

Four Seminoles earn
NAMA nominations
COMMUNITY ♦ 4A



New job for former
PEGS principal
EDUCATION ♦ 1B



'Fresh' Walters scores
1,000th point
SPORTS ♦ 6B



The Seminole Tribune

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January 31, 2022

Officials: vaccines best way to prevent new variants

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — As the globe continues to navigate the Covid-19 Omicron variant, health officials continue to encourage those who haven't yet received a vaccine to do so.

"Vaccines remain the best public health measure to protect people from Covid-19, [to] slow transmissions, and [to] reduce the likelihood of new variants emerging," a recent statement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said.

Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley, the Seminole Tribe's head of Health and Human Services (HHS), said she and her staff have been handling an increase in testing and in positive cases. Because of the spike, tribal clinics returned to "essential visits only" services Dec. 27, 2021.

Vaccines and booster shots are available for tribal members and tribal employees. Those five years and older are eligible for the vaccine, while the booster shot is approved for those 16 years and older. There are eligibility restrictions.

♦ See VACCINES on page 9A

Brighton's bucking rodeo star

5 Star's Archie shines at NFR

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Archie, a 10-year-old bucking horse, is enjoying some well-earned relaxation after a winning performance Dec. 3 at the National Finals Rodeo (NFR) in Las Vegas.

Archie belongs to Marty Johns and Paul Bowers Jr., owners of 5 Star Rodeo Holdings on the Brighton Reservation. Archie earned fourth place in the annual event at the Thomas & Mack Center.

"That's the Super Bowl of rodeos," said Mackenzie Bowers, who is the daughter of Johns and is married to Bowers. "It's rare for a Native American to go to NFR, and being the first Seminole tribal members to be part of it is great."

In 2018, Johns purchased Archie, who was being used as a practice horse in Canada.

"He was a buckler and was the type of horse I like to have in my rodeo [herd]," Johns said. "We nurtured him, made him a solid horse and gave him a home in Florida. He's part of our family and he fits right in with us. It didn't take him long to adjust to our climate."

"From a horse that was just an everyday practice pen horse to a NFR saddle bronc horse. 'Wow' is all I can say," Mackenzie Bowers said on 5 Star's social media.



Beverly Bidney

Marty Johns, left, and Paul Bowers Jr. stand in the pen with their bucking horse, Archie, in Brighton.

Bucking horses are bred to buck, according to Bowers. During rodeos a fleece-lined flank is put around the horse's belly, like a belt. The horse tries to get it off, so he kicks out as he bucks.

"Archie is special," Mackenzie Bowers

said. "He is really flashy, hangs high up in the air and gets all fours extended when he bucks. He's huge like a draft cross with a pot belly. The older he gets, the better he bucks."

Cowboys who remain on Archie for a full eight seconds tend to get scores of 85 or

higher, however, since he is difficult to stay on, he is put in the eliminator pen to eliminate the cowboys. At home, it's a different story. Mackenzie Bowers compared him to a pet horse.

♦ See ARCHIE on page 6A

Hollywood Reservation projects continue to bloom

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Many of the tribe's reservations have new construction projects that have recently been completed or are in work — including at the newest reservation in Lakeland. The Hollywood Reservation in particular is juggling several projects as the new year begins.

Harvey Rambarath, the assistant director of Community Planning & Development at the tribe, recently gave the Tribune an update on significant capital improvement projects that have been completed or are in varying phases of progress.



Courtesy Community Planning & Development

Construction is underway on the Priscilla Sayen Way apartment complex.

Residential projects

Seminole Park townhomes: All 103 townhomes have been built and construction on an accompanying playground is ongoing.

Seminole Park single-family homes: All 68 homes by homebuilder Lennar have been completed and community infrastructure is being wrapped up.

Townhomes at RV Hideaway: This project will add 29 townhomes and a community playground at the old RV Hideaway area of the reservation. The final design is under review and demolition work is in progress. Oak trees from the site will

be relocated along Osceola Drive and Royal Palm Boulevard in Seminole Estates.

Eight Clans replacement: The existing Eight Clans Estates buildings are set to be demolished and replaced with 18 townhomes, a community playground, and an expanded parking lot to accommodate cemetery parking. Florida Power & Light (FPL) has started electrical work and demolition is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2022. Construction of the project's infrastructure is expected to begin in mid-2022.

Commercial projects

New preschool/administration offices: This new school facility will include classroom pods, a commercial grade kitchen, a cafeteria/auditorium, playground and various support spaces. The design-build contractor is set to be selected in the first quarter of 2022 and construction is set to begin in July 2023.

New senior center: Rambarath said the planning phase of this project is ongoing. A new, larger facility — 20,000 square feet on six and a half acres — has been proposed at Seminole Estates with construction to begin in 2023. The development would feature several amenities.

Priscilla Sayen Way apartments: This multifamily development would provide 16 apartments (three and four-bedroom) when completed. Construction is ongoing and should be completed by July 2022.

♦ See HOLLYWOOD on page 9A



Courtesy Community Planning & Development

This rendering of the new preschool shows the entrance and an aerial view.

ERMD begins study of alligators in Big Cypress, Brighton

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe's Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) wants to know how many alligators are on the Big Cypress and Brighton reservations and how healthy they are. To get the data, ERMD began a scientific study of alligators in December 2021.

The study will analyze the conditions and size of suitable habitat, assess the population size and survey the health of the animals.

"Alligators are a keystone species and

an ecological indicator of habitat health in Florida," said Karli Eckel, ERMD environmental science manager. "We intend for this to be a baseline survey. Nothing at this volume has been done before."

The department, along with a contractor who has worked with the tribe on other scientific studies, developed a timeline for the study.

From January to March, ERMD and Common Ground Ecology are scheduled to complete an analysis of alligator habitat, primarily in wetlands, canals and other areas with water. Field analysis, using geographic information system (GIS) software as a tool

and boots on the ground reconnaissance, will provide ERMD with data to be analyzed.

In April and May, ERMD and Common Ground Ecology are set to conduct spotlight surveys. The scientists will go into the field at night and shine lights to find alligators, whose eyes are illuminated due to the eyes' structure. From there, they can estimate the reptiles' sized based on the space between the eyes.

The team would then hit the ground in June and July to survey nests in the natural areas of the reservations using drones and field reconnaissance.

♦ See ALLIGATORS on page 4A



ERMD

An ERMD study will focus on alligators on the Big Cypress and Brighton reservations.

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Visit the Tribune's website for news throughout the month at seminoletribune.org

Editorial

Now is a good time for state to sit down with tribes concerning McGirt

• Tulsa World (Tulsa, Okla.)

With the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that its landmark McGirt decision will stand, the state of Oklahoma has been given an important opportunity for a reset with Oklahoma's tribes.

In its ruling last week, the court refused to overturn its 2020 decision that the Muscogee Nation's reservation was disestablished by Congress. The court also said it would consider whether to allow the state to prosecute non-Indians who commit crimes against tribal members in Indian Country.

The decision was initially limited to the Muscogee Nation has since expanded to include the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole and Quapaw tribal reservations. A request to extend to the Osage Nation is pending.

The court's initial ruling stated that state courts do not have jurisdiction to try cases inside tribal reservations that involved a member of a federally recognized tribe. This led to a slew of state cases being dismissed and re-filed in federal and tribal courts.

The transition into this new legal reality has been rocky at times. Prosecutors, some municipal leaders – including Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum – and Gov. Kevin Stitt have sought to have the ruling reversed. The tribes see the ruling as an affirmation of the sovereignty guaranteed by treaties.

Rhetoric has been sharp. Stitt and others sharing his view on McGirt have warned of crimes going unpunished and diminished state authority over the eastern half of the state.

The reality shows something different. To date, 235 of approximately 25,000 state inmates have been released because of

McGirt. Of those released, 71% have been charged in federal or tribal courts. Of those not charged, more than half were serving sentences for nonviolent drug offenses.

Two high-profile cases – those of former Tulsa police officer Shannon Kepler and Jimmy McGirt (the convicted sex offender and namesake of the Supreme Court's ruling) – ended with convictions and prison sentences upon retrial in federal court.

There are unresolved problems. Some of the inmates released were not charged because either the statute of limitations on their crimes had expired, or there were no laws on the books that could be used in tribal courts.

However, communication between the tribes and local authorities illuminates a way forward.

Tribes are working on filling in the gaps for crimes not covered under tribal law. Federal and tribal courts are expanding staff to handle increased caseloads. Cross-deputization between tribal and nontribal law enforcement agencies is common.

This shows that tribal and nontribal authorities are already implementing McGirt organically. It's not an instant process, but it is happening one step at a time.

State authorities would be wise to join the process and speed things along. The only thing stopping a smoother, faster implementation of the Supreme Court's ruling is either further litigation against the tribes or inaction. The former has gotten Oklahoma nowhere, and the latter is unacceptable.

Stitt says what he wants is legal certainty. Given the Supreme Court's ruling, the best way to get that is to sit down with the tribes, work on jurisdictional issues and become part of the solution.

This editorial is from Tulsa World (tulsaworld.com)

Clyde Bellecourt, cofounder of the American Indian Movement, dies at 85

FROM NPR

Clyde Bellecourt, one of the most significant Native American leaders in the struggle for civil rights, died in Minneapolis on Jan. 18, his son Wolf confirmed to Minnesota Public Radio.

Bellecourt was 85 and had been battling prostate cancer.

Bellecourt, who was born and grew up on the White Earth Indian Reservation, co-founded the American Indian Movement in 1968. It began as a local organization in Minneapolis and over decades has expanded to advocate for Native civil rights across the United States and Canada and around the world. AIM says that today, it represents over 375 million Indigenous people worldwide.

"At the heart, AIM is deeply rooted in spirituality, and a belief in the connectedness of all indigenous peoples," Bellecourt wrote in a letter for the organization.

One of AIM's original motives was to help combat and monitor police violence toward Native people. Over decades, the group has expanded to advocate for fair housing and education for Native communities, provide legal aid and protested against cultural appropriation. Bellecourt and others protested the 1992 Super Bowl, for example, calling out the now-former name of the Washington Football Team, which was a racist slur against Native Americans.

"His life's work was always about his people ... He really loved where he was from," Bellecourt's oldest son, Little Crow, told NPR.

"As I was young boy, I used to have to wonder why my dad wasn't around a lot. And as I got older, I learned to realize that his work and everything he did was for our family and extended family and our Native peoples across the U.S. and Canada," he said.



Via Arizona State University

Clyde Bellecourt

In 1978, Bellecourt addressed demonstrators in Washington, D.C., at the end of an event called the Longest Walk. The journey lasted from February to July that year, as Native Americans trekked across the country to protest legislation in Congress.

"We want you to know that we are attempting to call attention to and to gain your support in turning back the anti-Indian attitude, the anti-Indian legislation, the John Wayne frontier mentality that exists among the media today and the reporting," Bellecourt said in his remarks in D.C.

"We are asking you to help us stop these genocidal practices that are taking place against my people. We come here to D.C. to educate the world that our culture is very much alive... Our religion and our way of life has survived all this time. We want you to know our strength is back," he said.

Though widely known for his activism, Bellecourt's son said his father loved watching baseball and the Minnesota

Vikings. He was also deeply passionate about cooking and was committed to dinners with his family.

"A lot of people don't know that my dad really loved to cook. He was really good in the kitchen... He would get up at five in the morning and start making things he learned how to make from his mother," Little Crow Bellecourt said.

His death is mourned by generations of Native Americans.

"Today, we lost a civil rights leader who fought for more than a half century on behalf of Indigenous people in Minnesota and around the world. Indian Country benefited from Clyde Bellecourt's activism - he cleared a path for so many of us," Minnesota Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan tweeted.

"Journey well, Neegawnwaywidung," she said, referencing Bellecourt's Ojibwe name, which translates to thunder before the storm.

Finally, Canada is doing right by Indigenous children

• The Toronto Star

As is often the case, it was the briefest of words that were most compelling, that cut through the complexity of a landmark class-action settlement to the heart of the matter.

"There's plenty of shame to share," said Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Marc Miller.

"No amount of compensation can make up for the traumas that First Nations children, families and communities have experienced," said Indigenous Services Minister Patty Hajdu.

The comments came this week as a \$40-billion agreement-in-principle was announced between the federal government and Indigenous leaders to compensate First Nations children removed from their families or denied proper health care, and to reform the Indigenous child welfare system.

It's to the credit of the cabinet ministers that their observations were so regretful.

It's to the credit of the First Nations chiefs that theirs were so restrained.

Half of the settlement – still to be signed off on by the court – will compensate the estimated 115,000 children taken from their homes and placed in foster care between April 1991 and March of last year.

Tens of thousands more children denied essential services because of jurisdictional arguments over which level of government should pay will also receive compensation.

The agreement also allots \$20 billion over the next five years to reform child and family services for First Nations.

The settlement was many years in the making, driven more by the doggedness of First Nations than any enthusiasm on the part of successive federal governments.

The human rights case was launched in 2007 by Cindy Blackstock of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society.

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruled in 2016 that racial discrimination was behind the underfunding of social services for First Nations.

In 2019, the tribunal ordered the federal government to pay \$40,000 each to impacted children, their parents and grandparents. And last September, the Federal Court dismissed Ottawa's appeal of that decision.

That led to negotiations mediated by former senator Murray Sinclair, which led to a settlement on New Year's Eve.

Indigenous leaders said the discovery last year of unmarked graves on the grounds of former residential schools shifted public opinion in Canada and put pressure on the government to negotiate.

On Tuesday, David Sterns, the lawyer who led the class-action, recognized the individuals who allowed their stories to be told as representative of the suffering of so many.

He said the story of this case – of Xavier Moushoom, an Algonquin Anishinaabe man from Quebec; Jeremy Measwasige, of Pictou Landing First Nation in Nova Scotia; and Zach Trout, of Cross Lake First Nation in northern Manitoba – should be taught in schools.

It's an excellent idea. For their part, the ministers agreed there was plenty of shame to go around for governments past and present and for a country that chose to ignore ugly truths for far too long.

"We should never have to be pushed again to do the right thing by the children of this country," Hajdu said.

"This is the way we can all, frankly, sleep at night," added Justice Minister David Lametti.

Most important, perhaps, was the comment by Cindy Woodhouse, Manitoba regional chief for the Assembly of First Nations, who warned that the journey is not yet over.

"We will hold you all to this path," she said.

Vigilance, as she knows too well, is the price of ensuring justice is delivered, that deeds match words and good intentions.

This editorial is from The Toronto Star (thestar.com).

Supreme Court to consider volatile Indian Country cases

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The 2021-2022 term of the U.S. Supreme Court began in October and continues through the summer. The court is scheduled to consider several cases that directly affect Indian Country.

On Jan. 21 the court agreed to decide on a question that was left open by its landmark decision in 2020 – McGirt v. Oklahoma – which declared that much of eastern Oklahoma falls within an Indian reservation. While the justices are considering a question, they rejected a request to consider overruling the decision altogether.

The court ruled in McGirt v. Oklahoma that Native Americans who commit crimes on reservation land – which includes Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole in the state – cannot be prosecuted by state or local law enforcement, but would instead face tribal or federal courts. The question the court agreed to decide is whether those same limits apply to non-Indians who commit crimes against Native Americans on reservations.

The state of Oklahoma has been trying to limit McGirt v. Oklahoma altogether, while tribes say it reaffirms tribal sovereignty and implements positive changes in its justice systems.

"The status of McGirt is up in the air," Matthew Fletcher (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians) said. "It's conceivable the Supreme Court could undo the whole thing."



Michigan State University

Matthew Fletcher



Courtesy photo

Cases of importance to Indian Country are on the Supreme Court's docket this term.

Fletcher is a foundation professor of law at Michigan State University College of Law and director of the Indigenous Law and Policy Center. He spoke about the issue on a Jan. 11 broadcast of Native America Calling.

Fletcher said Indian Country should pay close attention to what the court does, in general, and regarding McGirt v. Oklahoma, specifically, because it could affect future cases involving Indian law.

"If the Supreme Court just kind of throws up its hands and gives up and says: 'Oklahoma we're going to do what you want,' that's a really concerning development for all of Indian Country," he said.

Indian Child Welfare Act

The court has been petitioned, but has not yet decided whether it will hear, a challenge to the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) – known as Brackeen v. Haaland in the lower courts.

Sarah L. Kastelic (Alutiq), executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), wrote via email that she'd expected the court would make a decision on whether or not to hear the case by Jan. 24, which has passed.

"The court isn't scheduled to conference again until February 18, so if they follow their usual process, the earliest we'd expect a decision now [to hear the case] would be February 22," she said.

Kastelic said she expects the court will, indeed, hear the case; however it's unknown which petitions will be granted and which questions will be reviewed.

"At this late date, if the case is accepted, it likely won't be heard until the fall term," she said, which wouldn't begin until October.

Fletcher, meanwhile, said the challenge to ICWA is an existential threat to Indian Country.

"It is a generationally important case," he said. "If the Supreme Court says ICWA is unconstitutional because it's a form of race discrimination, then the next thing to go is probably the Major Crimes Act and statutes related to criminal jurisdiction and other statutes that provide for health care and other governmental services to Indian Country."

More to watch

There are two other cases involving Indian Country before the court that are scheduled to be argued Feb. 22.

Denezpi v. United States: It will be argued whether the Court of Indian Offenses of the Ute Mountain Ute Agency is a federal agency, such that a man's conviction in that court barred his subsequent prosecution in a U.S. district court for a crime arising out of the same incident.

Ysleta del Sur Pueblo v. Texas: The "Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama-Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act" provides the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo with sovereign authority to regulate non-prohibited gaming activities on its lands, including bingo. At issue is whether a decision by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals that affirmed Ysleta del Sur Pueblo v. Texas, correctly subjects the pueblo to all Texas gaming regulations.

