Word from the Chairman

Wuneekeesuq Nutawâmâak (Hello My Tribal Community):

At the May General Body Meeting I had the opportunity to share the exciting news that the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has entered into an agreement with the City of Fall River to develop a resort-style casino in that city.

As you know, Tribal Council has been conducting our due diligence concerning all aspects of our Tribe’s plans to build a resort-style casino. This included ending ties with our old investors and welcoming new investment partners to our team. This process has also included efforts to determine which location in Southeastern Massachusetts will provide the Tribe with the best opportunity to develop our resort style casino project quickest and with the greatest long term benefit.

This research has led us to the decision that a site in Fall River, Massachusetts will be the best possible location for the Mashpee Wampanoag Resort Casino. Fall River has many attributes that make it a good choice, including its physical location along major highways, shovel-ready building status, and political support from its elected officials. Our people have a deep connection to the Fall River area, and this project will continue that connection by bringing economic benefits to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the good people living in the Fall River area for generations to come.

Recently, the Fall River Redevelopment Authority approved the measure that allows the Tribe to have the option to purchase 300 acres of land in Fall River. This is an enormous step toward realizing our goal of developing a resort-style casino and providing economic development and good jobs to our people as well as residents of the area for generations to come.

Tribe Announces Agreement to Build Casino in Fall River

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe recently announced that it has reached an agreement with the City of Fall River to develop an integrated resort-style casino. The announcement comes as the Massachusetts Legislature considers a proposal to legalize casino gambling in the Commonwealth.

“The development of a resort-style casino in Fall River presents a unique opportunity not only for the Tribe, but also for the City of Fall River,” said Chairman Cedric Cromwell. “This proposal will bring economic opportunity for the Tribe, and its people, while also directly and indirectly creating thousands of jobs in Fall River during construction and subsequent operation.”

The Tribe’s proposal includes a casino, three hotels, a shopping mall with an indoor water park, convention facilities, showroom and spa built on approximately 300 acres of land. The three hotels will be segmented to serve guests at the casino, convention, and spa & leisure market. The project is proposed for a site along Route 24.

“We are pleased that we have reached an agreement with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to develop this project in our city,” said Fall River Mayor Will Flanagan. “Beyond the thousands of jobs this project will create, it will bring much needed revenue to the City of Fall River to pay for services like public safety, infrastructure improvements, and education. Simply put, it is a great project for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, a great project for Fall River, and a great project for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

Senator Joan Menard (D-Fall River), the Assistant Senate Majority Leader, also praised the project. “This development is a critical step toward economic development for Fall River,” she said. “The project will create thousands of jobs and provide much needed revenue for the City. It is part of an economic plan for Fall River that also includes the development of a biopark. I am excited by what lies ahead for this great city.”

Integrated resorts such as the one the Tribe is proposing are the latest worldwide trend in casino development where major non-gaming attractions such as shopping, entertainment, sports and leisure are combined with gaming to create higher patronage and revenues for the development. The Fall River casino would be the first integrated resort in the northeast designed with all major facilities within easy reach of each other regardless of weather.

As a Federally recognized tribe, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe would have the right to operate gaming once the Commonwealth passes legislation allowing casinos. Under the Tribe’s proposal, it will work with state officials to develop a contract that would provide revenue to the State from the casino development.

“We look forward to developing an agreement with the State that benefits the Tribe and its people, the City of Fall River and the Commonwealth,” said Cromwell. “Once that is completed, we stand ready to put shovels in the ground.”
**June**

1. **Language Class, Mashpee Wampanoag**
   Language Center, 7:00 pm

2. **Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters**, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

3. **Diabetes Workshop, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters**, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

4. **Beading and Crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters** 6:30 to 8:00 pm

5. **Joshua R. Lopez Memorial Fun Run, South Cape Beach, 10:00 am.**

6. **Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 5:30 pm.**

7. **Language Game Night, Mashpee.**

8. **Beading and Crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag**

9. **Diabetes Workshop, Mashpee Wampanoag**

**July**

1. **Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 5:30 pm.**

2. **Language Class, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters**, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

