



Nashauonk Mittark™

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DRUM BEAT

DEPARTMENTS

POWOW 2009

COMMUNITY

PROGRAMS



Word from the Chairman

Wuneekeesuq Nutawâm (Greetings to my Tribal Community)

The 2009 Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow was a huge success and full of good medicine. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, along with our friends and neighbors, truly took the theme of "Honoring our Tribal Medicine" to heart and came together to experience an incredibly powerful weekend.

I would like to thank the many people who worked so hard to make the powwow a success. There are too many people to name individually, but I would especially like to thank our outstanding Powwow Director Leslie Jonas. She, along with the powwow committee, our Chief Vernon Lopez, emcee Annawon Weeden, head dancers Brittany Smith and Matthew Boardley, host drum Mystic River, Arena Director David Weeden, muhsh8n race organizer Sherry Pocknett, our cousins from Bermuda the Gombey Dance Troupe, and dozens of volunteers, dancers, drummers, singers and vendors, put on a successful traditional, good medicine powwow. I speak for the entire tribe when I give you a heartfelt thank you. Please also thank the medicine man Earl "Soaring Eagle" Cash, who despite struggling with a serious illness prepared the dance circle with good medicine on Friday and headed directly to the powwow as soon as he left the hospital on Sunday.

One of the things that I was so proud

(Continued on page 3)

Tradition and Family a Prescription for "Tribal Medicine"

*Compiled by Melissa Hill,
Mariah Hendricks and
Paula Peters*

MASHPEE - The creator smiled on the Mashpee Wampanoag as the rain and clouds that dominated the month of June parted and the sun shone on the 88th annual Powwow July 3rd through 5th.

In what is being called one of the most successful Powwows in many years, both in terms of attendance and cultural richness, more than 7,500 people attended and participated in the three-day event.

The theme of the Powwow, "Honoring Tribal Medicine" rang true for many tribal members and friends.

"It was good medicine for us as people. Through song and dance and culture, many tribal members opened

our hearts and minds. There was a real sense of unity," said Tribal Chairman Cedric Cromwell. "It was a lot like the old Powwows I remember as a child, every day was a new adventure."

Aquinnah Tribal Medicine Man Jason Baird, who is the husband of Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal member jessie little doe baird, said the Powwow gave him strength. "I feel healed and refreshed at the same time and I feel the love of everyone here. I feel that everyone is sincere."

Basking in the warm sun watching the events, Carolyn Turner summed up the event saying, "I get a spiritual feeling."

Women's traditional dancer Kitty Hendricks-Miller said a change for the better was noticeable this year. "I get a sense of community and it feels as if the tension has been lifted. It's relaxing."

Many tribal members got their medicine by reconnecting with family in a traditional way that dates back several generations.

"It's a feeling of family. Family and

(Continued on page 4)



Snake Dance - Photo Credit: Kathleen Szmít

August

- 1 Elders Meeting
- 1 Wampanoag Home Run Fundraiser, 8 p.m., Dino's Sports Bar
- 9 General Membership Meeting 2 p.m.
- 10 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 2:30 pm, Tribal office
- 12 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 2:30 pm, Tribal office
- 24 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 2:30 pm, Tribal office
- 26 Food Pantry, 10:30 to 2:30 pm, Tribal office
- 29 2nd Annual Tribal Health Fair 10-2 p.m. Dana Farber Cancer and Lion's Club's eye exam vans and many more guests. Call Tribal Health for more info at 508-477-0209.
- 29 3rd Annual MWT Rumble on the Rez, Charity Boxing Event. Tickets \$15.00 Doors Open at 6 p.m. to benefit Tribal Health alcohol and drug education, prevention and treatment.

September

- 1 Elders Meeting
- 13 General Membership Meeting 2 p.m.
- 28 CLK Memorial Golf Tournament, 9 a.m.

