

THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Comprehensive health complex to open in Pembroke-extension of Moore Regional

Pinhurst -- FirstHealth of the Carolinas, the not-for-profit parent of Moore Regional Hospital, announces the opening of the Family Care Center-Pembroke in May and the Center for Health & Fitness-Pembroke in June. Until a permanent facility is constructed, the two FirstHealth additions will be located in temporary space.

* the family physician office - adjacent to the Pembroke Drug Center and Pembroke Pediatrics; and

* the fitness center - in the University Plaza Shopping Center

FirstHealth also has plans for the construction of a 25,000-square-foot health complex, a multi-million permanent facility.

"We have served the residents of Robeson County for many years through Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst," said Charles T. Frock, President and Chief Executive Officer of FirstHealth. "We are pleased to be able to respond to their increasing requests for additional health services."

"The construction of this health center is an example of the investment FirstHealth is making to improve the health of the people in our region," Frock continued. "We look forward to continuing to enhance the choices of medical services available to all residents in this area."

The New Health Complex

The new health complex will be located on 10 acres at the corner of N.C. Highway 711 and Redmon Road near Food Lion and Dollar General in Pembroke. Construction is expected to be completed by the summer of 2000.

"FirstHealth decided to build this facility in response to repeated requests from community members who wanted access to the expertise available at Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst," said Glenn Reeves, vice president of Regional Services at FirstHealth. "Our building concept allows us to combine medical care with fitness, preventive medicine and rehabilitation, and a Center for Health & Fitness will all be found at one location. And a canopied entrance will allow for ease of patient pick-up and drop-off."

"This is another step to providing total health care to the greater Pembroke

community," said The Town Hall Manager, Mr. McDuffie Cummings.

Comprehensive health care services will benefit all age groups, from pediatric to geriatrics. Everything from routine health care to specialty services can be found under one roof at the new health complex. The complex will include permanent space for Rhonda Lowry, M.D., and Janine Scott-Lowe, M.D., at the Family Care Center-Pembroke. It will also feature office space for specialty physicians along with diagnostic services.

The FirstHealth Center for Health & Fitness will move from its temporary locations to be a part of the new complex.

"We recognize the importance of prevention and of improving the health status of the people we serve," said Bob Boone, vice president of FirstHealth Business Health Services. "We look forward to working with the people of Pembroke to create comprehensive wellness and rehabilitation programs to meet their needs."

Each new member will receive a fitness evaluation and a supervised orientation to the workout equipment. Staffed by a professional team of exercise physiologists, dietitians, registered nurses and certified fitness instructors, the center will enable members and patients to build cardiovascular endurance and strength through the use of treadmills, stairclimbers, all types of stationary bicycles, strength training equipment by Cybex and Hammerstrength, free weights, and more.

The new center will feature an indoor swimming pool, nursery services and locker rooms on site. A variety of aerobics and aquatics classes will also be offered.

In addition, health promotion and education classes will be offered to members and the community. Classes may include weight loss, smoking cessation, stress management and dietary counseling. Staff from Moore Regional will teach diabetes education and cardiac rehabilitation services; the programs at the Center are designed to provide area residents a safe and effective workout environment.

FirstHealth Family Care Center

Located at 513 W. 3rd St., the Family Care Center-Pembroke will provide medical care for all people of all ages - from babies to grandparents. Rhonda Lowry, M.D., will join FirstHealth the first week of May, and Janine Scott-Lowe, M.D., is scheduled to join in August.

Dr. Lowry is a Robeson County native who received her bachelor of science degree from Pembroke State University in 1990. She then went on to earn her medical degree at the East Carolina University School of Medicine in Greenville, N.C., in 1994. After graduation, Dr. Lowry completed an anatomic and clinical pathology residency program at the Pitt County Memorial Hospital, also in Greenville.

Dr. Lowry completed the Southern Regional AHEC Family Practice Residency in Fayetteville this spring. She and her husband make their home in Pembroke.

Dr. Scott-Lowe received her bachelor of science degree in physiology and neurobiology at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in 1996. Dr. Scott-Lowe is currently completing the Southern Regional AHEC Family Practice Residency in Fayetteville.

