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Lowery, Locklear Perform at PSU Gospel Festival



Willie Lowery and Lori Locklear Cole, who will be among the performers at Pembroke State University's first annual Gospel Music Festival April 28.

[Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles about musical groups who will participate in the first annual Gospel Music Festival sponsored by Pembroke State University on Saturday, April 28, at 7 p.m. at PSU's Performing Arts Center.]

Willie Lowery of Shannon, whose many musical achievements include writing the musical score for the outdoor drama, "Strike at the Wind," and Lori Locklear Cole of Rowland, who started singing in tent revivals at the age of five, will be among the performers featured in Pembroke State University's first annual Gospel Music Festival Saturday, April 28.

The festival will begin at 7 p.m. that evening in PSU's Performing Arts Center. Admission is \$5 for everyone. PSU Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine, whose idea it was to have this gospel music festival, sees this as a "cultural event" and says he would like to see the 1,700-capacity PAC filled for the occasion.

Lowery, 45, has been chosen the Raleigh News and Observer "Tar Heel of the Week" for his musical

achievements. That honor came 10 years ago when Lowery was selected as the recipient of the Hinda Honigman Cup for musical composition, presented by the N.C. Federal of Music Clubs. His award was for the recording, "Proud to be a Lumbee," 11 original songs composed while he was director of creative arts for the Lumbee Regional Development Association. This recording was the for the Robeson County Schools System.

Lowery says he is distantly related to Henry Berry Lowrie, Lumbee folk hero of the "Strike at the Wind" drama.

Lowery, describing himself as "being raised with a guitar in my hands," is largely self-taught, but says he was greatly helped by Jose Sapp of New York City, an arranger-conductor who worked with musical scores of films. Lowery also said he "played with a big band by ear," using his guitar.

When he was 18, he performed with a group called "Corporate Image," who recorded for MGM Records of New York City.

Fifteen years ago Lowery was part of a group called "Lumbee" and among its recordings was "Streets of Gold," chosen No. 1 in pop music in North Carolina and also the "Pick Hit of the Week" by ABC Magazine.

The latest song by Lowery, who has written and published 300 songs, is "Where the Rivers Run Cold," recorded by the Tyler Family, a gospel group from Shannon, in 1989.

Lowery has now formed a gospel group called "The Beacon Lights," which is in the process of recording a gospel album.

Members of this group, along with Lowery, are Lori Locklear Cole, a vocalist; her husband, Kenny, a bass guitarist; Clyde Jones, who plays the fiddle, mandolin and banjo; Gwen Locklear, pianist; and vocalist Gwendolyn Dimery. All are from Robeson County.

Lori Cole sang gospel music with her family, "Glory Bound Singers," until she was 18 years old. She has traveled up and down the East Coast as a singer and has also sung with the Tyler Family.

Lowery praised this Gospel Music Festival as a fine innovation. "I think it is the best thing that can be wonderful," he said. "Getting young people off the streets into an environment like this will be marvelous."

Lori Cole believes there will be a outstanding response to the festival. "As popular as gospel music is in this area, I think there will be a good response," she said. "It is something to look forward to."

Tickets to the festival are available at the PAC's usual outlets: The Dancer at Cross Pointe Center in Fayetteville, Quik Copy in Laurinburg, Dee's Hallmark Shop in Lumberton, and McNeill Jewelry in Lumberton and Red Springs.

Among the other places where tickets are being placed are Merrimac Music Co., the Christian Book Store, and the Robeson Baptist Association, all in Lumberton; and Burnt Swamp Baptist Association in Pembroke.

Tickets are also available at the PAC box office.

STRIKE AT THE WIND PREPARES FOR SEASON

Pembroke-The outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind" is busy preparing for the 1990 production season, the drama's 15th Anniversary. Auditions for this year's production will be held this Saturday and Sunday at the Adolph Dial Amphitheater located at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center. Times for the auditions on Saturday the 31st are from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and on Sunday the 1st from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

According to Administrative Director David Thaggard, "We are expecting the best season ever. Thus far, we have auditioned actors and technicians at the North Carolina Theater Conference Auditions in Charlotte, the Southeastern Theater Conference Auditions in Nashville

and the Institute of Outdoor Drama Auditions in Chapel Hill.

"This year we plan to hire all our actors from the North/ South Carolina area. As we celebrate our 15th anniversary, we also want to celebrate and showcase the outstanding talent that is here in the county. We are very proud that there are so many talented individuals here in the county, and we hope to be able to present them this season," added Thaggard.

David Oxendine, who is returning as Artistic Director, said recently that he is very excited about this year's production, "I think this is going to be the best season yet."

Candidates Public Forums Planned During April

Lumberton-During April, candidates for local and state offices will discuss issues in a series of public forums sponsored by the Rural Advancement Fund (RAF).

Beginning Monday, April 2, candidates for the May 8 primary election will face citizen panels posing questions designed to shed light on the contestants' differing positions. All forums are open to the public.

RAF Justice Project Advisory Board Chairman Clifton Sampson said that the series is not intended to be just a meet the candidate event, but rather an opportunity for the public to hear from all candidates regarding their positions on the issues. "The people of Robeson

County are becoming more involved in local government, and that is a healthy sign. Robesonians are intelligent and interested citizens who understand the importance of choosing qualified candidates to hold office. In order to determine the candidates' qualifications citizens

must be able to compare their experience and opinions." Mr. Sampson said that of the 52 candidates, only five had said they cannot be present.

Although all questions on the night of the forums will be asked by panel

members, RAF Justice Project Director Anne Crain urges any interested person or group to call the office at 738-8200 to contribute issue-related questions.

