



LRDA employees representing the Head Start, Administration, Planning, Energy, REACH, WIA, Economic Development, and Housing Programs present a check for \$500.00 to Ron Ross, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Robeson County, and Glenda Hadden, local unit Director for the unit's annual Christmas party.

## Bob Mangum to speak at Sandy Plains Dec. 29

Pembroke-Rev. Bob Mangum will be the guest speaker for the Sandy Plains UMC 5th Sunday Youth Service at 10:55 a.m. on December 29.

Rev. Mangum is currently the pastor at Hickory Grove UMC and Coordinator of the Rockingham District Native American Cooperative Ministries. His previous pastorates include Sandy Plains UMC, Prospect UMC, and Pembroke First UMC. Rev. Mangum is also a former director of the Robeson County Church & Community Center and he served as Executive Director of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Agency for Native American Ministries.

## LRDA staff sponsor Boys/Girls Club Christmas Party

LRDA employees have once again shown their devotion and concern for those they serve. This year the employees gave of their own resources and helped solicit local sponsors for the annual Christmas party for the local Boys and Girls Club Pembroke unit members.

The staff raised \$500.00 to help sponsor the party for the over 125 Club members and their families. The club is located in the Pembroke Housing Authority, Clinton Thomas Community Building, in the Strickland Heights Housing project in Pembroke.

The LRDA Board of Directors founded the local club in 2001 in partnership with the Pembroke Housing Authority, the Town of Pembroke, the University of NC@Pembroke triumph Program, and the Boys and Girls Club of Lumberton. It is the first nationally sanctioned Club in a non-federally recognized tribal community in the nation.

The Club is managed by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Robeson County and is locally directed by Glenda Hadden and her staff. Glenda is a former Miss Lumbee.

The donation by the LRDA staff and contributors will help provide a meal, fruits and gifts for the kids at their Christmas party set for December 19th at 12 noon. Local merchants also donated items for the party, recruited by local Club's staff.

The LRDA staff continue to go beyond the call of duty to serve the communities.

This kind of care can be shown when we all reach out to help our children no matter their race or creed.

## Carolina Indian Voice

is Published every Thursday by First American Publications  
207 Union Chapel Rd.  
Post Office Box 1075  
Pembroke, North Carolina 28372

## LRDA's Rennert Head Start Receives NAEYC Accreditation

LRDA Rennert Head Start was recently granted accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This prestigious recognition has been achieved by approximately 7% of early childhood programs nationwide some 8,071 programs as of October 1, 2002, serving 712,276 children. "I am very pleased and excited about receiving National Accreditation, we have worked really hard for this," stated Margaret Maynor, CDC of Rennert Head Start.

NAEYC accreditation is a rigorous, voluntary process by which early childhood programs demonstrate that they meet national standards of excellence. Child care centers, preschools, kindergartens, and before and after school programs are eligible to seek NAEYC accreditation.

Approximately 19,000 programs are engaged in seeking accreditation.

Programs seeking accreditation undergo an intensive self-study, collecting information from parents, teachers, administrators, and classroom observations. They receive an on-site visit, conducted by early childhood professionals especially trained by NAEYC, to validate their self-study results. A team of national experts who grant or defer accreditation independently reviews all of the information. When awarded, accreditation is valid for three years.

"The heart of NAEYC accreditation focuses on the child's experience," Margaret Maynor, CDC.

The process carefully considers all aspects of a program including health and safety, staffing, staff qualifications, and physical environment. The greatest emphasis is on the children's relationship with the

staff and how the program helps each child grow and learn intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally."

According to Ms. Patricia Locklear, Head Start Director at LRDA, "research supports the value of accreditation for children. Children's language and social skills especially benefit from the better quality found in NAEYC-accredited programs. These are critical areas for children's success in school as well as in life."

NAEYC accreditation began in 1985, with the first program accredited in 1986. NAEYC is the nation's oldest and largest organization of early childhood education professionals dedicated to improvement of quality early childhood education. NAEYC established accreditation in response to the growing number of American children spending large amounts of time in-group settings away from home, and the uneven-and-often-inadequate consumer protection afforded by state licensing of childcare facilities.

Rennert Head Start is located at 8986 Rennert Road in Shannon and serves 70 children ranging in age 3 to 5. Rennert Head Start provides a quality program for preschool children and their families. The program is federally funded. We operate according to the performance standards and the staff adheres to the Grantee's Procedures as well as other state and national requirements.

