



INDIAN TIME

Winter 2009

This issue is dedicated to the life and legacy of the late Roscoe Jacobs Sr. of Bolton, longtime Chief of the Waccamaw-Siouan.

REMEMBERING A MODERN DAY WARRIOR

It is with deep affection and respect that I reflect on the life and contributions of Chief Roscoe Jacobs, the first elected and, until his death at age 86 on January 27, the presiding chief of the Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe. He also was a beloved and longstanding member of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, which since 1971 has served to assist the more than 100,000 American Indians who call North Carolina home.

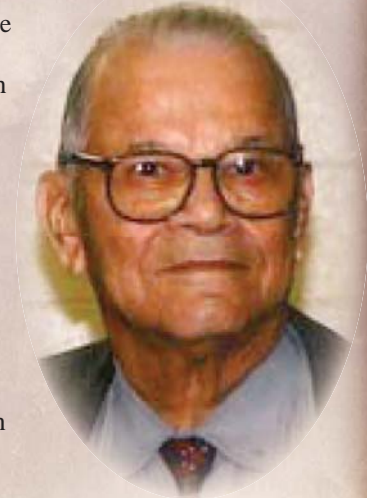
It was a great privilege to deliver Gov. Bev Perdue's message of appreciation at Chief Jacobs' funeral. A personal letter written to his family expressed her deep sympathy and acknowledged the Chief's accomplishments and contributions to the Waccamaw-Siouan, his community and to all of North Carolina tribes.

Chief Jacobs was a modern-day warrior who worked hard throughout his life to assure that Indians were treated fairly, not discriminated against, and that they were represented in all aspects of decision making at the local, state and federal level. He was among the few surviving Indian leaders who chose to take up his peoples' cause back in the 1950s and '60s, when it was not very popular to be an American Indian. He was very proud of his heritage, always wearing a feather, his signature red suspenders and a traditional American Indian bolo necktie, as a badge of pride.

I am deeply honored to have had the opportunity to know and work with such an honorable leader and will truly miss him. He has certainly earned his rightful place in North Carolina's American Indian history.

Note: This remembrance first ran on Gov. Bev Perdue's eTown Hall website:

<http://www.governor.state.nc.us/eTownhall/Blog>



Gregory A. Richardson

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While 2009 has started under a cloud of economic uncertainty, we at the Commission of Indian Affairs are encouraged by the history-making inaugurations of Gov. Bev Perdue and President Barack Obama. Both provide grounds for genuine optimism.

The Commission took an active role in the official debut of North Carolina's first female chief executive, who clearly enjoyed the warm welcome displayed by tribal members who accompanied a float representing all state tribes and organizations in her inaugural parade.

Personally, it was a great honor to be invited to introduce her the following week at the 28th annual State Employees Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance, a remarkable event that truly celebrated diversity.

We are delighted that the Governor asked Britt Cobb to remain our Secretary at the N.C. Department of Administration. While we wish former Deputy Secretary McKinley Wooten well following his departure from DOA for a new position at the Administrative Office of the Courts, we are excited about the opportunity to work with newly appointed Deputy Secretary June Michaux. The former State Property Officer has expressed a high interest in our issues and is dedicated to assisting all DOA advocacy agencies.

We anticipate a challenging but rewarding year as we work to enhance the lives of all of North Carolina's American Indian citizens. We support the Governor's efforts to address a serious budget shortfall by making deep cuts in our own budget, which include a hiring freeze and restrictions on purchasing and travel.

We hope to offset the state budget cuts with funding from federal grants, which we anticipate to be available through the President's economic recovery plan. Since federal grants will continue to be our main source of operating revenue, we do not anticipate any reduction in services for funded programs at this time.



Greg Richardson
Commission of Indian Affairs
Executive Director

INDIAN TIME

Winter 2009



GOVERNOR'S INAUGURATION

Beverly Perdue was sworn in as North Carolina's 73rd Governor on Jan. 12. State Supreme Court Chief Justice Sarah Parker delivered the oath of office to Perdue during a ceremony on the steps of the State Archives building. The other nine members of the Council of State were also sworn in during the ceremony.

COMMISSION FEATURED AT PARADE

The Commission and the N.C. Native American Youth Association were represented by a float in the inaugural parade that followed the swearing in of Governor Perdue. The entry featured American Indian veterans, tribal princesses, Indian youth and tribal representatives. This marked the first time that the Commission had a float in an Inaugural Parade. Special thanks to Sadie Barbour and her family for their help in the construction of the float, as well as to the Coharie Intra-Tribal Council; Cumberland County Association of Indian People; Lumbee Regional Association; N.C. Native Youth Organization, Lila Spaulding and Commission staff members for their support.



