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Timothy Strickland Announces Re-election Bid to LREMC Board



Timothy Strickland

Timothy Strickland of Pembroke has announced his intention to seek re-election to the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation Board of Directors. Mr. Strickland is seeking his fifth term. In making his announcement, he released the following statement:

"During my tenure as a member of the LREMC Board of Directors I have seen many of my aspirations fulfilled. I am proud of the progress that has been made by our board of directors.

"As a member of your board of directors, I have approved, support-

ed and endorsed several new programs that will benefit the membership at large. I support a stronger

communications program between the board and the consumers. This program consists of energy conserv-

ing tips that are available to members. I believe that working together we can conserve energy and keep our electric bills within reason.

"The board, as it is comprised right now, works extremely well together. There are problems that are being dealt with in a professional manner in the board room.... We are spending more and more time on the

issues that affect the cooperative as a whole. I have dedicated myself to serving the best interests of the total membership. I believe that I have performed my duties well and offer myself again as your representative.

I will appreciate your support and vote and pledge anew to continue my tradition of honest and fair leadership."

The LREMC Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 1989 at the Performing Arts Center on the campus of Pembroke State University. All member consumers are urged to attend.

World's Largest Manufacturer of Christmas Ornaments Interested in Expanding Here



Sen. Marshall Rauch (second from right) of Gaston County discusses with community leaders at a luncheon at PSU the possibility of expanding his Christmas ornament company, reputed to be the "world's largest," to Robeson County. Left to right are Sen. David Parnell, PSU Chancellor Joseph Oxendine, Robeson County Commissioner Bobby Dean Locklear and Pembroke Mayor Milton Hunt.

by Gene Warren

PSU Public Relations Director

In a reachout effort to bring new industry into this Robeson County community, PSU and Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine acted as hosts and the Lumbee Regional Development Association, based in Pembroke, helped to sponsor here Monday a luncheon for Rauch Industries of Gaston County. Seventeen community leaders attended.

This company, the largest manufacturer of Christmas ornaments in the world, is doing \$37 million worth of business this year. It says it is very interested in expanding its operation into this area of Robeson County.

"We will make a decision about whether to do so by the end of the first quarter of 1990 and, if we do, we will set up a pilot operation in the second quarter," said Sen. Marshall Rauch (D-Gaston County), who founded and owns the business.

Sen. Rauch says "the hand dexterity of the people here" is one of the reasons why he is interested in this area. If his company decides to expand here, it would start with about 50 employees in its pilot operation. "If we should do that all goes well, we could expand to plant of a quarter of a million square feet by '91," said Rauch.

The plant in this area would have as its major responsibility the assembling and packaging of materials sent here from the Gaston County operational headquarters according to tentative plans, said Rauch.

"I hope we can both make money together," said Rauch at the luncheon welcoming his visit.

Bringing this company special greetings on the luncheon program were: Greg Cummings, master of ceremonies and job developer of

LRDA; Mayor Milton Hunt of Pembroke; Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine; William Locklear, project director of LRDA; Bobby Dean Locklear, a member of the Board of Commissioners of Robeson County and Board of Directors of LRDA; Dr. Joseph Sandlin, PSU Economic Development Office; Hunter Poole, director of Robeson County Economic Development; and Sen. David Parnell (D-Robeson County).

Rauch credited Parnell, an old friend of his in the North Carolina Senate, and Polle with making the contacts that interested him in enlarging his business to this area.

"You all have been very kind and hospitable," said Rauch. "Our operation does require electricity, gas, utilities, and sewer facilities—and I will talk with you about land."

Rauch said his business began 35 years ago with a \$3,000 loan from the bank and now has 1,300 employees. "We ship 60 truck loads of Christmas ornaments a day," he said. "We are a home-grown business which needs to expand outside Gaston County for further growth."

Mayor Hunt expressed his appreciation to the efforts of LRDA and PSU in this effort to bring in new industry. "The life blood of the community is to get jobs," Hunt said, adding that more sites have been shown in the county for industry in the last three years than in the previous 10 years.

Chancellor Oxendine said PSU was "delighted to host you today" and "wants to be more aggressive in a positive way" of helping the area get jobs. He said PSU wants to be a part of such an effort.

William Locklear said that unemployment in the Pembroke area is 10

percent or higher and jobs are needed. He expressed appreciation to Dick Evans of Forest City, who was recently employed as a consultant for economic development by the LRDA. "He is opening doors for us," noted Locklear.

Bobby Dean Locklear said he is hoping for a positive response from Rauch's company, adding that he would be happy to work with Rauch concerning water, sewer, land, etc.

Sandlin, saying that the PSU Economic Development Office's goal "is to provide basic information" with the goal "of improving the quality of life" in this region, pointed out that Bill Friday (chairman of the board of the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center) supports such efforts and provides a lot of assistance. "If there is a talent you don't have, he will send it to you," said Sandlin.

Poole said he was available "day or night" to help in bringing in such industry. "Let us know what you need, and we will do it," he added.

