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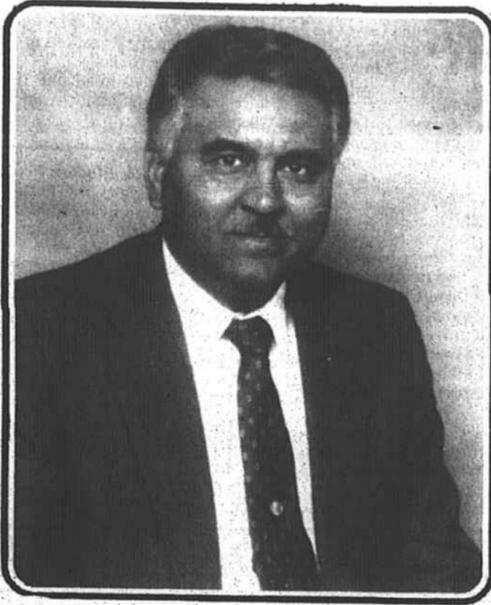
Published each Thursday by First American Publications, Pembroke, NC

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1997

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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VOLUME 24

Lacy Cummings announces re-election bid for at-large position on LREMC Board of Directors



Lacy Cummings, Board Member of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, announces his bid for re-election to the At-Large position. Cummings, a native of the Mt. Airy community, has served on the EMC board for the past 15 years. In making his announcement, Cummings released the following statement:

"During my tenure on the EMC board there has been much growth and improvement. I feel privileged to have been allowed to be a part of this expansion and the innovative programs that are benefiting our consumers.

"From 1982 until 1997 we have seen a growth in the operating revenue of the cooperative. We have experienced a growth in revenue from \$17 million to \$40 million. The cost of power has also grown during this period from \$11 million to \$25 million. The total number of consumers served has also grown from 26,065 to 38,602. The total utility plant has grown

from a business of \$28.4 million to \$85.4 million.

"These figures indicate considerable growth and has resulted in more job opportunities and better service for our consumers. It has been a challenge, but the accomplishment of these goals has also been rewarding.

"The accomplishment that I am most proud of is that over the past 18 months we have reduced rates by approximately 12 percent. Last December we returned \$500,000 to the members as credits on their electric bills. We are continually striving to find ways to reduce the cost of electricity to our members.

"We are proud that we have staff and board member with the innovation to obtain the leadership over our competitors. LREMC was the first cooperative in North Carolina to utilize customer owned peak sharing to improve customer rates and financial standing of the co-op. I am proud to have been a small part of this tremendous progress.

"During my tenure on the board of directors, we have also implemented innovative programs that offer assistance to the consumers. We have developed and implemented a program that we call 'Help a Needy Friend.' This program is designed to help members

who are disadvantaged to pay their heating costs. The program provides funds for this need without costing the cooperative or the consumers any additional money.

"This period of time has also resulted in the doubling of funds utilized for Weatherization conservation to lower members' electric bills. We have begun to and continue to change substations from 69KV to 115KV, saving line loss by reducing operating costs. We have also reduced line loss during that period of time by approximately 35 percent.

"Another program that I am proud of is that we are now allowing members 60 days in order to pay their electric bills instead of 30 days. This is a great help to our many consumers who are on fixed incomes.

"As we approach the annual meeting on Tuesday, October 7, at the Performing Arts Center at UNCP, I humbly ask for your vote. If re-elected, I will continue to do what I have done over the past 15 years, making decisions with you the consumer in mind. As a farmer and a consumer, I am very familiar with stressful economic times and I am dedicated to making our cooperative the best in the nation without causing a hardship on us who are the consumers and owners of our cooperative."

Housing Units Available at Local Authority

PEMBROKE—The Pembroke Housing Authority has experienced above normal conditions during the past several months that have created additional units available for occupancy. Many of the residents that moved have gone on to purchase or rent housing in the private sector. This is good news for everyone.

However, the Authority is experiencing problems locating qualified residents to fill the current vacancies. These vacancies are located throughout the Town

of Pembroke. All are within walking distance of the local businesses and banks. Utilities are furnished and/or subsidized with allowances. The local police department provides security with additional foot patrols provided randomly.

