

## ROBESON COUNTY SCHOOLS NEWS AND BRIEFS

by Loretta Hunt  
Director of Public Information

### Video Of Robeson County Indians Produced

The legacy of the Robeson County Indians is one of pride, strong identity, self reliance and strong determination. Glimpses of this legacy have been videotaped as "A Talk with the Elders" by the Title IV Part A Indian Education Project.

The thirty minute video production provides an oral history of life growing-up in Robeson County with the struggles of farming, the role of church worship, the challenges of raising a family, attending public schools, and the legend of the Lumbee Hero, Henry Berry Lowery.

Elders interviewed in the video include Oscar and Margie Chavis from the Hogtown community, Clement Bullard from the Prospect community, Mary Locklear from the Pembroke community, Claude Sampson from the Deep Branch community, Ella Baker from the Union Chapel community and Reverend Charles Maynor from the Mount Airy community.

To be used as a supplemental classroom instructional media, "A Talk with the Elders" was narrated by Kathy Chavis and produced by Billy E. Barnes of Chapel Hill, NC.

"A Talk with the Elders" will be available from the Title IV Part A Indian Education Project Resource Center in the spring for viewing.

### Monthly Meeting Of The Board

During the January meeting of the Robeson County Board of Education, a fourteen item agenda was reviewed and discussed with Board members approving map changes for districts 4, 10 and 11 boundaries as presented by Pearlean Revels of the Robeson County Board of Elections.

Ms. Gladys Sawyer, Director of Exceptional Children's Programs, presented an in depth progress report on the Haats and Oxendine Case involving the ten written requirements which resulted as a part of the settlement of a recent litigation.

The results of 728 first time juniors taking the North Carolina Competency Test in reading and mathematics was reported by Dr. V.R. Thompson, Director of Secondary Education and Testing. System-wide students averaged 89.7 in reading and 88.9 in mathematics which reflects a two percent drop for the system over the 1984-85 results which is also reflected in the state's average for first time juniors taking the test.

A matter of dispute over property boundary lines at Pembroke Junior High School was referred for appropriate action to Superintendent Purnell Swett, Board Chairman Dr. Dalton P. Brooks, and Board Attorney Gary Locklear.

An update on an Energy Grant totaling \$18,000 planned for use over a three year period at Oxendine and Long Branch Schools was reported by Douglas Yongue, Assistant Superintendent. Site improvements on the 2 campuses include addition of storm windows, insulation, chaulking and the insulation of fluorescent light fixtures.

Ms. Ruth Dial Woods, Assistant Superintendent of Compensatory Education Programs, presented a report of the November site visitation and audit by the Office of Indian Education, Washington, D.C., a proposal for the FY 1986-87 Title IV Part A Indian Education Project application, and copies of the 1984-85 publication "Making a Difference" by the Title IV Project which reviews a pictorial profile of the programs and services provided by the Project to students served by the system.

The Board approved contracts for Belinda Cheryl Bissel, 4-6 Pembroke Elementary, and Wanda Core Varmedoe, Business Education Extended Day Program.

Support personnel approved for employment include Garnette S. Campbell, clerk typist/recruiter at Central Office; Vanessa C. Locklear, secretary part time at Prospect School; and Bowman Freeman, cafeteria staff at Pembroke Junior High School.

### 1986-The Year Of The Native American

The North Carolina 400th Anniversary Committee and Indian organizations throughout North Carolina have worked cooperatively over the past two years to establish goals and activities which will appropriately endorse 1986: Year of the Native American, as proclaimed by Governor James G. Martin to recognize the "first inhabitants of our great state" and their special heritage.

In May of 1984 an Indian Advisory Committee was established to solicit input from the Indian communities of North Carolina which would insure Native American history, culture and traditions are fairly represented during the 400th Anniversary of the Roanoke Voyages which will also take place during 1986.

The Indian Advisory Committee along with the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs worked jointly to receive additional suggestions from Indian organizations, state agencies, city and county organizations throughout the state to develop plans for the 1986 event.

Activities endorsed by the 400th Anniversary Committee and Indian organizations to be implemented across the state include:

**Winter Festival**, the inaugural event for 1986-Year of the Native American, held in Raleigh during January 9 thru 12 which will feature the opening of Encyclopaedia Britannica's Great American Indian Leaders Exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of History, a Recognition Banquet at the Raleigh Civic Center, lectures by Lumbee historians and many other activities scheduled during the four day festival.

**Spring Festival**, scheduled for March 13 thru 15, will coincide with the Annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference at the Four Seasons Holiday Inn, Greensboro. The festival will include a tribute to North Carolina Indians as part of the conference.

**Summer Festival**, a religious festival, is being developed with a formal dedication ceremony by traditional and contemporary religious leaders from tribes across the state. Other activities include an unveiling of development plans for the Indian Culture Center, an opening of preliminary exhibits (replica of "Roanoke" village and a traditional Indian garden), and a gospel singing to be held at the "Strike at the Wind" amphitheater in Pembroke.

**Harvest Festival**, scheduled for September 21 thru 27, will coincide with the Annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference at the Four Seasons Holiday Inn, Greensboro. The festival will include a tribute to North Carolina Indians as part of the conference.

