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Little Miss Lumbee Brandi Chavis



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Once I wished upon a star and on July 4th 2001 that wish came true. I was chosen to represent the Lumbee Nation as the reigning Little Miss Lumbee 2001-2002. I immediately thought of the parades that I would have the opportunity to ride in, however, as the year progressed riding in the parades was nothing compared to the opportunities that awaited me. It has warmed my heart to see the love of the people with open arms as I traveled throughout the south representing the Lumbee Nation at pow-wows, churches, schools, parades and other events. The most joy that I have received from my reign is to see the children I meet at events who are smiling and want only a hug or a chance to just touch my dress. In my mind and heart I am thinking that we are all special in the eyes of God, so I try to make everyone feel special too, in some way. This is the greatest joy of being Little Miss Lumbee.

I have traveled to fifteen schools in Robeson County, parade after parade, pow-wow after pow-wow, north and south. On the lonely roads going home at night I look at the tired look on my mother's face and think to myself, no matter how far we go, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME, LUMBEE LAND, HOME OF MY PEOPLE. As I've put on my regalia and dressed up in my fancy dress to go to special events, often I have felt like Cinderella dressing up for the ball. When I close my eyes I think: how soon it will be over. The places I've gone and the people I've met will stay in my heart forever. I don't count the visits, I don't count the days, I just wake up and look in the mirror and say, "I'm Little Miss Lumbee and today is a special day." If I'm asked to sing, dance, or go to a special event, I do it with pride. I do it for the people I represent, YOU. There have been times that I went to bed tired and woke up sleepy, but I remember what my mom said, "for everyday that you awake is a day you are blessed and God will send you out today so do your best."

I have visited nursing homes and I have seen love, joy, grief, and despair. I have found that by showing a little love for others, it will brighten up the darkest day. The youth can make a difference to the elders of our nation, they can make them feel young again by just giving them a little bit of their time each day. Just to see their eyes glow like a big Christmas tree is worth it all to me. These are things I will always cherish as the best times of my reign.

I pray for God each day to keep our people safe and help us all live as one. Even if you are not of the Lumbee Nation, you are God's children and you are still my people. We are all one in the eyes of God. May God help guide us to be the light of the world; that we may shine the light of Love, Peace, Joy, and Happiness.

I'm just a little girl, but my eyes see all, my ears hear the voices of the elders of our nation. Teach us to be wise, turn us down the right paths. But most of all love us.

I would like to give thanks to my mother and father, grandparents, and sponsors for making this a dream to always remember. Thank-you, LRDA for helping a little girl's wish come alive. But most of all thank you, the Lumbee people for accepting me; little me, for being me.

Again, proudly representing the ninth largest tribe in the United States and the biggest east of the Mississippi River. I am your reigning Little Miss Lumbee 2001-2002, Brandi Renee Chavis.

If you need me to entertain or make an appearance, please contact me through LRDA, Ms. Angel at (910) 521-8602, or at home (910) 272-0283.

With the greatest honor and love
May god Bless Us All
Your reigning Little Miss Lumbee
Brandi Renee Chavis

Pembroke Area Chamber of Commerce to Hold Annual Awards Banquet and Awards Program

The Pembroke Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual banquet Saturday, January 26 at the Chavis University Center at UNC-Pembroke. The program will include presentations by outstanding speakers and business leaders with the program theme of "A Salute to America".

Tony Normand, CEO, of COMTech, the Carolina Commerce and Technology Center that is under development near Pembroke, is the guest speaker. According to Ben Jacobs, President of the Pembroke Chamber, the program will also give special recognition to area veterans and area business leaders.

The banquet will honor the Chamber Business of the Year which is Healthkeeperz (formerly Pembroke Drug Center/ TLC Home Health Care Agency). Ben Jacobs said, "Mr. Howard Brooks, the owner of Healthkeeperz, is an outstanding leader in our community who has done much to improve commerce and the quality of life in our area. He has an outstanding business and we wish to learn more about his success."

New members of the Board of Directors will be installed as part of the dinner program. The program will also feature special entertainment with a patriotic spirit. A dance will follow the dinner program.

Jacobs said we encourage the Chamber members to contact the Chamber office or officers to get your banquet tickets or place a reservation. Ticket sales have been brisk and seating is limited. Please contact Ron Brown, Angie Revels, or Ben Jacobs for tickets or call the Chamber office at 521-0647 to request reserved tickets.

