

## 26th Annual Indian Unity Conference Planned for March 14-17 in Fayetteville

The Board of Directors United Tribes of North Carolina would like to invite you, your family, and friends to join us for the 26th Annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference on Wednesday - Saturday, March 14 - 17, 2001 at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux Conference Center, Fayetteville, North Carolina. This is one of the most educational, informational, exciting, and successful American Indian conferences in the country. More than 600 people from every Indian community in the state and from other cities, reservations, and communities throughout the country will be in attendance during the three and one-half days of the Conference. Indian and non-Indians are invited and are welcome to attend the Conference.

The Conference will begin officially for the general public on Wednesday, March 14 with registration during the day and a Pow-Wow in the evening from 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm. On Thursday and Friday, March 15 and 16, there will be several exciting and informative broad subject panels. These will include such relevant topics as Indian economic development, Indian housing, Indian education focusing on the Indian teacher shortage and financial aid for students, Indian self-determination, and tribal sovereignty.

More workshops will include Indian art as a business for the artists as well as for the preservation of the native culture, Indian business devel-

opment and employment, substance abuse and various other health issues that affect Indian people disproportionately to other populations, the 2000 Census and special issues relative to the elders and youth.

Other major activities of the Conference will include the 11th Annual NC Native American Juried Art Show, a Native American Quilt Competition which includes Native artists from kindergarten - adults, a literary competition, a scholarship competition for 6-10 \$500. Scholarships, A Gospel Singing on Thursday evening - March 15 featuring some of the best music in the state and nation.

As always, a highlight of the Indian Unity Conference is the Awards and Recognition Banquet on Friday evening - March 16 beginning at 6:30 pm. During the banquet, several people from throughout our tribal and urban communities will be honored in business, education, community service and as a youth and elder. This year, we will add one new award to recognize someone from the professional fields - such as law, medicine and other health related careers, etc. The banquet will be followed by a dance.

There will be many other activities for young and old alike including several general assemblies that will feature outstanding speakers - one

of whom ~~we hope~~ will be our new governor, the Honorable Mike Easley. A Recognition Breakfast on Saturday morning, March 17 from 8:00 am - 11:00 am will close out the Conference.

A major addition to the Conference this year will be the Indian Arts and Crafts Market to be held on Wednesday, March 14 from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux Conference Center. The Indian Arts and Crafts Market is co-sponsored by United Tribes of North Carolina, the North Carolina Arts Council and the Economic Development and Employment Committee of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs. We have mailed information about the Market to every Indian artist - visual, performing and crafts - in North Carolina and the eastern United States for which we have addresses. If anyone is interested in receiving information and/or being a part of the Market, please call Jane Jacobs at (910) 592-3541.

For additional information about the Conference including registration, hotel accommodations, scholarships, the Juried Art Exhibit, and the non-~~Juried~~ Art Competition, Quilt and Literacy Competition, etc. - please call Gladys Hunt, President of United Tribes of North Carolina (910) 483-8442 or contact your Tribal office, Urban Indian Center, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs or other Indian organization.

## A Report to the People by Representative Ron Sutton

Representative Ron Sutton of Pembroke and other lawmakers have kicked off the 144th Session of the North Carolina General Assembly. Rep. Sutton joined 119 other House members from across the state to take the oath of office, vote for House leadership positions and adopt rules.

"I'm excited to be part of the first legislative session of the millennium," Rep. Sutton said. "It's going to be a challenging year, but I believe we can work together to accomplish the things our constituents sent us here to do."

The 2001 session of the General Assembly opened with the usual pomp and ceremony. But the suspense over the election of a Speaker of the House evaporated before most of the 120 members of the House had settled into their seats.

Jim Black, a Democrat, won a second term to the most powerful position in the House after Republican leader Leo Daughtry withdrew. Legislators and their guests in the House gallery sighed audibly when Daughtry took himself out of the race.

Rep. Sutton played a prominent role in the opening festivities when he seconded the nomination of Jim Black for Speaker.

"Speaker Black called me last week and asked if I would second his nomination and I agreed to do so," said Rep. Sutton. It is always considered an honor to be chosen for such events.

Insiders and the public at large place special emphasis on the role individual members are asked to play in such formalities. This year was especially sensitive as the decision as to who would be Speaker was undecided until the very last.

"I was pleased and very honored to show our local delegation's support for Jim Black by seconding his nomination for Speaker," said Rep. Sutton.

The last-minute development ended weeks of rumors, speculation and gossip. The hottest rumor swirling through the crowded Legislative Building had President George W. Bush calling republican members of the N.C. House to discuss the speaker's race. But the rumor apparently was just that. No one could name any Republicans who received a call.

