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"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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Voters make changes on School Board and keep County Commissioners in place

With a low voter turnout on Tuesday, Robeson County voters changed the makeup of the Robeson County Board of Education. Incumbents Steve Martin, District 7, and Patrick Bullard, District 5, lost their seats and Dr. JoAnn Chavis Lowery was added to the at-large representation along with incumbents John Campbell and Millicent Nealy. Mitchell Bosco Locklear did not seek re-election to the Board at-large. Robert Deese overcame a challenge by Marcus Bryant and retained his District 4 seat. Loistine Defreese whose husband, James Defreese is chairman of the board of education won the 1 seat.

The unofficial votes were:
District 1- Loistine Defreese 725 and Tom Jones 381; District 4- Robert Deese, 697 and Marcus Bryant 616; District 5- Randall S. Jones 620; Patrick Bullard 590; and Mary Catherine Brewer 212; District 7-

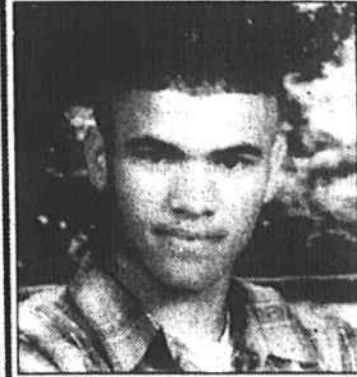
Steven Stone 917; Steve Martin, 738 and Timothy C. Bullock 917; At-large (three top vote getters win): Millicent Nealy 2,624; Dr. JoAnn Chavis Lowery 2,167; John Campbell 1,864; Jerry Long 1,811; Billy "Dollar Bill" Oxendine 1,021; Norman Woodward Sampson 344; James McEachern 769; John I. McCoy 85; Leroy Freeman who withdrew after the ballots were printed, received 314 votes.

Rev. E.B. Turner easily retained his District 1 seat on the Robeson County Board of Commissioners with 527 votes over Jimmy Gilchrist 282 and Otis Ervin Pelham 242.

Johnny Hunt, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners handily defeat newcomer Mickey L. Locklear, 644 to 352, to remain the representative for District 3.

Provision ballots will be counted on Monday and could cut into the lead of the unofficial winners.

Prospect student named National Award winner



Brent Atrato Locklear

The United States Achievement Academy announced today that Brent Atrato Locklear from Pembroke, NC has been named a United States National Award Winner in Mathematics. This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes fewer than 10% of all American high school students. Brent Atrato Locklear, who attends Prospect School, was nominated for this award by Mr. Clyde Leviner, a math teacher at the school. Brent Atrato Locklear will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, which is published na-

tionally. "Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, United States Achievement Academy winners should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, Executive Director of the United States Achievement Academy. The Academy selects USAA winners upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors, and other qualified sponsors and upon the Standards of Selection set forth by the Academy. The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability, and recommendation from a teacher or director. Brent Atrato Locklear is the son of Brent & Garcie Locklear from Pembroke, NC. The grandparents are the late Sherman & Inez Chavis of Pembroke, NC, and Halbert & the late Mary Lois Locklear of Maxton, NC.

LRDA and Tribal Council to sponsor Lumbee Forum

The Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc., in conjunction with the Lumbee Tribal Council, will be sponsoring the Lumbee Forum to be held on July 29 and 30, 2004 at the Southeastern North Carolina Agricultural Center in Lumberton, NC. Beginning at 8:30 am until 4:30 pm on Thursday and resuming at 9:00 am on Friday until 12:30 pm, the Lumbee Forum is a series of workshops on a variety of subjects. There will be workshops covering topics such as:

- * What is Needed to Start a Business
- * Personal and Business Finance
- * Business Plan Development
- * Legal Issues Regarding Starting a Business
- * Civic Awareness and Participation
- * Jobs of the Future and How to be Prepared to Qualify
- * Also, a Roundtable Discussion on Current Issues

The cost of the forum is \$25.00 per person, which includes all conference materials and a lunch on Thursday with a guest motivational speaker. Forum registration and payment will begin on Thursday at 8:00 am. To attend the forum, please call (910) 522-2160 or visit us online at www.lumbee.org to reserve seating. Following the Lumbee Forum on Friday, the Coronation Ball will be held at the Southeastern Agricultural Center beginning at 6 pm. A Gourmet Meal, Coronation Ceremony, and Live Band will be some of the extraordinary attraction. Tickets for the Coronation Ball are \$50.00 per person and may be purchased at the Lumbee Regional Development Association offices. Corporate tables are available.

