

# The CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"Building Communicative Bridges in a Tri-Racial Setting"

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**Pictured top left-** Kirk Blue, Brandon Maynor, Darryl Locklear, Tyson Meadors, Charlotte Branch, and Lee Ryan Lowery. **Middle left-** Telisha Oxendine, Gerren Maynor, Bridget Dimery, Brittany Hall, Karen Fagan, Victoria Locklear, Thomas McKoy, Krystal Harris, Marlina Locklear, Candace Lowry, Fallon Carter, Fallon McNeill, Jasmine Jones, Laura Oxendine. **Bottom left-** Bradrick Brooks, Danielle Chavis, Sheena Oxendine, Sarina Maynor, Laury Rose Chavis, Ashley Locklear, Lakeshia Jacobs, Nicole Jacobs, Jennifer McNeill, Beth Lowery, Charly Lowry, and Adam Chavis.

## Third Annual Poetry Reading and Art Exhibition

Students from Purnell Swett High School participated in the third annual poetry reading and art exhibition at the Indian Education Resource Center. The Poetry reading and art exhibition is sponsored by the Public Schools of Robeson County Indian Education Resource Center under the direction of Margaret Chavis and coordinating director, Bruce Barton. Directors of the event include: Gregory Sampson, Deloria Cummings, Emily Crain, and Yvonne Barnes Dial.

## Pembroke Middle School "Battle of the Books County Champions"

Pembroke Middle School took home first-place honors in the "2002 battle of the books Competition". Teams from the 14 middle schools in the county competed in the "battles" held March 30 and April 8 at Lumberton Jr. High. Lesa Maynor, Media Coordinator and Ruby B. Locklear, Media Assistant coached the team. Dr. Rose

Marie Lowry-Townsend is principal at Pembroke Middle School. Pembroke Middle placed fifth in the regional competition, which was held April 11 at Whiteville High School. Teams from 12 counties participated. The participating counties were Bladen, Brunswick, Clinton City, Columbus, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, New

Hanover. Public schools of Robeson and Whiteville City. The scores from the regional "Battle of the Books" are listed here: Cumberland 1st- 146, New Hanover 2nd- 118, Moore 3rd- 117, Harnett 4th- 114, Robeson 5th- 113. **CONGRATULATIONS WARRIORS!**



**Front row from left;** Rachel Ensing, Kelsey Harris, Rachel Malcolm, Gertie Parker, Emily Altomare. **Back row;** coach Lesa Maynor (Media Coordinator) Hannah Worlax, Nick Woolf, Raisa Jones, coach Ruby Locklear (Media Assistant).

## Three Employees Lead Fundraising Efforts at SRMC

Charity begins at home for three Southeastern Regional Medical Center employees. Tammy Abernathy, Edith Jones and James E. Jones agreed without hesitation when asked to co-chair the employee division of the *Take it to the Top!* Capital Campaign. The campaign will help fund a six-story Patient Bed tower-- offering 136 private rooms with baths for patient care-- and expansions and renovations to Emergency Services and the Cancer Center. Because all three employees believe strongly in the cause, they are working to spread their enthusiasm among their more than 1,900 co-workers.

Tammy Abernathy of Lumberton joined SRMC 17 years ago as a staff nurse and now manages the hospital's psychiatric services unit. She has served as a customer service coach, a member of the Patients Rights and Organizational Ethics committee, and a United Way facilitator. She is working towards 100 percent participation among employees. "Supporting the campaign shows that we are united as a team in supporting one of our hospitals biggest projects ever!" she said. Edith Jones of Lumberton believes in the campaign as a way to give back to an organization that has helped her fulfill a lifelong dream. When Jones began her career at SRMC, she worked as a housekeeper. On the advice of a supervisor, she continued her education with financial assistance from the medical center and eventually worked her way up to her current position, payroll assistant accountant. "It is my hope," Jones said, that all employees will realize the importance of making this campaign successful. It doesn't matter how much you contribute-- just that you cared enough about the medical center to support this project. Supporting fundraising efforts at SRMC comes naturally for James Jones of Shannon. Each year he helps out with two annual events,

