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Published Each Thursday Since January 18, 1973

# CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 16

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1992

25 CENTS PER COPY

## HAPPY ECHOES & CUMMINGS FAMILY TO SING IN 3RD ANNUAL PSU GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL



The Happy Echoes/ Cummings/ Cummings Family will be among the groups performing in the third annual PSU Gospel Music Festival Saturday, April 25, at 7 p.m. Left to right, the above are: front row-Brenda Bullard, Eunie Chavis, Glenda Dial, Sheila Locklear; back row- Jeffrey Locklear, Jeremy Locklear, Brenda Cummings, Gary Locklear, and Jamie Chavis. Not present for the picture was Gene Dial.

[Last in a series of articles about groups which will be performing in the third annual PSU Gospel Music Festival Saturday, April 25, at 7 p.m. in the Givens Performing Arts Center.]

by Gene Warren  
 Pembroke-The Happy Echoes of Red Springs and the Cummings Family of Pembroke will combine their talent as featured attractions in the third annual PSU Gospel Music Festival Saturday, April 25, in PSU's Givens Performing Arts Center.

The pre-concert begins at 6:45 p.m. The festival itself starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for everyone and can be ordered by telephoning the Givens PAC box office at (919) 521-0778 (local residents) or 1-800-367-0778 (long distance).

The Happy Echoes began singing in 1970 whereas the Cummings Family started its singing ministry in 1989. In 1990 the groups combined to form the Happy Echoes/ Cummings Family.

They sing Southern gospel music and some old hymns. In '89 the Happy Echoes produced a record entitled "Lord, I Thank You." In '90 the Cummings Family also had a record with the title being "This Straight Road to Heaven."

The groups appear singularly, but also use some personnel from the other group.

They have performed at churches, benefit sings, at the Carolina Civic Center in Lumberton, and in Greensboro.

Brenda Cummings said it is a thrill for them to be on the same "Gospel Music Festival" program with a

national group like the McKameys of Tennessee. "We appreciate the opportunity," she said.

Glenda Dial of the Happy Echoes also described this as a "great opportunity" for the groups. She has written the lyrics for much of their music with the music itself being by Eunie Chavis, Brenda Bullard and herself.

The Happy Echoes are made up of Gene Dial, singing baritone; Genda Dial, lead and alto; Brenda Bullard, tenor and lead; and Gary Locklear, alto and tenor.

Members of the Cummings Family include: Eunie Chavis, singing lead and alto; Brenda Cummings, alto and lead; Sheila Locklear, tenor and lead; and Jeff Locklear, baritone.

In addition, Eunie Chavis also plays the piano, Jamie Chavis plays the bass guitar, and Jeremy Locklear plays the drums. Brenda Bullard also plays the piano in a rotation situation with Eunie Chavis.

"Since we joined our groups, the results have been wonderful," says Brenda Cummings. "We just perform and let the Lord have His way."

For more information about the Gospel Music Festival, telephone (919) 521-4214, Ext. 4213.

Tickets are also being sold at the following places: Pembroke-Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, Lumber River Christian Supplies; Lumberton Christian Book Store, Merrimac Music; Red Springs-Red Springs Barber Shop; Laurinburg-the Gospel Music Store; and Fayetteville-Cumberland County Association for Indian People.

## Lumbee Bill to be voted on soon

On April 7, leaders of the Lumbee Tribe received word from the office of Senator George Mitchell, Majority Leader of the United States Senate, that he will call for a second cloture vote on H.R. 1426, the Lumbee Recognition Bill, the last week of April or the first week in May. The purpose of the cloture vote is to cut off a filibuster on the bill organized by Senator Helms. Although passage of a bill only requires a simple majority of the senators present at the time, a vote on cloture requires 60 votes.

The first cloture vote on the Lumbee Bill was held on February 27. At that time the tribe obtained 58 votes-54 Democrats and 4 Republicans. Three Democrats were on the campaign trail on that day and missed the Lumbee cloture vote. Those three Democrats have since returned to the Senate and are committed to vote in favor of cloture on the second Lumbee vote. With those three additional votes, the tribe now has sufficient votes to cut off the Helms organized filibuster.

