



**Seminole 4-H'ers training mustangs**  
COMMUNITY ♦ 3A



**PECS students meet Tribe's elected leaders**  
EDUCATION ♦ 1B



**Ahhfachkee cross country team starts season**  
SPORTS ♦ 1C

# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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## Heifers change hands at Brighton sale

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — For the third consecutive year, ranchers traveled from throughout the Southeast on Aug. 30 to buy and sell heifers at the Cattle Country Replacement Sale in Brighton.

Before the auction action began, cattlemen and cattlemen took a close look at the 948 bred (pregnant) and open (not yet bred) heifers for sale. The Fred Smith Rodeo Arena served as a temporary barn with animals in pens surrounded by wide walkways. As the auction time of 1 p.m. drew nearer, those walkways filled up with more and more ranchers deciding on which lots they wanted to bid.

The Seminole Tribe had 110 head in 22 lots for sale, including animals from the Salacoa Valley Farms in Georgia.

The sale included 550 head sired by Salacoa stock and 374 head bred by Salacoa stock. The farm's newest breed, the Super-American, sold well and for a higher than average price, according to Natural Resource Director Alex Johns.

"This is an opportunity to showcase ranchers in Florida and make sure they can implement our genetics into their cow operations," said Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard. "I hope it will do for them what it did for us."

The Tribe's cattle program falls under the purview of the Board and Howard explained that heavier cows bring more revenue. The Tribe's cows are mostly Brangus, which do well in the Florida heat and humidity. He said word has spread about the auctions.

"This is more than a business, it's a way of life and it's still going strong," Howard said. "Hats off to the crew, from Alex to the cowhands. This is a group effort and we take pride in what we do. It's a family operation and we continue to strive for more in the future."

Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. perused the aisles and looked closely at the animals; he was looking to buy.

♦ See CATTLE SALE on page 4A



Lucille Jumper and Ryanna Osceola join the protesters and show their support for the release of Leonard Peltier in front of the Coleman Federal Correctional Institution in Sumterville, Fla., on Sept. 22. The Seminole flag was also flown at the Dakota Access Pipeline protest at Standing Rock. Peltier, a Native American, has been in prison for more than 40 years. He is currently held at Coleman.

Beverly Bidney

## Seminoles join other Natives at rally for Leonard Peltier

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**SUMTERVILLE, Fla.** — A group of determined Leonard Peltier supporters left Mankato, Minnesota, on horseback July 28. They rode 1,500 miles to the Coleman Federal Correctional Institution in Sumterville, Florida, for a Sept. 22 rally which included some members of the Seminole Tribe. The rally's goal was to raise awareness about the plight of the imprisoned Native American activist.

Peltier has spent 41 years behind bars for the murders of two FBI agents during an uprising on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota in 1975, for which he is serving two life sentences. Many supporters and human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, believe his conviction was tainted due to questionable evidence and consider him a political prisoner.

The aim of the Leonard Peltier Freedom Ride 2018 was to attract attention to Peltier's cause and hopefully convince President Donald Trump to grant the 74-year-old

Anishabe/Dakota/Lakota inmate clemency. Peltier's next parole hearing isn't until 2024, which is why the group is seeking clemency.

Ken FourCloud, Crow Creek/Sioux, came up with the idea for the Freedom Ride and organized it with the help of other Peltier supporters.

"This has been a dream of his for almost nine years," said Frank Archambault, Yankton/Standing Rock Sioux. "[FourCloud's] rides are memorials for people in history, he wanted to do something to help and honor Peltier while he is still alive. At the same time it may help him to

be released."

Every year, FourCloud rides 330 miles in the annual Dakota 38+2 Memorial Ride which honors 38 Native Americans who were hanged in Mankato in 1862, the largest mass hanging in U.S. history.

At 1,500 miles, the Freedom Ride was a much longer endeavor. It took the slow moving caravan of horseback riders and support vehicles 57 days to arrive at the prison. The entourage was kept moving by supporters who contributed to the Leonard

♦ See PELTIER on page 6A

## Tribe's wildland firefighters gain valuable experience battling western fires

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Wildland firefighters from the Seminole Tribe's team were in high demand west this summer. It was a rough fire season and seven were deployed around the country.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, 46,228 fires have burned 6,990,889 acres nationwide between Jan. 1 and Sept. 6. As of early September, 97 wildfires were still burning on 1.9 million acres in 12 states.

Fighting fires in other areas of the country is nothing new to the Tribe's forestry department. It has been sending firefighters across the U.S. since 2011. This year they fought fires in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Texas and Washington.

"When our firefighters come back they are more comfortable with extreme fire behaviors," said Grant Steelman, fire management officer/forester. "The biggest thing we get is on the job training. These deployments are some of the best on-the-job workload. They benefit us by being better prepared for emergency situations and wildfires that arise here."

The deployments allow the Tribe's wildland firefighters to function more efficiently and safely to protect tribal structures and infrastructure, while keeping their qualifications current through the Incident Qualification Command System used by all wildland firefighters. Those qualifications cannot be maintained through books and classrooms; they must be



Courtesy photo

Wildland firefighter Chris Kemp aims the water down a slope near some buildings in Oregon on Aug. 9.

maintained on wildfire assignments.

"We have a good reputation with tribal programs and federal teams, which gives us the ability to work better with those incident teams when we have something that affects the Tribe," Steelman said. "We bring people in from out west when we need it. Those people that come to us often request us to help them. For the last two years we had those teams here at our borders."

### Oregon

Operations Supervisor Michael Lightsey began his career in 1988 with the Florida Forest Service and has worked with the Tribe for 11 years. He spent three weeks of the summer fighting fires with the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Umatilla reservation in eastern Oregon. Lightsey was there to support the reservation where needed and he responded to about six fires on and just off the reservation. The topography of the area is hilly and also has some steep terrain. The mountainous areas have a lot of timber, which was difficult to extinguish since trees burn longer than the grasses in the lower elevations.

"They were so short-handed out there," Lightsey said. "It was definitely their dry season. They didn't have a good snow season during the winter, which they depend on to get through the dry season. El Niño gives them dry winters and they are expecting one

♦ See FIREFIGHTERS on page 7A

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# Editorial



## Advancing Indian Tribal interests in the 2018 Farm Bill

### • John L. Berrey

I was honored to be re-elected [in July] as Chairman of the Quapaw Nation of Oklahoma (O-Gah-Pah), a tribe known for its many successes. Our tribal agricultural, food and nutrition programs are second to none in our community, and we boast of establishing the only U.S. Department of Agriculture-certified cattle and bison facility on tribal trust lands in the U.S.

I am extremely proud of our Tribe and its efforts to provide nutritious food to tribal members, as well as to people who live in our surrounding communities. I have personally met several times with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and I believe his genuine support for tribal self-determination, combined with a great desire to feed the American people, are fundamental things we can agree on.

More can be done by my Tribe and tribes across the country if we are provided the funds and resources to get the job done.

In June, the U.S. Senate passed an \$867 billion, 5-year extension of the food and nutrition programs offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The "Farm Bill" as it is known, is a sweeping rewrite of the hundreds of agriculture, nutrition, forestry, rural development, trade, and other programs and services the USDA manages.

Historically, Indian Country has not effectively accessed and benefitted from these programs and services, but there are reasons to be optimistic that this time around Congress will make tribes true partners in enacting a robust Farm Bill.

In engineering Senate passage, Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) dealt with controversial amendments dealing with exports to Cuba as well as attempts to limit the President's authority to levy tariffs on foreign imports; both of these amendments could have spelled trouble for the fate of the Senate bill.

The result was a resounding 86-11 vote in favor of the bill; a bi-partisan vote that is rarely seen these days in Washington.

Days earlier, the House passed its own version of the Farm Bill on a party-line vote of 213-211. Probably most controversial, the

House bill conditions participation in the federal food stamps program (now called the "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program") on the fulfillment of new work requirements pushed by the Trump Administration and House Republican leadership.

#### The Senate's version of a Farm Bill

The Senate-passed bill has many of the provisions originally included in the "Cultivating Resources, Opportunity, Prosperity, and Sustainability (CROPS) for Indian Country Act," developed by Committee on Indian Affairs Chairman John Hoeven (R-ND) and Vice Chairman Tom Udall (D-NM). This bill was approved by that Committee in May, just in time for consideration for inclusion in the larger Farm Bill. The Senate-passed version has the following tribal components:

- A provision to administer the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations under the contracting authority of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act;
- Establishment of a permanent Tribal Advisory Committee to guide and advise the Secretary of Agriculture and the Office of Tribal Relations on tribal matters;
- Establishment of a permanent Rural Development Tribal Technical Assistance Office to ensure tribes can effectively access the huge array of Rural Development programs like utilities, housing and business finance, and others;
- Provisions to open new, foreign markets for tribal products by encouraging and facilitating greater participation by Indian farmers and ranchers in international trade missions;
- Provisions to address food fraud by directing the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on the impact of traditional and tribally-produced food in the marketplace;
- Language to provide refinancing authority to USDA projects in substantially underserved trust areas so that electric, broadband, and water infrastructure improvements can be undertaken; and
- Robust provisions regarding research and community facilities for Tribal Colleges and Universities; and others.

#### The House version of the Farm Bill

The House version of the bill also contains a solid number of good tribal provisions, including:

- A mandated GAO report on the agricultural credit needs of tribes and their members;
- Authorization for tribes to enter into "good neighbor agreements" to conduct forest restoration activities on Forest Service lands;
- Establishment of an Office of the Tribal Relations in the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement to advise the Secretary on policies related to tribal agriculture; and
- Establishment of the "New Beginnings Initiative" requiring the Secretary to make funds available to tribal land-grant colleges or universities.

#### Next Steps: Where do we go from here?

These are all solid, pro-tribal provisions and deserve our best efforts to protect them when the House and Senate meet in the weeks ahead in a Conference Committee to hammer out the differences between the two competing bills. On July 17, 2018, the House voted to go to Conference and appointed 29 conferees to represent the House in the Conference. The Senate followed suit on July 31, 2018 and appointed 9 of its own conferees.

The formal Conference Committee will begin deliberations on September 5th and, as we move into Conference, Indian tribes must continue to advocate to make sure the strongest tribal provisions make their way into the final bill that ends up on the President's desk.

Working on these matters, I have been fortunate to be part of a team spearheaded by the Native Farm Bill Coalition, the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, the National Congress of American Indians and Indian tribes from across the country.

We did not get everything we wanted in either the House or Senate bills, but the provisions included so far will make major, historic inroads in getting tribes better access and maximum use of USDA programs and services.

*John Berrey is chairman of the Quapaw Nation of Oklahoma. This editorial appeared on indianz.com in August.*

## Shame to destroy rare historic site

### • The Hour (Norwalk, Conn.)

*"You can burn down a forest, and you can grow it back. You can pollute a river, and you can clean it up. But if you lose an archaeological site, it's gone forever. It's like tearing the pages out of a history book."*

— Ernest Wiegand, archaeology professor, Norwalk Community College

The discovery announced [in August] of a Native American fort at the Walk Bridge construction site in East Norwalk is, by all accounts, an archaeological rarity and an historic game-changer. The site, consisting of thousands of artifacts — some believed to be 5,000 years old — along with remnants of the ancient wooden fort referenced by Fort Point Street, has the potential to fill a giant void in our knowledge of the lives of Native Americans in the region and beyond.

The scope of its significance may prove global, experts say, since so little is known about the so-called "Contact Period" when Europeans and Native Americans first intersected, dramatically changing both cultures.

Sites such as this are extremely rare, mostly destroyed by development, erosion, and vandalism. A temporary encampment where hunters may have spent a couple of days was the only other Fairfield County site Wiegand was aware of, he says. "Now we have a village. This is an absolutely thrilling, thrilling discovery."

It's also something of a Catch-22. The discovery was made as a result of the

very thing the state deems will render its preservation impossible: Construction of the overpriced, over-engineered Walk Bridge replacement — a.k.a. the Connecticut Department of Transportation's "Billion-dollar Boondoggle."

Because the soon-to-be-demolished Walk Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the National Historic Preservation Act requires that steps be taken to mitigate its historic loss. The archaeological survey that led to the discovery of the Native American treasure trove was undertaken as part of the DOT's efforts to comply with the law.

Rather than preserve the site, however, the DOT will strip it of the arrowheads, trade tools, shell beads, and other artifacts before continuing construction of the replacement bridge. While Mayor Harry S. Rilling expressed hope that "any and all remains would become the property of our Historical Society," the DOT has already claimed ownership of everything that's recovered, the site being on state-owned land. An eventual display in Norwalk is planned.

A state archaeologist has said the DOT did "a thorough investigation" but concluded there was no way to work around the site.

Given the magnitude of its historic value, we find the lack of pushback on that determination baffling. As we've already pointed out, the Walk Bridge replacement project carries a massive price tag, years of major disruption, seizures of private property, and a paucity of the kind of boat traffic that might justify erecting a 240-foot vertical-lift bridge.

To those already significant points of contention, we must now add the tearing of pages out of a history book. Gone forever.

## Horses, hemp and solar panels

### • Winona LaDuke

Sometimes, let's be honest; it's hard not to hang your head with the challenges of these times. To counter this, I just pick my head up, and look around and find beauty.

Honor the Earth's "Water is Life Concert" at Bayfront Park in Duluth featured the Indigo Girls, Corey Medina, Lyz Jakkola, Annie Humphrey and Chastity Brown, playing to a large crowd supporting the front lines of Water Protectors.

"We are tremendously grateful to these musicians," Paul DeMain, Board Co-Chair of Honor the Earth told reporters. "Honor the Earth celebrates music and art at the core of our mission, and this was a great gift for our work."

At a federal level, in late July, the Senate approved the legalization of the hemp, ending a seventy-year ban on the plant which devastated a number of farms, and sent the US textile industry into a domination by petrochemicals present in rayon, polyester, and other "synthetic blends"

The renaissance opens the door for more tribal hemp farms, and hopefully a re-establishment of a viable hemp industry in North America.

Elsewhere, Ireland not only banned fracking but decided to divest its nest egg from fossil fuels - joining \$5 trillion in divestment worldwide. None too soon, as the Arctic faces a heat wave and forest fires. And fires rage from California to Washington.

In the face of rising liabilities of climate change-related disasters, many investors are moving towards renewable energy and a commitment to a green economy. Some tribes want to move that way as well, both in practice and in investment.

Red Lake Nation is moving ahead decisively with solar. The first phase of solar was installed on tribal buildings in late May, with two new expansion phases planned. The tribe estimates that savings will be nearly \$2 million annually.

Meanwhile, on the ground, twenty youth riders and a couple of stalwart horsewomen continue on a 200-mile ride along the proposed Enbridge Line 3 route in Minnesota. This is the sixth year of the spiritual ride against the current of the oil sponsored by Honor the Earth.

Beginning at Rice Lake Refuge, the

riders rode on the formerly proposed "Enbridge Preferred Route" which would have impacted Sandy Lake dramatically. The most recent PUC rulings have eliminated this route, but a more northern route is not yet clarified.

The riders intend to ride and pray on the newly proposed route, reaffirming a commitment to water as sacred. This year, the riders have also helped out local farmers, providing some much needed Water Protector labor to gardens and some other small projects

Many of the riders are from Crow Creek, Standing Rock, and Rosebud. They came into their name Sungwatogok or Fearless Horse Society at Standing Rock, the name bestowed by the renowned horse teacher John Eagle.

The youth, ranging from 16 to 30 have ridden on numerous spiritual rides (Big Foot, Dakota 38, Fort Laramie Treaty Ride and others), including last year's Honor the Earth ride. This year, youth from Pine Point and East Lake take a more prominent place on the ride, learning from older riders about Dakota horse songs, culture and a way of life with horses. Horse songs are similar to jingle dress songs and are also offered for healing and praise. The ride will include visits to Rice Lake and more ceremonial teachings on horses in the upcoming weeks.

Over the longer term, more tribes are looking to move away from fossil fuels and to the next economy. Red Lake plans to provide 10 to 20 megawatts of electricity to be sold to the grid. "The development of these projects are designed to address our basic needs and understandings," Red Lake Chairman Darrell G. Seki, Sr., said. "They include the preservation and conservation of our environment, providing an energy source which is compatible with our beliefs of living in harmony with nature, the diversification of our economy and investments, improving the quality of life, training for our labor force, and employment; jobs for our people."

Horses, hemp, and solar panels provide an insight into that beautiful world, and to be sure, there are many who are ready for these changes.

*Winona LaDuke (Anishinaabe) is executive director of the group Honor the Earth. She lives on the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota.*

## It's time to take consultations with First Nations seriously

### • Robert Jago

The Trans Mountain pipeline debate has seen mainstream commentators and politicians in Canada position First Nations people with environmentalists and other "professional objectors" together on one side of the debate, with realists, job creators, and the national interest on the other. In effect, they pit First Nations issues and people against what they present as "serious" issues and people. Our Indigenous issues are seen as airy-fairy, theirs are about bread and butter.

However, a decision by the Federal Court of Appeals [in August] to revoke the licence for the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, and the victory of the First Nations that launched the suit, show once again that mainstream Canada's failure to treat First Nations issues as serious is itself what is most destructive to the national interest.

The court ruling declared that the government's consultations with First Nations were nothing of the sort, but instead were mere "note-taking" sessions designed to tick a box in an approval process whose outcome had already been decided.

In explaining her decision, Justice Eleanor Dawson wrote: "Meaningful consultation is not intended simply to allow Indigenous peoples 'to blow off steam' before the Crown proceeds to do what it always intended to do. Consultation is meaningless when it excludes from the outset any form of accommodation."

With this decision, the fate of the

recently nationalized pipeline is uncertain. The Trudeau government is scrambling to decide on their next move — will they cave in to Conservative opposition and provincial politicians in Alberta and appeal? Or will they obey the court order, follow the rule of law and restart consultations with First Nations people with a more open mind as to the outcome?

The official reaction so far, led by Finance Minister Bill Morneau, doesn't suggest an opening of minds. Speaking on CBC's Power & Politics, Mr. Morneau stated: "We are absolutely committed to moving forward on the project."

But maybe this is just posturing while the government wipes the egg off its face. That egg didn't just hit the government; official Canada as a whole, including the media, commentators and provincial leaders, all look foolish for having so thoughtlessly misled Canadians into believing the pipeline approval process was legal, fair and objective. They acted as if meaningful First Nations consultation doesn't matter — that it's a pro forma act, one that can be eyerolled away.

Throughout its entire history, the Federal government has failed to treat First Nations people as equal citizens, and has failed to protect the interests of First Nations communities and economies — were it otherwise, consultation with First Nations wouldn't be necessary. But the courts recognize the unique needs of First Nations peoples to exercise our rights to Indigenous sovereignty in order to protect ourselves from federal authorities that have only ever been a burden to us. First Nations people see

this duty to consult as a last line of defence; the federal government and official Canada at best see it as symbolism, a nod to the lefty notion of Indigenous sovereignty that the savages have bought in to.

However the courts have found for First Nations, and with this decision, they have put meat on the bones of consultation, showing how it should work and why.

And so what is meaningful consultation? Some of the same commentators who dismiss First Nations people generally as being unserious, throw their hands up at the idea of consultation, as if it were ethereal, impenetrable and impossible to understand. However, the decision is clear on where consultation failed with Trans Mountain, and what it should look like.

In sum, consultation needs to be done when Indigenous rights are affected by a development. Consultation must include the possibility of accommodation. Each affected First Nation is entitled to its own consultations, particular to their own circumstances.

The court goes further and takes the radical position that First Nations people are Canadian citizens, and so: "a project authorization that breaches the constitutionally protected rights of Indigenous peoples cannot serve the public interest."

In making the decision, the court gave the example of the fishing rights of the Stó:lō people — the nation to which I belong. Justice Dawson writes: "Canada

♦ See FIRST NATIONS on page 3A

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# Community

A

## 4-H'ers take on wild mustangs

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The image of wild mustangs roaming free on the open plains out west is a romantic notion cemented in the American psyche by western movies, television shows and books. But over the years, the number of these horses has exceeded the land's capacity.

Thanks to the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program, a few of those iconic mustangs are now being cared for and trained by members of the Seminole 4-H program in Big Cypress, Brighton and Immokalee.

The BLM is responsible for managing and protecting the animals on more than 26 million acres of public land in 10 western states. Part of that responsibility includes the Wild Horse and Burro Program, which allows people to adopt horses and burros. Since the program's inception in 1971, more than 240,000 have been placed into private

but it is being tailored to the needs of Tribal kids. The 4-H Mustang Challenge has seven young participants who will get the horses accustomed to human interaction, train their animal to wear a harness and ultimately be led through an obstacle course at the end of the program in March.

Like other 4-H projects, the kids are responsible for feeding and watering the horses every day. The process will take months of hard work, but the 4-H'ers are up for the challenge. All the horses are yearlings and cannot be ridden until they are 2 years old.

The Mustang Challenge kids are Jaylen Baker, Jayleigh Braswell, Allegra Billie, Ashlynn Collins, Madisyn Osceola, Harmani Urbina and Jalee Wilcox. Most of the kids have other horses and some do rodeo, but all are comfortable around horses.

