

**Strength event coming to BC**  
COMMUNITY ♦ 3A

**Indian Day writing contest**  
EDUCATION 2B

**Indian Doll**  
I am a representation of Native Culture. My clothes represent

**District title for Osceola sisters at University**  
SPORTS ♦ 1C



# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

www.seminoletribune.org • Free

Volume XLVI • Number 10

October 31, 2022

## ICWA supporters asked to mobilize ahead of hearing

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

It's crunch time for supporters of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). After years of legal wrangling in lower courts, the U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments Nov. 9 in *Haaland v. Brackeen* – a case that challenges the constitutionality of the 1978 law.

Each side will have 50 minutes to present its case, with a decision expected to be handed down by June 2023. This past summer, 21 amicus briefs were sent to the court in favor of upholding the law. About 500 tribes, (including the Seminole Tribe and the Miccosukee Tribe), 62 Native organizations, 23 states and the District of Columbia, 87 members of the U.S. Congress and 27 child welfare and adoption organizations signed on to the briefs.

Amicus briefs allow entities that have a stake in litigation to provide information to the court on issues they believe are important to the case.

♦ See ICWA on page 4A

## Posada family's fishing business emerges from breast cancer battle

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

EVERGLADES CITY — When Seminole tribal member Lorraine Posada was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2020, she wasn't certain what direction her life would go. Little did she know at the time that her battle with cancer would inspire the creation of Saltwater Hippie Fishing Charters, her family's new business.

"Our spirits were defeated after the diagnosis," said Lorraine, of the Immokalee Reservation. "So we started going fishing."

Her husband Mario Posada, who has been fishing in the Everglades for more than 25 years, convinced her it was time to buy a boat. They had a 24-foot center console boat built, complete with pink ribbon details on each side.

When Mario had the Action Craft bay boat built, he mentioned his wife's diagnosis of breast cancer. The boat company asked if they could put the pink ribbons on as a tribute to breast cancer awareness.

The Posadas have two daughters, Lauren and Lindsey, and a son, Brandon. During the height of the pandemic, the family was isolated together and often went fishing.

The family fishing trips motivated them to start a business doing what Mario has done for most of his life.

Lorraine didn't know if she would lose her hair as she fought cancer, so Mario assured her he would shave his head if she lost hers or not cut his hair until she was completely finished with her treatment. She didn't lose her hair, but endured four surgeries over the course of a year. True to his promise, Mario didn't cut his hair and grew a full beard.



Lorraine and Mario Posada on their fishing boat in the Ten Thousand Islands Oct. 11.

Beverly Bidney

"When I finished my surgeries, it was a big moment," she said. "I liked his hair long. Someone said he looked like a fishing hippie."

The reference stuck and inspired them

to name their new business Saltwater Hippie Fishing Charters. Mario went to school to earn his master captain license, which allows him to operate a charter company. The business opened in January.

"It just made sense," Lorraine said. "Mario's been fishing all his life; why not make a living at it? He knows what he's doing."

♦ See FISHING on page 5A

## Native veterans memorial touched by Seminole influence

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, the National Native American Veterans Memorial is to be officially dedicated with a procession and ceremony at its home in Washington, D.C. The Covid-19 pandemic caused the event to be postponed for two years.

It is the first memorial on the National Mall to honor the service of Native Americans in the U.S. military. The event is expected to draw scores of visitors from across the country, including a contingent from the Seminole Tribe. The tribe's late Stephen Bowers, who died in 2020 at age 71, worked with colleagues for a decade to see the memorial become a reality. His younger sister, Wanda Bowers, and his niece, Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall, said they will take part in the procession and ceremony to represent Bowers and honor his work and service.

Bowers served in the U.S. Army in the

Vietnam War and was the former Veterans Affairs director for the tribe. Not long before his death, he helped to acquire the U.S. Army "Huey" helicopter located outside of the Florida Seminole Veterans Building on the Brighton Reservation.

Military service and support for veterans runs deep in the Bowers family. Family members who served include Paul Bowers Sr., a U.S. Marine veteran with two Purple Hearts, and Andrew Bowers Jr., also a U.S. Marine veteran. The entire family was recognized for its military service at the Seminole Tribal Fair & Pow Wow in early 2020.

The tribe has many veterans past and present who served. Native Americans have participated in every major U.S. military conflict since the Revolutionary War in the late 1700s. The U.S. Department of Defense reports that Native Americans have served at a higher rate in proportion to their population than any other ethnic group. Stephen Bowers saw the lack of representation in the nation's capital as a gap to be filled.

'His mission'

He had long campaigned for the addition of a statue of a Native American service member at the existing "Three Servicemen Statue" at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall. Bowers' effort for a fourth statue at the site began in 2010 after President Mitchell Cypress (then Chairman) gave him his support.

"He took it as a charge and saw it as his mission," Wanda Bowers, who is creating a booklet to recognize her brother, said.

However, he would learn that the U.S. Congress had passed a bill in 2003 that prevented another statue from being added at the site. So he turned his attention to getting a statue, or memorial, placed at another site on the National Mall. Congress would have to approve the plans and private funds would have to be raised.

♦ See VETERANS on page 4A



Wanda Bowers, left, with Mitchelene Bigman in Bowers' office at tribal headquarters on Oct. 13.

Damon Scott

## Fort Pierce marks upgrades, new projects

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Tribal members at the Chupco's Landing development on the Fort Pierce Reservation have encountered mold-related issues in their homes over the past few years. During that time, 29 of 30 homes have received mold remediation and other work, including the installation of new heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

While the work is completed, residents have been staying in rental homes or hotels. Crystal Sneed, the Fort Pierce Liaison to Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, said a few families have moved back into their homes, while others are still waiting for the green light.

"We currently have four members moved in and we're planning for another three in the next couple of weeks," Sneed said Oct. 28. "By the end of next month, the majority of the community will be back in their homes."