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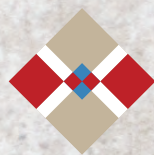
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Community



Amy Johns has new title, familiar role

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

It would be hard to find someone with more knowledge about the workings of Seminole Tribal Court than Brighton's Amy Johns. Johns was there from its inception in 2015 when she was installed as an associate justice. She continued in the position before things began to change during the first year of the pandemic in 2020.

In October 2020, the tribe suffered a blow when Willie Johns, a Tribal Court chief justice of the appellate court, died of complications from diabetes at 69. His death left a vacancy on the court's bench that would need to be filled. Johns agreed to step into the role of interim chief justice while a permanent replacement was found.

Tribal Council eventually decided the best person to fill the vacancy was Johns herself, and appointed her as chief justice of the tribe's appellate court at its regular meeting that was held online Nov. 19, 2021.

"I was always interested in the creation and implementation of the Tribal Court," Johns said. "I'm very invested and committed to the tribe."

Johns joined Associate Justice Moses Jumper Jr. on the appellate court, which now has a vacancy for a second associate justice. The second judicial branch – the trial court – consists of Chief Judge Moses B. Osceola, Associate Judge Tina Osceola and Associate Judge Mary Tigertail. Both courts have broad jurisdiction over civil cases within the tribe.

Family, education

Johns was born in Clewiston and raised in Brighton. Her parents are Patty Johns Waldron, who is the health information management administrator at the Brighton health clinic, and Bruce Waldron, a retired teacher. Johns is an only child with two children of her own. Willie Johns was her cousin, but she said she called him her uncle. Johns left Florida at 17 after graduating



Chief Justice Amy Johns

from Okeechobee High School to attend Arizona State University in Tempe. She earned degrees in social work and public administration at ASU and then went on to earn her law degree from the University of Montana in Missoula before eventually returning to the tribe.

She was previously enrolled in an advanced Indian law program at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma as well – which she'd put on hold to attend law school. Johns said she's now finishing the final semester of the program. The focus of her thesis involves child support issues in Indian Country.

Concerns, collaborations

Like many across Indian Country, Johns is keeping an eye on the U.S. Supreme Court and whether it will eventually hear a case that challenges the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

"If the Supreme Court reaffirms ICWA, that would be a positive," she said. "Its guidelines have been improved to help people understand it."

Johns is also focused on the potential of the tribe instituting a "healing to wellness" court – a way to work with those who have non-criminal substance abuse issues that would be dealt with through the tribe instead of outside courts.

Johns would also like to see more collaboration with outside court systems – like the one in place now with the 17th Judicial Circuit Court, specifically the dependency division of its Unified Family Court, located in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Dependency cases involve anything related to children who are abused, abandoned or neglected. They might be removed from parents for those reasons. Outcomes can result in several scenarios, including reunification with family members or adoption.

Right now, such dependency cases for those living in Hollywood are ultimately decided through the 17th Circuit. Similar collaborations could be set up for tribal members living outside Hollywood.

"The hope is to eventually take those cases on completely by ourselves," Johns said.

The scenario is one of the goals of the ICWA statute.

Johns said she wants tribal members to know that Tribal Court is up and running as the pandemic continues. She said she and her colleagues have been juggling a large number of guardianship cases and that dockets are becoming "thicker and thicker."

"We are here; we are open," Johns said. "We're a source that's here for you."

NICWA conference set for Orlando

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Organizers are prepping for the National Indian Child Welfare Association's (NICWA) annual "Protecting Our Children" conference. This year's theme is "Homecoming: 40 Years of Connecting for Our Children." The event is scheduled to take place April 3-6 in Orlando, Florida.

For the past two years the conference has been held online due to the pandemic. But this year, organizers have planned for a return to an in person event while also offering an online option.

"NICWA is closely monitoring the evolution and spread of the Covid-19 virus," a Jan. 14 statement said. "Our top priority is ensuring that all conference guests have a safe, high-quality experience."

NICWA said that if it is determined the in person event should be canceled, registrants would automatically be converted to the virtual format with the difference in cost refunded.

The conference is the largest of its kind to focus on tribal child welfare and well-being. The Seminole Tribe was the lead sponsor of last year's event, which had almost 1,500 online attendees from dozens of states and Canadian provinces representing hundreds of tribes. The tribe has returned as the lead sponsor of this year's event as well.

Attendees are typically those who work in the child welfare, mental health, juvenile justice and legal professions – as well as students, child advocates and tribal, state and federal leaders.

Sarah Kastelic (Alutiiq), NICWA's executive director, and her staff, bring in keynote speakers that range from high-level federal officials to young people with experience in child welfare systems.

The programming highlights the latest developments and best practices for the well-being of Native children, and effective child welfare and children's mental health services and policies.

The status of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) will be another point of focus. Recent court challenges to its constitutionality have resulted in petitions to the U.S. Supreme Court to rule on the law, perhaps as soon as this year.

The conference is scheduled to take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, located at 5780 Major Blvd. Early bird registration is available through Feb. 25. Questions can be directed to training@nicwa.org. For more information go to nicwa.org.



Tina Osceola takes helm at THPO

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Tina Osceola is known for her passion on issues that are important to the Seminole Tribe – her work to have the remains and funerary objects of tribal ancestors returned – and the years she spent as one of Tribal Court's original judges.

So it may not come as a surprise that last August she became director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), succeeding Anne Mullins who retired.

Like many during the first year of the pandemic, Osceola, 54, said she spent a lot of time thinking about what she wanted to do in the next phase of her life.

"The pandemic motivated me to reassess my purpose," she said. "I did a lot of thinking about the type of work I do, and I've always wanted to make a difference."

Osceola, a lifelong resident of the Naples community, said she contacted Paul Backhouse, senior director of the Heritage and Environment Resources Office (HERO), to see if any positions were opening up and if there was one he would like her to fill.

Osceola has worked with Backhouse for years. She told him: "I'm willing to do anything to feed my soul." The THPO opening fit the bill.

"THPO is really the champion of tribal sovereignty," Osceola said. "And that is due, in part, to the incredible amount of interface between our office and federal and state agencies."

THPO, the Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD), and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum all fall under the HERO umbrella at the tribe.

"It is inspiring to work alongside people like Tina, who is incredibly capable and a champion for her people," Backhouse said. "I am excited to support the next steps in the development of the THPO program."

Osceola said that while much of the work THPO tackles can be tedious, it also has a major impact. She and a staff of 23 work on



Tina Osceola

repatriation issues – through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) – and it has influence on projects that receive federal funding, through the National Historic Preservation Act.

"That's our foot in the door when it comes to these large projects that occur with the Army Corps, Everglades restoration and national parks that are in ancestral boundaries," Osceola said. "It's important for tribes to fully exercise their rights and responsibilities. It really is our mission."

THPO is also responsible for archaeological work on the tribe's reservations, which include permitting, cultural resource surveys and ownership and usage rights of lands.

'No More Stolen Ancestors'

Osceola said the tribe's repatriation committee, which carries the motto "No More Stolen Ancestors," has been making strategic moves to keep pressure on institutions like the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), which has a collection of about 1,500 Seminole ancestors and tens of thousands of archaeological objects.

The committee has appealed to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) for support and has

engaged with national media that are interested in telling the tribe's story.

"That's been incredibly successful to getting the word out and the Smithsonian has been responding to that attention," Osceola said.

In late 2020, the committee was successful in getting the NMNH to revise its policy to include provisions to repatriate human remains and other items that were previously identified as "culturally unidentifiable." It was a significant breakthrough, but Osceola said she didn't immediately celebrate.

"I wanted to wait and see how it was to be carried out practically," she said. "We've had meetings with them since the policy changed – and I go into each meeting with an open mind – but they're not interested in repatriating ancestors. They're more dedicated to their own research and patrimony over ancestors – not in making the process easier for the tribes."

The tribe has also joined seven others – called the Star Alliance – to get the University of Alabama's Moundville collection of almost 5,900 remains and objects repatriated.

"[The University of] Alabama continues to put road blocks up because they felt the ancestors and funerary objects were theirs and they did not want to repatriate," Osceola said.

There has been progress, too. Particularly in working with NAGPRA officials and other federal and state agencies.

"But the fact of the matter is the ancestors were disturbed, split and divided through many institutions," Osceola said. "We're left with the question now of reburial and finding all the missing ancestors and funerary objects. It's not an easy process and it becomes daunting, especially with institutions with older collections. We're patient. As long as they are entering the process in good faith, we will work with them."

Osceola said THPO would soon be reaching out to the tribal community to develop a more formalized repatriation committee to get more tribal members involved.

More information is at stofthpo.com.

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Four Seminole musicians earn NAMA nominations

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Tribal members Doc Native, Spencer Battiest, Carradine Billie and Anthony Balentine, who is commonly known as Aye Five, have earned Native American Music Award (NAMA) nominations.

"That's what makes this super special," Battiest said. "We are nominated alongside our Seminole brothers. For us to all have a moment like this is really special."

The award winners will be determined by the number of votes cast by the public. Voting is open until March 31. To vote, go to nativeamericanmusicawards.com/nama-15-music and click on "Official 2022 Voting Ballot."

Hollywood Reservation brothers Battiest and Native earned one nomination for "Dream" in the best pop video category. They earned three more nominations for "The Storm: Live from Home" in the best narrative in a video, best live performance video and best collaboration in a video categories.

"I'm very happy 'Dream' is getting recognition. It's our latest song," Native said. "Especially since we have our friend Adam Conte [director of the video], it's fulfilling when we can bring our peers along with us. To have his hard work and dedication to our video be recognized alongside our music is very special."

Battiest said he is proud to stand in solidarity with other Native artists.

"It's amazing because 'Dream' is our



Courtesy photo

Aye Five's song "Illuzionz" was nominated for best narrative in a video. It was his first nomination.



Courtesy image

Doc Native in the "Dream" video, which is nominated for best pop video.



Courtesy image

Spencer Battiest, right, was nominated in the best pop video category for "Dream"



Courtesy photo

Carradine Billie's song "Osceola" is nominated in the best rap hip hop video category. It is his second nomination.

current fight song that lets people know not to give up on your dreams," he said. "When we released it, a lot of people's dreams were on hold."

During the pandemic when musicians weren't traveling or playing live shows, Native and Battiest revisited and reimagined their 10-year-old song "The Storm." This time they and their band and recorded "The Storm: Live from Home" remotely from home studios in Hollywood, Florida; Seal Beach, California; Culver City, California; and Canton, Ohio.

"It was the first time we had done anything like that," Native said. "It breathed new life into the song."

Native changed some of the lyrics to reflect the reality that everyone is fighting to get through and survive the pandemic.

"The song is timeless because it's a true story," Battiest said. "It touches your soul and bothers you, it's history. Not all history is beautiful or is an easy pill to swallow. It's important that the truth be told. We will never stop performing this song."

"The Storm: Live from Home" has more nominations for a song than any other the brothers have done over the years.

"It's a song that resonates with a lot of Native and Indigenous communities," Battiest said. "All of us in our own tribes

have our own stories, but the struggle is the same."

Native's song "Buss Down" was nominated for best rap hip-hop video. He said the video is a spoof of the genre. Some of the props included Nerf guns, plenty of bling and a not too fancy car with a fake Rolls-Royce sticker on it.

"It's all tongue in cheek," Native said. "Everything in the video is in the character's imagination. He's actually the opposite of all that. It's not just another hip-hop video. Even though we put in the hard work, we can still have fun with our craft."

Tribal members, including Battiest brother Taylor, cousin Gus Baker and Adakai Robbins appear in the video, which is directed by Vigilant.

"I always try to bring tribal youth with me whenever we do videos or live performances," Native said. "We like to use our platform to showcase other indigenous talent."

Recognition for 'Osceola'

Billie's "Osceola" was also nominated for best rap hip-hop video. Billie, whose stage name is Seminole Prince, hails from the Big Cypress Reservation. This is his second NAMA nomination; the first was for

the song "Remember Me." He has recorded about 11 albums, some are available on streaming services.

Billie described "Osceola" as being about the Seminole Wars, but in the video he is a modern day warrior.

"Living as modern-day Seminoles, we have our own battles," Billie said. "I've been sober 17 years. It took its toll on me; I lost a lot of friends to it. I knew it was time to make something better of my life and it was the best decision I ever made."

When he started rapping in 2001, not many other tribal members were doing it. Today, Billie is impressed by the number of tribal members who rap. It inspires him to keep rapping.

"The nomination tells me I'm taking it seriously and trying to do something with my music," he said. "I'm proud of it and grateful for the music, it's helped me through a lot of tough times."

First nomination for Aye Five

Aye Five's "Illuzionz" earned a nomination for best narrative in a video. The Big Cypress resident has been making music for 15 years. This is his first NAMA nomination and he said he is humbled by it.

"When I was starting out, I'd go to

competitions and walk in by myself," Aye Five said. "I'd see all the other artists with crews. They would laugh at me and say, 'Who is this guy?' Their mindset would change when I got onstage. I'd blow their mind and prove them wrong. I like the feeling of shocking people."

Aye Five described the theme of the song as "it's OK not to be OK" and that negative thoughts are just an illusion. One of the lyrics is: "My worst enemy was the one I shared breath with."

"Ever since I was a little boy I knew I was here for a higher calling," he said. "These messages in my music aren't mine; they come from the universe for me to share. When you're alone you get messages from the universe. That's why being alone is a superpower."

During the pandemic, artists had to figure out how to push their creativity despite the limitations. Native believes it gave artists

a chance to connect and collaborate since everyone had more time on their hands. He is grateful to be nominated alongside other great Indigenous talent.

"I'm very happy our work is being recognized," he said. "It's been a trying two years for all of us, it's great to see everyone is still finding ways to keep their careers going. We made it work. Five nominations, I wasn't expecting that. It was a nice surprise."

NAMA hasn't held an awards show for two years, so Indigenous music from 2019-2021 was eligible for nomination. The organization also added 15 more categories.

"It is really important that people understand they have the power to determine the outcome," Battiest said. "If they like any of our music, they should go and vote."

Due to the pandemic, the awards show is scheduled to be held virtually sometime in the spring.

Brighton Field Day, Tribal Fair cancelled; virtual contests to be offered

STAFF REPORT

The Brighton Field Day Festival and the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow – two major annual events in the Seminole Tribe – were scheduled to return to in-person gatherings this winter, but both have been cancelled.

The 83rd Brighton Field Day Festival was slated to be held Feb. 18-20 on the Brighton Reservation and the 50th anniversary of the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow was scheduled for Feb 25-27 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. Similar to 2021, both will offer virtual contests, but no in-person programs.

Florida and the rest of the country have been dealing with a surge of Covid cases in recent weeks. Florida recorded several consecutive days of more than 50,000 new cases in January, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The safety of attendees must always

come first," Tribal Fair officials said in a statement about the event cancellation. "We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and we look forward to celebrating the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow next year."

Details about the virtual contests are being worked out. Categories will likely

include clothing, arts and crafts, patchwork, beadwork, Seminole dolls, baskets and carvings as well as fine arts for various age divisions.

In early 2020, Field Day and Tribal Fair were among the last major in-person tribal events held before the pandemic began forcing cancellations.

Ag commissioner asks authorities to reject drilling company request

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

An application to drill another well in the Big Cypress National Preserve is still under consideration despite the efforts of tribal members and others who are concerned about the health of the Everglades. Burnett Oil Co.'s application to drill another well in the Big Cypress National Preserve is still pending.

Burnett is seeking permission to drill at

two additional sites in the preserve at which new pads and access roads will be built in the wetlands.

On Dec. 29, 2021, Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and National Park Service Director Charles F. Sams III asking them to reject the Texas-based oil company's efforts to modify its wetlands mitigation requirements and reject any additional drilling in the Everglades region. The letter described the damage

already done by Burnett's seismic oil exploration in the preserve.

"Heavy industrial vehicles traversed through more than 100 square miles of pristine wilderness, destroying native cypress trees and impacting endangered species," Fried wrote. "According to monitoring reports, Big Cypress has not yet recovered from this damage, with seismic lines impairing water flow across the Everglades, among other impacts. Burnett Oil Company has not yet properly remediated this wetlands damage,

yet the NPS is currently considering allowing the company to instead perform restoration on alternative lands."

In April 2021, about 50 activists hiked through areas damaged by the company's previous exploration activities, in 2017 and 2018, to protest the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) potential approval for construction of an additional oil pad for exploration.

On Oct. 14, 2021, the 13 members of the Florida congressional delegation sent a

letter to President Joe Biden and Haaland to express their concern about drilling in the environmentally sensitive Everglades.

The delegation encouraged the administration to conduct a full environmental impact statement and deny any operations permits needed to advance any new drilling sites within the Everglades. The letter also mentioned the "fierce local opposition from the Seminole Tribe and other local communities."

◆ See DRILLING on page 6A

◆ ALLIGATORS From page 1A

The data collection should be completed in July, August and September, at which time ERMD would put together a comprehensive report of the findings by the end of the year.

The study is the first that will incorporate formal climate change data for analysis.

Alligator eggs are affected by temperature, which determines the gender of offspring.

"Higher nest temperatures, can yield more females," Eckel said. "Hot chicks and cool dudes is an easy way to remember it."

The study will record temperatures at some nesting sites, examine the microclimates, elevations and environmental characteristics of the nests.

"Alligators are one of the most resilient species on the planet and have been around for millions of years," Eckel said. "They are a good example of a successful story of the Endangered Species Act. It will be interesting to see how future conditions will integrate with that resiliency."

Eckel believes if temperatures continue to rise, it's possible that alligators may move

northward.

"They will shift based on their needs, like any other species," she said. "They will go where the resources they need are found or adapt to new conditions within their existing range."

Tribal members have inquired about the alligator population and their nesting habits on the reservations.

