



McDaniel Lucas Jr. to perform at Harper's Ferry Baptist Church

McDaniel Longwolf Lucas, Jr. will be the featured soloist at Harper's Ferry Baptist Church on Sunday morning, December 22, 2002 during the 11 a.m. worship service.

Lucas, 38, is music director at a Baptist church in Oklahoma City. He has a degree in piano, organ and voice from Oklahoma City University where he also received a Master's degree in Opera Performance.

Lucas is the son of McDaniel Longwolf Lucas, Sr. of Pembroke and the late Mary Elizabeth Lucas of Minnesota. He is the great grandson of Daniel Bucky Locklear of Pembroke.

The pastor of Harper's Ferry, Dr. Glenn Harris and the congregation extend a cordial invitation to the public to attend. (Editor's note: Last week we inadvertently stated that Mr. Lucas would be at Deep Branch. Our apologies to Mr. Lucas.)

Robeson County Law Enforcement presents educational awards

The Robeson County Law Enforcement Executive Officer Association consists of the chief executives from each agency within Robeson County. The Association has been in existence since 1995, and is a non-profit organization. The purpose of the organization is three-fold: 1- to promote professional ideals and standards for local law enforcement in an effort to better serve the citizens of Robeson County and the State of North Carolina; 2- to promote the professional development of the members of this association and their subordinate officers; and, 3- to collectively represent law enforcement to citizens in order to obtain their understanding and valuable support.

Since its inception, the Association has awarded a number of educational scholarships to recipients who must be a family member of a law enforcement officer, who is either currently attending or desires to attend college. Each year the Association has been able to provide two or three educational scholarships. This year, the Association was able to increase the number of educational scholarships to four, in the amount of \$750.00 each. The recipients are: Mary Walters, wife of McNeill, daughter of Captain Larry McNeill of the UNC-P Police Department; Lisa Dial, wife of Sgt. Horace Dial of the Pembroke Police Department, and Ramanda Lambert, daughter of Officer Patricia Lambert of the Pembroke Police Department.

Funding for the educational scholarships comes from donations and a variety of functions sponsored by the Association. Additionally, an Annual Arthur Oxendine firearm Competition is held each year at Robeson Community College Training ground. This competition is

sponsored by the Robeson County Executive Law Enforcement Association and is held each year in honor of detective Oxendine, a member of the Robeson County Sheriff's Department, who was killed in the line of duty in 1993.

The competition is open to law enforcement officers of Robeson County Sheriff department; Lumberton, Parkton, Red Springs, Fairmont, Rowland, Pembroke, Maxton, and Raeford police departments; UNC-Pembroke; State Highway Patrol; and the State Bureau of Investigation.

There were four participants from each agency in this year's event. Top team honors went to the Robeson County Sheriff's department with its members consisting of Ralph Blake, William Ward, Mike Drummond and Neil Locklear. The individual Top Gun award was presented to Erich Von Hackney of the Lumberton Police Department.

This competition coincides with the Association's Annual Banquet, which was held in the Chavis center at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

More than 100 law enforcement officers, family members, elected officials, the Arthur Oxendine family and friends of law enforcement attended this year's Annual Banquet. Sheriff Glenn Maynor, an active member of the Association, introduced our dynamic guest speaker, Mr. Neil Woodcock, Director of Law Enforcement Support Services in Raleigh, NC. Mr. Woodcock entertained the audience with funny stories. Sudexo Catering, UNC-P, catered a delicious meal and everyone enjoyed the good food and fellowship.

Preparations are underway for the 2003 banquet and expectations are for another successful year.

Anyone who would like to help support this cause may contact any law enforcement chief executive for information.

Local Representative needed

World Heritage, a non-profit student exchange program, is seeking local area representatives to volunteer their time and skills to provide students from several countries including Germany, France, Mexico, and the former Soviet Union countries, with local program support.

Local representatives plan an annual student orientation, meet with the local high schools, provide support counseling for participants, screen potential host families, and meet with the exchange students on a monthly basis. Representatives also attend an annual training workshop and report to the regional coordinator. The ideal candidate should enjoy fostering new international friendships, be community minded, and enjoy working with teenagers and adults. Local representatives spend an average of 2-4 hours a month with exchange students, and time and expenses are reimbursed by the organization.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the World Heritage International Student Exchange Program or would like to find out what other opportunities are available, please contact Becky Watson at 864-963-8332 or at 1-800-888-9040

Leon Jacobs Receives Jay Silverheels Award

Leon Jacobs, former board member of LRDA, and current Tribal Manager of the Mashantucket Pequot tribe of Connecticut has been awarded the Jay Silverheels Achievement Award by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development.

This is the highest award given by the Center for American Indian Enterprise Development to an individual for economic development achievement. The award was presented recently to Mr. Jacobs at the NCAIED annual banquet in Los Angeles, Ca.

Mr. Jacobs became the Tribal Manager of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation in 1994. The tribe owns and operates the largest Casino Resort in the world. Prior to going to work for the tribe Leon was the Area Director for the Office of Native American Programs within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Chicago, Illinois.

