

Editorial and Opinion Page

Letters to the Editor Congressman McIntyre Congratulates Indian Voice on 24 Years of Service

It is my pleasure to congratulate the Carolina Indian Voice on completing its first twenty-four years of service. Even the most optimistic of people back in 1971 could not have predicted the phenomenal success the Voice has had over the last two and a half decades.

The Carolina Indian Voice has been a vital and vibrant part of our community. This newspaper has called our attention to important stories not told elsewhere, and it has brought to our region the excitement, struggle, and hopes of the American Indian community. It is a remarkable accomplishment. But it is even more remarkable that the Carolina Indian Voice has proven itself in good times and in lean times.

Reader Clarifies Statement About His Children's School Attendance

I am writing to clarify a misunderstanding that was published in the Robesonian on Thursday April 24, 1997. The article "Complaints, Absent From School" said that Henry Brewer's children attended Magnolia School in 1995-96, but he moved them to the St. Pauls School district last year because he says he likes the schools.

I would like to clear this statement by saying that my children have never attended Magnolia School but, it is not due to school academic capabilities. The Robeson County Board of Education allowed my children to attend schools outside their district due to morning and afternoon child care and their safety. This is no reflection on the academic capabilities of Magnolia School. I graduated from Magnolia School with scholarships and a grant in 1978. I have no reason to low grade Magnolia School for any reason. I have a vested interest in Magnolia School. I would also like to share with the public that I did make the comment that, "Every year I get out and try to find the best education for my child. I shouldn't have to do that." The meaning behind that statement is that we have a County School System that is working hard to give everyone the same fair equal treat-

ment for a good education, but it is a given that we have obstacles that hinder the process.

The new school idea, option "B" is simply a recommended design to assist in giving everyone equity and uniformity across all the county for all children. I feel that we should not have to question the school system to find out how to get the best education. Mr. Purnell Swett, and Dr. Sandra Watkins have worked overtime trying to identify and resolve these issues and now they are including the public, for your opinion and assistance. We must be willing to change for the best. We cannot continue to hold onto historical landmarks that are not economical to use in the next ten years. If we continue to use the band-aid affect, we will continue to repeat the past experiences and problems. The new plan will cost tax payers a 11 percent increase over the band-aid approach. We are past due with upgrading due to resistance to change and tax increases. We must weigh our options now and decide. "Is my child's education worth the increase and change?"

Sincerely,
Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress

Our liberty depends on freedom of the press, and the Carolina Indian Voice proves, as one thinker puts it, that a "free press is not a privilege but an organic necessity in a great society." There is no doubt that the Carolina Indian Voice fills an necessary role in our community. I look forward to seeing it continue to play that role for many years to come. And I thank you for your support in publishing my "Word on Washington" column as I seek to share vital information with the fine citizens which we both serve in Southeastern North Carolina.

Henry Brewer
St. Pauls, NC

North Carolina Indian Cultural Center Seeks Volunteers!

The North Carolina Indian Cultural Center is in the process of constructing two traditional Indian villages set in the pre-European contact era. The villages are designed to educate the public about the various lifestyles of North Carolina's Native peoples.

Volunteers are needed to help in areas such as mat weaving, hide tanning, and construction of bark wigwams.

If you have a traditional skill to share, or would like to learn while assisting in a worthy cause, please call the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center at (910) 521-2433.

Project Graduation '97 to sponsor Jail-a-thon

Project graduation '97 will sponsor a Jail-a-thon on May 1 and 2 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Biggs Park Mall.

Call 608-8011 on May 1 and May 2 to have someone arrested. There will be a \$5 charge for each warrant issued. Maximum amount of \$200 for each bond.

For more information contact Connie R. Scott at 671-3200, ext. 3419.

Robeson County Retired School Personnel to Meet

The Robeson County Retired School Personnel Spring Luncheon will be held at the Pine Crest Country Club in Lumberton on May 20, 1997 at 11:30 a.m. Lorraine Soles, President of North Carolina Retired School Personnel will be the guest speaker. There will be a tribute to the deceased members.

Reservations should be made by May 13, 1997. The cost of the luncheon is \$11.00. Make your check payable to Robeson County Retired School Personnel (RCRSP) and send it to S.H. Stockton, P.O. Box 888, Lumberton, NC 28359.



Once upon a time in America there was a place called "the Indian territory." The term was not used to refer to all the lands which had truly been occupied by Native Americans — that would have to include everywhere in North and South America. "The Indian territory" was used to refer to that place to which the United States government removed Indian people.

