

Jacobs becomes tribal administrator amid allegations of non-compliance of federal rules and regulations

by Connee Brayboy, Editor

Tribal Chairman Jimmy Goins began his tenure as Chairman January 15th, 2004 amid allegations of non-compliance by the administration of the Lumbee Tribal Government. In his speech during the swearing in ceremony for him and the 21-member tribal council, Goins promised accountable leadership during his term as Chairman. On January 14, 2004 officials from HUD, where the tribe receives more than \$10 million in housing funds, informed the outgoing and newly elected council members and outgoing chairman Milton Hunt and newly elected Chairman Jimmy Goins that after an investigation by their office, they found several instances of non-compliance with federal rules and regulations. These matters will be forth coming in a written report, expected any day now. This report was not in by press time. Many of the issues of non-compliance, reportedly, dealt with the tribal government's procurement policies and the capabilities of the administration to administer federal funds. The administration of the tribal government is mostly defined as the Tribal Administrator, the Housing Director and the Comptroller. HUD officials reportedly told council

members and chairmen that failure to take administrative action could result in the loss of housing funds for the upcoming year. Earlier HUD had frozen funds to the tribal government because of their failure to submit any environmental reviews on modular homes they had purchased in the Moss Neck community, as well as buildings, repairs, land purchases. No environmental reviews had been submitted, a HUD requirement.

Chairman Goins responded to HUD's informal report by stating that he would not recommend Darlene Jacobs as Tribal Administrator. She had held the position since March, 2003 and was appointed by former Chairman Milton Hunt. This action by Goins caused some activity among supporters of Jacobs. The end result was a split vote by the tribal council to uphold Jacobs' termination. In the same meeting, Goins recommended Leon Jacobs as interim Tribal Administrator. Goins had retained Mr. Jacobs under contract to work at the Tribal office until the council could meet to either confirm or reject his nomination as tribal administrator. Leon Jacobs will begin his tenure as Tribal Administrator on March 1, 2004. He has a long and distin-

guished history of employment with HUD as well as a continuing working relationship. Goins stated, "I think Leon Jacobs will be able to help us resolve the issues of non-compliance we are facing. This must be done in order for the tribe to continue receiving funds." The Tribal Administrator has the responsibility of hiring administrative staff.

The vote on Jacobs' termination and the hiring of Leon Jacobs were both closely watched by tribal members. The council will not meet in February, according to reports, but will hold a retreat and get acquainted with each other. The council is expected to meet in March and elect a Speaker at that time.

In addition to the non-compliance issues facing the tribal government, the new council and chairman must also deal with a private non profit corporation with no members, formed by the LTG. HUD monies have reportedly been placed in the private non-profit corporation. And other serious issues are facing the new government.

When the report is released by HUD officials, we will take a closer look at the issues raised by that department.

Pembroke Housing Authority's Full Circle dedicated to Human Services

Suzette Salcido has always had passion for lending a helping hand. For thirteen years, she lived in Chavis Park along with her four children; Patrick, Jovonis, Jacinta, and Samuel. In 1996, Lemark Harris, Executive Director for Pembroke Housing Authority, noticed something unique in this particular resident. Suzette was a very determined individual striving to succeed. When opportunity, then in 1988, Suzette was hired full-time as Secretary/Youth Center Assistant. Ms. Suzette really loved working with Youth, but she knew her time would be better spent working with elderly and disabled residents. She had a concern that the needs of the elderly and disabled residents were going unmet. She wanted to implement a program that would oversee the health and well being of elderly and disabled residents.

In January 2000, Pembroke Housing Authority developed and implemented Full Circle, a program designed to provide oversight of the daily living of the elderly and disabled residents in the form of case management services. Suzette was offered the position of Resident Services Coordinator. She gladly accepted, knowing this was where her heart was. Approaching a new year of 2004, Full Circle and Suzette are still touching the lives of many PHA Residents. Targeted residents are visited at a minimum on a monthly basis to detect possible lacking in any of the major daily life activities. The Resident Services Coordinator, under the direction of the Director of Resident Services, is responsible for the monitoring and case management of the elderly and disabled residents. If the Resident Services Coordinator suspect needs are unmet, she immediately intervenes to enhance and improve that area of the resident's daily life.

