



Under Arrest

Former President Laurent Gbagbo and his wife, Simone Gbagbo, are guarded by United Nations security officials at the Golf Hotel in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The former president lost a reelection bid, but refused to step down, but forces supporting his successor stormed the presidential residence last week and arrested Mr. Gbagbo.

Now, LeSure Wants Prater Removed Judge Says She Can't Get Fair Trial

By THOMAS E. SEWARD
Special to the Chronicle



LeSure

The controversial judge charged with fraud now wants Oklahoma County District Attorney David Prater and his assistants removed from her case.

Oklahoma County District Judge Tammy Bass LeSure and her husband, Karlos LeSure, claimed in a legal motion Thursday they cannot get a fair trial if "Prater and his office continue to participate in this prosecution."

"The facts show that Prater has engaged in what amounts to a personal vendetta against Judge Bass LeSure," her lawyers wrote. "The criminal case against [Judge LeSure] and her husband is the latest manifestation of this personal crusade."

"I'm passionate about every case we're prosecuting in this courthouse, but none of them are personal," the district attorney told reporters Friday.

Judge LeSure was charged in January with 30 counts of making a fraudulent claim against the state and two counts of perjury.

Her husband was charged with two counts of making a fraudulent claim against the state and two counts of perjury.

The two became foster parents to a boy and girl in 2008 then adopted them last year.

Prosecutors allege the judge and her husband secretly gave away the twins to her bailiff's sister in 2008 and lied on adoption papers to conceal that giveaway.

In addition, prosecutors also allege the judge misused some state funds provided for the children's care.

(continued on page A9)

Pardon Me!

Linder Elected Mayor, But May Not Be Able To Serve in Position

By W. ORLANDO PIERCE
Special to the Chronicle

PAWNEE—The man elected to become this town's mayor (having beaten the incumbent mayor and another candidate) may not be able to serve, thanks to a criminal conviction.

Christopher Linder, 33, said he expected his criminal history to surface when he decided to run for mayor, but he didn't think that record would prevent him from taking office if he was elected.

Mr. Linder won the April 5 mayor's election for this town of about 2,200.

The tally was 259 votes (44.3 percent) for Mr. Linder, 165 (28.2 percent) for Alford Majors and 161 (27.5 percent) for Mayor Tom Briggs, the incumbent.

Mr. Linder would have been sworn into office Monday, but a felony conviction in Arizona has the mayor's position in limbo.

"It's a complicated mess," said Pawnee resident Jack Townsend, 76. "It all boils down to it costing the taxpayers of Pawnee more money for a special election if he can't get a pardon."

Mr. Linder spent five years in an Arizona prison for attempting to transport marijuana and his involvement in a drive-by shooting.

He was 21 at the time, and made a series of bad decisions without thinking about the consequences, he said.

Those bad decisions could keep him from the mayor's seat. State law prevents a felon from holding the office unless 15 years has passed since he completed his sentence, or a governor grants him a pardon.

Mr. Linder said he's not disputing the law, he simply didn't know about it when he filed to run for mayor.



Christopher Linder

He said the candidate requirements provided him didn't stipulate anything more than residency requirements, and mentioned nothing about prior felony convictions.

Mr. Linder said state law allows him 30 days after his term begins to qualify for the office.

The Arizona Board of Executive Clemency is expected to hear Mr. Linder's request for a pardon May 10. If approved, it will be forwarded to the Arizona governor for consideration.

"I owe this to the 259 people who voted for me to take this to the end, and I want to set an example for my children," Mr. Linder said.

Town Attorney Matt Devlin said Mayor Briggs can serve for the next 30 days.

After that, the city attorney explained, if Mr. Linder's pardon isn't approved, the president of the council, the second in command, will serve as mayor until

(continued on page A9)

Perkins Gets Thousands From Church's Coffers

Then a Deacon, He's at Head Of Recent Upheaval

By ALBERT J. LINDSEY
Executive Editor

The, apparently, former deacon who was the lead plaintiff in a thrown-out-of-court lawsuit has drawn thousands of dollars from the financial coffers of the Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Some of that money (\$6,250 issued as checks to the deacon from 2001 through 2004) was to help him with payments on his house mortgage.

The *Black Chronicle* has acquired photo-static copies of the five cancelled checks issued to Eddie H. Perkins, who is no longer listed among the deacons on Tabernacle Baptist's Website.

A municipal judge placed Mr. Perkins on probation after he pleaded guilty to a reduced charge following his attack at the church on Rev. Dr. Daryl R. Hairston, the pastor of Tabernacle Baptist.

Mr. Perkins, police records say, hit Rev. Hairston in the chest, tore off the minister's shirt and threw him against a wall.

He made a plea arrangement, and charges were reduced from assault and battery to a misdemeanor

(continued on page A9)



The checks written to Eddie H. Perkins from 2001 through 2004. The checks were written on bank accounts of the Tabernacle Baptist Church. (Graphics/Carl Hurst/Black Chronicle)

April 29

Job Fair Planned By Employment Agency

By JILLIAN B. WHITAKER
Chronicle Intern

A job fair will be sponsored by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Friday, April 29.

The event will be held at the Bricktown Coca-Cola Event Center, 425 E. California Ave.

Job seekers can meet with representatives of more than 90 private-sector businesses, as well as with local, state and federal government departments and agencies.

Numerous companies and agencies will be taking job applications on the spot, and will also distribute information on job openings, a statement said.

Patrons are being encouraged to bring a generous number of copies of their resumes, and be prepared for and dressed appropriately for interviews.

Also, at the job fair, assistance will be provided on preparing resumes, and tips on interviewing will be provided by counselors.

Free parking will be available.

Auxiliary aids and services for those with disabilities (includ-



A job fair will be sponsored by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission on Friday, April 29.

ing telecommunications devices for the deaf) will be available upon request.

