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Lumbee Self Determination Commission to conduct survey

by Connee Brayboy

The Lumbee Self Determination Commission has finalized plans to survey at least 500 members of the Lumbee Tribe to find out if they want tribal government. According to Jim Lowry, Chairman of the 39-member Commission, the consensus of the Commission from public hearings and talking one on one with tribal members, is that the tribe wants tribal government. The Commission agreed to have the survey done and results will be presented at the July meeting. Helping the Commission with the survey will be the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. The survey will be conducted by UNC students and will include the following questions: Do you want a govern-

ment or not? If so, would you like that governmental body elected or appointed? If appointed, who should make the appointments? And do you want to elect the government by districts or at-large?

Lowry and the Commission are of the opinion a referendum on tribal government should be done by survey. Others have a different opinion.

The Commission also agreed to write to Judge Howard Manning who established the Commission and ask him to lower the thirty percent requirement for voter participation.

The Commission met on Saturday, May 6. Ironically on May 5th the Lumbee Tribe of Cheraw Indians filed an appeal with the NC Court of Appeals. They are appealing the Court Order that established the Lumbee Self De-

termination Commission to resolve the issue of government for Lumbee. The plaintiffs in the "Tribal Council vs LRDA" lawsuit also disagrees with the thirty percent requirement.

The Commission also agreed to file a "friend of the court" brief with the Court of Appeals to give the appeals judges a status report on what the Commission is doing and has done.

According to Lowry, the Commission expects to hold an election in November to elect a representative body.

The Commission is comprised of 39 members appointed by Judge Manning who required eight members from both LRDA and the tribal council and additional appointments that he named himself.



Easter Cantata at First Baptist Church of Pembroke

First Baptist Church of Pembroke held its annual Easter Cantata on April 30, 2000. First Baptist Church of Pembroke is located on Union Chapel Road in Pembroke, NC. Kent Chavis is the pastor and Diane Oxendine is the Musical Director. Shown in the photo above are the participants in the Cantata: back row, left to right: Pastor Kent Chavis, Gwen Locklear, Patsy Oxendine, Theresa Locklear, Charles Oxendine, Diane Oxendine, Music Director, Chris Graham, Narrator; front row, left to right: Deb Lowry, Polly Hunt, Doris Chavis, Amira Hunt, Betty Brooks and Ruby Revels.



Madie Rae Locklear is shown turning hot dogs at the Relay for Life fund-raising event for the Cancer Society. Beside her is her daughter Selena Locklear Drakos.



Cancer survivors, relatives, friends and supporters are seen walking around the track at Lumberton High School during the Relay for Life Fund-raiser for the Cancer Society.

Cancer Survivor and daughter among those raising funds for Cancer Society

The Sixth Annual Relay For Life, the fund-raising event for the American Cancer Society was held Friday and Saturday. Cancer survivors and supporters, friends and family members gathered at Lumberton high School's Alton G. Brooks Stadium to participate in the 24-hour team walk-a-thon. As many as 1,000 people gathered as participants walked laps around the track for twenty-four hours.

The event was sponsored to raise funds for cancer research. The Robeson County Health Department worked to raise funds for the drive. It was of particular importance to Selena Locklear Drakos, an employee of the Health Department. Her mother, Madie Rae Locklear, is a cancer survivor. "I know how devastating cancer can be to a family," Drakos said. "I wanted to do my part. I am thankful for the research that has been beneficial to cancer survivors like my mother." Drakos and her mother raised \$1,358.00 for the event. They expressed their appreciation to busi-

nesses and individuals who contributed to the cause.

Madie Rae Locklear was among the estimated 250 cancer survivors who made a ceremonial lap around the track Friday evening. She has reached a mile stone for victims of cancer. She has passed the five year mark necessary for the medical profession to consider you "cured" if you have cancer.

