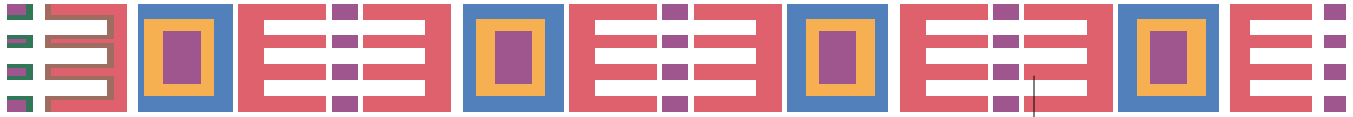




The Waccamaw Village News

Waccamaw Indian
People

Volume 12, 1st Qtr
March 2006



Spring Equinox

The "Spring Equinox" ceremony will be held on Mar. 18th at the tribal grounds. There will be three ceremonies Sunrise, Noon and Sunset. This is open to everyone. This will be a day for meeting new family members and visiting with old ones. In addition to this ceremony, we will have our family gathering and a CELEBRATION to commemorate our 1 year anniversary of state recognition. The tribe will buy the hot dogs and drinks and we're asking you to bring a covered dish. You can call Winnie (910) 655-9030 or Sandy (397-1333) and let them know what you'll bring. As the weather may still be a little chilly, be sure to dress warmly for the ceremonies, and we can eat inside. Come out and celebrate with us!!!

State Recognized Tribes and Special Interest Group

On the 3rd of February, 2006, the state Commission for Minority Affairs officially extended recognition to three Tribes and one Special Interest Group. It is official and congratulations go to the people and the leaders of the Pee Dee Tribe of Marlborough County (led by Chief James Caulder), the Beaver Creek Indian Tribe of Sally (led by Chief Louie Chavis) and the Santee Indian Tribe of Holly Hill (led by Chief Roosevelt Scott). Additionally, the Native American Chamber of Commerce (led by Ms. Teresa Gore) was recognized as a Special Interest Organization, the first in the state!

Culture Class

Come one, come all to our class. Just to clarify, there will be a class the Saturday after the monthly meeting starting at 11:00am. Instructors will be our very own Stefanie Lynch and her husband, Reggie. If they aren't able to attend, John and Sandy have agreed to fill in.

Tribal meetings are held the 1st Friday of every month at 6:30pm at the tribal office in Aynor, SC.

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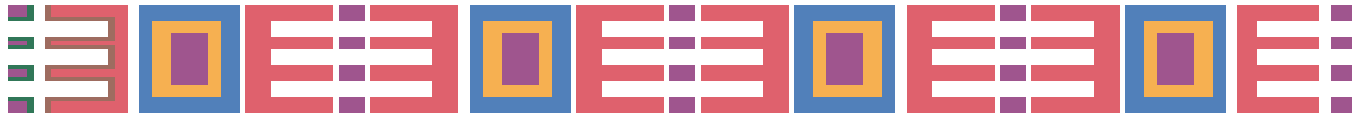
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Letters of Intent

My name is Susan Hayes and this is my Letter of Intent to run for a seat on Tribal Council. I have been an active member of the tribe since 2001, and the following are just a few of the things I've done since then:

I helped in the compilation of ANA grants during 2002.

I took over as editor of our newsletter, The Waccamaw Village News, in 2003 and send out over 200 newsletters on a quarterly basis.

I attended various meetings of the Governor's Ad Hoc Committee on recognition and kept notes on issues relating to Natives in SC and attended all the SC legislation hearings on the state recognition process. I know the history of recognition in the state and I have a unique outlook on where we need to go from there. I can contribute significantly to the tribal council as we forge forward towards federal recognition.

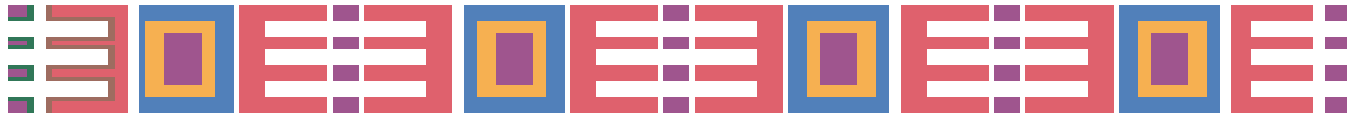
I helped in compiling and revamping our petition for state recognition making sure it met the requirements mandated by state law and attended all Commission for Minority Affairs (CMA) meetings making notes during each phase once we submitted our petition for recognition.

