

The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Hard Rock to launch new hotel brand

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Hard Rock International has never been shy about expanding its reach. It's building a new, massive guitar-shaped hotel in Hollywood and is undergoing immense renovations in Tampa, among other projects across the globe.

Now it's starting a brand new hotel brand — one it will launch in Atlanta.

Reverb by Hard Rock will be the company's first step into a new category of hotel. Called the "select service" category, Reverb will be a new collection of music-centric hotels that are designed as "contemporary hubs where modern music lovers can connect and create," a news release said.

The first Reverb is scheduled for completion in February 2020. The location is near to the Mercedes-Benz Stadium, home of the NFL's Atlanta Falcons. The area also includes the growing neighborhood of Castleberry Hills in downtown Atlanta.

"Reverb by Hard Rock will spotlight the guest in a whole new way and create a place for those who eat, sleep and breathe music to unite and collaborate," Todd Hricko, SVP of Global Hotel Business Development for Hard Rock Hotels, said in a statement.

"Atlanta is the perfect location for our first Reverb, as it is rich in music history, spanning from the greats like Ray Charles and the Black Crowes to current popular artists like Ludacris, Usher, Ciara and John Mayer," he said.

Officials said the new property will be developed and managed with Bolton Atlanta LP and Hotel Equities, also based in Atlanta. The general contractor for the project is Batson-Cook (Atlanta); the architect is the Gensler Group (California) and Horwath HTL (Atlanta office) is a consultant.

Some of the features of the new Reverb brand are:

- 11-stories containing 200 rooms with contemporary accommodations
- "Roadie Rooms" (six queen bunk beds and lots of space)

♦ See REVERB on page 5A



Beverly Bidney

The Seminole Tribe color guard opens the Brighton Veterans Day celebration Nov. 8 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building. Curtis Motlow holds the American flag and Sally Josh holds the Seminole flag.

Seminole Tribe honors, remembers veterans

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Military service and sacrifices made in the service to country were honored at the 31st annual Veterans Day celebration Nov. 8 in Brighton.

A crowd of Seminole and non-Tribal veterans gathered at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building to honor fallen brethren, recall their service and connect with other veterans.

The ceremony began with the Seminole color guard, the Pledge of Allegiance by

the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes. Native Voices, from the All Family Ministry in Brighton, sang a few hymns before elected officials spoke.

"When you take that oath to serve, you protect each and every one of us," said Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard. "We are Natives and our ancestors fought their entire lives for what they believed in. You did the same thing, so hold your heads up."

Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank thanked the veterans for serving and helping to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

"I know some of your friends weren't

able to make it back with you and you represent them here," said Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger. "I'm humbled to be standing in front of you all and thank you for the freedom you gave me to be standing here."

PECS eighth-graders Winnie Gopher and Dylan Johns read essays they wrote for Veterans Day.

"I am here today to honor some very important people. Without them our country wouldn't be what it is today. Without them we wouldn't have the freedoms to form our own opinions, to protest when we feel

♦ See VETERANS on page 5B

Tribes take lead on climate change solutions amid uphill climb

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

DENVER — Scientists and other leading experts on climate change admit there is an urgent need for mitigation. Even a quick glance at news reports tell much of the story: increases in landslides, wildfires, drought, extreme storms, floods, sea level rise, earthquakes and tsunamis.

A considerable portion of the agenda at the 75th National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) conference was dedicated to climate change issues — both the effect on Native Americans and the way tribes have taken the lead to combat it.

The NCAI annual convention and marketplace took place at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center Oct. 21 — 26.

'Respect for Mother Earth, waters'

One of NCAI's main sessions on the issue was titled: "Taking Climate Action: Protecting Our Peoples, Lands and Futures." It took place Oct. 24 in a room full of attendees and a lineup of experts.

Representatives from several tribal nations who are considered to be leading on climate action spoke about their experiences.

Aaron Payment, the chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and 1st vice president of NCAI, said his tribe was one that was selected in 2014 as a "Climate Action Champion" by former President Barack Obama's administration.

Sault Ste. Marie, on Michigan's Upper Peninsula, was chosen because of the strategic plan it submitted. The tribe received support and funds for its initiatives.

"We have respect for our Mother Earth and our waters," Payment said. "Our plan is holistic — a lower carbon blueprint, building community resiliency, the harvest of traditional foods."

Payment said one missing initiative that he hopes to implement soon is a central recycling program.

♦ See CLIMATE CHANGE on page 7A

Two Seminoles help lead Florida March for Black Women in Miami

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — The results of the Nov. 6 midterm election produced a slew of historic results.

To start, two Native American women won seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Deb Haaland, a member of Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico, and Sharice Davids, a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation from Kansas, won their races and are the first Native American women to serve in the U.S. Congress.

In Florida, Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum ran a historic race against former Congressman Ron DeSantis, and fell just short of becoming the first African American governor of the state. And in Georgia, like Gillum, Stacey Abrams narrowly lost her bid to become the country's first female African American governor, running an incredibly hard fought contest.

Many Seminoles took note of these candidates and were engaged and involved in the midterms through voting and various forms of activism.

Seminole Tribal members Kellie Tigertail and Tomasina Chupco were two of the more active members leading up to Election Day. They were front and center Nov. 3 at a gathering in Little Haiti in Miami to help turn out the vote before the election.

Tigertail was one of the staff organizers for the Florida March for Black Women, an activist group that staged events not



Damon Scott

Kellie Tigertail, center, serves as one of the organizers of the Florida March for Black Women on Nov. 3 in Miami.

only in Miami, but in Broward, Orlando, Jacksonville and Clearwater on Nov. 3.

Chupco, who is a mixed-race Seminole, was one of several speakers who helped to

motivate a large crowd at the Little Haiti Cultural Center. Chupco talked about the importance of voting and how proud she is to be a Tribal member.

The group marched to the Lemon City Branch Library about a half mile away to encourage those who had not yet voted. (Many Florida residents chose to cast their



Damon Scott

Tomasina Chupco speaks at the Florida March for Black Women in Miami.

ballot at early voting sites before Election Day).

"We join together as Black Women and girls ... undocumented, trans, hood, educated, young, old, millennials, survivors, trying to make a way," event organizers said in a statement.

"[On Nov. 3] we'll make the state shake. Black women and girls are, and have been, forces for change around the world. We have proven our voices impact elections," the statement continued.

After returning from the early voting site at the library, an after party took place at the Cultural Center. There was food, music by DJ Spinelli, and speeches from Shariece Wright of the Florida Immigration Coalition; Laura Pierre, immigration and economic justice activist; members of Power U; and Queen Yonsada.

Editorial

Seven election lessons from Indian Country

• Mark Trahant

So much history was made this Election Day and it really was the year of the Native woman.

The first two Native American women in Congress, Representatives-elect Deb Haaland, New Mexico, and Sharice Davids, Kansas. Haaland is Laguna Pueblo and Davids is Ho Chunk and both are Democrats. The first Native woman elected lieutenant governor of a state, Peggy Flanagan of Minnesota. She is White Earth Nation and on the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party ticket.

Arizona tripled the number of Native representation in its state Senate. Senators Jamescita Peshlakai, Navajo; Victoria Steele, Seneca; and Mary Ann Gonzales, Pascua Yaqui, and enough members to caucus. All three are Democrats.

There were at least 28 Native women elected to offices ranging from state legislature to Congress, nearly half of the 58 seats won by tribal citizens.

But the historic nature of last week is not just about gender.

Much has been written, for example, about the first Native women in Congress. But (Nov. 6) also elected the first Native millennial to Congress (Davids). This is important because it shows the next generation (the one we always talk about) that its leadership time begins now.

Montana still has parity in the legislature -- and a powerful legislative voting bloc. There are nine Native Americans in the legislature. To put that number in perspective: Native Americans make up seven percent of the Montana Legislature and the state is just under seven percent in terms of Native population.

California has elected its first ever Native American member to its legislature, Rep.-elect James Ramos, San Manuel. Ramos will represent his tribal community -- and San Bernardino -- in the legislature.

And that too is interesting. More Native Americans won office representing urban communities in the legislature this time around, such as Rep.-elect Jada Bahr, Northern Cheyenne, in Billings, Montana; Rep.-elect Ruth Buffalo, Mandan Hidatsa Arikara, in Fargo, North Dakota; and Ajay Pittman, Seminole, in Oklahoma City.

Most American Indians voted for Democrats. At least 38 Native Democrats were elected compared to seven Republicans. This matches a pre-election poll by Latino Decisions that polled Native American voters (really). The poll showed that Native American voters favored Democrats by a 61 percent to 33 percent margin. The poll also found that most Native American voters said they would vote for candidates that supported the Native American community over Democrats or Republicans. Independent and indigenous.

Among the Republicans there were some interesting victories, such as Kevin Stitt, a Cherokee citizen, and the first Native American elected to lead Oklahoma. And Tamara St. John, Sisseton Wahpeton, who won a seat in the South Dakota legislature.

Let's pull back and look at the first draft of a few lessons from the 2018 election.

One: The power of networks.

The year of the Native woman was all about networks. Idaho's Democratic nominee for governor, Paulette Jordan, Coeur d'Alene, campaigned with Deb Haaland in New Mexico. Haaland campaigned in Kansas. Haaland produced video support ads for Rep.-elect Debra Lekanoff, Tlingit, in Washington state. Bethany Yellowtail designed T-shirts that capture that idea (and this moment). And she quickly sold out -- so these are now collector items.

But this network now becomes an important mechanism for governing. Ideas can get traded across state lines. There will be sharing of knowledge ranging from how to get elected (for future candidates) to how to make a bill become law.

Indeed, already Rep.-elect Haaland and

other new members of legislatures have said they want investigations and a resolution on missing and murdered Native women. Others have talked about expanding health care services, including Medicaid. And, perhaps, most important, many of talked about protecting the right of Native Americans to vote. The timing of that last promise is critical right now because the once a decade census will begin soon and with it the next round of apportionment, drawing the very lines that determine representation.

Two: Young people do vote.

On Election Day it was cold and snowing in Belcourt, North Dakota. Yet a large group of students -- organized by students -- marched from the tribal college

Four: Be careful who you endorse.

Crow tribal leaders endorsed a Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate over the Democratic incumbent, Jon Tester. Tester won and a big part of that was the state's Native vote.

In fact: Just look at Crow voters. In Big Horn County, Montana, where the Crow Nation is located, some 5,578 voted in this election. Two years ago, during a presidential election, only 4,168 people voted and Tester earned nearly twice as many votes as Matt Rosendale. The people voted very differently than their tribal leadership.

Across Montana the bluest spots on the map are either cities or Indian Country. Native voters turned out big time and disproportionately for Tester. (Make that, again.)

Five: Earth zero, gaming 3.

Washington state tribes led on a climate change initiative and a carbon tax. So the fossil fuel industry spent millions convincing voters that it was too much with nearly a billion dollars in taxes. The no side won. A measure in Alaska to protect salmon was defeated by similar forces (and money). Clean energy initiatives were defeated in Arizona, Nevada and California. (But Nevada voters did pass a renewable energy standard.)

Tribal gaming was on the ballot in three states. Idaho's horse racing industry wanted slot machines to prop up its business model. Voters passed. Florida voters passed an amendment to allowing voters, not the legislature, to expand casinos. And voters gave their ok to casinos in Arkansas.

Six: Voting rights, plus and minus.

The battle over voting rights was on the ballot in many forms, both with candidates and explicit initiatives.

In Montana, for example, voters largely banned third-party groups from collecting ballots. (This has been a favorite issue for many conservative groups.) North Carolina added new voter ID provisions.

But in Florida the right of felons to vote was restored. And in Michigan and Nevada new provisions were enacted that will make it easier to register and to vote.

More important: Many of the candidates -- and especially new governors -- ran on platforms to improve the mechanism for voting. This is important now because the Census will take place in 2020 and the redrawing of state and federal legislative districts.

Seven: The best time to appoint a Native delegate is now.

I have been writing for a few years now about the treaty-right for a Delegate to Congress. Delegates don't vote, but have staff and participate in committee work. (Current delegates represent the District of Columbia and U.S. territories.)

Some tribes already have this treaty provision for the appointment of a delegate. This is an interesting position. It's not Constitutional. It can be accomplished by a majority of the House.

A delegate (seven would be ideal) would give representation by tribal governments to the Congress. Government to government.

But if this is going to happen, it needs to happen quickly. The next Congress will organize soon and that's the best opportunity for a delegate to be appointed and to serve. (Previous story. Fixing Democracy and including First Nations.)

Perhaps tribes should follow the example from Washington, D.C., and appoint a "shadow" delegate. This unofficial post could be someone whose job it would be to remind Congress of the awesome treaty right that needs to happen.

Mark Trahant is editor of *Indian Country Today*. He is a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Follow him on Twitter - @TrahantReports. Email: mtrahant@IndianCountryToday.com

Our future is not a game

• Winona LaDuke and Lindsey Allen

The day after David Blackmon's opinion piece was published in *Forbes* Oct. 9th insisting that pipelines "are without question," safe and environmentally-friendly, an Enbridge pipeline exploded in Prince George, British Columbia, forcing over a hundred local residents to evacuate their homes. This was no anomaly. Explosions, leaks and spills are in fact a regular occurrence for pipelines.

Blackmon, a Texas oil industry advocate, would have you believe that those of us working to limit the expansion of industrial fossil fuel infrastructure like tar sands pipelines are playing a "cynical game" when we exercise our constitutional rights as American people to protect our families' health, safety and livelihoods. But we are joined by landowners, farmers, Indigenous communities and families across the country, and for us, it is not a game. As this most recent pipeline explosion reminds us all, this is a matter of life and death.

A former *Scientific American* Editor, Trudy Bell, reports that the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) data from 2001 to 2011 suggest the average pipeline "has a 57% probability of experiencing a major leak, with consequences over the \$1 million range in a ten year period." The chances aren't in anyone's favor.

Advocates for Big Oil insist these controversial pipelines like Line 3 and Keystone XL are inevitable. We get cast as "anti-development," when we are in fact pro-innovation. We support cleaner energy alternatives that are more economically viable and less burdensome on the American people.

Why are we still subsidizing a century-old industry that we know is hurting our communities and contributing to the biggest existential threat we face today, climate change?

According to *Forbes*, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' #1 and #2 fastest growing jobs in the U.S. are solar panel installers and wind turbine technicians. "These jobs are good, solid middle class jobs with annual salaries pushing close to six-figures. Beyond construction, the plants (particularly wind farms, with their many moving parts) offer good jobs in the long term."

Even a century later, oil companies are still relying on government handouts. Nearly half of new U.S. oil can't stand on its own two feet without subsidies. But fossil fuel advocates like Blackmon make the same exact arguments against government assistance for renewable energy. Some states like North Dakota and Texas are already transferring the costs of damage caused by oil and gas

drillers onto the public. And right now, oil companies are calling on the government to use at least \$12 billion in taxpayer money to build barriers to protect their oil facilities in Texas from climate change.

Doesn't it sound insane to use our taxpayer money to protect the very oil companies from the problems that they in fact are causing? Just last year, Hurricane Harvey dumped a record 5 feet of water onto Houston.

It is nearly impossible to overstate the severity and scale of the threat climate chaos poses to our economy, the world and our society. As Blackmon's 'cynical game' article was being published, Hurricane Michael was making landfall in Mexico Beach. With 155 mph winds and 14 foot storm surge it was the third most violent storm recorded in U.S. history, with a price tag somewhere between \$4 billion and \$20 billion.

The stark implications contained in the recently released IPCC report illustrate the urgency of the need for an honest national reckoning about what energy security actually means in America. The UN warns there is only a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C, beyond which even half a degree will drastically worsen the size and frequency of droughts, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

What we are voicing is a sensible pathway forward that is economically sound and does not compromise clean air and water. As Peter Erickson, of the Stockholm Environment Institute said: "Subsidies have a purpose, they make sense when you're trying to help a technology in its early stages that's going to provide a big public good." Why are we still subsidizing a century-old industry that we know is hurting our communities and contributing to the biggest existential threat we face today, climate change? What would our country look like if we simply redirected the same amount of public funds to clean energy alternatives?

The reality is we have all lived our lives entirely within the fossil fuel era and alarming as it may sound, one way or another that era is coming to an end. Looking at the big picture, oil companies have far too much power and their vision for where we are going is counter to our basic collective health and well-being. It is time to look forward, be visionary and harness American ingenuity to innovate our path towards truly new horizons.

This letter was written by Winona LaDuke, executive director of Honor the Earth; and Lindsey Allen, executive director of Rainforest Action Network. The letter to *Forbes* magazine was in response to an article written by David Blackmon in *Forbes* titled "Anti-Pipeline Activists Play A Cynical, Costly Game."

Gazette opinion: Seeking justice for Indian women

• Billings (Montana) Gazette editorial

Missing and murdered Native American women deserve justice.

That, in brief, is the urgency behind Savanna's Act -- legislation that has been awaiting action in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate for an entire year.

The Senate bill, which is co-sponsored by Sen. Jon Tester, D-Montana, was unanimously approved by the Senate Indian

♦ See JUSTICE on page 11A

Letter to the editor

Appreciations to Robin Howard for the October 31, 2018 article with tips of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Conservator Program, on home conservation of material items.

As a longtime non-Indian member of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and someone who interviewed Betty Mae Jumper several times through the years, it is helpful because I felt fortunate to purchase modern patchwork clothing from Betty Mae that she sold for her family and friends, which I still keep away from sunlight (although taking them out to admire from time to time.) I now understand that I need to try to follow the other practices, too.

Thank you for the education.

Jan Godown Annino
Tallahassee

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Community



First responders undergo active threat training in Big Cypress

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — First responders — law enforcement, paramedics, firefighters — face real life situations that the average person rarely has to imagine. Those situations include active threats and the aftermath — any incident that creates an immediate or imminent danger to a community.

A commonly held active threat scenario includes active shooters and perhaps a hostage or barricaded subject.

The Seminole Police Department, Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services personnel recently learned a lot about potential situations and threats at a Department of Homeland Security-hosted training Nov. 8.

The one day active threat integrated response course took place at the Big Cypress public safety building.

“Actors” were recruited to portray victims with injuries, using fake blood and other makeup, for trainees to respond to as if it was happening in real time.

Gerry Flood was the lead trainer, along with Training Lieutenant David Billy of the SPD in Brighton and Donald DiPetrillo, Seminole Fire Rescue Chief/Director.

The course essentially seeks to improve integration between law enforcement, fire and EMS in active shooter events. Trainers taught key medical skills based on “tactical emergency casualty care” (TECC) guidelines which are used at what’s called the “point of injury,” to increase victim survival.

The course also provides a framework for personnel to utilize and understand

an extensive “Active Shooter Incident Management Checklist.”

There were two tribal liaisons on hand at the training from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge — Steven Golubic and Robert Holden. Golubic and Holden are with LSU’s “National Center for Biomedical Research and Training,” (NCBRT) part of the school’s Academy of Counter Terrorism Education.

The LSU group was contracted by the Seminole Tribe to offer the Department of Homeland Security-certified course.

“The Tribe has a well-developed public safety infrastructure staffed by professional responders,” Holden said. “The enthusiastic attitude and energy of the Tribal responders taking the [course] was great to see.”

