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PERIODICALS

JUDGE RULES BULLARD
INELIGIBLE IN LREMC CONTROVERSY

by Connee Brayboy
Judge Craig Ellis recently ruled in Superior Court in Lumberton that Janice Bullard was ineligible to serve as a member of the Elections and Credentials Committee of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation. The Committee met following the October 6, 1987 election for four seats on the Board of Directors of LREMC. The election was brought under protest by incumbent Elias Rogers, who was seemingly defeated at the election by Conrad Oxendine. The Credentials Committee met in response to Rogers' protest. At the hearing before the committee, Rogers and his attorney, Barry Nakell, brought charges of alleged vote-buying, conspiracy between existing board members to defeat Rogers' etc. the committee, after hearing Rogers' evidence, voted to set the election aside. This decision reverted all seats to the original directors, putting Rogers on and taking Oxendine off. Two weeks later, following much speculation, rumor and allegations of bribery, the committee met again. This time they decided to reverse their decision, apparently in violation of the corporation by-laws which state that "The decision of the Credentials Committee shall be final." This means, seemingly that the Committee did not have any reason to reconvene. To do so placed the committee and the existing board of directors in violation of the corporation's by-laws. Following the second meeting Rogers was forced to carry his case to the courts. Ellis' latest decision was a result of Rogers' legal attempt to retain his seat on the Board of Directors. Since Judge Ellis has agreed with the corporation

by-laws and ruled Bullard ineligible to serve, we wonder what the next step is. Because Bullard was ineligible to serve, her vote at both meetings cannot be counted. At the first meeting she voted to set the election aside. At the second meeting she seconded the motion to reconsider the previous decision. Neither of those votes, as this reporter understands it, should be counted. That being the case, the result should be that the original meeting of the Credentials Committee to set the election aside should stand. But that decision also will be made by Judge Ellis because the board of directors appears unwilling or unable to abide by their own by-laws. With all these things in mind, those of us who are member-consumers should be asking some questions, such as: Who is going to pay for these needless trips to court? Someone has to pay the corporation attorneys and it does not take a genius to recognize who the someone is. What action can be taken against Gus Bullard, or any board member, who refuses to abide by the by-laws of the corporation which he's elected to enforce? How about the violation of a director's oath of office? Do we have any recourse to demand that the board of directors act in accordance with the corporation by-laws? And how long will the board of directors, management and attorneys of LREMC continue with this seeming charade? How much has it cost us so far? How much more will they waste in what appears to be an attempt to illegally defeat a man? Janice Bullard is Gus Bullard's niece.

SPOTLIGHT ON WAKULLA SUPPLY CO.
LOCAL BUSINESS PERSONS



Dennis Ray Chavis is shown inside Wakulla Supply Co.
by Barbara Brayboy Locklear
Special to The Carolina Indian Voice

construction. In 1976, after graduating with a B.S. in business administration from Pembroke State University, Chavis joined his father in managing the family-owned business. "I've always had a sense, I'd be a part of Wakulla Supply," he comments. The bachelor says he took the job to be near his family. "I also felt an obligation to help my parents because they sent me through school." His father managed the business until recently when he retired due to ill health. "He's still the boss and overseer, though," Chavis adds. A professed workaholic, Chavis puts in an 11-hour work day, six days a week. He does it for the love of it and for the love of people. "I like the simplicity of life. Here at the business, I'm dealing with simple, honest people." He says 60 percent of his business with customers is handled on a credit basis. "I can't let faithful customers down. They always pay their bills," he smiles. In addition to stocking garden seeds, farm tools, fertilizer, picnic items and sporting goods, an array of meats is available, fresh and frozen, to customers. The customer can purchase a slice or whole stick of bologna. And for Southerners who moved North years ago, quart jars of "Covington" Molasses await their return visits to the area. "Northern people just love the molasses," Chavis grins. Lunchtime finds the manager busy preparing sandwiches on one of two antique butcher block tables located in the back end of the store. He serves up sandwiches, soft drinks and hot coffee to hungry customers who stand patiently in line to get one of his special bologna or peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Gospel music from a television set entertains visitors as they shop. Several years ago, Chavis added stereo equipment, tapes and video cassettes because of a personal interest. Gospel music lovers keep the tape supply pretty-much low. Wakulla area residents no longer must travel far to purchase items such as dictionaries and Bibles. The store has them too. The businessman also supplies an advertisement service which offers advertisement on items such as caps, pens, pencils, matches and calendars-20,000 items in all. Orders are taken at the store and delivered to the customer in three to six weeks. The dream of owning and managing a business has come true for Chavis. With an humble smile, he adds, "I'll tell you, Wakulla Supply's been good to me."

