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ROBESON COUNTY

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## ...CONCERNING THE PROPOSED

## MERGER OF THE ROBESON

## COUNTY & MAXTON SCHOOL UNITS

A plan of merger of the Maxton City Schools and the Robeson County Schools to become effective July 1, 1979 has been approved by both boards of education, subject to other legal steps as required by the general statutes of North Carolina.

The nucleus of the merger package centers around the construction of a new comprehensive high school that will include high school students from

the Pembroke and Prospect school zones and the Maxton City Schools district. The proposed new high school is to be located in an area that will be as convenient as possible to the student populations it will serve.

The architectural firm of Jordan, Snowdon and McVicker of Laurinburg has been retained by both boards to do preliminary design work for the new school.

Once the merger resolution is officially signed by both boards of education and final approval of the merger is given by the county commissioners of Robeson County, the NC State Board of Education, and the Secretary of State, work on the plans and specifications will officially begin with the intent of completing the high school in time for occupancy by the beginning of the 1981-82 school year.

Under the merger plan, Maxton City Schools will continue to receive for a two-year period all of its State funding and teacher allocation and its pro-rata share of local current expense and capital outlay funds for use in the Maxton school district. After the two-year period, the continuance of any and all personnel within the Maxton City School unit will be contingent upon the availability of funds, which is also true for all personnel in the Robeson County School unit.

The plan will provide the Maxton school district with representation on the Robeson County Board of Education. Effective July 1, 1979 the present Maxton Board of Education will convert to an advisory board with the primary function of governing the affairs of the Maxton district during the two year transition period.

The Maxton Board of Education has appointed one of its current members to the Robeson County Board of Education for a 3 1/2 year term with the representation to continue by the election of one member from the current Maxton school district after the appointed 3 1/2 year term expires. Mr. Robert L. Buchanan, the current chairman of the Maxton City Board of Education, was recently elected by the board to serve the 3 1/2 year appointed term.

Mr. Swett and Mr. Yongue are very enthusiastic about the educational opportunities that will be possible with the addition of a new comprehensive high school. Both superintendents are currently confronted with the problems of not being able to offer the broad curriculum necessary to meet the needs of all their students.

The new school with a population of around 1500 students will be able to offer basic and enrichment courses to meet a variety of student needs that could not be met in small high schools as we currently have. These courses will include broader remedial programs, as well as advanced courses in mathematics and also additional foreign languages. A wide range of electives to meet individual student needs and interests will also be offered, including an expansion of the cultural arts as well as a comprehensive vocational program with resources based on campus and at the Hilly Branch Ce. ter.

The proposed new high school structure will be designed not only to include adequate instructional class rooms and laboratories, but a modern cafeteria, gymnasium and auditorium. The facilities are being planned and designed for general public use for the citizens of the school district. The majority of the funds for this complex will be derived from the recently passed 16 million dollar county wide bond referendum.

Effective July 1, 1979, Supt. Yongue will assume the title of assistant supt. in the Robeson County Schools with the major responsibility of coordinating the merger activities to include educational specifications and supervision of the construction of the new high school complex.

The following activities are scheduled as part of the procedures for this proposed merger:

1. Thursday, May 10, 8 p.m. - Public hearing will be held at the Union Elementary School concerning the merger plan.

## 'Miss Lumbee' Pageant

## Plans Announced

The 12th Annual Miss Lumbee Pageant will be held July 6th at the Pembroke State University Performing Arts Center. According to Mrs. Florence Ransom, Pageant Director, the event will again be sponsored by Lumbee Homecoming and the Pembroke Jaycees.

"The Miss Lumbee Pageant provides a valuable contribution to the community and to the young ladies who enter the competition," said Mrs. Ransom. "It serves the community well because it focuses attention on the high calibre of young ladies who are residents of our area," she stated. "It serves youth well because it provides the opportunity for the young ladies who compete to gain poise through public appearances."

Mrs. Ransom is asking area civic clubs and social organizations to sponsor candidates for the Miss Lumbee Pa-

geant. Applications can be obtained at the Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc., Annex between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The deadline for submitting an application will be May 25th.

"Personality, poise, beauty, and talent are the major requirements for a candidate," explained Mrs. Ransom. Each contestant will be judged in private interview, in evening gown, in swimsuit and in the presentation of her talent.

