
INDIAN LEAP NEWSLETTER

THE NATIVE AMERICAN MOHEGANS' ANNUAL INTERTRIBAL POWWOW

Our annual Intertribal Powwow will be held on September 16 and 17, 2006, at the Lebanon Fairgrounds on Mack Road in Lebanon, Connecticut. This year's Master of Ceremonies is Thin Elk, the Head Dancers, are Ghost Dancer and Roaring Wind, and our Host Drum is the Turtle Drum Singers.

The gates will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00am to 6:00pm with Grand Entry at 12:00pm on both days.

There will be a Potluck Supper on Saturday night. So, if you can, bring a dish to share with family and friends.

Take Connecticut RT395 to Hwy 2 West to Hwy 32 North to Hwy 87 North to Lebanon.

For additional information call (860) 892-1039 or email info@nativeamericanmohegans.com

IMPORTANT MEETING!

POWWOW VOLUNTEERS

There is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 30th at 6:00 for anybody who is interested in volunteering for the powwow. Volunteers are needed for setting up the powwow, gate attendants, running the raffle table, daily clean up and break down of the powwow. The meeting will be at the tribal office at 77 East Town Street in Norwich. If you would like to volunteer but are unable to attend the meeting please call Liz at the office 860-892-1039 or email dwlewis@nativeamericanmohegans.com.

BEADING CLASSES

We now have a beading class every Tuesday morning for those who wish to learn how to do beadwork. Donna Shank and Larnie Sarette are wonderful beaders. Larnie's beadwork is so wonderful, that she teaches a class at one of the stores she purchases her beads from. How great is that!!! We also have Gerri Corey teaching and working on beautiful beadwork.

They are more than happy to help anyone who is interested in doing their own beadwork. Come and join the fun!! Classes are every Tuesday at the Tribal Office from 9:30 until.... Hope to see some new faces.

Darlene Currier/Eyes of the Wolf

GUNG SKEEDUMBORK CORNER

Congratulations to all the children who attended this year's culture class. It was another wonderful class. We hope you enjoyed making your crafts and learning the Mohegan language.

We would like to give special congratulations to Danielle Berry/Summer Buttercup, for her A+ on her report about Pocahantas. Also, to Sarah Smith/Wind through the Trees for her report and the Native American Village that she made for a school project, great job! Another student that excelled at her report was Taylor Currier/Singing Bluejay for her report on Rosa Parks, keep up the good work!! All of our children deserve praise for all their hard work. You ALL have come a long way learning about your Mohegan culture.

Our Gung Skeedumbork class will be dancing at our powwow this year. Everyone will be amazed at how well they can dance. Anyone interested in joining our Gung Skeedumbork class can simply come to class held at the Tribal Office. Classes resume on Saturday August 26th at 9:30 am. Everyone is wigamun (welcome).

We say Tabut ne (thank-you) to all the Instructors that give their time teaching the children their Mohegan culture; Grandmother Ruth/Magnolia Blossom, Donna Shank/Big Duck, Elizabeth Corey/One Who Walks with Shadows, Roger Corey/Eagle Spirit, Lori Currier/Autumn Fox (dance instructor) and last but not least, the parents and Grandparents who help out with our class, Gerri Corey and Larnie Corey. Tabut ne. Can't wait to see you all on Saturday August 26th!!!!

Darlene Currier/Eyes of the Wolf

ELDERS COUNCIL

The Tribal Council has asked Catherine "Kay" Foster to revive the Elders Council. Kay has graciously accepted the challenge and for that we are all very grateful. In her first act in her new capacity, Kay has asked to have the following announcement added to this newsletter:

We are forming an "Active" NAMT Elders Council, with the purpose of cultivating & perpetuating the customs, heritage & religion of our tribal community and with the responsibility for the education and training of our tribal youth. We will uphold the traditional values of our tribe and provide a voice and advocate for our elderly.

Are you 60 years old or older?

Are you interested in preserving our Traditions and Culture?

Are you able to attend at least one meeting a month and participate as an active member?

... then please consider joining us.

More information to follow.

With warm regards,

Kay, Ocean Sunrise

ARTMAN NOMINATED AS ASSISTANT
SECRETARY FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS
MOVE COMES AMIDST CRITICISM OVER
INDIAN TRUST CASE

Sam Lewin 8/3/2006, Native American Times

The Bush Administration has nominated a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin to fill the vacant Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs post, while coming under criticism from plaintiffs in the Indian trust fund case for not acting on legislation to solve the long running dispute.

Carl Joseph Artman is currently the Department of Interior's associate solicitor for Indian affairs, administration officials said in a statement. Before that he worked for Ohio congressman Michael Oxley, a Republican.