"The Indian territory" began as a larger area, but eventually came to cover almost all of what is now Oklahoma (by the way, *oklahoma* means "red people" in the Muskogean Choctaw language). After the United States purchased from the French what was called "Louisiana" (in 1803), including all the lands from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, someone came up with the idea of moving the Indian people who remained in the eastern United States to these new lands (ultimately removals would happen not only from the east, but from other parts of the U. S. as well). The very next year the U. S. Congress enacted a law which made it "legal" to remove Indian people from their traditional homelands. By 1830 Congress felt that it was necessary to act again to speed the removal process, and so it passed the "Indian Removal Act."

The lands of the Louisiana PSHS Class of 1976 to Reunite

A special meeting will be held at Lind's Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6 to discuss plans for the upcoming reunion of the class of Pembroke High School 1976.

Interested class members are urged to attend and may pick up tickets for the reunion at the meeting.

Purchase lying west of what had become Missouri and Arkansas came to be known as "the Indian territory," and soon a hundred thousand Indians were "resettled" there. The treaties which accompanied the removal of these people typically called for these lands to belong to the Indians forever. The treaties often said that these lands would never become part of, nor under the jurisdiction of, any State without the permission of the Native Americans. Among those removed to "the Indian territory" by 1889 were members of the following nations: Quapaw, Peoria, Modoc, Shawnee, Ottawa, Wyandot, Seneca, Osage, Kansa, Pawnee, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Oto, Caddo, Sauk and Fox, Potawatomi, Wichita, Comanche, Kiowa, Apache, and the so-called "Five Civilized Tribes" (Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, Seminole and Cherokee).

The largest parts of "the Indian territory" were given to the largest of the removed Indian nations, the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek and Cherokee. As it turned out, the tribal governments of these nations (plus the Seminole) chose to support the Confederacy in the Civil War, a decision which would prove costly. After the Civil War, the federal government proclaimed that the treaties it had with these Indian nations were no longer valid because these five nations had sided with the

South. New treaties were developed which took lands away from these nations.

With the passage of the "General Indian Allotment Act" in 1887, most of the removed Indian nations began to lose further lands from "the Indian territory." In 1889 the government set up a federal court over the Indians at Muskogee, and opened the so-called "unassigned" lands in the middle of "Indian territory" to settlement by non-Indians. In 1890, the government established Oklahoma Territory, and by 1893 the only lands still officially part of "the Indian territory" were those held onto by the "Five Civilized Tribes" and the small reservations in the extreme northeast of what is now Oklahoma (Quapaw, Peoria, Modoc, Shawnee, Ottawa, Wyandot and Seneca).

By 1898 allotment was underway even in these lands, and "the Indian territory" faded more rapidly. Despite the efforts of some leaders of the "Five Civilized Tribes" to set up a separate state for themselves in 1905 (it would have been called "Sequoyah"), the state of Oklahoma was established in 1907 and "the Indian territory" slipped into the history books.

For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in historic Old Main Building, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.



Lions Club to Sponsor Plate Sale

The Pembroke Lions Club will sponsor a plate sale on May 9 at the Pembroke Park. Chicken or barbecue plates will be available for \$4.50 and combinations for \$5.00. The sale will begin at 11 a.m. and last until 5 p.m. Funds raised at the sale will be used to continue the activities of the Lions Club.

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Native American Handcrafted Wooden Doughboards For Sale

Elisha Locklear

910-521-1861 or 910-521-8347

Pembroke Senior High Class of 1976 Reunion

Location: Old Pembroke Senior High (now Pembroke Middle School)

Price: \$20.00 per couple (late fee: \$25.00 after deadline of May 30)

Dress: Semi-formal

When: June 27, 1997

Contact persons:
Dollar Bill Oxendine 422-8129
Ramona Locklear 521-0579
Iris H. Locklear 521-1179

Lumbee Guaranty Bank Common Stock Offering

Lumbee Guaranty Bank hereby announces the availability of 230,770 shares of Lumbee Guaranty Bank Common Stock at \$13 per share.

For more information, contact Lumbee Guaranty Bank Transfer Department at 205 West Third Street, Pembroke, by phone at 910-521-9707, or the nearest branch office of Lumbee Guaranty Bank.

This offering expires September 30, 1997 or when all available shares are sold.

Larry R. Chavis, President/CEO

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Your Winning Team

Grady Hunt & Brian Brooks
Let us help you with all your claims for automobile or work related injuries.

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