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Indians in N.C. must become more self-reliant, leaders say

CHARLOTTE — North Carolina Indians must become more self-reliant if they are to overcome economic and social problems, Indian leaders say.

"Give us a fish, and we'll eat for a day — teach us to fish, and we'll eat every day," said Ruth Revels, executive director of the Guilford Native American Association Inc.

Lonnie Revels, chairman of the state Commission of Indian Affairs, told 450 participants at the 12th annual Indian Unity Conference in Charlotte...



Lonnie Revels

To illustrate that point, Revels pointed to his native Pembroke. The Robeson County town is the center of the state's largest tribe, the Lumbees.

"Ninety percent of the town is Indian, but most of all of our businesses are owned by whites," said Revels, who is also a member of the Greensboro City Council.

"At the end of the week, all that money is taken out of the community. We need to find ways to keep the money in Indian hands," he said.

Indian leaders say nearly 40 percent of the state's Indian population live at or below the poverty level — twice the state's average.

The conference's theme was "Preservation of the Indian Communities through Economic Self Sufficiency."

Gov. Jim Martin's chief of staff, Phil Kirk, told the conference that more emphasis on self-help and less on welfare programs such as food stamps and Aid to Families with Dependent Children was a good step.

Those programs have done very little to break down the cycle of poverty, very little," Kirk said in a speech.

But some speakers at the conference said control of economic destiny could not come until Indians took control of their cultural destiny.

"For too many years, tribes in eastern North Carolina have been victimized by outsiders who tried to define who we were," said David E. Wilkins, a Lumbee Indian working toward his doctorate in political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Local Indian Leader Receives Indian Elder Award At Indian Unity Conference



MR. JOHN L. GODWIN

John L. Godwin of Pembroke has been named "Indian Elder of the Year" by the United Tribes of North Carolina at the recent 12th annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference.

Godwin was nominated for the Indian Elder of the Year award by Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. In its nomination, LRDA cited Godwin's actions "on behalf of Indians, other minorities and the poor of Robeson County for justice and equality."

Godwin is involved in various activities to improve the living conditions in Robeson County for all people. He also serves on several committees, all of which strive to improve the lives of Robesonians.

At present, he is vice chairman of the board of directors of Robeson County Clergy and Laity Concerned. RC/CALC is working to improve the judicial system in Robeson County and to improve working conditions in the county.

Godwin also serves as chairman of Senior Citizens Action Group (SCAG), which is currently working to open a total life house for Senior Citizens in the county.

As chairman of the Concerned Citizens for Better Government in Robeson County Coalition, which came into existence in November of 1986 after the death of Jimmy Earl Cummings, Godwin says "I don't see myself as an activist. I prefer to think I'm a motivator. The people of this county need to be motivated to improve the living conditions for all of us."

Also receiving special recognition during the awards banquet were Charlene Jacobs, Distinguished Service to Community Award; Joseph O. Richardson, Distinguished Service to Education Award; Shelby Jean Patrick, Economic Development for Advancement of Indian People; and Kerry Dean Bird, Outstanding Indian Student Award.

Performing Arts Center Announces 1987-88 Season

The Performing Arts Center of Pembroke State University has announced its 1987-88 season and subscriptions are now on sale.

The Second City Touring Company will return to the Performing Arts Center after its successful performance in March, 1986. The comedy troupe will open The Season on Saturday, September 26, 1987.

The North Carolina Shakespeare Festival will present "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on Thursday, October 15. Shakespeare's use of the mystical enchantment of love and marriage can hardly be matched in this comedy which is one of his most well known.

On Saturday, November 14, The National Players will present the thriller, "Dracula." For 100 years "Dracula" has reigned as the ultimate horror story, the ultimate nightmare, because it touches the intimate center of the human psyche as none of its imitators can.

Taj Mahal, a jazz and blues singer, will perform on Thursday, January 28. He is a prolific composer and compelling performer. His presentations are colored not only with the blues for which he is justly famous, but also sophisticated jazz stylings, early work songs, Caribbean rhythms and ballads of bad men and wild women.

On Saturday, February 27, 1988, The Chicago City Ballet will perform. This Company is remarkable in its strong choreography and individual dancers. America's own great: "Prima Ballerina," Maria Tallchief, developed the company of young dancers in 1980 and she shares the title of artistic director with Paul Mejia, who is also the choreographer.

The Season will close on Thursday, March 24, 1988 with Daedalus Productions' "Man of La Mancha." This musical is a portrait of a determined old man who believes he's a knight errant and his rough world is the golden age of chivalry.

Cult Rumor Cited In Robeson Absenteeism

LUMBERTON — Absenteeism was up at Robeson County schools Friday, and some parents took their children home from classes amid widespread rumors that a cult group planned to kidnap children at the schools, officials said.

School personnel spent "many hours on the telephone trying to calm people's nerves," Robeson County school Superintendent Purnell Swett said.

Rumors circulating from the Dillon, S.C., area indicated that in observance of Friday the 13th, a cult group planned to kidnap children, according to officials.

A police spokeswoman in Dillon called the rumors a "sick joke" that caused police there to increase patrols at schools.

"We had more men working today for protection just in case, but nothing happened," she said.

