

Established January 18, 1973, Published Each Thursday

# The Carolina Indian Voice

Pembroke, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

Robeson County

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 40

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1990

25¢ PER COPY

## PEMBROKE COUNCIL HEARS ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD & MISMANAGEMENT BY FORMER HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

Following the presentation of a petition by Eldis Hunt, resident of public housing, asking for Janell Oxendine's dismissal, Ms. Oxendine made the following statements to the Pembroke Town Council. Ms. Oxendine is a member of the Pembroke Redevelopment Commission and is acting director.

As this council knows very well the reputation of Public Housing management in Pembroke is known far and wide. Responding to the demand of the citizens of Pembroke this council voted to abolish the Pembroke Housing Authority and Redevelopment Commission as a corporation and replace it with a new one known as Pembroke Redevelopment Commission. As you know, each of you appointed one of the Commission members. Prior to the new Commission assuming office on November 1, 1989, the lame duck board chose to hire an executive director and give her a two year contract. The person hired was former director of Clinton Thomas Day Care Center which has been mismanaged and funds ineligibly expended. She later became the Occupancy Officer of the housing management and was in that position just prior to being employed as Executive Director of Pembroke Housing Authority and Redevelopment Commission.

The new Commission assumed office on November 1, 1989 and we have been trying to establish a system of accountability for the Commission Board, the administration and housing residents. Our efforts have been blocked by the administration that was in place when we came on board. It is my feeling and belief that others previously associated with public housing in Pembroke has also been involved in trying to maintain control of housing activities here. We have yet to receive any orientation to the operation there. Our requests for information concerning the stability of public housing in Pembroke have been met with stiff resistance. We have been trying to get a regular audit completed for the past six months. We are now in the process of arranging for a special audit to help establish responsibility for the previous operation and or administrations.

We have already been informed by a HUD official that funds were misappropriated and ineligible expenditures made at the day care center. We have discovered by our own efforts information that I believe constitutes fraud and possibly criminal activity. We have made some administrative changes already. Some of the members of the Commission have been receiving death threats by phone and it is my feeling that this whole public relations strategy in the papers by some of the residents is designed to discredit the activities of the current Commission. They have been alleging mismanagement of Public Housing in Pembroke. I personally agree that there has been gross mismanagement. We are there to help make decisions necessary to provide a professional housing administration in our town. Our responsibility was clearly brought to our attention by the Management Occupancy Review of Pembroke Redevelopment Commission of February 12-16, 1990. The following will illustrate my point:

We also would like to bring to your attention that the Department of Housing and Urban Development has as major goals the prevention of drug abuse and the prevention and detection of frauds, waste and mismanagement in all its housing programs. We solicit the assistance of each board member and staff person to stringently monitor these areas with respect to system

controls and the protection of agency resources, particularly the areas relating to budget and fiscal management and equipment and supply inventory. Any instances of intentional abuse should be reported to the Regional Inspector General for Investigation, Richard B. Russell, Federal Building 75 Spring Street S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303, or local and state prosecutors.

We have done just that. We are awaiting the arrival of the Inspector General or his representative to investigate the problems that we have observed and have documentation concerning.

As to the recent news accounts concerning alleged unfair evictions, let me take issue with one written by a Judy Stein on 9-25-90, "Robesonian," entitled: Frankly Speaking. She writes: "I'm weary of this chronic 'War on drugs' because more often than not, its end results are injustice and more misery than drugs can bring. Why can't HUD allow more money for decent housing, urban renewal and the like? With its current, questionable 'War on Drugs' HUD and other government agencies aren't

doing much for anyone."

Let me say that the war on drugs is not causing the misery but drug use and abuse itself is the cause and curse. Ask parents, school officials, court officials, department of social service workers, and officials, prison officials, and law enforcement officials and I submit to you that you would get the view that the drug pushers and users are responsible for most of the misery they see. We have had at least two mothers who live in public housing complain to us about used drug needles being found behind their houses. They have shown grave concern when children have brought these things to them and asked "What are these?" They were concerned about their children innocently contracting AIDS. Yes, we need a debate about what our problems are, but do not blame citizens' demands for eradication of drugs from their neighborhoods and communities for the problems of people in general.