Holden, who is Choctaw-Chickasaw, retired last year as the deputy director of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). He worked at the organization for more than 30 years on several issues, including a wide range of Homeland Security and emergency management topics.

Holden said his department expressed a desire a few years ago to provide more training to tribal government community responders.

“I feel they have not only lived up to their commitment but are now working to deliver a broader array of courses that will benefit citizens of tribal communities,” Holden said.

“There is a need for critical response



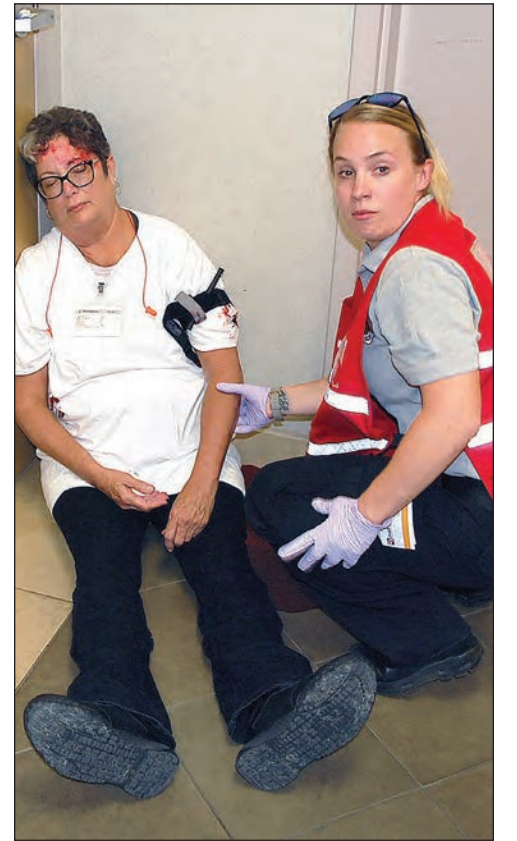
Courtesy SPD

From left, Seminole Fire Rescue’s John Vilches, James Reitz and Ryan Poux and Seminole Police’s Francis Persaud carry out an ‘injured person’ during an active threat training response in Big Cypress.



Damon Scott

Lead trainers brief attendees, which include first responders from the Seminole Tribe, at an active threat integrated response training by the Department of Homeland Security. The training took place Nov. 8 at the Big Cypress public safety building.



Courtesy SPD

Pam Kelley, portraying an injured person, is cared for by Seminole Fire Rescue firefighter/paramedic Cherie Arroyo during an active threat training response in Big Cypress.

training of this caliber in Indian Country,” he said.

Seminole officials have already asked the two to return in order to train additional fire, paramedic and police personnel.

Golubic retired from the Department of Homeland Security as the director of tribal affairs in 2013. He has more than 30 years of experience in emergency management, including work in various positions with tribal, federal, state, and county governments.

“The next steps for [our department] is to continue outreach, build trust, and develop additional training that is relevant to the needs of Indian Country,” he said.

Golubic is a member of the Whitefish River Ojibwe First Nation.

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Miss Florida Seminole organizes tribalwide toy drive for youth home

BY DERRICK TIGER
Staff Reporter

Children at the Big Cypress Youth Home will have a merrier Christmas this year, thanks to a tribal wide toy drive organized by Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger.

Donation boxes for toys are located in Tribal offices on every reservation. The drive ends Dec. 12 and the children will receive their gifts at a special Christmas dinner on Dec. 19.

The youth home fosters Tribal members under the age of 18.

The idea for the toy drive came about during a conversation Kippenberger had with her grandmother Lawanna Osceola-Niles.

"We were discussing what would be a good way to use my platform to do something for the community," Kippenberger said.

After brainstorming the idea, the toy drive was formed. Kippenberger set out to get the toy drive in gear.

First Kippenberger contacted the youth home itself, but staff members were not sure how to go about setting up a charity event such as this one. The next stop was the obvious place everyone goes to get the word out; social media.

A few posts and phone calls later Kippenberger had the information she needed. She contacted Kimberly Bridgman, Big Cypress youth home support specialist and Christian Heinsler, youth home administrator, both of whom work for the Center for Behavioral Health Department.

Over the course of their telephone meetings, the toy drive began to evolve and take shape.

"We talked about what it was going to be, and that's when it turned into a necessities drive as well," Kippenberger said, "Because the youth home is just that; a home. They require basic household necessities like any other home."

Apart from toys, the youth home needs children's clothing for boys and girls, diapers, baby wipes, twin bedsheets and



Courtesy photo
Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger is organizing a tribalwide toy drive to benefit kids in the Big Cypress Youth Home.

blankets. Cash is also accepted.

"This really hit a soft spot for me because these are children who for one reason or another do not get to spend the holidays with their parents. The children at the youth home deserve to have the joys of Christmas because they are also Tribal members," Kippenberger said.

More information about the toy drive can be found on its Facebook page: Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. Toy Drive.

Mustangs, 4-H'ers get to know each other

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Jiminy is a quiet horse, for a wild mustang.

So says Allegra Billie, who adopted him in late August as part of the Seminole 4-H Mustang Challenge and has been working with him every day since.

"When I first brought him home, I couldn't touch him at all," said Billie, 18, a senior at LaBelle High School and the current Jr. Miss Florida Seminole. "So I brought along Secret, my barrel horse, to make him feel safe and not alone."

The mild mannered Secret did the trick and within two weeks, Jiminy allowed Allegra to touch him. It was a milestone for the mustang that prior to living on Allegra's family land had no experience with humans.

"Slowly but steadily he allowed me closer," she said. "At around the same time he let me touch him, I got the harness on him."

The 4-H Mustang Challenge's seven participants are getting their mustangs accustomed to human interaction as they train them to wear a harness and walk on a lead. The kids are responsible for feeding and watering the yearling horses daily. The final test of the program will be guiding their horses through an obstacle course during the 4-H show in March.

"The kids are all doing really well," said Trina Hipp, mustang challenge club leader. "They spend time with the horses every day and are all progressing at about the same rate. Most can walk the horses, some can bathe them. The kids are learning to have patience and



Beverly Bidney
Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Allegra Billie with her mustang Jiminy Nov. 16 at home near Immokalee.

becoming confident."

Over the last three months, Billie has introduced Jiminy to other animals including the family dogs, cats and chickens. She also bathes him regularly, an activity Jiminy is

not fond of; after each bath he rolls in the dirt and Allegra has to start all over.

"Once I got the harness on, I took off his Bureau of Land Management (BLM) tag," she said. "That was a big accomplishment and one of my main goals. I have it hanging in my room now."

The BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program manages and protects mustangs on more than 26 million acres of public land in 10 western states, which includes the Wild Horse and Burro program. Since the program's inception in 1971, more than 240,000 animals have been adopted by the program's participants.

The first thing Billie does after she gets off of the school bus is to head out to the pen to brush, walk and feed Jiminy.

"I spend as much time as I can with him," she said. "The time really flies by. There's been a drastic change since I got him."

Billie's diligent attention to Jiminy has paid off; the horse is used to the harness and walking on its lead. Sometimes he even follows her without the lead. She said he has gotten better at a lot of things, but doesn't like loud noises. Billie often brings out a radio and cranks it up to get him used to the noise. Without that, the loudest sounds around come from other animals, including a noisy pair of Sandhill cranes.

"I'm grateful for this program because I'm in love with this horse," Allegra said. "The program taught me a lot

of patience; I couldn't just jump in. I love connecting to this horse on another level because I have to break him in. I've never done that before and I might do it again."

New Zealand Natives visit Seminole reservations

BY DERRICK TIGER
Staff Reporter

About 8,000 miles from their home, two Natives from New Zealand toured Seminole reservations, learning about the Tribe's culture along the way while sharing their own culture.

Wikuki Kingi, of Maori/Hawaiian decent, and Tania Wolfgramma, of Maori / Tonga decent, visited the Hollywood Culture Department on Oct. 28. The couple came to share aspects of their culture such as tribal drawings, wood carvings, and canoe building. Bobby Frank, Culture Department manager, gave a tour of the culture camp and shared the Seminole Tribe's cultural aspects including chickee building, patchwork sewing, and of course fry bread. Alex Osceola explained the designs of traditional Seminole clothing. All Culture staff members partook in a traditional Maori greeting where two people shake hands but also place their foreheads on each other.

A few days later Kingi and Wolfgramma headed west to the American Indian Arts Celebration on the Big Cypress Reservation where they continued to share their experience and knowledge of canoe building. There are ocean going canoes

which they sail from New Zealand to Tahiti. The 25-ton ships measure about 80 feet long by 26 feet wide, are double hulled, have two masts and are solar powered.

"We are here to share our experience with Native technology and innovation. We use modern technology to produce the next generation of canoes," Kingi said.

"This [AIAC] is fantastic. It's good to keep the culture and cultural values alive, they become the springboard for innovation from the

♦ See VISITORS on page 5A



Derrick Tiger
Alex Osceola, left, describes the fabric she uses to make patchwork to Tania Wolfgramma (Maori/Tonga), of New Zealand, during a visit to the Hollywood Culture Department.



Derrick Tiger
Hollywood Community Culture Center Manager Bobby Frank, left, and Wikuki Kingi, of Maori/Hawaiian decent from New Zealand, share a traditional Maori greeting Oct. 28 at the Hollywood Culture Department. The greeting's tradition is for two people to shake hands but also place their foreheads on each other.

Experts: Legalized marijuana outlook tangles up tribes with states

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

DENVER — Legalized marijuana has found an expanding foothold across the U.S. in recent years. The foothold got even bigger after the midterm elections. Recreational use is now legal in 10 states and in Washington, D.C., and medical marijuana is legal in 32 states.

Many of the states that have approved recreational use have seen positive economic impacts and increased tax revenues. Medical marijuana has helped scores of patients manage pain and reduce consumption of often devastating opioids among other applications.

The potential has caught the eye of tribes across the U.S. — and in Canada — whose government just legalized recreational and medical marijuana on October 18.

There are more than 400 federally recognized tribal nations within states that have some form of legalized marijuana.

Tribal pioneers

Since at least 2014 — beginning with the Oglala Sioux Nation — tribes have considered and worked toward varying degrees of marijuana legalization (including hemp production).

In mid-2015, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe began to grow cannabis and in 2016 voted to legalize it. Also in 2015, the Menominee Indian Reservation in Wisconsin moved forward on legalization measures, and in 2016 the Navajo Nation signed its first resolution to grow industrial hemp.

However, those tribes faced many uncertainties and hurdles, including threats from federal authorities, sometimes causing

a halt or end to operations.

Under federal law, marijuana is illegal — a Schedule 1 drug placed in the same category as cocaine, LSD and heroine. It keeps legal marijuana efforts in limbo for many tribes and states.

Arguably two of the most successful tribes in marijuana legalization so far are located within Washington State. The Squaxin Island Tribe opened the first tribally controlled cannabis store in 2015. The Suquamish Tribe in the western part of the state began selling cannabis that same year.

Both tribes legalized marijuana internally, and signed multiyear compacts with state authorities.

Experts say those tribal relationships with state governments — and the legalization status of the states where tribes are located — are key to clear a path for tribes seeking legalization for economic development, medical purposes or both.

Some of those experts gathered in Denver at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) conference in October to discuss the subject.

The session, "Marijuana legalization and the changing landscape of federal, state and tribal laws," explored what the future might hold.

Emerging, but murky

Even though insistence on keeping marijuana as a Schedule 1 drug has faced scrutiny and become harder and harder to justify, it means the path to widespread legalization — including on tribal lands — is one with considerable bumps and risks.

Leonard Forsman, chairman of the Suquamish Tribe, said his was the first to sign a state compact on marijuana legalization.

He said that like Colorado and Washington before him, the tribal council legalized marijuana for medical use first.

"Our retail store is two miles away from the casino," Forsman said at the NCAI session. "I'm not necessarily a supporter [of using marijuana], but it's already here," he said, adding that while he's concerned about drug abuse on reservations, he thinks alcohol, which is legal and being sold, is just as bad if not worse.

Forsman said the funds collected by the tribe from legalization have already been used for programs and services. And while there was some initial pushback from elders, the majority of the tribe was in support of it.

Rion J. Ramirez, general counsel of Port Madison Enterprises, an agency of the Suquamish Tribe, was involved in the legalization effort from the get-go.

"It's an industry that's walking the line in terms of trying to do things the right way," Ramirez said at NCAI, noting that the landscape is still transforming.

In Washington State it was House Bill 2000 that authorized the governor to enter into agreements with federally recognized tribes concerning marijuana.

"We have the ability to regulate it ourselves," said Ramirez. "The compact was our best option," he said.

Mixed federal messages

The federal government hasn't made it easy for states or tribes to count on much, except uncertainty.

The Cole Memorandum, issued in 2013 under former President Barack Obama's Department of Justice, stated that as long as states didn't violate one of eight areas related to marijuana legalization, the DOJ

would steer clear of certain prosecutions.

However three years later, President Donald J. Trump's former attorney general, Jeff Sessions, rescinded the memorandum. In 2014, the Wilkinson Memorandum was issued, known as a sort of Cole memo for tribes. Sessions rescinded it as well.

'Freight train coming'

The Suquamish now have their own marijuana product line and sell it into the state system and at their own store. They levy a tribal tax that's equal to the state tax — 37 percent plus state retail tax.

Tribal tax exemptions are part of the compact and a small portion of sales includes exempt products. The compact allows the tribe to produce, process and sell product. The tribe tests, packages, labels and tracks from "seed to sale." Like any marijuana business, there are compliance checks — four a year.

"We treat marijuana like gaming in terms of oversight," Ramirez said.

W. Lewis Koski, partner at Freedman & Koski, previously worked in the Colorado marijuana enforcement division during that state's successful legalization effort. He's been assisting governments with cannabis policy for the past eight years.

A police officer by trade, Koski said at NCAI that the mindset is changing from "we need to shut it down," to "this freight train is coming and we need to figure it out."

Robert Odawi Porter, an attorney and former president of the Seneca Indians, agrees that the momentum is real.

"For example, veterans have started to move toward supporting legalization, because they have a lot of problems that marijuana is helping with," he said at the

session. "It's hard for any elected official to say no to that."

Seneca and others are now putting lobbying efforts toward the Strengthening the Tenth Amendment Through Entrusting States (STATES) Act. The bill is in the U.S. Congress and would recognize legalization of cannabis and the state laws that have legalized it through their legislatures or through citizen initiatives.

"It explicitly mentions tribes, when other [proposed laws] do not," Seneca said.

It would address de-scheduling marijuana as a Schedule 1 drug and give a state or tribe the authority to legalize. It would also remove any threat of federal funds being cut off from those who pursue legalization.

What about Florida?

Different states have different approaches to the issue and local jurisdictions are involved too, so there are a lot of moving pieces.

Florida currently has a limited medical marijuana program that is overseen by the state's Department of Health. The Sunshine State is considered in the early phases of marijuana legalization, experts say.

"It's difficult enough in blue [Democrat leaning] states with tribal communities," said Koski of purple state Florida. "It's more difficult in states that aren't pursuing permissive cannabis policy."

Koski said support from elected officials is key, including interagency cooperation and stakeholder engagement in the policy process and the will for regulation.

"These are the things that are important to the process," Koski said. "You need leadership."

◆ VISITORS
From page 4A

youth while not letting them forget the past," he said.

"We take pride in our culture and our technology. There are so many ways to feel well and happy. Essentially, we are all cousins and share the same experience of culture, food, sovereignty and language," Wolfgramma said.



Derrick Tiger
The Hollywood Culture Department gives a tour to visitors from New Zealand of the cultural camp on the reservation.

◆ REVERB
From page 1A

- A rooftop bar with panoramic views of the city
 - A co-working space called "MEET"
 - All standard king and double queen rooms
 - Multifunctional workout space
 - Constant Grind Coffee and Bar
- "Reverb by Hard Rock will enhance

our walkable convention and entertainment district with new accommodations near restaurants, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, the Georgia World Congress Center and downtown attractions," William Pate, president and CEO of the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau, said in a statement.

Reverb is a part of Bolton Atlanta's development of Castleberry Park, a mixed-use project with the hotel, a multilevel deck with more than 375 parking spaces, 129 luxury residential units in three apartment buildings and retail sites.



This rendering shows the first Reverb by Hard Rock, set to open in Atlanta in 2020. Courtesy Hard Rock

Edward Aguilar named general manager of Seminole Classic Casino

New presidents selected for Tampa, Coconut Creek casinos

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Gaming announced Nov. 7 new executive leaders at three of its Florida casinos.

Tribal member Edward Aguilar has been named general manager of Seminole Classic Casino in Hollywood. He is among the highest ranking Seminole Gaming executives who are also members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Aguilar was assistant general manager/vice president for Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee.

Steve Bonner has been named president of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, replacing Joe Lupo, who was recently named property president of Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City. Bonner was president of Seminole Casino Coconut Creek.

Larry Buck has been named president of Seminole Casino Coconut Creek. He was general manager of Seminole Classic Casino in Hollywood.

The announcement was made by James F. Allen, CEO of Seminole Gaming, which operates all three casinos for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

"It's gratifying to promote from within our organization, because of the extraordinary accomplishments of these three individuals," Allen said in a press release. "We want to acknowledge their hard work and the results they have achieved, as we support them in their new positions."



Edward Aguilar

Aguilar previously held the position of assistant general manager/vice president for Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee. He joined the Tribal Career Development Program in February, 2013, and excelled through its cross-training opportunities at Seminole Gaming operations.

In May, 2015, Aguilar was named assistant director of Slot Operations for Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee. He was promoted to assistant director of casino operations in February, 2016.

Aguilar began his gaming career in 2001 as a lead Seminole Gaming Commission officer at Seminole Casino Immokalee. During his time with the Seminole Gaming Commission, he assisted with the openings of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood and Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

In 2006, Aguilar was promoted to assistant compliance officer at Seminole Casino Immokalee. He later worked for several years at the Immokalee office of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., the non-gaming business development arm of the Tribe.

Aguilar earned an associate degree in Culinary Arts from the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale in 2013.

Bonner has headed Seminole Casino Coconut Creek since 2002. During that time, he has been responsible for managing the evolution of what was a small gaming facility into a major South Florida casino,

dining and entertainment destination, with nearly 2,000 slot machines, five restaurants and the 1,200-seat Pavilion event center for concert and comedy performances.

Bonner has three decades of gaming industry executive experience, including previous positions with Black Hawk Gaming & Development Company in Black Hawk, Colo., and Hemmeter Enterprises in Denver, Colo. He holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

Buck has been general manager of Seminole Classic Casino in Hollywood since 2012. Under his leadership, the full-service casino has undergone significant improvements and continued its track record of success in catering to South Florida casino players.

Buck is most proud of his ongoing community support of the American Cancer Society, including the organization's annual "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk, which has attracted more than 150 team members from Seminole Classic Casino.

Buck's career progression has included positions with Caesars Entertainment, Pinnacle Entertainment and Players International. He began his gaming career in 1982 in Atlantic City, where he held multiple positions at Harrah's Atlantic City.

He is a graduate of Syracuse University with a bachelor of science degree in accounting.