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UNCP sends 14 to health care professional programs

PEMBROKE, N.C. - Fourteen UNCP Pembroke graduates were accepted into professional programs in health care for fall 2004, including eight in medical schools. Also, five UNCP graduates successfully completed medical or other health care professional schools in 2004. Chancellor Allen C. Meadors said acceptances to medical and health care professional schools is an important indicator of quality programs, faculty and students. "The number of students UNCP Pembroke sends to medical and professional schools is indicative of the high quality of education offered on our campus," said Chancellor Allen C. Meadors. "Our esteemed faculty and supportive programs such as HCAP grants UNCP's students the opportunity to succeed." All participated in programs sponsored by UNCP's North Carolina Health Careers Access Program (HCAP), according to Sylvia Johnson, director of UNCP's HCAP program. "We are seeing continued success of our graduates getting into health care professional schools," Johnson said. "This is because of the outstanding training our students receive at UNCP and because our past graduates have been very successful in these programs." "Many of these students participated in either our Health Careers Club or the Clinical Health Summer Program, and we believe this gives them a better focus on their careers," Johnson said. The following UNCP graduates are listed with their acceptances: Tyler Collins of Pembroke was accepted to dental school at UNC-Chapel Hill. He majored in biology with a biomedical emphasis. Charlene Locklear of Lumberton was accepted to the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. A 2004 graduate, she was a biology and chemistry major with a biomedical emphasis. Robert Walker of Hope Mills was accepted to the Ross School of Medicine in the West Indies. A biology major, he was a 2004 graduate. Ashleigh Johnson of Pembroke was accepted to the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. A 2003 graduate, she was a biology and chemistry major with a biomedical emphasis. Leanne Stanley of Cameron, N.C., was accepted to the Duke University School of Medicine. A 2004 graduate, she was a biology and chemistry major with a biomedical emphasis. Deanna Bullard of Maxton was accepted to the School of Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill. A 2004 graduate, she was a business major.

Jason Lowery of Lumberton was accepted to the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. A 2004 graduate, he was biology and chemistry major with a Biomedical emphasis. Lenita Hammonds of Red Springs was accepted to the Clinical Laboratory Science program at UNC-Chapel Hill. A biomolecular science major, she was a 2003 graduate. Lisa Jones of fairmont was accepted to the Clinical Laboratory Science program at the Carolina College of Health Sciences in Charlotte. A 1998 graduate, she was a biology major. Jada Locklear of Pembroke was accepted into the nursing program at Duke University. A 2001 UNCP graduate, she was a biology and chemistry major with a biomedical emphasis. Crystal Bullard of Maxton was accepted at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. A 2003 graduate, she was biology and chemistry major with a biomedical emphasis. Bruce Pier of Fayetteville was accepted to the Uniformed Services Medical School in Maryland. A 2004 graduate, he was a chemistry major. Tammy Smith of Fayetteville was accepted to the School of Pharmacy at Campbell University. She was a biology and chemistry major with a biomedical emphasis. Michael Arterburn of Fayetteville was accepted to the American University of the Caribbean Medical School. A 2000 graduate, he was a biology and chemistry major with a biomedical emphasis. The following UNCP graduates graduated from medical and other health care professional schools in 2004: Matthew Cummings of Lumberton graduated from the Brody School of Medicine and will do his residency in Greenville, N.C. Barry Graham of Pembroke graduated from the physician assistant program at East Carolina University. Brandon Locklear of Lumberton graduated from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and will do his residency in Orlando, Fla. Fred Woriav of Pembroke graduated from the Meharry School of Medicine in Nashville, Tenn. He will do his residency in Charleston, S.C. James Woriav of Pembroke graduated from Meharry School of Medicine in Nashville, Tenn. He will do his residency in Wilmington, N.C.