"I joined this program because I knew it was going to be fun," said Harmani, 9, the youngest participant. "I think training it will be hard, but I'm willing to do it anyway."

The horses arrived Aug. 24 after having



Justin Hipp rides his own horse Dolly to gently move the mustangs into their 4-H barn stalls. All the mustangs made it safely into the stalls without incident.

hands.

"This is a new opportunity for our kids," said Kimberly Clement, 4-H program assistant. "Not many of them know about horse health and nutrition. It's always saddle up, get on and go. We want them to learn about the equine industry. This will help them be more patient; that horse will teach them patience they've never known before."

The Seminole 4-H Club is using a curriculum from the national 4-H Council,

been transported cross-country from Utah to Loxahatchee on a semi-truck. The kids and their parents met the horses that evening in Loxahatchee. The kids picked numbers out of a hat to choose their horses and then they were taken to a corral set up just for them at the 4-H barn in Brighton.

The following day a few 4-H'ers came to help move the horses from the corral to the barn. Some of the kids had already named their horses. But with limited previous



Madisyn Osceola, Ashlynn Collins and Harmani Urbina pick out their horses from the group in the Brighton 4-H corral Aug. 25.

Beverly Bidney

encounters with people, the horses were skittish and stuck together in a group.

"I named mine Charming," said Little Miss Eastern Indian Rodeo Princess Ashlynn Collins, 12, about her sorrel-colored horse. "He looks like he's going to be charming."

Getting the horses into the barn took a team of adults on foot and on horseback. With Madisyn providing some assistance, Aaron Stam, Florida cooperative extension agent and 4-H leader, used some metal panels to create a pathway for the horses leading from the corral to the barn and the stall. He and Justin Hipp aimed to separate the horses and move them one at a time into the barn, but most of the horses wouldn't be separated and came in pairs.

During the moving process Hipp rode his horse Dolly, who everyone calls Ma for her nurturing instincts. Hipp hoped Ma would calm the wild mustangs and she did her job well.

Her presence had the hoped for effect as the horses were led into the stalls without incident. Two were loaded onto horse trailers for transport to private barns in Brighton and the Immokalee area.

"I've always wanted a mustang since I was little," said Madisyn, 17, the current Eastern Indian Rodeo Association Queen "I know you can't force them. I named mine Juggie because he has such a big head."

Natural Resource Director Alex Johns, who spent much of his childhood training horses, is helping the kids learn to train the horses. The horses spent their first week in the barn at Brighton or at the 4-H'ers home

barns to acclimate to their environment. Then Johns began working with the kids and their horses.

Mustangs are descendants of Spanish horses brought to this continent by Spanish explorers in the 1500s. The name mustang comes from the Spanish word mustengo, which means stray horse. Since the mustangs have bred with other domesticated horses over the centuries, BLM considers them feral, not wild.

Whatever they are called, these horses will learn to become more domesticated and the 4-H kids will learn many lessons from their horses.



Beverly Bidney

The mustangs stick together during their first day in the pen on the Brighton Reservation on Aug. 25.

### ♦ FIRST NATIONS From page 2A

concluded that Project construction and routine maintenance during operation would be expected to result in a minor-to-moderate impact on the Stó:lō's freshwater fishing and marine fishing and harvesting activities."

Fishing and the salmon and the eulachon are what our communities are built around. Our faith includes ceremonies to preserve the salmon and protect their habitats. The income earned during the short fishing seasons — sometimes just days long — sustain families the whole year.

Under the current form of consultation, the government took

note of our concerns and then did nothing in response. As if the act of writing it down was sufficient.

Under the system of meaningful consultation described by the courts, finding accommodations for our concerns must be an option. Imagine how that would look. It could mean moving construction and maintenance schedules so as to not interfere with the vanishingly short fishing season. It could mean creating a system to co-ordinate maintenance and construction with First Nations fishing authorities to ensure no damage to important ecosystems is done. When something so grandiose as the national interest is at stake, is this type of accommodation too much to pay for it?

This isn't the politics of magical thinking. Consultation is the politics

of concrete solutions — solutions that ensure that our peoples are never again asked to sacrifice our livelihoods and health so that non-Natives can reap a benefit.

Official Canada, and its hard-headed commentators and politicians who are today busy rushing before cameras to puff out their chests and stamp their feet need to grow up and join First Nations in the real world. If any development is to happen in Canada, they need to learn to take the duty to consult seriously — there is no more important job in Canada today.

Robert Jago is an entrepreneur based in Montreal and a member of the Kwantlen First Nation. This article appeared in the *Globe and Mail* in August.

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# Memorable trip to Oklahoma for Seminole Tribe's royalty

BY CHEYENNE KIPPENBERGER  
Miss Florida Seminole Princess

Being a part of Seminole Nation Days in Oklahoma was such a great experience. Attending their princess pageant brought back memories of our own crowning day. I felt so welcomed and honored by our hosts and Seminole Nation tribal members, but more than anything I was so happy to be talking and laughing with Summer Foster, Kaniyah Tiger, and Melena Whitekiller

again. Congrats to the new Jr. Miss Seminole Nation, Marissa Alberson!  
I especially enjoyed visiting the Seminole Nation museum and riding in the parade. There were so many princesses. It was fun being able to compete in their dress contest, meet other Natives, and be a part of their stomp dance ceremony.  
What an honor having the opportunity to join in on such a great weekend in Oklahoma. Shonabisha to my new friends in Seminole Nation.



Photo courtesy Wanda Bowers

Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger, second from right, and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Allegra Billie, center, are joined by the royalty of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma: Little Miss Seminole Nation Melena Whitekiller, Miss Seminole Nation Summer Foster, and Jr. Miss Seminole Nation Marissa Alberson.



Photo courtesy Wanda Bowers

Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger, left, and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Allegra Billie wave to spectators during the 50th annual Seminole Nation Days parade Sept. 15 in Oklahoma.



Photo courtesy Wanda Bowers

Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger, left, Seminole Tribe of Florida President Mitchell Cypress, center, and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Allegra Billie, second from right, are joined by Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Principal Chief Greg Chilcoat, second from left, and Assistant Chief Lewis Johnson, far right, at the Seminole Nation Days parade Sept. 15.

## ◆ CATTLE SALE From page 1A

"It's been pretty successful in the past," Councilman Bowers said. "We'll see how it goes."

Chris and Rhonda Green wanted to buy about 20, or "however many we can afford," for their Big Cypress herd.

Clint Raulerson runs four ranches in the Immokalee area and came to purchase about 100 bred and open heifers. Last year he bought 60 head.

"This is the best collection of commercial females in the Southeast, maybe the country," Raulerson said. "Bidding will get tough, but there is some value here."

Charles Crispin, of Okeechobee, was looking for five to 10 heifers to add to his cow/calf operation.

"The quality here is very good," Crispin said. "They have some of the best producers in the area and it shows their efforts over time."

By the time the auction started, the room was filled with buyers and sellers eager to get the best price possible. Joel Beverly, of the XL Bar Ranch in Arcadia, had 63 F1 Tigerstripes and other breeds for sale. F1 means first generation animals. The Tigerstripes are a cross between a Hereford and Brahman. He's been selling at this auction since the first one and said he gets more money per head for them than other breeds.  
"This is a good outlet for us," Beverly said. "Everything else is Brangus type and

we are the only ones selling F1s. It's a hard deal; the mamas are Brahman and have a bad reputation. They have a bad temperament and have to be handled differently. But everyone wants her babies."

Stanlo and Todd Johns had 10 bred and eight open heifers from their Sweet Johns Farm for sale, all sired by Salacoa Brangus bulls.

"I don't know what they will go for," Stanlo Johns said. "But like everyone else in the room, I'm hoping for top dollar. We've got the best ones out here with the best bloodline."

Before the auction began, Jim Handley, executive vice president of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, presented FCA President Alex Johns, who also serves at the Tribe's natural resource director, with a framed copy of a Seminole Tribune article announcing his inauguration.

"Alex made a six year commitment to us," Handley said. "He is the new Cowkeeper."

Auctioneer Tommy Barnes, Salacoa Valley Farms General Manager Chris Heptinstall and Alex Johns manned the head table during the auction as Jimmy Fetner, Charlie Wood and Michael Sturgess skillfully took bids from the crowd. The cadence of the staccato yelps of the bid takers filled the room much like an orchestra fills a concert hall. Everyone was intensely watching and listening.  
From time to time, Barnes added some pearls of wisdom to the proceedings.  
"The only difference between these



Beverly Bidney

A group of heifers huddle together in the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena as they await a buyer at the Cattle Country sale.



Beverly Bidney

As auctioneer Tommy Barnes conducts the auction, Salacoa Valley Farms general manager Chris Heptinstall and the Tribe's Natural Resource Director Alex Johns observe and record the results at the Cattle Country sale.

open heifers and those bred is about two seconds," Barnes said.

By the end of the day, some Tribal members increased the size of their herds; Councilman Bowers bought 10.

Crispin bought 10 bred heifers and said he was lucky to be able to buy them. Beverly sold his heifers at a lower price than last

year, but he was happy with it anyway.

"The overall takeaway from sale was a great improvement in comparison to recent years," Johns said in an email. "The overall setup and breakdown were vastly improved, much excitement about the cattle offered was acknowledged by many buyers and new potential buyers have already reached out

wanting to be in attendance of next year's sale. So all in all, I would say that the sale ran smoothly and both buyers and sellers showed up eager to do business."



Beverly Bidney

Michael Sturgess takes bids and alerts the auctioneer with hand motions during the Cattle Country sale inside the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Buyers examine the heifers for sale before the Cattle Country Replacement Sale in Brighton's Fred Smith Rodeo Arena on Aug. 30.

## Argentinian ranchers attend cattle sale

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — A delegation of 34 Argentinian ranchers attended the Cattle Country Sale on Aug. 30 in Brighton. The group was escorted by University of Florida – Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences associate professor Dr. Nicolas Dilorenzo, who took them on a whirlwind seven-day tour of some of the state's agricultural highlights.

The beef producers hailed from northern Argentina, which has a climate and terrain very similar to that of Brighton and Big Cypress. They went to livestock markets, ranches, the Florida Cattlemen's Association headquarters and other businesses that contribute to the state's agricultural economy.

Argentinian Braham-influenced cattle weigh about 200 pounds less than the Tribe's Brangus and they have much lower pregnancy rates.

"They learned they can breed the calves younger, at 14 to 15 months," Dilorenzo said. "The prices are also much better here. They only get about \$500 for a heifer."

Other challenges facing the Argentinians include an export market that isn't active enough and ranchers rely on grass instead of feed for their herds. The group was fascinated by the value of genetics here, which is largely absent from the Argentinian beef producers.

In Argentina, a sale like the one in Brighton does not exist. Instead of using video technology and the internet, at Argentinian cattle sales the animals are shown in the ring which can stress the animals.

"They are here to learn and then apply these concepts in Argentina," Delorenzo said.

## BC Flea Market Oct. 13

**BIG CYPRESS** —The Big Cypress Flea Market will be held Oct. 13 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Junior Cypress Rodeo grounds. The flea market will feature furniture, home décor, jewelry, kitchen utensils, clothing, tools, antiques and more. For more information call 863-902-3200.

# Seminole executive recognized with Indian Country honor

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The head of the Seminole Tribal Gaming Commission has been recognized with an industry distinction.

Gordon Dickie, who has been with the Tribe since 2014, was recently named Regulator of the Year in the Indian Country category by International Masters of Gaming Law. IMGL is a nonprofit association with hundreds of members around the globe who are involved in gaming developments and issues.

Dickie, executive director of the Gaming Commission, was featured in IMGL's quarterly publication American Gaming Lawyer. The autumn 2018 issue cited Dickie's wide body of work in many gaming-related industries.

"Gordon's broad-based experience in Indian gaming regulation and compliance, along with his vast experience with commercial gaming interests and the Nevada gaming industry over a three decade career dedicated to compliance and gaming regulation enforcement, has allowed him to develop a deep understanding of many different regulatory issues and practices," IGML member Kevin Quigley said in a citation. "He has shared this deep body of expertise with many in actively promoting best practices for tribal regulators countrywide."

### Multifaceted work history

Dickie has worked in the casino industry for almost 40 years within state and tribal jurisdictions.

He began his professional career as a 22-year-old police officer in San Diego, California. It was his police experience that would prepare him for future undercover work and special investigations at the Nevada Gaming Control Board in Las Vegas.

Other high level positions would follow, including corporate security for Hilton Hotels Corp. and security and surveillance at Harrah's Las Vegas.

Dickie held Tribal casino positions in Oregon and New Mexico before returning to California to work with the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians and then later Las Vegas for Shuffle Master, now Scientific Games Corp. Dickie would work on many high



Damon Scott

Gordon Dickie, executive director of the Seminole Tribal Gaming Commission, was recently honored as Regulator of the Year in Indian Country.

profile gambling cases as a regulator and investigator in the U.S. and globally, including a licensing project in Pennsylvania for Duluth, Georgia-based Cadillac Jack.

Some of the high profile cases, with corresponding convictions Dickie was involved in included those of "professional casino cheat" John Joseph Vaccaro Jr. and organized crime associate Frank "Lefty" Rosenthal. Rosenthal's life was the basis for the movie "Casino" by director Martin Scorsese.

Dickie's career includes more administrative titles among firms at varied locations.

### Florida bound

Dickie said he never expected to end up in South Florida, but admits the access to the Atlantic Ocean and its beaches reminds him

of his time in Southern California.

He now oversees more than 200 surveillance technicians, commission officers and gaming clerks for the Tribe. Dickie also has an executive team of 10 managers and supervisors.

Dickie has been known since his days on the police force, when he delivered babies and saved lives, as someone who cares about the community where he lives and works. He's learned a strong work ethic along the way as well.

While in Las Vegas, Dickie said he once had coffee with Samuel A. "Sam" Boyd, an iconic casino manager and developer.

"I remember him telling me that it's all about taking care of the customer," said Dickie. "You have to throw the ego out the door. That always stuck with me."

He says he learned how to be a stellar employee and manager early on, too.

"If I work for someone they have my loyalty 400 percent," Dickie said. "If you have common sense, people skills, and integrity – you can do anything."

Dickie says he maintains a close relationship with Seminole Tribal Gaming Commission Chairman Allen Huff.

"He's one of the main reasons I'm here," Dickie said. "A great guy, great leader and has my back 5,000 percent."

Dickie says his greatest accomplishment for the Seminole Tribe has been the mentoring of Tribal and non-Tribal members on effective gaming regulation, adding that his greatest charge is to protect the assets of the Seminole Tribe for the current generation and future ones.

The IMGL has presented its Regulator of the Year awards since 2002.

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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

Drummers and protesters, including Martha Tommie, sing sacred songs at the rally. The ceremonial Leonard Peltier song was part of the singing.

Leonard Peltier Freedom Riders ride on the grass across the street from the prison Sept. 22. Behind them are the horse trailers festooned with flags.

Beverly Bidney

◆ **PELTIER**  
From page 1A

Peltier Freedom Ride GoFundMe page or with in-kind services such as veterinary care, hay, food and giving the group land on which to rest and refresh for a night or more.

The caravan included an old horse trailer that spent six months with FourCloud at Standing Rock in 2016, six riders, four rideable horses, one young colt and a support team.

"The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee is helping," said Julia Fike, Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux, a coordinator of the ride. "The ride was followed [on Facebook] by people in 20 countries. [Peltier's] health is not good; he had triple bypass surgery, is diabetic and has an aneurism in his stomach. He just needs to come home."

This isn't the first time groups have applied for clemency on Peltier's behalf. Petitions were made to the Department of Justice during the Clinton and Obama administrations; both were rejected.

"It's been going on forever," Fike said. "The evidence proves he is innocent. He's been in there longer than anyone should have been. They've kept him in so long because the judge said he would make an example of him and that he would never see the light of day. They said the same thing about Nelson Mandela. We have to stand up and stop this."

Hours before the Freedom Riders arrived at the prison, the roadside filled with cars, SUVs and a couple of motorcycles. Signs, banners and flags were prominently displayed and held up to the traffic. Many horns honked in support of the demonstrators. A handful of Seminoles made the journey north to participate in the rally.

"This is the kind of thing that interests me, standing up for our own people," said Lucile Jumper, of Big Cypress. "I know it

will take more than this to get him out, but I wanted to show my support."

The aroma of burning sage wafted in the air across the street from the prison as about 40 people gathered in support of



Beverly Bidney

Ryanna Osceola rallies for Leonard Peltier's freedom on the side of the road.

Peltier, imprisoned inside. The Leonard Peltier Defense Fund tried to get clearance to visit him, to no avail. Prison authorities were notified of the rally and a few law enforcement vehicles were parked on each

side of the fence watching the event unfold.

"I spoke to Leonard and told him about today," said Paulette Dauteuil, national director of the Leonard Peltier Defense Fund. Dauteuil was married to Robert Robideau, who was arrested for the same murders as Peltier, but acquitted. "[Leonard] said 'I guess I'll spend the day in the hole', but I told him they know we are here and that won't happen if we stay on our side of the road."

The rally did in fact remain on the far side of the road. Ryanna Osceola, 15, came to the rally with her grandmother Martha Tommie. She held a sign all day calling for the release of Peltier.

"I think he needs his freedom," Ryanna said. "He needs to be with his people for the last years of his life."

Martha Tommie, an activist who went to Standing Rock twice to protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2016, brought the STOF flag she had with her in North Dakota to the rally at the prison. As they waited for the riders to arrive, she played the MTV Video Music Award winning song "Stand Up Stand N Rock" by Taboo featuring Spencer and Doc Battiast at top volume for all to hear.

When the riders arrived at the rally site, they were welcomed enthusiastically with cheers, posed for photos and were happy to have finally arrived. The riders were FourCloud, Archambault, his son Dillon Archambault, also Yankton/Standing Rock Sioux, along with Gregory Payne, Cherokee, and Bobby Bellas, Eastern Band Cherokee/Ojibwa.

A drum was brought out and the songs began. The group sang the ceremonial Leonard Peltier song, a prayer to help obtain his release. Elvis Provost, who drove the truck that pulled the horse trailer from Minnesota, was one of the drummer/singers.



Beverly Bidney

Sam Tommie plays his flute after addressing the crowd at the rally.

"I think there is a good chance he will be let free because of all our prayers," said Provost, Yankton Sioux/Ihanktonwan.

Speakers stood in front of a large American Indian Movement banner and shared their thoughts about Peltier.

"I stand in powerful prayers for the freedom of Leonard Peltier," said Martha Tommie, of Brighton. "He knows we are serious about his freedom. I went to Standing Rock to stand for our water; I know what powerful prayers are worth. Stay humble and pray to the lord. We are all related by blood, red blood."

Sam Tommie, of Big Cypress, spoke before he played a song on his flute.

"I'm grateful that Leonard's family rode 1,500 miles to be here," he said. "He's only so many yards away from us on the other

side of those fences. You carried the spirit of your grandparents with you as you rode here and it made you stronger."

At last, it was Archambault's turn to speak.

"We made it," he said. "It's been an honor to take part in something that means so much for future generations. We are all hurting historically and generationally that we just can't seem to shake off. Everyone deserves to be treated equal in this world. I feel this man's pain; he can't sit with his family to eat, he can't play with his children and grandchildren. He gave us the inspiration to be here today."

From Mankato to Coleman, the riders flew one American flag upside down. Archambault explained why.

"We need to honor Mother Earth every day and put our trash where it belongs," he said. "We have a spiritual connection to everything in this world. The flag flies upside down today because we are in trouble. Mother Earth cries every day. We are the children of Mother Earth and we need to get back to our way of life."

The prison wasn't the Freedom Riders first stop in Florida; they also spent time in St. Augustine and on a ranch nearby. While they were in St. Augustine they took in the sights, including a boat ride in the ocean.

"It was our first time seeing the ocean and was a very uplifting feeling," Archambault said. "It brought me to how small we as humans really are. We said a prayer for the water and the oceans and everything in them."

"We had a prayer ceremony in the cell Osceola was held in, where Geronimo's wives were also held," said Dauteuil.

At the prison, attendees shared their thoughts about Peltier.

"We are here for a good cause and to help give Leonard his freedom," said Grant Steve, Mississippi Choctaw. "We need to learn to stand for something; if not, we will fall for anything."

The next stop for the Leonard Peltier Freedom Ride is Washington D.C., where they will present a petition for clemency to the Department of Justice. At around 840 miles, the ride should take them less time than the one that was just completed.



Beverly Bidney

Leonard Peltier supporters line the road in front of the Coleman Federal Correctional Institution in Sumterville, Florida on Sept. 22 for a rally on his behalf.

## Breast cancer awareness events highlight October

BY DERRICK TIGER  
Staff Reporter

In 1985, October was sanctioned by the American Cancer Society as the official month of breast cancer awareness. The month most associated with costumes and candy has become predominantly acquainted with pink ribbons.

Each year thousands of business entities and organizations throughout the U.S. sponsor charities and events to help raise money for breast cancer patients, survivors, and research. Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino and the Seminole Tribe are among the many contributors who support the fight against breast cancer. This year they will be sponsoring three events.

