

### A Call for Spiritual Poems from Pembroke Poets

A \$1000.00 grand prize is being offered in a special religious contest sponsored by the New Jersey Rainbow Poets, free to anyone who has ever written a poem. There are 50 prizes in all totaling over \$3,000.00. The deadline for entering is December 15, 2001.

To enter, send one poem only of 21 lines or less. Free Poetry Contest, 103 N. Wood Ave., PMB 70, Linden, NJ 07036. Or enter on-line [www.rainbowpoets.com](http://www.rainbowpoets.com).

"We think great religious poems can inspire achievement," says Fredrick Young, the organization's Contest Director. "Our desire is to inspire amateur poets and we think this competition will accomplish that. North Carolina has produced many wonderful poets over the years and we'd like to discover new ones from the Pembroke area."

### Religious Poems Sought from Pembroke-Area Poets

Good news for sincere poets! The Bards of Burbank is offering a \$1,000 grand prize in their Religious competition 2002, free to everyone. The deadline for entering is January 1, 2002.

To enter, send one poem 21 lines or less: Free Poetry Contest, PMB250, 2219 W Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 91506, you may enter on-line at [www.freecontest.com](http://www.freecontest.com).

"We think religious poems can invite achievement," says Dr. John Scribner, the organization's Contest Director. "We're especially keen on inspiring amateur poets and we think this competition will achieve that. North Carolina has made many wonderful poets over the years and I'd like to discover new ones from among the Pembroke-area grassroots poets."

## From the Desk of the Superintendent

by Dr. Barry Harding, Public Schools of Robeson County

It's frustrating when you turn in certain figures to the state based on criteria you have been given and find that other school systems are interpreting those criteria in a different way than you did causing your results to be inferior to those of the other system. I'm referring to the Violence Report which is released by the state each year in an effort to compare various instances of violence occurring in school systems across the state.

This year's report which covers the 1999-2000 school year indicates that we had the fourth highest number of violent incidents of any school system in the State of North Carolina. It's, obviously, not a record we're particularly proud of. We wish the report would have indicated that we had no incidents of violence at all which, in all honesty, would be impossible. That being the case, though, I wish that all the school systems included in the report would be on the same page with regard to interpretation of certain incidents. Since every system wants the report to put them in the best light possible, some neglect to report certain incidents which they consider to be of a minor nature. While they may, indeed, be minor, they nonetheless have to be reported according to instructions of filling out the report. It's easy to see how the report is affected if some report those items and others do not. Since we report everything as per instructions, our totals are inflated compared to those systems who don't report everything making us look bad. We could, of course, be looser in our interpretation of instructions and incidents but that would defeat the purpose of the annual report.

It's also important to examine the methods systems in the state deal with violence. In examining the Public Schools of Robeson County, we should start with our resource officers whose presence in our schools serves more than one purpose. Classes on drug problems are conducted by them while their presence often deters violence. But their presence also often allows them to discover acts of potential violence which might not otherwise have been observed and which, when documented, results in our having to add an instance of violence to our report. Also on the positive side our use of metal detectors, likewise, uncovers possession by some students of weapons which we might not otherwise uncover. Again, something to be added to our report. These are two major efforts we make to uncover violence which can result in higher figures in the report. Despite those unflattering figures, it's interesting that, of 25 schools statewide who have been recognized as Super Safe Schools, 4 of them are in our system. I believe that, despite the shortcomings of the Violence Report, our schools are safe.

There are other efforts dealing with violence in the schools I could mention but I have to think that parents and family, too, have a responsibility to talk to their children about an attitude towards violence. Keep in mind that there are 168 hours in a week and students are in school less than 35 hours. Where they are the rest of the time and what influences they're under during that time is something we have no control over. We do all we can to deal with potential violence while, at the same time, working toward education our children. We can use your help.

## Local Couple Find Information to Stay Healthy at CHEC



Jerry Caulder uses the blood pressure machine at the Community Health Education Center (CHEC) three times a week. CHEC is a consumer health library in Lumberton's Biggs Park Mall that offers free health information to the public. The center also houses a technologically-advanced blood pressure and weight machine. Using this device may have saved Jerry's life.

"I came here one day on the way to the lab, and I felt really bad, so I took my blood pressure, and my heart rate was 32," said the 60-year-old Lumberton resident. "I decided to drive straight over to the lab, and the lady working here called to let them know I was coming and then called to make sure I got there."

