

OCCANEECHI
BAND OF
SAPONI NATION

SPECIAL EDITION
CHECK OUT PAGE 3

Upcoming Events

- Fall School Days— Occaneechi Tribal Grounds, Mebane, NC— Oct. 9-10 2008
- American Indian Heritage Festival, NC Museum of History Raleigh NC— Nov. 21st & 22nd.
- Tribal Council Meeting Oct. 9th 2008—6:30pm
- Tribal Council Meeting Nov. 13th 2008— 6:30pm
- Tribal Council Meeting Dec. 11th 2008— 6:30pm

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Fall 2008 Edition

OBSN

Voice

Special Edition

Volume 1, Issue 3

Sept-Oct-Nov-Dec 2008

Occaneechi Spring Pow-Wow 2008

The Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation held their 24th annual Pow-Wow on June 13 and 14, 2008.

The rapidly growing tribal grounds in Mebane, NC came abuzz with life as Native Americans from numerous tribes as well as members of the community came together for two days of fun, food, dancing and music.

The tribe raised money not only through ticket sales,

but through the sale of t-shirts, hats and decals. Brice Watkins Jr., tribal council member and leader of the Eagles youth group, cooked home made buffalo burgers and fish sandwiches. Additional funds were raised by sisters Rosalind Jeffries, Donice Tyson, Linda Jeffries-Then and Angie Jeffries-Gallop. They purchased sodas and water, donating all proceeds to the tribe. The scholarship Committee was also represented,

selling calendars and cook-books.

The OBSN Health Circle hosted a tent to verify the personal information of all available tribal members to participate in a grant-sponsored health survey to monitor the health issues particular to the Native American community.

The event was a great success.



OBSN Voice

This publication is produced by the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Tribal Council

The newsletter features items of interest to enrolled Occaneechi-Saponi people and is distributed FREE of charge to these members.

G.J. Hill, Editor

DEADLINE DATES:
(Please note change)
Dec. 30 (Jan/Feb/Mar/April)
April 30 (May/Jun/Jul/Aug)
Aug. 30 (Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec)

SEND ALL
ADDRESS CORRECTIONS TO:
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Organization

**ALL DONATIONS
ACCEPTED**

VISION STATEMENT

Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation will be a unified and self-reliant tribe.

TRIBAL MISSION STATEMENT

The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation is continuously committed to the preservation, protection and promotion of our history, culture and traditions; while providing social, economic and educational resources, opportunities and services that will contribute to the well being of the tribal community.

TRIBAL COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

As advocates for the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, the Tribal Council is committed to provide excellent leadership according to the constitution.

Message From the Tribal Chair

Mecou Tribal Family,

Thank you all for a successful summer and Pow-Wow season.

Lets talk about the future. We have a great many things slated for the remainder of the year. One of the most exciting things that affects us all is that we are two payments away from full ownership of the Tribal Grounds. We need your help! This is an immediate request. Although we realize that these are tough economic times for the community we are asking for your continued support. The next to the last land payment is due December 2008. Please print out the donation form on the back of the newsletter and rush your contributions to OBSN, Inc.—Homeland Debt Retirement—P.O. Box 356—Mebane, NC 27302. Remember that your donation is tax exempt. Also please direct all ques-

tions regarding Homeland Debt Retirement donations to Margie Watkins, OBSN Office Manager—919-304-3723.

Now for the other happenings....The shelter is completed and funding permitted, we will continue to expand this project. We received funding through the Z. Smith Reynolds grant to cover administrative and operational cost. The OBSN Health Circle received a Carolina Community grant that will help to conduct a survey of the tribal community's health issues. The tribal council is working on several initiatives such as Minority Certifications which will help with future projects and provide the tribal community with job opportunities. Also we will be putting together a Celebration Gathering for recognition and appreciation for everyone's hard work and a celebration

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Represent Spotlight “Who’s doing What”

Brice Watkins is the OBSN Chairperson for the Occaneechi Youth Group appropriately known as the “Eagles” because they have soared thanks to Brice’s leadership, dedication of our young Eagles and searching out resources and opportunities for our youth. Here are other things that Brice is currently working on:

- OBSN representative on the North Carolina Indian Economic Development Initiative (NCIEDI) Board, meeting quarterly and attending yearly retreat.
- Lead Trainer/Facilitator for Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs in conjunction with EITC Carolinas and NCIEDI. To be held at the OBSN office in October & April.
- Class instructor for Real Entrepreneurship thru Action Learning (REAL) at Alamance Community College every Monday night beginning in the Fall until October 2008.
- Brice also serves as a Trustee at Springdale African Methodist Episcopal Church as well as being a member of the Scholarship and Men’s Fellowship committee.