First up is the 2nd annual Hard Rock Half-Marathon and Pink Panther Prowl. The half marathon and 5k/10k event will be held Oct. 6 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo

Arena on the Big Cypress reservation. The half marathon starts at 6 a.m. while the 5k and 10k races start at 7:15 a.m. Awards will be given for different age groups, and those who cross the finish line will earn a medal.

The second event – Making Strides of Tampa presented by Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa – will take place Oct. 20 at the Amalie Arena in Tampa. A non-competitive 3-to-5-mile walk will begin at 9 a.m. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, a fund raising campaign conceived by the American Cancer Society, has a goal this year for the event to raise \$ 760,000 by Oct. 27.

The third event is the Making Strides of Broward sponsored by the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. The walk will take place at 8:30 a.m. on Oct. 27 at Huizenga Plaza in Fort Lauderdale. Its goal is to raise \$740,000. More information about these events can be found at makingstrides.acevents.org and raceplace.com.

## Hard Rock Atlantic City moves closer to offering online sports betting

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

When the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a 26-year-old federal law last May, it created a potential new venture for the gambling industry – sports betting.

Predicting sports results and placing a wager on the outcome was something once only reserved for operators in Las Vegas, Nevada. It's now something all states can choose to create their own laws around. Thus far, Florida has chosen not to allow sports betting, but New Jersey has legalized it.

That has opened the door for the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City to enter into the endeavor. When the new property opened in the summer, Jim Allen, the chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming, announced a partnership with British online sports betting

firm Bet365.

Now Kindred Group has entered an agreement with the Hard Rock Atlantic City to pursue a "Casino Service Industry Enterprise License" (CSIE) in New Jersey. The agreement allows Kindred to take steps toward offering U.S. customers online sports betting and gaming services. The Hard Rock already has a CSIE, according to Kresimir Spajic, the senior vice president of online gaming at Hard Rock International.

Kindred Group is an online gambling operator conducting much of its business across Europe and Australia. It has more than 21 million customers within 11 brands.

"The collaboration between two strong international brands will combine Hard Rock's first-class lifestyle and entertainment experience with Kindred's state-of-the-art digital innovation and data analysis, creating a strong offering in the New Jersey market," a recent news release stated. The release said

the agreement is part of Kindred's "ongoing process to secure regulatory approval."

According to Spajic, Kindred could start operations before receiving its CSIE, as long as they receive a transactional waiver from New Jersey's Department of Gaming Enforcement.

"This waiver is conditional, meaning that ultimately Kindred needs to receive CSIE. There are cases where operators operated for couple of years under [a transactional waiver] before they received CSIE," Spajic said.

The timeline for Kindred depends on the New Jersey licensing investigation process, he said.

The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City is located on 17 acres, with the Atlantic City boardwalk as its backdrop.

# Grant writing sessions at NLC benefit tribes near and far

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Attendees from tribes across the country showed up en masse at the Seminole Tribe's Native Learning Center for two days in late August to learn about grant writing.

Led by Vince Franco, compliance and resource development director for the NLC, the group of about 50 learned not only about how to write a grant, but ways to successfully land one. Franco directs focus to the development of project logistics, the use of a storytelling style of writing to be more effective in communicating a grant goal, and all the pieces that go into submission of the grant proposal.

There are other ingredients that are mixed into the two-day training as well — from organization of a project team to the grant budget. Native-centric grants take center stage.

## Search for funds

The Catawba Indian Nation in Rock Hill, South Carolina (just south of the larger metro of Charlotte, North Carolina) was represented well at the training. The Catawba, with about 3,200 members, sent seven workers from different departments to Hollywood. Jeff Harris, tribal governance attorney, was one of those workers. Harris said one of the main reasons he and others wanted to come learn grant writing is because the majority of the Catawba's funds are obtained through grants.

"My main responsibility right now is setting up tribal courts. We don't have one in place right now and are looking to do that," Harris said.

His goal is to get the funds necessary to run a court that handles internal disputes, election issues and questions about whether the tribal council has the authority to do certain things, Harris explained.

Not only that, but a future step is to set up a "healing-to-wellness court," specifically to assist those who have gotten into trouble with the criminal system because of drug or alcohol addiction.

"It's essentially a drug court that is focused on Indian Country, that uses culture to help heal people. It's a rehabilitative court, rather than a punitive court," he said.

The Native and 2011 graduate from Duke University School of Law said it's all important because his Tribe doesn't yet have any sustainable economic development of its own.

"Pretty much all the services we provide to our citizens are through grants," Harris said. "This training was at the top of my list."

## 'It's opened my mind'

Closer to home, Houston Cypress, a Micosukee with the Otter Clan, traveled a shorter distance to the training. Cypress is

the president and cofounder of the nonprofit "Love the Everglades Movement." While the group has been operating for about five years, Cypress said he's always on the lookout for new and effective ways to raise funds.

"It's really opened my mind," Harris said of the grant training. "We're slowly becoming more independent and taking on these responsibilities ourselves."

Cypress connects the grant writing education to storytelling, which weaves into what he sees as a social and environmental justice issue related to the health of the Everglades.

"My community doesn't feel that the solutions about what is going on in coastal communities consider us," he said. "I'm also concerned because I have family on all sides, including extended family in the Seminole Tribe, and others are impacted. [The health of the Everglades] needs attention and Indigenous voices need to be amplified more."

With additional funds from grants, Cypress hopes to get the word out in a greater way through securing venues and producing events.

"Storytelling plays a big role. There's room for pride, passion and conjuring an image in somebody's soul. There's room for all that in grant writing and I didn't expect that it would be possible to do that," he said.

## Not just buzz words

Both Cypress and Harris said the training was effective because it leveraged the group dynamic and looked at the topic holistically.

"It really takes you back a step before you even get to the part where you're writing the grant," Harris said. "You look at: what is the initiative or the issue you want to solve? Forming a group and creating that strategic plan. A lot of people use those buzz words — strategic planning — and it's not really clear what that means."

Harris said Franco took the group through what strategic planning means for different people, and talked about creating a strategic plan for an entire initiative.

"It reduces the chance of applying for grants that take us off track or don't serve our greatest needs," Harris said. "We don't want to just open a court for the sake of opening one up. We want to focus on courts that will respond to the needs of our Tribe."

## Up next

The NLC will host a "Grants Management Boot Camp" from Oct. 30-31. The sessions put an emphasis on how to manage and keep the grant after the award. Lucy Morgan, of myfedtrainer.com, will lead the two-day event.

The NLC is located at 6363 Taft Street in Hollywood. For more information, call 954-985-2315 or go to [nativelearningcenter.com](http://nativelearningcenter.com).

## ◆ FIREFIGHTERS From page 1A

this winter."

Due to the steep terrain, engines couldn't get close to the fires so a lot of the firefighting work was done on foot. Working in teams, one firefighter carried a bladder bag (five gallon backpack filled with water) and the other had hand tools.

Aviation was another tool used to fight the Oregon fires, including heavy air tankers, helicopters and single engine air tankers such as crop dusters.

"The fuel was primarily grass, even in the hilly areas," Lightsey said. "There were a lot of wheat fields and cow pastures. Everything was golden brown out there for miles and miles. Fires usually race through at high speed. There were 15 to 20 foot flames if there was wind behind it."

The grasses and wheat were about three feet high, unless it had been harvested. If so, the stubble was put into bales of straw. Lightsey saw a fire of 2,500 bales that burned for weeks; all they could do was contain it.

Assistant Fire Management Officer Chris Kemp also began his career with the Florida Forest Service about 20 years ago and has worked with the Tribe for the last six years. He was deployed to the Umatilla reservation in Oregon twice this summer; once for 18 days in late July and again for eight days from late August to early September. He also worked mainly on foot because of the difficult terrain.

"We had to use the radio a lot to make sure everyone was OK," Kemp said. "You couldn't see because of the smoke. As incident commander, my job was to make sure everyone on the fire line was safe at all times."

In the valley, local farmers used their tractors and farm equipment to assist the firefighters and kept the fires from growing too large. Local fire departments also helped by bringing water. But the mountainous areas proved to be the most challenging for Kemp and his team.

"There were white pines and cedar trees burning," he said. "You can't farm those trees so it's overgrown. Fires move fast and tall in that stuff and we needed to get out ahead of it to stop it. We extinguished all the fires; when I left there were no fires. They are starting to get cool weather now and that slows the fires down."

## Texas

Wildland firefighter Nate Courmoyer and fuel specialist Jeff Radakovic were deployed to Texas for three weeks in July and August, where they worked on three different fires in the central area of the state. Together they provided additional attack support for the fires with engines from Big Cypress. They worked with teams from the BIA and other agencies.

"Texas is in a drought and is 14 inches behind on rainfall," Courmoyer said. "The area was mostly rural but also had some neighborhoods. It was a challenge with both wild and urban interface. The brush fires went right up to the highways and homes. Everyone on the task force and the residents were safe, but one structure was lost."

Texas presents a host of commercial dangers, including gas lines underground and above ground, oil, low-hanging power lines. At every fire, the volunteer firefighters were the first on the scene for the initial attack.

"When we are at home, we are always the first ones there," Courmoyer said. "Once the volunteer firefighters determined the fire was beyond their control, they called the task force to come in behind them to make sure the fires were completely out."

The volunteer firefighters Courmoyer



Courtesy photo

Wildland firefighter Jeff Radakovic takes a break from fighting the Gifco fire in the 110-degree Texas heat.



Courtesy photo

Wildland firefighters Nate Courmoyer and Jeff Radakovic are on the front lines in Texas, where they fought fires for three weeks.

worked with were all qualified for structure and wildfires; some were also emergency medical technicians and paramedics.

## Florida

The difference between fighting fires on the flat land in Florida and the varied terrain out west was vast and impacted the firefighters experience levels.

"We do a lot of prescribed burning in Florida because our terrain and weather is easier," Kemp said. "[In Oregon] they only have a week or two of weather opportunity

to do that, so they aren't as experienced. A lot of these reservations don't have the experience we have so it's a constant battle for the BIA to keep full time employees out west."

Some of their commanders have come to the Seminole reservations and helped on prescribed burns to get more experience; Kemp worked with one who was in Big Cypress in January. "He took that training and put it to work with his team," he said.

"Going to other places gives us the opportunity to help others," Courmoyer said. "There were firefighters in Texas who knew about us and our prescribed burn program. Our reputation preceded us and it gave me a lot of pride to work for the Tribe."

Travel also exposed the Seminole firefighters to other cultures and situations.

"As a non-tribal member, going to these other [reservations] out west shows me how fortunate the Seminole Tribe is compared to others out there," Lightsey said. "They are still dependent on treaties they signed 150 years ago. You can't help but make the comparison that the Seminoles don't have to worry about that. You see that other tribes need help and it was good that I could help out."

Sending STOF wildland firefighters out west appears to be a win-win for all involved. Steelman summed up the value to the Tribe by helping other areas of the country deal with wildfires.

"These incidents put us in learning situations in real time," Steelman said. "They increase our knowledge, skills and abilities which we bring back to the Tribe to protect the resources here. Overall wildland firefighting is a very dangerous job; there have been a lot of people killed this year. Anything we can do to be safer and protect Tribal members is beneficial to our purpose."

## NACA welcomes interim executive director

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Native American Contractors Association has named Lillian Sparks Robinson as interim executive director of the organization. Sparks Robinson began her tenure Sept. 10 after being selected by the NACA Board of Directors.

Sparks Robinson is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and has served as an

advocate for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities for many years. She is the former Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, appointed by President Obama in 2010. She is a small business owner and has received several awards in recognition of her excellence in performance, including American Indian Woman of the Year. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for the National Center for American Indian Economic Development. In prior years she

held a position as Staff Attorney for the National Congress of American Indians, and executive director of the National Indian Education Association.

In the continuing months the interim executive director and NACA Board of Directors will seek out qualified candidates with interest in serving the organization.



Damon Scott

Nearly 50 attendees from several tribes completed the grant writing training hosted by the Native Learning Center on Aug. 29-30 in Hollywood.

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SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA  
**AH-TAH-THI-KI**  
**MUSEUM**  
 A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

# A little bit of the Everglades in Australia

BY NORA PINELL-HERNANDEZ  
 Exhibits Fabricator, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The Everglades is a harsh and unforgiving environment where survival depends on a hardy will to thrive. The unconquered Seminoles not only survived the removal campaign of the U.S. government but thrived in the Everglades environment of south Florida.



Pond apple found on the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum campus.

fruit would be found in Australia, a country known for its dry desert but these farms are found in Queensland, a more ecological diverse region with sub-tropical conditions. What is even more interesting is that pond apple is now considered an invasive weed threatening Australia's cattle and cane industries. Grafting pond apples began in Australia in 1912 but was banned from importation, sale or distribution in their Biosecurity Act of 2014. Pond apples have adapted so well that it has spread to undisturbed areas near marshes and river banks. The seeds of pond apples may last several months and are mainly spread through waterways making it difficult to eradicate with herbicides without affecting water systems. The possible disastrous economic effect of pond apples in Australia is so high that landowners are obligated to destroy them either by hand pulling or by fire.

The fluctuation and severity of wet and dry seasons along with insects and impenetrable swamps can make life very difficult. Yet flora and fauna have found ways to flourish under these conditions (much like the Seminoles) one being the pond apple. The pond apple, also known as the Alligator apple because American Alligators eat the fruit, is a relative to the soursop and cherimoya. Seminoles eat ripe pond apples or pickle the younger fruits.

The conditions in which the pond apples thrive are very specific - they cannot tolerate dry soil, thrive in swamps and are tolerant of saltwater. Because of the less than palatable taste of the pond apple it is used to graft it's more sought after relatives like the custard apple. Custard apple farms in Sri Lanka and Australia use pond apples as rootstocks - meaning farmers plant pond apples into the ground and when the plant's roots are developed, tissue from the custard apple is attached to the pond apple's stem. The two stems will merge and the top half will bear custard apple fruits and the bottom half will remain pond apple. This technique makes it easier and faster to grow desired trees which may be difficult to grow at first.

Commercial farmers began to curb the spread of pond apple in the 1980s but learned too late that, just like the Seminole people, pond apples are not easily removed, are adaptable and will thrive despite adversities. When you are biting into your next pond apple, know that there are plenty more growing on the opposite side of the world because someone underestimated their will to survive.

Want to know more? Come research pond apples with our staff and have a walk around the Museum's boardwalk where you can see some for yourself! The Museum is open every day from 9-5 and is free for Tribal members. The library is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. An appointment is suggested. Please call 863-902-1113 ext. 12252 and ask for Mary Beth, our research coordinator and librarian.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff and Ahfachkee students pose by the "Are We There Yet?" exhibit at the opening reception Aug. 28. From left are Quenton Cypress, Lacey Cofer, Mya Cypress, Emmitt Arroyo-Osceola (seated), Thomlynn Billie, Carlos Romero, Les Gopher, Abraham Tigertail, Janessa Jones (seated), Romeo Jumper-Garcia and Juan J. Cancel.

# Students' high-tech story maps showcased at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
 Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — After months of work, a few Ahfachkee high school students can finally see their high-tech artwork displayed on the walls and iPads at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

The "Are We There Yet?" exhibit, which opened Aug. 28 with a reception that included all Ahfachkee high school students, features story maps that showcase Native American subjects close to the students' hearts.

The interactive exhibit is a collaboration between the Ahfachkee School, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office. Last spring, the school gave THPO the time to teach story mapping to a history class so the museum could display the students' work. Story maps are a way to present information digitally using mapping information, images, videos and other media to tell a story.

"We work with culture to connect people," said Juan Cancel, THPO chief data analyst. "This project was education, technology and culture. It was the epitome of what our section does."

Students chose the subjects they wanted to explore, learned how to do the research and incorporated it into THPO's Geographic

Information Systems (GIS) software.

THPO's archeological science team, comprised of Cancel, THPO Community Engagement Coordinator Quenton Cypress and THPO Geospatial Analyst Lacey Cofer, worked with the students and created a story map of their own, which outlined the process, goals and objectives of the project.

The project was designed to teach the students some college prep skills, remind them of their Seminole heritage and give them a voice to tell stories that are important to them. Participants were Emmitt Arroyo-Osceola, Thomlynn Billie, Mya Cypress, Crystal Garcia, Leslie Gopher, Bradin Jim, Janessa Jones, Romeo Jumper-Garcia, Carlos Romero and A.J. Tigertail.

Some of the story maps are focused on all of Indian Country. Emmitt's story map is about Native Americans in music and includes YouTube videos of five musicians from the past, present and future. Emmitt includes his own aspirations in hip-hop.

Bradin focuses on Native Americans in film and highlights seven actors from around the U.S. and Canada. Most are familiar from their roles in movies and on TV.

Leslie chose Native American basketball tournaments and showcases three Seminole and two national tournaments. Crystal focuses her story map on Native Americans in all sports including volleyball, football, soccer, baseball and mixed martial arts.

Thomlynn's project outlines the history of Miss Florida Seminole from its inception to today. A.J.'s describes the Tribe's involvement in the cattle industry from when they first received cattle in 1936 to present time.

The THPO team believes the students got a lot out of the project. Cancel said one of the main reasons for its success was teacher involvement and buy-in to the program.

"The kids were introduced to new technology," Cofer said, "and they got a better taste of what the museum is doing to engage the community and preserve their culture."

Cypress believes it was good for students to see the museum from the inside, not just as a tourist.

"They had fun doing the project, but it was a little difficult at times because it was a different kind of assignment for them," he said. "After they saw it on the wall in the museum, Emmitt couldn't stop smiling when he saw it. He said 'I know I don't look happy, but I'm happy on the inside.'"

The THPO team presented the project at a GIS mapping conference in San Diego in July. The presentation was part of the Tribal education and engagement session, at which 60 GIS professionals attended.

The "Are We There Yet?" exhibit runs until Jan. 24, 2019.

# Native flutist pays tribute to John McCain

BY LI COHEN  
 Special to The Seminole Tribune

Indian Country lost a longtime proponent for Native American rights and programs Aug. 25, as former U.S. Senator and Presidential nominee John McCain died at 81.

The Navy veteran served Arizona in Congress since 1982, serving his first two terms as a Representative and the later terms as a Senator. Throughout his time, he created a reputation for charismatically defending various issues, including those related to Native American tribes. McCain worked to improve federal-tribal relations up until a few months prior to his death by serving on the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Such actions included creating a bill to expand Amber Alert systems on Native American reservations, honoring the Navajo code talkers, sponsoring bills to protect cultural sites and artifacts and fighting for tribal education rights and initiatives.

This tireless relationship he developed with the Native American community was honored at his Arizona memorial service on Aug. 30 at the North Phoenix Baptist Church. Navajo flutist Jonah Littlesunday, who has competed on "America's Got Talent" and has won several Native American Music Awards, performed a hymn as tribute to the Arizona senator. Cindy McCain, the Senator's wife, and Meghan McCain, his daughter, asked Littlesunday to perform after meeting him at an event April 4 that honored Sen. McCain and the late Rep. Morris Udall for their work helping the Grand Canyon.

Littlesunday said on his Facebook page that "funerals are heartbreaking" and that being asked to play at Sen. McCain's memorial "made his heart drop."

"It means the world to me. Especially when they are friends. Cindy and Meghan McCain treated my wife Pauline & I so very well in the past, that they won our hearts over. We call them friends and will stand by them," he wrote Aug. 28. "... It is such a heartbreak for this family to lose a father & husband, but I will help heal their loss in any way I can for this beautiful family."

This was not Littlesunday's first memorial service. He has performed dozens of times for fellow Navajo members and



Navajo flutist Jonah Littlesunday

others, a task that is accompanied with significant preparation. Before any service he performs at, he goes through a traditional process of protection, which entails Littlesunday praying for protection and cleansing for himself and his family. Even though it takes a lot of time on his part, he said that performing at a funeral is a "high honor."

"I saw this as any other Navajo family in mourning and I would do anything in my power and my heart to help heal and comfort them," he said. "The family is a good family; we've seen that firsthand. So to help honor John McCain and to comfort the family, that's kind of where I was focused on."

Littlesunday started to play the song "An Expression of Love" at the service alongside fellow Navajo Nation member and drummer Aaron White, but as they played on stage, Littlesunday later said that much of the performance was improvised because he and White became caught up in "the power of prayer."

"Growing up in Navajo culture, prayer is embedded in everything we do," he said. "I pray while I play, so I can identify the power in the essence of prayer; you can really feel it. In that room it was powerful. People were actually praying and I wasn't just feeling it from inside the room I was feeling it from the outside. ... you could feel the heartache that was in there. It was amazing. I was really astounded by the love that John McCain had. It wasn't just his family, it wasn't just the community and it wasn't just the state; it was the nation that was mourning."

Although Sen. McCain was not always in agreement with tribes - he helped sell Apache cultural site Oak Flat to mining companies in 2014 - Native leaders paid their respects to the politician as well. Russell Begaye and Jonathan Nez, president and vice president of the Navajo Nation, respectively, also attended the memorial service. Sen. McCain regularly worked with the nation and nationally commended the tribe for their efforts in combating human trafficking in their area.

Littlesunday explained that part of Navajo culture is not speaking ill of the deceased, especially about politics.

"An enemy or a friend, they all gather together to honor the person. ... We don't hold grudges and those that do, that is on their own, but as a people we always honor and that's just something that's part of our ways," he said.

