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PROS AND

CONS HEARD IN

PROPOSED

PARKTON-ST. PAULS

MERGER

Lamberton- The meeting room was overflowing with proponents and opponents of a proposed Parkton-St. Pauls Merger that has dominated the news in the last few days at Tuesdays meeting at the Robeson County Board of Education.

Tim Herndon, son of St. Pauls Commissioner Bill Herndon, appeared, as he put it, "representing some 1,000 petitioners." Officially he asked the Robeson County Board of Education to allow Parkton High School (part of the county school unit) to merge with the St. Pauls City School District. The proposal is said to have the blessings of the St. Pauls system.

Herndon said, "I believe this will be the best for the educational needs of our children."

But when pressed to state what St. Pauls was offering Herndon would only say, "I cannot speak for St. Pauls. I am representing the people who signed this petition."

In responding to a question from Laymon Poe Locklear, Herndon admitted that his child did not attend the county schools and attended Robeson Day School, a private school in Red Springs. Said Herndon, "Like Major Green, I have a child in a private school for personal reasons."

Herndon said that he was representing people from Parkton, Lumber Bridge and Rex.

Reasons cited by Herndon were a lack of citizen input, location, and quality of education as reasons for the petitioners wishing to leave the county school system.

Herndon was questioned closely by the board members. Most seemed to be interested in what St. Pauls could offer educationally for the children. Major David Green, the member of the county board from the Parkton area, noted in questioning Herndon that he had four children, two of them graduates of Parkton High School with another son enrolled there. But he noted that he had one son in military school, "because he

is interested in a military career."

Said Green, "I have no qualms with the folks in St. Pauls—they are fine folk but I want to know what they are offering. I know what the county is offering: what is St. Pauls offering?"

Green noted quizzically, "What in the world did you tell people to get them to sign it? I don't understand what you could have told them."

Green equated the situation to buying a car without knowing what the payments are.

OTHER PETITIONERS APPEAR

But Herndon was not the only petitioner to appear. Attorneys Angus Thompson and Knox Chavis also appeared representing opponents of the proposed merger from the Oak Ridge area and Rex Rennert community.

Thompson noted, "I represent 372 petitioners who feel it would not be in the best interest of the school to allow the merger to take place." Thompson also noted that many of those who signed his petition also signed the one presented by Herndon. Although never saying so out loud, Thompson inferred that the people signing both petitions might have been misled.

Likewise Chavis presented another petition from 257 petitioners from the Rex Rennert Community speaking against the educational merits of the proposal.

Ms. Geraldine Bell also appeared before the board and spoke in favor of retaining Magnolia School. Ms. Bell said, "When you lose the school you lose community input." She spoke glowingly of the community pride of the Magnolia area.

No decision was made. Board Chairman Ralph Hunt said, "We have a policy whereby we give a decision at a subsequent meeting." So the matter was tabled "until a subsequent meeting."

AREA BRIEFS

OXENDINE CITED AS CHANCELLOR CHOICE

Pembroke- At press time, word was received that Dr. Joseph B. Oxendine is the new choice of the local chancellor selection committee in their search for a new chancellor at Pembroke State University to replace the retiring Dr. English E. Jones.

Dr. James B. Chavis, considered by many to be the front runner for the job, according to some sources, finished fourth in a list of six that had been winnowed down from an original list of candidates that totaled "more than 80."

More next week.

PEMBROKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PLANS DINNER MEETING

Pembroke- Chamber of Commerce president Jim Paul, announced a dinner meeting at Sims Restaurant tonight for members and prospective members. Interested persons are urged to attend.

The meeting, set for 7 p.m., will be held at Sims Restaurant on 3rd St.

POSTMASTER RESIGNS

Pembroke- Citing "personal reasons" Pembroke's postmaster, Jacob Curtis, has resigned. He had been postmaster for approximately nine months.

Acting as temporary officer in charge is Janice Mobley, postmaster at McCain.

About the Pembroke Alcohol Counseling Center

by Leon Maynor

The Pembroke Alcohol Counseling Center is the result of several years of joint planning by the alcoholism section of the Robeson County Mental Health Center and the staff of Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA). The project began with the realization and the documentation that American Indians were vastly underserved in existing treatment and education programs in the county. The bottom line—following extensive discussion and study—was the conviction that Indians would continue to be inadequately served until such time as services were available within the Indian community, offered by an Indian staff, and presented with a framework that relates to the Indian culture. The plan that evolved called for the specific training of Indians who are in a position to encourage others to accept treatment and/or education, and the establishment of a Pembroke Office.

The major objective of Pembroke Alcohol Counseling Center is to provide the Indians Alcoholism Counseling and Educational Services. It was determined this could be accomplished with an all Indian staff. There are about 30,000 or more American Indians residing in Robeson County. The central location for the Indian population is Pembroke, North Carolina, located about fifteen (15) miles west of Lumberton and is the home of Pembroke State University.

