

Friends together again for a cause

Akemi-joi Gavin and Hope McPhatter have been friends since middle school. However, the friends parted after graduation from Hoke County High School in 1999. Their individual aspirations and interests took them to different universities.

Because the two share a common desire to help others, they both became a part of the University Campus Ministry — Gavin at North Carolina Central University and McPhatter at East Carolina University in Greenville.

Ultimately this interest placed the two friends together again. Gavin and McPhatter have just returned from a two-week mission trip to Haiti. They were part of a small delegation of Christian missionaries made up of students and ministers who went to that country to offer assistance to the

Haitians.

The missionaries worked in the areas of agriculture, health and education and ministered to those in need. While there, the delegation lived in an orphanage that had limited facilities.

Gavin and McPhatter said the missionary work was "rewarding" and they look forward to going to South Africa on the next mission scheduled in early 2003.

Gavin will enter her senior year at NCCU this fall, where she is majoring in social work. She was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority this spring.

McPhatter enters her senior year at ECU and is majoring in health education. She was initiated into Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority last fall.

Hope is the daughter of Bridget and James McPhatter, and Akemi is



Hope McPhatter, left, and Akemi-joi Gavin

the daughter of Mildred Alleyne Gavin and Joseph Gavin.

The friends plan to continue their education and obtain their master degrees.

Community invited to tech forum tonight

The Hoke Technology Consortium is extending an invitation to the Raeford-Hoke County community to a public forum at East Hoke Middle School on Wednesday, May 29 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

The forum's theme will focus on connecting Hoke County's families to "a better future through technology" and explore ways to solve real-world problems together. Participants

will have the opportunity to speak with vendors showcasing how e-technology is being used in many real world arenas of banking, business and government, and share information and their ideas toward mounting efforts to bridge the digital divide.

The public is invited to attend and enjoy free food, take part in community fellowship and add your voice to shaping local technology plans for

the future.

For more information, interested citizens and residents may contact Donna Sullivan at 910-904-6536 ext. 3; Kim Williams at 910-904-6547; or Christina Davis-McCoy at 910-904-0312.

This forum is sponsored as part of the e-NC Initiative of the Rural Internet Access Authority of North Carolina.

Martin

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decline in economic activity always results in the decline in tax revenues to the states. In this respect, North Carolina is not alone. Many other states are facing their own budget crises as a result of the nation's economic downturn.

2. The tax cuts in the mid-90s. If these taxes were still in place, the state would have about \$1.5 billion more in projected revenues — enough to fill most of the states projected shortfall.

These tax cuts were passed after Republicans took charge of the North Carolina House of Representatives. Almost everyone knew these tax cuts would be painful when their full force was in effect. But the tax cut proponents believed that the only way to reduce the size of government effectively was to choke off its income stream. The pain that the state is suffering is not an accident. It is a result of a deliberate strategy to reduce the size and the activities of government.

3. New and expanding programs. At the same time the state legislature reduced its revenue stream, it added and provided for the expansion of a whole series of spending commitments. For instance, the state's commitment to the gradual expansion of the Smart Start program added expenditures each year. The successful university and community college bond referendum locked in a growing

commitment to service interest and debt repayment costs.

I've heard some people say that Governor Hunt is responsible for all these additional spending requirements. But he had a lot of company. These folks learned that the best way to get a good—but expensive—program started is to begin very inexpensively. The new program thus has almost no budget impact during its first couple of years. Only in later years does the legislature have to find the money to fund the commitments it made for free in earlier years.

4. Increasing health care costs. The state has almost no control over its share of the rising costs of participation in federal health-care programs.

5. North Carolina's old economy. Our state is not bouncing back as fast as it used to after economic downturns—or as fast as most other states in the nation. In past years, after an economic downturn, textile and furniture manufacturing came back strong. Not this year. Most of the mills and factories that closed down during the slowdown are going to stay closed. Some will be relocated to off-shore locations. Perhaps, in the long run, the loss of these relatively low-wage manufacturing jobs will be part of a positive trend for North Carolina. In the short run, however, the impact is disastrous.

6. Two-party partisanship.

If it were not for our two-party system, the legislature could deal effectively with the budget crisis, as difficult as it is. But with the battle for control of government so close, both parties are afraid to take any action that might give an advantage to the other side.

If there were no party competition, the legislators could face the crisis with common sense rather than a constant eye on political advantage. And they would, most likely, come up with a combination of budget cuts and revenue increases that would keep state government on an even keel.

7. The one-time emergencies.

The extra one-time expenses that hit the state after Hurricane Floyd and as a result of losing big lawsuits to retirees and intangible taxpayers ate up all the states reserves. So the state has no cushion to help with this years crisis.

8. You and I.

When it comes right down to it, though, perhaps the biggest reason for the budget crisis in Raleigh today is you and I—and other citizens like us, who want the government to do lots of things for us and for our favorite programs. And we want somebody else to pay the bill.

D.G. Martin is Carolinas Director of the Trust for Public Land, a national conservation organization that preserves land for people.

Gentry to head LRCOG again

Raeford Mayor Bob Gentry has been chosen chairman of the Lumber River Council of Government (LRCOG) board of directors. It is his second time to chair the COG board, having served in 1995-97.

The city's COG representative for more than 12 years, Gentry has also represented the COG on the statewide Joint Regional Forum.

Elizabethtown Mayor Kenneth Konegay was chosen as vice chairman and Maxton Mayor Lillie McKoy was reelected as treasurer.

The LRCOG board of directors is composed of 28 elected officials from the four-county area of Bladen, Hoke, Robeson and Scotland. The board oversees COG's operations and budgeting totaling almost \$17 million.