According to Jerry's wife, Barbara, the fact that Jerry checks his blood pressure so often eases her stress and anxiety. "It has been such a relief to me knowing he comes and checks his blood pressure, and he prints out the information for me, so I know his blood pressure and heart rate are fine," she said.

Barbara also began monitoring her blood pressure at CHEC after she found out she had high blood pres-

sure. She said she keeps the printouts of her blood pressure readings to give to her physician.

"CHEC is wonderful, especially if you've been diagnosed as having high blood pressure and if you want to have some place to come that's accurate," said Barbara. "But there is any type of information here."

The Caulders also used CHEC soon after they married so Barbara could learn more about food interactions with Coumadin, a medicine Jerry takes for his coronary artery disease. She researched the foods Jerry could and could not eat while taking the drug.

"I make him stick to it, too," she said, laughing. "I learned the foods he can't eat with the Coumadin, and I keep him away from them."

When Jerry was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease last year, the couple went to CHEC for more information. "I thought to come to CHEC for information because I had found only two books on the disease, and there is more at CHEC than any place I've even seen on Parkinson's disease and on Coumadin," said Jerry. "If you have something wrong with you, these people can help."

Often when Barbara wants information about a topic, she calls ahead and asks the staff at CHEC to research it. She said she feels more comfortable with the trained staff at CHEC looking up information on the Internet than if she does it herself. She said she also appreciated the different types of information CHEC offers—books, pamphlets, videos and on-line resources.

"Self-help is here. There is so much information you can get here on things like weight loss, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, being a caregiver, etc. I was a caregiver for both my parents, and I found out that if you don't have a support system and a source of information in place, you are alone," she said. "At CHEC you can find the information you need."

CHEC is operated through a partnership between southeastern Regional Medical Center and The Robeson County Public Library. Located near the southeastern entrance of Biggs Park Mall, CHEC is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. For more information, call 671-9393.

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# Along the Robeson Trail

By Dr. Stan Knick, Director-UNCP Native American Resource Center

(Note: About this time of year, a brief discussion of the real Thanksgiving is worth repeating.)

I overheard part of a conversation that got me to thinking. A young mother was talking to her child about Thanksgiving, an innocent enough topic, when she said: "That's right, baby, the first Thanksgiving happened when the Pilgrims thought the Indians were hungry and invited them over for supper."

"Did I hear this properly? You say the Pilgrims invited the Indians over to share some good English food?"

Let's see, now — the Pilgrims arrived at Cape Cod on November 21. One of them wrote: "the summer being done...ye whole countrie, full of woods and thickets, represented a wild and savage heiw [hue?]." After several brief journeys inland, and at least one skirmish with local Native Americans, the Pilgrims decided to set up house-keeping at a place John Smith had earlier labeled on his map as "Plymouth."

The winter was very harsh, and there was little food for the Pilgrims. They had brought a few things along, but mostly they ate bread, cheese and water, and an occasional duck when they could hit one with their clumsy muskets. By the time spring arrived, there were only twenty-one men left alive.

A Patuxet Indian man named Squanto came to visit. Several years earlier Squanto had been taken to England by George Weymouth, where

he was taught some of the English language. When he was returned to America on a ship with John Smith, he was soon after seized as a slave by Captain Thomas Hunt and sold in Spain. Then he had somehow made his way back to England and found his former "teacher," Sir Ferdinando Gorges, who helped him get back to America again in 1619. But by the time Squanto made it back to the homeland of the Patuxet (where Plymouth is now located), all of his tribe had been wiped out in smallpox epidemics. Since then he had been living with the Wampanoag about forty miles away.

No doubt Squanto surprised the Pilgrims when he walked up and said "welcome" in English. Soon they developed a relationship, and Squanto introduced the Pilgrims to Massasoit, the Wampanoag chief who would also become their friend. Squanto began living with the Pilgrims, and became their most valuable person. Later writings would say that he "was a special instrument sent of God for their good.... He directed them how to set their corn, where to take fish and to procure other commodities... and never left them until he died." He also gave them Native seeds such as corn, squash and pumpkin to plant, because the seeds they had brought from England wouldn't grow well in America.

When the next autumn came and the harvest was good, the Wampanoag (like all Native Americans of the day)

celebrated their good harvest with a feast. In some Indian cultures, these fall festivals would last up to two weeks, but for this local celebration with the white folks Massasoit and ninety of his kinsmen only stayed three days. In addition to everything else, Massasoit had his men bring five whole deer as a little "covered dish."

