

# T CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Published each Thursday by First American Publications, Pembroke, NC

VOLUME 24 N

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1997

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Superintendent Swett Gratefully Leaves of Absence

Purnell Swett, Superintendent of Robeson County Public Schools, asked to be placed on paid administrative leave on Tuesday. The Board of Education granted his request. Mr. Swett made his request after the school board auditors said they found salary payment discrepancies made to Swett this year. He will receive full pay and benefits while on leave.

Swett said that he wanted to take a leave while the auditors review the central office from the beginning of merger in 1989 until the present. Swett said that he was not worried about the auditors finding anything wrong, and wished to remove himself so that there would not be a percep-

tion of his influencing the auditors.

Dr. Barry Harding, an associate superintendent, was named interim superintendent in Swett's absence. Swett said he expects to be back at work at the end of September. In the meantime, Harding will perform the duties of Superintendent.

In a prepared statement, the board of education called the discrepancies "honest" errors and would not elaborate on them.

The discrepancies were found during the school system's annual audit. Swett earns \$146,000 a year in salary and has a travel account of \$18,000 annually. Other employees' salaries also show some discrepancies according to the audit.

## Russell Named Director of FSU-UNCP Nursing Program



Editor's note: The BSN (bachelor of science in nursing) program services nurses in a seven county region and five community colleges which award associate degrees. The FSU-UNCP program also has a satellite campus at Sandhills Community College.

Pembroke-Edward L. Russell, Ph.D., R.N.C.S., was named the new director of the FSU-UNCP consortium nursing program.

A Texas native, Dr. Russell previously served on the faculty of Texas A & M University - Corpus Christi. He joins the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) program only days after its accreditation by the National League for Nursing.

Known as the Southeastern

North Carolina Nursing Consortium, the program began in 1992 and remains a joint effort between the two universities. It shares six full time faculty members now under the direction of Dr. Russell.

Dr. Perry Massey, FSU's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, said Dr. Russell is the right man for the job.

"The uniqueness of the joint program required a person with excellent organizational and interpersonal skills," Massey said. "We conducted a national search, and Dr. Russell was selected from many applicants."

Dr. Charles R. Jenkins, UNCP's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, said Dr. Russell's background in nursing education will be an asset for the program.

"We are delighted to have Dr. Russell become the director of our joint program," Jenkins said. "He has an outstanding background in nursing education with both the theoretical and clinical perspectives, and we have confidence that he will serve effectively as director."

"Dr. Russell is joining us at an exciting time with the recent announcement of accreditation by the NLN," Jenkins said.

Dr. Russell said he is excited by the challenge of directing a program so important to the region.

"This is a very exciting time to be appointed as director of the Southeast North Carolina Nursing Consortium," he said. "This unique program brings together two progressive institutions with a common mission of higher education for professional nurses in the region. The quality education our graduates receive will ultimately have a positive impact upon health care consumers in this part of the state."

Dr. Russell praised the nursing joint FSU-UNCP faculty and administration on the news of national accreditation.

"The recent announcement of accreditation clearly demonstrates the commitment of the nursing faculty and administration to the program's success and mission," he said. "With the accreditation groundwork now in place, the potentials of the program are endless."

Before entering nursing education, Dr. Russell's clinical practice was in critical care and trauma nursing. He is also certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as a Medical-Surgical Clinical Nurse Specialist.

His education includes a bachelor of science in nursing degree from the University of Texas at Arlington, a master's of science

degree in nursing from the University of Texas Science Center at San Antonio School of Nursing, and a doctorate in Adult and Extension Education from Texas A&M University.

While at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Nursing, he received the Outstanding Nurse Faculty Award three times and was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching. He has appeared in Who's Who in American Nursing and Outstanding Young Men in America.

In other activities, Dr. Russell is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, an immediate past board member of the American Red Cross - Coastal Bend Chapter and past president of the Alumni Association of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Nursing.

Dr. Russell published manuscripts in the Journal of Nursing Education and Nursing Connections as well as other books and periodicals. He has also developed continuing nursing education video programs.

Also involved in research, Dr. Russell's projects focus on nursing education and the validity and reliability of biomedical instrumentation.

## Reaves Tennis Tourney October 17-19 in St. Pauls

The ninth annual Jamie Reaves Memorial Tennis Tournament will be played in St. Pauls October 17-19.

The tournament, to be played on newly constructed, hard courts, is open to players in all divisions. Singles, doubles and mixed doubles are scheduled. A limit of two events, please.

T-shirts go to all entrants and trophies will be presented to finalists in each division.

Entry fees are \$15 singles, \$25 doubles, and all proceeds go back to the community through the St. Pauls Area Tennis Association.

For entry information, please contact Kristine Broadwell, Tournament Director, Charla T. Parker 865-3939, or Paul Terry 865-4179. Entries are now available and entry deadline is October 1.

