

## Purnell Swett files to represent District 13 on Tribal Government

Purnell Swett, former Superintendent of the Public Schools of Robeson County, has filed for a seat on the Lumbee Tribal Government, representing District 13.

In making his announcement, Swett released the following statement:

"I am offering my candidacy to represent District 13 in the November 7 election for a representative body to establish Lumbee Tribal Government. I will bring to this position many years of leadership experience on the local, state and federal level. I believe my varied experience will afford me the opportunity to work in harmony with the other elected members for the benefit of all tribal members. I will support the establishment of a tribal recognition committee to continue the efforts toward gaining federal recognition. I believe my experience

working at the federal level will allow me to have a positive influence in the recognition process.

"My wife Annette and I reside in Boiling Spring Lakes, located in Brunswick County, NC. I am a retired educator with forty years experience at the local, state and federal level. Presently I work part time as a Realtor with Century 21 Dorothy Essey and Associates in Southport, NC.

"The establishment of a Lumbee Tribal Government will require much hard work and dedication. It requires a commitment to work together with other elected officials to bring about a peaceful and smooth transition as we work together to provide for the future of our children and grandchildren."

District 13 includes all of Cumberland County, Pender, Brunswick, Bladen and New Hanover Counties.



Purnell Swett



Larry Townsend

## "Chief Iron Bear" files for Tribal Chairman

"Chief Iron Bear" Harold Collins, owner of the Pembroke Powerhouse has filed for Tribal Chairman. Collins is a 1975 graduate of Red Springs High School and earned a degree in Welding and Carpentry in 1978 from Robeson Community College.

Collins holds the title of "The world's strongest Native American." Other achievements include: 1989 Power lifting Champion; three times United States National Power-lifting Champion, 1991, 1992, 1993; Congressional Recognition by Congressman Charlie Rose in 1994; two-time Gold Medalists in the World's Bench Press in 1991 and 1992; and "Chief Iron Bear" day was established by the Town of Pembroke June 23, 1989.

In 1994 Collins was entered into the Guinness Book of World Records as the only man to pull seven semi-tractor trucks at one time. In 1995 Collins' picture was presented to Governor Jim Hunt and was hung in the governor's office. In 1998 Collins served as Grand Marshal for the Lumbee Homecoming Parade in Pembroke.

In 1999 Chief Iron Bear broke a Guinness Book of World Records by pulling 50,433 pounds 160 feet in 44 seconds. This event was filmed by EXTRA television show on November 3rd.

"Chief Iron Bear" has set numerous records in the World's Strongest Man Contest. These competitions have been shown on ESPN Nero Sports, the BBC, Hungary T.V., Russian T.V., NBC, and CBS World's Strongest Man Competition.

In addition, Collins holds the Bench Press Record in two weight classes, 275@601 lbs and Super Heavyweight @ 633 lbs. These records were set in 1984 and have never been broken.

Collins has made numerous appearance for charities, including the March of Dimes. In one event he bench pressed 10,000 dollars in dimes and raised \$100,000 at \$10,000 a rep for the March of Dimes.

He raised \$3,000 by pulling two semi-trucks 1 1/2 miles in Lumberton, NC in the "Pull for Life" event held for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

During Lumbee Homecoming in 1997 in Pembroke he raised \$1800 to purchase a wheelchair for a child. He also raised \$10,000 for the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center by auctioning off the Lumbee Shoe created and designed by him in a joint partnership with Converse Shoe Manufacturer.

Collins owns and operates Pembroke Powerhouse Gym where he developed a youth program where he works hand-in-hand with the schools and parents to help meet the needs of

the students.

His personal appearances in his "Say No To Drugs" Campaign have been numerous. They include appearances in the public schools in North and South Dakota, Arizona, Texas, North Carolina, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Russia and Lithuania.

Collins was born in 1957 of Native American parents Redell and Evelyn Collins of Shannon, NC. His family's religious affiliation is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He was raised in a small farming community with his seven sisters and two brothers where as a little boy he dreamed of becoming a power-lifter. Collins and his fiancé Trisha Carter, have a daughter, Cheyenne Alexis Collins, 24 months old, and a step daughter Crystal Carter, 16 years old.

