



Nashauonk Mittark™



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December 2017

DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

TAP

COMMUNITY

Chairman's Column



Greetings Tribal Family,

Today, on the heels of the Thanksgiving holiday commemorating the sacrifices our people have given to the founding of this Country, we continue to await word on whether the Department of Interior will keep its word in upholding its trust responsibilities.

There are some who want to make this all about a casino, but in my opinion that's confusing the means with the ends. The casino is a means to economic development that would quickly allow our people to be self-sufficient and not have to rely on the federal government for funds. However, this is not why our ancestors, grandparents and parents began this quest to reclaim our ancestral homelands.

Let's back up a little - because our quest to retain our rights on sovereign tribal lands began long before the Indian Gaming Act of 1988. It goes back over 40 years. We need to keep this in mind as we think about what we are asking the Department of Interior to do and why it's so vital to our Tribal Nation.

You hear business leaders all the time talk about how expensive regulatory requirements and bureaucratic red-tape hinder development. In our case, it took tens of millions of dollars and over four decades. That necessitated entering into a financial relationship with a trusted investor.

Now, while I'm not willing to discuss all of the specific details of our project planning and developments with the press and general public, I will continue to do my very best to answer your questions and provide detailed information to you, my Tribal family, at our regular general membership meetings and

(Continued on page 3)

Chairman Calls on Trump to 'do right'

In his Thanksgiving message shared online Wednesday, November 22, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council chairman Cedric Cromwell urged President Donald J. Trump to honor his recent proclamation of this month as National Native American Heritage Month.

"There is much that we can still learn from my Wampanoag ancestors, the first Americans, who welcomed the Pilgrims to these shores with an open hand of friendship and taught them how to survive and farm this rugged land," Mr. Cromwell said.

The very first Thanksgiving was a feast joined by the Wampanoag Tribe and the Pilgrims to celebrate a successful fall harvest, he said.

"That feast provided us with an enduring lesson of what can be accomplished by people of different backgrounds and cultures by simply working together," he said. "It's time for us all as Americans to get back to that basic principle. We must understand and remind our fellow Americans and the rest of the world that the only path to peace and prosperity is one that includes all people."

At the end of last month, President

Trump proclaimed November 2017 as National Native American Heritage Month.

In the proclamation, the president stated, "My administration is committed to tribal sovereignty and self-determination. A great nation keeps its word, and this administration will continue to uphold and defend its responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives."

The United States is "stronger when Indian Country is healthy and prosperous," the proclamation stated.

"As part of our efforts to strengthen American Indian and Alaska Native communities, my administration is reviewing regulations that may impose unnecessary costs and burdens," the president continued. "This aggressive regulatory reform, and a focus on government-to-government consultation, will help revitalize our nation's commitment to Indian Country."

You can view the video message from Chairman Cromwell online at <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/BWbCUZrakG>

By Steven Withrow, *Mashpee Enterprise*

Tribe to Launch New Website in 2018

It's no secret that the Tribe's current website is need of an update. The content needs to be refreshed and the platform it sits on is wildly outdated. It was a concern for Trish Keliinui, PR and Communications Manager, as she looked for more efficient ways to communicate with the Tribal community online. The website is the Tribe's main tool for sharing information online. However, as it currently sits it's ineffective in keeping the Tribe, friends and neighbors informed.

"A large percentage of our community are online and comfortable receiving news, like the Mittark, online," said Trish Keliinui, PR and Communications Manager. "The problem is that our current website doesn't support mobile devices. If you've ever tried to read our website or the Mit-

tark on your phone or tablet you know how hard it can be to navigate and read. That's a big problem that we need to solve considering over 40% of the traffic on the site is on a mobile device."



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Events Calendar

New Events

December 2 - 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Opioid and Narcan Training, MWTCGC

December 9 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Christmas Craft Fair, MWTCGC

December 10 - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
General Body Meeting, MWTCGC

December 11 - 6:00 p.m.
Mashpee Commons Input Session,
MWTCGC

December 12 - After School
Horizons Application Support for
Students, Mashpee High School Indian
Education Room

December 16 - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Kids Christmas Party, MWTCGC

December 19 - 5:00 p.m.
Falcons Basketball Game, MWTCGC

December 27 - 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Winter Break Field Trip, MWTCGC

January 8 - 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
College Night, MWTCGC

Weekly Events

Tuesdays - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Elders Lunch & Learn, MWTCGC

Tuesdays - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Coed Volleyball, MWTCGC

Tuesdays - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
WAYK (Where Are Your Keys?),
MWTCGC (starts Nov 7)

Wednesdays - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Tribal Health Yoga Classes with Yoga
Neighborhood, MWTCGC

Thursdays - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Elders Lunch & Learn, MWTCGC

Fridays - 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
Toddler Hour, Wampanoag Museum

Fridays - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Tribal Health Zumba with Shirley,
MWTCGC

Sundays - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Tribal Health Zumba with Shirley,
MWTCGC

Food Pantry Hours

Monday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Christmas Fundraiser for Pine Ridge Lakota

Little Miss Wampanoag 2017-2018 Paris Widdiss Hendricks is spear heading a fundraiser for the Pine Ridge Lakota youth from South Dakota. Paris is collecting small donations and unwrapped gifts of no more than \$25 to send to the South Dakota tribe. Paris was moved to organize the fundraiser after a visit from the Pine Ridge Princess this past summer. Paris believes the gesture will go along way to help out the youth of that

tribe and make the holidays feel special.