I've helped to maintain the positive image of the Waccamaw Indian People by attending multi-cultural events at Coastal Carolina University, giving presentations to several elementary schools in Horry County and was recently named as the 1st Senior Ms Waccamaw Indian Princess. I represented the tribe in the first state Pauwau held last May on the state house grounds and also at the first state Native American Conference in Columbia. I am a Waccamaw and I'm proud of it!

I manage the tribal business, Waccamaw Care, a Nursing Pool agency and am in the process of branching out in other areas to bring funds into the tribe. I've also studied Genealogy through Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

I'm strongly familiar with the state recognition process, criteria and procedure and am familiar in the federal recognition process. I can provide some unique experience to the tribal council as one of it's members. There's a lot to be done and I'd consider it an honor to serve my people as a member of the Waccamaw Tribal Council as they manage the most dynamic and strongest tribe in SC, the Waccamaw Indian People. I actively seek your support and vote in October.

Sincerely,
Susan Hayes



135 Bucksport Road
Conway, SC 29527

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WACCAMAW INDIAN PEOPLE:

I would like to take this opportunity to state my intention of running for Tribal Council. I have held a position on Tribal Council in the past and would like to serve the Tribe again. During the beginnings of the Waccamaw Indian People, I worked on the Pau Waus (as Director of the first Pau Wau), worked on grant applications, and worked on moving the Tribe forward. I have represented the Tribe at the Coastal Carolina University Multi-Cultural Festival for many years. I serve as Procurement Officer and have aided in getting donations of items such as the coffee maker, tea urn, and printers. I moved away from the area and have not been as active as I should have been; but, I hope to be able to work to help the Tribe maintain its momentum and continue to move forward. Thank you for your support and vote.

Sincerely,
Joe Wise Owl Dozier



To: Fellow Tribal Members

I, Cheryl M. Sievers would like to announce my intention to run for tribal council. As a council member, I would bring with me the experience I gained from being a part of the initial economic development of both the Mashantucket-Pequot tribe, as well as the Mohegan Tribe of Indians in Connecticut. I am very aware of the commitment and dedication required to be an effective council member, and understand the importance of communication between tribal members and the governing body of the tribe. In the role of council member, I will use my position to work together and further develop a stronger sense of unity, looking forward to the goals that benefit the tribe as a whole.

I am currently the assistant genealogist, and have conducted historical research in an effort to assist in uncovering our tribe's past. I have recently become a part of a newly organized grant-writing team, which will play a large part in our tribe's future growth and development. I am pursuing a degree in Paralegal/Legal Assistant, with a desire to utilize my education as a tool for the tribe's benefit.

Some of you know me already, and for those of you who do not know me, I look forward to meeting you in the near future. I also look forward to serving you as a tribal council member. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (843) 283-4034.

Thank you,
Cheryl M. Sievers



The following was forwarded to me from Chief Hatcher:

Hello Waccamaw Nation,

The SC Commission for the Blind has a district office in Conway which members of your tribe may benefit from. Persons suffering vision loss from diabetes, glaucoma, cataracts, etc. & are under age 55 should contact me directly. My number in Conway is 248-2017.

For persons older than 55, persons should contact Jane Burch at the same above number. I am based in Columbia and can also be reached at the number shown below.

The agency provides a variety of services to those who have progressive eye ailments. These include job retention services, low vision clinic/aids, home mgt. services and mobility services.

I have an interest in the health of Native Americans as I am a member of the Penobscot Nation (Maine).

Jerry

Jerry Francis

Conway VR Counselor

Deafblind Consultant

1-800-922-2222, ext. 8775/803-898-8775

Grants Writing Team

We have a team of people who will be researching grants we may be able to apply for to help in various areas within the tribe. Some items of interest are; language restoration, agriculture, Pauwau, health concerns and job training.

Artist Certification

The forms are ready to be sent out to those wanting to get their certification in Traditional, Contemporary or both. Pictures, a front and side view, must accompany the application. You will be limited to three items for submission. If you'd like an application, just call the tribal office or go to our website and click on members only.

Tribal ID Cards

At the last meeting, it was discussed and voted on that if anyone lost their ID card, they could have it replaced for a \$10.00 charge. Also, those under the age of 18 will receive a laminated paper ID.



Belated Happy Birthday goes out to our oldest member, Ms Kathleen Hatcher, Chief Hatcher's mother.



Birthday Wishes

Hope everybody has a very Happy Birthday!!!!



