

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Published each Thursday by First American Publications, Pembroke, NC

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 22

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1999

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS



shown left to right are Tammy Jones, Stephanie Tyner, Susan Deese, Nancy Breckington Feicano. These four young ladies are now Registered Nurses and employees by Southeastern Regional Medical Center thanks to assistance by the Classroom Training Program at LRDA. (See Lumbee Spotlight on Page 3). (Photo by Vinita Maynor-Clark)

## To attend NC School of Science and Math

Merri Ashleigh Huggins has been accepted to attend the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, N.C. Merri was inducted into National Honor Society of Secondary School based on scholarship, leadership, service and character. She recently was awarded the Student of Excellence Award by the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce. Merri will be attending Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York this summer for four weeks participating in the Mathematics and Engineering Program. She is daughter of Deborah L. Jacobs of Pembroke and James Wesley Huggins of Pittsboro, N.C.  
Photo Caption: Merri Ashleigh Huggins



Huggins

## GNAA to hold community meeting

Guilford Native American Association, a United Way Agency, will hold its annual Community Meeting/Board Elections - Saturday, June 5, 1999.

- Please come and support the day's scheduled events:
- 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
- \* Car Wash and Bake Sale
- \* Lumbee Tribal Enrollment
- 4:00 - 6:00 pm
- \* Community Meeting/Board Elections
- \* Honoring Ceremony/Community Dinner

## "Strike at the Wind" has a new generation of performers

by Vinita Maynor-Clark

The stage is set and the roles have been cast for the return of the outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind!" to the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center. Once again Henry Berry Lowrie and his gang will travel through the land of the Lumbee Indians. See the Home Guard chase Henry and his men through the swamps of Robeson County. There was no jail that could hold him. A bullet never grazed his skin and one time when they tried to hang him, the rope broke.

Rehearsals for the reviving of the drama began on May 31, 1999 at the Adolph L. Dial Amphitheater with over 60 cast members ready and eager to go to work.

Henry Berry Lowrie is being portrayed by Micah Sampson this season. He met his sweetheart Rhoda Strong who is being portrayed by Faline Locklear for the first time Monday night.

After the formal introductions and welcomes by David Carter, Chairman of Robeson Historical Drama Association and Mr. Ken Freeman, Board Member of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, David Oxendine took the helm for his 10th year as Director and everyone got down to the business at hand.

Many of the new cast members had seen the show prior to the closing in 1995. While taking their photographs for the program booklet, I asked many of them why they were there. Several of them said "I have always wanted to do this." One young lady said "I am here because I believe, if I was here for the money I would be staying at home."

"This is a matter of principle, if it ever came back I wanted to be in it," another young man said.

Only two of the original cast members from 1976 are returning. Robert Bryant and Stephen Pate. Both stated that they thank God for letting us be here to do this one more time.

One of the cast members from the 1977 season is so dedicated that he is the Director. The other one is writing this article. Corbin Eddings along with his father Randolph make an interesting combination this summer. Both have been a part of the drama before. This season Corbin is Steve Lowry and his father is Donahue.

"I wanted to play Henry but I am not old enough yet," Corbin says with a smile. Some folks from the other years who are extremely dedicated are Bobby Oxendine Jr. and his mother Carolyn, Edwina Chambers, Delores Steen, Edith Ward, Margaret Freeman, Kelvin Lowry, Al Emeola, LaDonna Lock-

lear, Carolyn Oxendine Davita Carter and to top it all off, there is Bruce Barton who even brought his daughter and her boyfriend with him. Sometimes I hear Bruce say "I thought I said that I would never be in this again but here I am." To which I reply "didn't you tell me that if I was in it that you were going to be in it?" and he always says "yes."

For those of you who do not understand what drives the cast members to be in the drama year after year whether they get paid or not it really all boils down to one thing: "this is a story that has to be told."

The cast and crew of "Strike at the Wind!" cordially invite you and your family or your group to come and see us during the month of July each Friday and Saturday night. Come and say that you saw the drama before we begin the year 2000. Watch this new generation take a shape and a form that you will not forget.

"Strike at the Wind!" is written by Randolph Umberger and will be performed on Friday and Saturday nights during the month of July at the Adolph L. Dial Amphitheater located at the beautiful North Carolina Indian Cultural Center on the outskirts of Pembroke, North Carolina.

