

VIEWPOINTS

We Get Letters

Relay raised \$65,000

Dear Editor,

The American Cancer Society would like to congratulate the Hoke County community on their outstanding support for our organization through our Relay For Life.

We are pleased to report that a total of over \$65,000 was raised on May 16th - 17th to support the American Cancer Society's programs in research, education, patient services and advocacy.

A special thank you to Rick Sandy and Charles Crowder, co-chairs of the event in Hoke County, and the planning committee of its hard work in planning and implementing this successful event. Thanks, also, to the 80 cancer survivors who took part in the opening ceremonies. Your battle has been an inspiration to us all. If you would like to participate in planning the 2004 event, please contact your American Cancer Society.

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to offering hope, progress and answers in your community. We are here for you twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week through our toll-free number (1-800-ACS-2345) and our website (www.cancer.org) to answer your questions about cancer. If you would like additional local information or know of a cancer survivor who could benefit from a camp scholarship to the camp of their choice, a college scholarship or other program, please contact Susan Dillon or Amie Fraley at 1-866-227-1940.

Once again, the American Cancer Society is deeply thankful for Hoke County's support. We look forward to continuing to work with you to address cancer needs in your community.

Thanks to communities like yours, the American Cancer Society will continue to make a difference in the fight against cancer.

Sincerely,

Pam Stallings

Regional Vice President
American Cancer Society

Eyeball to eyeball

To the Editor:

Help me out here folks.

How did Al Schwarzbher, in a period of a few months, go from being

worth a \$5000 increase to being absolutely non-essential? That's a question that should raise red flags in the minds of all Hoke countians.

Surely this could not be a vendetta from any of our County Government. Could it? Remember back when expenses, credit card fraud and unaccounted departmental equipment assets was rampant?

If memory serves, Don Steed's study on credit card abuse completely exonerated one department head: Al Schwarzbher. Remember the missing equipment fiasco? Schwarzbher was implicated, but the resulting audit again completely exonerated him.

Now we all know that Mr. Wood makes no decisions that aren't approved by the board of commissioners and signed off by our county attorney, Neil Yarborough. So, who is making decisions concerning the daily operations of this county? Certainly not the manager: Taken to its logical conclusion... do we need a county manager?

We hear the talk of a power struggle between our sheriff and the communications director. The office of sheriff is an elected position. The office of communications director is an appointed position. Personally I feel we made the best choice in both areas. Sheriff Peterkin has publicly stated that he wants communications under his jurisdiction. Why? It would make his job easier and give his department greater control. There can be no power struggle, simply because Mr. Schwarzbher was appointed, therefore he has no one to struggle with. If I know Al like I think I know Al, he's not going to allow the latest accusations from our county manager to go unanswered. In the period of time I've known him, he has always done a fine job of answering accusations and criticism. I see this entire issue as a political maneuver that our board of commissioners doesn't want to touch. Therefore I urge you, as citizens to become involved and ask the tough questions of the board. We certainly don't need to get back into the blame game we just got out of.

It's your county folks. Demand answers and demand accountability. Go eyeball with 'em, they are all reasonable people and are relatively easy to deal with. We must make them deal with it.

Jeff Sumner

FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING FOR WOMEN

Especially designed for women at or near retirement

Noelle Granville-McLean, instructor

**May 29
Through
June 26**

**Thursday Afternoons
3 to 5 p.m.**

**Room 122 of Hoke Center
Division of Continuing Education
Sandhills Community College**

Seminar will cover

**Portfolio balance, maintaining adequate liquidity,
income generation, estate planning techniques, reducing
income taxes, and covering long term care risk**

Tuition: \$25 (includes workbook)

Individuals 65 years and older
do not have to pay the \$25 tuition

Seating is limited, so pre-register by calling
910-695-3926 or 910-695-3980

Sandhills
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Noelle Granville-McLean

Hoke officers give hope to special athletes

Runners carry Special Olympics Flame of Hope from Scotland line to Raeford, raise money for athletes

Hoke law officers carried the Special Olympics Flame of Hope from the Scotland County line alongside Laurinburg Road to Raeford in a drizzling rain Thursday.

Runners took the torch from Scotland officers, who had received it from Richmond County officers.

Law enforcement officers are relaying the torch across the state on a 14-leg run that began in Asheville May 8. Officers will run the flame to North Carolina State University's Derr Track for the lighting of the cauldron to officially open the Special Olympics North Carolina Summer Games on May 30.

This year law officers hope to raise \$1.2 million for Special Olympics in the state through special events, individual and corporate donations and T-shirt and baseball cap sales.