Tribal Elections

Elections are only 8 months away. The following seats are open for election: Chief's position and three council seats. If there are things you would like to see changed or want to have a say in what happens in the tribe, here is your opportunity to run for these positions.

Requirements for running: member in good standing and over 18 years of age. Spousal or honorary members are not eligible to run. Council has not set a cut-off date for announcing your intentions to run: however, I have to set the 15 of the month prior to the newsletter going out as my cut-off date in order to publish these letters. There's only two more editions, June and September before elections. Don't forget, there won't be another newsletter until June, 2006.



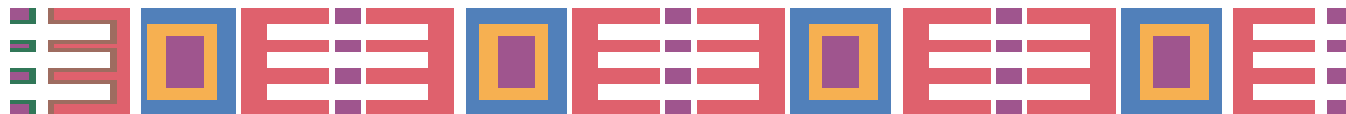
Council's Corner

To: Fellow Tribal Members

From: Council Member Brian Evans

At the last open tribal meeting, it was brought to council's attention, that some members volunteering their time and resources were being turned away. I would like to address this and clarify the issue in order to alleviate the problem. The tribe's growth has made it necessary to designate specific areas of development to certain individuals, in order to keep things organized and to accomplish our goals. As we continue to grow, it will be even more pertinent that members be made aware of who should be contacted when needing assistance or when offering to volunteer time or resources. In the event of any confusion as to who may be heading a specific area of development, I will be putting in place a group listing of tribal members with the council member for each group to contact based upon their geographical area. This should help to keep the flow of information going in the direction needed, and better enable any issues to be addressed. The assigned council member can also be the contact person to point any volunteers in the right direction.

With regard to development of the tribal grounds, I was assigned to head this area of development and if anyone has interest in volunteering time or resources, please contact me at (843) 283-1261. From now until further notice, every weekend will be a working weekend. There's plenty of work ahead of us in order to have the grounds prepared for this year's Pauwau and for future uses of the grounds. Even if you don't think you can be of help, come out and support those who are working on this part of our tribe's growth, or just come out to see what's taking place. I look forward to seeing our tribal unity become stronger as we continue to develop.



Letter from the Chief

My Brothers and Sisters:

I have been thinking about so many things as my time as the leader of the Waccamaw nears conclusion. One prominent issue in my mind is federal recognition.

State recognition although of great importance and a great honor, seems to have caused some of us to lose our place in our original quest. It seems to me that recognition became the goal and the reasons for recognition were lost.

The Indians of South Carolina are still paid at a rate some 30% less than others in the state (all qualifications being equal). Our traditionalists have still not been afforded their freedom of religion. Our ancestors are still in cardboard boxed in state museums. We still suffer unemployment; poverty, infant deaths rates, and high school drop out at rates sometimes five times higher than others. We have not arrived yet, my friends.

I believe these problems began a long while back. Maybe not for all of us because some of us have passed as white or black, over the years and have found a place where they feel comfortable in today's society. Some of us were never accepted in either of those categories and have always been outsiders.

For some of us, our membership in the Tribe is nothing more than a novelty. Some folks see it as a possible benefit such as student loans or perhaps a business advantage. For others it may be as simple as "why not? For me, I don't know how to separate myself from it. It is me!

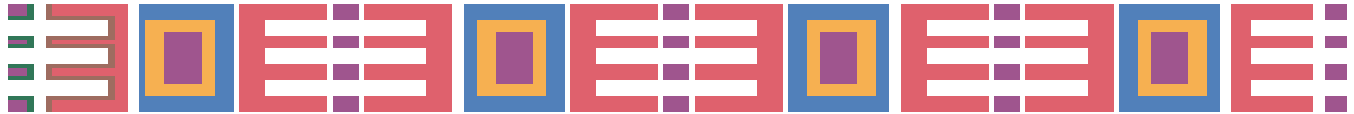
I often think about Mr. John Dimery. He was my XXXXX grandfather. He is also the person who purchased the land that became the Dimery Settlement. The Dimery Settlement is the people on which the Tribe is based and will be our claim to federal status. Mentions of the Dimery Settlement are numerous in local news articles and historic documents from the early 1800s until present times. There is no doubt that these people were Indians and as such, were treated as a separate community, separate from both the white and black communities.

