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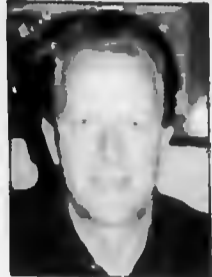
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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Democrats set Hoke caucus after ruling Primary to go on as planned July 20, filing period begins April 26



By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

The U.S. Department of Justice indicated last week that controversial redistricting lines drawn up in North Carolina do not violate the U.S. Voting Rights Act, or discriminate against minority voters. This preliminary opinion, which contradicts the N.C. Republican

Party's belief, pre-clears the way for the previously delayed primary election. It will go on as planned July 20 across the state. A filing period for candidates begins on April 26. However, the N.C. Democratic Party must hold a Contingency Delegate Selection Plan to decide on a presidential nominee. The plan substitutes for the traditional spring primary that was postponed, according to A.K. "Dooie" Leach, chairman of the Hoke County Democratic Party. "This caucus will enable us to

know the state Democratic voters' presidential preferences," Leach said. "These circumstances have caused us to implement presidential caucuses across the state." A three-member panel of federal judges will soon offer a final ruling

on whether the state district lines conform to federal law. Democrats say they must carry on with election campaigns in spite of the Republican opposition to the redistricting. A separate lawsuit is pending in the N.C. Supreme Court, which was filed on

behalf of some Republicans, hoping to reverse the current district lines. "The major redistricting battle taking place in North Carolina resulted because of a Democratic-controlled legislature and opposing Republicans." (See CAUCUS, page 6A)

Commissioners' visit to sheriff's new home stirs up controversy

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Three commissioners have given conflicting reports on why they and County Manager Mike Wood toured the new but not yet occupied homes of Sheriff Hubert Peterkin and Chief Deputy Troy McDuffie — without invitation. "They did not seem to look at any of the other homes but those two," said a person who asked not to be identified. Commission Chairman Bobby Wright admitted that he, Commissioners Jean Powell and Bill Cameron, and Wood were returning to Raeford from Camp Rockfish where an official com-

missioners' retreat was held on March 11. The workshop was adjourned in late afternoon. They decided to stop and "check out" the West Gate development being constructed by Fayetteville developer Ralph Huff, he said. "We rode by and saw some folks working at the home of (Sheriff) Hubert Peterkin so we took a look at his home," Wright said. "We also looked at Chief Deputy Troy McDuffie's home being constructed," he said. "We were glad to see some of the fine homes being built in Hoke County. The sheriff came up and we talked for awhile." (See CONTROVERSY, page 5A)



Monica Moore, left, with VIF first grade teacher Carole-Ann Pill at Upchurch Elementary. A map of the world covers the entrance hall of the school.

Local principals win international awards

Donna Kennedy, principal of Hoke County High School, and Monica Moore, principal of Upchurch Elementary School, have been recognized for their contributions to international education. The awards are from Visiting International Faculty, a cultural-exchange program since 1987. Moore has been recognized for Excellence in Cultural Education. The Upchurch Elementary principal

was honored for her active support of global education. Her efforts have ensured a successful learning experience for teachers and students alike. "Ms. Moore has been a wonderful principal with our international teachers," said Ned Glascock, a VIF spokesman. "Through her efforts, she is helping to prepare students for success in a multicultural nation and a global marketplace, and we are pleased to



Donna Kennedy

State official toured eight Lumbee homes Shoddy repair work focus of visits to homes in Hoke, Robeson counties

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A state official toured eight homes in Hoke and Robeson counties yesterday, examining alleged faulty wiring in substandard renovations of some homes owned by Lumbee Indians. The Lumbee Tribal government is the administrator of the Lumbee home improvement program for low-income families. Lumbee leaders also met on Monday to discuss initiating additional quality control over home repair contractors they hire in the future.

"These are our people; they are our membership in the tribe," Jimmy Goins, tribal chairman, said. "We want things to be right and not do something halfway." "The Lumbee Tribe has not deliberately done anything wrong. We are working to improve conditions for our tribe." The local tour by the state follows a meeting held in Raleigh last Wednesday between Susan Dixon, complaint administrator for the N.C. Licensing Board for General Contractors, and Hoke residents

Elisha Dial, Shirley Bullard, and her brother-in-law, Donnie Jones. Since home improvement projects supervised by the Lumbee Tribal Council cost under \$30,000 per home, the state is unable to investigate

"A lawsuit could be filed if the work is not completed properly, or we will personally visit with the state or U.S. Attorney General's offices to seek further assistance." Some Hoke Native American

"These are our people; they are our membership in the tribe. We want things to be right and not do something halfway."
- Jimmy Goins, tribal chairman

specific complaints, according to the Rev. Elisha Dial, spokesman for some of the dissatisfied homeowners. "The visit from the state this week is still seen by us as a positive," Dial said. "The Hoke homeowners were entitled to receive \$15,000 of rehabilitation work on their homes so those amounts disqualify the state from officially investigating. "I do not understand why for more than six months nothing was done to resolve these situations by the county or the Lumbee tribe," he said.

senior citizens have complained previously about unsafe conditions in their homes, such as lack of hand caps ramps, leaking roofs, cracks in the walls enabling snakes to crawl inside, and concerns about fire hazards. Some unlicensed contractors hired by the Lumbee Tribal Council allegedly completed repair work unsatisfactorily, according to Dial. Curtis Max Thompson, special investigator for the N.C. Electrical Contracting Board, will personally

(See HOME TOUR, page 10A)

Former school board member Locklear dies



Teddy Locklear

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

An advocate of quality education in public schools for all children, former Hoke Board of Education member Teddy Locklear died at home last Thursday morning of an apparent heart attack. He was 40. The death of Locklear has saddened and shocked the Lumbee Indian community in Hoke and Scotland counties and others who knew him. A "good going home ceremony" was held for Locklear

"Teddy was one of our fine, upcoming leaders who had so much to offer,"
- Allen Strickland

on Sunday at South Hoke Baptist Church followed by burial in the church cemetery. A multitude of more than 1,000 people attended the visitation and funeral service. "Teddy Locklear was well thought of by everyone," George McFarley, assistant Hoke school superintendent, said. "It was a very well-attended service with a good cross-section of the Hoke community attending to pay their respects." "The Hoke school board also attended, honoring Mr. Locklear." A Hoke native, Locklear was committed to the Leandro lawsuit filed against the state by Hoke's Board of Education, which is still under appeal by the state. He urged the state to provide educational opportunities for students whether they resided in a poor county or a wealthier one. (See LOCKLEAR, page 3A)

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