During his tenure at HUD the number of Indian Housing Authorities grew nationally from 28 to 45, which included the N.C. Indian Housing Authority in Fayetteville, which is still operational today and was the entity that grand fathered the Lumbee tribe in under the new HUD NAHASDA law in 1996.

During his 14 years of leadership at HUD in the Indian Division, more than 5000 homes were constructed within Indian country, which included 204 units for Lumbees in Robeson, Hoke, and Cumberland Counties.

The Jay Silverheels Award is given each year by the NCAIED to an individual who has achieved personal and professional success while making significant contributions to the community. The award is given in honor of Jay Silverheels who is best known for his role as Tonto in the Lone Ranger television series. Silverheels was a strong advocate for American Indian involvement in business and economic development, and personally worked to help Indian-owned enterprises enter the mainstream business community.

On behalf of the board and staff, LRDA congratulates Leon Jacobs on this outstanding honor and recognition for his many labors on behalf of not only his people, the Lumbee tribe, but also for all Indian people. Submitted by LRDA

Study course underway at Sandy Plains UMC

Pembroke-Sandy Plains United Methodist Church has begun a 12-week study of Rev. James W. Moore's book, "Yes Lord, I have Sinned but I have Several Excellent Excuses". The congregation invites everyone to attend the Wednesday night sessions.

The study will run into the first week of February 2003. The remaining dates, topics, and relevant Scripture are:

- November 27- "The sin of halfheartedness" (Matt: 5:38-45)
- December 4- "The sin of spiritual arrogance" (Luke 10:25-27)
- December 11- "The sins that are deceptive" (Luke 11:37-44)
- December 18- "The sin of overreaction" (Matt: 13: 24-30)
- January 8- "The sin of hostility" (Matt: 11: 12-15)
- January 15- "The sin of presumptuousness" (Luke 14: 7-11)
- January 22- "The sin of losing our spiritual balance" (Mark 5: 1-20)
- January 29- "Sin...and redemption" (Genesis 50: 15-21)
- February 5- "Sin...and grace" (Luke 15: 6b, 9b, 22-24)

Sandy Plains UMC is located at 2468 Union Chapel Road, 2 1/2 miles north of Pembroke and one-third mile south of the intersection of Highway 72 and Union Chapel Road. Rev. David Malcolm is the Pastor. Call (910) 521-8600 or e-mail spumcnc@bellsouth.net for more information.

Studio One to entertain for Christmas

Ready for Christmas? Studio One Lab of the Public Schools of Robeson County has prepared the very best Christmas entertainment that Robeson has to offer you. The show, "Tis the season for Joy" offers something for everyone. Come experience a variety of music and dance from our rich multi cultural heritage...from Native American flutes and drums to singers and dancers rockin' around the Christmas tree. "Tis the Season for Joy" runs November 26, 29, and 30th at 8PM and Sunday, Dec. 1 at 3PM. Performances will be held at the Givens Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Tickets are \$12 for Adults, \$10 for Senior Citizens, and \$6 for students. Let us get your joyous holiday season off to the best start ever!

Social Services Board to meet November 26

The November meeting of the Social Services board will be held on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, at 4:00 in the upstairs conference room. A tentative agenda is as follows:

- Invocation-assigned by Raymond Cummings, Chairman
- Consideration of minutes-Raymond Cummings
- Old Business
- HIPPA-update-Van Strickland
- Sols & Start Teams-David Wood
- New Business
- Health Choice Allocation-Margaret Burnette

In the Armed Forces

Marine Corps Cpl. Jeffery E. Hammonds, son of Earl J. Hammonds of 1725 NC Highway 904, Fairmont, N.C., recently was promoted to his current rank while serving with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C.

Hammonds was promoted based on sustained superior job performance and proficiency in his designated specialty.

Hammonds is a 1998 graduate of Fairmont High School of Fairmont, N.C. and joined the Marine Corps in March 2000.

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Indian Heritage Celebration

Don't miss the largest event of the year at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh. Come to the Seventh Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Members of all eight state-recognized tribes will come together to celebrate their heritage with dancing, music, craft demonstrations, storytelling and more. Admission and parking are free.

For more information call 919-715-0200

To follow, without halt, one aim: There's the secret of success. —Anna Pavlova

Sandy Plains United Methodist Church Bazaar

Pembroke-Sandy Plains United Methodist Church will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar from 4-9 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28. A variety of handmade Christmas wreaths, ornaments and other gifts will be for sale in the church fellowship hall. Proceeds will be used to support the church's youth ministries.

Sandy Plains UMC is located at 2468 Union Chapel Road, 2 and a half miles north of Pembroke and one-fourth mile south of the Highway 72-Union Chapel Road intersection. Call (910) 521-8600 for more information.

