

Committee has begun meeting on strategies to attain goals of federal recognition for Lumbee

The Federal Recognition Committee has recently been established and is busy formulating strategies and plans to continue the quest for federal recognition of the Lumbee tribe. The Committee, appointed by Lumbee Regional Development Association, is comprised of thirty-nine community persons and represents the twenty-one districts used in the election of LRDA board members. The remainder of the Committee are at-large representatives and are serving as a voice for the Lumbee people who do not reside in Robeson and surrounding counties.

It is the stated goal of the Federal Recognition Committee to continue the more than a century old tribal quest for the proper acknowledgement by the federal government of the status of the Lumbee Tribe. In 1956 by Congressional Act, the Congress and the Senate granted federal recognition to the more than 40,000 Lumbees. In that same act, the Congress stated that "they shall not be entitled to services provided to

other Indian tribes because of their status as Indians." The Government by that Act, granted federal recognition and terminated the tribe in the same Act. Since that time, there has been a concerted effort to correct that action.

The Federal Recognition Committee, under the auspices of the LRDA, will strive to have the clause in the 1956 Act revisited, or seek another Congressional Bill that will give federal recognition and services to the Lumbee people. Other strategies considered for the purposes of Federal Recognition are an Executive Order from the President of the United States and court action in federal court. These are all possibilities and are points of strategic discussion and planning. No final plan of action has yet been established. The Federal Recognition Committee will with input from the various Lumbee committees, continue to strategize and plan the most effective action possible to accomplish the stated goal of achieving federal recognition without restrictions.

In the near future the Committee will be sponsoring fund raising events with the funds earmarked for the federal recognition effort. In addition to fundraising events, the Committee will sponsor public meetings, provide information and be available to answer questions on the status of the efforts to gain federal acknowledgement. For more information and to become more involved in the efforts for federal recognition, please contact the Chairman, Leroy Freeman at (910) 628-9421 or the Vice-Chairman, Pauline B. Locklear at (910) 521-427. Mr. Freeman who resides in the Fairgrove community and Ms. Locklear who resides in the Prospect community, are both indicative of the commitment of both LRDA and the Federal Recognition Committee to be inclusive and to ensure that all members of the Tribe have the opportunity to become active participants in federal recognition efforts. Members of the Lumbee tribe are encouraged to join the Committee in the continuing struggle for federal recognition.



Appreciation Day held at Berea for Pastor & Wife

Berea Baptist Church observed pastor/wife appreciation Sunday, August 15th in honor of their pastor, Rev. James Bruce Swett and Ms. Peggy Swett.

Guest speaker for the occasion was Rev. Mike Cummings, Director of Missions, Burnt Swamp Baptist Association. HE is also President of the N.C. Baptist State Convention.

A covered dish provided by the ladies of the church followed the service in the fellowship hall.

Chickahominy Tribe Announces Annual Fall Festival

The Chickahominy Indian Tribe announces its 48th annual Fall Festival and Pow Wow, to be held Saturday, September 25, and Sunday, September 26, 1999 on the Chickahominy Tribal Grounds in Charles City County, Virginia; 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The Festival will feature Native American dancing, singing, drumming, Indian jewelry, pottery, and arts and crafts; Indian fry bread, fish sandwiches, chicken dinners, and other great food. The host drum will be Red Wolf from Hollister, North Carolina. The VEVITA, Washington, D.C. Chapter will serve as the Color Guard. Grand entry will be 12:00 noon Saturday and 1:00 p.m. on Sunday.

The public is invited to share in this event, which features activities and educational opportunities for all ages. There is no admission charge, donations are welcome. Special seating is available for senior citizens. Bring your lawn chair or blanket. Please, no pets, alcohol or drugs permitted.

For more information or a flyer with directions, please call (804) 829-2186 or (804) 966-7043.

St. Pauls Middle School Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Brenda Jacobs has been selected as Teacher of the Year for the 1999-2000 school year. Mrs. Jacobs is a sixth grade Communications Skills teacher. She has taught for 11 years, currently beginning her 10th year at St. Pauls Middle School.

She completed her education at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. She received her BS degree in 1983 in the area of K-6.

She is the wife of Horace Jacobs, and they have one child, Kayla. Kayla is a second grader at Prospect Elementary School. A Pembroke native, Mrs. Jacobs is a member of Prospect Methodist Church and a member of the United Methodist Women. She is also a Brownie Leader for Troop # 1231. Her hobbies include reading, cooking, and gardening.