Present records and statistics indicate that the incidents of alcoholism among Robeson County Indians is at least equal to that of other population

segments. Low education levels, and economic deprivation are factors which tend to keep the level of alcoholism education very basic.

Alcoholism is relatively a new social health problem among American Indians. Alcoholic beverages were only introduced to Indians with the first contacts with the white man. The use of liquor spread rapidly as it became a bargaining item between traders and Indians. There are several accounts of alcohol being used by white men as a bribe. By the early 1800's excessive drinking in Indian communities had become such a problem both whites and Indians wanted some type of legislation forbidding liquor traffic with Indians. These laws remained on the books until 1953, when they were repealed.

Services Provided

The project involves the following services:

1. Court Counseling
2. Out-patient counseling
3. Group Therapy
4. Community Training
5. Early intervention in Schools and through Courts
6. Prevention and Education programs in Schools and churches.

Statement of Policy

Although the Pembroke Alcohol Counseling Center has been specifically designed to serve Indians, Non-Indians requesting services at this location will not be refused.

PEOPLE AND LAND THINGS... C E S

First Album about the Lumbees to be released

by Ben Jacobs

"Proud To Be A Lumbee," an album of contemporary songs about the Lumbee Indians of Robeson County, will be released the next few weeks by the Indian Education Project of Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. of Pembroke.

According to Willie Lowry, writer and composer of the album, one of the most impressive aspects about the album is the performance of some very talented Lumbee youths.

Miriam Oxendine, a multi-talented Lumbee musician, and Lowry, who is best known for his compositions for the outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind," combined their efforts to produce the first album about the traditions, experiences and dreams of the Lumbee people. The young vocalists accompanying Lowry and Oxendine are, Teresa Tyler, Corry Lowery, Melinda Locklear, Clint Lowery, Teresa Locklear, Maurice Lowery and Connie Lowery.

"The songs create a deeper awareness of the Lumbee people and make Indian youth more proud of their traditions and the history of their community," said Lowry. He noted that the songs are dedicated to all Lumbee youths. "It compliments the many Lumbee leaders and encourages Native American youth to strive for success while preserving and developing their traditional culture," he stated.

Lowry explained that the Lumbee people are the origi-

nal inhabitants of the North Carolina coastal area, with deep roots in their communities in Robeson County. "There are over 40,000 Lumbee Indians, and I hope the songs will touch them as well as other people," Lowery said. "The album makes special note of the work of Henry Berry Lowery, the hero of the Lumbees, and of the educational achievements of the Lumbees.

"The original idea for writing the songs was to provide contemporary music about the Lumbee culture for the students in the Indian Education programs of LRDA," said Lowery. "Some of the songs tell about the history and traditions of our people, while others tell of the experiences and feelings that we share." He noted that the songs are simple to learn and that a song booklet accompanies each album for those who wish to sing along. The music is not only educational but very entertaining.

The album contains eleven (11) songs with music written by Lowery. The album has a full color jacket with photos of the musicians. A limited number of albums are being made, so order now to receive this unique music.

Albums or tapes can be obtained through the Lumbee Indian Education Project, of Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. (LRDA) P.O. Box 68, Pembroke, N.C. or by calling the Lumbee Indian Education Project at 919-521-2401.

Pembroke Junior High FHA Officers Selected



FHA Members from Pembroke Junior High School are shown left to right (bottom row): Cheryl D. Strickland, Victoria D. Oxendine, Elaine F. Bullard, Lynette Locklear, Connie F. Locklear, Wanda Locklear. (middle row) Vicky Fidler, Robin Locklear, Demetris Hunt, Gloria J. Sampson, Paula Lowry, Sylvia Locklear, Belinda Locklear. (top row) Loretta Locklear, Vicky F. Clark, Pamela K. Walker, Anna Marie Oxendine, Wanda Chavis, Nanette Sampson, Marissa Steen. Not pictured are Karen Bowen, Diane Hunt, Carlene Locklear, Myra J. Dial, Denise Oxendine, Brenda Lee Jacobs and Mrs. Sue Locklear, advisor.