CIGNA HealthCare enters New Contract with FirstHealth

Raleigh, NC (November 13, 2002) CIGNA HealthCare recently signed a new contract with FirstHealth of the Carolinas that provides its members with access to inpatient, outpatient and ancillary services provided by FirstHealth's three hospitals, the company announced today.

"CIGNA HealthCare is very pleased to extend our long-standing relationship with FirstHealth, which allows us to offer access to FirstHealth's comprehensive network of health care services and hospitals at a very affordable rate to our customers and health plan members," said Steve White, president, CIGNA HealthCare of North Carolina, Inc.

The new agreement became effective October 1, 2002. CIGNA HealthCare and are pleased with this new agreement that will benefit CIGNA HealthCare members in the communities we serve," said Charles T. Frock, FirstHealth President & CEO "This agreement provides the opportunity to keep costs as low as possible for CIGNA HealthCare members who seek treatment at one of our FirstHealth Hospitals. We constantly seek ways to provide quality care at the

lowest cost to our patients." Frock said.

FirstHealth hospitals include Montgomery Memorial Hospital, Moore Regional Hospital and Richmond Memorial Hospital. FirstHealth of the Carolinas is a comprehensive health care system that serves 17 counties in North and South Carolina. For more information about FirstHealth services, visit www.firsthealth.org

CIGNA HealthCare serves more than 850,000 members across North Carolina. The CIGNA HealthCare companies comprise one of the nation's leading providers of health benefit programs with products marketed in all 50 states and managed care networks serving 45 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. CIGNA HealthCare currently provides medical coverage through managed care and indemnity programs to approximately 14.2 million people, dental care and mental health coverage approximately 27 million, vision care coverage to approximately 4 million and health care and disability management services to approximately 25 million people. CIGNA HealthCare refers to various operating subsidiaries of CIGNA Corporation (NYSE: CI). For more information, visit www.cigna.com.

From the desk of the
Superintendent

Dr. Barry Harding
Public Schools of Robeson County

With the concern that exists about violence in the public schools nationally, it was gratifying to get the results a couple of weeks ago of the annual survey about where the Public Schools of Robeson stand on the subject. It was especially good to learn that our school system had shown a substantial improvement over last year. We had gone from being fourth in the state the year before in the number of violent incidents to 30th this past year. When you consider that there are 117 schools systems in the state, that's a pretty good improvement. We dropped from 289 occurrences or 12.3 per 1,000 students to 239 occurrences or 10.215 per 1,000 students. Thus, while the state's schools went up 56% in violence occurrences, we went down 17%. It's one of the few times that it's good to drop in the rankings.

Invariably, as you look at statistics like these, you find yourself checking out where you stand in relation to other school systems around the state- especially those in your general area or your approximate size. Before you get too involved in those comparisons, though, it's well to consider something else which can have a great effect on rankings. If you could be certain that everyone is on the same page while recording the occurrences at their schools, you could probably consider a comparison valid. Unfortunately, that's not always the case. There is always the possibility that certain violent activities are interpreted differently by different systems or even by different people within the same system. The answer, of course, should be that everyone reports activity in their system according to the criteria set down by the Department of Public Instruction. I know that we make every effort to report violent occurrences according to those criteria. If every system reported the same way, we could expect the rankings to be a legitimate indication of violence in the state's school systems.

Except for interpretation or consistently reporting all occurrences, the only real difference between the report last year and the report for the year before is the fact that three new categories have been added to the violent occurrences reported. One was possession of an alcoholic beverage, another was conveying a bomb threat and the third was burning a school building. Of the three, possession of an alcoholic beverage showed up most often and should be the most easily controlled. Even with the total number of occurrences we reported being down by 50, we still had to report 29 cases of possession of an alcoholic beverage which means that, if that category had not been added, we would've dropped even further down the list. I reiterate, though, the important thing about evaluating such a report involves the fair and honest reporting required to accept such a report as being legitimate correct. Ours was and we were happy that we were still able to drop down the list. We vow to continue that trend next year.

Maxton Christmas Parade Dec 14th

The Town of Pembroke is again making plans for an exciting and wonderful Christmas Parade for this upcoming holiday season. We certainly hope that you will include this date ad time on your calendar to come and take part in the parade. Participation in the parade is free. You may also purchase Booth space food-\$30, food/crafts-\$35, crafts-\$25.

The Town office will be accepting call-in entries for the parade through December 12. When you call, make sure you have a telephone number where you can be reached and the name of a contact. Please call between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. We welcome cars, floats, bands, marching groups, trucks, etc. in the parade. Lineup will start at Townsend Middle School on December 14th around 8:15 a.m. You will be given a line up number at that time.

Again, come join us on Saturday, December 14, 2002 in Maxton, NC for our parade. The Town Office telephone number is at the top of the 844-5231. For further information, call the town office or Mrs. Delia Quaison at (910) 844-3431 during the day.

It is our goal to have a safe and enjoyable parade. For this reason, we are asking only adults to throw candy. Also, horses will not be allowed in the parade. We would like to thank you for your cooperation on these very important matters. *by Ervin Jacobs, Maxton*