

# The Carolina Indian Voice

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

Robeson County

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## PEMBROKE HOUSING AUTH. TO BEGIN EMPOWERMENT OF RESIDENTS

Pembroke Redevelopment Commission Services Officer Bobby Locklear and Commissioner Samuel Kerns participated in a conference sponsored by HUB Regional Office IV in Atlanta, Georgia March 7-9. The conference was also sponsored by the South Eastern Region Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. The conference addressed the new initiatives established and encouraged by HUD Secretary Jack Kemp concerning drug-free public housing, resident economic development initiatives, and sports/cultural activities.

The conference was designed to work with local housing authorities to develop strategies to expand opportunities and empower the residents of public housing in Region IV.

The Department of HUD, along with SERC-NAHRO is committed to implementing Secretary Kemp's goal of strengthening the families and ultimately the communities by helping the public housing staff return their neighborhoods to a drug-free environment.

The message conveyed was that there is a role for government money and programs, but there is a limit to what money can do. The problems of drug abuse, homelessness, hunger

and illiteracy often transcend politics and defy political solutions.

President Bush's "Thousand Points of Light" initiative calls upon all Americans and all American institutions - every corporation, firm, school, college, church, synagogue, club, and association to assume responsibility for society's problems.

Commissioner Kerns reports that of all the model programs discussed three of them are located in North Carolina. They are: Asheville, NC PHA directed by David Jones; Wilmington, NC PHA directed by Alan Jones; and High Point, NC PHA directed by Ken Martin. Region IV and possibly the nation's youth sports and cultural programs in public housing is modeled after the one in operation in High Point.

Both Kerns and Locklear expressed excitement and support for new resident initiatives program. They both look forward to working with the community and Pembroke Redevelopment Commission in helping to implement these programs in the area. The initiatives will help to change lives, undergird families and transform communities into economically mobile and dynamic areas.

From Staff Reports

## Robeson lawsuit settled

### Family of Lumbee shot by deputy to get \$65,000

By JANE RUFFIN  
Staff writer

The family of a Lumbee Indian who was fatally shot by Robeson sheriff's Deputy Kevin Stone during an attempted drug arrest has accepted a \$65,000 settlement to drop a suit against the county, the deputy and his father, Sheriff Hubert Stone.

The sum, to be paid by an insurance company for the county, included \$40,000 for four children of Jimmy Earl Cummings and \$25,000 for estate and legal costs.

The county and the Stones denied that they were at fault in Mr. Cummings' death but settled the suit to avoid the costs of further litigation, said William E. Moore Jr., the lawyer who represented them in the suit.

"Litigation is always fraught with risk, and there always is a downside to any triable issue, so there is always some point at which it makes sense to settle a case," Mr. Moore said. "And in this case the parties were able to find that common ground and mutually agree upon a settlement that would avoid the risk and further cost of litigation."

The family's lawyer, James R. Nance Jr., said the settlement spared the pain of a trial for the children, three of whom are under 18.

"There were some emotional issues involved as far as they were concerned," Mr. Nance said. "I seriously think that it would have caused a lot of problems for them to have gone through a trial with all the attendant publicity and seen all the things that would have been printed about their father, and it would not have been a good thing for the children. We felt like this was a way to maybe assist them to get some advantages from a settlement they might not have gotten if he had lived."

Under the agreement, approved Feb. 28 by U.S. District Judge Malcolm J. Howard, \$35,000 will be invested in annuities for the children.

The suit alleged that Deputy Stone had "intentionally and/or recklessly" shot and killed Mr. Cummings during the encounter in 1986. The suit alleged that county officials knew about abusive misconduct in the sheriff's department but refused to correct the problem.

A coroner's jury ruled that

Deputy Stone had fired in "self-defense and/or by accident." At the time, members of Mr. Cummings family said they had not gotten adequate notice of the hearing and questioned the participation of Joe Freeman Britt, then district attorney and now a Superior Court judge.

The killing became a rallying point for citizens groups protesting the treatment of the county's Indians and blacks.

Reprinted from  
March 14, 1990  
Raleigh News  
and Observer



## Robeson Citizens Protest

Concerned citizens from Robeson County staged a march against Attorney General Lacy Thornberg and his office on Friday, March 9.

The marchers said they were protesting against the Attorney General's apparent oblivion towards the corruption in Robeson County.

"There is corruption all over Robeson County, particularly in the judicial system," said Thelma Clark of Pembroke. "It smells mighty fishy when in the past few months alone four lawyers connected with the Eddie Hatcher case have been subjected to high level scrutiny and prosecution."

