



# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Published each Thursday by First American Publications, Pembroke, NC

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 42

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1999

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Pembroke Voters Return Incumbents, McNeill, Cummings, to Town Council

Pembroke Town re-elected two incumbent councilmen in the municipal election on Tuesday. Larry McNeill was re-elected to his third term and was the top vote getter in the election. Gregory Cummings was re-elected in a close race with newcomer Michael Oxendine. McNeill received 262 votes and Cummings received 224 in unofficial returns. Michael Oxendine received 191 votes and Michael Jacobs received 182 votes.

Pembroke's mayor, Milton Hunt, was re-elected with no opposition.



Larry McNeill



Gregory Cummings



Mayor Milton Hunt

## Rep. Ron Sutton Lobbies for Congressional Help for Flood Victims

Rep. Ron Sutton of Pembroke joined about 60 state legislators on a bus trip to Washington on Wednesday to push for quick federal approval of relief money for flood victims.

"This trip with Governor Hunt and his key staff was necessary and important to demonstrate that we in North Carolina stand ready to help put Eastern North Carolina back on its feet," Rep. Sutton said. "But we need to know how much help we are going to get from Washington first."

It was dark when the buses rolled out of Rocky Mount on their way to Washington, D.C. and dark when they returned 13 hours later. But the mood was considerably brighter when the state legislators returned to Tarrytown Mall in Rocky Mount. After traveling to Washington, state leaders were more optimistic that Congress would approve at least a big chunk of the \$1.8 billion that Hunt requested to help the victims of Hurricane Floyd.

The trip began in Rocky Mount before daybreak with Gov. Hunt, legislators, legislative staff members and members of Hunt's administration eating donuts and

gulping coffee in the chilly darkness. After a brief press conference, the group boarded three buses for the trip to the U.S. Capital.

But before hitting Interstate 95, the lawmakers rode through one of the hard hit areas of Rocky Mount, where house after house sat empty from hurricane flood damage. Many had piles of rubble by the street where home-owners had started cleaning up from the flood.

There were several purposes behind the trip. One was to make a bipartisan pitch for help.

"This disaster was a bipartisan disaster," House Speaker Jim Black said. "The solution to this disaster will have to be bipartisan." To underscore the bipartisan approach, the minority leader of both the state House and Senate were invited to speak at a luncheon. Republican U.S. Senator Jesse Helms and U.S. Senator John Edwards, a Democrat, contributed to the theme by arriving together and standing side by side at the podium.

Helms said the issue was the most important he had worked on while in Washington.

Edwards said the large turnout more than a third of the General Assembly made a strong case for

North Carolina to get federal aid.

"For you all to devote this much time and energy to being here sends a very important signal to Washington," Edwards said.

Gov. Hunt, House Speaker Jim Black and Senate President Pro Tem also spoke at the luncheon. Black called for Republicans and Democrats in Raleigh and Washington to continue working together.

After the luncheon, state lawmakers fanned out across Capitol Hill to lobby member of Congress and their staffs. Gov. Hunt and legislative leaders met privately with Helms. Reps. Sutton and Yongue met with Congressman Mike McIntyre of Lumberton.

Sending a signal was another purpose behind the eight-hour bus ride to Washington and back. Legislative leaders wanted to make it clear that they are ready to help Eastern North Carolina back to its feet. But first they need to know about federal government assistance.

They also wanted to dispel any myth that North Carolina-like other states- is flush with money. Tax cuts, the loss of some major court

cases and key initiatives such as raising teacher pay to the national average by next year have squeezed North Carolina's budget.

State revenues already have dropped because of Hurricane Floyd, and budget analysis cannot predict the length of or severity of the decline.

The trip clearly got the attention of members of state's congressional delegation. All 12 members of the U.S. House and both U.S. Senators and North C from North Carolina attended at least part of the luncheon, and several of them appeared at a news conference outside the U.S. Capitol.