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- Prayers to the creator for our Medicine Man Earl "Soaring Eagle" Cash who is enduring long term health challenges.
- Congratulations to Breanna Rose Jonas upon her graduation from Barnstable High School in June. Breanna, daughter of Michael Jonas and granddaughter of Theodore "Teddy" Jonas, is interested in writing and art and will attend Cape Cod Community College in the fall.
- Indian Education and the Mashpee Wampanoag Education Committee are collaborating to conduct a "Back Pack Drive for Tribal Youth." They are looking for new school supplies including back packs that will be distributed to needy tribal students at the end of August. Anyone interested in making a donation to the drive may drop it off at the Tribal office or the Tribal health office or may bring the items to any Tribal meetings or events where the drive will be promoted. For more information contact Council member Cheryl Frye-Cromwell at 774-238-0628, or by email at cfrye-cromwell@mwtribe.com.
- A special thanks goes to the Cape Cod Mall of Hyannis which generously allowed the tribe to advertise for Powwow 2009 in a space located near the main entrance next to Sears. The space is granted to us for 3 months and any tribal member is welcome to use it for their advertisements. We encourage everyone, especially the youth, to create a display that will represent our tribe well. For more information contact Carol Lopez at 508-505-6693.
- Four Mashpee Wampanoag high school students participated in this summer's Native American High School Program at Harvard University spending three weeks living in a Harvard Law School dormitory and studying with professors at the Harvard Medical School about the clinical effects of drug and alcohol abuse. Those students, Rhiannon Maher, a senior at Mashpee High School, Sydney Harris, a freshman at Roger's High School in Newport, RI, Cameron Frye, a sophomore at Bishop Feehan High School in Attleboro, and Alexis Molokwu, a sophomore at Brockton High School, completed the program in mid-July and made a presentation. A report will be published in the next edition.
- On June 20, 2009 long time sweethearts Brice Hicks and Geraldine "Geri" Anderson (shown below) exchanged vows at the Mashpee Baptist Church, followed by a celebration attended by many family and friends. The two tribal members first began dating more than 30 years ago when working together at the Flume Restaurant. They dated off and on through the years and became engaged eight years ago. Brice has two children, a son Brice Junior and a daughter Marita and Geri also has two children of her own, daughter Nicole and son Damian.



Tribal members who would like to submit items of interest for On the Drum Beat or news for Naushaonk Mittark should send their information to MWMittark@mwtribe.com. The deadline to submit all edited copy is the first Friday of each month.

Tribe Awarded Housing Block Grant

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe was recently awarded the federal Indian Housing Block Grant. The Housing Department has been awarded \$641,991, and the funds will be used for administration of the Housing Department, Rental Development including Consultants for Pre Construction Activities, Architects, Land Excavation, and Electrical Services for the Development. It will also be used for home ownership down payment and other prevention services for Tribal members.

Cromwell Calls for Carcieri Fix



Chairman Cromwell shown with Secretary EchoHawk.

Chairman Cedric Cromwell testified before Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs Larry EchoHawk at a consultation between the federal government and Eastern Tribes on July 8, 2009. Chairman Cromwell, who was given the honor of opening the consultation with a traditional invocation, called for a fix this year that will allow the federal land into trust process to move forward. Citing the need to provide housing, health care, education and economic development services to tribal members, Chairman Cromwell asked that the administration formally request that Congress act on a legislative fix by this fall and that, “Interior take steps to end the post-Carcieri logjam that

is paralyzing the process of land-into-trust applications.”

“My Tribe has gone too long without security in its homeland.” Chairman Cromwell continued, “The Department of the Interior had nearly thirty years, through the recognition process, to satisfy itself that the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has an unbroken history of tribal community and tribal government in Mashpee, Massachusetts. In 1934, the Indian town, governed by tribal members, was no less a tribe than it is today. The Tribe did not stop existing at any time in the long history of the United States or its colonies, as the Interior Department finally acknowledged in 2007.”

“The federal government,” Chairman Cromwell stated, “has a duty to provide fair and equal treatment to all tribes, without delay.”