## Native American Cultural Center Sets Example for Sustainability

Pembroke, N.C. - A non-profit organization representing about 80,000 Native Americans in North Carolina has embarked on an ambitious mission to preserve and celebrate the area's Indian Culture, but with a twist that could influence other tribes around the country.

Whereas many Native American groups have turned to casino gambling as an expedient way to finance their community development objectives and other projects, the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center (NCICC) has chosen a path that is at once more conventional and yet more daring. The group has decided to invest in a property development project near Interstate 95 as it traverses southeast North Carolina. It has developed preliminary plans for a \$33 million, multi-purpose site near the intersection of I-95 and U.S. 74, which soon will be expanded to a four-lane highway.

The facility as envisioned will include a major resort hotel, roadside services such as a diner and convenience store, a trading post for Native American art, cultural demonstration areas, as well as other retail outlets. If the project can be developed as planned, it is expected to generate more than 300 jobs and support a wide array of cultural, scientific and historic undertakings.

The group's standing priority is to elevate its existing Cultural Center on a 400-acre site near Pembroke to a world-class center of intellectual, as well as recreational activity. That facility, held under a long-term agreement with the State of North Carolina, comprises a 60-acre lake, campgrounds, a swim facility, nature trails, ceremonial grounds and the 1,500 seat Adolph Dial Amphitheater.

The NCICC has maintained and made modest improvements to the site but it has even greater ambitions for a major museum of North Carolina Native Americans, with a role in advancing anthropological, artistic, cultural and environmental disciplines. The estimated cost of such a facility has been so prohibitive, both the Center's Board and the State, which financially supports the group, have searched for alternative sources of funding.

In 1998 NCICC prepared a project analysis for a multi-purpose facility located near the emerging highway hub in Robeson County. Since then, the organization has moved steadily toward acquiring a suitable site and establishing relationships with development partners.

NCICC also has stepped up its campaign to secure state, federal and private foundation support to make its plan a reality.

Clearly the most significant aspect of the overall strategy is that it would create a commercially viable resort/commercial operation on one of the country's busiest interstate highways. At the same time, it will expose travelers to the reality that Indian art, history and culture are alive and well in the southeastern United States. Initial designs for the development emphasize genuine Native American themes and will include facilities to attract either casual interest among motorists who simply stop to refuel or to motivated "cultural tourism" enthusiasts.

Although the I-95 site will not include a formal museum, it will accommodate a trading post/exhibition center, where visitors may see local Native American artists producing their wares and purchase items that are unique to artisans of the area. The planned 150-room hotel and conference center also will be complemented by a multi-use arena where cultural, theatrical or musical events may be staged.

For more information, contact Ernestine Bulfant, 910-521-2433.

## ORO Signs Partnership with American Indian Science and Engineering Society

Oak Ridge, Tennessee, March 29, 1999 - A memorandum of cooperation (MOC) to create a partnership among American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), the Department of Energy, and Lockheed Martin Energy Systems to enhance educational, scientific and technological endeavors was held Tuesday, March 23, at 10099 Commerce Park.

Participating in the signing were Sandra Begay-Campbell, executive director of AISES; Steve Richardson, acting manager of DOE's Oak Ridge Operations; and Bob Van Hook, president of Lockheed Martin Energy Systems (LMES).

Begay-Campbell, who visited Oak Ridge from AISES headquarters in Albuquerque, N.M., said the partnership will strengthen AISES in the near term by making internship and apprenticeship opportunities for its professional members and additional opportunities available to American Indian student.

In the long term, she said, the partnership will allow AISES to expand its professional chapter support by helping provide opportunities for its professional members and additional opportunities for AISES members to be role models for students. "I

have a very good feeling about this partnership," she said.

Richardson said the partnership allows the Department of Energy to continue its commitment to diversity and provide opportunities for internships to Native Americans and minorities.

