

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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Tribal Administrator speaks at Co-op

by Yvonne Barnes Dial

Realizing the importance of networking, tribal administrator, Darlene Jacobs greeted members of the Rockingham District Native American Cooperative Ministry of the United Methodist Church at their monthly meeting at Pembroke First Church. The needs of the Native Americans seem extensive from health issues to infant mortality. "You're told that you're statistically insignificant by the government," states Ms. Jacobs as she shares that one of her major goals is to help gain tribal recognition for the Lumbee tribe. Other concerns center on the fact that Lumbees have the highest number of children in foster care across the state. "We need programs for all ages and we need to address issues," she states. To raise awareness on all levels, she feels that networking with agencies as the Co-op, Robeson County Church and Community Center, Burnt Swamp Association, Housing Authority,

Learning a great deal about housing and experiencing already the frustrations and joys of serving individuals, she feels excitement to witness someone reaching their dream of owning their home. Other needs her agency

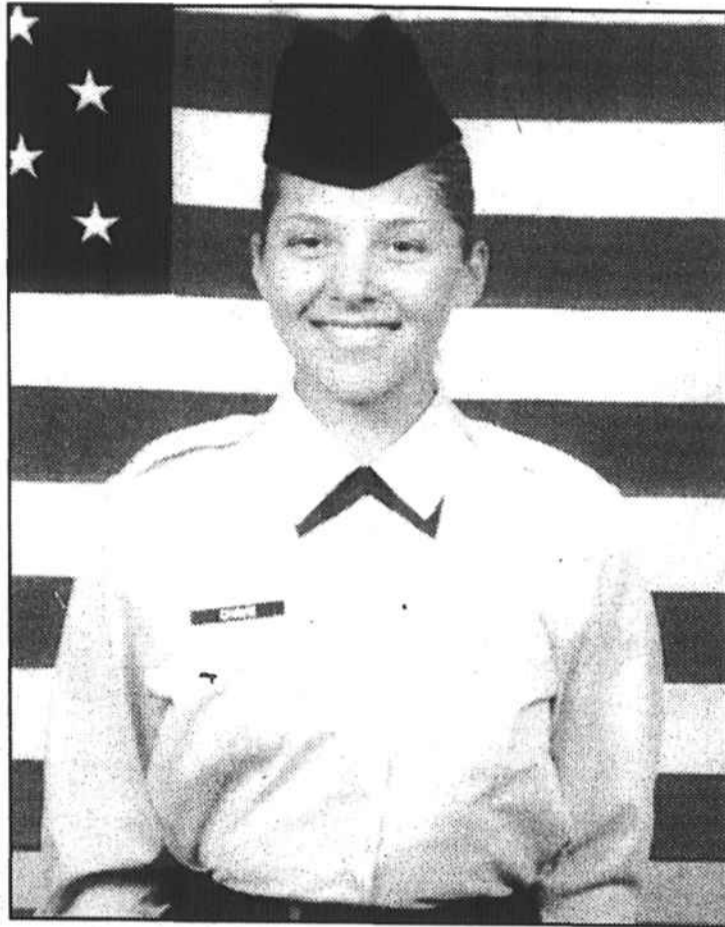
provides for the people include: paying light bills, medical bills or other bills and provide for the needy. Looking at the economic development, she desires to assist people also in obtaining loans. The council has come a long ways with the council doing all the work from administrative, executive, and legislative levels, and now a new foundation is being built where long term goals are needed according to Ms. Jacobs.

Some of the goals for the future include housing, helping provide for individuals to be able to own their own business, expand public transportation, health and medical needs, expand assistance in helping to prevent substance abuse, child abuse, domestic violence, and high school drop-out rates.

"The Lumbee Tribe is rich in oral tradition and history and we've survived. These are the keys to our drive and self sufficiency which has been a great benefit. We must mold it and make it work," concluded Ms. Jacobs.