"Looking at alligators in this way will provide real perspective from a climate change standpoint," Eckel said. "It will give us insight into the health, distribution and reproductive dynamic of the population. At the end of the survey we will have an estimated population based on data. We are really excited to be able to share the information with the community."

Storms, shipwrecks, sharks – all part of experience at sea for Harmon sisters

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Jessi and Anna Harmon crossed the Atlantic Ocean last summer on a 112-foot sailboat, spent 70 days and nights at the mercy of the sea, learned what it takes to safely operate a two-masted schooner and earned college credit for the experience.

The Seminole sisters from Arizona, who are the daughters of Donna and Edward Harmon, said it was an experience of a lifetime which taught them skills and a new understanding of their individual strengths.

"It inspired me and broadened my horizons," said Anna, 19. "It made me realize things are more attainable than you think and it made the world seem a lot smaller."

They participated in the Seamester program, a 4,500 nautical mile trip which started in the British Virgin Islands, crossed the Atlantic to Portugal's Azores archipelago about 870 miles from Lisbon, through the Strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean Sea, to ports in Spain, Corsica and Italy.

The 24 students on board were responsible for everything aboard the Vela from navigation to washing dishes. A six-member crew of experienced sailors mentored and taught the students how to sail.

"We would go to sleep one day when seas were rough and wake up the next day and the seas were glass smooth," said Jessi, 22. "I saw things I never would have seen on land."

Whales, sharks, bioluminescent dolphins and a massive shipwreck were just a few of the highlights of the trip. Additionally, the sisters learned about other cultures on board the Vela. The trip was pricey and some students believed they were on a cruise, not a working member of the crew, according to both sisters.

"It taught me a lot about people," Anna said. "Some of these kids hadn't worked very hard for things in their life. By putting in the extra work, I think I got more out of it. I went on the trip knowing it was a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Both sisters agreed the hard work was well worth it. They came out of the trip professionally certified in radio communications, navigation, as emergency first responders and earned their international crew member licenses. They also earned credit through the University of South

Florida in student leadership and nautical science.

Among the challenges was being on bow watch (at the front of the ship) for hours at a time. While on watch, students had to remain alert and concentrate on the water. It was there that Jessi and Anna saw about seven or eight dolphins covered in glowing bioluminescence, a light created by organisms in the water.

"It was like watching shooting stars moving and glowing green," Anna said. "It was the most beautiful thing I've ever seen."

Weather woes

Sometimes being on watch was more challenging than just trying to concentrate. Not long after the ship left the British Virgin Islands, it ran into the edge of Hurricane Elsa and experienced rough seas a few hundred miles from land. Jessi was on the first watch team during the worst part of the storm.

"Most of the other kids on watch were throwing up or passed out," she said. "The boat was tilted at a 45-degree angle. I had to do the boat check – in that weather and at that tilt – by myself. It was my first time on a boat in the ocean."

It was the worst weather they had during the 70 days at sea. In another incident later in the trip Jessi was credited with saving a boy's life.

"He almost fell off the boat, but I stopped him before he hit the water," she said. "His upper body was off the vessel, so I grabbed him by the T-shirt and muscled him back on the boat. It was pitch black; if he had gone over we could have lost him."

After her experience on the Vela, Jessi feels competent enough to get job in the



Anna Harmon is at the helm of a sailboat while at sea in the Seamester program last summer. Anna and her sister Jessi were among 24 students who made a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean.



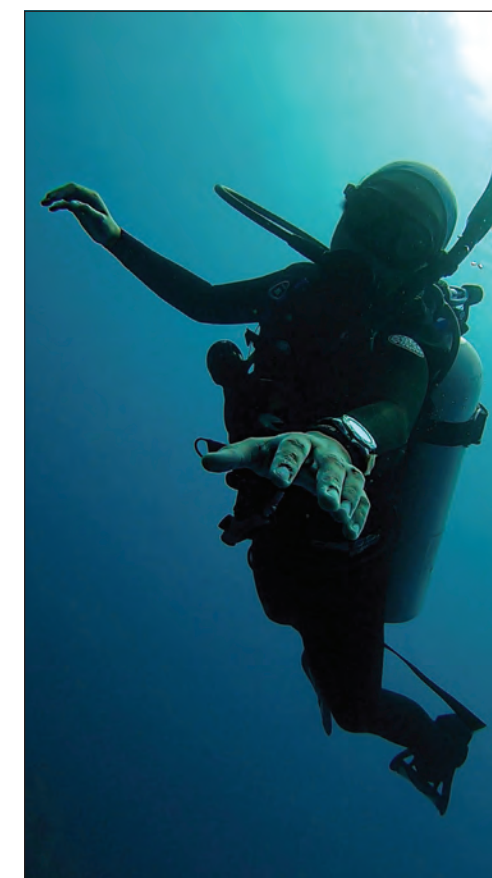
Courtesy image

Jessi Harmon works on the sails of the Vela.



Courtesy image

Jessi Harmon out at sea on the Vela.



Courtesy photo

Jessi Harmon scuba dives off the coast of Sardinia, Italy, as part of the Seamester program.

she said. "I tried my best. A teammate got second place overall and led us to a really good finish."

As a junior in high school, Anna started running cross country. She said she was "medium good" but made varsity and was inspired to keep running. To her disappointment, the season during her senior year was cut short by the pandemic.

"My coach told me she ran at junior college before she transferred to a four-year university," Anna said. "I thought I could do that. It gave me the opportunity to do something I love, get good and see how far I can take it. I love running for my community college."

Anna is studying business management. She plans to transfer into a university after she earns her associate degree and ultimately may want to go to culinary school and open a bakery.

"My mom went to culinary school and was a runner who ran triathlons and marathons," she said. "I like to make people happy and the easiest way to do that is through food."



Courtesy photo

Anna Harmon, right, competes in a meet for the Mesa (Arizona) Community College women's cross country team.



Courtesy image

Anna Harmon and fellow students onboard the Vela.

maritime field. She also has a new hobby in sailing.

"I recognize how privileged we are," she said. "The opportunities the tribe gives us through financial stability are humbling."

The Harmon sisters learned to scuba dive in the open water on the wreck of the RMS Rhone in the British Virgin Islands, a British Royal Mail Ship which went down during a hurricane in 1867. The 300-foot-by-40-foot ship is scattered over a reef at a depth of 75 feet. While diving over the shipwreck, Jessi swam among large grey tipped reef sharks.

During the journey, Anna said she learned she is tougher than she thought and how important it is to have a positive attitude.

"If you focus on the negative, that's all you'll see," she said. "Focus on the small things; those things can make a day turn around and be good. Having a positive attitude and being a nice person will get you further. It made the trip a lot better for me."

Anna enjoyed interacting with the staff, who were from Germany, the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand. She said she admired their humility and the wisdom travel gave them.

She said she was also moved by being on the open ocean surrounded by nothing but water and the horizon in every direction.

"Most people don't get to cross an ocean on a boat and learn how to sail," Anna said. "It was incredible. I was so grateful to be there and have my sister there with me. I got to see her in a brand new light and see how tough and cool she is under pressure."

Jessi's college experience

Jessi, a junior at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, is a company

commander in the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and vice president of student government. She is studying immunobiology, which is similar to epidemiology but is more focused on how the human immune system responds to and may fight disease.

"With the pandemic, I thought there would be a boom to understand prevention," Jessi said. "It's a wonderful time to learn these things, but after reading and writing about it all day, I have to come home and deal with the pandemic. I'm sure everyone is tired of it."

After graduation, Jessi will commission into the Army for eight years, which includes six active and two in reserve. Her plan is to go into engineering or the combat profession.

The time in the Seamester program sparked Jessi's interest in diving. She said she may want to be an engineer diver whose responsibilities are underwater welding, repair of vessels in ports and salvage of sunken vessels.

"I hope to go to Army salvage school this summer," Jessi said. "I think I have a good shot. I hope to make a career out of the Army, but I also hope to get into medicine eventually. Immunobiology is a good stepping stone to that."

Anna's college experience

Anna is a freshman at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Arizona, and runs on the women's cross country team. In November 2021, the team finished third at the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II National Cross Country Championships in Richmond, Virginia.

"I was injured for half of the season and had only six weeks to get back in shape,"

SPD captain graduates from FBI National Academy

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Another Seminole Police Department (SPD) executive has joined the list of graduates from the prestigious FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Capt. Jeffery Maslan, who joins three others with the distinction, graduated Dec. 16, 2020, after a 10-week intensive training. Other graduates are Public Safety Director Will Latchford, Chief of Police John Auer and Capt. Shawn Norton.

The National Academy is designed for law enforcement executives who already have significant experience in public safety, which makes it different from the FBI Academy that graduates new recruits into careers as FBI agents.

Those participating in the National Academy go through a demanding mix of academics and physical fitness challenges, as well as structured networking with other law enforcement professionals. Coursework includes intelligence theory, terrorism, management science, law, behavioral science, law enforcement communication and forensic science.

Graduates are expected to use and share what they've learned within their respective police departments and to more effectively interact with the communities they serve.

The physical fitness portion tests a student's endurance and durability and includes completing the Marine Corps obstacle course known as the "Yellow Brick Road." The course got its name after Marines placed yellow bricks at various spots to show runners where to go through a wooded trail.

"It was quite the experience; it was a fantastic experience," Maslan said.

A typical class size includes about 260 students, but COVID-19 precautions reduced Maslan's class to 130. Only 53,000 have graduated from the program since it was instituted in 1930.

"Jeff represented the Seminole Tribe in a truly professional way by his participation, knowledge and community policing problem-solving approach that he uses," Auer said. "We are very proud of Jeff for his accomplishment, not only because it is a great honor, but because attending is taxing



Courtesy photo

Capt. Jeff Maslan

on his family and work life by living away from home for 10 weeks. He juggled his personal, work and Academy matters with distinction."

Breaking barriers

Maslan said a big focus of the training was learning about leadership by empathy, emotional intelligence and community interaction — which he said took on new importance after protests against police brutality and racism that were sparked by the murder of George Floyd in 2020.

"Especially with what was going on throughout 2020 and 2021 with how the community feels toward police," he said. "How do we counteract that? How do we break the barriers down and build on community relations?"

Maslan's class was given a detailed history of the Emmett Till case and the Tulsa Race Massacre as part of the course in community relations. Till was a 14-year-old

Black male who was lynched in Mississippi in 1955 after being accused of offending a white woman in her family's grocery store. The Tulsa Race Massacre took place in 1921, when mobs of white residents, some of whom had been deputized and given weapons by city officials, attacked Black residents and destroyed homes and businesses in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"A number of students weren't familiar with Emmett Till, and the Tulsa Massacre is a situation in history that apparently many in law enforcement are unaware of," Maslan said. "You have to take these events into consideration as to why there are barriers."

The group also spent a day in Washington, D.C., at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the National Museum of the American Indian.

"I shared what I know about how Native Americans have been treated throughout history and that there are still some barriers there," Maslan said. "We've been working on building our community relations with the Seminole Tribe and I was able to share what our relationship is — other law enforcement agencies that have a connection to a tribe may not be aware of the differences in culture."

Maslan, 64, was born in Long Island, New York, and raised in Connecticut. He has been with SPD for 12 years and has been a captain for one year. Prior to working for the tribe, he retired from the Coral Springs Police Department as a captain after 30 years of service.

Maslan's family is steeped in law enforcement and public safety careers. Two of his three sons are in law enforcement, his father was a fireman and his grandfather was a police officer. He also has two brothers who were state troopers and even has a sister-in-law, nephew and goddaughter who are in law enforcement.

"I've come back with stronger leadership skills, a better sense of empathy towards the community and my peers and those who work in public safety, and I also recognize there are some areas that maybe we still need to hone in on — and share our success stories with other agencies," Maslan said.



Screenshot via Will Latchford

Jeff Maslan, right, receives his graduation certificate from FBI director Christopher Wray.

◆ ARCHIE From page 1A

"His personality is easy going," she said. "He's an easy keeper and doesn't fight you. He just knows his job."

That placid demeanor is present in the rodeo chute, where he quietly stands still as the saddle is put on. Only when the gate opens does his aggressiveness erupt.

As a rodeo stock contractor, 5 Star has horses, bulls and steers for use in rodeos. Paul Bowers Jr. spends a lot of time with the animals. He was with Archie at NFR, which drew nearly 170,000 spectators over 10 days, according to the organization. Before the event, Bowers was in the pre-load area of the chutes and said the horse looked jittery and his ears were back.

"I walked over to him and said 'I'm here,'" he said. "His ears perked forward, he turned his head and looked at me. I told him I know it's loud, but God put us here for a purpose. He put his head down and looked calm, like he was standing at the house. I prayed with him and told him there was nothing to

be afraid of. He just looked at me and nodded and blew a little bit. I thought it was a very special moment."

Bowers talks to all the horses when he feeds them and puts them in the pens in Brighton. He said he is around horses more than people and communicates well with them.

"When he went out and bucked that night, it was amazing," he said. "The crowd was so loud I couldn't hear anything. I was bucking with him because I was bouncing

around on the chute. He had just one rider that night. He showed everybody what he was there for."

Johns and Bowers have had animals in the NFR before, the last time was 2012. This was their first win. Archie traveled to Las Vegas with another horse, which made the trip less stressful.

"You never know how they will perform at the big show," Johns said. "He knows his job and it worked out."



Courtesy photo

Archie, a bucking horse from 5 Star Rodeo Holdings in Brighton, tries to buck off Ryder Wright during the competition Dec. 3, 2021, at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Q&A: Climate strategy driven by tribal members

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe's efforts to determine climate change risks and mitigate the effects to protect tribal members are a continual process. A recent milestone was the hire of Jill Horwitz as its climate resiliency officer in December 2020. Her role requires the management of a number of activities, including connecting with government officials and agencies and tribal member outreach and education. Her position is part of the tribe's Heritage and Environment Resources Office (HERO).

The Tribune caught up with Horwitz for a one-year check-in on the tribe's climate change initiatives. Answers have been edited for length and clarity.

What are the tribe's top climate change concerns?

According to the survey we conducted last year, tribal members are most concerned about loss of traditional plants, rising energy costs and unreliable service, and extreme heat and cold. To address these concerns, I support the tribe's vulnerability analysis, which includes leveraging cultural and ecological resources, helping to advise on renewable energy and sustainable building standards, and partnering with the tribe's Integrative Health department on community education regarding extreme heat.

While we can't turn back the clock on sea-level rise, we can limit the effects of extreme heat by taking immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By planting trees, driving electric vehicles, and taking other carbon-cutting steps, we can ensure that the next generation of Seminoles have a month or two of these [extreme heat] days and not the prediction of half the year.

What have you learned that surprised you?

I've been helping South Florida communities plan for climate change for over 15 years, and honestly I've never grown so much in such a short period of time. Indigenous challenges are unique from other communities, traditional ecological knowledge is powerful, and tribal members are, well, very honest.

I have been working on unraveling systemic racism for a while now, and my Seminole coworkers have accelerated this process for me. I am better able to see and address colonialization in the workplace, such as whitewashed science, exploitive partnerships or data requests, and linear top-down planning. Those things always bothered me, but now I have a name for them and can reject that way of thinking and pursue more holistic and genuine forms of discovery and problem solving.

What's the status of the tribe's Climate Action Plan?

We started thinking that we needed to start with a plan, because I am a planner. But the tribe does not need a plan that says "write energy policy," "collect data on impacts," or "build greater resilience." We already know that and have started those efforts. Good decision-making comes from information that is built and shared together. Data and action can be pursued simultaneously.

With that in mind, I have focused on

◆ DRILLING From page 4A

On Oct. 15, 2021, Rep. Darren Soto tweeted "Oil drilling in the #Everglades would put Congress' restoration efforts in direct jeopardy and cause irreparable harm to our community. I'm proud to stand in opposition with my Florida delegation colleagues on both sides of the aisle and hope the extraction is not authorized."

In mid-December, the Florida DEP recommended that Burnett withdraw its application or face it being denied unless



Damon Scott

Jill Horwitz participated in an event for the Education department in Hollywood on Dec. 1, 2021.

building meaningful relationships with tribal members and leadership. Together, we have defined resilience as strength, community and survival. This definition is based on tribal culture and priorities, and the program works to defend tribal sovereignty in everything we do.

One of my roles as the climate resiliency officer is to make sure the tribe is seen as a leader in the climate-planning sphere. I was able to secure a seat for the tribe on the Southwest Florida Regional Resiliency Compact, on which [Naples Council Liaison] Brian Zepeda now serves. [Tribal Council's] decision to join the compact was unanimous. Engaging with regional climate compacts gives the tribe access to research and funding and builds relationships with neighboring local governments to address the shared challenges of climate change.

How has the pandemic affected your work?

Tribal members prefer face-to-face communication, which has been hard during the pandemic. When I do get to meet community members in person, we usually chat all day. I just love that. I prefer people to all the data and technical parts of my job, so making these real and lasting connections really energize me. Each person and community is complex, and can't be summarized or simplified. What is universal is the advice for me to be honest and transparent, expect tough questions, always stand with the community, and lead with the heart.

What makes you optimistic in 2022?

What makes me smile every day is the stellar teammate I have, Cody Motlow, and other tribal members who serve the tribe and support our program, like Tina Osceola, Taylor Holata, Quenton Cypress, Rollie Gilliam III, Danielle Jumper-Frye, Joe Frank, Councilwoman Mariann Billie and so many others.

Also, we are thrilled to announce that the food sovereignty workshop is open to new members. This is something that our program started this year as a way for tribal members to share and learn from each other. We will be looking for both virtual and in-person learning opportunities to offer in 2022 so keep an eye out for the announcements.

Finally, I am really hopeful that we will be able to run our own events this year. If in-person gatherings are allowed, we have planned a "Gathering Fire" climate conversation series. Our goal is to support intergenerational conversations on climate change in intimate tribal settings.

