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Lumbee EMC Announces Rate Reduction of up to 8 Percent on Electric Bills

Red Springs—It was welcome news, indeed! as Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation's General Manager, Ronnie E. Hunt, announced that the co-op's board of directors is cutting electric bills of member-consumers, in some cases by as much as 8%. Hunt released the good news at a press conference held at the corporate headquarters here on January 13, 1997. Hunt issued the following statement:

"Due to a number of factors, the board of directors of Lumbee River EMC have been able to cut the electric bills of its member-consumers by as much as 8% in some cases. The rate reduction will be reflected on electric bills sent out in February. The lower rate came about, in part, because the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, which purchases power on behalf of 27 of the electric co-ops in the state, has negotiated several new power contracts recently which will result in lower wholesale power costs over the next several years. Lumbee River EMC will pass some of those savings on to our membership.

"I also want to thank our employees for their efficient delivery of services to our member-consumers. Lumbee River EMC's workforce continues to provide reliable, safe and affordable electric service to our membership with a lean but productive team of approximately 100 employees. Our member-consumers have also played a pivotal role by being very conscious of their energy usage; they have participated in several of our marketing programs such as load management which have substantially reduced our peak load. Lumbee River EMC has also experienced a tremendous burst of economic growth, adding thousands of members to our service area in the last few years. The rate reduction is due to all these factors, and is the good and positive side of deregulation which is now sweeping through the industry. The rate reductions also reflects the sound financial condition of our cooperative and the wise leadership of our board of directors and staff.

"The 8% reduction follows a wholesale power cost adjustment which resulted in savings of \$20 per 1000 KWH usage in the form of credits on December 1996 electric

bills, and a 4.5 percent reduction in June of 1996. In the last few months, the co-op's member-consumers have received as much as 12.5 percent in savings, as well as the credit of \$20 per 1000 KWH usage in December. The future does, indeed, look bright for Lumbee River EMC."

Mr. Hunt expressed excitement about the recent savings to the members, but added, "Change is coming to the electric industry. Electric utilities are moving into a competitive marketplace, driven by consumer demands for services at lower prices. Lumbee River EMC's number one priority is service, and our future in a competitive environment will have to center around our ability to meet the changing needs of our member-owners. Being a local non-profit electric cooperative gives us a definite advantage, because we live, work, worship, and play in the communities we serve, and understand their needs. After all, here at LREMC our bosses drop in every day. The cooperative is proud to be a good neighbor, and continues to return wages, taxes, local purchases and system improvements to the communities it serves."

Tribal Council to hold Federal Recognition Summit in Pembroke

by Ruth B. Locklear
Pembroke—On January 25th, Tribal Chairman Dalton P. Brooks, will be hosting a tribal summit on federal recognition in the 105th Congress. The Summit is open to the public and all Lumbee people are encouraged to attend.

The summit will be held at Moore Hall, UNC-P, beginning at 9 a.m. Lunch will be available for those attending at the University cafeteria and local restaurants.

Lumbee people will have an opportunity to hear Congressman Mike McIntyre and Mr. Michael Anderson, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C. speak on tribal recognition concerns. Also speaking: Arlinda Locklear, attorney for the tribal council, Leon Jacobs, tribal administrator

for the Maskentuck Pequot and Cynthia Hunt, Director of the Indian Law Unit of Lumbee River Legal Services.

The Conference will begin with a review of the lumbee struggle for tribal recognition. During that time, Locklear will be giving a detailed review of the Lumbee Bill previously passed in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Next on the agenda will be a review of remedies available to the Lumbee, all options, including special legislation through the Congress, petitioning the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and relief through the courts will be carefully examined. This will include a discussion on the possibility of tribal recognition through Executive Order of the President.

Also on the agenda is a discussion of supporters and opponents of tribal recognition. In this segment of the program the summit will be examining arguments advanced on Capitol Hill and in Indian country for and against the tribal recognition of the Lumbee.

Throughout the event, there will be opportunity for questions and comments. "I believe," said Chairman Brooks, "our people need to hear this discussion and they need to be involved in shaping the direction our tribal government will pursue in tribal recognition."

"The Lumbee community needs to work together on tribal recognition and this is a step in the right direction," said Dr. Brooks. "We can and should work together in tribal recognition for it concerns all Lumbee people."

Union Chapel School Princess



The 1996-97 Union Chapel Elementary School Princess is Adrianna Locklear. She is the daughter of William K. Locklear and the late Gertrude Oxendine Locklear who taught at Piney Grove School. Adrianna is a kindergarten student of Mrs. Penny Blaine's class. She is the granddaughter of the late Luce Oxendine and Trudy Lee Oxendine, Billy Ray Locklear and Lucy Dial Locklear. She is also the great granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Dockery Oxendine. She is appreciative of the support shown to her and extends a special thanks to Mrs. Berneatha Locklear.

