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Competency Test Results For Robeson County School System

On November 1 and 2, 1978, 843 eleventh grade students in the Robeson County school system were administered a reading and mathematics test as a part of North Carolina's new Competency Testing Program. Approximately 76.4 percent or 644 students passed the reading tests, and 68.4 percent

or 577 students passed the mathematics test. It should be noted that the above numbers reflect the same student twice if he/she failed both parts. A closer breakdown shows that 168 students failed both math and reading, 29 students failed reading only, and 100 students failed math only. Additionally, these numbers include officially identified Educably Mentally Retarded students and students enrolled in the Extended Day Program.

The results are a decisive improvement over system results on a trial test given last spring. Using the same standards, 63.5 percent would have passed the reading test while only 26.0 percent would have passed the math portion of the Spring 1977 administration. It appears that the improvement is due largely to the remedial programs that have been developed by each high school.

The Competency Testing Program was legislated in the 1977 General Assembly through House Bill 204. This law provided that, beginning in the fall of 1978, competency tests be administered to all

eleventh-grade students in the State as a requirement for graduation.

The North Carolina Competency Test is a basic skills test designed to measure minimum competency, not ideal achievement. The specific test selected for administration are SHARP (Senior High Assessment of Reading Progress) and TOPICS (Test of Proficiency in Computational Skills). Both are published by CTB/McGraw-Hill and each contains 120 items.

The North Carolina Competency Testing Program was administered to eleventh-grade students in the public schools, non-public schools, and Federal schools and special schools on November 1 and 2, 1978, with make-up testing taking place November 7, 8, and 9, 1978. Modifications such as large print, cassette tapes, and braille were provided for students who were officially classified as having special needs.

Personnel in local education agencies (LEAs) attended administrative workshops, developed monitoring plans, and undertook measures to insure the security of the competency tests. These activities were monitored by State Department and local education agency personnel.

In addition to normal local and state graduation requirements, it is necessary for

each student to pass both sections of the competency test in order to receive a high school diploma. Those who fail either or both tests will be given additional instruction in learning those skills which they do not possess. On May 1 and 2, 1979 students will have an opportunity to be retested on the sections of the tests which they did not pass in November, 1978.

In preparation for the November, 1978 testing, personnel in the Robeson County school system were involved in inservice training for administrators, proctors and monitors; group discussions with eleventh graders; identification and assistance to high risk students at school and community meetings related to competency testing.

The remediation plans for those students who failed the tests include a two week training session for remediation personnel, scheduled daily remediation for students, additional guidance and counseling and voluntary assistance programs.

Statewide results and demographic information was released in a special telecast by Governor James B. Hunt on Tuesday evening.

More than 8,000 eleventh grade students in both public and non-public schools took one or both parts of the test in November. The test will be given again to those who did not pass one or both parts on May 1 and 2, 1979.

Board of Education

Honors Mary Lois

McLeod and L.H. Moore



Mrs. Mary Lois McLeod, left, was honored by the Robeson County Board of Education at Tuesday's meeting. Mrs. McLeod was presented a resolution and a plaque of appreciation by the

board for her thirty years of service as accountant for the schools. Making the presentation is Ralph Hunt, chairman of the Robeson County Board of Education.

Mr. Tom Oxendine Honored By PSU Braves Club



Buddy Bell, president of the PSU Braves Club, right (seated) presented a plaque of appreciation to Mr. Tom Oxendine (center) seated recently at his home. "Mr. Tom" was his usual, gracious self during the ceremonies before family and friends and Pembroke

State officials. Sharing the special moment with him were his wife (left-seated) and some of his children (standing in rear). They are (L-R) Earl Hughes, Robert, Maggie and Ray.

"Mr. Tom", now 80, just returned from an extended stay in the hospital. But he was, as one of the boys put it, "as sharp as a tack."

See related story on page 8 in the PSU Braves Scoreboard.

Pembroke Town Council Meets For First Official Session in 1979

Pembroke-The Pembroke Town Council met Tuesday night for its first official session in 1979.

First on the agenda was the public hearing to consider the newly drawn up Charter and Code of Ordinances by the North Carolina League of Municipalities. After considerable debate about "things left out" the council decided to table the matter until the next meeting.

Also tabled was consideration of an affirmative action plan. Many of the council members seemed to think the town does not need an affirmative action plan because, as Councilman Larry Brooks put it, "We're minorities ourselves and most affirmative action plans I've heard of were drawn up to make sure that minorities were given equal opportunities-- since we're all

minorities I think our needs are pretty well taken care of..."

But a bystander noted after the meeting, "Boys, they need one; really! They must have forgotten that they are probably only the first or second all Indian board. Until just a few years ago non Indians dominated the board and the governor until the 40's appointed the mayor and the council. Interestingly enough he seldom appointed Indians."

Mr. Phil Shu (a consulting engineer with Odell Associates) presented drawings to the council and Mayor Reggie Strickland concerning the proposed Public Works Building.

The maintenance building, on the drawing board, will cost an estimated \$140,000 and the council hopes to begin

construction within 60 days although official action will have to be taken to authorize construction in the form of a motion. Shu also brought the council up to date on the feasibility study the firm is doing relative to the town's Community Development Application. He discussed preliminary studies pointing out the town's problems with inflow and infiltration in the water and sewer systems.

The town showed some concern about releasing Odell Associates before the maintenance building was constructed noting "we need to have an engineer stay up with construction and inspection as the building is built." No official action was taken although the council seemed to lean toward keeping

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PEOPLE AND

LAND THINGS...

C E S

GRADUATES EMPLOYED BY SOUTHEASTERN GENERAL HOSP.

