

Published each Thursday in Pembroke, N.C.

The CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 44

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2001

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Lowry- Malcomn seeks seat on Pembroke Town Council

Kyle Ann Lowry- Malcomn has announced her candidacy for a seat on the Pembroke Town Council. In making her announcement, Lowry- Malcomn released the following statement.

"Over the past couple of months, I have made my way through the neighborhoods of Pembroke. During these visits, I hoped to achieve two things, convey my goals as a council member candidate and to listen to what voters feel is important. I found that both residents and business owners had a wide variety of suggestions and valid points about the current status of Pembroke, many of which I have personally voiced over the years. Many years of opinions have transformed into determination to make our town more appealing to future residents and businesses, while at the same time increase support for the current residents and businesses.

"How can this be achieved? First, revive the town leadership with fresh perspectives. Elect fresh blood to the council that has the motivation for

positive growth and support for you, the voter. Second, enforce ordinances to hold everyone, both business and home owners alike, responsible for the town's appearance. This ensures the minimum standards are held across the board without prejudice. Third, evaluate spending priorities of town funds and grants. Elevate sidewalk repair, town park improvements, and other cosmetic projects higher on the list. Fourth, create a strong relationship with the UNCF. Forge the relationship where students are encouraged to spend their time and finances. Fifth, develop clear goals for the town that match our 5, 10, and 20-year progression plan. Finally, attract the businesses that will employ our residents and offer room for professional growth.

"The town through careful consideration and policy management can systematically achieve these goals. I have heard residents and business owners ask for these goals and I will provide the leadership to make them realities."



Kyle Ann Lowry-Malcomn

Don't forget to vote Tuesday, November 6th on your Lumbee Constitution!



A moment of southern history comes alive for Native American Heritage Month, presented by Studio One Lab Series of PSRC.

LEGEND OF POCAHONTAS

The ringing sounds of the drummers and chanters welcome the Wordspinner to the stage to tell the story of Pocahontas, young daughter of the Algonquin chief, Powhatan. This is the story of a young girl who saved the lives of both her own people and the settlers of Jamestown. In Algonquin, "Pocahontas" means playful joking girl, a fitting name since she is both playful and inquisitive. She makes friends with the new English settlers who are struggling with sickness and near starvation. When the English captain, John Smith, comes to her father and is traditionally sentenced to death, she begs for his life and finds a way for her people and the settlers to begin to live together and attempt to understand one another. This thrilling American folktale is told with historical accuracy among a delightful cast of characters; the people of Pocahontas' village, the spirits of the forest, the animals who are her guides and the settlers of Jamestown. Jocelyn Hunt makes her stage debut as Pocahontas, with Roger Locklear, a senior at Purnell Swett High School as her father, Powhatan. Also featured in the play are Jonathan Hunt (Thundercloud), who attends Pembroke Middle School and Jamee Hunt (Wordspinner), a student at South Robeson High School and the former Miss Teen Lumbee. Southern Eagle Drum Group provides drumming and chants that underscore the traditional dances choreographed by Ms. Carmen Deese, the choreographer for Strike at the Wind.

Presented by the Studio One Lab Series, the theatrical production division of the Public Schools of Robeson County, *Legend of Pocahontas* is a salute to Native American Heritage Month and to the culture and ancient traditions of the native peoples of our region. As part of this project, there will be an exhibit of art and artifacts from this region and other Native nations of the America in the lobby area of Lumberton Jr. High School. The exhibits will open a half hour prior to each performance, and all audiences are welcome to "meet the company and dancers" afterward for refreshments and discussion.

This production will be presented in the auditorium of Lumberton Jr. High School November 1-3 at 7:30 pm and November 3-4 at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$2.50 for students and may be purchased at the lobby of the auditorium prior to the display opening. Group reservations and discounts may be attained by calling the marketing Director, Ms. Kari Dial at 521-9882.

Dr. Barry Harding selected as Superintendent of the Year for the Sandhills Consortium

Dr. Barry Harding, Superintendent of the Public Schools of Robeson County, has been selected as Superintendent of the Year for the Sandhills Consortium. The announcement was made at the October 22nd Meeting of the Board of Education by Dr. William McMillan of the Consortium.

Dr. McMillan lauded Dr. Harding as an ardent supporter of the children of the region and one who is highly respected by superintendents in the area. He spoke of the many awards he has garnered during his career and the 9 state and national awards he has received this year including being named National Indian Educator of the Year in the USA. He stressed Dr. Harding's success in bringing the number of low-performing schools in the county down from the 15 in existence when he became Superintendent to none in the past four years. He also mentioned the fact that students in 35 of the 40 schools in the system are performing beyond grade level.