"With his extensive experience working with and for tribal governments, Carl is an outstanding choice to oversee the Bureau of Indian Affairs," Interior secretary Dirk Kempthorne said in a statement. "I have worked with Carl and know he will ably serve American Indians and Alaska Natives as we move forward to address important issues in Indian Country, including education and economic development. He'll be an outstanding addition to the Interior leadership team."

The head of the National Congress of American Indians applauded Artman's nomination.

"I look forward to supporting Mr. Artman in representing Native people at the highest levels of the federal government," NCAI president Joe Garcia said. "This appointment reaffirms the Department of Interior's commitment to work closely and productively with Indian Country during the remaining years of the current administration."

The NCAI also said Artman has "extensive experience in Indian affairs, including land-trust, land claims, taxation, gaming and education."

"Mr. Artman's broad work on the ground in Indian Country brings a level of expertise to this post that is crucial and on par with the many

important issues he will address as Assistant Secretary," said NCAI executive director Jacqueline Johnson. "NCAI looks forward to working with him on these issues and of course, trust reform is a big issue right now, but we also want to make sure that the [Department of Interior] makes progress on its other major responsibilities including law enforcement, transportation and education."

This is the second time Bush has tapped Artman to fill a position. He nominated Artman in 2002 to be a member of a federal advisory board on tribal colleges.

Artman appears to have kept a relatively low profile, although he briefly made the news in Wisconsin back in February when a congressman returned to Artman a \$200 campaign donation. U.S. Rep. Mark Green (R-Wis.) said he was giving back the contribution because of Green's "call for a ban on donations from gambling interests while the state is negotiating casino deals," the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported, characterizing Artman as "an attorney with the Oneida tribe."

Artman's would replace former secretary Dave Anderson, although a hearing on his nomination is not expected until after Labor Day.

Also in DC, Eloise Cobell, the Blackfeet woman at the heart of the Indian trust lawsuit, is criticizing the Bush Administration for "refusing to endorse" efforts by two other lawmakers that she says would have led to "a fair and expeditious settlement" in the case.

Cobell was referring to Arizona Senator John McCain withdrawing a request for action on an \$8 billion settlement to the case in order to discuss it further with Bush staffers.

Cobell's statement accused Kempthorne and Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez of pressuring McCain at the "11th hour" to give up on the legislation.

"I continue to support and look to the leadership of Senator McCain," Cobell said. "He can make the difference. If he truly wants a resolution and

uses his political power to get one, he can do so. But time is running very short.”

The following is the full text of Cobell’s statement:

“It is unfortunate that the Bush Administration refuses to endorse the efforts of Senate Indian Affairs Chairman John McCain, R-Arizona, and Vice Chairman Bryon Dorgan, D-North Dakota, to reach a fair and expeditious settlement of the Cobell litigation.

Although the Administration has had more than a year to evaluate S.1489 -- a bill that would, among other things, resolve the Cobell case -- Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne and Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez at the 11th hour asked the senators not to mark-up of the bill as scheduled this morning. They based this request on the grounds that they wanted the month of August to work out issues they had with the proposed settlement act.

No one in Indian Country believes the Administration actually needs any more time to consider this resolution. Nor is there any reason to believe that the Administration is more serious now, given their record of resistance, irrespective of what they say. There is nothing new here in the Bush administration's attitude.

The government has never negotiated in good faith, notwithstanding court orders or congressional directive. And we would note that the Court of Appeals just this past month stressed the need for a prompt and fair resolution, while also noting that "Interior's deplorable record deserves condemnation in the strongest terms. Words like 'ignominious" and "incompeten[t]...and 'malfeasance' and 'recalcitrance' are fair and well-supported by the record."

Delay is business as usual for the Interior Department. Its bureaucrats and their friends continue to make money as long as they can stall this case in court. In fact, the Interior's own Inspector General just last week released a report condemning the granting of over \$100 million of accounting work associated with the

Cobell case. The reason: senior officials of the Department were giving no-bid contracts to their cronies and friends. So it is no surprise they don't want a settlement that will necessarily shut down the little cottage industry they have created.

I continue to support and look to the leadership of Senator McCain. He can make the difference. If he truly wants a resolution and uses his political power to get one, he can do so. But time is running very short. He -- along with others like Senator Conrad Burns, R-Montana, and Dorgan must take the necessary steps to ensure that justice so long denied is delayed no further. This bill will need to be marked up and personally shepherded through Congress by Chairman McCain immediately after the August recess. I and our lawyers will continue to work with the Committee on Indian Affairs to accomplish this task.

Senator McCain has personally given his word to me that he will do all he can to ensure a fair bill is enacted. His staff has informed us that Senator McCain believes that what is fair is at least \$8 billion. We are confident he will keep his word to the 500,000 individual Indians who are depending on him.