Steve Bonner



Larry Buck

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Voter Registration

Upcoming General Tribal Election will be held
MAY 13, 2019

Deadline to register for this election is March 1, 2019

Voter Registration Packets will be mailed out September 1, 2018 to all eligible Tribal Members who are not registered.

All Voter Registration Packets mailed to the Supervisor Of Elections must be postmarked by March 1, 2019

Voter Registration Drives will be held on the reservations or visit the Tribal Secretary's Office in Hollywood or Brighton to register.

Unless your residency has changed, you do not need to re-register.

Questions regarding voting status contact:
Supervisor of Elections Office at (954) 966-6300 X 11461



Beverly Bidney

Chef Lorraine Posada observes as Jenny Johns and Joann Osceola mix batter for cocoa zucchini muffins during a class at the Immokalee Culinary Accelerator on Nov. 7.



Beverly Bidney

From right, Rowdy Osceola and Johnny Jimmie man the stove as Chef Reshma Tannasee adds some seasoning. Osceola prepares pork loin; Jimmie sautés vegetables for a stir fry during a cooking class at the culinary accelerator.

Tribal members receive healthy cooking education at Immokalee Culinary Accelerator

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Culinary Accelerator is an incubator for culinary ideas and fledgling businesses who need some help getting off the ground. The state-of-the-art facility features cold and hot kitchens, bakery equipment, a massive freezer and refrigerator with ample storage space, a lab and office space.

But on Nov. 7, the facility was transformed into a classroom for 15 Tribal members who came to learn how to cook healthy meals. Sponsored by the Allied Health Department, five professional chefs worked with the budding chefs as they sliced and diced, measured and mixed and simmered and stirred a variety of healthy and flavorful dishes.

“November is National Diabetes Month,” said Suzanne Davis, the Tribe’s Allied health program manager. “We wanted them to prep and cook it themselves instead of just watching others do it.”

The chefs, including Tribal member Lorraine Posada, took the student cooks through the recipes, teaching at every step.

The menu included a citrus salad; another salad with romaine lettuce, gorgonzola cheese, walnuts and pomegranate seeds; roasted pork loin with roasted root vegetables; Benihana style hibachi chicken with brown rice; cocoa zucchini muffins; jam good gluten free cookies.

“We want to help and teach, no matter what level you are,” said Ruth Fehr, chef and the Culinary Accelerator’s business development manager. “We are here to help you learn today.”

The day of hands-on learning was greeted with enthusiasm by the participants, many who cook at home and were eager to learn how to eat more healthily. They worked diligently, listened carefully and improved their kitchen skills. In time, the recipes on paper began to emit the aromas of the luscious dishes they would become.

Before they began to prepare roasted pork loin with fennel, Chef Ahmed El, Culinary Accelerator program manager, taught a group of students about the

importance of “mise en place,” a French term that means putting everything in its place. Having all the ingredients needed for a recipe measured, cut and organized before cooking makes it much easier to cook, he explained.

Chef Daniela Craciun taught knife skills to a group tasked with cutting a large amount of vegetables; she showed them how to make it easier by not lifting the tip of the knife off the cutting board as they worked.

In the bakery kitchen, Chef Fehr demonstrated how to make gluten free cookies by turning oats into flour with the help of a blender. As the students mixed ingredients for cocoa zucchini muffins, Chef Posada explained why it’s important not to overmix wheat flour.

“It will get too dense and hard,” Chef Posada said. “You should add the wet ingredients to the dry and mix it just until it’s incorporated.”

Over at the meat station, Chef El showed students how to deglaze a pan and make a sauce with chicken stock. By steeping a few sprigs of rosemary in the sauce, the flavor is infused and the tough rosemary leaves don’t make eating the dish a problem for diners.

“Your food at home can be better with just a little garnish,” Chef El said. “Appearance and consistency is the number one goal at restaurants.”

As the food cooked and the deserts baked, participants reflected on the work they just completed.

“I learned about contamination,” said Lee Jumper. “You have to keep chicken and meat away from other things because you don’t want to contaminate the vegetables. I never knew that, at home I just mix everything together. I won’t do that anymore, it can make you sick.”

Charlie Tiger came to the class because he wanted to know how to cook a good and healthy meal. He cooks a lot at home, but wanted to know about healthier options.

“I learned about searing and using different seasonings,” said Tiger, We Do Recover program supervisor. “It feels good, we learned a lot today. Once we get clean and sober we have to make sure to eat healthy and take care of our bodies.”

When the luncheon feast was laid out



Beverly Bidney

Nicki Osceola watches the amount of oil being measured for a batch of gluten-free cookies.

on the buffet table, they all enjoyed the meal they created. Talk around the tables included a recap of what they learned as they cooked. One person pointed out that the fennel used for the pork loin was actually part of the onion family.

A few of the chefs addressed the group during lunch.

“I’m thrilled that you were here and learned something,” said Chef Fehr. “My goal is to inspire and move you and make a difference.”

“Medicine can improve your symptoms, but food can do more than that,” said Chef Craciun. “You should always prepare your food in a healthy way.”

Although the day’s lesson was over, some participants still had questions. The day’s menu included a lot of fall foods, such as root vegetables and pomegranate seeds. One asked about seasonality of food.

“Summer foods are fast growing and have more moisture to help you adjust to the heat,” said Chef Fehr. “Winter and fall foods are warming foods which help keep you warm.”

Chef Posada encouraged the participants will take the recipes home to their families.

“I hope we pass on to our kids that health is important,” she said. “We all have to have the knowledge to take care of our bodies.”

Immokalee Culinary Accelerator nurtures culinary entrepreneurs

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Reshma Tannasee has always had a passion for cooking. At one time she wanted to open a restaurant, but instead she started a farm and grew vegetables and hot peppers.

Tannasee, originally from Guyana, realized she didn’t like being outside in the heat all day, so she looked for another way to use the vegetables.

An overabundance of hot peppers prompted her to make her great-grandmother’s hot sauce, a recipe that had been handed down through the generations. Tannasee tweaked it a bit and added tropical fruits to give it a sweet and fiery taste.

She makes mild, medium and hot versions and uses mango and pineapple to temper the heat of the peppers.

She named it Carina’s Caribbean Hot Sauce, after her daughter, but needed help producing it commercially so she could market the sauce to stores and consumers.

In March, the Immokalee Culinary Accelerator celebrated its grand opening, which Tannasee attended. That decision changed her life.

The 5,274-square-foot Immokalee Culinary Accelerator is a state-of-the-art membership-based commercial kitchen which offers its members business assistance to help grow their culinary endeavors. In addition to the cold and hot kitchens, bakery equipment, cold and frozen storage areas, a

food nutrition testing lab and office space, the culinary accelerator provides mentoring.

Chef Christian Le Squer, a Michelin 3-star chef at the Le Cinq restaurant at the Four Seasons Hotel George V in Paris, will travel to the site a few times each year to mentor the culinary entrepreneurs.

The culinary accelerator also helps its chef/entrepreneurs navigate the Federal Department of Agriculture approval process, obtain a state license and get their products to market.

Tannasee needed help to get her recipes approved for commercial production. Three months after joining the culinary accelerator, she launched her brand and is off to a good start finding customers. In October she sold 800 cases to stores from Tampa to Naples. She makes private label sauces and her own brand, Carina’s, for groceries including Wynn’s in Naples, Publix and Fresh Market. Her sauce is in the approval stage to be sold in Whole Foods as well.

Her sauce success has led to other products she is trying to market, including jellies, guacamole and hummus.

“Being here is everything,” Tannasee said. “They gave me an opportunity to grow and help with the marketing. I couldn’t find this kind of service in any other commercial kitchen. If it wasn’t for this, I wouldn’t be able to make my sauce, jellies, guacamole and hummus.”

For more information about the Immokalee Culinary Accelerator, visit www.theimmokaleeculinaryaccelerator.com or call 239-249-5911.



Beverly Bidney

Nicki Osceola and Olivia Cypress worked hard on the tray of gluten-free cookies that are about to go into the oven to bake.

Renewable energy and sustainability conference to be held at NLC

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — The second annual Seminole Tribe of Florida Renewable Energy and Sustainability Conference will be held from Feb. 5-7, 2019 at the Seminole Tribe’s Native Learning Center in Hollywood. The conference will focus on the newly changing landscape for tribal energy development and sustainability, including best practices, federal leadership, policy, and regulatory changes, funding a project, and project planning/development trends. The conference will give tribes and

First Nations an opportunity to explore the range of renewable energy and sustainability opportunities that exist and how to start the process.

Representatives from tribes, First Nations, nongovernmental organizations, and private industry will give presentations and provide training objectives on a wide range of topics, including:

- Resources to help with tribal energy projects
- Achieving self-sufficiency through energy planning and resource development
- Energy saving methods in design, development and construction

- Tribes undertaking large scale energy projects
- Developments driving change in the renewable energy and sustainability marketplace
- Tribal/private partnership opportunities
- Tribal case studies and lessons learned
- Funding sources for projects
- Leveraging available federal resources and materials to support tribes and TDHE/Housing Departments

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided on all three days of the conference.

There is no cost to attend the conference, however participants are responsible for their own lodging, dinner, and travel/ground transportation costs. Advance registration is required by Jan. 4, 2019. Because space is limited, attendance is capped at 100, and registrations will be accepted in the order in which they are received.

Registration is free for Native Americans/First Nations and those working within Indian Country.

For more information visit nativelearningcenter.com.

Honors for Hollywood’s Hard Rock

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood has received the Award of Excellence from Corporate & Incentive Travel magazine for the fourth consecutive year.

The recognition is awarded to a select group of hotels, resorts and conference centers that provide meeting professionals and business conference attendees’ exceptional service, superior accommodations, outstanding meetings facilities and noteworthy culinary offerings.

NCAI leaders see ICWA, land issues as urgent priorities

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

DENVER — There are many issues on the minds of tribal members and leaders across North America that affect Indian Country. Some are more pressing than others.

Two topics that took center stage at the recent National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) conference in Denver were the surprising court ruling that challenges the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and tribal land and sovereignty issues.

The NCAI marked its 75th anniversary at an annual convention and marketplace at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center Oct. 21 – 26.

ICWA in jeopardy

Court appeals have been filed in response to a decision in early October by a federal judge in Texas which ruled the ICWA was unconstitutional.

The ICWA is a 40-year-old law that was designed to prevent the separation of Native children from their parents and extended families by state child welfare and private adoption agencies.

The law was enacted in response to research at the time showing that of the approximately 35 percent of Native children who were being removed from parents, 85 percent were placed outside their families and communities, even when fit and willing relatives were available.

U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor of the Northern District of Texas ruled Oct. 4 that the ICWA “illegally gives Native American families preferential treatment in adoption proceedings for Native American children based on race.” The ruling found that the law was in violation of the Fifth Amendment’s equal protection guarantee in the U.S. Constitution.

Naturally, Indian Country and Native American advocates were concerned and even outraged by the decision.

“The ICWA is a great success we achieved in our past and it’s under attack,” said NCAI President Jefferson Keel at a general assembly Oct. 23. “We are in a war. We’ve been in one since 1492. We need allies on both sides of the aisle. With this administration, we are in a war,” he said.

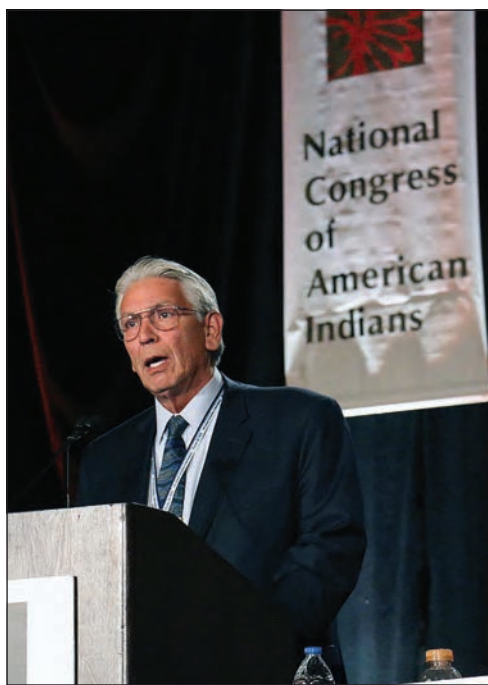
Keel was referencing President Donald J. Trump and what he sees as an overall lack of support for Native Americans by his administration.

Sarah Kastelic, executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), spoke about ICWA at the general assembly as well.

The ruling was also the topic of an official breakout session at the conference and the NCAI leadership held subcommittee meetings about staying connected to current court appeals.

Kastelic took time to promote a new ICWA mobile app that was developed by the Academy for Professional Excellence’s Tribal STAR program. It’s designed to assist social workers who have cases involving the ICWA and others.

The app, available for Apple and Android devices, has resources for anyone involved in ICWA issues – the courts, state child welfare agencies, private adoption agencies, Tribes and family members.



Damon Scott
Kevin Gover (Pawnee), director of Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, speaks about protecting sovereignty during the NCAI conference Oct. 23 in Denver.



Damon Scott
The National Congress of American Indians held its annual convention at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center from Oct. 21-26. The theme was “Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future.”

Land, sovereignty

Tribal sovereignty and self-governance are a part of many different Indian Country topics, but one that consistently came up among leaders at NCAI was land issues. All agreed the issue is complex.

Speakers at NCAI often pointed out that while protecting tribal homelands was a priority under former President Barack Obama’s Administration, especially due to

the efforts of former Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, it has not been a priority in the President Trump Administration.

“[Land issues have] been immediately challenging under Trump,” said Lawrence Roberts, counsel with Kilpatrick Townsend and former acting assistant secretary for Indian Affairs, at the general assembly.

Roberts said that at the state level, land-into-trust issues are also being challenged. And he said most of the challenges are not



Damon Scott
A welcome reception ceremony is held at the National Congress of American Indians conference in October at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver.



Damon Scott
Sarah Kastelic (Alutiiq), executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association, speaks in October at the NCAI conference in Denver.

related to gaming.

Cedric Cromwell, chairman and president of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in Massachusetts, spoke to the general assembly at length about his tribe’s current land-trust issues.

Mashpee Wampanoag leaders are pushing for congressional help to keep more than 300 acres of land originally put into trust in 2015. The tribe lost a court ruling and the Trump Administration is siding with the court.

The situation is pressure packed for the Mashpee Wampanoag. Among other issues, it puts plans for a \$1 billion resort and casino into limbo.

Founded in 1944, the NCAI is the oldest and largest American Indian and Alaska Native organization that serves the broad interests of tribal governments and communities.

CLIMATE CHANGE

From page 1A

Jason Ramos, tribal council member of the Blue Lake Rancheria in Northern California, was also chosen as a “Climate Action Champion” under Obama.

“We’re all missing that kind of leadership nationally under the current administration,” Ramos said as part of the panel.

His tribe has set out a plan to have net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

‘On the brink’

Also on the panel was Joel Clement, a senior fellow with the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

He thinks the energy to prevent further climate change has shifted to state, local and tribal levels, especially after President Donald J. Trump withdrew the U.S. from the

The Paris Agreement.

“The fact is that the Arctic is warming twice as fast as the rest of the world,” Clement said. “There are Native villages on the brink. We need to integrate Indigenous knowledge into Western science. The relationships among humans and ecosystems are essential,” he said.

Clement said there are about three dozen Native villages in Alaska that are at risk from climate change effects.

Terry Williams, treaty rights office commissioner of the Tulalip Tribes Williams – about 30 miles north of Seattle – talked about how climate change is already decimating their fisheries.

“There are tribal members who rely on subsistence living – fishing, gathering, hunting,” Williams said. “We have campgrounds already underwater and relocations have already taken place. Indian people are place-based. The thought that we have to move because of the dereliction of our governments is unacceptable,” he said.

Initiative 1631

Washington State voters just rejected Initiative 1631 on Nov. 6, a proposed carbon fee on fossil-fuel emissions that spurred the biggest ballot-measure spending spree in the state’s history, according to the Seattle Times.

The charge to pass I-1631 was led by Fawn Sharp, president of the Quinalt Indian Nation, a Southwest Coast Salish people.

With almost 2 million votes cast from all of the state’s 39 counties, the measure failed by a 56.3 percent to 43.7 percent margin, the Seattle Times reported. Those who supported the initiative said they’ll continue to push for a carbon fee.

The opposition, who saw I-1631 as a costly and unfair energy tax, was largely bankrolled by the oil industry.

I-1631 would have created a first-in-the-nation carbon fee intended to cut greenhouse gas emissions, one of the causes of global

warming and climate change. It was reported that the fee would have raised more than \$1 billion annually by 2023.

The measure received national attention, in part, because of the aforementioned backing out by the Trump Administration from federal efforts to combat climate change this year.

Counties that voted to pass the initiative were located where much of the state’s Native American population lives.

Sharp spoke at the NCAI general assembly Oct. 24. As one of the most ardent advocates of I-1631, she spoke about its importance, saying that Native Americans have had to relocate in some cases because of sea level rise from climate change.

Sharp talked specifically about the disappearance of the Anderson Glacier, which was at the headwaters of the Quinalt River in the Olympic Mountains. It has affected fishing, which is one of the biggest food sources and economic drivers for Native people. “Despite the oil companies,

the average citizen knows climate change is real,” Sharp said.

Sharp was instrumental in obtaining 375,000 signatures to put I-1631 on the ballot and have a tribal sovereignty provision included in it. She said it’s been a decade long effort.

“It would secure 10 percent of carbon revenues for tribal nations, which would be \$100 to \$400 million for our tribe to invest in the environment,” Sharp said.

“We know as tribal nations, big oil can’t buy our hearts and it can’t buy our conscience. We are immune from that corruption and influence. We will stand on our power and sovereign authority,” she said.

The NCAI has a new policy brief on climate action data and a climate action resource webpage. Both can be accessed online at ncai.org.

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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Castillo worked as a Public Defender in Broward County from 1990-1996 and has been in private practice since 1996. In 1995, he was voted the Trial Attorney of the year. He graduated from Capital University in 1989 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1990, Federal Bar in 1992, and the Federal Trial Bar in 1994.
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FLORIDA CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY
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SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

Sharing is caring: Museum loans

BY NATASHA CUERVO
Registrar, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Here at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum the preservation and promotion of Seminole culture is our number one goal. Lending between cultural museums, institutions, and individuals is one of the key ways we represent Seminole culture in other communities and of course here on Reservation. Sometimes we request to borrow an object to supplement one of our upcoming exhibitions and other times we are the ones lending objects to be exhibited elsewhere. But what does it take to borrow an object from our permanent collection?

request, we too look for those standards.