Rennert Head Start will now proudly display the NAEYC torch- the sign of NAEYC accreditation. Parents who look for the torch when choosing childcare or early education programs for their children will find that we have made a commitment to excellence for young children and families.

## UNCP to offer professional certification over the Web

Pembroke, NC-UNC Pembroke's Office of Outreach has partnered with the county's largest provider of web-based career training courses, to provide online training courses for a variety of professions, including accounting, travel, healthcare and information technology.

The course offerings include: Administrative Medical Specialist, Advanced Coding for the Physician's Office, Medical Transcription, Certificate, Coding, Reimbursement and Documentation for Physicians, Graphic Design Certificate, Security+ Certification Training, Cisco-CCNA Certification Training, Webmaster Certificate, Auto CAD 2002, Travel Agent Certificate, Cyber Travel Specialist, Project Management, Records Management Certificate, Bookkeeping the Easy way and Revenue Cycle Management for Healthcare providers.

"These new Web-based career training course are ideal for individuals looking to start a new career, for first time job seekers who need specialized training or for current workers who need to enhance their skills," said Sylvia Pate, director of UNCP Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development.

The courses, instructed by Gatlin Educational Services(GES), are self-paced and open enrollment. Students are paired up with an expert tutor for one on one instruction. The course takes an average of 90 days to complete and will provide training for an entry-level position in the fields of healthcare, travel, information technology and other related areas.

"Students will love the quality as well as the convenience," Pate said. "These certificate programs are now available through the Regional Center." The non-academic credit programs are designed to provide the skills necessary to acquire professional caliber positions for many in-demand occupations, all within a three-month delivery window.

Students will receive a certificate of completion and continuing education units of credit from UNC Pembroke upon successful completion of the program.

For more information please contact Sylvia Pate at 910-522-8410 or email sylviapate@uncp.edu. You may also go to the website for a description of course offerings or to register at [www.uncp.edu/rc/courses/onlinecourses.htm](http://www.uncp.edu/rc/courses/onlinecourses.htm).

## Clothing Bank for needy at Pembroke Housing Authority

Pembroke-The Pembroke Housing Authority announces the availability of clothing for families in need. This service is available to anyone regardless of income. It is solely based upon implied need. Community residents have cheerfully donated the clothing items available.

Churches and local service organizations are encouraged to participate by referring needy families and clients to the clothing bank. The clothing bank is located at 701A Roberts Avenue in Pembroke, North Carolina. Hours of operation are each Tuesday and Friday afternoon, 1:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.

"We would like to thank those who have so graciously given to our clothing bank so that others may be warm and neat," says Lemark Harris, Executive Director for the Pembroke Housing Authority. "You have helped others attain proper attire that they might not have otherwise been able to afford."

## Pennington and Grooms added to UNCP elite

Pembroke, N.C.-As tradition would have it, homecoming has become a special time of year for anyone involved with the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. On February 22, homecoming will take on an even deeper meaning for two talented individuals previously associated with the university. Dr. Raymond B. Pennington and Melanie Grooms-Huddleston have been announced as the 2003 inductees into UNCP's prestigious athletics Hall of Fame.

Dr. Pennington dedicated over 30 years of service to the university during his professional and athletic career. While serving as head baseball coach for five years in the 1960's his teams compiled .781 winning percentage. During that span, he recruited and coached four standout performers that received All-American honors nine different times. Mike Carruthers, Ray Brayboy.

Ronnie Collins, and Preston Douglas have already received the honor of induction into UNCP's elite.

As head golf coach from 1970 to 1975 and again from 1985 to 1990, Pennington recruited and coached UNCP's only All-American golfer in Junior Nance. He also coached Scott Benton to All-Conference and All-District accolades. In the 70's and 80's, his teams compiled a 41-37-2 record, recording four first place finishes in various tournaments.

Dr. Pennington served as UNCP Director of Athletics for 14 years from 1984 to 1998. During his tenure, Braves' athletes were awarded All-American status 39 times. UNCP teams also recovered over twenty Carolinas Conference and District 26 Championships in that span. One of his more pivotal accomplishments came in 1992 with his overseeing of UNCP's transition from the NAIA to the NCAA Division II Peach Belt Conference.

"I've had the opportunity to coach so many gifted athletes over the years. I've also had the privilege to hire and work with some of the greatest coaches in UNCP history. This is quite an honor to be included in such an elite group," said Pennington.

A graduate of East Carolina University, Pennington is no stranger to Hall of Fame inductions. In 1998, he was inducted into ECU's Hall of Fame as well. After receiving his Bachelor's degree from the Greenville,

N.C. school, he went on to receive his master's Degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before completing his PhD at Duke University.