Sharn Jeffries is the Vice-Chairperson for the OBSN, Inc. in which he manages the day to day administrative operations in addition to overseeing Homeland functions.

Here are the other things that Sharn is working on:

- Sharn is working with the Orange County Commission in reconstructing the village that has been in place along the Eno River in downtown Hillsborough. The Hillsborough village is a small scale replica of the one located on the Tribal Grounds in Mebane.
- Sharn is also working with the Orange County Arts Council.
- Many congratulations to Sharn for his appointment to the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs OBSN representative and he continues to serve in this position for many years.

Margie Watkins - Congratulations to Mrs. Watkins as she transitions in her new position as office manager.

Tony Hayes is the OBSN Tribal Chairperson in addition to his position at the NCIEDI as Chief Executive Officer. Here are the other things Tony is working on:

- Elected to the Executive Board of United Minority Contractors of North Carolina. This will help minority contractors to leverage opportunities to be able to bid on regional projects.
- Asked to serve on the review panel for Golden Leaf foundation which will help the Indian community to have representation.
- Tony and the tribe will be working with NC state representative Alice Borsden to create a Legislative Funding Agenda for the General Assembly 2009. Long Session.

REPRESENT! Tell us what you are doing. Please Share!

If you or someone you know is involved in presentations, conferences, workshops or committees as a representative of the tribe or Natives as a whole, please let us know.

Include your name, event title, location and any other pertinent details such as your participation and any other notable attendees.



November 4th, 2008 is Election Day to choose a new president of the United States.

As Native people we had to fight for many rights. Some that were taken from us and restored. To honor the many ones that have fought for our rights please exercise your right to vote. It is very important to have a voice.





Walk Organizer Dennis Banks speaking in Washington, D.C.

The walk serves many purposes such as awareness to protect the environment and sacred sites, cultural survival, youth empowerment and Native American Rights.



Marcher reaching his destination

The Longest Walk II by Tammy Hayes-Hill

Walking, seems to be very simple and natural but what if you were to walk from San Francisco, CA to Washington D.C.? Covering 8,000 miles over a five month period of time, 80 people from all around the globe “stepped” out to make a difference.

The walk serves many purposes such as awareness to protect the environment and sacred sites, cultural survival, youth empowerment and Native American Rights. The Longest Walk 2 also marks the 30th anniversary of the original Longest Walk of 1978 that resulted in historic changes for Native Americans. Beginning February 11th and ending July 11, 2008, the walkers spent the night at various places within the community. The Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation Tribe was asked to host them on June 23rd, Monday night as they were getting closer to their D.C. destination. We were happy to accommodate.

When I pulled up to the tribal grounds, I didn't know what to expect and was amazed to see the many tents set up especially under the new shelter that had just been built. It looked like a “tent community” with different sizes and colors of tents. It was like a rainbow. The OBSN grounds had been transformed and it warmed my

heart to see such a sight.

As I got out of the car, the 80 or so participants were gathered in a circle getting instructions from Dennis Banks, the organizer and leader of the walk. Banks, a long-time Native American leader and activist, was the cofounder of the American Indian Movement (AIM) in 1968 and has had roles in several major motion pictures. Another amazing site was to see a Japanese translator standing beside of him translating his words to the Japanese participants. Such global participation demonstrates the worldwide awareness of peoples everywhere.

I stayed for a long while just listening making sure not to interrupt the necessary guidance and planning. I was able to talk to Heather, Dennis' assistant and she was very helpful as she answered questions that allowed me to put together a story and get some pictures. I took a minimal amount of pictures because it was approaching nightfall and the walkers were also preparing to turn in as to be ready for the 3:00am wake up call to get mov-

ing to the next location. I wanted to respect their privacy.

The next destination for the walkers was VA and a night at The Occaneechee State Park which is significant for the Tribe as that is the sacred grounds of our ancestors and has a historical accounting of The Occaneechi's journey there in the visitor's center. http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/occ.shtml

As the walk would wind up on July 11th, there in D.C. supporters such as Harry Belafonte and Bill Cosby was waiting for the walkers. I wish I could have been there but I am very happy to have met and talked with these dedicated ones. I have great admiration for their willing spirits and deep need to “Protect Mother Earth” and to get their message across that “All Life is Sacred”.

Please check out their website www.longestwalk.org and show some support.



