

The CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 50

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2001

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Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Honors Three "Unsung Heroes"

Each Nancy Susan Reynolds Award Worth \$25,000

Fayetteville, NC (November 17, 2001)- The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has given its coveted Nancy Susan Reynolds Award to three people a river keeper in New Bern whose persistence and love for the Neuse River have spurred the reclamation of that valued natural resource; a woman from Alleghany County who, with modest resources, has spent her life providing necessities of life to the poor and struggling; and a Native American military veteran who has gained the trust of all segments of Hoke County's diverse population, causing them to work together with mutual respect.

The awards, sometimes referred to as "North Carolina's Nobel Prizes," were presented today in Fayetteville at ceremonies attended by more than 500 people and keynoted by North Carolina's First Lady, Mary Phipps Easley. The awards, given in three categories, carry prizes of \$25,000 each.

Receiving the awards are Rick Dove, for seven years River Keeper for the Neuse River Foundation in New Bern, for advocacy; Cora Neville of Alleghany county who for years has collected and distributed food and clothes and helped provide other necessities to her county's most needy, for personal service; Thomas Squier of Hoke County who has brought together diverse elements of his county, including white, African American, Native American and Latino, for race relations.

Dr. Lloyd P. (Jock) Tate, of Southern pines, President of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, said, "Each year, we cast the net broadly to find the people who, quietly and without fanfare, see needs and figure out ways to meet them. Often these people, as in the case with winners this year, have minimal personal resources. These are the people who see wrongs and try to right them; who see conflict and suspicion and work for harmony and trust; who see suffering and try to alleviate it. These North Carolinians, whose only rewards usually are know-

ing they have improved lives and communities through their good works, are our heroes."

Nancy Susan Reynolds was the daughter of R. J. Reynolds and Katharine Smith Reynolds and the sister of Z. Smith Reynolds. The awards given in her honor were first presented in 1986 and are believed to be the only awards of their kind in the country honoring extraordinary leadership at the grassroots level for advocacy, personal service and race relations.

Since the Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards were created 16 years ago, they have given \$1.2 million to grassroots leaders and non-profit organizations in the state. Once brought to the public eye, winners often receive attention from the national news media, and some have been the subjects of books and films.

Rick Dove's story is that of a man who from his earliest recollections was fascinated by the Neuse river and pledged one day to return to it, and work, and sustain himself from it. Instead, when he retired and began fishing commercially, he found that pollution had spoiled it. He took the job as River Keeper for the Neuse River Foundation and his passion, persistence, skills and doggedness have helped end major sources of pollution and set his beloved river back on the road to good health, concerted efforts by powerful business interests to discredit him and threats on his life made him more determined to restore the Neuse to the condition he remembered as a child.

Cora Neville spends her days and nights gathering and giving- obtaining clothes, food and other necessities and getting them to the people in Alleghany County who need them most. A woman of modest means, she turns gifts and "thrown away" things into the difference between being warm and shivering for lack of a coat; the difference between going to bed hungry and sleeping on a full stomach. She refuses to sell the things she

collects, noting that "love is not for sale." A woman who never runs out of love or hugs, Neville sees all people as worthy, regardless of race, ethnic background and social strata.

Thomas Broken Bear Squier is a big man with possibly the stoutest heart in Hoke County. A former Green Beret and warrior, Squier walks with a cane and fights for equality and social justice with the same passion that he fought for his nation in Vietnam. He is a bridge between the various racial and ethnic groups in his county and has the ability to rally them to common causes. Members of Hoke county's large Latino population have found Squier, a Cherokee who speaks Spanish, to be someone they can trust and turn to as they attempt to care for their families and make a life there.

Nancy Susan Reynolds, in whose honor the awards were established, was born in 1910 and died in 1985. Her role in founding the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in 1936 and the guidance and direction she gave to it prompted one writer to describe her as "the most remarkable woman of widely diversified philanthropy in Twentieth Century America."

Nancy Susan Reynolds also has been described as "a shy woman who deliberately lived out of the limelight." She was a generous woman who lived modestly, quietly and without fanfare, but made extraordinary gifts. She admired and encouraged people who saw needs and tried to meet them in their communities, usually with limited resources and often against great odds.

Since its establishment, the Z. Smith Reynolds foundation has made grants of more than \$300 million to projects in all 100 North Carolina counties. Most recently, it has given special attention to five focus areas- community economic development, the environment, pre-collegiate education, issues affecting minorities, and issues affecting women.

Christmas play to be presented at Sandy Plains

Sandy Plains United Methodist Church will present the play "Christmas Special Delivery" on Sunday, December 16 at 5 P.M. in the church sanctuary. The performance is free and open to the general public. Sandy Plains UMC is located at 2468 Union Chapel Road, 2.5 miles north of Pembroke.

