

attaching," Sumner said, pointing out the News headline again. "The law allows them to amend their form. Short of them just absolutely ignoring the situation and saying, 'I'm not going to modify,' I don't see any way charges could be filed. To be honest with you, they would really just have to thumb their noses at the law and say, 'By George, I'm not doing that.' I can't imagine a scenario in which someone would do that."

Sumner said he had already heard from several legislators by mid-day Thursday.

"I've personally talked with Ken Guin three times this morning," Sumner said.

## BOE

From A1

for first-graders," she added. Superintendent-elect Vonda Beatty was present at the meeting, and she also praised the program.

"Townley's in the third year right now. When I went there, I noticed that the kindergarten students weren't reading, but yet we would get students from other schools transferring in who had started to read. ... We had to get a structured program in place," Beatty said.

"In the spring of 2004, the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) scores were 70 percent benchmark in the kindergarten classes. The following year, they were 100 percent," she added.

The board agreed to pay half the cost of additional bleachers for Oakman Elementary School. The PTO

"He's a straight arrow. He calls them like he sees them," Guin said.

Guin also clarified that he is signed up for state benefits not at the college, but through his wife, who is the principal of Carbon Hill Elementary-Junior High.

He also clarified that his legal work for Bevell State goes back as far as 1995, still after he was elected. However, he said Bevell State President Harold Wade offered him the current job and that Guin did not ask for it, nor did he put pressure on Wade for it. Guin said the two talked of whether to use a contract or hire Guin as an employee, and Guin then consulted with Sumner.

come up that affect them, I don't look at them any differently. I separate myself out

the education issues and being on the Education Committee," he said. "I don't

education, but likewise, there probably should be a better system of reporting that fact," Guin said.

## Wade

From A1

have hired an \$80,000 or \$90,000 a year employee with a law degree and "nothing would ever be said" in the newspapers.

He said Guin, who is employed with Bevell State for \$48,721 a year, checks Bevell State contracts with vendors — for example, looking over an upcoming contract with Charter Communications, who would be doing fiber optic service for the college.

"He looks through that contract for us through all that legal jargon, and he advises us on changes in contracts," Wade said. "The other side of it is he is working in the community, bringing us changes or things we need to be aware of, initiatives. He's been several times to Washington and met with the congressional delegation at his own expense. He comes back and tells us, 'OK, let me tell you what is going to be the hot topic this year that is going to be funded.'"

"Our people begin to write grants with Ken's assistance, and we write grants. That's how we've been getting those dollars," Wade said, adding that Guin also has been arranging seminars for the college.

"So what I am saying is for \$48,000, from the employer's side, we're getting way above that, and that is a good deal from the employer's side," he said.

"As far as him representing us in Montgomery, yeah, he helps us. Because of his position, he's sitting there where the dollars are being divided, but being employed by the college doesn't make it anymore legal or illegal. If he's at the table where the resources are being divided, we're going to get our fair share, just like any other legislator," he said.

Wade went on to say the practice does not compromise Guin's independence, "because he's going to help us anyway. In my opinion, we're not buying influence."

As for Sherer, "he's doing recruiting for us on a part-time basis" for both cam-

puses, mainly in the technical area, he said.

"Tommy has a good relationship with all the school personnel inside Walker County. That's where he's responsible for recruiting. He knows the Walker County Board of Education like the back of your hand. He knows the principals. He knows the counselors. He knows the city. So it gives us a contact with that individual working out there and bringing back information to our student services people, and that's a real deal for \$15,000 a year," Wade said.

"Again, I can go out and hire a \$40,000 recruiter to do that and the Birmingham News, they wouldn't even take note of it. They wouldn't even notice it," Wade said.

Millican, who represents part of Winston County in District 17, receives \$19,000 a year for being an industrial training coordinator for the Bevell State. Millican, a Hamilton barber who became the barber and cosmetology instructor for the college before taking the industrial training position a number of years ago, could not be reached for comment Tuesday and Wednesday.

"What he does, to some degree it's a mixture of what Tommy and Ken is doing," Wade said. "Mike is out in the community on a routine basis, so he works with our campus there (in Hamilton) with business and industry, bringing their needs to the campus and saying, 'OK, we need to set up some classes in such and such and such and such.' Then our personnel meet and we design courses."

An example that resulted from that was on-campus training for workers who were hired at a call center that opened in the area, Wade said.

"In addition to that, Mike, because of the death of his daughter, has taken on a new initiative. He is raising scholarship funds. Mike has raised in the last two

years, he's raised \$75,000. We're paying a guy \$19,000 and he raises \$75,000 for the scholarship fund. I'll take that any day, that deal," he said.

Wade said he would "not be opposed" to a statewide review on the practice of hiring legislators and whether the system is being abused, although he feels nothing has been said this week about the fact four-year state colleges and K-12 schools have the same practices — and that they should be scrutinized equally.

"If you're going to review it, let's make everyone put their's on the table — four-year, two-year and K through 12. Let's just put them all out there. Let's not single out the two-year colleges like the Birmingham News has done," Wade said.

He said as far as misuse in the system, he could only speak for his school.

"I know Ken and Tommy and Mike are producing for us," Wade said. "They're not just on the payroll and getting money for nothing. They're working and they're producing something. If they didn't, they wouldn't be on our payroll, I'll tell you what. If you're going to pay somebody for doing nothing, I'm going to take that job. I'm not going to give it away."

As far as whether he is taking any action to prevent the general scandals in the two-year system that has been reported recently by the News, Wade said those events mostly involved hiring relatives.

"What they're talking is kin folks. I don't have any kin folks and don't plan to hire any," Wade said, adding that employment of relatives is on the agenda for today's work session with the state Board of Education.

The board has come up with a proposed disclosure procedure for employing relatives of board members or college officials, he said. No decision will be made today.