

Record Attendance at National UNITY Conference

In Unity We Stand was Prevailing Theme

PALM SPRINGS, Calif.—More than 1,400 American Indian, Alaska Native, and First Nations youth leaders, their council advisors, tribal leaders, and presenters participated in the 2002 National UNITY Conference, an intense five-day gathering in Palm Springs, California. Hosted by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the conference was held June 28-July 2 at the Wyndham Palm Springs Hotel. Participants came from 22 states and Canada.

Prior to the official opening of the conference, the preparation and lighting of the UNITY fire was done by elder Warren Skye, a Tonawanda Seneca from Basom, New York. With youth taking turns as firekeepers, the fire burned continuously until extinguished Tuesday morning in conjunction with the closing ceremony during which youth made personal commitments to help build stronger, healthier, more self-reliant Native communities.

National UNITY Council Co-Presidents Leandra Bitsie and Darren Pedro called the conference to order and welcomed the participants. Welcome messages were given by Richard H. Milanovich, Chairman of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and Mary Kim Titla, Chair of UNITY's trustees. Also, special messages were presented by Lynn Valbuena and her mother, Pauline Maurillo. Ms. Valbuena, a member of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, holds multiple leadership roles at the tribal, state, and national levels.

Roger Willie, who made his screen debut as Charlie Whitehorse in *Windtalkers*, received an enthusiastic response to his presentation about the important role the Code Talkers played in World War II and his personal message of encouragement to the youth. Danny Glover, an acclaimed actor and the recent recipient of the Hubert Humphrey Award for his leadership in human rights, was a major hit. This was his second time to attend a national UNITY conference, and he stated his intent to return next year. Litefoot, a popular Native American actor and rap artist, gave performance that energized the youth through the power of his music and positive message. Nick Lowery, a former kicker

for Kansas City's professional football team, challenged the youth to become "nation builders."

The packed agenda included team-building exercises, personal development workshops, a variety show, cultural exchange, a banquet, and a dance. Mini-clinics and tournaments were conducted in "3 on 3" basketball, tennis, and golf.

Following a presentation by Mel Pervis, a successful entrepreneur and Vice-Chair of UNITY's Trustees, Brent Neiser, representing the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) introduced *Weaving Your Future With Money and Wisdom*, a personal financial guide prepared by NEFE in conjunction with UNITY youth and staff.

Nine youth councils from seven states provided progress reports and outlined their plans for increasing active living among all age groups within their respective communities. The youth councils have received grants through the *Celebrate Fitness: Tribal Youth Lead Promotion of Active Living*, a UNITY initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Margo Kerrigan, California Area Director of Indian Health Service, commended the youth councils for their efforts to promote active living and healthy life-styles.

Considerable emphasis was placed upon the use of the latest Internet technology. One of the busiest rooms throughout the conference was the UNITY computer lab, consisting of 24 laptop computers that were linked by a wireless network to the Internet. The Executive Committee of the National UNITY Council gave a report on the first year's results of *Linking Native Youth*, a two-year project funded by the Administration for Native Americans. According to George Thomas, Systems Manager, "The computer lab will be taken to several states during the coming year where it will be used to introduce Native American youth to the benefits of the Internet."

Action Planning Sessions were conducted to address youth-identified concerns and issues such as: Strengthening Native Families: Alcohol, Drug, and Substance Abuse; Spirituality; Education Dropout

Rate. Fitness (Lack of Physical Activity and Poor Nutrition); Teen Pregnancy/Sexuality/STDs/HIV/AIDS; Environment, Cultural Preservation, Gangs and Crime; Diabetes and other Health Issues; and Peer Pressure. Recommendations from these sessions will be available for youth to use as resources in helping build healthier, safer communities.

New Executive Committee Members of the National UNITY Council were elected during the conference and installed at the banquet by Kelly Short-Slagley. The ten members are Co-Presidents Kristy Dayson (Odawa from Grand Rapids, MI) and Dan Terrio (Mohican from Gresham, WI); Vice-President Vince Feeling (Cherokee); Secretary Dustin Johnson (Navajo); and At-Large Representatives Misty Arrington (Chickasaw), Lee Balthazar (Pascua Yaqui), Brandon James (Pima), Rob Lambert (Chippewa), Mary Smith (Choctaw), and Angela Wall (Cherokee).

J.R. Cook, UNITY's executive director, deemed the conference a tremendous success. "The hospitality and generosity of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and support from other California tribes and organizations made it possible for the young native leaders to experience many additional opportunities and benefits. Resources provided by the Administration for Native Americans and Indian Health Service also contributed to the success of the conference."

Founded in 1976, United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) is a national network organization promoting personal development, citizenship, and leadership among Native American youth. UNITY's mission is to foster the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth and to help build a strong, unified, and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement. The UNITY Network consists of more than 230 affiliated youth councils in 34 states and Canada. UNITY's headquarters is based in Oklahoma City.