A good way of gauging an institution's building standards is by requesting their facilities report. This document lists general information about the building, staff, fire-safety, and security and gives us a pretty good idea of under what conditions our object will be displayed. It answers questions such as: What security measures do they have in place (guards, alarms, etc.)? How much light comes into the space via windows or fixtures? Who will be handling the objects? What is their plan if a hurricane or emergency occurs? And what does the temperature and humidity look like? Once those questions have been answered we confirm that a



Ralph Billie, Seminole beaded sash, 2000, glass beads, leather, polyester, cotton

As you might know, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is one of only two tribally-run accredited museums in the United States. To become accredited, a museum must meet the standards of the American Alliance of Museums. Some of those standards include a secure storage space for object collections that is temperature and humidity-controlled and proper cataloging, location tracking, and an emergency plan. In the case of a loan

borrowing institution can provide insurance coverage and proper art shipping or courier service. And of course, we also need to know the timeline for the loan. Most institutions will ask that loan requests be submitted 9-12 months in advance. This time is particularly important for the Conservator to verify the condition of the object, its ability to travel, and if any treatment or cleaning is needed before it leaves the museum. It also allows for ample planning of travel arrangements



Unknown artist, Cherokee moccasins, ca. 1830, walnut dyed hide, glass and gold beads, silk ribbon



Maggie Osceola, Seminole big shirt, 1995-2000, cotton, satin, polyester, plastic



Brian Zepeda, The Riddler, 2016, Seminole bandolier bag, cotton, wool, satin, canvas, 13 seed beads



Unknown artist, Seminole beaded sash, mid-late 20th century, glass beads, wool, polyester, cotton

approval for the loan request and issue all the required loan agreement documents.

For most museums including us here at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, lending objects is about building relationships and working collaboratively in the spirit of education and cultural understanding. We are thrilled to have partnered with institutions such as the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum in Jupiter, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C., and Disney's Epcot Center in Orlando. But we also have the privilege to work with Seminole artists such as Brian Zepeda, Carol Cypress, Daniel Tommie, Jessica Osceola, Samuel Tommie, Elgin Jumper, Linda Beletso, and Judy Jim.

If you happen to be traveling in 2019, keep an eye out for Seminole culture. In May 2019, we will be installing the last

cycle of the National Constitution Center's three-year loan from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. The Cherokee moccasins, dated to the 1830s, are a beautiful example of silk, dyes, and beadwork which were recently determined to be gold-gilded. Also coming in 2019 is the next rotation of five objects at Disney's Epcot Center in June of 2019. They include a bold satin big-shirt by Maggie Osceola, a beautifully beaded sash by Ralph Billie, and a sharp bandolier bag by Brian Zepeda titled "The Riddler." In addition, two historical pieces, a big shirt from the early 20th century, and a unique beaded sash from the 1890s that was updated in the 1960s, will also be on display.

If you'd like to learn more about our ongoing loans feel free to call Natasha Cuervo, Registrar at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at 863-902-1113.

Siggy Jumper's Seminole experiences pave path to museum exhibit

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Sigfried "Siggy" R. Second-Jumper becomes passionate and emotional when talking about his recent donations to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress. Of course the emotion is about more than the objects; it is about the memories behind them and their connection to the Seminole people.

The museum hosted a reception Nov. 16 to kick off a new Jumper-inspired exhibit that runs through April 4, 2019.

The objects donated from Jumper's collection include items created by the Storm family — specifically Thomas M. Storm Sr. and his mother Mary Jane Storm.

The collection includes baskets and a shirt by Mary Jane Storm and also a drum set from the former and only known Seminole drum circle — Cypress Prairie — of which Jumper was a member. Thomas Storm Sr. ran the drum circle.

"It is rare that we have so much detail and a such a direct connection to pieces like the drum set, baskets, and shirt that are displayed in this exhibit," said Rebecca Fell, curator of exhibits at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki.

Jumper has also published a biography that details the history behind the items. He's Mescalero Apache, federally recognized as the Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Apache Reservation located in south-central New Mexico, but grew up in Miami — a retired Miami firefighter of 30 years.

At the reception, Jumper talked about the

museum items and his life in Florida. He also signed copies of his book at a luncheon hosted by the museum.

"When I got home from the reception, I began to reminisce about events that have taken place in the past four-plus decades since my initial contact with the Seminoles," Jumper told The Seminole Tribune.

Buffalo Tiger

Jumper said his Seminole journey started in the early 1970s when he was a young boy, meeting a Miccosukee named Buffalo Tiger. Tiger's village was not far from Jumper's family home in Miami.

"In time, Buffalo Tiger became my teacher and mentor. He gave me my first airboat ride and through his teachings I learned about the love that the Seminole people have for God, their families, land and



During a reception at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on Nov. 16, Siggy Jumper explains some of the history of the items he donated to the museum, including a drum set, which can be seen here.

culture," Jumper said.

He said Tiger taught him about Seminole leaders like Osceola and Abiaka, and had a profound impact on his development from a young boy to a man.

"He spoke about the similarities that my Apache ancestors and his had in common," Jumper said. "His people, the unconquered Seminoles, my people — described as the Tigers of the human race and the last North American tribe to surrender — the captivity of Seminoles and Apaches in St. Augustine, and his trip to Cuba were among the many stories he shared with me."

That's when the word "privileged" starts popping into Jumper's descriptions. He says he felt privileged to be a "lost Apache" among members of his Miccosukee village and wondered how a man such as Tiger had come into his life and offered him so much guidance.

"Buffalo Tiger had awakened my dormant Native roots, and my desire to search for my long lost Apache relatives had begun," Jumper said.

Red Bear

Jumper's family moved to Hialeah in 1976 and his visits to the Miccosukee village eventually came to an end with high school, college and careers filling most hours of the day.

But by the mid-1980s, he would move back to Broward County and reconnect with his Native roots by dancing at local powwows. Eventually he'd start meeting Seminole Tribal members from the Hollywood

Reservation.

In the mid-1990s, Jumper joined a northern drum group out of Hollywood named Red Bear, led by a Navajo who was married to a Seminole. On his days off from work, he began wrestling alligators at the Seminole Village, located on the Hollywood Reservation. It was there that he met a well-known alligator wrestler named Thomas M. Storm.

"Besides giving me tips on how not to lose my fingers, he asked if I was interested in joining his drum group, which he had named 'Cypress Prairie,'" Jumper said.

Cypress Prairie was different than Red Bear, as all the singers were Seminoles, except for Jumper.

"And I felt privileged," Jumper said. The singers included Thomas M. Storm Sr. as lead singer, Thomas Storm Jr., Jeff Storm, Rain Harrell, William Cypress, William K. Osceola and Jumper. The group was together from 1998 to 2001.

Jumper eventually began breaking in horses at the Big Cypress Reservation for various tribal members like Candy Cypress, Joel Frank, Sam Frank and his daughter Sunshine Frank.

He also became involved with the Seminole cattle program, which consisted of round-ups, branding, vaccinations, purchase and sales.

"In return, I was able to keep my horses on their pastures, and I felt privileged," he said.

Author, historian

In 1998, encouraged by his Seminole friends, Jumper and his family embarked on a cross-country search for his Chiricahua Apache relatives, who he located living among the Mescalero Apaches in New Mexico.

"Their acknowledgment and welcoming acceptance led me to write [my book]," Jumper said. The book: "Second Jumper: Searching for his Bloodline" was published in 2011.

Jumper said that through his writing, he was able to truly express his gratitude to

the Seminole people for making him feel so privileged.

"I am honored to have preserved in my book their stories, word for word, as they would want their grandchildren to hear it," he said.

Road to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

In 2016, while singing at the Mescalero Apache Reservation for the Chiricahua Crown Dancers, an inherited position that Jumper has held for 20 years now, he noticed a woman taking pictures of his group, which is highly forbidden.

"Once done, I approached her and found out she was a German professor with tribal permission to take the pictures. She kindly made a copy of those captured moments, and in return I invited her to visit me in Florida," Jumper said.

In February 2017, the professor arrived to meet Jumper and he took her to various Seminole reservations, including a first time visit for both of them to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

"During the [museum's] introductory video, I noticed my old friend Thomas Storm Sr. wrestling an alligator," Jumper said. "I told her that I had all sorts of items that came to me from Thomas Storm and his mother, Mary Jane Storm."

The items included a shirt, patchwork jacket, grass baskets (all made by Mary Jane Storm), powwow drum, drumsticks (made by Thomas Storm) and four cassettes with 30-plus songs from Cypress Prairie.

Once back in Germany, the woman would call the museum and inform them of all the items Jumper had in his possession.

In November 2017, all those items found their new home at the museum. In September 2018, Jumper began to work on editing the Cypress Prairie music, which he finished in time for the opening of the new exhibit now on display: "Selections from the Collections featuring the Siggy R. Second-Jumper Donation."

"To see my items in one room and all the obvious hard work that went into it left me speechless, and I felt privileged," Jumper said.

"I hope that my exhibit and my book will encourage young Seminoles to perhaps start a new singing group, to be proud of their ancestors accomplishments and to preserve their culture and language," he said. "I express humble gratitude to my Seminole friends for making me feel so privileged and allowing me to be part of their proud and rich history. Ultimately, I thank God for bestowing upon me so many blessings."

The museum, which is carrying copies of Jumper's book as well, is located at 34725 West Boundary Road on the Big Cypress Reservation. For more information, call 877-902-1113 or visit ahtahthiki.com.



Damon Scott

Siggy Jumper gives a short talk during a reception Nov. 18 at a new exhibit featuring items he donated to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Health

Native youth report places spotlight on young leaders, issues

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) released its unique annual report Nov. 16. CNAY is an initiative of the Washington, D.C.-based Aspen Institute.

The 2018 “State of Native Youth Report – Generation Indigenous,” is meant to highlight young Native leaders who are working on programs and initiatives across the country for their respective tribal nations.

The report also seeks to focus on policy issues that impact their lives individually, as well as their families and community – like climate change.

“From Barrow, Alaska, to the Everglades in Florida, indigenous communities have experienced climate change,” the report states. “Seasons are coming at different dates, often lasting longer and creating harsher elements. These changes impact plants, when and if they will grow, as well as animal migration, mating, and hibernation seasons.”

Health and wellness topics as it relates

to Native youth are also a big focus of the report. For example, the report states that Native adolescents are 30 percent more likely than non-Hispanic whites to be obese.

Citing the Indian Health Services Special Diabetes Program for Indians report to Congress, the data states that the implications of obesity include high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes – the leading cause of death among Native American populations and a risk factor for heart disease and stroke.

Other health and wellness topics are covered, too, including substance abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault, and behavioral health.

The report also provides a compilation of information from community meetings that took place throughout the year with youth and service providers about priorities and solutions on a host of other issues affecting Native youth.

The theme of the 2018 report is “Generation Indigenous,” or “Gen-I.” Gen-I was an initiative launched in 2014 by former President Barack Obama’s administration.

As part of the initiative, CNAY then

launched the Gen-I “National Native Youth Network,” a growing national platform to “connect and amplify Native youth leaders and their movements for positive change.”

There are about 2,000 Native youth who are involved in Gen-I, including from the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The initiative has also launched its first “Gen-I Creative Native art competition” this year.

“As Native youth promote wellness in their communities and tackle serious disparities in health, education, and economic opportunity, they continue to affirm the resilience of indigenous peoples and their communities,” organizers said in a statement.

“We’re proud to present the State of Native Youth report as a resource and roadmap to help decrease barriers and increase opportunity for Native youth,” the statement concluded.

Those who are interested in learning more can access the full report online at cnay.org or by emailing Aaron Slate of the Aspen Institute at aaron.slater@aspeninstitute.org.

Indian Day Walk in BC



Courtesy Jamie Diersing/Wellness Center (2)

Dozens of walkers turn out for the Big Cypress Indian Day Walk on Sept. 27. Participants included, above, from left, President Mitchell Cypress, Abelardo ‘Ed’ Garcia and BC health outreach coordinator Edna McDuffie.

Dementia in Indian Country

BY DR. BLYTHE WINCHESTER

The most common question I get asked is “what is the difference between Alzheimer’s and dementia?” Dementia is an umbrella term that includes a lot of different types of dementia including Alzheimer’s, vascular dementia, Lewy Body dementia (what Robin Williams had), and frontotemporal dementia. It is also possible to have mixed dementia, which means you have more than one type. The most common type of dementia is Alzheimer’s, followed by vascular dementia. Vascular dementia occurs because of issues relating to your blood vessels. This can include strokes, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and bleeds in the brain.

The most common risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease is age. The number of American Indian and Alaskan Natives 85 years of age and older is projected to increase from 42,000 in 2012 to 300,000 in 2050—a more than sevenfold increase. This means there will be many more tribal elders with Alzheimer’s disease.

One of my areas of focus is dementia in tribal populations. There are many things about dementia care and diagnosis that are different in Indian Country. How does dementia in tribal people compare to other populations? A 2016 study was the first to examine rates of dementia in American

Indian and Alaskan Native populations. In this study dementia incidence (the rate or frequency of the disease) was highest in American Indians and Alaskan Natives and African-Americans.

What other things about dementia are different for our communities? There are now 573 federally-recognized tribes across the country. Our tribes are very diverse in our languages, culture, and traditions. Some tribes do not have a phrase or term that fits with “dementia” because it is a foreign concept. In conducting a memory evaluation we have to perform brain exercises and ask a lot of questions because we don’t have a blood test or x-ray to diagnose dementia like we do for diabetes. But, these tools were not developed for our tribal populations.

For many years American Indian and Alaskan Native elders life expectancy was much lower than the majority population. In the 1940s the life expectancy was 51 years of age, people were dying before they would ever develop a dementia. American Indians and Alaska Natives born today have a life expectancy that is 5.5 years less than the U.S. all races population (73.0 years to 78.5 years, respectively). It is wonderful news that our elders are reaching older ages but this may be a reason that our communities had not heard or experienced Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias until recently. This makes it difficult to “catch up” quickly to what is happening in the rest of the country.

“Why get diagnosed if there is no cure?”

This is the second most common question I get asked. Research is still being done on biomarkers and other tests that can be helpful to diagnose memory disorders even before someone has symptoms of memory loss. Those are not widely available or covered by insurance companies yet. It is still important to get an accurate diagnosis as early as you can. Many people have a reversible cause of memory loss and if we can catch it quickly it is much easier to address.

During this National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month I encourage you to think about yourself, friends or family members who may show one or more of the 10 signs of Alzheimer’s disease and consider seeing your provider to gather more information about what could be causing the problem.

Dr. Blythe Winchester is an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and practices as a geriatrician in her hometown of Cherokee, North Carolina. She works as the certified medical director of the tribal long-term care facility there and is the chief clinical consultant for geriatrics and palliative care for the Indian Health Service. She received her MD and MPH degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill and did a residency in family medicine at the Greenville Hospital System in Greenville, South Carolina.



New Medicare Card Mailing Strategy

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is required to remove Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from all Medicare cards by April 2019. A new, unique Medicare Number is replacing the SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) on each new Medicare card. Starting April 2018, CMS is mailing new Medicare cards to all people with Medicare on a flow basis, based on geographic location and other factors.

These mailings will follow the sequence outlined below. Additional details on timing will be available as the mailings progress. Starting in April 2018, people with Medicare can get information about the mailings and sign up for emails about the status of card mailings in their area on Medicare.gov/NewCard.

New Medicare Card Mailing Waves

Wave	States Included	Cards Mailing
Newly Eligible People with Medicare	All - Nationwide	April 2018 - ongoing
1	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia	Beginning May 2018 COMPLETE
2	Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon	Beginning May 2018 COMPLETE
3	Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin	Beginning June 2018 COMPLETE
4	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont	Beginning July 2018 COMPLETE
5	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina	Beginning August 2018 COMPLETE
6	Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming	Beginning September 2018 COMPLETE
7	Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Virgin Islands	Beginning October 2018

Protect the Circle of Life



THE FLU & YOU

What is influenza (the flu)?

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness. At times, it can lead to death.

Who should get a flu vaccine?

Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine, especially if you are at high risk for complications, or if you live with or care for someone who is high risk for complications.

Your family may be especially vulnerable to the flu.

Influenza poses a greater risk to certain people, including pregnant women, children, and elders, who are all at high risk for flu-related complications. In fact, pneumonia and flu are a leading cause of death among Native elders. The flu also can cause certain health conditions, including diabetes, asthma, and heart and lung disease, to become worse. Pneumonia and bronchitis are examples of serious flu-related complications, which can result in hospitalization and sometimes even death.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF THE FLU

People sick with influenza feel some or all of these symptoms:

- Fever* or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (very tired)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

*Not everyone with the flu will have a fever. You can be sick and contagious without running a temperature.

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE FLU

- Get a flu vaccine each year.
- Stop the spread of germs, including influenza viruses:
 - ♦ Cover your coughs and sneezes
 - ♦ Wash your hands often
 - ♦ If you’re sick, stay home
- Take antiviral drugs if they are prescribed for you.

Where to Get a Flu Vaccine:

- Hollywood Health Clinic
- Brighton Health Clinic
- Big Cypress Health Clinic
- Immokalee Health Clinic
- Tampa Health Clinic
- Grocery Store
- Pharmacy
- Physician’s Office

PROTECT YOURSELF.
PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE.

SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney (2)

NATIVE VOTE: On Election Day Nov. 6, Tribal members were encouraged to vote and show their pride by donning Native Vote T-shirts. Above, Cherrah Giles, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum development associate, handed out T-shirts at the Senior Thanksgiving luncheon. Below, Virginia Osceola holds her new T-shirt.



Mathews Goes

VETERANS DAY WALK: Participants in the Big Cypress Veterans Day Walk gather at the Seminole Veterans Memorial Fitness Trail on Nov. 9 for an early morning walk in honor of all veterans.



Beverly Bidney

TRIBE TRIBUTE: The U.S. flag is flown at half-staff in front of the Frank Billie Field Office on the Big Cypress Reservation on Oct. 29 in remembrance and respect for the victims of the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh. U.S. flags were flown at half-staff tribalwide for three days. The flags were lowered again from Nov. 8-10 for the victims of another mass shooting in Thousand Oaks, California.



Mathews Goes

HOLIDAY GATHERING: Seniors in Hollywood gather for a Thanksgiving meal hosted by the Hollywood Senior Center on Nov. 14.



Carlos Fuentes

WALK THIS WAY: Walkers head out at the start of the Hollywood Indian Day Walk in September.



Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood/Facebook

PINKTOBER DONATION: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood was the title sponsor of the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk - Broward that drew thousands of walkers to Huizenga Plaza in Fort Lauderdale on Oct. 27. Hard Rock donated a \$50,000 check to the American Cancer Society.



Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood/Facebook

HARD ROCK HELPS HARVEST DRIVE: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood employees unload food to be donated for Thanksgiving to Harvest Drive on Nov. 15 at Western High School in Davie. Harvest Drive is a community volunteer program that works with the Broward County Schools each November to assist more than 2300 families with a week's worth of groceries as well as the fixings for a complete Thanksgiving meal.



Kevin Johnson

RISING UP: With no clouds in the sky on a bright morning, here's what the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood's guitar tower looked like Nov. 7 as construction continues.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

NMAI receives \$1 million from Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for Native veterans memorial

WASHINGTON — The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian has announced it received a \$1 million gift from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for the National Native American Veterans Memorial.

The memorial, which will be built on the grounds of the museum, was commissioned by Congress to give "all Americans the opportunity to learn of the proud and courageous tradition of service of Native Americans in the Armed Forces of the United States."

"We are very grateful to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for their generous support of the National Native American Veterans Memorial," said Kevin Gover (Pawnee), director of the museum. "Their gift will enable the creation of a memorial that honors the service and patriotism of Native veterans, soldiers and their families."