Van Hook said the partnership is a good one and will strengthen LMES with diversity of thinking and problem-solving skills. "It allows us to tap into a valuable resource to help fill a need for internships and apprenticeships in skills the company is going to need in the future to continue its national security missions. This partnership is a path to the future," he said. The new partnership will provide the following:

- \* Increasing opportunities for technology exchange between the parties.
- \* Involving faculty and students from AISES member institutions in available internships and co-op programs across the Oak Ridge Complex.
- \* Matching capabilities of AISES member institutions with capabilities in Oak Ridge to support joint research opportunities.
- \* Identifying collaborative research and development opportunities.

\* Pursuing opportunities that are mutually beneficial to all parties.

The agreement, a memorandum of cooperation, is an initiative under the LMES Advanced Technology Programs Minority Educational Institutions (MEI) Technology Partnerships Program. The program's mission is to cultivate long-term, mutually beneficial strategic partnerships and alliances with minority educational institutions (MEIS). The program has formed partnerships with several MEI's that have resulted in cooperative research, educational, and economic ventures.

AISES is a national, non-profit organization that nurtures the building of the Native American Indian community by bridging science and technology with traditional Native American Indians and Native Alaskans to pursue studies in science, engineering, business and other academic areas. AISES has 156 member colleges and universities nationwide. It builds partnerships with tribes, member institutions, private industry, government and other nonprofit organizations.

More information about AISES is available on its website at <http://www.aises.org>.

## Janice C. Oxendine Selected as Hoke Executive Director

Janice C. Oxendine, County Operations Trainee, has been selected as the County Executive Director for Hoke County in Raeford, N.C., effective April 25, 1999.

She has one son, Frankie Christopher (Chris) Oxendine, a daughter-in-law, Tabitha, and two step grandchildren, Desirae, nine years old and Trakesha, seven years old. She just loves playing the role of grandmother.

Ms. Oxendine was born and educated in Robeson County. She began working for the Robeson County Agency in 1965, formerly Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), soon after graduating from Magnolia High School, located near Lumberton, North Carolina. Since her first job as a Planimeter Operator, Ms. Oxendine has held numerous positions including Program Assistant for Compliance and Tobacco, Feed Grains/Wheat, and Counter Clerk/Conservation Programs. During her tenure with the agency, she also worked in the capacity of Chief Program Assistant, and temporarily served as Program Assistant in Charge of the Robeson/Scotland County FSA Office.

In April 1998, Ms. Oxendine was selected to participate in the Agency's County Operations Trainee Program

(COT). The extensive six months training gave her the opportunity to travel to Farm Service Agencies across the State of North Carolina to observe FSA programs and management operations. She has successfully completed the program and was certified as eligible to be a County Executive Director in November 1998.

She is a member of Piney Grove Baptist Church; a member of Robeson County Wide Mass Choir; she loves to sing; a member of the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation (LREMC) Election and Credential Committee, 1988-1998. She has served as secretary for several of those years. She is a member of Woodmen of the World Court #1119, and has served as treasurer in the past years. She was a member of the Title IV Indian Education Parent Committee for eleven years, with the Robeson County School System. She is a member NASCOE. Ms. Oxendine holds the distinction of being the first Native American to be named as a local Farm Service Agency County Executive Director. She is a member of the Lumbee Tribe of Robeson County, North Carolina.

Janice is really glad to be a part of Hoke County and we know she will do an outstanding job for Hoke County farmers.



Janice C. Oxendine Groundbreaking for the Dr. A. J. Robinson Medical Clinic

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Dr. A. J. Robinson Medical Clinic will be held on Sunday, June 6 at 3:00 p.m. At the proposed building site of the clinic, Southeastern Regional Medical Center plans to construct the 5,000-square-foot facility at the corner of Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Drive (Highway 41 South) and Holly Street near Turner Terrace.

The public is cordially invited to attend the event.

The clinic will be named in honor of Dr. Arthur J. Robinson, who practiced family medicine in the south Lumberton area from 1951 until his retirement in 1986. Dr. Robinson and his family plan to attend the event.

The clinic will house six to seven exam rooms, a laboratory, an x-ray room and consultation offices. Construction is expected to get underway in July.



Pictured at the signing are Sandra Begay-Campbell, Executive Director of AISES, and Tom Wynn, ORO's Native American Program Manager. Mr. Wynn is a Lumbee, and son of the late Chief Wynn and Lummie Jane Wynn of the Saddletree community.