

I Want and Need Your Vote May 2nd PAUL BROOKS BOARD OF EDUCATION - DISTRICT 5 IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, SUGGESTIONS OR CRITICISMS, CALL ME 522-1121

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

by Dr. Barry Harding
Public Schools
of Robeson County



We recently began our third year of recognizing the "Certified Employee of the Month" and the "Classified Employee of the Month" in the Public Schools of Robeson County and we are very pleased with how well the program has been received. It is, after all, our effort to salute people in our system who may not, otherwise, receive acknowledgment of all they do for the students they come into contact with and their schools.

It is so easy to accept the fact that employees are paid to do a particular job and that that pay is supposed to be adequate compensation for what they do. There's no doubt that what employees earn in important since it is how they sustain themselves and their families. There is, however, something more that can be done to reward them. Teachers prepare lesson plans, oversee the teaching of courses, grade papers, and try to find the time to meet with students who may need some special attention. Additionally, they also meet with parents to answer questions the parents may have about their children's performance in the classroom. They often have cafeteria and bus duty. Beyond that, they attend workshops and other meetings and take additional college courses on their own time to help them be better teachers. There's no doubt they deserve recognition beyond their paychecks.

Then there are those employees who are categorized as "classified." While they may not be trained as teach-

ers, they make an important contribution to the well-being of our students as well as to the smooth operation of the school to which they're assigned. They may serve as classroom assistants who provide much needed help for the teachers. They may serve as cafeteria workers who see to it that children receive the nourishment needed for proper learning or custodians who make sure that your children are learning in a clean and safe environment. They might also be bus drivers who have the important task of seeing to it that your children are transported to and from school safely. Their salaries notwithstanding, a pat on the back is yet another way of letting these people know that their work is appreciated.

The people who are recognized at each month's School Board meeting are, of course, not the only employees who deserve recognition. Many others receive recognition at the school level. The ones introduced at the Board meeting have been randomly selected from among those chosen at the school level and Board recognition is just another way of showing our appreciation for a job well done.

As I said earlier, there is no doubting the importance of salary but there is also a great deal to be said for our appreciation for what our employees do and how well they do it and, as the program enters its third year, I sincerely hope that the program conveys that to them. With some 3,000 employees, we still have many to recognize.

Book Sale at Public Library begins

Robeson County Public Library will hold its 2000 Book Sale April 13th-15th in the old Lumberton Trading Company building on First Street between Chestnut and Walnut Streets. The book sale will open at 5 p.m. on April 13th and close at 9 p.m. It will continue at 9 a.m. on April 14th and close at 6 p.m. On April 15th the last day of the book sale, the sale will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m.

The library is still accepting donations for the annual sale. Books, videos, books on cassette, encyclopedias and reference books are welcome. Please no magazines. You may bring donations to the Lumberton Library.

Do you have any overdue material that you borrowed from any of our libraries? If so bring them in between April 13-15, pay your overdue fee and receive a credit that you can use at the book sale.

For more information about this year's book sale call 738-4859.

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Wanted!!!
Volunteers to teach English to non-native speakers. We especially need tutors who can work in the mornings or on Saturdays. No knowledge of Spanish necessary. Training is free and job satisfaction is guaranteed!
For more information, call Heather Jeeves at Robeson County Church & Community Center (910) 738-5204

Along The Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stan Knick, Director, UNCP Native American Resource Center

When Europeans came to the Americas, they were looking for a "New World." Their "Old World" had proved to be a place with limited opportunities for religious and political freedom, for economic development, for life without devastating plagues, and for land on which to live. Thus the idea of sailing away to a "New World" of unlimited opportunities seemed to be the perfect way out for many ordinary European people.

The "New World" also offered the kings and queens of Europe new and greater power. The country which could control trade of the vast resources of the "New World" would have an immense advantage over countries which were left out of the trade arrangement. Spain and England wanted power over each other. France wanted power over both. Portugal and The Netherlands each wanted a piece of the new resource pie.

