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Madie Rae Locklear seeking re-election to LREMC Board of Directors at-large

Madie Rae Locklear, Former Secretary and presently serving as Treasurer of the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation's Board of Directors is seeking re-election to her fourth term as a member at large.

In addition to her duties with the LREMC Board, Locklear serves as the Supervisor of the Red Springs Neighborhood Service Center. She has been employed with the Four County Community Services Program for more than thirty years. In making her announcement, Locklear released the following statement:

"To God be the glory for allowing me to live to once again ask for your support and vote on the LREMC Board of Directors at large. He has been merciful to me. And I state before anything else, the only right decisions any of us can make are those made for the cause of Christ. Without Him, I could do nothing. But through Him, I am able to reach out and help people in need. It is my gift and I am humbled by the opportunity God has provided for me to serve him through serving my fellow man.

"My service to the consumers of LREMC has served as an enhancement to my natural gift of helping people. I am a people person and feel an obligation to help others. It is a gift that God has given me and I must do the will of the Lord. I am first of all concerned about the needs of the elderly and the physically impaired. Any time there is a natural disaster and we have to be without electricity, I always get in my vehicle and am visible, making sure that electricity is restored as soon as possible, especially when there is a person with a life threatening ailment, such as dialysis, oxygen, and other machines that are necessary to

the life of a consumer. This has been one of my major concerns while serving on our Board of Directors. "During the past twelve years of services I have worked diligently to keep our electric rates from increasing. Thanks to wise decisions by my fellow board members and our administrative staff, we have been able to keep rate increases at a bare minimum. Maintaining reasonable rates and efficient service was one of my main goals when I first felt led to seek a seat on the LREMC Board.

"During my tenure, I have helped with rate reductions and decreases, and I have been a part of the decision which approved returning capital credits to the consumers. After all, the business is owned by the membership. We have been returning all the Capital Credits of 1978 to the members. We also agreed to return 30% of Capital Credits for 1997. This resulted in a significant payment to the members during the first of October 1998. Since that time, Capital Credits have continued to be a vital part of the service that keeps the consumers first on our priority list.

"I am extremely proud of the policy change that allowed capital credits for surviving spouses of members. Up until 1995 both husband and wife would have to be deceased and then the estate was entitled to receive all the Capital Credits earned during the years they were served by LREMC. That policy change was reconsidered and we decided that when all the capital credits were returned to the estate, the members did not have an opportunity to actually personally receive those capital credits, although their heirs would automatically receive them through their estate. We decided that it was more fair to return

half the Capital Credits to the surviving spouse when a member was deceased, and leave half of them in escrow for the surviving spouse. That way the surviving spouse has a base of Capital Credits as they begin life without their partner. I believe we have, therefore, given something tangible to the members while they can enjoy the ownership of LREMC.

"I encourage all consumers, when faced with the loss of a spouse to contact LREMC and request the Capital Credits that are due them.

"I have been a vocal part of many discussions and been an advocate for the consumers during my tenure as your representative at-large. I am honored to have been allowed to represent the at-large district for the past twelve years. I have been a part of the fastest growing cooperative in the state of North Carolina. This goal could only have been reached by making sound financial decisions and I have decided to seek re-election because I believe that I can continue assisting in making the right decisions for our cooperative.

"It seems that the longer God allows me to live, the more responsibility and gifts he gives me. Serving as your member at-large is one of the gifts God has bestowed upon me and I am touched by the encouragement and support I have received while serving.

With God's continued help and blessings, we will continue to provide more and more services and the elderly and economically disadvantaged remains a top priority for me. I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting October 9 at the Givens Performing Arts Center on the Campus of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke."



Madie Rae Locklear



Timothy Strickland

Timothy Strickland seeks re-election to EMC Board of Directors October 9th

Timothy Strickland, life long farmer, has announced his bid for re-election to the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation's Board of Directors. Strickland has served as the District 4 representative on that board for 24 years. In addition to his farming interests, Strickland is also retired from the State of North Carolina where he served as Head of the Motor Pool at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke for more than thirty years. Strickland's wife, Ruthie Jane Strickland, reside in the Harper's Ferry area. In making his announcement for re-election, Strickland released the following statement:

"It has been a privilege for me to serve the rural EMC. As a life long farmer, I understand and appreciate the significance of the establishment of the rural electric cooperative. It was originally begun to provide electrical services to the rural areas. Of course, since its organization the EMC has extended its services as the needs of the consumer have changed. We now provide electric service to more than 30,000 consumers and have been instrumental in the recruitment of industry into the service area. In my twenty-one years as a member of the LREMC Board, I have had the opportunity to be a part of progressive change and to provide expertise in the operation of a multi-million dollar business which is what the cooperative is about these days.

"During my years of service I have served as Secretary to the Board for nine years. This experience has been used as a means of expanding my personal knowledge of the cooperative program in order that I might make wiser decisions for the consumers. After all, efficient and adequate service to the consumers is the priority of the cooperative.