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

MARY H. LOCKLEAR



Mary H. "Mrs. Mary" Locklear stands on the front porch of her Pembroke home.

my first lesson in teaching. It became one I'd never forget in life," she adds. "He asked my name, and I told him 'Mrs. Mary.' He said, 'my dad said you was my teacher and he wanted you to learn me something for I didn't know a damn thing,'" she chuckles. In that moment, Locklear says she realized she felt exactly the same as the young student. She then committed herself to the task of shaping minds. She'd do it one step at a time. "To take one step at a time" became a philosophy she would follow the rest of her life. The next two years followed her to Barker Ten-Mile School. Her next assignment was taken at Symrna School where she became the county's first female Indian principal. It was to be a position she held two years. Seven years later she returned to the school she first joined and retired in 1977 from a teaching career which spanned 42 years. Even during her teaching career, Locklear was active in politics. It seemed second nature to walk alongside her husband of 42 years. Mr. Locklear had been appointed the first Lumbee Indian to serve on the Robeson County Board of Education. He was later elected and served 14 years in the position. Due to the couple's efforts, they saw the first Indian non-teacher employee hired at the board's central office in Lumberton. A widow since 1976, Locklear says she's not retired-just tired. Yet her energy seems endless. Since leaving the classroom, she substituted only once for a five-week period. She declines invitations to teach now because of getting attached to young students whom she loves so much. She opts instead to help as a volunteer to schools during special testing periods. And even though she helps administer scholastic aptitude tests, she feels such testing does not fully measure one's intelligence or potential. She says nothing quite measures up to the benefits that a one-on-one teacher/student relationship offers. She has visited and entertained hundreds of school students with songs and music from a band made up of several retired citizens in the area. And when she is nudged, she'll even dance a Charleston jig to the amazement of others three-score less her age. When not out lobbying for causes affecting the welfare of her people, she's busy visiting ill shut-ins or spending time at local parks or gymnasiums cheering for one of her four grandsons in athletic meets. She's an active member of her beloved Berea Baptist Church where she has taught Sunday School for years. She loves her native Robeson County and wishes others would look closer at the many good things it offers. A simple principle has guided Locklear's life for more than seven decades. It was given to her by a six-year-old whose father thought he knew nothing. Yet, with the gift, Mary H. Locklear molded a rich and rewarding life one step at a time.

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Travel about five miles west of Red Springs on NC 71, and you'll find an honest-to-goodness general store. The Wakulla Supply Company is set back from the road with an old bench which seems to invite old and young customers to stop and sit a spell. A steady traffic of customers enters the old wooden front door which is plastered with metal snuff, chewing tobacco and headache powder ads. To the right of the entrance, through light a trifle dim down long aisles of groceries, farm supplies and "soft goods," the newcomer is surprised to see a Victorian fireplace with beveled-glass mirror above the mantel. Standing with one foot propped on a counter is store manager, Dennis Ray Chavis greeting the "regular" customers with a broad smile. It was more than 18 years ago, the 34-year-old Lumbee Indian would hang out at the country store after school hours and dream one day he'd own or manage the business. In 1971, the dream began to develop when his father, Ernest Chavis, bought the old brick building which was first occupied by the Wakulla School, which abandoned the structure about 1921 in a school consolidation move only four or five years after its

TASK FORCE'S McKELLAR REPORT:
A Positive Statement For
Hatcher & Jacobs

by Connee Brayboy
The recent report released on the death of Billy McKellar was a positive statement for Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs. McKellar died in the Robeson County Jail on January 9, 1988. The report was released by the special task force appointed by Gov. Jim Martin. The task force was appointed as a result of the demands made by Hatcher and Jacobs as they were negotiating within the Robesonian on February 1, 1988. Hatcher said that he requested an investigation into that death because he felt "it was a needless death." Neither Jacobs or Hatcher said that there was any criminal intent, but they both felt that McKellar's life could have been spared with proper attention given to his asthmatic condition. According to reports, Phil Kirk, chairman of the task force, said: "There was neglect, but we could not find any reason to believe the negligence was criminal." "We didn't see any criminal intent-just neglect of duty." The report ended by saying that McKellar's death could be attributed to the following:

