

# The CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 17

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2001

25°



Larry Chavis, left, is shown with his mother, Mrs. Gertrude Chavis (center) and B.J. Thomas, right, during one of his many performances.

## Anthony Locklear has been named Executive Director of GEAR UP NC

Anthony Locklear has recently been named Executive Director of GEAR UP NC. Locklear has served as the Interim Director of GEAR UP NC since October 2000. At the conclusion of a national search he was appointed as the permanent Executive Director effective March 1. GEAR UP NC is part of the Access and Outreach Office of The University of North Carolina General Administration and directs its efforts at increasing the college going rate in North Carolina. The program specifically targets low income families and provides academic intervention strategies to students and parents in fifteen counties across the state. Hoke, Anson, and Montgomery counties are three nearby counties

out of the fifteen total counties served by Locklear and his staff. This statewide initiative is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education and by partnerships with the State Department of Public Instruction. The University of North Carolina. The Independent Colleges and Universities System. North Carolina Community College System, Pathways, The UNC Council of Alumni Presidents and the State Education Assistance Authority.

Locklear resides in Cary, North Carolina with his wife Felecia Maynor Locklear and two daughters, Anjelica and Francesca Locklear. Since 1994, Locklear served as an Assistant Dean in the College

of Arts and Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to that time, he was employed at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke as Director of Admissions. Locklear is the son of Curtis and Margaret Locklear of Re Springs and received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Pembroke State University, and is a Doctoral Candidate at N.C., State University.



Anthony Locklear

## Larry D. Chavis, Drummer for B.J. Thomas, returns to Native Pembroke

by Cynthia L. Hunt

Larry D. Chavis, a Lumbee native of Pembroke, will return home on Friday, April 27 to perform at the Givens Performing Arts Center on the campus of UNC-P with B.J. Thomas, a singer who became famous in the 1960s with his like "Rain Drops Keep Falling On My Head." Chavis has been playing the drums for Thomas since 1981. In addition, he also provides back-up vocals for Thomas.

Chavis, a 1970 graduate of Pembroke Senior High School, is the son of Mrs. Gertrude Chavis and the late Harvard L. Chavis of the St. Anna community. According to Chavis, his parents provided a lot of the inspiration to fulfill his career in music. At the young age of 14 while attending school at Pembroke Graded School, Chavis expressed an interest in playing in the school band. His desire was to play the trumpet. The school's music teacher, the late Mrs. Daphne Jones, explained to him that all the instruments had been distributed. This did not stop Chavis, however, from joining the band. He recalls going

home and telling his father what had happened and his father responded by going out and purchasing an instrument for his son to play in the school band. However, to Chavis' surprise, his father came home with a drum and not a trumpet. Chavis was not discouraged that he did not get a trumpet, but instead began practicing the drums in his every spare moment. In fact, according to close family members, the noise from his practicing was so intense that his father actually built Chavis a building in the back yard of the family's home so he would have a place to practice in, as well as give the family relief from all the noise. Today, though, he says it all worked out for the best.

In 1969, Chavis began playing drums with local bands including the Reactions, Catfish, the George Pittman Band and Willie Lowery. Probably, his first big break would come when he began playing with Joe Savage from Charlotte. After serving as drummer for Savage, Chavis would return home to play drums with the local famed Henry Berry Band for about 1

year, before rejoining Savage to again play the drums. Chavis went on the road with Joe Savage and at the end of the tour moved to Tennessee to further his career in music. It was then he auditioned for and became the drummer for the legendary B.J. Thomas.

During Chavis' career in music, he has had the opportunity to serve as the sit-in drummer for such musical sensations as Travis Tritt and Pat Benatar. While he is not playing the drums, Chavis enjoys spending time with his children, Trudy, Brittany, Larissa, Shanda, Kim, and Lincoln.

Chavis discussed his future plans by saying how he would like to possibly venture into the recording business, and yes, like all Lumbees, would eventually like to move back home to Pembroke. According to Chavis, so many times when he is on the road performing, it is not unusual to see folks sitting in the audience from Pembroke. Now he is glad to have the opportunity to play for family and friends without them having to travel long distances to see him play. Chavis says, it really feels great to come home and perform.

## Francesca Maynor Locklear honored by Wake County Public Schools



Francesca Maynor Locklear was honored as "Spotlight on Student" by the Wake County Public Schools. Francesca was presented this honor by Bill McNeal, Superintendent of the Wake County Schools at their monthly board meeting. Annually, "Spotlight on Student" recognizes one student from each of the 119 schools in Wake County who display strong academics, positive character traits, and good physical fitness. Francesca's teacher stated "Francesca is not only a strong academic achiever but also is a great school friend to all." Francesca is the 11 year old daughter of Anthony and Felecia Locklear of Cary, formerly of Pembroke, NC. She attends Charles R. Bugg Creative Arts and Science Magnet School in Raleigh. She is the granddaughter of Margaret and Curtis Locklear of Red Springs and Kenneth and Geraldine Maynor of Pembroke.

## Pat Chavis to lead South Central Region Prisons

RALEIGH- Secretary Theodis Beck has named Patricia Chavis as the new South Central region director for the Division of Prisons, effective April 1. In her new position, Chavis oversees operations at 14 state prisons in a 12-county area between Charlotte and Wilmington.

"Pat Chavis is an excellent leader, motivator and administrator," said Secretary Beck. "She has served this department well over the years and I know she will do an outstanding job leading the prisons in our South Central region."

