

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Patricia Brayboy becomes first Native American Director of Red Cross



Patricia Brayboy has been named Director of the Robeson County Chapter of the American Red Cross. She is the first Native American to serve in that position. Her position with the Red Cross began several years ago when she became a volunteer with the organization. She later became the first Native American employee of the organization. She has worked with the Red Cross for more than seven years. Prior to November she was Blood Services Director. In November she was

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named Interim Director and was hired into the permanent position, effective April 1, according to Cynthia Neloms, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Robeson County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Percy Shaw was named Office Administrator and Director of Blood Services at the same time. Shaw is Black.

Brayboy is a graduate of Pembroke Senior High School and Robeson-Community College. She has attended workshops and courses relative to her work with the Red Cross. This training has provided her with additional skills in areas such as disaster relief and disaster assessment, as well as knowledge about services to military families.

She stated that she was happy to have the opportunity to work as Director of the Red Cross. "I have enjoyed working with the Red Cross because I enjoy helping people. There is so much more to the Red Cross than just blood services. We are available to assist in disaster, like Hurricane Fran, which devastated our county in September."

A civic minded person, Brayboy has served as Treasurer for the Share Life Foundation; President of Union Elementary PTA; member of the

Parent Advisory Council of Union Elementary School. For the past six years she has served as a Volunteer with Project Graduation. She has coached Union Elementary Tee-Ball and continues to serve as a volunteer for the Public Schools of Robeson County.

A talented crafts person, she is especially proud of her apprenticeship to the Lumbee Elders Council. In this capacity, she has the opportunity of learning from the elders and attending ceremonies, pow wows and other functions where the Native American Tradition and Culture is practiced.

"I see my position with the Red Cross as just a continuation and expansion of the things that I really love doing. Giving assistance to others. Working with the Red Cross is one of the things that a person really needs to have a love for, otherwise, it could be very stressful. I am happy to be a part of the great service organization that is the American Red Cross," Brayboy said.

She lives at Route 1, Rowland with her husband, Charles Brayboy and their two children, Allison and Heath who are students at Union Elementary School.

## Democratic Party Holds Convention Pembroke Mayor Named Chairman



Mayor Milton Hunt

The Robeson County Democratic Party Convention was held in the Robeson County Courthouse at noon on Saturday, April 19, 1997. The convention was called to order by Ms. Lee Helen Thompson of Fairmont who was the outgoing chairperson. Mayor Ray Pennington welcomed the group to the convention. Delegates from the county's 41 precincts were present along with many elected officials.

Congressman Mike McIntyre gave a legislative update on Washington

activities and invited delegates to attend the 7th District convention on May 31, 1997 in Brunswick County.

Representatives Ron Sutton, Doug Young and Donald Bonner as well as Senator David Weinstein gave updates on legislative events and issues in Raleigh.

The newly elected Democratic Party Chairman Milton R. Hunt, Mayor of Pembroke, conducted the remainder of the meeting. In addition to Chairman Milton Hunt's election the following individuals were elected as indicated:

Frances Godwin Chavis, First Vice Chairperson, Betty Batchlor, Second Vice Chairperson, James McIntyre, Third Vice Chairperson, Judy Mishue, Treasurer, Susan Cummings, Secretary.

Elected as State Executive Committee: Wade Carson Hunt, Vickie Locklear, William Cummings, Lillie McKoy, R. W. Wilkins, Bill Wester.

Elected Alternates to State Executive Committee: James Edward Thomas, Wade Sealy, Wyatt Johnson.

Dr. E. B. Turner made a motion to commend the entire Robeson County Delegation in Washington and Raleigh for the fine job they are doing for the County and area. His motion

passed unanimously. A resolution read by Representative Ron Sutton honoring the life and memory of the following deceased individuals for their contributions to the Robeson Democratic Party:

Mr. Ang Bullard, Prospect Community, Ms. Ola Lee Burns, Back Swamp Community, Mr. Bobby Chavis, Pembroke Community, Mr. Joe Chavis, Philadelphus Community, Mr. Lynwood Chavis, Philadelphus Community, Rev. Rufus Graham, Maxton Community, Mr. Robert Hunt, Pembroke Community, Ms. Constance Huntley, Lumberton Community, Dr. Joy J. Johnson, Fairmont Community, Ms. LaRue Taylor Jones, Fairmont Community, Mr. Osborn "Obie" Lee, Jr. Lumberton Community, Mr. Carmel Locklear, Prospect Community, Mr. Bernard Lowry, Pembroke Community, Ms. Lillie Mae McCray, Red Springs Community, Mr. Lee Nevel, Pembroke Community, Mr. Conrad Oxendine, Oxendine Community, Ms. Iona Ransom, Philadelphus Community.

