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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Mr. & Mrs. John C. Brooks 50th Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. John C. and Leacie Brooks of Pembroke celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception at Evergreen Holiness Church in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, June 14, at 6:00 p.m. The couple were married June 14, 1947 at the Marriage Chapel in Dillon, South Carolina. They have seven children: Arvin D. Locklear (deceased); Rose E. Edwards of Kings Mountain, NC; Linda R. Oxendine of Pembroke; John C. Brooks Jr. (deceased); Beverly R. Brooks of Fairmont; Ruth E. Vollmar of Woodbridge, VA.; and Madelene C. Locklear of Lumberton; 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Also in attendance at the celebration were a host of relatives and friends. For this very special occasion the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, sent them a certificate of congratulations.

UNCP Nursing Program expected to double number of minority students

PEMBROKE--Within three years, a program at The University of North Carolina Pembroke is expected to double the number of minority students enrolled at nursing schools in a five county area, according to Cherry Beasley, interim director of nursing.

Last week, UNCP's Educational Opportunities for Students into Nursing project graduated its second class consisting of 26 nurse hopefuls. Their hopes of gaining entrance into one of five associate nursing degree programs in the region are well founded, as Beasley points out.

"All but three of last year's class are now enrolled in a nursing school," Beasley said. "If we can get that class through school, we will have doubled the number of minority graduates at our five regional associate degree programs."

Without help, minorities may forever be shut out of nursing careers or even entrance to the associate degree nursing programs at Robeson Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Sandhills Community College, Southeastern Community College and Richmond Community College.

Beasley said the student in the nursing opportunity program are not typical students. Most are employed and range in age from ages 18 and 48 with children and grandchildren.

They are promising individuals selected from the pool applicants waiting for admission to the five associate degree programs. They are also disadvantaged minorities who face many obstacles on the way to a career in professional nursing, Beasley said.

"Historically, minority candidates have had difficulty getting into nursing school, getting through school and passing the nursing examination," Beasley said. "We offer a front end program to boost their study habits and their academic skills in basic subjects of math, science, reading, writing and other areas."

The nursing opportunities program at UNCP offers workshops one to two times a month to help improve basic skills and ease the transition into college life. The workshops cover topics like successful interviewing techniques.

The intense six-week summer enrichment program is aimed at improving academic and social skills as well as self-esteem. The students measure their progress to determine the course of the program.

"My weakness was math," said Certease McRae, a health department nursing assistant from Red Springs. "In high school, it was my best subject, but I forgot most of what I learned."

"After coming here, my score

came up to the 86 percentile on the pre-nursing test," McRae said. "Now math is my strength."

For Dottie Woods, a Prospect resident and a nursing assistant, learning good study habits at age 37 was the most important lesson learned at the nursing opportunities program.

"I'm a procrastinator, so this was very difficult," Woods said. "Learning time management and study skills was the most important thing for me."

"I did just enough to get by in high school," Woods said. "I wish I had studied then."

At UNCP the students are required to meet with Evelyn Herne, the nurse counselor. An action plan is created for the student to meet the admission requirements of the associated nursing degree programs.

Besides academic enrichment, the program includes mentoring and follow-up advisement. UNCP provides mentors at the five participating community colleges with regular meetings over two years occur.

"Follow-up is an important part of this project," Beasley said. "We can't work miracles in six weeks and make everything OK. It takes continued support."

Ultimately, the goal of the nursing opportunities program is to move these promising students up the career nursing ladder into a Bachelor of

Science in Nursing program. "This is why the project is at UNC Pembroke," Beasley said. "The five associate degree programs feed our B.S. program which is the entry into the professional level of nursing."

"We want to put more minorities on the career nursing ladder," she said. "It takes persistence for these students to realize a career in nursing."

For Certease McRae, single mother with young children, there have been many roadblocks.

"There were many set backs for me getting into a nursing program," she said. "I applied three times and I have been trying since 1992."

"I'm going all the way this time," she said. "I will be in a nursing program by 1998. My goal is to go to Pembroke, and come back here as the keynote speaker."

Dottie Woods, who has three daughters, says "I've been through it all, but there's always a way to better yourself."

"My highest dream is to become a nurse," she said. "I plan to get my B.S. in nursing at UNCP and I would love to teach."

That dream may have been impossible before Woods and her classmates entered UNCP's Educational Opportunities for Students into Nursing Project.

"These people are seizing the moment," Beasley said.

The Educational Opportunities for Disadvantaged Students into Nursing is a special project funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, public Health Services, Health Resources and Service Administration and the Division of Nursing. This three year project was funded for \$687,711 beginning September, 1995.

