

Along The Robeson Trail

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

Super Stars in Banking at First Bank Pembroke



Mrs. Lucille Locklear, Branch Manager/Asst. V. Pres of the Pembroke Office of First Bank would like to introduce you to the greatest team of SUPER STARS in banking.

L/R-Susan Lugo, Teller; Peggy Hunt, Branch/Loan Officer; Becky English, Teller; Bobbie Hall, Teller; Dawn Conley, Teller and Angela Chavis, CSR.

Mrs. Locklear would like to THANK each of these ladies for the SUPER job that they do each day serving the Bank's Biggest Asset: First Bank Customers.

Tribal Housing begins Down Payment Program

The Lumbee Tribal Council's Housing Program began the down payment assistance program with an applicant workshop on Thursday, May 29. The workshop was the initial step towards getting approved applicants positioned to receive down payment awards. "We are very excited about the opportunity to provide a much needed service such as down payment assistance to qualified Lumbee families," says the Tribal Administrator, Darlene Jacobs. "The Tribal Council's Housing Committee, chaired by Jimmy Hunt, has worked long and hard in developing policies that assist families in making their dream of buying a home a reality." In April of 2002, the Lumbee Tribal Council implemented a rehabilitation program. The rehabilitation program has repaired over 220 homes and has issued over \$2.5 million in services into the Lumbee community. The rehabilitation program is designed to eliminate sub-standard conditions while addressing health, fire and safety issues for qualified low-income Lumbee families. The Lumbee Tribe's Housing Program also has an emergency services component. A total of 279 applicants have received \$455,000 in services since August 2002. Emergency housing repair assistance is available to qualified low-income Lumbee households who have lost

their home due to acts of God or need immediate assistance that can be characterized by the need for promptly remedial actions to save and protect lives, salvage property and minimize the effects of the emergency and destruction of the basic infrastructure. Assistance is available for qualified applicants who are experiencing a "hardship situation." Examples of hardship situations can include: death; lengthy illness or serious injury; unemployment and/or exhaustion of benefits; unusually high medical expenses that occur suddenly; marginal or part-time employment; or other extreme, sudden and extraordinary circumstances that can be documented as causing a financial hardship. Further information on these or other programs can be obtained by contacting or visiting the Tribal Office at 800-659-6585 or at 707 Union Chapel Road in Pembroke

the Carolina Indian Voice
published every Thursday by First American Publications.

A recent report from the State Advisory Council on Indian Education has brought increased public awareness of a problem which has long been known among educators: Native American students in the state's public school systems are more likely to drop out than anyone else. Native American students as a statewide group (males and females combined) drop out of school at a rate of 2.5 percent, a rate higher than Hispanic, African American and all other students. The entire report, entitled "Remaining and Becoming: 2003 Report to the State Board of Education," is available on the web (go to http://www.ncpublicschools.org/school_improvement/indianed.html).

When we look at the data presented by the Advisory Council, we can see some important details. The most likely students to drop out of North Carolina schools (grades one through twelve) are Native American males (at a rate of 2.86 percent). The next two most likely segments of the student population to drop out are African American males (2.27 percent) and Hispanic males (2.24 percent).

Native American females also have a higher drop out rate (2.14 percent) than all other females (i. e., Hispanic females: 2.01 percent; African American females: 1.53 percent). Thus in both males and females, Native American students "lead the way" in dropping out of school.

So why does any student drop out of school? Page twenty-one of the Council's report lists the most common reasons. Some of these are: attendance; academic problems; choice of work over school; health problems; and a great many other reasons.

One of the factors mentioned by Native American students in the report is that public school teachers didn't seem to know much about Native American culture, and that if they had known more it might have made a difference.

The Council has made several recommendations to the State Board of Education on how the dropout rate among Native American students might be addressed. The Council has done an excellent job of discerning strategic priorities and goals in the areas of: student performance; orderly and caring schools; quality teachers and administrators; and support from families, communities and businesses. If the State Board of Education follows the recommendations of the Council, things will definitely get better.

One of the Council's recommendations relates to an elective course of study -- at the high school level -- in which students could learn more about Native American culture and history. The American Indian Studies Department and the Native American Resource Center of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke

have been working with the Department of Public Instruction toward that goal. We have developed a curriculum outline for such a high school course, and plans are currently underway (with the UNCP School of Education) for a teachers' institute in which public school teachers will be able to receive specialized instruction in the areas of Native American culture, history and contemporary issues.

When public school teachers know more about these subjects, they will be better prepared to offer instruction in their classrooms.

Ultimately, dropout prevention among Native American students is a responsibility which falls to all of us. Parents, teachers, students, administrators, citizens in general all need to work together to help find productive ways to reduce the dropout rate.

It would be an especially terrible irony if, in a community such as the Lumbee community -- where education has been such an important element of the culture -- we were not able to solve this significant problem. If we all work together, we can do it.

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).

ART SHOW, SILENT AUCTION

Know someone who would love a \$1,000 diamond necklace? How about an original work of art? These are but two of the incredible items included on the silent auction list that supporters of the St. Pauls Chamber of Commerce will get the chance to bid on Saturday, June 7. On the 7th, the Chamber of Commerce will hold an art show and sale, featuring diverse works of some of the area's top artists and a silent auction. A wine tasting will feature nine wines from Spain, Italy, France, California and North Carolina. The social/fundraiser will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the R.E. Hooks Community Center in downtown St. Pauls. Tickets are \$20. Please contact Chamber President Sara Hayes at 865-1560 or Paul Terry at 865-4179 for more information.

All life is experiment. The more experiments you make, the better.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Second class postage paid at Pembroke, NC 28372. Send address changes to PO Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372.



June 22, 2003 - Sunday
Farewell Tea
3 pm - LRDA Office Complex

June 27, 2003 - Friday
Little & Junior Miss Lumbee Pageant
6:30 pm - GPAC

June 28, 2003 - Saturday
Golf Tournament
8:30 am - Flag Tree Golf Course

Teen & Miss Lumbee Pageant
6:30 pm - GPAC

June 29, 2003 - Sunday
Elder's Dinner
3 pm - TBD

Gospel Sing
7pm - Mt. Airy Church

June 30, 2003 - Monday
Lumbee Games
Adult / Child Slugfest
3 pm - UNCP Softball Field

Age Group Swim Meet
7 pm - UNCP Pool

July 1, 2003 - Tuesday
Lumbee Games
Age Group Wrestling Tournament
12 pm - UNCP Aux. Gym

Age Group Track Challenge
7 pm - UNCP Track

Strike at the Wind Art Dinner
6:30 pm - TBD

July 2, 2003 - Wednesday
Lumbee Games
Age Group Basketball Tournament
9am - UNCP Gym

Fashion Show
12 pm - Porter Plaza

Mr. Lumbee Contest
6:30 pm - GPAC

July 3, 2003 - Thursday
Lumbee Games
Basketball Hotshot Contest
9am - UNCP Gym

LRDA Reunion
3 pm - LRDA Office Complex

July 4, 2003 - Friday
Coronation Ball
6:30 pm - Porter Plaza

July 5, 2003
5K Run
6:30 pm - Oxending Science Building

Activities in the Square
10 am

Parade
10 am

Car Show
12 pm

Literary Voices
2:30 - UNCP Dial Building

2nd Annual Art Show & Contest
4 pm - LRDA Office Complex

Lumbee Star Search
5 pm - LRDA Event Field

Strike at the Wind Premiere
7 pm - Adolph Dial Amphitheater

Fireworks
9 pm - LRDA Event Field