The Navajo Nation issued a statement Sept. 5 to share a similar sentiment.

"We had our differences and we shared common goals. In all, he was a respectable man willing to sit down with the Navajo Nation to hear our concerns," the statement read. "He was a man of courage who served the country with valor."

Sen. McCain was buried Sept. 2 at the U.S. Naval Academy Cemetery in Annapolis, Maryland.

# NATIONAL 4-H WEEK SOCIAL MEDIA CALENDAR

OCTOBER 7-13

Join Seminole Indian 4-H and post on social media relating to the calendar days! Use the daily hashtags as well as:

#SeminoleIndian4H  
 #National4HWeek  
 #FL4H

**Sunday**  
**Selfie Sunday**  
 Post a selfie in your 4-H shirt.  
**#4Hselfie**

**Monday**  
**Community Service Monday**  
 Post a picture of you serving your community.  
**#4Hcommunityservice**

**Tuesday**  
**Tasty Tuesday**  
 Post a picture of your favorite beef or pork plate.  
**#4Htastytuesday**

**Wednesday**  
**Wacky Wednesday**  
 Post a picture of your wackiest 4-H memory.  
**#4Hwackywednesday**

**Thursday**  
**Throwback Thursday**  
 Post a picture from the past with 4-H.  
**#4Hthrowback**

**Friday**  
**Fun Fact Friday**  
 Post an interesting 4-H fact.  
**#4Hfunfactfriday**

**Saturday**  
**4-H Green Saturday**  
**#4Hgreen**

Member and Alumni Dinner 6:00pm  
 Location: Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena Office  
 Mr. & Miss. 4-H Ambassador Contest





# Health

## President Cypress remains strong voice for Natives battling diabetes

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Mitchell Cypress is a fixture in the Seminole Tribe of Florida and has been for many years. He's held several titles, positions and responsibilities. Cypress currently serves as the President of the Board of Directors and the Vice Chairman of the Tribal Council.

But it's his role as a mentor for those struggling with diabetes that may be one of his most enduring titles, even if it's one he never sought out.

It's been about 10 years since Cypress wrote and published "Having Diabetes & Acting in an Honorable Way," with Cecilia Kayano. During that decade, Cypress has traveled throughout the Tribe, the state and even other areas of the country to talk to Seminoles, Natives and anyone who will listen about his struggles with alcohol, smoking, his diet and living with diabetes.

The book features personal stories that are often tragic. But the situations are peppered with Cypress' innate humor, integrity and positive outlook on life. Each chapter chronicles his life and how he went from denial of his disease into a weight loss and fitness journey that lasts to this day.

### 'Immense grief'

There were key moments in Cypress' life that both preceded his diabetes diagnoses and would help to propel him into recovery from addiction and to maintenance of the disease.

One of those moments came when his wife died. As he was trying to deal with what he describes as the "immense grief" after her death, he sought the advice of six elder Seminole men during a Corn Dance who had also lost their wives.

The widowers gave him advice that he says would eventually help him deal with many of his challenges and also reinforced the importance of listening to elders.

"I had alcohol addiction. My wife died on my lap. Two of my daughters were gone. My whole family was gone. I had nothing left," Cypress said.

It's that kind of stark honesty that has connected so many to his story.

"I gave all my information so the next guy won't do it. That's the whole idea," he said.

Cypress would later gain two daughters

through the relationship with his current girlfriend. "It brought me back to this world," he said.

Another pivotal moment was when Cypress was diagnosed with diabetes in 1983.

His blood sugar reading was 600 (normal is 100), forcing him to be checked into the hospital. He was about 210 pounds and had an A1C of 14. An A1C is a three-month average reading of blood sugar levels. A 5.7 is considered normal.

Cypress said doctors kept him overnight. At some point during the night he thought his heart would stop beating.

"I thought I was going to die and I started crying. I prayed that if I got a second chance, I'd do whatever [God] wanted me to do to help my people," Cypress said.

He eventually fell asleep. After he woke up, the doctors said his blood sugar was now too low and he'd have to wait for it to come back up.

"[But] I figured my prayer was answered, so I've tried to do what's best for my people since then," Cypress said. "You get wake up calls. Close calls. I've seen some of the people who have addiction that don't wanna quit. But I know one day that wake-up call is going to roll around. In the book I used to say I'm not scared to die. But that night, I was scared. I was praying, crying."

Cypress would remain in denial about his diagnosis and says he still drank alcohol, smoked cigarettes and ate unhealthy food.

"Until I started seeing some of my friends and family with complications," he said.

Cypress' cousin had a leg amputation due to diabetic complications.

"That kind of woke me up. I figured I better do something about it instead of being in denial - not following directions and not eating the proper food. You've got to discipline yourself," he said. "One nurse told me one time: 'If you want to be with your friends today, keep on drinking, keep on smoking. But if you want to be with your friends for the next 10 years, quit drinking and quit smoking.' That was a good statement," he said.

Cypress developed a mantra of: "You can control it, instead of diabetes controlling you."

He now starts almost every day going for a two-mile walk.

Another big moment in Cypress' life was when he was involved in a vehicle

rollover with a friend after a night out at a local bar.

"We got out without a scratch. My buddy got out and opened a can of beer and I took a couple swigs. But I thought: 'There's something wrong here.' After looking at this vehicle, we should be injured or something,



Damon Scott

President Mitchell Cypress holds "Having Diabetes & Acting in an Honorable Way," a book he wrote 10 years ago with Cecilia Kayano, who met with President Cypress on Sept. 11 in Hollywood.

but we're not. Someone was watching out for me and gave me a second chance," he said.

### Unique partnership

Kayano is the book's editor and photographer. From Pecos, New Mexico, she previously wrote articles for the former "Health for Native Life," a national magazine produced by the Indian Health Service's division of diabetes.

Kayano once had Cypress featured on

the magazine's cover.

The two originally met through Suzanne Davis at the Tribe's health department. Davis is the manager of Allied Health, the program within the health department that has programs in diabetes, health education and nutrition.

It was the beginning of a longtime friendship.

Kayano says the book is essentially about Cypress' "resiliency and becoming a better man."

"I was recently thinking of his beginnings, where he began and the life that he had in Big Cypress and in the Everglades, and where he is today," said Kayano. "I was very inspired by his story. I think it's really important as a role modeling piece for men and young men; it's pretty inspirational."

Especially as Chairman, Cypress was very busy when the book was being written. He was on the road a lot and the two would meet wherever they could, including in the waiting rooms of health clinics.

"He was very, very honest and forthcoming and that's why I continued on with it because we had a very honest relationship where I would ask him a question and he didn't sugarcoat it," Kayano said. "He'd tell me the answer and I think that's the powerful nature of the book is that he had his goal: help people, relate to people so they don't make the same mistakes."

Kayano said how men overcome denial is critical, and that's what Cypress talks about.

"There's denial and machismo and then you have to tap into something else to get well. I thought: 'This will help so many people,'" she said. "I think when there's a good relationship like the one we have, it's like there's a higher power happening. A magical thing happened."

Kayano is now working with the Seminole Tribe on a preschool culture language book.

### 'Country boy who made it ...'

Cypress said that when he was Chairman an assistant once said to him: "Mitchell, you're walking around like you're a regular guy, but you're in charge of a billion-dollar project."

"But I said: 'It doesn't go to my head.' I feel like I'm just another simple guy. A country boy who made it to the top. That's all I am in my mind. But when [people]

look at you, they see you're way up there," Cypress said.

He said he doesn't see the benefit of the book as one of money or fame.

"My reward is whoever gets this book, reads it and follows it, that's my reward. That's my price. I didn't write this book for me to be famous. I just wrote my book about my life, so that maybe for another person, they will read it," he said.

### For more

Davis said the Tribe hosts a lot of different community activities at all the reservations to promote good eating and increased activity, and thus prevent the onset of diabetes.

The annual Rez Rally in January is one of the more popular events.

"It's to get people out and moving, to promote camaraderie. One of the things that's very important for people with high blood sugar is to be active," Davis said.

The department has other programs, too, like a step contest where participants receive Fitbits or pedometers to track how many steps they take each day and win prizes.

Davis and her team also do one-on-one consultations for people to help them to prevent or manage diabetes so they don't face complications.

Davis has worked with Cypress on his diabetes management for many years.

"He's been real public about tackling his diabetes for 20 years now. He's real self-motivated and is always trying to help other community members who maybe don't understand what to do. He's been a real inspiration," she said.

Part of the reason Davis thinks Cypress is so effective is it's different than health staff handing out a brochure.

"He actually puts it into practice. That's the best advertisement. The coolest thing about his book and the way he wrote it is that he didn't write it from the perspective of a medical person - he really wanted to write it from the perspective of someone who wants to help take care of themselves. That's what makes the patients want to read it," Davis said.

"Having Diabetes & Acting in an Honorable Way," published by the health department, is available by contacting President Cypress' office at (954) 966-6300 ext. 11301.

## Halloween safety tips

SUBMITTED BY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Halloween can be a fun time for both adults and children, but there can be many hazards that can end the fun quickly. Below are a few tips for parents to make sure their children have a fun and safe Halloween.

- Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult. Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision.

- Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them.

- Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.

- Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you. WALK and don't run from house to house.

- Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Never accept rides from strangers.

- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.

## Four ways to keep away 'the silent killer'

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA  
Florida Department of Health Broward County

As hurricanes and tropical storms spin in the Atlantic Ocean, let's think about things we can do to avoid danger.

Here's one: Prevent carbon monoxide

poisoning. Tragically, a few Floridians die from CO gas almost every time a storm or an emergency knocks out power. Why? Because we make mistakes using portable generators and emergency cooking and heating devices.

On average, 438 Americans die every

♦ See MONOXIDE on page 6B

### PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE - NEW MEDICARE CARDS

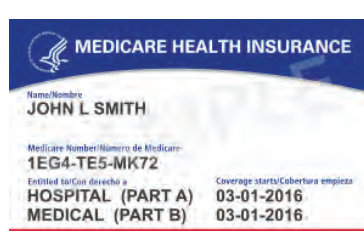
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will mail you a new Medicare card between April 2018 and April 2019. Medicare is removing your Social Security number from your card and is replacing it with a number that is unique to you. Your new Medicare number will contain a combination of numbers and uppercase letters. This change will help protect your identity.

Once you get your new card, safely and securely destroy your old card and start using your new card right away. Protect yourself by making sure no one can get your personal information from your old Medicare card.

Please make sure your mailing address with Medicare is up to date. If your address needs to be corrected, contact Social Security at [ssa.gov/myaccount](http://ssa.gov/myaccount) or 1-800-772-1213. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778. You may also contact one of the Medical Social Workers at the STOF Health Clinic for assistance in updating your address.

Beware of anyone who contacts you about your new Medicare card. CMS will never ask you to give them personal or private information to get your new Medicare number and card.

Below is a sample of the new Medicare card:



Eye Exam

## "They Look Good On You"

### Seminole Tribe of Florida

### Eye Care on the Rez

Tribal Member Services Only

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Big Cypress: 863-983-5151 option 2

Brighton: 863-763-0271 option 2

Hollywood: 954-962-2009 option 2

Routine, diabetic & contact lens eye exams and eyewear are available to you

Vision Care Disclaimers:

Ophthalmology examination needed for certain conditions:  
Optometrist exam is for the purpose of providing corrective lenses  
\$600 Eyewear benefit maximum applies, patient responsibility thereafter

# SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

**FUTURE ATHLETE:** Ramona Baker holds her grandson Zhailenn Delacruz, 11 months, during the Pemayetv Emahkv Charter School junior varsity volleyball game versus Osceola Middle School on Sept. 25. They were watching Zhailenn's aunt Preslynn Baker play.



Derrick Tiger

**9/11 TRIBUTE:** U.S. flags, including this one at the Classic Gym in Hollywood, are lowered to half-staff on Seminole Tribe reservations Sept. 11 in remembrance of Patriot Day.



Beverly Bidney

**OUT TO LUNCH:** This pair of Sandhill cranes enjoy a hearty meal in Brighton in late August as they seek and find plenty of insects to consume.



Beverly Bidney

**READY TO TAKE THE FLOOR:** Pemayetv Emahkv Charter School's newly-elected Chairwoman Winnie Gopher, right, talks to some friends before the start of her volleyball game against Osceola Middle School on Sept. 25.



Hard Rock

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Award-winning British pop star Jessie J, second from left, helped Hard Rock Hotel Shenzhen, on the southeast coast of China, celebrate its one-year anniversary Sept. 12. The event featured a guitar smash. Hard Rock International was the title sponsor for Jessie J's concert at the Shenzhen Bay Sports Center.



Kevin Johnson

**BELOVED BURT:** Popular actor Burt Reynolds, shown here attending the opening of the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Nov. 3, 2017, died Sept. 6 at 82 in Jupiter. He received a lifetime achievement award at last year's festival. Before his acting career blossomed, Reynolds was a Florida State University Seminole who played for the football team.



Beverly Bidney

**NUZZLIN' TIME:** With Justin Hipp on her back, Dolly did what she was meant to do; calm the nerves of wild mustangs as they were guided into their new unfamiliar world in Brighton as part of a Seminole 4-H program.



Hard Rock Tampa/Facebook

**ROCKIN' HISTORY:** The Tampa Bay History Center was the charity of the month in August for the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa. The Hard Rock Girls were part of a check presentation at the center.



Martin Ebenhack

**TAMPA EXPANSION:** Here's a look in mid-August at part of the \$700 million expansion project underway at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa. The expanded casino will offer guests approximately 200,000 square feet of entertainment and gaming with the centerpiece being a new 15-story hotel tower bringing an additional 564 hotel rooms and suites.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## State kept Native American site in Norwalk under wraps

**NORWALK, Conn.** — The significance of an artifact-rich, 500-year-old Native American fort and settlement on the east bank of the Norwalk River was kept secret for a year by the state Department of Transportation, which feared looters would scour and violate it, Hearst Connecticut Media has learned.

Now, the archaeological dig has fencing and video monitoring. But a year ago, when remnants of the fort were first found — indicating trading with the Dutch in the early 17th century — the potential of the wide-open site in the heart of the city, was so important that the DOT and its contracted archaeologists kept a lid on what they were uncovering.

In December of 2016, archaeologists involved in the billion-dollar rebuilding of the Metro-North Railroad bridge began unearthing clues to a location they knew was first used by natives 5,000 years ago.

In November 2017, they hinted there could be some farther-reaching historical importance uncovered.

Finally, last month, the DOT announced the vast extent of the find. Both the archaeologists and the DOT said the secrecy was warranted by the fragility of the site, and not out of deference to the bridge project.

“The awesome thing about this project team is they have involved me since the very beginning,” said Mandy Ranslow, the DOT’s archaeologist in its Office of Environmental Planning, who noted that the planning phase of the railroad bridge reconstruction is now only 60 percent complete. “And nothing we’re doing now is delaying the project.”

First, the archaeologists found a storage pit, yielding pottery with decorative etchings indicating that the site was more than just a point in the marsh where natives had hunted and fished for millennia. Then they found the signs of the walled encampment: the acidic soils where high wooden walls called palisades had been raised. Inside the perimeter are the remnants of posts from wigwams where indigenous families lived.

There’s widespread evidence of trade with the European explorers, including Dutch-made glass beads and an iron knife, as well as beads called wampum. Made by the natives from clam and oyster shells, the new arrivals to North America used wampum to barter for furs with upland tribes.

It’s being called the most-important discovery of indigenous life in New England in the 21st century and likely the last such find between the Connecticut River and New York City that in the early 1600s was part of the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam, during the early decades of contact with Native Americans.

“Given the urban location it’s pretty amazing that there was anything else at all,” said Sara P. Sportman, senior archaeologist at the Storrs-based Archaeological and Historical Services Inc., which has been involved in the bridge project since 2015.

- CT Post

## ‘We are winning’: Several B.C. First Nations celebrate Trans Mountain victory

Several B.C. First Nations in Canada are celebrating the Federal Court of Appeal’s ruling in late August that quashed the approval of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project, while other First Nations still hold hope it will proceed.

“We are winning,” said Tsleil-Waututh Chief Rueben George at a joint news conference in Vancouver.

“The NEB was a flawed process from the beginning... and the courts recognized that today,” said George, referring to the National Energy Board hearings. “This is a victory for all of us.”

The appellate court decision said the government failed in its constitutional duty to “engage in a considered, meaningful two-way dialogue” with First Nations affected by the project.

“We tell the prime minister to start listening and put an end to this type of relationship. It is time for Prime Minister [Justin] Trudeau to do the right thing,” Khelsilem, a councillor and spokesperson for the Squamish Nation, said in a morning statement.

The application for a judicial review of the federal approval of the project was launched by several First Nations, including the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh and came to include the Cities of Vancouver and Burnaby, the province of B.C. and two non-governmental agencies.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) said he was not expecting the court to rule in favour of the First Nations.

“I was really taken aback by the decision,” said Phillip. “I’m absolutely elated. I’m ecstatic... We denounced the so-called consultation process from the beginning as fundamentally flawed... and the courts upheld that.”

“In order for a new consultation to take place, they will have to go back to square one,” said Phillip, who called on the federal government to shut down the expansion project rather than try to resurrect the failed consultation process.

- CBC

## 1st tribal casino sportsbook launched

**CHOCTAW, Miss.** — In May, the Supreme Court overturned the federal ban on sports betting, thus allowing individual states to make up their minds on the issue. New Jersey, Delaware, West Virginia, and Mississippi are among those that have already started to offer sports betting.

Following state legalization in Mississippi, the Pearl River Resort Casino in Choctaw has become the first Indian tribal casino to offer a sportsbook.

On Aug. 30, the Mississippi Choctaw Indian band, which owns and operates the resort property, held a launch party to promote the offering. The launch was made possible by the Choctaw Gaming Commission’s decision to allow their tribes to offer sports betting.

Apart from tribal casinos in Nevada, which have always been exempt from the federal ban on sports betting, this is the first tribal casino in the country to offer the option.

The offering includes 20 televisions and three areas for gamblers to place their sports bets. The venue also boasts a bar and a dozen boards that showcase the various markets on offer.

The tribe also plans to create an app that will allow punters located on the casino grounds to quickly and easily place sports bets using their mobile devices.

As the only state in the surrounding area to have legalized sports betting to date, Mississippi is well positioned going forward to take advantage of the hype and popularity surrounding legalization.

- vegasslotsonline.com

## Native Americans propose change to Yellowstone landmark names

On a cold January day more than a century ago, U.S. troops massacred nearly 200 Piikani people on a Montana river bank. Most were women, children and old folks.

“It’s hard to imagine,” Chief Stanley Charles Grier of the Piikani Nation in Alberta, Canada said.

The people killed were his ancestors and accounts of the massacre are brutal. Soldiers killed a mother breastfeeding her baby. They shot sick people hiding under blankets.

“Survivors were basically executed by axes,” Grier says. “That’s pretty barbaric.”

The man who helped perpetrate this massacre was Army Lt. Gustavus Doane. He later went on to explore parts of Yellowstone and his compatriots named Mount Doane after him. The name stuck, and Grier wants to change it.

“Lieutenant Doane led that attack and fully implemented the massacre,” he says. “We feel that’s an atrocity to humanity and it’s essentially a war crime.”

Massacres like this were a major part of what some historians call a forgotten genocide during the colonization and settlement of the American West. The perpetrators of these massacres were sometimes honored with mountains, valleys and towns. Take U.S. Army General William Harney. He was nicknamed “Woman Killer” after he helped massacre nearly 100 Lakota in 1855. But a mountain named after him was renamed in 2016.

Now tribes are trying to do something similar in Yellowstone National Park. Last September, leaders from across North America gathered there and asked the federal government to change the name of Mount Doane to First Peoples Mountain.

They also want to rename the iconic Hayden Valley.

The person it’s named after was one of the first surveyors of Yellowstone, Ferdinand Hayden. He compiled a geological survey that called for the extermination of American Indians.

“He basically incited this hatred towards indigenous peoples at that time in his policies and in his written statements,” Grier says.

But earlier this year, Park County commissioners in Wyoming voted against changing Mount Doane and Hayden Valley. They said people there like the names. They’re used to them.

“This has nothing to do with the Native Americans,” Jake Fulkerson, vice chairman of the Park County commissioners, says. “There was one article we saw that said commissioners against the Indians or something and that’s garbage.”

According to Fulkerson, the whole issue is overblown.

“If you go around digging up dirt on people and changing names everywhere, I mean, once this horse leaves the barn, where does it end?” he says.

But he and the other county commissioners don’t make the ultimate decision. They can only make a recommendation to a federal body that will. It’s called the U.S. Board On Geographic Names.

“No one thinks about geographic names until someone wants to change one of the names they’re familiar with,” executive secretary Lou Yost says. “Then everyone gets all emotional.”

He said the board gets about a dozen or so controversial name changes like this every year.

When they’re trying to make these kind of decisions, they’ll ask for recommendations from federal agencies and state, county, and tribal governments.

The board’s researchers also compile historical documents and corroborate

accusations. In Gustavus Doane’s case, they found mountains of evidence against him.

Grier said erasing Doane’s name from Yellowstone is a long time coming.