3. **Diabetes Workshop, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters**, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

4. **Beading and Crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters** 6:30 to 8:00 pm

5. **General Body Meeting, Mashpee High School Auditorium, 2 pm.**

6. **Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 6:30 to 8:00 pm.**

7. **Blind Joe Amos Sunday, Old Indian**

8. **Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 2:00 PM.**

9. **Language Class, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 6:00 – 8:00 pm.**

10. **Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 6:30 to 8:00 pm.**

11. **Blind Joe Amos Sunday, Old Indian**

12. **Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 5:30 pm.**

13. **Diabetes Workshop, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters**, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

14. **Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 6:00 – 8:00 pm.**

15. **Beading and Crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters** 6:30 to 8:00 pm

16. **Blind Joe Amos Sunday, Old Indian**

17. **Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 10:00 am.**

18. **Diabetes Workshop, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 6:00 – 8:00 pm.**

19. **Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 6:00 – 8:00 pm.**

20. **Beading and Crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters** 6:30 to 8:00 pm

21. **Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 5:30 pm.**

22. **Diabetes Workshop, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters**, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

23. **Beading and Crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters** 6:30 to 8:00 pm

24. **Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 6:00 – 8:00 pm.**

25. **Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 5:30 pm.**

26. **Diabetes Workshop, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 6:00 – 8:00 pm.**

27. **Beading and Crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters** 6:30 to 8:00 pm

28. **Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 5:30 pm.**

29. **Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 6:00 – 8:00 pm.**

**July (continued)**

1. **Diabetes Workshop, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 6:00 – 8:00 pm.**

2. **Beading and Crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters** 6:30 to 8:00 pm

3. **Blind Joe Amos Sunday, Old Indian**

4. **Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 9:00 am.**

5. **Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 10:00 am.**

6. **Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 10:00 am.**

7. **Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 5:30 pm.**

8. **Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters** 10:00 am. – 3:00 pm.

9. **Diabetes Workshop, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 10:00 am. – 3:00 pm.

10. **Beading and Crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters** 6:30 to 8:00 pm

11. **Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 5:30 pm.**

12. **Diabetes Workshop, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters**, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

13. **Beading and Crafts, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters** 6:30 to 8:00 pm

**2010 Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow Call for Artisans**

The Powwow Committee would like to call on all Wampanoag Artisans to share in the celebration of this year’s theme: Honoring Wampanoag Artisans.

A designated area of 10 X 10 will be set up for each Wampanoag Artist to exhibit and demonstrate their work. Please call the Director, Leslie Jonas @ (617) 417-5260, or the Chairperson, Sherry Pocknett, @ (774) 521-7465, if you are interested in displaying your Wampanoag arts and crafts at this year’s Powwow.

**Committee Request for Powwow Bids**

The Powwow Committee is requesting Proposals and Bids for Security, Parking and Trash Removal at our 2010 Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow. Please download guidelines for all proposals from our website: www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com or you may go to the main tribal office at 483 Great Neck South in Mashpee to pick up a contract guidelines document. All proposals must be dated, typed, signed and sealed in an envelope for the Committee to review and vote on by Monday, July 7th. The Committee will also accept electronic proposals electronically through email to smwaters@mashpee.com. The deadline to submit all edited copy is the second Friday of each month.
ON THE DRUM BEAT

2010 Powwow

The 2010 Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow: Honoring Wampanoag Artisans

By Leslie Jonas

This July marks the 89th year we will be hosting the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Powwow to be held Saturday, July 3rd thru Monday, July 5th, 2010 on our Tribal grounds in Mashpee.

Each summer our Powwow is our largest annual event within our Tribal and neighboring communities who participate in the Powwow from the Islands as we come together in the spirit of Unity, Tradition and Celebration of our rich Wampanoag culture and ancestry. It is a time to give thanks to our creator, our spirituality, our elders and ancestors, our tribal leaders, our children and Mother Earth.

During Powwow, we celebrate our beautiful, rich culture here in Mashpee and seek to share it with the world as we open our Powwow gates to thousands of Cape Cod visitors and guests.