Native American Dance Class

The NC Indian Cultural Center will sponsor a Native American Dance Class for anyone interested in learning to dance. Classes will be held Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. til 9:00



Rick Dove, 2001 Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards Winner- Advocacy, New Bern



Cora Neville, 2001 Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards Winner- Personal Service, Sparta



Thomas Squier, 2001 Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards Winner- Race Relations, Aberdeen

Our Tribal Constitution

by Cynthia L. Hunt

Last week we discussed various issues raised by tribal members regarding the amendment process in the Lumbee Tribal Constitution. This week we will take a brief look at the number of tribal members we need to amend the document.

In accordance to Article XIII of the constitution, five (5) percent of the voting tribal membership is needed to propose an amendment to the document. The voting tribal membership includes all members eighteen (18) years of age or older. There is a varied opinion on exactly how many tribal members would be needed to constitute five (5) percent of the Lumbee voting tribal membership. Records vary on the total number of enrolled members. It is probably safe to say based on various research that there are approximately 55,000 enrolled tribal members of the Lumbee tribe. This number includes deceased members whose name has not been removed. However, according to the Lumbee Tribal Enrollment office in a recent Robesonian newspaper article, about thirty (30) percent of this number are eighteen (18) years of age or older. That would be approximately 15,000 tribal members. Therefore, five (5) percent of that number would be approximately 750.

If a petition requesting an amendment bearing 750 or more signatures of tribal members is presented to the Lumbee Tribal Elections Board, that body is required to present the amendment to the tribal membership for a vote. The amendment shall be adopted upon the majority vote of qualified voters voting in the special election.

It is important to note that the Lumbee Tribal Elections Board is an essential part of our tribal government. Please encourage your tribal representative to appoint this body. Next week we will continue our review of the Lumbee Tribal Constitution by discussion the issue of jurisdiction.

Celebrates 89th birthday



Mrs. Gertrude Chavis

Mrs. Gertrude Chavis celebrated her 89th birthday on Saturday, December 01, 2001 at her home in the St. Annah community with family and friends. Mrs. Chavis is the daughter of the late Donald Robert and Addie Jane Chavis of Dillon County, SC. She is the widow of the late Harvard L. Chavis and the mother of 9 children: Francine Chavis, Thedus R. Chavis, Dorothy Walder, Donna Chavis and Harvard Dean Chavis of Pembroke; Larry Dean Chavis of Tennessee; Loretta Filer of Virginia; Harvalene McClernan of New York; and Carol Gavrell of New Jersey. Mrs. Chavis is also blessed with 19 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Recently photographed Mrs. Gertrude is the picture of good health.

Laws will protect residents from threats and violence, Sen, Weinstein says

Raleigh-Two proposals supported by Sen, David Weinstein were signed into law recently to help protect North Carolinians from terrorists threats and acts.

"We have a duty to protect our state from threats and violence, especially in the wake of the horrible terrorist acts against our country," said Weinstein, D-Robeson, who supported both laws in the Senate. "These laws will help provide safety and peace of mind for all North Carolinians."

One new law sets tough criminal penalties for making or delivering biological, nuclear or chemical weapons- and for staging hoaxes or making false reports regarding these weapons.

Under another new law, research laboratories will keep an inventory of potentially dangerous biological agents, such as anthrax or small pox, and report those agents to the state. This registry will help investigators pinpoint where those agents are located in case they are ever used for unlawful purposes.

"We have seen anthrax scares all across our country, even right here in our state," Weinstein said. "We must be sure that our state is ready to respond as quickly as possible to these threats- and that people who use such weapons to harm or frighten others face the consequences of their actions."

A New Beginning Celebration planned at Cultural Center



Everyone is invited to attend a special event which will be held at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center on December 7th and 8th beginning at 10 a.m. both days. The North Carolina Indian Cultural Center is now under new management and is steering toward the direction of bettering our communities and all native people of North Carolina, thus the decision to celebrate with an event called "New Beginning," according to Carnell Locklear, a volunteer with the Center.

There will be plenty of Native American food, gospel singing, vendors, boating, canoeing, storytelling and other events.

"This is a time for our families to come together and enjoy the Center and all it has to offer," said Meritta Lacy, a volunteer at the Center. "We have worked very hard on this project and we want everyone to come and experience this new beginning that we have embarked upon."

"This is truly a new day for the Center and new era for all Native people it represents," said Carnell Locklear.

Norma Lowry, site manager for the Center said, "I am so thankful for the volunteers at the Center. They help so much. We want to thank these people for all their efforts and we want everyone to come to this special event. If there are any questions, please call the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center at (910) 521-2433."