“It’s really meant to represent justice,” he says.

The board is still waiting on a recommendation from the National Park Service but Yost said it could make a final decision on the Yellowstone landmarks as early as this fall.

- NPR

## Northeast Minnesota Native American tribe aims to turn the reservation high speed

The Fond du Lac band of Lake Superior Chippewa is getting into the internet business.

The band recently submitted a petition with the Federal Communications Commission to form a telecommunications company called Aaniin, which means “hello” in Ojibwe.

The band’s ambitious plan is to provide fiber-to-home high-speed broadband internet service to more than 1,800 homes, and anyone who lives in the network’s roughly 120-square mile service area, by 2020 — both band members and non-members alike.

Service is expected to begin at around \$50 a month. People who live below the poverty line — which includes about a third of people living on the reservation — will qualify for subsidized rates.

Broadband may not seem like a big deal to city-dwellers accustomed to high-speed internet service, whether it’s via a fiber optic network, cable, or DSL.

But many people who live on and around the Fond du Lac reservation have never had access to high-speed internet in their homes, said the band’s planning director Jason Holliday.

The new system “will help people have small businesses if they need to move files back and forth on the internet, it will help people if they want to go back to school, or students doing their homework,” he said. “All these opportunities will be there now that weren’t there before.”

The band has received \$8.9 million in federal and state grants to build the fiber-optic network. It’s kicking in \$3.5 million of its own funds.

Construction is underway, with about 50 to 100 homes expected to receive service on a pilot basis starting in November. Holliday said he expects the entire system to be finished in 2020.

While other tribes have contracted with service providers to bring high-speed service to reservations, Holliday said this will be the first tribally owned and operated high-speed fiber optic service provider in Minnesota.

The Fond du Lac chose to start its own company in part to diversify its economic base, Holliday said, which is heavily reliant on casino revenue.

“We’re trying to make this a showpiece, a model for people to duplicate in their communities, in particular reservations.”

- Minnesota Public Radio

## Navajo-owned coal plant to be shut down despite Interior push to keep open

A struggling coal fire plant that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke championed will be officially shut down next year after a planned sale fell through.

The Navajo Generating Station (NGS) on the Arizona-Utah border will cease operations in a year’s time after the company failed to seal a deal with New York-based Avenue Capital and Chicago-based Middle River Power, both companies that had shown an interest in purchasing the plant.

They announced Sept. 20 that they could not come to terms after failing to find clients who would be interested in buying electricity from the coal fired power, the Associated Press reported.

The plant is operated by Navajo and Hopi tribes who both profit off the coal sales.

As the price of natural gas production has decreased over time, coal fired plants have struggled to be a competitive energy source. A number have shuttered or announced plans to retire in the near future.

Zinke, who in his role oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs, was a strong advocate for keeping the plant operating. In April 2017 Zinke met with Navajo and Hopi leader to discuss ways to keep the plant operating. He tweeted that he was “looking for solutions.”

In June of last year, when the Navajo Nation voted to extend the lease sale of the plant on their land, Zinke said, “This Navajo Nation Council’s endorsement of a new lease gives NGS and Kayenta Mine workers a fighting chance and gives Navajo and Hopi economies a moment to regroup for the work ahead.”

He added: “Now, NGS operations can continue while stakeholders examine opportunities for a new operating partner to extend the life of the plant beyond its original 50-year lease.”

Electricity generation from natural gas surpassed coal as the biggest source of U.S. electricity generation in 2016, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Nearly 47 percent of the power plants that retired between 2008 and 2017 were coal fired plants—the largest portion, the group

found.

Theresa Eisenman, a spokesperson for the Bureau of Reclamation, said Interior remains committed to exploring other economically viable options from other stakeholders for NGS.

“Interior will continue to support a path forward that meets this objective and recognizes the economic implications to the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe, as well as Tribes and water users in central and southern Arizona,” she said in a statement to The Hill.

- The Hill

## Native American tribe, sheriff’s office sign cross-deputization agreement

**CLEVELAND COUNTY, Okla.** — A local Native American tribe has signed a cross-deputization agreement with the Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office.

The agreement with the Oklahoma Absentee Shawnee Tribe will allow law enforcement officers to cross county and tribal jurisdictions in order to investigate criminal cases together.

“We’ve worked well with Tribal Police Chief Brad Gaylord in the past and admired his professionalism,” said Cleveland County Sheriff Todd Gibson. “This partnership will increase effectiveness in investigating cases and protecting and serving the public, particularly when crimes sometimes cross both sides of Tribal borders. We appreciate Governor Edwina Butler-Wolfe of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma for reaching out to us.”

Governor Edwina Butler-Wolfe, of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, said she believes the Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office plays a big role in many citizens’ lives since many tribal members live in the Little Axe area.

“It will affect our people’s lives in that community on the Trust property when both departments will be able to get on that property when anything happens,” she said. “We have a partnership with Pottawatomie County as well.”

- KFOR-TV

## Mohegan Gaming named service provider for Niagara Falls venues

**UNCASVILLE, Conn.** — Mohegan Gaming & Entertainment has been chosen by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation as the service provider for a trio of entertainment venues in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Beginning next summer, Mohegan Gaming, the owner, developer and manager of integrated resorts in the U.S. and Northern Asia, will assume daily operations at Fallsview Casino Resort, Casino Niagara, and the forthcoming 5,000-seat Niagara Falls Entertainment Centre, to be located next to Fallsview Casino Resort, in Ontario, Canada.

Labeled the “Niagara Gaming Bundle,” the venues are expected to drive increased visitation to Niagara Falls, according to a press release issued by MGE representatives. Company officials are also expecting the deal to bring more customers to Mohegan Sun.

“When there are opportunities for us to enter into large markets and large destinations like Niagara Falls - somewhere where we can expand our entertainment expertise and gaming expertise - those are typically the opportunities we are going to pursue because they’re very helpful to what we have here in Connecticut,” Mario Kontomerkos, president and CEO of Mohegan Gaming, said Sept. 13. “I think there’s going to be a lot of cross-marketing between the two properties.”

The gaming company is also expected to partner with local stakeholders including Canadian Niagara Hotels Incorporated, a local developer and the current landlord of Casino Niagara, and Niagara Falls Entertainment Partners, the developer of the Niagara Falls Entertainment Center.

“We are honored to have been selected as the service provider by OLG in what was a very competitive process,” said Mohegan Tribe and MGE Management Board Chairman Kevin Brown in a statement. “This procurement marks Mohegan Gaming & Entertainment’s advancement as a leader in commercial gaming and integrated resort experiences around the world, while promoting greater economic development and tourism in the Niagara region through our outstanding gaming, entertainment and resort offerings.”

While MGE will be responsible for the daily gaming operations at the three venues, OLG will oversee the Niagara Gaming Bundle and the Ontario gaming market, according to MGE representatives.

“We’re very excited about getting started as soon as we can,” Kontomerkos said. “It’s going to be a great expansion of our portfolio for the Mohegan Tribe.”

MGE, headquartered at its flagship property Mohegan Sun, currently owns, operates or manages resorts in New Jersey, Washington, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and South Korea. The company also owns and operates the Connecticut Sun basketball team in the WNBA and the New England Black Wolves, a professional lacrosse team in the National Lacrosse League.

- The (Norwich, Conn.) Bulletin

## Native American organization wants answers on land decision

**MASHPEE, Mass.** — The National Congress of American Indians is asking the Trump administration to explain the decision not to recognize the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

The country’s largest Native American organization said Sept. 11 that it strongly disagrees with the U.S. Department of the Interior’s decision to reverse the ruling on land being held in trust for the Cape Cod tribe.

The American Indian organization has asked the agency to explain what last week’s decision signifies for Indian land policy going forward.

In 2015, the Interior Department took 321 acres near Taunton into trust for the Mashpee. The following year, a federal judge asked the agency to reconsider after local residents who opposed the building of a resort casino on the land began a lawsuit.

According to abc6.com, the last is still in trust pending a final court order.

- WBSM

## Native American tribes file lawsuit seeking to invalidate Keystone XL Pipeline permit

In a new bid to stop the Keystone XL pipeline, two Native American communities are suing the Trump administration, saying it failed to adhere to historical treaty boundaries and circumvented environmental impact analysis. As a result, they are asking a federal judge in Montana to rescind the 2017 permit and block any further construction or use of the controversial pipeline.

The Fort Belknap Indian Community of Montana and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of South Dakota contend there was no effort to study how the 1,200-mile pipeline project through their respective territories would affect their water systems and sacred lands.

As NPR’s Bill Chappell reported, in 2015, the State Department, which has jurisdiction over transnational oil pipelines, “rejected a permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.” The following year, President Barack Obama “ordered work halted on the Dakota pipeline after Native American groups and other activists protested its route near culturally sensitive sites in North Dakota.”

But shortly after taking office, President Trump approved the construction of the Dakota Access project and, on the same day, invited TransCanada — the Canadian company that owns Keystone — to reapply for a permit. Less than two months later, the State Department greenlighted the project, paving the way for construction to begin as early as this summer.

By comparison, lawyers for the tribes noted that the State Department’s review process for TransCanada’s first permit application in 2008 took 1,216 days, while the second took 1,280 days.

During a signing ceremony in the Oval Office, Trump proclaimed the proposed pipeline project was “part of a new era of American energy policy that will lower costs for American families and very significantly reduce our dependence on foreign oil and create thousands of jobs right here in America.”

As NPR’s Jeff Brady and Jason Slotkin reported, “The oil industry and some labor unions have supported the pipeline, largely for the thousands of construction jobs it would provide. But those jobs are temporary. The State Department has estimated that once built, the pipeline will employ about 35 people.”

In a statement issued Sept. 10 by the tribes’ attorneys, the Native American Rights Fund, said that prior to granting the Alberta-based energy company’s permit, there was no change in its application, which had been twice denied.

NARF wrote: “There was no analysis of trust obligations, no analysis of treaty rights, no analysis of the potential impact on hunting and fishing rights, no analysis of potential impacts on the Rosebud Sioux Tribe’s unique water system, no analysis of the potential impact of spills on tribal citizens, and no analysis of the potential impact on cultural sites in the path of the pipeline, which is in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.”

A State Department spokeswoman said the agency had no public response to the lawsuit, according to The Associated Press.

On the day Trump approved the Dakota Access pipeline, he touted two other decrees he signed at the time, saying they would serve to expedite environmental reviews and approvals for “high-priority infrastructure projects” and streamline “the incredibly cumbersome, long, horrible permitting process and reducing regulatory burdens for domestic manufacturing.”

The Keystone XL project would cut diagonally from Hardisty, Alberta, through Montana and the borders of South and North Dakota to connect to the Keystone Pipeline in Steele City, Neb. It is expected to carry up to 830,000 barrels of crude oil along the 1,204-mile route.

The Fort Belknap Indian Reservation is home to members of the Gros Ventre (Aaniiih) and the Assiniboine (Nakoda) tribes. Meanwhile, the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota is home to the Sicangu Oyate, a branch of the Lakota people.

- NPR

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HOLLYWOOD, FL

# Education



## PECS students hear from leaders before Student Council election

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The entire Pemaeyt Emahaky Charter School student body listened intently Sept. 6 as Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard and Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger shared their experiences as elected officials.

The event was held a couple weeks prior to the Student Council elections and before any of the students tossed their hats into the ring as candidates. In what has become an annual rite, the officials imparted some of their wisdom to the students about their time in the political trenches. Each had ample time to share their stories with the students, starting with the chairman.

“The hard work isn’t the election; it’s the work you do after you’re in office,” Chairman Osceola said. “Be that change you want to see in your school. You are the future of the Tribe. We were all kids once, too.”

Councilman Bowers began his speech in Creek before shifting to English. His advice was clear and understandable.

“When you decide to run, you should have an idea of why you want to be on Student Council,” he said. “That’s what you tell the people who will vote for you. If you think there needs to be change, have a plan and then carry out that plan.”

He also noted that members of Student Council should always be an example for other students to look up to. He dared them



From right, Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger and Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. shake hands Sept. 6 after addressing the PECS student body about what it means to be an elected official.

to be different, since people are not all the same.

“Someone will be running against you,” Councilman Bowers said. “Don’t say anything bad about that person. Have respect for and don’t underestimate your opponent.”

Councilman Tiger concurred with Councilman Bowers.

“One thing I’ve learned in my terms in office is respect for the other Tribal members if you want that vote,” he said. “Education should be everything. You keep it with you forever and no one can take it away from you.”

Rep. Howard told the students they will be the ones to make decisions.

“You will need to communicate with other students and teachers so everyone will understand what type of person you are,” he said. “Do everything you can to support everybody. If you lose, you have to support the one who won.”

After the speeches, students posed questions to their elected leaders. One student asked what is their motivation. Councilman Tiger told the students he loves people.

“My dream is to make things better for my Tribe,” Rep. Howard said. “God blessed me to do this.”

Another question was about how long they have been in office. Rep. Howard said he served on the Board for eight years.

Chairman Osceola told the students he started running for office in 2005 and lost, won a seat on the Board in 2009, on Council in 2011 and then lost in 2013. He won a recall election for chairman in 2016, which he is serving now.

“Don’t be discouraged if you don’t get in the first time,” he said.

“I kept trying until I got in,” added Councilman Tiger, who is serving his fourth term. “If I can do it, you can do it.”

Councilman Bowers has been in office for 11 years and loves the job, even when he disagrees with people.

“I thought if I were on the Council, I could change things,” he said. “That was my motivation and still is. My motivation today is to help keep this school successful.”

### 2018-19 PECS Student Council election winners

- First grade - Derrick McQueen
- Second grade - Kulipa Julian
- Third grade - Braylen Thomas
- Fourth grade - Ila Trueblood
- Fifth grade - Jayleigh Braswell
- Sixth grade - Merlelaysia Billie
- Seventh grade - Bryce Baker
- Eighth grade - Corey Jumper
- Chairwoman - Winnie Gopher



Above, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. talks to PECS students about what it means to be in a leadership position. At right, PECS students react to elected officials who were talking to them about holding elected office.



Beverly Bidney (2)

## From patient to doctor, UM pre-med major Trystan Yzaguirre seeks to help others

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Trystan Yzaguirre completed the first step of his journey to become a medical doctor in May, when he graduated with an associate in arts degree from Florida SouthWestern State College in LaBelle.

Since graduation, Yzaguirre has moved on and is attending the University of Miami where he is a chemistry/biology major on the pre-med track with a minor in music.

“I’ve always been interested in science and medicine,” said Yzaguirre, 20. “With all the things I’ve done with my disease, I just want to help other people.”

At age 2, Yzaguirre was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, a progressive genetic disorder that causes persistent lung infections when mucus clogs airways in the lungs. Treatment with medication and therapy has helped him manage the disease and pursue his dreams.

“He does breathing treatments every single day,” said Donna Kaye Yzaguirre,

Trystan’s mother. “There’s a lot he can’t do because of his lung capacity, but he’s never used it as an excuse to slack off.”

Yzaguirre plans to be a neurosurgeon and specifically didn’t want to go into pulmonology, the medical specialty that deals with diseases of the respiratory tract, including CF. As a patient for his entire life, Yzaguirre said he is ready to tackle something else.

“I would rather help people in other ways,” he said. “Cystic fibrosis patients can’t be near each other anyway because of the danger of infection.”

Doctors weren’t sure how playing saxophone would affect Yzaguirre’s lung capacity, but he joined the school band in seventh grade and became good enough to move up to a professional caliber instrument. Every CF patient is different, but in Yzaguirre’s case playing sax improved his lung capacity noticeably. He didn’t play regularly while attending FSW and saw his capacity diminish a bit, but that didn’t prevent him from auditioning for and being accepted into UM’s pep and marching bands.

Yzaguirre expects it will take about two years to complete the UM pre-med program, another four years of medical school followed by a surgical internship and residency of about six or seven years. At that point he will have to decide whether to work at a hospital or in private practice.

In mid-August he moved into an apartment across the street from the university’s Coral Gables campus and looks forward to diving into his studies. His



Trystan Yzaguirre poses with his saxophone for his high school senior photo.

Courtesy photo

mother cleaned the apartment and filled his freezer before she headed home to Immokalee.

“He wants to be a world renowned neurosurgeon,” said Kaye Yzaguirre. “I told him if you’re going to dream, dream big.”

CF is a terminal disease and shortens life expectancy. Kaye Yzaguirre wants her son to have the best life he can and fully immerse himself in college life.

“I’m just so proud of him for what he’s become and what he’s doing,” she said. “I’m amazed at the person he’s become. I’m honored that God thought enough of me to allow me to be his mom.”

## Character education program included in Ahfachkee curriculum

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — “Character Counts” could be the new mantra at the Ahfachkee School, which has implemented a character education program across the curriculum in all grade levels.

Each month, teachers incorporate one of eight character traits into the daily lessons

and activities in every pre-K-12 class. At the end of each month, a student of the month will be awarded a certificate for displaying that character trait consistently.

“We want the students to understand and identify these important character traits,” said Yvonne Thomas, Ahfachkee guidance counselor. “When they know what they really mean, they can implement them every day.”

The eight character traits are cooperation, responsibility, citizenship, kindness, respect, honesty, self-control and tolerance.

“These traits will create strong leaders,” said Principal Dorothy Cain. “We know studying these traits will make strong, well rounded students and citizens.”

The curriculum is based on other successful existing programs, but it has been tailored for Ahfachkee with its small and homogeneous student population.

Character education programs have been shown to develop a positive school atmosphere, reduce the number of discipline referrals, increase academic achievement, reduce absenteeism and guide students into leadership roles.

“Students will practice the traits all year,” Cain said. “One trait will build on another so they become part of students’ everyday life. Leaders exhibit those traits and we want our kids to be leaders.”

The traits appear to be straight-forward, but it cannot be assumed that students understand the true meaning of the words. That’s where the activities and integration into the curriculum come in; by the end of the month the students should understand and demonstrate those characteristics.

To bolster the monthly message, starting in October, Thomas will include the program in the 21st Century after school program with a group for third-to-fifth-graders, complete with fun activities and projects.

“The program will allow students to make better choices, get along with everyone and become a productive member of society,” Thomas said. “We hope this program will make our school a better place.”



Trystan Yzaguirre gets in the “U” mindset, or handset, on the University of Miami’s Coral Gables campus Aug. 18.

Courtesy photo

# Tribe's Boys & Girls Clubs bask in Day for Kids

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida held its annual Day for Kids celebration in Big Cypress, Brighton,

Hollywood and Immokalee during the week of September 10. The menu included face painting, balloon art, air brush, caricaturists,

interactive magic shows and food for the kids and their families.



Kids at the Boys & Girls Club in Hollywood joyfully react to participating in the annual Day for Kids on Sept. 14.

Derrick Tiger



Beverly Bidney

Nayeli Mariscal made her snow cone just the way she likes it, with a host of different flavors, at the Immokalee Boys & Girls Club Day for Kids festivities.



At left, Faith Billie adds flavored syrup to her snow cone at the Immokalee Day for Kids event Sept. 13.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, T-shirts for everyone are on display at the Immokalee Boys & Girls Club for the Day for Kids celebration Sept. 13. Below, Zialah Cantu sits patiently as face painting artist Marcela Murad creates a masterpiece on her face.



Derrick Tiger (2)

Above and at left, kids at the Boys & Girls Club in Hollywood enjoy face painting and balloons during the Day For Kids celebration.



## Pemayetv Emahakv Students of the Month - August

### Elementary

- Serenity Bishop
- Kalliope Puente
- Aries Seranno
- Dylan Peak
- Egypt Adium
- Nakoa Smiley
- Nevaeh Gopher
- Okalani Collins
- Hayden Nunez
- Ross Jones
- Aurelius Lara
- Azariah Washington
- Melaine Bonilla
- Heidi Thomas
- Meleah Billie
- Ila Trueblood
- Adarius Ford
- Rylee Bowers
- Alyssa Madrigal
- Lason Baker
- Keanu Bert



- Etanis Torres
- Troy Billie

### Middle

- Clissa Huff
- Nena Youngblood
- Jace Brown



# Arts & Entertainment

## Seminoles are center stage at first Hard Rock Cobra Circle event

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — A few dozen members of the NSU Cobra Circle gathered at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on Sept. 5 for a networking event that featured displays of Native art and clothing.

The Nova Southeastern University leadership group includes two Seminole families, those of Melissa Osceola Demayo and France Blais-Billie. The two were on hand with their respective daughters, some who had created art that was on display in the casino's L Bar area.

The invitation-only membership group is part of the NSU Art Museum. The focus of organizers is to "develop the next generation of leaders in Fort Lauderdale." It was the first time Hard Rock had hosted an event for



Damon Scott

From left, Melissa Osceola Demayo, Dante Blais-Billie, Tia Blais-Billie and France Blais-Billie gather for a photo at the NSU Cobra Circle event Sept. 5 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.



Damon Scott

A painting by Tia Blais-Billie.



Damon Scott

One of Donna Frank's baskets was on display at the event.

the Cobra Circle.

Bonnie Clearwater, the director and chief curator for the NSU Art Museum, was at the event with Miles Forman, the secretary of the museum's board of governors. Clearwater is also an art historian and curator with a focus on contemporary multicultural art.