Sneed said all the homes are expected to be wrapped up by the beginning of 2023. She said the work has been prioritized to accommodate Elders, those with disabilities and families who are staying in hotels. The single-family homes at Chupco's Landing were custom-built in 2005 and range from 1,600-to-2,400 square feet. Sneed said a community event will be scheduled in the future to mark the completion of the work.

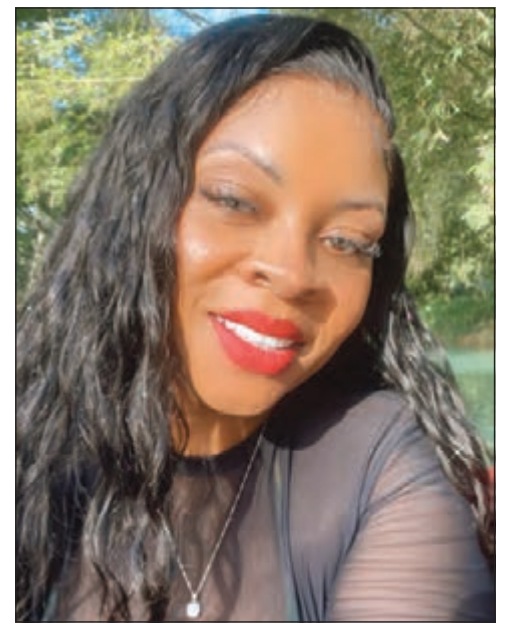
Playground-park 'unlike any other'

Meanwhile, sometime in 2023 – Sneed hopes by summer – a new playground-park will be opened south of the Chupco's Landing Community Center and adjacent to the property's retention pond.

"This will be unlike any other playground around," Sneed said. "It will exemplify Native American features at its finest – with tribal entry signage shaped as an arrow with the name 'Bird Clan's Landing.'"

Sneed said Fort Pierce tribal members agreed upon the entry signage, which also features the Seminole Tribe's other clans. The Fort Pierce community is comprised of families who descend from the late Sally Chupco Tommie of the Bird Clan.

Some of the playground features kids will enjoy include a teepee-style slide, obstacle course, dream catcher and water mister. The playground's surface will be composed in a patchwork style.



Courtesy photo

Crystal Sneed is the Fort Pierce Council Liaison.

Other features include exercise equipment for different ability levels. Some exercise stations are designed with Elders in mind and for those who use a wheelchair. "There will be three chickees at the park for gatherings and cooking – including one that will be designed for traditional needs," Sneed said.

Sneed said she was grateful to the staff at Tribal Community Development (TCD), including its executive director, Derek Koger, for moving the project along.

"This project meant a lot to me, as it is for the community, which is my family, and TCD understood that," she said.

Sneed said a community event to reveal the playground-park will be scheduled once it's completed.

"The Fort Pierce community is known for enjoying one another and being very appreciative for our many blessings," she said. We are very grateful for the blessing left behind from our lineages."

Sneed's late grandmother was Hope Tommie Wilcox, known as the founder of the Fort Pierce Reservation. Then-Chairman James Billie assisted the community in procuring the land and hosted the original groundbreaking ceremony.

♦ See FORT PIERCE on page 4A

### INSIDE:

Editorial.....	2A	Sports.....	6B
Community.....	3A	Education.....	1B

Visit the Tribune's website for news throughout the month at [seminoletribune.org](http://seminoletribune.org)

# Editorial

## Sacheen Littlefeather and ethnic fraud – why the truth is crucial, even if it means losing an American Indian hero

• Dina Gilio Whitaker

When Sacheen Littlefeather died on Oct. 2, 2022, obituaries reflecting on the actress and activist's life held her up as a Native American trailblazer.

But there is serious issue with this assessment: A suspicion among those who knew her – myself included – that her claims to American Indian heritage were not what they seemed has developed into outright claims of falsehood. A report in the San Francisco Chronicle on Oct. 22 claims that Littlefeather was a “fraud.”

Written by author Jacqueline Keeler, whose running “Alleged Pretendians” list documents cases of Native American ethnic fraud, the article cites two of Littlefeather's sisters who say that their sibling lied about her heritage. Contrary to Littlefeather's half-century long claims, she has no White Mountain Apache or Yaqui heritage, according to the report.

The article has unleashed bitter online arguments, counter-articles and intense criticism of Keeler. In part, the reaction stems from calling out Littlefeather's alleged deception so soon after her death.

It also reflects the esteem many held Littlefeather in. Littlefeather skyrocketed to fame in 1973 when, based on her supposed Native American heritage, she rejected an Oscar for Marlon Brando in protest over the film industry's deplorable treatment of Native people. It cemented her position as “persona non grata” in Hollywood but made her a heroine to a new generation of American Indian people.

As a scholar who writes and teaches about American Indian cultural appropriation, I believe that scrutinizing Littlefeather's claim to Native identity is necessary. “Pretendianism” – the act of falsely claiming American Indian heritage – does real harm, and the case of Littlefeather may shed light on why people make such claims, and how they get away with it.

### A narrative, unquestioned

I reviewed Keeler's documentation before it was published, and in my opinion it is solid research. Keeler's work also revealed numerous other apparent falsehoods by Littlefeather over the years, including her claims that she was at the 1969 to 1971 Alcatraz Island Occupation.

The allegations of falsehood also resonate with my own experience of working with Littlefeather. In 2015, she asked me to ghostwrite a memoir with her on the back of the #OscarsSoWhite movement. I spent several days interviewing Littlefeather at her home in San Rafael, California, but was later informed that Littlefeather had decided to “go in a different direction.” During our conversations, Littlefeather offered no information about any family connections to the White Mountain Apache or Yaqui tribes.

I later warned the makers of a documentary film about my concerns about

Littlefeather's claims to American Indian heritage but otherwise kept my suspicions largely to myself. The truth is, it never seemed acceptable to question Sacheen Littlefeather's identity – not now or not when she was alive. For generations, activists, writers and filmmakers who worked with her reflexively believed her assertions.

