

CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Published each Thursday in Pembroke, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

Volume 27 Number 12

Thursday, March 23, 2000

PERIODICALS

MAR 24 2000

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Paul Brooks announces bid for re-election to Board of Education



Paul Brooks

Paul Brooks of Pembroke is seeking re-election to the Board of Education of the Public Schools of Robeson County. Brooks has represented District 5, comprised of Pembroke and Union Precincts for the past eight years.

Brooks, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brooks, is married to Pauline Brooks and they have one son, three daughters and seven grandchildren. He is a lifelong resident of Robeson County and has been involved in various business ventures in the area. Presently he is self-employed as President of Professional Providers, Inc., a family owned and operated health care business. He attended Catawba College and Pembroke State University and is a Veteran of the United States Army.

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In addition to his business ventures, Brooks has been very active in civic and community affairs on the local, county and state level. He presently serves as Chairman of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs and is past chairman of the Board of Education.

In making his announcement for re-election, Brooks released the following statement:

"As a father and grandfather, I have a personal interest in public education. I have seen our county come from six separate school systems to the combined Public Schools of Robeson County. I have witnessed many positive changes and feel privileged to have been allowed to be a part of constructive change in our county. My main concern and interest is and has always been working for the 22,000-plus students in the county school system. I will continue, if elected, to work toward raising the test scores of our students. It is also a personal goal of mine to see Robeson County's schools continue to keep pace with the new technology. We want our students to be able to compete in any profession they chose to enter.

As the son of a builder, I learned early in life about the need for providing quality facilities. It is a fact that being housed in a top-notch facility

improves the learning environment for students. It also enhances the teachers' desire to be a better teacher. If re-elected, I will continue to support efforts to provide better facilities for our students. They deserve no less.

"I am also committed to work toward increased pay supplements for certified and classified personnel. Good teachers are necessary for the development of excellence in education. I strongly support good teachers and wish to see them properly compensated for their efforts. I understand that teaching is a stressful profession these days with the amount of testing that the State of North Carolina requires and I am proud of our teachers and principals. Increases in test scores are an indication that the public schools of Robeson are good and getting better.

"Serving on the school board for the past eight years has been a humbling experience for me. It has given me the distinct honor of being a part of the unique and wonderful educational process. As a parent and a grandparent, I feel a sense of pride in our accomplishments at the board of education. Making decisions is not always an easy task, but I have never shirked any responsibility in my role as a team player and a member of the Board of Education.

"I sincerely solicit your vote and support on May 5, and pledge anew that, if elected, all my decisions will be made with the best interest of our boys and girls at heart."

Auditions For Strike At The Wind 2000

Strike at the Wind-Open auditions will be held for all roles on March 25 & 26 at the Adolph L. Dial Amphitheater for the 2000 production season. Hours of auditions will be from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 1 pm on to 5 pm on Sunday. It is requested by the Director for those that have never been a part of the drama to bring a resume and a photograph.



Spotted Turtle and Wild Turkey shared information about Native American tradition to Juniors

Native American Elders Speak To Swett High Students

Native American elders shared about Native American traditions on Monday, March 13 in Mrs. Yvonne Dial's English III classes. Spotted Turtle and Wild turkey demonstrated such eagerness to make students aware of the old ways of the Native Americans which taught respect, pride, and keeping one's self healthy.

Spotted Turtle started with the young people, telling them that they should be proud of who they are. "It doesn't matter what ethnic group you came from," stated Spotted Turtle, "be proud of who you are." He also encouraged the students to follow the old Native American traditions, never stray away from the use of nature like herbs for medicine and use of the sun as a source of light and warmth, and to help each other.

One last thing that Spotted Turtle went over was how electricity has been a great invention, but harmful in some ways because a person could do things on their own now and people would not associate with each other any more. He made the com-

Local Poet Shares Poetry with Swett High Students

Ms. Wendy Moore Cummings, a Lumbee Indian and a Prospect Native, visited with Ms. Yvonne Dial's English and journalism classes on March 3.

Ms. Cummings shared inspirational poems and books she had written about her heritage and tribal beliefs. She also shared poetry about different adventures, tramas and tragedies that had happened throughout her life. Ms. Cummings also stressed that through her lifetime, writing has been a source of healing for her as it helps her release stress and anger. She encouraged everyone to talk about their feelings write them down and stated, "Writing helps you live a more fulfilling life."

