

Celebrating Our 25th Year In 1998!

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Published each Thursday by First American Publications, Pembroke, NC

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 5 JANUARY 29, 1998 TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Johnson Britt Announces candidacy for Re-election as District Attorney

Johnson Britt announces his candidacy for re-election as Robeson County District Attorney. In making his announcement, he released the following statement.

Four years ago when I campaigned for Robeson County District Attorney I clearly told you my vision for the DA's office: that the DA and staff be fair, hardworking accessible and prudent in serving the citizens of our county, particularly the victims of crime. I knew reducing the backlog and the duration of cases would craft a better court system. It is with great pride that I tell you we have realized this vision.

Perhaps that best way to evaluate our progress is to compare the past with our present.

In November of 1994 when I took office our Superior Court was clogged with a backlog of 2200 felony cases. Today, that total stands at 1300, a 41% reduction.

Robeson County is best served when our Assistant DA's have the authority to make decisions. Our Assistant DA's now are authorized to make decisions necessary to manage their case-loads. We are fortunate indeed to have talented, dedicated professionals on our staff.

In November 1994 there were 73 untried murder cases. Of these 68 have since been disposed of-a 93% reduction. With the new murders that have occurred since I took office we have had an overall reduction of 25%.

Access to our office has dramatically improved fulfilling our goal of an open-door policy.

In my opinion nothing keeps a prosecutor sharper than being in a courtroom. As I promised I have tried many critical cases.

Let me tell you about some other important accomplishments:

I am one of the two North Carolina DA's selected to participate in an innovative study led by the Jefferson Institute for Justice Studies based in Washington, DC. This is a national study determined to improve the manner in which cases are handled and to reduce the time of case disposition.

I serve on the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys and I represent the 2nd Trial Division of the State.

I was recently appointed to the Legislative Committee for the Conference of District Attorneys.

I have been speaker for the continuing legal education program on Trial Advocacy sponsored by the Institute of Government, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the North Carolina District Attorneys Association.

I serve as Chairman of the Training Committee for the Conference of District Attorneys.

I spoke before the North Carolina

Homicide Detectives Association on the prosecution of the James Jordan Murder.

I believe that all of my involvement with these efforts benefits Robeson County. While I am proud of my record much more needs to be done. We must further reduce our case-load. We must reduce the time it takes to process cases. We must establish and fully implement a victims assistance program. We must try most murder cases one year from the date they are committed.

I am proud to announce that I am seeking re-election as your District Attorney.

Many people helped create this vision of a better DA's office and many more have made it a reality. All of us in Robeson County owe the people who have worked to improve the DA's office a great deal of gratitude.

Thank You,  
Johnson Britt

Johnson Britt Robeson County District Attorney



## Keep Robeson County Clean and Green

On October 19th, 109 people attended a "Keep Robeson County Clean and Green" meeting sponsored by Representative Ron Sutton and the Robeson County Committee of 100. The following committees were formed to help improve the image of the county.

**The Law Enforcement Committee** - 1st Sgt. Randy Hammonds, Chairperson, NC Highway Patrol. Phone # 618-5555.

**The Local Government Committee** - Ben Hill, Fairmont town Manager. Phone # 628-9768. Willie Best, County Manager, Co-Chairman. Phone # 671-3022.

**The Industry Committee** - King Compton, Chairperson, Formerly director of Human Resources for Munsingwear. He now recruits executives for industry. Phone # 739-7077.

**The Education Committee** - Raymond Cummings, Chairperson, Director of Student Activities at UNC Pembroke. He will work with the schools. Phone # 521-6226.

**The Business Committee** - John Armstrong, Senior Vice President of Lumbee Guaranty Bank in Pembroke. Phone # 521-9707. There are 1600

businesses in Robeson County.

**The Church Committee** - Renea Hunt, Clerk of Court's Office, Chairperson. Phone # 671-3386. There are 400 churches in Robeson County.