This year, we honor our Wampanoag Artisans by expressing our gratitude for all that they contribute to our Wampanoag identity, culture and tradition. To that end, this year’s theme is “Honoring Wampanoag Artisans.”

One designated area of 10’ X 10’ will be set up for each Wampanoag artisan to exhibit and demonstrate their work. A designated area of 10’ X 10’ will be set up for each Wampanoag Artisan to exhibit and demonstrate their work. A designated area of 10’ X 10’ will be set up for each Wampanoag Artisan to exhibit and demonstrate their work. A designated area of 10’ X 10’ will be set up for each Wampanoag Artisan to exhibit and demonstrate their work. A designated area of 10’ X 10’ will be set up for each Wampanoag Artisan to exhibit and demonstrate their work. A designated area of 10’ X 10’ will be set up for each Wampanoag Artisan to exhibit and demonstrate their work.

Our 2010 Powwow theme, “Honoring Wampanoag Artisans.”

By Leslie Jonas

Our 2010 Powwow theme, “Honoring Wampanoag Artisans,” speaks to how we will continue to recognize and honor our Wampanoag Artisans by expressing our gratitude for all that they contribute to our Wampanoag identity, culture and tradition. To that end, this year’s theme is “Honoring Wampanoag Artisans.”

One designated area of 10’ X 10’ will be set up for each Wampanoag Artisan to exhibit and demonstrate their work. A designated area of 10’ X 59 circles our Wampanoag Artisans’ works explore the spiritual, cultural, and time. Carol can be reached at 508-477-8388.

The deadline to submit all edited copy is (Continued on page 6)

On The Drum Beat

Please contact Powwow Director, Leslie Jonas at powwow@mwtribe.com.

Committee Request for Powwow Bids

The Powwow Committee is requesting Proposals and Bids for Security, Parking and Trash Removal at our 2010 Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow this summer and live by taking an up close and personal look at the organic materials and elements from nature that inspire their art form creations. Some of our Wampanoag Artisans’ works explore the impact of social, political and cultural changes to our native way of life. It has been that our Artisans express, through their art forms, a true sense of Wampanoag identity and culture.

We will honor these natural Wampanoag Art offerings throughout our 2010 Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow to the commitment to only take what we need and our Wampanoag Artisans’ works explore the impact of social, political and cultural changes to our native way of life.

By Leslie Jonas

Our 2010 Powwow theme, “Honoring Wampanoag Artisans.”

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**Natural Resources News**

The Natural Resources Department (NRD) is in the middle of developing a business and marketing plan for shellfish. Additional sales will be sold from our shellfish farm. We would like to increase our suggestion to tribal members for potential product names and logo designs. Please keep in mind that our main crop currently is oysters. In time we plan to acquire the resources and develop the capacity necessary to propagate geohumps, clams, scallops, etc. Do not hesitate to suggest names and/ or logo designs for oysters only, or for a product name or logo design that would incorporate all shellfish (not just oysters) and other marketable marine animals (i.e. finfish, conch, lobsters, etc.). All suggestions for product names and logo designs will be considered. Please contact the NRD for clarification or to ask questions regarding this request. All suggestions can be mailed, emailed, phoned or hand delivered to the NRD Office. Thank you for your input.

cgreen@mwtribe.com

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Office Address:
Masateucket Place Plaza
766 Fallmouth Rd., Unit A7
Masapepe, MA 02649

Mailing Address:
Mascapepe Wampanoag Tribe
Attn: Natural Resources
483 Great Neck Road South
Masapepe, MA 02649

**Tribal Court News**

by Henry Stockton

This Canon directs the judge to conduct his professional and personal conduct in a way that instills confidence in the public. A DUI conviction or a conviction of a crime involving dishonesty or moral turpitude can result in a sanction or termination. A judge must maintain the confidentiality of closed court proceedings and must not make public statements regarding the merits or weakness of a pending matter. A judge should not make any statements to any individual regarding character, fitness or credibility of any party, attorney, jury or witness in any proceeding before the court.

Canon 3. A judge should not continue to participate in a case if a family member will be involved or affected by the outcome of a case.