Chairman Hunt thanked everyone for attending and expressed the need to continue organizing the (41) Precincts. He stressed the need for unity and a great voter turnout in 1998.

## Rep. Sutton Appointed Whip for Demo Caucus



Representative Ronnie Sutton of Pembroke has been named a whip for the N.C. House Democratic Caucus. Sutton's duties will include keeping House Democrats informed about upcoming votes, developing strategy and shaping legislation. He also will make sure that the Robeson and Hoke County area will have a voice in the House Democratic leadership. "I look forward to having Rep. Sutton as a part of the leadership team," House Minority Leader Jim

Black, a Democrat from Mecklenburg County, said after making the appointment. "Ronnie's background as a lawyer and military retiree will provide valuable insights to House Democrats during this session of the General Assembly."

This appointment brings with it the recognition of both Rep. Sutton's seniority and ability to positively interact with his peers. His position as the senior legislator from his region should also enhance his effectiveness among both the Democrats and Republicans and that is essential in order to get Democratic Party legislation through the House.

This appointment means that in addition to his own legislative agenda, Rep. Sutton will be working with other Democrats to assist in getting their bills through Committees and the House.

Rep. Sutton said, "It is indeed an honor to be appointed a Democratic Caucus Whip to assist the House Democratic Party Leader in the performance of his duties."

Rep. Sutton is serving his third term in the State House. His district includes parts of Robeson and Hoke counties.

## Baseball League to be Organized in County

There is a desire to create a Baseball League for those youngsters ages 13 and 14 of Robeson County who would like to play baseball in the Dixie Boys program. This program is in the middle school concept in terms of the base running and pitching distance. This gives the 13 year old a better chance to compete, to feel good about the playing field and the company of the 14 year olds. The Dixie Boys Baseball program will not replace any existing baseball program; however, it does provide an opportunity for more youngsters to be involved in organized sports.

If you are interested and want to learn more about this program, then you are invited to an organizational meeting on Saturday - April 26, 1997 at 3:00 p.m. on the Baseball Field of

Prospect School, located 5 miles NW of Pembroke, 7 miles South of Red Springs and 6 miles NE of Maxton.

This invitation is to all 13 & 14 years old and their parents. If you will be 13 before July 1 and not 15 before August 1, you are to come. If you have a team or want to organize a team of Dixie Boys, then come to this important meeting.

For more information and/or concerns (such as you can not come on Saturday but you want to participate) you may call (910) 521-8769 after 10:00 p.m. or (910) 521-9400.

This will be a fun afternoon of baseball. There may not be peanuts and cracker jacks but we will have hot dogs with the trimmings. Bring your glove and a willingness to play baseball on Saturday, April 26 at 3:00 p.m. on the Prospect Field



Ms. Deena Revels is shown presenting plaque of appreciation to Ms. Vernie Chavis at Ten Mile Center Baptist Church recently as part of the Vernie Chavis Day sponsored by the church.

## Ten Mile Times

A very special day titled "Vernie Chavis Day" was recently held at Ten Mile Center Baptist Church. Mrs. Vernie Chavis was given quite a surprise when her church gave her a surprise special day. Ms. Chavis retired from her special role of teaching for sixty-five years continuously at Ten Mile Center Baptist Church. The class she retired from in September of 1996 was the preschoolers.

The preschool class sang some of her favorite songs and presented her with a dozen red roses. Mr. Bill Hall presented her with a lovely corsage. Rev. Earnest Hammonds, Church Pastor, in presenting her to the church family, spoke of her dedication, love and sixty-five years of faithful service. Ms. Deena Hunt Revels presented Ms. Chavis with a plaque from the church. The plaque contained her favorite scripture passages and commendations for Christian service, unselfish devotion and loving concern for Ten Mile Center Baptist.

Rev. Leonard Gibbs of Atlanta, GA, former pastor was the guest speaker for the momentous occasion.