Quarterly Singing of Baptist Association to be held Sunday

The Burnt Swamp Baptist Association's Quarterly Singing will be held Sunday, January 19, at 3:00 p.m. at Reedy Branch Baptist Church. All church groups, quartets and other singers are encouraged to attend and participate in the singing. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Dial Family Reunion to be Held

The Descendants of Weldon and Jennie Dial will gather on March 29, 1997 (Easter weekend) from 12-5 at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, Pembroke.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish, family photographs, family Bibles, etc. For more information contact Nora Dial-Stanley at 910-924-2867 or Kathen Locklear at 910-521-2048.

All changes, even the ones most longed for, have their melancholy, for what we leave behind us is a part of ourselves; we must die to one life before we can enter into another.
—Anatole France

Tribute to Chief Tom Carter

by John "Tall Bird" Marshall

The "Living Legend" is no longer living among us. However, his presence will still be felt in the daily spiritual realm of many for years to come. Chief Tom N. "Standing Deer" Carter departed this Earth, joining our Creator, on Tuesday, January 7, 1997.

My heartfelt prayers go out to the Carter and Locklear Families as they learn to cope with the absence of their beloved Chief Tom.

The day of his funeral was extremely windy. The chill factor must have been in the twenties. Yet, the sun had been shining brilliantly all day, as it seemed to dodge occasional white, puffy clouds in the blue sky above.

The day was coming to a close as I left the cemetery on my return trip home to Rocky Mount. As I was diving down Highway 421 I felt the warmth of the sun on my face. As I turned my head in that direction, my eyes beheld the most beautiful sunset. It was a brilliant, yellowish-orange silhouetting the rolling hills, leafless trees, and occasional pines. The beauty and peace I felt at that moment is beyond words. I raised my right hand, palm open, towards the sun. I could feel the sun reaching out - touching my hand. I began to pray and then reminiscence of the day's activities and conversations. It was difficult to take my eyes off the sunset as I drove down the highway.

I then noticed a hawk flying above the tree tops in the direction of the sunset. I thought about the hawk as it flew towards the sun. It was probably closing out the day as it was returning to the roost. The hawk was a good sign, I immediately, put together the spiritual-felt moment, the meaning of the sunset, and the hawk. The thought came to me - what a beautiful closing for a beautiful day! And then... what a beautiful closing of the life of a real warrior, Chief Tom! As the day closed, so did the life of a Brother. It all seemed so proper and fitting. Instead of sadness, I felt warmth in my heart.

As my Native American traditional values merged with my Christian values, I began to think of what death really means. As a Christian, I believe that death is not the end of life, but the beginning. Chief Tom also believed this. Yet, as Native American Brothers and Sisters, we will continue to feel his presence in the dance and sacred fire circles for many years to come. As we enter the circle, we step and dance in Chief Tom's footprints forever more.

Chief Tom, we will all miss you greatly. You meant so much to so many that words could never express our gratitude for being the person that you were. Go in peace my friend. AHO!

The funeral service was truly beautiful and was planned by Chief Tom himself. Funeral Services were conducted on Friday, January 10, 1997 at 3:00 P.M. at the "New Bethel

Baptist Church" in the small country community of Kitty Fork, North Carolina.

The order of the service included: Tony Clark - Flute Processional, Drum, and Song; Ray "Little Turtle" - Remarks; Gaye Cushing - Poem; Coharie River Boys Quartet - Singing "Going Home" and "It Is Well"; Rev. Hubbard Lowery - Scripture; Rev. Mike Cummings with a Message; and special comments by VFW Post Chaplin, Archie Oxendine.

Graveside committal included gun salute, blowing of the eagle whistle by Ray "Little Turtle", comments and prayer by Rev. Hubbard Lowery, presentation of American Flag to the Carter Family, and the blessing of the grounds and casket by numerous friends using the sacred tobacco.

Pall Bearers were: Floyd Carter, Percy A. Carter, Kent N. Jacobs, Rex Bell, Glenn Carter, Donald Carter, Darrell Carter, and Travis Bryant. Honorary Pall Bearers were: Mark "Gray Eagle" Lysin, John "Tall Bird" Marshall, Lonnie Revels, Jr., Chief Joel Bass, Brian Post, Bruce Jones, Dr. Sampson Buie, and Buck McCullen.

Chief Tom's personal motto was: "Worship The Creator And Serve His People".

Until we meet you on the other side, AHO to you Chief Tom. I, for one, will continue to worship our Creator, and serve our People the best I know how. Thank you Chief Tom.... Thank you so very much!!

Reflections

by Alta Nye Oxendine

Happy New Year!

I still attend "First Methodist" when I'm not at Branch Street UMC with Byron and his parents. On the Sunday after New Year's Pastor Ray Brooks gave a good sermon on resolutions. As he pointed out, we can simplify the process of making New Year's resolutions by limiting them to one: Resolve to worship God (as the wise men worshipped the baby Jesus) each day during the coming year.

If you and I were to do this EVERY DAY during 1997, God could gladly give us the guidance we need, ONE DAY AT A TIME!

Gordon's Birthday

During an enjoyable telephone conversation with my brother Stan (who is beginning to accept the death of his wife last year), he asked: "Did you realize you just called Byron 'Gordon'?" This keeps happening. In fact, even though he looks like the Hunt family, he seems to remind his mother and me more of Gordon as time goes by. Once lately I also found myself referring to Gordon as "Byron." Reminds me of the way I used to go through the entire family (including Leon) before I got to the name of the child whose attention I was trying to get. Now I'm able to laugh at myself when my mind plays such tricks!

