

## Judy Cummings, activist for the deaf, to be part of Lumbree Homecoming activities

by Sarah C. Hunt

Judy Cummings Stout of Germantown, Maryland is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Wilton R. Cummings of Pembroke. They own a local restaurant called the Cozy Corner on Highway 710 and 71. Judy is a political activist for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers. She grew up in Pembroke, having attended the Indian Normal School in the Prospect community for five years. She then entered the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf in Wilson (ENCSD) until the end of her seventh grade. Then she attended the North Carolina School for the Deaf (NCSD) in Morganton from the ninth grade through the eleventh grade. She attended Gallaudet University where she earned a BA degree in Arts and Psychology and a Master's Degree in School Guidance. Currently she makes a living as Family Educator with the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center at Gallaudet University. On a part-time basis she teaches the Political Leadership course at Gallaudet University. Judy is married to Claude Stout and they have two children, Abby and Ty.

For the near future Judy hopes to succeed in getting grants for a newly founded Maryland Institute of Political Leadership and Access, Inc. Its mission is to promote and recruit candidates who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, or hearing with other disabilities across America to run for elective office.

**Improving Outreach to American Indians and Alaska Natives who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind**

The University of Arkansas Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (RTC) received a grant award from the National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) in October 2002. The purpose of this one-year project is to develop a publication which will address

key outreach needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind.

A study team has been assembled to serve as writers of this publication. The team consists of human services and vocational rehabilitation professionals from across the nation: Dr. Howard Busby, Gallaudet University; Alan Cartwright, Arc of Anchorage Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center; Linda J. Carroll, Southwest Multiracial Interpreting Service of New Mexico; Dan LaBrosse, Alaska Department of Vocational Rehabilitation; Damara Goff Paris, President, Intertribal Deaf Council; and Judy Cummings Stout, Laurent Clerc Center, Washington, DC. These individuals are representative of Eastern Band Cherokee, Cherokee Nation, Blackfoot, Mississippi Choctaw, and Lumbee deaf and hard of hearing, coordinated by Dr. Katrina Miller, University of Arkansas.

The goal of the project is to identify sociocultural barriers to human services for American Indians and Alaska Natives who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind. The information will be used to develop resource materials for vocational rehabilitation counselors working with this population. Interested parties can provide feedback to the researchers by email for a period ending June 30, 2003. Please view the preliminary findings at [www.uark.edu/rtdcdeaf/AmericanIndian/Study.htm](http://www.uark.edu/rtdcdeaf/AmericanIndian/Study.htm) and submit your comments using the email link provided on site.

Additionally, the public will have a chance to make comments at the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association (ADARA) conference in New Jersey in May 2003, at a workshop entitled "Improving Outreach to American Indian and Alaska Native Individuals who are Deaf." For details on the conference, please look it up at the website address, [www.adara.org/pages/cfp.pdf](http://www.adara.org/pages/cfp.pdf).

Lumbree Homecoming Celebration in Pembroke. Judy Cummings Stout will facilitate a public forum in ASL, discussing cultural awareness of Deaf and Hard of Hearing American Indians in rehabilitation settings. She will be at Moore Hall Auditorium on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke July 5, 2003 from 2:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Please contact Judy at [lumbreejudy@aol.com](mailto:lumbreejudy@aol.com) or at 301-515-9482 (TTY)/Relay 711 for more information about this event.

## Clinical Health Summer Program gives UNCP students real world experience in health care fields

**PEMBROKE, N.C.**—In mid May eight UNCP pre-health students were placed throughout Robeson and Scotland counties to test drive various health careers through a Clinical Health Summer Program (CHSP).

The program is sponsored by the North Carolina Health Careers Access Program (NC-HCAP) and funded by the North Carolina General Assembly. The students can be seen rotating at Pembroke Family Practice - Pembroke, Pembroke Pediatrics, Southeastern Regional Medical Center, Robeson Family Practice in Springs, Scotland Memorial Hospital, Healthkeeperz in Pembroke, Robeson Health Care

Corporation's Maxton Medical Center, and Lumberton Health Center.

Students participating are:

- \* Carla G. Clark-Red Springs
- \* Crystal L. Hall-St. Pauls
- \* Cherella H. Jones-Maxton
- \* Jeremy L. Locklear-Pembroke