Applications are taken Monday through Friday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. If you or anyone you know should be in need of housing assistance, please come by our office located at 606 Lumbee Street, Locklear Court. We are waiting to serve you.



New faculty and staff members at Purnell Swett High are shown above. They are Kim Lawson, Anita Oxendine, Connie Locklear, Scarlet Duncan, Teresa Hunt, Tommy Tilson, Stacy Hinson, Johnny Bullard, Lue Gramham, James Benning, Ann Smith, Kimberly Locklear and Barbara Bullard. Not shown are Jack Carter, James Locklear and Steve Hagan.

Pembroke Resident Graduates from Alcohol Law Enforcement Basic School

Raleigh—Seventeen new agents recently graduated from the 12th Basic School of the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Division (A.L.E.) and have reported for duty throughout the state.

Lorn Glen Webb of Pembroke is a member of the class and has been assigned to District V, Fayetteville.

"We are proud to welcome A.L.E.'s newest agents to the ranks of one of the state's finest and most diverse law enforcement agencies," said Richard H. Moore, secretary of the Department of Crime Control & Public Safety, of which A.L.E. is a division.

Cadets completed approximately 400 hours of training -- both academic and practical -- in areas such as ABC Laws and regulations, firearms, CPR, defensive tactics, controlled substances, of-

ficer survival, and defensive driving techniques.

"This is our most diverse class to date. It includes one Native American, five African Americans, and two women. This increased diversity will be a tremendous asset to our organization's operations and undercover activities," said John D. Smith, III, director of A.L.E. "Supervisors and agents in the field participated in the selection of these trainees. This participation strengthens the process and will continue in the future."

Fifteen members of the class have previous law enforcement experience and seven have served in the military. Two class members are female and seven have college degrees.

These new agents will continue to learn as on-the-job training and in-service schools boost their experience throughout their careers.

Open House to be held at Riverside

Open House will be held at Riverside Christian Academy and Riverside Christian Day Care Center on September 20 at 10 a.m. until. Food will be served. There will be basketball and volleyball for children of all ages. Guest speakers

will include Senator David Weinstein, Sheriff Glenn Maynor and Congressman Mike McIntyre, as well as Dr. Dalton Brooks, Tribal Chairman and members of the tribal council.

Pembroke to have new Public Library in 1998 with aid of federal library construction grant

PEMBROKE—Fifteen years in the making, the Pembroke community will have a new public library in 1998, according to town and library officials.

The new library, located adjacent to pembroke Elementary School, received a federal library construction grant of \$142,125 in July. With funds near the \$282,000 goal, the Pembroke Town Council voted this month to prepare to advertise for construction bids.

"We will have a library by 1998," Pembroke Mayor Milton Hunt said. "It's been a long time coming, and we think it's something that is badly needed here."

The new 4,400 square-foot town library will replace a 1,700 square foot storefront location on the Union Chapel Road. The new library will house 7,500 books compared to 2,000 in the old library, according to Robert Fisher, director of the Robeson County Public Library.

"Our goal is to meet or exceed the state standard for library service to local communities," Fisher said.

Designed to resemble historic Old Main on the UNC Pembroke campus, the new library will con-

sist of two rectangular buildings connected by a hallway. One wing will house the adult and children's library, and the other wing will house community rooms.

The new site is ideally located adjacent to the elementary school and within walking distance of a large residential area, just two blocks south of the town's main street (N.C. 711). It will serve the town and surrounding communities of 25,000 people.

The county commission led by the three Pembroke area commissioners, Noah Woods, Johnny Hunt and Raymond Cummings, pledged a total of \$65,000 to the project. Woods, who is also the principal of Pembroke Elementary School, said it is money well spent for the county.

"It's a bargain, and it is of my great joys as a public servant to see a project like this become a reality," Woods said. "The location is excellent because it is accessible to the entire community and enhances our mission at this school."

Money pledged for the library is about \$9,000 short of the construction target, and there are other needs such as furniture and gardens that are not yet funded. Local supporters are preparing for the

final push, said local fund raising coordinator Cherry Beasley.