Locklear was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 1995 and underwent a mastectomy. She has had chemotherapy and radiation treatment. She is now considered "cancer free" and gives thanks to God. "Only trust in God and a positive attitude can help one survive cancer," she said. "I thank God for seeing me through this ordeal. I have tried to remain optimistic and positive," she continued. Locklear admits that it is not always easy to be positive and uplifted when you have cancer. She is grateful to Brenda Brooks of Pembroke, a cancer survivor, who has been inspirational for her. "Brenda has been a great inspiration

to me," Locklear said. "Whenever I would get discouraged, I would call her and she was always uplifting and encouraging. I thank God for her availability when I was so desperately in need of someone who knew what I was going through."

Locklear said the number of people who helped her was almost too many to enumerate. "Brenda was especially helpful," she said. "And I will always have fond thoughts of her and Gennie Sutton, a registered nurse. "I could call Gennie and ask her questions about chemotherapy, medicines and treatments, and she was a tremendous help to me."

Locklear and her daughter are looking forward to participating next year in the Relay for Life. They encourage others to contribute to the American Cancer Society in the hope that others will survive cancer. Cancer is a disease, Locklear said, that does not discriminate. It affects all colors, ages, and sizes. She encourages women to have a mammogram yearly. Thus far, she said, early detection is the best treatment for cancer.

Around Ol' Robeson

Last Kaw Indian dies
OMAHA, NEB.-It was surreal but there it was in an AP release: The Last Kaw Indian has died. The last pure-blooded member of the Kaw Nation, the tribe that gave the state of Kansas its name, has died at age 82.

William Mehojah, who died Sunday (April 23) was one of only about 2,500 people on the Kaw National tribal rolls. Most have only a fraction of Kaw blood.

It is a continuing story of betrayal and arrogance on the part of the federal government. Sovereign nations are dying. Progress is over running the Indians. It's sad but would you give up your television and frosted flakes to save the Indians?

An Indian Tribe signs deal with Trump

COACHELLA, CALIF.-It is ironic but the Indians have discovered gold on the reservations that they were once so ignobly forced upon against their wishes. The new gold mines are gambling casinos on federal and sovereign tribal nations.

The Twentynine Palms Band of Mission Indians, 13 in number, have signed a deal with Donald Trump to turn their casino into a \$60 million gambling resort.

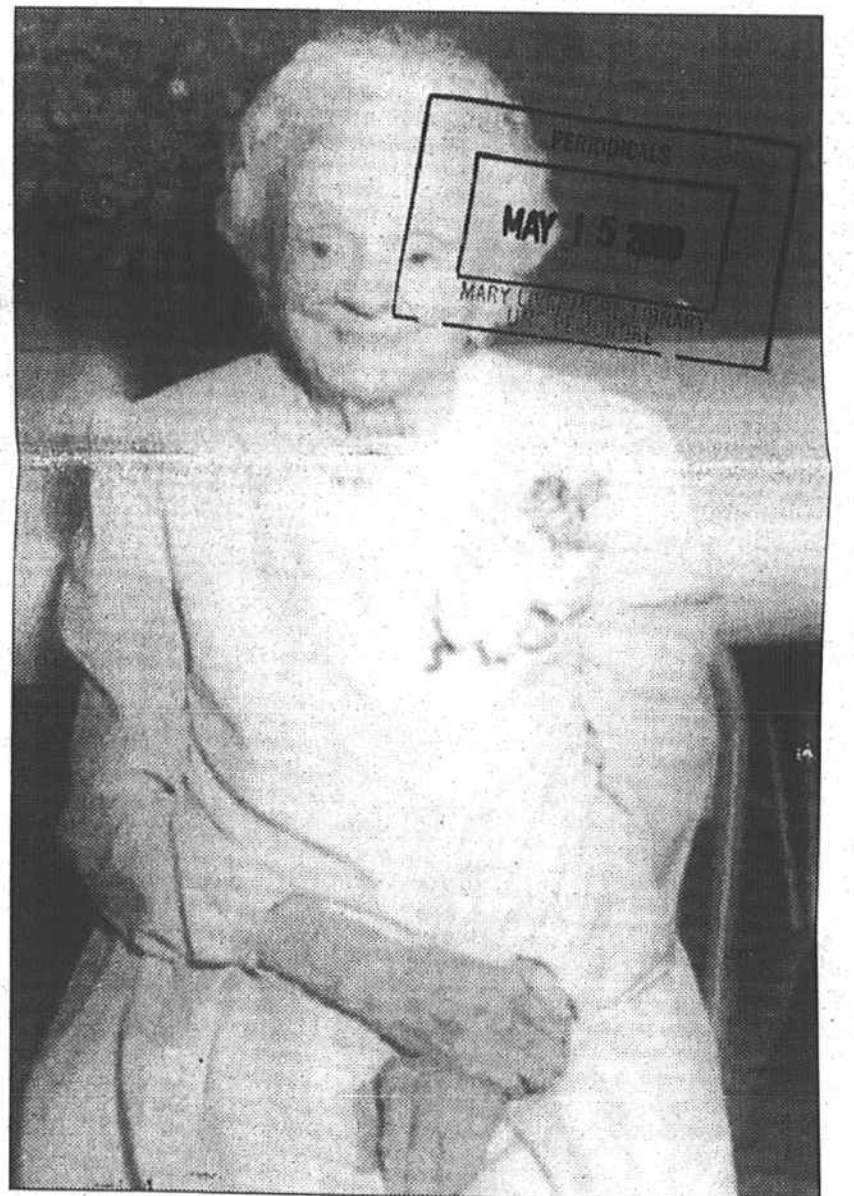
Trump Hotels and Casino Resorts, Inc. will build the operation around the existing Spotlight 29 Casino already owned by the tribe.