Chairman Cromwell and other tribal leaders have expressed hope that the Obama administration, and the BIA under Assistant Secretary EchoHawk, a member of the Pawnee Nation, will work to resolve the Carcieri situation quickly. Sec. EchoHawk has recently indicated that finding a resolution to Carcieri v. Salazar is the top priority of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Chairman Cromwell’s testimony was part of a trip to Washington, DC during which he and Vice-Chairman Aaron Tobey also met with members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation regarding federal aid for tribal housing, health care and education initiatives.

Important Contract Health News

Effective July 31, 2009, Contract Health Services will not be able to pay for medical bills dated January 1– July 31, 2009.

Effective August 1, 2009, Contract Health Services will require prior approval of any medical or dental services requested to be paid by the Contract Health Service Program.

Please contact Robyn Stamps, Medical Support Specialist or Rita Gonsalves, Health Director for all medical or dental requests at the Tribal Health Center, 508-477-0209

(Word from the Chairman, continued from page 1)

to see during powwow was the hundreds of tribal members from near and far, with many different opinions and perspectives, who came together to celebrate our culture. For a few days, differences were cast aside and we danced, prayed, sang and drummed as one people, one family.

Now our challenge is to take all of this good medicine and channel it toward achieving our shared goals. I am not suggesting that everyone must agree all of the time. Part of our strength is the different experiences and constructive criticism that different tribal members bring to the table. However, I believe that we can all agree on the goal of acquiring sovereign land so that we as a tribe can provide housing, health care, education, economic development and job opportunities to our people. As you know, many obstacles have been placed in our way, and everything that happens in our tribal community affects our ability to achieve true sovereignty. But if we work together as one tribe, one family, we can make this goal a reality. Just like in the muhsh8n race, our winning team must all paddle in the same direction.

Cedric Cromwell
Qaqemasq (Running Bear)

(Tradition and Family a Prescription for "Tribal Medicine", continued from page 1)

love," said Brenda Richerson.

Nichole Hendricks-Govoni agreed, "Just being around my family... my people," defined Powwow for her.

Strolling around the Powwow grounds can take a long time as Powwow continues to be a homecoming for tribal members who live long distances away and plan to be back in Mashpee for the annual event.

"It gives you a chance to reconnect with relatives that you haven't seen in a while," said Rob Dias.

"It's just so good to see everyone, and that is medicine for my heart," said Betty Ann Atkins, a member of the Jonas family who comes from New Jersey with her children and grandchildren every year.

Evelyn Peters-Fermino shared that sentiment, saying, "I'm appreciative to share this Powwow with my mother who is here from Texas, and to share her native background with ours shows me that the feeling of togetherness is the same no matter where you are from."

Lisa Hendricks spent many hours in the days prior to powwow decorating and making a beautiful shawl for her daughter Taylor to compete in the fancy dance competition.

"To me, Powwow is like a big family reunion and, also, it's a great way to keep the tradition going for the kids."

Similarly, Geraldine "Geri" Anderson-Hicks said Powwow was an opportunity "to teach my granddaughter Kiona how to come up in the world."



Photos by russprice.com

Second Annual Muhsh8n Race Grows in Popularity

By Paula Peters

MASHPEE - What would get more than 100 Wamps and friends up to gather by 6 a.m. on a Saturday in July on Mashpee Pond? That would be the Second Annual Chief Sly Fox Muhsh8n Race that was held during Powwow on the morning of the 4th of July.

Excitement was in the air as Sherry Pocknett, who founded the race last year in her late father's memory, coordinated teams on the shore where all manner of canoes were lined up waiting for the start.

"I had a feeling it would be big, a lot of people were talking about it," said Sherry who established the race to bring back an old tribal tradition and help people put a little money in their pockets doing something they love that comes very naturally to them. "Being out on that water and paddling across the pond is just good medicine. I was in the zone."

Sherry, who took first place in the women's division last year, competed again and came in second behind a vessel piloted by her cousin Delrene Tiexeira. Sherry will be back on the pond next July to try to win the title back.

"The prize money is one thing, but the bragging rights, they last all year," Sherry said.