The officers of the Pembroke Area Chamber of Commerce include: President, Ben Jacobs; Vice-President, Teresa Cummings; Treasurer, Ron Brown; Secretary, Angela Revels; Executive Director, Brian Brooks.

For additional information contact Ben Jacobs 521-8602.

McIntyre Announces \$150,000 for Robeson County Public Library

Washington, D.C.-- U. S. Representative Mike McIntyre announced today that the Robeson County Public Library has received \$150,000 in federal funds for renovation to the library.

Congressman McIntyre stated, "The library belongs to everyone, and everyone will benefit from these improvements. The is great news for the citizens and children of Robeson county, and the money comes just in time for Christmas! Our library is always at the forefront of positive change, and this grant will continue that tradition. Congratulations to Bob Fisher, the executive Director, and the Board of Trustees."

The United States Department of Agriculture has awarded the library a \$150,000 grant to renovate the public library to include replacement of the heating and air conditioning systems. McIntyre also cited Jerry Batten and Irma McPherson for their work with USDA's Rural Development Division on this project.

Congressman McIntyre is a member of the House Agriculture Committee.



Evita Saybrianna Sanderson has ended her 2001 year of pageantry with another win, for a total of more than 20 throughout the year.

Evita was crowned as the Princeton Christmas 0-6 Majestic winner. She also won Photogenic, Christmas Wear, Best Smile, Best Hair, Prettiest Eyes, Best Dressed, Most Beautiful, Natural Beauty, Personality, and Best Model in her age group. She also tied for Overall Christmas wear and Overall Congeniality.

Evita is the 4 1/2 year old daughter of Sabrina Sanderson and Michael Floyd. The granddaughter of Sylvia L. Sanderson and the late James Edward and Mary Francis Floyd. The great granddaughter of the late Gus Howard and Eva Mae Locklear and the late Ira and Nancy Sanderson.

First Birthday, First Snowfall for Brannagan



Happy Birthday to Brannagan Kai Locklear who turned 1 yr. old Jan. 5, 2002. His party was held at Pembroke first Baptist Church.

His theme for the party was Clifford the Big Red Dog. He is the son of Billie Jo and Brannagan Locklear.

Thanks to all that made his party a great one.

Purnell Swett High School News



YCA members (pictured from left to right), Byron Locklear, Connie Scott, Aaron Lowry, coordinator Connie Locklear, Jessica Graham, Phillip Oxendine, and Candice Lowry show off the "goods" donated by PSHS students, faculty, and staff during the Thanksgiving food drive for the needy.

Faye Caton to Chair Southeastern Regional Medical Center Foundation Board

Lucky Welsh, president and CEO of Southeastern Regional Medical Center, announced the election of Faye C. Caton to lead the SRMC Foundation Board.

"Faye Caton has served on the foundation board for the past four years, and we are very fortunate that she has stepped forward to take on this new leadership role," Welsh said.

Caton is a firm believer in both physical fitness and raising money for worthy causes. Last November, she combined both these personal passions when she and her daughter raised \$10,000 to benefit the American Diabetes Association by walking more than 26 miles in a marathon held in Bermuda.

"I believe in setting goals and then working to accomplish them," she said.

A native of Georgia, Caton is a nurse by training. She attended Georgia State University and earned her nursing degree from the Piedmont Hospital School of Nursing in Atlanta. Since 1978 she has lived in Lumberton and recently retired from the family business after 23 years of service.

She serves on the Friends of the Library Board of the Robeson County Public Library and is a member of the Lumberton Ladies' Racquet Club. She chaired an SRMC Foundation Gala in 1995 that raised more than \$32,000 for the Southeastern Cancer Center and health care scholarship loans. She attends St. Francis de Sales Church.

She is married to Bob Caton, president and CEO of Eagle Distributing Company. They are parents of two grown children. Karen Granger of Lumberton and Bob Caton Jr. of At-



lanta. "It is quite an honor to be associated with the SRMC Foundation Board," Caton said. "I'm very excited about the progress we have made with the capital campaign to help fund the Patient Bed Tower and expansions and renovations of Emergency Services and the Cancer Center. Our goal is to support SRMC so that the highest quality of health care is available for all the citizens of this community."

