

# INDIAN LEAP NEWSLETTER

## HARVEST GATHERING

After two rained out attempts to get the Tribe together, we were finally able to hold our annual Harvest Gathering on December 13th at the VFW in Uncasville, CT. As usual, this year's gathering was a success. There were over 50 members in attendance this year. Darlene Currier led with a prayer prior to dinner. There was plenty of food for everybody. Needless to say, nobody went home hungry. A special thanks to the Elders' Council for coordinating the food and to everybody in the kitchen for preparing the food as it arrived.

Elizabeth Corey organized the raffle table, which was full of items and yielded many happy winners. Thanks to everybody who donated gifts that were raffled.

There was a special presentation made by the Elders' Council to the Tribe (see related article). In addition, the annual "Volunteer of the Year" award was presented (see related article).

As the day came to a close there were a number of people helping to clean up, do the dishes, put the tables and chairs away and take out the trash. Thanks to all helping hands.

We look forward to seeing you at the next social, May 23<sup>rd</sup> (see related calendar schedule)!



*John and Ruth Sweet and Virginia Carey.*



*Edith Cornish and family.*



*Deborah Mounds and Anna Jackson enjoying the raffle.*

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## PAT KNAPP AND DONALD PALARDY SR. RECEIVE THE 2009 “VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD”

At the Annual Harvest Gathering that was held on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at the VFW Hall located on Raymond Hill Road in Uncasville, CT. The Annual Native American Mohegans 2009 “Volunteer of the Year Award” was presented to Pat Knapp and Donald Palardy Sr. for their continued efforts in the support of the Tribe. The presentations were made by last year’s recipients, Carol Lebitz and Ralph Fowler.

Tribal Council would like to recognize Pat Knapp and Donald Palardy Sr. for their contributions.



*Carol Lebitz (far left) and Ralph Fowler (far right) present annual “Volunteer of the Year” award to Pat Knapp and Donald Palardy Sr.*

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## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

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### **FAMILY GATHERING**

A Family Gathering will be held at the Mohegan Fire Department on May 23, 2010, from 12:00-3:00pm. The VFW Hall is located on RT32 in Uncasville, CT.

Please come and enjoy the social. It's great to get together with all of our Native American families and friends. Hope to see you there.

It's a potluck, so don't forget to bring a dish, a dessert, or both!

Directions: I-395 to exit 79A, CT-2A; take CT-2A East for 0.5 miles to exit 1, CT-32 (Norwich New London Tpk); turn right onto CT-32 and go South. The fire department will be on your left. To park take a left onto Occum Lane. Mohegan Fire Department parking to the left and CVS on right.

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### **2010 POWWOW CALENDAR**

This year's Powwow Calendar has been added to the "Events" page of the web site.

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### **2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE**

Tribal Council would first like to thank all Tribal Members for their financial support through 2009. As a result of your support, we were able to maintain our Tribal Office, publish the quarterly newsletter, pay for the function halls we use for meetings and gatherings, and support the culture club for our children.

Send your dues (\$36) to Toni Cook at the address below and if you do not know where you stand with respect to your dues obligation, call Toni at (781) 944-3580.

Tribal Council continues to offer "Active" Tribal Members an opportunity to purchase a "Lifetime" membership. No more worrying about whether your dues are paid up, no more worrying about future increase in dues.

In order to qualify today, your dues must be paid-up through the end of 2009. Then for a one-time fee of \$150, you can become a "lifetime" member of the Tribe. Just send a simple note requesting a "Lifetime" membership along with a check made out to the Native American Mohegans to:

Mrs. Toni Cook  
94 Salem Street  
Reading, MA 01867

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### **TOP INDIAN FOOTBALLER CONTEMPLATES REDSKINS SUIT**

By Rob Capriccioso  
Mar 11, 2010, Indian Country Today

WASHINGTON – A superstar Native American football player says he won't pre-emptively turn down any potential draft offers from the Redskins football team. At the same time, a group of Indian litigants is pressing harder to prevent "redskins" trademarks across the nation.

In recent days, much attention in the sports world has focused on Sam Bradford, the University of Oklahoma quarterback who is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, and where he might end up when drafted into the National Football League. He's expected to be a top 10 pick in early April.

Some analysts have predicted that the 2008 Heisman Trophy winner's prowess on the field will make him especially attractive to the Washington Redskins, since the team has struggled for so many years and is in need of a strong quarterback.

Bradford was asked Feb. 27 by a sports reporter at the NFL scouting combine whether he would have a problem being drafted to the Redskins. The team has been mired in a lawsuit since 1992 brought forth by Indian plaintiffs who've argued that the team's trademark is racist. Bradford is the first Indian to win the Heisman.