But here is the thing: The issue of Littlefeather's heritage has never been about questioning whatever good work she has done as an activist. It wasn't even about whether or not she had any Indigenous heritage at all. Given that her father's family was from Mexico, there is a good chance that she had Indigenous ancestry from that country.



Sacheen Littlefeather

Rather, it raises questions about why she would invent a fictitious narrative, and why no one questioned it, at least publicly, during her lifetime.

### The harm of ‘pretendians’

Littlefeather became a cultural icon in large part because she made a life playing to the Indian Princess stereotype, and she certainly looked the part. This was especially true during the Oscars incident, in which she adorned herself in full Native dress, for example, because it sent an unmistakable message about the image she was trying to portray. It should be noted that the outfit was not of traditional Apache or Yaqui design, nor was her hairstyle.

The stereotype Littlefeather embodied depended on non-Native people not knowing what they were looking at, or knowing what constitutes legitimate American Indian identity. There is a pattern that “pretendians” follow: They exploit people's lack of knowledge about who American Indian people are by perpetuating ambiguity in a number of ways. Self-identification, or even DNA tests, for instance, obscure the fact that American Indians have not only a cultural relationship to a specific tribe and the United States but a legal one. Pretendians rarely can name any people they are related to in

a Native community or in their family tree.

They also just blatantly lie. Pretendianism is particularly prevalent in entertainment, publishing and academia.

Littlefeather lived with a diagnosis of schizoaffective disorder, as she publicly disclosed shortly before she passed and as she had spoken in depth with me about. We can't say what role, if any, her condition may have played in her apparently false appropriation of Native heritage. But according to the Mayo Clinic, one of the hallmarks of the disorder is delusional thinking characterized by “false fixed beliefs despite evidence to the contrary.”

It's one thing when people indulge their fantasies about their supposed Indian heritage to make them sound more interesting at cocktail parties or to convince actual Native people that they are one of them. But it's quite another when there are lucrative movie deals, publishing contracts, high-paying teaching jobs, big grants and business deals at stake based on advancing an American Indian image.

After all, it is illegal to ask job candidates about their ethnicity in public realms like universities, which helps explain why American Indian ethnic fraud appears to be so pervasive in academic institutions in the hiring of tenure track faculty and postdocs in American Indian studies departments and related fields. There is no way to properly vet people's claims legally.

Harm is caused when resources and even jobs go to fakes instead of the people they were intended for.

### The need for truth

To my knowledge, Sacheen Littlefeather did not make a lot of money perpetuating an Indian identity. And it is only fair to note that Littlefeather is no longer around to offer a defense or provide documentation, should she have it, that would disprove the claims of ethnic fraud.

But if we are to accept the words of her sisters – and based on my own experience with her, including photocopies of five years of a handwritten journal she gave me in which there is no indication of familial ties to any Apache, Yaqui or other tribal community – I can only conclude that she benefited from this fraud by achieving something she desperately desired, fame, and that a lot of people were duped in the process.

Deception cripples people's ability to discern truth. And what is that if not a form of harm?

We may never know the reasons for Sacheen Littlefeather's fraud, if indeed it as that. What I do know is that I prefer the truth, even if it means I lose a hero.

*Dina Gilio Whitaker is a lecturer on American Indian Studies, California State University San Marcos. This article first appeared in The Conservation at theconservation.com.*

## Government should recognize Indiana tribe

• The Herald Bulletin (Anderson, Ind.)

Since the beginnings of the United States, tribes of Native Americans have been pushed around, cheated and lied to by the government.

Even in this relatively enlightened age, American Indians can get a raw deal.

It's still happening to the Miami Tribe of Indiana, which has been fighting for 125 years to receive federal recognition.

In 1897, the U.S. Department of the Interior stripped the tribe's recognition, which had been granted 45 years earlier. The decision, motivated by taxation of the tribe's lands, was not only capricious, but unlawful as well, according to judges and U.S. senators — and, later, even the Department of Interior, itself.

The loss of federal recognition would eventually preclude the tribe from receiving

a host of benefits and resources, including funding for healthcare, housing and education, via the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The decision also amounted to a direct attack by the government on both the tribe's identity and its dignity, Miami Chief Brian Buchanan explained in a recent article by CNHI State Reporter Carson Gerber.

“My dad always said if you take away a man's dignity, you're taking everything away,” Buchanan said in the CNHI article. “And that's what they've done.”

The tribe, which has about 4,600 members, meets several times a year at longhouse in Miami County for traditional religious ceremonies and fellowship, and they continue to battle for recognition.

Their most recent concerted attempt, launched in 1984, was denied, leading to a protracted legal battle with the Department of the Interior. In 2002, a federal judge dismissed the tribe's lawsuit, saying the statute of limitations to challenge the government's ruling had lapsed 99 years

before.

Now, for the first time in two decades, the Miami see a ray of light in their 125-year-old quest. A potential policy change and legislation filed by U.S. Sens. Todd Young and Mike Braun, both from Indiana, have provided that glimmer of hope.

Young and Braun have sent letters to the Interior asking that the Miami be allowed to apply again for federal recognition.

Perhaps more importantly, they filed a bill in August that would permit the Indiana Miami's application. The bill is under consideration in the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

It's unclear whether Young and Braun's bill is likely to pass, but it's a step in the right direction. The Senate and the Interior should both do the right thing for this tribe of original Hoosiers who have waited more than a century for the right thing to be done.

welcome to set up their own tables. For more information call Marya at (239) 695-2905.

to 1 p.m. at McLeod Park on the Circle in Everglades City. Goods on sale range from photos of the environment to hand-made soap.

