



# Nashauonk Mittark™



© Copyright 2016

[www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com](http://www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com)

July 2016

DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY

## Chairman's Column



Greetings Tribal Citizens,

It's been another emotional month for our community. And the full spectrum of emotions was almost palpable at our 95th Annual Powwow. As I talked with different families over the course of the three days of Powwow our conversation would far too often turn to a family member or friend that's missing from our circle. There were certainly plenty of wonderful moments but like so many others, I found myself looking out on our dancers and among the crowd and seeing gaps that were filled last year with a member of our community that has now gone on to the Grande Lodge in the sky far too soon.

That's why it was so fitting that the theme for this year's Powwow was Honoring Our Circle - Breaking the Cycle of Addiction. Just take a moment to really think about this. Often our themes tend to revolve around our spiritual connection to this land and our past relations, but this year our Powwow Committee recognized that the disease of addiction has an unmerciful grip on our community that we need to break.

Simply bringing this conversation to the mainstream; acknowledging that there is a problem; that this is a treatable disease and that there is hope tells me we've had enough and we're ready to fight back - and fight back, we will, with everything in our power! That is something that I promise you we will do.

We all know these drugs are far too strong to fight with just words. That's why the Tribal Council has established the Tribal Coordinating Committee (TCC) to develop and implement a comprehensive prevention and treatment program for alcoholism and

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow

**T**he 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow was held on July 1 to July 3 at the Cape Cod Fair Grounds. This year's theme was "Honoring our Circle - Breaking the Cycle of Addiction." The theme of the powwow, along with the drumming, dancing, food, contests and ceremonies had healing elements for a community mourning the loss of many Tribal citizens, including 11 this year to opioid addiction.

"Ninety-five years going strong and it's a ceremony and gathering of our people, it's a homecoming of the gathering of our people," said Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell.

Ciara Jackson, security officer at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and Chairwoman

of the Tribe's Youth Council, was crowned as the 2016-2017 Powwow Princess on the final day of the powwow. To be considered as a candidate for Powwow Princess, she must be between the ages of 16 and 21, single, active in the Tribe, have participated in prior powwows and have a strong knowledge of her Tribe's history and culture.

Other events at this year's powwow included the Sly Fox Muhsh8n Race organized by Sherry Pocknett on Saturday morning, a traditional Fireball ceremony that eases the pain of those unable to participate in the ceremony was held Saturday at dusk and a clam-bake hosted by the Lady Hawks.

Additional photos from powwow can be found on pages 8, 9 and the back cover.



## Tribal Council Fighting Opioid Crisis

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe declared a State of Emergency June 8, 2016, related to the Opioid Abuse Crisis. The recent impact of the Crisis is seen in the numerous opioid related deaths of Tribal members and family members of Tribal citizens, increase in opioid related medical emergencies, increase in criminal activity, increase in instances of child abuse and neglect, loss of employment and housing, and harm to the spiritual well-being of Tribal members.

The state of emergency approved by Tribal Council formally acknowledges that there is a crisis and it's having a sig-

nificant impact on the health, pace, morals, education and general welfare of the Tribe and its citizens. It also allows for up to \$250,000 of already budgeted Tribal funds in the Human Services Department and Tribal Action Plan budgets to be reallocated for emergency use for the remainder of the 2016 fiscal year.

Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell sees the state of emergency along with other efforts in the addiction prevention area as another big step in the ongoing fight. "I can see the destructive nature of opioids and addiction in our community,"

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Events Calendar

### New Events

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

**July 17 - 11:00 a.m.**  
Blind Joe Amos Sunday Service, *Old Indian Meeting House*

**July 21- 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
First Aid Training for Elders, MWTCGC

**July 24- 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
Artisan's Festival, *Mashpee Community Park across from Town Hall*

**August 6**  
Youth Sobriety Powwow, MWTCGC

**August 14- 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
General Body Meeting, MWTCGC

**August 21 - 11:00 a.m.**  
Richard Bourne Sunday Service, *Old Indian Meeting House*

**October 13- 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
Chowder and Soup Festival, MWTCGC

### Weekly Events

**Mondays - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**  
Youth Boys Basketball, MWTCGC

**Mondays - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
Craft Night, MWTCGC

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

**Tuesdays - 5:30 p.m.**  
Enrollment Committee, MWTCGC

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

**Wednesdays - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
& 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**  
Tribal Health Yoga with Virginia and Kimma, MWTCGC

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

**Thursdays - 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
Youth Dance & Drum Class, MWTCGC

**Fridays - 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**  
Pre School Language Hour, MWTCGC

**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

## Mikala Forrester

**M**ikala Forrester graduated from Brown University this spring with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. Mikala had the honor of reciting our Wampanoag Prayer during the ceremonies and had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Kevin Gover, Director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Indians. She has accepted a position teaching at the Brearley Academy in New York City, and plans to continue her education to acquire a Master's in Education. Mikala is the daughter of Michele Forrester, granddaughter of Marilyn and David Forrester, and sister of Lexi Forrester. We are all very proud of her achievements and look forward to her bright future!



## Deja Andrews



Congratulations to Deja "Sweet Grass" Andrews who graduated from Sturgis East High School in Hyannis on June 4. Deja has been accepted and enrolled in the Salem State University social work program. She is the daughter of Morris Andrews, Jr., and Troye Sylvia and the granddaughter of Gertrude (Newcomb) Sylvia.

## Alexis Molokwu



Magnus Kuhchayôp Molokwu was born on May 7th at 4:56pm in Springfield, MA. Weighing in at 7lbs14oz, and 19.5in long he arrived on his mother Alexis Molokwu's graduation day. Alexis graduated from UMass Amherst on May 7, 2016 where she was awarded her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Public Health. Baby Magnus is the Great Grandson of Sonya Avant-Sanders & Grandson of Valerie Fernandez. Congratulations Alexis on your academic success and birth of your son.