Announcements

**Graduation**

Ashley Haith Abrew graduated from Woodlawn High School, Baltimore Maryland , May 27th 2008. Daughter of Arnetta Haith, Ashley was crowned Prom Queen 2008 and her future studies are Archaeology/Historian.

Jayme Lynn Hayes daughter of Tony & Sandra Hayes, graduated from East Carolina University, December 2007 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. She is currently employed with Durham Emergency Services.

Megan Kelly Hayes daughter of Tony & Sandra Hayes, graduated from Duke University's Ophthalmology Program with an Associate Degree. Megan is currently employed at Duke University Eye Center.

Ashley Jeffries Wells, daughter of Rosalind Jeffries Wells & Dr. Charles Wells graduated from MaryMount Manhattan College, New York City with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications Arts Major/Business Minor. Ashley graduated Cum Laude. She is currently employed at Raytheon Health Services Division.

Marriage

June 14th, 2008 Lt. JG Steven Grey Jr. US Navy (son of Jackie Hayes-Grey formerly of N.J. & grandson of Dixie Hayes-deceased) married Virginia Crawley of Richmond, VA. Lt. J.G. Grey a 206 graduate of the US Naval Academy is actively stationed in Norfolk, VA aboard the USS Leyte Gulf. His bride Virginia, a 2006 graduate of University of Richmond is a CPA in Richmond.

Bereavement

GREENSBORO - Mr. Timothy Floyd Nash Sr., 61, of Greensboro, N.C., passed at 1:19 a.m. on Thursday morning, September 4, 2008, at Moses H. Cone Hospital.

A funeral service was held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9, at Woodard Funeral Home.

Timothy was born July 21, 1947, in Greensboro, N.C., to the late Roy and Loumey Guy Nash.

Timothy was educated in the Greensboro Public School System, graduating from James B. Dudley High School in 1966. Following high school "Tim" joined the United States Marine Corps on July 6, 1966, and serviced his country by completing two terms in the Vietnam War. Tim earned honors by receiving the following: Rifle M-14 Marksman's Badge; National Defense Service Medal; Presidential Unit Citation; Combat Action Ribbon; Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60; Vietnam Service Medal w/3*. Tim was very proud to hold a tribal membership in his tribe, The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Marion Nash Harris.

He is survived by his four children, Chrystal Nash Clark (Whalen), Timothy Nash, Jr., Dana Leak, and Steven Davis; six grandchildren; only brother, Walter A. Nash (Mae); four sisters, Ms. Gertrude Nash Morrow (Calvin), Bernice Nash Harden, Myrtle Nash Bass (Julious), and Olivia Nash Guest (Walter). He also leaves a host of nieces and nephews as well as great-nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

GREENSBORO — Reverend Elwood Dixon, 89, went home to be with the Lord Saturday, August 30, 2008, after a long illness at the Veteran's Home in Salisbury, N.C.

Rev. Dixon was a loving brother and uncle.

Reverend Dixon was devoted to sharing the good news about his Savior Jesus Christ and was ordained at the High Point Educational Missionary Baptist Association in Wentworth in 1989. He served as associate pastor under the Reverend Ronald Brooks at Martin's Chapel Baptist Church before beginning his own ministry.

Reverend Dixon was a proud carpenter and painter and he was a veteran. He served his country in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Islands during World War II.

Rev. Dixon was preceded in death by his wife, Lexola Dixon and four brothers.

He is survived by two sisters, Ruzie D. Suggs and Al Jeanne D. Suffern; two brothers, Thaxton C. Dixon and Joel Dixon, and a host of nieces and nephews.

(Continued from page 2)

for the Homeland Debt Retirement.

Immediate happenings are School Days which will be October 9th & 10th, 2008.

In November at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh North Carolina the tribe will participate in the American Indian Heritage Festival.

<http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/>

The tribe will participate on Friday Nov. 21st (School Days) and Saturday Nov. 22nd (General Public)

Have a great Holiday season.

Biwaha,

Tony Hayes,

Check the OBSN website for some great Pow-Wow 2008 pictures as well as pictures of the Village. [http://](http://www.occaneechi-saponi.org/)



www.occaneechi-saponi.org/
Don't forget to submit your stories, announcements and any information to be shared with the tribe to OBSNVoice@triad.rr.com

**VOLUNTEER! DONATE!
PARTICIPATE!**

Project G-7 The Occaneechi Eagles Getting Fiscally Fit by Tammy Hayes-Hill

The Occaneechi Youth Group are now involved in a project that will promote Financial Literacy for our tribal youth. On August 24th at the Mebane Arts Center there was a Launch Party to kick-off the Financial Literacy Program. It was a success! The Eagles have been selected as the group for this Pilot Program which is funded by North Carolina Indian Economic Development Initiative (NCIEDI).