Gifts and donations can be dropped at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center by December 8. Paris is planning to also collect donations and gifts at the Christmas Craft Fair on December 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will also be a raffle and all contributors will be recognized on a board.

Little Warrior Bryson Finds a Match

When Marcy Hendricks and Bryan Purdie's son Bryson was diagnosed with a rare immune deficiency called CD Ligand 40 and lung disease he was given less than a 1% chance of finding a match for a bone marrow donor. Native Americans are the most difficult group to find a donor match.

However, Bryson's parents refused to be discouraged by what seemed like insurmountable odds. They hosted "Be the Match" events, fundraisers and public relations announcements to spread the word across Indian Country. Marcy and Bryan refused to give in and just a few weeks ago their hard work and prayers were answered when they were informed that a bone marrow match had been located for Bryson, their little warrior.

"I tell you that this is proof that the creator is listening. There is power in prayer," said Marcy. "We just witnessed a miracle. I want to thank my tribe, family and friends that have been swabbed, made donations, shared our story and most importantly prayed for my little boy. Please believe that you made a difference. Thank you all so very much."

Bryson has now started preliminary procedures and tests to prepare him and the donor for the surgery.



Grants Fund Transportation Department

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Public Works Department would like to let all Tribal members and their families know that the Tribal Transportation Program is going strong and will continue to operate for years to come.

Transportation is fully funded with Federal Highway and Bureau of Indian Affairs grant dollars that recur yearly. We have also worked closely with Planning and Development over the past year to secure grants that will supplement Driver salaries and cover the costs for a new passenger vehicle.

We are extremely proud of the transportation services that we provide. If you are not familiar with us we encourage you to call our offices to find out what we can offer you.

From rides to Doctors appointments, to local runs to the grocery store or pharmacy, we offer an array of transportation services to Tribal members and their families.

We have a great staff, headed by Transportation Coordinator Latoya Green, and our three friendly and dedicated Drivers; George Gray, Fred Gray and Bryan Purdie. Each Driver is certified annually as mandated by the state of Massachusetts, and all are trained in every aspect of customer service.

If you have not been utilizing our services, there is no better time than now to start. Feel free to call the Public Works office at (508) 477-5800 to find out more or to schedule your next appointment.

All rides for Tribal members and their families are free of charge. And we do accept voluntary donations.

Chairman's Column *(continued)*

council meetings.

Just as no one expects the New England Patriots to tell the world their game plan, it shouldn't be hard to understand why I wouldn't want to lay out every single card on the table to the press.

And let's not forget why we're in a holding pattern with First Light Casino in the first place. It's because of a lawsuit funded by a competing casino developer. For them, it's just business. For us, it's about survival and self-reliance.

Let's also not forget that our value in the business world is so much greater than a Casino. That's why we have established a community development corporation to incubate tribal businesses. We are a talented people with certain advantages that are afforded to federally recognized tribes that will make us a power player in the market. Our vision is to build a portfolio of profitable businesses.

In addition, we've established a language immersion school that was partly seeded by investor dollars but is now wholly self-sustaining.

We have a shellfish farm up and running, producing First Light Oysters.

We have established health care programs.

We are in the process of developing housing for tribal citizens, and alongside that a tribal construction company to do the building.

And we are still taking care of our elders, offering everything from a food pantry to help paying heating and electric utility bills.

To make it sound as if we are in debt and have nothing to show for it is to fundamentally misunderstand what is really going on.

Recently, we established a sustainability working group to look for ways we can save money, which included the Tribal Council voting to take a pay cut. It's also resulted in some amazingly creative solutions from our tribal community. We'll be rolling out a new, responsive design website in a few months that will allow us to better communicate with you at a significantly lower cost. We're getting this done for free thanks to the talent we have right here in our community.

So don't get sucked into salacious headlines and out-of-context tidbits. The real story is: the Tribe that made it possible for the Pilgrims to survive, which led to the founding of this state almost 400 years ago, is still fighting for its land and a place at the

table.

The real story is: tribes are made to go through a regulatory process that requires tens of millions of dollars, even though the federal government does not provide the required resources to get through that process.

What I find interesting are the words in President Trump's recent proclamation, declaring November Native American Heritage Month.