## Do You Have News to Share in the Mittark?

Do you have Tribal news to share? We want to hear from you. All Tribal Members are encouraged to submit news to be included in the Nashauonk Mittark. Please contact Trish Keliinui at [trish.keliinui@mwtribe.com](mailto:trish.keliinui@mwtribe.com).

## WLRP Hosts Open House: Now Enrolling for Fall

**N**estled between Cedar Lake and Buzzards Bay in a quite neighborhood in North Falmouth is the home of the new Mukayuhsak Weekuw: The Children's House located at the Montessori Academy of Cape Cod. The Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP) held a two-day info session on June 27 and June 28 for parents and children interested in the language immersion school.

For the Immersion School Developer and MWT Language Department Director Jennifer Weston bringing the program to the Montessori preschool and kindergarten was a natural fit. "The Montessori method is all about developing a core foundation for learning in a natural, supportive environment," said Jennifer. "This type of learning environment makes it easy for our teachers to seamlessly incorporate Wôpanâak language into the programs they have already developed and for us to implement true language immersion. It's truly a wonderful learning environ-



ment for any child."

The language immersion school is now accepting applications for the fall for kids between the ages of 2.9 and 4 years old. WLRP teachers will offer 5 days of language immersion weekly, conducted through Montessori-based classroom activities each day. The Mukayuhsak Weekuw school day will operate from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Parents can enroll children in full or part-time care with options for early morning and extended afternoon hours, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m.

Financial support is available through the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Child Care Development Fund and potential grants. For more information about the language immersion school enrollment please contact Jennifer Weston at (508) 477-0208 ext. 168 or [jweston@mwtribe.com](mailto:jweston@mwtribe.com). For more information about applying for child care vouchers, please contact Marci Hendricks (ext. 160) and Eileen Miranda (ext. 152). You may also learn more about the school online and pre-enroll your child at [www.wlrp.org](http://www.wlrp.org).



## Chowder Festival and Fundraiser



Get your spoons out for the Alice May Lopez Chowder and Soup Fest. The tasty event will be held on Friday, October 15 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Tribal Community and Government Center. The event is sponsored by the Alice May Lopez Memorial Fund Statue Committee. Additional details for attendees and cooks will be available in the near future.

All funds raised from the event 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 who passed away unexpectedly at the age of 49 in 2011. Alice was the founder and first director of the Tribe's Housing Department.

## Chairman's Column *(continued)*

substance abuse. This group has concerned members from just about every section of our Tribe and is committed to bringing action and resources needed to help our people find joy and peace in a sober life.

Over the next few months the TCC will roll out a Tribal Action Plan that outlines our resources, our capacity, goals, and strategies for treating the disease of addiction. This plan is about making the best use of the resources at our disposal and filling in any gaps with outside assistance to ensure our people receive a treatment plan that is relevant and in line with our traditional values.

Our focus and commitment to have 'all hands on deck' to support our Tribal family struggling right now with addiction requires resources. That's why on June 8, your Tribal Council approved the Declaration of State of Emergency Related to the Opioid Abuse Crisis. At the Tribal Council table we understand that opioid abuse is threatening the health, peace, and general welfare of our Nation. In the declaration we have the ability to reallocate up to \$250,000 in already budgeted funds for emergency use and to strengthen our support to Tribal citizens by providing additional services to prevent opioid addiction.

We've taken many steps in the right direction over the past few weeks in regards to addiction. Many of us found op-

portunities to heal and find good medicine at the Powwow, during the annual Sly Fox Muhsh8n Race at Mashpee pond, during our traditional Fireball ceremony and just spending valuable time with family. Let's continue this good medicine and remember that we are a strong, resilient, determined community.

Let's also take a moment to thank our Powwow Committee - Brian Weeden, Cassie Jackson, Ronald Charlton, Delscena Hicks, Danna Floyd, Stanley Dutra, Diane Johnson, John Hughes and Anne Marie Askew. Organizing our powwow is a tremendous, time-consuming endeavor and they did a wonderful job.

I'd also like to recognize all of our dancers, drummers and this year's powwow contest winners. All of you danced and drummed hard. Our tribe and all of our relations that were in attendance are proud of you. Finally, let's welcome our new powwow princess Ciara Jackson. Ciara is a strong, smart young tribal leader and I look forward to working with her over the next year.

Kutâputunumuw,  
Cedric Cromwell  
Qaqeemashq (Running Bear)

## Fighting the Opioid Crisis *(continued)*

said Chairman Cromwell. "It's not only impacting those that are addicted, but also their entire family. It's a truly tragic situation and we cannot let it prevail. We've taken our first steps, but they will not be our last. Tribal Council is committed to seeing an end to this crisis in our Tribe."

The Tribe has experienced 11 overdose deaths this year and at least two violent deaths the Tribe is aware of related to substance abuse activity. Given that all of the 11 individuals were parents and under the age of 35, it left 14 children to be raised without their parent and potentially becoming involved in social services even as an ICWA case.

To date the Tribe has invested over \$200,000 in the past year in treatment and aftercare programs for their citizens and an additional \$150,000 directly for substance abuse prevention. The Tribe has also developed and is in the process of implementing their five-year Tribal Action Plan that will bring a wellness and sobriety infrastructure to the Nation.

Also, the Tribe recently hired a Human Services Director Unique Lopes to oversee and build capacity within the Tribal behavioral health, Indian Child Welfare Act, and emergency and social services programs,

as well as hired a substance abuse clinical case manager to help citizens navigate prevention, treatment and aftercare programs.