Said Collins: "My objective as Chief of the Lumbee Cheraw is to work diligently, encouraging and motivating my people to become strong leaders in their native land. We must bond together as proud people paving a path for our native youth without boundaries. I will strive to encourage unity and instill pride in an effort to preserve and ensure the Lumbee Cheraw heritage and recognition. I will serve as a voice for all Lumbee Cheraw, encouraging and grasping the vision of our forefathers: honesty promoting togetherness."



The winners of the First Annual Lumbee Tribe's Ambassador Charity Golf Tournament are shown left to right: Michael Buxley, William E. Locklear, Clyde Jacobs, and Joe Locklear.

## First Annual Lumbee Tribe's Ambassador Charity Golf Tournament is Successful

Lumbee Regional Development Association sponsored the First Annual Lumbee Tribe's Ambassador Charity Golf Tournament on Thursday, September 21, 2000 at Riverside Golf Course. Proceeds from the event were used to assist Miss North Carolina Lorna McNeill and the 2000-2001 reigning Lumbee queens. The entry fee was \$200 per foursome and included 18 holes of golf. Many individual also played for an entry fee of \$50.

A check for \$3000 was presented to Miss McNeill by LRDA Board Chairman Leroy Freeman and Executive Director James Hardin earlier in

the week.

LRDA supports Miss North Carolina Lorna McNeill who is a former Miss Lumbee. She is the first American Indian to hold the title of Miss North Carolina. She served as Miss Lumbee in 1994 and will represent the State of North Carolina at the Miss America Pageant October 14, 2000. She will be leaving today, September 28, for the Miss America Pageant. LRDA officials wish her great success and many of them will travel to the pageant to offer their support.

LRDA wishes to express their gratitude to the players, sponsors and all participants of the Tournament.

## Larry Townsend Seeks District 6 Seat as Tribal Representative

Larry Townsend has filed to represent District 6 (North Pembroke) in the soon to be established Lumbee Government. Townsend is a Facility Technician with BellSouth/Southern Bell Telephone Company. He is married to the former Rose Marie Lowry and they reside on Deese Road in Pembroke.

Townsend released the following statement:

"If elected to the Lumbee Tribal Government, I will endeavor to work with fellow elected tribal members to achieve full Federal Recognition, continued economic development, and to build a more cohesive tribe. I will strive to help develop a constitution that will be inclusive rather than exclusive.

"We must be ever diligent to protect our heritage, our culture and our way of life as a people while striving

to protect our identity as an indigenous people. What we do and how we vote in the November 7th, 2000 election will be very profound and will have long lasting effects on present tribal members and future generations of our people yet to come.

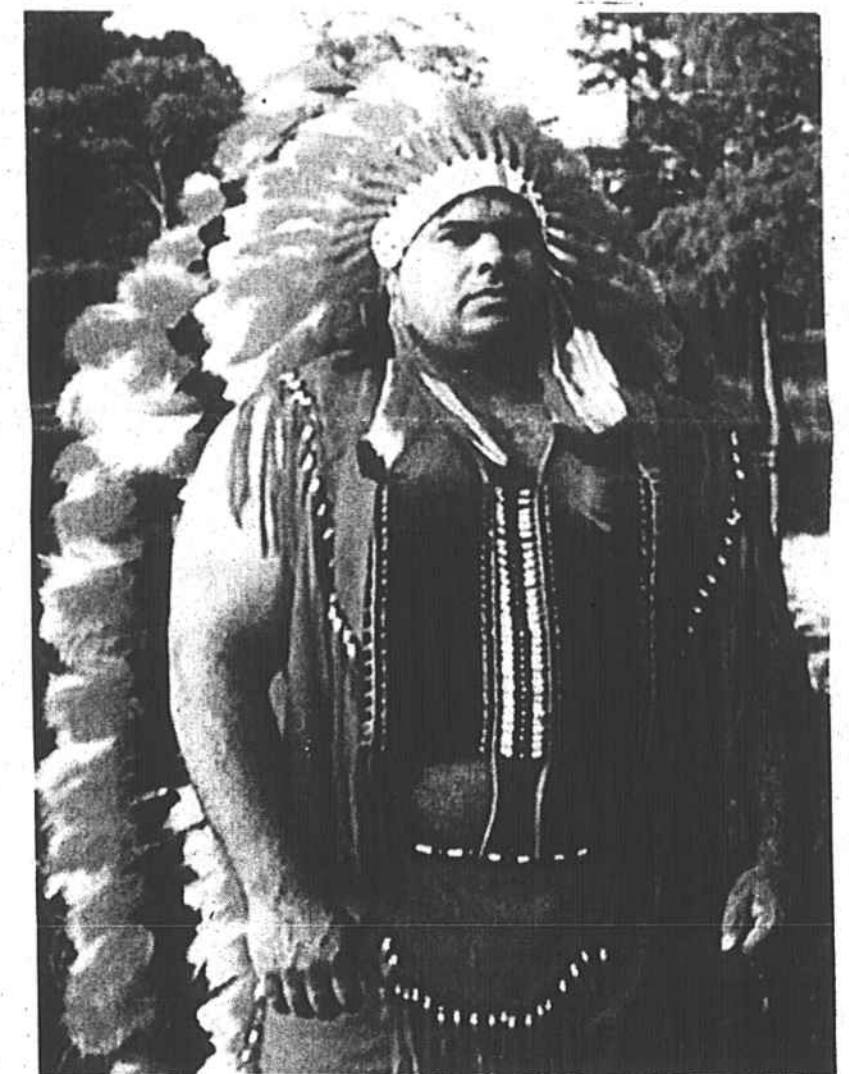
"The administration of our tribe and the development of a constitution will require our new leaders to listen, respond, and implement the wishes of individual tribal members while simultaneously protecting the well being of our entire tribe.