Deaths and Funerals

Jay Cee Oxendine

HYATTSVILLE, Md.—Mr. Jay Cee Oxendine, of Hyattsville, formerly of Pembroke, N.C., died Saturday (June 6). A memorial service was held at 11 a.m. Wednesday (July 10) in Gasch's Funeral Home of Hyattsville. Announcement was made by Reeves Funeral Home of Hope Mills, N.C.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be to Pemberton Hospice & Home Care, 106 Main St., Pembroke, NC 28372.

Margie S. Jones

LUMBERTON—Ms. Margie S. Jones, 69, of 235 Eddie Sampson Road, died Thursday (July 11) in Southeastern Regional Medical Center. The funeral was conducted at 2 p.m. Sunday (July 14) in Deep Branch Baptist Church by the Rev. James A. Hunt. Burial followed in Lumbee Memorial Gardens.

Ms. Jones is survived by two sons, Earl Jones of Lumberton and Jerry Jones of Pembroke; two brothers, Marvin Strickland of Rowland and Norman Strickland of Pembroke; two sisters, Marcella Dial of Pembroke and Lula Locklear of Lumberton; and three grandchildren. Arrangements were handled by Revels Funeral Home in Lumberton.

Flossie Jane Locklear Hunt

DILLON—Mrs. Flossie Jane Locklear Hunt, 67, of Dillon, S.C., died Wednesday (July 10) at Carolina Hospital Systems in Florence. The funeral was held 1 p.m. Saturday (July 13) at Leland Grove Baptist Church. Burial followed at the Greenlawn Cemetery.

Surviving are seven daughters, Gloria Jean Hodge, Anita Blanche Hunt, Debbie Dimery, Carla Hunt, Lisa Ann Hunt, Frieda Michelle Hunt and Faye Michelle Hunt, all of Dillon; three sons, Layton L. Hunt of Rowland, N.C., Johnny Hugh Hunt of Dillon, and Randy Lee Hunt of Toccoa, Ga.; three sisters, Minnie Pearl Deal of Rowland, Georgia Mae Locklear of Dillon, and Violet Floyd of Latta; three brothers, Howard Lewis Chavis of Red Springs, N.C., Robert Lee Locklear of Dillon, and Eric Ramsey Locklear of Clio; 21 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Essie Mae Simmons Smiling

CLINTON—Mrs. Essie Mae Simmons Smiling, 68, of 175 Smiling Lane, Clinton, died Thursday (July 11) at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill. The funeral was held at 3 p.m. Sunday (July 14) at Holly Grove Free Will Holiness Church, the Revs. Magalene Locklear, Ken Simmons, Randy Simmons and Richard Hunt officiating. Burial followed at the church cemetery.

Surviving are four children, Rachel C. Billee and Doris R. Thompson, both of Fayetteville, Danny T. Cartrette of Lexington, and Dony J. Cartrette of Atlanta; three stepchildren, Ellen M. Esparza, Juanita Jacobs and William Smiling, all of Clinton; two brothers, Delbert Simmons of Tampa, Fla., and Willis Ammons of Clinton; two sisters, Lois Simmons of Clinton, and Rena Simmons of Vancouver, Wash.; 20 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Clarence Locklear

LUMBERTON—Mr. Clarence Locklear, 83, of Hermitage Retirement Center, Lumberton, died Friday (July 12) at Southeastern Regional Medical Center. The funeral was held at 4 p.m. Monday (July 15) at Revels Funeral Home Chapel in Lumberton, the Revs. Bobby Mitchell, Belton Locklear and Wayland Anderson officiating. Burial followed at the Preston Chapel Church Cemetery.

He is survived by a brother, Charlie Locklear of Lumberton. Arrangements were handled by Revels Funeral Home in Lumberton.

Pollie Oxendine

MAXTON—Ms. Pollie Oxendine, 96, of Old Red Springs Road, died Sunday (July 14). The funeral was conducted at 3 p.m. Wednesday (July 17) in Cherokee Chapel Church by the Revs. Steve Locklear and Jimmy F. Locklear. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Ms. Oxendine is survived by three daughters, Bertha Mae Edwards, Delphia Chavis and Thelma E. Bullard, all of Maxton; a sister, Catherine Strickland of Pembroke; 20 grandchildren; and two stepgrandchildren. Arrangements were handled by Revels Funeral Home in Pembroke.

Irene Goins

RED SPRINGS—Ms. Irene Goins, 74, of 151 Shannon Road, died Sunday July 14) in FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Ms. Goins was a member of Mount Elim Baptist Church and volunteered at Hospice of Hoke County. The funeral was conducted at 4 p.m. Wednesday in Mount Elim Baptist Church by Pastor Tony Brewington and the Rev. Carl Pevia. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Ms. Goins is survived by five sons, Harvey Goins Jr. of Red Springs and James Goins, Pastor H. Floyd Goins, Terry Ray Goins and Spencer Goins, all of Raeford; four daughters, Margie Lucero and Doretha Sampson, both of Raeford, Evangelist Betty Goins and Linda F. Bullard, both of Pinebluff; a sister, Corrina Barton of Pembroke; 26 grandchildren; and 31 great-grandchildren. Arrangements were handled by Crumpler Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Red Springs.

