

Public Hearings on Housing Funds considered successful

Lumbee tribal housing hearings began in Robeson County March 23 and ended on March 30. Hearings were held at Lumberton Senior High School, South Robeson and Purnell Sweet. Several hundred people attended the hearings. Hearings begin this week in Cumberland and Scotland county. The Hoke county hearing will be April 12 at South Hoke Elementary School. The hearings are being sponsored by Lumbee Regional Development Association to receive input from tribal members for the development of the Housing and Urban Development Grant for Indian housing due

July 1, 1999.

The plan will include goals and activities for housing services to enrolled tribal members over the next four years. The tribe is expected to receive annually over \$8 million for housing and community development.

At the hearings those in attendance learned how to apply for children's free health insurance and tribal enrollment. All LRDA services were featured and information was provided.

LRDA thanks the school systems for the use of school facilities and all those who attended the hearings in all the counties.



A view from the public hearing on Indian housing held at Lumberton Senior High School March 23.

American Indian License Plates will be on sale as soon as 300 applications are received

The North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will place the American Indian Insignia License Plate on sale as soon as 300 applications are processed. The NC Commission of Indian Affairs is administering the American Indian Insignia License Plate Program during the development of the license plate. The Indian commission began to distribute the application forms to tribal offices, Indian Associations and to individuals in February. The commission also distributed the applications at the Indian Unity Conference which was held in Fayetteville, March 11-13, 1999.

The project is well on the way and that the commission has already received over 150 applications.

The commission membership support legislation for the license plate during the last session of the General Assembly. Representative Sutton introduced the legislation and the bill was adopted by an overwhelming majority of the members of the General Assembly. Paul Brooks, Chairman of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs stated that "The legislation and the license plate is historically significant because it is a first for North Carolina. That the license plate is a symbolic form of recognition for the American Indian population in North Carolina."

For more information about the American Indian Insignia License plate or to obtain an application form, please contact the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs at (919) 733-5998. American Indian license Plate Program.

The N.C. General Assembly authorized the license plate during the 1998 session of the General Assembly. The commission is authorized to collect the applications and the \$10.00 fee during the development phase of the Indian Insignia License Plate. G. Richardson, Executive Director of the Indian Commission, reported that the

Miss Lumbee Applications now being accepted

The Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA) is currently accepting applications for the 1999 Miss Lumbee Pageant.

To qualify as a pageant contestant, the applicant must be a Lumbee female, between 17 1/2 and 26 years of age, a high school graduate and be single, never married or co-habited and assessable to Pembroke as a home base.

If you meet the criteria and are interested in competing as a contestant, please contact James Monroe Chavis at (910) 521-2462. You can pick up applications at the Lumbee Tribal Enrollment Office located on Union Chapel Road in Pembroke.

Applications must be completed and returned by May 13, 1999.

The Miss Lumbee Pageant, sponsored by Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA) is one of the main events of the Lumbee Homecoming.

This year the pageant will be held on the campus at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Givens Performing Arts Center, July 2, 1999 at 8:00 P.M. Admission will be \$9 per person. Tickets will be sold in advance because of the large attendance in the past. So watch the papers and get your tickets early in advance. For additional information call (910) 521-2462.

Lisa Lastowski, M.D., certified as Family Practice Specialist



Have you ever noticed the words "board certified" following a physician's name? Family physicians earn the esteemed status by passing a certification exam, an intensive written test of physician's knowledge in pediatrics, internal medicine, surgery, obstetrics, gynecology, psychiatry, prevention and other aspects of family practice.

Lisa Lastowski, M.D. of the FirstHealth Family Care Center-Raeford, was recently certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Family Practice (ABFP).

Dr. Lastowski, who is a member of the Lumbee tribe and originally from Wilmington, received three bachelor's degrees, including biochemistry, biology and chemistry, in 1987 from North Carolina State University. After working as a chemist and laboratory technical specialist, she decided to earn her medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, which she received in 1995.

Dr. Lastowski then completed a family practice residency at the Duke/Southern Regional Area Health Education Center in Fayetteville in June, 1998. She is now accepting new patients in Raeford. To make an appointment with Dr. Lastowski or another provider at this Family Care Center, call (910) 904-2350.