Admission is free and vendors are

The following deadline applies to all submissions to The Seminole Tribune:

Issue: November 30, 2022  
Deadline: November 16, 2022

Issue: December 30, 2022  
Deadline: December 14, 2022

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## Indigenous representation in Congress hits milestone

BY STAFF REPORT

Native people quietly achieved a milestone in the U.S. Congress this past summer. When Rep. Mary Peltola, an Alaska Native and Democrat, was sworn in Sept. 13 after winning an Aug. 16 special election, it marked a feat hundreds of years in the making for Native Americans, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

Rep. Kaiiali'i Kahele, a Democrat from Hawaii, said it is the first time in more than 233 years that Indigenous people are fully represented in the Congress. The other Democrat joining Peltola and Kahele is Rep. Sharice Davids (Ho-Chunk Nation) from Kansas who was elected in 2019.

There are now six Indigenous Americans in the U.S. House – six Democrats and six Republicans. The three Republicans are Tom Cole (Chickasaw), R-OK; Markwayne Mullin (Cherokee), R-OK; and Yvette Herrell (Cherokee), R-NM.

Peltola, the first Alaska Native woman elected to the House for Alaska, is taking over Rep. Don Young's seat. Young died in March.

“It's a historic moment,” Lani Teves, an associate professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, told NPR in September. “Having different Indigenous communities represented shows the growing power of Native people across the United States and across the world.”

However, the increase in Indigenous representation in Congress has been slow going.

Davids and now-Interior Secretary Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) became the first two Native American women elected to Congress in 2019. Kahele, meanwhile, is just the second Native Hawaiian to represent his home state.

“Down the road, this representation can

have a big impact on the political power of Indigenous communities in the U.S.,” Teves continued. “People need representation and young people need to see people that look like themselves, that come from their communities.”

To hold her seat, Peltola needs to win reelection in the November midterms. Kahele is expected to wrap up his final term in Congress in 2023.



Via Rep. Kahele's Twitter

From left to right are Reps. Kahele, Peltola and Davids outside the Capitol on Sept. 13.

## Army Corps submits Everglades restoration progress

BY STAFF REPORT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, presented the latest working draft of its progress on Everglades restoration – called the 2022 integrated delivery schedule (IDS) – on Oct. 19.

The Corps invited partners, stakeholders and the public to watch a Zoom presentation as part of a daylong meeting of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration task force in Washington, D.C.

“The IDS provides the roadmap for sequencing, planning, design, construction and operations of both federal and state

projects related to Everglades restoration,” a news release said, including “new or emerging issues relevant to Everglades restoration.”

Congress established the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration task force in 1996 to “ensure consistent strategies among all the partners working towards Everglades restoration.”

The Corps said the release and presentation of its final 2022 IDS would take place Nov. 18.

More information is available by searching “Everglades restoration” at [saj.usace.army.mil](http://saj.usace.army.mil).

## Biden's second tribal summit to begin Nov. 30

STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration has announced the dates for its second White House Tribal Nations Summit – Nov. 30 to Dec. 1 – at the Department of Interior in Washington, D.C. The first summit was held virtually last year from Nov. 15 to Nov. 16.

In an Oct. 26 statement, the White House said the summit “intends to further the nation-to-nation relationships it holds with tribal nations by hosting robust and meaningful engagement with tribal leaders.”

New administration announcements and updates on existing efforts to implement policy initiatives that support tribal communities are also expected.

“This is an opportunity for tribal leaders to engage directly with officials at the highest levels of the administration,” the statement said.

The deadline to register is Nov. 14. Due to limited capacity, one governmental representative per tribe can be accommodated. To register, click here, or search “Tribal Nations Summit” at [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov). Questions can be directed via email to [TNS@who.eop.gov](mailto:TNS@who.eop.gov).

## NICWA to hold annual conference in Reno

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) will hold its 41st annual Protecting Our Children Conference from April 2 to April 5, 2023, at Peppermill Resort Spa Casino in Reno, Nevada.

NICWA said it anticipates more than 1,400 social workers, lawyers, tribal leaders, and program administrators will attend the conference, which will feature 50 workshops about the latest news and information in Indian child welfare.

NICWA is accepting presentation proposals for topics such as youth and family involvement, judicial and legal affairs, children's mental health, child welfare, foster care, and adoption services. Presenters receive discounted conference registration as well as professional development and coaching. The deadline for submission is December 2. For more information email [training@nicwa.org](mailto:training@nicwa.org).

For more information about the conference and to register visit [nicwa.org](http://nicwa.org).

## Art festival to be held in Everglades City

FROM PRESS RELEASE

EVERGLADES CITY – The first Art-in-the-Glades arts & crafts fair of the winter season will be held Nov. 12 from 10 a.m.

The Seminole Tribune is a member of the Native American Journalists Association.

Letters/emails to the editor must be signed and may be edited for publication.

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# Community



A

## Hollywood Culture now led by Francine Osceola

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe's Francine Osceola took the helm as manager of the Hollywood Reservation's Community Culture Center on Sept. 5. She replaces Bobby Frank, who has worked for the tribe for decades.

Osceola's new position comes after an eight-year run as the Hollywood Council Office's community affairs specialist for Councilman Chris Osceola. She said it was a tough decision to leave, but she was ready to take on a new challenge.

Osceola isn't a new face at the center, which operates as a hub for tribal members to learn arts and crafts, sewing, cooking, woodworking, language instruction and more. She worked and volunteered there over the years — when Lorene Gopher was the manager and Donna Turtle was a fixture.

"I was raised by my grandmother, so I pretty much knew how to do arts and crafts, sewing and cooking," Osceola said. "It was a way of life back then."

Osceola's grandmother is the late Francis Willie, daughter of the late Josie Billie. She said Willie taught her the importance of preserving the Elaponke language, something Osceola said is in competition today with technology, social media and "everything moving at a faster pace."

"We're the grandmothers now, so we have to sit still and teach all these things to the generations coming up," she said. "Growing up, the Elders told us we're not a tribe if we don't have our language. It is so important."