Ramona L. Hardin

LUMBERTON—Mrs. Ramona Louise Hardin, 46, of 11271 U.S. 301 N., died Saturday (July 13) in her home. The funeral was conducted at 3 p.m. Wednesday (July 17) in Mount Moriah Baptist Church by the Revs. Manford Locklear and Ronald Locklear. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Hardin is survived by her husband, Golbert L. Hardin of the home; three sons, Keith D. Strickland of Pembroke and Charles E. Pevia and Daniel G. Hardin, both of Lumberton,

a daughter, Javana R. Pevia; her father, Ellison Pevia of Shannon; her mother, Louise Pevia of Lumberton; three brothers, Ellison Pevia Jr., Tony Pevia and Sammy Pevia, all of Lumberton; three sisters, Cheryl Jones, Tammy G. Pevia and Melissa Pevia, all of Lumberton; and four grandchildren. Arrangements were handled by Revels Funeral Home in Lumberton.

George Jacobs

PEMBROKE—Mr. George Jacobs, 67, of 536-B Chavis Park, died Sunday (July 14) in Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton. The funeral was conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday (July 17) in Locklear & Son Funeral Home in Pembroke by the Revs. Kenny Mitchell and William Chavis. Burial followed in Hickory Hill Church cemetery in Rowland.

Mr. Jacobs is survived by his wife, Lettie M. Jacobs of the home; a son, Glenn Hammonds of Pembroke; three daughters, Jeanette Locklear and Michelle Oxendine, both of Rowland, and Annette Worthington of Lumberton; a foster granddaughter, Ashley M. Jacobs of the home; a stepdaughter, Debra Campbell of Rowland; two sisters, Chrissie Locklear of Lumberton and Ernestine Plock of Far Rockaway, N.Y.; three half sisters, Teresa Hunt and Toni Hunt, both of Fairmont, and Sandra Chavis of Lumberton; two foster sisters, Betty J. Jacobs of Lumberton and Livan A. Hunt of Charlotte; nine grandchildren; seven stepgrandchildren; and 15 stepgreat-grandchildren. Arrangements were handled by Locklear & Son Funeral Home in Pembroke.

Virginia Godwin Branch Crawfordville, FL—Ms. Virginia

Godwin Branch departed this life July 6, 2002, at the age of 106. She was born March 29, 1896 to Margaret Jane Carter, daughter of David and Carolina Smith Carter, and

settled in Florida. Her parents never moved to Robeson County, NC to live again. Several of her siblings, however, did move back home to raise families.

A highlight of her life was when she served as Grand Marshal of the Lumbee Homecoming parade exactly five years ago to the date of her death. At the time of her death, it is believed that she was the oldest living registered member of the Lumbee Indian Tribe.



SOME PEOPLE SAY signing the correct operation site is being overly cautious.



WE SAY in surgery, there's no such thing.

Initiating the surgical site prior to surgery while the patient watches is one step toward reducing wrong-site surgeries. For more ways to maximize surgical outcomes, visit www.aaos.org

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS
1-800-824-BONES
www.aaos.org
The most moving advances in medicine.



Carolina Indian Voice is Published every Thursday by First American Publications
207 Union Chapel Rd.
Post Office Box 1075
Pembroke, North Carolina 28372
Phone (910) 521-2826
Fax (910)521-1975
Connee Brayboy, Editor
Subscriptions
One year in NC, \$25.00
Out of State, \$30.00
Second Class Postage Paid at Pembroke, NC

AN INVITATION TO CELEBRATE AND REJOICE SYLVIA COLLINS, PASTOR TRIANGLE NATIVE AMERICAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF OUR CHURCH SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2002 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00A.M. Methodist Children's Home 1041 Washington Street Raleigh, NC 27605 LUNCH and GOSPEL SIGNING FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE At Garner United Methodist Church 201 Methodist Drive Garner, NC 27529 1:00PM-----LUNCH 3:00 P.M.-----GOSPEL SINGING

Featured Speakers: Rev. Kenneth Locklear, Rev. Glen Ray Harris, Rev. Alvin Deer, Rev. Hope Ward. Special Singing by: The Strong Family, The Plainsman, Yielded, Former Miss NC Lorna McNeil.

COME AND CELEBRATE IN THE LORD WITH US!

Matthew Block, M.D., F.A.C.C. Board Certified Cardiologist 215-B Lauchwood Dr. Laurinburg, N.C.

Accepting New Patients



Board Certified: Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Nuclear Cardiology, Echocardiography

Consulting Associate, Duke University Medical Center

Chief Fellow, Cardiology, California Pacific Medical Center

Residency: Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, New York

Medical School: New York University School of Medicine

PROVIDING:

- Pacemaker Placement & Follow-up
- Chest Pain and Cardiac Evaluations
- Coumadin Monitoring
- Coronary Bypass and Stent Follow-up
- Cardiac Catheterization

¡Se habla español!



910-277-7858