

THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Published each Thursday by First American Publications, Pembroke, NC

VOLUME

NUMBER 50

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1998

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Lumbee Tribe Awarded Energy Conservation Grant

The Lumbee Tribe of N.C. was recently awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to assist 491 low-income Indian families to conserve energy, and educate them on efficient energy usage.

The \$140,000 grant to the tribe is one of the only two such grants funded to state and federally recognized tribes on a competitive basis nationwide. About 15 state governments received grants also.

The program, called REACH (Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Grant) will serve only Indian households in the Robeson County poverty designated Empowerment Enterprise Zones.

The Indian households must also be an energy assistance client in the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) through Lumbee Regional Development Association.

The REACH Program will provide free to eligible households energy conservation kits that will be installed in the targeted 491 homes.

Also, the program will have energy audits done on homes to determine how energy education and efficiency modifications can be best directed to help cut utilities cost for the family.

Elderly and handicapped family

households who live in the Empowerment Zone will be targeted for priority assistance.

The program will seek to educate clients on how to cut energy utilities cost, above and beyond what improvement the energy conservation kits may provide. Funds saved can be used for other household necessities, such as food, medicine, or rent.

Mr. Adolph Blue, Chairman of LRDA added that "the tribe is fortunate to have been selected for award of this grant, and we believe it will help save households in the project money that can be used for years to come to cover other needs."

James Hardin, Executive Director of LRDA stated that "this program will complement our on-going Low-Income Energy Assistance Program by helping 491 households begin at home using energy conservation techniques that will save them money on winter and summer utilities."

The Robeson County designated Empowerment and Enterprise Zones include parts of the Townships of Lumberton, Fairmont, Maxton, and Rowland.

For more information call LRDA at (910) 521-8602.



Christmas Musical planned at Prospect UMC

Prospect United Methodist Church, 3929 Missouri Road, Maxton, NC will be the site for the Christmas Musical "The Best Gift Of All" on Saturday, December 19, Sunday, December 20 and Sunday morning, December 27 at 10:40 a.m. Both performances on the 19th and the 20th will begin at 7 p.m. This Christmas presentation is under the direction of Mr. Harold D. Jacobs and is narrated by Mr. Leon Jacobs. There will be solos, lighting effects and other added attractions to make this one of the most exciting performances ever.

The Pastor, Rev. Bill James Locklear, invites the public to this great celebration of the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on the dates above. The church is located five miles Northwest of Pembroke across the road from Prospect School.

Christmas Program planned at Berea Baptist

Berea Baptist Church's Children's Choir will perform their Christmas Program on December 13, 1998 at 10:30 a.m.

The Christmas Cantata by the Adult Choir will be presented December 20, 1998 at 10:30 a.m.

The pastor, Rev. Bruce Swann and the congregation extend a cordial invitation to the public to attend.

UNCP Board of Trustees Nominate Cummings for Board of Governors

Pembroke, NC -- The Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina chose Friday fellow board member McDuffie Cummings as their nominee to fill a vacant seat on the 32-member UNC Board of Governors.

If approved by the North Carolina General Assembly, Mr. Cummings would join the governing body of the 16-member UNC system. He is manager of the Town of Pembroke.

"We have a very strong chance of placing a person on that board," said board Chair Roger Oxendine. "It is very important for our nominee to be in Raleigh when the legislature meets."

Two names were mentioned as candidates, including Mr. Cummings and Betty Mangum, a Robeson native with long ties to UNCP and a newly elected member of the Wake County Board of Commissioners.

Although several board members asked for additional time to consider the nomination, the board voted 5-0 in favor of Mr. Cummings with three members abstaining.

After the meeting, Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine said it will be important for the next chancellor of the University to have a local supporter on the Board of Governors.

"It is extraordinary important to have an individual with a special knowledge and feel for UNCP on the Board of Governors," Chancellor Oxendine said. "There is nothing like having a primary advocate for this university who can look out for our needs."

"VICE CHANCELLOR SEARCH"

Chancellor Oxendine told the board of trustees that he has not been able to find a candidate to fill the vacant post of vice chancellor for Development and University Relations.

