

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

UNCP breaks ground on Regional Center

Pembroke, N.C.—UNC Pembroke's Regional Center will break ground for its new headquarters Monday at 11:00 a.m., April 28 at the Carolina Commerce Technology Center. (COMtech.) U.S. Congressman Mike McIntyre is the featured speaker for the event. COMtech is located on N.C. 711 between Lumberton and Pembroke. UNCP is breaking new ground in more ways than one. The new Regional Center is the first building constructed off-campus in UNCP history. The 11,500 square-foot structure will cost \$1.5 million. The seven-year-old Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development is a virtual laboratory for identifying issues and building innovative solutions to benefit quality of life in the region. It has won HUD grants totaling \$2.95 million, state resources totaling \$455,000, a \$750,000 youth development grant from the Lumber River Council of Governments and several smaller state grants. "This is an important event for our university for several reasons," Chancellor Allen C. Meadors said. "Because the building is at COMtech., this project symbolizes our efforts to reach out to Southeastern North Carolina. A new Regional Center will allow the University of North Carolina at Pembroke to be even more involved in addressing the critical needs of the state and the people that surround us." "Because COMtech is a project built from a partnership of many public and private agencies, I believe that it is an ideal environment for our Regional Center," Chancellor Meadors said. "I would like to thank Congressman Mike McIntyre for his help in securing funding for this project. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors of the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corpora-

tion, the Robeson County Commissioners and all of COMtech's partners for their work in establishing this park as a center of innovation and commerce." Besides addressing regional economic and community development issues, UNCP's Regional Center offers training for business managers of non-profit and for-profit organizations. The new center will also offer conference space tailored to a variety of needs. The new facility will provide office space, a computer classroom, two conference/classrooms, a business resource library and a multi-purpose auditorium, said center Director Sylvia Pate. "A new facility with state of the art technology will allow for additional professional development offerings via video conferencing as well as provide much needed space for staff and specialized services for small business development," Pate said. "The realization of the new building at COMtech is attributable to the hard work of many individuals over the past seven years and it is wonderful to finally see it come to function." For COMtech, which is located on 690 acres, Monday's groundbreaking is the third in recent months. Robeson Community College dedicated late last year. The Public Schools of Robeson County is planning a technology academy at the site. "This is another important development in the history of this project," said COMtech Director Tony Normand. "Last month, we welcomed Robeson Community College and this month The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. We are creating a critical mass of partnerships, training and innovation that will bring good results for the people of this area." "This is another good day for this project-with many more to come," Normand said.



Purnell Swett High Junior Cesar Martinez explained and demonstrated to students in eleventh grade Advanced Placement English how through the Catholic faith believers use rosaries, a form of devotion to the Virgin Mary, consisting of three sets of five decades each of the "Hail Mary" each decade preceded by an "our Father," and ending with a "Glory Be to the Father." A rosary is also a string of beads on which these prayers are counted. The class had just read *Bless Me Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya in which the main character, Antonio, experiences conflicts with his Catholic faith. Inspired by *Ultima*, a curandera of healer of medicine, Antonio learns to gain strength through hardships and also learns to accept his identity.



Autumn Locklear, a freshman, was selected as the Student of Excellence by the Chamber of Commerce. Special Olympics was held April 2 at the Big Mo Football Stadium, Student Council, Citizen Education, Teacher Cadet Training, ROTC, Leadership Development, Art, and Journalism participated in the events. The Prom was held at the Farmers Market April 4. Dayne Clothier selected as king and Bettina Bullard was selected as queen. The Civil War Reenactment was held April 16 under the direction of John Hodges. The Rams varsity baseball team has won seven of their past eight games. April 15, the team defeated E.E. Smith 15-12 in a Two Rivers conference game. The leading players were Edmund Locklear with two home runs and Michael Locklear who had two hits, pitched four innings and earned the win. Corey Locklear got the win on the mound and hit a game breaking two-run single, Monday. Left-Randall Godwin, Larry Deese, Jr. and Daniel Lee Locklear, Jr. participated in the Special Olympics April 2 at PSHS

Robeson County Fatherhood Summit to be held May 3rd

The LRDA Head Start and the Fatherhood Literacy Initiative Program will be hosting the Robeson County Fatherhood Summit on Saturday-May 3, 2003 from 9:00 am until 1:00 PM at the LRDA Office Complex in Pembroke, NC.

Activities will include: * Door prizes * Free food * Parenting tips * Free books * Free information * Grand Prize drawing for a TV/VCR * Forum topics include: * Fatherhood initiatives * Family safety * Family health * Father's needs * Community action * School involvement * Fathers and faith. For more information and to register for this exciting event, please call project coordinator Christina Strickland at (910) 522-2155.