Mrs. Jacobs believes her major role in education is to try to help each individual student reach his/her potential to become productive citizens in our society. Being a teacher is a difficult task. Many parents have said there is no way they could be one. Education begins at home. We all are role models.

McIntyre's staffer to visit county

A staff member of Congressman Mike McIntyre will be available to meet with 7th Congressional District constituents in the Rowland Town Hall, Wednesday, September 1, 1999 between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Any one who has an individual problem with a federal government agency is invited to meet with McIntyre's staff to discuss it. Comments or opinions on pending legislation are also welcome. No appointment is necessary.

The mobile office is a service to the people of the 7th District and makes several visits to Robeson County throughout the year. The purpose of the mobile unit is to serve constituents who are unable to travel to a district of Congressman McIntyre.

Purnell Swett High School News

A Purnell Swett high school team attended the North Carolina Teacher Academy module, Integrating the curriculum, at East Carolina University in Greenville between June 4 and June 11. A school-wide unit focused on U.S. history was developed to implement the first semester of the 1999-2000 school year. Also, 16 staff members from Purnell Swett attended the 13th annual Staff Development Conference for High Schools that work in Atlanta from July 7 to July 10.

The Rams would like to welcome the following new faculty and staff: Robert Brown-SMR, Dorothy Byrd-social studies, Linda Calder-Workforce Development, Emily Crain-Art, Dan Fox-Arts, Steve Gaskins-Administration, Harold Godwin-Math, Wenona Henderson-Math, Sarah Hunt-Interpreter, Darren Locklear-SMR, James H. Locklear, Jr. - Athletic Director, Catherine McDowell-E.C. Assistant, Nell Oxendine - Social Worker, Hilbert Sampson-Social Studies, Gregory Sampson-English, Tommy Tilson-P.E., Natasha Tilson-YDS, Michael Stephens-English, and Mirla Rodriguez-Spanish.

The Purnell Swett varsity football team started its season in the right direction Friday night, with their win against Chesterfield at Marlboro High school in Bennettsville, S.C. The Rams defeated Chesterfield 14-13.

This past summer four Purnell Swett high school seniors attended Governor's School in three areas of study. The three areas of study and

the students attending included: social science - Megan Scott and Carmen Deese attended Governor's School in Winston Salem, Megan Scott in Laurinburg, and Cory Locklear in upstate North Carolina.

Five students from Purnell Swett High School participated with the Region Four SASI program at UNC-P in June. They were Ryan Chavis, Ashley Cummings, Jonathan Graham, Charley Lowry, and Nichole Thompson. The students took part in classes on respect, citizenship, values, and sportsmanship. Besides the classes, they were teamed up with students from other schools in the region to complete the ropes course at Southeastern Community College where they had to learn to trust each other and work as a team. SASI held a great deal of work for the students, but the experience was also an equal amount of fun for those who attended. Four of the five students will attend the Coach and Captain retreat August 28-29 to learn leadership skills.

Shaun Austin, a senior from Purnell Swett High school took part in the Special Olympic World Games this summer in Raleigh. He was a member of the North Carolina Track Team. Shaun participated in the following events: 100 Meter Wheel Chair Race and won 2nd place, the 200 Meter Wheel Chair Race winning 2nd place, the 400 Meter Wheel Chair Race winning 3rd place, and the Shotput and won 1st place. Shaun received one gold medal, two silver medals, and one bronze medal.



Pediatrician Joins Staff at SRMC

Pediatrician Mark D. Baker, M.D., has joined the medical staff of Southeastern Regional Medical Center. He is associated in private practice with the Lumberton Children's Clinic.

A native of Arizona, Dr. Baker earned a medical degree from the Prizker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago in 1995. He completed residency training in pediatrics at Emory University Affiliated Hospitals in Atlanta in 1998. He served as chief resident in pediatrics there during the past year. Dr. Baker is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics.

"I'm glad to be here. I am looking forward to practicing general pediatrics here in Robeson County," he said.

Dr. Baker said that he became interested in the practice opportunity at Lumberton Children's Clinic because he and his wife they were looking for a small town in the Southeast. His wife Lisa holds a doctorate degree in social work and plans to teach at UNC Pembroke.

Dr. Baker can be reached for an appointment at 739-3318.

Sign up period now for Small Hog Operation

Giles B. Floyd, County Executive Director of the Robeson/Scotland FSA Office, said the sign up period for the Small Hog Operation Payment (SHOP) Program began August 9 and will continue through September 24, 1999.

During this sign up period, farmers who did not participate in the previous SHOP must apply for the program at the FSA office to receive the payment. Floyd said "farmers who received previous SHOP payments need not apply, their additional payments will be made automatically."