He has made numerous contributions on campus, becoming a charter member of UNCP's Braves Club and belonging to the Chancellor's Club. Having served over ten years as the mayor of Lumberton, N.C.

Dr. Pennington has distinguished himself with dedicated service to the community as well.

Pennington and his wife, Shirley, have been married for over 45 years and have two children: a daughter, Jeri, and a son, Scott. Pennington has one granddaughter, Kacie.

Melanie Grooms-Huddleston, a 1992 graduate of UNCP, competed for four years in the sports of volleyball and softball. In the category of service aces, Grooms holds both the career and single-season records. She was named an NAIA All-American in 1991 and remains the only volleyball player in UNCP history to receive that honor. She was voted All-District and tournament MVP during the same year. She was named an All-Conference performer three out of four years during her volleyball playing career.

On the soft ball field, Grooms experienced more of the same success. She was named an All-Carolinas Conference performer in 1990, 1991, and 1992. During her senior season, she was also named to the All-District softball team.

In 1995, Grooms made her return to the university as a lecturer and coach in taking over the women's volleyball and softball field for two years. In her second season as head softball coach, she nearly tripled the Braves' total in the win column.

"Melanie continues to be an outstanding ambassador for the university as a dedicated alumni. She epitomizes the virtues necessary to be inducted into our Hall of Fame: motivation, dedication, leadership, scholarship, determination, enthusiasm, and professionalism," said Tommy Thompson, HPER Chair.

"I feel very blessed to be receiving this award. It is a top honor to be among such an elite class in UNCP athletics. I am humbled to be included in the same category with so many outstanding members, and I hold this as one of my greatest accomplishments," said Grooms.

Grooms is a current resident of Hope Mills, N.C. and is the mother of one daughter, Megan.

## UNCP's School of Education ranked exemplary again

Pembroke, N.C.-UNC Pembroke's School of Education received its third consecutive exemplary rating on the state Department of Public Instruction's comprehensive performance report of teacher education programs.

UNCP joins six other universities in obtaining the highest ranking. Only one other of the state's 48 colleges and universities that train teachers has received the highest state Board of Education rating every year of the report.

UNCP is the only public university with enrollment under 7,000 to achieve an exemplary rating, making the achievement all the more significant, administrators said.

Also raising the degree of difficulty is UNCP's status as the fastest growing teacher education program in the state. The school has increased the number of students seeking certification by 78 percent since 1999.

"This is the ultimate stamp of approval for one of our most important academic programs," said Chancellor Allen C. Meadors. "We are very proud of our School of Education because it demonstrates the high quality programs that this entire university is well known for."

"Through history, UNC Pembroke has made its mark as a premier training grounds for public school teachers," Chancellor Meadors said. "With a crisis in teacher availability looming, we are playing an important role in solving this problem for our state."

New interim Dean of the School of Education Warren Baker said he is extremely proud and pleaded with the rating and praised the teacher education staff and faculty for their efforts in achievement.

"I think it validates our faculty's commitment to quality as well as our obligation to support our schools," Dr. Baker said. "This rating also reflects a consistency in the overall quality of our teacher education program because UNCP is only one of two institutions that has earned status for three consecutive years."

UNC Pembroke scored 126 points on a comprehensive battery evaluations, that include state and national accreditation, student scores on national competency tests, student and employer satisfaction and more.

Rounding out the list of universities with exemplary ratings were East Carolina, Appalachian State, Western Carolina, UNC Greensboro, UNC Wilmington, and Elon.

State Board of Education Chair, Phillip Kirk, Jr. said the report is an important accountability tool to help teacher education programs improve.

"This is our report card on how well the teacher education programs in North Carolina are performing," Kirk said. As North Carolina moves forward to comply with the federal "No Child Left Behind" legislations with its focus on high quality teachers, we especially need our teacher education programs to be strong as possible."

For more information on the program, go to [www.ncpublicschools.org](http://www.ncpublicschools.org)

## Down payment assistance & home ownership applications available

The Lumbee Tribal Council's Housing Program is accepting down payment assistance and homeownership applications until Friday, January 31, 2003. These programs will allow affordable housing through lease purchase and individual development accounts that will strategically assist low-income Lumbee families in attaining safe and affordable housing. Twenty-five new homes are expected to be constructed between June 2003 and August 2004 with these programs throughout the tribal designated service area Robeson, Hoke, Scotland and Cumberland counties. Contact June Jacobs at the Lumbee Tribal Housing Program at (910) 521-1341 for further information.