The proclamation says: "Native Americans have influenced every stage of America's development. They helped early European settlers survive and thrive in a new land. They contributed democratic ideas to our constitutional Framers."

That is a great description of Wampanoag history!

The proclamation goes on to say that "this Administration is committed to tribal sovereignty and self-determination" and how "a great Nation keeps its word."

It also says this administration will adopt "policies to enhance economic well-being of Native American communities" and how this "Administration will always come to the aid of Native American people."

Well, here is where the rubber hits the road. Soon we will find out if those sentiments are sincere -- or just words on paper.

We are not asking for a hand-out. We are asking to get rid of the red tape and legal technicalities so we can pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps.

We are asking the citizens of the Commonwealth, and indeed the nation, to not be complicit in a legacy that would deny the sovereign rights of this country's first citizens.

Just as our ancestors did when the Pilgrims arrived on these shores, we want to work together toward a common destiny of peace and prosperity.

But, we can't be great unless there is equity and justice for all.

I ask that you join me in our fight to hold this nation to its word and do right by its first people.

Kutâputunumuw;



Chairman Cedric Cromwell
Qaqemasq (Running Bear)

The GroovaLottos Receive 4 Grammy Nominations

Mashpee-based soul-funk-blues band The GroovaLottos have received nominations for 4 Grammy Awards for their debut album "Ask Yo' Mama". Songs, "Do You Mind (IfWeDanceWitYoDates)?" and "Ask Yo' Mama (Ima GroovaLotto)" were each nominated for 'Best Pop Performance by a Group'; the ballad "Autumn Moon" received nomination for 'Best Traditional R&B Performance' and the entire "Ask Yo' Mama" album was nominated for 'Best R&B Album'. The band includes father and son tribal members, Mwalim and The ZYG (Morgan James Peters I & II).

Opening the Gathering of Nations Powwow this past April for an audience of about 48,000 people; in rotation on over 200 radio stations around the USA and Canada; and "BBC Album of the Week" back in August, the group has been having an amazing year. Following the conclusion of their highly successful summer "The Phunk Hits" street corner concert tour, they found themselves on the Recording Academy's official ballot for the preliminary voting round of the Grammys. Up until then, they only knew that their debut album had been submitted for the screening process among several thousand other recordings released this year. All of the submissions are reviewed by an anonymous panel of Recording Academy board and staff members and narrowed down into the top 100 in each sub-category.

The band has received several invitations to perform and appear at Pre-Grammy parties around New York City this coming January. Band members, Mwalim and Eddie Ray Johnson has also turned some attention to developing and producing up and coming artists from the area, including Soul Poet's Syndicate who released a preview of their anti-opioid anthem, "Flippin'" this past October.

Visit www.TheGroovaLottos.com for more information.



(L-R): Richard Johnson, Eddie Ray Johnson, The ZYG, Mwalim DaPhunkee Professor

Photo by: David J Corriea

First Light Oysters Growing Fast

In the past Year the First Light Oyster farm has gone through some major changes in personnel, grow out techniques, and sales. In the past the farm had struggled to gain traction on sales and also staying on tract with the crop during personnel changes. Coming with much experience in the industry New Farm manager Corey Hendricks Has successfully over-hauled farm operations and set the farm up for a path of success.

Once the crop was assessed and organized for more productive day to day activities. More markets to sell the oysters were established for all sizes and qualities produced. With Record breaking weeks selling 10,000 plus oysters compared to the 1,000 a week averaged in the past. With added income from Quahogs already residing within the farms sediments.

As winter set in the focus for the crew was to build over 200 oyster condos capable of holding much needed oyster grow out bags. In the spring 4,500 oyster bags were purchased in order to complete the change over to the bag system. This system has significantly decreased mortality in the crop by protecting the oyster much better than previous nursery trays.



As the summer set in 500,000 6mm oysters were planted. Also, a new crop was started with the planting of over 400,000 Quahogs on the formally empty 8 acres.

With The leftover crop from 2016 plantings responding extremely well to the new bag system the farm has been able to gain more regular customers. Also, maintaining a high number of weekly sales then in previous years. With the 2016 crop hitting the market in August have been able to make enough money to cover weekly payroll expenses. With a crew made up of Farm Manager Corey Hendricks and field Assistant Stanley Dutra.

Although Shorthanded the show must go on and the job must get done. This attitude and approach will be important in the next year as we wait for the beautiful 2017 crop to mature. As the crop makes it into the market in 2018 sales we will double sales and profits will be made.

We are on a fast track to success with new obstacles being how to gain enough capital to expand into all 12.6 acres as fast as possible rather than if we can move the product. Until then we will grow slow and steady with great focus on efficiency and best management practices.