Serving as a program consultant, Ms. Jacobs previously worked with the North Carolina State Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health Disparities. She previously worked for ten years as community service program director with the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs. She received a Master of Arts in Applied Sociology at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma in 1982.

the Healing Lodge, Commission of Indian Affairs, UNC-Pembroke, Robeson Technical College, Lumbee Regional Development Association, Tribal Council, churches, schools, hospitals, Healthkeeperz, town councils, and other important areas serve as the major key to meet the needs of the people. "I love my people; it was an awesome opportunity that I believe the Creator provided for me." Ms. Jacobs shares as why she chose to pursue the position as the tribal council director. "I put my trust, faith, and reliance on God. It is a tremendous and awesome task God laid before this government, staff, and me. He can only open these doors and we are his instruments," she continues.



Air Force Airman 1st Class Heather M. Chavis 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, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associates degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Chavis is the daughter of Paulien Chavis of Red Hill Road, Maxton, NC.

She is a 2002 graduate of Purnell Sweet High School, Pembroke, N.C.

Who Am I? by Erwin Jacobs

It is the wee hours of the morning of Tuesday, July 15th, 2003. As I awoke after retiring to bed last night early due to the downpour of the blessed rain our Father has been showering us with, and saying goodbye to our friend, Mr. William Lonnie (Sonny Boy) Revels, Sr. at Revels Funeral Home in the Town of Pembroke, NC, Robeson County where he grew up and attended school at Pembroke High while I was a student there in the early 1950s; also paying my respect to his lovely wife, Mrs. Ruth Locklear Revels and the family. As I approached Mrs. Ruth to shake her hand and offer my condolences she said, "I know who you are and I read your columns in the Carolina Indian Voice." And she encouraged me to keep writing. It made my heart feel good. I know I have touched many people with my stories. There was a long line from the front of the parlor as it snaked through to where Mr. Revels lay in state, but with my left hip burning I was determined to pay my respect and stand a minute, salute him and wish him a happy "So Long" as it is an old Native American way we bid our friends to rest in peace.

There is not much more I can add to the words of the obituary, only that Mr. Revels really loved old Robeson County and continued his fight for the Lumbee people until the end of his life. I saw many of his classmates and alumni from Pembroke High School at the wake. It caused my mind to go back just a couple of weeks ago when another school mate, Mr. Albert (Little Boy) Deese was laid to rest. We called Albert "Little Boy" while we were in the Boy Scouts at Harpers Ferry Troop #83. He was the runt of the troop and we were always playing jokes on him.

Not many years ago as we gathered for a yearly fry fry at his neighborhood (where he grew up) the conversation turned to a trip he made to a Reservation in his earlier years. I can't recall what tribe or state it was, but his guide on the Reservation was a fair complexioned young man. Albert remarked to the man, "how can you say you are an Indian, light complexion and different color of eyes?" To which the young man replied, "Have you looked in a mirror lately?" Albert said that broke him from using a phrase like that again on his journeys. You see, Albert was very fair complexioned and had hazel eyes

self. Mr. Albert Deese was also 67 years old and the same illness robbed him of his life as Mr. Revels.

When we were young people there were not many deaths related to the Big C. Most people raised and canned their own vegetables and other food at home. A great number of our native people were in the wars, World War I, II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Iraq, also other conflicts and were exposed to many things, like Agent Orange and other gases. There are several of my relatives who were exposed to Agent Orange. I was two and one half years working and living on the U.S.S. George Clymer APA 27 exposed to asbestos. I have had bronchial problems since my service years, but it is hard to prove that the asbestos caused it. Even though while working at Photo Circuits Inc. in Glen Cove, New York I had to take a series of Cobalt treatments for asbestos poisoning. The chemicals and other materials I worked in for thirteen years are now considered hazardous by OSHA (Occupational Safety Hazard Administration) Department.

I have been a DAV (Disabled American Veteran) "Life Time" member for a few years. Yesterday I received my July/August DAV Booklet, and in the reading of the articles it was praising the Veterans (DAV Volunteers) for giving a lot of their time helping veterans that need transportation to the VA facilities and other needs. I have been doing that for several years. Now when I go to take some one up to Fayetteville VA Hospital, I wear my DAV cap and it seems to make a difference as I push a patient in the wheel chair from clinic to clinic. This is one of my ways I give back to the DAV. After all, they were responsible for me getting help when I needed it. We never know when it will be our turn. I am a supporter of the Disabled American Veterans also a supporter of the Paralyzed American Veterans. We need your support and if you are at the VA Hospital and see a patient please say a few kind words to them. We never know we may be one of them in the future. There are so many veterans who are homeless, walking the streets because something has happened and they cannot cope with real life. I pray that it never happens to me. I enjoy helping the less fortunate because I know that God rewards me in many ways. See a veteran, shake his hand and tell him you appreciate the sacrifice he has made for our country. May God bless the USA. Pray for our military!

