

Calendar of Events

Festival of Trees Set for December 9-11

Hospice of Robeson's sixteenth Festival of Trees opens Sunday, Dec. 9 in a new location- The Osterneck Auditorium of the Townsend building, 102 N. Chestnut St. in Lumberton. Trees will be on display Dec. 9 from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 10-11 from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults; \$2 for seniors and youth, ages 12 and over. Children under 12 are admitted free; Privileges Plus members may present their membership card for free admission. Local groups have decorated 25 uniquely-themed trees sponsored by local businesses. Fresh-baked goodies, crafts and gift items are available for sale in the Santa's shop. Activities for children will be available next door at Exploration Station. All proceeds from the Festival go to Hospice of Robeson, a service for terminally ill persons and their families, and to Camp Care, a weekend camp for grieving children. Donations are tax-deductible. For more information, call 671-5577.

Support Group Meetings in December

Alzheimer's Support group meets the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. in the dining room of WoodHaven Nursing and Alzheimer's Care Center, 1150 Pine Run Dr.; call 671-5703. **Next meeting:** December 13, 2001

Unique Surviving Sisters, a female cancer support group, meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Obbie Lee Community Education Room of the Southeastern Cancer Center, 1200 Pine Run Dr.; call 671-5768. **Next meeting:** December 11, 2001

Super Lungs, a support group for persons with breathing problems or lung disorders, meets the second Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. in the Assembly room at Southeastern Regional Medical Center; call 738-5403. **Next meeting:** December 11, 2001

The Compassionate Friends support group, designed to offer friendship and understanding to bereaved parents, siblings, stepparents and grandparents, meets the third Monday each month at 7 p.m. at southeastern Home Health, 2002 N. Cedar St. in Lumberton. There is no charge for these sessions. For more information, call (910) 671-5655. **Next meeting:** December 17, 2001

Man to Man, a prostate cancer support group and lecture series, meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Obbie Lee Community Education Room of the Southeastern Cancer Center, 1200 Pine Run Dr.; call 671-5730. **Next meeting:** December 18, 2001

The Stroke support group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the rehab services lobby of Southeastern Lifestyle Center for Fitness and Rehabilitation, 4895 Fayetteville Rd. **Next meeting:** December 18, 2001

Southeastern Home Health sponsors a **Diabetes** support group at 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month. Meetings are held at 2002 N. Cedar St. in Lumberton. Health care professionals speak on topics helpful to persons with diabetes and their families. For more information, call 671-5600. **No meeting in December.**

Happy Hearts Cardiac Support Group, for people with heart disease and their family members, meets quarterly in Southeastern Regional Medical Center's Assembly Room at 7 p.m. Call 671-5067 for more information.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA), a self-help group for people recovering from drug addiction, meets **Mondays at 8 p.m.** at Carolina Manor Treatment Center, 1100 Pine Run Dr. For more information, call 738-1191

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), a self-help group for recovering alcoholics, meets **Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 p.m.** and **Thursdays at 6 p.m.** at Carolina Manor Treatment Center, 1100 Pine Run Dr., 738-1191.

Al-Anon, a weekly support group for family members of alcoholics, meets **Tuesdays at 8 p.m.** and **Thursdays at 6 p.m.** at Carolina Manor Treatment Center, 1100 Pine Run Dr., 738-1191

Studio One Lab of PSRC presents "Tis the Season for Celebration."

Celebrate the season with a spectacular showcase of our communities' cultures. Haunting Native American flutes and resounding drums, twirling ballerinas and high-kicking Rockettes, acapella gospel voices and Dicken's carolers, rockin' singers around the Christmas tree, even the intricate footwork of Irish dance and Celtic music- all will add to a glamorous high-energy show treasuring the music, dance and traditions of our American ancestors. The Spirits of Christmas Past and Present will welcome everyone to the Christmas season at Givens Performing Arts Center on the campus of UNCP in Pembroke. Performances are November 30th through December 2nd at 8 p.m. and Dec. 1 and 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for all students, on sale now. For reservations and tickets, please call the GPAC box office at 910-521-6361.

Christmas Craft Show and Sale

A Christmas Craft Show and Sale, sponsored by the Robeson County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and the Robeson County Extension and Community Association, will be held Friday, December 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held at the O.P. Owens Agriculture Center, Highway 72 West (west of Exit 17, off I-95), Lumberton. According to Phyllis Hunt, Extension and Community Association Coordinator with the Robeson County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, **ADMISSION WILL BE FREE.**

Crafters from Robeson and neighboring counties will offer quality-handcrafted items for sale. Lunch and baked goods will also be available. For more information contact the Cooperative Extension Service at (910) 671-3276. Employment and program opportunities are offered to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Family Fun and Fitness Day Scheduled for Saturday

The ultimate goal of the Robeson County Council on Physical Fitness and Health is to increase the number of county residents who exercise on a regular basis. The ultimate challenge is to figure out ways to accomplish this goal.

For starters, the Council will sponsor "Family Fun and Fitness Day" on Saturday, December 1st from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Lumberton Senior High School. This event will offer many opportunities for Robesonians of all ages to get moving toward the goal of regular exercise.

Noncompetitive activities planned for the event include a walk relay, water balloon toss, soccer ball kick, blind basketball free throw, fun walk, and much more. WKML 95.7 FM will be broadcasting live and special performances by the WKML Bootscooters are planned as well.

