

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Published each Thursday by First American Publications, Pembroke, NC

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 19

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1999

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS



## Mrs. Fannie Hammonds Blanks Celebrates 104th Birthday!

Mrs. Fannie Hammonds Blanks of Ivanhoe, N.C. was born in Lumberton in Robeson County, May 5, 1895. She was the wife of the late Hecktor Blanks of Lumberton. The daughter of the late Willie Hammonds of Lumberton, who lived to be 103. Mrs. Blanks is the mother of four children who are living; Mrs. Naomi Wade of Lumberton; Mrs. Tommie Gean Brewer of Ivanhoe, N.C.; and Mrs. Evader Durden of Lumberton; Mrs. Mabel Brewer of Lumberton. She has 12 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and 7 great-great children.

The Honoree lives with her daughter, Mrs. Tommie Gean Brewer. I believe Mrs. Blanks is one of the oldest persons in Robeson Co. The following is what the bible says about long life; Children obey your parents in the lord; For this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. Ephesians Chapter 6:1,2&3.

I believe that Mrs. Blanks obeyed her parents. She was true and faithful to her church. She was a member of Ten Mile Baptist Church.

Photo and Text by T/SGT. Wm. P. Revels.



## Celebrates 98th Birthday

Eunice Sampson celebrated her 98th birthday with a dinner party at Linda's Restaurant on April 29th, 1999. The party was attended by her children, James Sampson and his wife Linda, Sarah S. Bell and husband Buddy, her grandchildren, Gregory Bell and wife Bonita, Dr. Joey and wife Vicki, and Kristy Sampson, her great-grandchildren, Jamie, Ashleigh, Tori and Isaac Bell, her brother Ancil Sanderson and Yvonne, and her nephew, Leslie Sanderson. Not able to attend were her sister Elizabeth McGirt and grandson Ronny Bell and his family.

Miss Eunice Sampson, Happy 98th Birthday.

## Brayboy is Superintendent

### N.C. educator is unanimous choice of County School Board

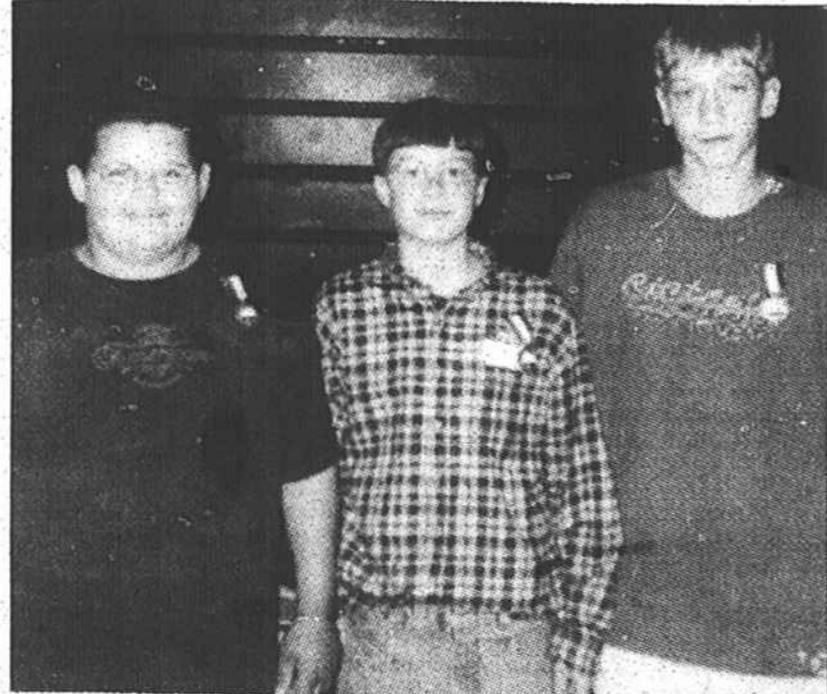
by Gray Bostick  
The Marlboro County School Board has announced their selection for the position of Superintendent - it will be filled by Dr. L. Ray Brayboy.  
The announcement came following a unanimous vote at the May 3 School Board meeting.  
It is expected that Brayboy will assume his new responsibilities July 1.  
Superintendent contracts usually run from July 1 to June 30 and initial contracts are historically for two years with yearly contract extensions made upon annual performance reviews.  
Dr. Brayboy has been employed

in an educational capacity for 30 years and is currently serving as Associate Professor and Director of University Services at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.  
A graduate of Pembroke, NC High School, Brayboy received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. He also holds a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Doctor of Education degree from Pennsylvania State University.  
Dr. Brayboy began his career in education serving as a high school health and physical education

## Baptist to get New Leader

A Lumbec Indian will be led the baptist State Convention when the current president, the Rev. Mac Brunson of High Point, resigns to become pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. The Rev. Mike Cummings of Pembroke, the convention's first vice president, will finish Brunson's term, which expires in November. Brunson will resign at the convention's general board meeting next Tuesday. Under convention bylaws, the first vice president fills the unexpired term. (John Railey, Winston-Salem Journal, 5/11). Cummings is director of missions for the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association in Pembroke, a group of Baptist churches of various American Indian tribes, mainly in southeastern North Carolina. He is a graduate of Campbell University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. Cummings, 49, is a conservative, as is Brunson. He said he has not decided whether to run for a full term as convention president. (Reprinted from the Winston-Salem Journal - May 11, 1999)