Osceola is fluent in Elaponke and said it's the only language Willie spoke around her.

### Community focus

Osceola said the language program at the center is a big focus. She currently has three fluent Elaponke speakers on her nine-

person staff.

"I've been telling them that even if you're just welcoming somebody or saying 'see you later,' I want to hear it spoken," Osceola said. "Because the more people hear it, the more comfortable they're going to get with it."

She's started a new language class on Mondays and there's a language class on Wednesdays led by language instructor Paul Buster.

Other priorities include sewing, cooking, basket making and woodworking. Osceola recently brought in Vincent Osceola from the Brighton Reservation to teach woodworking, and Donna Frank will be teaching basket making classes.

"I'm proud to say that our [attendance] numbers in my first month here were equivalent to the previous three months," Osceola said.

New initiatives also include a Monday morning breakfast for the Hollywood community prepared under a chickee. Osceola said it's designed as an outreach and service for those who work during the day. The breakfast begins at 5:30 a.m. and runs until 7:30 a.m. She'd like to extend the operating hours at the center for at least one day a week as well.

"Because it's challenging for those who work during the day to be involved," Osceola said. "We get the kids here, but I need the families to start getting more involved. People want more and I'm trying to facilitate that."

In addition to expanded services and more accessibility, Osceola wants to hire a couple more staff members and said she always needs volunteers.

"I'm looking for good help. I'm demanding. I like to see things moving. I feel like our people deserve the best we can give them. I'm not here to sit and collect a check. I want to make things happen," she said.



From left to right are the Hollywood Community Culture Center's Michael Cantu, assistant manager; Francine Osceola, manager; and Paul Buster, language instructor.

### Seminole life

Osceola spent the first five years of her life in the Tamiami Trail community, before moving to the Big Cypress Reservation where she lived until she was about 16. She's been on the Hollywood Reservation ever since.

She said much of her life has been spent connecting with the tribe's Elders, which naturally happened through growing up in and attending Seminole churches, but also in her previous position at the Hollywood Council Office.

Osceola has seven children — three

girls and four boys — ranging from 17 to 29 years old. Her husband is Marl Osceola, the Hollywood Recreation Department's site manager.

While all her children are in the Hollywood area, daughter Skylia Osceola is perhaps better known among tribal members. She plays basketball for Nova Southeastern University in Davie, where she's now earning a master's degree in leadership.

The Community Culture Center is located in the Howard Tiger Recreation Center on the Hollywood Reservation. Contact the center at (954) 989-6840 or email Osceola at francineosceola@semtribe.com.

## Big Cypress Reservation to host strength challenge

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

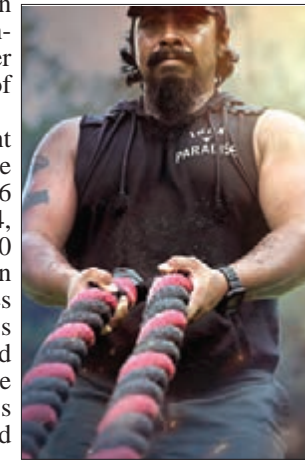
Quenton Cypress, the Seminole Tribe's community engagement manager at the Heritage and Environment Resources Office (HERO), has organized a strength challenge on the Big Cypress Reservation for tribal members and their friends. The competitive event is scheduled to take place Dec. 10 in an area near the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's parking lot.

Taylor Tigertail, HERO's community engagement coordinator, is assisting Cypress. He said the strength challenge is the first of its kind for the tribe and the hope is to make it an annual event.

"We tried to make the challenges based on Seminole culture and things we would traditionally do around the camp," Tigertail said.

There are four events designed for two-person teams: the deer run, gator pull, water bucket carry and the chickee build. The competition is open to all tribal members and teams can include one non-tribal member or a member of another tribe.

The event has four age divisions — 16 to 18, 19 to 34, 35 to 49, and 50 and up — within four categories — women's beginner and intermediate and men's beginner and intermediate.



Seminole Media Productions

◆ See **STRENGTH** on page 4A  
Quenton Cypress has organized the Big Cypress strength challenge to promote physical fitness among tribal members.

# GENERAL TRIBAL ELECTION

## May 8, 2023





**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 1, 2023**

ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION

**NEED TO REGISTER?**

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[SupervisorofElections@semtribe.com](mailto:SupervisorofElections@semtribe.com)

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-IF YOU HAVE MOVED FROM ONE RESERVATION TO ANOTHER OR MOVED ON OR OFF THE RESERVATION YOU WILL NEED TO REGISTER AGAIN



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**Hollywood:**

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We will process each request as quickly and efficiently as possible. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email us.

◆ **VETERANS**  
From page 1A

“He went from [Florida] to every tribal nation he could go to, to attend tribal council meetings, to visit [tribal] chairmen, to get support and raise funds.” Bowers, who is the office manager for the tribal secretary in Hollywood, said. “Then he started going to Washington to talk to different congressmen. He was very adamant.”

Bowers said her brother was known for manning tables at events across Indian Country to spread the word about the proposed memorial and raise funds.

Eventually the project was handed over to the Smithsonian Institution. Kevin Gover (Pawnee), the director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), came calling for Bowers to be on his advisory committee in 2015.

Gover and Bowers continued to raise funds and eventually a site on the grounds of the NMAI was approved for a memorial. The NMAI is located on the east end of the National Mall near the U.S. Capitol. Artist Harvey Pratt’s (Cheyenne/Arapaho) memorial design was chosen in June 2018. The central feature of the memorial is an elevated stainless steel circle resting on a carved stone drum.

“He lived long enough to know the wheels were turning and dedicated the last years of his life to it,” Bowers said.

**Group effort**

Bowers said even in his last years, when her brother was nursing a severely injured knee that affected his mobility and ability to travel, he continued to work the phones and send emails to raise money.