I submit to the Town Council that we must send a message to those who are dealing drugs or using drugs in public housing that such activity is unacceptable. Also that "shacking up," not reporting total family income, being a hazard to the health and safety of neighbors, and generally creating a climate of fear and intimidation will not be tolerated and is totally unacceptable behavior for anyone in our communities, be it public housing or otherwise. I now ask this Town Council to endorse this last statement by way of a vote of support and confidence in the Pembroke Redevelopment Commission members which you have appointed to bring accountability to Pembroke Public Housing.

Mayor Milton Hunt thanked Ms. Oxendine for her "report." Much discussion followed about the need for a vote on her last statement. Councilman Harry Oxendine, moved to support the last statement. After a second, Mayor Hunt allowed discussion from the audience.... At one point Mayor Hunt stated "I might let him (Harry Oxendine) make the motion. Following audience input into the discussion time of a motion and second by the council members, councilman Henry W. Oxendine stated that he welcomed an investigation into activities in the Housing Authority and suggested that the investigation by the proper authorities should settle the questions. The board finally voted unanimously to endorse Ms. Oxendine's last statement.

## Oxendine announces 6th EMC Term



Bradford Oxendine of the Raft Swamp area announces his bid for re-election to the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation Board of Directors. Mr. Oxendine has represented Area 3 for the past 15 years. The election will be held on Tuesday, October 16, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the PSU Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Oxendine, a life long farmer, stated that if re-elected he would continue to be fair and honest. He stated that his farming interests, in addition to his experience on the EMC board for the past 15 years enables him to continue to provide experienced leadership to the EMC.

## First Indian To Become Supervisor of Parole Completes Course of Study

Tony Hunt was employed by the Department of Corrections-Division of Adult Probation and Parole as the first Indian Supervisor in Robeson County in November, 1989, and he successfully completed his supervisory training in July, 1990. He is one of three supervisors who supervises probation and parole officers in Robeson County.

Hunt has prepared himself with distinction for his new job. He is a 1968 graduate of Magnolia High School, a 1980 graduate of Pembroke State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree, a 1977 graduate of Robeson Technical College with an Associate of Applied Science Degree, and he has completed numerous other courses at Robeson Technical College in firearms use and proficiency.

Hunt was honorably discharged from the United States Air Force as a staff sergeant on November 3, 1972, after serving a tour of duty in Vietnam. He also has worked as a deputy sheriff with the Robeson County Sheriff's Department and as a Magistrate in Robeson County before being employed in 1984 as an adult probation and parole officer.

Hunt is married to Wanda F. Hunt and they are the parents of three children: Brian, age seventeen; Adrian, age thirteen; and Avery, age six. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hunt.

Hunt is a "team worker" and believes in "solving problems by working together with other people." He attributes his promotion to supervisor to extensive community support for his promotion and his qualifications.

## Pro Wrestling Returns to Lumberton

South Atlantic Pro Wrestling returns to the Bill Sapp Recreation Center in Lumberton, NC on Saturday, October 20th. The bell time is set for 8 p.m.

Already signed for this card is an "Over the top rope battle royal." Ten wrestlers will be in the ring at the same time. To be eliminated, a contestant must be thrown over the top rope of the ring and to the floor. The last man left in the ring will be declared the winner and receive an additional \$2000.00 prize.

Plus, Robeson County's own War Eagle Chris Chavis goes after the South Atlantic Heavyweight Championship currently held by the Tennessee Stud Robert Fuller. In addition, signed as a special referee for this one match is former U.S. Heavyweight champion and three times world tag team champion, Paul Jones.

In a tag team event, the new champions, the Pit Bulldogs make their first Lumberton appearance since winning the belts from the Nasty Boys. Their opponents will be newcomer Tommy Seabolt and the veteran Ringer Ross.

The U.S. Male Curtis Thompson pits his considerable skills against the ring wise Gene Ligon and the curtain raiser finds two newcomers to the area in action as Tex Salenger locks up with Rick Wilson.