All committees are being asked to meet together at the OutWest Steak House at Noon, Wednesday, February 11, 1998.

All committees are working together to sponsor a Robeson County Spring Clean '98 the week of April 20th. On Sunday, April 19th, we are asking all ministers in Robeson County to preach a sermon on Keep Robeson County Clean and Green. Also on April 19th we are asking all churches to have a day of prayer for the Public Schools of Robeson County. We hope everyone will get involved to help with "Keep Robeson County Clean and Green" by serving on one of our committees. Please call the chairperson listed above. We need help from everyone will to participate.

Our goal is to have 100,000 people preaching, praying and cleaning up the week of April 19.



## Robeson County Museum Opens New Exhibit

The Robeson County Museum will open its new exhibit, "Leading the Way," on Monday, February 2, 1998. This exhibit, a celebration of African-American history, focuses on twentieth-century Black attorneys and judges, with special attention given to those from Robeson County. "Leading the Way" was a project completed by the United States History classes of Mrs. Colleen Brown at Lumberton Senior High School. From many sources, including interviews, the students wrote detailed profiles of each attorney and judge. Each of these reports is accom-

panied by a sketch of the subject. These portraits, along with selected excerpts from the biographies, will be on display.

Groups wishing to visit the exhibit should call in advance to make a reservation. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

Regular museum hours are as follows: Monday and Tuesday from 9 am - 1 pm, Thursday and Friday from 1 pm - 5 pm, Saturday from 10 am - 2 pm.

This exhibit will be on display during the months of February and March. For more information call 738-7979.

## Major League Ump Visits Hospitalized Vets In Fayetteville

There's a new umpire behind the plate on the Disabled American Veterans' (DAV) volunteer team. He's National League Umpire Jerry Layne and he's on his way to bring smiles to the faces of hospitalized veterans at the Fayetteville VA Medical Center on Tuesday, February 10, 1998.

American League Umpire Larry Barnett, who has been visiting hospitalized veterans as part of the DAV VA Voluntary Service program since 1977, suggested the idea of Jerry volunteering his time on behalf of disabled veterans. It wasn't the first time Larry has impacted on the younger umpire's life.

Jerry grew up in Prospect, Ohio. Larry's hometown. Now 39, Jerry's best friend was Larry's nephew, Rob Carr (now deceased). Uncle "Barny" (Larry) was a common topic between the youngsters. They even attended Indians' games now and then when Larry was in Cleveland to umpire.

With the sponsorship of the million-member organization of wartime disabled veterans, Jerry now visits VA medical centers on his free time in National League cities during the baseball season, and also volunteers in the off-season.

On of five children, Jerry always liked baseball and, in high school, decided to become an umpire. That's when a man, Emil Rubcich who influenced both umpires, changed Jerry's life.

Now retired, Emil was the football coach at West Elgin High School in Marion County, Ohio, who helped Larry Barnett get into umpiring, and the assistant principal and athletic director when Jerry attended. It was a call from Emil to Larry Barnett that helped Jerry land an appointment to the Harry Wendelstedt Umpire School in Daytona Beach, Fla.

In his 12th year of umpiring rookie,

Class A and AA baseball, Jerry was one of 12 umpires invited to spring training. He hoped to fill one of two open major league umpire slots. He had the least seniority in major league spring training playing time.

While calling balls and strikes for the third consecutive day in miserable heat at Al Lang Stadium in St. Petersburg, manager Whitey Hertzog told Jerry that he and his coaches thought Jerry was doing a great job, and he said he was going to let somebody know about it. That was the turning point of Jerry's National League umpire career.

A short time later Ed Vargo, Supervisor of Umpires, called to tell Jerry that Whitey Hertzog called to commend his work at spring training. Two weeks later National League President Bill White called to welcome Jerry to the league. He was one of the two selected in March 1988.