This Canon does not really impact judges who are not members of the tribe, but it does provide guidance to those who are. Family is defined as “any person related in the third degree or closer. This includes great-grandparent, grandparent, parent, uncle, aunt, brother, sister, child, grandchild, nephew and niece.”

The Canon are guidelines and state objectives for conduct by the judges. Each situation will be treated differently because the Canon are guidelines and state objectives for conduct by the judges. Each situation will be treated differently because the judges will be considered. Please contact the NRD for clarification or to ask questions regarding this request. All suggestions can be mailed, emailed, phoned or hand delivered to the NRD Office. Thank you for your input.

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**Job Posting**

The Finance Department is looking for qualified candidates for the following position:

**Job Title:** Comptroller

**Department:** Finance

**Status:** Full-Time

**Summary:** Directs financial activities of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe by performing the following duties personally or through subordinate supervisors.

*Essential Duties and Responsibilities include the following. Other duties may be assigned.*

- Overseas all activities related to grant funding, such as expenditures, budget management and draw downs.
- Prepare reports which summarize and forecast organization’s business activity and financial position in areas of income, expenses, and grant funding based on past, present, and expected operations.
- Direct preparation of budgets, budget reviews proposals, and prepare necessary supporting documentation and justification.
- Monitor compliance using GASB-34 fund accounting principles and company procedures.

**Education/Experience:**
- Masters degree (M.A.) in finance or accounting; with a minimum of 8 years related experience in a senior level finance, senior account manager or as a CFO. Must have been experienced in GASB-34 fund accounting standards and must have CPA certification.
- The listed information is available for the position of Comptroller. A complete description is available at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Office or on the Tribe’s website at www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com.

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**Health Update**

Patient Registration/Contract Health Services Update

- Recertification regarding medication profiles is due in the office no later than June 20, 2010 for those members utilizing the CHS prescription program. Please contact Lorraine or Robyn if you need assistance.

- All MassHealth, CommonwealthCare and Health Safety Net Members: If you have received a notice from MassHealth regarding an Eligibility Review Form, it is very important that you fill it out and return it as soon as possible to ensure that your health insurance benefits will not be interrupted. Forms are available here at the Health Office but we encourage that the original form from MassHealth be used.

- Forms may be mailed to:
  - MassHealth Enrollment Center
  - 21 Spring Street, Suite 4, Taunton, Mass 02780

  Or faxed to: 1-508-828-4631 (we will be happy to fax them for you)

  For more information, please contact Kim Frye, Wendy Pocknett or Winona Pocknett.

- We are currently in the process of updating all medical records at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Health Center and in order to ensure all tribal members’ health needs are met. The following is information vitally important and required for all tribal members receiving health services:
  - Primary Care Physician and Dentist
  - Primary Hospital
  - Alternate Resources **

  **PLEASE NOTE:** Lorraine and Robyn will be contacting members who need to apply for secondary insurance (eligible or not) or Medicare Part D prescription coverage. Contract Health Services will be on the look out until the next fiscal year, but if you need assistance you can still contact the Health Office but we encourage that the original form from MassHealth be used.

The Rehabilitation and Weatherization Program assists homeowners who are in need of repairs and weatherization to their homes. Some of the guidelines for this program include:

- Homeownership
- Under 80% of median income
- Tribal member living in the State of Massachusetts
- Several other qualifying guidelines.

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Natural Resources News

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The Code is based upon the American Bar Association Model Code. This model code has been developed by the national bar to assist states and other courts in adopting their own codes. There are ten “Canons” of ethics for the judges. A Canon is a fundamental principle that guides the judge’s conduct. Rather than attempt to review all ten Canons I will cover the first three Canons in this month’s Mittarak and will cover the rest in subsequent editions. The first three Canons are as follows:

Canon 1: A judge shall uphold and promote the fairness and impartiality of the Judicial system, and shall avoid any impropriety within the courtroom.

Canon 2: A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the tribunal. A judge’s impartiality shall be avoided, and the appearance of impropriety.