Jill Horwitz can be contacted at climateprogram@semtribe.com.

more information is provided on how seismic testing and oil drilling will impact the region and how it will be remediated.

In her letter, Fried asked the NPS to reject the company's request to modify its existing wetlands damage mitigation requirements and its request for additional drilling in the Preserve.

"The fate of this vast wilderness, part of the most unique and delicate ecosystem on Earth, hangs in the balance with these decisions before you," Fried wrote. "Thank you for your consideration and your efforts to protect America's natural treasures."

Adoption fees waived for pet event

FROM PRESS RELEASE

FORT LAUDERDALE — Broward County Animal Care will hold a Plenty of Pets adoption event Feb. 12 from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Adoption fees for cats and dogs will be waived.

Pet-related educational exhibits and prizes will be featured.

Adopters will be fit with the adoptable pet that fits their lifestyle.

Broward County Animal Care is located at 2400 SW 42nd Street in Fort Lauderdale. Adopters can visit Broward.org/Animal to preview all available pets. Each adoptable dog and cat is spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. A county license tag is also included.

Hard Rock's Reverb Hotel to open in former WWII-era bunker

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Hard Rock's unique hotel brand – Reverb – has found a unique home to mark its first European location. Hard Rock International (HRI) officials said Jan. 13 that the business-casual hotel brand is due to open in mid-2022 in Hamburg, Germany, within an iconic structure called the St. Pauli bunker.

The high-rise World War II-era bunker is known as Hamburg's largest – and is one of the few that has been preserved. Built in 1942, officials said area residents and visitors have come to regard it as representing creativity and urban culture.

The 134-room hotel will be operated by Hamburg's RIMC Hotels & Resorts Group.

The first Reverb – Reverb Downtown Atlanta – opened in Atlanta in December 2020. Officials have previously announced that Tampa is next in line for another U.S. location, adjacent to the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa. Other future sites that have been announced by Hard Rock include Miami and Kalamazoo, Michigan.

"After the success of the first Reverb in Atlanta, we are thrilled to bring this concept to Europe, and are especially excited to have Hamburg, Germany, as the home of our first European Reverb property," Todd Hricko, senior vice president of hotel development at HRI, said in a statement.

Reverb is different than many of the well-known Hard Rock destinations that feature big casinos and large entertainment venues. But fans that have come to know the Hard Rock brand will notice plenty of

familiar music-centric touches. There are plans for Reverb Hamburg to host concerts and performances from up-and-coming artists, for example.

"Appealing to both travelers and locals, Reverb Hamburg will be a welcome attraction to the hip, artsy Schanzenviertel neighborhood," Marek N. Riegger, CEO of RIMC Hotels & Resorts Group, said in a statement. "The distinctive location and breathtaking views of the Hanseatic city from the lush public rooftop park ensure that a visit to the Bunker St. Pauli will be a holistic experience for tourists as well as for the people of Hamburg."

The Reverb brand is owned by HRI's parent entity, the Seminole Tribe of Florida. More information about Reverb can be found at reverb.hardrockhotels.com.



The hotel is to be located within the St. Pauli Bunker in Hamburg, Germany.

Via Business Traveler

Hard Rock Hollywood breaks slot machine jackpot record

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood has reported record-breaking slot machine jackpot totals for 2021.

More than \$1.2 billion in slot machine jackpots were awarded, according to a news release Jan. 4. The casino reported it paid out more than 420,000 slot machine jackpots in

all.

The highest single slot machine jackpot was \$900,000, while the average was nearly \$3,000, officials said.

In November 2021, as part of a celebration to recognize surpassing \$1 billion in 2021 slot machine jackpots, Hard Rock Hollywood awarded \$100,000 to casino guest Sergio Montoya of Miami. Montoya had hit a slot machine jackpot at

the casino Nov. 15.

Former Miami Dolphins star Jason Taylor was on site to congratulate Montoya.

The casino used the occasion to surprise Taylor by making a \$100,000 donation to the Jason Taylor Foundation.

Hard Rock Hollywood has nearly 3,000 slot machines.

More is at hardrock.com.

Messi Burger debuts at Hard Rock Cafes in South Florida

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Hard Rock Café customers in Hollywood and Miami can bite into a burger named for one of the world's most famous soccer stars.

The Messi Burger – a tribute to Lionel Messi – will be offered globally starting March 1, but it debuted in South Florida on Jan. 11.

In June 2021, Hard Rock

introduced Messi as a global ambassador for the company in a five-year deal.

The burger includes a double stack of seasoned and seared ground beef patties with provolone cheese, sliced chorizo, caramelized red onion, and Hard Rock's spicy, smoky sauce served on a toasted brioche bun with shredded romaine lettuce and vine-ripened tomato.



Hard Rock

Soccer star Lionel Messi shows the burger named after him that is available at Hard Rock Cafe in Miami and Hollywood.

Valentine's Day specials at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

FROM PRESS RELEASE

COCONUT CREEK — The Special holiday menus and entertainment will be offered at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek's dining venues to celebrate Valentine's Day on Feb. 14.

NY Steak

The property's fine dining steakhouse will present a Valentine's Day dinner special Feb. 12 and Feb. 14 from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Featured items will include a choice of Manhattan seafood chowder (\$18) or baby beet and goat cheese

salad (\$16) for appetizer; Japanese Wagyu filet mignon (\$24 per ounce), surf and turf for two (\$214), Mediterranean prawns (\$95) for entree; potato pave with chive crème fraiche and caviar (\$18); and a sweet goodbye mirror glazed chocolate cake with strawberry mousse (\$19) for dessert.

For reservations, call (954) 935-6699 or visit sevenrooms.com/reservations/nysteakhousecoconutcreek.

1st Street Deli

The property's authentic New York-style delicatessen will offer a

Valentine's Day three-course special Feb. 14 from 11 a.m. to midnight for \$40 per person. The menu will include a choice of roasted tomato bisque or strawberry salad (first course); petite sirloin and lobster cake with Yukon gold whipped potatoes or bourbon pecan chicken with Yukon gold whipped potatoes (main course); and molten lava cake for dessert.

Entertainment

Jam Band Duo will perform at Legends Lounge on Feb. 14 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. during NYY Steak's Valentine's Day dinner.

Hard Rock Sportsbook to launch in Arizona

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The Hard Rock Sportsbook roster continues to grow.

Already serving customers in Iowa and New Jersey, the Hard Rock Sportsbook announced it would launch a mobile app in Arizona through a partnership with Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise (NNGE).

"We're thrilled to partner with the NNGE to provide Arizona sports bettors with a fun and engaging game day experience through the Hard Rock Sportsbook mobile app," Marlon Goldstein, executive managing director and CEO for Hard Rock Digital, said in a statement Jan. 27. "The Hard Rock brand is known worldwide for legendary hospitality and entertainment, and we're excited to deliver those experiences to Arizonans digitally with unrivaled mobile sports betting."

Based in Hollywood, Hard Rock Digital debuted in 2020 as the interactive gaming and sports betting arm for Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming.

NNGE, an enterprise of the Navajo Nation, operates Twin Arrows Casino in Flagstaff, Arizona, as well as three casinos in New Mexico. With more than 400,000 members, Navajo Nation has the largest enrollment of any Native American tribe in the U.S.

"Mobile sports and event wagering is an important new offering that we're excited to introduce," Brian Parrish, interim CEO for the NNGE, said in a statement. "The Hard Rock Sportsbook mobile sports wagering platform and our brick and mortar operations will offer a broad range of wagers, marketing promotions and cross-marketing offers that



will be unique to the Navajo and Hard Rock brands."

The launch date for the Arizona app has not been announced.

More than 80% of Navajo Gaming's employees are enrolled members, according to its website.

"The NNGE has proven its ability to create new jobs, develop innovative, high-quality facilities and products, as well as build utility infrastructure that also supports other businesses and residential areas on the Navajo Nation," Quincy Natay, board chairman for NNGE, said in a statement. "Joining forces with Hard Rock Digital fits well with our strategic plan and additions to our existing offerings."

Sports betting has the support of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, who celebrated the first day of legalized sports betting in Arizona last year.

"Sports fans, teams, gaming industry employees, visitors to our state — today is an exciting new day for Arizona," Ducey said in a statement Sept. 9, 2021. "Today marks the first day of legal sports betting in Arizona. This means new job opportunities, more tourism in our state and increased tax revenues that will benefit Arizonans and tribal communities."

Clearwater woman hits two \$1m jackpots at Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

FROM PRESS RELEASE

TAMPA — On Jan. 9, a Clearwater resident named Gloria visited Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa and won a \$1,045,153 jackpot while playing Aristocrat Gaming's Dragon Link progressive slot game. This jackpot came just 18 days after she won \$1,241,642 on Dragon Link.

The Dragon Link \$1 million progressive jackpot can be found at Seminole Hard Rock

Hotel & Casino Hollywood, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa and Seminole Coconut Creek Casino. The progressive jackpot starts at \$1 million at each property, meaning players have three places to play for \$1 million jackpots.

Seminole Hard Rock Tampa has paid out over \$1.6 billion in jackpots to more than 56,000 individuals in 2021. There have been over 581,000 jackpots awarded, which equates to over a jackpot paid per minute.

Hard Rock Biloxi employees provide holiday help for kids



Hard Rock Biloxi

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Biloxi "adopted" 13 children during the holiday season from CASA of Harrison County, an organization in Mississippi that helps abused and neglected children. The children provided a list of three needs and three wishes and the Hard Rock employees fulfilled everything.

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Joan Jett to perform in Tampa on May 15

FROM PRESS RELEASE

TAMPA — Joan Jett & The Blackhearts will perform in Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa on May 15 at 8 p.m.

Tickets starting at \$50 are available at seminolehardrocktampa.com and Ticketmaster.com.

Jett, a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, has eight platinum and gold albums and nine Top 40 singles, including the classics "Bad Reputation," "I Love Rock 'N'

Roll," "I Hate Myself For Loving You," and "Crimson and Clover."

"Bad Reputation," a documentary about Jett's life, premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and is available for streaming.

Painting conservation reveals artist information

BY ROBIN CROSKERY HOWARD
and
TARA BACKHOUSE
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

BIG CYPRESS — Processing new acquisitions can be an exciting moment for a conservator. Often, they are the first staff members to see every aspect of the object coming into the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's collection. This process may reveal further information about how an object was made, its use, or sometimes it gives us more information about its creator. The museum recently acquired two paintings by the artist Fred Beaver, both of which were produced around the same time in 1961: the frames and mat board are from the same company and are the same style.

Beaver (1911-1980) was a Creek artist from Eufala, Oklahoma. While he was an artist early in life, he had no formal training in the craft until he returned from military service in World War II. After that experience, he spent most of his life working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and produced much artwork during this time. He was based in Florida while working for the BIA, and it was during this time that his art featured Florida Seminole themes. In fact you may be familiar with one of his biggest works. The large triangular shaped mural that has been a feature of Okalee Village since it opened in 1960 was painted by Beaver. He worked on the multi-piece wooden painting in place. That same mural still hangs at Okalee today. The museum is also proud to have several smaller examples

of his Florida Seminole art in our collection on Big Cypress. The two new paintings are a nice addition.

Both our conservators, Robin Croskery Howard and Maria Dmitrieva, collaborated on conserving these objects. They decided to open up the paintings, done through careful disassembly. One of the first things noticed during the initial examination was the buildup of dust and dirt on the frame and glass, even on the interior of the glass. Dust is an abrasive material that can cause quite a bit of damage; it is also visually distracting. Another reason the paintings were unframed is that the original backer was made of cardboard, a highly acidic material. Acidity is not good for the long-term stability of an object. And acidic paper touching acidic paper worsens the condition, creating a runaway train effect. Wherever it is appropriate, conservators will replace acidic components of objects with acid-free substitutes.

When the paintings were taken apart, lo and behold, more information from the artist himself was hiding beneath the backers. Beaver listed the titles as well as the original prices for the paintings; one on the original backer and one on an inner mat

board. For example, one of the paintings is titled "Seminole Family" and the 1961 price the artist sold it for was \$20.

This discovery will help us provide more information to the public through our online collections (semtribe.pastperfectonline.com/) and during exhibition.

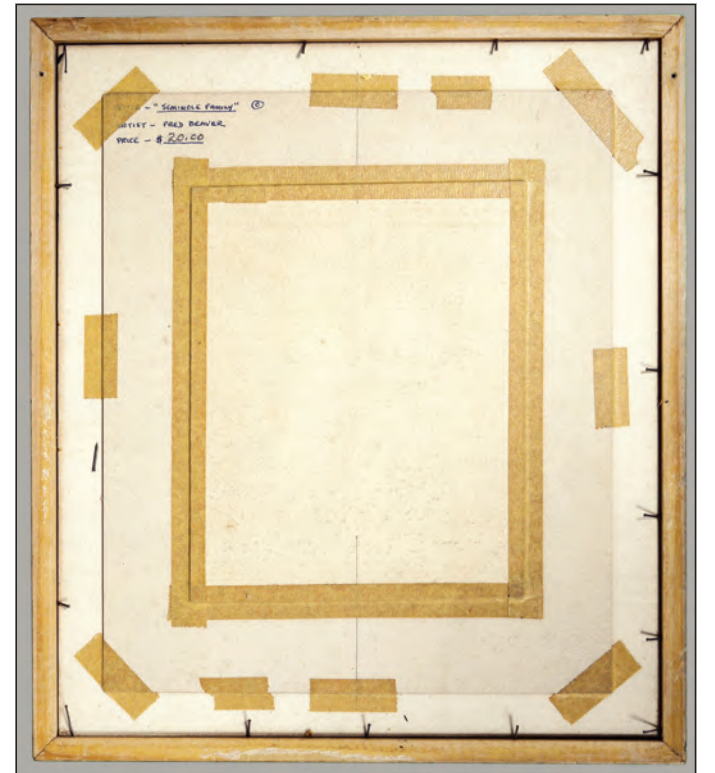
We then replaced the mat boards that were making the acid staining and chemical wear on the paper worse. After sizing and cutting the new archival mat boards, the paintings were reassembled using a special type of paper and water-soluble adhesive to create hinges. After this process, the paintings are safer and will last a lot longer with these new materials.

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



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

One of the new Fred Beaver paintings after being treated and reframed by the museum conservators.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The back of one of the museum's new Fred Beaver paintings shows the acidic cardboard and deteriorating tape that was damaging the painting, as well as the title and other information written by the artist.



Courtesy Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Fred Beaver painting the mural on the wall of the Arts and Crafts Center at the Seminole Okalee Indian Village on the Hollywood Reservation in 1960.

Do you have framed photographs or paintings around your house? The best thing you can do for them is to display them away from direct light. Hang the frames on a wall not facing a window. Carefully dust the surfaces regularly using a clean cotton cloth to minimize abrasive damage. If you would like to learn more or need advice on how to care for your heirlooms or objects you have in your own collection, please contact our laboratory. You can call (863) 902-1113 or email museum@semtribe.com and ask to speak to a conservator. Hope to hear from you soon!

Joy Harjo named artist-in-residence at Dylan venue

FROM PRESS RELEASE

TULSA, Okla. — United States Poet Laureate Joy Harjo has been named the first artist-in-residence at the Bob Dylan Center (BDC), in advance of its grand opening on May 10. Throughout her six-year appointment, the Tulsa native and member of the Muscogee Nation will present educational programs and live performances as well as curate special exhibitions at the BDC.

"When Bob Dylan stepped forward and made his path of song making, poetry, and storytelling, a path that lit a generation, he opened a creative door for others to find their way to fresh invention and imagining," Harjo said in a statement. "I am one of those who followed. My residency will allow this legacy to be extended to the community, to encourage and share creativity. I am honored to be part of this new venture."

BDC is scheduled to open in the Tulsa Arts District. Through exhibits, public programs, performances, lectures and publications, the center aims to foster a conversation about the role of creativity in lives. It will be anchored by a permanent exhibit on the life and work of Dylan.

Cynthia Chavez Lamar to lead NMAI as Smithsonian's first Native female museum director

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Cynthia Chavez Lamar (Pueblo of San Felipe) has been named director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), effective Feb. 14.

The Smithsonian Institution, whose 19 museums include the NMAI, made the announcement Jan. 19. Chavez Lamar is the first Native woman to be a Smithsonian museum director.

"I am looking forward to leading and working with the museum's experienced and dedicated staff," Chavez Lamar said in a statement. "Together, we will leverage the museum's reputation to support shared initiatives with partners in the U.S. and around the world to amplify Indigenous knowledge and perspectives all in the interest of further informing the American public and international audiences of the beauty, tenacity and richness of Indigenous cultures, arts and histories."

Chavez Lamar will oversee the museum's three facilities: the NMAI on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the museum's George Gustav Heye Center in Manhattan and the Cultural Resources

Center in Suitland, Maryland.

Chavez Lamar's experience at the NMAI stretches back to the mid-1990s when she served as an intern at the museum. She has worked for the museum in various roles at different periods, including her current position as acting associate director for collections and operations. She oversees its collections, facilities, safety and information technology departments. She was associate curator from 2000 to 2005. From 2014 through 2020, she served as assistant director for collections.

Her previous work experience also includes being director of the Indian Arts Research Center at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and director of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Colorado College in studio art, a master's degree in American Indian studies from UCLA and a doctorate in American studies from the University of New Mexico. She also received an honorary doctorate from Colorado College for her contributions to the museum field.

"Dr. Chavez Lamar is at the forefront of a growing wave of Native American career

museum professionals," Lonnie Bunch, Secretary of the Smithsonian, said in a statement. "They have played an important role in changing how museums think about their obligations to Native communities and to all communities. We look forward to Cynthia's leadership as the NMAI enters a new phase of service to the Native Peoples of the Western Hemisphere."