Pediatrician joins SRMC medical staff

Katie Lowry, M.D., M.P.H., has joined the medical staff of Southeastern Regional Medical Center. She is associated in private practice with Pembroke Pediatrics and the Lumberton Children's Clinic.

Areas of special interest to Dr. Lowry include adolescent medicine, teen pregnancy prevention, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder and asthma.

"I have always known I wanted to practice medicine here at home. I have been blessed with help along the way from my friends, colleagues and especially my mentor, Dr. Joseph Bell," she said.

A native of Pembroke, Dr. Lowry earned a bachelor of arts degree in biology in 1991 and a master's of public health degree in maternal/child health in 1995, both from UNC Chapel Hill. She

attended the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University where she received her medical degree in 2000. Earlier this year, she completed a

three-year residency program in pediatrics at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville, N.C.

Dr. Lowry lives in Pembroke with her 6-year-old daughter Katelyn. Her parents, the late Millard and Pauline Lowry, were also from Pembroke. Her fiancé, Mark Petersen, is a native of Rennett and currently resides in Fuquay-Varina, N.C.

"In this profession, as many others, it is optimum to surround yourself with individuals with the same goals, work ethic and mindset," said Dr. Lowry. "I feel that Pembroke Pediatrics is the perfect place to be, and-most importantly-it is good to be home."

Felicia Baxter, M.D. joins Children's Health of Carolina, P.A.

Children's Health of Carolina, P.A. is pleased to announce that Felicia Baxter, M.D. has joined our practice. Dr. Baxter will be based at SRMC where she will serve as the "Hospitalist" for Lumberton Children's Clinic, Pembroke Pediatrics and Robeson Child Health Plus.

Dr. Baxter resides in Fayetteville. She received her bachelor's degree from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia and graduated from the University of Florida College of Medicine in 1997. She completed her pediatric residency at the Children's Medical Center of Dallas/University of Texas. Dr. Baxter is currently pursuing her Masters of Business Administration. Dr. Baxter is on the Faculty of Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg. She has also served as a Locum Tenens at

Lumberton Children's Clinic since 2001. She is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association.

Children's Health of Carolina, P.A. has been serving the children and families of Robeson and surrounding counties since 1954!

The staff, physician assistants, nurse practitioner, and doctors provide complete, all-around medical service.

Regular office hours are available for all types of visits and the Lumberton and Pembroke offices are open at night and on weekends for sick visits and emergencies. There is also a physician on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays.

For additional information or questions, please contact Fordham Britt @ 738-8060, ext.303.

In The Armed Forces

Trinkity K. Blue
Trinity K. Blue has joined the United States Army under the Delayed Entry Program. Blue, a 2003 graduate of Lumberton senior High School, N.C., will report to Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C., for active duty on November 5, 2003. He is the son of Tony N. and Donna E. Locklear of Anna Road, Pembroke, N.C.

Lindsay D. Freeman
Lindsay D. Freeman has entered basic cadet training at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Col., in preparation to enter the first academic year at the academy. The six-week, two-phased orientation program trains men and women to meet the rigorous mental and physical challenges of a cadet.

Phase one involves personal processing, orientation, and training in the fundamentals of being a cadet. Cadet trainees are prepared to adjust from civilian life to military life, and learn the proper wear of the uniform, drill and ceremony, marching, and living quarter standards. During phase two, cadets train outdoors living in tents while learning to function in field conditions Team work, cohesion and learning to deal with physically and mentally demanding situations are practiced. Trainees complete the obstacle, confidence, assault, and leadership reaction courses, and participate in a rescue mission termed Operation Warrior. Freeman is the daughter of Larry and Patricia Freeman of Turkey Branch Road, Fairmont, N.C. She is a 2002 graduate of Fairmont High School.