Cobra Circle was launched soon after she became director of the museum about four years ago.

"This is an important next generation of leaders group, and it was essential that it was comprised of professionals and creatives from throughout the region and representative of the diversity that makes South Florida so dynamic," Clearwater said. "It builds relationships between professionals and creatives in order to forge a stronger community, and for knowledgeable and committed young supporters for the

museum and the arts."

Clearwater said it had long been a goal of the group to do an event at the Hard Rock that would feature contemporary design and art by Seminole artists.

The name "Cobra" is used, said Clearwater, because the museum is famed for its collection of post war avant-garde artists known as "CoBrA" — after the international cities where they lived: Copenhagen, Brussels and Amsterdam.

### Seminole leaders

The founding members of the group are Osceola Demayo and Blais-Billie.

Osceola Demayo displayed some of her Native clothing at the event.

"With everything I had on display, I was trying to show a more modern approach

to traditional clothes, using materials in different applications," she said.

Osceola Demayo said she started to learn to sew when she was young. After college, she started to sew a lot more and entered several Tribal contests.

Blais-Billie and Osceola Demayo have known each other for years, as their homes are a couple blocks from each other in Hollywood.

Blais-Billie and her daughters, Tia and Dante, have also been members of the Cobra Circle since the beginning. The family has attended several museum events and trips.

Tia had art work on display at the L Bar event, and Dante was the curator.

Dante is a student at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, scheduled to graduate next spring with a major in art

history and business management. Tia is a recent graduate from the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, with a bachelor of fine arts in illustration. She says her work often incorporates motifs of pattern and traditional Seminole culture, alongside themes of identity and family.

"[I] strive to investigate the duality of living as an Indigenous artist in modern America," Tia said.

In addition, Seminole Donna Frank had one of her baskets on display at the event. Of the Panther Clan, Frank is one of the few Seminole women still currently making baskets.

The NSU Art Museum is located at One East Las Olas Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale.



Damon Scott

Clarice Demayo, left, and her mother Melissa Osceola Demayo stand between two of Melissa's designs at the NSU Cobra Circle gathering. Clarice is also wearing one of her mother's designs.

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# Native American Music Awards to be held Oct. 12 in NY

BY DERRICK TIGER  
Staff Reporter

The 18th annual Native American Music Awards will take place Oct. 12 at the Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino in Niagara Falls, New York. The awards show has been held in New York for its nine previous ceremonies. The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood being its last venture outside of The Empire State back in 2006.

Founded in 1998 by music producer Ellen Bello, the Native American Music Awards & Association has been honoring contemporary and traditional Native American music for the past 20 years. On Sept. 10 the association announced some 200 plus nominees for awards in its 33 categories.

Native American folk singer Annie Humphrey is one of six musicians up for the Artist of the Year award, and nominated in six other categories as well. Humphrey was raised on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota, and is of Ojibwe heritage. Making her solo debut in 1995 she is no stranger to the indigenous music scene. With three awards under her belt for Best Female Artist and Best Folk Music in 2001, and Best Music Video in 2003. Apart from her music career she is also recognized as a proficient painter, and has dedicated many years teaching art to children.

On the ballot for Best Female Artist is Christian singer/songwriter Callie Bennett. Representing the Navajo Nation, Bennett has had an interesting and unique upbringing. As an infant she was adopted from Seoul, South Korea, by Navajo pastor Ellison Bennett and his wife Debra. Growing up, Bennett was fully embraced by the people of the Navajo Tribe. Callie Bennett proudly identifies as a Navajo Indian. In 2017, she took home the Native American Music Award for Best Gospel Inspirational, and recently won Best Gospel Album at the 2018 Indigenous Music Awards. Bennett is another notable musician with multiple nominations this year including Best Pop Recording, Best Americana Recording, and Song of the Year.

Another talent coming out of Navajo country is blues-rock guitarist and singer Levi Platero, nominee for Best Blues Recording which he won last year. Platero is from Tohajiilee, New Mexico, and has been performing on stage since the age of 12. He is the lead singer of a family band called The Plateros, with his cousins Douglas Platero on drums, and Bronson Begay on bass. The band established a strong presence over their 10 years of touring, even catching



Navajo Nation's Levi Platero is nominated for Best Blues Recording.

the attention, and being offered to become members of the band Indigenous. After a year on the road with Indigenous, Platero decided to go solo, and has been releasing new material with his former band renamed Levi Platero since 2016.

Slated for the prestigious Flutist of the Year award is Tommy Wildcat. Born and raised in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Wildcat is a Cherokee Nation descendant and cultural specialist with a bachelor's degree in Cherokee Cultural Studies from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He is a self-taught flutist, flute maker, and lecturer. He has made several appearances at festivals, pow-wows, and colleges. Wildcat won Best Flutist in 2002. This year he is also nominated for Best Historical or Linguistic Recording and Best Traditional Recording.

No musicians from the Seminole Tribe have been nominated this year. Spencer Battiest is the most recent nominee from the Tribe. Not only was he nominated for Best Pop Recording in 2016, but he also won the award. Former Seminole Chairman James Billie is a two-time winner, having won nearly two decades ago for Debut Artist and Living Legend. Also, the band Tiger Tiger with front man Lee Tiger of Miccosukee heritage was honored with a Lifetime Achievement award in 2006.

For more information about the Native



Courtesy photo

Callie Bennett representing the Navajo Nation is nominated for Best Female Artist.

American Music Awards, and where to watch, head over to [nativeamericanmusicawards.com](http://nativeamericanmusicawards.com).

# Dog's life spurs partnership with Seminole, former Tribal employee

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

When Peggie Reynolds worked for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, she often traveled and was away from her Broward County home for days or weeks at a time. In advance of those work trips, Reynolds would make preparations for her Maltipoo puppy Maia – “mostly Maltese, a little bit Poodle” – to stay with her parents in eastern Ohio.

As often happens with furry four-legged creatures and those who care for them, a bond was formed between the “human grandparents” (as Reynolds describes it) and little Maia.

Reynolds' mother, Sarah Reynolds, would keep her daughter up-to-date via email with what was happening with Maia, but would write the emails as if Maia was the author.

Those emails eventually formed the basis for a children's book – “Hi, Mom ~ It's Maia.” The book was written by Sarah Reynolds and illustrated by Tribal Member Bonnie Motlow. Since Sarah Reynolds and Maia are no longer alive, Peggie Reynolds, the book's developer and editor, hopes to honor their memory by promoting the book.

She says it's a great read, especially for kids 5-to-10 years old.

“Ohio isn't anything like Florida and during each visit with her grandparents, Maia learned many new things about small town life and the wonders of the Ohio countryside,” Peggie Reynolds says in the book's introduction.

Sarah Reynolds writes a first person message to readers before Maia's voice takes over in the book's remaining pages.

“Maia is our grand doggy. ... She plays tug of war with her toys, loves to look out of the picture window and bark at people walking along the road. She howls with the neighborhood dogs, likes to drink water from the faucet in the bathroom, wakes

us up in the morning, hates to get her face washed and shreds tissues to little pieces,” she writes.

Motlow's illustrations are found throughout the book, which Reynolds says brings the character of Maia to life. Readers will see sketches related to different scenes during Maia's stay in Ohio.

Motlow has several family members who are also artists. She says her sister Josephine taught her how to draw. Motlow taught her niece – Erica Dietz – how to draw as well. Dietz would go on to attend art school.

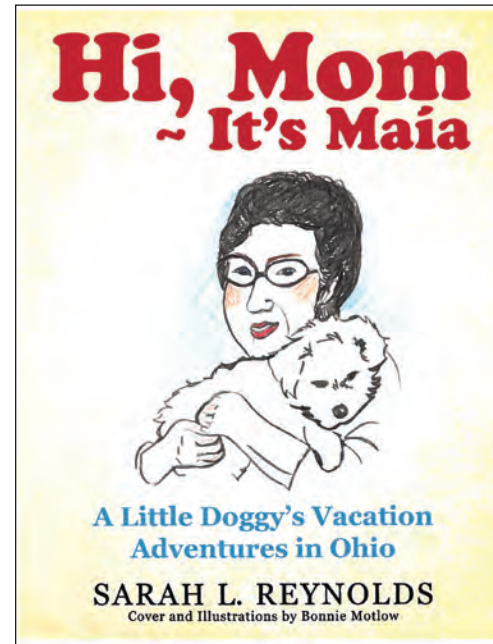
Reynolds and Motlow are now developing a book reading and presentation for small groups of children in Tribal and off-reservation communities.

“In addition to reading the stories from the book, the sessions will include a PowerPoint presentation and discussion questions with a focus on providing Bonnie's artwork to the children in the form of postcards, stickers, bookmarks and in-person drawings,” Reynolds said.

The duo is also in the planning stage of book-signing events at libraries, children's shops and bookstores. “Hi, Mom ~ It's Maia” features a page of discussion questions allowing kids to “explore their own thoughts and feelings about Maia's adventures and family relationships, as well as the differences and similarities between Ohio and the state they live in.”

Reynolds worked for the Seminole Tribe for 40 years, from 1976 to 2016. She was a government relations liaison, assistant to the chief operations officer, grants coordinator, assistant director of housing and a drug abuse counselor, among other positions.

Those interested in a copy of the book can contact Reynolds at [pemporium@outlook.com](mailto:pemporium@outlook.com). The book is available online through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



# Women of Seminole Gaming partner with Martha's House for Operation Backpack

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**BRIGHTON** — As part of its outreach program, the Women of Seminole Gaming (WoSG) Brighton recently delivered its second major donation to Martha's House, the shelter and advocacy organization for victims of domestic abuse in Okeechobee.

The donation marks the completion of Operation Backpack, whose goal it was to provide 100 pre-packed backpacks, for all grades, to Martha's House by the start of the school year.

The group actually exceeded its goal by delivering 101 pre-packed backpacks as well as nearly 100 empty backpacks and school supplies. The donation was enough to ensure Martha's House will be able to supply the children in their care for the entire school year.

WoSG Brighton, a group of five ladies from Seminole Brighton Casino, began a partnership with Martha's House in March. Their first fundraiser for the nonprofit organization was in May – a Dunk Tank/Pie-in-the-Face event – which included various executives from both Seminole Brighton Casino and Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee. The event raised more than \$1,000 and provided Martha's House critically needed funds to restock their pantry.

Operation Backpack garnered donations from the Women of Seminole Gaming teams representing all six Seminole properties in Florida. The donations were sorted and



backpacks packed by a cadre of Seminole Brighton Casino team members, using the lists garnered from the Okeechobee Schools.

“I am completely in awe of the outpouring of generosity from all of the Women of Seminole Gaming teams,” said Regina Moore, Team Leader for Women of Seminole Gaming Brighton. “I cannot express enough appreciation for the support we've received from both the women across the Seminole Casinos and from the ‘Packin’ Posse’ who worked so hard to get the backpacks and supplies ready.”

The Women of Seminole Gaming was founded in 2015 by a group of female leaders from across the company. The Seminole Brighton Casino group formed in February.

The program consists of three major branches – Mentorship, Networking and Education. The group's purpose is to incorporate current female professionals from both within and outside the organization to serve as examples for Seminole team members to grow and develop both personally and professionally.

Martha's House is a private, 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization dedicated to working to end domestic violence and to serve survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Martha's House, Inc. operates a 24-bed emergency shelter, which cares for over 200 school aged children per year; a 24-hour hotline, and provides outreach services, training, violence prevention education, court hearing accompaniment and injunction assistance, victim's compensation and more in Okeechobee County.

# Beach Boys to play at Hard Rock in February

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — American icons 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. Tickets are on sale now.

Since lead man Mike Love penned the lyrics to The Beach Boys' first hit, “Surfin’,” dozens of the bands chart toppers have become staple anthems of American youth: “Surfin’ USA,” “Surfer Girl,” “Fun, Fun, Fun,” “I Get Around,” “California Girls,” “Help Me Rhonda,” “Barbara Ann,” “Good Vibrations,” “Wouldn't It Be Nice,” “Rock and Roll Music,” and “Kokomo.”

The Beach Boys have sold more than 100 million records worldwide and have received more than 33 RIAA Platinum and Gold record awards. The Rock And Roll Hall of Famers were also honored at the 2001 Grammy Awards with the Lifetime Achievement Award. With more than five decades of touring under their belts, The Beach Boys have performed more concerts than any major rock band in history.

“Sounds of Summer: The Very Best of The Beach Boys,” Capitol/EMI's 30-track collection of the band's biggest hits, has achieved triple-platinum success with sales of more than 3 million copies in the U.S. since its release.

The Beach Boys are led by Mike Love and Bruce Johnston, who along with Jeffrey Foskett, Tim Bonhomme, John Cowshell, 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. All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com), [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or charge by phone: 1-800-745-3000. Explore the new Hard Rock Event Center with a 360-degree virtual seat map of the venue at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com). Doors open one hour prior to show start time. Additional fees may apply.



Kevin Johnson (left), courtesy photo (right)

Illustrator Bonnie Motlow, left, and author Sarah Reynolds with Maia.

## 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](http://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 <b>COMPLETE</b>
2	Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon	Beginning May 2018 <b>COMPLETE</b>
3	Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin	Beginning June 2018 <b>COMPLETE</b>
4	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont	Beginning July 2018
5	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina	Beginning August 2018
6	Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming	After August 2018
7	Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Virgin Islands	After August 2018



# PBS series takes long-awaited deep dive into Native American culture

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The first of a four-part series featuring Native Americans is scheduled to air on PBS on Oct. 23.

The producers of "Native America" describe the series as a combination of "modern science and scholarship with Native American traditions and oral history to bring to life the world created by America's first peoples."

It's being called the first extensive analysis into Native culture in a decade and one of the most elaborate.

Representatives from Providence Pictures added that the series "illuminates the splendor of a past whose story has for too long remained untold."

Producers said they were given "remarkable access" to Native American communities for the special. The cameras go behind the scenes at special events, including a pilgrimage to ancestral ruins at Chaco Canyon in New Mexico. Viewers will experience "a trek across lost territories in the American West, and an investiture ceremony for a chief in the Pacific Northwest surrounded by cedar totem poles and centuries of tradition," a news release said.

"Tribal members and descendant communities, whose ancestors built this world, share their stories, revealing long-held oral traditions as the thread that runs through the past to these living cultures today," the release stated.

Cara White, of public relations firm CaraMar Inc., said that while the Seminole Tribe of Florida is not featured in the series, there is a connection.

White said Tampa's PBS affiliate, WEDU, is working with Dr. Paul Backhouse, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Office, on two events. The first event is Oct. 30 at the South Florida Museum in Bradenton and the other is Nov. 5 at the Tampa Theatre. Those interested in the events should contact WEDU for more details.

"The producers of Native America worked closely with a diverse group of Native communities and participants from across the U.S., Canada and Central and



Providence Pictures

Morgan Tosee has kept the Comanche people's special connection to the horse alive for generations.

South America, but were not able to include every one of the hundreds of other nations and tribes," White said in a statement to The Seminole Tribune.

"While each episode is anchored by one particular Native People and a specific North American site, the series focuses on the deep cultural, spiritual and social connections shared in common and the diversity of expressions of those common beliefs," she said.

Each episode is narrated by Robbie

Robertson of the Mohawk Tribe, who is also a member of the rock group "The Band." The executive producer and director for Providence Pictures is Gary Glassman.

PBS is hosting a companion website for the series, which can be found at pbs.org. Classroom resources are available at pbslearningmedia.org, which teachers can access for free.

The following are abbreviated synopses of the episodes from PBS with dates and times. (Times listed are EST). PBS



Providence Pictures

Onondaga tribal member Angela Ferguson keeps her people fed through a mastery of maize cultivation that goes back to time immemorial.



Providence Pictures

For the Amah Mutsun Tribe of California, controlled burns represent a way to take care of and reinforce their connection to the forest.

representatives suggest viewers check local listings for the most up-to-date information.

**Episode one: "From Caves to Cosmos"** – Oct. 23 from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Combine ancient wisdom and modern science to answer a 15,000-year-old question: who were America's First Peoples? The answer hides in Amazonian cave paintings, Mexican burial chambers, New Mexico's Chaco Canyon and waves off California's coast.

**Episode two: "Nature to Nations"** – Oct. 30 from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Explore the rise of great American nations, from monarchies to democracies. Investigate lost cities in Mexico, a temple in Peru, a potlatch ceremony in the Pacific Northwest and a tapestry of shell beads in upstate New York whose story inspired our own democracy.

**Episode three: "Cities of the Sky"** – Nov. 13 from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Discover the cosmological secrets behind America's ancient cities. Scientists explore some of the world's largest pyramids and 3D-scan a lost city of monumental mounds on the Mississippi River; native elders reveal ancient powers of the sky.

**Episode four: "New World Rising"** – Nov. 13 from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Discover how resistance, survival and revival are revealed through an empire of horse-mounted Comanche warriors, secret messages encoded in an Aztec manuscript and a grass bridge in the Andes that spans mountains and centuries.

The series will also stream for free following each broadcast and will be available on other formats. A DVD copy of the series can be purchased at shoppbs.org. Go to pbs.org for more information.



Providence Pictures

Comanche artist Jhane Myers and archaeologist Severin Fowles search the Rio Grande Gorge for an ancient Comanche tipi encampment.

# Native American Hall of Fame to welcome 2018 inductees

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**PHOENIX** — The Native American Hall of Fame will hold its induction ceremony for the Class of 2018 on Oct. 13 at Phoenix Indian Memorial Hall in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Hall of Fame's criteria for induction includes that every candidate must be Native American or Alaskan Native, must either be federally-enrolled, part of a state-recognized tribe or have verifiable Native descentancy with strong and verifiable ties to their respective communities.

Criteria topics included the following: Leadership — Tribal Leader or leader of an effort that earned respect and regard for their accomplishments

Sacrifice — Sacrificed themselves or their own personal interests for the greater good

Contributions to Indian Country — Their work or efforts benefited Indian country or benefited understanding to those outside of Indian Country

Mentorship — Contributed to youth, fellow professionals, elders or other tribal members due to their work for the betterment of Indian Country and serving as a role model

Legacy — Their work or efforts benefited policy, public regard, tribal relationships or other national regard in a way that bettered Indian country for generations that followed or will follow.

Accomplishments — They made a nationally recognized or well-warranted accomplishment that brought Indian country into a national or international positive spotlight. They could have been the first in their field or profession.

Here are the 2018 Hall of Fame inductees:

## EDUCATION

**Lionel Bordeaux (Sicangu Lakota) (1940-)**

Dr. Lionel Bordeaux is a long-time educator and was the first president of Sinte Gleska College on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. He has received many honors over the years, including Outstanding Educator of the Year by the South Dakota Indian Education Association and has been inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame. Today, he continues to serve as president of Sinte Gleska College, making him the longest-serving college president in the United States.

## ADVOCACY

**Elouise Cobell / Yellow Bird Woman (Blackfeet) (1945-2011)**

A respected tribal elder, Cobell was the lead plaintiff in the groundbreaking class-action suit Cobell v. Salazar that challenged the United States' mismanagement of trust funds belonging to more than 500,000 individual Native Americans. She was instrumental in the U.S. government awarding \$3.4 billion settlement for the trust case, the largest settlement in history.

## WRITING/PUBLISHING

**Vine Deloria, Jr. (Standing Rock Sioux) (1935-2005)**

Author, theologian, lawyer, historian and activist, Vine Deloria, Jr. is widely known for his book, "Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto" (1969), which helped generate national attention to Native American issues in the same year as the Alcatraz-Red Power Movement. He is known to many as the leading Native American intellectual of the 20th century and a giant in the realm of Native American policy.

## ADVOCACY

**LaDonna Harris (Comanche Nation) (1931-)**

Ladonna Harris is founder and president of Americans for Indian Opportunity. As a national leader, she has influenced the agendas of civil rights, feminist, environmental and world peace movements. She was a founding member of Common Cause and the National Urban Coalition and is an ardent spokesperson against poverty and for social

injustice. As an advocate for women's rights, she was an original convener of the National Women's Political Caucus. She was the 1980 vice presidential nominee on the Citizens Party ticket with Barry Commoner.

## SCIENCE

**John Herrington (Chickasaw) (1958-)** John Herrington is a retired United States Naval Aviator and former NASA astronaut. He was the first enrolled member of a Native tribe to fly in space.

## ARTS

**Allan Houser (Chiricahua Apache) (1914-1994)**

Allan Houser was a sculptor, painter and book illustrator. He is one of the most renowned Native American painters and Modernist sculptors of the 20th century. His work is in the collections of prominent museums throughout the world.

## GOVERNMENT/LEADERSHIP

**Wilma Mankiller (Cherokee Nation) (1945-2010)**

Wilma Mankiller was a community organizer and the first woman elected to serve as principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. She is the author of a national best-selling autobiography, "Mankiller: A Chief and Her People."

## ATHLETICS

**Billy Mills (Oglala Lakota) (1938-)**

Billy Mills was an Olympic Gold Medalist in 10,000-meter run at the 1964 Olympics, at the time was the only person from the Western Hemisphere to win the Olympic gold in this event. He was awarded the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal (the second highest civilian award in the U.S.) by President Obama, for his work with his organization Running Strong for American Indian Youth.