D. McMillan cited Dr. Harding for instilling a high level of trust among the subordinates under his leadership by recognizing people and their contributions and commitments to the ultimate vision of his school system. That vision is to make the Public Schools of Robeson County the best school system possible.

Dr. Harding's selection places him in competition for State Superintendent of the Year. That announcement will be made on November 15th. The 2002 National Superintendent of the Year will be named on February 15, 2002.



A Report to the People From Rep. Ron Sutton

For 24 hours, it looked as if the House might clear a major hurdle standing between the Legislature and adjournment.

On a close vote, the House gave preliminary approval to a House redistricting plan, known as the Sutton-2 Plan. But when the measure came up for its final reading, House leaders adjourned without a vote. The reason was simple. They were not sure they had a majority ready to vote for the plan.

Redistricting is always a contentious and partisan issue. The close 62-58 Democratic majority in the House has made passing a plan even more difficult than usual-- and more difficult than lawmakers imagined.

Almost all of the 58 House Republicans signed a pledge to follow the dictates of their caucus on redistricting issues. Even the ones who did not sign stuck with the caucus.

As a result, a handful of Democrats were able to delay a floor vote for a week and a half.

After the preliminary 62-57 vote to tentatively approve the plan, some who had supported the plan said they were having reservations, prompting House leaders to delay the final vote. A swing of just a few votes could have sent the plan to defeat, forcing mapmakers to start over with a new bill.

At issue was the number of House districts where minorities could elect - or help elect - a minority candidate. The proposed plan had 12 majority-black districts and eight districts where minorities made up more than 40 percent - but less than half - of the population. One of those districts elects three members, meaning that 22 House members would be elected from districts with a minority population of 40 percent or more.

Republicans and a handful of Democrats argued that mapmakers should create more majority-minority districts.

House leaders and most black House members said packing minorities into districts would reduce the number of likely Democratic seats. That would make it easier for the Republicans to take control of the House.

Aside from raw partisan considerations, there are legal issues involved in redistricting. Federal law and court rulings forbid drawing districts that dilute minority voting strength. But the Supreme Court has ruled in North



Carolina case that Legislators cannot overly rely on race in drawing districts.

Other court cases require legislators to draw districts that are roughly equal in population, to uphold the principle of one person, one vote. And districts must be contiguous.

Finally, legislators want their districts as favorable as possible. All 170 members of the General Assembly, and all 12 incumbent members of the U.S. House, would like a "safe" district. It is impossible to draw a map that makes all incumbents completely happy.

The key is coming up with a redistricting plan that makes a majority of the House relatively happy. Everyone knew that would be a difficult task, given the conflicting legal, partisan and even personal ramifications involved.

"On Thursday, we did not have the necessary majority vote to pass my redistricting plan on third and final reading, thus we will keep working till we find the votes," said Rep. Ron Sutton, the Democratic Redistricting leader.

LRDA Fall Pow Wow Breaks Attendance Record

by Vinita Clark
 Pembroke, NC- There was not an empty vendor space in sight as Angel Clark, the coordinator for the three-day fall Pow Wow, had to find spaces for over 14 more vendors who decided to attend. Everyone wanted to be a participant in the Fall Pow Wow sponsored by Lumbee Regional Development Association this weekend. The LRDA has been the guiding light of the Lumbee people for over thirty years. People attended to show their support for the pow wow that is one of three events sponsored by the LRDA each year to acknowledge the history and unity of the Lumbee people. Thousands of people attended and at various times, even with the two parking lots at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, there was trouble finding a parking space. People were camping out at various sites inside the complex, including next to the "Strike at the Wind" costumes room. The Purnell Swett Senior High JROTC coordinated by Command Sergeant Major Barney Razor coordinated the parking.

The holders of the Miss Lumbee titles in the various divisions were all present along with representatives from other tribes across the state and nation. Very few members of the Tribal Government attended. U.S. Congressman Mike McIntyre and the new Chairman of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, Mr. Dobbs Oxendine, Jr. took center stage and spoke to those in attendance. Many people, both young and old, walked around wrapped up in blankets, not wanting to miss a single event.

The Tyler's 29th Anniversary Gospel Sing

On Saturday, November 3rd, 2001, the UNC Pembroke Givens Performing Arts Center will have an anniversary gospel sing featuring: The Tylers, The Crabbs, Mike Bowling and Michael Combs. The Pre-show will start at 6:30 p.m. with The Jacobs Family.