Senator Helms has said he supports and alternative to the Lumbee Bill proposed by Senator Nickles of Oklahoma. This alternative would repeal the 1956 Lumbee act, which makes the tribe ineligible for administrative recognition, and would require the tribe to apply for recognition from the Department of the Interior. The Department of the Interior has opposed recognition of the Lumbee Tribe for one hundred years because of the large size of the membership. And in its comments on H.R. 1426 last fall, the Department indicated that a Lumbee application to it for recognition would likely be denied. Senator Nickles refuses to formally offer his alternative to H.R. 1426; instead, he and Senator Helms use it to block consideration of Lumbee recognition altogether on the filibuster.

Adolph Blue, Chairman of the LRDA board, indicated that the tribe is optimistic about the second cloture vote. "Based on the senators' recorded positions on this issue, we now have the votes to close off the

filibuster. We know that Senator Helms has been giving away his vote on other bills in an effort to strip away our Republican votes, but we don't know of votes we've lost so far. We also know that Senator Helms' staff is spreading a lot of misinformation about our people--saying that Chairman Inouye of the Senator Select Committee on Indian Affairs no longer supports our bill, that the National Congress of American Indians opposes it, and that most Lumbees aren't really Indians anyway. But none of these things is true.

Chairman Inouye remains committed to the Lumbee Recognition Bill and the National Congress of American Indians has passed a resolution in support of Lumbee recognition. And on the race thing, even the Department of the Interior admits that Lumbees are Indian and the Congress said so in the 1956 Lumbee Act. We're just glad we have a little more time to get this truth out to all Senate offices."

[Submitted by LRDA]

## PSU Grounds Supervisor To Retire April 30



ALEX STRICKLAND

Alex Strickland, 58, who has been employed by PSU since 1959 and has been grounds supervisor for the past 25 years, is retiring effective April 30.

Strickland supervises a staff of seven and takes pride in the fact that President C.D. Spangler Jr. and other top UNC system officials have repeatedly described PSU as "having the neatest campus in the UNC system."

A native of Robeson County, Strickland joined the maintenance staff of PSU in '59 when the late Walter Finchbeck was the maintenance superintendent. "We did everything, both inside and outside," he said of the four man crew in those days. The total number of PSU maintenance personnel now totals 60.

Strickland's staff now is responsible for keeping the grass and shrubs trimmed, the garbage picked up, and the paper on campus picked up.

In retirement he plans to "work in my yard and keep my car cleaned and waxed," he said. "I enjoy things like that." He also wants to do some fishing at Myrtle beach.

Trip-wise, he would like to go to The Bahamas.

Strickland is married to the former Lillie Brayboy, a native of Pembroke. They are parents of a daughter, Elaine Strickland Lowry, who is a PSU graduate and teaches eighth grade mathematics at Pembroke Middle School. The Stricklands have two grandchildren, a boy and a girl.

## PEMBROKE KIWANIS REPORT

Program chairman Ken Johnson presented Dr. Robert Britton and Mrs. Anne Britton as speakers at the weekly meeting held at the Town and Country Restaurant. Dr. Britton is coordinator of Vocal Development at PSU. Mrs. Anne Britton is the general manager of the drama, Strike at the Wind with offices in Old Main.

Both speakers outlined plans for the PSU Special Arts Festival to be held Wednesday, March 17, 1993. Over 2,000 handicapped children will participate in all types of fine arts activities. The event compares favorably with the Special Olympics for sports but this Very Special Festival is in all kinds of Fine Arts.

The Pembroke Kiwanis Club plus other Kiwanis Clubs, along with PSU and many other clubs will be asked to help sponsor the Arts Festival. Just to give these youngsters a chance to perform their accomplishments in music, art, crafts, etc. will increase the awareness of the public to the aesthetic accomplishments of the crippled children. Plans are already under way for fund raising for the Tri-County Special Arts Festival. Mrs. Hope Sheppard is secretary of the tri-county committee for the Special Arts Festival.