Bowers also credits her brother’s wife, Elizabeth Bates Bowers, for assisting him for many years on the memorial project.

“She would go with him everywhere, making reservations at hotels, she would do research and take pictures, and helped contact people in Washington or other tribal leaders,” Bowers said.

Bowers and Rep. McCall will be joined at the event by Mitchelene Bigman (Crow),



The National Native American Veterans Memorial is adjacent to the National Museum of the American Indian.



The Native American Women Warriors, led by Mitchelene Bigman, at left, will be part of the procession on Nov. 11.



Stephen Bowers was involved in veterans issues for many years.

the founder and president of the Native American Women Warriors, and a retired U.S. Army combat veteran. Hers was the first all-Native American women color guard in the U.S., founded in 2012.

Wanda Bowers met Bigman at a Denver March Powwow in the early 2000s when her group was part of the grand entry. She’d invite Bigman to events in Hollywood over the years and the two became friends. Bigman also works at the Hollywood office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a realty specialist

for the Seminole Tribe.

Bigman knew Stephen Bowers as well, seeing him at events, and also serving with him on the memorial’s advisory committee.

“He would always set up his booths and tell people about the initiative and raise money,” Bigman said.

For more information, including a schedule of events, and to access a livestream of the procession and dedication Nov. 11, go to [americanindian.si.edu](http://americanindian.si.edu).

**Haaland, tribal leaders stress importance of Indigenous knowledge**

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) commemorated Indigenous Peoples’ Day on Oct. 7 with a virtual event highlighting the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the stewardship of land, water and wildlife.

Haaland’s guests were Chairwoman Frances Charles of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Chairwoman Cheryl Andrews-Maltais of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah, former Chairwoman Karen Diver of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and Wizipan Garriott of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, who is principal deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs.

In an opening statement, Haaland noted the historic climate changes taking place and said there are no better allies than Indigenous communities to help combat that change.

“We use nature-based solutions,” said Haaland, the first Native American cabinet secretary. “Indigenous people carry generations of knowledge that is passed down to us through our families. It is by incorporating Indigenous knowledge into our work that we can restore balance to nature. My responsibility to future generations is ingrained in me by my culture and traditions. I believe we all have that obligation to the future.”

As a child, Haaland spent summers with her grandfather who passed down agricultural traditions and taught her that people should only take from the earth only what they can use. She convened the virtual event so Native American leaders could share how their traditions are shaping the work of climate resiliency and adaptation.

“Passing the torch represents an opportunity for Indigenous people to do exactly what Haaland was taking about,” Garriott said. “The Bureau of Indian Affairs will carry on this important work across the federal government.”

Charles told a story about her 1,000-member tribe. The Lower Elwha Klallam is located on the northern coast of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington state. Charles said the tribe has lived in balance with the salmon runs for thousands of years. In 1855, the tribe signed a treaty with the U.S. government which preserved its gathering rights, but in 1915 a dam was built a few miles upstream. The dam blocked 95% of the river and reduced the salmon runs to a tiny fraction of what they once were. In 1925, a second dam was built. The tribe worked for nearly a century to get the dams removed before Congress, in 1992, passed an law that launched the removal process. Demolition began in 2011 and was completed in 2014.

“Dam removal was possible because we were inspired by all the sacrifices of our ancestors and for our future generations,” Charles said. “We never gave up. Our name means strong people and that is what we have shown.”

The tribe forged strong relationships with local governments, states, federal agencies, local businesses, other tribes and the National Park Service. It also worked closely with the National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure the dam removal would not wipe out any salmon runs.

“They helped us develop hatchery programs that preserve native genetics without destroying wild fish,” Charles said. “This is the largest ecosystem restoration project ever undertaken in the U.S. and it isn’t finished yet. Things are definitely moving in the right direction.”

Diver said members of the Fond du Lac Band, located in Cloquet, Minnesota, worked with researchers from the University of Minnesota and were involved in state actions and permitting activities with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help protect its resources, including wild rice.

“We take young, college-educated tribal members and they do field work together so [researchers from the university] can hear the stories about generational learning, much like Madam Secretary referenced,” Diver said. “We know we need the Western science as well. These researchers ... were coming from hydrology and biology and



Wampanoag Tribe Chairwoman Cheryl Andrews-Maltais



Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Chairwoman Frances Charles

not thinking about what the tribes need. They were motivated by their own research agenda.”

She talked to the researchers about sovereignty and protocols of asking permission to come onto tribal land. In order for them to understand how the tribe takes care of their own resources, the researchers needed to be trusted. That meant going into the field and implementing data agreements with the tribe and respecting sovereignty about where the work is done and whether or not it can be published.

“They soon learned that it was multidisciplinary because [the research] was a cultural activity and important for our youth to be involved,” Diver said. “It is a public health issue because [wild rice] is part of our traditional foods and diet. These researchers got changed by this project. Going into the community and hearing from Elders, they had to give up control. When we can exert our sovereignty and marry our research with Western science, we can take care of our relatives much better.”

Indigenous knowledge is also being used in projects by the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah on Martha’s Vineyard, an island in Massachusetts.

“The Creator blessed us with Mother Earth and our gifts, along with the responsibility to maintain them,” Andrews-Maltais said. “We have stewarded our lands and waters and we are taking care of our Mother Earth so she can take care of us in future generations. What is happening to our Mother was not meant to be and we must act quickly to return to our old ways to restore our balance and help our Mother heal.”

Andrews-Maltais said cranberries is an important crop for the Wampanoag Tribe that is maintained in their bogs in a natural and traditional way which doesn’t require intentional flooding to increase harvest. Andrews-Maltais believes blending Indigenous knowledge with Western science will enhance the ability to protect the land and water.