\* Jeremy L. Lowry-Pembroke

\* Kaleena Sampson-Pembroke

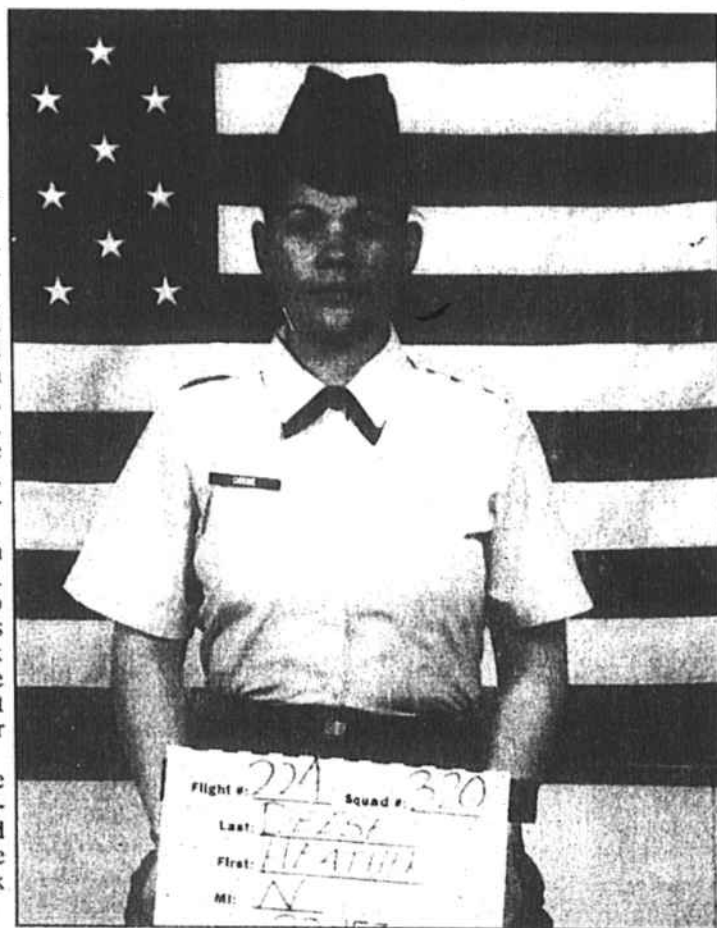
\* Jason L. Smith-Maxton

\* Kizzy L. Thompson-Rowland

"This program provides a wonderful opportunity for college students to look at a variety of careers in health care and related fields while earning a salary for seven weeks," said UNCP's HCAP director Sylvia Johnson. "The students get practical experience, exposure to real-life situations, and the opportunity to make valuable contact with health care professionals by which mentor relationships could form."

The Clinical Health Summer Program is just one example of how the NC-Health Careers Access Program is helping to increase the number of racial/ethnic minority and/or individuals from economically disadvantaged backgrounds who are trained, educated, and employed in the health professions.

For more information about the program contact: Sylvia T. Johnson, Director, NC-HCAP at UNC Pembroke, (910) 521-6493.



1st Class Heather N. Deese

Air Force Airman 1st Class Heather N. Deese has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performing drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airman who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the air force.

She is the daughter of Robert and Betty Deese of W.Cottingham St., Maxton, NC. Deese is a 2002 graduate of Purnell Swett High School, Pembroke, N.C.

## McIntyre stands up for Vets

**Washington, D.C.**—U.S. Representative Mike McIntyre announced his support for a comprehensive package of benefits designed to honor the contributions of those who have served America in the Armed Forces.

Congressman McIntyre stated, "This Memorial Day, I salute our veterans by proposing a plan to ensure that the system established to compensate and honor them for their service is strengthened. Ensuring that our veterans receive the very best in health care is a top priority, and I will be actively working for its passage."

McIntyre has endorsed the "Salute to Veterans and the Armed Services" package that concentrates on what is critical to retired and disabled members of the military. The package makes Veterans' health care more

affordable and accessible and expands educational opportunities for reservists. The package also includes a bipartisan proposal to give full retirement benefits to disabled veterans and establishes standards to speed up the adjudication of disability claims. It will reduce waiting times for veterans' medical care and blocks increases in prescription drug co-payment and enrollment fees for veterans.

Further, the plan improves the Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP) to end the two-tiered system of benefits for the families of those killed while in active duty. The plan gives an important "thank you" bonus to the nearly 500,000 troops who were in imminent danger in Iraq and Afghanistan.

## FirstBank donates computers to school

**Lumberton, N.C.**—Students of Janie Carlyle Hargrave Elementary School will have a little more breathing room in their computer lab this week, thanks to First Bank of Lumberton.

First Bank made major improvements to the school's technology program Wednesday with the donation of eleven gently-used computers to the overcrowded computer lab. Media Coordinator Katherine Charles explained, "This is great because right now two or three kids have to share one computer." With First Bank's donation, the new computers will nearly double the available computers in the lab.

First Bank has consistently donated computers through a program that began in November 2002 and throughout various communities in North Carolina. The schools are chosen on basis of need. First Bank Senior Vice President and Area Executive Mike Hardin said of the latest

recipients, "We thought Hargrave was a perfect fit."

Principal Larece Hunt said that talk of closing the elementary school led to a lack of investment in the school's technology. Since it was decided the school would remain open, they have not been able to fully recover. Hargrave Elementary has been recognized as a School of Distinction and a School of Progress by the State of North Carolina.