Ms. Deena Revels read inspirational poems that described Ms. Vernie. The special occasion continued

with a catered lunch honoring Ms. Vernie in the fellowship building.

After lunch several persons spoke their sentiments about Ms. Vernie. Many humorous, tear-filled and sentimental stories were shared.

Mr. Anthony Blanks did a great job as Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon of loving fun.

Many special guests from out of town and near by came to share this joyous occasion. Ms. Vernie was presented a very special three-tier cake cooked and decorated by Ms. Barbara Hammonds and Ms. Wanda Hammonds. The cake also depicted her March birthday. Each Sunday school class presented Ms. Vernie with many useful gifts. She also received cards from all Sunday school classes, approximately fifty in number.

The special Vernie Chavis Day ended with the enjoyment of cake, coffee, coke and cherished memories of past and present Ten Mile Center Baptist Church days. A special thanks to Mrs. Doris Hall for chairing this special event. Ten Mile Center Baptist Church links Ms. Vernie Chavis for the many lives she has touched with her Christian love and devotion.

## Lumbee Bank To Purchase Progressive in Fairmont

Subject to regulatory approval Progressive Savings and Loan Ltd and Lumbee Guaranty Bank have reached an agreement whereby Lumbee Guaranty Bank will purchase the Progressive branch assets in Fairmont, N.C. and assume the deposit liabilities of this branch.

Larry R. Chavis, President of Lumbee Guaranty Bank noted that Lumbee Bank had been looking for the opportunity to enter the Fairmont market for some time. This agreement will allow the bank to enter the market with an existing customer base. We're delighted to be on our way.

Roland I. Ott, President of Progressive said, "The major bank

merger last year in our market and the second announced for this year have necessarily altered the bank's focus relative to its business opportunities in its existing markets. We believe these opportunities have accelerated as a result of the anticipated second merger. In order to properly manage these opportunities, concentration of effort would be necessary. Fairmont is a fine community which like our other markets, offers considerable amount of this banking opportunity. As Lumbee Bank was interested in this market, it seemed a natural solution to both banks' dilemmas while maintaining a banking presence for the Fairmont community.

## St. Pauls Student Wins National Academic Award



Megan Jolly of St. Pauls, NC has been named a United States National Award Winner in Honor Roll.

This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes fewer than 10% of all American high school students.

Jolly who attends St. Pauls Middle was nominated for the national award by Rosemary Henningway a counselor at the school.

Jolly will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official

## AISES Announces Way to Support Indian Communities Through Art

AISES - The American Indian Science and Engineering Society proudly announces the availability of an exciting new way to support American Indian communities through art. Our auction which features authentic American Indian Art will be made available on the worldwide-web beginning April 15, 1997. Profits from this auction will be an on-going effort to provide opportunities for both Indian students and Indian communities. Only American Indian Artists will be featured including several with national reputation such as Sam English and Al Qoyavayma.

The internet address is <http://www.colorado.edu/AISES/auction>

Poverty among Indians has actually risen during the past decade of the gaming boom. Now more than half of all reservation Indians live below the poverty level more than four times the national average. It is our hope that this auction will assist AISES in our continued efforts to improve conditions through education.

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society in Boulder, CO is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing educational schol-

ship and program assistance to deserving American Indian students.

Self-reliance through education is the foundation upon which AISES is built. Our vision is that trained professionals will return to their communities to become leaders and spearhead efforts to improve conditions for their people. Proceeds from this auction will be used to support programs and scholarships for these students wishes to attend tribal and mainstream colleges and universities. It also provides American Indian artists a new forum to sell their work thus supporting their efforts as they seek to become more self-reliant.

The initial auction will present over 40 pieces of art. Among these items buyers will find jewelry, framed fine art, traditional rugs and weavings, pottery and cultural art such as a flute blessed by tribal elders and made by Edward Beji Box, Sr. (Red Ute) Elder of the Southern Ute tribe. Most art objects are made with traditional methods and materials. New pieces will be presented each 8 weeks when the cycle changes. Portions of the purchase prices should be tax deductible and considered a charitable contribution.

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The Carolina Indian Voice (Newspaper)  
Connee Brayboy  
P.O. Box 1075  
Pembroke, N.C. 28372  
(919) 521-2826 Office (919) 521-4611 Home

