

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

PEMBROKE, NORTH CAROLINA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1994

FIVE CENTS

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Madie Rae Locklear, Chairman of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation's "Help a Needy Friend" program, presents Toby Ferris of Parkton with an electric barbecue grill won in a drawing held December 5. Mr. Ferris' name was selected from co-op members who signed up during the months of October and November to participate in the energy assistance program.

## First Lumbee Tribal Council and Chairman Working to Establish Tribal Government

by Connee Brayboy  
The first Lumbee Tribal Council and the first Chairman of the Lumbee Tribe, are working diligently to establish the Lumbee government under the authority of the Lumbee Constitution which was adopted by the Lumbee Tribe July 4, 1994. Presently the tribal council and the chairman are meeting every first and third Monday night at the Resource Center, the former Pembroke Middle School, at 7 P.M. The council encourages tribal members to attend these public meetings and become informed about the tribal government operations.

Among the ordinances (laws) that the council have enacted is the establishment of the tribal enrollment office. The tribal office will soon open in the town of Pembroke. The enrollment office is extremely important to the tribe because tribal members must be enrolled to participate in the tribal elections which will be held every July. At this election seven tribal council members will be elected or re-elected.

Lance Harding has been elected by the council as the Speaker of the House. In this position, he chairs the meetings. Other elected officers include Gary Locklear, Vice-Speaker; Emma Lee Locklear, Secretary; Dr. Sam Wynn, Treasurer, and Rev. Jerry McNeill as Chaplain.

The tribal council is comprised of 21 persons who have been duly elected by the Lumbee tribe.

At the Monday night meeting of the Tribal Council, a report was heard from the Chairman and the Speaker relative to their appearance before the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs on Friday. Harding reported that he had been informed by the Chairman of the Commission, Paul Brooks, that the council was to appear on the Commission's agenda after 2 P.M. When they arrived, Harding reported, the meeting was just before adjourning. Harding felt that the Council had been insulted and that the meeting was intentionally adjourned before their arrival.

The original purpose in attending the Commission meeting was to present a resolution to the Commission asking them to recognize the Council as the official governing body of the Lumbee Tribe. This request was made in response to the July election which duly elected the first Tribal Council for the Lumbee people.

Prior to their arrival, Harding explained, James Hardin, executive director of Lumbee Regional Development Association, appeared before the Commission and told them that LRDA was the official governing body of the Lumbee Tribe. He made his assertion based on a referendum that was voted on in 1984 by Lumbee

people. This referendum gave the private, non-profit LRDA the authority to represent Lumbee people only on the federal recognition effort. The referendum stated that LRDA should serve in that capacity until such time as a constitution was adopted and tribal officials were in place. Hardin's argument was that less than 30 percent of the tribe voted in the 1994 tribal elections for the constitution and the tribal officials. Hardin failed, according to sources, to report that less than 1000 people voted on the '84 referendum and more than 8,000 voted for the Lumbee Constitution. Voting for the Lumbee Constitution and the tribal chairman and council were elections that could be won by a simple majority. There is no law that states that tribal elections must have 30 percent voter participation. Although 30 percent was not required, more than 30 percent voted in the election for the constitution.

While the question of who represents the Lumbee Tribe as governing body keeps arising, the issue was settled with the adoption of the Lumbee Constitution. That vote was a mandate by the Lumbee people, as well as the election of the tribal chairman and the tribal council.

According to Harding's report, however, the Commission referred

the question of recognizing the tribal council to their recognition committee. The next meeting for the Commission is scheduled for March. In the meantime, the Lumbee Tribal Council is busy with the concerns of establishing tribal government.

It seems that LRDA's board of directors as well as their executive director, James Hardin, has legitimate reason to be apprehensive of the Lumbee Tribal Council. It is a fact that the tribal government will compete with the private, non-profit corporation for Indian set-aside programs. This could mean a change in who administers such programs as JTPA, Energy Assistance, and other federal and state set-aside programs.

One thing is certain, according to members of the tribal council, they are not going anywhere. And obviously the administration at LRDA will struggle to keep administering these programs. The decisions on who will administer the programs will eventually be solved by the funding sources themselves. It is felt by many that these sources will give preference to a duly elected tribal council over a private, non profit corporation.

The Lumbee Tribe has always been in a position to adopt a constitution and elect a tribal council at any time the people so choose. They chose to do so in July 1994.

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## LRDA Re-opens its Enrollment Rolls

Lumbee Regional Development Association Board of Directors voted on December 3, 1994 to re-open the Lumbee Tribal Rolls on January 2, 1995 until June 30, 1995. This six months period is to allow for eligible Lumbee descendants who have not enrolled in the past, the opportunity to be certified enrolled in the Lumbee Tribe by December 30, 1995.

This is the first time the LRDA Lumbee Tribal Rolls have been opened since 1991. If you are of Lumbee descent and maintained Tribal affiliation with the Lumbee Tribe and not enrolled, you are encouraged to apply. If you know others who are not

enrolled who may be eligible, inform them of the LRDA board action to open the Tribal Rolls.

If you are already enrolled and have changed addresses or moved since enrolling, please call the LRDA Lumbee Enrollment Office and give the staff your new mailing address so your file can be updated. If you move in the future, remember to update your file with the new address.

Where to apply? LRDA Lumbee Tribal Enrollment Office, Union Chapel Road, Pembroke. For information call 910-521-2462. Applications with instructions can be mailed to your home.

