

# CAROLINA Indian Voice

"Promoting Communications Between Indians and Nations"

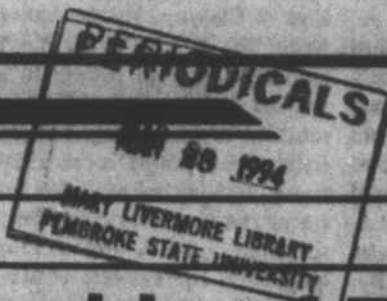
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## News Briefs

### Luther Johnson Britt III Announces Candidacy for Robeson's District Attorney

Johnson Luther Britt III has announced his candidacy for District Attorney of Robeson County. In making his announcement, Britt released the following statement:

"My name is Johnson Britt and I am running for District Attorney. As your District Attorney I will have an open door policy where all people can come and talk to me about their problems. I maintain that it is imperative that elected officials have this open line of communication with the constituents. This is necessary so that we can properly serve you. This policy enables anyone and everyone to meet with me and my staff so that we may better serve the public. This policy will allow the public to let us know if we are doing our jobs satisfactorily and it will also allow us to correct and improve in the areas where needed.

"I will be available not only during the regular business day but also when needed outside regular courthouse hours. If someone needs to see me at 7:00 a.m. or at 9:00 p.m. I will meet with them. If they cannot come to the courthouse I will go to them. This applies equally regardless of where

you live in Robeson County. I will be a SERVANT for all of Robeson County.

"I am running on my own platform and I am not endorsing any other candidate for any other public office. I believe that District Attorney must have an open line of communication between law enforcement and the clerk's office. We must all be able to work together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Robeson County. If I openly endorsed any candidate and they lost, then I would have to start my term as your District Attorney mending the wounds that I created. I want to ensure the people of our great county that I can work with and will work with whoever is elected. There are many fine qualified candidates in the other races with whom I can work. This campaign is about accessibility, accountability, working with the other branches of law enforcement, serving the people and successfully prosecuting crimes. I intend to campaign tirelessly and positively. WE DESERVE BETTER!"

### Troopers Share Knowledge



Shown left to right: Sgt. Earl Coleman, Tony Parrish, Gilbert Cox

by Yvonne Barnes Dial

First Sgt. Earl Coleman, program coordinator of the Division of Motor Vehicles, was the guest speaker Wednesday, March 9 about the North Carolina Exposition Highway Safety Program to Purnell Sweet High School students.

According to Sam Hunt, secretary for the NC Department of Transportation, "The mission of the Expo is to educate the public about a wide range of highway safety issues. The Expo helps viewers learn more about seatbelts, DWI, bicycle safety, and roadway safety features."

With all sincerity, Sgt. Coleman presented a clear picture of safety measures to be taken on the highways. To make these safety tips seem more realistic, he also briefly shared a tragic automobile accident that resulted in the death of one of his friends. A video was shown also to help students become aware of highway safety precautions.

One specific emphasis was placed on the precautions to be taken in regard to transfer trucks. Some key safety tips to take are: avoid blind spots, follow at a good distance, pass safely, and slow down within construction signs.

Students also were given the opportunity to tour the expo center outside. Animated robotic characters as Richard Petty led viewers through a series of messages about seat belts, speed and impaired driving, giving his thoughts about the importance of proper driving behaviors on the streets and highways. He also invites students to join a host trooper or law enforcement officer and take a spin on the Expo drunk driving simulator. Through the Highway Safety Gallery, learn how to improve the chances of avoiding a motor vehicle crash and how efforts are being made to make highways safer. There was also a wall

of history of the N.C. Highway Patrol.

To insure safety to everyone, officers investigate motorists, check for drugs, enforce safety inspection law, check for stolen vehicles, check for fraud, titles, registration, false documents, licenses, check rest area and provide effective needed services to people.

Grice Brothers Trucking Company furnished a special rig and other services for the program with Sandy Byrd as the driver.

Other guests included Tony Parrish of the Highway Patrol, Gilbert Cox and Von Floyd, Motor Carrier Officers for Motor Safety Inspections.

Mrs. Danelle Locklear, support person of PSHS, coordinated the program.

### French Student at PSHS Learn about Mardi Gras

Taking an interest in customs and traditions of other countries, French students of Purnell Sweet High School created costumes and masks to celebrate French Mardi Gras.

Melody Parnell, French teacher, shared how the country of France celebrated Mardi Gras and compared this festival to celebrations of American society as Halloween.

"Some students had an outlet for creative skills. Some who do not do well on written work did very well with the project," quotes Mrs. Parnell.

Students learned various customs and traditions of the French culture. To enhance their interests and understanding, they were given the opportunity to design and create costumes. Afterwards, a display of their work was hung on the wall.

