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There is no clear cut leader, and Lowry-Townsend presents some interesting possibilities, especially when one considers that she is the only woman in the field of candidates, and is a Native American from Robeson County and the Pembroke area. Political pundits remember that Rep. Charlie Rose staved off seeming defeat in the last congressional election by carrying Robeson County, and polling overwhelming numbers in the Indian camp.

Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend is presently serving her third term as president of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE). 42 years old, Lowry-Townsend is on leave from Robeson County where she was serving as principal of Union Elementary School when she won her post at NCAE.

The 7th District covers parts of eight counties, including Cumberland, Bladen, Columbus and Robeson. The primary election is May 7, with the general election set for November 5. Lowry-Townsend touts her background as an educator, and her

ties to agriculture, remembering her days in the tobacco fields of Robeson County. Both her parents were educators, and maintained a small farming interest on the side to make ends meet because the meager income from teaching was not enough to keep up a family. Her father is the popular and peripatetic Rev. Welton Lowry, now retired from the classroom and the pulpit.

Lowry-Townsend lists education, agriculture and economic development as her top priorities. She notes, "I am one of those people who believes that education opens the door to everything."

Lowry-Townsend joins a crowded field of Democratic candidates, including Marcus Williams of Wilmington, Tim Dunn, George Breece, and Glenn Jernigan of Fayetteville, Mike McIntyre of Lumberton, and Howard Greenbaum of Kure Beach. Republicans in the race include Bill Caster of Wilmington, and Fayettevillians Robert Anderson, Jim Cooper and Robert Wilkie.



by Bruce Barton

Raleigh—It's official! Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend has entered the fray for the 7th Congressional seat vacated by Rep. Charlie Rose, who earlier decided not to run for re-election. Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend is one of seven Democrats vying for the nomination in the Democratic primary.

The crowded field infers that there

Paul Brooks announces bid for re-election to board of education of Public Schools of Robeson County

Paul Brooks of Pembroke, recently announced his bid to seek reelection to the Robeson County Board of Education to represent District 5. This District encompasses all of North Pembroke precinct, and portions of South Pembroke, Union, Alfordville, and Maxton. Brooks was elected to represent District 5 in 1992, and has served as Chairman of the Board since the beginning of the 1995 school year.

The Board has made many positive accomplishments for the schools of Robeson since Brooks' term as the representative for District 5. Education of the children of Robeson County has been improved considerably. According to Brooks, this is evident from the fact there are more schools in the county receiving state accreditation and several others becoming candidates for state accreditation such as Prospect Elementary, Magnolia Elementary, and Fairgrove Elementary. Brooks feels this accomplishment can be attributed to the successful working relationship of the Board, as well as the hard work and dedication of the many principals, teachers, students, and parents of the community schools. Further, since Brooks' election to the Board, Robeson County schools have continued to meet the necessary seventy-five criteria required by the state to operate a school. Upon taking the seat in 1992, the level held by Robeson County schools was thirty-three percent. Currently, this level has risen to sixty-eight percent.

Here again, this achievement, according to Brooks can be attributed to the solid working relationship of the Board, and all citizens of Robeson County.

In continuing his commitment to the betterment of education for all children of Robeson County, Brooks played a significant role in the filing of a law suit against the state in 1993 asking the state to provide equal funding for all schools in NC. According to Brooks, monies are appropriated to schools based on the average per capita income of the county. Because Robeson's average per capita income is quite lower than that of other counties, the educational funds received by our county are significantly less than those counties with a higher average per capita income. He feels this process allows the state to neglect children, and the process for appropriating educational funds should be equalized. The case is pending, and Brooks feels a more fair process to benefit the children of Robeson County will be the outcome.

In asking Brooks what he envisions for the future of Robeson County schools, he replied, "I would like to see Robeson County focus not only on the traditional educational curriculum, but also take a look at providing opportunities for children to participate in the Arts. Participation in such programs instills discipline within children, and discipline in turn makes for better students. The county

has a mass of talented children who do not have the opportunity or a way to perfect those talents. I would like to see additional funds appropriated to Robeson to allow the Board to incorporate these programs into the academic curriculum.

Another goal Brooks has is the incorporation of a program into the curriculum designed for those students who do not plan to attend a college or a university. All of our students do not wish to attend college, we need a comprehensive curriculum that offers technical courses to prepare those students who do not have college as a goal, to be successful in their chosen field. In this manner, we address the needs of all students.

There are many obstacles hindering the educational process for our children, and if reelected to represent District 5, I will continue to fight earnestly to remove all obstacles hindering the educational process for our children.

Brooks is running unopposed for the District 5 seat. However, he says he is not taking voters for granted and will campaign in his usual aggressive manner.

Brooks currently serves as the Director of Professional Providers, Inc., a company established to serve the health care needs of individuals of Robeson and Scotland counties. In addition, he serves as the Chairman of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs a position he has held since 1992. Brooks and his wife Pauline, have four children.

record 5-0 and finishing runner up in the Rockingham District for the Southeastern 4-A Conference title. The trophy was provided Locklear, Jacobs, Sutton and Hunt, Attorneys at Law, Pembroke.

Marcus Andrew Hunt, a junior at Purnell Swett High, participated in the University of North Carolina Greensboro's Quarter Fest on December 2, 1995.

It was an all day event which included Delphic String Trip recital, coaching classes, rehearsal classes and a student chamber recital.

Marcus' group performed Beethoven's String Trip in E-Flat major Op. 3, the Allegro con brio movement.

The staff coaches for the Quarter Fest were Elizabeth Anderson-celloist, Scott Rawls- violinist, and Katie Lansdale-violinist.

Marcus is the student of Charla Babcock who teaches stringed instruments.

See PSHS photos page 2

Open House at Swett High

Open House will be held at Purnell Swett High School on February 12 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend and talk with the teachers.



A senior at Purnell Swett High School, Emily Love, received the Robeson County Student of Excellence Award by Ken Freeman from the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce.

She has been involved in the National Honor Society (11-12 grade), Who's Who Among High School Students (grades 9-12), Native American High School Intern- Project '95 and Public Schools of Robeson County Honor Roll (grades 9-12).

Emily is also involved in extra curricular activities such as Varsity Tennis (9-12), AISES Club (11-12), Student Government Association (grades 19-12), Save Our Students Tutor (11-12), and Purnell Swett Ram Singers (grades 11-12).

She is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Pembroke and a Youth Leader.

Activities at Pembroke Housing Authority

Pembroke Housing Authority has started a Bowling League for its youth. The League consists of six teams, with five youths on each team. Strickland Heights has two teams and the other four sites has one team each. The

youth participating in this league are ages 12-17 years old. They will be playing each Thursday night at Pembroke State University's Student Center. Cultural Program Coordinator La-Meccha Swett will be coordinating the league.

Local schools recognized by Southern Association

Three schools in the Public Schools of Robeson County were recently recognized by the Commission of Elementary and Middle Schools of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for maintaining Accreditation and membership in the Association for ten years. The Commission honored the milestone membership for East Robeson, Long Branch, and Pembroke Elementary Schools during celebration of the Regional Accrediting Association's 100 year anniversary.

Accreditation is a process of helping institutions improve through systematic program of evaluation. It assures not only that an institution meets minimum standards, but also that it demonstrates a commitment to providing quality education programs. The association is a non governmental agency and membership is voluntary.

Founded in 1895, and headquartered in Decatur, GA, the Southern Association is one of six regional accrediting bodies in the United States and covers eleven southern states from Virginia through Texas, as well as U.S.-type schools in Latin America. Its membership includes more than 12,000 accredited public and private schools and colleges, universities, military schools, high schools, junior high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, and early childhood centers and kindergartens in the region.

Looking for Indian roots in Robeson County

\$50 reward for information:

Can you help me find my family? My name is Teresa Huff. I was adopted in Lumberton in 1972 and am now trying to locate my birth parents and older brothers.