- * A "recognized significant underlying illness; asthma."
- * Failure of Billy McKellar to take prescribed medications.
- * Failure of jail personnel to verify that McKellar took his medication "as required by the jail's Medical Care Plan."
- * Environmental conditions of the cell that would aggravate asthma.
- * Lack of adequate monitoring of inmates, "which caused a substantial delay in the jailer's rounds."
- * Failure "to immediately recognize the seriousness of

(McKellar's) condition, resulting in a delay' of calling an ambulance. * McKellar's "medicines were allowed to run out." The report recommends that: * Steps be taken to ensure there is always an adequate number of personnel to handle emergencies. * Steps be taken to ensure that monitoring systems are operational. (The jail's intercom system was operational but its TV monitoring system was not, the report states.) * Jail personnel comply with the jail's Medical Care Plan by ensuring that inmates receive and consume all prescribed medications. (Two "shakedowns" by jailers revealed McKellar stashed pills under his bunk, according to the report.) * Steps be taken to prevent inmates with serious health problems from being placed in environments/conditions that may aggravate those conditions. (The report states that McKellar was in a cell with two other inmates, although Sheriff Stone says McKellar was told he could move but turned the offer down.) "It is beyond the scope of state government to require implementation of these recommendations," the report states. "However, we strongly encourage officials in Robeson County to consider them." If the officials don't, Kirk suggested that Robeson County voters elect officials who will. "Ultimately, it is the people who decide who runs the jail," he said. "It is the voters who elect the sheriff, and the sheriff runs the jail."

SANDERSON SERVED
AS GOVERNOR'S
PAGE

RALEIGH--Jon Michael Sanderson of Pembroke, North Carolina served as a page last week in Raleigh with the Governor's Office as a part of Governor Jim Martin's page program for high school students. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael V. Sanderson, Jon is a junior at West Robeson High School. Governor's Page are chosen on merit, having been recommended by teachers, principals, or other leading members of the community. Governor's Pages assist the various departments in their communications with other state government offices. They are also given the opportunity to tour state museums, the Governor's mansion, Legislative Building, and State Capitol. "There is an excellent opportunity for outstanding young people like Jon to learn about state government," Governor Martin said. "In addition, Governor's Pages provide invaluable assistance in helping to maintain the smooth and efficient operation of state government." For additional information, contact Mary Denning, Director of the Governor's Page Program, 919-783-5811.

Eddie Hatcher Responds To
McKellar Report

When the colonists listed their charges against King George III they continued to describe the response to their peaceful protests. "In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury" wrote the colonists in the Declaration of Independence. For many years we too sought peaceful change in Robeson County only to be ignored and further insulted with injury. In particular, the last two years have shown the entire nation the oppressions hovering over the Indians, Blacks and poor whites of Robeson County. We peacefully sought answer to the many unsolved murders in Robeson County. We peacefully sought answers to the many unsolved murders in Robeson County. We plead for answers concerning the racially motivated murder of Joyce Sinclair, a Black lady from St. Pauls. Yet to no avail. After the murder of Jimmy Earl Cummings, by Sheriff Hubert Stone's son, we peacefully marched and humbly called for an end to the police state government existing in Robeson County. Further still, we rallied in protest to the many unanswered questions in the killing of Edward Zabitosky by a sheriff's deputy. Therefore, on February 1, 1988, we were forced into declaring our Independence. Forced by the heavy hands of corruption, drug trafficking, and racism existing within Robeson County and the State of North Carolina. Forced to seek a long overdue Redress of Grievances in the only non-violent manner remaining. Many local and state officials who have participated in activities they wish to keep covered have made attempts to publically discredit the charges we have levied against them. They will stoop to whatever is necessary to further discredit us and our evidence; however, we have now seen two bricks knocked from the wall of corruption and we shall see more. The wall of oppression has become shaky and is sure to fall. An investigation into the needless death of Billy McKellar of Lumberton was one of the demands made on February 1st. Some continue to say we could have let the system handle our charges. Where was the system in the murder of Jimmy Earl Cummings or Joyce Sinclair or any one of the more than a dozen others yet to be answered for? Yet today, we have received deserving answers into the death of Billy McKellar. It is very sad that corruption, drug trafficking and racism has reached a level