The Tribe's substance abuse clinical case manager is currently serving more than seven adults that are in treatment and a total of 18 children involved with the MA Department of Children and Families and the Tribal ICWA office.

Even with the significant amount of planning, activities, resources and support the Tribe has provided to address the crisis, there are still opportunities to improve the treatment for those currently addicted to Opioids.

In order to address the gaps in services, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council and the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit -IHS have partnered on a request for immediate funding and support in the amount of \$300,000 from the Department of Health and Human Services. The additional support will be used to hire additional Substance Abuse Clinical Case Management Specialists, developing a Community Response Crisis team, additional community prevention training, Narcan for first responders funds to get people into treatment.

## Employee Growth at the Tribe

With 115 employees as of June 30, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is the fastest growing employer in local municipality and the largest employer (aside from the Town of Mashpee) in Mashpee. What's even more impressive is that all of the services, programs and departments that run the Tribal Nation are filled with almost all Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Citizens. To be exact, 92% of all employees are Mashpee Wampanoag citizens with an additional 1% affiliated with another Tribe and only 7% non-native.

"It's important that our employee base accurately represent the community they are serving," said Human Resources Director Ellen Sharpe. "Our tribal citizens are not only highly educated, qualified and dedicated to their work, they also have a deep understanding of the needs within the community. That's something unique to a native and why our employment numbers are so impressive."

Vice Chairwoman Jessie "little doe" Baird reviewed the numbers and took a moment to reflect on just how far we have come. "It's amazing to see our Community and Government Center and health offices filled with tribal citizens working hard on behalf of their community," said Vice Chair



woman Baird. "There were three of us working full time when I started working for the Tribe in 1992. I worked as JTPA, Food Pantry, LIHEAP and the receptionist...all at the same time. We all had to wear multiple hats back then to get our work done. We've come a long way and it's only going to get better."

The Tribe is also being recognized as the most attractive place to work based on the Tribe's compensation and benefits package, opportunities for growth, and training and skill development programs. Also, while not included in the above, it's safe to say the Tribe is the most family friendly work environment in the area.

## Medicinal Prayer by Aunt Joan Tavares-Avant



Great Spirit, Creator, Dear Lord Jesus...

Our Indigenous human losses are faster than the tides in the ocean and rivers.

We ask, give us the strength to understand the winds of sorrow.

Without your daily blessings, we ask, how can we continue as a people?

Wrap your blessings around our mothers, fathers, grandpa's, grandma's, children siblings and friends

Again we ask, give us the strength to understand the winds of sorrow.

As we look out the windows each day and think about the sharing of love, cultural values and spirituality, heals the pain.

We remember our ancestors and family members who have held us together through their wisdom and stories.

And still do.

We carry their spirits within us.

We feel sad and cry. That's ok. Tears are medicinal, like the rain, healing the gardens, flowers and all living things.

We heal each other and pass it on.

This day we may see the Sun

Many night's you bless us with Grandmother Moon and shining stars

Sending the Light to the "People of the First Light" Mashpee Wampanoag's is spiritual devotions we share.

Are blessings of life, energy?

We will not forget.

Thank you Great Spirit, Creator, Dear Lord Jesus

## A Comparison Between Courts, Mediation, and Peacemaking

**B**elow is a summary of Peacemaking Circles: From Crime to Community by Kay Pranis, Barry Stuart, and Mark Wedge (2003). This article speaks to Peacemaking Circles and the importance of the Circle. When we gather as a Tribe, we form a circle to thank the Creator and petition the Creator for the wellbeing of our Tribal Members. The Circle connects us to each other and we realize its importance. Its importance is emphasized in Peacemaking.

To ensure the Circle is a safe and secure forum to facilitate community dialogue we work together to build both an inner and an outer frame to the Circle. When we build the inner frame of the Circle we use consensus-based decision-making to decide how the Circle will proceed; we choose values. The following is a non-exhaustive list of core values often used to build the inner frame of a peacemaking circle. Respect, allows us to recognize our differences while still honoring the dignity of everyone involved, including ourselves. Knowing we will both give and receive respect allows us to fully share within the Circle. Honesty, Allows us to be as we truly are. Leaves us better open to questioning our own perspectives and discovering a wider truth. Trust, allows us to take risks with

ourselves and with others. Humility, encourages others to take risks with us, knowing that we will value their perspectives and be open to expanding our own. Sharing, helps release the instinct to control people and situations; shifts power from ourselves to the group. Inclusivity, incorporates others into our worldview and gives us access to the perspective of others. Inspires generosity of spirit. Empathy, recognizes commonalities and allows us to inhabit the emotional sphere of others. Courage, acknowledges our fears and propels us forward in spite of them. Greatly increases our ability to take risks. Forgiveness, allows us to highlight the good in ourselves and in others while still acknowledging the need for improvement. Love, develops and enhances our connection with everyone and everything. Establishes a basis for healing.



## Steps to a Lawsuit in Tribal Court

1. The Plaintiff begins a lawsuit by filing a complaint form or write your own complaint in letter form. However you are encouraged to use the court form.
2. Submit the complaint to the Court Clerk, who will give you a Summons to be served or delivered to the Defendant.
3. Serve the Complaint & Summons in Person: Any person 18 years old and not a party to the lawsuit may serve a copy of the Summons and Complaint to the defendant within 60 days. The Summons may also be mailed first class, certified with return receipt requested at the Defendant's last known address which must be returned to the court with an Affidavit of Service filled out. Other options for service can be found in (Rule 9) of the Rules of Civil Procedure. If the Defendant does not answer within 60 days, you may ask the Court to decide the case for you. This is a Default Judgement (Rule 37)
4. The District Court schedules a Conference Hearing (Rule 18), where the parties will:
  - Discuss transferring the case to a Peacemaker Court
  - Discuss how you and the Defendant will exchange evidence to support your claims.
  - Discuss settlement options.
  - Identify relevant Mashpee Wampanoag customs and traditions.