"The trip has been long, but it has been extremely productive," rep. Sutton said when the group returned from Washington.

As for a special General Assembly session, one can be expected later this month. Gov. Hunt and other leaders want to move as fast as they can in restoring the eastern part of the state to its rightful posture.

Rep. Sutton and other legislative leaders are planning a more extensive first hand examination of the flood damaged areas this week.



Evita Saybrianna Sanderson was crowned the 1999 Baby Miss October Dream Angel. In her age division she also won; photogenic, talent, costume, my favorite outfit, best wardrobe, prettiest smile, best model, best personality, & the early bird winner. She was also the first runner up for the Supreme Title. She received 9 trophies, 2 tiaras, flowers, gift bags, & a 1 year subscription to Pageantry Magazine. Evita is the 2 year old daughter of Sabrina Sanderson & Michael Floyd. The grand-daughter of Sylvia L. Sanderson & the late James Edward & Mary Francis Floyd. She is also the great granddaughter of the late Gus Howard & Eva Mae Locklear & the late Ira & Nancy Sanderson. Donations collected were given to the Clemens Elementary School.

## Dr. Ruth Dial Woods To Speak at Annual Women's Meeting

Mrs. Roberta Scipio, President of the Rockingham District of the United Methodist Women announces plans for the Annual Meeting of the Rockingham District of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Women.

The Rockingham District of the United Methodist Women will have their annual meeting, Sunday, November 7th, 1999 at 3:00 P.M. The meeting will be held at Galilee United Methodist Church. The church is located at 900 McGirt's Bridge Road in Laurinburg, N.C. Registration will begin at 2:30 P.M.

The Rockingham District is made of three sub-districts. These sub-districts leaders are; Robeson County sub-district with Mabel Cummings as sub-district leader, Scotland County sub-district Marvin Harvin as sub-

district leader and Rockingham sub-district with Evelyn Warnock serving as sub-district leader.

The special guest speaker for the 1999 Annual Meeting will be Dr. Ruth Dial Woods. Dr. Wood is a native of Robeson County, NC. She has received a B.A. Degree from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC, a MA.Ed. from Pembroke State University in Pembroke, NC and an Ed.D from South Carolina State University. She has completed all required coursework to advance to candidacy for the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In March, 1999, Dr. Woods was the only woman in a field of 10 candidates to again receive an at-large appointment to the North Carolina University Board of Governors.

## Wake Forest Researcher Finds High Diabetes Rate Among Lumbee Indians

Winston - Salem, N.C. - About nine percent of Lumbee Indians over 18 years of age in Robeson County have been diagnosed with diabetes, compared to a statewide diabetes rate of about five percent, according to Ronny Bell, Ph.D., M.S., of Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

"This higher rate of Diabetes among the Lumbee validates what many people in this area believe - that diabetes is a major concern of Lumbees," Bell said. "We also know that in the general population, about one-third of people who actually have diabetes have not been diagnosed, so this rate actually have diabetes have not been diagnosed, so this rate actually misses quite a few people."

Bell, assistant professor of public health sciences (epidemiology), presented findings from the Lumbee Health Survey today at the Diabetes in American Indian Communities Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The conference is co-sponsored by the University of Arizona, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the American Diabetes Association, and the American Association of Indian Physicians.

Bell's poster presentation focused on diabetes rates in the Lumbee tribe. "To my knowledge, no one has ever scientifically documented how common diabetes is among the Lumbee. There is quite a bit of information about epidemic of diabetes among Native Americans, but most of that work has been in the southwestern United States," Bell said.

Bell conducted a telephone survey of approximately 1,200 Lumbee Indians in Robeson County to determine the level of health conditions and health behaviors in this area. The study was funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health and Wake Forest University School of Medicine Venture Funds. The surveys were done by local residents trained to collect the information by Bell.