## Constitutional Assembly of Tribe Preparing Final Draft

by Cynthia L. Hunt,  
Technical Advisor to Lumbee  
Constitutional Assembly

On Saturday, March 19, 1994, the Constitutional Assembly of the Lumbee Tribe met at the Burnt Swamp Baptist building to discuss developments with the constitutional assembly project. A report was given by the Details Committee containing several recommendations to the Assembly. Articles will be forthcoming discussing those changes, as well as the latest draft of the proposed constitution. A report was given on the recent travels of LRDA, a private non-profit corporation with no members, to Washington, DC where they met with Congressman Charlie Rose to discuss the constitution project. The group also reportedly met with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to discuss the same. There was not an LRDA person present to shed any light on either of these meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to address some of the false and misleading statements surrounding the Constitutional Assembly project. First, and foremost is the rumor that the work of the assembly is to be

because a constitution has already been filed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Please be advised that Arlinda Locklear, attorney to the Assembly, did present a copy of a DRAFT of the constitution to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for INFORMATION

PURPOSES ONLY! The Bureau of Indian Affairs was advised that this was only a draft, that the Assembly had not yet agreed upon a final draft, and that a vote by the Lumbee People on the draft was under discussion but had not yet been held. The purpose of providing the draft to the Bureau was to get their staff's informal opinion of the document, i.e., whether the draft lays out a workable tribal government, just to insure that major problems had not been overlooked. The Bureau staff has informally advised that the draft is workable from their point of view. Tribal members please be assured that there will be no formal submission of a Lumbee constitution to the Bureau of Indian Affairs until the document has been formally adopted by the

tribe that there WILL NOT BE A RESERVATION ESTABLISHED for the Lumbee Tribe (even if we are recognized)! The Constitutional Assembly of the Lumbee tribe has made every effort to assure that the best interest of each and every tribal member has been looked after in this proposed constitution. It is not their intentions to take away any rights of tribal members, but to guarantee you a voice in how your tribal government operates. These false and misleading statements are just a tactic used by some to try and deter your participation in this important endeavor. As I have stated in earlier articles, the best way to learn about this project is to attend the meetings and ask questions. It is very important to the delegates of the Constitutional Assembly that you be informed of this process and what is being proposed in the draft constitution. So, if you have questions or concerns, please contact a delegate and find out the real truth.

Secondly, there has been a rumor that the proposed constitution will give a tribal council a right to take your land, conduct unlawful searches and seizures, and place our tribal members on a reservation. Folks please be advised and reassured that these ideas are absurd and ludicrous. If the tribe is organized under a tribal constitution, tribal members will retain the same constitutional rights guaranteed by the constitution of the United States. We will continue to own land and the tribe will not be allowed to seize your property. Tribal members will continue to be protected by amendments to the United States

constitution that prohibit unlawful searches and seizures. While there has been a judiciary branch included in the proposed constitution, the responsibilities of that branch is to deal with interpretations of the constitution itself. The tribe does not have any jurisdiction over criminal and civil matters. In reference to the reservation, attempts have been made



Breaking ground for PSU's \$5.7 million administration building with gold-colored shovels are (left to right) Marion Bass of Charlotte, chairman of the PSU Board of Trustees; Chancellor Joseph Oxendine of PSU; Katie Dorsett, Secretary of the N.C. Department of Administration who represented the governor; President C.D. Spangler, Jr., of the UNC system; and Terrence Brewton of Asheville, vice president of the PSU Student Government Association.

### VFW Post 5006, St. Pauls, NC Receives Award of Appreciation



Tech. Sgt. William P. Revels, Post Chaplain of the VFW Post 5006, St. Pauls, NC receives an appreciation Award from Larry Lupo, Post Commander. Also, not pictured, the Post Quartermaster was given an appreciation award at the regular meeting, March, 10, 1994.

### Easter Program Planned at Saddletree Church of God

Easter Musical Drama Saddletree Church of God April 3rd at 7:00 p.m. "God's Sacrifice" Come and worship with us Pastor: Rev. Millard Maynard

### Meet the Candidates Meeting to be held

A meet the candidates event will be held on Saturday, March 26 at the home of Joe Chavis in the Philadelphia Precinct. All candidates are invited to attend and meet the voters. The event will begin at 12 noon and continue throughout the day. Voters are encouraged to attend and meet the candidates. Candidates are encouraged to attend and meet the voters.

The home of Joe Chavis is located off Highway 710, toward Red Springs.

### News From Magnolia School

On March 10, 1994, Magnolia Elementary School experienced another "First" in Parental involvement activities. The school was the site of its first Mini-Conference entitled, "Parents/Students/Teachers: Partners in Education (PIE)." The Conference activities including eight sessions with such topics as "Dealing with attention deficit disorder children," "Your child and school Law," "Seed, Soil, and Fertilizer for our kids," "Arts and Crafts Made Simple," "Microwave Cooking," "Hot's Lab Demonstration," "Wicat/ Josten Lab Demonstration," and "Communicating with your Children."

More than 140 parents, children, staff members and visitors attended the conference.

The conference opened with a general session conducted by the PTA after which parents attended any three of the eight sessions offered. The conference was concluded with a spaghetti dinner for parents, children, and staff. Ms. Sandra Honeycutt, was the keynote speaker at the dinner. Door prizes were given.

The mini-conference was organized and implemented by the Chapter 1 schoolwide project, the student services team, and the PTA.