The elderly and disabled residents of PHA really appreciate and look forward to the interaction with the Resident Services Coordinator. Oftentimes this visitation from PHA may be the only visitors some residents see. Over the past three years, many partnerships have been formed to help provide services to PHA elderly and disabled residents. These partners include, but are not limited to Lumber River Council of Governments, Robeson County Department of Social Services, HealthKeeperz, Four County Community Services, Inc. and Advantage Hospice.

The Resident Service Coordinator tries to ensure all elderly and disabled residents needs are met. In addition to contacting agencies to provide services, something simple may be performed, such as calling in a work order to PHA for repair to the unit. The goal of the Full Circle program is to ensure all needs are met for the elderly and disabled population and assist them with issues of health, personal care services, transportation and other matters.

Recently, the Resident Services Coordinator visited one of the elderly residents. This particular resident had a concern of not having the money to pay her electrical bill. After making several phone calls, the Resident Services Coordinator was connected with the energy Pro-



Suzette Salcido

gram of the Department of Social Services. After explanation of the situation, the resident was asked to provide needed information. Within the next week, the resident's electrical bill was paid in full. If the Resident Services Coordinator had not been there to listen to the concerns, the resident possibly would have lost electrical power. Since it's inception, Full Circle has had great success with the residents and partnering agencies. The Resident Services Coordinator brightens the day for many of the elderly and disabled residents. It's a great feeling to walk into a resident's home and be welcomed with an open smile. Not only do the residents benefit by Full Circle, the Resident Services Coordinator receives daily blessings from knowing many of their lives are touched.

In August 2003, the Carolinas Council of Housing Development and Codes Official awarded Pembroke Housing Authority with the Human Services Award for the implementation of Full Circle.



Betty Strickland is UNCP's Officer of the Year

PEMBROKE, N.C. - Betty Strickland received the Officer of the Year Award from UNCP's Office of Police and Public Safety. Assistant Police Chief and Captain Larry McNeill made the presentation on January 20.

Officer Strickland received a pin for her uniform. She will wear it next to her 10-year service and good conduct pins.

"Betty is one of the most dedicated officers on our force, and she is deserving of this honor," Capt. McNeill said. "She always represents herself and the University in a professional manner."

Strickland is the traffic officer for the University. She roams the campus and gives out most of the parking tickets that are written at UNCP.

"It's a hard job working out there and trying to please everyone," she said. "I work hard and do my best."

"I like what I do, and I work with good people," Officer Strickland continued. "I am excited about this award. I'm still floating."

Concerned Citizens for the Children meet on Friday nights

The Concerned Citizens for the Children of the Robeson County School System will meet each Friday night at 7:30 pm. These meetings will be held at the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association Building located on 450 Prospect Rd. Pembroke N.C. The Baptist Building is across from the University of Pembroke.

If you need any other information, contact Glenn T Hunt at 910-738-2698

Plate sale planned at AIMI

American Indian Mothers, Inc., Hwy 71 N., Shannon, NC 28386 phone (910) 843-9911 will sponsor a Fundraiser Plate Sale February 20, 2004- Friday @ 10:30 am- 6:30 pm Fried Chicken or Pastry \$5.50 (w/ Chicken Salad)- Combination \$6.50-With: Desert & Bread. Sides: Potato Salad, Green Beans, Col-lards. For more information call 910-843-9911

Free Health Screening Feb. 27

A free health screening will be held Friday, Feb 27 from 10:30 a. m. until 4 p. m. At the Southside Alumni Association Building in Rowland. Checks for total cholesterol/HDL, blood pressure and blood glucose will be offered to all adults 18 years and older. Only on finger stick is required. Results are available in five minutes. These free screens are sponsored by the Robeson County Partnership for Community Health. Call 671-5595 for more information.

Volunteers at SRMC seeking magazine donations

Volunteers Southeastern Regional Medical Center are seeking magazine donations to distribute to hospitalized patients. If you have magazines to donate, please drop off at the hospital's main lobby reception desk or call Volunteer Coordinator Beth Ivey at 671-5093.