Student in Yvonne Dial's English III classes shared their poetry with Mrs. Cummings as they expressed their own feelings of joy, anger, and stress. Mrs. Cummings expressed her feelings of being impressed with the student's creative writing.

by Chavita Bullard



Poet & Writer Wendy Moore Cummings

Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe To Sponsor 35th Annual Pow-Wow

Hollister, NC--The Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe of Hollister, NC will sponsor its 35th Annual Powwow on April 14-16, 2000 in Bethelheim (Near Hollister). The tribe, in celebration of receiving state recognition from the State of North Carolina in April 1965, sponsors the Powwow. The Powwow is also sponsored in order to showcase the tribe's culture and community. The event is open to the public. The tribe will honor elderly Indian Women and Princesses. Drummers and dancers are expected from the following tribes: Chickahominy, Piscataway, Navajo, Sioux, Blackfeet, Lumbee, Meherrin, Coharie, Rappahannock, Seminole, Tuscarora, Oneida, Commanche, Kiowa, Catawba, Nanticoke, Cheyenne, Mandan, Pequot, Mohawk, Maliseet, Chippewa, Crow, and Onondago to name a few. These dancers will also compete for nearly \$8,000.00 in prize money in the categories of jingle dress, fancy, traditional, and grass dance.

Over 25 traders/vendors will sell some of the finest American Indian crafts found in America. Items to be sold include: baskets, pottery, turquoise jewelry, beadwork, dreamcatchers, blankets, and moccasins.

Attendees will be able to purchase American Indian foods such as tacos, fry bread, okra, and squash. Other items to be sold as well such as hot dogs, chicken, and hamburgers.

Haliwa-Saponi craft persons will demonstrate basketry, carving, beadwork, pottery, and regalia making.

Admission to the Pow-Wow is \$4.00 (7-61) and \$3.00 (62-up). Children 0-6 are free.

Gates open on Friday, April 14, at 5:00 PM, Saturday at 10 AM, and Sunday at 11 AM.

For photo and television opportunities, call Joseph Richardson at (252) 586-4017.

Local Educator Attends Seminar

Cullowhee - Lesa O. Maynor of Pembroke, grades 6-8 media specialist at Pembroke Middle School, recently attended a seminar at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

Maynor was one of 22 North Carolina teachers participating in "Biltmore House: Its People and Impact" February 28--March 3, conducted by Kay Shapiro, associate director.

Part of the University of North Carolina, NCCAT provides a year-round series of residential seminars and teacher-scholar programs for teachers and professional development activities for teachers and staff in selected school systems. At the center, teachers engage in stimulating scholarly activities and professional networking to renew their vitality for teaching and learning. Mary Jo Utley is center director.

Expanded Services for Elderly Requested by Lumbee Officials

Officials of Lumbee Regional Development Association met recently with officials of the North Carolina Division of Aging to seek ways to expand services for elderly people living in Lumbee communities.

The key items discussed by the group were issues of nutrition, provision of meals for the elderly, and transportation services for low-income people.

Representing LRDA were Leon Jacobs, Tribal Board Member, James Hardin, Executive Director, Donald Locklear, Lumbee Housing Department, and Shirley Locklear, Lumbee Low Income Energy Assistance Program. James Hardin said, "The Lumbee leadership is seeking ways to expand services to Lumbee elders, ways to improve existing services, and ways to improve funding for services to Indian elders."

The group met with Karen Gotlovi, Director of the North Carolina Division on Aging, staff of the Aging Division, and Betty Reising, of the Lumber River Council of Government. The group discussed current levels of services to Indian elders in Robeson county and services for nutrition assistance, feeding sites, transportation and referral services in Indian communities.

James Hardin said, "The meeting was successful in that it gave Lumbee leadership an opportunity to meet with key state leaders to identify current levels of services to Indian elders and to explore what can be done to improve and expand services." He said the LRDA group agreed to work more closely with the Elder Service Advisory Committee and the Transportation Program of the Lumber River Council of Governments.

