

Bruce Jenner to speak at UNCP January 9

PEMBROKE, N.C.— Olympic hero Bruce Jenner will speak at the Givens Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Mr. Jenner will answer questions from the public from 8:30 - 9 p.m. and be available to the press at 9 p.m. for 30 minutes. His appearance is part of UNC Pembroke's Distinguished Speaker Series.

Admission is \$5 and free to students. Mr. Jenner, who captivated the world's attention winning the gold medal in 1976 in the Decathlon, gives audiences a motivational message. He recently published the book, "Finding the Champion Within," which is step-by-step plan for self-improvement in all areas of life.

He has written several other books, including "The Decathlon Challenge: The Bruce Jenner Story" and Bruce Jenner's Viewer Guide to the Olympics." He has made numerous venture appearances on TV, including sports commentary and in dramatic roles.

Mr. Jenner has been a spokesman for many company's products. His latest business venture with his wife Kris is a series of health and fitness products.

The Distinguished Speaker Series continues Feb. 14 with Julian Bond and Oliver North on April 10.

Hope to see you there. Call if you have questions.

Local Task Force Meeting Held December 14

The Robeson County Syphilis Elimination Task Force met December 14, 2000 at Robeson County Department of Public Health. The Task Force was formed in February of 2000 to combat the spread of syphilis in Robeson County, which currently has more cases than any other county in North Carolina.

The Purpose of the meeting was to organize the Task Force around specific recommendations for syphilis prevention. The Task Force formed subcommittees based on prioritized recommendations from community leaders and members. The subcommittees are: Education, Collaboration,

Social Marketing and Mobile Van Acquisition.

The Task Force is currently seeking new members. It is not necessary to become a member in order to support syphilis elimination efforts. Suggestions can be made to members of the task force; and members of the community are free to attend task force meetings. If you are interested in participating in any way, please contact Susan Sheets, RN at (910) 671-3218 or Lumbee Davis at (919) 733-9557. The next meeting is January 16, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. at the Robeson County Department of Public Health.

Light refreshments will be served.

Pembroke BPW continues to promote women and children

The Pembroke Business and Professional Women's Organization continues to make strong efforts in promoting and supporting women and children.

Myron Chavis, staff attorney of the Lumbee River Legal Services, spoke to the organization concerning practice in the field of law, as she promoted her career in sharing the awards received and the hard work she experiences. Ms. Chavis attended the University of Greensboro and received her law degree at Carolina in 1998. She has been practicing law for one and one half years.

December 8, the organization sponsored a dance at the Pembroke JC Hunt in which the proceeds will provide scholarships for female students who desire to pursue their college education.

Members and their guests also attended a Christmas dinner at Adelio's and collected money to assist two ladies within the Pembroke area who needed financial assistance.

Dr. Felicia Turner will be the guest speaker for the organization's February 5, 2001 monthly meeting.

The organization encourages those who are interested in its purpose and goals and wish to attend any meetings or join to please contact president Marie Moore at 521-4421.

Town of Pembroke Honors Fire Department Volunteers

To get in the middle of the night or early hours in the morning, leaving your family and warm house, takes much devotion and great concern for the people in general. Individuals involved in this scenario rescue victims of fire hazards and tragedies as people are in constant danger of losing their homes, their lives, and even their love ones. What greater love can anyone show to a person in need, especially when these concerned individuals perform such hazardous tasks without pay?

As a way to express appreciation for the volunteer workers of the Pembroke Fire Department, the town of Pembroke provided an annual dinner to the workers Friday, December 22 at the fire department.

"They're here quickly. They are no problem; they work well and they're devoted," stated fire chief, Ray Hunt.

Master of ceremony and assistant fire chief, Earl Demery, welcomed everyone and shared how the volunteers of the fire department gave much of themselves to protect so many lives from fires engulfing homes, lives and property. As with any other business, team, or group, individuals are recognized for their diligent efforts and meaningful sacrifices they demonstrate beyond the call of duty. Mayor, Milton Hunt, along with Mr. Demery, presented a prestigious plaque to captain, McDuffie Cummings Jr. for his devotion and knowledge of the fire department procedures and policies. First responder, Worth Lewis, also received recognition with a plaque for his devotion to the fire department. Others who were recognized for their dedication included: Sharon

Jacobs, Robert Jones, Steven Hunt, Danny Locklear, Robert Locklear, Katisha Oxendine, Teresa Carter, Charles Maynor, and Kevin Lowry.