Clark was referring to Barry Nakell, a UNC/CH law professor, who was held in criminal contempt when attempting to represent Hatcher at a pretrial hearing last fall. Other lawyers referred to were William Kunstler, a New York lawyer and Lewis Pitts of Carboro, both of whom were involved in the Hatcher case.

The marchers said they were gravely concerned over the recent case of Lumberton Attorney Horace Locklear. The Lumbee Indian was indicted by a Robeson County Grand Jury in Nov. 1988, on felony charges of attempting to accept property by false pretense and obstruction of justice.

On Feb. 28, Locklear pleaded guilty to reduction charges on two misdemeanors of attempted obstruction of justice. He was initially charged with three counts, two felony counts and a misdemeanor count. Locklear was among the first of lawyers to represent Hatcher on

charges stemming from the Feb. 1, 1988 takeover of *The Robesonian* newspaper office.

"Horace Locklear was a victim of selective prosecution - pure and simple," said Indian activist Carnell Locklear of Maxton. "And the attorney general played an active role in prosecuting him when he sent Linda Morris, a lawyer from his office to handle the case against Mr. Locklear. Mr. Locklear was singled out by the Robeson County judicial system and charged with nothing less than what other lawyers in Robeson County have been doing for decades."

Clark says Thornberg's office is doing little more than manufacturing prisoners for the State's already overcrowded prisons. "If Thornberg would clean up North Carolina's judicial system no more prisons would be needed," she said.

Oppressed people, particularly those in Robeson County, feel they are being held hostage by Attorney General Thornberg because he has failed miserably in his efforts to fully investigate the widespread corruption which lurks within Robeson County which is torn by drugs and racial strife.

Among the things the marchers are asking for is an immediate end to selective prosecution and persecution of lawyers willing to take a stance against corruption which goes on within the Robeson County courthouse. They appeal to the Attorney General to ask for, and demand, a Congressional investigation into the wrongdoings in the county.

## Three From Region Among 55 Named Morehead Scholars

Three students from the Cape Fear Region are among 55 recipients named to receive Morehead Scholarships to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the 1990 fall semester. Officials have announced.

The students are: Xerceria Littles of South View High School in Fayetteville; Nanci Locklear of Purnell Sweett High School in Pembroke; and Kenric Maynor of Lumberton High School in Lumberton.

The scholarships, valued at \$40,000, provide an all-expenses-paid undergraduate education at UNC and a summer enrichment program.

Xerceria is the daughter of James A. Littles of Raeford and Brenda Littles of Hope Mills. She is the president of the National Honor Society at her school, a member of the varsity band drill team and recipient of the Bausch & Lomb Science Award.

Nanci's parents are Christopher and Cheryl Locklear of Pembroke. She is president of her senior class, a member of the varsity tennis team and recipient of the Robeson County Schools superintendent award.

Kenric's parents are Glenn and Jeanette Maynor of Lumberton. He is president of the student council, a member of the varsity baseball team and recipient of the N.C. Scholar-Athlete award.

Selection of the scholars followed a screening process that began last fall and ended in Chapel Hill earlier this month, officials said. The competition involved students from 23 states and the District of Columbia.

Recipients were chosen for merit and achievement, not financial need, officials said. Other criteria used in making the selections included leadership, service, character, academic standing and motivation, officials said.

Reprinted from  
March 14, 1990 Fayetteville Times

## CUMMINGS TO SERVE AS CONG. PAGE



Katina Cummings is currently serving as a U.S. House of Representatives Page for the spring semester this year. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carlee and Pandora Cummings of Maxton, N.C. She is a junior at Purnell Sweett High School.

Congressional Pages, who serve during the fall and spring terms, must have an academic average of 3.0, attend Page school and successfully complete required academic courses. In addition to this, they have many duties that expose them to a variety of facets of life in Washington and the work done in Congress.

After this semester, Katina will have one more year of high school and then has plans to study accounting or business in college.

## Peaceful Sunday Disrupted By State Highway Patrol

Boy! What a peaceful Sunday I had the weekend of January 14th. First, to start things off, I went to the video store and got a movie to watch. Then, I sat down at the table to eat dinner. My 14-year-old son and his friend were riding their dirt bikes in the yard. My son-in-law came up and got on my son's dirt bike and went for a ride. Guess what?? In five minutes a State Trooper came right through my yard. I went outside to the back of my house. You know what? The trooper had a 9mm pistol pointed right between my son-in-law's eyes telling him to get off the bike. I asked the trooper to put the gun away because of the small children in yard. He told my son-in-law he had no business showing his a-- on that dirt road like he did. We asked "What dirt road?" He said my son-in-law knew what dirt road and "he's under arrest."