Medical oncologist/hematologist joins Gibson Cancer Center

Almad Ali Omar Mahmood, M.D., has joined the medical staff of Gibson Cancer Center, an outpatient facility affiliated with Southeastern Regional Medical Center. Dr. Mahmood will be treating outpatients at the Gibson Cancer Center as well as inpatients at the Medical Center. "Currently the hospital does not offer consultation services for inpatients for hematology and oncology, but I will begin this service for patient convenience," he said. With 23 years of experience in treating cancer, Dr. Mahmood relocated to Lumberton from Quincy, Ill., where he had served as medical director of Blessing Cancer Center for three years. He also served for 20 years on the clinical faculty of Southern Illinois University. A native of Jordan, Dr. Mahmood earned his medical degree from Mosul University in Mosul, Iraq, in 1973. He completed a rotating internship at Albasheer Hospital in Amman, Jordan, in 1974. He also completed an internal medicine internship in 1976 and a two-year residency in 1978, both at Danbury Hospital in Danbury, Conn., which is affiliated with Yale University. He completed a fellowship in hematology in 1980 and another in oncology in 1981 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich. He is board-certified in internal medicine and in the subspecialties of hematology and oncology by the American Board of Internal Medicine. "I chose to move to Lumberton because of the Gibson Cancer Center's connection to Duke University Medical Center. The academic aspect, including the potential to be involved in clinical trials, appealed to me," he said. "This affiliation provides a great service to the community in providing oncology physicians as there is a national shortage of physicians in this field." Dr. Mahmood has joined Dr. Gail Leget in providing oncology/hematology care at the center. Both were credentialed by Duke and serve on its faculty. "I hope that patients feel at ease knowing that they have qualified professionals to take care of their needs. We will use the expertise and resources that Duke has to aid in taking care of patients. We will be able to consult with experts, which is another advantage to the community," he said.

Parks & Recreation to sponsor trip to Opryland

Robeson County Parks & Recreation Commission will be going on a trip to Opryland Tennessee November 30th thru December 3rd, 2004. If you are interested in going please call Wendy Sampson @ 671-3090.

Board meetings scheduled for Community Corrections Board

Samuel Kerns, Director of the Robeson County Offender Resource Center announces the scheduled Board Meetings of the Criminal Justice Partnership Program Advisory Board. The meetings will be held on the following dates at the Center Office, 120 West 6th Street, Lumberton, NC at 1:00 p.m.: August 18, October 20, January 20, 05; March 24, 05; and May 12, 05.

Wachovia Foundation Awards \$20,000 Grant to North Carolina Indian Economic Development Initiative

The Wachovia Foundation has awarded a \$20,000 grant to the NC Indian Economic Development Initiative to assist in its mission of promoting economic development among North Carolina's American Indian Populations in urban and rural communities. The NC Indian Economic Development Initiative was formed in 2002 as a result of the NC Commissions of Indian Affairs' long range strategic planning after it was determined that Indian people are not accessing the host of private and public sector resources for promoting economic development in the areas of new business startups or expansion of existing businesses. The Initiative hired its first employee, an executive director in November of 2003, and has been actively pursuing funding to implement its mission and services since January 2004. The 23 member board of directors of the Initiative is made up of the 12 tribes and urban Indian centers in the state and other non-Indian public sector partners including the Self-Help Credit Union, the NC Institute of Minority Economic Development, and the NC Community Development Initiative, located in Durham NC. The Board also has members from the private sector, including partners such as Lumbee Bank, Branch Banking and Trust, RBC Centura, and several at-large members. This first ever partnership of the public and private sector to assist individuals and tribes and organizations to pursue economic development goals will be enhanced with the support given by the Wachovia Foundation, which is a private foundation funded annual by Wachovia Corporation. The officer for the Initiative is located in Fayetteville, NC at 155 Gillespie Street and expects to begin providing direct services to the Indian community by the fall, once additional employees are added. James Hardin, the Executive Director of the Initiative stated in regards to the Wachovia Foundations award, "This investment by the Wachovia Foundation will be good for all of North Carolina because it will allow

the Initiative to leverage other resources to employ the staff needed by the Initiative to implement our services and mission this year. Other potential funders and supporters will know that private sector sees this organization as a vehicle to help grow the economies of North Carolina's Indian communities across the whole state, and their investment will trickle down around in the counties where Indian communities reside." Ruth Revels, Chairperson for the Initiative also praised Wachovia for the support and stated that, "The Initiative is proud of its partnership with Wachovia through this investment in our work. By reaching out to the Indian communities through the Initiative Wachovia has demonstrated their support for economic development in non-traditional communities in our state. For this, they are to be commended and congratulated by all our Initiative partners." Mr. Joe Crocker, Wachovia's Carolinas Community Affairs Manager, in making the grant announcement to the Initiative stated, "Our mission at Wachovia is to build strong and vibrant communities, improve the quality of life, and make a positive difference where we work and live. Your organization is vital in accomplishing the goals and many others." The Initiative's Core Funding Committee made up of Mr. Jim Lowry of High Point, Mr. Larry Chavis of Pembroke, Mr. Brandon Alexander of Durham, and Mr. Brian Coyle of Raleigh has spearheaded the private sector funding efforts of the Initiative since its founding. Their work will continue to seek support from those banks that will benefit in the future from the work of the Initiative in the state's Indian communities. For more information about this press release please contact James Hardin Executive Director of the Initiative at 910-486-6555 or jhardin4@earthlink.net. The Initiative's web address is www.ncindian.com.

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