Delrene teamed up with cousin Nichole Givoni to share the first prize of \$500. Sherry and Lisa Hendricks took second place with a prize of \$300 and third place went to sisters Vanessa Tobey Mendez and Laura Tobey Miranda who share the \$100 prize.

The men's race followed immediately after with Annawon Weeden and Troy Currence taking first place in a narrow, sleek canoe that sacrificed stability for speed. The men had clearly practiced together to take the prize as balance and coordination were key elements of their win.

In second place was Milteer Hendricks and Mashmoquit Myles and third place went to Tony Perry and Philip Hicks.

Sherry said she hopes the race continues to grow and wants the word to get out that it is open to teams of other Native tribes.

Muhsh8n Races - Photos by russprice.com

Mashpee Wampanoag in Bermuda

ST. DAVID'S ISLAND, Bermuda – Two dozen Mashpee Wampanoag were among more than 50 indigenous Native Americans who attended the bi-annual St. David's Islanders Native Community Powwow in Bermuda.

The Mashpee contingent, including many singers, dancers and crafters, was led by Chief Vernon Lopez and Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell.

"It was such good medicine being there and celebrating our connection with these beautiful people," said Cromwell who was moved by both the beauty of the land and the graciousness of the people. "This has been a phenomenal event to help us stay focused on how important our traditions really are."

The Bermuda event was established in 2002 by the St. David's Island group to honor their Native American lineages. The island of St. David's was the landing place for many New England Native Americans who were sold into slavery during colonial times particularly after the end of the Pequot War in 1637 and the end of King Phillip's War in 1676.



*Gombey Troupe Dancers Performing at Mashpee Powwow
Photo Credit: Kathleen Szmít*

The slaves lived isolated on St. David's Island along with other slave communities including African and Irish slaves and servants and developed a unique blended culture that has never failed to recognize its roots in the New England tribes.

The St. David's Islanders Native Community sponsored travel and accommodations for the members of the drum group and some of the dancers and artisans who were selected by the Bermuda group. All other tribal members made their own travel arrangements. No Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal funds were used to pay for the trip.

Since the original event, the St. David's Island group has remained actively connected with the New England tribes. Several members of the group, including the Gombey Troupe dancers who blended African, Native American, and other traditions of people enslaved on St. David's Island over the last three centuries to develop the multi-cultural dance, attended the 2009 Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow. Each paid their own way. Members of the Gombey Troupe received lodging in exchange for performing all three days at our Powwow.



Photo Credit: Kathleen Szmít



Girl Power

Photos by russprice.com



Quentin Tobey served double duty during powwow with his martial arts exhibition and his dancing.



Emcee Annawon Weedon (l) and Stu Turner

Anchors Away Strong Oak

BUZZARDS BAY –

Congratulations to Philip “Strong Oak” Oakley Brennan on his graduation from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy on June 20, 2009.

Philip, who is the son of Emma Jo Mills Brennan, completed a Bachelor’s Degree in Marine Engineering in February 2009 before earning his United States Coast Guard Third Engineer’s License in June.

While attending Mass Maritime, Philip was the school’s Commanding Officer of Pershing Rifles. The National Society of Pershing Rifles is an elite fraternal organization that has over 110 years of tradition and honor. The society is open to all men and women who are physically and mentally fit. To become a member requires a demanding pledge term developing leadership skills as well as the confidence to overcome all adversity. Whether in the military or private sector, a Pershing Rifle Pledge is defined as a leader and the accomplishment is one that elevates any resume. The Pershing Rifles Society is founded on the values of devotion to duty and country, boldness and truth of heart, readiness to meet any situation, leadership, military proficiency, and scholarship.



Phil Brennan II

Pastor Frye Celebrates Second Anniversary

Pastor Curtis Frye celebrated his second anniversary in June as Pastor of the Mashpee Baptist Church.

Pastor Frye, a Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Member, has been a great influence in our community, bringing many tribal members into the church’s congregation.

