

Established January 18, 1973, Published Each Thursday

The Carolina Indian Voice

Pembroke, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

Robeson Co

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 35

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1989

25¢ PER COPY

Public Meeting Planned To Discuss Increased County Taxes

On Thursday, September 7, there will be a Public Meeting on Property Tax Increases in Robeson County at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Gym at Pembroke Elementary School. The Meeting is being sponsored by the Center for Community Action.

The meeting is being held to discuss the large increase in property taxes and to determine questions which need to be answered by the County Commissioners. A petition drive has begun to petition the Robeson County Commissioners to determine how the tax rate can be lowered and to levy no more increases in the cost of county services until a full explanation of the tax increase and methods to lower it are given to the citizens of Robeson County.

Copies of the Petition will be available at the Public Meeting for individuals to sign and take with them in order to be signed by others. A date will be chosen at the meeting as a deadline for petitions to be turned in. A date will also be chosen as to when the petitions will be delivered to the County Commissioners.

The massive rise in property taxes has caused a great deal of anger and confusion over why the taxes had to be raised as high as they were raised. The first reason given by certain commissioners and county officials was that school merger was the major reason for the tax increase. After investigation of the procedures used by the commissioners, Mr. Eric Prevatte, Chairperson of CARE (Citizens After Responsible Educa-

tion), and Rev. Sidney Locks, House Legislative Member, both determined that a second method was available to the commissioners. Investigation has also shown that there was over 1 million dollars available in state transfer funds that could have been used for general expenditures for our schools, and documentation from the state available to the county in February shows how that procedure could best be done. When citizens voted for school

merger, they voted to raise local support for the merged system on a gradual basis, beginning with 70 percent of the state average. What is unknown at the present time is the level at which the citizens are now supporting the Public Schools of Robeson County due to the confusion over the available procedures and

funding options. What is clear is that school merger did not cause the taxes to go up as high as they did, practicing more conservative funding options and procedures available to the county commissioners. Information will also be shared about other

budget items leading to the increase in property taxes so the public will be aware of what their taxes are buying.

The meeting will include a presentation by Mr. Eric Prevatte, Chairman of CARE, who is also on the Board of Directors of the Center

for Community Action. All of the county commissioners will be invited to attend. CCA asks that citizens tell others about the Public Meeting and the petition drive.

COMMUNITY

ROBESON COUNTY FAIR BOOTH SPACE

All organizations and businesses interested in securing booth space for the Robeson County Fair to be held from October 2 through October 7 should contact Bruce Jobe at 739-1010 or Charles Ivey at 738-1106.

ROBESON COUNTY FAIR HOMEMADE CRAFTS

Homemade crafts will be exhibited during the Robeson County Fair to be held October 2 through October 7. For more information, please contact Bruce Jobe at 739-1010.

ROBESON COUNTY FAIR HOME AND AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITS

Plan now to exhibit your home and agricultural products during this year's Robeson County Fair to be held October 2 through October 7. A sweepstakes prize of \$100 will be awarded to the winner of the most blue ribbons. Exhibit departments include horticulture, field crops, flowers, clothing, needlework, crafts, cookies-pies-cakes, canning, youth department, junior division swine, open division swine, youth division beef cattle, open division beef cattle, dairy, horse-ponies-mules-donkeys, poultry, and rabbits. For more information, call Greg Traywick at 671-8276.

ROBESON COUNTY FAIR SCHOOL ART CONTEST

Robeson County Fair School Art Contest scheduled for this year's fair to be held October 2 through October 7. The art work of Robeson County Public School students will be displayed during the week of the fair. Trophies and other prizes will be awarded. For more information, call Bruce Jobe at 739-1010.

DIAL FAMILY REUNION TO BE HELD OCTOBER 7, 1989

All descendants of the late Willie and Rebecca Dial are invited to attend the Dial Reunion October 7, 1989 at the Bear Swamp Church Fellowship Hall from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. Please bring a covered dish.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT SEPTEMBER 9-10

Robeson County Recreation and Park Commission will hold a Women's Double Elimination Softball Tournament at Maggie Oxendine Park in Pembroke September 9-10. Entry fee is \$75 per team. Deadline for entering the tournament will be Friday, September 1 at 12 noon. A roster of 15 players is permitted. For more information, call Robeson County Recreation Department at 671-3090.