The group agreed to pursue various funding available through state and federal programs to improve services for Lumbee elders who live in rural communities. Hardin said LRDA has requested assistance from the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, which operates nutrition and transportation services for elderly members of the Haliwa-Saponi, the Coharie, and the Waccamaw-Siouan tribes, to help the Lumbee Tribe obtain similar services.



Kenny Buffalo (on left), N.C. Dyokushin Karate Representative, with All-Japan Karate Champion Kazuhiko Ogasawara at the Headquarters School in Japan last year. Buffalo frequently trains with top level Japanese instructors and fighters.

Kenny Buffalo to appear at 2000 International Festival of Cultures

Kenny Buffalo, the official North Carolina Representative of Kyokushin Karate, will make a special appearance at this year's "2000 International Festival of Cultures". The Festival will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2000 at the new Business and Industry Center of Nash Community College located on Old Carriage Road, Rocky Mount, NC from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Kenny Buffalo will demonstrate Kyokushin (Fighting) Karate and various other aspects of traditional Japanese culture. His appearance is scheduled at 1:00 p.m.

Kenny Buffalo began his martial arts training in Japan at age 5. He was personally trained by Grand Karate Master OYAMA, the world's leading karate master. In 1983, Buffalo was appointed N.C. Representative of the International Kyokushin Karate Organization. That same year, Kenny received the state's "Governor's Award" for professional excellence in Karate from North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. Buffalo is featured regularly in leading martial arts magazines, T.V. and Radio talkshows, action videos, and motion pictures, including the popular "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II" movie. Kenny Buffalo taught Kyokushin Karate classes in the Rocky Mount/Nash County area from 1983-1989. He is looking forward to returning and sharing his over 30 years training and experience at this year's festival

For more information, call 972-1183.

2000 Teen Miss And Miss Lumbee Applications

The Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA) is currently accepting applications for the 2000 Teen Miss and Miss Lumbee Pageants, beginning March 15, 2000.

To qualify as a pageant contestant, the applicant must be an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe, a Lumbee female between 17 1/2 and 26 years of age, a high school graduate and single, never married or cohabited and accessible to Pembroke as a homebase.

Teen Miss Contestants must be 14 by June 30th, 2000 and a member of the Lumbee Tribe, still in school and not older than 18 years old before June 30th, 2000.

If you meet the criteria and are interested in competing as a contestant, please contact James Monroe Chavie at (910) 521-2462. Applications may be picked - up at the Lumbee Tribal Enrollment Office located on Union Chapel Road in Pembroke. Applications must be completed and returned by April 17th, 2000.

An entry fee of \$100.00 is required of all final contestants.

Housing Loans Available For American Indian Families

Raleigh--The N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development have announced the continuation of a partnership that should help provide affordable home ownership loans to American Indian families living in rural North Carolina.

An agreement was signed recently by representatives of USDA Rural Development, the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs and the N.C. Indian Housing Authority. It calls for Rural Development to set aside \$1 million exclusively for the use of American Indians who meet the qualifications of its existing 502 Home Ownership Loan Program. The Indian agencies will ensure that rural families are aware of this opportunity and will assist in pre-qualification determinations and referrals. This marks the second consecutive year that the participants have partnered to help American Indians in rural North Carolina become homeowners.

Representatives of the Coharie, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin and Waccamaw-Siouan Indian tribes were present and witnessed the agreement.

"This commitment from Rural Development will help to stretch our always limited resources and provide housing for an important segment of our population," said Gregory Richardson, executive director of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs.

North Carolina has the largest Indian population east of the Mississippi and is home to seven recognized tribes--Coharie, Eastern Band of the Cherokee, Haliwa-Saponi, Indians of Person County, Lumbee, Meherrin and Waccamaw-Siouan - and to three urban Indian organizations - in Charlotte, in Greensboro and in Fayetteville.

The N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, housed in the N.C. Department of Administration, is charged with the responsibility of advocating the needs and concerns of the state's American Indian population. The N.C. Indian Housing Authority is authorized by N.C. General Statute to provide housing and address housing needs of American Indians with low income. Rural Development is the USDA's lending arm that provides services to rural areas.

If you are an American Indian and are interested in learning more about affordable home ownership loans, contact the Indian Housing Authority by calling (919) 733-5998 or writing Mail Service Center 1317, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1317.