Chavez Lamar was a presidential appointee to the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development in 2011. She was a governor's appointee as a commissioner to the New Mexico Arts Commission from 2009 to 2012.

Chavez Lamar family's ancestry on the maternal side includes Hopi, Navajo and Tewa.

Chavez Lamar is the third director of the NMAI. Kevin Gover (Pawnee) served as director from 2007 to 2021 before being named the Smithsonian's Under Secretary for Museums and Culture. W. Richard West Jr. (Southern Cheyenne) led the museum from 1990 to 2007. Machel Monenerkit (Comanche Nation) has served as acting director of the museum since January 2021.



Courtesy image

Cynthia Chavez Lamar

Tribal Historic Preservation Office awarded grant for Natural Resource Conservation Service projects

BY MARK SAVANY
THPO Field Archeologist

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO) was awarded a \$347,000 grant from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in September 2020. The grant funds have been used to determine areas where people have lived for the past 5,000 years prior to agricultural development projects. The THPO has undertaken these investigations by digging shovel tests (round holes that are approximately 1.5 feet in diameter and are roughly 3 feet deep) throughout the Brighton Reservation and St. Thomas Ranch. To date, the THPO has completed over 5,200 shovel tests in order to assess those areas where people once lived. This assessment helps to understand how people used the land, what they ate, and where they settled. This grant also offers the THPO a chance to determine the exact location of settlements and whether these areas are significant and should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places or Tribal Register of Historic Places. Based on the work that the THPO will do through

this grant award, any impacts to these sites will be avoided or minimized during any ground disturbance for the agricultural projects.

Information about who lived at sites and what they did at them is derived from artifacts that are collected from the shovel test excavations. Artifacts include any item made or used by a human that can be carried. Following fieldwork, lab work is conducted at the THPO's archaeological laboratory on the Big Cypress Reservation to examine these artifacts. Approximately 15,600 artifacts have been found for this project, including burned animal bones (commonly snakes, fish and turtles), which highlight what people used to eat, as well as pottery sherds, lithics (stone tools), historic objects such as glass bottles, and other items people have used throughout the thousands of years that reservation lands have been occupied. Some of the more interesting and out of the norm artifacts found during these projects



A projectile point THPO found in a shovel test.

have been bones from beavers, squirrel long bones, water moccasins, and a projectile point (pointed stone tool i.e., arrowhead) that dates 3,000 to 6,000 years ago.

At the end of the grant what the THPO hopes to achieve is a better understanding of how people lived in the past and to identify the level of significance of sites and areas that should be avoided from being disturbed.



A THPO archaeologist digging a shovel test.

THPO

Health

Tribe's renewable energy conference returns after hiatus

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe's fourth "Renewable Energy and Sustainability Conference" is returning this year after a pause in 2021. The last conference took place just weeks before COVID-19 was declared a pandemic March 11, 2020.

After considering an in-person conference with a virtual option this year, organizers decided Jan. 7 to host it in a virtual format only. It is scheduled to take place Feb. 22 to Feb. 24 through the Native Learning Center (NLC) in Hollywood.

"We are super honored to have the leaders of DOE's Indian Energy Department as our keynote speakers," NLC executive director Georgette Palmer Smith (Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma/Choctaw), said.

The keynote speakers are all in the Department of Energy's Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs. They are Wahleah Johns (Navajo/Dine Tribe), director; Lizana Pierce, deployment supervisor and senior engineer; and Tommy Jones (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma), deployment specialist.

Smith and organizers from the tribe's energy committee said the conference would focus on the newly changing landscape for tribal energy development and sustainability.

"[It] will give tribes and First Nations an opportunity to explore the range of renewable energy and sustainability opportunities that exist and how to start the process," organizers said.

In addition to the keynote speakers, there will be presentations from members of Native American tribes and First Nations, as well as those representing tribal organizations and private industry.

The conference attracts attendees from across Indian Country — whether tribal members or those working for tribes — who share up-to-date information and best practices on a variety of sustainability, energy security and energy sovereignty issues.

There is no cost to attend. The NLC is located at 6363 Taft Street. It is supported by an Indian Housing Block Grant, which is awarded by the Office of Native American Programs at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). More information is at nativelearningcenter.com.



Keynote speakers scheduled to present are, from left to right, Wahleah Johns, Lizana Pierce and Tommy Jones.

VACCINES

From page 1A

The Tribune asked Kiswani-Barley in late January to update readers on the variant her concerns.

Are clinics still under 'essential visits only'?
Yes, we are still. However, we will be evaluating this shortly as we have started to see a trend downwards [in positive cases].

Is vaccine hesitancy still an issue?
It is still an issue. Unfortunately, due to it being a novel vaccine, and a lot of myths circulating, this seems to be the hesitancy.

Where do things stand now?
Over the past week and a half we have started to see numbers fall, and testing fall as well. Omicron is much more contagious than Delta, but we noted milder symptoms.

What trends do you see?
We see [cases] trending down, but it is

very early to ensure this is a true downward trend.

What continues to concern you?
I'm concerned about people not adhering to isolation and quarantine guidelines.

What is your overall message to tribal members?
Stay safe, come to the clinics if you have symptoms or have been exposed, consider the vaccine, wear a mask, have good hand hygiene and social distance. Self-awareness is key.

Editor's note: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has up-to-date information on COVID-19. Go to cdc.gov for more. Tribal members can call their local clinic or the HHS hotline at (833) 786-3458 for more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots, antibody treatments and the flu vaccine. Tribal employees can call the hotline for vaccine information as well.

NCAI winter session moves online

STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The winter session of the National Congress of American Indians' executive board will be held virtually Feb. 13-14. The session was originally slated to be held in Washington,

D.C., however, officials opted for only an online version, citing "health and safety."

NCAI President Fawn Sharp is scheduled to deliver the annual State of Indian Nations address Feb. 14 at 12 p.m. For more information, including an agenda, visit ncai.org.

HOLLYWOOD

From page 1A

Fire station: The construction phase of a second floor build out called the "Fusion Center" is ongoing and completion is antici-

pated by July 2022.

Tribal headquarters upgrades: Tribal headquarters is expected to undergo "hurricane hardening." This project includes replacement of the exterior glazing of the building with impact windows and doors. The project is currently out to bid and construction is anticipated to start in April 2022.

IT datacenter upgrades: Generator and system upgrades in progress would add a dedicated generator for the tribe's information technology (IT) datacenter. The project is currently in design phase and it is anticipated that construction will start in December 2022.



The new senior center would be 20,000 square feet once completed and have several amenities.



Sixty-eight single-family homes have been completed at Seminole Park.

\$10M in transportation grant awards earmarked for tribes

STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON — More than 30 tribal governments in rural areas have received federal grant awards totaling \$10.3 million to support transit services. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) made the announcement Jan. 19 as part of the Tribal Transit Program.

"Today's announcement is an important step toward ensuring Tribal Nations have the transportation infrastructure they need and deserve," U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a statement. "And thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure

Law, we'll soon be able to provide tribes additional funding to meet the unique transit needs of their residents."

Several of the grant awards are for the purchase of new vehicles and to upgrade or implement transit services.

According to the Transportation Department, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, signed by President Biden on Nov. 15, 2021, includes an additional \$229 million that will be available for transportation-related resources in tribal communities in the coming years.

The grant awards cover areas such as economic development, safety and increasing sustainability and resilience.

According to the FTA, examples of projects selected to receive the funding include:

- The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation in Yolo County, California, will receive \$612,000 to purchase new battery-electric vehicles to replace older vehicles that have exceeded their useful life and support charging infrastructure.

- The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in north-central Minnesota will receive \$882,882 to initiate new transit services on the reservation. This project will provide new public transportation access to many tribal members living in communities on the reservation.

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SEMINOLE SCENES



Kevin Johnson

HASKELL HOOPS: A few Seminoles attended the men's basketball game between Haskell Indian Nations University and Keiser University on Jan. 8 in West Palm Beach. Above, Chelsea Mountain and her son Jaycon Billie watch the action. Mountain is a former Haskell student who was a standout basketball player at American Heritage in Plantation. Jaycon also plays basketball.



Hard Rock

HAPPY FACES: Employees show their enthusiasm with the opening of a Hard Rock Cafe on the southern tip of Malaysia. Hard Rock Cafe Puteri Harbour opened in December 2021. It is located along the Straits of Johar, which serves as the border between Malaysia and Singapore.

ELEVATING INDIGENOUS WOMEN

A CONVERSATION WITH ASHLEY CALLINGBULL & CHEYENNE KIPPENBERGER

PREMIERING 3.4.22 AT THE VOICE + VISIBILITY WOMEN'S SUMMIT



ASHLEY CALLINGBULL



CHEYENNE KIPPENBERGER

VVMS

INDIGENOUS CONVERSATION: Cheyenne Kippenberger – a former Miss Indian World and Miss Florida Seminole – will be part of the Voice and Visibility Women's Summit, a virtual event that runs from March 4 to April 3. "Elevating Indigenous Women: A Conversation with Ashley Callingbull and Cheyenne Kippenberger" is scheduled to premiere March 4. Callingbull is a model, actress and First Nation's activist from Enoch Cree Nation in Alberta, Canada. Summit speakers also include Scout Bassett, Tiffany Dufu, Gloria Steinem, Aisha Nyandoro, Luz Corcuera and Mercedes Soler. According to the Summit's website, the event "is designed to empower women, expand networks and opportunities, and elevate the voices of diverse women."



Hard Rock Stadium

NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: ESPN's College GameDay set up in front of Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens on Dec. 31, 2021, for the football semifinal between Michigan and Georgia. Champion wrestler Bill Goldberg, a former Georgia player, joined the crew.



Damon Scott

GET READY KIDS: The tribe's new preschool/administration office facility is to be situated near the Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center on the Hollywood Reservation. Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2023. The Guitar Hotel can be seen in the background to the right.



Beverly Bidney

BC BIRD: An egret soars above the Big Cypress Reservation in December.

Seminole Scenes Rewind

20 Years Ago
January 2002

Ernie Tiger (2)

Jan. 16, 2002, was a big night for the Seminole Tribe at the Florida Panthers hockey game in Sunrise. Spencer Battiest, at age 11, sang the National Anthem in front of more than 17,000 spectators. Mercedes Osceola, the tribe's Princess, was introduced to the crowd while riding on the Zamboni, which is the vehicle that cleans the ice surface between periods. The tribe's tourism was also promoted that night as wildlife handlers from Billie Swamp Safari brought a panther and red-tail hawk for fans to see.



NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

‘McGirt v. Oklahoma’ ruling stands, but Supreme Court will consider arguments that could limit it

The U.S. Supreme Court will allow the landmark McGirt v. Oklahoma ruling to stand but will consider whether the state also has the right to prosecute non-Indians who commit felony crimes against Native people on reservation land.

Oklahoma officials flooded the Court with 45 petitions asking to have the July 2020 ruling be overturned entirely or to have the scope narrowed. On Jan. 21, the Court only agreed to hear one of those petitions.

On July 9, 2020, justices ruled that the reservation of the Muscogee Nation was never disestablished. That meant the state of Oklahoma did not have jurisdiction to prosecute Jimcy McGirt, the plaintiff in the case. Since then, courts have ruled that the reservations of the Seminole Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Cherokee Nation and Quapaw Nation are also still intact.

This means the tribes and the federal government are responsible for prosecuting crimes committed by Native people and against Native people on those reservations. Thousands of offenders have been prosecuted again since the ruling, including Jimcy McGirt who was convicted in federal court in November 2020, and is now serving a sentence in federal prison.

The ruling did reorganize large portions of the state’s criminal justice system. In an effort to ease the burden on federal and tribal prosecutors, the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals ruled the McGirt decision was not retroactive before July 9, 2020. The Supreme Court upheld that ruling earlier this month when it denied three petitions appealing that decision.

Following the High Court’s rejection of those petitions, Oklahoma Attorney General John O’Connor reportedly had a phone conversation with leaders of the Muscogee Nation including acting Attorney General Kyle Haskins and counsel for Principal Chief David Hill, Joe Williams.

Both sovereign governments said in a statement that the discussion was to, “establish clear lines of communications.”

“The conversation with Attorney General O’Connor was meaningful and a good-faith attempt by all involved to develop an open and professional relationship that will permit future understanding and collaboration on safety issues for the betterment of all Oklahomans,” Haskins said of the conversation. “We are hopeful that a door has been opened between reasonable people to improve Oklahoma’s relationship with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.”

The state of Oklahoma has argued that it should continue to have jurisdiction because that is how things have functioned since statehood. Governor Kevin Stitt has repeatedly said that the ruling has created chaos and lawlessness in the state.

In a statement released after the decision from the U.S. Supreme Court, Muscogee Nation said they will continue their efforts to making sure citizens are safe while celebrating tribal sovereignty.

“It is great news for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the U.S. Supreme Court in its order today declined to consider overturning the McGirt ruling that affirms our reservation and sovereignty.”

The petition justices did agree to review in the case of Victor Manuel Castro-Huerta. Castro-Huerta is a non-Native man who was convicted in an Oklahoma district court of neglecting his severely disabled five-year-old stepdaughter. He was sentenced to 35 years in prison. The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals threw out the conviction, saying the state did not have jurisdiction to prosecute Castro-Huerta. Under the McGirt ruling, he should have been prosecuted in federal court because his victim is Native, and the crime was committed on reservation land.

The state is arguing to the High Court that because Castro-Huerta is not Native, it should have concurrent jurisdiction or the ability to also prosecute him. If the Supreme Court agrees, the state would have concurrent jurisdiction in cases where non-Native people commit crimes against Native people on reservation land.

“The fallout of the McGirt decision has been destructive. Criminals have used this decision to commit crimes without punishment,” Stitt said in a statement Jan. 21. “Victims of crime, especially Native victims, have suffered by being forced to relive their worst nightmare in a second trial or having justice elude them completely.”

O’Connor also issued a statement following the Supreme Court’s decision to review the case. He called it a step forward.

“Narrowing the scope of this case will not alleviate all of McGirt’s harmful consequences in our State, but it would ensure that non-Indians can be prosecuted under the same rules as perpetrators who victimize non-Indians,” O’Connor said. “More importantly, it will guarantee Indian victims the same protection and justice that all other Oklahomans enjoy.”

Leaders of four tribes have accused Stitt of stoking division between the state and the tribes and have asked him to accept the 2020 ruling.

“The Cherokee Nation celebrates the Supreme Court’s rejection of a blatantly political request to overturn the McGirt decision,” Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said in a statement. “Now that the Governor’s fight against tribal sovereignty has once again come up short, we hope he will consider joining tribes, rather than undermining our efforts.”

Hoskin Jr. also said he is proud of the way the Cherokee Nation has rapidly expanded its criminal justice system. Cherokee Nation Attorney General Sara Hill said regardless of the outcome in the Supreme Court’s

review of the Castro-Huerta case, the tribe will continue to work with local, state and federal partners to ensure public safety on Cherokee lands.

Tribal leaders celebrated the decision, but don’t agree that the state should be able to prosecute non-Native offenders.

“The most important news of the day is that fundamentally, the Supreme Court was unwilling to go back on the McGirt decision itself and whether the country ought to keep its promise,” said Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr.

“We don’t think the court needed to review the issue of concurrent jurisdiction,” said Hoskin Jr.

Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton said that he hopes Oklahoma officials will now turn their attention to cooperating with tribal nations on the issue of criminal justice.

“We thank the justices for clearly establishing their ruling in McGirt will not be reconsidered at this time. As a Nation, we will continue doing everything we can to protect our citizens and our neighbors,” said Chief Batton in a statement.

- KOSU (Stillwater, Okla.)

NY budget plan includes \$35M for Native American schools

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul’s budget plan includes a huge funding increase for the three state-owned schools on Native territory. The schools are Onondaga Nation School near Syracuse, the Tuscarora School near Buffalo and the Saint Regis Mohawk School in Akwesasne near Massena.

Schools on those Native territories are owned by the state, not the local community like other public schools. Because of that, funding for maintenance or improvements comes from the annual state budget.

Late last year, after Hochul became governor, the superintendents held a press conference and talked about the state’s failure to maintain the school buildings. They said it created an unequal learning environment for Native American children.

Stanley Harper spoke at that event. He’s the superintendent of the Salmon River school district which includes the Saint Regis Mohawk Elementary School. “...by God, it’s wrong. That we were never provided with the same resources to level the playing field for the students and to maintain these buildings,” said Harper that day.

Hochul’s budget plan includes \$17.8 million for the Saint Regis school, more than double what it received in the last budget. On Tuesday, in response to the news, Harper said it’s enough to make significant repairs and improvements.

“We want to do the capital improvements to improve the buildings to modernize them, to get them up to date, compared to all the other school buildings across the state,” Harper said.

Harper, who is the only Native American school superintendent in the state, said the budget line is about more than just repairing buildings.

“This is a game-changer for our children, our staff, and our community. This means so much — you know what? - we’re valued as Native people the same as any other type of people in New York state. That’s what that tells our community and our staff and our children,” Harper said.

Harper said he’s optimistic that the legislature will approve the funding. He said it’s not the solution to all the funding problems for Native schools but this is a good start.

“I think the state is correcting a societal ill now, so I’m happy,” he said.

Harper said he won’t stop advocating for the school. Next, he’d like the governor to make a policy change so the state-owned native schools will have more control over their own budgets and not have to lobby every year.

- North Country Public Radio (Canton, N.Y.)

New Native American name proposed for Squaw Valley

A grassroots movement brewing in Fresno County to rename the rural town of Squaw Valley has led to an official request to the federal government to weigh in on the matter.

[In January], Fresno resident Roman Rain Tree sent a proposal to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to rename the town Nuum Valley. The reason for Rain Tree’s action is simple: The term “squaw” is “deeply offensive, racist, misogynistic and derogatory,” he wrote in his petition.