Chairman Cedric Cromwell, who spoke at the celebration, said, “Pastor Frye is a great man who has a positive impact on the Mashpee Baptist Church and on Tribal members. I call him my big brother and love him dearly...we all love you dearly and to this I say Aho!”

The event was attended by members of the Mashpee Baptist Church congregation including many Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Members.



Chairman Cromwell shown with Pastor Frye

Tribal Member Tenured

BOSTON - At the June 10, 2009 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts, Morgan James Peters, I (a.k.a., Mwalim) was awarded tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of English & African/African-American Studies on the Dartmouth campus of the UMass System. Peters began teaching at UMass Dartmouth in the fall of 2003 in the English Department with a specialty in theatre production, creative writing, and oral traditions.

Tenure is a promotion awarded to full-time, junior faculty making them a permanent part of the college’s faculty. Cited for his outstanding evaluation scores from students (approx. 65% of students who’ve taken his courses between 2003 and the present ranked him as excellent); innovative teaching approaches and course preparations; as well as his consistent and impressive track record in his professional fields as a performance artist, writer and filmmaker; and his public service work, Peters received enthusiastic recommendations from his department, college dean, provost and chancellor.

Peters is currently completing the first phase of a Creative Economy



Morgan (Mwalim) Peters

project called the LORE Music Group, an innovative approach to on-line marketing and promotion of soul, jazz and spoken-word musical artists from the south coast region. This project received a \$26,000 grant from the university as well as underwritten support from various media companies and organizations. His latest album, “The Liberation Sessions: Soul of the City” is due for release in the fall.

11th Annual CLK Golf Classic

Trish Keliinui recently announced the 11th Annual Clara Louise Keliinui Memorial Golf Classic, to be held Monday, September 28, 2009 at 9:00 am at Quashnet Valley Country Club in Mashpee.

“It has been an honor to host such an event in memory of my mom over the past 10 years,” Ms. Keliinui said. “In an effort to begin new traditions, while embarking on perhaps another 10 years, we’ve decided to move the event into September to make it an Autumn Classic.”

“This year, along with remembering my mother, we will also honor all of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal families,” Ms. Keliinui continued. “As a community, we are made up of so many unique families who have contributed to the preservation of our history and culture.”

All proceeds from this event will continue to benefit the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe educational effort to assist students in achieving their educational and career goals. The golf tournament has successfully assisted dozens of students over the past decade all thanks to the unwavering support of participants and sponsors each and every year. For more information, contact Trish Keliinui at (508) 360-2580 or wampwahine@comast.net.

Details

Entry fee
\$120.00 per player

Tournament format
4- person Team
Scramble Format
Make your own foursome
Men’s/Mixed & Women’s Divisions
Gross & Net awards

Sponsorship Opportunities
Platinum Sponsorship (Includes 2 teams, 1 tee sign) — \$1,000
Team sponsorship (includes tee sign) —\$600.00
Tee Sign sponsorship—\$200.00
Luncheon guests only—\$25.00

POWWOW



Fancy Dancer



Darryl, Bruzy & Chiefie looking serious



Chairman Cedric Cromwell congratulates the 2009 Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow Princess, Chelsea Miranda. See next month’s edition for a full story on the Princess.



Jim and Asa Peters

Photos by russprice.com

In Our Own Words

Want to learn more about the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project including class schedules, upcoming events and ways to support the program? Visit our website at www.wlrp.org.



WampWords

Wunee mâhtôpan –
Good morning.

Ahqôpay meechunât –
It's time to eat.

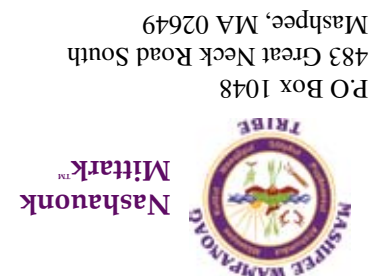
Tyâqas nee –
What is that? (singular,
inanimate)

Peesh kunâush –
I (singular) will see you
(singular)/Goodbye



Brian Weeden
Photo Credit: Kathleen Szmít

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