Angie Debo says in her book *A History of the Indians of the United States* that it was "appropriate that they [the Pilgrims] and the Wampanoags celebrated Thanksgiving together that fall.... There would have been no harvest, no harvest festival, and probably no Pilgrims except for an Indian plant and an Indian's advice in growing it."

And what did millions of Americans have for Thanksgiving dinner again this year? Turkey, cranberries, sweet potatoes, corn-on-the-cob, maybe some lima beans and some squash, and a nice pumpkin or pecan pie — all traditional Native American foods!

No, baby, the first Thanksgiving didn't happen when the Pilgrims thought the Indians were hungry and invited them over for supper. It wasn't like that at all.

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](http://www.uncp.edu/nativemuseum)).

## Author Kimberly Johnson Visits Pembroke Elementary School in Celebration of Children's Book Week



Author Kimberly Johnson entertained first, second and third grade students with her positive messages and character traits conveyed in her books, "The adventures of the Ity Bitty Frog, The Adventures of the Ity Bitty Bunny and the Adventures of the Ity Bitty Spider and the Ity Bitty Mouse." Anyone wishing to order an autographed book may pick up an order form at the Pembroke Elementary Medial Center.

Give Check Registers For Christmas. Get big share of our sales as rebate. For a brochure, call 910-521-7314 and leave name & address, or write: WEC Press-CB, Box 3187, Pembroke, NC 28372.



## 29 Candidates Celebrate Teaching Fellows Day

On November 16, 2000 at the Holiday Inn in Lumberton, candidates for the Teaching Fellows Scholarship for the Public Schools of Robeson County were involved in a day of activities for completing their applications for state and regional competitions. Prior to the Teaching Fellows Day, all candidates completed the written application, were certified by their schools as eligible, and were trained in interview and writing techniques as coordinated by the counselors at individual high schools.

Students completed their written requirement, were served lunch, and then journeyed to Carroll Middle School where school system and community leaders assessed each one through an individual interview. Each student was scored on the interview and these rankings became a part of the total application package. The next level of review occurs at the state level where writing samples are scored and the entire application is reviewed for selection to participate in the Regional Teaching Fellows interviews which will be conducted in areas across the State of North Carolina in February and March of 2002.

Seniors participating on November 16th were the following: Nunzio Accettura, Eryn Autry, Sarah Barrington, Shari Brockington, Octavia Bullard, Erica Cain, Jessica Canady, Nicole Dial, Tennesha Durant, Candace French, Kara Goodman, Amanda Green, Annette Hagans, Kiale Hill, James E. Hunt, Maurice Lemons, Mollie Livingston, Julius Locklear, Arine Lowery, Terica Lowry, Labecca McNeill, Kevanda Merritt, Vanecia Morrison, Lee Pittman, Tamkia Spencer, Amanda Stricklin, Nina Sumpter, Lindsay Usher and Ninnie Young.

"The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program was created by the

General Assembly in 1986," stated Jo Ann Norris, Associate Executive Director for the Public School Forum and Administrator of the Teaching Fellows Program. "Upon the recommendation of the Public School Forum of North Carolina an din order to meet the increasing demand for top quality teachers for North Carolina's public schools." The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program continues to be the top teacher-recruiting program in the United States. As Gladys Graves, Director of the Teaching Fellows Program, affirms, "The primary purpose of the program is to attract top high school seniors to become education majors and ultimately public school teachers."

Each Teaching Fellow receives a \$26,000 scholarship loan from the state, payable in \$6,500 annual increments. The full loan is forgiven after the Fellow has completed four (4) years of teaching in North Carolina public schools. In addition the Fellow takes part in unique academic and summer enrichment programs during his/her college career. Planning, coordinating, and facilitating the activities for the Teaching Fellows Day for PSRC were Nancy McBryde, Coordinate for Gifted; Rita Locklear, Coordinate for Counselors; Gay Parnell, Secretary for Program Services; Rhonda Moore and Johanna Evans, counselors at Lumberton High; Emma Locklear, counselor at Purnell Swett High; Joan Spruill, counselor at Fairmont High; and Mazie Gibson, counselor at Red Spring High. Joining the candidates for lunch and congratulating the students for their participating were Dr. Bruce Walters, Associate Superintendent for Program Services; Dr. Linda Emanuel, Assistant Superintendent for Program Services; and Alphonzo McRae, Executive Director for Secondary Education.