Mashpee Commons to Hold Input Session at Government Center

The Mashpee Commons, which has proposed major zoning changes to accommodate a potential expansion of the retail and residential center, will conduct a "Mashpee Commons by Design" Community Input Session at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center on Monday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. The input session is open to the public and citizens of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

In addition to the December 11 session at the Tribe's Community and Government Center, there will also be a visioning session on December 2 at the Mashpee Public Library. The Mashpee Commons are planning to present to the Mashpee Planning Board on December 6 prior to hosting the input session with the Tribe.

The Mashpee Commons plans include major expansion into currently undeveloped plots of land with a thickly settled area of housing and retail. According to representatives from the Mashpee Commons, the expansion would also address traffic issues to the Rotary, Great Neck Road, Route 151 and Route 28 and environmental impacts that it would cause.

The Commons noted that the current trends with traditional retail and online retail are, in part driving this need for a shift in development. To achieve this change in the community more rapidly, the Commons are asking town officials to adopt form-based codes and zoning.

A form-based code is a land development regulation that fosters predictable built results that give more flexibility to developers.

At the November 2 Board of Selectman meeting Mashpee Town Selectman Andrew R. Gottlieb said he struggles with the commons's ideas for expansion and has been skeptical since the 1980s of sweeping changes to the town in relation to the commons.

For more information and to share your thoughts, concerns and ideas for how this proposed project should move forward, please attend the December 11 meeting.

Open Seat on the Housing Commission

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe currently has an open seat on its Housing Commission. The Housing Commission is tasked with policy-level goals, determinations and policy review that guide the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Housing Department.

Duties and responsibilities of the Housing Commission include, but are not limited to creating the Indian Housing Plan (IHP), policies, and enforcement of housing-related tribal law, department oversight and regulatory compliance.

If you are interested in serving as a Housing Commissioner, please send your resume and a letter of interest to Francie Dottin, executive administrative assistant to

the chairman, at frances.dottin@mwtribe-NSN.gov.

The Housing Commissioners meet every third Monday of the month and the Community and Government Center and on as needed basis. The Commission is appointed and may be re-appointed by Tribal Council with consideration of input from the Housing Executive Director.

College Horizons Accepting Applications

College Horizons, a six-day “crash course” in preparing for the college application process, will be holding a session at the University of Pennsylvania June 23-29. This is a summer college admissions workshop for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian High School Students. Tribal students interested in attending college are encouraged to apply now.

Applications for the 2018 College Horizons workshop are now being accepted online at www.collegehorizons.org. The application deadline is February 5, 2018. The application consists of the student application and essay, teacher & counselor recommendations and official transcripts.

The cost of the program is \$450. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will cover the program costs and travel for students accepted into the program thanks to the NYCP Grant. For more information and assistance, please contact John Hanlon at john.hanlon@mwtribe-NSN.gov or at (508) 237-0041.

College Horizon students learn about a variety of colleges and universities and establish personal relationships with college admission representatives as well as college counselors. Students accepted into

the program will spend six days at a college campus where they will be joined by up to 100 students from across the nation and work with over 70 college professionals in the following areas:

- Experience life on campus – dorms, food and facilities
- Select 10 suitable colleges to apply to
- Write memorable essays and create a resume
- Complete winning applications using the Common Application
- Create a preliminary FAFSA
- Receive test taking strategies and resources for the ACT & SAT
- Navigate the financial aid and scholarship jungle
- Attend a College Fair and multiple info sessions with over 40 colleges

Every year 99% of the students that attend College Horizons go directly to college. 95% typically attend a four-year institution with 33% going to very selective institutions (those schools that accept 50% applicants or fewer). To date over 3,400 students have attended College Horizons.

Special Winter Break Field Trip

Tribal students in grades k-6 are invited to join the Education Department on a special field trip to the Natural History Museum in Brewster on Wednesday, December 27. Parents/guardians will drop youth off at the Government Center Gymnasium at 8:30 a.m. and will pick up at 4:00 p.m. Please do not be late, tribal vans will depart at 8:45 sharp. A box lunch will be provided.

You must register for this event and space is limited to 20 students on a first come, first served basis. To register, please contact Kitty Hendricks-Miller at (508) 477-0208 ext. 143 or at Gertrude.hendricks@mwtribe-NSN.gov.

In addition to all that’s included at the Natural History Museum, kids will also see the special presentation of “Owls of the World - Who’s Watching You?” Kids will have the amazing opportunity to explore owls and the world of owls up close as they join naturalist Marcia Wilson and photographer Mark Wilson as they introduce the students to live owls of New England and beyond...including the Great Horned Owl, the Snowy Owl and the Eurasian Eagle Owl. They’ll also learn about their field marks and natural history. Everyone will be treated to a hooting lesson, as well as tips on attracting and protecting the owls that live in the area.

Annual Kid’s Christmas Party

The Elder’s Department are inviting all tribal youth thirteen years or younger to the Annual Kid’s Christmas Party and lunch on Saturday, December 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Tribe’s Community and Government Center. Santa is looking forward to having lunch with the kids.