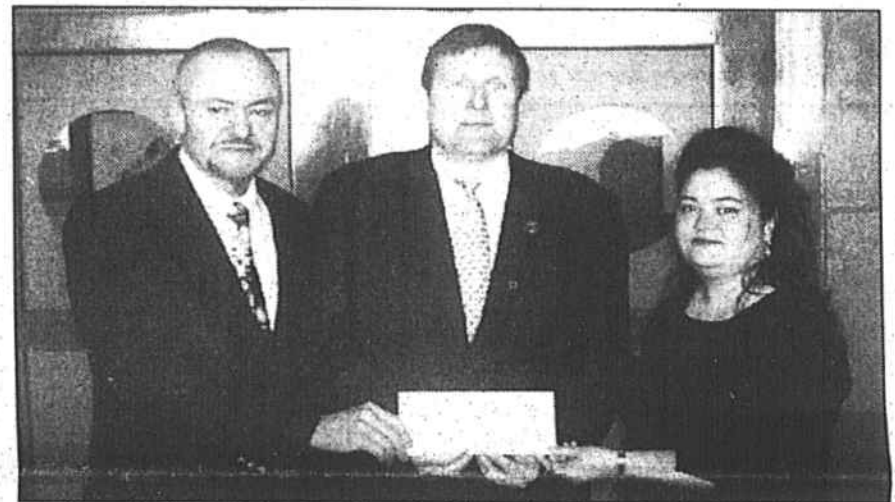
the Foundation Gala and Festival of Trees. In 1998 Jones was recognized for his leadership skills and caring attitude when he won the medical center's highest employee award, the John D. Drake Distinguished Service Award. He believes other employees through their participation in the capital Campaign are showing the same commitment he demonstrates for the Medical Center. "Completion of this project will make all of our jobs much easier. The new private rooms will make patients and staff more comfortable," said Jones. To date, employees at SRMC have pledged almost \$300,000 toward the funding of the *Take it to the Top!* Capital Campaign. A community campaign to raise part of the \$50 million to complete the building projects is also under way. For more information or to make a donation, please call the SRMC Foundation office at 671-5583. All donations will be acknowledged.

## Scholarship Established to Honor Dexter Brooks

PEMBROKE, N.C. - Dexter Brooks, senior resident Superior Court judge for Robeson County, died on March 6 after a long illness. Friends and relatives remember him as a man who championed justice. Newspapers eulogized him as an "agent of change," and, "one of the most influential Robesonians of the second half of the last century." In April, his brother Larry Brooks contributed \$5,000 to establish a Judge Dexter Brooks Endowed Memorial Scholarship at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. He pledged an additional \$1,000 per year for each of the next five years. "People like Dexter don't come along often," Mr. Brooks said. "He worked for equity and fairness for all people, and, as a judge, Dexter worked to promote racial harmony." The Brooks family invites friends of Judge Brooks to honor his memory by making contribu-

tions to the scholarship. For information, please call the Office of Advancement at 910-521-6252. "We want to create a lasting memory for him," Mr. Brooks said. "In his later years, Dexter took a real interest in mentoring and counseling young people." "To help other young people, I believe this is an appropriate tribute to him," he said. "It is our hope that others will share in this memorial." The first friend of Judge Brooks to contribute to the scholarship was UNCP Chancellor Allen C. Meadors. Judge Brooks presided over the swearing in ceremony of Chancellor Meadors on Dec. 15, 1999. "Dexter Brooks was one of the first people in this community to welcome me," said Chancellor Meadors. "I really appreciated that, and I valued his guidance and friendship." Judge Brooks was the first Native American to serve as a Su-

