at the Northern Chowan Community Center last month. He and his brother, Trevon, were integral parts of the Hornets' success in this winter's Recreation Department youth basketball tourney.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Culpepper: 'Timing wasn't good' for PAC donation

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Former state Rep. Bill Culpepper, of Edenton, says the donation given to him by a political action committee last fall was nothing more than business as usual for a politician's campaign-fund coffers.

Culpepper, 58, received \$2,000 from the BellSouth Employees' Political Action Committee on Nov. 28, five days after being appointed to a vacant seat on the state Utilities Commission. Gov. Mike Easley has asked for more information about the donation to Culpepper.



Culpepper

he has already returned the donation.

"The timing of it just wasn't good," said Culpepper, who was sworn-in to the Utilities Commission on Jan. 3 to an eight-year term. "There was certainly no bad intention on anybody's part ... It's kind of a business-as-usual situation,

Reached at his Raleigh office Tuesday morning, Culpepper said there was no intent of wrong-doing and that

really." Concerns had been raised about the donation since the Utilities Committee regulates BellSouth and other phone companies, in addition to other public utilities.

During a March 2 press conference, Easley told reporters that Culpepper's was not the only political campaign to have received donations from BellSouth.

Culpepper said he hasn't decided how he will empty the remaining funds from his campaign coffers, but said he is considering giving the money to the House Democratic Caucus.

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Sheriff's office issues alert on ID scams

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Whether online, through mail or by telephone, local citizens are being bombarded by scams designed to get social security and bank account information, and the Chowan County Sheriff's Office warns people, especially seniors, to beware of anyone trying to get personal information.

"Just in the past week we've had four citizens come to us who have received information asking for their credit card numbers, bank account and PIN numbers," Investigator Dwayne Goodwin with the

Chowan County Sheriff's Office said. "We want to remind people that they should never give out personal information over the phone, the Internet or through the mail unless you know for sure to who or what legitimate company you're providing the information. Oftentimes these request forms look authentic, legitimate but they are not. Ask questions and be sure."

In the past week one resident in the county received a sweepstakes flyer asking to send in money in order to receive their prize. Another resident re-

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