The small ranching community in Fresno County is not to be confused with the Lake Tahoe ski town of the same name, which is about a five-hour drive north. However, the Tahoe town, an unincorporated community, has been reckoning with its own history since the world-famous Squaw Valley ski area opted to change its name to Palisades Tahoe last fall.

The Board on Geographic Names, which operates under the secretary of the interior, is tasked with evaluating the names of federal lands, sites and places nationwide. Since Fresno County’s Squaw Valley is an unincorporated community, changing its name on federal maps and products is subject to the board’s discretion. In an email response, a board staffer said that the board would solicit input from the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and local federally recognized tribes, and that a decision may take several months.

“Here in Fresno County, tribal members and our allies have been working for decades to rid our homelands of the name of ‘Squaw Valley,’” wrote Rain Tree, who

grew up in Fresno County and is a member of the Dunlap Band of Mono Indians and Choinumni tribes.

Rain Tree represents a coalition of local residents, tribal members and academics called Rename Squaw Valley Fresno County. After consulting with tribal elders in the Fresno area, he chose “nuum,” which he said translates to “person” or “people” in the Western Mono language. However, he said elders also support the name Yokutch Valley; “yokutch” also means “the people,” he said.

Rain Tree first agitated to rename the town, a sprawling community of fewer than 5,000 residents in the mountains east of Fresno along Highway 180, with a petition he posted to Change.org last January. But he’s had difficulty persuading local politicians to take up the issue in public meetings.

Fresno County Supervisor Nathan Magsig, who represents Squaw Valley, has said he’d like to hear support from local residents and tribes first. To this point, he said, he hasn’t.

“I recognize that names have significant meaning. They’re part of our identity and they shouldn’t be easily changed,” Magsig said in a Facebook video addressing Rain Tree’s petition on Jan. 3. “The first thing that needs to take place is we need to sit down and hear one another out.”

Rain Tree said he and Magsig are in agreement that the issue needs to be heard in a public forum, but he believes the onus to host such a hearing falls on county supervisors. The petition is an attempt to spur a long-delayed discussion about the town’s name as well as deeper issues regarding Native American representation in the region, he said.

“We’re hoping for a community dialogue,” Rain Tree said. “We’re less concerned about what the name will be.”

Rain Tree was encouraged by a pair of orders issued by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland in November affirming that “squaw” is offensive and assigning a task force to remove the term from federal usage.

The orders could have major reverberations in California, where at least 94 sites and places — including trails, creeks and peaks — carry the harmful term, according to the board. In the past 25 years, several states have passed laws to scrub the name from place names. California, however, does not have such a law on the books.

- San Francisco Chronicle

Gambling venture in Oregon comes under fire from tribes

Travis Boersma has a plan to make Grants Pass Downs, a race track he went to as a kid, the epicenter of horse racing in Oregon.

“I’ve got some of my most fond memories of being at the horse races,” Boersma said. “The sport itself and the community that would come out and attend.”

Boersma is one of the founders of Dutch Bros coffee, which recently went public, making him the state’s newest billionaire. He’s also the owner of Grants Pass Downs and the Flying Lark, the attached entertainment complex.

But there’s a problem: His plan is contingent on the state’s approval of 225 betting terminals known as Historical Horse Racing, or HHR terminals. The approval for those games is being delayed right now while state officials consider complaints brought by some of Oregon’s tribal governments. Tribal members say that the games would illegally cut into their casino revenue.

Boersma said the machines are necessary to supplement the prizes for horse race winners.

“It’s to help support and grow purses for the horsemen and women to, not just compete and have a way of life, but to grow the sport and really do some magnificent things — on the breeding side, on the equestrian side, on the agricultural side — to revitalize some of the smaller tracks,” Boersma said.

The HHR terminals exist in a kind of grey area. For the user, they look and feel just like slot machines — something that Boersma does not dispute. On the back end, though, the machines use something called parimutuel wagering, meaning that the users are betting against each other, rather than the house.

However, a report by ECONorthwest, commissioned by the tribes, found that newer versions of HHR machines have blurred this distinction.

Boersma said this is just a case of normal technological improvement over time.

“An iPhone 13 is much more attractive than the original iPhone,” Boersma said. “So while it serves the same purpose, it may do it much better or be more appealing or attractive to the end user.”

Boersma also argued that before Portland Meadows Racetrack shut down, that facility had 150 HHR terminals.

“All we’re asking for is permission to do what Portland Meadows did,” he said.

Justin Martin, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the manager of the Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance, says that analogy doesn’t hold up.

“[The machines at Portland Meadows] were actual horse races on a machine in a cabinet that I watched and played,” Martin said. “The reality is technology has gotten so advanced that you cannot tell the difference between a Historical Horse Race machine which plays the same game that’s offered in a casino environment versus those games from back then, which were totally different.”

Martin also argued that HHR machines did not make horse racing at Portland Meadows viable.

“We want to see the horse racing industry thrive,” Martin said. “We just think

there’s other ways to go about that.”

The same ECONorthwest study found that HHR terminals at the Flying Lark would not attract new gamblers.

“It will take from the lottery retailers and patrons of tribal casinos,” said Alicia McAuley, the executive director at Cow Creek Gaming and Regulatory Commission. “Any jobs created will come at the expense of other jobs and ultimately other local businesses, and they won’t be new.”

Boersma said his own economic impact study showed the Flying Lark could create up to 2,000 jobs and bring up to \$10 billion in revenue to Josephine County.

However, earlier this month, the Flying Lark announced that they would be laying off 226 people at the end of February. Boersma said it breaks his heart, but the facility will not be able to operate without the HHR gambling terminals.

Martin said he thinks it’s time for the state legislature to re-evaluate how gambling is regulated in Oregon.

“We want to create a joint committee,” Martin said. “We want everybody — including Grants Pass Downs, The Flying Lark, responsible gaming advocates — to be in one room or in front of a legislative body, to sit down and get this right.”

That includes a stake in McKay Tower in Grand Rapids and the former Kregel Inc. Christian publishing building at 733 Wealthy St. SE, also in Grand Rapids. It also owns a portion of two Holland-based trucking companies, Zip Xpress and Green Transportation, as well as the land and building that houses Meijer’s Rivertown Market in Detroit.

Prior to joining GLI, King spent nearly eight years at DWH LLC.

DWH LLC is a Grand Rapids-based business advisory firm that is now majority-owned by Waséyabek Development Company, the economic development arm of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Pottawatomi. King spent her most recent three years at the firm as its CEO and managing partner. During her time there, she served as an advisor to GLI.

This year, as she steps into the role of permanent CEO, King said her priorities will be strategic planning and rebuilding GLI’s pipeline of projects and potential investments. She said she would like to see the former Kregel Inc. Christian publishing building redeveloped, and find a project in Kalamazoo.

“Through COVID and through the transition, I think there was a bit of a pause in our activities, and so you have to have a big pipeline of opportunities to make sure that you’re closing deals,” said King, a Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Western Michigan University graduate.

“Now that we’re working on our strategy again, defining and updating those buckets that we want to make sure we’re diversified into, we’ll really focus our pipeline to that updated strategic plan.”

- mlive.com (Michigan)

Four Treaty 6 First Nations form alliance to build economic sovereignty

Four Treaty 6 First Nations in Alberta have joined together to form an investment group to pursue ownership in major infrastructure projects.

Alexander First Nation, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Enoch Cree Nation, and Paul First Nation have formed the First Nation Capital Investment Partnership (FNCIP) to invest and acquire assets collectively with commercial partners who share Indigenous values, they announced [in January].

Treaty 6 Grand Chief and Alexander First Nation Chief George Arcand Jr. told Postmedia on Jan. 22 that there has been an increasing number of opportunities brought to individual First Nations that would be hard for them to manage alone.

“We started sharing some of the individual opportunities that came and some of them were fairly big and were tough for a single First Nation to undertake in terms of size of a project and size of a partnership,” he said.

“So the idea was, why couldn’t we consider creating a business based on some fair principles around what kind of business we get into?”

Arcand said the partnership is looking for environmentally “greener” opportunities that are over \$50 million, which could include potential options like carbon sequestration projects.

“If we’re going to get involved in oil and gas, we think, ‘Why can’t we get involved in trying to help on making things better?’” he said.

In a statement, Chief Tony Alexis of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation called the partnership the way of the future for First Nation communities.

“We are reclaiming community care and collective sovereignty, which will bring our communities back to the shared wealth we once had thousands of years ago,” he said.

“Entrepreneurship and collaboration is part of who we are. With qualified professionals on our team, our industry partners, and our intergenerational knowledge, we are stronger together.”

In the same statement, Chief Arthur Rain of the Paul First Nation said ownership of infrastructure projects will generate significant economic and social benefits and Chief Billy Morin of the Enoch Cree Nation said the move supports the long-term vision of becoming a self-sufficient First Nation.

Arcand said the group has already signed some letters of intent for projects but said he can’t provide details until they are public within the next week or so.

The group has chosen Calgary-based Axxcelus Capital Advisory Partners as its

exclusive financial advisor.

- Edmonton (Alberta) Journal

New Gun Lake Investments CEO attracted to tribe’s economic development approach

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Gun Lake Investments (GLI), the economic development arm of the Gun Lake Tribe, has a new CEO.

Monica King, who has led the GLI on an interim basis since July, has been given the position of CEO on a full-time basis, the tribe announced this week. As CEO, she will oversee GLI’s portfolio of business and real estate investments and help set the firm’s strategy moving forward.

King, who lives in Schoolcraft and has worked in business world for more than two decades, said she wanted the job because she was attracted to the tribe’s economic development approach. The Gun Lake Tribe operates Gun Lake Casino in Wayland.

“It’s not just about checking the financial returns box,” King said. “It’s about being good stewards in the community.”

GLI Investments was created about seven years ago, and now has seven employees, including an interim chief operating officer. It was led for the past six years by CEO Kurtis Trevan, who resigned in July. The Gun Lake Tribe uses GLI as its vehicle to diversify the tribal economy “beyond its gaming arm — ensuring its financial foundation for generations to come.”

GLI owns an ownership stake in an array of businesses and real estate ventures.

- KJRH-TV (Tulsa, Okla.)

Judge refuses to delay release of DAPL documents

BISMARCK, N.D. — A state judge has refused to delay the release of thousands of documents related to security during the construction in North Dakota of the heavily protested Dakota Access Pipeline.

South Central District Judge Cynthia Feland in late December ruled that the documents are public. Attorneys for pipeline developer Energy Transfer asked Feland to put on hold disclosure of the records as it appeals to the state Supreme Court.

Feland on Jan. 28 gave Energy Transfer the go-ahead to appeal, but she rejected the request to delay release of the records, the Bismarck Tribune reported.

The documents are being held by the North Dakota Private Investigation and Security Board, which obtained them during a case involving TigerSwan, the company that Energy Transfer hired to oversee security during construction.

Energy Transfer subsidiary Dakota Access is attempting to intervene in the administrative case involving TigerSwan and the board. It focused on whether TigerSwan operated illegally in the state in 2016 and 2017, when thousands of pipeline protesters gathered in North Dakota and law enforcement made hundreds of arrests.

The administrative case culminated with a settlement in 2020 under which TigerSwan agreed to pay \$175,000 to the board but did not admit to any wrongdoing.

- Indian Country Today

Navajo Nation involved in new solar plant

The Salt River Project and the Navajo Nation are partnering on a new solar plant to be built on the reservation.

The tribe had approved the lease last year and the power purchase agreement was finalized Jan. 30 for the 200-megawatt plant in Cameron.

About 400 people will be employed during the construction, with a hiring preference for Navajos.

The tribe has a handful of utility-scale solar plants on the reservation, including one in the works near Red Mesa.

Two others in Kayenta produce 55 total megawatts with the power going to Navajo homes and businesses.

- KNAU (Flagstaff, Ariz.)

\$180M price tag for Gila River rebrand, expansion

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY — The Gila River Indian Community is celebrating an expansion and rebranding across the tribe’s gaming enterprises along the southern edge of the Phoenix Valley.

“We’re really excited to share and unveil what we’ve been working on for the last two years,” Kenneth Manuel, CEO of Gila River Resorts & Casinos, said.

Gila River Resorts & Casinos invested \$180 million in renovations at all three of its gaming properties, Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte and Vee Quiva. The tribe has a fourth casino opening in 2023 called Santan Mountain.

The tribe is aiming to offer gamblers an “elevated guest experience comparable to Las Vegas.”

“From our new Las Vegas-style live table games, exciting nightlife, and the addition of our BetMGM Sportsbooks to new fine dining options, spacious rooms, and a variety of serene and secluded pools, Gila River Resorts & Casinos provides guests with a casino resort experience like no other,” Manuel said.

- Indian Country Today

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FEB 10
DEEP PURPLE
WITH BLUE OYSTER CULT



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VAN MORRISON



FEB 14 & 15
ROD STEWART



FEB 17
CAMILA &
SIN BANDERA



FEB 20
DANCING WITH
THE STARS



FEB 25
BEN PLATT



FEB 26
FRANKIE VALLI



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HOLLYWOOD, FL

Education

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Former PECS principal named Glades' deputy superintendent

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Former Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School principal Brian Greseth, who is currently the director of administrative services at Glades County School District, has been named deputy superintendent.

As deputy, he will take over only if the current superintendent, Beth Barfield, is unable to do the job or leaves the position.

"They need someone in place in case something happens, which happened once before," Greseth said. "Now they have someone who can take over if they need it. I'm getting on the job training and work closely with the superintendent every day. It keeps me in the loop."

Greseth's main job as director of administrative services includes oversight of facilities, maintenance crews, transportation and food service.

He served as PECS principal from 2011-2019 and is proud of how the school grew under his watch, including starting the pre-K program and adding the gym and cafeteria.

"I do miss my time at Pemayetv," Greseth said. "I thoroughly enjoyed working with the parents, students and staff. It's an incredible school."

Greseth believes his biggest achievement was building a strong academic program, hiring excellent teachers and staff and working with the parents and students. While he was at PECS, the middle school was the top secondary school out of the 11 in the area and the elementary school was No. 2 out of 29. PECS is part of the Heartland Educational Consortium, which includes schools in Desoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee counties.

When he left PECS, Greseth worked for a Coral Springs charter school company and



Brian Greseth

worked with the principals of its schools. He left there after a year to become the guidance counselor at South Elementary School in Okeechobee. He was there for about a year when Barfield called to offer him the position as director of administrative services. He realized then how much he missed being an administrator and took the job in December 2020.

"Working here gives me an opportunity to check in on our former students and say hello to them to make them feel more comfortable at school," Greseth said. "Once they leave Pemayetv it's a whole different world; they realize now how good they had it. It's a safe and caring environment."

Education Department offers specific skills program

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The tribe's Education Department has announced a monthly program aimed at fostering academic success through virtual workshops that focus on specific skills.

The workshops are designed to teach skills to high school and college students that are valuable in both the classroom and in everyday life.

The skills include how to take notes, how to succeed in virtual learning, time management and writing skills.

"It's an opportunity for them to learn a new subject every month," said Leila Patterson, higher education program specialist.

The program begins Feb. 10 with a workshop on taking notes led by Danny Thomas, adjunct instructor at Indian River State College.

The rest of the schedule is:
March 10: Virtual learning, led by Shayla Brown and Robert Weekley, homework helpers and GED tutors for the tribe.

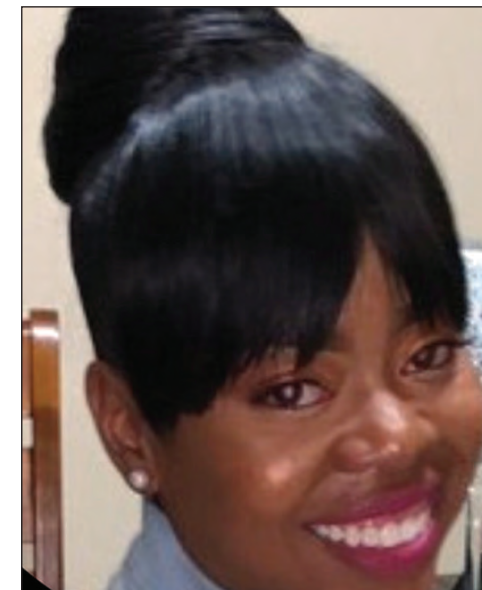
April 14: Time management, led by Tahnese Flournoy Veard, global career development facilitator and graduate medical coordinator at Broward Health Medical Center.

May 12: Writing skills, led by Michael Giacchino, the tribe's director of education.

Workshops are held from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on WebEx. All higher education and high school students are encouraged to attend. To register, contact Delana Ayers at

delanaayers@semtribe.com

"The workshops will all be interactive and an open forum," Patterson said. "We hope to continue this for the next school year."



The workshops' hosts include Robert Weekley, left, a homework helper and GED tutor for the tribe, and Tahnese Flournoy Veard, global career development facilitator and graduate medical coordinator for Broward Health Medical Center.

Preparations underway for Seminole 4-H show and sale

STAFF REPORT

BRIGHTON — 4-H'ers tribal wide are busy preparing for the Seminole Indian 4-H Show and Sale in March by working on their showmanship skills in addition to taking care of their animals.

The show will be held in Brighton at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena. The Pee Wee and

Swine Show will be held March 9. The cattle show will take place March 10. The sale will be held March 11. Thirty-seven steers, five heifers, four two year old bred heifers, two cow/calf pairs and 47 swine have been tagged to be in the show.

The show will also feature a country fair for 4-H'ers to show off their skills in arts and crafts, photography and baking. Each participant may enter up to three items,

which will be judged.

Arts and crafts will include drawing, painting, graphic design, sewing, beading and woodwork. The photography contest categories are people, places and animals. Photos must be printed on 8 by 10-inch paper. The baking category must be a 4-H themed cake.