RSVP forms for the Christmas Party, which were mailed out in November,

are due no later than Monday, December 4. Parents/guardians should RSVP with the name and age of children attending to Elder’s Department Director Joanne Frye. Please include a wish list of items the kids would like and Santa will do his best to match them with something they would like (no guarantees).

College Horizons Application Support December 12

John Hanlon, manager of Building Pathways for Tribal Youth, will be assisting students with the College Horizons Application on Tuesday, December 12 at the Mashpee High School Indian Education Room after school. Students that are not able to attend on December 12, but would like support completing the application may setup an appointment with John by contacting him at john.hanlon@mwtribe-NSN.gov or at (508) 237-0041.

Education Department Hosting College Night on January 8

Current College students and recent alumni are encouraged to attend to learn about new scholarship opportunities and for assistance with FAFSA as well as to form mentoring relationships with current high school students. The event, College Night, will be held on Monday, January 8 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center in the Tribal Council room. We have stipends available for your participation in mentoring and hosting student visits to your college.

Current high school students are encouraged to attend for assistance with College Horizons application, college applications, and to learn about new scholarship opportunities.

Those seeking assistance with FAFSA should bring 2016 tax returns and laptop computers if possible.

Please contact John Hanlon (508-237-0041 or john.hanlon@mwtribe-nsn.gov) to register or with questions.

Check out the new Facebook page and blog for the Building Pathways for Tribal Youth Program to receive up to date information about programs and upcoming events. The links are below.

<https://www.facebook.com/Building-Pathways-for-Tribal-Youth-373231833120466/>

<https://buildingpathwaysfortribalyouth.blogspot.com/>



WLRP Featured in Associated Press Article: *Tribe Reclaims Language*

The Massachusetts tribe whose ancestors shared a Thanksgiving meal with the Pilgrims nearly 400 years ago is reclaiming its long-lost language, one school-child at a time.

"Weesowee mahkusunash," says teacher Siobhan Brown, using the Wampanoag phrase for "yellow shoes" as she reads to a preschool class from Sandra Boynton's popular children's book "Blue Hat, Green Hat."

The Mukayuhsak Weekuw — or "Children's House" — is an immersion school launched by the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, whose ancestors hosted a harvest celebration with the Pilgrims in 1621 that helped form the basis for the country's Thanksgiving tradition.

The 19 children from Wampanoag households that Brown and other teachers instruct are being taught exclusively in Wopanaotooak, a language that had not been spoken for at least a century until the tribe started an effort to reclaim it more than two decades ago.

The language brought to the English lexicon words like pumpkin (spelled pohpukun in Wopanaotooak), moccasin (mahkus), skunk (sukok), powwow (pawaw) and Massachusetts (masachooosut), but, like hundreds of other native tongues, fell victim to the erosion of indigenous culture through centuries of colonialism.

"From having had no speakers for six generations to having 500 students attend some sort of class in the last 25 years? It's more than I could have ever expected in my lifetime," says Jessie "Little Doe" Baird, the tribe's vice chairwoman, who is almost singularly responsible for the rebirth of the language, which tribal members refer to simply as Wampanoag (pronounced WAHM'-puh-nawg).

Now in its second year, the immersion school is a key milestone in Baird's legacy, but it's not the only way the tribe is ensuring its language is never lost again.

At the public high school this year, seven students are enrolled in the district's first Wampanoag language class, which is funded and staffed by the tribe.

Up the road, volunteers host free language learning sessions for families each Friday at the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum.

And within the tribe's government building — one floor up from the immersion school — tribal elders gather twice a week for an hourlong lesson before lunch.

"Sometimes it goes in one ear and out the other," confesses Pauline Peters, a 78-year-old Hyannis resident who has been attending the informal sessions for about three

years. "It takes us elders a while to get things. The kids at the immersion school correct us all the time."

The movement to revitalize native American languages started gaining traction in the 1990s and today, most of country's more than 550 tribes are engaged in some form of language preservation work, says Diana Cournoyer, of the National Indian Education Association.

But the Mashpee Wampanoag stand out because they're one of the few tribes to have brought back their language despite not having any surviving adult speakers, says Teresa McCarty, a cultural anthropologist and applied linguist at the University of California Los Angeles.

"Imagine learning to speak, read, and write a language that you have never heard spoken and for which no oral records exist," she says. "It's a human act of brilliance, faith, courage, commitment and hope."

Jessie Baird was in her 20s, had no college degree and zero training in linguistics when a dream inspired her to start learning Wampanoag in the early 1990s.

Working with linguistic experts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and other tribal members, Baird developed a dictionary of Wampanoag and a grammar guide.

She and others drew on historical documents written in Wampanoag — including personal diaries of tribal members, Colonial-era land claims and a version of the King James Bible printed in 1663 that is considered one of the oldest ever printed in the Western hemisphere.

