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NC Indian Cultural Center Celebrates Open House

RED BANKS-Saturday was a special day at the N.C. Indian Cultural Center as supporters gathered to celebrate their efforts in sprucing up the place, and officially opening the spectacular grounds to the public.

There was free food and t-shirts heralding the upcoming Cultural Fest 2000 scheduled to run from June 29 until July 2, and music from the Glory Bound Express, a gospel group made up mostly of the remainin... havis Brothers and the Brayboys from the Evans Crossing Community.

A good time was had by all, especially little 9 year old Jamie Lowery, a cancer patient from Laurinburg. He wanted to see Strong Man Harold "Iron Bear" Collins pull an 18 wheeler. That was his wish through the Make A Wish Foundation. As these photos show, Collins did not disappoint young Jamie. The on going effort is part of a vision Collins has for the cultural center. Said Collins, "I just love this place. It seems holy to me. I have always wanted to see it become something great for Indian people." Collins is a veteran of Strong Man competitions, and has traveled extensively in taking part in the competitions, many of them seen on national television via ESPN.

Recently the Indian Cultural Center Board has forged a relationship and expressed a desire to work with the Support Group headed by Collins, Carnell Locklear, Wendy Cummings and others. Board member Ken Freeman has served as contact liaison to the group from the board and appreciates their efforts "very much."

A special guest was Tony Stewart, from The Person County Indians, who is chairman of the board of directors of the center. He expressed great satisfaction in the outpouring of support. Stewart said, in part, "this is what it is going to take to get us up and running. We need a grassroots effort like this to spur our fund raising and get others involved in the development of the center for all Indian people."



Little Miss Lumbee Pageant planned June 28

Little Miss Lumbee Chasity Chavis will relinquish her crown on June 28 at the UNCP Givens Performing Arts Center. The Little Miss and Junior Miss Lumbee Pageant is part of the annual Lumbee Homecoming Festivities sponsored each year by Lumbee Regional Development Association. See the schedule of events of other Homecoming activities elsewhere in this issue. Admission to the event is \$8.00.

Teen Miss and the Miss Lumbee Pageant will be Friday, June 30 at 7 P.M. also in the Performing Arts Center. Admission is \$10. Tickets for these events go on sale June 19, 2000. Reserved seating only.

Box office hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4 P.M. and one hour prior to each performance. For further information call 910-521-6361 or 910-521-6409.



Wee Miss N.C. State Angel of the Universe

Evita Sayorianna Sanderson was recently crowned Wee Miss N.C. State Angel of the Universe. She also won sportswear in her age division and overall composite.

Evita is the 2 year old daughter of Sabrina Sanderson and Michael Floyd. She is the granddaughter of Sylvia L. Sanderson and the late James Edward and Mary Francis Floyd and the great-granddaughter of the late Gus Howard and Eva Mae Locklear and the late Ira and Nancy Sanderson.



Harold "Chief Iron Bear" Collins is shown with Jamie Lowery at the NC Indian Cultural Center. As part of the festivities during Open House Saturday Collins was fulfilling a wish for Lowery who desired to see him pull an eighteen wheeler.



Harold "Chief Iron Bear" Collins is shown pulling an eighteen wheeler at the NC Indian Cultural Center Saturday.

Lorna McNeill: A Phenomenal Woman



By Shannon Brayboy

Webster's Dictionary defines the word *phenom* as "a person of phenomenal ability or promise." Those who have been recognized as phenoms in our society include the likes of Tiger Woods, Vince Carter and Charlotte Church. I have one other person to offer to that list - Lorna McNeill. Lorna is known for her phenomenal vocal ability and numerous pageantry titles. More importantly, she is known for her daily acts of kindness, her generosity, and her mild manner. But it is Lorna's promise that makes her a phenom. In interviewing her for this article, promise was in every word she uttered. Not only is Lorna grounded in her faith, but she is a visionary who knows what she wants out of life and who is definitely making those things happen.

As a sister of Alpha Pi Omega Sorority, Lorna joined our circle of sisterhood in the Spring of 1998 as a member of the Beta Chapter Hearts in Harmony. The Sorority not only gained a dedicated leader, but the Sisters gained a role model. Lorna is the 24 year old daughter of L.H. and

Hazel McNeill of Lumberton, NC. She is the sister of Tim McNeill of Albuquerque, NM, Mark McNeill of Kinston, NC, and Amy McNeill of Lumberton. She is Robeson County

born and bred, and a 1994 graduate of St. Pauls High School. As a senior at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Lorna is a Vocal Performance major expected to graduate in December - that is, unless God has another plan for her. You see, Lorna is competing in the Miss North Carolina Scholarship Pageant in June. If she wins the pageant, she will move to Raleigh where she will carry out the duties of the title full time and complete the coursework for her degree in December of 2001.