The next article will continue to discuss filing a complaint in more depth. Each month Tribal Court will publish a series of article about how Tribal Court works. Today, we have outlined basic steps next month we will look at "Starting a Case."

## Response Team Formalized



Congratulations to the first graduates from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The first class included Anthony Perry, MWT Natural Resource Department; Hope Shwom, Tribal Action Plan Project Manager; Ciara Jackson, MWT Security Guard and Chair of the Youth Council; and Casey Thorngrugh, MWT Natural Resource Director. Nelson Andrews Jr, Emergency Man-

agement Director, along with Ann Marie Askew, Tribal EPREP Outreach Coordinator, are certified CERT trainers and oversaw the program. If you or someone you know has an interest in becoming a Tribal CERT member, please contact Nelson Andrews Jr [nelson.andrews@mwtribe.com](mailto:nelson.andrews@mwtribe.com) or Ann Marie Askew [annmarie.askew@mwtribe.com](mailto:annmarie.askew@mwtribe.com) at (508) 477-5800 X 15

## Graduates Recognized at Annual Brunch

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department hosted the 5th Annual Graduation Brunch on Saturday, June 25 for nearly 40 tribal citizen graduates. Each graduate was presented with a certificate from Scott Shepherd, assistant director of education, and Yvonne Tobey, director of WIA.

The brunch was opened up with a greeting from Scott and followed up by an opening prayer and a blessing of the food by Anne Foxx. Chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Cedric Cromwell also provided the graduates with a few words of encouragement and challenged them to continue striving for new goals and to find ways to give back to the community.

"We look forward to hosting this event all year," said Scott. "Everyone in the Education Department, along with the Education Committee and the WIA Department have worked closely with each of these tribal members as they have continued their educational career. And seeing these men and women complete a major milestone and then set new, higher goals is extremely rewarding to all of us. They deserve our recognition and we're so happy to give it."

Below is a list of the graduates recognized at this year's event. If you know a graduate that was not included in the list, please contact PR and Communications Manager Trish Keliinui at trish.keliinui@mwtribe.com and we would be happy to publish the graduate's accomplishment in an upcoming Mittark.

### Undergraduate and Graduate

- Shawna E. Newcomb
- Kayla Gomes
- Mikala Forrester
- Stephanie Sfiridis
- Clayton John Oakley Robbins
- Stephanie Plummer
- Jacqueline M. Knight
- Amanda J. Frye
- Cameron Frye
- Leslie A. Jonas
- Alexis Molokwu
- Kallie Maxim
- Stephanie Harris

### High School

- Deshaun Dias
- Hailey Harkins

- Emily Vigneau
- Deja Andrews
- Joey Spinola
- Brenda Price
- Keenan F. Lopes
- Mark J. Frye
- Asia De. Springer Jackson
- Ciara Oakley-Robbins
- Armani Rocket
- Miteyo C. Moore
- Tyler Lokeman
- Ryan Dauphinais
- Marie Frye
- Lohino L. Herrera

### WIA Graduates

- Morris Andrews
- Melvin Coombs
- Elie Finklea
- Jeffery Greene
- Christopher Hendricks
- Milteer Hendricks Jr.
- Victoria Miranda
- John Pells
- Robyn Stamps
- Christina White



## Tribal Archives Support Digitization Effort

In June Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Archivist Stephen Curley along with Volunteer Assistant Rhiannon Maher took a road trip to Harvard to connect up with individuals from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, the Yale Indian Papers Project (YIPP), and the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP). The Tribe—who is one of many Northeastern tribes participating—is working in collaboration with the two other organizations to embark on a project to create collaboration with the other organizations and northeastern tribes, is embarking on a project to create a publicly accessible online Digital Archive of Native American Petitions in Massachusetts. The project is made possible through a grant awarded by the Council on Library and Information Resources.

The project will digitize more than 4,500 petitions on Native American affairs that were sent to the Massachusetts legislature from 1640 to 1870. The petitions are housed at the Massachusetts Archives, which has collaborated with Harvard in digitizing them since 2012. Collaborative efforts with the tribes are more recent developments as institutions take more steps to involve these communities in similar projects that hold significance to their cultural heritage.



*Pictured left to right is MWT Archivist Stephen Curley, MWT Archivist Volunteer Assistant Rhiannon Maher and Executive Director of the Harvard University Native American Program Shelley Lowe outside of the archives at Harvard University.*

Stephen sees this as a true joint effort between the Tribe, Harvard and Yale with resources with individuals from the Tribal Historic Preservation Department and WLRP consulting with the project manager from Harvard.

“Identifying the documents and prioritizing for public accessibility and digitization is extremely time-consuming. However, we can see the benefits of supporting this project,” said Stephen. “When the project is finalized, the tribal archives will receive copies of

these digital representations along with other works produced. We will have direct access to these materials right here in our Government and Community Center. It’s a powerful thing when we can all be stewards of Wampanoag history.”

Support in the form of submissions has come from a wide range of Native American Tribes and individuals beyond Wampanoag Nation. More than a third of the 4,500 petitions came from dozens of Native American nations and native individuals that opened up their personal archives. The project itself was planned in consultation the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, and the Mohegan Tribe.

Because Massachusetts was an important trading and diplomatic space, the petitions come from the Great Lakes, contemporary Canada, Maine, and the Connecticut and Hudson River valleys. The petitions, already processed, will be cataloged with metadata information, and then digitized and rehoused.

