

Next Saturday, Gray Court

# Pow Wow brings American Indian history to life

By Judith Brown  
Staff Writer

The history of several native American Indian tribes will come

to life next Saturday, Sept. 29 at the 11th Annual Pow Wow, which is hosted in Gray Court by the PAIA Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation SC.

Located at 3688 Warrior Creek Church Road in Gray Court, the 11th Annual Pow Wow will be hosted by the only tribe located within Laurens County, the PAIA Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation, and members of native American tribes from across South Carolina and neighboring states will be showcasing their history through song and dance and demonstrations.

Tribal visitors will include Edisto River Singers as host drummers and Michael Jacobs, a Cherokee recording artist. Pow Wows offer the chance to gather with other large tribes but also smaller communities of Native American Indians, said Pow Wow coordinator Victoria Norris, who is also a member of the local tribal council. The PAIA Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation has about 500 members and they are spread over many states.

The gate opens at 9 a.m., with tickets free for veterans, first responders and children under 3. Children ages 3 to 17 are \$3 and adults are \$5. Barbecue and chicken and other foods will be available.

Activities will include storytellers, musicians and crafters of

Native American art with entertainment and educational booths, but the real ceremony begins with The Grand Entry at noon.

"The Grand Entry is when each of the Indian chiefs from all over the state will come, with their dignitaries, dancers and singers, and all come into the dance circle," Norris said. "Those who come can expect the traditional drumming, dancing, Fancy Dancing which is done in every tribe, and the traditional tribal dances."

A special Honor Dance, however, will include an empty chair with the regalia and headdress of the late Chief Gene Norris, who

was so important in the establishment of the Cherokee Nation here. He orchestrated the renewal of the earlier charter in 1995 and became the chief at that time, and did much of the work to get the

official state certification in 2015. The entire Pow Wow lasts from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., and visitors can stay as long as they like, Norris said. Pow Wow planners ask that no one bring pets or alcohol.



File photo by Judith Brown

**DRUMS AND HISTORY** — Among the many dances and events at next weekend's annual Pow Wow in Gray Court will be a tribal Honor Dance for the late Chief Gene Norris, at right. The annual Pow Wow brings to life the local and statewide history of the Native American Indians. Tickets are \$3 for children and \$5 for adults.

“Those who come can expect the traditional drumming, dancing, Fancy Dancing which is done in every tribe, and the traditional tribal dances.”

Victoria Norris

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Honoring Chief Howard White Bull Norris  
**Saturday, Sept. 29**  
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