Blood Drive for Special Cause

Matthew blue, of Mt. Airy Boy Scout Troop 326, will be sponsoring a blood drive to earn his Eagle Scout badge. The blood drive will be held at Bear Swamp Baptist Church in Pembroke, N. C. on Saturday, December 22, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

McIntyre announces \$1.6 million for Robeson County Courthouse

Washington, D.C.-U.S. Representative Mike McIntyre recently announced that Robeson County will receive \$1,663,1000 in federal funds to renovate the county courthouse building.

Congressman McIntyre stated, "This is great news for Robeson County! Congratulations to Chairman Johnny Hunt and all the County Commissioners, County Manager Scott Elliott, and all the other local officials for their work on this matter. This is an example of an excellent, local/

federal partnership working together to provide services to our citizens. Thanks also to Jerry Batten and Irma McPherson of USDA for their work on this project."

Robeson County will receive a United States Department of Agriculture 40 year low interest loan of \$1,081,100 and a grant of \$582,000 to renovate the courthouse that has extensive water damage.

Congressman McIntyre is a member of the House Agriculture Committee.

Pembroke High Class of 1966 to hold reunion

The Pembroke High School Class of 1966 will celebrate their 35th year Class Reunion December 21st at the Pembroke Jaycee Hut. If you have not received a letter, or for more information, please e-mail stan.locklear@goodyear.com or call Suzanne at 910-521-0648. Deadline is December 14th.

Dance Class

p.m. All ages are welcome, however, younger children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact NCICC at (910) 521-2433.

LRDA Sponsored Boys and Girls Club Bring New Youth Services



After nearly a year of planning Lumbee Regional Development Association on October 16th achieved a milestone in creating, and officially sponsoring the opening for business in Pembroke, the first Boys & Girls Club of America. This is the first club in a non-federally recognized tribal area in the U.S.

The Club's planning involved the Pembroke Housing Authority, the Boys & Girls Club of Lumberton, the Town of Pembroke, and the University of NC at Pembroke's Triumph Program.

The National Boys & Girls club of America representatives presented a check for \$50,000 to the boys & girls club of Lumberton, the management agent of the local club at the grand opening on October 16, 2001.

The Club has been greeted with strong community support. Over 100 youth have joined the club since its opening. Over 300 members are expected by summer of 2002.

The Club offers a host of activities and programs to help youth develop discipline and good overall charac-

ter skills, with strong focus on academic school achievement.

In addition to providing a wholesome recreational environment members of the club also have access to a computer lab at the facility sponsored by UNC-P Triumph Program, aimed at educational development and enhancement of youth for improved school performance.

The location of the Club is the Clinton Thomas Community Building in the Strickland Heights housing project in Pembroke. LRDA developed plans for the boys & girls club as part of a joint initiative by the HUD Office of Native American Programs, and the national Washington, DC based Boys & Girls Clubs of America to establish Clubs in "Indian Country" throughout America.

Since 1998 one hundred clubs have been established on Indian reservations. The LRDA sponsored club was club number 98 as of October 15, 2001. Mr. Dewey Locklear, Executive Director of LRDA stated that "this club represents a new day for our youth in this area who lack recre-

ational and educational opportunities. America's great leaders were members of a Boys & Girls Club in their community, while in their youth. With the communities on-going support this club will produce strong community leaders for our future."

Mr. Leroy Freeman, Chairman of LRDA agreed, "the partners who helped make this service possible will see the rewards of their actions in our future generations of those that have benefited from this club and what it has to offer. Our elders and our youth are our most valuable resource as Indian people. LRDA has always known this, and that is who our cultural and service programs over the past three decades tried to touch the most."

He went on to add, "The establishment of this club for our American Indian Youth is a crowning achievement for all the partners who helped make it possible."

For more information about the club and its services call Glenda Hadden, Unit Director at 522-9005

In the Armed Forces

Kelvin Oxendine
Air Force 2nd Lt. Kelvin Oxendine has been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force after graduating from Officer Training School (OTS) at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama.

During the demanding 12-week course, cadets are trained to be top quality Air Force officers through an extensive curriculum comprised of classroom work, lectures, and exercises to develop leadership, team building, and officer skills. They receive instruction in military training and application, professional knowledge, human behavior, defense studies, leadership studies and management, communication skills, and physical fitness, and a field training deployment.

Oxendine is a system engineer at Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

He is the son of Jerry R. and Elizabeth A. Oxendine of 8972 North Carolina Highway 72 West, Pembroke, NC.

In 1991, Oxendine graduated from Purnell Swett Senior High School, Pembroke. He earned a bachelor's degree in 2001 from Troy State University, Fort Walton Beach.

Community Wide Memorial Service to be held

A Community Wide Memorial Service sponsored by Pemberton Hospice and Home Care will be held Thursday, December 13th, 2001 at 7:00 P.M., at Berea Baptist Church, across from UNCP. Giving families and opportunity to remember passed loved ones is the goal of the event. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. For more information please contact Rev. Charles P. Locklear, Chaplain at (910) 521-5550 or (910) 521-4949.