The digital repository will be created at Harvard’s Dataverse and replicated at Yale. This free, publicly accessible resource will enrich Native American studies, American history, anthropology, and other humanistic pursuits.

## Eprep at USET



Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Management Director Nelson Andrews Jr (Far Right hand side) collaborated with many other professionals in the field of Emergency Management. Emergency Managers from all across Indian Country met at the May Semi-Annual United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) conference held in Atmore, AL. This most recent USET conference was hosted by the Poarch Band Creek Indian Tribe. Nelson is a member of the USET Emergency Services Committee, and at this past conference he took part in a full-scale exercise along with staff from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and many other USET committee members.

## Getting Prepped for the Hurricane Season

The start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season began on June 1 and will continue through November 30th. In the past most tropical storms and hurricanes that have impacted our area have normally occurred around the months of August and September, it is very important to begin preparing yourself, your family, your home and assets, and your business now. Over the next few months the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Preparedness Department (MWTEPREP) along with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will be sharing important preparedness information to increase awareness of the possible impacts of a hurricane or tropical storm and ensure the continued safety of our tribal citizens visitors and property.

Although the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) seasonal outlook predicts a normal number of hurricanes this season, it is important to remember that it only takes one storm to severely impact an area. Additionally, it is important to understand that hurricanes and tropical storms can impact the entire Commonwealth not just coastal regions. For example, Tropical Storm Irene produced

devastating flooding in Central and Western Massachusetts. Therefore, all Massachusetts residents need to prepare for the possibility of a hurricane impacting Massachusetts and the surrounding areas this season.

“The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Preparedness Department along with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency are ensuring to offer vital hurricane preparedness tips, recommendations, briefings and presentations” stated MWTEPREP Director Nelson Andrews Jr. “Preparation for hurricanes and other disasters rely on three key principles, build an emergency kit, create a plan and stay informed.”

To prepare for the season, it’s a good idea to take the following steps:

Build an emergency kit. Emergency kits should include items that will sustain you and your family in the event you are isolated for three to five days without power or unable to go to a store. While some items, such as bottled water, food, flashlight, radio and extra batteries, first aid kit, sanitation items and clothing should be in everyone’s kit, it is important to customize

*(Continued on page 11)*

# 95TH ANNUAL





# MWT POWWOW



## Health Service Unit-IHS Awarded Special Diabetes Program for Indians Grant

**C**ongratulations to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Health Service Unit-IHS on the successful award of grant that will improve support for diabetes. CEO of the Health Service Unit Rita Gonsalves and her team have assisted the Mashpee Tribe by writing the grant application for the SDPI (Special Diabetes Program for Indians) and have been awarded over \$93,000 in grant monies.

The grant is planned as a five-year program Initiative. The purpose is to improve Diabetes Education and Services for Diabetes health and is to give patients the power to control their diabetes. This is a new award and Rita will be implementing services soon. Plans include a Dietician/Diabetes Educator and additional community education. The Health Service Unit plans to keep the community informed of its progress as they are implemented.



No need to wait, If you have diabetes, call (508) 477-6967 to schedule an appointment to see our on-site Physician and Nurse Practitioner. We're here to serve you now. It's important to remember that this grant award will be used to enhance diabetes services and that programs for diabetics are currently in place and ready to serve the community.

## First Aid Training for Elders



On Thursday, July 21 the Lunch & Learn program will be hosting a special first aid training program for elders. Mashpee Wampanoag Elders are invited to attend the training which will be held at the Community and Government Center from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m in the North Wing. Title V1 Nutrition Program Director Instructor and RN Adedoyin Adepoju will teach the program.

Space is limited and participants are asked to RSVP to Nutrition Program Director Donald Peters at (508) 477-0208 x 117 or at [dpeters@mwtribe.com](mailto:dpeters@mwtribe.com).

## Expanded Hours at Health Service Unit

The Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit is very pleased to announce that it now has expanded hours to better serve its patients. The new hours started on Monday, June 27 with the Health Service Unit open from 7:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Monday

through Thursday. The expanded hours include medical, behavioral health and laboratory services appointments. The Health Service Unit will still be open during normal business hours on Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Tufts Health Plan Senior Care Options

**T**ufts Health Plan Senior Care Options - If you are 65 or older and have MassHealth Standard, you can get extra care benefits at NO COST - With supervision of a care manager, some of the extra benefits include:

- \$0 Covered prescription drugs and certain over-the-counter drugs prescribed by your doctor
- \$0 Cleanings, dentures, crowns and more
- \$0 Vision Care
- \$0 Routine hearing exams and a hearing aid benefit
- \$0 Rides to and from your medical appointments
- \$0 24/7 telephone access to an on-call health professional

Qualifications on Enrollment:

- Age 65 or older
- Eligible for MassHealth Standard
- A Mass resident living in Barnstable,

Bristol, Essex, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties

- Not diagnosed with end stage renal disease.
- Your current Primary Care Provider is joined in the network (such as Indian Health Services)

Tufts Health Plan Senior Care Options is a plan with \$0 out-of-pocket costs that combines Medicare and MassHealth Standard benefits. For information please contact Tribal Health Support Services (508) 477 0208 x 166.



## SHINE Counselor at Lunch and Learn

Tribal Health will have a SHINE Counselor available during the Title VI Lunch and Learn program, to assist our tribal elders in providing unbiased health insurance information and assistance with:

- Medicare Part D and other prescription drug programs
- Compare Medigaps to Medicare Advantage plans and their costs and benefits
- Assist with billing problems and appeals
- Prevent consumers from buying unnecessary or duplicate coverage
- Help prepare enrollment forms and applications for assistance

SHINE counselors help seniors and disabled adults understand their rights and benefits under Medicare and other health insurance and related low income assistance programs. All information is kept strictly confidential.