John Dimery was not his name, when he was born. We have no idea what his name at birth was. John Dimery became his name when he decided to take a Christian name, in order to have a legal identity, in the state. Indians didn't use 'sir' names. They were mostly only called by one name and that name changed several times during their lifetime. The grandfather of one of our eldest member's (Hank White) has only one name, "Brown".

I can only imagine the life of these people, not necessarily protected by the law but subjected to it. Judged as somewhere between human and animal and seen as a problem rather than a part of society. Our people lived in what is now called South Carolina for eons. They never owned land, they never claimed land. They simply lived and hunted when they wanted to and moved on, leaving the land to the next visitors.

C1784 the new state of South Carolina granted very large parcels of land to a fellow named Lewis. There is no explanation as to why. Our xxxxx-grand ancestors were living there, hunting there, and in every aspect of ownership, except title and deed, owned the land, when it was simply given to Mr. Lewis.

They were herded up, killed, and through whatever means, compelled to go elsewhere. They had no concept of ownership of land. They had nowhere to go. They didn't even know why they were to leave the area they were born and raised, their beloved homelands. Of course, they were animalistic and non-human by decree, so trouble-makers were simply shot.



Mr. Lewis took labor from the blacks (Indians too) and amassed a great wealth. That is not a real challenge if you have free land and labor. His descendants still own vast amounts of land in the state today and even bigger bank accounts.

In 1813, it appears that Mr. John Dimery and his friends and family pooled their money and bought some of the land back. There is no record of any charges of rent paid or received on the purchased land but Mr. John Dimery's family and friends started to return to the land to live. The community grew and soon gained its own school and church. Another of our eldest members, Reverend Elwood Ammons, preached at the old church.

My grandfather, father, uncles, aunts, grandmother, and so forth lived on the settlement. They attended the old school, worked the fields and gardens there and were treated as non-white as far as wages and privileges went.

I suppose I think about Aunt Louise, Uncle Ed, my dad, Claude, and the others working their fields and being treated unfairly when the pay arrived. I think about how they must have felt when they ventured outside of the settlement and became less than human. They were called names I won't repeat here. They were humiliated and even beaten for just being who they were, and the law covertly condoned it.

I feel compelled to make the state admits that we were here and we had a right to be here, that, when it enforced its laws upon us but not those that transgressed upon us, it was wrong! That, when we paid our taxes, we deserved the same rights as did any other taxpayers and that it should have been their goal to protect and treat us equally, not to set us aside.

The end of my term as your Tribal Chief draws near. I have been honored and I hope I have honored you. I hope you will continue to stand up for what you see as "right". No one is more worthless than someone who only helps himself.

Until next time

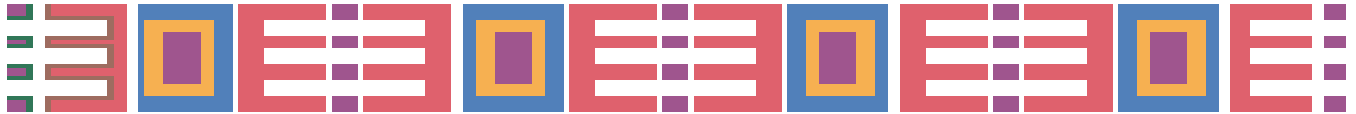
Walk easy

Harold (Buster) Hatcher
Chief

Get Well Wishes

To all those who have been or are now under the weather. And especially to Mrs. White, 2nd Chief Hank White's wife, who is recuperating at Health South in Florence; and also to our illustrious Chief, who, recently had gallbladder surgery. Hope ya'll are out and about soon.

February 17, 2006 was our 1 year anniversary for State Recognition!!! Congratulations to the Tribe!



Websites for Free Medicine

I've been doing some research and found the following sites that may be of interest to those of you who have internet capability.

www.freemedicineS.org

www.freemedicinefoundation.com - 1-573-996-3333

www.yourfreemedicine.com - 877-277-9769

www.merckhelps.com/patientassistance/ - 800-727-5400

www.pparx.org – 888-477-2669

If you don't have internet capability and would like an application from one of these sites, let me know and I can get a copy and mail it to you. You can also go to our website and click on "Useful Links" and look under Health Resources for other helpful links.

Susan (843) 358-2273



THE WACCAMAW INDIAN PEOPLE

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Conway, South Carolina 29528

www.waccamaw.us