Hoke County officers have a \$6,000 goal and last week had raised \$5,000. In a ceremony shortly before the run, Hoke's check was given to William Dalton, a retired Fayetteville police

officer who is the regional coordinator for the Special Olympics torch run.

The HSO's Cpl. William Russell coordinated the Special Olympics campaign in Hoke. Sheriff Hubert Peterkin complimented Russell with humor, "When he goes on a mission, he can wear you down."

The sheriff said Special Olympics is "a great cause."

The 2003 Special Olympics games will be held May 30-June 1 in Raleigh and will include more than 1,500 athletes from 70 counties across North Carolina. Athletes will compete in aquatics, athletics, gymnastics, powerlifting, softball and baseball.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is an international fund-raising event for Special Olympics which provides year-round sports training and competition for more than one million children and adults who have mental retardation or a closely related developmental disability.

More than 32,000 athletes participate in Special Olympics in this state.



Cpl. William Russell shares a laugh with Sheriff Hubert Peterkin after being awarded a Torch Run sweatshirt he coveted. Russell coordinated the 17th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics in Hoke.



Hoke officers carry the Flame of Hope for Special Olympics in the rain on Laurinburg Road.

Deceased veterans remembered on Memorial Day

During a Memorial Day ceremony held Monday, the names of Hoke County veterans who have succumbed since last Memorial Day were read aloud and balloons released in their remembrance.

Some 65 names were called. They are: Alex C. Averitt, Paul Baxley Jr., John A. Black, John C. Balfour, William R. Beckwith, Kenneth P. Bissett, Frances L. Blain Jr., William F. Blount, Sheila M. Bowers, Theodore H. Brazell, Guy R. Bullock Sr., William H. Carmichael, Phillip J. Cayado, Daniel Bruce Conolly, Joe "Pete" Lee Cottrell, Matthew J. Danak, Phillip A. Dreger, Frank A. Farmer Sr., S. T. Fellows, Joel E. Gullledge Jr., Franklin Delano Haltiwanger, Orville Samuel Harrison Sr., Alphonse Haynes, Donald W. Holland, James I. Hubbard and Shamont Dewayne Hubbard.

Also, James S. "Sambo" Hurst, Earl W. Jones, Charles Lide, Billy Jo Linthicum, Cameron "Cam" Locklear, Huey Long, Ephraim E. Mack, Justin McGarvey, John Daniel "J.D." McKeithan, John H. McLean, Luther McLean, Pernis McLean, William A. McLeod Jr., Dallas E. McKnight, Roosevelt McNair Jr., Junior M. Alfred Mason, Raymond C. Maxwell, Samuel C. "Sam" Morris, J. D. Pickler, Jack Pittman, Gene Polston, Lawrence W. Ray, Thomas A. Ray, R. A. Reed, Isaiah Robinson Sr., Vernon E. Selover, Rudolph Singletary, Leroy L. Smith, Lawrence "Wallace" McGougan Smith, Billy Ray Stokes, Blackman D. Tew, Harry Tudor, Peter Tycz II, George Vanhoy, Carlin Virgil, Woodrow Wilson Walker, Alton Williams Sr., James Womack and Eric Wowra.

Disabled man is stabbed to death

Suspect picked up blocks away with blood on his hands

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

A 52-year-old man, who was disabled, died after being stabbed in the chest Friday afternoon.

Leroy McLaughlin, a former resident of Dalmation Drive, was pronounced dead after being taken to a local hospital.

Suspect Johnny White, 67, was spotted by county officers several blocks away from the stabbing scene. Hoke Sheriff's deputies identified him

by a limp and the clothes he was wearing. And the blood on his hands, according to one of the officers.

White, who is unemployed and lives on the 1000 block of Rockfish Road, is charged with second degree murder and is in Hoke Jail under no bond.

Raeford Police Detective John Pierce said McLaughlin was stabbed at the home of Lawrence Shaw at 320 Wooley Street. He said the stabbing followed an argument.