One hundred percent of the 1978 Practical Nursing graduates at RTI have received LPN licenses by successfully passing the Licensed Practical Nursing State Board Examinations. A report of the test scores have been received by Fred Williams, Vice President of Educational Services at Robeson-Technical Institute.

Ten graduates are employed by Southeastern General Hospital and local doctors. The newly licensed LPNs are Alice S. Meares, Shirley M. Melvin, Emily F. Stone, Lumberton; Doll L. Blue, Rowland; Linda M. Chavis, Red Springs; Brenda L. Halliburton, Parkton; Joan P. Jacobs, Evelyn E. Johnson, St. Pauls; Cynthia Johnson, Pembroke; and Delores B. Vasquez, Shannon.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING YOUTH COUNCIL TO MEET

The Employment and Training Youth Council will meet on Thursday, Jan. 11, 1979 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the conference room of the Robeson County Department of Human Resources, at the corner of 8th and Elm Streets (formerly the Agriculture Building) in Lumberton. The public is welcome to attend.

VFW NEWS

Locklear Lowry Memorial Post 2843 will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, Jan. 15, at the Post Home with supper being served at 7 p.m. All members are asked to attend. The Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW will also hold their monthly meeting at the same time. All members of the VFW and Auxiliary are urged to pay their dues for 1979.

COUNTYWIDE TITLE IV PART A IEA PARENT COMMITTEE TO MEET

A regularly scheduled business meeting of the Robeson County Title IV, Part A Parent Committee will be held on Monday, Jan. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the O.P. Owens Auditorium in Lumberton.

Business will include a review of the FY 79 Project Application, FY 79 Budget and recommendations from a public hearing which was held on Tuesday, Jan. 16 involving the larger Indian community.

All interested parents, teachers and students are invited to attend meetings of the Title IV, Part A Parent Committee which are open, public meetings.

MILLER SIGMON TO PRESENT RECITAL AT ROBESON CO. PUBLIC LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

Saxophonist Miller Sigmon, a visiting artist at Rockingham Community College, will present a recital at the Robeson County Public Library Auditorium in Lumberton on Saturday beginning at 8 p.m.

There will be no admission charge. The program is sponsored by the Robeson County Public Library and Robeson Technical Institute.

Mr. Sigmon will be accompanied by pianist Lister-Sink.

The visiting artist program, begun in 1971, is a cooperative venture of the North Carolina Arts Council and the North Carolina Department of Community Colleges. The program encourages the appreciation and cultivation of the arts in small communities and rural areas served by community colleges and technical institutes throughout the state.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Chavis announce the birth of a daughter, Amy Juanita, born December 31, 1978 at Scotland Memorial Hospital, Lumberton. Amy weighed 6 pounds and 3 oz. She is the

maternal granddaughter of Mrs. Flora I. Oxendine. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James I. Chavis of Rayham.

FARM AND HOME TRADE SHOW

The Southeastern Farm and Home Trade Show will be held on Feb. 21 and 22 in the Cooperative Warehouse near Lumberton. It will be the Tenth Annual Southeastern Trade Show. It has grown each year and is now a recognized event where buyers and sellers get together.

The rate that booth spaces and exhibit areas are being taken indicates that a great variety of supplies, equipment, and services will be on display. For further information on the Trade Show, call 919-738-8111, or write P.O. Box 392, Lumberton, NC 28372.

METHODIST CHURCH TRAINING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD

Over 300 United Methodists from Richmond, Robeson and Scotland Counties will attend a church training workshop Thursday, Jan. 11, 1979 at First United Methodist Church at Laurinburg, NC. This work shop, designed for united Methodists in the Rockingham District, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The workshop is one of 12 being held across eastern North Carolina by the North Carolina Methodist Conference. It includes 18 classes to help church officers learn their responsibilities.

OBSERVES SECOND BIRTHDAY

Daniel Brent Locklear, son of Randy and Linda Locklear, celebrated his second birthday Sunday, December 31, 1978. Brent was honored Saturday evening with a party at McDonald's Restaurant in Laurinburg. Those attending were Tim Brayboy, Chasity Chavis, Cheryl Evans, Rusty Oxendine, Clay Locklear, Keith Jackson and Teresa Dial. The parents would like to take this opportunity to thank all who so graciously attended and participated in this celebration and McDonald's employees who presented a wonderful time for the children.

"People Don't Like To

Go To Public Hearings..."

Pembroke-Said a political wag, "boys, people don't like to go to public hearings. They would rather moan and groan after the thing is done." And that seems to be a fair saying based on the slim crowd that appeared before Mayor Reggie Strickland and the Pembroke Town Council last night in reference to the town's proposed community development proposal now being pursued from HUD officials in Washington.

Maybe four or five people showed up other than town officials. Except for a few remarks in support of improved fire protection from a couple of members of the volunteer fire department little public response was received.

Town manager McDuffie Cummings said, "of course we're disappointed. We wanted a lot of input from the public; certainly more than we have received but we are going ahead with our application. We are encouraged."

The town is asking for \$1.2 million to be used over a three year period to improve the life of the town's low and moderate income citizenry.

The town hopes to use the funds to rehabilitate housing, improve streets by curbing, gutting and paving water and sewer infrastructure, and a proposed new water treatment plant. The town is currently studying a preliminary master plan for a water and sewer system.



Pictured above Ralph Hunt, Chairman of the Robeson County Board of Education, right, presents a resolution adopted at the last board meeting to L.H. Moore for his service to the betterment of education in Robeson County. The board also presented Mr. Moore a plaque in appreciation of his five and one half years of service as a member of the Robeson County Board of Education.