TRIBES SEEK TO PRESERVE AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURE AMONG YOUTHS

by Dionne Walker, AP Writer

WEST POINT, Va. – With tiny fists of fury; Raleigh Custalow pummeled an ornery glob of tan mush.

Most kindergartners were asleep or plopped in front at Cartoon Network. But on this Saturday morning, the 5-year old joined other youth on the Mattaponi Indian Reservation mashing, paddling arid rolling clay chunks into masks, boxes and whistles.

The cultural class is one way Virginia Indian leaders are trying to keep alive their vanishing history. Fewer keepers of the old ways are around to teach the youngsters, who are more

interested in sports and the Internet than ancient traditions, tribal elders say.

Distracted and indifferent youth is a common lament among adults. But in a culture that relies primarily on oral history and the skills of fading elders, losing youth interest could end a way of life.

"It's a concern of mine for sure and I think most of not just the leadership, but the elders in general," said Wayne Adkins, president of Virginia Indian Tribal Alliance for Life. "It's a chance that a lot of that (culture) won't be carried on."

Of the 17,613 American Indians and Alaskan natives documented in Virginia in 2004, census data shows approximately 3,800 were 19 and under.

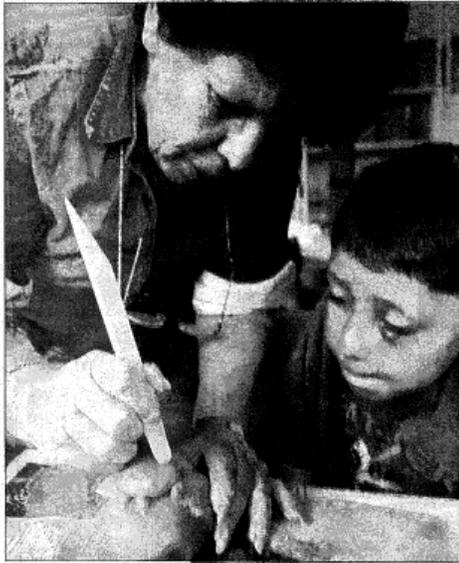
Some, like Mattaponi Raleigh and his 4-year-old sister, Lili, are actively involved in cultural activities. They're among about a dozen who attend the Saturday class, which teaches everything from American Indian beadwork to Algonquian language.

The class was developed for American Indian students in King William County public schools and is funded by federal grants through the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Indian Education to improve school performance among American Indian youth.

"I thought it would be a good idea for them to get more involved and find out more of their culture," Robin Custalow said of her children "This is a good start".

Among other young people, however, part-time jobs and PlayStation overshadow lessons on antiquated languages and dances, Adkins said.

None of the children in a recent class were over age 13



Christine Custalow, left, works on a pottery project with Michael Collins at the Mattaponi culture class in West Point, VA

"Children are involved in sports and cheerleading, all kinds of activities," he said. "It's just a competition for their time and their interest."

Upper Mattaponi Chief, Ken Adams, spoke of a generational gap that weakens the focus on culture. He said today's youth haven't experienced blunt racial discrimination and don't see the importance of preservation.

"I probably have a lot more pride in displaying the culture than a lot of young folk do because there was a time when I couldn't," said Adams, who attended Indian-only schools in the segregated Virginia of his youth.

STUDY TO FIND IF PART OF HOSPITAL SITE WAS NATIVE AMERICAN VILLAGE

Archeologist Says Utopia Land Should Be Focus Of Dig

By Megan Bard

The New London Day, 7/13/2006

Preston - Roughly 30 acres of the former state hospital site should be the focus of an archeological dig to determine whether at one time it was the site of an Native American village, according to state archeologists.

Preston First Selectman Robert Congdon met Tuesday with Nick Bellantoni, the state archeologist, and David Poirier, a staff archeologist with the state commission on history and tourism, to review a six-volume report produced by the two offices on the historic significance of the site.

Congdon briefly updated the Norwich State Hospital Advisory Committee on the results of the report and the state officials' suggestions during the committee's meeting Wednesday night.

The men suggested that Preston, in conjunction with the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot

tribes, pay for an extensive study of the 30-acre section that spans the Preston and Norwich lines.

Congdon said the town could be involved with the possible archeological dig because of the signed purchase and sale agreement it has with the state. The tribes could be involved because of their personal interest, he said.

Congdon said Bellantoni and Poirier were to have met with tribal representatives earlier this week.

"If there is a grant available and we can work with the two tribes to preserve whatever is found and bring it to one of the tribal museums then it would be in everybody's best interest to preserve that history," he said. "But if it will tie up development for years and years and years we ought to find a way to make it work and develop solutions quickly."

The 419-acre former hospital property is the site of a proposed \$1.6 billion development project that includes a theme park, performing arts school and ancillary businesses, including hotels. The developer, Utopia Studios Ltd. is currently taking test samples for the final phase of a three-part environmental assessment of the site.