Over the holidays most of our immediate family was under the weather with coughs, etc. (I was finally diagnosed with bronchitis.)

Reading is the work of the alert mind, is demanding and under ideal conditions produces finally a sort of ecstasy. This gives the experience of reading a sublimity and power unequalled by any other form of communication.

—E.B. White

As to moral courage, I have rarely met the two o'clock in the morning kind. I mean unprepared courage, that which is necessary on an unexpected occasion, and which, in spite of the most unforeseen events, leaves full freedom of judgment and decision.

—Napoleon Bonaparte

He that leaveth nothing to chance will do few things ill, but he will do very few things.

—George, Lord Halifax

Wanda Kay had a series of tests showing a number of allergies, like her Grandma Oxendine and older brother, Donny.

Gordon's birthday (like Donny's in June) passed by without much time for me to think about my third child. It's almost IMPOSSIBLE to believe my "baby" would have turned 32 on December 28. Or that this coming June Donny (my first) would have celebrated his 37th! That's almost as old as I was (39) when I decided I could start over on my next birthday. "Life begins at 40" was a common saying when I was growing up.

Warning
After describing "papers" as some of Byron's favorite playthings in a recent column, perhaps I need to give a warning. Besides the temptation to "eat" pieces of paper and the possibility of such paper products gathering germs (as well as dust) over time, it seems that some paper products (like newspapers) can cause allergic reactions for people who are allergy-prone.

Along with boxes, we have been giving Byron plastic containers we already had on hand to play with. He especially likes little plastic baskets to put other toys in. Plastic has the advantage of being washable.

Byron's big box (shown in a recent column) has now been replaced with his own little bright-colored plastic writing table. One of my next projects will be to help him learn to "draw"

and "write" on clean, blank sheets of paper (hopefully in place of walls, etc.). Of course he was interested in the box that his table came in.

I plan to continue cutting pictures out of magazines and putting them around the living room and kitchen for him to enjoy. But to CHANGE them ore often. Displaying pictures where he could see them is something I've been doing ever since I started baby-sitting with him. Byron really gets excited about the pretty baby and animal pictures I find in newspapers and magazines. Over the holidays I put up Christmas scenes for him to look at.

As I sad before, such "playthings" cost us absolutely NOTHING!

Carnell Wins Again

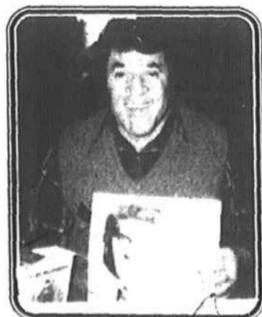


Carnell Locklear, local entertainer, recently participated in the Elvis Presley impersonation contest held at Bigg Park Mall.

Locklear won the "best moves" under age 18. He performed Elvis' "That's All Right, Mama," and was awarded a Blue Suede Shoes Clock and a limited edition Elvis Presley album of Elvis' best songs.

Locklear said it was an exciting contest and he enjoyed every moment of it; "and met some really nice folks."

Congressman McIntyre Named to Transportation Task Force



Washington, D.C.—Congressman Mike McIntyre (D-7th) has been named to a special Task Force on Transportation and Infrastructure. "This key appointment will allow me the opportunity to push for legislative changes that will return more money to North Carolina's highways,

infrastructure, and beaches." The task force has been set up by the Blue Dog Democratic Coalition.

One of the priorities for the 10th Congress will be to rewrite the nation's highway law known as the Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act (ISTEA). ISTEA sets general transportation policy and authorizes funding for road and bridge projects. In addressing one of the shortcomings of the ISTEA regulations, McIntyre noted, "Many states, including North Carolina, do not receive an adequate return on the money their citizens pay into the National Highway Trust Fund under the current ISTEA formulas. I will work feverishly to rectify this situation." Yesterday McIntyre's office met with state transportation officials regarding several North Carolina transportation concerns.

North Carolina currently averages an 82% return annually from every dollar in highway user fees paid for by the traveling public, with

that figure dipping to 76% in 1995. "The Blue Dog Coalition will have a big say in how the ISTEA laws are rewritten and I will urge this task Force to insist that states like North Carolina receive at least a 95% return on their transportation contribution. I will also work to provide states more flexibility from government regulations in allocating that money. This will mean an additional tens of millions of dollars each year that North Carolina is free to use to respond to specific state and local surface transportation needs."

McIntyre also stressed that he will work with the Task Force, the appropriate Committees of Congress and with Federal officials to ensure that North Carolina's beaches are properly re-nourished following the destruction left from Hurricanes Bertha and Fran. "Our beautiful beaches are not only a national treasure but are also critical to our economic development. We must restore them to their beautiful conditions and I will work to that end."

There are some men who lift the age they inhabit, till all men walk on higher ground in that lifetime.

—Maxwell Anderson

The opinions which we hold of one another, our relations with friends, and kindfolk are in no sense permanent, save in appearance, but are as eternally fluid as the sea itself.

—Marcel Proust