To fill in the gaps, they turned to words, pronunciations and other auditory cues from related Algonquian languages still spoken today.

The work landed Baird at MIT, where she earned a graduate degree in linguistics in 2000 and a prestigious MacArthur Foundation genius grant in 2010.

Nearly three decades on, the tribe is still in need of more adults fluent in the language to continue expanding its immersion school and other youth-focused language efforts — the keys to ensuring the language's survival, says Jennifer Weston, director of the tribe's language department.

"The goal is really to have bilingual speakers emerge from our school," Weston says. "And we've seen from other tribal communities that if you want children to retain the language, you have to invest in elementary education. Otherwise the gains just disappear."

By Philip Marcelo, Associated Press

New Website *(continued)*

With current budget cuts, tackling this problem did not seem likely. Typically it would be a large, expensive project to update all of the content and provide a mobile friendly platform. Thankfully, a tribally owned business stepped up and offered to rebuild the site with a responsive design platform for free. (A responsive design site adjusts all of the content and navigation to fit any screen.) The new site will have all of the features — blogs, video, social media integration, and interactive calendars — that will make it easy to read on any device.

Trish is looking forward to rolling out the new site in a few months to the rest of the community. "It's an exciting project that came together at just the right time. It's going to help us save money each month once we make the move over to the new site. It will also encourage tribal members to sign up to receive their news electronically going forward, which will also save the Tribe money on printing and postage. It's a win, win."

The site is slated to go live in roughly 8-10 weeks. The initial site design was completed last month and now they are working to update all of the content. Trish noted how important it is that all of the material on the site is reviewed and correct before going up. Trish and the site developer will be working closely with each tribal department and program over the next few weeks to ensure the information on the site is accurate.

As the site gets closer to launch additional details and launch dates will be shared.

Tribal ID Card Changes

ID card cost will be increased to \$20.

Hours to obtain ID Cards will be changed to Wednesday & Thursday from 10-3

Both Starting January 2018

Call for an appointment
(508) 477-0208 x 173.



Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Court

Most Tribal Members are aware that we have an active Tribal Court. The Authority for a Judicial Ordinance is found in the Constitution Article V and X. The purpose of the Judicial Ordinance is to exert jurisdiction over persons and matters to the full extent of the law; provide orderly procedures that reflect Tribal traditions as well as the prevailing community standards for the resolution of conflicts; to afford all affected persons a fair, prompt and impartial hearing; to establish a court system for the interpretation of Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal law and such other law as may properly come before the Tribal Judiciary; to ensure that all matters shall be so conducted as to afford all persons who appeal before the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Judiciary all rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Tribe; and to ensure that all inherent sovereignty of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is recognized in all matters affecting the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

The Constitution provides that the Tribal Council and Tribal Judiciary shall be separate and equal branches of the Tribe's government and each branch shall exercise only the powers vested in it and shall have no authority over the other branch except as may be granted by the Constitution. The design of the Constitution was intentional. It allows the Judges to make rulings based on Law without influence from the Tribal Council. A report of activities is submitted to Tribal Council each year as required in the Judicial Ordinance.

During the 2016 year, 3 Peacemaking cases were initiated, 12 civil cases were opened and 1 appeal case. Nine cases were closed and seven cases were pending. The Court also had 4 open ICWA cases. The Court adopted/amended 5 Administrative Orders and created

Criminal Rules, and preparation for Jury trials. The Judiciary continues to work on a Law and Order Ordinance consisting of 4 chapters (Community Offenses, Criminal Offenses, Domestic and Family Abuse, and Healing to Wellness), amendments to the Child and Family Ordinance, a Juvenile Code, and a Family Relations Code.

All personnel in the court are part-time. The Supreme Court Judges and the District Court Judge are used as needed to hear cases. The Chief Supreme Court Judge is involved in day to day court business as needed. All Judges attend trainings yearly to increase their skills at the bench and have provided trainings. The Office of the Elders Judiciary Committee oversee the Department of Justice CTAS grant for code development; The Health and Human Services grant for tribal court improvement in child welfare cases; BIA 1X funding for security equipment which was added to the grants awarded to the Judiciary; and an ANA SEDS to develop a Peacemaker Court which was extended a year. The Judiciary Branch of government has always kept their budgets low and has stayed within the parameters of their budget.

Tribal Court continues to grow yearly. We expect a proliferation of ICWA cases and the assumption/transfer of jurisdiction from State Court to Tribal Court. We anticipate that Tribal Court will become quite busy. The Court business will continue to grow, and it is imperative that systems be in place before the growth begins. This is what the Judiciary Branch strives to do through awarded grants and our Partners, Suffolk University Law School Indigenous Peoples Clinic and Attorney Tilden and Attorney Toelupe.