In February 2005 a local chapter of the Sierra Club sponsored a hike led by Bellantoni through the wooded portion of the property east of Route 12.

At that time Bellantoni said he had evaluated the property's archeological value, and found 42 sites of interest. Among them are Native American sites dating back 4,000 to 6,000 years, colonial era sites and remains of two Navy planes that crashed on a training mission during World War II.

Bellantoni returned to the hospital property in the summer of 2005 to determine which are the most valuable and in need of preservation.

Congdon said it is not a mandate that the archeological research be done. He also said it would be easier to do the study now than when

a developer begins to excavate to create foundations and finds artifacts. This would shut the project down until the artifacts are collected.

An alternative is for a developer to build a parking area over the site or use a slab instead of traditional foundation for a building.

BOOK REVIEW

A CENTURY OF DISHONOR

The Classic Expose of the Plight of the Native American

By Helen Hunt Jackson

First published in 1881 and reprinted in numerous editions since, Helen Hunt Jackson's *A Century of Dishonor* is a classic account of the U.S. government's flawed Indian policy and the unfair and cruel treatment afforded North American Indians by expansionist Americans. Jackson wrote the book as a polemic to "appeal to the hearts and conscience of the American people," who she hoped would demand legislative reform from Congress and redeem the country's name from the stain of a "century of dishonor." Her efforts, which constitute a landmark in Indian reform, helped begin the long process of public awareness for Indian rights that continues to the present day.

Sharply critical of the United States government's cruelty toward Native Americans, this monumental study chronicles the maltreatment of Indians as far back as the American Revolution. The work reveals a succession of broken treaties, the government's forced removal of tribes from choice lands, and other examples of inhuman treatment of the nation's Native American populations.

A Century of Dishonor was written in the hope of righting the wrongs inflicted upon this nation's first inhabitants. Within a year of its 1881 publication, the book played an instrumental role in the creation of the powerful Indian Rights Association. Decades later, author and critic Allen Nevins described it as "one of

the soundest and most exhaustive works” ever written about Native American rights.

TRADITION !

Three Sisters, Sustainers of Life

To the native people, corn, beans, and squash are the Three Sisters, the physical and spiritual sustainers of life. The three vegetables composed the main food supply of Native Americans. These life-supporting plants were given to the people when all three miraculously sprouted from the body of Sky Woman's daughter, granting the gift of agriculture to the native people.

The Indians' agricultural system was based on the hill-planting method. Native women, who were responsible for farming, placed several kernels of corn in a hole. As the small seedlings began to grow, the farmers returned periodically to mound the soil around the young plants, ultimately creating a hill one foot high and two feet wide. The hills were arranged in rows about one step apart.

The women mixed their crops, using a system called "interplanting." Two or three weeks after the corn was planted, the women returned to plant bean seeds in the same hills. The beans contributed nitrogen to the soil, and the cornstalks served as bean poles. Between the rows, the farmers cultivated a low-growing crop such as squash or pumpkins, the leaves of which shaded the ground, preserving moisture and inhibiting weed growth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Betty Allard would like to wish her mother, Ida May Daigle, a belated happy 88th birthday. Ida May of Oakdale, CT, turned 88 on July 7th.

Ruth Elizabeth and John Hubert Sweet will be celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary on August 31st. Congratulations!

Robin McCool and Reynaldo Rivera were married on August 3rd. Congratulations to Robin and Reynaldo.

Robin McCool would like to announce the birth of her granddaughter, Reyna Wolch, born July 14, 2006. Reyna and her mother, Jennifer Wolch, are both doing well.

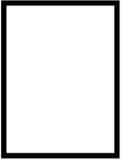
Congratulations to Nicole Heavenor who graduated high school in June and will be attending Johnson and Wales this Fall.

Carol Fowler Lebitz would like to congratulate her grandson, Andrew Blackstone, for his many recent accomplishments; Andrew was accepted to the Christian Ministry and Biblical Studies Program at Messiah College, Andrew became an Eagle Scout on August 6th, and Andrew announced his engagement to Tiffany Gay of Pennsylvania.

(If you have any announcements you would like printed in the next newsletter, send them to the office at 77 East Town Street, Norwich, CT, 06360, or call (860) 892-1039 or email to:

info@nativeamericanmohegans.com.)

Native American Mohegans, Inc.
77 East Town Street
Norwich, CT, 06360



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

***Native American Mohegans'
Annual Intertribal Powwow
September 16/17, 2006***

Lebanon Fairgrounds, Mack Road, Lebanon, CT

We need volunteers to help with the preparations. If you would like to volunteer, call the office at (860) 892-1039, or send email to info@nativeamericanmohegans.com.

With your help we can have another successful Powwow!