Evans Crossings fire chief Monford Dial attended the special event and was also recognized for his unselfish assistance to the Pembroke Fire Department.

Also, at noon, the town employees were also honored for their hard work and dedication with a lunch with honored guests- Judge Dexter Brooks, the ABC board, commissioner, Noah Woods, and attorneys, Arnold Locklear, Arlie Jacobs, Grady Hunt, Brian Brooks, and Mark Locklear. Mayor, Milton Hunt thanked everyone for their time and dedication for devoted their time and profession as they worked for the town of Pembroke.

The town employees honored included: town manager, McDuffie Cummings, councilmen, Larry McNeil, Allen Giffen Dial, Gregory Cummings, and Larry Brooks, and Bartle Bell, Jerry Brooks, Royal Bryant, Phillip Bullard, Leavira Chavis, Robert Chavis, Charles Cummings, Christopher Cummings, Earnest Demery, Amy Dial, Hoarace Dial, Karen Dial, Grant Florita, Garry Harris, Frank Hernandez, Adrian Hunt, Dwayne Hunt, Ray Hunt, Winifred Jacobs, Patricia Lambert, Dosta Locklear Jr., Edward Locklear, Rhonda Locklear, Rosevelt Locklear, Charles Maynor, Amans Oxendine, Mary Pevia, Victor Ransom, Billy Revels, Calvin Sampson, Teresa Scott, Fannie Strickland, Jo Ann Strickland, Ronald Strickland, Stephen Strickland, and Sebastian Veneziano.

By Yvonne Barnes Dial



First Baptist holds Dedication for new Fellowship Hall

First Baptist Church of Pembroke, 308 Union Chapel Road, Pembroke, NC held its dedication service for the new Fellowship Hall on December 10, 2000. The service was conducted by the Rev. Kent Chavis with special guest speaker Dr. Mike Cummings, President of the NC Baptist State Convention. Shown in the photo for the presentation of the keys to the Church is (left to right) Charles Oxendine, Chairman of the Building Committee, Tim Bell of Certified Construction, Contractor, and Rev. Kent Chavis, Pastor.

"Atomic Veterans" can acquire free VA benefits

WASHINGTON (Dec. 29, 2000) - "It's about time....." That's how the leader of the nation's largest veterans organization reacted today to regulations to be proposed by Acting Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Hershel Gober that would make it easier for "atomic veterans" to acquire free-of-charge VA health care and disability compensation.

Certain veterans suffering from cancer of the bone, brain, lung, colon or ovary would be presumed to be ailing from exposure to ionizing radiation related to military service, which means veterans with those diagnoses would have easier time proving they are eligible for benefits.

Currently, "atomic veterans" are those who participated in atmospheric nuclear tests conducted in the 1940's, '50s and '60s or were held captive in Japan or participated in the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But under the new rules, VA would also recognize those who were at underground tests in Alaska and those who were assigned to certain nuclear weapons plants in Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee.

"It's about time the government stop forcing these veterans to fight two wars- one for freedom and the other for the benefits they earned," American Legion National Commander Ray G. Smith said.

"Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation have been through hell,

working hard to prove their illness are service-connected while suffering from the gave scars of their sacrifice. I commend Acting Secretary Gober for doing the right thing for veterans as the administration also reaches out to sick civilians who manufactured America's nuclear arsenals."

The new rules would extend eligibility for benefits to those exposed to radiation connected to underground nuclear tests at Amchitka Island, Alaska, prior to 1974, and at gaseous diffusion plants in Paducah, Ky.; Portsmouth, Ohio; and Oak Ridge, Tenn. (area K25). "Conspicuously missing is the nuclear facility at Hanford, Washington, which has had a long history of radiation problems," Smith said, recommending it added to the list. "Civilians at these plants are also eligible under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990 for diseases related to exposure to beryllium and silica. VA should apply the same standards to veterans who served on active duty at these plants."