Health Connector is ready for Open Enrollment November 1 – January 23, 2018

Open enrollment for Health Connector is going on now through January 23, 2018. American Indians and Alaska Natives can apply for Connector Care Plans & Health Connector Plans and Masshealth during Open Enrollment or any day of the year; change plans up to once a month Members of federally recognized tribes, and non-tribal members who apply on the same application qualify for the Special Enrollment Periods.

American Indians and Alaska Natives can apply for MassHealth and

the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Any time of the year. (In all states, CHIP provides low-cost health coverage to children in families that earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid. In some states, CHIP covers pregnant women.) You can apply online at mahealthconnector.org for any of these programs or call Wendy Pocknett at (508) 477-0208 x166 or email wendy.pocknett@mwtribe-nsn.gov.

Mashpee Falcons to Host Varsity Games at Community and Government Center

For the first time, the Mashpee High School varsity girl's and boy's basketball teams will host a home game at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center gymnasium. The double-header against the visiting Carver High School varsity teams will be held on Tuesday, December 19. The girl's varsity teams will play at 5:00 p.m. and the second game with the varsity boy's teams will be held at 6:30 p.m.

The change in venue to the Tribe's Community and Government Center follows on the heels of several successful meetings between the Tribe and the Mashpee school Committee.

Dental Clinic Prize Winner



Congratulations to Russell Peters the Mashpee Wampanoag Family Dental Clinic October incentive prize winner. Each month one lucky patient of the clinic is chosen at random as the winner and is able to select a prize. Prizes include items such as an electric toothbrush, a water pick or a dental care package.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Dental Clinic is part of the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit-Indian Health Services. The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and located directly behind the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. To make an appointment at the clinic or for more information, please call the main office at (508) 477-6967.

Mashpee Town Committee Vacancies

The town of Mashpee currently has a host of vacant seats on boards and committees. These committees help shape our community, drive the services that support families, educate our youth and preserve our homeland. Stepping up to lend your time and talent is an excellent way to ensure Mashpee remains a place we can all come home. Mashpee residents are urged to fill these seats.

Open seats that the Mashpee Board of Selectman are currently looking to fill include the following:

- Affirmative Action Committee (3 vacancies - 2 members-at-large, 1 alternate)
- Americans with Disabilities Act Committee (1 vacancy - alternate)
- Zoning Board of Appeals (3 vacancies - associate member)
- Board of Assessors (1 vacancy - member-at-large)
- Barnstable County Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) (1 vacancy - alternate)
- Barnstable County Dredge Committee (1 vacancy - alternate)
- Community Advisory Council (CAC) of the Environmental Management Commission (2 vacancies - 1 each in precinct 4 and precinct 5)
- Community Park Committee (1 vacancy - member-at-large)
- Conservation Commission (3 vacancies - 1 member-at-large, 2

- associate member)
- Council on Aging (2 vacancies - member-at-large)
- Economic Development Industrial Corporation (1 vacancy - member-at-large/commercial)
- Historic District Commission (3 vacancies - alternate)
- MCAT (2 vacancies - member-at-large)
- Nitrogen Management Plan Community Advisory Committee (4 vacancies - 1 each in precinct 1, precinct 2, precinct 3, precinct 5)
- Planning and Construction Committee (3 vacancies - member-at-large)
- Recycling Committee (3 vacancies - member-at-large including 1 business owner)
- Sewer Commission (3 vacancies - 1 member-at-large, 1 precinct 2, 1 precinct 3)
- Shellfish Commission (1 vacancy - associate member)
- Subdivision Board of Appeals (3 vacancies - associate member)
- Waterways Commission (1 vacancy - member-at-large)

If you are interested in serving, send a letter of interest and a copy of your resume to Mashpee Town Hall, Office of the Board of Selectman, 16 Great Neck Road North, Mashpee, MA 02649 or email it to bos@mashpee.gov. If you have questions, please contact the Selectman's Office at (508) 539-1401.

Opioid Overdose and Narcan Training on December 2

On Saturday, December 2 the Tribal Action Plan (TAP) along with the Tribal Coordinating Committee (TCC) and the Department of Human Services of Barnstable County will host a very important opioid education program. The 5-hour program, which will focus on recognizing an overdose and provide Narcan training, will be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center on Saturday, November 18 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The training will be led by three master facilitators - Melissa Janiszewski, opioid prevention coordinator for the Barnstable County Department of Human Services; Donna Mello, Harm Reduction Manager at AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod; and Judy Walden Scarafille, Registered Pharmacist and Co-Chair Harm Reduction Workgroup.

The training will cover a wide range

of opioid and narcan related topics. The agenda includes information on understanding opioids with specific data relevant to Cape Cod and tribal statistics (nationwide and local). Judy, Donna and Melissa will also cover physiology and risk factors for opioid overdose along with the signs and symptoms. They will discuss the impact fentanyl is having on those suffering from the disease of addiction and how to respond to an overdose. And the training will provide you with helpful information about building a relationship with a pharmacist and getting naloxone at a pharmacy.