"Proven leadership is a must for our new Lumbee Tribal Government. My leadership, skills and abilities on local, state and national issues show that I possess the necessary needed skills to help form an effective Lumbee Tribal Government."

"I need you help, I need you support. I need your vote on November 7th."

## Native American Dance Classes held at Cultural Center

Native American Dance classes are being held at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center on Tuesday nights from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. All ages are welcome to attend. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact the Cultural Center at 910-521-2433.



The World's Strongest Native American, "Chief Iron Bear" Harold Collins

## Peggy W. Chavis Files for District 9 Seat on Lumbee Tribal Government



A resident of the Saddletree Community-Peggy W. Chavis- has announced her candidacy for District 9 (Saddletree and West Howellsville) as a representative of the new Lumbee Tribal Government.

Mrs. Chavis, 3635 W. McDuffie Crossing in Lumberton, is married to Robert Lee Chavis. They are the proud parents of two children, Robert Jr. and Wendy. Peggy is the daughter of Elkins Wilkins and the late Sallie O. Wilkins also of Saddletree.

Chavis graduated from Magnolia High School. She received her Associate Art Degree from Southeastern Community College, a BS Degree from

Pembroke State University. Also she has a Special Education Degree from East Carolina.

Mrs. Chavis taught in Columbus County as the Hospital/Home bound Teacher for six years. She is employed by the Public Schools of Robeson County as the Homebound Teacher. She taught at Magnolia High School for 11 1/2 years. She helped start the Hospital/Homebound Program here in Robeson County. She is a teacher of 28 years. She also taught Adult High School for Robeson Community College for 8 years (Shannon Fire Department and Magnolia School).

Chavis served as the "Vice Chairperson" of the Robeson County Democratic Party. Appointed by Gov. Hunt and served on the Board of Directors for the Robeson County Department of Social Services. She was chosen as "Teacher of the Year" for Magnolia School. She was a candidate in the "Teacher in Space Program". She does a great deal of marketing and research for various companies. As a marketing person, Mrs. Chavis was one of the two people chosen in the United States to be honored.