COMMISSION NEWS

U.S. CENSUS MEETING

The Commission held on a meeting on behalf of the U.S. Census on Feb. 4 at our Raleigh office. The purpose was to receive input from North Carolina tribal leaders and staff regarding the development of census tracking maps for each tribal community.

Commission Executive Director Greg Richardson has been designated by the Governor's Office to serve as the liaison for the 2010 U.S. Census, Geographic Program for State-Recognized Indian Tribes in North Carolina. His responsibility is to advocate for tribal input regarding the 2010 U.S. Census.

The U.S. Census is conducted every 10 years and is constitutionally required to count every U.S. citizen. All state-recognized tribes have been asked to send a representative to the meeting. The Census Bureau will work directly with the federally-recognized Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribe.



INDIAN CHILD WELFARE

The Commission held a N.C. Indian Child Welfare Issues Roundtable on Jan. 15 at the N.C. Indian Housing Authority in Fayetteville. The purpose of meeting was to discuss issues associated with the placement of American Indian children in non-Indian foster or adoptive care. About 25 tribal representatives and social workers from around the state attended and voiced their concerns about present child welfare laws for state recognized tribes.

Public Law 95-608, the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978, was passed to remedy the problem of disproportionately large numbers of federally-recognized Indian children being placed in foster care away from the Indian community. NCGS 2001-309 provides some protection for state-recognized Indian children; however,

INDIAN TIME

Winter 2009

the Commission will study the standards necessary to meet the needs of vulnerable Indian children and families.

YOUTH TOBACCO PREVENTION GRANT

The Commission has received \$525,000 from the Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission for the Teen Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation program, which supports community-based efforts to reduce youth smoking.

Commission efforts are part of the focus to eliminate health disparities in African American, American Indian and Latino populations. Grantees will also work to increase the cultural competency of health care providers so they can offer more culturally-appropriate services to these disparate populations.

Since 2003, the Commission has supported and assisted American Indian communities in receiving more than \$2 million in grants. These funds benefit health education and health preventive programs in American Indian communities. They proactively promote tobacco cessation and healthy lifestyle behaviors and make a positive impact on the youth and adults in these areas.

"I want to thank the Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission for providing the Commission with an opportunity to address and reduce the incidences of teen tobacco use among American Indian Youth," said Greg Richardson, Commission Executive Director.

In addition to this grant award, the Commission partners with the following tribes and organizations that also received grants:

Phase II Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe | \$161,000 |
| Native American Interfaith Ministry | \$300,000 |

Phase IV Teen Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Grantees | |
| Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe | \$241,000 |
| Lumbee Tribe | \$300,000 |
| N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs | \$525,000 |

AMERICAN INDIAN NEWS

NATIVE AMERICAN COIN

The Secretary of the U.S. Treasury recently announced that the official \$1 Native American coin for 2009 has been selected. It features a Native American woman planting seeds in a field of corn, beans and squash, representing what's known as the "Three Sisters" method of planting.



Public Law 110-82 directed the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue the new \$1 coin to recognize Native Americans for their contributions to the history and development of the United States. It will be minted in gold-colored alloy, like the current Presidential \$1 coins.

RICHARDSON ELECTED

Barry Richardson became the first American Indian chairman of the Warren County Board of Commissioners in December. He is a member of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe and was first elected to the commission in 2004.

BELL APPOINTED

Greg Bell has been appointed to fill unexpired term created by the retirement of Judge Gary Locklear on Dec. 31. Bell, a member of the Lumbee Tribe, received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was in private practice for 12 years before becoming a District Court judge in 2002. He also has served as an appeals referee with the Employment Security Commission, a staff attorney with Lumbee River Legal Services and worked as a teacher in the Robeson County Public Schools.

HALIWA-SAPONI PROJECT

The N.C. Humanities Council has awarded the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe a \$9,693 grant to be used to record the history of the Haliwa Indian School, now the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School.

The research also will examine the history, values and cultural forces that have shaped tribal experience during the history of the school. The goal is to publish a book on the school and history of the tribe.

Local residents with photographs of the Haliwa Indian School or who would like to participate in the project should contact Marty Richardson at the tribal office at 252-586-4017.

INDIAN TIME

Winter 2009

MISCLASSIFICATION OF CANCER DATA

The State Center for Health Statistics has conducted a study to: (1) quantify the extent of misclassification of race among non-federally recognized American Indians in North Carolina cancer incidence data; (2) correct race among those misclassified; and (3) evaluate the impact of misclassification on American Indian cancer incidence rates.