Keyon J Baker
Keyon J. Baker has joined the United States Army under the Delayed Entry Program. The program gives young men and women the opportunity to delay

entering active duty for up to one year.

The enlistment gives the new soldier the option to learn a new skill, travel and become eligible to receive as much as \$50,000 toward a college education. After completion of basic training, soldiers receive advanced individual training in their career job specialty prior to being assigned to their first permanent duty station. Baker, a 2003 graduate of South Robeson High School, Rowland, N.C., will report to Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C., for active duty on August 18, 2003.

He is the son of Jannie N. McKoy of Joy Road, Rowland.

Patrick B. Locklear
Patrick B. Locklear has joined the United States Army under the Delayed Entry Program. The program gives young men and women the opportunity to delay entering active duty for up to one year.

The enlistment gives the new soldier the option to learn a new skill, travel and become eligible to receive as much as \$50,000 toward a college education. After completion of basic military training, soldiers receive advanced individual training in their career job specialty prior to being assigned to their first permanent duty station.

The recruit qualifies for a \$7,000 enlistment bonus. Locklear, a 2003 graduate of Red Springs High School, N.C., has reported to Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla., for active duty. He is the son of Curley N. and Pamela N. Locklear of Highway 71 N., Maxton, N.C.



A Search for Deliverance at SAJANAM

The world faces tragedies of diseases, violence, child abuse, drug abuse, domestic violence and corruption leading to confusion, depression, and broken spirits. With great concern among Native American leaders over these issues and the impact they have on individuals, the Southeastern Jurisdictional Native American agency held its fifteenth annual conference June 27-29 at Lake Junaluska, N.C. with the theme-Deliverance: "Brokenness to Wholeness."

Robby Lowry, SEJANAM president, and Rev. Kenneth Locklear,

executive director, welcomed everyone with Dr. Evelyn Laycock as the keynote speaker on Friday. Later, Rev. Homer Noley shared history of the efforts and challenges Native American leaders have faced in the United Methodist Church. The night's events began with all churches and tribes making a grand entrance displaying flags and banners to represent their churches. Rev. Cynthia Abrams shared a message centered around the theme of the event, and afterwards, everyone enjoyed an ice cream social. Saturday, participants attended various workshops as "Alcoholism Addictions" con-

ducted by Dr. Martin Brooks, "Resourcing" by Millard Lowry, "CONAM" by Gary Locklear, Cynthia Kent, and Cathy Nelson, "Family Violence" by Patricia Gaddis and "Youth" by Raggie Celine.

The afternoon involved aSEJANAM Women's Gathering, a golf tournament organized by Rev. Douglas Locklear and a pow wow. The children and youth shared a presentation each and various groups sang a variety of songs. Later, Rev. Edward A. Swebha shared God's word.

The last day, Freeman Owl provided the audience with different ways and means of reaching mental and spiritual connector which allow the people to reach the wholeness in their lives. Later, Louise directed the Ashpole United Methodist Youth Choir in song. Everyone participated in communion, and Rev. Dr. Sam Wynn delivered his message of Deliverance: Brokenness to Wholeness at the Stuart Auditorium.

Other activities at the SEJANAM event included swimming, arts, and crafts, walking around the lake, and an arts and crafts sale coordinated by Mable Cummings and Cleo Locklear.

By Yvonne Dial

Poems sought in contest from Pembroke area poets

A \$1,000.00 grand prize is being offered in a new poetry contest sponsored by Celestial Arts, free to everyone. Over \$50,000.00 in cash prizes will be awarded during the coming year!

"Even if you have never entered a competition before," says Poetry Editor Michael Thomas, "this is your opportunity to win big. Even if you have written only one poem it deserves to be

read and appreciated. Beginners are welcome!"

To enter, send one poem 21 lines or less: Celestial Arts, PO Box 1140, Talent, OR.

Or enter online at www.free-contest.com.

Be sure your name and address is on the page with your poem. The deadline for entering is August 29, 2003. A winner's list will be sent to all entrants.