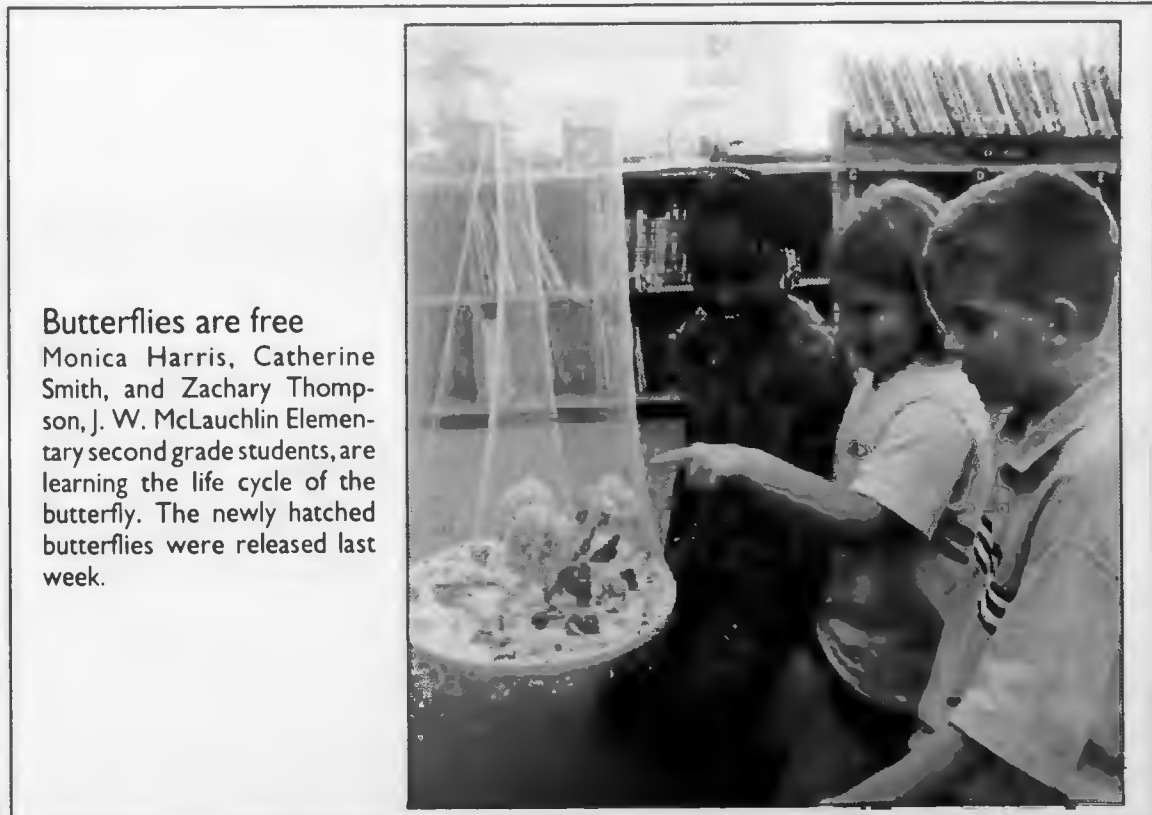
"When we arrived on the scene,

there was still a faint pulse," Pierce said. None of the people in the house witnessed the stabbing, he said.

A "BOLO" (be on the lookout) for White was issued, and Hoke Sheriff's officers noticed him walking at Family Dollar store on South Main Street less than an hour after the stabbing.

Pierce said McLaughlin was stabbed with a knife but no weapon had been found yesterday.

White's first court date was yesterday.



Butterflies are free

Monica Harris, Catherine Smith, and Zachary Thompson, J. W. McLaughlin Elementary second grade students, are learning the life cycle of the butterfly. The newly hatched butterflies were released last week.

You are invited to be a museum sponsor

The Raeford-Hoke Museum will give the community an opportunity to preserve the history of our region and, at the same time provide an auditorium for programs sponsored by civic and educational groups.

All area business and individuals are invited to become founding sponsors of the museum with a monetary gift toward this goal.

The museum is located in the dwelling and on the grounds of the

McLaughlin-McFadyen House at 111 South Highland Street.

Donations may be sent to: Raeford-Hoke Museum, 315 North Main Street, Raeford, NC 28376; send to the attention of Betty Smith, assistant city manager.

Martin

(Continued from page 2A)

fundraising success in his presidential campaign, Edwards is on his way to achieving this goal. Of course, not all of his presidential contributors will help again in a senate race. But many will, and some will help over and over again. In the meantime, their money is paying for an up-and-running Edwards organization that can be converted to the senate campaign when he gives the word.

Then, there is the publicity. An ordinary first-term senator has a hard time keeping his name before the public at home. Edwards' presidential campaign, however, gets his name on the front page of every North Carolina newspaper almost every day, it seems. In a very short time he has built a bank of name recognition that every other politician would envy.

So, the next time you run into a loyal Democrat who insists that Edwards is "risking" a Senate seat by running for President, just remember these two words: money and publicity.

They are the most critical assets for a senate campaign, and Edwards is putting them in the bank every day.

Honored to serve a community that serves an entire nation.