## WRITING/PUBLISHING

**N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa) (1934-)**

N. Scott Momaday is a novelist, short story writer, essayist and poet. His novel, "House Made of Dawn" (1969) was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. He received the National Medal of Arts in 2007 and holds 20 honorary degrees from colleges and universities and is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

## MILITARY

**Lori Piestewa (Hopi) (1979-2003)**

United States Army soldier Lori Piestewa as the first Native American woman in history to die in combat while serving in the U.S. military and the first woman killed in the Iraq War. Piestewa Peak in Arizona is named in her honor.

## ARTS

**Maria Tallchief (Osage) (1925-2013)**

Tallchief was an American ballerina and was considered America's first prima ballerina, the first Native American to hold that rank. She became the first star of the New York City Ballet, co-founded in 1946 by legendary choreographer George Balanchine. Tallchief's 1949 role in The Firebird catapulted her to the top of the ballet world. Her role as the Sugarplum Fairy in The Nutcracker transformed the ballet to America's most popular. She was the first American to perform in Moscow's Bolshoi Theater.

## ATHLETICS

**Jim Thorpe (Sac and Fox) (1887-1953)**

Athlete and the first Native American to win Olympic gold medals for the United States, Thorpe is considered one of the most versatile athletes of modern sports. He won Olympic gold medals in the 1912 pentathlon and decathlon, and played American football (collegiate and professional), professional baseball and basketball. The Associated Press named Thorpe the "greatest athlete" from the first 50 years of the 20th century, and the Pro Football Hall of Fame inducted him as part of its 1963 inaugural class.

# Comedian Ron White comes to Hard Rock

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Comedian Ron White will perform at Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. The show's content is intended for mature audiences.

White first rose to fame as the cigar-smoking, scotch-drinking funnyman from the "Blue Color Comedy Tour" and has

## MONOXIDE

From page 9A

year from CO, the colorless, odorless and tasteless "silent killer" emitted by incomplete combustion of fossil fuels. But CO poisonings are easily preventable.

Here are four ways to stay safe, from the Seminole Tribe Emergency Management, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Florida Department of Health:

Generators — NEVER run a portable generator inside the house, garage or any enclosed area. Keep them at least 20 feet

from any door, window, vent or car so fumes do not seep inside. If a neighbor is using a generator, make sure it's not too close to your home.

Example: After Hurricane Irma last year, at least six Floridians died — including a mom, two teens and a 7-year-old — from generators running in or near the home. At least 60 others were hospitalized from generator CO fumes.

Many people set up generators close in fear they will be stolen. Instead, protect it by chaining it, putting it inside a locked fence (with wheels removed) or bolting a metal plate on the bottom and parking the car on

# Snoop Dogg to perform at Hard Rock Event Center

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Legendary rapper Snoop Dogg with special guests Tha Luniz and Afroman are coming to Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood on Dec. 20 at 8 p.m.

Calvin Broadus, Jr., known professionally as Snoop Dogg, is an American rapper, singer, songwriter, record producer, television personality and actor. Snoop Dogg has sold more than 35 million records worldwide and has been featured in numerous films including "The Wrecking Crew," "Bones," "The Wash," "The Tenants," "Mac & Devin Go to High School,"

and "Scary Movie 5." Snoop Dogg has also appeared in several scripted television shows, and starred in his own reality show, "Snoop & Son, A Dad's Dream." Snoop Dogg currently hosts "Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party" and a popular game show, "The Joker's Wild."

Tickets cost \$155, \$130, \$90 and \$70. All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com), [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or charge by phone: 1-800-745-3000. Explore the new Hard Rock Event Center with a 360-degree virtual seat map of the venue at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com). Doors open one hour prior to show start time. Additional fees may apply.



Uncle Snoops Army

Snoop Dogg comes to Hard Rock in Hollywood on Dec. 20.

# Global Indigenous Forum to host events at FIU

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**MIAMI** — Florida International University's Global Indigenous Forum will be holding the following events on campus as part of a week of activities for FIU Indigenous Day. All events are free and open to the public. For more information call 305-348-2262 or go to <http://indigenous.fiu.edu/>.

**Oct. 8 - FIU Indigenous Peoples Day.** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tables of various Indigenous related organizations and clubs greet and talk about their purposes, activities, and concerns. On the lawn north of the GC building. Organized by the student club, the Global Indigenous Group (GIG).

**Oct. 10 - Hispanic Heritage: The Significance of the Marginalization and Erasure of Indigenous Identities in the Americas?** 4 p.m. SIDA 220.

This talk focuses on agency and Indigenous identity through music performance in Peru and the United

States. Presented by members of the Kuyayky Foundation. Hosted by the Global Indigenous Group and co-sponsored by the Global Indigenous Forum.

**Oct. 11 - "Not a Statistic: Indigenous Women, Global Challenges."** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CBC 254.

Panelists will lead a discussion on the many challenges facing Indigenous women globally with topics such as disparate rates of missing and murdered Indigenous women compared to other ethnicities, social status, political influences, positions in academia, roles in society, and roles in the economy. The discussion will also be providing perspectives from Indigenous women who know their culture and can share what their culture says about the importance and the role of the woman in their environment from a cultural perspective. Organized by the Global Indigenous Group and co-sponsored by the Global Indigenous Forum.

Panelists:  
Betty Osceola, Miccosukee Tribal

Member.

Dr. Maria-Luisa Veisaga, Quechua from Bolivia. FIU Senior Lab Specialist Researcher, Biological Sciences.

Dr. Bina Sengar, FIU Fulbright Faculty Fellow from India, Dept. of Global and Sociocultural Studies.

Moderator: Dr. Michaela Moura-Kocoglu, FIU Instructor in Women and Gender Studies.

**Oct. 23 - Indigenous African Traditions of Peace and Reconciliation in Kenya.** 6 p.m. GC 118.

Lecture by Dr. Sultan Somjee. Religious Studies Alumni Dinner Lecture.

Former head of Ethnography at the National Museums of Kenya. Founder of the Community Peace Museums Programme and Foundation, and the Asian African Heritage Trust in Kenya.

Free and open to the public. RSVP with [LuzAviles@fiu.edu](mailto:LuzAviles@fiu.edu).

# Iggy Azalea brings 'The Bad Girl Tour' to Hard Rock Event Center

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Multi-platinum and Grammy-nominated hip-hop sensation Iggy Azalea kicks off "The Bad Girl Tour" at Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood on Oct. 27, at 8 p.m.

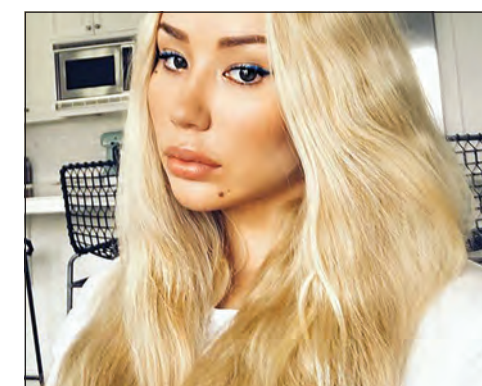
"The Bad Girl Tour" announcement comes a few weeks after the release of Azalea's EP "Survive the Summer" featuring the chart-topping hit, "Kream" feat. Tyga, which opened with more than 8.1 million

U.S. streams within the first week.

Tickets cost \$90, \$70, \$55 and \$40. All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com), [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or charge by phone: 1-800-745-3000. Explore the new Hard Rock Event Center with a 360-degree virtual seat map of the venue at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com).

Iggy Azalea website

Iggy Azalea will be at Hard Rock in Hollywood on Oct. 27.



# Blood Sweat & Tears to perform at Seminole Casino Hotel

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**IMMOKALEE** — Blood Sweat & Tears will perform in concert at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee on Feb. 28, 2019 at 8 p.m., with doors opening at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$69 and are available at 1-800-514-ETIX or online at [moreinparadise.com](http://moreinparadise.com) or [jaytv.com/florida](http://jaytv.com/florida). Attendees must be 21 years of age.

It's been five decades since drummer/

producer Bobby Colomby and friends assembled the first group to successfully blend rock and jazz into a genre-crossing sound and style. So successfully in fact, that the band's second album, "Blood, Sweat & Tears," topped the Billboard charts for many weeks and beat out the Beatles' "Abbey Road" for the prestigious Album of the Year Grammy award. That album produced three major hit singles: "You Made me so Very Happy," "Spinning Wheel," and "And When I Die." BS&T has won three Grammy's and

has been nominated more than 10 times.

It has been 50 years since the release of the ground breaking "Child is Father to the Man" album and the band has never looked back. More than 200 talented musicians and singers have passed through the doors of the musical institution that is BS&T. Many have gone on to careers of their own Randy Brecker, Jaco Pastorius, Joe Henderson, Lew Soloff, Lou Marini Jr., Mike Stern, Tom Malone, Dave Bargeron and many more.

# George Thorogood and Destroyers ready to rock Coconut Creek

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**COCONUT CREEK** — George Thorogood and The Destroyers will bring their "Rock Party Tour" to The Pavilion at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek on Oct. 19, at 8 p.m.

Tickets (priced at \$40/\$50/\$60) are on sale via Ticketmaster locations, online at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com), or by calling 800-653-8000. The Pavilion box office will also open at 1 p.m. on the day of the show for on-site ticket purchases and will call pickup.

The group is donating proceeds from different concerts on their "Rock Party Tour" to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) to help find cures and ensure access to treatments for blood cancer patients. One dollar from every ticket sold for the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek show will

go to the charity.

Performing a mix of blues rock and boogie rock, Thorogood and his band became a staple of 1980's rock radio after producing such hits as "Bad to the Bone" and "I Drink Alone." The former was the band's first top 40 single.

Other notable Thorogood hits include "Move It on Over," "Who Do You Love," and "House Rent Boogie/One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer."

Thorogood's first-ever solo (and most current) album, Party of One, landed in the Top 10 on Soundscan's "Top Current Blues Albums" chart when it was released in 2017, marking his fastest-selling album in nearly 20 years. The album features 14 cuts of traditional blues, classics and modern blues songs, from John Lee Hooker's "One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer" to Hank Williams' "Pictures From Life's Other

Side."

Over the course of the last four decades, Thorogood, with his longtime legendary band — Jeff Simon (drums, percussion), Bill Blough (bass guitar), Jim Suhler (rhythm guitar) and Buddy Leach (saxophone) — has sold more than 15 million albums and released 16 studio albums including six gold and two platinum discs. They have performed more than 8,000 live shows.

An avid baseball fan (he played semi-pro ball during the 1970's), Thorogood, who hails from Wilmington, Delaware, was named in 2012 one of the "50 Most Influential Delawareans of the Past 50 Years."

For more information about George Thorogood and The Destroyers, please visit [www.georgethorogood.com](http://www.georgethorogood.com)

the plate.

Grills, BBQs, etc. — NEVER cook with fossil fuel (propane gas, charcoal, kerosene, etc.) inside an enclosed area. Like generators, keep them at least 20 feet away from openings to the house or car.

Example: After Irma passed, a family of eight in Lauderdale Lakes was hospitalized after their stove broke and they set up a makeshift charcoal cooker in the house using an old metal car wheel.

Heating — NEVER use a gas stove to heat the home. It can emit deadly CO for hours undetected, or the flame can go out by mistake and quickly fill the home with

natural gas.

CO detectors — For your family's safety, install a carbon monoxide detector outside every sleeping area, and on every floor. Models start at \$20; combination smoke / CO detectors start at \$30.

Models run by batteries, plugging into a wall socket with a battery backup, wired to electricity with a battery backup, or powered by a 10-year lithium battery. In all cases, test the units and/or batteries yearly.

More information:  
Seminole Tribe Emergency Management, 954-967-3750 or <http://em.semtribe.com>

Consumer Protect Safety Commission, [www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Carbon-Monoxide-Information-Center](http://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Carbon-Monoxide-Information-Center)

Florida Department of Health, [www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/carbon-monoxide](http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/carbon-monoxide)

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, [www.cdc.gov/co](http://www.cdc.gov/co)

Get involved: Call DOH-Broward at 954-213-0607 to obtain an educational Power Point presentation or written materials to distribute.

# Sports



## Ready to run: Ahfachkee cross country team starts season in Pine Crest meet

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

COCONUT CREEK — No experience. No problem.

For the only three runners on this year's Ahfachkee School cross country team, the Pine Crest Invitational on Sept. 21 marked their first-ever cross country race. All three — Leslie Gopher Jr., Jeremiah Pickup and Ezekiel Billie — accomplished the goal of just about any competitive runner: cross the finish line.

The meet featured hundreds of runners and about two dozen schools, mostly from Broward, Dade and Palm Beach counties, on a sweltering, sun-splashed afternoon at



Kevin Johnson

Leslie Gopher Jr. crosses the finish line at the Pine Crest Cross Country Invitational's combined boys and girls junior varsity 5K.

Tradewinds Park.

Gopher and Pickup competed in the combined boys and girls junior varsity 5K (3.1 miles). Gopher, a senior, finished in exactly 28 minutes while Pickup, a freshman, crossed the line in 31:25. Billie, a sixth-grader, finished the boys middle school 3K (about 2 miles) in 18:26.

"It was all right. It was tough at the end. I was happy to finish. I just wanted to get it done," Gopher said moments after he finished in 22nd place out of 49 boys in the race.

Despite running in his first race, Gopher said he wasn't nervous. He said he wished he had started running cross country earlier in high school.

"This is my last year, so I wanted to do it. I wanted to try it. I liked it," he said.

Ahfachkee coach Matthew Beckham liked what he saw, too. It was only a couple days before the race that Gopher ran the 5K distance for the first time in practice. In the Pine Crest race, he ran a smooth, solid pace and never struggled.

"Les has done good. He's pretty much been the only one that's been to practice every day. He's a good leader. He's quiet and humble, but he sets the tone for other kids," Beckham said. "He knows how to



Kevin Johnson

The 2018 Ahfachkee School cross country team gathers under a tree at Tradewinds Park in Coconut Creek for a team photo Sept. 21 prior to its race in the Pine Crest Cross Country Invitational. From left, assistant coach Gualberto Mollins, freshman Jeremiah Pickup, sixth-grader Ezekiel Billie, senior Leslie Gopher Jr. and head coach Matthew Beckham.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee's Ezekiel Billie (10) competes in the Pine Crest Cross Country Invitational's middle school boys 3K on Sept. 21 at Tradewinds Park in Coconut Creek.

pace himself. Experience is the key, and I think he's getting the experience that will help him in the long run. When districts come, hopefully he'll be in his best shape."

Gopher and Pickup ran about one-third of the race side-by-side before Gopher started to pull further ahead. He didn't remember separating from his teammate.

"I was so focused," said Gopher, sounding like a veteran runner.

Pickup, who finished 29th, said the first two laps around the course were easy, but the final lap was tough. That's when he began to feel the draining effects from his first race.

"I was tired," said Pickup, who had missed some practice time due to an injury.

Knowing that basketball is Pickup's primary sport — he had an outstanding season for Ahfachkee last winter — Beckham pulled out his phone and asked into it how many miles does a basketball player run in a game. The response was 2.72 miles. Beckham immediately relayed that tidbit to Pickup and explained how cross country will help prep him for the basketball season.

"Jeremiah did fantastic for his first time. He has a promising future. The sky is the limit for him as long as he shows up and puts in the work," Beckham said.

After the JV race, the middle schoolers took center stage. Billie looked right at home in his first race, running in the middle of the pack for most of the race in a huge field of 149 boys. He ended up finishing 125th. Afterward, Billie said it was tougher than he expected.

"Tiring," he said.

Ahfachkee has five meets on its schedule, including the Class 1A-District 14 meet Oct. 16 at Quiet Water Park in Deerfield Beach.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee's Leslie Gopher Jr., left, and Jeremiah Pickup show solid form as they race in the Pine Crest Cross Country Invitational on Sept. 21 at Tradewinds Park in Coconut Creek.



James Toombs/Big Cypress Recreation (2)

Above, The Buckets of Atlanta, champions of the women's division at the 11th annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament on Sept. 15 on the Big Cypress Reservation, and at left, The Plainzmen, champions of the men's division, are joined by Minnie Tigertail for the presentation of trophies and prizes.

# Tigertail Brothers Memorial Tournament draws dozens of teams from Florida and beyond

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** — The 11th annual Tigertail Memorial Basketball Tournament lasted into the wee hours of the morning Sept. 16 before the Plainzmen edged G-Force to claim the men's championship.

The three-day tournament, which was open to Native American and non-Native players and teams, actually went into a fourth day as the title game finished about 3 a.m. at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on the Big Cypress Reservation. Led by 18 points from Wayne Runnels Jr., five Plainzmen scored in double figures in the 85-76 win. Other standouts for the Plainzmen, which won the tournament for the third straight year, included Craig Foster (15 points) and Jesse Heart and Derek Cooke Jr. with 11 points each. G-Force was led by Gerald Williams, who poured in 20 points.

The men's division featured 14 teams while the women's division had five teams.

Buckets of Atlanta won the women's championship game, 79-70, against the Lady Ballers. Jenna Plumley, of the Lady Ballers, scored a game-high 29 points.

The tournament started Sept. 13 with the legends division (age 40 and up). Sunday Basketball defeated Magic City for the men's legends championship in a battle between two Miami teams.

The men's legends attracted eight teams; the women's legends featured just two teams.

X-Factor's legends team, an all-Native squad with players from Arizona, New Mexico and Washington, flew cross country and played only one game, but won the women's legends title. Many of their players ended up being in South Florida for just one day, but they went home as champions after one game because the opposing team failed to produce proof that its players were 40 and above. Despite their abbreviated appearance on the court, X-Factor said they enjoyed their time at the tournament.

"It was fun. We know they put on a good tournament. We love the hospitality," said X-Factor player and organizer Georgia Tsingine, who also managed a second X-Factor team in the women's adult division.

The tournament is held each year in memory of brothers Duane and Malcolm Tigertail. Members of their family, including their mother Minnie, were in attendance for all the games. Minnie presented the top teams with trophies and prizes.

Before the games started on the second night, Minnie addressed the crowd and explained how much her sons enjoyed the sport.

"That's why I started this. They loved [basketball]. They had fun playing ball," she said.

Former Embry-Riddle college star DeForest Carter returned to the reservation where, as a youngster, he watched his uncles Duane and Malcolm play.

"My uncles loved to play basketball. That's where I found my love, watching them and my mom and my grandmother,"

Carter said.

Carter is close to finishing his degree at Embry-Riddle in Daytona Beach, where the former All-American and Sun Conference Player of the Year holds several school records. He is currently a volunteer assistant coach on the men's team and is already looking ahead to growing the Tigertail tournament after he's done with school. This year he helped bring a lot of the teams to the tournament just through social media posts.

"Big time next year. Next summer I'm all in on this tournament. I know we can make it especially big next year," he said.

Thanks to the appearance of Shoni Schimmel, this year's tournament had a big-time feel to it. Schimmel, a huge star in Indian Country when she played for the University of Louisville with her sister Jude, arrived at the tournament for the women's adult division with her X-Factor teammates, some of whom also played Division I ball. After her days at Louisville ended, Schimmel has played in the WNBA. Her appearance in Big Cypress came as a surprise to X-Factor's first opponent, the Byrd's Nest.

"It was pretty cool. I never thought I'd play against Shoni," said Julia Smith, who played for Byrd's Nest.

X-Factor cruised to an easy win, but Smith said she still enjoyed the opportunity to face Schimmel.

"A good and tiring experience," Smith said. "It was good to play against them to better my skills. It was fun."



Kevin Johnson

The back of the tournament T-shirt honors the memory of Malcolm Tigertail and Duane Tigertail.



Kevin Johnson

Byrd Nest's Jewel Lavatta provides tough defense against X-Factor and former University of Louisville star Shoni Schimmel during the 11th annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament on Sept. 14 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Kevin Johnson

Big Town's Shelby Osceola focuses on defense during the 11th annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament.



Kevin Johnson

Big Town's Alonzo Wargolet drives to the hoop during the 11th annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament.



Kevin Johnson  
Byrd Nest's Aimee Osceola gets ready for the opening tip during the 11th annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament on Sept. 14 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Kevin Johnson  
Demetre Riles (38) and Elton Shore (46) provide tough defense under the hoop in a legends division game at the 11th annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament on Sept. 13 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Kevin Johnson  
Big Town's Amos Huggins takes a free throw during the 11th annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament.



James Toombs/Big Cypress Recreation  
Lady Ballers, runner-up in the women's division at the 11th annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Kevin Johnson  
Minnie Tigertail, center, is surrounded by family members as they watch the 11th annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament on Sept. 13 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on the Big Cypress Reservation. The tournament is held in memory of Minnie's sons, Duane and Malcolm.



Kevin Johnson  
Byrd Nest's Julia Smith tries to grasp a loose ball during the 11th annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament.



Kevin Johnson  
Marvin Newkirk lines up a 3-point shot during a game in the legends division at the 11th annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament on Sept. 13 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on the Big Cypress Reservation.



The legends division champions in the 11th annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament are Sunday Basketball, from Miami, and X-Factor, from the Western U.S.



