

## Arts &amp; Entertainment

Area exhibits and events

A weekly compilation of arts and entertainment programs and events in South Iredell and the region. Have an item to include? Call us at 704-664-5554, or fax the item to 704-664-3614. (All telephone numbers have a 704 area code unless otherwise noted.)

## SIHS Crafts Bazaar

The PTO at South Iredell High School will present its annual Arts and Crafts Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the school. Vendor booths are available on a first come, first served basis for \$50 and \$55. For details, call Joanne Moser at 704-892-7750, or write to the following address for a registration form: South Iredell High School PTO, 631-407 Brawley School Road, P.O. Box 146, Mooresville, N.C. 28117.

**Square dancing**  
The Spinning Moors Dance Club meets the second and fourth Saturday of each month at the War Memorial building in Mooresville. Early rounds at 7:30 p.m., square dancing at 8.

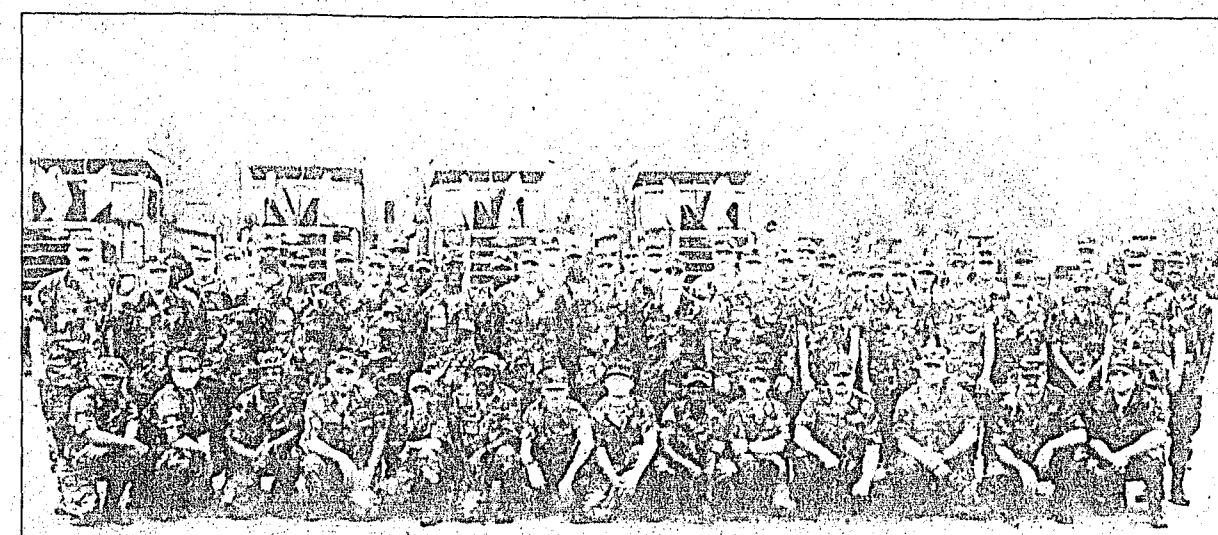
**Art for seniors**  
An art workshop for seniors meets each Wednesday morning at 9 in the Senior Day Room of the South Iredell Senior Center, located in the Mooresville Citizens Center. Details: 662-3337.

**Winnie Hooper lineup**  
The following programs and activities are scheduled at the Winnie L. Hooper Community Center (for details, call 663-0033):

**Balloon Rally time**  
The 28th annual National Balloon Rally will be held Sept. 14-16 at the Iredell County Fairgrounds in Troutman. Balloon launches and live music are featured throughout the weekend. Advance tickets are \$5 for each day or \$10 at the gate. Children 5 and under are free. For more details, call (704) 896-5544.

**Lifestyles**  
**Deadlines**  
Items such as weddings, engagements, anniversaries, club and church news must be received by 5 p.m. on Thursday for publication in the following Wednesday's paper and by 5 p.m. Tuesday for publication in the weekend edition.

**Policies**  
We welcome your wedding announcements. However, due to the volume, we can only publish those that are submitted within four months of the wedding date. We would appreciate receiving engagement announcements at least a month in advance of the wedding. For your convenience, we offer a form which will help you list the pertinent information. Occasionally, readers submit their own announcements, already written. We're sorry, but we cannot publish notices verbatim as submitted and we must edit them for brevity and clarity.