The specialty of family practice combines the latest in medical technologies with a long tradition of caring and service. Family physicians are education and trained to care for the whole person, treating the majority of medical problems.

The American Medical Association and the American Board of Medical Specialties recognized family practice in 1969 as a medical specialty. Family practice was the first specialty to require its diplomates to recertify by taking recertification exams every six years.

Reprinted from the Spring 1999 edition of the FirstHealth of the Carolinas Moore Regional Hospital-Montgomery Memorial Hospital Magazine.

Selected UMC Lay Leader for the Rockingham District

Yvonne Barnes Dial was selected as the United Methodist Churches Lay leader for the Rockingham district.

The criteria for this selection included involvement at the church, district, community, and other levels. Lay leaders devote much effort towards studying scripture, active at the church level, and giving of themselves in ministering to individuals.

Yvonne is a Sunday School teacher, director of children and youth ministries, member of the Pembroke First United Methodist Women's organization, director of Vacation Bible School, sings in the Church Choir and serves on the church's board. In the Summer of 1998 she served with a mission team in Bolivia, South American in helping to add additional rooms to a Red Cross Center. She is actively involved with the youth of her church raising money for the needy and visiting shut-ins and nurseries and delivering gifts, and assisting in providing scholarships for females pursuing a college degree as a member of the Pembroke Business and professional woman's organization. She is presently teaching English and journalism at Purnell Sweet High School where she has been selected as Teacher of the Year and served as a cheerleading and ninth grade girl's basketball coach and on various school committees.



Yvonne Barnes Dial

Ruth Dial Woods assists in Diversity Training for Teachers & administrators

Dr. Ruth Dial Woods of Pembroke was one of several presenters at a K-12 Conference on Celebrating and Affirming Diversity - 2000 And Beyond on March 27 co-sponsored by the University Center for International Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Fayetteville State University.

Dr. Woods was co-presenter with Dr. Geraldine Munn, Professor of Education at Fayetteville State University, on "Bi-Racial, Multiracial, and the New Immigrants in Middle and Secondary Schools" in a segment entitled Teaching to Diversity: An International Perspective. The purpose of the conference was to build a solid foundation for the appreciation of the diverse cultures appropriately influence learning instruction and inquiry. The conference was also designed to assist K-12 teachers and school administrators to move towards more multi-cultural approach to education by infusing and/or integrating more multicultural content into the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Social Studies at all grade levels. Finally, the conference will be helpful to participants in identification and creation of educational climates to accommodate cultural differences.

The conference was funded by the Title VI program of the U.S. Department of Education and the University Center for International Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill. The goal of the center is to provide the best possible information on multicultural and international topics to teachers and school administrators. The Center for International Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in collaboration with the Center for European Studies, Institute for Latin American Studies and the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, the Triangle Institute for Security Studies and the Triangle South Asia Consortium offers access to special programs and speakers for teachers and their students. Presentations are aimed at raising awareness of the ethnic, geographic, and political forces that shape a world. The K-12 International Outreach program has provided 98 North Carolina public schools with presentations on world topics at no cost to the schools. Program activities can be viewed on the Internet by clicking on Outreach or at <http://metlab.unc.edu/ucis/bt4>



Attendees seek information on services at the HUD Indian housing hearing at Lumberton Senior High School.

Red Springs Arts Council to Present Annual Street Festival

Red Springs -- The Red Springs Arts Council will present its annual Street Festival on Sunday, April 18, 1999. The activities will begin at 1:00 p.m. and end at 5 p.m. in downtown Red Springs. According to festival organizer Ralph Steeds, "This year's festival promises to be real exciting with two bands performing, roaming street entertainers, and a storyteller. There will be lots of activities for the entire family, especially the kids."

The two featured bands this year include Carolina Crew and the Latino band Grupo Arce. Additional acts at this year's Festival will include "World Champion" juggler and comedian Bill Fry, storyteller Daria Barbieri, and student dancers of the Gibson School of Dance. There will also be clowns and other forms of street entertainment. And as usual, there will be exhibits of arts and crafts, lots of food vendors, train rides, the "Moonwalker," pony rides, miniature golf, football toss, and many other games and activities for the whole family.