"That's not something I have to worry about right now," Bradford told the Free Lance-Star of Fredericksburg, Md., echoing statements he's made in the past. "If that's something I have to face later on down the road, I will."

When asked whether he would consider asking the Redskins not to draft him, the paper said "he laughed it off and said, 'Uh, no.'"

To Philip Mause, the lead lawyer of a case involving several Indian plaintiffs suing the owners of the team, Bradford is a person his clients might wish to consider reaching out to.

"He could be a potential advocate," Mause said. "I would leave it to the plaintiffs to decide if they wish to reach out to him."

Richard Guest, a legal expert with the Native American Rights Fund who's long monitored the case, said it's reasonable to conclude that Bradford is aware of the controversy, so he may wish to be keep a low profile on the issue – especially when pursuing a lucrative contract.

"He doesn't want to harm his chances, and we can't assume he'd want to take on this issue just because he's Native American," Guest said.

"No matter what, it could be helpful to have him inside the NFL, interacting with the non-Indian players and coaches, giving them more of a sense of who Indian people are."

In November, a group of Indian plaintiffs who had been pressing for years to get the trademark removed learned that the Supreme Court would not consider the merits of their case.

To make a stronger case given previous court rulings, six younger Indian plaintiffs who range in age from 18 to 24 have now been assembled and have filed a similar suit, *Blackhorse v. Pro-Football*, to once again challenge the team's trademark.

Tribal elders, psychologists, historians and others have presented evidence that the name is harmful, noting that it is a derogatory reference to American Indians, and has been historically used in a similar way that the word "nigger" has been wrongly used toward blacks. Historically, too, the word "redskins" was used by the U.S. government as a way to refer to bounties placed on scalped Indian heads.

Mause said the Bradford situation is one way that this case continues to be noticed by the general public. He said increasing numbers of supporters have come to agree with the Indians' argument in recent years.

Mause also recently filed letters of protest with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to argue that six trademark applications based on the "redskins" name filed since 1992 should be rejected.

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## THANKS TO OUR MAKER

As we sit here today to thank our Maker in prayer,  
We thank Him for the blessings we have,  
We thank Him for the love we share,  
We thank Him for the blue sky,  
We thank Him for mother good earth,  
W thank Him for the sun, the rain and the snow,  
But most of all,  
We thank Him for bringing us together again!

Edith Cornish, Happy Dove

*The Elders' Council submitted this prayer as one of the prayers written and read by the Council.*

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## A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ELDERS

The Tribal Council would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Elders' Council for their generous donation to the Native American Mohegans. This donation will help defray the costs of future socials and general costs associated with the office. The donation was a result of the many fund raisers conducted by the Elders.

Tahbut ne!



*Carol Lebitz presents a check to Frank Cook on behalf of the Elders' Council. Pictured from l to r are Pat Knapp, Virginia Carey, Donald Palardy Sr., Deborah Mounds, Anna Jackson, Frank Cook, Carol Lebitz, and Edith Cornish.*

## CONN. RISKS \$400M ANNUAL LOSS FROM INDIAN GAMING REVENUES

### Governor's Keno plans may violate tribal-state compact

by Gale Courey Toensing

Story Published: Mar 7, 2010, Indian Country Today

HARTFORD, Conn. – A legislative hearing on the state's proposal to add electronic Keno to its stable of games of chance in an effort to close part of the state budget's \$1.3 billion revenue gap had a moment of high irony when the head of the gaming agency testified in favor of the plan.

“At the Connecticut Lottery (Corporation),” said Anne M. Noble, its president and CEO, “we adhere to an advertising code of conduct and present the lottery products as a game – never as a way out of financial difficulties. We want people using their discretionary income for gambling, not money meant for other things. That's why we will never advertise gambling as a way out of financial trouble.”

Two Democratic state representatives took issue with Noble's statements.

“Well, thank you for that, but it sounds a little hypocritical when you say we don't want you, as a resident, to feel as if gambling is the only way out of financial problems, but we as a state, are looking to it as a means to get out of our financial problem,” said Charles Clemons, D-Bridgeport.

“On the one hand, we say we're against gambling but, of course, we want that \$400 million (from Indian gaming). I think that's sort of hypocrisy,” said Ernest Hewett, D-New London.

The informal forum March 2 was called by the legislature's public safety committee to hear views on Gov. Jodi Rell's proposal to introduce 600 to 1,000 electronic Keno games around the state as a way of raising an estimated \$60 million annually in revenues. The plan is to help fill the \$1.3 billion budget shortfall by

“securitizing” – or borrowing against – future Keno revenues.

The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mohegan Tribe, who operate Foxwoods Resort Casino and the Mohegan Sun, told legislators that allowing the state to run a Keno game could invalidate the tribal-state gaming compact.