"From the Revolutionary War through today, Native Americans have participated in every major U.S. military conflict," said Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Chairman Charles R. Vig. "Their heroism has saved countless lives, and our tribe is pleased to help recognize them in such a prominent place on the National Mall."

Native Americans serve at a higher rate per capita than any other population group, and Native peoples have served in the U.S. armed forces since the American Revolution and continue to serve today. This will be the first national landmark in Washington, D.C., to focus on the contributions of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians who have served in the military.

The memorial design is by Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma), a multimedia artist and retired forensic artist, and a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran. The design features an elevated stainless steel circle resting on an intricately carved stone drum. It also incorporates water for sacred ceremonies, benches for gatherings and four lances where veterans, family members, tribal leaders and others can tie cloths for prayers and healing.

The groundbreaking for the memorial is slated for Sept. 21, 2019, and the dedication for Nov. 11, 2020. For more information about the memorial, visit AmericanIndian.si.edu/NNAVM.

- Smithsonian press release

Judge blocks construction of Keystone XL pipeline

U.S. District Judge Brian Morris issued an order Nov. 8 blocking construction of the \$8 billion Keystone XL Pipeline until further environmental analysis is conducted.

The decision comes as TransCanada is preparing to build the oil pipeline beginning in northern Montana, with pipe being shipped to the state by train and trucked to locations along the line.

TransCanada released a statement Nov. 9 saying it is reviewing the judge's decision.

"We remain committed to building this important energy infrastructure project," said Terry Cunha, communications manager for TransCanada.

President Donald J. Trump criticized the order.

"Well, it was a political decision made by a judge," he said as he headed to Europe to observe the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. "I think it's a disgrace. It's 48,000 jobs. I approved it; it's ready to start."

Environmental groups that sued TransCanada and the U.S. Department of State in federal court in Great Falls called the decision to overturn the Trump administration-issued permit a landmark ruling.

In his decision, Morris said the government's analysis fell short on:

- The effects of the current oil prices on the viability of the pipeline.
- The cumulative effects of greenhouse gas emissions.

- A survey of potential Native American resources.

- And updated modeling of potential oil spills and recommended mitigation measures.

"The Department must supplement new and relevant information regarding the risk of spills," Morris wrote.

As for climate change, Morris noted that the department denied the permit in

2015 and relied heavily on the United State's role in climate leadership. That was under the Obama Administration.

Then, under the Trump administration, the department approved the permit, dismissing concerns about climate change.

The Trump Administration decision approving the project noted that "there have been numerous developments related to global action to address climate change, including announcements by many countries of their plans to do so" since the 2015 decision.

Morris said that statement fell short of a factually based determination, let alone a reasoned explanation, for the course reversal.

"An agency cannot simply disregard contrary or inconvenient factual determinations that it made in the past, any more than it can ignore inconvenient facts when it writes on a blank slate," Morris wrote.

The reversal required a "reasoned explanation" but instead the State Department discarded prior factual findings related to climate change, the judge said.

Keystone XL Pipeline would transport up to 830,000 barrels per day of crude oil from Alberta, Canada and the Bakken Shale Formation in Montana to existing pipeline facilities near Steele City, Neb., from which the oil would be delivered to Cushing, Okla., and the Gulf Coast.

The U.S. portion of the line would run 875 miles through Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. The rest of the 1,200-mile line is in Canada.

About 250 miles of the pipeline would be buried across six counties in Montana beginning on the border with Canada in Phillips County. TransCanada already has begun delivering pipe to Montana in expectation of construction beginning in 2019.

The Indigenous Environmental Network, North Coast Rivers Alliance, Northern Plains Resource Council and other groups sued TransCanada and the U.S. State Department in March to block the decision to issue a presidential permit allowing construction.

"I would call it a landmark ruling because it overturns a presidential decision purporting to find that a transboundary project is in the public interest," Stephan Volker, a Berkeley-based attorney for the plaintiffs, told the Tribune. "And Judge Morris correctly ruled it was not in the public interest because Secretary Kerry had found in a detailed ruling several years ago it was not in the public interest."

John Kerry was secretary of state when the Obama administration denied the presidential permit for the pipeline.

A presidential permit is required when a project crosses an international boundary. The secretary of state makes a recommendation, then the president decides.

"We have never had a ruling against a president overturning a substantive finding a project is in the public interest," Volker said. "That finding is required for transboundary projects. So it's unique to this kind of national project that affects multiple countries."

Dena Hoff, a Glendive farmer and member-leader of the Northern Plains Resource Council, called the ruling a victory for rule of law and common sense stewardship of land and water.

"All Americans should be proud that our system of checks and balances can still function even in the face of enormous strains," Hoff said.

The Fort Peck tribes of Montana have opposed the current location of the pipeline crossing on the Missouri River in Valley County, Montana because they say if there was an oil spill it could taint their downstream water system.

The pipeline would cross the Milk River 1.6 miles west of Nashua, and the Missouri River just west of the mouth of the Milk. That location is 57 miles upstream from the intake of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water Supply System.

TransCanada says the pipeline will be safe. At the Missouri River, the pipeline depth would be 54 feet below the lowest surveyed river elevation, and heavier-walled pipe with anti-corrosion coating would be used.

"Pipelines are the safest and most cost-effective form of overland crude oil transportation," according to the environmental impact statement that was completed on the project.

The Obama Administration, citing climate change, had denied the permit, saying it wasn't in the national interest.

In approving the pipeline, the Trump Administration said the project would

support U.S. priorities relating to energy security, economic development and infrastructure.

The environmental groups argued it would push the earth beyond its carrying capacity for carbon dioxide, and asked how that could be in the public's interest.

In the same case, Morris directed the government in August to supplement the 2014 final supplemental environmental impact statement to consider another alternative route through Nebraska.

But the court had yet to decide on vacating the presidential permit granting permission to cross the international border between Canada and the United States at Montana.

Morris's 54-page order overturns the Trump Administration's approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline and issues an injunction preventing construction of the project until additional analysis occurs.

- Great Falls (Montana) Tribune

Native American groups: Artifact auction 'unconscionable'

MEDFORD, Mass. — Native American groups are protesting the Medford Public Library's decision to auction off a collection of Native American artifacts (in December) and questioning the legality of the sale.

In a public notice posted Nov. 13, the library said a collection of 19th-century Pacific Northwest Indian artifacts it described as "surplus goods" would be sold Dec. 1 in Boston by Skinner Auctioneers and Appraisers.

"This auction is unconscionable in a country with laws and obligations such as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act," said Jean-Luc Pierie, president of the board of directors of the North American Indian Center of Boston. "The provenance of these artifacts includes the prayerful way in which they are made, and a gifting process which is indicative of a sacred bond. To sell these items for short-term profit without proper consultation on repatriation is part of the troubling disregard for government-to-government relationships."

The collection — donated to the library in 1880 by James G. Swan — includes two wood shaman's masks that may have been made for the helper of a shaman, a person believed to have access to and influence in the world of good and evil spirits. Skinner estimates both masks are worth at least \$30,000.

The collection also includes two shaman's bird rattles valued at between \$5,000 and \$8,000; a shaman's spirit figure estimated at \$4,000 to \$6,000; a cedar trunk expected to fetch between \$3,000 and \$5,000; and a cedar totem pole valued at \$800 to \$1,200.

Library Director Barbara Kerr declined to comment on why the library is selling the artifacts or whether she or Skinner, which did not return calls yesterday, had tried to contact the tribes from which they originated, as required under the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, according to Raquel Halsey, the executive director of the North American Indian Center of Boston.

"Auctions around the world have sold Native American artifacts, property often either stolen or traded out of the need for food, shelter and other basic necessities," said Halsey, a member of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation. "It's our hope that people at institutions like the library would be more enlightened. They're supposed to be repatriating these items back to the nations they came from, and the onus is on the institutions to make contact with the tribes."

Once that happens, the tribes may take possession of the artifacts or allow the institutions to take stewardship of them, provided they take proper care of the items, she said.

Janeen Comenote, executive director of the National Urban Indian Family Coalition in Seattle, said such auctions are not uncommon.

"Ofentimes, collectors just don't know the meaning of the artifacts," said Comenote, a member of the Quinault Indian Nation. "Often, these were procured by violence or left behind at camps where there were massacres. But however they were acquired, any item taken from another culture should be treated with respect."

- Boston Herald

Los Angeles removes Christopher Columbus statue from Grand Park

LOS ANGELES — After years of being petitioned to remove a statue that has come to mean both the subjugation and genocide of Native Americans, the city of Los Angeles removed the 45-year-old statue of Christopher Columbus in Grand Park near City Hall in November.

Andrew Morales, who is a Native American Gabriellino-Tongva from the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, looked at the empty space and was overcome with emotion.

"When I saw it come down, I was lost with words," Morales said Nov. 10. "To me it was a fight for a long time that finally came to this day."

Over 200 people gathered for a ceremony and celebration before city workers lifted the statue off its base with a crane. The statue's removal came less than a month after Los Angeles' first Indigenous Peoples' Day, a holiday that celebrates indigenous peoples of America instead of Christopher Columbus.

Although some Italian-American groups opposed the city recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day, there were no visible protestors as the statue was removed. One such group, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, have pushed for efforts to keep Columbus Day and monuments to the Italian sailor.

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission, or LANAIC, played a leading role in petitioning to take down the statue.

Many people got emotional listening to indigenous leaders share the significance of the statue's removal with the crowd. According to Vice Chairwoman of LANAIC Chrissy Castro, this day has been years in the making.

"It was an emotional day for all of us," Castro said.

In partnership with County Supervisor Hilda Solis and City Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, LANAIC faced some pushback in its efforts to remove the statue.

"Some people didn't want to see the statue down. So we really had to go to lengths to explain why this was so meaningful," Castro said.

The commission is requesting the city permanently remove the statue from the county arts collection, according to Castro.

Shannon Rivers of the Akimel O'otham tribe in Arizona was one of the speakers at the event. He shared the impact the statue's removal has on the indigenous community and the Los Angeles community as a whole. "My feeling is one of joy and pride for the people of Los Angeles," Rivers said. "This is the beginning of the changing of the narrative of the American story."

Rivers led the ceremony on the grassy lawn adjacent to the statue with traditional ceremonial dances and prayers. At the base of the statue, leaders lit tobacco to bless the uncovered ground.

For now, a granite base remains in the park with Columbus' name on it with no statue on top.

- USC Annenberg Media

New Jersey pays \$2.4M to Native American tribe, officially recognizes it after 6 years

After years of fighting, a New Jersey Native American tribe is once again officially recognized.

Attorney General Gurbir Grewal announced Nov. 15 the state settled with the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation. As part of the settlement, the state will pay the tribe \$2.4 million, and officially proclaim it has recognized the 3,000-member Native American tribe. The state made no admission of wrongdoing in the agreement.

"Tribal rights are important rights, and through this settlement we've been able to affirm the status of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Nation as an American Indian Tribe formally recognized by the state," Grewal said in the statement.

"As a result of this settlement, there is no more ambiguity regarding the tribe's official status, and the tribe's forward progress cannot be impeded by any state-related recognition issues. I'm heartened that, through good faith negotiation, we've been able to resolve this matter fairly and bring an end to years of legal dispute."

The battle for recognition began in late 2012 when New Jersey decided to no longer recognize three tribes: the Nanticoke Lenni-

Lenape, Ramapough Mountain tribe and Powhatan-Renape Nation.

The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape tribe filed state and federal civil rights lawsuits in 2015 after trying to negotiate with Gov. Chris Christie's administration. As part of the lawsuit, the group claimed the decision not to recognize the tribes was a "racial-stereotype-driven and irrational fear that any American Indian Tribe, if recognized as such, will seek to conduct gaming in competition with New Jersey's politically powerful non-Indian gaming interests."

As part of its beliefs, the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape have tribal laws banning gambling.

The lawsuit was dismissed in 2016 after Superior Court Judge William Anklowitz disagreed with the tribe and upheld a motion from then-acting Attorney General John Hoffman to dismiss the lawsuit, because a resolution made in 1982 to recognize the tribe was never submitted to the governor's office, making the tribe's status unofficial.

However, in 2017, a three-member Appellate Court ruled the lawsuit would be able to continue, saying the superior court "applied the wrong legal standard and incorrectly failed to accept plaintiff's factual allegations in the complaint as true."

The tribe lauded the Nov. 15 settlement, saying the agreement will have a wide-reaching effect for other Native American tribes.

"The two other state-recognized tribes in New Jersey whose status was undermined will have it reaffirmed," it said in a statement.

"And tens of thousands of members of the more than sixty state-recognized tribes in other states may rest more easily. This settlement establishes that states may not retroactively undermine tribal recognition by violating a tribe's rights to due process and equal protection of the laws."

- NJ.com

Connecticut casino revenues continue to fall

Connecticut's tribal casino operators each reported a drop in revenue and wagers in October for the fourth consecutive month amid competition from MGM's new Springfield (Mass.) gaming facility.

Foxwoods Resort Casino, operated by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, on Nov. 15 posted slot revenue of \$34.4 million in October, down 10 percent vs. \$38.2 million it recorded in the year-ago period.

The amount slot bettors wagered in October, known as the "handle," was nearly \$436.4 million, down 10.6 percent compared to the \$488.1 million wagered in Oct. 2017.

Foxwoods' slot revenue fell 5 percent year-over-year in September, 1.6 percent in August and 5 percent in July. The casino's slot revenue jumped 5.7 percent in June.

Foxwoods said it contributed \$9 million to Connecticut's general fund last month.

Also on Nov. 15, Mohegan Gaming & Entertainment said it recorded \$42.5 million in slot revenue last month, down about 10.5 percent from the \$47.6 million it recorded in the year-ago period.

The handle was \$546.9 million, down roughly 6.4 percent vs. the \$584.6 million wagered in Oct. 2017.

Mohegan's slot revenue declined 8.8 percent in September, less than 1 percent in August and 1.3 percent in July. Slot revenues were flat in June.

The Uncasville casino said it contributed \$10.6 million to the state in October.

The four-month decline comes as MGM Springfield nears its third full month operating its \$960 million casino and entertainment complex.

Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun are working together to build a proposed \$300 million entertainment complex in East Windsor to remain competitive in the central and northern portions of Connecticut.

However, the proposed development is in doubt as Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has refused to approve the plans, which are planned off tribal grounds. A CNN report said Zinke's decision is under investigation as the Mashantucket tribe has argued he was coaxed into blocking the proposed development.

Rodney Butler, chairman of the Mashantucket Pequot tribe and interim CEO of Foxwoods, is still confident the proposed East Windsor casino will be built.

- Hartford Business Journal

◆ OPINION: JUSTICE From page 2A

Affairs Committee [Nov. 14]. Tester, one of the original bill sponsors, is a member of that committee as are Republican Sens. Steve Daines of Montana and John Barrasso of Wyoming. There was no partisan division in the vote on S.1942. But we must ask: Why did it take so long?

"We need Savanna's Act to improve information sharing between law enforcement agencies, establish better response protocols and put an end to these crimes committed across Indian Country," Tester said in a press release.

The bill spells out the terrible danger that engulfs Native American and Alaska Native women and girls more often than

other U.S. women:

- On some reservations, Indian women are murdered at more than 10 times the national average.

- American Indians and Alaska Natives are at least twice as likely to experience rape or sexual assault crimes — compared to all other races.

- More than 84 percent of Native American and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime.

- Homicide is the third leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native women between 10 and 24 years old.

U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute nearly 52 percent of violent crimes that occur in Indian country, according to a 2010 report from the General Accountability Office. Investigation into these cases of missing women is hindered by a lack of

training, equipment or funding and a lack of interagency cooperation, the bill states, continuing: "The complicated jurisdictional scheme that exists in Indian country has a significant negative impact on the ability to provide public safety to Indian communities."

The act aims to clarify the responsibilities of federal, state, tribal, and local governments. That includes increasing coordination and communication among federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies. It is intended to empower effective response to cases of missing and murdered Indians and to increase the collection of data related to missing and murdered Indian women.

Savanna's Act is named for a young Native woman, Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, who was murdered last year in North Dakota when she was eight months

pregnant.

In December 2017, the Senate Indian Affairs Committee unanimously approved the Survive Act. It still awaits Senate floor action. Tester is a sponsor of the Survive Act, which sets aside 5 percent of the Crime Victims Fund to provide an additional \$150 million that tribes could use to assist survivors of violent crimes. The Survive Act can support domestic violence shelters, medical care, counseling, legal assistance and services, and child and elder abuse prevention.

In Montana, home to seven Indian reservations, we have seen horrendous crimes committed against Native women. Both Daines and Tester have supported resolutions recognizing May 5 as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls. May

5 is the birthday of Hanna Harris, a young member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe who was murdered in July 2013.

The Senate Committee vote for Savanna's Act Wednesday was a hopeful step, but the hope will disappear when the lame duck Congress adjourns.

We urge Tester and Daines to talk with their Senate colleagues about passing both Savanna's Act and the Survive Act very soon. Members of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee should be leaders in persuading Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to bring these lifesaving measures to the Senate floor to become part of the year-end legislation that the House and Senate agree to send to President Donald Trump.

Don't force Native American women to wait even longer for justice.

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Education



B

Ahfachkee expansion reaches topping off milestone

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ahfachkee School commemorated the structural completion of its new middle and high school building with a topping off ceremony Nov. 9. Tribal dignitaries, construction executives, architects, Ahfachkee administrators and workers attended the ceremony, which celebrated the accomplishment of the construction crew.

“It’s finally happening,” said Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger. “This is a huge day for this community. The school will give our kids the tools they need to get a good education.”

Reaching this milestone created a celebratory mood that affected all in attendance, including the construction workers who were about to feast on a barbecue lunch before returning to work.

“This is much more than just a building with a cafeteria and classrooms,” said Lee Zepeda, executive director of administration. “This is where the future will be made.”

Now that the structure is sound, construction will move to the interior of the two-story 30,000 square-foot building where the classrooms, labs, media center and cafeteria will take shape. Pirtle Construction, which specializes in school construction, worked from the Zyscovich Architects design.

Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank and Councilman Tiger attended school on the same site as the new, modern structure.

“All the work you employees are doing will ensure a good product for generations to come,” Rep. Frank said. “Thank you and keep working safe.”

Councilman Tiger also thanked the workers for their hard work.

“I appreciate your heart and dedication to come out here in the middle of nowhere and put up a school for us,” he said. “We will start getting more students at the school with this new building.”

Speeches continued before a tour of the building began.

“Projects come along in our time, but this one is special for us,” said Jamie Armstrong, Pirtle director of operations. “This will have a huge impact on the Big Cypress reservation. Today is for the guys who are making a safe, quality product for the Seminole Tribe.”

Principal Dorothy Cain narrated the tour of the building, pointing out where an interior staircase will be built, enormous windows that will take advantage of natural daylight, the spaciousness of the rooms, the height of the ceiling and the plans for the classrooms.

The school is designed for the 21st Century learning curriculum which emphasizes group projects, guided by teachers, in which students work and learn



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger and Derrick Smith, TCD senior director of operations, like what they see as they tour the Ahfachkee School expansion project Nov. 9 during a topping off ceremony.