Medicare's Open Enrollment Period is Oct 15 - Dec 7

Medicare Advantage (Part C) and Medicare Prescription (Part D) Plans change every year. It is very important to review your Medicare options during this period. You will receive a notice from your Prescription Drug or Medicare Advantage (HMO, PPO) Plan in September. Make sure you read this notice - it will explain the changes (premiums, copays, tiers) to your plan for 2017.

During the Annual Open Enrollment (October 15, 2016 - December 7, 2017), you will have a chance to CHANGE your plan. This change takes effect January 1, 2018. Our Medicare Outreach Counselor can help you understand your plan's changes, screen you for assistance programs and discuss other options you may have. If you do not change your plan during this period you may have to stay with your existing plan for another whole year. (Note: the open enrollment may not affect those with retiree coverage).

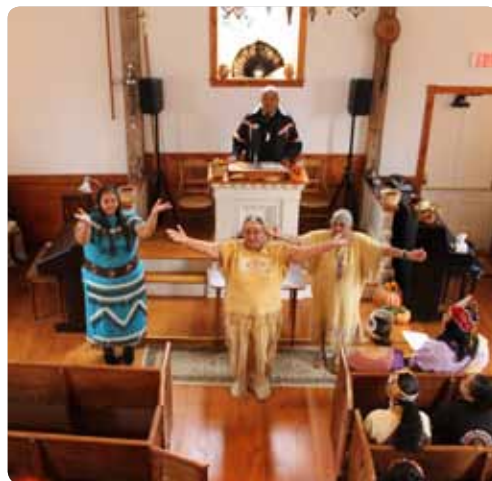
Please see April Dugas at our weekly Title VI "Lunch and Learn" for free Medicare counseling or ~ Call Tribal Health at 508 477 0208 x166 to make an appointment now!

Christmas Craft Fair on December 9

The Alice May Lopez Memorial Statue Fundraising Committee will be hosting the 4th Annual Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday, December 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. The annual event brings vendors together with holiday shoppers allowing people to find those special gifts you can only get from a local artist. All vendors are welcome to attend and display items for sale.

All funds raised from the vendor fees will benefit the Alice May Lopez Statue Memorial Fund. The committee is raising \$100,000 to create a life-sized bronze statue in memorial of Alice May Lopez who passed away unexpectedly at the age of 49 in 2011. Alice was the founder and first director of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Housing Department

Photos from Annual Thanks Giving



A special thank you to Leslie Ballotti, proprietor of the Cranberry Sunset Farm in Marston's Mills, for the 70lbs of cranberries that were so generously donated to our Tribal Elders and Thanks Giving Celebration.



Powwow Committee Seeking Members

The Powwow Committee is looking for dedicated Tribal citizens to join the committee. Committee members are appointed for a two-year term and are integral in the planning and management of the annual Powwow. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please send a letter of interest to Francie Dottin, executive administrative assistant to the chairman, at frances.dottin@mwtribe-NSN.gov.

Save the Date: 97th Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow - July 6, 7 & 8, 2018



Mittark Striving to Go Paperless in 2018

Have you signed up to receive the Mittark and other news from the Tribe electronically? It's a faster and more efficient way to stay informed and it saves the Tribe money. Many organizations and other Tribes have already moved electronic and now our Tribe is gearing up to make the move to go primarily electronic in 2018. There are some exciting enhancements and developments coming down the road that will make it even more efficient for you to receive news by email. To gear up for this, we're asking all tribal members to ensure the Tribe has your preferred email address.

You can send the Tribe your email address by simply by sending an email to our PR and Communications Manager Trish Keliinui at trish.keliinui@mwtribe-NSN.gov and let her know you would like to be added to the Tribe's email list.

In addition to signing up to receive information electronically, you also have the ability to opt out of receiving hard copies of the Mittark prior to 2018 that are sent through traditional postal mail. By going completely

"electronic" with your communication you will be helping your Tribe save money and the environment...it's a win win. To opt out of receiving traditional mail, please include the email addresses of all tribal citizens that live in your household when emailing Trish. (Having a current email address for all Tribal Citizens in your home will ensure each person continues to receive news.)

Please, remember to send Trish an email at trish.keliinui@mwtribe-NSN.gov to ensure we have your current email address. It's our goal to keep you and all other tribal members informed of the many important services and events that take place in our community.



The Old Indian Meeting House & Cemetery Now Has Policies & Procedures

Coordinated by the Public Works, Historic Preservation and Enrollment Departments, Policies and Procedures are now in place regarding the use and internments for our Ancestral Cemetery. Contents include: Burial Procedures, Obtaining Burial Plots, Who can be Interred, Types of Burials, Placement of Head/Foot Stones and Cemetery Maintenance.

Copies are available at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center and will be made available online as well as in the Meeting House.

If you have any Questions contact the Public Works Department at (508) 477-5800 x10.