The temporary location for this Family Care Center is in the same office space, but not affiliated with, First Path Pembroke Family & Urgent Care Center for Health & Fitness.

The temporary facility will be located at 913B West 3rd St. on Pembroke's University Plaza Shopping Center and will open June 1. Discounted health evaluation fees will be offered to the first 50 founding members. Call the Center for Health & Fitness toll-free at (888) 504-3488 for more information.

FirstHealth of the Carolinas is a regional, not-for-profit health care network. Composed of two hospitals, 15 primary care clinics, three EMS systems, two hospice locations, four health and fitness centers, a skilled nursing facility, and a chain of home medical equipment and supplies stores, it is the goal of FirstHealth of the Carolinas to meet the comprehensive health care needs and improve the health status of all residents in the mid-Carolinas.

"Strike at the Wind!" to Hold Auditions

The outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind!" is scheduled to return for the 1999 season. Auditions for all roles will be on Saturday May 8 and Sunday May 9 at the Adolph Dial Amphitheater located at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center in Pembroke. Only nine performances are scheduled for the drama which will occur during the month of July.

Mr. David Oxendine who was the Director when the drama closed in 1995 has returned to direct the 1999 season.

The entire production is being recast, including the roles of Henry and Rhoda. "There are a lot of fresh, new, very talented young actors out there. We are really looking forward to having them in the drama," stated Willie F. Lowery who composed the original soundtrack for the drama. A cast of 62 actors and technical crew will tell once again the Legend of the

Lumbee Hero Henry Berry Lowrie. Actors will need to be able to sing and act. Technical crew will handle the sound, lights and props. People who want to work on the technical crew need to come and meet the stage manager. All will be paid.

Henry Berry Lowrie was the son of Allen and Polly (Mamma Cumbo) Lowrie who was hid under the house watching when his brother William and father Allen were executed by the Robeson County Home Guard which was led by Colonel Brantley Harris. They were executed for a crime they did not commit.

Written by Randolph Umberger the drama tells of the unjust treatment of the Native Americans in this area during the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the positive things that Lowrie did for the Indian of Robeson County.



Architect's rendering of FirstHealth's new health complex planned for Pembroke.

Meteorology Graduate has a clear forecast for the future

Brandon Locklear's head has always been in the clouds. It's a good thing, too. Because of his lifelong fascination with clouds and weather and his stubborn refusal to give up on a dream, the graduating senior from Pembroke already has a job with the National Weather Service -- and the forecast for his future is bright.

As a boy growing up among the farms and small towns of Robeson County, Locklear had the grades and the ambition to go far. He graduated from Purnell Swett High School near the top of his class and was accepted at NC State. But he worried that his dreams were beyond his reach and that his place was in Pembroke with his family. Lumbee Indians for whom Robeson County is the ancestral home. Today, tears still come to Locklear's eyes as he recalls how his grandfather urged him to trust the strength of his family and his Lumbee heritage to propel him beyond his hometown in pursuit of his goal.

At NC State, when his head hasn't been skyward or his nose hasn't been in the books, Locklear has served as president of the university's chapter of the American Indian Engineering Society, an organization that helps encourage Native American high school students to pursue a college education and careers in science, engineering and technology. He also is a member of the American Meteorological Society and has served two internships at the National Weather Service forecast center on NC State's Centennial Campus, where he read the severe weather warnings issued during dangerous storms.

Brandon Locklear will graduate with a bachelor of science degree in meteorology from the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. He is the son of Clyde and Donna Locklear of Pembroke, and can be reached at (919) 859-6906.

Update on Indian Housing

The North Carolina Indian Housing Authority (NCIHA) has completed the initial process of accepting and approving applications for the Native American Housing Assistance Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) housing program. The next step is to move forward by providing services to qualified applicants, but the NCIHA staff must first inspect homes. These inspections are conducted on family homes and properties to determine whether the property meets HUD requirements and to identify work that needed to be done. These inspections are being done in the homes of low to moderate-income Indian families in the Coharie, Lumbee, and Waccamaw-Siouan tribal communities.