This Canon directs the judge to conduct his professional and personal conduct in a way that instills confidence in the public. A DUI conviction or a conviction of a crime involving dishonesty or moral turpitude can result in a sanction or termination. A judge must maintain the confidentiality of closed court proceedings and must not make public statements regarding the merits or weakness of a pending matter. A judge should not make any statements to any individual regarding the character, fitness or credibility of any party, attorney, juror or witness in any proceeding before the court.

Canon 3: A judge should not continue to participate in a case if family members will be involved or affected by the outcome of a case.

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The Canon are guidelines and state objectives for conduct by the judges. Each situation will be treated separately but generally speaking these are the standards of conduct that should guide the conduct of judges.

Tribal Court News

by Henry Stockson

I am writing this month about the Code of Ethics that the Tribal Court has adopted. This Canon requires judges to act in order of the Chief Judge on February 8, 2010 and it governs the conduct of the judges of the Tribal Court both within and outside of the courtroom. All state courts have adopted a code of ethics as have the federal courts. The Code of Ethics is available for inspection in the Office of the Tribal Clerk or you may obtain a copy of the Code by paying a modest copying charge of $3.00.

The code uses the following definition of “impropriety.”

Impropriety shall mean an act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the tribunal. A judge’s impartiality shall be avoided, and the appearance of impropriety.

The Rehabilitation and Weatherization wait list will be open from June 21st until July 2nd. There are currently five available openings for the Rehab and Weatherization Program. All names will be on the list, but only the first five who qualify will be awarded program funds. Other names will be kept on the list in case someone within the first five does not qualify. The Housing Department will not take any names before or after this date. Depending on funding, the program may open once again in the future. To have your name put on the wait list, you must call the Weatherization and Rehabilitation Specialist at 508-477-0208 ext.235. Only names that are left on this voice mail will be put on the wait list. Messages left on other voicemails, with the receptionist or with other staff will not be qualified to be put on the wait list.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Rehabilitation and Weatherization Program assists homeowners who are in need of repairs and weatherization to their homes. Some of the guidelines for this program include:

• Homeownership
• Under 80% of median income
• Tribal member living in the State of Massachusetts
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Housing Department Announcements

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• Homeownership
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• Tribal member living in the State of Massachusetts
• Several other qualifying guidelines.

New England American Indian Economic Development and Procurement Conference

The New England American Indian Economic Development and Procurement Conference will be held on June 22, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. This event will take place at the Embassy Suite at Logan Airport, in Boston, Massachusetts. The exhibitor space will be FREE, as will conference admission.

This event will be comprised of government procurement workshops; exhibits by prime contractor companies; government agencies and nonprofits; and business networking opportunities. Various workshops will be given throughout the day including How to Get on the GSA Schedule, Setting up the State of Massachusetts, Doing Business with the DOT, Understanding the “Buy Indian” Act, and many more.

The conference will be sponsored by the Turtle Island Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, and UIDA Business Services.

Job Posting

The Finance Department is looking for qualified candidates for the following position:

Job Title: Comptroller
Department: Finance
Status: Full-Time

Summary: Directs financial activities of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe by performing the following duties personally or through subordinate supervisors.

*Critical Duties and Responsibilities include the following. Other duties may be assigned.

• Oversee all activities related to grant funding, such as expenditures, budget management and draw downs.

• Prepare reports which summarize and forecast organization’s business activity and financial position in areas of income, expenses, and grant funding based on past, present, and expected operations.

• Direct preparation of budgets, reviews budget proposals, and prepares necessary supporting documentation and justification.

• Monitor compliance using GASB-34 fund accounting principles and company procedures.

Education/Experience:

• Masters degree (M.A.) in finance or accounting; with a minimum of 8 years related experience in a senior level finance, senior account manager or equivalent position or as a CPA. Must have been experienced in GASB-34 fund accounting standards and must have CPA certification.

• Listed information is available for the position of Comptroller. A complete description is available at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Office or on the Tribe’s website at www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com.

*Note: All communications will be kept confidential.
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ARMS

COMMUNITY

Autumn Coombs Crowned Little Miss Wampanoag 2010

Congratulations to 2010 Little Miss Wampanoag Autumn Coombs! Eight beautiful Mashpee Wampanoag girls gathered to demonstrate their poise and talent in the Second annual pageant, presented once again by Talia Landry as her senior project.