To qualify, a young woman must be between the ages of 17 (by Labor Day) and 26, must be a high school graduate (by Labor Day) and must never have been married.

The 12th Annual Miss Lumbee Pageant will be held July 6th at 8 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on the Pembroke State University campus.

## AREA BRIEFS

### ROBESON COUNTY INDUSTRY PANEL

Lumberton-An 11 member Private Industry Council was named last Thursday to oversee Robeson County's \$5 million federal jobs program.

Appointed by the Robeson County Board of Commissioners, the council is made up of county businessmen, organized labor and community and educational leaders.

Named to head the council as chairman is Al Sharpe, business manager of a Lumberton newspaper; others on the

### EDITOR'S NOTE

In an emergency session on Friday, the Robeson County Board of Education accepted the proposed merger of Maxton City Schools into the county system. Supt. Purnell Swett outlined the proposal to the members. Relatively little discussion followed his outline and the board unanimously accepted the proposal. (See a news release from Supt. Douglas Y. Yongue, Maxton City Schools, and Supt. Purnell Swett elsewhere on this page for detailed information on the proposed merger.)

Chairman Ralph Hunt read a letter of resignation from Bob Mangum stating his affiliation as pastor of Prospect United Methodist Church as his reason for resigning from the board. The board accepted the resignation with few comments. On motion by Jerry Lowry, the remaining board members appointed J.R. Mussewhite to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Shirley Britt.

In the brief session, the board also gratefully acknowledged name plates for their respective seats on the board donated by a representative of Star Engraving Company. And they discussed a neutral site for the public hearing relative to the proposed merger as they moved towards the door.

2. Monday, May 14, joint meeting of the Robeson County Board of Education and the Maxton City Board of Education will be held to review minutes of the public hearing and to modify the merger plan, if necessary. At this meeting, the two boards are scheduled to approve the final resolution for merger.

3. Date to be announced - Merger plan will be presented to the Robeson County Board of Commissioners for approval.

4. Thursday, June 7 - Merger plan will be presented to the NC State Board of Education and to the Secretary of State for approval.

5. July 1, 1979 official merger date.

Mr. Swett and Mr. Yongue view this merger as a potential giant step in providing for the first time adequate educational opportunities for the high school students in the western part of Robeson County.

## PEOPLE AND LAND THINGS

### N.C. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT SET FOR FRIDAY, MAY 4

Fayetteville - Final preparations are being made for this Friday night's N.C. Heavyweight Championship bout between reigning champ "Rocky" Jr. Bentley (fought Scott Le Doux, Nick Wells, Marvin Stinson a tough veteran with over 300 amateur and pro fights) of Lenoir, N.C. and Claman "Sandman" Parker, Casar, N.C. (trained by George Benton of Ali, Spinks I Fame, under the direction of Smokin' Joe Frazier.)

A letter from Gov. Jim Hunt extending his best wishes for success of the event has been received by J.A. Flynn and Sons Promotions Public Relations Director Ed McCarthy.

Besides the 3rd appearance of the popular "Ringside Girls" there will be the pro debut of Clenton "King" Cochran, former N.C. Heavyweight champ and 3 time interservice champ (Clenton holds wins over both Big John Tate and Nick Wells) against the slugging Big Tom Walker of Spartanburg, S.C. Plus there will be 6 other bouts Hv. Wts. Bulldog Patterson (recently fought Duane Bobick) vs. Don Collins, of Asheville, N.C.; Lt. Wts. Gary "Sundance" Barlow vs. Odie "the Chief" Locklear of Robeson County; Middleweights Kid Dragon vs. Boston Blackie; Lt. Hv. Champ Ed Smith of Charlotte, N.C. (Charlotte Policeman) vs. Joel Patterson; Hv. Wts. James Brannen vs. Sanford's Billy "Gator" Gladden and Lt. Hvyvs. Persey Vample vs. Charlie Boy Williamson, of Moore County, N.C. There is a Pre Fight Party at the Cumberland County Arena (6 p.m.) for holders of the Golden Ringside tickets, however there are still some ringside reserved seats on floor available at \$10.00 and general admission at \$4.00 all available-at all arena outlets.