Parnell expressed delight in having Rauch visit Robeson County. "Sen. Rauch was in the N.C. Senate when I arrived 15 years ago and has served many terms as chairman of the Finance Committee. He is a successful businessman, and I like his coming to Robeson County," said Parnell, who explained to Sen. Rauch that he was meeting some of the county's outstanding leaders. Parnell also noted that Robeson County has a "very fine community college."

Cummings, in his concluding remarks said: "Our economy is only as strong as its people. We have hard working people in this area. All we need is a chance."

Carson Lowry Shares Gift of Music With Others During His Own Sadness



music" and began by imitating Roy Acuff. He recalls that when he was 12 years old Charlie and Bill Monroe came to his school to perform. While there, Lowry requested one of his favorite songs "Footprints in the Snow." They accommodated the young boy and Lowry still sings that number along with repertoire of songs which numbers in the thousands.

Having survived two heart attacks, Lowry feels that he should share his blessings with others. Therefore, he enjoys entertaining senior citizens and meeting new people.

Lowry's performances are not limited to entertaining senior citizens. Recently he performed at the Buck Trent Theatre with Buck Trent, Ronnie Murphy and Beech Creek Revival at the Diamond Lake, 45 minutes from Evansville.

He has performed at Uniontown, Kentucky at the concert for the Indian reburial along with Dennis Banks, Max Gail, "Wojo" of Barney Miller, Floyd Westerman and the Short Notice Band. He has also performed at numerous concerts and benefits around the nation.

Lowry entertains at the C.K. Newsome Community Center in Evansville every first Sunday. At these monthly events as many as 200 people attend and participate in the festivities. The first Sunday of November will mark the 40th anniversary of Lowry's musical career. He will celebrate the occasion at the Community Center.

Carson Lowry of Evansville, Indiana was visiting his native Robeson County this week. The return home was a sad occasion. Lowry returned for the funeral of his sister, Mrs. Naomi "Nubie" Hammonds. She was funeralized Monday at New Hope Church.

Although the visit home was under stressful conditions, Lowry still found time to "make the day brighter" for someone else. He visited the residents of Sampson's Rest Home in the Philadelphia community where he entertained them with his guitar playing and singing.

Entertaining residents of rest

homes is nothing new to Lowry. He has been playing for senior citizens around Evansville, Indiana for more than 20 years. He has many friends and buddies who accompany him when in and around Evansville.

A retired railroad worker, Lowry has been playing music most of his life. He loves the guitar, but also plays the fiddle, mandolin, banjo and the harmonica. He admits that he likes the old country and bluegrass music. He is not too fond of the modern country music. He recalls listening to the Grand Old Opry on Saturday nights at the home of his grandmother in rural Robeson County. He says he was inspired by the "hillbilly



Charlotte Chavis who was a contestant in the Miss Lumbee

To Model Pageant Gowns

Pageant has kept herself very busy staying in shape. To her surprise, Charlotte was invited by "the only Barbara Kelly" to attend a pageant seminar sponsored by Milady's and Milord's of Myrtle Beach, SC recently.

Kelly was Miss Virginia in the 1958 Miss America pageant, runner up to the 1960 Orange Bowl Queen and finalist in the 1986 Mrs. Georgia Pageant.

The name of the Seminar Charlotte attended was "The Winning Look." She was introduced and enjoyed meeting contestants and beauty queens from other states. They all

shared ideas from their previous pageant.

The owners of Milady's and Milord's were so enthused with Charlotte's poise, posture, beauty and very long legs that she was asked to do some modeling of their gowns for their next State Pageant Seminar. Charlotte will also visit Barbara Kelly at her home in Atlanta, Georgia in May to begin working for her next pageant. "Not winning the Miss Lumbee Pageant," said Charlotte, "was not the end, it was only the beginning."

Charlotte is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Chavis of the Mt. Airy community.

Tax Petition Reaches 4,000 Mark

by Mac Legerton

Citizens are urged to attend the County Commissioners meeting next Monday night, October 2. In less than six months, planning will begin on the County Budget for 1991. In eight months Robeson County Commissioners will hold Public Meetings on the Budget and be discussing whether or not to raise taxes higher.

In light of the massive tax increase in Robeson County the many unanswered questions about the increase, the Center for Community Action began a petition drive to express public concern.

Over 4,000 signatures have been collected and petitions will be delivered to the Robeson County Commissioners on Monday night.

Oct. 2, at their regularly scheduled 6 p.m. meeting. The Center for Community Action is also delivering a set of recommendations and questions to the Commissioners regarding the large tax increase. Citizens concerned about their taxes are invited to attend Monday's Commissioner meeting. The meeting will be held in the Robeson County Administrative Building, 701 N. Elm Street, Lumberton (corner of Elm and 8th Street).

The Center for Community Action held two public meetings on the tax increase in September and has been gathering the concerns of the citizens to present these to the county commissioners. The 1990 tax increase in Robeson County was the largest county tax increase in the history of the State of North Carolina and gives Robeson County the highest property tax rate in the state.

The Center for Community Action will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, October 14, and workshops will include the Tax Increase and the County Budget Process. The annual meeting will be held at West End Baptist Church, Lumberton from 9 a.m. to 12. West End Baptist Church is located on West Drive, two blocks from the intersection of West Drive and West Fifth Street at the Burger King in Lumberton. Interested citizens are invited to attend.