Along with Autumn Coombs, First Runner-Up Jayda Hendricks, Khawal Deetz, Tierras Fernandes, Anna Hendricks, Brianna Hendricks, Amiyah Peters and Hialeah Turner-Foster modelled specialized dresses and danced in full regalia for the judges. After deliberation, Autumn Coombs was awarded the title of Little Miss Wampanoag. Like Cheoosa Peters before her, we are sure Autumn will represent our tribe well!

End of the Year Math Tutoring Available

Are you stuck in Math mud? Do you need to make up a grade? Do you need to prep for a test? Are you a Tribal student in grade 7-12 in need of Algebra or Geometry assistance? We can help! Math Tutoring and test preparation is offered on Mondays and Tuesdays from 2:30 – 4:30 by Robert Hendricks. The program is located at 766 Madaket Place, A-7, Upstairs, in Mashpee. Space is limited, so please call 508.419.6017 x607 to reserve your spot.

The Wind Farm

Dance in the Sky

Listen to the Spirit Voices

Peace

Thunder, in Far Distance

Like Summer Rain

Soft

Tribal Tread

From Ajar

Long Hard Road, Like An Endless Trail.

It is a Good Day To Walk,

Come, to the Spirit Path

And Let’s Dance

In the Sky

This is

Spirit Nation

By Bernardine Aquila Pocknett

Sly Fox’s Den

By Joan Trouvé Avant

I’m an elderly, proud to have served with honor as a Tribal student in grade 7-12, in need of Algebra or Geometry assistance. We can help! Math Tutoring and test preparation is offered on Mondays and Tuesdays from 2:30 – 4:30 by Robert Hendricks. The program is located at 766 Madaket Place, A-7, Upstairs, in Mashpee. Space is limited, so please call 508.419.6017 x607 t

“My name is Paula Peters. Don’t read and pass along any of their lies, ask yourself if you know them, can you trust them, what is their motivation, and if you don’t confront them you can really believe them? Most importantly do you really want to give them the power to undermine our proud tradition of oral history. In my name is Paula Peters. Don’t believe me? Bring it on.

As told by Paula Peters

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People who are interested in sharing a story in the “Our Story” column that is significant to Mashpee Wampanoag history or our heritage, recent or long past, should contact the newsletter committee by calling the tribal office at 508-477-0208 and leaving a message, or by sending an email to sjonas@mwttribe.com.

As told by Paula Peters

Charlie in his store or Aunt Mahel in the kitchen, then there was Dint and Timothy always doing something simple. We laugh the whole day as we did the first time we heard them.

“We know the storytellers so we can trust them. They are our family, our elders, fellow tribal members.”

Most recently some new characters have been introduced that give us pause to wonder: who are Ebenezer Attaquin and Hammond Bearse? They aren’t our traditional storytellers. They don’t attend social or meetings or go to Powwow. Their names sound vaguely familiar but we can’t find a trace of them in our genealogy. There is no face to go with the name. In fact they don’t actually exist except to spread vicious lies littered liberally amid truth about Ebenezer and Hammond. Who are Ebenezer Attaquin and Hammond Bearse? They aren’t our typical storytellers.

Historically we have believed our storytellers because they have the courage to stand behind what they say. Authorship lends credibility to any spoken or written word. How much credit do we give to these two imaginary jug heads, whoever they are, really depends on us. But before you read and pass along any of their lies, ask yourself if you know them, can you trust them, what is their motivation, and if you can’t confront them can you really believe them? Most importantly do you really want to give them the power to undermine our proud tradition of oral history?

My name is Paula Peters. Don’t believe me? Bring it on.
During April Vacation, Tribal Youth gathered to learn more about the Quahog and its importance to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. In addition to learning how to harvest quahogs, the youth learned how the quahog is used for delicious Mashpee Wampanoag dishes as well as how the shells are used for Wampum crafts. Thanks to Chuckie Green, Sherry Pocknett and others for their help in providing an educational and fun-filled day!