"Many programs have been developed and expanded during my tenure with the EMC. I am proud of those

programs and feel honored to have played a part in their establishment. I am especially proud of the 'Help A Needy Friend Program.' This is a program whereby consumers donate .50 a month to help other consumers. The program is optional but I have participated in giving since its inception. This fund is set aside to help consumers who have financial emergencies and hardships. The coop has established this program to meet the needs of consumers. It is not unusual or anything to be ashamed of to find yourself in need of assistance. The Help A Needy Friend Program is just one way we have of meeting the financial needs of the less fortunate and/or economically disadvantaged. This is only one of the reasons that I have considered running again for the EMC Board.

"At the August meeting the board voted to send Capital Credits to the consumers. Capital Credits are the monies that are left over at the end of the operational years. These monies are returned to the consumers. In August we decided to pay over \$1 million to the consumers for the year 1978 and 1997. I am delighted to be a part of the successful and progressive LREMC Board. The more efficient the cooperative operates, the more Capital Credits earned for the consumers. After all, it is the consumers who own the not-for profit corporation.

"There are many other decisions that I have been part of that are beneficial to the consumers. I wish to remain on the EMC board because I feel that I have the experience and the expertise to continue to make wise decisions for the consumers.

"The election for four members of the EMC Board will be held on Tuesday, October 9 at the UNCP Performing Arts Center. Registration begins at 6 p.m. I humbly ask that you come out and support Timothy Strickland."

Jacobs Represents NC at Women's Conference



Shown above from left to right is: Darlene Jacobs, the Queen of Palo, the First Lady of Palo, and the First Lady's delegation.

Darlene Jacobs, Community Services Program Director with the NC Commission of Indian Affairs, received a sponsorship from Region IV Office on Women's Health - US Department of Health and Human Services to attend the "Indigenous Women's Wellness Conference in Waikiki, Hawaii. The goal of this conference is to exchange knowledge of nurturing and healing practices of indigenous women, and focus on promoting good health and wellness.

Annie Brayboy Fair, Regional women's Health Coordinator, stated that Ms. Jacobs was selected and recognized for her commitment to the improvement of the health and quality of life for Native Americans populations throughout the state of North Carolina. Part of Ms. Jacobs's responsibilities and duties includes serving as staff to the NC Commission Health Committee, the NC State HealthChoice Steering Committee, and serves on the Commission's Public Health Awareness Committee. Darlene also provided leadership and assistance with the First American Indian Health Summit held in May. "Attending this conference is a direct result of her participation on these various health-related committees and advocacy on behalf of American Indians in the state" says Fair.

"This was a life-transforming and humbling experience" said Jacobs. "From a social and cultural perspective, it was a tremendous and wonderful opportunity for me to learn about other native people's healthcare practices and beliefs and to network with indigenous women from all over the world."

Studio One Lab Series Presents, JULIUS CAESAR

A production of "Shakespeare in the Park" JULIUS CAESAR: ASSASSINATION OF TOP GENERAL ROCKS THE NATION! - CONSPIRACY REACHES ALL THE WAY TO THE SENATE!..... straight out of today's headlines comes one of the most brilliant political plays ever written. Set in a fictitious country in 2005, this interpretation of JULIUS CAESAR proves the Shakespears's understanding of power and corruption reaches to our modern times! This "Shakespeare in the Park" production, a joint project of Studio One Lab and the Robeson County Public Library will run Sept. 28-30th and Oct. 4-6 in the park area next to the library. Performances will be at 7:00 pm each evening except on Sept. 30th which will be at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and \$3.50 for students. Lawn seating will be provided. Patrons are welcome to bring their own chairs or blankets and experience a magnificent moment of theatre beneath the moon and stars!

For more information please contact Kari Dial at 910-521-9882.

18th Annual Indian Pow Wow

Metrolina Native American Association is proud to sponsor its 18th Annual Indian Trail Pow Wow and Cultural Festival September 29-30th, 2001, at Indian Trail Elementary School on Indian Trail Road.

The public is invited to come out and enjoy competition dancing and drumming, sample Native American foods, enjoy the storytelling, and authentic Indian made crafts, and Jewelry. Also

come out and see Native American Princess representing various tribes from throughout the state of North and South Carolina, as well as our Native American Flutist Randall Bryant.

Grand entry is 12:00 NOON Saturday and Sunday! Traders' booth will be open all day Saturday and Sunday. For more information call (704) 926-1524 or (704) 724-3343.

Lawmaker Votes for State Budget Spending Plan Maintains Focus on Education.

RALEIGH - Rep. Ron Sutton of Pembroke voted for a \$14.5 billion budget compromise that reduces kindergarten class size and allocates an additional \$128.8 million for public schools.

The spending plan also pumps \$181 million into the state's "rainy day fund," gives teachers and state employees a modest pay raise and creates a \$45.7 million trust fund for mental health.