Chavis is a 27-year veteran of the Department of Correction. She started her career as a program supervisor of the old Richmond Advancement Center in Richmond County. She went on to work in the South Central Diagnostic Center at McCain and was the director of the Robeson Treatment Facility for Women. For 12 years, she served as a program director in South Cen-

tral Area prison administration. In October 1990, she became the first Native American female to lead a state prison when she was named superintendent at Bladen Correctional Center. In 1994, Chavis supervised the opening of Lumberton Correctional Institution and served as its superintendent through March 2001.

Chavis is a lifelong resident of Robeson County. She received her bachelor's degree in sociology and master's degree in educational administration from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Chavis and her husband Kenneth have one daughter in college and a son in high school. She is an active member of Berea Baptist Church in Pembroke. In her spare time, she enjoys fishing and tending the flowers in her yard.

Chavis replaces Bob Lewis who was promoted to support services director for the Division of Prisons.

## Lumberton Junior High to hold last Advisory Council and PTO meeting for year

Lumberton Junior High School will be having its last Advisory Council and P.T.O. meeting for this school year on April 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the school auditorium. Elections for the 2001/2002 school year will be held. All parents are encouraged to come out and support their children and school.

## Personal privacy should be protected, Weinstein says

RALEIGH- Consumers would enjoy several new privacy protections under a package of proposals that NC Senate committees will begin to review this week.

"The way we do business and the technologies we use are progressing every day, but unfortunately sometimes your personal privacy falls victim to that progress," said Sen. David Weinstein, D-Robeson. "North Carolinians deserve their privacy and their peace of mind."

The Senate's privacy proposals include: Stopping electronic information about public school students from being shared for business purposes (SB 990);

Giving patients access to their medical records (SB 992); Limiting unwanted telemarketing

calls to people's homes (SB 1003);

Banning retailers from selling information on your discount card to third parties (SB 1049);

Prohibiting insurers from sharing their customers' bank account numbers with other businesses for marketing purposes (SB 461); and

Toughening the penalties for "hackers" who break into people's computers and use their personal information to commit a crime or identity fraud. The bill also makes it a crime for employees to steal business information by breaking into the business' computer system (SB 1048).

"Consumers need to know their rights as private individuals," Weinstein said. "Your private information should remain private unless you say otherwise."

## Chaplain serves as coordinator of Native American spirituality

With more than 97,000 Native Americans from seven different tribes, North Carolina is home to the largest Native American population east of the Mississippi River. Understanding Native American Indian religion can be a real challenge for those outside of the Native American community. Yet, the Division of Prisons has a responsibility to provide spiritual and ministerial services to all incarcerated inmates, including Native Americans.

There are more than 550 different tribes of Native Americans in existence today - all with their own unique religious practices. So coming up with one set of approved guidelines for the practice of Native American Indian religion within the context of the prison system was a difficult task. Needing some assistance establishing such a set of guidelines, the Division of Prisons turned to Ray Littleturtle for help.

A member of the Lumbee and Creek tribes, Littleturtle has served as an advisor for the Division of Prisons' religious services for the past 15 years, offering insight into Native American spirituality. However, as the Indian inmate population continues to grow - there are now around 570 Native American Indian inmates in our prisons - it became clear that the Division needed more than just an advisor

to handle the practice of Native American religion within the prison system. In January 1998, Littleturtle joined the division's religious services staff as a contract chaplain in charge of Native American religion.

"Native American religion is unique in that it brings with it a certain symbolism not as prevalent in other religions like medicine bags, braids, headbands and other things that identify one as a Native American," he said. "My wish is to educate prisoners on how to properly avail the religion and educate the staff, so they can have an appreciation and understanding of why the Indian inmates do the things they do while practicing their spirituality."

In an effort to promote understanding of the Native American Indian religion, Littleturtle narrated a video on Native American faith practices and developed, "A Guide to Understanding Native American Religion." In the booklet, he explains, in detail, the meanings behind the various practices, methods and sacred items used by Indians practicing their faith.

For example, sage, tobacco, cedar and sweetgrass are considered sacred by Native Americans. These four sacred plants are used for purification, healing and as a medium for prayer. A bundle of the four sacred herbs is used for smudging,

a process in which the herbs are lit until a smoke is released. The individual then cleanses himself with the smudge by allowing the smoke to pass over his head, body and into the heart.

Another ceremony, the pipe ceremony, is used as means through which Native Americans send their prayers to the Creator. The individual begins his inward prayer while smoking the pipe, and the release of the smoke carries the prayer to the Creator. Other items such as medicine bags contain herbs, dirt, stones, hair and other various natural items, representing sacred memories and reminders.

Another common practice used in Native American religion is the sweat lodge. Sweat lodges are not currently allowed within the prison system for security reasons but are used to unify the body, heart, soul and mind. During a sweat, individuals enter an enclosed area that contains a rock pit to produce heat and steam. The individuals sing and pray as the steam creates an atmosphere that opens the body to cleanse it of impurities through the skin, the heart by prayer, the soul by spiritual communication add the mind by the unification of the whole person.

It is Littleturtle's job as chaplain to identify the various faith practices used by the different tribes and pull out common elements that

can be used within the confines of a prison.

"I'm trying to develop a comprehensive directory of services for Native American inmates who want to practice their faith," he said. "With more than 550 different tribes, each with their own ceremonies and practices, it leaves me with the problem of coming up with a middle-of-the-road approach, so we don't have inmates trying to do 550 different things."

Littleturtle travels daily to prisons across the state. Anyone needing his assistance can reach him through the Division of Prisons Religious services office at (919) 733-3226.



Ray Littleturtle