As mentioned before, many of us are aware of Lorna's pageant participation, so during this interview, that was my main focus. I quickly learned that while her participation and ultimate victory in several pageants has opened many doors for her, Lorna is made up of a whole lot more than your stereotypical "pageant princess." She began participating in pageants at the age of 15 when she competed in the Miss St. Pauls Pageant. In 1992, she entered the Miss America pageant system when she competed in the Miss North Carolina Teen USA Pageant, in which she won. Lorna has chosen to participate in and support the Miss American pageant system due to its dedication to and support of college women. This association is the largest scholarship program in America for women, contributing \$30 million annual to aid women in pursuing their educational dreams. Miss America pageants are for women age 17-24, so this is Lorna's last year of pageant competition. She is the current reigning Miss Topsail Island, the 1994-1995 Miss Lumbee, the 1998-1999 Miss Fayetteville, and a 1998-1999 Miss North Carolina Scholarship Pageant "Top 10" semifinalist.

As if these accomplishments were not enough, her ability is further depicted in a myriad of non-pageant successes. In 1994, Lorna released her first contemporary Christian CD in Nashville, entitled "Step By Step." Lorna was the featured soloist along with singer James Taylor at the 1998 inauguration of Governor Jim Hunt. She was also featured during the televised installation of Mollie Broad,

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LRDA continues federal recognition efforts on behalf of the tribe

A hearing was held before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on S.611, the Indian Federal Recognition Administrative Procedures Act of 1999, May 24, 2000. The bill was introduced March 15, 1999 by Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. S.611 is an attempt to improve the recognition process which has been criticized over the years for being unfair and burdensome to tribes seeking recognition. If passed, the legislation would create a separate Commission to review requests from Indian tribes to be recognized by the federal government. Currently, the process is under the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Kevin Gover, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, testified at the hearing on the need for a change in the process. Attorney Gregory Smith attended the hearing on behalf of the Lumbee tribe. A written statement was also entered in the record on the tribe's behalf. Smith was retained by Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. as part of their responsibility to represent the tribe in issues relating to federal recognition. The organization was granted this authority by the tribe in 1984 through a tribal referendum. This limited authority to represent the tribe in recognition issues was reaffirmed in a 1999 court order. In discussing the hearing and S.611, Leroy Freeman, LRDA Chairman, commented on the their commitment to continue seeking federal recognition for the tribe. He feels the tribe should monitor the legislation in hopes that the bill will benefit the tribe's efforts to obtain federal recognition.

Around Ol' Robeson



THE STATELY CAROL S. OXENDINE RETURNS FOR ANOTHER SEASON AS THE LEADER.

Strike at the Wind begins 2000 season July 1

RED BANKS-The cast and crew of the Strike at the Wind! Outdoor Drama invite you to another exciting season under the stars.

Micah Sampson revives his role as Henry Berry Lowrie and newcomer Misha Eddings debuts as Rhoda, his devoted wife.

The season begins July 1 at the Adolph L. Dial Amphitheater on the grounds of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center in the Red Banks Community, approximately 2 miles from Pembroke. The drama will be held on Friday and Saturday nights. Showtime is 8:15 p.m. The show will run through August 12, 2000.

Read the Carolina Indian Voice weekly to meet more of the cast and to learn more about the drama.

Second murder suspect now in custody

LUMBERTON-A suspect at bay in the shooting death of two men outside a Lumberton night club Saturday night turned himself into the sheriff's department Sunday morning. Leroy Smith, 24, will face murder charges in the shootings at Carrey's Nightlife in Lumberton that left two men dead.

Smith joins Christopher Lynn Jacobs, who was already in custody and charged with the shooting death of Kendall Hunt of Pembroke. Smith will be charged with the murder of Jonathan McMillian, 23, of Maxton.

The deaths occurred early Saturday morning outside the private club at 3575 Lackey Street. Lumberton Police Major Robert Grice said about 50 people were gathered outside the club when a fight broke out between two groups that led to the shootings. Three other people reported minor injuries and were released from the local hospital.

Dr. Martin L. Brooks honored as a "Trailblazer"

GREENSBORO-Dr. Martin L. Brooks, long time Pembroke medical doctor, was one of three region doctors honored Saturday as a "trailblazer" for their role in working to help eliminate racism in medicine and helping people get better access to medical care. The three were honored at a meeting of the Old North State Medical Society in Greensboro Saturday (June 3).

Dr. Brooks, truly a Lumbee medical trailblazer, was honored along with Fayetteville doctors C. Mason Quick and Jesse F. Williams. Brooks has been in practice in Pembroke since 1957, and has been a member of the board of directors of Lumbee Bank since its inception.

Coach Kelvin Sampson stays at Oklahoma

Champaign, Ill.-Illinois has a new coach, Tulsa's Bill Self. According to reliable news reports, the job was first offered to Pembroke native, Kelvin Sampson, the coach at Oklahoma University. Illinois athletic director Ron Guenther called Tulsa and asked permission to talk to Self after Sampson turned the job down. Sampson was reportedly offered \$1 million a year to take the job. Sampson makes about \$750,000 a year at Oklahoma, according to the same sources.

Pembroke Post 205 in action

PEMBROKE-It is good to see Pembroke Post 205 back in action this year. Pembroke American Legion Post 205 Commander Bobby Dean Locklear said it was something that the community wanted. "Baseball has always been a good recreational outlet for our young people. It gives our athletes something good to do in the summer." Sweet baseball coach Ardeen Hunt is the manager and is ably assisted by William Deese.

Beginning next week, the Carolina Indian Voice will try to tell you more about Pembroke Post 205's exploits in legion baseball.