In the colonial view, the Indians would just have to get out of the way. Never mind that there was really nothing new about this "New World." Never mind that Native people had been living here for many thousands of years with their own governments, languages and customs. Epidemic diseases, warfare, assimilation, termination, compensation and

relocation would do the work. The Indians would just have to get out of the way of what many Europeans saw as "progress."

In the process, virtually all the land in the Americas was taken over by the outsiders. Indian people were forced either to live on reservations (land that the Europeans thought was worthless) or to isolate themselves in remote areas in order to survive. Many Indians wound up living where no one else would.

So why is there still, more than 500 years after Columbus, a desire in some quarters to take what is left of America's uranium is under Indian land? Why, for example, would the American Farm Bureau Federation resolve within the last decade to "support legislation to establish the rule that all people have equal rights and responsibilities under the law?" This sounds harmless enough, doesn't it? Why would the Farm Bureau Federation be interested in "equal rights and responsibilities under the law?"

The Farm Bureau Federation's resolution goes on to clarify its position: "The 'nation unto a nation' treatment of Native Americans should be abolished. We favor abolition of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and termination of special treaty rights to purchase or negotiate for fair

compensation. These steps will end special treatment of Native Americans and bring everyone to full equality under the law." Despite the subtle wording, it is apparent that the Farm Bureau Federation is interested in easy access to Indian lands for the purpose of economic development.

What is there to be "developed" on Indian land? Reservations in eight western states have huge amounts of coal, oil, natural gas, timber and uranium. More than 40 percent of our country's easily-accessible low-sulfur coal reserves are under Indian land! Approximately 80 percent of America's uranium is under Indian land! According to *Native Americans in the 20th Century*, the Navajo (Dineh) Reservation alone contains "100 million barrels of oil, 25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, 80 million pounds of uranium, and 50 billion tons of coal."

The 500-year-old quest for resources and power in the lands of the "New World" is apparently not quite finished yet.

For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in historic Old Main Building, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke (our Internet address is www.uncp.edu/nativemuseum).

Pembroke Kiwanis Report

The Pembroke Kiwanis Club held its weekly meeting Tuesday evening at the Jade Garden Restaurant with Furnie Lambert presiding.

Program Chairman Ray Lowry presented Dencie Page, Director of Communities in Schools. CIS is a non-profit, made up of 475 volunteers, retired people, former teachers, former professionals, people wanting to help out in the schools. They help

out in reducing the drop out rate. The reading program has been very successful in helping people of all ages to learn to read. The community in schools has been very helpful in the Charter school program. This assists them to graduate with high school diploma and getting themselves a job. Much of the work is one on one, truly a great help for them to master the knowledge. The CIS program helps in obtaining supplies

and facilities and funding, along with getting volunteers to teach. CIS helps the regular schools, the charter schools and after school activities. Our schools can be proud of the combined efforts of the citizens in Robeson County schools system.

Chairman Furnie Lambert reminded us that tickets are still available for the Easter Dinner. Dance to be held Friday, April 21st at the Highland in Laurinburg.

Chestnut Street UMC Celebrates Holy Week

Chestnut Street United Methodist Church in Lumberton will present a dramatization of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" on Thursday, April 20, at 7 p.m. as one of the special observances in the contemplation of the events of Holy Week.

In this program, the youth of the church, dressed as the disciples, will speak their minds to themselves, to each other and to the Lord and question "Is it I." Their costumes the disciples positions as well as the beautiful

backdrop and other props resemble the original da Vinci's painting as close as possible. The adult choir will present choral interludes with an array of music appropriate for this solemn and sacred occasion. The service will conclude with the congregation participating in the Lord's Supper with Jesus and the disciples and the singing of the beautiful traditional hymn, "Were You There."

This program is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend

and share in these few sacred moments of Jesus' life. This program is under the direction of Mark Frazier, Director of Music Ministry and Judy Seals, Living Last Supper Theatrical Director. Chestnut Street UMC is located at 200 East Eighth Street. Dr. Stan Smith is the pastor.

E-mail the editor at brayboyconnee@hotmail.com. Tell the Carolina Indian Voice what's happening with you.