Black was elected unanimously by agreeing to share some of the power. The GOP will have equal representation on the committees that re-draw U.S. House and legislative districts and republicans will be named to chair some House committees.

Bipartisan cooperation was a major theme in Black's speech after he on a second term.

"Citizens want their elected officials to spend less time fussing and fighting, and more time working together to make our state and nation better places to live," Black said. "I

share that goal, and I hope you do, too."

Democrats hold a narrow, 62-58 majority in the House.

"With the Democratic and Republican numbers as close as they are, we must learn to live together and share power," Black said. "That's what I've tried to do over the past two years, and that's what I pledge to continue over the next two years."

House Speaker Pro Tem Joe Hackney of Chapel Hill was re-elected to a second term in the House's number two position.

Lawmakers face a challenging agenda in the upcoming session.

As they begin writing the budget, legislators are dealing with the possibility of having no money for any new or expanded programs, the financial picture could grow more dismal as the current budget year draws to a close.

Governor Mike Easley has ordered a freeze on state hiring and taken other steps to close a possible shortfall of \$500 million in the current budget. Lower-than-expected tax collections and rising costs for Medicaid and other programs are fueling the shortfall.

Both Black and Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight said lawmakers must find ways to reduce state spending.

"Every office in every department and agency must be ready to justify its budget," Black said.

## Free Health Screenings planned

Free health screenings will be held Friday, February 23 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Rennett Fire Station, 9896 Rennett Road in Rennett. Checks to total cholesterol/HDL, blood pressure, and blood sugar will be offered to all adults, 18 years and older. Only one finger stick is required. Results are available in five minutes. These free screens are sponsored by the Robeson County Partnership for Community Health. Call 671-5595 for more information.

## Lifestyle Fitness Center offers swim lessons

Swim lessons will be offered at Southeastern Lifestyle Center for Fitness and Rehabilitation, 4895 Fayetteville Road in Lumberton beginning Monday, February 5, 2001. Lessons will be available for infant/toddler, beginner, intermediate, and adult beginner. Cost is \$20 for members of the Center and \$40 for non-members. Call 738-5433 for more information.

## American Red Cross plans Valentine's Dance

The Robeson County Chapter of the American Red Cross is planning a Valentine's Dance for Friday, February 9 from 8 p.m. until 12 midnight. Refreshments will be served. Bring your sweetheart and enjoy this fund raising event. Tickets

are \$15.00 per couple or \$10 per person. The event will be held at the Southeastern Agricultural Center Farmer's Market, 1-74, Lumberton, NC. For further information call 910-521-3640.

## Indian Arts and Crafts Market to begin with Unity Conference

The North Carolina Indian Arts and Crafts Market 2001 - a new approach to giving exposure to our Native American artists - will be held Wednesday, March 14, 2001 at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux Convention Center, Fayetteville, NC. The Market, which will allow Native American artists and performers to share their talents and their art with organizations and business representatives who are "shopping" for programs and products, is open for participation by all Native American artists in North and South Carolina and to artists living in other states who were born in North Carolina.

The Indian Arts and Crafts Market, the opening activity of the 26th Annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference, will begin with Registration at 10 a.m. on Wednesday and end with an Artists Reception and Showcase Performance of Native Talent from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. All Native American artists of North and South Carolina and those living in other states who are natives of North Carolina are invited to participate.

The Indian arts and Crafts Market offers a tremendous opportunity for the artists to bring their art form to audiences from across the state. The One day event hopes to attract "shoppers" from local arts councils, performing arts venues, public schools, colleges and universities, fairs

and festivals, art galleries, museums and gift shops, multi-cultural, economic development and business organizations and corporations. The overall goal is to bring artist and "shop," those looking for Indian art to purchase and/or employ on a one-time or long term basis, together so that they can work together as future partners. Some organizations/individuals will be looking for exciting Native American programs for their stage. Some will be looking for Indian art to display in their galleries, museums or schools. Others may be interested in buying artwork right on the spot or placing an order or looking at marketing possibilities.

This new and exciting Showcase and Exhibition for North Carolina Native American artists will have something of interest for every artist and audience alike. Co-sponsored by the United Tribes of North Carolina, the North Carolina Arts Council and the Economic Development and Employment Committee of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, this Market is open to the public. We encourage your attendance. For more information or an application, please contact the United Tribes of North Carolina program coordinator, Jane Jacobs, at (910) 592-3541 or E-mail: janejacobs.48@hotmail.com or you may call your local tribal organization.



## New Funeral Home Coming to area

James B. Locklear and his grandson, Rev. Windell Locklear are shown standing in front of the future home of Midway Funeral Home. The facility will be opening soon and is located on Highway 501 at the Cross Road known as Midway-Rayhnam Road.