For more information contact Kimberly Clement at (863) 763-5020, ext. 15211.

PECS merchandise available in fundraiser

STAFF REPORT

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School gear — such as T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, shorts and masks — is available for purchase as part of a school fundraiser. The online store through Fan Cloth will be open until Feb. 16. To order, visit fancloth.shop/WQBEB.



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe works to preserve language

FROM PRESS RELEASE

MILLE LACS RESERVATION — The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO) in Minnesota has partnered with Rosetta Stone's Endangered Languages Program (ELP) to record and preserve the Ojibwe language and Mille Lacs dialect. Through the initiative, the Mille Lacs Band and ELP have utilized tribal members' knowledge and authentic cultural resources to create a comprehensive set of Rosetta Stone lessons in Ojibwe. Rosetta Stone Ojibwe is an original MLBO product, and is free for all Band members and descendants.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's roots in Minnesota date back to the mid-1700s when it established itself in the region around Mille Lacs Lake. But throughout the next century, non-Indian settlers expanded west and attempted to remove tribal members from the lands they had occupied for generations. Many Mille Lacs Band children were forced to attend government-run boarding schools, forbidden from speaking their language or practicing their cultural teachings.

As a result, generations of Mille Lacs Band members were deprived of their cultural identity, and the Ojibwe language became critically endangered. As part of the Band's commitment to revitalizing the language, educating the public about Ojibwe culture, and providing holistic support to its members, the Mille Lacs Band collaborated with Rosetta Stone to develop Ojibwe language learning lessons.

The lessons feature Ojibwe community members, videos and illustrations that teach vocabulary and grammar in an engaging and effective way. Rosetta Stone's speech recognition engine, TruAccent, compares learners' pronunciation to that of Native Ojibwe speakers to help students fine-tune their skills.

"As Anishinaabe people, our language was given to us by the creator; learning that language helps us connect with our culture and live our lives in a good way," said Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin said in a statement. "This partnership with Rosetta Stone is important because it will make learning Ojibwe more accessible to Band members and others, and will help preserve our culture for generations to come."

"We often think of languages as what we speak or write, but overlook how they provide priceless insight into cultures. Indigenous languages are becoming endangered at an alarming rate, and many Native Americans are at risk of losing a vital part of their heritage," said Paul Mishkin, CEO of IXL Learning, Rosetta Stone's parent company.

UM's Native American studies program expands for spring semester

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The University of Miami's Native American and Global Indigenous Studies program is just a year old, but it has already expanded its curriculum.

The NAGIS program began in the spring 2021 semester with three courses; for spring 2022 it offers seven. The courses are varied and include curriculums that explore cultural appropriation, dehumanization and genocide of Native and Indigenous people around the world; literature in the Americas; Black and Native literature; Caribbean history; tourism, conservation and development; Amazonia; and colonial Spanish American topics.

The program aims to increase awareness and understanding of Native Americans and Indigenous people. Its goal, as stated

on the website, is to "provide ongoing and varied opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, and the University community at large, to consider the complex histories, lived experiences and perspectives of Native peoples in relation to diverse areas of knowledge and, more importantly, to their own lives."

UM's Native American population is small; it has a dozen undergraduates, eight graduate students and two faculty members. One of the faculty members is Caroline LaPorte, a descendant of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, UM School of Law graduate and judicial adviser for the Seminole Court. She is also one of the cofounders of NAGIS.

"People don't think of us as being here still," LaPorte said in a 2021 Tribune interview. "That makes it easy to dehumanize you and ignore the issues. I feel that

indigenous issues are human rights issues and the more advocates you can make, the better. If I can get the students to examine some of the false narratives in our shared history, not just Native American history, then we can start to move forward. I want them to understand what it means to be Indigenous to a place."

According to the Postsecondary National Policy Institute, Native Americans comprise only 1% of the U.S. undergraduate population and less than that of graduate students. Data indicates 16% of Native Americans earn a bachelor's degree or higher and only 9% earn an associate's degree.

Proponents of the program hope their efforts will attract more students who identify as Indigenous as well as those who want to study those populations.

Jenny Shore named PECS Culture employee of the year

STAFF REPORT

BRIGHTON — Tribal member Jennie Shore has been recognized as Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School (PECS) Culture employee of the year. PECS principal Tracy Downing made the announcement on the school's Facebook page Jan. 20.

Located on the Brighton Reservation, Shore began PECS' immersion program seven years ago and now serves as its co-manager.

"[She had] a vision to create a program designed to preserve the Native traditions, the cultural beliefs, and the Muscogee Creek language by integrating the Seminole language and culture in a classroom setting," Downing said in the announcement. "It was believed that the language was going to disappear, and this program was created to preserve it."

PECS' widely recognized program began in 2015 with the goal of creating Creek speakers from infancy.

"Mrs. Shore and [the tribe's] elders gave the children every opportunity to grow intellectually, physically, and emotionally — through experimental activities, child-initiated learning experiences (play

and curriculum-based materials," Downing said in the post. "The children grew up learning the language, and because they were spoken to exclusively in the Muscogee Creek language, they became fluent."

The school reported that the first group of students in the program are now in the second grade.

"... And they are doing so well in Muscogee Creek and in English thanks to Mrs. Shore and all of the immersion staff," Downing continued in the post. "Mrs. Shore and the elders, through their tireless efforts, have ensured that the children are thriving and [are] prepared to embark on their educational journey, as both a student and a proud member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida."



PECS Facebook

The school recognized Jennie Shore, seated, Jan. 20. Tracy Downing, standing, is the principal of PECS.

PECS students of the month December 2021



Middle school students of the month

PECS Facebook



Grades 3-5 students of the month

PECS Facebook



Kindergarten-2nd grade students of the month

PECS Facebook

NAJA fellowships available

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) is accepting applications for the 2022 Native American Journalism Fellowship through April 30. Selected fellows will build their reporting and interpersonal skills in a digital newsroom experience before, during and after the 2022 National Native Media Conference set for Aug. 24-27 in Phoenix, Arizona.

The 2022 class of fellows will participate in a virtual curriculum with selected mentors representing broadcast, radio, print and digital media. This innovative experience will be designed to leverage the advantages of online learning while allowing fellows to participate in the National Native Media Conference, network with other Indigenous journalists, and strengthen reporting skills.

In partnership with the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University, NAJA will facilitate a conference program featuring best practices in Indigenous media,

training and workshops. Fellows will be encouraged to report on relevant program content and explore deeper coverage of Indigenous issues in order to complete their fellowship requirements.

Fellows will participate in a series of instructional webinars and will be eligible to receive three hours of college credit through the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) at the undergraduate or graduate-level through their respective universities.

Under the leadership of director Jourdan Bennett Begaye (Diné), student fellows will work with mentors to produce coverage of Turtle Island throughout the program.

Conference attendance from Aug. 24-27 is strongly encouraged but optional around Covid-19 risks for applicants or their loved ones as well as fall semester schedules. Prospective fellows who are unable to attend due to these reasons are requested to provide a short narrative in the application form further explaining their circumstance.

For more information visit najanewsroom.com.

Haskell graduate designs BIE's first logo

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The Bureau of Indian Education marks a significant milestone by unveiling its official logo Jan. 6. This is the first logo for BIE since becoming a bureau in 2006.

The initial logo design was created by Kayla Jackson, a member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe who is also a graduate of the Bureau's Haskell Indian Nations University located in Lawrence, Kansas.

"The Bureau of Indian Education is working to lay the foundation for the next generation of Native children to succeed," Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Bryan Newland said in a statement. "I'm proud the BIE will have an official logo as it carries out its mission moving forward, and I'm even more proud that it was designed by a BIE student - Kayla Jackson."

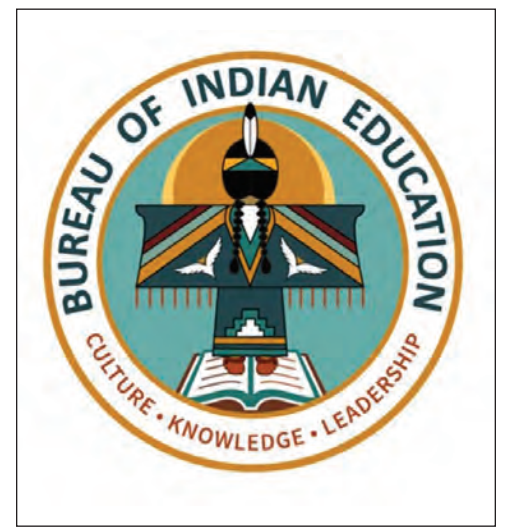
Jackson submitted her design as part of a BIE-wide competition inviting students to lead in the creation of the new logo. Following a collaborative effort where each element was selected to embody the essence of the Bureau, the logo went through the

official process for federal approval.

"This design captures culture, knowledge, and leadership," Kayla Jackson said in a statement. "The open book represents lifelong learning. The Indigenous student is wearing a fancy shawl regalia including moccasins, ribbon skirt, shawl, yoke, beaded headband, and eagle feather with hair long and braids. The student embodies the spirit of their ancestors by dancing with honor and carrying out prayers with every step. The eagles that are emblazoned on the shawl represent acknowledgement, strength, and determination. Finally, in the background there is the sun which gives us growth, abundance and hope."

The center of the logo is an Indigenous student placed on an open book indicating the power of knowledge and lifelong learning. The four lines on the book represent the four directions, the four seasons, the four stages of life and four sacred plants. The logo represents the ongoing commitment of the BIE to its mission as it provides educational services to its students and Tribal communities.

The logo will be used on all official



BIE's logo was designed by Kayla Jackson.

correspondence as well as publications, website, social media, and communication materials.

4 tribal college student-leaders named Indigenous visionaries

FROM PRESS RELEASE

DENVER, Colo. — Four tribal college student-leaders have been named Indigenous visionaries in a program from the American Indian College Fund. The program helps develop women leaders across Indian Country.

Participants in the Indigenous Visionaries Program are chosen based on their project proposals that will impact their community in a positive way. Those selected as Indigenous visionaries work closely with a mentor to determine leadership skills that are culturally appropriate and to complete their project. Participants receive a grant of \$7,000 to support their project completion and convene with other visionaries and the College Fund team for leadership development and support opportunities.

This year's recipients are:

Harley-Daniel Interpreter (Navajo) is pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology at Diné College on the Navajo Reservation while working as the social media engagement agent in the Office of the President. Interpreter will conduct a voter outreach and education project to expand voter education, to advocate for timely communication about voting, and to ensure support of access to voting across the Navajo Nation during the midterm election. Crystal Cree (Navajo), director of the Office of Legislative Affairs and Policy at Diné College, will serve as mentor.

Louise K. Waakaa'igan (Anishinaabe) is pursuing a bachelor's degree in human services at Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College in Hayward, Wisconsin while working at the college as the advancement coordinator. In collaboration with her

mentor, she will create a "Kwe Book," a history of women leaders and founders at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College. Waakaa'igan will catalog their interviews and stories throughout the project for future generations. Faith Smith (Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe), a curator for the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe, will serve as mentor.

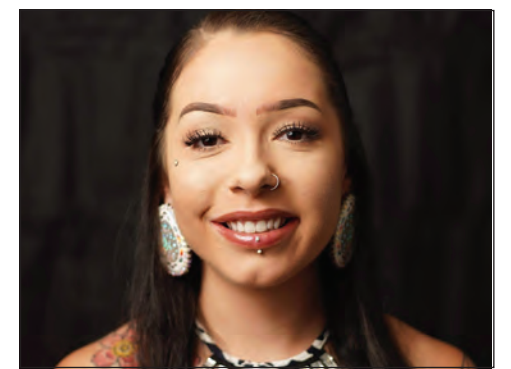
Sasha Sillitti ((Three Affiliated Tribes-the Mandan (Nueta), Hidatsa, and Arikara (Sahnish)) is a business administration student at Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College on the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota. Sillitti also works as a student account's counselor and accounts receivable manager at the college. Her project is to develop a recycling program. The Fort Berthold reservation does not have a recycling program and the nearest drop-off for materials is 150 miles away. She will develop a more efficient method of collecting and transporting recyclables, develop community relationships, and increase community awareness about recycling as a form of land stewardship. Pansy Goodall (Arikara of the Fort Berthold Reservation), the Business Faculty Department Chair, will serve as mentor.

ArriAnna Henry (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Bitterroot Salish) is pursuing a bachelor's degree in social work and a certification of completion in intensive Salish language at Salish Kootenai College on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Pablo, Montana. She holds an associate degree in chemical dependency counseling and is an intern at the All Nations Health Center, working in the Behavioral Health Department. Henry's project is the Paddle for Life wellness project. Young adult



Sasha Sillitti

College Fund



ArriAnna Henry

College Fund

community members will participate in immersive Salish language lessons while crafting their own cedar canoe paddle to create both cultural and physical wellness. Rosemary Matt (Salish), the Native Language Teacher Education Department Head, will serve as mentor.

NIEA heads to Capitol Hill

STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON — The National Indian Education Association will hold its annual Hill Week events March 15-17

at the Holiday Inn Washington Capitol in Washington, D.C. Hill Week participants will receive training and updates from NIEA's public and private sector partners about Native education needs and the organization's top legislative priorities.

The program is scheduled to feature Congressional speakers and discussions with members of Congress and their staffs.

For more information and to register, visit niea.org.

National Native American Hall of Fame inducts class of 2021

FROM PRESS RELEASE

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — In November, the National Native American Hall of Fame inducted its 2021 Hall of Fame recipients at a gala held at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The honorees were recognized for their leadership, sacrifice, mentorship, legacy, accomplishments and contributions to Indian Country.

The class of 2021 includes:

Ernie Stevens Sr., Oneida, served numerous leadership positions including as executive director of the Los Angeles Indian Center, the Institute for Community Anti-Poverty Corporation, the Inter-Tribal Council of California, the Indian Action Project in Arizona, the American Indian Policy Review Commission, and the LA Human Rights Commission. He was first vice president of the National Congress of American Indians and the first staff director to the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

He advocated for sovereignty, self-determination, self-governance, and Native rights for nearly half a century. Serving with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Stevens was integral to changing the course of Indian policy from an arena of termination to tribal self-determination.

A U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran, serving during the Korean War, he earned the Korean Unit citation and the Korean Service Medal with three battle stars.

National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr., accepted on behalf of his father at the induction.

Dave Anderson, a member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Lake Superior Band of Ojibwe, established Famous Dave's Barbecue, a national restaurant franchise. He served as head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, CEO of the Lac Courte Oreilles tribal enterprises. He also served on the Wisconsin Council on Tourism, Wisconsin's Council on Minority Business Development,

the National Task Force on Reservation Gambling, the Advisory Council for Tribal Colleges and Universities, and the American Indian Education Foundation.

Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Northern Cheyenne, became the first Native American to serve in the U.S. Senate in more than 60 years. Campbell served 22 years in public office, beginning his political career in 1982 as a state legislator in Colorado. In 1987, he moved to the U.S. House of Representatives and in 1992 was elected to two terms in the Senate. He served as a member of the Appropriations Committee, Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Veterans Affairs Committee, and the Indian Affairs Committee. He also chaired the Helsinki Commission and was the first Native American ever to chair the Indian Affairs Committee. Campbell was a Northern Cheyenne chief.

He is a Korean War veteran with the U.S. Air Force.

Joy Harjo, Muscogee (Creek), became the first Native named U.S. poet laureate in 2019. She has since been named to three consecutive terms. She received two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, as well as fellowships from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the Rasmuson Foundation, the Witter Bynner Foundation, and a Guggenheim. She won an American Book Award, the PEN Center USA prize for creative nonfiction; the Ruth Lilly Prize for Lifetime Achievement; and the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award. She is a founding board member of the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation.

Marcella LeBeau, Cheyenne River Sioux, was highly regarded for her health policy leadership spanning eight decades. LeBeau was a registered nurse and served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps during World War II where she tended to the wounded from the D-Day invasion in Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. Her fortitude and courage was recognized with the awarding of six highly distinguished medals, including

the French Legion Medal of Honor, awarded in France in 2004 at the 60th anniversary of D-Day. She was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame and received the Women in History Award in 2016 from the Spirit of the Prairie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She served on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council from 1991 to 1995.

LeBeau died in late November 2021 at age 102.

Emil Notti, Athabaskan, served as the first president of Alaska Federation of Natives, founded in 1966. Notti was a force behind the land claims movement and central to the negotiations that culminated in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The legislation authorized Alaska Natives to receive title to 44 million acres of public land in Alaska and a \$962 million land claims settlement, further establishing village and regional Native corporations. He was instrumental in calling for a convening of Alaska Natives from every region of the state. An electronic and aeronautical engineer, he worked on the Minuteman Ballistic Missile and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Katherine Siva Saubel, Cahuilla, founded the Malki Museum at the Morongo Reservation in California — the first Native American museum created and managed by Native people. A leader, scholar and activist for the preservation of language and culture, she translated traditional folklore, created the first Cahuilla-English dictionary, wrote several ethnobotanical books on medicinal plants and made recordings of Cahuilla songs, preserving sacred ceremonies, culture and traditions. She was the first Native woman from California to be inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993 and awarded the Chancellor's Medal from the University of California, Riverside as well as an honorary doctorate from La Sierra University. She served as tribal Chairman for the Cahuilla. Saubel was honored posthumously, having passed away in 2011.

Spinners bring lively hits to Seminole Casino Brighton

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Famed R&B group The Spinners brought their high-energy show to the Seminole Casino Brighton for a free outdoor concert Jan. 12.

The group has been around since the 1950s and continues to tour. The Spinners have sold more than 60 million records and had 18 Top 40 hits, mostly in the 1960s and

1970s. Their biggest hits were “Then Came You,” “Working My Way Back to You/ Forgive Me Girl,” “Could it Be I’m Falling in Love,” “One of a Kind Love Affair,” “I’ll Be Around” and “It’s a Shame.”