According to Arts Council President, John Bowman, "A special feature of this year's Festival will be a "health fair." Nurses and health educators from the Robeson County Health Department and Southeastern Regional Medical Center will be on hand to provide free cholesterol, blood sugar, and blood pressure screenings as well as distribute information on a variety of health topics, including diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, diet and exercise."

The annual Red Springs Street Festival is supported by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council. Admission is free to the festival. For more information, call (910) 843-2427 or 843-3559.

Bye Bye Birdie to be presented at Carolina Civic Center

Screaming fans, fainting girls, swiveling hips and pure 60's rock 'n' roll will be on stage at the Carolina Civic Center in downtown Lumberton when America's favorite pop idol, Birdie, gives his farewell concert before going into the Army.

evening at the door or can be purchased from members of the company (look for people wearing a red "Birdie" button). For reservations or information call Regina Valenta at (910) 671-6015.

All proceeds from All-County Musical go to support theater programming and productions for all students throughout the year. This production is sponsored by Fairmont Optometric Clinic, the Lumberton Children's Clinic, Triangle Bank of Lumberton, Coca-Cola Bottling and a Grassroots Grant of the N.C. Arts Council.

Item: The Studio One Lab Series of The Public Schools of Robeson County presents "Bye Bye Birdie"

Dates: 8 p.m. Thursday, April 22 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, April 24 2 p.m. Sunday, April 25 Location: Carolina Civic Center, 315 N. Chestnut St., downtown Lumberton

Prices: Adults \$8, Seniors, \$6, Students \$3 Contact: Mrs. Jeanne Koonce, (910) 424-8871 Mrs. Regina Valenta, (910) 671-6015

Performances will be 8 p.m. April 22, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 24, and 2 p.m. April 25. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$3 for students. Tickets will be on sale each

Pembroke Native wins national honor

by Dr. Dean Chavers
Phoenix, AZ: Thomas A. Godwin of Denver was the winner of the "Indian Business Owner of the year" award at the annual banquet of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) on March 10, 1999. NCAIED is the largest developer of Indian businesses in the U.S.

Tom, a native of Pembroke, won the award for his vision in starting the Colorado Indian Chamber of Commerce in Denver. The Chamber, which is in the process of changing its name to the Rocky Mountain American Indian Chamber of Commerce, is the largest Indian Chamber of Commerce in the nation.

Tom made a commitment in April, 1989 to create a Chamber to serve the Denver and Colorado American Indian entrepreneurs. He still serves as the Director of the Training and Education Task Force. The Chamber now includes many of the large corporations and government agencies in the Denver area.

Tom's main business is running Complexity Simplified, Inc. This organization works with major and mid-size entities in business and systems development for Electronic Commerce (EC) and Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), with the focus on training minority, small, and women-owned businesses. CSI's computer network, called BASVAN (www.basvan.com) is licensed by the Department of Defense as a Value Added Network (VAN) with FACNET.

The BASVAN Virtual University (www.basvan.com/university), a Web-based online distance learning system, enables one instructor to train up to 100 sites at one time anywhere in the world, removing time and distance and making learning convenient for the learner.

Before founding CSI, Tom worked for the Martin Marietta Corporation for 25 years. He was the chief tech rep for the Titan missile sites in the Denver area. He led the team which developed the "Little Red School House" education satellite which later led to the first Martin Marietta Satellite Conference where he conducted a design review between Denver and Vandenberg AFB. And he was the planning manager for the building of the \$2 billion launch pad at Vandenberg AFB.

Tom, also known as Foncie, is the son of the late W. P. and Jessie F. Godwin. He is the uncle of this writer. He was classmates with James Thomas, Jerry Cummings, Lonnie Revels, Jr., Harry Oxendine, Bundy Lowry, and Sonny Jones before moving to Petersburg, VA in 1947.

He is veteran of the U.S. Air Force, 1955-59, where he mastered electronics. From the Air Force he went directly to Martin Marietta, working there until he retired. Since he retired, he has worked as management consultant and education trainer all over the U.S. Much of his present community work is on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation in South Dakota. He can be reached by e-mail at "csi@basvan.com."