James Toombs/Big Cypress Recreation (2)

# PECS volleyball surges forward

*Perfect start to season*

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BRIGHTON** — After starting its season with a win against Moore Haven, the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School girls volleyball team has kept the good times rolling.

As of Sept. 25, the squad had an unblemished 7-0 record. The team is scheduled to wrap up the regular season Oct. 16 at Yearling Middle School in a rematch of a thriller from earlier in the fall when PECS edged Yearling in three sets (27-25, 24-26 and 15-13).

"We were losing 9-13 and came back to win with six straight service points by TT Anderson. TT also had six very important kills that game," said PECS coach Pam Matthews.

For the season, Lexi Thomas is leading the team in kills with 29. Giselle Micco has had the most service points with 78, which included a remarkable 25 straight against

Clewiston. At the net, Nena Youngblood has four blocks on the season.

PECS has balance in its line-up this season in regard to age with three eighth-graders, four seventh-graders and two-sixth graders. They also displayed a balanced attack on offense in the Aug. 29 opener against Moore Haven. Starters for opening day were Micco, Youngblood and Karlyne Urbina up front, and Anderson, Thomas and Winnie Gopher in the back. Jana Johnson, Carlee Osceola and Saniya Rodrigues came off the bench.

PECS displayed an all-around solid afternoon in the serving, passing and hitting departments on the way to a 2-0 win before a packed gym on the Brighton Reservation. Scores were 25-9, 25-10.

Thomas delivered eight service points and a team-high five kills. Youngblood drilled eight service points and two kills. Micco led the squad with 11 service points, which included nine straight to open the second set. Anderson, a sixth-grader, had four kills and four service points. PECS



Kevin Johnson

The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School girls volleyball team gets fired up in the huddle before starting its season with a 2-0 win Aug. 29 against visiting Moore Haven.



Kevin Johnson

From left, Pemayetv Emahakv's Jana Johnson, Carlee Osceola and Nena Youngblood eye the ball during a return against Moore Haven in the season opener Aug. 29.



Kevin Johnson

Giselle Micco keeps her eyes on the ball as she gets ready to set up a pass.



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv's Lexi Thomas returns a low serve in the Seminoles' 2-0 win Aug. 29 against Moore Haven.

delivered plenty of aces, including some from Thomas, Micco and Johnson. Late in the match, PECS stamped an exclamation point on the victory behind a kill from Anderson and an ace from Urbina.

Volleyball is usually one of the strongest sports at PECS, which means lofty goals often accompany each season. This year is no different. The girls want their names up on the gym wall alongside select company with the school's few other undefeated sports teams.

"They had a goal-setting session [the day

before the season opener] and most of them said they wanted a banner. You have to go undefeated. That's our team goal this season, to win all the games," said Matthews, whose team will host the conference tournament Oct. 27.

PECS' junior varsity squad set the tone for a triumphant opening day by defeating Moore Haven, 2-0. Late in the match, CeCe Thomas and Talena Holata delivered aces while Shyllynn Testerman and Hailey Leach won points at the net.

## 2018 Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Volleyball

**Coach:** Pam Matthews

### Varsity

- 1 - Lexi Thomas
- 2 - TT Anderson
- 3 - Nena Youngblood
- 4 - Carlee Osceola
- 5 - Jana Johnson
- 6 - Giselle Micco
- 7 - Winnie Gopher
- 8 - Saniya Rodrigues
- 10 - Karlyne Urbina

### Junior Varsity

- 1 - Preslynn Baker
- 2 - Kendra Thomas
- 3 - Akeelah Mitchell
- 4 - Summer Gopher
- 5 - Shyllynn Testerman
- 6 - Neela Jones
- 7 - Talena Holata
- 8 - Naleah Billie
- 9 - Javale Anderson
- 10 - Hailey Leach
- 11 - CeCe Thomas
- 12 - Willo James



Kevin Johnson

Jana Johnson delivers a serve for Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in its 2-0 win against Moore Haven on Aug. 29 on the Brighton Reservation.

# Julius Aquino brings versatility to Heritage's JV football team

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — When Julius Aquino arrived in South Florida from Oklahoma this year, he brought plenty of versatility with him.

Aquino, a sophomore, is starting to fit in with the powerful American Heritage School football program in Plantation. He joined the Patriots' junior varsity team after school started, so he's been busy catching up on playbooks and practice routines.

Through two games on the JV squad, Aquino has seen just about all parts of the field. He's been used on kickoff and punt

teams and on the offensive line for extra points. He's also seen action as a running back, wide receiver, defensive end, outside linebacker and kick returner.

"I use him almost everywhere," said Heritage JV coach Seymour Loftman. "He's versatile because he's a small kid, but he's strong and he's kind of thick and he's got good speed and quickness. He's someone I can move around the field."

In his second game with the JV, Aquino played a variety of roles. He prevented a touchdown on a kickoff return late in the game at Chaminade-Madonna in Hollywood on Sept. 20. Aquino used his speed to run down the kickoff returner who had eluded the Patriots coverage. He made the tackle at the Heritage 6-yard line with less than a minute left in the game. The tackle temporarily preserved Heritage's shutout. Chaminade scored its only points of the game a couple plays later, but Heritage recovered the ensuing onside kick and held on for a 16-8 win.

Aquino was used sparingly in the backfield. He had two carries; one for a short gain and one for a short loss.

Aquino is the latest Seminole to be a part of a high school football program that is among the country's elite. He is following in the footsteps of Seminole brothers Andre and Blevyn Jumper, who played on Heritage state championship teams a few years ago.

The varsity squad, which has won four state championships in the past five years, often sends highly-regarded recruits to schools such as Alabama, Florida State, Georgia and Ohio State. Former speedy Patriot running back Sony Michel is in his first season with the NFL Patriots.

Aquino said he is enjoying being an American Heritage Patriot.

"The coaches treat you well; the trainers treat you well. Everything is good here,"



Kevin Johnson

Julius Aquino (8) leads the charge during kickoff coverage for American Heritage in a junior varsity game against Chaminade-Madonna on Sept. 20 in Hollywood. Aquino, a sophomore, is in his first season with Heritage.

Aquino said.

One adjustment he's trying to make is to become acclimated to the scorching South Florida weather, especially at the JV level where games usually start about 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. and are played while there's still plenty of sunshine and heat.

"It's a lot hotter than it was in Oklahoma. You just have to learn to adapt to it," Aquino said.

Aquino played football, track and wrestling in Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, where his uncles Sammy Micco Sanchez and Jesse Sanchez were standout athletes at Fort Gibson High School. Aquino said he's focused on football and may give wrestling a shot in the winter. In the summer of 2017, Aquino competed on Team Florida's track team at the North American Indigenous Games in Canada. He's had to bounce

back from a serious injury he suffered in competition at NAIG.

The early impressions he's made in his brief time at Heritage have been positive.

"He's a tough kid. Always comes to work. Very quick, fast," Loftman said. "He didn't start until like the fourth week of school, but he fit in right away. I'm happy for him."



Julius Aquino

# Jessi Harmon makes debut for VMI soccer

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

The collegiate soccer career of Jessi Harmon began Aug. 17 when the Seminole Tribal member made her debut for Virginia Military Institute, about 2,000 miles from her hometown of Flagstaff, Arizona.

Harmon, a 5-foot-6 freshman defender/midfielder, had one shot and played 12 minutes in a 2-0 win at Hampton University. It was the beginning of a strong start to the season for VMI, which went 6-0-1 before suffering its first loss Sept. 21 against North Carolina-Greensboro. VMI's season is shaping up to be better than a year ago. Its six wins are nearly as many as the team had for all of 2017 when it went 7-11-1.

As of late September, Harmon had played in five games and recorded two shots. In addition to the Hampton game, she has seen action against South Carolina State, American, North Carolina-Asheville and Campbell.

Harmon is one of 10 freshmen on the roster. Her older brother Levi played for the VMI men's soccer team before graduating earlier this year.

VMI plays in the Southern Conference with Chattanooga, The Citadel, Eastern Tennessee, Furman, Mercer, North Carolina-Greensboro, Samford, Western Carolina and Wofford.



Jessi Harmon

VMI Athletics

# \$100 million Unconquered Campaign announced for FSU athletics

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**TALLAHASSEE** — The Seminole Boosters, Inc., Florida State Athletics and the University announced Sept. 2 the launch of the Unconquered Campaign with a goal of raising \$100 million dollars in support of the athletics program.

The campaign launch was held in the Champions Club at Doak S. Campbell Stadium with FSU President John Thrasher, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Ed Burr, Seminole Boosters President and CEO Andy Miller addressing the crowd along with football coach Willie Taggart and softball coach Lonni Alameda.

"The Seminole Boosters and Athletics have developed a solid plan with ambitious goals to address the needs of a number of our programs," said FSU President John Thrasher. "We have a history at Florida State of being extremely efficient in our operations across the board, and this campaign reflects that same focus. We will support this campaign in every way possible."

"It's difficult to overstate this building's importance to the present and future of Florida State football," said head coach Willie Taggart. "It will allow us to be more efficient with our limited time together as a team and help our student-athletes manage their time better by bringing everything they need from a football perspective into one location. The new building will also open up space for every other sport in the Moore Athletic Center."

"I appreciate the groundwork that has been laid by our administration and the Seminole Boosters, and I can't wait to see our supporters Do Something to make a defining investment in assuring our program has the resources to remain among the finest in the nation."

The five-year campaign will fund a number of Seminole Athletics projects that include:

- A new, stand-alone home for Seminole football that will be built adjacent to the Dunlap Athletic Training Complex at a cost of \$60 million.

- \$9 million in Student-Athlete Scholarship Endowments to fund the annual cost of student-athlete scholarships and provide long-term sustainability.

- The previously announced \$8 million redesign of the Don Veller Seminole Golf Course into a Nicklaus Legacy Course by the Jack Nicklaus Group.

- \$8 million for the redevelopment of the existing Coyle E. Moore Athletic Center to include expanded student-athlete dining, training and strength and conditioning access as well as additional academic space.

- A number of improvements to the infrastructure and fan experience at Dick Howser Stadium. The \$6 million project will include permanent left field bleacher seating, new field lighting, updated team strength and conditioning facilities, and a new team building.

- A \$5 million

commitment in support of priorities for women's athletics in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Women's Intercollegiate Athletics at FSU.

- The continuation of renovations at the Tucker Center for men's and women's basketball that will include new team lounges for both programs.

"The Unconquered Campaign is the result of Seminole Boosters, FSU Athletics and the University coming together to establish a vision and plan for the future of Seminole Athletics," said Seminole Boosters President and CEO Andy Miller. "I am excited and encouraged by the response we have received from our donors to these projects over the past year and look forward to working together to achieve the goals that have been set forth by Chairman Burr and President Thrasher."

\$8 million renovation by the Jack Nicklaus Design Group. When it reopens in the fall of 2019, the course will be transformed into the nation's first Nicklaus Legacy Course. It will also serve as a first investment in the creation of the new "Gateway District" which includes a scenic road connecting the Tallahassee International Airport and the FSU Campus. The Gateway District, which includes over 900 acres owned by FSU, will be a key for the future growth of the university.

## Moore Athletic Center

The Moore Athletic Center has played an important role in the life of all Seminole student-athletes since its reconstruction in 2004. With the decision to build the Football Operations building, this will create an opportunity to update this signature building.

Some highlights are:

- Renovation and increased accessibility of the weight room. This will allow our student-athletes greater flexibility to train at times that are best for their academic and competitive schedules.

- Update and expansion of the Figg Dining Room. These enhancements will improve the look of the functionality of the dining room while doubling the current space to accommodate a greater number of student-athletes, coaches and staff at peak hours.

- The Athletic Training Room will be updated with new equipment, including the latest in hydrotherapy, to better serve our student-athletes. The departure of football will enhance accessibility to assist in day-to-day and rehabilitation activities.

- More than 15,000 square feet in new academic space will be made available.

## Dick Howser Baseball Stadium

FSU looks to the future of Seminole baseball with the proposed renovation of Dick Howser Stadium.

Phase I of the stadium renovations is anticipated to cost \$6 million and will include new field lighting, the construction of permanent bleachers down the third baseline and a new team building and enhanced entrance. Additionally, needed infrastructure will be done throughout the stadium.

## Donald L. Tucker Center

Beginning with the \$17 million renovation of the arena before the 2014-15 season, FSU has made several strategic investments in its basketball programs. Phase II of the Tucker Center renovations is the final step in completing the visions for the home of FSU basketball. The construction of new team lounges and other student-athlete spaces will provide members of the men's and women's basketball areas to study and relax.



FSU Athletics/Populous

The design of a new weight room at FSU under the \$100 million Unconquered Campaign.

## Football Operations Project

Located adjacent to the Albert J. Dunlap Athletic Training Complex and the Dunlap practice fields, the new Football Operations building will be the new day-to-day home of Florida State football and one of the most significant investments in the program's history. Its 122,000 square feet of dedicated space will include:

- new team locker room
- state-of-the-art training and hydrotherapy areas
- weight room directly connected to the indoor field
- large team and position meeting rooms
- recruiting lounge showcasing the history of Seminole Football

The Football Operations building will cost \$60 million and is scheduled to open in July 2021. Funding will jointly come from Seminole Boosters, through the generosity of its donors, and the athletic department.

## Don Veller Seminole Golf Course

Beginning in August of 2018, the Don Veller Seminole Golf Course will receive an



FSU Athletics/Populous

A rendering of Florida State football's new locker room under the Unconquered Campaign announced by the school Sept. 2.



Horse Nations Indian Council/Facebook

The 2018 Championship of Champions is Northwest Express and jockey Mathew Pakootas Jr., which won the Horse Nations Indian Relay Council championship Sept. 23 in Walla Walla, Washington. Pakootas is from the Colville Tribe in Washington. Each relay team in the competition featured three horses, one rider, one mugger and two holders.

# Down the stretch

# Halloween Golf Tournament

Wednesday, October 31, 2018

Grande Oaks Golf Course

Shotgun Start: 8:30am

Lunch Served After

- ★ Longest Drive Competition
- ★ Closest to the Pin Competition
- ★ Straightest Drive Competition
- ★ Bonus Raffle for wearing Purple, Orange, or Green
- ★ Open to all Tribal Members



Questions: Please call Chairman's Office at 954-966-6300 X11402

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# Announcements



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to my Prince (my only son)  
 DarRick Christopher Nelson-Williams  
 On September 7th...  
 16huh??? I'm in tears right now cause no one in this entire world knows Me except You. You saved my life in so many aspects. I haven't always made the best decisions for us but my intentions always from my heart. You see me at my lowest point and yet you still love me unconditionally. You have been my teacher and my motivator. You have grown into an amazing respectable young man which I can not take credit for. I love and adore everything you are and have accomplished. I'm proud to be your mom and I will continue to protect you at all cost. I'm your BIGGEST FAN!!!! Never forget that. I love you Ricky!!!

Love Always your Mom  
 Carolee J. Watkins



## NAJA Board unanimously elects Tristan Ahtone president; Bryan Pollard joins staff as director of programs and strategic partnerships

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

**NORMAN, Okla.** — Bryan Pollard (Cherokee) resigned his seat on the Native American Journalists Association Board of Directors on Aug. 29, after being elected to a third term as president in July 2018.

Pollard will join NAJA in the new full-time staff position of director of programs and strategic partnerships, where he will oversee programming including annual conference training, awards, the Native American Journalism Fellowship (NAJF) and the RED Press Initiative.

He will also be responsible for developing partnerships and assisting with fundraising, in accordance with the organization's 2018-2020 strategic plan.

Pollard joins NAJA after serving as the communications director and AmeriCorps VISTA Coordinator at the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas. Prior to joining the U of A, he was executive editor of the Cherokee Phoenix, the tribal news media for the Cherokee Nation based in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The Phoenix was the first Native American newspaper originally published in 1828. He is also a founder of Street Roots, a nonprofit newspaper focused on issues of concern to the homeless and low-income citizens of Portland, Oregon.

Pollard has served as a mentor for numerous journalism organizations including the Oklahoma Institute for Diversity in Journalism, the Society of Professional Journalists, Working Press, UNITY News, Online News Association, NAJF and NAJA's Project Phoenix. He is currently pursuing a master's in journalism with an emphasis on documentary filmmaking.

The NAJA Board unanimously elected Tristan Ahtone (Kiowa) to fill the vacant president seat during the monthly meeting Aug. 30.

Ahtone is a citizen of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, a lifetime NAJA member and associate editor for tribal affairs at High

Country News. His stories have won multiple honors, including investigative awards from Public Radio News Directors Incorporated and the Gannett Foundation. He is a graduate of the Institute of American Indian Arts and Columbia School of Journalism. In 2017 Ahtone was awarded a Nieman Fellowship to study at Harvard University.

"I am truly honored and excited to serve as NAJA president," said Ahtone. "We want to continue to provide support for Native journalists, and promote the amazing work our membership does – to ensure the highest standards of journalism and advocate for principles in line with our own unique traditions, outlooks and worldviews."

Ahtone has served two previous terms on the board of directors and was elected to a third term during the National Native Media Conference in July 2018.

Upon being elected as president, Ahtone appointed Sterling Cospser (Muscogee Creek) to fill Pollard's vacancy on the board.

Cospser is the current manager of Mvskoke Media, an independent news outlet of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. He started as a reporter for the Muscogee Nation News in 2012 and was promoted to editor the following year. With key support of the news staff, he successfully advocated for the passage of free press law, during an ongoing series of high-profile events involving the tribal government.

As manager, he has focused on restructuring the department, while optimizing the financial independence of Mvskoke Media to be a powerful advocate for Mvskoke citizens. He will continue pushing for free press protections in Indian Country through his service on the NAJA Free Press Committee.

Cospser is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma and a current board member of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

The remaining officers and members will continue to serve the board for the duration of their elected terms.

## Welcome Back

Welcome back? Will they embrace me as well? It's been twenty-one years and counting that I've been in this cell.

Those that have remembered me most are gone to a better place, not being able to see them again will be the reality I face.

It's going to be tough but I pride myself on being strong, I should have continued to live right and not make the choices that are wrong.

That saying, you don't know what you got til it's gone is true, Poshe, Waache, Big Sis, Olivia and Sue.

There's many more like my homie Eli as well, I appreciate all the photos of freedom at the same time I miss your mail.

Every night I hope to dream of you all full of life, so when I wake up it gives me something to smile about in this land of evil and strife.

Waache since you went to be with our loved ones you've been missed for so long, for all your babies I have been extra strong.

I know you are very proud of them all and I let them know, they each love and miss you too Jennie Billie Harjo.

I don't know what to expect in the land of the free, but one thing and two for sure Waache a better man I will continue to be.

Welcome back to a world I don't understand or know, I will succeed because I'm an Unconquered Seminole.

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 great of all time, two 100% Unconquered Seminole women that I'm proud to be in their bloodline.

## POEMS

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

In the name of Jesus those heathens don't deserve this land, manifest destiny, what loving God would agree to that plan?

There are many misconceptions in America when Natives correct with the truth they have no ears, praise to the Cheyenne in the afterlife he can hear.

You exterminated the buffalo to starve a people with pride, left the buffalo to rot without its hide.

Sand Creek and Wounded Knee we true Natives honor you each day, defenseless women & children gone by a cowardice display.

I salute you Native brothers and sisters no matter what tribe, Jennie Billie Harjo's youngest warrior son pledges allegiance only to Native pride.

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



## I Salute You!

I salute you with twenty-one shotgun blasts, I want them to see and hear that Native pride future, present and past.

We were here when you came and we will be here when you leave, karma will collect one day for your deceit and greed.

From the Florida Everglades to the Great Western Plains, Native warriors men and women still live in our ancestors domain.

You succeeded in some things but in mass genocide you failed, to those that don't know true history "Natives" have stories to tell.

Our victories were called massacres in your history books, the savage red men scalped the Mayflower crooks.

## Congressman Cole named Jake White Crow Award winner

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

subcommittee for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations where he has been an advocate for increased Indian Health Service funding.

In the time that Congressman Cole has served on that Subcommittee, IHS funding has increased by \$2 billion. Outside of the Appropriations Committee he serves as the Co-Chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus.

"I am thrilled that the Board has chosen to honor Congressman Tom Cole as the 2018 Jake White Crow Award winner. His leadership in Congress has advanced the

needs of Indian health," said NIH Chairman Vinton Hawley. "Mr. Cole works tirelessly to ensure that the federal government fulfills its trust responsibility for health and protects Tribal sovereignty at every turn" continued Chairman Hawley.

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is a 501(c)3 not for profit, charitable organization.

The National Indian Health Board announced Sept. 10 that Congressman Tom Cole of Oklahoma (Chickasaw Nation) will receive the 2018 Jake White Crow Award. This award recognizes an individual or organization with outstanding lifetime achievements in elevating health care advocacy, raising awareness or affecting positive change for American Indian and Alaska Native health care.

According to NIH, the Congressman, one of only two American Indians in

Congress, has been a champion for Indian Country throughout his career. As a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Cole has been helped secure funding for Indian Country. He chairs the subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies.

He also serves on the Appropriations



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B23657	2007	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT (4WD)	144,222	Fair	\$3,150.00
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