The position has been vacant since July and Chancellor Oxendine noted that it is a peculiar situation to search for a key member of his staff just months before his June 30 retirement. He said hiring a full-time interim for six months is one possibility. Beth Carnical, special assistant

to the chancellor, has been filling in that post.

NEW ATHLETIC FIELDS

Athletic Director Dan Kenney announced that a new track and soccer complex is in the planning stages.

The University is seeking architectural and engineering firms to plan a \$732,000 project that will see a new athletic complex built across the street from the current track and field site.

The project will be funded through student fees.

TIME CAPSULE

A time capsule that has been imbedded in the Sampson Building for nearly 50 years will be opened at the Feb. 13 Homecoming. Chancellor Oxendine said. The time capsule is currently part of the foundation of the Sampson-Livemore Library.

"The capsule was originally installed on March 9, 1949, but opening it at Homecoming will give the class that put it there an opportunity to open it at their 50th anniversary celebration," he said.

Food Stamps to Convert to Debit Bankcards in Feb.

Beginning February 1, 1999 Robeson County Food Stamp recipients will no longer receive paper food stamps.

Each Food Stamp household will receive their food stamps through use of a debit bankcard. The monthly allotment of food stamps will be deposited in their account for use throughout the month. Most grocery stores have been equipped with credit/debit card machines. The customer, after gathering their groceries will swipe their debit card and enter their personal identification number. The amount of their groceries will be automatically deducted from their account for future use.

Training for Robeson County recipients will be held in January 1999. Appointment dates and times will be mailed out. It is of the utmost importance that the appointments are kept. Anyone not trained by February 1, will not be able to go to the grocery store for themselves will have an authorized representative. The authorized representative will be issued a separate debit bankcard for the recipient's account. If you require an authorized representative please contact your food stamp worker immediately.



Rev. Isaiah Locklear to speak at Salem

Rev. Isaiah Locklear, 99-year-old Baptist minister, will deliver the message at the 11 a.m. service at Salem Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, December 13.

The pastor, Rev. Donald Bullard and the congregation of Salem, extend a cordial invitation to the public to attend.

Rep. Ron Sutton works with DOT to relieve congestion and add stop lights in Pembroke area

Rep. Ron Sutton has requested an investigation of traffic conditions at the intersection of East Third Street (NC 711) and Union Chapel Road in Pembroke. The purpose in the request to the Department of Transportation is to determine the need for traffic signalization.

The Department of Transportation has responded by beginning an analysis of the area which will include a review of roadway geometrics, traffic movements and accident data. It is estimated that the investigation will take between thirty and forty five days. In late November the staff of the DOT was instructed to identify any possible improvements for the sites.

Rep. Swett has also requested the construction of turn lanes along SR 1339 in Robeson County to serve Purnell Swett High School.

In a letter to Rep. Sutton relative to these turn lanes, J.D. Goins, Chief Engineer-Operations with DOT

stated: "My staff has reviewed this location for accident histories and provided an estimate for the construction of left and right turn lanes into the campus. The estimated construction cost for the turn lanes is \$250,000. Turn lanes would improve congestion problems at this location."

"The Department attempts to address traffic impacts at schools through the use of Public Access and Service Funds. These funds are limited to \$50,000 per location and typically will not fully fund needed improvements."

Rep. Sutton has been able to secure contingency funds for the location to complement access funds and county construction funds. It is expected that efforts will be made to coordinate construction of the project during the summer months to relieve the congestion at Swett High.

Wilton Wilkerson, recycling and anti-litter advocate continues to encourage keeping Robeson Clean and Green

A depressed recycling market has limited what Lumberton, the county and private companies can recycle.

Until several weeks ago, Lumberton stopped taking newspaper for recycling. Any that was dropped at a city collection point was taken to the landfill.

The city hasn't been recycling glass either, but that should change in a few weeks, said Lumberton Public Works Director, Dixon Ivey. It can take aluminum, but hasn't been recycling other materials, like cardboard.

"There's very little market for anything right now except alumi-

nium cans," said Red Baxley, director of the county Solid Waste Department.