Beverly Bidney

Workers on the roof of the Ahfachkee middle and high school building under construction next to the existing school building.

together. The focus on collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving will prepare students to be productive members of society.

The middle and high school building is the first of two phases of the Ahfachkee expansion. The second phase, which will follow the first’s completion, is the renovation

of the existing classroom buildings.

Armstrong said the middle and high school will be up and running for the next school year. Although the building may be complete sometime in the spring, it is unlikely the students will be moved in at that time.

“We don’t want to disrupt the students’ testing schedule,” he said. “We are cognizant of what goes on within the walls we are building.”

The students won’t be the only ones eager to move into the new building, teachers will as well.

“We’re very proud of our new school,” said traditional culture teacher Mary Jene Koenes. “We’ve outgrown our old one, it’s so old fashioned. We are all looking forward to the new school.”



Beverly Bidney

Lee Zepeda, executive director of administration, and Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger tour the construction site of the Ahfachkee School expansion Nov. 9.



Beverly Bidney

Construction workers at the Ahfachkee middle and high school celebrate the topping off ceremony on the site.

All dressed up at Brighton Preschool for Halloween



Kevin Johnson

Diamond Jumper



Kevin Johnson

Mahala Bishop



Kevin Johnson

Lenox Fudge



Kevin Johnson

Several departments in Brighton, including Recreation, brought treats for the preschoolers on Halloween morning.

Hollywood Preschool participates in Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Derrick Tiger (2)

Students and staff at the Hollywood Preschool got into the pink spirit Oct. 12 by wearing pink in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Students started the day with a pink-themed breakfast.



Abigail Tigertail writes winning essay selected by Intertribal Agriculture Council

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Abigail Tigertail will represent the Seminole Tribe of Florida at a December event in Las Vegas, Nevada.

As an Ahfachkee School junior, Tigertail wrote a winning essay chosen by the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) for its competitive “Youth Essay Contest & Conference.”

She’s received a scholarship for travel expenses to attend the IAC’s national conference Dec. 10–13 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas.

Tigertail worked with Ahfachkee’s Dr. Rona Olukulu, known as “Dr. O,” to craft and refine the essay’s theme – “Sustaining Our Lifestyle.”

The essay looks at ways future Native generations can achieve “food sovereignty,” in part by utilizing the Native American Agriculture Fund and the Farm Bill.

The essay focuses on themes of Native farming, ranching, agriculture, nutrition and overall health, food supply and availability and food assistance programs.

It also seeks to bust some of the stereotypes society has about Native people.

“... There is more to Native American businesses than gaming and hotels,” reads part of the essay.

Teacher, student partnership

Tigertail was a student in Olukulu’s English class and the two have known each other for about two years. When she wasn’t attending Ahfachkee, she was enrolled at Calvary Christian Academy in Fort Lauderdale, where she lives, and is now homeschooled.

“She has lots of resiliency, is very smart and a determined worker,” Olukulu

said. “For this particular project, I saw the passion. For her to be selected I think was amazing.”

Tigertail didn’t have a lot of time to prepare the essay for submission. By the time it was decided she’d write it and turn it in, teacher and student had about three days to do research and write three pages.

Tigertail said while the project was challenging, she was prepared because “Dr. O” had previously pushed her to achieve in her schoolwork.

“She’s a really good teacher. She pushes me and doesn’t hold anything back. She’ll tell you if it’s not good and what needs to be done to fix it. She doesn’t sugarcoat it. She’s one of the toughest teachers,” Tigertail said.

Tigertail said she’s “excited and nervous” to attend the conference and meet new people from different tribes across the country.

She’s planning on making the trip with her older sister, Ragan Osceola.

One topic Tigertail learned about through her essay research that stood out, she said, was how high the prevalence of diabetes is in Indian Country.

She learned that from 1994 to 2004, diabetes among Native youth increased by 60 percent.

Olukulu is originally from Trinidad and Tobago. She came to Florida in 2005 via Columbia University in New York where she earned her master’s degree.

She continued her education at Florida International University and recently earned her doctorate in educational leadership and administration. Her dissertation was on culturally responsive instruction.

“I wanted to see how I could use that form of teaching for minorities and the disenfranchised,” she said regarding her path to Ahfachkee.

“I was used to working in urban and suburban areas and wanted to see how my

talents would be with a different ethnic group,” she said.

She now lives in Ave Maria, about an hour west of Big Cypress.

Family, hobbies

Tigertail isn’t just talented in the classroom. She’s also known as a good athlete who plays volleyball and basketball. She enjoys creating art as well. Some of her work has been displayed at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

She said she’s been sports-oriented for much of her life. “My dad made me start playing basketball when I was five,” she said.

Tigertail credits her parents for encouraging her to work hard in life.

“They always push me to do my best and they have me go to a different standard and don’t want me to be like other kids,” Tigertail said.

Tigertail has six brothers and three sisters. She’s the fourth oldest.

“She’s a very smart student and I really appreciate Dr. O,” said her mother Sheli Tigertail. “She knows what she’s capable of. Bright kids can’t get lazy.”

Tigertail describes herself as a little bit of a “tough mom.”

“Out of all my children she’s the one who wanted to go to preschool. In the second grade she tested and was gifted. She always wanted to learn something new,” Tigertail said.

Her daughter wants to attend college, but isn’t sure which one yet. She thinks she’ll choose a school in Florida or Oklahoma.

“I want to be a pediatrician, elementary [school] teacher and a lawyer,” the overachieving Tigertail said.

When she’s not busy at school or playing sports, Tigertail’s hobbies are reading and watching Gossip Girl.



Damon Scott

Ahfachkee School teacher Dr. Rona Olukulu joins Abigail Tigertail, whose essay about Native agriculture, nutrition, diabetes and other topics earned her a trip to a conference in Las Vegas.

BY ABIGAIL TIGERTAIL

Sustaining Our Lifestyle

When people think of Native Americans, they think of huge gaming businesses and hotels, but there is more to Native American businesses than gaming and hotels. For example, some people do not think of Native Americans as farmers or ranchers, but many Native Americans in the Seminole tribe are in fact, ranchers and farmers. The government issued the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) and the Farm Bill to help support Native American farming, ranching, and agriculture in general. The Farm Bill is a law that governs agriculture, nutrition, and food assistance programs such as SNAP. This bill is passed every 5 years by Congress and is referred to as the “Reauthorization process” – next reauthorization is in 2018. More so, the tenets of the Bill include food assistance programs, commodity crop prices, conservation, research, rural development, and bioenergy. Comparatively, the Native American Agricultural Fund (NAAF) emerged over discrimination of Native Americans in loan programs. The civil rights settlement from such has amounted to \$266 million, which continues to serve Native American farmers and ranchers to date. Herein embodies two entities that can be employed to support the agricultural initiatives of Native Americans.

Although many people would think that most Native Americans - and more specifically, the Seminole Tribe - are wealthy, the reality is, many of them are living in poverty and are barely making ends meet. By issuing the NAAF and the Farm Bill, the government is aiding Native American families by providing a medium for us to initiate ways to increase inadequate food supply, and also to help us attain a healthier lifestyle.

In order to survive, it is necessary to have an adequate food supply. Many northern tribes are facing poverty and lack of provisions. For example, the South Dakota Crow Creeks are facing the problem of no food. This is a problem for many northern tribes because they do not have a reliable source of food or any local grocery stores to sustain their livelihood. The nearest grocery store is at least an hour away and sometimes they do not have the best food selection. On the other hand, the Seminole Tribe has a benefit, in that; it is currently the 13th largest cow calf producer in the United States. The first cattle ever raised in the United States were raised by Seminoles. This is one way in which we can utilize our resource of cattle rearing to sufficiently

increase the food supply that comes to our reservation. By utilizing the NAAF, our ranchers will be able to get assistance with their business initiatives; individuals can receive agricultural education to be able to work effectively in the industry, and most of all advocacy services to Native American farmers and ranchers will be provided to support and promote their continued engagement in agriculture. Saying this, we have to make the effort to ensure that the necessary funding is available for us to locally fund our cattle rearing, thus using it as a source of income to help our impoverished communities. When our tribe is able to run an effective cattle business, it will not only help feed hungry families, but it will also provide more job opportunities for some families.

Regaining Our Future finds that the economic and dietary health of Native Americans is also influenced by the 2018 Farm Bill. As Seminoles, we sometimes do not extend our hands for help as we are a sovereign nation and we have the ability to sustain ourselves; however, the individual choices that we make have adversely affected us. Along with a more adequate food supply, the NAAF and Farm Bill can

also provide Native families with a way to improve our habits of having a healthier lifestyle. There is such a cry for us to go “back to basics”, where we can focus more on food sovereignty. This is such a necessary phenomenon that we must seek for heightened engagement.

Undoubtedly, the most common health deficiency among Native Americans and Seminoles as a whole is the issue of diabetes. Studies have shown that Native Americans are twice more likely to have some type of diabetes than the regular American. The Tohono O’odham tribe located in Arizona has the highest rate of adult onset diabetes in the world. Also, according to a study done in 2017, it showed that nearly 30% of Native Americans is unable to access quality healthcare. Despite this occurrence, the Seminole Tribe has been blessed because they are able to use the health care resources that are provided within the community. With the Farm Bill, many tribes can produce their own crops and create sustainability. This will help to reduce the rate of diabetes in our communities. Between the year 1994-2004, diabetes among the Native youth increased by 60%. Diabetes in Native communities is so common because many

Native reservations are in rural areas, with the neighboring towns and cities miles away from them, so that forces them to eat from local stores with high sugar, and fatty foods. Growing crops locally would help to decrease the rate of diabetes in many Native communities due to the healthier, fresher foods the people would be receiving. Title VII of the Farm Bill will be helpful as it covers farming and food research, education, and extension programs designed to support innovation, and research-based training for the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Food security keeps America thriving. “We’re not only investing in rural America in a variety of ways, but really investing in our own food security, which means national security,” said Rep. Crawford. However, we may have to think of access to land grants and how we can secure our 4-H initiatives if FRTEP is not funded.

As Seminoles, we must be prepared to become better advocates for our interests, and defend the programs on which our most vulnerable members depend on. We must look for new ways to achieve greater food sovereignty and food security. However, these opportunities for change do not happen by osmosis. Seminole youths need to be active agents of change. We can first start by sensitizing our communities to the opportunities that are at our disposal and this requires my involvement in every aspect of the community.

Pemayetv Emahakv Students of the Month - October

Elementary

- Neilani Thompson
- Malielle Bonilla
- Claire Randolph
- Karagen Bone
- Chosin Micco
- Tate Matthews
- Macayden Sardina
- Rosalie Jones
- Jon Jones
- Koty Gopher-Turtle
- Caysie Platt
- Peyton Thornton
- Logan French
- Bobbi Johns Osceola
- Dalayah Nunez
- Landon French
- Tehya Nunez
- Brody Riley
- Bryce Trammell
- Kashyra Urbina
- Hayden Woodward



Middle

- Keenan Jones
- Saniya Rodrigues
- Pearcetin Tram
- Caitlyn Olivarez



Halloween fun at Brighton Elder Services



Elder Services

Amos Tiger and Sandy Billie Jr. have a good time dressing up for the Halloween costume contest Oct. 31 at the Brighton Elder Services building.



Kevin Johnson

Mable Tichenor plays a game during the Brighton Elder Services' Halloween party Oct. 31 that had plenty of autumn-related activities.



Kevin Johnson

After a Halloween lunch, Mahala Madrigal, Diane Smith, Archie Johns' caregiver, and Elizabeth Shore dive into a hay pile looking for lucky hidden treasures.



Kevin Johnson

Sandy Billie Jr. tries his luck at throwing darts at balloons, some of which had prizes inside.



Kevin Johnson

Charlie Billie, in back, and Archie Johns take a break during the Brighton Elder Services' Halloween party.



Kevin Johnson

A Halloween-theme cake was provided in recognition to those with October birthdays.

Hollywood preschoolers treated to treats



Derrick Tiger

Hollywood Preschool students come dressed for the part as they get ready to receive Halloween treats from several departments that set up tables inside the Howard Tiger Recreation Center.



Derrick Tiger

Several departments, including Health, brought goodies for the Hollywood preschoolers while dressing up on their own, too.



Derrick Tiger

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola gives a high-five during the preschool's Halloween party.

The Vanguard School of Lake Wales NOW ENROLLING!



The Vanguard School is an independent, co-educational, boarding and day school for grades 6-12, for students who learn differently. Vanguard strives to ensure each student aspires to higher educational opportunities and independent life.

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- Targeted reading programs
- College and career preparation
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Closing night draws inquisitive crowd at FGCU Native American Film Festival

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

FORT MYERS — The final night of the Florida Gulf Coast University Native American Film Festival, which ran from Oct. 25 to Nov. 15, featured two films produced for the Miccosukee Tribe's museum. The films were followed by a panel discussion which veered from the films to Native American lifestyle and more.

Tina Osceola, Seminole, and Houston Cypress, Miccosukee, introduced the two short films, "So We May Grow" and "We Must Not Forget" and took questions after the films' screening.

"You've seen a great diversity among the films in this festival," Osceola said. "There is no such thing as the Native American perspective. We are not a homogenous people and we don't fit into any box."

"We have a storytelling tradition and we are expressing them in new ways," said Cypress, artist, filmmaker and environmental activist. "We have a place in the cinematic universe."

"So We May Grow", is a word for word and shot for shot remake of the original film made in the 1980s. The film, narrated by Native American actor Adam Beach, tells the story of a boy learning traditional Miccosukee ways from his uncle during a journey through the Everglades.

"We Must Not Forget" reinforces the role of women who are responsible for keeping the culture alive, thus impacting the future of the Tribe. The film was inspired by Miccosukee elder Virginia Poole and is narrated by her daughter Gina Poole.

"So many times we go to museum exhibits about us and they don't know anything about us," said Osceola, former director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, board member of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian and current Tribal Court associate judge. "We need to tell our own story."

During the lively question and answer period, students, professors and other attendees lobbed questions about the films, Native American lifestyles and the environment.

One questioner asked whether filming in the Everglades shows how it is changing.

Osceola said it is easy to see the change by viewing films done on location in the 1970s. Miccosukee lifestyle is synonymous with the Everglades and it was a priority to show that in the new films.

"Without a healthy Everglades, the Miccosukee wouldn't exist," she said. "The films take you back to the way it once was; there is no better way to do that than through cinema. You can inspire people through film who may not have been otherwise."

Both films stressed the importance of maintaining a connection to traditional culture while having to adapt to modern life.

"Our Native story is all about adaptation," Osceola said. "We had to adapt because there was no other choice. We [Native Americans] all have that shared experience. We call each other brothers and sisters because we all experienced it. Adaptation is in our DNA, we can survive anything. The ability to do that bonds us together."

"By upholding our culture and traditions, we are continuing the circle of life," added Cypress.

An audience member asked whether it is more important to focus on the modern or more traditional lifestyle.

"We don't live in the 1800s because of our traditions," Osceola said. "We are also creating new ones. Our culture is all about authenticity and identity. Museums around the world will tell the story long after we are gone. We are telling our own story."

The panel discussion addressed remains found in the Gulf of Mexico near Manasota Key that are now being housed at FGCU. Osceola is trying to get the state and the university to cease its research and return the remains to the sea.

"We need to tell that story through film, there is no other way to tell that story," Osceola said. "Telling it in our own voice is important for the future."

Someone asked about a typical day in the life of a Seminole or Miccosukee member. Osceola said it doesn't differ from anyone else's who has a large family; she talks to them every day.

"My daily life is about protecting my people," she said. "Professionally I like to burn villages down. If I piss off a few people and burn down a few villages, that's OK. I don't want to die without doing something."



Tom Craig/Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood

President Mitchell Cypress, a U.S. Army veteran, center, stands with singer/artist Joe Everson, left, and Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood President Auggie Cipollini on Nov. 12. Everson provided a patriotic performance of singing and painting.

Veterans honored at Hard Rock

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood honored veterans Nov. 12 with a performance by nationally acclaimed singer/artist Joe Everson, who created two patriotic-themed paintings while singing "God Bless the

U.S.A." and "The Star Spangled Banner."

The first painting was of the Statue of Liberty and the second depicted the American flag being raised on Iwo Jima during WWII.

"It's amazing to see him do it in front of you," said President Mitchell Cypress, a U.S. Army veteran. "I'm very proud that he is going to go ahead and donate the painting

he just did to all the Seminole veterans. It will be presented to our veterans and we'll hang it at our veterans building in Brighton."

Everson is famous for speed painting patriotic and other images in front of large audiences during sporting events and elsewhere.

Tampa participates in Making Strides walk

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

TAMPA — The Seminole Tribe and Hard Rock had a major presence at the Making Strides of Tampa Walk on Oct. 20. A group of 24 Tribal members and staff

walked with a larger contingent of Hard Rock team members in the walk downtown. Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa was the main sponsor of the event.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer events are held throughout the country.

They raise awareness and money to save lives from breast cancer. The money raised helps the American Cancer Society fund breast cancer research, 24/7 information and support, prevention and early detection initiatives.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, Tina Osceola and Houston Cypress answer questions from the audience Nov. 15, the final night of the FGCU Native American film festival in Fort Myers. Below, FGCU professor Noemi McDonald, Houston Cypress, Tina Osceola and FGCU professor Jeffrey Fortney pose together after the conclusion of the festival.



Beach Boys to play at Hard Rock

HOLLYWOOD — The Beach Boys celebrate more than half a century of making music at Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood on Feb. 27, 2019 at 8 p.m.

The Beach Boys have sold more than 100 million records worldwide and have received more than 33 RIAA Platinum and Gold record awards.

The Beach Boys are led by Mike Love

and Bruce Johnston, who along with Jeffrey Foskett, Tim Bonhomme, John Cowsill, Keith Hubacher, Scott Totten and Christian Love continue the legacy of America's iconic band. This concert will not feature Brian Wilson, Al Jardine or David Marks.

Tickets cost \$85, \$65 and \$45. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster outlets, online at www.myhrl.com, www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone: 1-800-745-3000.



Courtesy Korin Deitch

Tribal members and staff are among the walkers in the Making Strides of Tampa Walk on Oct. 20, a fundraiser for the battle against breast cancer. The event in downtown Tampa was sponsored by the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.



Courtesy Korin Deitch

Dominic Osceola shows his support for the walk.



Courtesy Korin Deitch

Nancy Frank, a breast cancer survivor of more than 10 years, enjoys her walk at the Tampa event.

Big Cypress community honors veterans

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — U.S. military veterans were recognized and celebrated during a formal program in Big Cypress on Nov. 10.

The Big Cypress community, along with visitors from around Florida, gathered at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium to pay their respects to veterans both living and passed.

President Mitchell Cypress, a U.S. Army veteran, welcomed Tribal members and guests to the event from a stage that was decorated with flags and other patriotic symbols.

"If I could ask one thing of you, it would be this: whenever you come in contact with a veteran that has served and are serving now, please extend a handshake or some type of honorable gesture to proclaim your support and appreciation for the many sacrifices that they have made in your honor," President Cypress said. "It may be a small act to you, but trust me when I say it is a huge act for us as veterans. It simply means you care."