perior Court judge in Robeson County when he was appointed in 1988. Larry Brooks and his daughter Lela Brooks Woodell contributed the funds through their Pembroke business, Lela Anne's Learning Center, a daycare center serving children from birth to age 12. A 1971 UNCP graduate and principal of Pembroke Elementary School, Larry Brooks said his family has a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the university. "My wife Elizabeth and I and three of our children are graduates," he said. "We are all beholden to this university." As an endowed scholarship, the principal of the gift remains as a perpetual memorial, and interest is used for scholarships. With the gift, Larry and his daughter Lela become members of the Chancellor's Club of donors to the university.



From Left: Larry Brooks, Chancellor Allen C. Meadors and Lela Brooks Woodell

## AIM will Honor Local American Indian Mothers

The small group of women who incorporated American Indian Mother (AIM) as a state chartered non-profit organization never envisioned that their numbers would grow from 5 initial incorporators to a total of 74 American Indian women and is still growing. In July 2001, the first meeting of AIM was held at the Longhouse at the NC Cultural Center. Those in attendance heard reports of the high incidence of STDs in Robeson County and particularly among American Indian youth from April Oxendine of the Robeson County Department of Public Health, Shirley and HB Bullard from the American-Indian/Alaska Native National Marrow Donor Program, Lora Collins on the health issue of Lupus, and Dr. Ruth Dial woods on the Role of American Indian women and mothers in the education of American Indian people and families.

The very first meeting of AIM brought together a cross-generational group of American Indian women. The organization has continued to meet monthly with a focus on strengthening the organization, attracting service-oriented and community women, and moving into critical issues of health, education, community service, youth programs, and serving the elderly. Organizational projects have focused on weekly breakfast services with the elderly, the establishment of a youth tutoring center, the Ruben Center that provides counseling and tutoring to middle school students, and targeting drug and alcohol abuse through the Daughters of Tradition Program.

On May 10, 2002, AIM will sponsor a countywide banquet to honor all American Indian Mothers and to memorialize three deceased American Indian Mother. These honorees include Brenda B. Brooks, a state and community activist in human rights; Delora Locklear, a community leader who supported projects and activities that benefited the human good, and Brigitte Brayboy Cummings, and outstanding role model for young women who was Miss Lumbee 1981, and outstanding vocalist who performed at numerous church and community functions, and career woman at Abbott Laboratories in Lumberton.

An awards banquet will recognize outstanding service of American Indian Mothers, excellence in education awards to youth, and Ruben Center Awards at the May 10th American Indian Mothers Benefit and Memorial Scholarship Banquet at the Southeastern Farmers market. Information on tickets, corporate sponsors and advertisements can be provided by calling either 843-9911 or 843-8601.

## Metrolina Native American Association's 11th Annual Pow Wow/Festival May 3-5

Metrolina Native American Association will host their 11th Annual pow wow May 3-5 with Friday, May 3 being set up day for vendors. Exhibition and contest dancing will be Saturday and Sunday. Grand Entry is 12 noon Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. The pow wow will be held at Pearl Park on Keliworth Ave., across from Mid-Town square. There will be vendors selling Native American Arts, Crafts and Jewelry. Metrolina will be selling native authentic foods. Master of Ceremonies will be Keith Colston, Head Judge is Nora Dial Stanley, Head Female Dancer is Brenda Silva, and Head Male

Dancer is Ray Silva. Host drum will be Kautonah Jrs. Guest drums are invited to participate in the pow wow and drum competition. More than 5,000 are expected to attend. All dancers are encouraged to come and dance, there will be competition dancing Saturday and Sunday. Please note the prize money has increased. Admissions is free and donations welcome. Everyone bring your lawn chairs where you can relax and enjoy the pow wow, food and the vendors arts and crafts. For more information please call Letha Dial Strickland at 704-926-1524 or 704-724-3343.



Tammy Abernathy



Edith Jones



James E. Jones