On September 6th, 2008 Christina Strickland Theodorou, Economic Development Specialist for NCIEDI and Amy Locklear-Hertel, Research Specialist from Washington University in St. Louis MO were in attendance at the first of eleven sessions to be held. Mrs. Locklear-Hertel spoke and administered Pre-evaluations to the group of 14 OBSN tribal youth. Mrs. Theodorou also spoke as she thanked the Eagles for being there and shared valuable words of encouragement to the group.

The second session was held on Sept. 13th, 2008 at the tribal office and the topic was Money 101 and ten of the OBSN youth were in attendance.

Here are the dates for the remaining sessions held at the Tribal Office at 11:00am:

September 27th—Managing Money

October 4th—Banking Basics

October 11th—Credit and Debt

October 18th—My Money Map & Power of Project G-7

Post Evaluations

November 1-November 22nd—Workbook 2 Entrepreneurship

November 1—Ice Breaker/Business Plan Overview

November 8—Community Asset Mapping

November 15—Cash Flow and Analysis

November 22—“Uptown Enterprises”

December 13—Wrap-up Awards Dinner/Certificates

Thank you to Brice Watkins as he facilitates this important project and many thanks to NCIEDI, parents and The Occaneechi Eagles who are taking time to attend these valuable sessions.

Sabbatical—A Tribal Member's Continued Journey by Tammy Hayes-Hill

Starting May 27th, 2008 I started a month long Sabbatical working with the tribe. Through the Periclean Service Project at Elon University, my employer, I was able to apply to do a service sabbatical. After addressing it with the Tribal Council and all was approved it was just a matter of coordinating the details with Margie Watkins, OBSN office manager. I was sure there would be enough work to keep me busy as it was during Pow-Wow time but I had no idea of the impact that this time would have on me. Armed with my to-do list I set my course. It was actually the things off my list that proved to be the most significant. Here are a few things that were accomplished: inventory of scholarship items (cookbooks & calendars), updating the scholarship files, emailed Ms. Austin with website updates, took pictures of the property, helped Ms. Watkins with administrative tasks and put together items for a display at the bank. As we got closer to Pow-Wow time the phone calls increased as well as office visitors along with the immediate tasks to be done, such as packing up the office and getting items together for the Pow-Wow. I was impressed with one little helper who worked tirelessly to help pat out 150 pounds of buffalo burgers. Mikalah Jeffries who is the daughter of Sharn Jeffries worked along with 5 others as we made up burgers that would be cooked and sold at the Pow-Wow. She did an amazing job.

I had the opportunity to hear about a trip that Vivette Jeffries-Logan made out to the Crow reservation. Vivette shared her experience willingly and I learned so much. Vivette has so many amazing experiences to share and I would encourage anyone to spend time with Vivette as she is well versed in many tribal traditions plus her education and experience in diversity and racial awareness training/facilitating truly helps the tribe as she is asked to speak at many events and forums. She represents the tribe very well.

Another person that stood out is Marshall Jeffries. Marshall is a student in his senior year at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC. He was volunteering this summer and Marshall was very happy to share stories of his journey. Marshall also visited the Crow reservation with Vivette and had spent a summer there prior. He shared his perspective and experiences as his prolonged stay gave him an in depth connection to the traditions of the Crow people.

Being there in the office afforded me the opportunity to see that it takes many of us to accomplish the day to day tasks as well as to successfully do our annual events. I had thought of listing all the names of the people that I interacted with during the month I was there but I wouldn't have enough room so I want to say “Thank You All” because it truly takes a village to do what we do.

My sabbatical ended on June 20th, 2008 and I was very sad to leave because I would miss being able to take time to hear about all the wonderful things that are going on and being able to get to know my tribal brothers & sisters. Back in the other world now—the world of meetings, endless phone calls and long days I can smile and be comforted as I will carry the fellowship, the smiles & laughter and the love of this experience in my heart. Many thanks to the OBSN Tribal council, Mrs. Watkins, Elon University and everyone (near & far) that so willingly shared their valuable time.

Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation
DONATION FORM

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Phone: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation is a 501-(c) (3) Non-Profit Organization.

All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

Please clip and return this form with your donation to:

The Occaneechi-Saponi Tribal Office 103 East Center Street P.O. Box 356 Mebane, NC 27302

Thank You For Your Support!

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