## Guard unit heading for Europe

Members of Mooresville's 505th Engineering Battalion of the Army National Guard will do their annual training in Hohenfels, Germany, Aug. 29 through Sept. 1. The unit will send 60 personnel to work in conjunction with the 282nd Support Battalion (Base), 100th Area Support Group (ASG), DPW, 412th Engineer Command (ENCOM) (Forward Europe) and the 7th Army Training Command (ATC) as a part of a continued mission of the 505th Engineer Battalion (H). The command's ongoing mission consists of construction of buildings and roads, and drainage installation. While in Germany the unit will visit Hockenheim, the sister city of Mooresville. The Mooresville unit is commanded by 1st Lt. Michael Burris of Winston-Salem and SFC James Reilly of Mocksville.

## Democrats defend redistricting

Proponents tell Senate plan reflects partisan balance

Media General News Service

RALEIGH — Though Republicans criticized a state Senate redistricting map as "an incumbent protection plan" — and one that would divide Iredell County into four districts — Democrats defended their proposal as balanced.

"This state is almost evenly divided along partisan lines," said Sen. Brad Miller, D-Wake, the chairman of the Senate Redistricting Committee. "This plan does reflect the partisan balance of the state, and control of the state Senate over the next decade will depend on which candidates can win the competitive races."

But Democrats hold a 35-15 advantage in the Senate, and the plan Miller presented Wednesday appears to make the world — or at least the Senate — safer for Democrats.

The plan divides four of the Senate's eight two-member districts, so that Sens. Virginia Foxx, R-Watauga,

and Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, would no longer represent the same district that currently sprawls along the Tennessee and Virginia borders from Watauga to Rockingham County. But the plan puts Berger and Sen. Hugh Webster, R-Caswell, in the same single-member district, separating Webster from his current Republican supporters in Alamance County and adding Democratic-leaning Rockingham County to the district.

The plan splits 51 of the state's 100 counties. And Sen. Ken Moore, R-Caldwell, pointed out as Miller presented his plan yesterday that it divides Iredell County into four districts.

"The total population of Iredell is less than one Senate district. And yet we split it into four districts," Moore said. "One unified district inside that county makes more sense."

But Miller replied that with the exception of changes that could affect the district of Sen. Cal Cunningham, D-Davidson, redistricting leaders tried to follow the wishes of incumbent Republican senators in Republican-leaning parts of the state. "You have not said one word about Iredell County until now," Miller told Moore.

Miller also pointed out that two Democratic senators in Eastern North Carolina — Ed Warren and Bob Martin — were also placed in the same district.

With a general migration of the state's population from rural to urban areas in the 2000 census, he said, "There did have to be pretty drastic changes because of that."

Despite requirements under federal law that legislators avoid the dilution of minority voting strength, some black members complained about their proposed districts. "I think my particular district has been diluted to the point where it makes it very difficult for a minority," said Larry Shaw, D-Cumberland. "I can win election again and again, but for the person who comes after me, it's going to be very competitive."

Miller said that map-drawers walked a fine legal line delineated by repeated court

challenges to the state's districts.

"We did take race into account. But it was not a predominant factor, subordinating all traditional redistricting principles," Miller said, borrowing the language from a U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck down the state's controversial 12th Congressional District.

Senate Minority Leader Patrick Ballantine said that the plan could jeopardize seats for black members. "I believe there will be fewer blacks in the Senate because of this map," Ballantine said. "This is one of those situations where Republicans and African-Americans need to come together. Because if the black community is not careful, there will be a whitewash."

"We've got a better, more fair plan. We're going to introduce it — and it'll fail 55-15, along party lines."

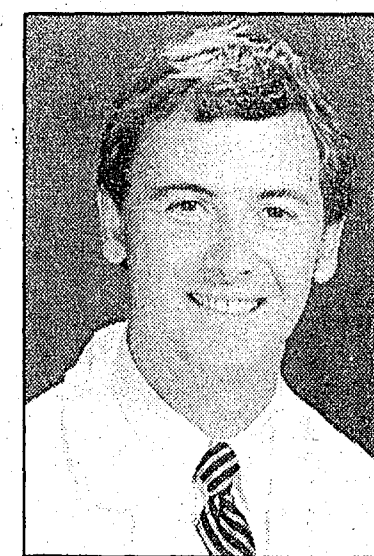
Miller said that the plan's lines could still change after a public hearing scheduled for Monday at 4 p.m. in the Legislative Auditorium on the third floor of the Legislative Building in Raleigh.

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