Diabetes is a condition in which the body cannot effectively use blood sugar. About 10 percent of all people with diabetes have "Type 1" diabetes, in which the body no longer produces the insulin it needs to use blood sugar. The other 90 percent have "Type 2" diabetes, where the body has either stopped producing insulin, doesn't produce enough, or no longer properly uses the insulin it produces.

Diabetes is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke, kidney failure, and adult blindness. According to data from the State Center for Health Statistics, Robeson County ranks second among North Carolina's 100 counties in diabetes death rates at 57.3/100,000 population, and third in the state in the amount of money spent on diabetes-related hospitalizations per county resident.

Bell is Lumbee and a native of Robeson County. Bell has been on the faculty at Wake Forest University since 1996. Bell also serves as the epidemiologist for the North Carolina Diabetes Prevention and Control Unit. Contact: Ronny A. Bell, Ph.D., M.S., 336-716-9736, Fax: 336-716-5425.

## Over 4,000 Gather for Annual Lumbee Fall PowWow

Over 4,000 people gathered at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center near Pembroke for the Annual Lumbee Fall PowWow and 1999 Indian Heritage Month celebration. The Old Style PowWow featured a large diversity of American Indian dancers, drummers, arts and crafts.

The event was sponsored by Lumbee Regional Development Association with support from North Carolina Arts Council and the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center.

According to James Hardin, Tribal Manager/Executive Director of LRDA, over \$8,000 in awards money was given to the winners of the dance and drum contests which featured contestants from as far away as Canada and the Southwest. Hardin said, "We had seven drum groups and the largest number of dancers that we have had at any of our powwows. The vendors had an outstanding selection of authentic American Indian arts, crafts and music."

Mr. Hardin said, "We wish to thank the dancers and drummers, and all the participants who helped to make this a very successful event. To see extensive photos of the event and learn more about powwows, please

visit our tribal website at [www.lumbee.org](http://www.lumbee.org).

A highlight of the event was the performance of the Aztec Dancers from Mexico and ceremonies to honor veterans and leaders. A special veterans poem was presented by Kat Littleturtle that told of the soldier's life on the battlefield. A special presentation was made to April Whittemore, former Miss Indian World, and the Lumbee's PowWow's head female dancer, for her leadership in Indian cultural affairs.

Various elected officials made appearances during the event and spoke at the 1999 Indian Heritage Month Kickoff celebration. Limited copies of a special poster designed by Karen Harley, of Haliwa-Saponi tribe, was presented and given away.

Dancers, drummers, and craftspeople journeyed from any parts of the country to take part in the last Lumbee powwow of the millennium. There were large tribal delegations from all about North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. After three days of fellowship intertribal festivities, and competition the winners of the weekend event emerged.



Photos by Mike Clark

## Spiritual Heirs Anniversary Singing

Faith Baptist Church  
Located Between Pembroke & Rowland on Hwy 710  
November 19 & 20, 1999 --- 7:00 pm

Featuring:  
FRIDAY NIGHT  
Faith Baptist Children & Youth Choir  
Spiritual Heirs  
Nadine & Steve  
Lumber River Quartet  
Darrell Luster  
SATURDAY NIGHT  
Faith Baptist Young Adult Choir  
Spiritual Heirs  
Oxendine Quartet  
Crossroads  
Biney English Ministries  
PLATE SALE: 10:00 am -- until  
Chicken & BBQ Plates: \$5.00  
Combinations: \$6.00  
For More Information Contact: Joanne McMillian 521-8125  
No Admission but a love offering will be taken:

## "The Hottest and Sexiest Show on Legs!"

Tap Dogs, the international and award-winning tap dance sensations, will be presented on Tuesday, November 9 at 8:00 pm at the Givens Performing Arts Center on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Tap Dogs is a ninety-minute rough, tough, rocking theatrical entertainment that turns tap dancing upside down. Created by choreographer Dien Perry, Tap Dogs features a cast of some of the best tap dancers from Australia, North America and Europe. Winner of 11 international awards including the Olivier and the Obie, Tap Dogs is the "Hottest and Sexiest show on legs!"