For more information please contact Wendy Pocknett in the Tribal Health Department at (508)477 0208 x166 or email [wpocknett@mwtribe.com](mailto:wpocknett@mwtribe.com).



## Hurricane Season Preparation

The start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season began on June 1 and will continue through November 30th. In the past most tropical storms and hurricanes that have impacted our area have normally occurred around the months of August and September, it is very important to begin preparing yourself, your family, your home and assets, and your business now. Over the next few months the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Preparedness Department (MWTEPREP) along with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will be sharing important preparedness information to increase awareness of the possible impacts of a hurricane or tropical storm and ensure the continued safety of our tribal citizens visitors and property.

Although the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) seasonal outlook predicts a normal number of hurricanes this season, it is important to remember that it only takes one storm to severely impact an area. Additionally, it is important to understand that hurricanes and tropical storms can impact the entire Commonwealth not just coastal regions. For example, Tropical Storm Irene produced devastating flooding in Central and Western Massachusetts. Therefore, all Massachusetts residents need to prepare for the possibility of a hurricane impacting Massachusetts and the surrounding areas this season.

“The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Preparedness Department along with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency are ensuring to offer vital hurricane preparedness tips, recommendations, briefings and presentations” stated MWTEPREP Director Nelson Andrews Jr. “Preparation for hurricanes and other disasters rely on three key principles, build an emergency kit, create a plan and stay informed.”



the kit to meet your needs and the needs of your family. Consider adding medications, extra eyeglasses, contact lenses, dentures, extra batteries for hearing aids or wheelchairs, and other medical information and supplies such as an oxygen tank, lists of allergies, medications and dosages, medical insurance information, and medical records. Additionally, your emergency kit should include supplies for your pet. For a complete emergency kit checklist, visit: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/be-prepared/kit/>.

Create a Family Emergency Communications Plan. The plan should address how you will communicate with one another and how your family plans to reunite after the immediate crisis passes. Plans should include the name of a relative or friend who has agreed to serve as the Family Emergency Communications Plan contact person. Ideally, this person should reside out-of-state to increase the likelihood that they are not impacted by the same event. As part of a Communication Plan, you should create a personal support network and a list of contacts that include caregivers, friends, neighbors, service/care providers, and others who might be able to assist during an emergency. Keep the list of contacts in a safe, accessible place (particularly if your cell phone is lost or dead) and make sure ev-

## Education Committee Seeks New members

As time moves so rapidly in the tribe there are many matters before our leaders, who have an overflow of information, and priorities on their agendas. This includes our leaders who volunteer on the tribe’s committees, commissions and youth council. One of the most critical areas for the tribe is in the education of our tribal youth, and other tribal members. Keen focus is need to acquire an education department that reflects the needs of our members and the community at large.

The Education committee is seeking new members who have a committed interest in the continued building of our tribal community through education, and is seeking volunteers to work on specific activities of the education committee in the form of sub-committees, some works identified but are not limited to Scholarship fundraising events, Community events, Indian Education and curriculum, Development Consortium (EdD Tribal Fellows) Program development, and Parent’s Council.

The Education Committee acts in an advisory capacity to the Tribal Council and the Education department, and have the authority to: (1) Examine education issues, and establish the necessary comprehensive planning process which shall coordinate resources on the Mashpee Wampanoag community to monitor, improve and create education systems for the benefit of Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal members; and (2) Recommend a comprehensive planning process for education systems. (3) Develop and/or facilitate the development and implementation of educational programming in the arts, sciences, media and social traditions for the benefit of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe; and (4) Seek, identify and procure resources, including grants, contracts and scholarship fundraising activities in support of the activities outlined above.

If you or some or someone you may know who is interested in serving your community on the tribe’s education committee, please contact committee member Morgan Peters at 508-566-6269 or email at [mwalim@gmail.com](mailto:mwalim@gmail.com). Thank you for your interest.

## Museum Events

### Artisan’s Festival

Date: July 24

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

Location: Mashpee Community Park (across from Mashpee Town Hall)

### Craft Night

Mondays

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

MWTCGC Elder’s Kitchen (temporary)

### Pre School Language Hour

Fridays

10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

MWTCGC Elder’s Kitchen (temporary location change due to cataloging being conducted at the Museum)

## Hokulea's Arrival brings Two Native Cultures Together and Makes Special Connection for Trish Keliinui by By Kathy Muneno at khon2

**A**s expansive as Hokulea's voyage around the world is, with it's huge mission of malama honua, caring for earth, her arrival in Woods Hole, Massachusetts is a very deep and inward journey for one woman waiting on the dock.

Hand over heart, red scarf around her neck she waited

"As she came closer, something just took me over, I just got so emotional I had tears I was welling up, I didn't expect that it surprised me, but I could feel it in my heart, she was coming," said Trish Keliinui.

The canoe of her father's native Hawaiian heritage drawing closer to the homeland of her mother's native Mashpee Wampanoag heritage.

"When Hokulea came in to the dock it was like my life was just coming toward me, my two cultures were connecting, literally," Keliinui said.

"This gathering this togetherness is historical and we will speak of it for generations to come," said Ramona Peters, member of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe.

Trish Keliinui has lived in Massachusetts since age 2.

She was born in Hawaii, after her mother visited, met her dad and they married. She still has family in Waimanalo and Kapahulu, where her father now lives, her mother

has passed.

There are large scale differences between her two cultures like language, geography, climate, but those pale to the depth of similarities.

"The importance of culture, the land, the water the air that we breathe," said Keliinui. "Paying homage to our ancestors, realizing that what we have right now is what they left us to take care of."