The Robeson County Council on Physical Fitness and Health encourages you to make every day a family fun and fitness day! For more information call 671-3094.

The Living Christmas Tree

The Music Ministry of Chestnut United Methodist Church on Chestnut and Eighth Streets Lumberton, NC presents, The Living Christmas Tree, December 8th and 9th.

The Children's Tree is Saturday, December 8, 2001 at 7:00 P.M. Service of Lessons and Carols is Sunday, December 9, 2001 at 11:00 A.M. Ecumenical Youth Choir is December 9, 2001 at 7:30 P.M.

The public is cordially invited. Nursery provided. For information call (910) 739-3304.

Syphilis Awareness Seminar

Provisional data from 2001 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that Robeson County reported the 17th highest number of Primary and Secondary syphilis cases of any county in the Country. The total number of new syphilis cases has increased to epidemic proportions totaling 150 cases by the end of 2000, in which Robeson will exceed the number of cases for this year (2001). At the present time, Robeson county is leading in the nation with syphilis cases per 100,000 in population.

Since January of 2001, the faith community has been a big asset in the fight against syphilis in Robeson County. Different denominations such as: Lumber River Holiness Methodist, Church of God, Assembly of God, United Methodist, Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, Freewill Baptist, In-

dependent Holiness, and other denominations along with the Robeson County Health Department Syphilis Elimination Program have formed the Native American Interfaith Ministries. This ministry will target the areas of substance abuse, homelessness, sexually transmitted diseases, domestic violence and suicide prevention.

December 5th, at Prospect United Methodist Church from 7:00-8:30 p.m., a syphilis awareness seminar will be presented by the Syphilis Elimination Program from the Robeson County Health Department. This seminar will present the facts about the syphilis epidemic we have in Robeson county, along with other sexually transmitted diseases. The public is invited and for further information call (910) 522-0670.

FSA Committee Election

Giles B. Floyd, County Executive Director of the Robeson/Scotland FSA Office, said that farmers would be voting by mail for FSA Committee members during the period from November 21, 2001 through December 3, 2001. These ballots must be signed and postmarked or returned by Monday, December 3, 2001.

The FSA County Committee administers farm programs at the local level and they are a direct link between the farm community and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Floyd said the election of responsible farmers is important to all producers. Farm programs administered by FSA County Committees include commodity price support loans and payments; establishment of allotments, yields, and marketing quotas; farmer loans; conservation programs; incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; and other farm disaster assistance. The Robeson/Scotland FSA Office issued over \$22.5 million in direct payments to area farmers in 2000.

It is well known that Committee members are the very heart of the FSA programs and every farmer should exercise his/her privilege of voting in the Committee election. All farmers are urged to study their ballots and vote on the most qualified persons to represent them on the Committee.

Native American Dance Class


The NC Indian Cultural Center will sponsor a Native American Dance Class for anyone interested in learning to dance. Classes will be held Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. til 9:00

p.m. All ages are welcome, however, younger children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact NCICC at (910) 521-2433.

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A Call For Poems

Write a poem and win the \$1,000 grand prize! Hollywood's Famous Poets Society is sponsoring a new poetry contest, open to everyone. There is no entry fee.

To enter send one poem of 21 lines or less: Free Poetry Contest, PMB 125, 1626 N. Wilcox Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028. Or enter on-line at www.famouspoets.com. A winner's list will be sent to all entrants.

"This is our big contest of the year," says Executive Director Mark Schramm. "We trust our prizes will encourage new poets to share their talent." The deadline for entering is December 8, 2001.

Volunteer for Robeson County Partnership for Children

The Robeson County Partnership for Children is seeking volunteers with backgrounds in early childhood education to assist with child assessments for WINGS, a kindergarten readiness curriculum. After training, volunteers would assess selected children currently enrolled in are day care facilities. For more information, contact the Partnership at 738-6767.

Purnell Swett News

Students Against Drunk Driving attended Robeson County's first Teen Empowerment Summit at the Holiday Inn in Lumberton on October 12& 13. The Summit addressed teen violence, substance abuse, and tobacco use. Keynote speakers were: Mate "Tiny" Archibald, Head Coach from then NBDL's Fayetteville Patriots, Jason Plamisan- Living Art, Lorna McNeil- Miss North Carolina 99/00, and Gary Miner of SAVE (Survivor and Victims of Tobacco Empowerment).

Students that attended were: Katara Oxendine, Ashley Oxendine, Sheena Oxendine, Natalie Locklear, Kara Locklear, Brent Chavis, Magan Lamb, Lee Ryan Lowery, and Roger Locklear- all SADD Club members. Others that attended were Mr. Wesley Revels, Ms. Lue Graham, Ms. Felecia Hunt, Ms. Ann Smith, and Ms. Nelia Crain.

Blood Drive For Special Cause

Matthew Blue, of Mt. Airy Boy Scout Troop 326, will be sponsoring a blood drive to earn his Eagle Scout badge. The blood drive will be held at Bear Swamp Baptist Church in Pembroke, N. C. on Saturday, December 22, 2001 from 9:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.

Pembroke First Baptist Church Birthdays

Duckery Graham	11-7
Jackie Godwin	11-7
Robert Oxendine	11-11
Jamie Bell	11-15
Esther Lindsey	11-17
Amira Hunt	11-21
Amelia Elk	11-21
Doris Chavis	11-25
Derrick Lowery	11-27
Amber Huggins	11-29

Remember Mr. Duckery Graham in prayer. He is very sick and in the hospital.

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