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**Harvest Festival**, scheduled for September 21 thru 27, will coincide with the annual Indian Heritage Week with various Indian Pow Wows across the state and concluding the festival with an Indian Pow Wow to be held at Town Creek Indian Mound on Sunday, September 21, 1986.

**International Festival**, sponsored by the city of Raleigh during October 3 thru 5, will feature North Carolina Indians as the ethnic group in the folk festival. Plans include a mini-pow wow, Indian cultural dance ceremonies, displays on the Indian Culture, Native American foods and much more.

**North Carolina State Fair**, scheduled for October 18 thru 26, will display an Indian Village exhibit with Indian foods and Indian cultural arts and crafts for sale. The exhibit will be sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

**Thanksgiving Feast**, the closing ceremony for 1986-Year of the Native American, will include an educational symposium at Pembroke State University, featuring Indian issues on education, law, medicine, and visual arts.

Many other activities are planned to highlight the Year of the Native American include teacher workshops, children's art exhibit, "Roanoke" teacher guides and exhibit items, planetarium "Star Show," a mini page coverage of the event, McDonald's tray mats featuring the event, and the selling of Wedgwood china commemorative plate/bowl.

For more information, contact the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs in Raleigh at (919) 733-5998.

## Job Placement Program Provides Stimulating Rewards



Youth in Pembroke Junior High School's Job Placement Program are shown above. Left to right are Lisa Sweatt, Jonathan Harris, Michael Deig, Dederis Jefferson and Dully McCallum.

The Job Placement Program at Pembroke Junior High is one of the school's successful efforts to concern itself with the total development of students. The program, designed by the Department of Public Instruction,

Support Programs, serves economically disadvantaged youth by assisting them in the development of pre-employment skills training, basic education skills, and specific job training.

Ms. Liz Purdie, Job Placement Specialist at Pembroke Junior High, states that her greatest concerns are to keep the student in school and to build positive self concepts. She also provides personal and academic counseling and makes referrals to the health department if needed. Students in the program are eligible for subsidized employment during the summer months and after school. Forty students at the junior high are enrolled in the program.

## EXTENSION SCENE

[Editor's Note: Everett Davis, agricultural Extension agent, will serve as guest columnist until an Extension chairman is selected for Robeson County.]

During this time of the year the Extension Offices become a beehive of activity. Local agricultural producers are gathering information in an attempt to better deal with the need to show management skills. Specialized groups are meeting to make plans for the upcoming year or to brush up on skills for their respective professions. Homemakers are attending workshops or gaining personal instruction on how to perform various tasks. Four-H youth and their volunteer leaders are wrapping up details from last year's projects and at the same time seeking information and encouragement as they dive into new projects and activities.

Hardly a day will pass during the next three months that at least one organized group will not use the Extension facilities. On many occasions as many as four meetings will be held simultaneously in different areas of the building.

In addition to the use of the Extension facilities by other groups, the Extension agents will be conducting meetings of their own.

Tobacco producers will have the opportunity to gain information on the latest technology that will help them produce for a profit as well as the latest details on the current farm bill and tobacco program.

Beef producers can gain useful information related to artificial insemination and the use of crop residues as feed sources.

Landowners can gain information on managing timberlands on their farms and the best techniques to use when selling timber.

Pond owners will have the opportunity to learn about commercial fish production, how to control pond weeds, and details of pond construction or renovation.

Homemakers can take part in a lamp making workshop as well as learn to make "cut and punch" lamp shades.

Four-H'ers will be participating in public speaking contests, fire safety courses, communications classes, and sewing classes.

Field crops producers will have the opportunity to learn more about practices they may use to reduce production costs while maintaining or possibly even increasing yields.

Vegetable producers can receive information about production as well as what is needed to effectively market their crops.

The programs mentioned above are by no means a complete list of what will be going on at the Extension Offices. I hope that it does indicate to you that your Extension Service does offer services on a wide variety of topics and by many different methods. I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities that are available to you that deal with topics in which you are interested. For more detailed information about our services, you may call us at 738-8111 or visit our offices on Highway 72 behind the Cancer Institute any time Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

### FARMER'S TAX GUIDES

As a new year begins, one of the hardest things to do is write the correct date on our checks. The next hardest thing is to make ourselves start working on our tax forms. There are often new tax laws from year to year and we always need to be fully aware of what deductions we are entitled to.

The 1985 Farmers' Tax Guides are available free through the Extension Office for farm producers. Whether you prepare your own taxes or just gather the paper work up for someone else to worry about, you are encouraged to pick up one of these guides so you will be more familiar with what may be necessary in filing these returns.

### WILDLIFE PLANTING MATERIALS

Whether you own a 1,000-acre spread or just a one-acre lot, you have some areas that can be developed as wildlife feeding areas. The North Carolina Wildlife Commission will furnish free seed supplies to those who wish to develop these areas. We have the applications that are necessary for requesting these supplies. The deadline for requesting them is March 1.

Because of the methods of farming used today and the loss of feeding areas due to urban development, consider establishing these feeding areas to encourage the increase of small game such as quail and rabbits as well as song birds.

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STUDIES FROM THE BOOK OF JOHN  
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