The love of tradition the same, like the children smudging the crew with sage smoke, a welcome with the prayers they say lift to the heavens above.

The expression through song and dance, the same, humility, a drive to preserve and the importance of family.

Perhaps no surprise, Trish works for her Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, which has now taken in Hokulea's crew, and the family grows.

"I just feel blessed to be from two very beautiful worlds," Keliinui said.

Since Hokulea's departure from Hilo, Hawaii in May 2014 for the Malama Honua voyage to spread the message of caring for Island Earth, crew members sailed more than 23,000 miles through five oceans. It stopped at 55 ports in 12 countries, all in just the first two years of her journey.

"There's something special that this

canoe carries on behalf of our home that I think this world not only respects but needs and so to everybody in Hawaii that made this happen and to the thousands that aren't here and to all those that made the long journey, we're just deeply, deeply grateful," Polynesian Voyaging Society president Nainoa Thompson said.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Artisan Festival to be Held on July 24 at Community Park

Local, native artists will be showcasing and selling their hand-crafted items at the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum's 2nd Annual Native American Artisans' Festival on Sunday, July 24. The festival will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Mashpee Community Park located directly across the street from the Mashpee Town Hall. The event is open to the public whom are encouraged to browse, learn about our culture and shop for keepsakes.

If you are interested in attending the arts and crafts festival as a vendor or would like more information about attending contact Kitty Hendricks-Miller at ghenricks@mwtribe.com or at (508)-477-9339.



## Museum Hosted Talk on Whaling

The Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum hosted a lecture exploring the history of the whaling industry in the Wampanoag communities on June 14. The lecture, Preserved on the Mighty Waters: Exploring the Indian Mariners Project, dove into the impact Wampanoag ancestors and other Natives had on the whaling industry.

Dr. Jason R. Mancini from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center led the lecture. Throughout the talk he supported how the participation of Native men in various forms of maritime labor - from ship building to whaling - impacted the industry and the times.

For more information about the Museum and the special events it hosts, please call the Museum at (508) 477-9339.



## Two Spirits with Visiting Artist Ty Defoe

A visit from Ty Defoe, a Grammy-Award winning, Oneida and Ojibwe Nations artist exploring Two-Spirit/transgender/gender non-conforming identities in a traditional way, could not have been timelier. His visit came just two days after a shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando that took the lives of 49 and injured more than 50. At a time when many were trying to come to grips with the senseless loss of life, his message about breaking down barriers and connecting communities provided a needed perspective.

"The concept of Two-Spirit, where the And other coexist on a gender spectrum in a person, has always been there among Native people; it's just that it has been shamed and oppressed," Defoe explains. "I have been progressively evolving. For me, transcending

form and name was a process I undertook to make the flow a little bit easier and help others on the same path. Being a Two-Spirit person, it's not about a gender identity overpowering the other. The soul craves movement around these concepts of masculine, feminine and other we have created. Right now it's a time for healing for the Two-Spirited community . . . there is tremendous creative potential and an amazing sense of fearlessness."

Ty is a writer, musician, storyteller, hoop dancer, theater artist, and flautist. His visit to Mashpee on June 14 involved a trip to the Mashpee High School to engage with a few students directly and a trip to the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum.

Ty is in the area thanks to a partnership with The Theater Offensive in Boston (TTO) and the Black Indian Inn. TTO is dedicated to producing art that presents the LGBTQ community in a bold way that breaks down barriers and connects communities. They have a program called OUT In Your Neighborhood.

Part of his visit involved collecting shells from Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum Director Kitty Hendricks for a large community created dreamcatcher he is working on. Ty unveiled the dreamcatcher on Saturday, June 18 during the LGBTQ people of color pride picnic called; BASK in a Roxbury park to assert unity among LGBTQ people of color. He said the branches of this dreamcatcher represent the interconnectedness of all people and the messages wishes, thoughts, and prayers made by the local community.

For more information about Ty and his work visit [www.tydefoe.com](http://www.tydefoe.com).



## Meeting House Events



- Blind Joe Amos Sunday Service**  
Sunday, July 17 (3rd Sunday)
- Richard Bourne Sunday Service**  
Sunday, August 21
- Thanks Giving Celebration**  
Sunday November 19  
(Sunday before Thanksgiving)

## Darius Coombs Presents at NAISA Annual Meeting

Most of us would consider a successful trip to Honolulu to include beaches, sightseeing and drinks with little umbrellas. For Darius Coombs, Director of Wampanoag and Algonkian Research at Plimoth Plantation, it included connecting with activists and scholars, exploring contemporary issues facing indigenous people and participating in a panel discussion.

As a presenter at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) annual meeting that was held May 18 to May 21 at the University of Hawai'i at M'noa in Honolulu, Darius was at the front of a movement to re-affirm old and new oceanic connections with indigenous people from around the world.

Darius was part of a panel discussion that explored how the Native past, present, and future interact dynamically by examining how things in the past reverberate into our present and beyond. Essentially, by having a better understanding of where we have come from we can better understand what lies ahead. Through the presentation Darius was able to provide insight into how his program is able to correct historical inaccuracies and keep alive traditional skills.

Darius was joined in the panel discussion by Assistant Professor at Northwestern Kelly Wisecup who specializes in Native American literature, Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee Katy Chiles who teaches and writes about Native American literature, and author of *Native Women and Land: Narratives of Dispossession and Resurgence* Stephanie Fitzgerald.