President Cypress was joined on stage by several members of Tribal leadership, including Big Cypress Councilman Manuel Tiger; Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank; Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard; and Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon Wareham. Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger and Junior Miss Florida Seminole Allegra Billie were also in attendance and greeted the crowd.

"It's an honor and privilege for me to be standing in front of you. We love our warriors very much. It is eye-opening to see all of you come to this small community," said Councilman Tiger.

S.R. Tommie was the emcee for the ceremony. She is a member of the Bird Clan and founder and president of Redline Media Group. She noted that Native Americans have served in the U.S. military in greater numbers than any ethnic group since the American Revolutionary War.

"There's nothing that I've done that can compare to what is taking place today," Tommie said as she opened her remarks. "I'm so honored."

Tommie called for a moment of silence



Paul Bowers and other veterans stand in line as attendees thank them for their service in the military.

to honor recently passed veterans Johnny Osceola and Dan Bowers.

Tommie also paid tribute to the late Coleman J. Josh who was born and raised in Brighton. Josh was a member of the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam. After his discharge in 1973, he worked in the Seminole Tribe of Florida's behavioral health department as an adult drug and substance abuse counselor and later an outreach counselor. His family was given a special plaque in his honor at the ceremony.

After an invocation by Jonah Cypress, the Seminole Tribe of Florida's public safety color guard presented the flags to the front of the stage — the Stars and Stripes, Florida State flag and the Seminole Tribe of Florida's flag.

Students from the Ahfachkee School led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Jean Capricien singing God Bless America and the Star Spangled Banner.



Part of the Veterans Day ceremony in Big Cypress on Nov. 10 included a "veteran line" toward the end of the festivities. Those in attendance, including Seminole royalty and elected officials, thanked the veterans who were in attendance.

Tommie informed the attendees about the National Native American Veterans Memorial, which is set to be completed in November 2020 in Washington, D.C. Seminole veteran Stephen Bowers was instrumental in bringing the memorial to fruition, after being tasked by President Cypress years ago.

It will be the first memorial to honor Native American veterans at the National Mall. Donations toward the project are still being taken, Tommie said. Among a lineup of guest speakers at the event were Pastor LW Howard of the Community Harvest Worship Center in LaBelle, and U.S. Marine Corp. Vietnam veteran Joel M. Frank Sr.

Frank paid tribute to the Marines and to Herman L. Osceola, who the gymnasium is named after.

"In honor of his sacrifice we dedicated this building in his name," Frank, who now lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said. "We will continue to honor our warriors."

Moses Jumper Jr. then read a poem — "Flag of Our Fathers" — he wrote in honor of veterans as well.

"Among our Native people we also have our colors; for which we hold up high; they also serve for freedom, and a way of life; we will never let it die," part of the poem read.

Tommie closed out the veteran recognition portion of the day by inviting Paul Bowers to the stage to call the names of veterans and have those in attendance line up at the front of the stage.

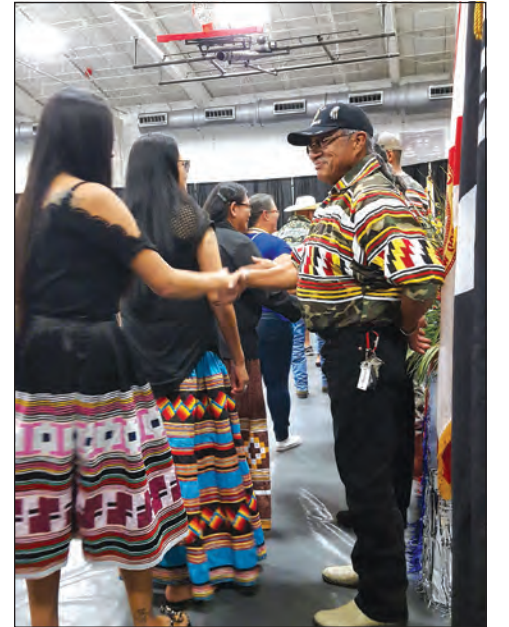
Those in attendance then went through the line to greet and thank each veteran who was present.

Andrew C. Rosebrough, a graduate of the music program at the Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, played the bugle call — "taps" — before Jonah Cypress offered a closing prayer.

The idea for a Big Cypress veteran's day celebration began almost 30 years ago when President Cypress had a barbecue with Roy Nash Osceola and Jacob Osceola. The event used to be held at the Big Cypress Field Office, but eventually there wasn't enough room and a larger venue was needed. It was soon after that the event would be held at the gymnasium.



Now living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Seminole Tribal member Joel M. Frank Sr., a Marine Corps veteran, was the guest speaker at the event.



President Mitchell Cypress, a military veteran, shakes hands with attendees of the celebration toward the end of the ceremony.

♦ VETERANS From page 1A

something is wrong and to practice our own religion. Without them I wouldn't have the deep respect for our freedoms that we take for granted. Our veterans are our true modern heroes," Winnie read.

"This group of people cannot be thanked enough, for some are wounded and others gave their life, our veterans. Attempting is the word that comes to mind more than any other when it comes to thanking them as to the fact there is nothing we can say or do to show our gratitude that will equal the amount they gave," read Dylan.

Seminole princesses weighed in as well. Jr. Seminole Princess Allegra Billie thanked the veterans for all they did for their country.

"When one is willing to put his life on the line for something bigger than himself, that is the character of a true warrior," said Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger.

Guest speaker John Glenn, U.S. Army 1969-71, explained his role as a medic during the Vietnam War.

"I can't classify myself as a warrior," he said. "My primary job was not to kill the enemy; it was to save lives."

As part of a Dustoff unit, (Huey medevac helicopter), Glenn and his team picked up wounded U.S. troops, South Vietnamese troops and civilians caught in the crossfire and flew them to hospitals quickly. The stress of the job stays with him to this day.

"My greatest nightmares are images of children caught in the crossfire, not smiling but screaming," he said. "Medals don't mean anything to me. What means the most to me are the faces of the men I plucked out of the jungle. I never knew their names, but I remember their faces."

For years, Glenn denied his military



Eugene Bowers is honored for his military service in Vietnam and accepts the presentation plaque from Marc McCabe of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

service. He said his generation of veterans were criticized and stereotyped and he was ashamed to be a veteran. Glenn suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for years. About eight years ago he sought help and has learned to manage it.

"The older I get, the worse it gets," he said. "I thought those nightmares would go away, but they got worse."

Attending a Veterans Day event is new for Glenn, for years he never participated in any patriotic events such as Memorial Day, the Fourth of July or Veterans Day.

"It's new for me to be proud of what we've done," Glenn said. "I learned I had a duty to speak on behalf of those who died. They gave up their futures so others could

have a future. Looking back on it now, I'd do it all over again. It was the greatest job I had in my life."

The Veterans Day event also honored veterans Eugene Bowers, U.S. Army 1964-66, and John Wayne Huff, Sr., U.S. Army 1967-69, who accepted plaques for their service.

The crowd stood at attention as Marc McCabe, regional director of the Vietnam Veterans of America, read the roster of living and fallen Seminole veterans. In a poignant ending to the ceremony, everyone in attendance lined up and shook the hands of the Seminole veterans in the building.



Seminole veterans listen and watch a video as Marc McCabe read each Tribal veteran's name. From left are John Wayne Huff, Sally Josh, Joel Frank, Eugene Bowers, President Mitchell Cypress and Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr.



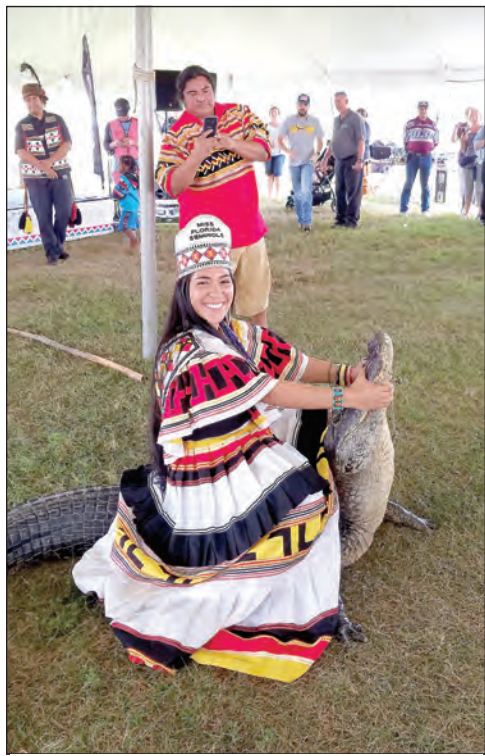
Veteran John Wayne Huff and his wife Vicky Huff stand during the presentation of the flags by the Seminole color guard that opened the Brighton Veterans Day celebration.



Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students say the pledge of allegiance in English and Creek



Members of Native Voices, from the All Family Ministry, sing hymns at the Brighton Veterans Day event. From left are Carla Gopher, Rita Gopher, Reina Micco, Mary Jo Micco and Beulah Gopher.



Courtesy photo

Even with the snout of a live alligator in her grasp, Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger still has the poise to smile Nov. 2 during the American Indian Arts Celebration on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Beverly Bidney

Virgil Doctor, seated, presents a traditional Seminole doll made by his mother Minnie Doctor to Daniel Tommie of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum during the American Indian Arts Celebration Nov. 2 on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Beverly Bidney

Students from Sheridan Hills Christian School in Hollywood watch Pedro Zepeda demonstrate how to carve a cypress canoe.

Record crowd attends AIAC on Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum grounds

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A record crowd of nearly 2,500 revelled in the sights and sounds of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's 21st annual American Indian Arts Celebration.

Attendees from as far away as Germany and as close as the Big Cypress Reservation took in the art, crafts, music, dance, gator wrestling and food Nov. 2 and Nov. 3. Seminole artists displayed and sold traditional patchwork, beadwork, carvings and more to customers young and old.

"It's nice to see such a big turnout," said Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger.

"It was the highest turnout we ever had," said Carrie Dilley, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki's visitor services and development manager. "We had about 600 more than our second highest year in 2015."

About 1,000 students from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Collier counties enjoyed all the AIAC had to offer on the first day. The energetic students filled the main tent for the friendship dance, the Minnesota-based Native Pride dancers' demonstration and Billy Walker's act of bravery as he wrestled a gator into submission.

The morning began with the friendship dance led by Bobby Henry, who said the dance could last up to a couple of hours but he would keep it much shorter. Henry, Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Allegra Billie and Tribal members led hundreds of students in ever-tighter spirals in the tent to the steady beat of Henry's song.

Native Pride dancer Larry Yazzie,

Meskwaki performed the eagle dance. With his enormous eagle regalia, Yazzie simulated the moves of an eagle in flight and landing.

Some of the students mimicked his moves in the stands and sidelines of the tent. Dancer Arlan Whitebreast, Meskwaki, demonstrated the grass dance. Later, the two men led a crowd of students in a dance lesson, complete with song and drum. The kids tried out the dance steps with great enthusiasm.

When Walker's gator wrestling demonstration was announced, the tent filled to capacity quickly but plenty of visitors who couldn't find a seat stood on the periphery of the tent and the stage. Walker gave a brief history lesson about how alligator wrestling became important to Tribal members in the early part of the 20th century. They used to eat alligators and sell

the hides, but when tourists started watching the process of capturing a gator, it became an important source of income.

"We used to wrestle gators to make a living all through the state," said Walker, who started wrestling alligators at 12 years old. "I hold on to my roots and make bridges into the new world. I stay true to who I am."



Beverly Bidney

Native Pride dancer Arlan Whitebreast, Meskwaki, teaches students from Renaissance Charter School at West Palm Beach how to do the grass dance during the first day of the AIAC.

the hides, but when tourists started watching the process of capturing a gator, it became an important source of income.

"We used to wrestle gators to make a living all through the state," said Walker, who started wrestling alligators at 12 years old. "I hold on to my roots and make bridges into the new world. I stay true to who I am."

Virgil Doctor donated some of his late mother Minnie Doctor's traditional dolls to the museum; she passed away in June at age 91.

"She used to make these as souvenirs and that's how we ate," Doctor said. "Tribal members have these in their homes; they respect these dolls. My mother was one of the best doll makers in the Tribe and she made them until the day she died. These are very special to me."

Beverly Bidney (2)

At left, Linda Lee Henry and Barbara Henry set up the booth where they sold beads and other traditional arts and crafts during the first day of the American Indian Arts Celebration. At right, Medicine Man Bobby Henry leads the friendship dance. Nearly 1,000 students from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Collier counties attended the event hosted by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Doctor and family members gathered at the front of the tent to present a large doll to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, which traditional interpretation coordinator Daniel Tommie accepted on its behalf.

"It takes a long time to make these dolls," Tommie said. "These are the real deal; they don't get more authentic than this. I'm happy to accept it for the museum."

Plenty of traditional food was available to taste, including fresh cut swamp cabbage prepared by Walker. A demonstration tent featured Tommie and some of carvings, a display of New Zealand indigenous Maori

people's canoes and carvings as well as a canoe being carved by Tribal member Pedro Zepeda.

"It's good that people from different parts of the world can get a better



Beverly Bidney

Longtime alligator wrestler Billy Walker shows the gaping mouth of an alligator during a demonstration in front of students Nov. 2 at the AIAC.

understanding of us," said museum volunteer Chandler Demayo. "There are members of other Tribes here, too. I hope they see we all aren't the same and that every tribe is unique in its own way. But we are all still here; we aren't just part of history."



Seminole sign final Tampa beam

The final beam that will be hoisted atop the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa during the expansion project's topping off ceremony made the rounds of the Seminole reservations in November as Tribal members had opportunities to sign it. The Tampa Hard Rock is undergoing a nearly \$700 million expansion which will include more gaming space and a hotel tower.



Derrick Tiger

Viola Tiger signs her name along with a drawing for the Otter Clan as the Tampa Hard Rock beam started its journey around the reservations in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

Edna McDuffie signs her name to the Tampa beam in Big Cypress on Nov. 9.



Beverly Bidney

Maxine Tucker signs the beam in Immokalee on Nov. 13.

Sports



Ready to defend

After winning its first state title last season, American Heritage preaches defense as the Patriots seek two in a row

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

PLANTATION—American Heritage's press was so suffocating, unforgiving and overwhelming in its season opener that the Patriots looked like they were already in mid-to-late season form.

Heritage used its seemingly impenetrable defense to frustrate Mater Academy Charter to the tune of a 67-24 win Nov. 20 in Plantation.

Mater was an 8A district champion last season and reached the state regional semifinals, but it was no match for the Patriots.

For the first time in school history, the Heritage girls basketball team enters a season as a defending state champion thanks to capturing the Class 6A crown last season.

Seminole sisters December Stubbs and Tiana Stubbs, of Hollywood, played key roles in last year's championship drive and return this season as juniors on a club that lost a few key players, but still picked up where it left off.

"It's kind of the same. Really good defense. Everybody can play," Tiana said in comparison to last year's squad.

"The team is good. I see us making it far because we have good chemistry; we just have to work hard," added December, a starting point guard.

In last year's state championship win against Ponte Vedra, the Stubbs made their presence felt as they combined for 16 points, five assists, four rebounds and three steals.

In this year's opener, December and Heritage's two other starting guards — Daniella Aronsky and Jenna Laue — were all over Mater guards with a fierce, in-your-face press that forced backcourt turnovers and helped Heritage build a 49-12 halftime lead.

"We've been working on it because

we've been having a tough time lately running the press, but we got to where we can turn them over and just get easy points," December said.

Defense will likely be the determining factor to how far Heritage will go this season. A significant chunk of offense and size departed with the graduation of leading scorers Femi Funeus and Tyaliah Willis, but the team is still expected to be in contention for another trip to Lakeland and returns plenty of size with Taliyah Wyche, Tatyana Wyche and Paris Sharpe.

"This year I think we have a much deeper team," said Heritage coach Greg Farias, who guided the squad to a 23-7 record last year. "We're more athletic and we play better defense. We'll struggle a little offensively because when you lose Femi that averaged 20 (points) and Ty that averaged 20, it's a big loss, but defensively we've upped our game."

December's role has also been 'upped' as she was named one of three captains. She's the only junior who is a captain; the other two — Sharpe and Laue — are seniors.

"Very rarely do we have underclassmen (be a captain), but she's the heart and soul of our team, so with the two seniors, I selected her as my team captain as a junior," Farias said.

In addition to her tenacious defense, December scored back-to-back layups that staked Heritage to an 8-0 lead against Mater. Tiana came off the bench midway through the first quarter and sank her first 3-pointer of the season from the corner that made it 21-2.

Tiana, who excelled from 3-point land a year ago, added another basket from beyond the arc and finished with nine points. December finished with eight points and had an assist on a layup by Tiana.

Last year Farias scheduled a tough regular season slate and this year is no different.

"I want to play the best competition because that's going to get us ready for states," he said.

Heritage will play in two national tournaments, including the She Got Game Classic from Dec. 14-16 in Washington D.C. The invitation tournament will feature more than 120 teams from New England, the Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, Australia and Canada. The Patriots are one of seven teams from Florida in the tournament. They're scheduled to play Eleanor Roosevelt High School of Maryland on Dec. 14, Penn Hills from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on Dec. 15 and Elizabeth Seton from Maryland on Dec. 16.

In the last week of December, Heritage will cross Alligator Ally to play in the Naples Holiday Shootout which will feature teams from Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The Patriots will visit longtime state powerhouse Dillard on Jan. 9. The teams hooked up for an intense regular season clash last season won by Dillard, 52-42.

It's a long road to get back to Lakeland — last year's team played 30 games — but early indications have Heritage pointed in the right direction. Farias said he preaches a one-game-at-a-time mentality.

"It will be tough, but if we played the way we played (against Mater) — and I always preach defense, intensity and play hard — we'll be good," Farias said.

Similar to last year, American Heritage's junior varsity girls basketball team features plenty of Seminoles. Junior Jessalynn Osceola, freshmen Madison Jumper and Skye Stubbs and seventh-grader Armani Torres all saw significant playing time in the team's season opening loss to Mater's JV on Nov. 20. Madison handled point guard duties. Skye is the younger sister of the varsity's December and Tiana Stubbs.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage guard December Stubbs gets inside position against a Mater Academy player during Heritage's season opener Nov. 20. Stubbs, a junior, is a captain this season.



Kevin Johnson

Tiana Stubbs looks for an open teammate during American Heritage's game against Mater Academy.



Kevin Johnson

December Stubbs leads a fastbreak with her sister Tiana Stubbs sprinting up the court in American Heritage's season opener Nov. 20 in Plantation. Tiana had nine points and December had eight points as the Patriots cruised to a 67-24 win.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage junior varsity point guard Madison Jumper gets ready for a foul shot during the JV game against Mater.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage junior varsity's Skye Stubbs takes a shot during the JV game.



Kevin Johnson

Four American Heritage JV players from the Tribe, from left, Armani Torres, Skye Stubbs, Jessalynn Osceola and Madison Jumper watch their teammates during the JV game against Mater Academy on Nov. 20.

EIRA competes in Indian National Finals Rodeo

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

A year ago the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association brought back a few first place finishers from the Indian National Finals Rodeo when Jacoby Johns (bareback riding) and Naha Jumper and Josh Jumper (team roping) won the short-go rounds.