## Pinewood Derby Winner



Shown are Issac Martinez, Wohali Revels, Stephen Chavis and Roy Johnson.

Cub Scout Pack 327 held their 1994 Pinewood Derby on Saturday, November 26th at the First Methodist Church in Pembroke. Wolf first place winner was Wohali Revels; second place winner was T.C. Ocedine. Bear first place winner was Stephen Chavis; second place winner was Marcus Seals; third place winner was James Chavis; Webelos I first place winner was Issac Martinez; second place winner was Dustin Snarkaki; third place winner was Rocky Key Lowery; Webelos II first place winner was Roy Johnson; second place winner was Chris Maynor. All first place winners will compete in the Central District Derby in March 1995 at the "Scout Show" Luther Britt Park in Lumberton.

## Mt. Airy Church to Present Christmas Cantata



Mt. Airy Baptist Church will present their Christmas Cantata (Christmas Sing Noel) on December 23rd at 7 p.m. and December 25th at 11 a.m. worship service. The group has been very busy for the last three months getting ready for the Cantata. The Cantata is directed by Ms. Sheila Lowry and narrated by Mr. Laymon Locklear. Mt. Airy Baptist Church would like to thank Ms. Sheila Lowry for all her hard work. The pastor, Rev. James Mitchell Locklear, welcomes everyone.

## SCHOOL NEWS



Mrs. Doares' first grade class of Rowland Normant Elementary School celebrated Thanksgiving at the school by decorating the tables in the cafeteria. The third grade parents participated by having a meal with their children. During this season for the Fall Festival PTA decorated tables with beautiful centerpieces also.

To celebrate "Indian Heritage Month" also in November, Mrs. Read's third grade students along with cafeteria staff made the very special "Indian Frye Bread." Great things are going on at school by involving the students, staff and parents. Partners in Education: working together.

Once a month, Rowland-Normant has Students Choice for lunch. Mrs. Read's third grade class made the first meal choice-chicken nuggets, corn, applesauce, cinnamon raisin rolls and assorted milk. Some very wise choices.

Amanda Pittman a fourth grade student won the Halloween Contest by guessing the number of seeds in a pumpkin. Amanda received \$3.00 from the cafeteria. The cafeteria roasted the pumpkin seeds for the fourth grade.



Wanda Hammonds, school food service employee at Rowland Normant School was arrested during the school's Fall Festival activities. Mrs. Hammonds' husband, Earney, was called to bail her out of jail. The jail was a fundraising activity at the festival and was operated by Officer Ertyle Jones (LFD) and former Sheriff's Officer Lun Edwards.

Mr. Hammonds bailed his wife out of jail and volunteered his services for "clean-up" duty in the cafeteria after the Festival. Mr. Hammonds and all volunteers were commended for their support and hard work in making the Festival a huge success.

Cafeteria staff sold fries and hot dogs. Earney Hammonds, Maintenance Director for the Public Schools of Robeson County, is shown above.

## The Christmas Story to be Presented

The Christmas Story will be presented by the children and youth at Union Chapel Baptist Church on Sunday morning, December 25, at 10:30 a.m. The public is invited to attend. The pastor is Rev. Jimmy Strickland.

## Housing Authority Seeks Families

The Pembroke Housing Authority is seeking families for its housing units. The Authority currently has several three and four bedroom units available. The rent is affordable and each family receives free water and a monthly utility allowance. The units are conveniently located within the city limits of the town—just a few minutes from the banks, post office, and grocery stores. The local police regularly patrol the developments; thus, providing a high level of security.

If you are living in substandard housing, paying at least half of your income for rent, or involuntarily displaced, you may qualify for a special preference. For more details contact Rhonda Locklear.

If you wish to apply, applications are taken on Wednesdays from 9-11 AM and 1-4 PM at the Central Office in Locklear Court. Please bring a birth certificate and social security card for each member of the household. Prior to admission, the Authority conducts a thorough background check of each person age sixteen or older who may reside within the unit.

The Authority does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, or handicap.

If you should need additional information call (910) 521-9711 or for TDD (910) 521-8765.

May you have a joyous Christmas!  
Connee Brayboy  
Editor  
Carolina Indian Voice

## NASF Presents Educational Award to Elementary School

The Native American Scholarship Fund (NASF) announced recently that the winner of its Exemplary Program in Indian Education (EPIE) award for 1993-94 is Ganado Primary School, AZ.

Starting in 1981, Principal Sigmund Boloz initiated the Ganado Learning Arts Development (GLAD) project. Under this program, the 450 students in the school last year read over 40,000 books, or 90 books per student.

In addition to the intensive reading program for every student, the school has empowered its individual teachers in reading. Each classroom now has its own library, with over 1,000 books per classroom.

The school also have 157 computers, or one computer for each three students. It also has an Instructional Resource Room, an at-home reading program, and several other reading projects.

"This is the fourth year of the

EPIE program, and Ganado is the fourth winner of our \$5,000 award," said Dr. Dean Chavers, NASF Director. "In the current year, 1994-95, we will have our fifth competition."

"Any individual, school, project, program, college or tribe is eligible to win the award," he continued. "And there are no strings attached. All that is required is that the winner must have done some exemplary work with Indian students over a period of time."

NASF is a national scholarship program for American Indian students. Its primary function is to help high potential Indian students in math and science to enter and complete college. Applications for the EPIE prize of \$5,000 per year are due May 30 of each year.

The Fund is located at 8200 Mountain Road, NE, Suite 203, Albuquerque, NC 87110.