Cruisin’ Pembroke talk of the town

By Alisson Betot
Around The Town Editor

The first ‘Cruisin’ Pembroke Street Festival’ was held on Main Street Nov. 12. ‘Cruisin’ Pembroke’ was sponsored by the Pembroke Area Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Pembroke, the Lumbee Regional Development Association, the Lumbee Tribe and UNCP to honor the local fire fighters of the Pembroke Rural Fire Department.

Over 60 vendors, including food stands, information exhibits and locally made craft vendors, participated. Other activities included free entertainment and recreational activities for all ages.

The mayor of Pembroke, Milton Hunt, who is in his eighth year as mayor, considered the event a success. “I’m very proud of how our chamber works and the events they have sponsored over the years,” Hunt said.

The Pembroke Rural Fire Department served as educational entertainment for children and their parents. The department offered fire engine tours and ladder rides as well as a smoke house. The smoke house filled with smoke to simulate a house fire and teach people about how to evacuate in the event of a house fire. Larry Gales, of the Pembroke Rural Fire Department, walked around with Sparky the Dog, a puppet, greeting children.

“We talk to different schools. We teach fire prevention and stop, drop and roll. We hope parents are re-instructing the stuff at home. They can repeat the stuff at school, but at two in the morning, can they really do it?” Gales said.

Live entertainment included a live reptile show provided by Big Smiley’s Reptiles, acts from Flying Angel Entertainment, the Triple Toe Cloggers, storytelling, a Native American flautist and much more.

The craft vendors were clearly in the holiday spirit selling decorations for both the Thanksgiving and the Christmas seasons.

A bulk of the vendors were dedicated to selling Native American crafts, as well as handmade jewelry. Another crowd favorite was the bar-b-que sundae provided by Miracle Temple.

Tents and vendors lined Main Street in Pembroke on Nov. 12 for the first ‘Cruisin’ Pembroke street festival. The festival included crafts, food and informational booths.

By Kelly Mayo
News Editor

UNC presidents celebrate past, plan for the future

Four former UNC system presidents sat cur with current president Thomas W. Ross to commemorate the founding of the university system and plan its future at UNC Chapel Hill on Nov. 9.

Former North Carolina Governor James Holshouser, R., led the unprecedented discussion in Memorial Hall on campus. Almost 400 people attended the event, including UNCH students, faculty, alumni and members of the media.

Members of the Board of Governors, who sponsored the event, as well as members of the NC General Assembly, were recognized.

Money talk

The most pressing subject of the evening was how the UNC system can respond to the current economic crisis. According to the program for the event, the system’s 17 schools have suffered permanent cuts of $414 million to their operating budgets since Ross’s presidency.

Former president Dr. C.D. Spangler, Jr., who led the system from 1986 to 1997, shared firm opinions on keeping tuition affordable for UNC system students.

“To raise the tuition for families who are already unemployed is wrong,” Dr. Spangler said to a roar of applause from the audience.

Dr. Spangler also listed 10 non-permanent ideas for saving money and making UNC schools more affordable for students. They included:

• Transferring all nursing programs to community colleges
• Halting all sabbaticals and out-of-country travel
•Delaying all academic and athletic expansion
• Raising out-of-state tuition and restricting scholarships to NC residents
• Transferring all nursing programs to community colleges

Uncle Son’s ‘Money talk’ was the focus of the evening, as the question of how the UNC system can respond to the current economic crisis was discussed. The event, which kept the overall cost of education at $3,012, which is a 7.1 percent increase.

With the board passing this recommendation, with the BOG approval, it means that in just three years UNC has increased tuition by 41.4 percent,” McCormick said. “I want students to know that they can still advocate to the BOG for a zero percent increase, so it is by no means a done deal.

The board’s decision must be approved by the UNC Board of Governors, who will meet Jan. 12, to discuss tuition and fees proposed from all public universities in North Carolina. The trustees decided not to increase student fees, which kept the overall cost increase at 4.2 percent. Also, meal plans and housing are expected to increase by 2.2 percent. UNC’s budget was cut by approximately $9 million last year.

By Dustin Porter
Managing Editor

UNC’s Board of Trustees voted 18-0 to increase in-state undergraduate tuition by $599, totaling $3,012, which is a 7.1 percent increase.

Student Government Association President and Trustee Brian McCormick voted against the tuition increase.

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The Pine Needle
The University of North Carolina at Pembroke
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www.uncp.edu/pinnedele

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