This year the EIRA came back empty-handed from Las Vegas in October as none of its riders won rounds or championships, but there were a few close calls.

Johns had consistently strong performances in each of the first three rounds. He finished in the top five in all three, including second place in round two when he had a score of 79. He entered the final day in second place overall, but had a no score in the short-go and finished sixth overall with a score of 233 and three head.

Johns' sixth place showing was the top finish among EIRA men.

Dayne Johns started strong in steer wrestling with a sizzling time of 5.06 seconds in the first round, good enough for second overall in the round, a fraction of a second behind Clint Bruised Head. Johns ended up finishing 27th overall.

Jobe Johns finished 17th overall in calf roping. His best time came in the round two with a time of 10.13, good enough for third place in the round.

Also in calf roping, Naha Jumper finished 26th overall. His top time also came in round two at 11.71 seconds, which was 14th in the round. He was 17th in short-go at 22.02.

Naha and his brother Josh weren't able to duplicate last year's success in team roping. They finished 27th overall.

The team of Justin Gopher and Connor Osborn was 31st overall in team roping. Their best performance came in round two with a time of 11.84, which was the 15th fastest time of the day.

Norman Osceola competed in bull riding and did not record any points.

On the women's side, Ashley Parks generated EIRA's top showing with fourth overall in ladies barrel racing. Her times were: 15.75, 11th place in round 1; 15.660, 4th place in round 2; no time round in round



Starlyn Smith

Norman Osceola competes in Las Vegas in junior bull riding at the Indian National Finals Rodeo in October. He finished sixth overall.

3; 15.461, 7th place in short-go.

Fellow EIRA member McKenzie Bowers also had a solid EIRA as she posted times in all three rounds. She finished 21st overall.

Ahnie Jumper competed in ladies

breakaway roping. The Florida Gulf Coast University softball player finished 32nd overall. Her best time came in round three at 12.37, which placed her 17th in the round.

EIRA's top performers in the Junior portion were Jaylee Wilcox in junior barrels

and Norman Osceola in junior bull riding. Both finished sixth overall in their events.

Other EIRA youth who competed at INFR included Canaan Jumper (junior breakaway roping) and Justin Gopher Jr. (junior bull riding).

Norman Johns and Jeff Johns teamed up in senior team roping; Norman also competed in senior breakaway roping.



Starlyn Smith

Ahnie Jumper competes in round three of ladies breakaway roping at INFR in Las Vegas.



Starlyn Smith

Ashley Parks competes in the championship round of ladies barrel racing at INFR in Las Vegas. She finished fourth overall.



Starlyn Smith

Dayne Johns gets ready for the takedown as he competes in steer wrestling at INFR.



Starlyn Smith

Canaan Jumper competes in junior breakaway roping at INFR.



Connor Osborn, left, and Justin Gopher team up in team roping at INFR in Las Vegas.

Starlyn Smith



Jacoby Johns shows he's in control in bareback riding at INFR. Johns finished sixth overall.

Starlyn Smith



Mackenzie Bowers and her horse make a tight turn around the barrel in ladies barrel racing at INFR.

Starlyn Smith



Norman Johns is in good position for the lasso in senior breakaway riding at INFR.

Starlyn Smith



Former EIRA rider Howard Edmondson, of Oklahoma, carries the Seminole Tribe of Florida flag into the arena during an INFR ceremony.

Starlyn Smith



Justin Gopher Jr. competes in junior bull riding at INFR.

Starlyn Smith



Naha Jumper and Josh Jumper work together in team roping at INFR.

Starlyn Smith

Conner Thomas, Andrew Fish wrap up high school football careers

Moore Haven finishes with 8-2 record; makes playoffs for second straight year

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — With college football options on the table for both of them, Conner Thomas and Andrew Fish could be back on the grid iron next fall, but their high school careers at Moore Haven — where the pair of offensive linemen from the Brighton Reservation helped the Terriers to two outstanding seasons the past two years — are done.

As juniors last season, Thomas and Fish were key components as starters on a team that went undefeated in the regular season and won an FHSAA playoff game for the first time in 20 years.

This season they were again prominent figures as starters on the O line as the Terriers went 8-1 in the regular season, which included victories against rivals Glades Day and LaBelle, and they earned a No. 1 regional seed in the Class 2A playoffs.

For the second straight year, however, Moore Haven's season ended with a home playoff loss to Champagnat Catholic from football powerhouse Miami-Dade County. The good news for Moore Haven is that this year's playoff exit was a far more impressive showing for the Terriers than a year ago when Champagnat cruised to a 47-0 win.

This time around the Terriers gave Champagnat all it could handle right up until the end of the 2A regional semifinal. Champagnat, the defending state champions, emerged with a hard-fought 29-16 win.

Unlike a year ago, Moore Haven wasn't overwhelmed. Led by Thomas, Fish and Robert Harris, also from Brighton, the



Moore Haven senior offensive lineman Andrew Fish is joined by his family during the team's senior night ceremony Nov. 2. With Andrew are his sister Cheyenne Fish, grandmother Emma Fish, nephew Za Fish and mom Michelle Grindler.

offensive line helped the Terriers' runners find open space and generate some lengthy drives.

The defense played a key role, too, including a sack by Kelton Hallback and an interception deep in Champagnat territory

by Garrett Palladino that led to a one-yard touchdown plunge from Lorenzo Sampson, who was all over the field on both sides of the ball. The touchdown gave Moore Haven an 8-7 lead.

Champagnat led 13-8 at halftime and



Moore Haven senior captain and offensive lineman Conner Thomas is accompanied by his parents, Frank and Cecelia Thomas, during the team's senior night ceremony Nov. 2.

picked up a pivotal touchdown early in the third quarter on a fumble recovery, but much to the credit of Moore Haven, the Terriers

didn't flinch. They responded on the next series with an 18-yard touchdown up the gut by Nate Crawford that trimmed the deficit to 21-16. Champagnat scored early in the fourth quarter and Moore Haven never got back in the end zone again.

Two weeks before the playoff game, Moore Haven finished its regular season in style with a stirring 54-48 win against LaBelle on senior night for about 15 Terriers, including Thomas and Fish.

"I knew we were going to win, but I knew it was going to be a battle; it always is. It's a rivalry game. LaBelle had a good season this year; so did we," Thomas said. "Monday at practice we knew, we felt it. We knew it was going to be a hard game; we knew we were going to pull it out because this is a strong team."

"This was fun," Fish said after the victory.

While Moore Haven says goodbye to its captain Thomas and its second biggest player Fish, the team will still have Brighton representation with Robert Harris back as a starter and Donovan Harris, a sophomore halfback whose playing time increased during the season. In fact, Donovan was the go-to guy on a key play in the first quarter against Champagnat. On a fourth-down and 1 at the Champagnat 32-year line, Donovan took a handoff and, following blocks from Thomas, Fish and Rob Harris, he surged ahead for a 15-yard gain and a first down. That was about the extent of his ball-carrying duties for the night, but it provided a glimpse of what might be ahead for next season.



All four Moore Haven players from the Brighton Reservation help clear a path on the offensive line during the Terriers' 54-48 win against LaBelle on Nov. 2. From left, Donovan Harris (81), Andrew Fish (blocking No. 8), Robert Harris (75) and Conner Thomas (51).

A season of progress for Tiger Youngman, LPHS football

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

LAKE PLACID — The Lake Placid High School football season was headed in the wrong direction one month into the season.

With a 1-3 record, the possibility of making the playoffs seemed highly unlikely.

Determined not to let their season slip away any further, the Green Dragons found their groove and made a remarkable turnaround. They went 5-1 in the final six regular season games and earned a spot in the Class 4A playoffs.

"I think we all started stepping up and

getting along with each other and making like a family bond," said sophomore offensive lineman Tiger Youngman, the only Seminole on the squad. "We all started playing for each other; that's what started making us play better. We learned how to work together."

Andy Judah, in his first season as the team's head coach, praised the players for turning the season around.

"It wasn't as much me as it was the players getting together and saying 'you know what guys, we're better than this and we've got to get our focus back,'" Judah said.

With a run-orientated offense, the O line

needed to step up and did just that.

"Our line was ok starting off, but we all started to band together and play as one," said Youngman, a 6-foot, 250-pound starting right tackle.

"The line decided to get dirty, and I mean that in a clean way," Judah added. "We decided we're not going to sit back and take it; we're going to take it them."

After a loss to Frostproof on Sept. 14, Lake Placid proceeded to crank out wins against Southwest Florida Christian, Mulberry, LaBelle, Discovery and Avon Park in the drive to make the playoffs. The offense scored 30 or more points in four of those wins.

"If we had lost one of those games we would not have gotten into the playoffs," Judah said.

The surge culminated in the regular season finale, a playoff-clinching 24-19 triumph against rival Avon Park, whose head coach previously coached Lake Placid.

"If we had lost, we would have been out. Also, that was a very emotional game on multiple levels," Judah said. "I thought we focused the emotion — obviously there was a lot of emotion that week — on the game instead of letting it distract you..."

For just the fourth time in school history — and for the second year in a row — the team earned a spot in the FHSAA playoffs. As the sixth and final seed in Region 3, the Green Dragons' hopes of making a run in the playoffs ended with a 14-13 regional quarterfinal loss to No. 3-seeded LaBelle on Nov. 9.

Next year's team will have to replace more than 15 seniors from this year's squad.

"We've lost a lot of seniors that obviously we'll miss, but we still have quite a few weapons behind them coming back," Judah said.

As a second-year varsity player, Youngman is only halfway through his high school career. He started playing football as a youngster in flag football, mighty mites and middle school while watching his older brother Wyatt play for the high school. Wyatt, also an offensive lineman, graduated in 2016 and helped pave the path for the next Youngman on the O line.

"He showed me a lot of stuff," Tiger said. "I didn't really know how to play tackle at first, but I think he was pretty good and he showed me how to play. I learned a lot from him."

Youngman, son of Rita and Frank Youngman, didn't have to look too far for additional inspiration from another offensive lineman. His cousin is Moore Haven senior captain Conner Thomas, who helped the Terriers to an 8-2 record and a spot in the 2A playoffs this season. When Moore Haven beat Lake Placid early in the season, Youngman and Thomas didn't face each other directly for most of the night because both play offense, but there was a series when Youngman switched to defense and faced his cousin whom he works with during the summers on cattle.



Tiger Youngman recently completed his second season on the varsity football team at Lake Placid High School.

"It was like a respecting almost, respecting to see your cousin out there doing something (he) loves to do," Youngman said about going up against Thomas.

Just as Thomas has made an impact in Moore Haven, so too is Youngman in Lake Placid.

"His ceiling is extremely high. Obviously, the work he puts in will dictate how far he goes and, in the end, what his desires are. Football-wise, I think he'll have a lot of options out there as to what he wants to do," Judah said. "From the beginning of the year, an incredible amount of growth on the field, knowledge-wise, focusing energy in the correct area. I'm very glad he's with us and I'm looking forward to a couple more years."



Lake Placid High School offensive lineman Tiger Youngman (61) battles an opponent during a regular season game this year.

Tribe celebrates Thanksgiving



Beverly Bidney

These siblings show that receiving gifts can be a lot of fun at the tribalwide seniors Thanksgiving party in Big Cypress. Cornelia Osceola shows off the skirt she won in a raffle as her brother Samuel Osceola holds a pie server given out by Seminole Fire Rescue Department.



Beverly Bidney

Amy Garza, Clarissa Garza, Allison Concepcion, and Krystal Rodriguez surround Dolores Lopez at the Immokalee Thanksgiving feast Nov. 15.



Beverly Bidney

Cali Osceola, 5, and her father Maverick Osceola show off this year's Big Cypress Thanksgiving T-shirt at the BC Thanksgiving party.



Beverly Bidney

Maggie Porter, center, displays the Michael Kors tote she just won in a raffle at the seniors Thanksgiving party in BC.



Beverly Bidney

Rudy Osceola and his grandson Rowdy Osceola enjoy a game of Bingo before the BC Thanksgiving feast was served.



Beverly Bidney

Justin and Vanessa Garza with their children Anthony, 3, Makayla, 2 and Savannah, 2 months in the stroller, arrive at the Immokalee community Thanksgiving celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Leighton Jim, 12, and his dad Lenny Jim pose proudly in their patchwork at the Big Cypress Thanksgiving event.



Beverly Bidney

Ray Yzaguirre III, Allen McInturff, Angelica Hinojosa, Kaila Ponce and Jorge Ponce enjoy the company at the Immokalee Thanksgiving event.



Beverly Bidney

Janice Osceola is ready to dig into the Thanksgiving feast in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Martha Jones examines the skirt she won in a raffle during the Seniors Thanksgiving soiree.

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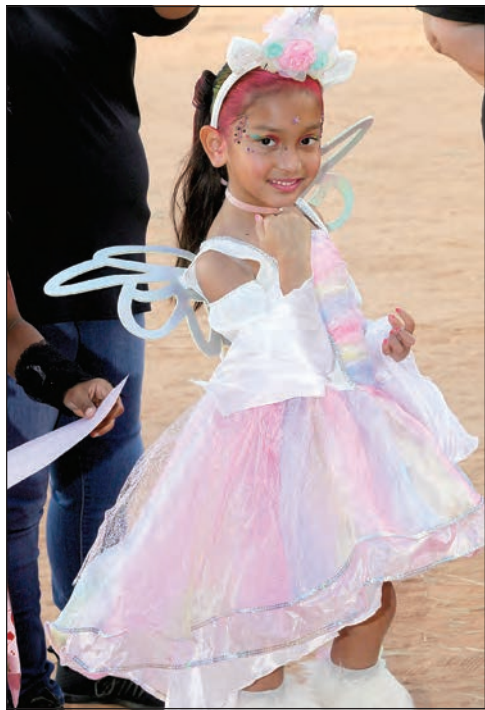
At left, Max Osceola's Spam costume gives the seniors a good laugh in Hollywood on Oct. 30. At center, Scarlett Young spreads peace at the Seniors Center party. At right, Senior Center staff member Naomi Seymour dresses as Batgirl.

Derrick Tiger (3)



Skyla Hahn won the prettiest costume category in the 4-to-5-year-old age group at the Hollywood fall festival Oct. 31.

Kevin Johnson



Antonia Osceola won the prettiest costume in the 6-to-7-year-old age group at the Hollywood fall festival Oct. 31.

Kevin Johnson



Skylynn Bille won the most original costume award in the 3-year-old age group at the Hollywood fall festival.

Kevin Johnson



Ava Cypress won the prettiest costume category in the 8-to-9-year-old age group at the Hollywood fall festival.

Kevin Johnson



Kaleb Sanders, as Michael Jackson, won the most original costume award in the 7-to-8-year-old age group at the Hollywood Fall Festival. Kaleb is with his mom Virginia Garcia Sanders.

Kevin Johnson

POEMS

Ride the Wind

ride the wind waache and enjoy that journey you are on, it's been a whole year and each day I've shed tears since you've been gone.

it will be that way until my time comes, waache even though I shed tears do not worry about your youngest warrior son.

the same strength you and poshe have, I have too, my heart and soul will fight hard to live long just like you.

what you have done for us our whole lives I do my best to keep it the same, just as you I try to keep loved ones smiling to ease the pain.

waache I find comfort in knowing you're in a greater place, I know poshe, big sis, Susie and Olivia are happy to see your beautiful face.

I know our other loved ones as well as your friend's are crowded around you too, waache that's love, that's respect and they missed you.

we miss you all here but we will be alright, we've been leaning on each other and we're holding onto eekooshe Judy tight.

it's a blessing and an honor to be in this bloodline, our unconquered spirit, our unique strength, I'm proud of this family of mine.

lil Burt, latroy and bubba now release these doves to fly with your spirit's in the sky, waache we will see you all later, we won't say goodbye.

ride the wind waache I love you, we love you all, I will continue the tradition waache of placing flower's until my name is called.

**Warrior 4 life,
Ike T. Harjo
Koowaathi**

Life Be My Song

Life be my song when it's all said and done, from the time Aawaache gave birth to her youngest Unconquered warrior son.

I had the privilege of growing up when it was just us Seminoles, long before the Hard Rock and the old bingo.

We were poverty stricken but we were rich in the Native way, the greatest elders and coaches teaching us the skills to survive each day.

Waache raised me proper I'll always be thankful and grateful for the sacrifices she made, the memories of the way it was at no time will fade.

Poshe and Waache the greatest of all time, two 100% Unconquered Seminole women that I'm proud to be in their bloodline.

Because of them I have the strength to stand strong and stand tall, I'm a natural born leader too that rises above it all.

I may not know much anymore about the land of the free, but I seek knowledge so I will find answers that shines positive light on me.

I'll figure it out it's what I always do, I have navigated this evil, negative, world so society I will too.

All the anger and frustration will pass, so shonaabish to all that ride with me until I breathe my last.

Life by my song Waache it's a true blessing the forty-five plus years you gave, I do my best to make it beautiful Waache, (your grave).

**Warrior 4 Life,
Ike T. Harjo
Koowaathi**

Puttin In Work

Puttin in work to be a better man, no more criminal mentality hoping to live o see Seminole land.

It's easy to get discouraged when there's no end in sight, yet I stand tall and stand strong representing the Unconquered with might.

I've had to rehabilitate myself because there are no classes for me, with that said, they can keep me in a cage but my mind and spirit will always be free.

So much misery and so much death within this place, many fall weak in total disgrace.

There are no middle roads, it's either wrong or right, through these shadows of death I will always shine in positive light.

I told Waache no matter if I have to stay in this cage, I will motivate & inspire those in society making this my stage.

It's not easy waking up every morning not knowing if I will be free, but I'm an Unconquered Seminole warrior that accepts the sentence given to me.

I don't cry about it or make an excuse for my fate, blessed with a strong mind and a strong spirit continuing to rise above the hate.

If you can't handle reality live life right and don't commit crimes, because in here you will lose your mind.

Puttin in work to make Aawaache proud of me until I breathe no more, my spirit prowling like the panther and as the eagle soar.

**Warrior 4 Life,
Ike T. Harjo
Koowaathi**

David Hoenemeyer named COO of Seminole Gaming

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — David Hoenemeyer has been named Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Seminole Gaming. His appointment was announced Nov. 7 by Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen.

As COO of Seminole Gaming, Hoenemeyer will work with Seminole casino presidents and general managers to oversee day-to-day operations of seven Seminole Gaming casinos in Florida. They are Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, Seminole

Casino Coconut Creek, Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee, Seminole Casino Brighton, Seminole Classic Casino in Hollywood and Seminole Casino Big Cypress.

Hoenemeyer joins Seminole Gaming from Caesars Entertainment in Las Vegas, where he was regional president of three Caesars Entertainment Casinos. During his two decades at Caesars Entertainment, Hoenemeyer served as assistant general manager and then general manager and president of several of the company's Las Vegas casinos. He began his career in 1984 with Hilton Hotels and worked at multiple casinos in

Atlantic City and Las Vegas before joining Caesars Entertainment in 1998.

"I have known Dave for 30 years and believe he will bring strong leadership and deliver outstanding results for Seminole Gaming," said Allen. "I look forward to working with him as we continue to build one of the world's most successful and profitable gaming operations."

Hoenemeyer is a 1984 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree.

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