It's just irony folks, just irony ... and poetic justice.

Brayboy and Chavis honored at annual meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association

CHAPEL HILL- Robeson County Athletic Director Ronnie Chavis and Tim Brayboy, a Pembroke native and former educator at the state department, were honored at the annual meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association in Chapel Hill last Thursday (May 4).

Chavis was honored as the state athletic director of the year; Brayboy a UNC-P graduate like Chavis, was honored as an all-time contributor for his work in officiating and for his work with middle and junior high athletics.



'Mrs. Fannie Hammonds Blanks Celebrates 105th Birthday

Mrs. Fannie Hammonds Blanks celebrates 105th birthday with her family at Ivanhoe, N.C. on May 5, 2000.

She was born in Lumberton on May 5, 1895 and the wife of the late Hector Blanks of Lumberton, and the daughter of the late Willie Hammonds of Lumberton, who lived to be 103. Mrs. Blanks is the mother of four living children: Naomi Wade of Lumberton; Mrs. Tommie-Gean Brewer of Ivanhoe; Mrs. Evader Durden of Lumberton; and Mrs. Mabee Brewer of Lumberton. She has twelve grandchildren; sixteen great grandchildren, and seven great-great grandchildren.

The honoree lives with her daughter, Mrs. Tommie-Gean. It is believed that Mrs. Blanks is one of the oldest persons in Robeson. She has a keen mind and she remembers the names of all the children.

The following is what the Bible says about long life. Children obey your parents that your days may be long upon the earth. Eph. 6: 1,2&3. Mrs. Blanks was a member of Ten Mile Center Church.

(Photo and Text by Technical SGT. William P. Revels Retired.)

Ten Star All Star Basketball Summer Camp to be held

Final applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. Boys and girls ages 7 - 19 can apply. Players are selected by invitation only. Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill, Bobby Hurley, Antawn Jamison, Christian Laettner, Tom Gugliotta, and Trajan Langdon. Camp locations include: Raleigh, NC, Boiling Springs, NC, Riverside, GA, Babson Park, FL, Atlanta, GA, Champaign, IL, Fort Wayne, IL, Atchison, KS, Georgetown, KY, Northfield, MN, Rochester, NY, North Canton, OH, Commerce, TX, Farmville, VA. College Basketball Scholarships are possible for players named to The All-American Team. For an evaluation form call (704) 372-8610 ANYTIME.



Easter Egg Hunt at Pembroke Public Library

The Pembroke Public Library held an Easter Egg Hunt for the younger patrons on April 19, 2000. Over 30 children participated in this event headed up by Mrs. Mattie Locklear, Head Librarian. Assisted by Jo Tudor, children's librarian, the children enjoyed a story before the Easter Egg Hunt. After the hunt for the 70 eggs everyone was given an Easter treat from the Pembroke Public Library.