Swett said absenteeism was up from about 3-4 percent to as much as 12-15 percent in the county schools. Highest absentee rates were at schools in the southern part of the county, he said.

A teacher in Robeson County said

some students were "visibly frightened" by the rumors.

Fairmont School Superintendent Leon McLean said absenteeism there was up from about 6 percent to 10 percent Friday.

Lumberton City School Superintendent Gilbert Carroll said some parents took their children home from school early Friday. "We had a normal school day, except some parents did request to take their children home," Carroll said. He did not say how many children left school.

County Student Wins In Regional Science Fair Competition

On Tuesday, March 10, Oxendine Elementary School held their Annual Science Fair. The students made a variety of posters and projects which were displayed in the school's gym.

The judges were Dr. Dalton Brooks, chairman of the Robeson County Board of Education, and Mr. Stanford Lowery from Pembroke State University.

The overall winner for the kindergarten through third grade competition was Brandy Jackson. Brandy is in the third grade class of Mrs. Joanna Woods. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Jackson of Route 2, Maxton.

The overall winner for the fourth through sixth grade competition was Belinda Dawn Cummings. Dawn is in Mr. Holly F. Locklear's sixth grade class. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. James Cummings of Route 2, Maxton.

Miss Cummings represented Oxendine Elementary School in Pembroke State University's Regional IV Science Fair Competition. She won first place in the sixth grade competition and was presented a gold medal and a certificate.



Science Fair winners [left to right] Belinda Dawn Cummings, 6th grade, and Brandy Jackson, 3rd grade. Principal Larry T. Brooks is in center.

DEAR FRIEND:

If you have a problem with a government agency, or a question or opinion on federal legislation, please feel free to discuss it with a representative of my staff, at the time and place noted on this card.

My policy has always been to stay in constant touch with the people of our Congressional District, and your ideas and needs are important to me. I hope you will be able to come by my mobile office which will be parked at the location mentioned.

Sincerely,

Charlie Rose

Member of Congress

MOBILE OFFICE

VISITS SCHEDULE

Table with 4 columns: Date, Location, Time, and other details for the mobile office schedule.

local bulletin

SPECIAL COMMITTEE SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT

A special committee that is looking into how this state's Native Americans and our criminal justice system interact is seeking comments from the general public.

"We are hoping to hear from Native Americans or their friends who may have some information that will help us in our task," says Henry McKoy, committee chairman and deputy secretary for programs, North Carolina Department of Administration.

The eleven member ad hoc committee, appointed last month by Lonnie Revels, chairman of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, was formed to look into the broad issue of how Native Americans view their rights under the criminal justice system.

The committee is composed of North Carolinians of varied backgrounds and expertise. The members are Dr. Yevonne Brannon and Malcolm Ray Hunter Jr., both of Raleigh; Sybil J. Bullard, Arnold Locklear and Julian Pierce, all of Pembroke; Sherman Lillard of Cherokee; Prof. Norman Lefstein of Chapel Hill; W.R. Richardson of Hollister; John Tyndall of Winston-Salem; and Dr. Tommie M. Young of Greensboro.

The ad hoc committee will report any recommendations it might have to the Commission of Indian Affairs. The commission is administratively housed in the Department of Administration and is the only state government agency with the specific responsibility of addressing the needs of North Carolina Indians.

Anyone with information they wish to share with the special committee can call (919) 733-5998 or write the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, Post Office Box 27228, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. All calls and letters will be handled in confidence.

GOSPEL SINGING PLANNED

There will be a gospel singing Friday, March 27 from 7pm until at the Rex Bennett Elem. School gym. Guest singing groups will include The Pierce Family, D&L Gospel Singers and The McNeill Trio.

REVIVAL AT CHEROKEE CHAPEL

The spring revival will convene at Cherokee Chapel Meth. Church, Wakulla March 22-27. Guest speakers will be the Rev. Johnnie Chavis, pastor of Sycamore Hill Freewill Baptist Church, and Rev. Larry Locklear, pastor of Island Grove Baptist Church.

PRINCIPAL OF COLUMBUS COUNTY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY TO SPEAK AT MARCH 28 DINNER MEETING OF ROBESON FGBMFI

Lumberton-Willard McPherson, principal of Columbus Academy at Whiteville, will be the speaker at the Saturday, March 28, dinner meeting of the Robeson County Chapter of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International.

KEEN-AGER BAZZAR

On March 20, the Keen-agers (Senior Citizens) of Prospect United Methodist Church will have their annual bazaar. At this event one can buy lunch (Hot dogs, Hamburgers and the trimmings), quilts, scarves, straw brooms, pillows, and other articles of interest.

PROSPECT CLASS OF 1982 PLANS REUNION

The Prospect High School class of 1982 is making plans for its 1987 class reunion. All members are to get in contact with: Terry Wayne Locklear at 521-9541 or Denise Revels at 521-3740.

DISCUSSION ON GIFTED EDUCATION IN ROBESON COUNTY SCHEDULED

An open discussion group on "Improving Gifted Education in Robeson County" will be held Tuesday, March 24, 7pm at O.P. Owens Auditorium. Dalton Brooks, chairman of Robeson County School Board, will serve as moderator. All interested parents, educators, and high-achieving students are welcome to participate. For more information call Walter Matthews 521-9595.