## Robeson County Student competes at State Science Fair



Davis S. Smiling, a 6th grader at Union Elementary School attended the North Carolina State Science Fair at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro on April 30, 1999. His project entitled "Unraveling the Mysteries of the Devil's Tramping Ground" received Honorable Mention. Davis won 2nd place in Junior Earth Science at the South Central Regional Science Fair held at UNC-Pembroke on March 24, 1999. He also won 1st place in Earth Science with his project at Union Elementary School on March 10, 1999. Davis said he enjoyed camping at the site and doing the testing. He also said he appreciated all the help he received from Mr. Everette Davis, at the Robeson County Extension Agency. Although he has competed at the Regional level for the past three years, this was the first time he has competed at the state level. Davis said he hopes to compete at the state level again next year. Davis is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Locklear.

Davis Smiling (Left) shown with his project entitled "Unraveling the Mysteries of The Devil's Tramping Ground" at the State Science Fair in Greensboro. He received Honorable Mention and a medal. Chase Weeks and Geoff Taylor of Hendersonville Middle School also received Honorable Mention and medals for their project entitled "Resting Mortars."

## Senator pledges continued progress on important issues

Raleigh - North Carolina has made good progress on a variety of key issues this legislative session, but there's still more work to do, Sen. David Weinstein said Tuesday.

"We've helped tobacco farmers, fought domestic violence, worked to keep guns out of schools and to protect seniors who live in long-term care homes - and that's just our short list," said Weinstein, D-Robeson. "I think we've laid a good foundation for a great session."

Weinstein made his comments after one of the General Assembly's most important legislative deadlines. Last week was "crossover" in the General Assembly - when most bills must "cross over" from one chamber to the other or die. The crossover deadline usually marks the mid-point of the General Assembly's "long session" held in odd-numbered years. Issues addressed by the Senate since the session started in late January include:

\* The Safe Families Act to fight domestic violence in families and communities.

\* Help for Tobacco-dependent communities to provide a blueprint for allocating more than \$4.6 billion from North Carolina's share of the national tobacco settlement.

\* Long Term Care Reform to make sure the 70,000 seniors now living in

long-term care homes get safe, proper care;

\* Lose Control, Lose your License to seize driver's license from teenagers who bring drugs or weapons to school or who assault a teacher.

\* Ending social promotions to increase school standards and ensure that teachers have resources they need to keep all students on track and making progress to graduation.

\* School Safety to reduce the risk of violence by tightening North Carolina's prohibition against weapons at schools and school sponsored events.

\* Campaign finance reform to reduce the influence of big money in elections by banning big corporate donations to political campaigns.

A new budget for North Carolina is now the top priority on the General Assembly's agenda, Weinstein said.

"My priorities for the budget are clear. Stay on track to raise teacher pay to the national average by 2000, maintain strong accountability for our schools, help Smart Start grow statewide and finish reforms for our juvenile justice system," Weinstein said.

"If we complete those goals - and I believe we will - North Carolina will be in a strong position as we head into the new century."

## Dropout Rate Declines in the PSRC

A just released report from Raleigh indicates that the dropout rate for students in the Public Schools of Robeson County has dropped from 5.71% in 1996-97 to 4.38% for 1997-98, the latest year for which complete figures are available. The decline of 1.33% represents 148 fewer students leaving school before graduation in 1997-98, when 450 dropped out compared to 598 in 1996-97. That indicates a decline of approximately 24% in the number of dropouts. Our 1.33% rate decrease was about 12 times better than the state's reported rate of 10%. Seventeen school systems had a greater dropout rate than the PSRC.

These numbers, as reported for grades 7-12, are based on the calculation method required by the National Center for Education Statistics. A student is considered a dropout if he/she leaves school for any reason other than death, before graduation or completion of a program of studies without transferring to another elementary or secondary school or post-secondary institution including community college. This method counts a student twice if he/she drops out more than once.

Dropout prevention funds appropriated by the state are used by local school systems to increase the number and range of services to at-risk students to reduce the number of dropouts. These efforts include addressing substance abuse, involving parents, integrating counseling into the school curriculum, scheduling classes that meet the needs of working students, referring students to appropriate community agencies for assistance and offering health clinics.

Major reasons that students dropout include attendance-related reasons such as family responsibilities and work; choice of work over school; and academic difficulties.

Current initiatives in PSRC to decrease dropouts include extended media, extended instructional day, Saturday academics, student services management teams, dropout at-risk teams, in school suspension programs, and comprehensive guidance and counseling plans. Additionally, we have youth development specialists and school social workers at our schools who provide intensive monitoring for students at-risk of dropping out. We also work in collaboration with the Judicial system to ensure that we all understand laws dealing with attendance and dropouts. The school system has developed a detailed dropout plan that is being implemented in our schools.

## UNCP Commencement is Saturday, May 15

Pembroke, N.C. -- Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine will preside over his 10th and last UNC Pembroke Commencement Saturday, May 15.