Presiding- Mitch Lowry. Invocation- Garth Locklear. Song Leader- Ed Teets. Program- Ken Johnson.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### LITERACY WORKSHOP PLANNED

The Robeson County Church and Community Center will sponsor a Literacy Workshop on April 27, 28 and 30th at the Center offices at 210 E 15th Street, Lumberton. The workshop will be held from 6 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. and will be held to train tutors. The public is encouraged to attend. Call 738-5204 to register for this workshop.

### COMMUNITY MEETING SET

A community meeting will be held April 30, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pembroke Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting is to provide awareness and information on the Palmer Drug Abuse Program. Interested persons are urged to attend.

### APPLICATIONS FOR LITTLE MISS LUMBEE NOW AVAILABLE

Applications are now being accepted for the Little Miss Lumbee Pageant sponsored by LRDA. The age category is 4 to 6 years of age by June 28th, 1992. The first 15 applications accepted and child must have talent.

The pageant will be held on July 1 at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on the PSU campus.

Applications may be obtained at the Day Care Office in Pembroke. Questions may be directed to Helen

Hunt at the office or call 919-521-8555. Application deadline is April 30.

### APPLICATIONS FOR MISS LUMBEE PAGEANT AVAILABLE

Applications are now being accepted for the Miss Lumbee Pageant sponsored by LRDA. Must be a high school graduate, 18 to 26 years of age.

The pageant will be held on July 3, 1992 at the PSU Performing Arts Center.

Applications are available at the LRDA Revels Complex Administrative Office. Questions may be directed to Patricia Locklear at 521-8602. Application deadline April 30th.

### NOTICE OF MEETING WALKING THE SAME PATH INC.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the officers and directors of Walking The Same Path, inc. has been called for April 17 at 8 p.m. at the Walking The Same Path Building located on East Third Street, next to the U.S. Post Office, Pembroke.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect new officers and directors and to adopt organization by laws.

A notice of the meeting has been sent to the initial board of directors at their last known legal address.

## ENTERS STATE PAGEANT



Melinda Rae Combs, 15 year old daughter of Melvin and Sandra Combs of Pembroke is a contestant in the Southern Sassy Beauty Pageant to be held in Fayetteville in May.

Melinda will be competing in beauty, sportswear, model, swimwear, photogenic, portfolio, prettiest hair, prettiest dress, most beautiful, best personality, and several other optional categories. Melinda also hopes to accumulate the highest points overall to win the title of Southern Sassy Grand Champion. She also will be competing in talent and overall talent winner.

For more information of the Sassy Beauty Pageant, contact: Patricia Tolbert, Director at 803-638-7897 or write Box 945, Walhalla, SC 29691.

## WALLACE WINS STATE TITLE

Kelli Wallace recently won the Young Miss Southern Sweetheart State Title at Valdese, NC. She is the daughter of Earl and Yvonne Wallace of Lumberton. She attends Mt. Olive Baptist Church and is a sixth grader at Piney Grove School in Mr. Larry Cox's room. Kelli enjoys dance with Ms. Donna Martin DiChiara of Lumberton and takes piano under Ms. Dehaveda Drake Cummings of Lumberton.

At the state pageant, Kelli won all areas of of competition, including beauty, sportswear, private interview, country/western, swimwear, photogenic, portfolio, costume, sleepwear, fifties, and overall portfolio.

Numerous awards received were a state crown, banner, eleven trophies, five crowns, a crown pin, robe, a savings bond, and a scepter. She will compete at the Nationals in June.

Kelli's sponsors for the pageant were Strickland's Paint and Wall paper, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Strickland, owners; and U-Save Auto Rentals, Mr. and Mrs. Herbie Oxendine, owners.



## Wins March of Dimes Raffle



Mrs. Helen Sampson of Pembroke was the winner of the 19" color TV raffle held by Lumbee River EMC employees to benefit the March of Dimes. The drawing was held April 7 at the headquarters office in Red Springs.

Heading up the drive, in which LREM employees held a bake sale in addition to the raffle, was Frances

Chavis. A four mile walk through Red Springs, in which LREM employees will join members of other organizations and businesses, will culminate the March of Dimes events for 1992.

Shown making the presentation to Mrs. Sampson, left, is Frances Chavis.