Producers qualify for the direct payments if their hog operation (1) marketed fewer than 2,500 hogs during the last 6 months of 1998, and (2) is still in operation. Two restrictions apply. Hog operations are not eligible for payments on hogs marketed under fixed-price or cost-plus contracts. Also, any operation whose gross income for 1998 was greater than the \$2.5 million will not be eligible for payments, this is also true for USDA crop disaster programs.

For further information and to apply assistance, farmers should contact the FSA office at 442 Caton Rd. Lumberton, or call 739-3349.



Psychiatrist Joins SRMC Medical Staff

Theresa Bullard, M.D., has joined the Southeastern Regional Mental Health Center. She is also a member of the medical staff of Southeastern Regional Medical Center.

A native of the Prospect community in Robeson County, Dr. Bullard earned an undergraduate degree from UNC-Pembroke and later a medical degree from East Carolina University in 1992. She completed an internship and residency training in psychiatry at the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. She also completed a fellowship there in adult, child and adolescent psychiatry in 1999.

She will specialize in working with children and adolescents in her new role at the mental health center.

"Part of my job will be to try to help parents be better parents," Dr. Bullard said.

"I believe that better communication between parents and children can result in improved mental health."

Free Money To Qualified Applicants

Did you know that if you are a Lumbee Tribal Member that you could receive up to \$10,000 towards the purchase of a home?

The North Carolina Indian Housing Authority cordially invites all Lumbee Tribal Members to join us for a Down Payment Assistance Loan Fair to be held at Lumberton Senior High School in the gymnasium on

FOR additional information contact Spencer Carter or Barbara Lowery at our Pembroke Office at (910) 522-1251 or (910) 522-1252.

Saturday, August 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lending Institutions, Contractors, Home Ownership Counselors, and NCIHA staff will be there. Refreshment will be served.

Homecoming planned at Youth for Christ Church

Pastor Odell Wilkins and congregation cordially invites you to attend their Homecoming at Youth of Christ Holiness Church, Hwy 71 Maxton, September 12, at 2:00 p.m. Special singing by: Carla and Redemption, Chosen Generation, and the Scott Sisters.

The church is located on Hwy 71 between Maxton and Campbell sloop.

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...From the Desk of the Superintendent

by Dr. Barry Harding, Public Schools of Robeson County

I know I speak for everyone in Robeson County when I say how proud I am of the group of young men representing Prospect who traveled all the way to Terrell, Texas to represent the State of North Carolina in the Dixie Youth Baseball World Series. They won that right by winning the state title beating a Stanly County team in a game played at Leland a couple of weeks ago.

It wasn't an expensive proposition to provide the funds necessary to transport the fifteen players on the team along with their coach that distance while providing them with food and lodging during the double elimination tournament which was to end Saturday night with the crowning of the champions. The excitement in the Prospect community and elsewhere in Robeson County was such, though, that the necessary expenses were taken care of with relative ease. So it was off to Texas.

Made up of all-stars selected from among players on the six teams making up the Prospect League, the team started off with victories over Virginia and Alabama - the latter considered to be the pre-tournament favorite. After losing to South Carolina, the team was then faced with meeting Alabama again to stave off elimination. Unfortunately for our team, it wasn't able to repeat its earlier victory and was beaten and, thus, was eliminated from further competition.

Without a doubt, the youngster and all their supporters waiting back home for good news and the relatively large number of people from area who followed the team to Texas

were disappointed that they weren't able to bring home the championship trophy. While the disappointment was certainly understandable, it shouldn't detract from what they were able to accomplish. To have been successful in winning the right to represent North Carolina, in itself, was a major accomplishment. Then, to have won games against Virginia and a favored Alabama team was, likewise, something that they had every right to be proud of themselves for.

There is no doubt in my mind that the team's supporters are no less proud of it than they would've been had they been successful in winning the championship. They represented the Prospect community, Robeson County and the State of North Carolina well and they are to be commended not only their athletic efforts but also for their deportment during the excitement surrounding their trip. For many of the boys it was an adventure the likes of which they are only 11 and 12 years olds and their lives are still ahead of them allowing for other such adventures to come. Hopefully, they'll remember the good parts of this adventure - the opportunity to represent their state and to meet young men from other parts of the country they hadn't seen before. They shouldn't dwell on the fact that they were not able to bring back the trophy but, rather, on the good memories that they should enjoy for many years to come.

As I said earlier, I'm proud of all the players on the team as I'm certain is the case with every person in Robeson County. I congratulate them for what they've done for all of us.