All qualified and approved applicants for the Rehabilitation program will have their homes and properties inspected. The inspection process began March 1 and will conclude May 10. Inspections are being conducted to access housing needs for each family with the goal of doing Rehabilitation that will provide decent, safe, sanitary housing qualified Indian families. Monies are limited so services will be provided to those with the greatest need first with priority given to the elderly. However, this is a five-year plan and should a family not receive services during this first year, they may receive funding in subsequent years.

The Mutual Help/Homeownership program is moving forward. Families who have met the application guidelines and completed an approved application are being asked to provide land for housing. This program will provide housing in the Indian communities. The land for the home must be in clear or free simple title; there must be no liens or encumbrances against said property. Should a qualified family not own land they can contact their local tribe or NCIHA for information on available sites.

NCIHA is soliciting contractors with Native American preference (general, electrical, plumbing and heating/air conditioning) to bid on home renovations and construction of new homes under NAHASDA. Should you be interested or should you know someone, please have them contact the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority, P.O. Box 2343, Fayetteville, NC 28302. The toll free number is 1-800-619-3339.

Percell Blue, Interim Dir. of Capital Improvements

Pembroke Homemakers Club Donates to Pembroke Library



Shown above are Mrs. Ethel O. Locklear, President and Mrs. Beulah M. Kemmerer, Treasurer of the Pembroke Homemakers Club presenting a check in the amount of \$100 to Mattie Locklear, Head Librarian of the Pembroke Public Library. This money was raised by Ella Jacobs, Ruth R. Strickland, Vennie O. Sanderson, Clara H. Lowry, Sarah J. Oxendine, Dollie Lowry, Clara Bullard, Lillian Chavis, and Lorraine Maynor, all members of the Pembroke Homemakers Club.

Retires from U.S. Army as Master Sergeant

(MSG (R) Ruth E. Vollmar the daughter of John C. and Leacie Brooks, entered the United States Army on May 4, 1976 at Lumberton N.C. MSG (R) Vollmar retired from the US Army on Feb. 1999 in Woodbridge Va.

Her duty assignments included Fort McClellan, Al. Fort Lee, Va. Fort Polk, La. Mannheim, Germany. Fort Sill, Ok. Fort Belvoir, Va. and other installations in the Washington Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Superior Unit Award and the National Defense Service Medal.

She and her family Jody, Jennifer, Jessica, Christopher and their dog Champ intend to reside in Woodbridge, Va.



(MSG (R) Ruth E. Vollmar

Pembroke Kiwanis Report

The Tuesday night meeting was held at the Jade Garden Restaurant. Program Chairwoman Bernice Branch presented the Lumberton Chief of Police Randall Aragon. Chief Aragon is a graduate of the University of Nebraska, Class of

1972 and obtained his Masters from Western University in 1987. Chief Aragon has 24 years of police experience, 14 years as Chief of Police. Mrs. Ramona Aragon is a Special Education Teacher in Gilbert Middle School in Lumberton.

On April 20th terrible school tragedy? And what do we do now? The very basic answer is we must change our concept of values, their very inner-most heart aspects of thought. Colorado has rules in place. It's impossible to legislate laws but the inner most feelings must be under control. And where does the violence stop? We are doing right by having officers in the schools. Now it's and everyday occurrence. We have Smart Start. Recreation, safety programs of all kinds. We have to get the value system straight.

S.H. Stockton, P.O. Box 888, Lumberton, North Carolina 28359 by May 10, 1999. The cost of the luncheon is \$12.00. Wayne Roberts, State President will be the speaker. A memorial service will be held.

Retired School Personnel Luncheon

The Annual Spring Luncheon of the Robeson County Chapter of Retired School Personnel will be at Pinecrest Country Club on May 18, 1999 at 11:10 a.m.. Reservations are required. Please send them to



Standing from left to right; back row - Spencer Carter, Lead Housing Coordinator - Lumbee; Percell Blue, Interim Dir. of Capital Improvements; Donald Locklear, Dir. of New Business Grants; Fred Moore, New Construction Supervisor; John Marshall, Dir. of Operations.

Standing from left to right; front row - Barbara Lowery, Housing Coordinator - Lumbee; Billy Brooks, Renovations Supervisor; Brenda Cummings, Resident Counselor; Dave McGirt, Executive Dir.; Danita Locklear, Account/Office Manager.