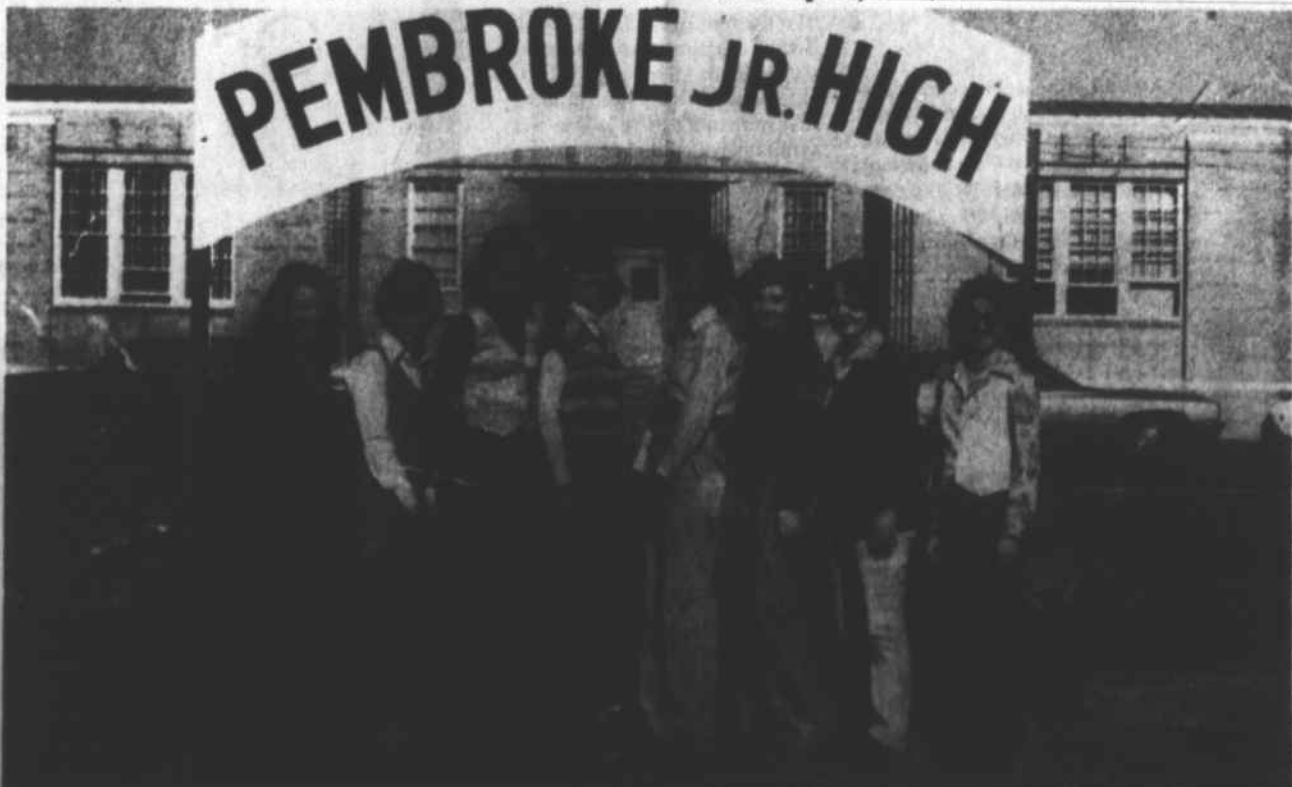
New Jaycee Chapter formed at Lumberton Correctional Center

The Robeson Prison Unit (Lumberton Correctional Center) Jaycee Chapter was recently formed because several inmates showed an interest in working within a Chapter. The Chapter was initiated by the Fairgrove Jaycees who got things rolling on Wednesday, January 31. During the first meeting four officers for the new chapter were elected. They are: President, Dellon Scott; Vice President, Robert Reynolds; Treasurer, James Bumgardner, and Secretary Jimmy Hunt.

Sporting Goods-Pembroke. Contacts are being made in the community to assist in selling the tickets so that the Chapter can pay their membership dues. Posters will be placed in stores where tickets will be on sale. The ticket price is 50 cents each and you do not have to be present to win on March 12. The Reel and Rod is on display at Freeman's Sporting Goods for viewing.

The institutional Jaycee Chapter will be active with fund raising projects and community projects as much as possible. They will continue to need your support in helping to make their Chapter successful. Donations have been made by several businesses in the area and any additional donations from any interested citizens will be greatly appreciated.

During the first week of the chapter a name was chosen by the members. They chose to call themselves the Eagle Claw Jaycees. This name came from their first project. The Jaycees are selling tickets on a Eagle Claw Reel and Rod which was donated by Freeman



From left to right: Paula Lowry, Remedial Leader Cheryl Strickland, Postmaster/Vicky Oxendine, Remedial Leader Pamela Walker, Secretary Vicky Clark, President; Gloria Sampson, Vice President; Wanda Locklear, Reporter; Vicky Oxendine, Historian. Not pictured is Tina Scott, Treasurer. FHA'ers will be celebrating National Vocational Education Week February 11-17, 1979.

Union Elementary PTA to meet February 20

The Parent Association of Union Elementary School will meet Tuesday, February 20, at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Gerald Maynor of Pembroke State University will be the featured speaker.

All parents and patrons of the school are highly encouraged to be in atten-

dance, as this meeting is very important.

An award will be offered to the home-room having the largest number of parents and grandparents present.

Refreshments will be served.

PRE-SCHOOL CLINIC SET AT

UNION ELEMENTARY

The Pre-School Clinic for the 1979-80 school year, will be held at Union Elementary School on Thursday, February 22, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

All parents having children becoming

5 or 6 years of age, on or before June 15, 1979 should attend the clinic. Parents are asked to present certificates and proof of immunization for their children. It is not necessary that the child be present.