MEN'S SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT SEPTEMBER 16-17

Robeson County Recreation and Park Commission will hold a Men's One Fitch Double Elimination Softball Tournament at Maggie Oxendine Park in Pembroke September 16-17. Entry fee is \$75 per team. Deadline for entering the tournament will be Friday, September 8 at 12 noon. A roster of 15 players is permitted. For more information, call Robeson County Recreation Department at 671-3090.

LAUBACH TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 12-14

The Scotland County Literacy Council is sponsoring a free Laubach Tutor Training Workshop Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 12-14 from 6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. The workshop will be held at the Scotland County Literacy Council Office at 401 N. Main Street in Laurinburg, NC. To pre-register or for further information, please call (919)276-7007.

PSU Chancellor Talks to Freshmen About How to Succeed in College

He was like a kind uncle talking to some youngsters.

Chancellor Joseph Oxendine spoke in a reassuring way to new Pembroke State University freshmen recently, giving them advice, explaining how they can get the most out of college life, and telling them what resources to use if they get into academic trouble.

He explained that nationally 50 percent of all students drop out before completing college—but hastened to point out that PSU plans to do a lot better than that.

"We know you have the ability," Oxendine told the freshmen. "We have carefully studied your records and talked to your counselors. You were not selected to be a failure. If you don't succeed, you are not putting your skills to use."

Oxendine said PSU has an excellent faculty which is willing to help students.

He urged the freshmen to have a "balanced" college life. "Do you make your college life all studying—and don't make it all fun and games," he said. "You need to establish a balanced life style."

Oxendine described this "as a new year, a new venture" for the freshmen.

"You ought to enjoy this," he continued. "You are going to look back in 20 or 40 years from now and say, 'Those were the best years of my life.' You will be making life long friends here."

He said this is the first time they would be out from under the watchful eyes and discipline of parents. "Some people can handle this freedom, and some can't," he warned. "You need to study, exercise, get to know people—and you'll enjoy it."

He urged freshmen to call for help when they need it. "Don't wait until you are too deep in water or too far out in the woods to find your way back," he said. "When you find yourself getting into trouble, go to a faculty person and ask where you can go. Don't wait too long. Don't wait until there is absolute chaos."

The PSU chancellor said the students should call for help early if they need it. "We have a lot of people here to support your efforts, and we want you to use them," he stressed. "Don't wait too late to do this."

Looking around the room at the freshmen, Oxendine added: "When you complete your work here, you will have a degree you can be proud of."

In conclusion he said: "I want you to enjoy it. I want to get to know you. I want these to be the most fulfilling and memorable four years of your life. I welcome you to the campus and hope you have great success."



New faculty members at Pembroke State University are shown here. Left to right, they are: front row—Dr. Don Beken, Dr. Paul Flowers, Dr. Bruce DeHart, Dr. Susan Prugh, Soni Martin-Moran, Dr. Nancy Barribeau, Dr. Pat Cabe; middle row—Dr. Gary Willis, Anne Lockwood, Dr. Douglas Norman, Kim O'Connor, Dawn Langley, Cindy Sumner, Rebecca Bryson, Dr. Elinor Bridges; back row—Betty Upchurch, Sharon Bell, Ed Diaz, Dr. Andy Ash, Dr. Tom Morley, Dr. Merrill Miller, Lavern Oxendine, John Haskins, and Dr. David Ziegler.

Indian museum brings native history to Cape Fear Region

"When the white man got here there were no taxes, the women did all the work, and then men hunted and fished all day. How can you improve on a system like that?"

These chauvinistic words are found on little wooden plaques in the tourist traps of Cherokee, N.C., and the surrounding area. But in truth we can learn many things both about and from the native cultures that inhabited this area for thousands of years before the arrival of European explorers.