Tickets will be sold in advance for \$10.00 at the GPAC Box Office, at the door they are \$12.00. The evening is sponsored in part by The Potter's House in Pembroke, Red Springs Christian Supplies in Red Springs and Laurinburg Christian Supplies in Laurinburg.

Christmas Craft Show and Sale

A Christmas Craft Show and Sale, sponsored by the Robeson County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and the Robeson County Extension and Community Association, will be held Friday, December 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held at the O.P. Owens Agriculture Center, Highway 72 West (west of Exit 17, off I-95), Lumberton. According to Phyllis Hunt, Extension and Community Association Coordinator with the Robeson County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, **ADMISSION WILL BE FREE.**

Crafters from Robeson and neighboring counties will offer quality-handcrafted items for sale. Lunch and baked goods will also be available.

For more information contact the Cooperative Extension Service at (910) 671-3276. Employment and program opportunities are offered to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Don't forget to vote Tuesday, November 6th on your Lumbee Constitution!

A Tribal Constitution

by Cynthia L. Hunt, an Enrolled Member of the Lumbee Tribe

A tribal constitution provides limits on the authority of a tribe's governing body, and gives tribal members a voice in how they are governed. It serves as the official governing document of a tribe. However, other documents can serve as a tribe's governing document. For example, a tribe may decide to be governed by by-laws, similar to those adopted by various associations and non-profit organizations. If a tribe is governed by by-laws, tribal members have no say in how the tribe's affairs are run. It is important to note that adopting a constitution does not establish tribal government. The tribal government will exist whether they operate under a constitution or by-laws. A constitution puts limits on the government and gives people a voice.

Last year on November 07, 2000, approximately over 5,000 Lumbee tribal members voted and said they wanted to be governed by a constitution. They also voted for the constitution to be drafted and presented to the tribe for a vote in one year of the date of that election. This was truly a mandate from the Lumbee people. The Tribal Council has scheduled an election for Tuesday, November 06, on a proposed constitution. Recently, there has been much debate and discussion regarding this election.

It is important at this time to remind ourselves, as tribal members, why we voted to be governed by a constitution. First, tribal members voiced their wishes to have a say in how funds, received on our behalf, are spent. We were seemingly tired of tribal leaders making decisions without our input. For example, the tribe has been receiving federal housing funds for some time. Tribal members have voiced much criticism of those administering those monies. A tribal constitution will give us a voice in such matters.

Second, some of us have grown tired of the same old faces running our tribal business. A tribal constitution provides term limits for those serving on the governing body. Without a constitution, there are no term limits. If the Tribal Council were governed by by-laws, I doubt very seriously term limits would be included in the document. We need to be mindful of how tribal business has worked in the past. It is important we have a voice in our government and adopt a document that provides limits for tribal leaders. Too often, some have a tendency to become too comfortable and stagnated in their representation of tribal members.

Further, there is the possibility, if we do not adopt the proposed constitution on November 06, we may not have the opportunity to do so at a later date. It is rumored that some Tribal Council members have stated that if the document is not passed next Tuesday, they will begin drafting a new one for an election later on down the road. We need to understand there is nothing that requires them to do this. So the question becomes, do we believe the current Tribal Council? Do we trust them to offer us the opportunity to vote on a document we want to be governed by, if the proposed document fails next week?

Lastly, it is also rumored that if the document fails to pass next Tuesday, there are those who will ask a judge to have the election held last year for the current Tribal Council "set aside." Where will this leave us? I am not sure anyone knows. However, it may be that we will see the Lumbee Self-Determination Commission reappear in Robeson County. What would be their role? Is it possible they will again attempt to provide for guidelines to adopt a tribal government and a tribal governing document? From the results of what we are currently dealing with, they seemed to have failed miserably. These are the things we must be mindful of when we decide whether to support the document on November 06, 2001. Lumbee tribal members are among the most intelligent in and out of Indian Country and we always make informed decisions. Please continue to do the same on Tuesday, November 06, 2001.

Robeson County Public Library Holds Annual Book Sale

The Friends of the Robeson County Public Library will hold its annual book sale on November 1st-3rd in the old Osterneck Auditorium. The book sale will open at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday November 1st and close at 9 p.m. It will continue at 9:00 a.m. on Friday November 2nd and close at 6 p.m. On Saturday November 3rd, the last day of the book sale, the sale will start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m.

For more information about this years book sale call 738-4859.