The compact requires the nations to pay 25 percent of their gross slot machine revenues to the state – an amount that reached more than \$430 million in recent economically robust years, and around \$377 million last year. By contrast, the state lottery yielded around \$283 million to the general fund last year.

Both tribes offer Keno at their gaming facilities.

Although Keno isn't the major money at the casinos, the nations oppose the state plan based on both competition and contractual obligations.

“It's a matter of principle,” Mohegan Chief of Staff Chuck Bunnell said. “I can tell you that I think the council would be deeply concerned about 600 to 1,000 gaming parlors opening up around the state of Connecticut as a violation of an agreement that was entered into in good faith.”

Attorneys representing the tribal nations said they believe Keno is a casino game and the compact gives the nations the exclusive right to operate casino games in the state.

Rell's spokesmen at the hearing, budget director Robert Genuario and Paul Young, Division of Special Revenue executive director, said Keno is a lottery game and the state could implement it without approval from the legislature.

“It is a casino game,” said John Meskel, director of operations for the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Commission. “It's very close to what we play at the casino. The reason we play it at the casino is because it's a complement to the casino games.”

“Even if Keno is a lottery,” said Jackson King, general counsel for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, “we have to determine whether it

is a video facsimile.” The nations have an exclusive right to operating video facsimiles in the state.

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal last year voiced doubts about the governor's proposal, stating that it could violate the state's gaming compact. But Deputy Attorney General Carolyn K. Querijero, who attended the hearing for Blumenthal, could not provide a definitive answer on Keno's status.

“There's no way we can say with any degree of certainty how the court would rule on that, if the game was introduced and the tribes challenged it as violating the Memo of Understanding. There have been some cases dealing with whether Keno is a lottery game or a casino game, and they've gone both ways.”

If the state introduces Keno, the nations won't have to file a lawsuit: they could stop making payments to the state based on a violation of the compact, King said.

“If Keno is a commercial casino game, then the payments no longer have to be made.”

The state would then be faced with the option of filing a federal court lawsuit against the nations on a claim that they had violated the compact, and leave it up to the court to determine whether Keno is a casino game or a lottery game.

The nations might have the best hand in that game – the National Indian Gaming Commission has ruled that Keno is a casino game.

A number of legislators expressed opposition to the Keno plan, and the hearing likely gave them additional reasons to consider it carefully. No decisions were made at the hearing and if strong opposition continues it's unlikely the plan will be implemented.

“While the administration believes that no new legislation is necessary. ... that is not a statement that the administration or the Connecticut Lottery Corporation would implement Keno in

the absence of legislative approval,” Genuario told the committee.

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## WORDS OF WISDOM

### The Life of a Man is a Circle

You have noticed that everything an Indian does in a circle, and that is because the Power of the World always works in circles, and everything tries to be round.

In the old days all our power came to us from the sacred hoop of the nation and so long as the hoop was unbroken the people flourished. The flowering tree was the living center of the hoop, and the circle of the four quarters nourished it. The east gave peace and light, the south gave warmth, the west gave rain and the north with its cold and mighty wind gave strength and endurance. This knowledge came to us from the outer world with our religion.

Everything the power of the world does is done in a circle. The sky is round and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball and so are all the stars. The wind, in its greatest power, whirls. Birds make their nests in circles, for theirs is the same religion as ours. The sun comes forth and goes down again in a circle. The moon does the same and both are round. Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing and always come back again to where they were.

The life of a man is a circle from childhood to childhood, and so it is in everything where power moves. Our teepees were round like the nests of birds, and these were always set in a circle, the nation's hoop, a nest of many nests, where the Great Spirit meant for us to hatch our children.

Black Elk  
Oglala Sioux 1863-1950

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Family Gathering will be held at the Mohegan Fire Department on May 23, 2010, from 12:00-3:00pm. The VFW Hall is located

on RT32 in Uncasville, CT (see previous article for directions).

*(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.*



## Special Remembrances



MARY HELEN SCHAURER  
August 05, 1917 to August 18, 2009

Mary Helen Schaurer, 92, of 5807 E. Seneca Turnpike, Jamesville, 13078, died Tuesday, August 18, 2009, the day after her wedding anniversary. Born in Fort Pierce, Florida, and raised in Miami, a graduate of Miami High, Helen took a trip north to Yankee country in 1945, met and married Lewie, and lived in East Syracuse and Jamesville. Helen was devoted to the advancement of Elmcrest Children's Home, where she served on the board over 25 years, as well as in various offices of the Elmcrest Women's Auxiliary. She is survived by her sons, Stephen and Bruce, her sister, Eleanor in Miami; and three granddaughters. A remembrance of Helen was woven into the memorial for her "other son," Chris Murano, in California.



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