Orientation for Hospice to be held Feb. 23

Hospice of Robeson will hold a one-hour orientation to kick off eight-week training session for new volunteers on Monday, Feb. 23 at 7 p. m. At Southeastern Home Care Services, 2002 N. Cedar St. Lumberton. The weekly training sessions of three hours each will begin Wednesday, Feb 25 at 9:00 a. m., and continue through April 14. These classes are mandatory for volunteers who work with hospice patients and their families.

The public is cordially invited to attend the orientation and learn more about Hospice of Robeson and the services it provides for the terminally ill. For more information and an application, call Anne Crain at 671-5655

Message from Junior Miss Lumbee

Over the past couple of months as being your Junior Miss Lumbee, it has been fun and outgoing for me. I am very proud of myself by how I have represented my Lumbee People with beauty, grace, and pride. And it has been so exciting with what all the things I have learned. When I was crowned Little Miss Lumbee in 200-2001, we had our 1st Tribal Council Government Swearing-In Ceremony. And now that I'm Junior Miss Lumbee 2004 I made it our second Tribal Council Government Swearing-In Ceremony. It has made me grow and learn more about my Native American heritage.

I have visited at rest homes and performed for my elders. I have been visiting different churches to sing. I had a pleasure of visiting various schools during our Indian heritage month. It has made me strong as a young Lumbee lady. I want to thank the creator for making my dreams come true. I hope that through him, I have touched many lives. Proudly representing you with beauty, grace and pride. I'm your Junior Miss Lumbee- Takonna Lyn Bullard 2003-2004

Kindergarten registration at Pembroke Elementary

Kindergarten registration will be held at Pembroke Elementary School on Friday, March 19, 2004 from 9 a. m. until 1 p. m. at the school. Parents will need to bring a certified birth certificate (cannot accept the mother's copy), social security card, immunization records, tribal card (if applicable).

Must also provide documentation of current living address. For example: a current electric bill or phone bill. PO Box numbers will not be accepted.

To register for kindergarten, the child must be five years old by October 16, 2004.

Alumni Basketball Banquet

Tri-County Indian High School Basketball Conference will sponsor the Alumni Basketball Banquet on Saturday, March 6, 2004 from 6 until 8 p. m. at Prospect School. This will be a celebration and alumni are encouraged to attend and enjoy a meal and fellowship. It will be a great opportunity to interact with teammates and opponents, and to relive vivid memories of games and events.

MC Democrats to seek National Convention Delegates

Raleigh - The North Carolina Democratic Party has adopted a revised plan for selecting delegates and alternates to the 2004 Democratic Convention to be held July 26-29, 2004 in Boston, Massachusetts.

North Carolina has been allocated 107 delegates and 14 alternates to the convention.

Individuals seeking election to any of these slots must file a Notice of Candidacy and Statement of Presidential Preference with the North Carolina Democratic Party by the established deadlines.

The North Carolina Democratic Party is pledged to send an equal number of men and women to the national convention and to work for representation from traditionally under represented groups within the party.

For a copy of the 2004 Delegate Selection Plan, please go to our website- www.ncdp.org -or call the State Party in Raleigh at 919-821-2777 or 800-229-3367.

Unilever presents... Careers in the 21st Century

As part of the celebration of Career and Technical Education Week, Feb. 9- 13, 2004, South Robeson High's Counseling Department invited guests from Unilever of Raeford, NC to speak to a variety of classes. The Chemistry, Earth/Environment Science, Geometry, Advanced Math, and Biology. Mr. Kevin Beck, Plant Manager, and Mr. Evan Davenport, Quality Assurance Manager, spoke to 14 classes about the importance of staying in school, education as it relates to future employment, and their personal education and work experiences. Mr. Beck hails from Canada and grew up in rural area. He shared with the students that the only professional people he knew while growing up were his teachers at school. He told them he had ride one hour to get to school, thus making his travel a two hour round trip every day. Mr. Davenport, a graduate of South Robeson High, spoke to students about his education experience at South Robeson and how it provided him with sound preparation for college and work world. South Robeson is a appreciative of the presentations provided by these gentlemen. Inviting speakers from the business arena is part of South Robeson's effort to engage our publics as partners in educating our young people and reducing our dropout rate.