In addition to the panel discussions and lectures, the annual meeting included an opportunity for the participants to gain a better understanding of the issues facing native Hawaiians through a guided bus tour led by the members of the Concerned Elders of Wai'anae. The k'puna (elders) shared the concerns of communities seeking solutions to protect agricultural and preservation lands while sharing the mo'olelo (history) of M'ui while they overlooked the ridgelines of Pu'u Heleakal'. The tour weaved together stories of community activism, illegal sludge dumping, health problems related to dust from the landfill and the proposed industrial development of agricultural lands as well as the ways the deities in the mo'olelo of the kupua (supernatural being) M'ui are remembered in their land forms.

NAISA began through exploratory meetings hosted by the University of Oklahoma in 2007 and by the University of Georgia in 2008, incorporated in 2009, and has since become the premiere international and interdisciplinary professional organization for scholars, graduate students, independent researchers, and community members interested in all aspects of Indigenous Studies.



## MWT Enrollment Committee

The Enrollment Committee is looking for a dedicated Tribal citizen interested in helping to oversee the Tribe's enrollment process. Presently there are two open seats for three-year terms on the Enrollment Committee. 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 [fdottin@mwtribe.com](mailto:fdottin@mwtribe.com). The Enrollment Committee and the Enrollment Department are dedicated to the scrutiny of our Tribal roll and by all accounts hold our citizens' information in the highest confidentiality.

## Computer Donation

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Preparedness Department received a donation of computers from the Social Security Administration. After reviewing department needs, Nelson Andrews Jr and Ann Marie Askew of the EPREP Department donated these computers to the Education Department. After updating the software and other programs on the computers the Education Department intends on using the computers as extra youth work stations for after school programs and homework.

## Youth Lyric Wallace Finds a Way to Shine



For most people, the hurdles that sixteen year old tribal citizen Lyric Wallace has overcome may seem insurmountable. After some challenging early years, Lyric settled down to be raised by her father and stepmother. However, Lyric has never allowed her personal issues to define her or limit her ability to succeed and it's what makes her success in the classroom even more impressive.

Lyric is a star student at Cape Cod Tech where she attends high school and is currently enrolled in the dental assisting program, following in the footsteps of her Aunt Natasha Cash. Lyric plans to complete her high school degree and move on to undergraduate programs to become a dentist. In preparation for her larger goal, she has started to take early SATs and volunteering in the community - all activities that will propel her college applications to the top of the list. She plans on attending Mount Ida College next year.

She recently passed one part of the dental assisting national exam called the ICE exam - for infection control - with the highest grade in her class. She is now certified in infection control and only has two additional exams to take before being a certified dental assistant.

Lyric's excellence in education started long before high school and will likely continue long after as well. She was the valedictorian of her middle school class three years ago and has been honored on both the local and national level for maintaining such high honors throughout middle and high school.

Congratulations Lyric on all of your achievements. We are all so very proud of you and look forward to you enjoying many more future successes.

## Tribe Receives Another Clean Financial Audit

For the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has received an unmodified “clean” audit. Each year, independent auditors conduct a review of the Tribe’s financial status and fiscal controls. Receiving an unmodified audit from the examiners is the highest rating that an organization can receive.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Comptroller Ann-Margret Leaman is pleased with the final report and the positive message this sends to the larger community. “These audits provide transparency and assurance to the Tribe’s funders that the organization is responsibly and properly managing the resources assigned to us. Our accounting controls ensure we are able to design, manage, and evaluate the many social service programs that positively impact the lives of the tribal members.”

Ann-Margret added, “issuance of an “unmodified opinion” means an auditor,

upon review of an organization’s financial statements and accompanying notes, concluded that the financial statements and accompanying notes are presented fairly, conform to generally accepted accounting principles, and fairly represent the true financial picture of the organization.”

For the past seven months the finance staff have spent countless hours answering questions for the auditors and providing all of the necessary reports, electronic files and making hundreds of paper copies. Each year the annual audit is a lengthy project. However this year’s audit was made even more complex due to the addition of the gaming operation.

To prepare for the project, Ann-Margret and Treasurer Hendricks organized a pre-audit in the beginning of December where the auditor was on site for two weeks. Following the pre-audit the Finance Department prepared for the final audit that was held in the beginning of March. The final unmodified audit was issued on June 15, 2016.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Treasurer Robbie Hendricks sees the clean audit as a sign that the Tribe’s overall financial management practices are in line with industry standards and as a testament to the good work taking place in the finance department. “I would like to thank all of the directors and staff for their continued hard work of providing wonderful services and management of their departments,” said Treasurer Hendricks. “In particular, I would like to thank our Comptroller Ann-Margret and the rest of the finance department for their diligent work preparing all of the needed information and documentation. Acquiring a positive audit in an operation this size takes great effort be all.”

“These audits provide transparency and assurance to the Tribe’s funders that the organization is responsibly and properly managing the resources assigned...”

## Museum Collections Committee Members Needed

The Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum is looking for members to sit on a newly formed Museum Collections Committee. The Collections Committee will make decisions of what art and artifacts are taken into the permanent collection in accordance with the Museum’s Collections Policy and Mission Statement. The Committee will meet quarterly (only 4 times a year) and 5 mem-

bers are needed, this is a volunteer position. Interested tribal members please submit a letter of interest by Friday, September 2 to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee, MA 02649, Attention: THPO Department/Museum.

## Free Hearing Screening for Tribal Elders



Tribal Elders are able to get a free hearing screening on Friday, July 15 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Tribal Community and Government Center. Mass Audiology who develops personal hearing systems will administer the free screening. Please contact Nutritionist Program Director Donald Peters at (508) 477-0208 x 117 to schedule a screening or to learn more about it.

## Youth Sobriety Powwow to be Held on August 6



Save the date for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Youth Sobriety Powwow on Saturday, August 6. The powwow will be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community and Government Center.



# POWWOW



Photos from the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow