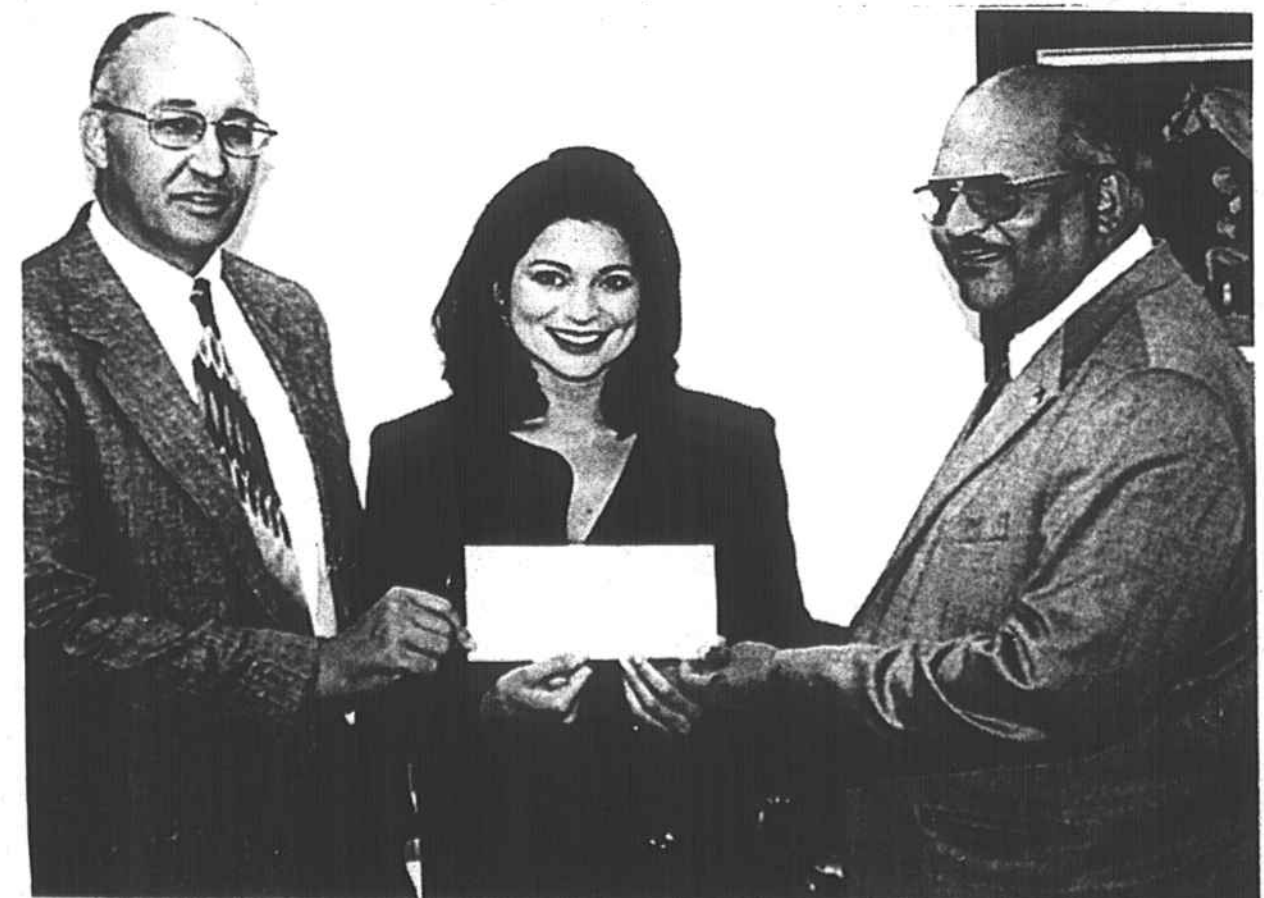
Peggy and Robert are farmers of the Saddletree Community. They op-

erate a poultry farm and she is the owner of JR's Mobile Home Park.

"I am running INDEPENDENT for the people, with no ties of any organization." I will represent our people and what is best for their welfare. "I make no promises to anyone, but I pledge to serve and work with the newly elected Lumbee Tribal Government Representatives in developing and maintaining a government for all the people. I will support and fight for equality for all the Lumbee Indian People not just a chosen few. "TOGETHER WE STAND BUT DIVIDED WE FALL."

"As a committee of 24 representatives, we must put the people of our tribe FIRST. As a team we must work together. As a goal for a brighter tomorrow for the Lumbee Indians, I will strive to bring federal recognition, better housing, education, and affordable health care for the Lumbee People and strive to work with our local and state officials. If I am elected, I will work hard for issues that affect our tribe.

"Please go to your poll on Nov. 7, and vote PEGGY W. CHAVIS as a start of a new beginning for the Lumbee People."



Shown right is James Hardin, executive director of LRDA. He and LRDA Board Chairman Leroy Freeman are shown presenting a check for \$3000 to Miss North Carolina, Lorna McNeill. Ms. McNeill served as Miss Lumbee in 1994. Funds were raised at the Lumbee Tribe's First Annual Ambassador's Charity Golf Tournament held at the NC Indian Cultural Center on September 21st. The event was sponsored by LRDA.