Prices for all recyclable materials have plummeted, said Baxley. Frequently it costs the same or less to use virgin materials. With no one to buy recyclable materials, recycling companies, the governments and industries that generate the waste have limited options; stockpile or send it to the landfill.

The lack of a market kept Lumberton from recycling newspaper, Ivey said. But a few weeks ago the Robesonian newspaper agreed to take the city's newsprint, Ivey said.

He's making arrangements with waste hauler ARS to collect glass bottles.

But cardboard, plastic bottles and other items will continue to be thrown away.

Michael Green, owner of Cohen and Green Salvage Co. in Fayetteville and Lumberton Recycling Co., said the world economic crisis has a lot to do with the problem.

"The foreign countries are dumping material in the United States because they need to turn dollars," he said. It has devastated the U.S. steel and metal markets and has hurt the paper and cardboard markets, Green said.

Cohen said the price of steel is half what it was in January. Cardboard was worth \$75 to \$80 a ton a year ago, but is now worth about \$35, said an industry observer.

These prices are too low for the county to break even if it tries to recycle, Baxley said. "Unless you've got the capabilities of bailing it and putting it in big truckloads, you can't even get rid of it," he said. The county sometimes would have to pay someone to take the cardboard.

Until recently, Robeson County and the rest of the state were under a mandate to cut the amount of material entering their landfill by 40 percent. Baxley said that mandate is no longer in place, but that the county has done well.

On average, the county puts 90,000 tons of trash in the landfill annually, down about 25 percent from the 120,000 tons it put into landfills in the 1990-91 fiscal year. That year is the benchmark, Baxley said.

Much of this reduction came from industries recycling waste materials. Campbell Soup, for example, sells much of its waste to a farmer for hog feed, he said.

The lack of market disappoint Wilton Wilkerson, a recycling and anti-litter advocate. He is often called "Mr. Clean and Green" for his promotion of the "Keep Robeson County Clean and Green" anti-litter program.

While the market stays down, Wilkerson is continuing his "Clean and Green" effort and continuing to promote the recycling of aluminum cans. He has a small trailer built that he puts out for people to leave their cans in.

He put it at the Triangle Bank, across the U.S. Post Office, at Seventh and Walnut Streets.

Aluminum is bringing about 24 cents to 32 cents per pound. He plans to use the proceeds to raise money for his anti-litter campaign. In the meantime, Baxley said he doesn't see any viable option other than to landfill the plastic, cardboard and steel cans until the markets change.

Public Hearing on Lumbee Housing monies to be held

The North Carolina Indian Housing Authority (NCHIA) is pleased to announce that the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development has approved the Indian Housing Plan for the Lumbee Tribe for Fiscal Year 98 in block grants fund for the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). The NCHIA is the agency to administer this block grant for the housing needs of low and moderate income Indian families.

NCHIA will hold a public meeting to

discuss NAHASDA. These meetings will review the law and how it affects the Lumbee Tribe. Also, the NCHIA will discuss how families can participate in the program through the application process. The time and date for the public meeting are as follows:

Scotland County Memorial Library
312 W. Church St.
Laurinburg, NC
December 21, 1998
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Statement on the state School Violence Report

While any violent act occurring in our schools is reason for concern, it's heartening to know that, according to the State Annual Violence Report just released by the State Board of Education, The Public Schools of Robeson County showed a greater decrease in the number of incidents of violence, percentage-wise. Than the state of North Carolina as a whole. When compared to numbers for 1996-97 school year, our decrease was 17.9% and the state's was 7.35%. Our decrease was as the result of a drop from 268 to 220 incidents for the year. Total acts

per thousand students were down 18.9% compared with the 1996-97 school year. Incidents of possession of weapons dropped from 96 to 89. These two categories represent 78.6% of all incidents. The latest figures indicate a continuing downward trend in the number of violent incidents as the result of a number of efforts. These include a revised and strengthened code of ethics, a zero tolerance for weapons in the schools as well as an even greater concentration on drug education and visibility by our resource officers.

Dr. Barry Harding, Superintendent