Ticket prices are: general admission \$6.00, and kids 12 and under are admitted in the general admission for just \$4. Advance tickets are available from Kimbrell's Furniture, Lumberton and Southern Interiors, Pembroke. Box office opens at 6 p.m. the day of the matches.

## To Speak on Drug Abuse

South Atlantic Pro Wrestling Star, War Eagle Chris Chavis will be returning to his birth place, Robeson County, on October 20th. As a part of the Big Wrestling Card scheduled for the Bill Sapp Recreation Center in Lumberton.

Before Christ dons his tights, however, he will be battling another for the foe in the form of illiteracy and drug abuse. On Friday after, the War Eagle will speak to students at Purnell Swett High School at 1 p.m. and Pembroke Middle School at 1:45 p.m. In his talk Chris will stress the importance of staying school (Chavis received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy after high school), staying away from drugs and not resisting to peer pressure (believing in yourself).

The appearance is sponsored by the Robeson County Board of Education and South Atlantic Pro Wrestling.

## Cummings art show

ART SHOW TO BE HELD AT PSU PAC  
The Performing Arts Center of Pembroke State University will host an art exhibition featuring the work of Pembroke artist Delora Cummings. Delora, wife of Pembroke Town Manager McDuffie Cummings, is an art teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. Recently she was guest artist for the outdoor drama Strike at the Wind's annual art auction. Her painting entitled "A Never Ending Story" was auctioned for \$10,800. The exhibit will be on display from September 27 until October 28. A reception will be held on Sunday, October 7 from 3 until 5 in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center.

## Locals Entertain Professional Wrestler

The residence of William L. (Buddy) Jacobs and his wife, Ella Mae Jacobs of the Harper's Ferry area was the scene of a flurry of activity on Friday night, Sept. 14.

The main activity centered around a midnight dinner prepared for War Eagle Chavis, the professional wrestler. War Eagle had appeared in Lumberton at the Main Attraction on the Bill Sapp Recreation Center Wrestling Card earlier in that evening. Chris is the nephew of Buddy Jacobs, and is the son of Buddy's sister, Patricia and her husband, Stony Chavis.

Former world wrestling champion Paul Jones and other members of the North American Wrestling Association League also enjoyed the midnight festivities.

Many friends of wrestling in the Robeson County area were there. Also present were the Jacobs' daughters, Rochelle, Anita and Lakeshia. Other guests were Chris' aunt, Peggy J. Locklear and his parents, Stony and Patricia Chavis. Enjoying the meal were Dave and Dedra Locklear, Kim Hunt and Corey Lowry, Linda J. Locklear and Danielle Revels. Several of the War Eagle's relatives on the Chavis side were in attendance at the wrestling match and for the dinner.

In all, more than forty friends and supporters of Chris and professional wrestling attended the function.

War Eagle is scheduled to return to the Robeson County area as part of a spectacular wrestling card in the near future.

Watch the Carolina Indian Voice for details. Get out and support one of our own that is making his mark in the world of professional wrestling as part of South Atlantic Pro Wrestling.



The grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremonies for Linda's Restaurant were held recently. Linda's is owned by Richard and Linda Sheppard and has now moved into their new location at Colony Plaza Shopping Center, Pembroke. Shown left to right during the ribbon cutting

are: Linda Sheppard, Richard Sheppard, Rev. Steve Jones, pastor of Harper's Ferry Baptist who gave the dedication prayer, and Mayor of Pembroke, Milton Hunt. The Sheppards promised to continue the same friendly service and good food at they entered their spacious new restaurant. [Comtee Brayboy photo]

## Locklear Cited for Construction Firm of the Year



Lonnie Locklear, Jr. of Lonnie Locklear, Jr. and Sons Construction Co., Inc. of Pembroke, was given an award for "Construction Firm of the Year" at a luncheon held at Danbury Fellowship Center in Fayetteville on Tuesday, September 25th.

The luncheon was sponsored by the Fayetteville Minority Business Development Center. The event was part of Minority Enterprise Development Week.