The ceremonies will be 10 a.m. in the Main Gym of the English Jones Health and Physical Education Building.

Featured Speaker will be 7th District U.S. Representative Mike McIntyre of Lumberton. Congressman McIntyre was first elected in 1996 and re-elected in 1998 with 91 percent of the vote.

Elizabethtown native, astronaut and United States Air Force Lt. Col. Curtis Brown and Pembroke native James G. Jones, M.D., will receive honorary Doctor of Science degrees.

Lt. Col. Brown is a test pilot and veteran of five space shuttle flights and is preparing for a sixth. Dr. Jones is a family medicine practitioner and professor of family medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Approximately 519 (the exact number is pending outcome of final grades) graduates will receive diplomas Saturday, including 33 Bachelor of Science, 131 Bachelor of Arts, 48 Bachelor of Science in Social Work, seven Bachelor of Music, 15 Masters of Arts, 26 Masters of Arts in Education, six Master of Business Administration and nine Master of Science.

Trustees Meet

On Thursday at 1 p.m., the UNCP Board of Trustees will hold its regular quarterly meeting in the board room of Lumbec Hall.

## Purnell Swett High News

Art students participated in the N.C. Indian Unity Conference and Art Contest in the UNC-P Art Affair. Participants included: Crystal Bullard, Erica Revels, Kenan Collins, Benjamin B. Matthew Blue, Jessica Clark with Crystal Bullard's drawing and Benjamin Brewington's painting were rated best in the show. The Art Club participated in Special Olympics and Face Painting at UNC-P. The club

also attended Brook Green Garden. Purnell Swett High School would like to announce the Marshalls for the 1999/2000 school year.

Thomas Brewington, Chamaine Brooks, Deanna Bullard, DeKota Chavis-Legerton, Carmen Deese, Arnold Corey Locklear, Cassandra Locklear, Jadelyn Locklear, Ryan Locklear, Craig Elliot Lowry, Lemuel Stanley, Shelly Strickland

## Remembering Pembroke High School: A Millennium Event for Classes 1960-69

To anyone who genuinely liked his or her school days, high school was likely a very special time, and to the students of Pembroke High School many years ago, our memories are especially rich because PHS bonded us to the very essence of "Lumbecism." From sneaking into Pembroke State College campus whenever possible to those 3 o'clock gatherings at the College Esso, much of the socialization of Indian youth in the fifties and sixties is and around Pembroke took place along a mile stretch through the heart of town.

And what an era it was - the fifties and sixties that is. Best of all was the music beginning with the sounds of the Platter's, Elvis Presley and Chuck Berry to Otis Redding and the Supremes, we strolled, twisted, and slow danced the nights away at places like Dickey Ann's and parties at the VFW on the Union Chapel Road. By the end of the sixties, the music was loud, hard, and dancing was not quite the same. The popular groups had long hair and called themselves the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Doors, Jimmy Hendrix, and even the Monkeys. On the fashion scene, the boys went from dungarees to leisure suits in one decade. Sack dresses, 50-yard slips, madras jumpers, camel hair coats with raccoon collars were the rage among the best dressed girls on campus.

The academic and extracurricular programs were serious matters at Pembroke High School. When it came to sports, the other three Indian high schools (Magnolia, Prospect, and Fairgrove) loved to hate Pembroke, but this rivalry attitude simply hardened the team's determination to win. The PHS marching band under the direction of Ira Pate Lowry did exactly what bands are suppose to do: deepen school pride and spirit. The faculty and administration expected each of us, regardless of economic circumstances, to "make something" out of lives. We were taught to carry ourselves with dignity; not in a conceited manner, but with confidence and self-assurance. We sonichow sensed that our teachers were among the best and brightest in their generation. Reflecting on them as role models, we were right.

Pembroke High School as we remember it in 50's and 60's came to an end in 1969, and since that time, the place we called PHS has undergone several reforms and name changes. As we end this century, a special tribute to PHS will take place on July 3, 1999 at the Jaycee Building in Pembroke. Promoted as the "Decade of Class" Reunion, a committee representing 1960 through 1969 is planning the details to make this an evening to remember. Most of all we want your presence along with old pictures, yearbooks, and other memorabilia from your days at PHS. The cost is \$15.00 per person to be paid before June 15, 1999. Make your check payable to A Decade of Class Reunion, and mail it to Dessie Lowry at First Union Bank in Pembroke.

Not intended to replace individual five-year reunions, this is a special event to commemorate the end of a special era for PHS alumni between 1960-69. The Carolina Indian Voice will continue publishing the reunion announcement through June. In addition you may call one of the following local committee members for details: Charity Revels, Monnie Sanderson, Cecelia McElmore (Charlotte), Sam Kerns, Erylle B. Smith, Alice Hunt, Lee Sampson, Maurine Dial, Furnie Barton, Diane Locklear, Felicia Turner, Jerry Chavis, Rudy Locklear, Clea Barton, Elaine Brayboy Haraway (Pinchurst), Olivia Holmes Oxendine (Southern Pines), Doris O. Cummings, and Dessie Lowry.