The April 2 kick-off forum will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Pembroke Elementary School and will bring together candidates for the county commission district 4 race as well as those from the school board districts 5 and 8 contests.

Mitchell D. Locklear, RAF staff member, will moderate the session. Panel members include George McPhaul, Gertie May Locklear, Carnell Locklear, Rev. Robert Pullman and Gregory Cummings.

The schedule for all forums--each of which begins at 7:30 p.m.--is as follows:

April 2, Pembroke Elementary School. County Commissioner District 4 (Candidates: Henry Oxendine, Wyvis Oxendine, David McGirt, Noah Woods, Jon Sanderson) and School Board Districts 5 and 8 (Candidates: Pete Clark, Rufus Graham, Millard Singletary and Robert Deese, Raymond Ammons, Mike Smith.)

April 5, St. Pauls Middle School. County Commissioner District 6 (Candidates: Bill Herndon, Gary Powers, Severo Kerns, Deborah

Parker) School District 7 (Candidates: Aileen Holmes, Charles Maynor, Glenn Beasley) Moderator: Paul Terry.

April 9, Lewis Auditorium, Robeson Community College. N.C. House /Senate (Candidates: Adolph Dial, Frances Cummings, Sue Brown, Billie Britt, Pete Hasty, Mary Odom, E.B. Turner, Rudy Williams and David Parnell) Moderator: Clifton Sampson.

April 16, Lewis Auditorium, Robeson Community College. District Attorney (Candidates: Richard Town send, George Regan) Judges (Candidates: Dexter Brooks, Stanley Carmical, Charles McLean, Herbert Richardson) Moderator: Rev. William Cummings.

April 19, Knuckles Elementary School. County Commissioner District 1 (Candidates: Sammy Cox, Monte Hill, Sammie Love, Terry Smith) School Board District 3 (Candidates: James Coleman, Shirley Locklear) Moderator: Ray Pennington.

April 23, Lewis Auditorium, Robeson Community College. Sheriff (Candidates: C.A. Brown, Glenn Maynor, James Sanderson, Lee Stevens, Hubert Stone, Michael Wood) Moderator: Harbert Moore.

April 30, Osterneck Auditorium, Robeson Public Library. Clerk of Court (Candidates: Dixie Barrington, Larry Graham) Coroner (Candidates: Leroy Freeman, Carl Lindberg Locklear, Shulten Maulsby, Billy Oxendine). Moderator: Jim Smith.

200,000 Man-Safe Hours



Shown left to right: David McGirt, Personnel Director; Bobby Barnes, Safety Committee President; Tom Locklear, Prize Winner.

A work place that is safe and accident free is top priority at Fleetwood Homes' Pembroke plant, according to David McGirt, Personnel Director.

An employee-run safety committee has been the link to the much successful safety atmosphere at the plant. This team is run solely by employee set goals, guidelines and solicits input from their peers to create a safer work environment.

The most recent fulfilled safety committee goal was for 200,000 man safe hours. The plant reached that goal on Wednesday, March 19th and celebrated with a prize drawing and cocktail.

Tom Locklear, a ten year employee won the drawing of a free freezer filled with beef and pork. After the drawing, a fried chicken lunch was served to all employees.

Officials Review Schematic Designs for Cultural Center

Officials gathered Tuesday, March 20, 1990, at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center to discuss development plans and to review schematic designs for the first stage of construction of the Indian Cultural Center.

According to Dr. Helen Scheirbeck, Development Director of the Cultural Center, meetings were held with James Lofton, Secretary of North Carolina Department of Administration and A. Bruce Jones, Executive Director of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs. She noted that these agencies have major interest in the management and development of the property.

Dr. Scheirbeck said the Center has reached an important milestone to have actual design for facilities to be constructed by June, 1992. She explained that facilities being designed for construction in Phase One include a visitor's center/ museum, the beginning of a complex of Indian village exhibits, nature trails, and improvements to the infrastructure of the site. She said Phase One construction costs are estimated at \$4.1 million and will involve about 100 acres of the total site.

According to Dr. Scheirbeck, the visitors' center/museum will be a

25,000 square-foot building that will include an auditorium, exhibit halls, teaching areas, and arts and crafts sales. "The building will reflect the architecture of prehistoric southeastern Indians and will include symbolic elements of their myths and arts," she said.

During Phase One construction, the Cultural Center will begin to build seven Indian village exhibits that demonstrate how people lived in North Carolina from 10,000 years ago to 1720, explained Dr. Scheirbeck. She noted that the designs are subject to revision as work progresses.

Mr. Lofton and Mr. Jones gave their support and endorsement of the Center's plans. Mr. Lofton said the project is expected to give a major economic and educational boost to the area as it generates new jobs, increases tourism in the area, and provide an exciting educational experience to visitors.

Mr. Jones said he is happy to see the Center grow. He noted that the Commission has been involved with developing the project since 1981.

The officials met for lunch with representatives of area businesses and civic organizations to express support for the development of the Cultural Center.

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Thomas Bello, a senior at Pinecrest High School in Southern Pines, was the winner of the grand award at Pembroke State University's Region IV Science Fair Wednesday. He is being congratulated by PSU Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine. He topped an entry field of 400. As the winner, he received a full tuition scholarship to PSU entitled the Linda D. Oxendine Scholarship.



Paul Locklear (left) of Pembroke, president of PSU's Native American Student Organization, raises an American flag which has flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Assisting is PSU Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine (center). At right is Harris Strickland of PSU campus security whose duties include raising and lowering the flag each day. This flag was presented to Chancellor Oxendine as a gift from the Indian Unity Conference for which he was the guest speaker recently in Greensboro.