◆ See RESOURCES on page 5A

◆ **FORT PIERCE**  
From page 1A

“I serve my community with the utmost pride, humility and integrity – always

remembering that my blessings came from my grandmother,” Sneed said. “She was well-known for her small and intricate patchwork, her Indian dolls and her pride in being a true Seminole. Many of our members have passed on, so we are committed to

carrying that torch, ensuring that the Fort Pierce Reservation retains its history.”



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

This photo from May 16, 1996, is from the original groundbreaking ceremony for the Fort Pierce Reservation. The ceremony was organized by then-Chairman James E. Billie.

The four sisters, whose mother was the late Sally Tommie Chipco, are in the front row. From left to right are the late Minnie Tommie Howard with husband Jessie Howard; the late Marie Tommie Gilliam; the late Hope Tommie Wilcox and husband, the late Damon Wilcox (Hope Tommie Wilcox was the original founder of the Fort Pierce Reservation); and the last living sister Bessie Tommie.

Others in the photo are the late Margaret Wilcox and kids (Hope P. Sneed, Joshua L. Sneed, Crystal L. Sneed, Sheree D. Sneed, Remus L. Griffin); the late Shirley Tommie Sotelo; the late Jane Stockton and kids (O’Hara Tommie); the late Sylvia Tommie and sons Carlton Tommie; Kevin Tommie Sr.; Dean Stokes Sr.; Lawanda Y. Tommie; Shamy Tommie Sr. and Jr.; Wanda Tommie (wife of Shamy Tommie Sr.); Mary L. Tommie and kids (the late Shavonta Timothy and Marlon Tommie).

◆ **ICWA**  
From page 1A

ICWA was enacted to protect Native children from being separated from their extended families and taken away from their communities and culture when possible. Proponents point to research that shows the law has led to more positive outcomes for Native children, such as higher self-esteem and academic success. Opponents say the law is race based and claim the child “placement preferences,” and other provisions in the law, put an excessive burden on states to involve and defer to tribes in foster-care decisions.

Staff at the National Indian Child

Welfare Association (NICWA) has been monitoring the recent legal challenges to ICWA and educating tribes and the public at large about its importance. In the lead up to the Nov. 9 hearing, NICWA said there are three things supporters can do.

First, NICWA has launched an online petition for supporters to sign and share. The petition can be accessed here. Secondly, NICWA is asking supporters to share a message from its “Protect ICWA Campaign” on social media, which can be found on Twitter and Instagram using the handle “@ProtectICWA.” NICWA has also organized a gathering to take place outside of the U.S. Supreme Court on Nov. 9.

“Our gathering will be a family-friendly, prayerful gathering,” Sarah Kastelic

(Alutiq), NICWA executive director, said. “We’ll have prayers, NICWA’s pipe [and] a drum group. It’s a respectful show of support for ICWA.”

Kastelic said she hopes families, leaders, singers, dancers, traditional practitioners, elders, knowledge keepers, youth and allies will attend.

The gathering comes two days before the procession and formal dedication of the nearby National Native American Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Kastelic hopes that event will help to bring more people to the gathering. NICWA is encouraging people to register for the gathering in advance on Eventbrite.

While she doesn’t have any predictions of what the court might decide, Kastelic

◆ **STRENGTH**  
From page 3A

Tigertail said while the competition is open to varying fitness levels, he and Cypress encourage those who register to be moderately fit as the challenges are difficult.

Cypress said he hopes the event will bring the community together and promote physical activity. He does physical training with the Big Cypress Recreation Department

and has previously competed in Ironman and Strongman competitions.

The To-Pee-Kee-Ke Yak-Ne Community Center is sponsoring the strength challenge.

Winners will receive trophies and cash prizes. There will also be food and refreshments. The deadline to register is Dec. 2.

For more information and to register, contact Cypress by phone at (863) 677-1598 or email [quentoncypress@semtribe.com](mailto:quentoncypress@semtribe.com).

said it has implications for upholding tribal sovereignty, which already took a hit this year. The court’s Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta decision in late June caused unease across Indian Country due to its expansion of the states’ authority over Native lands. At the same time, she said the court has also handed down decisions that upheld tribal sovereignty.

“We’re already strategizing about different possible rulings and how to address them,” Kastelic said. “No matter what happens in this case, Indian Country will continue to fight to protect our children and keep families together.”

The U.S. Supreme Court is located at 1 First Street NE in Washington, D.C. More information is at [nicwa.org](http://nicwa.org).



The U.S. Supreme Court

PBS

Commentary

# No fuel, no problem; enjoying the drive with my first electric vehicle

BY CALVIN TIGER  
Reporter/Intern

I recently purchased my first electric vehicle to get a personal understanding of what day-to-day EV ownership is all about. Some of my friends wondered why I didn't pick a Tesla; instead I opted for a 2022 Chevrolet Bolt EUV (electric utility vehicle) and have been satisfied entering the no-fuel world since leaving the dealership.

**Pricing**

I started my search with affordability in mind. A \$6,300 cash discount promotion from General Motors for its new Bolt EV and EUV caught my attention.

The Bolt EUV has a little more cargo capacity and comfort for passengers in the back seat compared to the Bolt EV. The Bolt EUV is similar in size to a Chevrolet Trax. The Bolt's price tag is \$31,995 and the Bolt EUV is \$33,500. Both models are backed by a three-year/36,000-mile bumper-to-bumper limited warranty along with an eight-year/100,000-mile warranty for the electric battery.

There are two trim levels to choose from, the LT and Premiere. I went with Premiere trim that gives the car adaptive cruise control, blind spot monitoring, leather seats and HD Surround Vision, which is Chevrolet's safety technology that uses multiple cameras to provide the driver a 360-degree view while in reverse. The Premier increases the price by about \$4,500. Chevrolet also has a Launch Edition Package (\$5,430), which came equipped with my vehicle. It includes three years of the hands-free driver assistance system known as Super Cruise, enhanced automatic emergency braking, Bose audio and a sunroof.