### DISCO DANCE PLANNED

Magnolia-The Magnolia High School Athletic Department will sponsor a disco dance tomorrow night in the school gym (May 4) 7:30 till 11 p.m. Admission is \$1.50.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN PEMBROKE PLANS REVIVAL

Pembroke First Baptist Church will hold revival services during the week of May 13. Services will be conducted each night a 8 p.m. beginning Sunday night, May 12, and continuing through May 18th.

The Rev. Chesley McNeill, Pastor Deep Branch Baptist Church, will be the guest evangelist.

Special music and gospel singing will be a feature of the service. The pastor, Rev. Chesley Hammonds cordially invites the public to attend.

### REVIVAL PLANNED

A revival is being planned for the 3rd Sunday night in May at Beulah Baptist Church. Guest speakers will be the Rev. Steve Jones, pastor of Harper's Ferry Baptist Church and Rev. C.M. Maynor, pastor of Reedy Branch Baptist Church. Services will begin at 7:30 on Sunday night and run through Friday night. Special singing each night. Rev. Manford Locklear, pastor, extends a cordial invitation to everyone.

### BURNT SWAMP ASSOCIATION VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CLINICS

The officers of the Burnt Swamp Association have scheduled two V.B.S. clinics. Participants are to choose which clinic they wish to attend. The first clinic is scheduled for Monday, May 7, 1979 at 7:30 p.m. at Smyrna Baptist Church. On Tuesday, May 8, 1979 at 7:30 p.m. the second clinic will be held at Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Officers strongly urge those people who are going to work with V.B.S. this year to get a copy of the Teachers Book and Resource Kit and plan to bring them to the clinic so that the workers can help the participants understand the materials.

Officers conducting the workshops are Ms. Ann Hardin, Younger Preschool; Ms. Mary Sue McGirt, Older Preschool; Ms. Sallie D. Bullard, First and Second grades; Ms. Rosalyn Sampson, Third and Fourth grades; Ms. Rose Marie Lowry, Fifth and Sixth grades; Ms. Patricia Hogans, Youth Dept.; Ms. Maitland Hunt, Adults; Ms. Alberta Locklear, Backyard Bible Club; and Associational V.B.S. Director, Ms. Catherine Brewer.

Refreshments will be served at each of these clinics.

### PLATE AND RUMMAGE SALE

The Riverside Church of God in Lumberton will hold a plate and rummage sale this Saturday, May 5 at the church. The rummage sale will get underway at 8 a.m. with the plate sale to begin at 10:30 a.m. Plates are \$2.50.

### REVIVAL SERVICES PLANNED

Revival will be at the Church of God of Saddletree will run May 18, 19 and 20. Speakers will be Rev. T.L. Lowery. He is the second general overseer of the churches of God at Cleveland, Tennessee. The time is 7:30 p.m. There will be prayer for the sick at each service along with special singing. Rev. Stanford Sampson, pastor of the church invites the public to attend.

### SINGING PLANNED

Deep Branch Baptist Church will hold their monthly singing this Sunday evening beginning at 7 p.m. The Rev. Chesley McNeill, pastor, invites all interested singing groups, as well as the general public to attend.

### REVIVAL SERVICES PLANNED

Revival services will begin Sunday night, May 6, at Hope Well Holiness Methodist Church. Services will be held nightly through Friday night, May 11. The guest speaker will be Rev. Michael Brooks. He will deliver the morning message on Sunday. On Sunday night, the pastor, Rev. James H. Woods, will speak. For the remainder of the week, Rev. Woods and Rev. Brooks will alternate nights.

Special music will include the Hope Well Men's Chorus, the Hope Well Women's Association, the Deep Branch Young People, Carol Oxendine, Mr. and Mrs. Lankford Godwin and the White Hill Singers.

Rev. Woods extends a cordial invitation to everyone to attend!

## May Day Activities Planned at Oxendine School

On Friday, May 4, at Oxendine Elementary School students will celebrate May Day with a program of activities revolving around the "Dances for the Holy Spirit" celebration will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will continue through the night. Parents and friends are invited to attend.



New Officers of the Pembroke Jayettes are (left to right) Hazel Deese, External Vice President, Elvera Locklear, Internal Vice President, Bonnie Cummings, Secretary, Doris Cummings, President Frances Chavis, Treasurer, and Andrena D. Scott, Member-at-Large.



Top Jayettes Award Winners are (left to right) Elvera Locklear, Spokette of the Year; Theresa Locklear, Jayette of the Year; and Frances Chavis, Spokette of the Year.