Now in his ninth year as a National League Umpire, Jerry Layne says his goal hasn't changed. He still loves the game and wants to be the best umpire in the league. He also wants to brighten the lives of hospitalized veterans through the DAV VA Voluntary Service program.

"I want to bring smiles and brighter days to those veterans who have given so much to our country," Jerry said. "I want them to know that they are appreciated."

"I've been blessed with a successful career and live comfortably in Winter Haven, Fla., with my lovely wife, Jackie, and two beautiful daughters, Brittany and Monica. All of that is possible because we live in a free country, and we have a free country because veterans made it free and keep it free."

"Brightening their lives with a friendly visit, is a very small token in return for what they have given us."

## Locklear attends Theological School

Mrs. William H. Griffin, (Grace Locklear) recently attended a week of Bible study at Cook College & Theological School in Tempe, Arizona. She was requested to attend the Winter Term by her Pastor, Rev. Bill Thompson. Mrs. Griffin was elected an Elder for this year in the All Tribes Community Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The two courses of study were: "Faith & Responsibility in the New Testament"

Forty-four employees and fourteen retirees were honored recently at Southeastern Regional Medical Center's annual service awards banquet. SRMC President Luckey Welsh presented service pins and gifts during the after-dinner ceremony held in the medical center's cafeteria.

Employees honored on this occasion had given 15 to 35 years of service for a grand total of nearly 1,100 years. Former employees who retired in 1997 were also recognized. SRMC employs over 1,600 persons on its main campus and in outlying affiliated agencies.

(SRMC department follows each employee's name; employees are residents of Lumberton except where noted.)

Two employees--Rosa McLean (WoodHaven) and Betty Hall (Health Information Services)--received pins for 35 years of service.

Lois Davis (Surgical Services), Rae Rozier (Medical Imaging), Louise

Meekins (Laundry) of Rowland, and Ronald Allen (Materials Management) of Bladenboro were recognized for 30 years of service.

Honored for 25 years of service were: Lillie Colvin (Bowman) of St. Pauls; Susan Nance (First East) of Chadbourn; Deborah Sealey (Outpatient Surgery); and Darlene Shook (Laboratory).

Fourteen employees were awarded pins for 20 years of service: Christine McCollum (WoodHaven); Joleve Lewis (Telemetry) of Whiteville; Shirley Melvin (Pediatrics); Virginia Lennon (Nursery) of Bladenboro; Louise Cromartie (Central Service) of Bladenboro; Rhonda Weathers (Medical Imaging) of Chadbourn; Flora Todd (Cardiopulmonary Services); Myrtle Oxendine (Life-style Fitness Center); Eugenia Collette (Food Services) of Red Springs; Jerry Jones (Maintenance) of Pembroke; Beth Anderson (Administration); Marsha Lewis (Pa-

## Lumbee River EMC Sets Dates To Take Application For Energy Assistance "Help A Needy Friend" Program now in its fifth year

Red Springs - Electric cooperatives like Lumbee River EMC have always believed in helping their neighbor. An example is the "Help a Needy Friend" Program, now in its fifth year of operation. Lumbee River EMC administers the energy assistance program which is designed to help fellow co-op members meet their energy needs in times of crisis. The program depends upon voluntary funds collected from fellow members who sign up to have either .50 cents or \$1.00 added to their monthly electric bill. Lumbee River EMC adds to these funds through other fund raising efforts like an annual golf tournament, yard sales, and raffles. The "Help A Needy Friend" Energy Assistance Program is truly the cooperative spirit at work!

Dates have been scheduled to take applications from those co-op members who may need assistance in paying their electric bill: on February 3 (for those members living in Cumberland County) at the Lake Rim Office, 7582 Raeford Road, Fayetteville, NC; on February 5 (for those members living in Hoke County) at the Lake rim Office, 7582 Raeford Road, Fayetteville, NC; on February 12 (for those members living in Scotland County) at the Laurinburg Office, 205 Fairley Street, Laurinburg, NC; on February

19 (for those members living in Robeson County) at the Red Springs Office, 605 E. Fourth Avenue, Red Springs, NC.

Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA), headquarters in Pembroke, will assist in processing and determining eligibility for all applicants based on state guidelines. Members applying for assistance must provide Social Security cards for all family members, proof of January income and receipts of bills, including medication, and the bill must be past due and in the name of the applicant. Members are asked to provide documentation to support the crisis they are presently facing.

Lumbee River EMC is expected to provide \$20,000 for those members needing assistance this funding cycle.

Applications will be taken at the sites and on the dates listed above between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 738-7906.

Lumbee River EMC is a member owned, not-for-profit, electric cooperative, overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership, serving approximately 39,000 members in Robeson, Cumberland, Hoke and Scotland Counties.

## Lumbee Homecoming Nominees Sought For

Pembroke-The Indian Honor Association of Robeson County, Inc. is seeking nominees to be honored during the July 4th edition of the Carolina Indian Voice. The categories of nominees are as follows: Retired Educators; Retired Military; Retired Pastors; Lawyers; Doctors of Medicine; and our Elders.

If you or anyone you know might qualify for one of these categories, we invite you to call and submit a nomi-

nation to one of the following persons: Garth Locklear (521-2614); Lemark Harris (521-0501); Pauline B. Locklear (521-4277); Lee A. Maynor (521-0174); Rev. Welton Lowry (521-4354); or Jeannie D. Thompson (521-1114).

This is the second annual honoring of our Indian retirees and professional people. Please feel free to help us identify all those eligible to be honored.

## To Subscribe To The Carolina Indian Voice Call (910) 521-2826.

# Fifty-Eight Employees Receive Service Awards At SRMC Annual Dinner

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tient Relations) of Rowland; Mary Adams (Medical Support); and Barbara Chavis (Carolina Manor).

Twenty employees received 15-year pins. They were: Carolyn Brewington (Home Health); Barbara Walters (WoodHaven); Doris Carroll (Fourth West) of Bladenboro; Linda Ivey (Fourth West); Cynthia McArthur (Fourth West) of Rowland; Teresa Ammons (Obstetrics) of Proctorville; Bobbielita Grimsley (Southeastern Cancer Center); Christine Hammond (Nursery); Margie Cribb (Endoscopy); Emily Hill (Pre/Post Anesthesia); Barbara Lovejoy (Referral Center) of Parkton; Dixie Sullivan (Care Management); Donna Freeman (Medical Imaging); Sharon Monroe (Respiratory Therapy) of Laurinburg; Faye Herndon (Health Information Services); Carlee Tyler (Landscaping); Deborah Daniels-Simon (Environmental Services); Rose Marie Rogers (Linen); Cathy Boyd (Patients Ac-

counts) of St. Pauls; and Bernice Shephard (Patient Accounts).

Fourteen employees who retired in 1997 received plaques. They were: Anne Culbreth (Patients Relations), 1990-97; Veroah Dukes (Home Health) of Red Springs, 1992-97; Geraldine Haggins (Patients Accounts) of Red Springs, 1970-97; Betty Hardin (Home Health), 1978-97; Donald Hiscott (Administration) of Pinehurst, 1968-97; William Hughes (Environmental Services) of Bladenboro, 1981-97; Betty Leggett (Health Information Services) of Proctorville, 1991-97; Ruth E. McKinnon (WoodHaven), 1973-97; Emily McLean-Grogan (Carolina Manor) of Bolivia, 1985-97; Lucille Merritt (Carolina Manor) of Red Springs, 1986-97; Kenneth Vaughn (Medical Imaging) of Fayetteville, 1979-97; Jane Pope (Laboratory) of Cheraw, SC, 1983-97; Frances Scott (Home Health), 1987-97; and Sarah Todd (Gift Shop), 1990-97.