Robeson County Health Department Wins National Regional Award

The Robeson County Health Department is the winner of the seventh annual Award for Excellence in Environmental Health. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) award gives national recognition to outstanding, significant, and innovative activities and programs of local health departments in the area of environmental health and is open to the nation's three thousand local health departments.

Robeson County developed the award winning program to help protect the public's health in this economically disadvantaged, rural, largely minority populated county in southeastern North Carolina. North Carolina is competing with Iowa to be number one in hog raising. Differing from the family farm concept in the Midwest, North Carolina has corporate intensive livestock operations (ILO) with tremendous numbers of animal units.

The number one and three hog growing counties in the nation are neighbors of Robeson County, and they are over saturated. Because of this, additional counties, including Robeson are being identified for ILO sites. ILO contain up to 80,000 hogs in houses where their waste is flushed periodically into a storage pond (lagoon). These ponds must be able to hold up to 180 days worth of waste and rain. Disposal of the waste includes recycling liquid through a

waste water system and land application as fertilizer for cover crops. The operation very odorous and complaints to the Robeson County Health Department (RCHD) are constant.

In addition to public complaints, local elected officials, community leaders and the media have complained for years about these ILO activities and the potential impact on the county. However, the industry has been able to hold local regulatory efforts at bay by being exempt from zoning and other such local reviews by state law. NC General Statute 106-107 states in part, "...any and all ordinances of any unit of local government...that would make a local operation of any such agricultural operations (i.e. hog farming)... a nuisance... shall be null and void." This crippling law is countered by other statutes that allow a board of health to adopt more stringent rules in areas regulated by the state to protect the public's health, and allow the local health director to abate public health nuisances or imminent hazards.

The RCHD met with the most active environmental group in the county and drafted an outline of rules that are in keeping with the statutory limitations. An educational forum, sponsored by the U.S. Cooperative Extension Service, was attended by state and local officials, growers (local and corporate), regulators, environmentalists, community represen-

tatives, and members of the health community who made presentations to increase knowledge on the subject. In addition to regular BOH meetings, a number of public meetings were held in which only health issues were addressed by the health department. After investigation by a special stakeholder committee, the BOH unanimously voted to adopt rules drafted by the health department. Although ILOs could be linked to poor ground water quality, which is regulated by the state, the RCHD chose the most effective way to regulate placement of ILOs through a void in state air quality rules. It was determined that substantial and constant odors presented an unacceptable health risk to the population over a continued time period.

By maintaining a focus on air quality, RCHD showed that the county has 2.5 times the state rate of children hospitalized for asthma, as well as nearly double the number of babies born with respiratory problems. The best way to offset exposure was to allow dissipation of odors. Thus, heightened distance requirements were put into place. The new rules increased the 500 foot (later increased to 1500 feet after the Robeson County rules were passed) state minimum to a distance of one-half mile, unless the site can prove that it will use a method that is significantly superior to the current norm. However, the rules also state that the health department can extend the half mile buffer if it deemed additional protection in the area is necessary.

Since the rules have gone into effect, Robeson County, originally the target of 50 new operations, has approved only eight proposed sites and denied two. The county has been sued, as promised by the hog industry if it tried to pass new rules. But more importantly, the last two applications asked to have alternative methods of operation considered, changing not only the impact of the industry in the county, but their behavior as well.

NACCHO extends its congratulations to the Robeson County Health Department for its leadership in providing an innovative and unique approach to addressing environmental health issues.

NACCHO is a non-profit membership organization serving all 3,000 local health departments nationwide - in cities, counties, townships, and districts. NACCHO provides education, information, research, and technical assistance to local health departments, and facilitates partnerships among local, state, and federal agencies, in order to promote and strengthen public health.



Dottie Woods, second from right, gets congratulations from her supporters. From left are daughter, Verender Bullard, niece, Anetra Dial and daughter, Jill Bullard. Photo by Bobby Ayers, UNCP

UNCP offers teacher certification program for teaching assistants

PEMBROKE--There will be an orientation meeting at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 13 in room 222 of the Education Building for teacher assistants and others interested in a three-year teacher certification program at The University of North Carolina Pembroke.

Registration for the fall semester will be accepted at the meeting for persons who have been admitted to the University. UNCP representatives will be on hand to provide academic counseling to applicants.

The program, known as Star Track, is a special curriculum of afternoon and evening courses for earning teacher certification, said Dr. Kathryn M. Sullivan, director of teacher education and dean of graduate studies for UNCP.

"I think this will be a very successful program for the region," Dr. Sullivan said. "More than 100 people attended an exploratory meeting in Robeson County alone."