## UNC-Pembroke To Receive New Dormitory



Raleigh-The General Assembly has approved an appropriation for construction of a new, state-of-the-art dormitory at UNC-Pembroke. The funding, which totals \$5,979,500, was requested by State Senator David Weinstein (D-Robeson) and will be a part of the 1997 budget agreement.

"This is a great day for the University," said Weinstein. "There are three objectives that I pursued for the University: the name change to UNC-Pembroke; the construction of a new dormitory; the placement of a UNC-Pembroke representative on the UNC Board of Governors."

"The first two objectives have been accomplished, and the third will be pursued until we succeed," said Weinstein.

According to Sen. Weinstein, UNC-Pembroke operates at a disadvantage. "With no representation on the Board of Governors and no caucus in the General Assembly, the campus has not had new dormitory in 25 years. Given the importance of education in today's world, it is imperative that the youth of Robeson County take advantage of this marvelous asset," the Senator continued. "UNC Chancellor Joseph Oxendine, his staff and faculty do a

wonderful job in offering a quality education at an affordable price to the students of southeastern North Carolina, and this long overdue improvement will be a great asset in recruiting new students."

Sen. Weinstein continued,

"Funding of this sort requires the efforts of many, and Robeson County is fortunate to have friends in the General Assembly who are sensitive to our situations." Senate President Pro-Tempore Marc Basnight (D-Dare) is one such friend who deserves special credit for this appropriation, as do Senators Foundain Odom (D-Mecklenburg) and Beverly Perdue (D-Craven)." According to Weinstein others who pushed hard for this funding include Senators Aaron Plyler, Tony Rand and R.C. Soles; and Representatives Donald Bonner, Ronnie Sutton and Doug Yongue of the local delegation whose efforts preserved the appropriation in the House.

"I have worked tirelessly in the Senate for appropriations which will benefit all races of Robeson County and the 30th District. Weinstein added. "I have given my best effort this Session and have committed myself to continuing the effort in the future so that our district will see additional positive results. Congratulations to UNC-Pembroke. The best is yet to come."

## 14th Annual Indian Trail Pow wow/ Cultural Festival Sept. 26-28

Metrolina Native American Assoc. Non-profit (3C) Organization, serving 10 counties in the Metrolina Area, proudly presents the 14th Annual Indian Trail Pow-Wow September 26-28, 1997, at the Indian Trail School, in the Indian Trail, NC.

Over twenty-five Artist and Traders, Dancers, Singers and Drummers from all over the US and Canada will be performing throughout the event.

The Pow-Wow opens Friday, Sept. 26 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday we will open at 11 a.m. and close at 9 p.m. On Sunday, open at 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Donations at the gate will be appreciated.

Thank You in advance for your support in the effort to inform the public.

## UNCP Art Gallery Hosts Internationally Acclaimed Contemporary Artist

PEMBROKE -- The Locklear Hall Art Gallery at UNC Pembroke will exhibit a collection of works by internationally acclaimed artist Lope Max Diaz. The exhibition, the first of the season, will run Sept. 3-23 with gallery hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A native of Puerto Rico, Diaz is an associate professor at N.C. State University's School of Design. He is a contemporary artist who combines oil on canvas with other mediums from marble to wood.

Professor Ralph Steeds, director of the Gallery, calls Diaz' work contemporary "painted constructions."

"Diaz is a contemporary artist and painter first of all," Steeds said. "He mixes his mediums with formed constructions where wood, marble or other objects are mixed into or exploding off the canvas."

Diaz' work has shown in many galleries in Latin America, North Carolina and the New York metropolitan area. His works are included in many collections including NationsBank in Charlotte,

Glaxo Wellcome in the Research Triangle park, and Craton de Venezuela, S.A. Caracas Venezuela.

"This man is an important artist," Professor Steeds said. "This is a good regional gallery that people should come visit. It is well worth the trip."

Diaz received a bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's degree from Hunter College. He studied under Ralph Humphrey, Robert Barry and John Baldessari.

This fall the Art Gallery will also exhibit works by Fayetteville artist Peggy Hinson Sept. 29 through Oct. 20. A reception will be held Wednesday, Oct. 1 from 10-11 a.m.

The UNCP Senior Art Show featuring Dale Sorensen, Michael Lepore, Tina Rowan and Anita Jacobs is Oct. 26 to Nov. 7. The gallery will host an exhibit by Marc Synder from November 10 to Dec. 1.

Groups are welcome. For additional information, call Professor Steeds at (910) 521-6406.



RCC Trustees left to right: Mr. Johnny Hunt, Mr. Thomas Jones, Chairman James E. Thomas and Vice Chair Sue Wester.

## RCC Trustees Sworn In And New Officers Elected

At a recent meeting of the Robeson Community College Board of Trustees, three trustees were administered the oath of office for a new term of service. All three have just completed a term of office. Mr. Johnny Hunt was reappointed to the RCC Board by the Robeson County Commissioners. He has served the College as a trustee since December of 1988. Reappointed by the Public Schools of Robeson County Board of Education was trustee Thomas Jones, Jr. Mr. Jones was originally appointed to the RCC Board in July of 1993. Mr. James E. Thomas was reappointed by the Governor and also began his service on the RCC Board of Trustees in July of 1993. Each of these trustees will serve a four year term as set for by the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina. The terms began on July 1, 1997, and will expire on June 30, 2001.