Other members of SRMC Foundation board are: Larry Chavis, Claude Fulghum, Dixon Gerber, M.D., Jerry Johnson, Raymond Johnson, Randall Jones, Doris McCormick, John McLean, Anne McQueen, Stephen Royal, M.D., Lisa Rust, Hal Sharpe, Horace Stacy Jr., David Walker and Coble D. Wilson Jr., M. Carr Gibson and Hector MacLean serve as Trustees Emeriti.

THE Lumbee River FUND

The Significance of Lumbee Dialect
by Walt Wolfram, William C. Friday Professor, NC State University and Lumbee River Fund Advisory Committee Member

For almost a decade now, linguists from the North Carolina Language and Life Project have been studying Lumbee dialect. Over 20 articles, theses, and books have been written during this period, including several by residents of the community. In addition, a major museum exhibit has been constructed and a TV documentary has been aired featuring "Lumbee English." Such extensive attention to Lumbee language may seem strange to those who take their everyday speech for granted. Why is Lumbee language so interesting, and what do these studies tell us? And what difference does it make?

Lumbee English represents the case of a unique cultural dialect that is closely linked with ethnic identity. As Hayes Allen Locklear put it, "That's how we recognize who we are...we know just who we are by our language." Detailed linguistic investigation of a wide range of pronunciation, grammatical, and vocabulary features, and listener ratings of speech samples clearly support what most Robesonians already know—it is often possible to identify a Lumbee based solely on speech. In a master's thesis by Renee Hammond of Saddletree, she reports about an experiment in which she played 12 anonymous speech passages of 20-30 seconds to listeners from Robeson County—four Lumbees, four African Americans, and four European Americans. The results showed that over 80 percent of the time, Robeson County residents could correctly identify a Lumbee based exclusively on speech.

So what is the significance of this seemingly obvious finding that there is a Lumbee dialect of English? Language is one of the most natural and significant symbols of cultural behavior. If there are important cultural differences, language will unconsciously follow. In the case of Lumbee language, distinctive language behavior persisted despite constant institutional efforts to repress and obliterate any cultural distinctiveness, including the extermination of the Lumbee's ancestral language or languages.

In many respects, speech is symbolic of Lumbee status as a Native American tribe and the struggle to maintain a steadfast sense of Indian identity while challenging conventional stereotypes. Perhaps no term is more indicative of the Lumbee language situation than the term *Lumbee* itself. Many outsiders assume that this term is simply an invented word made up in the 1950s, but Stanley Knick, in *The Lumbee in Context: Toward an Understanding*, shows that this term was recorded much earlier. Furthermore, the Lumbee River was once referred to as the *Lumbee* River. After examining the possibility that the term Lumbee may have come from a Native American language, Catawban-Siouan language specialist Blair Rudes speculates that Lumbee derives from a coastal dialect form of Catawban meaning "bank of a river," originally pronounced something like *yahmp-bee* (though it is impossible to give equivalent sounds in English).

It cannot simply be concluded, as some have done, that *Lumbee* is a recent innovation taken from the word *lumber*. It is just as easy, and perhaps more realistic, to suggest that European Americans took the Native American name for a river and people, *Lumbee*, and assumed that it was related to the term *lumber* in a process linguists call FOLK ETYMOLOGY. In this process, a word is reinterpreted so that it makes sense in terms of existing words. It is not far-fetched to suggest that European Americans may have taken the indigenous term *Lumbee* "bank of the river" and modified it into a word that made sense to them—*lumber*. Whatever its historical roots might be, it is clear that the term Lumbee is not simply a recent innovation and that it has come to be associated exclusively with the Native American community strongly connected to the river.

Like the term Lumbee itself, the language has shown creative adaptation. That the symbolic role of language has shifted from an ancestral Native American language to a distinctive dialect of English is a testament to the linguistic adaptability, resiliency, and vitality of the Lumbee language community—and the Lumbee people.

Upcoming Events (for more information, please contact Malinda Maynor at mmaynor@nc.rr.com, or Hatty Miller at 521-1511 or redmoon1239@cs.com):
Storytelling Workshop, Saturday, January 19, 10:30-12:30 pm, Indian Education Resource Center

"Celebrating the Past—A Pictorial History of UNC Pembroke" exhibit opening, February 10, 3-5 pm, Mezzanine Level, James B. Chavis Student Center