Dr. Sullivan said programs like Star Track aim to ease a critical teacher shortage in this region. Teacher assistants have been identified as high quality candidates for good reasons, she said.

"Teacher assistants have tremendous potential to become excellent teachers," Dr. Sullivan said. "They

have already been in the school environment. They have been successful in the classroom."

About one-third of new teachers drop out of the profession in the first three years, but teacher assistants are prepared for the classroom already and are less likely to leave teaching, Dr. Sullivan said.

Star Track offers a baccalaureate degree in elementary education (K-6), birth to kindergarten (B-K) and special education. Degree requirements are offered in a prescribed sequence of two courses per semester and two courses per summer session.

The three year time frame is possible for applicants who already have completed their general education course requirements from a qualified two or four year college. To enroll for the fall semester beginning August 20, applicants must be admitted by August 13.

The program is available to any qualified applicant including non-certified or lateral entry teachers, or for teachers who are seeking additional certifications.

"Our program coordinators are excited about this program," Dr. Sullivan said. "This is a major initiative for the University."

For questions, please call the UNCP Office of Teachers Education at 910-521-6271.

Volunteer to tutor a child in reading

Tired of planting trees and waiting for them to grow? Of picking up trash and watching the area become littered again? Then why not use your valuable time performing a community service that offers quick, positive, and long lasting benefits for you and your community?

Volunteer to tutor a child in reading.

Reading is basic. If a student can't read, she can't do math or understand the material necessary to perform well in any subject. Your assistance can literally change a child's future from a drop out with limited opportunities to a successful student with many employment and educational options.

The program gets results...The students who were tutored during the 1996 school year increased their reading ability an average of 36.8% and all students were reading at their grade level.

And it's simple...A six hour training course and a minimum of just two hours per week can change two children's lives forever.

Make a lasting impact, volunteer for "Reading for Success" a cooperative program with the Public Schools of Robeson County - Community Schools and the Robeson County Church and Community Center-Literary Council.

For more information on "Reading for Success" or to register for the next workshop which will be held August 12th and 15th from 9 a.m. until 12 noon, please contact the Robeson County Church and Community Center at 910-738-5204 or Polly or Dan Cunningham at 910-521-4230.

Native American Youth Day Camp

The North Carolina Indian Cultural Center will be conducting a Day Camp on August 4 through August 8 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily. The cost of the camp is \$5.00 for the week.

All Native American Youth ages 12-15 are encouraged to come out and learn more about themselves and their culture.

Activities will include cultural awareness programs; life skills and personal development classes; cultural arts and crafts; and recreation (lacrosse, swimming, etc.)

Workshops conducted by Community role models, mentors, and tribal elders.

For more information call 521-2433



This 17 1/2 lb. cantaloupe was grown by Jimmy Jacobs of Pembroke. The boys displaying the melon are his grandchildren, Deion and Cameron Goins, of Pembroke. (No Miracle Grow used.)

Benefit Singing Planned August 8

A benefit singing will be held Friday night, August 8 beginning at 7 P.M. at West End Baptist Church. The singing is being held to benefit Sherry Annette Locklear with medical bill. There is no admission charge but a love offering will be taken up.

There will be great singing and good fellowship. J.T. Patterson will serve as Special MC. Featured singers will be Carla and Redemption, Oxendine Brothers, Blood Bought, Felix Deal and Family and the Antioch Young People

Car Wash Planned

August 16, 1997. At the First Union Bank of Pembroke, NC will be a car wash.

All proceeds will go to Robeson County First Aids Quiet Project.

Contributions may be forwarded to: Vision Quest at B.A.R.T. 4098 S. Main Street, Fairmont, NC 28340. Fax # (910) 628-6351. Phone # (910) 628-6671.

Robeson County Honor Guard to Host Annual Sing

The Robeson County Honor Guard will sponsor a gospel singing on Saturday, August 9 at Riverside Independent Baptist Church, Hwy 74. The singing will begin at 6 p.m. Special singers include Daryl Desler, Oxendine Brothers, Eric and Debbie Chavis, Rev. Barnes and the Barnes Brothers. There will be no admission charge but a love offering will be lifted. Refreshments will be served.

The Robeson County Honor Guard is a group of Veterans who provide

Military Funerals for all veterans in Robeson, Hoke and Scotland counties. The services are no longer provided by the military and the government does not pay for them. The Honor Guard is sanctioned by the North Carolina Secretary of State.

The Honor Guard accepts donations for the expenses incurred in providing the funeral services. Donations may be sent to: Robeson County Honor Guard, %Mr. Eddie Matchett, 2683 Mount Zion Road, Red Springs, NC 28377.