The American Legion successfully represented a major claimant: Orville E. Kelly, who in 1979 was awarded disability compensation by the VA for his radiation-linked cancer. The landmark case set the stage for the awarding of benefits to thousands of "atomic veterans."

Students may become legislators for a weekend during 2001 Youth Legislative Assembly

If you are a high school student, here's your chance for your opinions to be heard by North Carolina's government leaders. N.C. students in grades 9-12 are invited to become "legislators for a weekend" during the 2001 Youth Legislative Assembly (YLA) March 16-18.

Space is limited for the 31st annual mock assembly, which is expected to attract approximately 250 students from throughout the state. Feb. 2 is the registration deadline.

YLA will meet at the Radisson Governors Inn in the Research Triangle Park, beginning with a general session at noon Friday, March 16, and concluding midday Sunday, March 18. The \$160 student registration fee includes overnight accommodations for two nights (four students to a room), five meals, a T-shirt and all conference materials.

During the assembly, participants will meet with one of 10 assigned

committees: children and family, civil rights, constitutional and government affairs, criminal justice, education, environment, health affairs, human sexuality, substance abuse, and youth affairs. The young legislators are expected to write, debate and vote on a number of bills, including one prohibiting the use of cell phones while operating an automobile and another proposing a five-year moratorium on capital punishment in North Carolina. A final report will be forwarded to the governor and other state leaders.

YLA is sponsored annually by the Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office (YAIO) in the N.C. Department of Administration.

To register or for more information, visit YAIO's Web site (<http://www.doa.state.nc.us/da/yai/>) or contact Reginald Ronald Holley, YLA coordinator, Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office, (919) 733-9296.



McIntyre Sworn in for Third Term as Member of Congress

Washington, DC— Congressman Mike McIntyre was sworn in today as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 10th Congress. McIntyre was re-elected to North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District in November with 70% of the vote.

Congressman McIntyre stated, "I am very honored and thankful for the opportunity to represent the citizens of southeastern North Carolina. With the close margin between the parties in both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate, it will be critical that we dedicate ourselves to working together to solve the challenges that we face. This is an exciting time to be involved in public service, and I look forward to enacting common-sense, responsible legislation that reflects

the values of the families of our region. I encourage Seventh District residents to continue staying in touch with me and letting me know their thoughts on the many issues before us. And please pray for our family, my staff, and me as we seek to build a solid foundation for the future of the families of southeastern North Carolina."

McIntyre's Washington office has moved to Suite 228 of the historic Cannon House Office Building. He also has district offices in Fayetteville, Lumberton, and Wilmington, as well as a mobile unit that travels the entire Seventh District.

Congressman McIntyre moves up in seniority on both the House Agriculture and Armed Services Committees.

Lumber River COG Receives Youth Opportunity Grant

The Lumber River Council of Governments, in its dedication to providing services throughout Robeson County, has received a Youth Opportunity grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The mission of the Lumber River Youth Opportunity Project is to develop and implement comprehensive strategies that will provide a systematic approach for improving education, training and workforce development opportunities, and allow the youth to acquire skills and develop a heightened sense of community responsibility, service and citizenship.

The Youth Opportunity Program is designed to meet the needs of youth from ages 14-21 that live in the South/West Lumberton area. This area has been designated as an enterprise zone by the U.S. Department of Labor. An enterprise zone has been established to meet the needs of communities that are considered to need the most assistance in areas such as education,

job training, and literary development. The Youth Opportunity Program can provide services for those who have not received a high school diploma that may wish to continue their education. Other services such as job training and placement, recreation, community service, and guidance/counseling will be offered.

The future site of the Youth Opportunity Center will be located in the south Lumberton area, which is expected to open in February. This center will provide a computer lab along with full time youth specialists that will assess and provide productive services to meet the needs of the youth that enroll in the program. A classroom will be provided in the center for Robeson Community College to conduct tutoring, GED, and High School Diploma programs.

If you are interested in learning more about our services, please contact a Lumberton Youth Opportunity Specialist at the Lumber River Council of Governments Office: (910) 618-5533.



Left-Pembroke Fire Department captain, McDuffie Cummings Jr., first responder, Worth Lewis, fire chief, Ray Hunt, chief assistant, Earl Demery, town manager, McDuffie Cummings, and mayor, Milton Hunt.