Poetry contest could yield \$1,000

Pembroke—A \$1,000 grand prize is being offered in a special religious poetry contest sponsored by Friendly Poets Society, free to everyone. There are over 50 prizes in all, totaling almost \$5,000. To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 2255 N. University Pkwy Ste 15 #196, Provo, UT 84604. Or enter online at www.friendlypoets.com. The deadline for entering is May 24. Poems may be written on any subject, using any style, as long as there is spiritual inference. A typical poem might be a love poem, or nature poem, one that inspires the reader. Be sure your name and address appears on the page with your poem. A winner's list will be sent to all entrants.

April 27-May 3 is National Volunteer Week

April 27-May 3, is National Volunteer Week. The purpose of this week is to recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers at the local, state and national levels. This year's theme is "Celebrate the American Spirit-Volunteer!" One volunteer group that demonstrates this spirit is the Service Corps of Retired Executives. The Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) is a nonprofit group dedicated to the formation, growth and success of small businesses. The U.S. Small Business Administration began sponsoring SCORE in 1964 and since then, SCORE has grown to 389 chapters with 10,500 volunteers throughout the country. These retired and working executives and business owners donate their time and expertise as volunteer business counselors and provide free confidential, one-on-one counseling. In addition, SCORE has recently implemented email counseling. Over 1,000 virtual volunteers are ready to answer any small business question, any time day or night! Small business owners can find an expert to answer their questions from anywhere in the country. In North Carolina, the 14 SCORE chapters have over 300 volunteer members and provide individual counseling and business workshops for aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners. SCORE has chapters in Asheboro, Asheville, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro, Hendersonville, High Point, Kill Devil Hills, Morehead City, New Bern, Raleigh, Southern Pines and Wilmington. In Fiscal Year 2002, North Carolina's SCORE

volunteers presented over 200 workshops on "how to start a business" attended by over 3,500 clients. These volunteers also provided almost 8,000 free counseling sessions totaling over 22,000 hours. If this consulting service were valued at say \$100 per hour (a conservative estimate compared to the rates of consulting firms), these volunteers saved their clients more than \$2.2 million! Michael and Ramona Woods of Ashtae Products made an appointment with SCORE Counselor Eric Indermair, a CPA and former corporate vice president of finance. A review of the company's financial and accounting data helped Eric pinpoint Ashtae's problem: The company was growing too fast. Eric helped Michael and Ramona better understand where Ashtae's money was going and how to study the financial statements. He also helped them secure a loan to finance inventory growth and turnover. Michael and Ramona continue to have regular meeting with Eric and other counselors at SCORE. Michael summarizes their experiences, "Eric and SCORE opened our eyes to the real deal about running a business instead of the business running you. If we had never met them, we'd probably be unprofitable-and out of business." We at the U.S. Small Business Administration are honored to be associated with these committed SCORE volunteers who help North Carolina's small business succeed. We encourage business owners and those who are thinking of starting a business to call SBA at 1-800-827-5722 or visit www.sba.gov or www.score.org to find out more about SCORE.

LRDA staff & board to reunite

Attention! All former staff and board members of Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. (LRDA)... A reunion is planned for Thursday July 3, 2003 at 3:00 pm at the LRDA Office Complex. A short program is planned and food will be served. If you are interested in attending this exciting event, please contact Shelby Dial Rogers at 910-522-2120 before May 2, 2003. Please leave a message if Ms. Dial is unavailable.

Happenings at Swett High

Teachers Attend Closing The Gap Conference

This conference took place in Greensboro with an overflow crowd from all over the state in attendance. Many inspirational speakers boosted morale with stories and strategies meant to help participants better serve the needs of at risk students. A teacher's energy and talent in the classroom proved to be the best solution to these problems. This conference tries to reenergize participants with renewed enthusiasm for teaching by reminding us that the student is our focus, the state tests come second. Next year, get involved. try to go. You will come away with energy and a deeper understanding of how to best help all of our students perform more productively. Teachers from PSHS who attended were Arlene Herring, Thomasina Craft, Albert Scruggs, Susan Maynor, IEA Personnel from PSHS, Kevin Buie.

Swett Wrestlers Still Rolling

The PSHS Wrestling team officially ended regular season competition February 16th, at the Eastern Regional. The highlight was Bryan Howington upsetting Hoggard High School's 160 pounder with a five point move that launched him through air and flat on his back for the win. Bryan finished the season 26 and 10 after experiencing a minor concession and withdrawing from the competition in a later match, against an eventual State qualifier. Team captain Bryan Howington and his teammates are still rolling, now identified as "the Braves Wrestling Club" from UNCP. The team practices from 4 to 6 every Tuesday and Thursday, and competes on weekends in "USA Wrestling" sanctioned tournaments throughout North and South Carolina. Since the end of regular season, wrestlers from PSHS have taken numerous medals at the following events:

1. The Lumberton Open (3/8) at LHS. Highlight: Justin Locklear took 1st place. 2. The Top Dawg Challenge (3/15) at Lincolnton, NC. Highlight: Bryan Howington took 1st place. 3. The Fort Dorchester Open (3/22) at North Charleston, SC. Bryan Howington defeated a college wrestler and took 2nd and 3rd place. 4. The Tar Heel State Classic (March 28-29) at Morganton, NC. Highlight: Bryan Howington and Ryan Yanick won championships and qualified for Nationals. The team won the team championship in Greco Roman on 3/28. All totaled, the team took 14 medals at the Tar Heel Classic. Ryan Yanick 1st Greco/1st Freestyle Joseph Dial 4th Greco

Patrick Revels 4th Greco Brian Brewer 2nd Greco/3rd Freestyle Kenneth Chavis 3rd Greco Bryan Howington 1st Greco/3rd Freestyle Sean Bullard 4th Greco Teague Little 1st Greco/2nd Freestyle Sedrico Oxendine 1st time wrestling Kenneth Gobin (Coach) 2nd Greco/4th Freestyle

Juniors Megan Clark was accepted at the NC School of Science and Math. Lamorris McRae won a writing competition from LREMC to go to Washington, D.C. Seniors Sheena Oxendine and Mark Brooks received the POGUE Scholarship awarded by UNC-Chapel Hill. This scholarship is worth \$7,500 per academic year. Deidra Dial, Candace Sampson, and Sheena Oxendine received the LREMC Scholarship valued at \$2,000. Twenty-eight seniors have received the Native American Incentive Scholarship from UNC-P. The scholarships are valued at \$3,000 per year. Oxendine received the United Tribes Scholarship valued at \$500 each.

CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS MAY

- 6 Spring Concert-Commons Area, 7:00 p.m.
- 7-8 NC Competency Test and NC Computer Skills Test- Seniors Only
- 8 Athletic Banquet Cafeteria, 7 p.m. Superintendent's Academic Awards, UNC-P GPAC, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 NC Scholars Luncheon-Farmers Market, 11:00 a.m.
- 12 PSHS Academic Banquet-Cafeteria, 6:00 p.m.
- 15 Awards Program (Grades 9-11), Cafeteria, 6:00 p.m.
- 16 Seniors Awards Program, Gym, 6:00 p.m.
- 20-21 Senior Exams

Collect the trash, collect the cash

Pick up the trash, earn the cash! You can win cash prizes of \$250, \$100 and \$50 if you find and pick up the most unusual litter on North Carolina's roadsides during the annual Spring Litter Sweep, April 21-May 5. To enter, complete a form (available at this newspaper office or from www.ncdot.org/beautification), mail a photograph of the unusual litter and the person(s) who found it by May 31. Then sit back, enjoy the clean roadside and await your cash! Everyone is a winner in Spring Litter Sweep, whether they earn cash for trash or not. Everyone who volunteers to clean area roadsides can receive a certificate of appreciation from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. And surely everyone wins from having clean road ways. "A clean county is directly related to economic development," said Wilton Wilkerson, who annually heads the Robeson County Clean & Green Campaign. "Companies looking to locate here or somewhere else can easily be convinced of the type of people they will be hiring by looking around at where these people live and how they live. A first impression is a strong and lasting impression." And litterbags and collection are absolutely free! All persons, churches, groups, street, neighborhoods or businesses have to do is contact Town Hall or the local DOT office in Lumberton, (618-5543) or Robeson County Coordinator Brenda Pittman, 618-5546 and get started. To participate:

Organize a cleanup in your community or choose a state road you would like to clean. Your NCDOT maintenance office or your local Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) coordinator can help you choose a road to clean. 2. Get all your cleanup supplies from your county NCDOT maintenance office. Orange safety vests, gloves, orange bags (for general trash) and blue bags for (Recycling items) are available. In some counties pickup sticks may be checked out. 3. Tie trash-filled orange bags and leave them on the roadside. NCDOT will pick up orange bags. Call your county maintenance office to give the number of bags to be picked up and their location. 4. Volunteers should take items to be recycled to the recycling facility of their choice and keep all money earned. 5. Win \$250, \$200 or \$50 cash prize for the most unusual litter found during the cleanup. 6. Receive a Certificate of Appreciation for helping in the cleanup. Mail or fax your completed request form.

Homecoming planned at Welcome

Homecoming is scheduled for Welcome Holiness Church on May 4, 2003. The church is located between Shannon and Rennet at 750 McGougan Farm Road. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. with morning worship at 11, and then lunch will be served with the gospel singing beginning at 2 p.m. Several gospel singers are scheduled to sing. The pastor, Roy Bryant and the congregation, extend a cordial invitation to the public to attend.

- 22 Graduation Rehearsal UNCP-GPAC, 3:00 p.m.
- 22-23 Final Exams (Grades 9-11)
- 23 Graduation UNCP-GPAC, 6:00 p.m. UNCP-Project Graduation.