At one time there were roughly 45 different Indian cultures in our area, but now they are down to a handful including the Cherokee, Lumbee, Tuscarora, Coharie, waccamaw-Siouxans and the Catawbas. But there is all sorts of evidence of the passing of these ancient cultures. Nearly everybody who has grown up in the Sandhills has a box of arrowheads tucked away somewhere. Even those golfers who fly in, play a round, and fly out again are often amazed to find arrowheads laying on top of the ground where the native forests have been destroyed to provide room for sandtraps and manicured greens. Unfortunately most of us don't recognize the significance of these little finds and what they mean to the past.

The Sandhills is a "happy hunting grounds" for archaeologists because there are so many locations where Indians used to live and so many lessons to be learned from the things they left behind. What looks like a few pieces of pottery or bones or perhaps an old campfire and some drawings in a cave can be pieced together like the pieces of a puzzle to form a picture of life long ago.

Although many people aren't aware of it, there is a place where this information has been collected, interpreted and displayed in such a manner as to share these lessons



Living off the land by Tom Squier

from the past with all of us. The Indian Museum of the Carolinas in Laurinburg has more than 40 exhibits, each showing glimpses of Indian life as it was in the past: hunting, fishing, farming, healing and recreation. With more than 200,000 artifacts the museum constantly changes its displays, giving visitors a panorama of Indian life.

Pottery, arrowheads, spear points, and other stone tools (some dating back 10,000 years) highlight many displays. There are four dugout canoes which may be viewed, one of which is a rare unfinished vessel still attached to the tree trunk.

Other attractions include jewelry, tomahawks, stone bowls, tobacco pipes, spears, bows and arrows, as well as modern paintings depicting Indian life. Each exhibit is complete with informative labels explaining Indian life to the visitor. The museum also has a professional archaeologist on staff to answer questions.

Museum director Margaret Houston is a professor at nearby Pembroke State University, but when I visited the museum she was tutoring a local youngster about plants used by the Indians. I liked this because as close as we always hear the Indians were to the earth and nature, two of the greatest treasures to Indian peoples were young people and old people. That is one lesson we need to revive!

Ms. Houston says: "One of the values of the museum is that it

offers people a chance to see some of the methods which archaeologists use to discover how people lived in the past." Students, scholars and professionals may use the museum's collections and library for study and research.

The old brochure for the museum points out that a Native American Garden was planned for the future and this drew me to the museum. Because of limited funds, and personnel and time, the garden wasn't as far along as had been hoped. It could use some maintenance because plants, especially wild ones, seem to keep right on growing whether we want them to

or not. Ms. Houston said that I could be the "Botanical Consultant" to the garden and museum as long as I understood this is a volunteer position. Fine with me, I said, this is what the military calls "professional development." So soon, I will be clearing away overgrown blackberries and elderberries and planting some of the native plants used by the Indians for food, medicine, fibers and dyes. I could use some help with that, too, if anybody is interested.

In fact, the museum could use several volunteers, according to the director. The museum is a non-profit organization relying on

public and private support for its operation. Donations are always needed and welcome. Not just money, but books, display items and

especially time. This would be an excellent opportunity for scout

groups or persons who are retired but not tired with time and skills. The museum has depended on volunteer assistance since its beginning.

In fact, the shop class at Scotland County High School laid the bricks for the foundation! Ms. Houston says: "All kinds of volunteers are needed for inside projects, tour guides, and for outside work."

But if you just have a little time to relax and get out occasionally, but not enough to volunteer some of it,

then come and visit the museum when you want a pleasant and education way to pass the afternoon. The Indian Museum of the Carolinas is open 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday. It is at 607 Turnpike Rd. Admission is free. For information, call 276-5880.



This sign outside the Oak Grove Baptist Church serves as an open invitation to anyone to join the membership for worship service. The church is located in the Johns community, out from Maxton. The pastor is the Rev. Wade Locklear. The public is encouraged to attend Sunday School any Sunday morning at 10 a.m. and Worship service any first, second, third, or fourth Sunday beginning at 11 a.m. (Photo by I.H. Hawk)