They argued about it for a few minutes and then another trooper came. He got out of his car with his flashlight in his hand and said, "What's the d--- problem?" The first trooper replied, "This one don't want to go in." The second trooper replied, "Ph! He's going one way or the other." Then they got very rough with my son-in-law. I told them they didn't have to do that and this was my property. I was told he didn't give a d--- who's property it was.

Then my daughter got into it because they were so rough with her husband. Then the trooper with the flashlight drew back to hit her and my 14-year-old son stopped him. The trooper then drew back the flashlight to hit him, and that's when I stepped in to put a stop to this foolishness and was also attacked by the trooper with

the flashlight. Then my wife screamed, "HE's pulling his gun!" I then grabbed his hand and held on so he couldn't draw his gun. Then the other trooper asked me to release him. I told him I would if he would not let him pull his gun because of the children that were there. I then released him and was put under "arrest for assault on an officer."

This was my peaceful Sunday where I live one-quarter of a mile off the highway, thanks to the North Carolina State Highway Patrol.

According to the Robeson County Sheriff's Department, they were after dirt bikes on a dirt road mile away from my house before this incident. Is this fair to the citizens of Robeson County?

Michael Oxendine  
Pembroke, NC

Oxendine was found guilty on Tuesday, March 13, of assault on an officer. He was sentenced by Judge Gary Locklear to a two year active sentence, suspended to 10 days in the Robeson County Jail, two years probation, fined \$300 and ordered to pay court costs and \$5.00 to replace the trooper's sun glasses that were broken in the incident.

Oxendine's daughter, Dixie Oxendine Dial was given one year probation and two days in the Robeson County Jail for assault on an officer.

The 14-year-old son received probation for assault on an officer. The son-in-law, Woodrow Terrence Dial has not been tried for crossing state property with a dirt bike, no drivers' license or registration and other charges stemming from the incident.

Dufrene Cummings. Also, there will be special music each night. The church is located just off Highway 71 between Red Springs and Maxton, across from Oxendine Elementary School. The pastor, Rev. Julian Ranson, cordially invites everyone to attend.

## SPRING REVIVAL AT CHEROKEE CHAPEL

Spring Revival will begin at Cherokee Chapel Holiness Methodist Church Sunday, March 25 and services will run through Friday, March 30. Services will begin Sunday night at 7 p.m. and week nights at 7:30 p.m. Guest speakers will be Rev. Donald Bullard and Rev.

Dufrene Cummings. Also, there will be special music each night. The church is located just off Highway 71 between Red Springs and Maxton, across from Oxendine Elementary School. The pastor, Rev. Julian Ranson, cordially invites everyone to attend.

## Gospel Sing and Spring Revival Planned

Prospect United Methodist Church will hold a gospel sing on Saturday, March 17 beginning at 7 p.m. The featured groups will be the Prospect Mixed Quartet,

Prospect Community Men, the New Life Vocal Band from Hope Mills, and the Scott Sisters of Lumberton.

Spring revival will begin on Sunday, March 18, and

run through March 23rd with service on Sunday beginning at 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. thereafter. The Rev. Robert L. Mangum, pastor of Prospect UMC and the Rev. Bill James Locklear, pastor of Ashpole and Pleasant Grove UMC will be the evangelists.

Nursery will be available.

The public is invited to attend.

## Rex-Rennert School News



Shown left to right are the student winners of the "Dress-Up Day" contest: Kay Chavis as Rosa Parks,

Teachers and students at Rex-Rennert School celebrated Black History Month by participating in several school-wide activities.

Artifacts depicting life of Blacks long ago, along with a bulletin board honoring Carter G. Woodson, founder of Black History were displayed in the school's main hall. Students as

Lataria Lowery as a cotton picker, and Angela Williams as Willie Mae Ford Smith.

well as faculty and staff members dressed as famous Afro-Americans during the "Dress-Up Day" contest.

The month long observance ended with songs, poems, and a skit presented by fourth through eighth grade students in an assembly program.

## PEMBROKE KIWANIS REPORT

BY KEN JOHNSON

Mrs. Olivia Holmes Oxendine spoke of the tremendous work being done with the North Carolina Dropout Prevention Program. She was presented by program chairman Ronnie Sutton.

The total number of students served by the program is 376,942 in the 1988-89 school year. Students at risk numbers are the same number. Full time staff numbered 4,003 with a \$82,940,597 budget. So North Carolina is doing a great deal to prevent students from dropping out of school. Mrs. Oxendine feels the challenge is great and we must do even more. The dropout program includes work with pregnancy prevention and teen parenting, substance abuse prevention, health care, home bound and out of school youth, disadvantaged and handicapped, delinquent youth plus working with student peers to help the at-risk student to stay in school.

Some of the signs to look for are attendance lag, basic studies begin

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