Temporary tax increases and the elimination of several tax loopholes were included in the package after lawmakers tried unsuccessfully to balance the budget with spending cuts. Lawmakers cut \$770 million and more than 1,500 jobs from the budget submitted by the governor.

Some families will receive a tax cut because of tax breaks included in the package. The average low- and middle-income taxpayer will pay about a dollar a week more.

"Nobody likes to raise taxes, and I voted for the initial House budget bill that included no tax increases" Rep. Sutton said. "But as the economic forecasts grew gloomier, it became clear that we could not cut our way out of the budget crisis and maintained North Carolina's progress in education and other areas."

The budget includes \$12 million for 268 new teachers this year to reduce the teacher/student ratio to 1:19 in kindergarten. An additional \$26.1 million next year will reduce the ratio to 1:18.

Class size will be reduced to 1:15 in kindergarten through third grade in 37 elementary schools with a large percentage of at-risk students.

Teachers will receive an average pay raise of 2.86 percent under the spending plan. State employees will get a \$625 pay raise.

Education and human resources, which includes Medicaid, were the only areas of state government that received more money than in the previous budget.

The state's operating budget increased by 4 percent- well below growth rates in recent years.

"Like every other budget, this one has some excellent provisions and some that I do not like," Rep. Sutton said. "But on balance, the good outweighs the bad. This is a modest budget that maintains our emphasis on education."

Now that we have a belated budget for the State, all efforts will turn to redistricting.

Proposed redistricting maps will be given to House members upon their return next week. The goal is to have a final 120 member plan approved with in three weeks.

As Senior Chair of the House Legislative Redistricting committee, I have been working hard to develop a proposed plan for the House. "I only hope we can all agree on a final redistricting map soon so that we can close out this, the longest legislative session in State history, in short order," said Rep. Sutton.



Approximately 250 people gathered on the front lawn of UNCP's University Center for a memorial service in remembrance of those touched by tragedy on Sept. 11.

Lumberton Business Leader Optimistic on Local Economy

PEMBROKE, N.C. - UNCP student Nick Arena took the campus to school during speaking engagement Wednesday.

No ordinary student, Mr. Arena is vice president and general manager of Acme Electric's manufacturing plant in Lumberton and an Master's of Business Administration candidate at UNCP School of Business.

Although he said the views expressed in UNCP's Business Executive series lectures were his own, Mr. Arena drew extensively from his business experiences with the power distribution systems company. Acme came to Lumberton in 1968 and employs about 300 workers. "Acme is an unusual business in that it started small, stayed small and remained independent for so long," he said of the company, which was recently purchased by Key Components Company of Tarrytown, N.Y. "We have a high-skilled labor force in Lumberton with a great work ethic and high productivity."

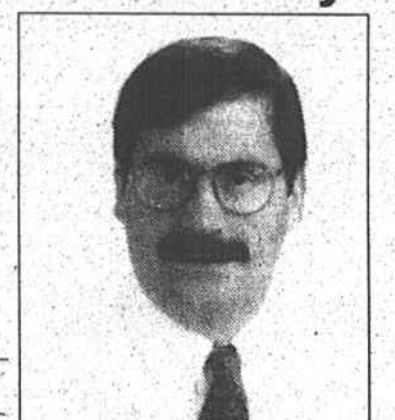
Like many manufacturers since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Acme has a manufacturing plant in Mexico.

"We had to do something to compete with low cost producers, so we moved our high-volume, low-skilled product manufacturing to Mexico," Mr. Arena said. "We have good competitive reasons for staying in Lumberton."

Products made in Mexico are shipped to the Lumberton distribution facility, and Lumberton's highly skilled workers produce high-end products. Besides cheaper labor, Monterrey, Mexico presents many business advantages, including convenient suppliers of raw materials and strong engineering programs at nearby universities.

On the negative side, overhead costs are high in Mexico. However, Mr. Arena said NAFTA has been a good thing for Acme because it has opened new markets as well as helped the company compete with much larger companies.

"This migration to Mexico is the same migration that took place 30 years ago when Acme move produc-



tion from New York to Lumberton," he said.

Local workers here are very productive and dedicated, Mr. Arena said.

"I'd put our Lumberton plant up against any of our competitors for productivity and quality," he said. "Our productivity here is twice that in Mexico."

Mr. Arena is optimistic about the economic transformation of the local economy.

"I see some good, proactive steps taking place here," he said. "Change isn't easy, and we have some work to do, especially in education. On the other hand, we have some really good assets."

The region must turn to the high technology sector in the future. He praised the COMtech project, which combines the educational assets of UNCP, Robeson Community College and the Public Schools of Robeson County with a high-technology industry park.

"Tony Normand (COMtech CEO) is a can-do guy, and it sounds like a good idea," he said. "Overall, we are an attractive investment opportunity for business." Mr. Arena's lectures cover issues of business communications, employee motivation, marketing research and "Managing a Low-Tech company in the High Tech Boom and Bust."

The Business Lecture Series at UNCP is sponsored by Students in Free Enterprise and the School of Business.

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