Fourth-grader Jetta Powell said of the gift, "It's very helpful and generous." Powell, who says she wants to be a lawyer, added, "I'll probably have to work with computers so I need to learn." Technology Director Jamie Strickland agreed, "Children need all the hands-on experience they can get these days. This will really help."

First Bank of Lumberton Branch Manager and Assistant Vice President, Susie Jones was extremely excited about the donation.

## SC Chamber recognizes Perdue Farms outstanding safety records



**Columbia, S.C.**—More than 200 businesses from across South Carolina were honored for excellent safety records by the Safety and Health Committee of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce on April 8. This annual event spotlights the best in safety and encourages businesses in South Carolina to strive to meet high expectations and goals that this elite group has achieved.

The keynote speaker, Adrienne Youmans, executive director of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, commended these businesses for taking the initiative to create a safe workplace for the health of their employees, the betterment of their companies, and for setting an exemplary example for business and industry in South Carolina.

The award recipients have demonstrated a total commitment to fostering safe, productive working environments. "These companies have proven that while a safe work place translates into increased productivity and lower worker compensation premiums, it also maintains a positive work environment by showing employees that they are important and vital to the organization," said C. Ray Harris, chairman of the S.C. Chamber's Safety and Health Committee.

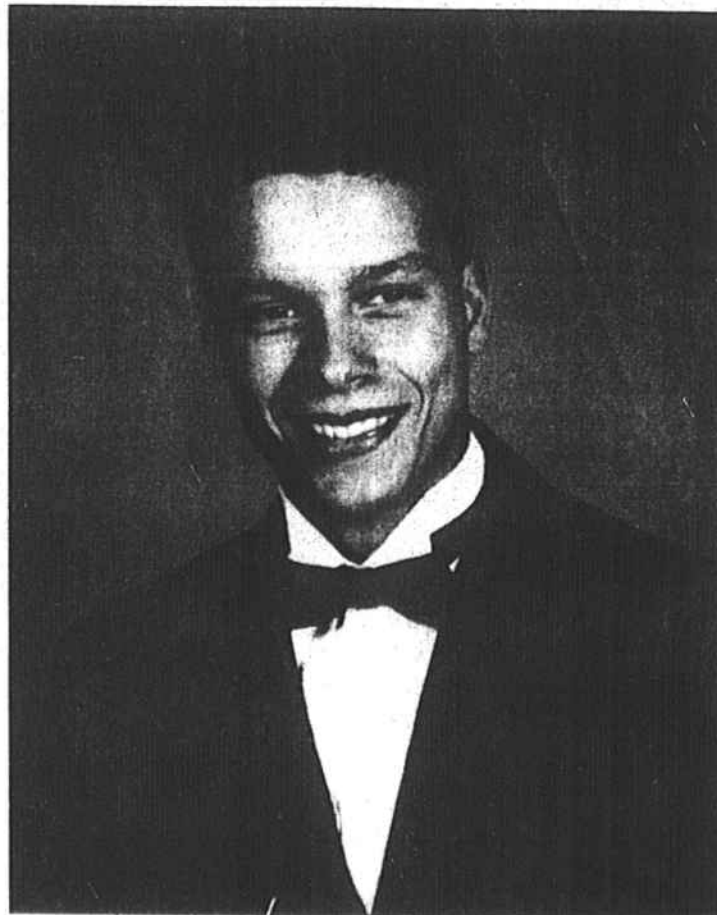
Perdue Farms, Inc. of Dillon, SC was the recipient of the Commendation of Excellence. The Dillon team reached the Five million safe hours mark without a lost time accident. Dillon is only the third Perdue facility to hit the Five million mark. However, the Dillon associates have hit the 4 million on Oct 28, 2002. They have reached 3 million safe production hours twice and have reached the million safe hours goal 5 times since the plant began operations in 1992. They are on target to reach Six million hours in early Nov 2003. According to Complex Safety Supervisor, Rick Barton—"Our goal is to become the premier job site in SC and become the safety standard for the rest of the Poultry industry." Left to Right Adrienne Youmans, executive director of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Rick Barton Perdue farms, Inc., C.Ray Harris chairman of the S.C. Chamber's Safety and Health Committee.

## Your Financial

### Tips On Choosing A Financial Advisor

(NAPS)—Finding a good financial advisor could be just the thing to help your nest egg grow. There are plenty of these professionals around. However, it's a good idea to take a few precautions before handing over your life's savings. Americans for Financial Security (AFS) suggests you potential advisors the following questions:

- What financial planning designations have they earned?
- How long have they been doing financial planning?
- Will they provide at least three references of current clients?
- Have they ever received disciplinary action from a personal or regulatory body?



## Graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University

Wesley Adams Rogers graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University May 17, 2003. He received a degree in Chemistry/Pre-med. He is the son of Rex and Kathy Rogers of Suffolk, Virginia. He is the grandson of the late Burlin and Martha Rogers formerly of Robeson County, and Ronald and Donna Ries of Zuni, Virginia.