Here's the background information my adoptive parents were given.

I was born prematurely on 8 April 1969, weighing 5 pounds, 11 ounces. I had so many health problems that my birth mother couldn't keep me so I was put into foster care about June, 1969. My birth parents or foster family might have been named Brown. I was adopted by Bill and Sandy Huff at the age of 2 1/2.

My birth mother, a Lumbee Indian, was born in 1944 in NC, which would make her about 51 now. In 1972 she worked in a bar. She was 5'2" tall, and completed 9th grade. Her mother died about 1957, and her father did farm work. She had one older brother.

My birth father was born about 1946, which would make him 49 now. He completed the 8th grade, and drove a truck in 1972. He was 5'10" tall and weighed 145 pounds. He was the fourth of 11 children. His father was born

Applications being accepted for Head Start

Head Start is in the process of recruiting children ages 3 and 4 years old by school entry date- October 16, 1996. Head Start is a federally funded program designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children of low income families with a comprehensive program to meet the children's emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs. Parents of special needs children are encouraged to apply. Applications are being accepted daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information or assistance, please call Pembroke Head Start Center, at 910-521-9230. Prospect Head Start Center at 910-521-9200. The Head Start Centers are a part of the Four County Community Services, Inc.

Local schools Accredited

Three schools in the Public Schools of Robeson County have been accepted as candidates for accreditation for 1996 by the Commission on Elementary and Middle Schools of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools: Fairgrove, Magnolia, and Prospect Elementary Schools were accepted during celebration of the Regional Accrediting Association's 100-year anniversary.

Elders & Traditionalist Events & Pow Wows

(Please note the differences from past years.)

- *March 14-16-Native American New Year Ceremonial Festival. Thursday, March 14- Elder's Council meeting; prayer circle; talk circle and social time. Sunrise-Noon-Evening-Sundown Ceremonies. And other times as needed by guests and attendees. In between will be social, education, talk and prayer groups meeting. All are invited.
- May 10-12- Lumbee Spring Dance Festival. Lumberton Fairgrounds.
- April 12-13- Pee Dee Indian Association Pow-Wow. Lindsay Park, Bennettsville, SC.
- June 13-16-Traditional Spiritual gathering. No fees. No admission. No vendors. No competition. Praying, singing, drum, learn, teach, enjoy. Free admission. Free camping. Bartering only. 24-hour security. Meet Native Americans from all over Indian country.
- June 30-July 7- Lumbee Homecoming
- *September 20-22- Lumbee Fall Ceremonial. Picnic style meals. No admission. No vendors, Barter only. No competition. Celebrate the creator's Harvest Gifts.
- October 11-13- Lumbee Fall Pow Wow
- Note: * means that food at this event will be pot luck, picnic-style. There will be a cooking committee that will cook donated food or you can grill or picnic on your own. There will be no admission fee, no vendors, no competition. A donation box will be available for support of other Elders Council programs.
- November 21-22- Indian Cultural Center Fall Festival. Fire circle ceremonies, sunrise, noon, evening, sundown. Come learn, socialize, support the Elders and the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center.
- TBA- Tree lighting and fire ceremonies. Sunrise, noon, evening.
- *December 21- Winter Solstice. Sunrise and Noon.

Parkton School plans Valentine's Day Program

On Wednesday, February 14, 1996, Parkton School will hold its third annual "For the Love of Children" mini conference. The conference is intended for all family members and interested friends. The opening session will begin at 4 p.m. in the Parkton School Performing Arts Center (Auditorium). Each concurrent session will last approximately 35 minutes and will be held in the administrative building and the elementary building.

Speak at Parkton School

Rev. Franklin D. Bowden, Jr., President of the Unified Robeson County Branch of the NAACP, will be the main speaker at the Black History Program at Fairmont Middle School. The program is scheduled for Friday, February 9th at 1 p.m. The theme of the program this year is "Tribute to Black Americans"