The majority of these funds are contracted to local agencies for job training activities or passed through to the counties to purchase services for older adults. COG also provides local and regional planning activities for its member governments and administers a number of other programs.



Bob Gentry

Lumbee tribal council adopts first ordinances

BY ALEX BAKER
Special to The News-Journal

The Tribal Council of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina adopted two ordinances on Thursday, May 16. The first ordinance outlines the process and defines tribal ordinances and resolutions. The second ordinance provides for tribal enrollment, establishing the Lumbee Tribal Enrollment Office and Records and charges the office with responsibility to maintain a current roll of tribal members. The second ordinance also defines eligibility for enrollment and requirements for maintenance of membership.

The ordinances will be posted for 30 days at the Lumbee Tribal Office at 707 Union Chapel Road in Pembroke and may be inspected during regular office hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. After the posting period, the ordinances will be presented for the signature of Tribal Chairman Milton R. Hunt. The chairman must sign them within 30 days or the ordinances will be considered as having been vetoed.

The adopted ordinances may be viewed at: <http://www.lumbeeTribe.com>.

Other actions, reports

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) reported that the Winter Crisis Program was completed on April 26, 2002. A total of \$290,957.25 was issued in energy assistance through LIHEAP with the Winter Crisis program. The Summer Crisis program will begin on June 3, 2002. The Lumbee Tribal Council through subcontract to the Lumbee Regional Development Association Inc. administers this tribal program.

Election board members

The Lumbee Tribal Elections Board announced the election of Lemark Harris as chairman, Naomi Chavis as vice-chairman and Emma L. Locklear as secretary.

At the meeting of the Tribal Elections Board on May 2, three candidates for the District 6 election were certified. Certified candidates are Wilma Locklear Godwin, Tony Hunt and Larry Townsend. The voting site

for the District 6 vacant seat will be at the Tribal Office on Saturday, June 29, 2002 from 8 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.

Absentee ballots procedures are designed to be "people-friendly." Tribal members who are either out of town or sick will be provided a Request for Absentee ballot. The board authorized that the request and ballot might be issued simultaneously except that the ballot will not be counted until the elections board determines the absentee voter to be an eligible voter. The board also reported that the deadline for voters in District 6 to return their absentee ballots will be Wednesday, June 26, 2002.

Housing contracts

Harley Hunt, Housing Supervisor for New Construction and Rehabilitation, reported the release of \$387,006 in bids awarded to local contractors for home rehabilitation. Thirty homes have been selected for rehabilitation services since April 12, 2002 and the Housing Program anticipated awarding bids for an additional 13 homes by this past Tuesday. The housing program will continue to accept applications for certification of additional contractors. The certification process consists of attending a pre-construction workshop, verification of American Indian status, credit and quality of work references and verification of insurance. Applications and more information are available at the Tribal Office.

The Tribal Council approved a revision to the FY 2001 Indian Housing Plan and an application for the FY 2002 Indian Housing Plan. The total for both years is expected to be in excess of \$16 million dollars. If the Office of Housing and Urban Development are approved to utilize 2000 Census data, the FY 2002 grant award could be considerably more.

Cultural Center

The Lumbee Tribal Festival Committee reported planned activities for July 1-6, 2002 at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center. The Lumbee tribe will host an Indian arts and crafts exhibit at the Longhouse to recognize and highlight the variety of skills and talent of local American Indians. Categories will include original draw-

ings, paintings, beadwork, carvings, basketwork, canning, quilting, mixed media, herbs and artifacts. Entries will be accepted at the Tribal Office on July 3 or onsite at the Longhouse.

Kidfest At Tribal Festival

Activities are planned for American Indian youth ages 7-12 as a part of the Lumbee Tribal Festival. A wagon train will start on Friday, June 28 and will end on Saturday, June 29 at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center. Participating youth are to register at 3 p.m. Friday.

On Monday, July 1, an overnight camp for Lumbee youth ages 7-12 will also be held at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center. Participants will register from 10 until noon, and activities will involve storytelling, traditional dance, arts and crafts, special performances of talent, and participation in the Daughters of Tradition and Sons of Tradition Program.

On Tuesday, July 2 a special overnight camp will be held for Lumbee women, daughters, and grandmothers.

Family Day will be Thursday, July 4, with food, radio remote, and a special fireworks display.

Friday, July 5, a gospel singing is scheduled that will feature Carla and Redemptions and other gospel groups.

Saturday, July 6 the Lumbee Tribal Festival will close with a fishing tournament from 6:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. and a Dinner Theatre Experience that includes a steak dinner and a ticket to the first 2002 performance of "Strike at the Wind." Tickets are now on sale for the Dinner Theatre Experience.

The first official Lumbee Logo t-shirts are also available for sale. All shirts sport the official tribal logo and may be ordered in red, blue, white or aqua. Children's sizes are from 7-14 and adult sizes are small, medium, large, X-large, XX Large and XXX Large.

All shirts are available for purchase at \$15 each. Shirts may be purchased at the Tribal Office and can also be ordered by calling (910) 521-7861.

Tribal Council will meet June 20. The next scheduled meeting of the Tribal Council will be 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 20.

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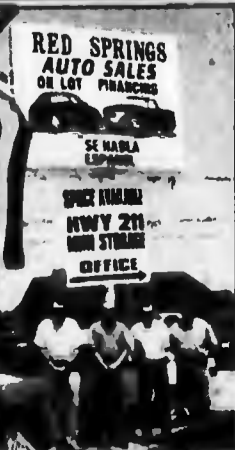
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