Word from the Chairman

Winnekeesuq 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, munsh8n 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)
**ON THE DRUM BEAT**

- 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 “Toddy” 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 off at the Tribal office or the Tribal health office or may bring the items to any Tribal meetings or events where the drive is promoted. For more information contact Council member Cheryl Frye Cromwell at 774-238-0628, or by email at cfrye-cromwell@mwttribe.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.

**Tribal members who would like to submit items of interest for On the Drum Beat or news for Naushaukon Mittark should send their information to MWMMittark@mwttribe.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 Tribe. It will also be used for home ownership down payment and other prevention services for Tribal members.

**DEPARTMENTS**

**Important Contract Health News**

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(Word from the Chairman, continued from page 1)

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, “Interstate takes 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 Toby also met with members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation regarding federal aid for tribal housing, health care and education initiatives.

**Cromwell Calls for Carcieri Fix**

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(Cedric Cromwell shown with Secretary EchoHawk.)

(Cited text from the Chairman, continued from page 1)
Om The Drum Beat

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Four Mashpee Wampanoag high school students participated in the Harvard’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, Rhianne Maher, a senior at Mashpee High School; Sydney Harris, a freshman at Milton High School in Newport, RI; Cameron Frye, a sophomore at Bishop Feihan High School in Attleboro; and Alexis Molokwini, 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 Flame 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.

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To see 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. We are all united on the goal of achieving true sovereignty. But if we work together as one tribe, one family, we can make this goal a reality. Just like the mahnku race, our winning team must all paddle in the same direction.

Cedric Cromwell (Quapaw) (Running Bear)
POWWOW 2009

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 Mashmoqut 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.

POWWOW 2009

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 Crownell.

“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 Philip’s War in 1676.

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 past their own way.

Members of the Gombey Troupe received lodging in exchange for performing all three days at our Powwow.
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Muhsh8n Races - Photos by rusprice.com

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Photo Credit: Kathleen Szmit

Queen Tobey served double duty during powwow with her martial arts exhibition and her dancing.

Emcee Annawon Weeden (l) and Stu Turner

Gombey Troupe Dancers Performing at Mashpee Powwow

Photo Credit: Kathleen Szmit
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 confidence to overcome all adversity. Whether in the military or private sector, a Pershing Rifle Pledge is defined as a leader and the confidence to overcome all adversity.

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 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.

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.

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
COMMUNITY

Anchors Away Strong Oak

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Chairman Cromwell shown with Pastor Frye

POWWOW

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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

Photos by russprice.com

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

Darryl, Brandy & Chloe looking serious

Joni and Ana Peters

Phil Brennan II

Morgan (Mwalim) Peters
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 máhtöpan –
Good morning.

Ahqópay meechunát –
It’s time to eat.

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

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

Brian Weeden
Photo Credit: Kathleen Szmit