This was the first concert of the year at the casino on the Brighton Reservation.

“This concert is special because we are trying to bring recognition to the property,” said Marty Johns, general manager of the casino. “We also want to bring entertainment to the area and be known for

our entertainment.”

Concerts for invited VIP casino players only include The Marshall Tucker Band, which was scheduled to play Jan. 26, and Foghat, which is scheduled to perform Feb. 25.

From the stage, The Spinners told the crowd their music was meant for dancing and encouraged fans to get up and move. Many took the suggestion to heart and were on their feet for the entire concert.

“We aren’t too familiar with the band,”

said Diane Smith, who attended the concert with a few other tribal members. “We were told the music was like Motown and came out to see them.”

Some of the fans have attended numerous Spinners concerts. Ellen Auld, Celia Alessandro and Diane Tartaglia came from Orlando for the concert and have seen the band several times around the state and the country. The friends follow the group and saw them the previous night at the Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee.

“We drove to Bethesda, Maryland, once for a show,” Alessandro said. “They are so entertaining and are the nicest, most humble gentlemen you’ll ever meet.”

A brother and sister with their spouses drove two hours from Melbourne to see the Spinners.

“We left work early to be here,” Robert Byron said. “We are fans, but this is our first time seeing them live.”



Beverly Bidney

The Spinners perform for an enthusiastic crowd Jan. 12 at Seminole Casino Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Sandy Billie Jr. enjoys The Spinners, who are pictured onstage behind him.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, fans stand in line before the start of the Spinners concert. Below, they erupt as the group makes its entrance.



Beverly Bidney

A group of tribal members arrived early for The Spinners outdoor concert.

First Peoples Fund names artist fellows

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The 2022 First Peoples Fund Artist in Business Leadership and Cultural Capital Fellows were announced Jan. 26. The group of fellows is comprised of artists, performers, writers, designers, and cultural practitioners.

2022 Artist in Business Leadership Fellows

- Aveda Adara (Navajo Nation)
- Kaylene Big Knife (Chippewa Cree Tribe)
- Elexa Dawson (Citizen Potawatomi Nation)
- Shauna Elk (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe)
- Madie Goodnight (Chickasaw)
- Shayna Grandbois-Herrera (Turtle Mountain Chippewa)
- Tara Gumapac (Kanaka Maoli)
- Shanon Twoshields Hale (Three

- affiliated tribes Mandan)
- Josephine Hoffman (Grand Portage Anishinaabe)
- Del Curfman (Crow Nation of Montana)
- Samuel LaFountain (Diné and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa)
- Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti (Kanaka Maoli)
- Carrie Moran (Montana Little Shell Chippewa Tribe)
- Laura Young Bird (MN Chippewa Grand Portage Band)
- Tsanavi Spoonhunter (Northern Arapaho Tribe)
- Tash Terry (Navajo)
- Jodi Webster (Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation)
- Stacy Wells (Choctaw Nation)
- Ursala Hudson (Tlingit)

- ### 2022 Cultural Capital Fellows
- Thomas Stillday (Red Lake Nation - Obaashing Community)

- Kaonelani Davis (Native Hawaiian)
- Emma Hildebrand (Upper Tanana Athabaskan)
- Blossom Johnson (Navajo)
- Wetalu Rodriguez (Nimiipuu)
- Ronald Paquin (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)
- Claire Charlo (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes)
- Alan Wallace (Nisenan Maidu and Washoe).

Founded in 1995, the South Dakota-based First Peoples Fund honors and supports First Peoples’ artists and culture bearers. According to its website, the organization recognizes the power of art and culture to bring about positive change in Native communities, beginning with individual artists and their families.



First Peoples Fund

First Peoples Fund's 2022 cultural capital fellows.

Cherokee Nation Film Office offers tribal film incentive program

FROM PRESS RELEASE

TULSA, Okla. — The Cherokee Nation Film Office (CNFO) announced Jan. 25 that it will soon offer a film incentive program. The incentive, which the film office said is the first of its kind by a tribal film office in the U.S., will provide up to \$1 million in annual funding for productions filmed within the Cherokee Nation’s 14-county reservation.

“Since establishing our film office, we’ve worked diligently alongside our state and local partners to help grow the film and television industries in Oklahoma,” Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said in a statement. “There are substantial benefits in launching this powerful economic tool within the Cherokee Nation Reservation. In addition to expanding career opportunities for Indigenous filmmakers, producers, directors, actors and behind-the-scenes

crew members, this new incentive program reinforces Cherokee Nation’s commitment to creating quality jobs and supporting small, family-owned businesses within our tribal communities.”

CNFO will begin accepting applications for the tribe’s film incentive on March 1. The base incentive offers a cash rebate for qualified production expenses. Prequalified productions filming anywhere within Cherokee Nation’s 7,000 square miles of northeast Oklahoma are eligible for the rebate incentive.

The incentive also offers increased funding for employing Native American citizens as well as utilizing Native-owned businesses.

“Encouraging productions to film within Cherokee Nation’s many vast and beautiful locations, as well as to hire Indigenous people and utilize Native-owned businesses, offers an immense amount of opportunity for tribal citizens, families and businesses

to benefit from the rapid growth of these industries within our state,” Jennifer Loren, director of Cherokee Nation Film Office and Original Content, said in a statement.

The incentive will be available individually or in conjunction with the state of Oklahoma’s incentive program, but each requires a separate application process. The Filmed in Oklahoma Act of 2021, administered by the Oklahoma Film + Music Office, also offers productions a cash rebate based on several qualifying factors.

CNFO launched in 2019 and became the first certified Native American film commission to open in the U.S. CNFO also created and maintains unique, all-inclusive talent, crew and consulting online directories featuring Native American actors, extras, voice actors, crew, cultural experts and other industry resources.

For more information visit cherokee.film or email hello@cherokee.film.



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Sports



New Moore Haven football coach ready to rebuild Terriers

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Jackie Garrett has been a winner wherever he's gone. Now he's hoping to bring winning seasons back to Moore Haven High School football.

Garrett, 44, was recently named head coach of the Terriers, a program that has generated plenty of success in recent years, but not last season.

He's already encouraged by the enthusiasm of the team.

"A good group of kids. I'm excited. I met with the kids and there is a lot of interest," he said.

Garrett's association with winning stretches back nearly all his life.

As a youth, he watched state championship teams at Glades Day coached by Byron Walker.

As a high school quarterback, Garrett led Glades Day to a state championship in 1995.

As a high school coach, he was part of the staff for coach Pete Walker on three state championship teams at Glades Day, and most recently at Clewiston, which went 8-3 last season. He described Walker as one of the greatest coaches in Florida history.

"I've always had good exposure to coaches and know how to model a program. I've always been around great programs that have been successful," he said.

Garrett's full-time job is in law enforcement. The Moore Haven position is his first as a varsity head coach. He realizes the Terriers' foundation needs some rebuilding after a rocky season in which the team lost all three of its games and scored only six points.

One key starting point is the middle school team, which did not play last season, but will be back this year with an eight-game schedule. Garrett has visited some middle schools in the area and met with students in an attempt to generate interest. He liked the turnout at West Glades School.

"I was blown away by the amount of kids there. I was super excited [with] what I saw. There were probably 50 or 60 kids in the cafeteria," he said.

He said he is eager to meet with students at Pematv Emahakv Charter School on the Brighton Reservation, but so far hasn't been able due to Covid-19 protocols.

Garrett is also trying to drum up more support from the community.

"We're getting the booster club going again," he said. "We're trying to get the community behind us and get back to where we need to be. I know last year was a tough year for them."

Garrett will give the team a chance for early-season bonding with a trip to Georgia to play Appling County High School in mid-September. The trip is scheduled to include a stop in Gainesville for a tour of the University of Florida.

Moore Haven's spring game is set for May 20 against Westminster Academy in Fort Lauderdale.

Even though last season was void of victories, Moore Haven isn't far removed from some of the most successful seasons in school history. The Terriers reached the regional finals in 2017 and 2019 and played in regional semifinals in 2018 and 2020.

Garrett's focus stretches beyond getting the program back on track in the win column; he wants to help his players be solid citizens.

"I've always been interested in coaching and mentoring young men," he said. "It's not about going on to play college football; a small percentage go to play college football. It's about making them good people in the community, go out and get good jobs and be good parents. Be a good role model in the community."



Jackie Garrett

Courtesy photo



The Chobee Volleyball Academy U14 team, which includes several Seminoles, celebrates after winning an AAU super regional tournament Jan. 16 in Tavares. From left, assistant coach Mona Baker, Miley Jimmie (TM), Preslynn Baker (TM), Daniela Sanchez, Tatiana Flores, Jenessa Arana, Emma Pereira, Alyssa Madrigal (TM), Lindy Harwas, Chaka Yani Smith (TM) and coach Monica Koger. (Kashyra Urbina (TM) is not pictured. Note: TM = tribal member.)

Courtesy photo

Chobee 14s earn bid to nationals

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The Chobee Volleyball Academy's 14U girls team wasted no time to punch its ticket to the AAU Junior National Volleyball Championships.

Teams can pay to enter nationals, but the more satisfying route is to earn a bid by winning a bid-qualifying tournament, which is what Chobee accomplished in mid-January in its first tournament of the season.

Chobee, which has five Seminole players, won the Big House AAU Super Regional, a tournament in Tavares that featured 22 14U teams. Chobee won all six

of its matches.

"We did great. They listened and they put into play what we've been practicing," said Chobee coach Monica Koger.

In the championship match, Chobee dropped the first set to Trinity, but roared back to win the second set and the winner-take-all third set.

"Third set we rocked it; we crushed them," Koger said. "The girls played very well. I've been coaching the team for three years and that's the best volleyball I've seen them play."

By securing the bid to nationals, which AAU describes as the world's largest volleyball event, Chobee can look forward

to playing in a tournament that draws teams from throughout the country as well as the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

"It's the best experience like no other. It's the best volleyball stage in the world. It is where you want to be," Koger said.

Nationals are scheduled to be held in June in Orlando.

Tribal members on the team are Preslynn Baker, Miley Jimmie, Alyssa Madrigal, Chaka Yani Smith and Kashyra Urbina. Other players are Jenessa Arana, Tatiana Flores, Lindy Harwas, Emma Pereira and Daniela Sanchez. Mona Baker is the assistant coach.

Chobee teams have a blast in Broward

STAFF REPORT

Chobee Volleyball Academy teams, which feature several Seminole players and coaches, made the most out of their trip to

Broward County in late January.

Chobee's 16U team won first place in the gold division at the AAU Winter Warm Up Super Regional tournament in Deerfield Beach.

The 14U and 12U teams earned runner-ups in gold divisions. The 14U team reached the championship match with an undefeated record before losing in three sets.



Chobee 16U celebrates after winning the AAU Winter Warm Up Super Regional in Deerfield Beach. From left, back row: coach Heath Whipple, McKenna Smith, Leslie Cruz, Jillian Durfee, Jana Smith (TM), Rae Rae Gentry (TM), Cece Thomas (TM), coach Jacalyn Sutton; front row: Giselle Micco (TM), Hailey Quisenberry and Lexi Thomas (TM). (Note: TM = tribal member.)

Courtesy photo



The Chobee 12U team finished second at the Winter Warm Up. From left, back row: coach Nancy Jimmie, Kulipa Julian (TM), Azariah Washington (PECS student), Ciani Smith (TM), Marley Jimmie (TM), Addison Vickers, coach Delaney Jones; front row: Jalene Smith (TM), Amalia Estrada (TM), Melaine Bonilla (TM), Laekyn Rhodes and Harper Harwas. (Note: TM = tribal member.)

Courtesy photo

Tyler Hiatt wins two events in South Dakota college meet

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Tyler Hiatt is off to a fast start in his first track and field season at the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota.

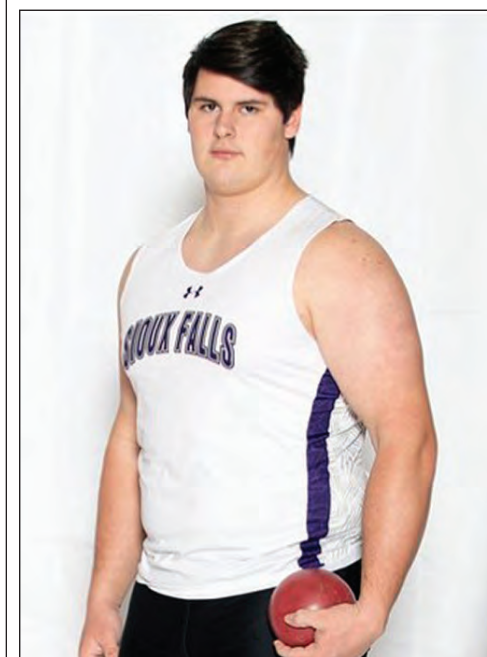
Hiatt is following in the footsteps of his mother, Seminole tribal member Stephanie Bowers Hiatt, who is in the university's athletics hall of fame for volleyball.

Tyler Hiatt starred in the Mount Mary Opener indoor meet on Jan. 15 in Yankton, South Dakota. He won two of his team's four individual titles. He captured the weight throw with a distance of more than 58 feet (17.81 meters). He also finished first in the shot put with a heave of nearly 53 feet (16.09 meters).

Through the first two meets of the season, Hiatt already has three wins and a second place finish. In a December 2021 meet, he recorded the second-best shot put throw all-time at USF with a throw of 54 feet, 10.75 inches (16.73 meters).

As a senior at Lincoln High School in 2019, Hiatt was named South Dakota's Gatorade Track and Field Athlete of the Year.

Hiatt is the grandson of the late Stephen Bowers, who was a longtime leader of military veterans for the Seminole Tribe.



Tyler Hiatt

USF

Kyarrah Grant helps NSU upset No. 18 Tampa

STAFF REPORT

Kyarrah Grant (Navajo/Choctaw) scored 10 points to help lead the Nova Southeastern University women's basketball team past the University of Tampa, 67-58, on Jan. 22 in Tampa. Grant also had one rebound, two assists and a game-high three steals as the Sharks pulled off the upset against the 18th-ranked team in NCAA Division II.

Grant's 3-pointer with less than three minutes remaining in the second quarter put NSU up 31-29. The Sharks never trailed again.

NSU improved to 11-7 overall and 6-5 in the Sunshine State Conference. Tampa suffered only its second conference loss and fell to 18-4 overall.

Grant, a redshirt sophomore guard from Choctaw, Mississippi, is fourth on the team in scoring with 7.5 points per game.



Kyarrah Grant

NSU

'Fresh' Walters honored for reaching 1,000-point milestone

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

PORT ST. LUCIE — Roger "Fresh" Walters wears jersey No. 1 for the St. Lucie West Centennial High School boys basketball team.

The jersey he received on his senior night included the "1" with three zeroes. That's because the team honored Walters for scoring his 1,000th career point.

"It's an amazing accomplishment. I've been here 12 years and nobody has hit that number. It's a testament to how talented he is and how hard-working he is," said Centennial coach Chris Carannante, who came up with the jersey idea.

Framed behind glass, the Centennial basketball jersey also includes an engraving of when he hit the milestone — Jan. 14 against Fort Pierce Central, the school he played for before transferring to Centennial two years ago. It was presented to Walters during a ceremony Jan. 25 before the team's game against Jensen Beach.

Walters, who grew up on the Seminole Tribe's Chupco's Landing in Fort Pierce, was accompanied by his mom, Sheree Sneed, and other family members. His aunts Crystal Sneed and Hope Sneed and uncle Josh Sneed were among those in the Walters' cheering section. Some family members wore T-shirts embroidered with action photos of Walters. He provided an "action shot" on defense early against Jensen Beach when he soared near the basket and swatted the ball away to prevent a layup, which brought a big roar from the home crowd.

The 1,000th point came in the third quarter of a 93-90 win against Central. Walters, an electrifying 5-foot-10 guard,



Kevin Johnson

Roger "Fresh" Walters is accompanied by his mom, Sheree Sneed, during a pregame ceremony on St. Lucie West Centennial senior night Jan. 25. Walters received a framed shirt from the team recognizing his achievement of scoring 1,000 points in his high school career.

entered the night needing 16 points to reach 1,000. He said the 16th point came on a dunk. He didn't know it was the basket that gave him the milestone until after the game. Getting to 1,000 was a goal Walters set before the start of the season.

"Really, it meant a lot because I know not a lot of people in the world can get that and I know it's tough to get. For me to get that is really a blessing," he said.

He finished the night with 21 points. For the season, Walters is second on the squad in scoring with an average of 17 points.

Walters has already put the milestone in his memory bank; his focus is on the postseason. Centennial has had an outstanding regular season. The Eagles reached February with a 19-4 record with one game left in the regular season.

"The 1,000th point already happened; that's behind me," Walters said. "I'm ready to win a district championship and try to go to states. We're having a great season."

After his basketball season and school year are finished, Walters will shift to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte as a football recruit. He plans to enroll in July.



Kevin Johnson

Roger "Fresh" Walters leads a fast break for St. Lucie West Centennial against Jensen Beach.



Kevin Johnson

Roger "Fresh" Walters smiles as he is presented with a framed jersey marking his 1,000-point accomplishment.

Chobee volleyball hits the court



Kevin Johnson

Chobee 14U's Miley Jimmie makes a block attempt in the AAU Winter Warm Up Tournament on Jan. 22 in Deerfield Beach.



Kevin Johnson

The Chobee 12U team on the court and the bench watch action closely at the tournament in Deerfield Beach. The 12s finished second.



Kevin Johnson

The Chobee 14U team emerges from a break ready to get back into action. The team finished second at the tournament.

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