In addition to the new appointees to the Robeson Community College Board of Trustees, the school is served by ten additional trustees. Appointees of the Robeson County Commissioners and

the years of their respective terms follow: Mr. Earl Antone of Lumberton (1995-1998), Mrs. Lucille Evans of Rowland (1994-1998), and Dr. Rona Leach of Maxton (1996-2000). Public Schools of Robeson County Board of Education appointees include: Mr. Herbert Moore of Maxton (1996-2000), Mr. George Regan of St. Pauls (1995-1999), and Mr. John Staton of Red Springs (1994-1998). The Governor's appointees to the board are: Mr. John Jones of Lumberton (1994-1998), Mrs. Shirley Pennington of Lumberton (1995-1999), and Mrs. Sue Wester also of Lumberton (1996-2000). The thirteenth trustee is the President of the Student Government Association and will be determined by upcoming student elections. The student representative is a non-voting member.

Each July the RCC trustees elect officers for the coming academic year. Elected to the office of Chairperson for 1997-98 was James E. Thomas. Mr. Thomas works with Southern Bell and resides in Lumberton with his wife Peggy. Mrs. Sue Wester was elected Vice-Chair-

person. She is Vice-President of Wester's Refrigeration and lives in Lumberton with her husband, Bill.

North Carolina Symphony To Perform On September 20

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 20, 1997, and 7:00 p.m. in RCC's A.D. Lewis Auditorium. That's when the North Carolina Symphony will be here in concert. We're looking forward to a number of pre-concert events to take place on the RCC grounds (details coming soon) and encourage everyone to come out, bring their friends and enjoy a tailgate supper! More on this later but many thanks to the event sponsors: Baker and Jones, RCC's Hector MacLean Program of Public Affairs, the Humanities and Cultural Arts, Lumberton Junior Service League, Music Committee of Robeson County Public Library and the Lumberton Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau. This will be the first program in part by monies donated by BB&T for the MacLean series. We hope to see a big group enjoying the sounds of the symphony!

## The All American Bud 300 Truck and Tractor Pull Coming Sept. 5-6

Lumberton---The Robeson County Firemen's Association announced that the National Truck and Tractor Pullers will be conducting a nationally sanctioned event on September 5th and 6th in Lumberton. The Robeson County Firemen's Association which is an organization representing all fire departments in Robeson County,

will be the sponsor of the event. Jim Emery, Chairman, has seen Nationally Sanctioned truck and tractor pulling bring some of the best vehicles and talent from many different states to Lumberton. The event brings thousands of people to the Lumberton area and provides fund raising for projects such as the Fire Safety House which

allows the Firemen's Association members to provide training to school kids on how to get out of a burning building.

Truck and Tractor pulling brings contestants from as far away as Florida and Maryland. Wayne Lewis, President of the United Pullers of the Carolinas, stated that "The Lumberton pull is toward

the end of the circuit. Most pullers are trying to win the Budweiser points Championship. Budweiser is a key sponsor of the points series. Eagle Distributing, the local distributor, is one of the series sponsors. Winning the points series gives the pullers bragging rights." When asked what type of pulling vehicles will be seen in Lumberton, Wayne stated, "Lumberton brings out some of the best. There will be tractors valued at over a quarter million dollars at the Robeson County Fairgrounds. Contending National champions will be here with four wheel and two wheel drive modified Chevys, Fords and Dodges. Modified tractors with multiple blown engines, engines like you see on top fuel drag cars, some will even have airplane engines. Super Stocks will also be featured in Lumberton. Some of these tractors will have up to 5000 horsepower and will have wheel speeds up to 130 miles per hour. That's a lot of speed for a 300 foot track. The pullers always like coming to Lumberton, the fans get into pulling. The Ford verses Chevy and Dodge brings them to their feet each year. The pullers like it when the crowd gets into it."

Local fans will also get a chance to get involved. Fans with four wheel drive stock pickup trucks can register to pull their trucks after the National Even each night. Kids also can come to the track every Saturday night and they will get a chance to compete in a pedal pull prior to the show. "Pulling is a family sport. I enjoy watching the kids competing during the pedal pull. Fans can come out early each night and visit the pits, get autographs and talk with the pullers. The drivers are delighted to answer questions for the fans," Lewis stated.

Jim Emery and the Robeson County Firemen's Association is looking forward to the weekend. This will be a big fund raiser for the non profit organization. The action will begin on Friday and Saturday night, September 5th and 6th at 7:30 p.m. at the Robeson County Fairgrounds. The pedal pull registration will begin at 5:30 on Saturday. Who knows, we may even hook one of the fire trucks to the weight transfer machine. Never seen that done.