## Pembroke Lions Club meets

The Pembroke Lions Club held their monthly meeting at the Lumbee Restaurant on Monday, January 15, 2001 at 7 p.m. Lion President John W. (Ned) Sampson called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lion Stacy Locklear. The Invocation was by Lion Welton Lowry.

Lion Sampson informed the club that the white cane drive (t.v. raffle) was a success. Also the Pembroke Lions Club Calendars are presently being distributed in the community.

In other business plans were initiated for the annual Barbecue plate sale.

The Pembroke Club had as guests the Governor of District 31F, Lion Hamilton Slate, as well as the Vice District Governor, Lion Earl Davis. The District Governor spoke to the Club on the various Lion civic activities that contribute to the well being of the sight and hearing impaired. In his speech he stressed the goals and achievements of Lions. An example

was cited of a club who purchased a Braille Hymnal to enable a person to sing along with the church congregation. The Club was told that there is a Vision Van that can be reserved and brought to the community to do free eye exams. Camp Dogwood was described by Lion Slate as being a 49 acre campground on Lake Norman, where sight impaired adults can attend and participate in a variety of water sports such as fishing. Lion Slate also explained the type of training that a blind person must go through with a leader dog or seeing eye dog before the blind person can be assigned a leader dog.

There were three charter members of the Pembroke Lions Club present at the meeting. They are: Lions Welton Lowry, Vincent Lowry and John W. (Ned) Sampson. District Governor Slate and the club paid tribute to these members for their years of loyalty and dedication to the Pembroke Club. Each of the above members were given pins of distinction.

## Lumbee Tribal Council holds first organizational meeting

PEMBROKE-The Tribal Council of the Lumbee Nation held its first organizational meeting in Pembroke Saturday morning, and most of the morning was taken up with wrangling over organization and rules of decorum. With Chairman Milton R. Hunt presiding, the meeting was held at the Burnt Swamp Baptist Building.

The council decided that it would count the January meeting, on the last Saturday in the month, as the Annual Meeting of the tribal council.

One of the first orders of business was a decision to name other officers, including a vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, chaplain and parliamentarian. Named to the annual posts were: Delton Oxendine, vice-chairman; Danita Locklear, treasurer; Rosa Revels Winfree, secretary; Rev. Steve Locklear, chaplain; and Traci Locklear Guerra, parliamentarian. Seven committees, and respective chairmen, were also chosen to begin the legislative journey that will, hopefully, result in a constitution and, eventually, federal recognition. Rev. Jimmy Hunt was named chairman of the housing committee; and heading various other committees were: Darlene Jacobs, public relations; Linda Hammonds, constitution; federal recognition, Rod Locklear; health and human resources, Randall S. Jones; personnel/transition, Lonnie Revels Jr. and finance, Larece Hunt.

The meeting went reasonably well, except for some heated words between Councilman Rev. Jimmy Hunt and Chairman Hunt over the name of the tribe. Hunt suggested Cheraw be added to the Lumbee name. The proposal received little support and the name "The Tribal Council of the Lumbee Nation" was substituted in its stead. It was democracy in action, and a positive sign that debate will continue on the council. That's good.

The next two meetings will also be held at the Baptist Building on February 10 and 20 with both scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Stay tuned. The public is invited to attend all meetings of the council.

Lonnie Revels Jr. said: "It is a new beginning and I'm excited about the possibilities of what we can accomplish... This is our chance now."

## Poetry and Short Prose Contest at UNC Pembroke

Pembroke, NC - The popular Poetry and Short Prose Contest at UNC Pembroke is back this year with prizes totaling \$700. The competition has three prizes in two divisions, one for the general public and one for high school students.

The contest is sponsored by the Friends of the Sampson-Livermore Library at UNCP. In addition, UNCP t-shirts have been donated for the high school winners.

The deadline for submissions is March 1. The reading by contest winners will be at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4 in Moore Hall auditorium. The rules and applications are available at the library, or by calling (910) 521-6659 or online at <http://www.uncp.edu/library> and the clicking on the contest links. Entries must be typewritten.

Two entries may be accepted per person, with prizes limited to one per person. First prize is \$100, with \$50 awarded for second place and \$25 for third place.

The general contest is open to the public (over age 18). The high school category is open for all students in Robeson, Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Hoke and Scotland counties.

A separate contest will be held for UNCP students and UNCP faculty and staff, who are not eligible to enter the general contest. Entries will be "blind judged" again this year. Entries should not include the author's name on the work.

"We're very excited about the chance to bring authors to campus and to hear the entries," said contest coordinator Jean Sexton, assistant director and coordinator of Technical Services. "Last year was a successful start and we're ready to grow!"

For applications or more information, please call Ms. Sexton at 910-521-6659, or email her at [sexton@nat.uncp.edu](mailto:sexton@nat.uncp.edu).