The study estimated 18 percent under-ascertainment of non-reservation American Indians in cancer registration in North Carolina. The underestimation of cancer burden among American Indians in North Carolina may lead to lower resources for prevention. To view the complete report, visit <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/pdf/SCHS159.pdf>

The Commission has been concerned about misclassification of American Indian data for quite some time, and is working to address this with the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Minority Health.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Then UNC Diabetes Care Center is seeking volunteers to participate in a research study of an investigational once-weekly injection similar to Byetta, which is currently FDA approved, for the treatment of diabetes. The length of the study is 56 weeks or approximately one year. The study involves up to 11 visits during study period. Visits will take place at the UNC Diabetes Care Center.

Study related benefits at no cost to participants include; study medication, related lab testing, ECGs, physical exams, glucose monitoring and compensation for time.

Participants must be 18 years of age or older; have type 2 Diabetes; and are taking the oral anti-Diabetic medication Metformin, Actos, Avandia or a combination of either.

For information, contact Stefanie Jeremiah at 919-484-0931, extension 269, or sjeremia@email.unc.edu. For online registry, visit <http://domis.med.unc.edu/dccregistry>

N.C. INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER LAKE

Works to control the spread of a hydrilla infestation at the N.C. Indian Cultural Center Lake in Pembroke is complete and activities have resumed. Only small amounts of the weed remains and any new sprouting will be closely monitored, according to the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources.

Hydrilla is a submersed, rooted aquatic plant that forms dense mats in a wide variety of freshwater habitats, such as canals, springs, streams, ponds, lakes, rivers and reservoirs. It often dominates aquatic habitats, causing significant economic damage.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

HOTEL GROUNDBREAKING

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Jan. 9 for a new Holiday Inn Express to be built just off of N.C. 711 on Redmond Road in Pembroke. The three-story, 63-room hotel is owned by the First American Hotel Group, LLC, a group composed of mostly local investors will create construction jobs and permanent jobs when finished. Construction is expected to be finished in late September.

Dr. Robin Cummings of Pinehurst, who serves as chair for the Commission of Indian Affairs' Indian Health Committee, spoke at the ceremony. "I am proud that the investors have not waived because they saw the need for a hotel in the community," Cummings said. "The hotel will be first-class with meeting space for groups of more than 100."

Others involved include the Town of Pembroke, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, the Lumbee Guaranty Bank of Pembroke and attorney Grady Hunt of Locklear, Jacobs & Hunt.

COMMISSION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM

HEALTH AND HEALING QUILT PROJECT

By Sadie Barbour

Two years ago, during the 27th annual N.C. Indian Senior Citizens Coalition Conference, about 96 American Indian elders from across the state participated in an art therapy workshop conducted by students and faculty from the graduate art therapy program at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

The purpose of the workshop was to give voice to the elder community through drawing, sculpture and poetry. Participants created a "health and healing" paper quilt constructed from all of the drawings and incorporated the conference theme of "Looking Forward." The participants were asked to make a word association to their drawing; these words were written down sequentially to construct a collective poem.

INDIAN TIME

Winter 2009

The activity inspired Carol Brewington, Brenda Moore, Shirley Freeman and Sadie Barbour to start work on a permanent fabric quilt incorporating all 96 images. This quilt served as a means of socialization in the quilting room at last year's 33rd Annual N.C. Indian Unity Conference, where approximately 75 participants – some of whom has never quilted before – shared in the stitching of the circles surrounding the images.

“The stitching represented a connection, through needle and thread, an aspect of sharing stories from elders to youth,” said Brewington, adding that feelings in the quilt room were focused more on a sense of pride than creating a “pretty” piece.

The quilt was shown at the 2008 N.C. Native American Youth Conference and received the honor or “best in show” at the 28th annual N.C. Indian Senior Citizens Coalition Conference. It also was displayed at the 2008 American Indian Heritage Celebration at the N.C. Natural History Museum, and at the 34th annual N.C. Indian Unity Conference.

The project is ongoing, with the remaining 56 images still under construction. The remaining panels are being made by tribal members who have lost love ones to cancer as a part of their healing process.



From left, Emily Basto, Carol Brewington and Sadie Barbour.

SONS PROGRAM

The Supporting Our Native Students (SONS) Program provided \$7,000 to students participating in the program. More than \$4,300 was used to provide book vouchers and about \$2,600 was paid to students in the form of a semester-completion incentive for completing the fall semester with a grade-point average of 2.0 or greater.

The goal of the SONS Program is to provide educational opportunities for American Indians whose educational and socioeconomic background might otherwise prevent them from successfully attending and succeeding in college. The SONS Program provides income-eligible college students with a book voucher for the fall and spring semesters, and semester completion incentive payments.

All students are required to complete an application including supporting documents and meet income eligibility requirements. For information, contact Kimberly Hammonds, Economic Development Director, at 919-789-5900.

EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH PROGRAM

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) became law in August. HEOA creates several changes to the Educational Talent Search Program. Specifically, the legislation modified the purpose of the program to include college completion; created an expanded definition of prior experience (which had formerly been defined by the Department of Education); created a Required Services section that specifies the types of information and assistance that Talent Search projects must provide for students; and enhanced the Permissible Services section to include a broader range of project formats and participants.

INDIAN TIME

Winter 2009

As a result, future Talent Search projects will provide:

- **A Broader Range of Program Offerings.** The new Required Services section of the legislation expands the types of services to be offered by Talent Search to include targeted information relating to federal student aid programs, including Pell Grants and loan forgiveness; assistance with secondary school reentry, alternative education programs, and general educational development (GED) programs; and information about financial literacy and financial planning for higher education for students and their families.
- **More Intensive Services.** In addition to adding new types of services, the legislation also requires the enhancement of current counseling services to encourage continued secondary school enrollment and to prepare students for more rigorous coursework, and, ultimately, college completion.
- **Prior experience** will now evaluate Talent Search projects on the extent to which they provide “high quality services” as manifested, in part, by how projects fare in preparing students to complete rigorous secondary school curricula that make them eligible for programs such as the Academic Competitiveness Grant Program. The new prior experience criteria also require Talent Search projects to report the rates at which their students graduate from high school on time and enroll in and graduate from postsecondary education programs.

To successfully meet the new prior experience criteria, Talent Search projects will need to increase the intensity and, quite likely, the frequency of counseling sessions for each participant. For information, contact Mickey Locklear at 919-789-5000 or mickey.locklear@doa.nc.gov.



NCNAYO GRANTS

The N.C. Native American Youth Organization (NCNAYO) met on Jan. 31 to make grant awards to four projects that will serve American Indian youth and their communities. The projects are funded by the N.C. American Indian Fund in partnership with N.C. Gives.

The Waccamaw Drum Circle received a grant to host a series of seven workshops that will bring youth and elders together to learn about a variety of topics, ranging from diet and diabetes to staying active through traditional dance. The Waccamaw Youth Ambassadors received a grant for the development of a curriculum for tribal leadership development which will be shared with other tribal communities. A youth group in the MetroLina Native American Association target counties received a grant to learn about graphic arts and screen printing. The Tuscarora Nation Youth received a grant to study the Tuscarora language and make language kits for families to study Tuscarora language together.

All of these grant applications were written by tribal youth to serve tribal youth and their communities.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HUD published a final rule on Jan. 27 which amends its rules regarding housing assistance and eligibility. Effective March 30, all family members must have an Social Security Number (SSN) and produce a Social Security card to be eligible for Public Housing or Section 8 housing assistance, including both tenant-based and project-based Section 8 assistance.

The new rule makes it clear that an SSN is a condition of eligibility for all family members. If an existing family member cannot produce a valid Social Security card by the next scheduled re-exam, they will not be eligible for housing assistance.

The rule also states that participants must re-verify the SSN of all participants in your programs during the next scheduled Interim or Annual re-exam. The final rule (unlike the proposed rule) does not allow for a “grace period” or specific time to allow the household member to obtain an SSN if they are currently assisted.

In the comments that accompany the rule publication, HUD stated that “the intent of the final rule is to notify affected families and require a specified time frame to submit the Social Security Numbers.” The notice and time frame are to be “in accordance with the provisions governing the program involved,” but the deadline for compliance is no later than the next scheduled re-exam for each family that occurs after the March 30 effective date.

INDIAN TIME

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Carolyn Hunt Crocker, American Indian Workforce Specialist, attended a Jan. 13 economic development roundtable discussion at Southeastern Community College in Whiteville. The event featured Congressman Mike McIntyre.

This was the third in a series of events in which McIntyre was scheduled hear concerns and collect feedback on the economy from business people, community leaders and elected officials.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2-3 American Indian Southeast Conference, Pembroke

Sponsored by the American Indian Students Department of UNC-Pembroke, the purpose of the Southeast Indian Studies Conference is to provide a forum for discussion of the culture, history, art, health and contemporary issues of American Indians in the Southeast. The conference serves as a critical venue for scholars, students and all persons interested in American Indian Studies in the region.

For information, contact Dr. Mary Ann Jacobs at 910-521-6266 or mary.jacobs@uncp.edu, or visit <http://www.uncp.edu/ais/news/sisc/index.htm>.

June 15-18

N.C. Native American Youth Organization Youth Conference. UNC-Wilmington

Contact: Mickey Locklear 919-789-5900

Sept. 24-25

American Indian Women's Conference, UNC-Pembroke

Contact: Lawrence Locklear at lawrence@lawrencelocklear.com



INDIAN TIME

Winter 2009

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The newsletter is designed to highlight activities and issues of importance to the American Indian people of North Carolina.

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Vacant

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