"We, the people of the Pembroke community, will benefit greatly from this library," Ms. Beasley said. "We are close to having the funds needed for a first rate public library that will support needed community programs such as book club, children's reading programs and other activities. The plan reflects the community's spirit and concern for its citizen."

Mayor Hunt is confident the goals will be reached.

"We're going to raise the rest of the money with no problem," he said. "We appreciate the interest that Chancellor Oxendine has shown in building a first rate library in Pembroke."

UNCP Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine said the library is the top educational priority in the county.

"There is no single project in the county more important than the Pembroke public library," Chancellor Oxendine said. "It's impact on the quality of education from kindergarten through the university will be immeasurable."

"Moreover, this state-of-the-art facility will provide great joy and enrich the lives of our citizens

through their retirement years," he said. "This is really exciting!"

Besides the grant provided from the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (through the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources), fund raising totals include:

- * The Town of Pembroke pledged a total of \$32,000 including the land, which is already been purchased for \$7,000.

- * The Robeson County Board of Commissioners pledged \$65,000.

- * The N.C. General Assembly contributed \$10,000.

- * The Robeson County Public Library pledged \$4,800 in state library development funds for architectural fees.

- * First Union National Bank pledged \$10,000.

- * Lumbee Guaranty Bank pledged \$6,000.

- * An anonymous donor pledged \$5,000.

The library campaign began in 1982 and has met with tragedy and triumph. Originally, it was to be housed in the town's historic railroad depot, which was donated by CSX. With high hopes of renovating and relocating the depot on

land given by Pates Supply Co., the depot burned in 1987.

In 1991, UNCP and Chancellor Oxendine became involved in planning a new library. A committee was formed and it recommended a temporary location.

Pates Supply again came to the aid of the library project, donating the current storefront library location rent free. Within one year, it became the county's second busiest library, checking out over 4,000 videos and 13,000 books last year.

"It's amazing the volume of business the storefront library is doing," said Pembroke Town Manager McDuffie Cummings. "It is probably in the worst place imaginable for parking and walk-in traffic. The new location is ideal because it is located in a heavily populated residential area with access to major roads."

As plans for a new library rolled out, a committee to raise funds was formed with UNCP joining the town, the Robeson County Public Library Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Library.

From 1995 to 1997, the county promised a total of \$65,000. The late Dr. Adolph Dial contributed a

one-half acre lot at half its appraised value.

In 1996, UNCP's Executive-in-Residence Joseph E. Sandlin led the large corporate phase of local fund raising. The Town of Pembroke paid the cost of applying for the grant, which was directed by its planning department and local grant consultant Karen Van Zandt.

To date, funds raised for the new Pembroke public library have come from government and large institutional sources. Now is the time for a grass roots campaign to bring the project full circle. Ms. Beasley said.

"At the end of the last century, our ancestors worked together to establish public education in this area -- now known as The University of North Carolina at Pembroke," Ms. Beasley said. "It's fitting that we join together at the end of this century to build a public library."

"We need all people to pitch in with gifts, regardless of size," she said. "I encourage individuals, school classes, churches and families to join my family in this fine project."

Locklear to speak to District United Methodist Men

The Rockingham District United Methodist Men will meet on Sunday, September 21, 1997 at 2:30 p.m. at the Cool Spring United Methodist Church. Gary Wayne Locklear will be the speaker. Locklear has participated in a Mission Work Team to Bolivia for two years. The Cool Spring Men's Chorus will sing for the event. All United Methodist Men are invited to be present. Cool Spring UMC is located at 16301 Scotch Grove Road off Highway 501, North of Laurinburg.

Cong. McIntyre's Mobile Office to be in Rowland

A member of 7th District Rep. Mike McIntyre's staff will be at the Rowland Town Hall on Wednesday, September 24th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, to meet with residents of the 7th District who have problems dealing with Federal agencies such as the Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Internal Revenue Service, or a military service branch. Comments or opinions on pending legislation in the United States Congress are also welcome.

No appointment is necessary.