The final pricing came out to \$43,995 for the new, fully loaded Bolt EUV Premiere. This is a few thousand dollars cheaper than the entry level Tesla Model 3 that starts at \$46,990. The price point of the Bolt EUV versus other entry level EVs and EUVs was a big reason why I purchased this vehicle as my first that doesn't require gas.

**Battery and range**

The Bolt EUV comes with a 65 kWh



The 2022 Chevrolet Bolt EUV

Calvin Tiger

350 V lithium-ion battery that has an estimated range of 247 miles. This size of battery along with the range is perfect for inner city driving and if you are not driving long distances generally. A 120 volt wall plug-in charger does come standard from Chevrolet to charge your EV wherever a wall plug is available, however the charging time is extremely slow with four miles added per hour while charging. Chevrolet offers to cover the installation cost of a level two charger (240 volts) at a new customer's residence in collaboration with Qmerit, a provider of installation for EV charging. I gladly opted for the upgrade. Having a level two charger drastically reduces the charging time for a full charge in seven hours which is ideal compared to the 40-to-50 hours using the 120 volt charger. An electrician is needed to install the level two charger.

I haven't needed to charge my EV outside of my residence since my daily commute is rather short. For those who do need to charge EVs outside of their homes, there are public charging stations that can be found with assistance from apps such as

ChargePoint, EVgo and Electrify America. Some public charging stations are free; others charge.

**Day-to-day livability**

The Bolt EUV is an ideal car for everyday use around town. There is no longer a need for gas station pit stops. If you are looking to drive across the state or long distances, the Bolt might not be the best EV due to the range; there are some other more expensive EVs on the market that have more range, closer to 300 miles. However, if you are driving within a 50-mile radius generally and can charge the vehicle from home, then the Bolt is a great choice and value.

**Final thoughts**

When transitioning from an ICE (internal combustion engine) vehicle to an EV, what many people, including myself, noticed is the silence. There is basically no sound coming from the vehicle. This in turn makes the overall driving experience a little

more relaxing for the driver and passengers. The only noise you will hear is from the tires, mainly when driving at higher speeds, such as on a highway. Another immediate difference driving an EV is that there is instant torque, or peppy acceleration, from idle and when driving around inner city speeds. The Bolt also has a single gear transmission, which means there is no action of the vehicle shifting gears, providing a smooth ride.

Just because I own an EV does not mean I am abandoning my gas powered cars. Absolutely not. I still love my gas powered sports cars and muscle cars. However, for driving around town, including my work commute, the Bolt EUV fits in perfectly as my first EV. I plan on owning future EVs.

*Tribal member Calvin Tiger is in the Education Department's Emerging Leaders Program. He specializes in writing about the automotive industry and anything vehicle related. Contact him at calvintiger@semtribe.com or (954) 966-6300, ext. 10739.*

◆ RESOURCES  
From page 4A

"We have been experiencing the effects of climate change for years; the 100-year storms are almost annual now," she said. "Our beaches and ponds, wetlands and bogs are feeling the effects of climate change and these impacts are changing the delicate ecobalance of our Mother Earth, which sustains us."

In 2012, Hurricane Sandy destroyed the protection of the dunes, so the tribe reached out for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for funding. The beach nourishment and restoration project to regrow the dunes that protect the bogs was successful. She said the dunes have since been rebuilding themselves with firmly rooted grasses.

"The dunes went from being a tribal initiative to an island-wide initiative because we are all in it together, especially on an island," Andrews-Maltais said. "By taking our traditional knowledge and ingraining it with contemporary science, we have been able to reproduce and restock our ponds. A lot of our tribal members still use our oysters and other sea life to sustain themselves as well as supplies to make a living or supplement their living. We know we are restoring our mother to her health as we evolve into a more responsible community of human beings."

Haaland agreed that it is important for the Indigenous knowledge to be handed down.

"As we face the climate crisis, Indigenous knowledge will be an invaluable resource that must be acknowledged and elevated," Haaland said. "The truth is, if we are going to be successful in tackling the climate crisis, we must empower the original stewards of our lands."



Courtesy photo

Deb Haaland

◆ FISHING  
From page 1A



Beverly Bidney

Lorraine Posada hooked a goliath grouper while her husband Mario got its weight. The fish weighed in at 25 pounds, but was thrown back since the species is protected.

The business is based in Everglades City. Mario takes clients fishing in the Ten Thousand Islands area of Everglades National Park, which is a maze of water and mangrove islands south of Everglades City.

Every captain has a favorite, and secret, area to catch snook, redfish, tarpon and other game fish including the protected goliath grouper, which must always be thrown back.

"You have to know where to find them and what kind of bait to use," Mario said. "Out here, live bait is everything. When people ask me where I caught that, I say 'in the water.'"

Common baitfish, which are caught in the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico, include mullet, red herring and pilchards. Once the bait is caught, Mario heads back to the mangrove islands to fish.

On a recent outing, bait fish were hard to find, so he retreated to the islands where he threw out a cast net for bait. Among the catch was a small snook.

"We'll see you again when you are 32 inches," Mario said as he released the animal back into the water.

One challenging aspect of the business is the weather, which dictates what type of fish will be targeted. If Mario can't go out into the open water for baitfish he implements plan B, using shrimp and fishing closer to the mangrove islands.

Mario said fall is the best season for fishing because the fish bite better and the water is cooler. Snook season is open now until Dec. 15. The limit is one per day and the fish may only be 28-to-32 inches long

or it must be thrown back.

The most satisfying part of being a charter captain to Mario is having a client who never caught a fish finally hook one that they can take home. Even clients who don't usually fish can relish the quiet beauty of the area, including uninhabited beaches on mangrove islands.

Loggerhead sea turtles, which average about 275 pounds, are a common site in the open waters near the Ten Thousand Islands.

"Sometimes if a client sees one, they are good for the day," Mario said. "It becomes the highlight of the trip."

Lorraine wasn't always a fan, but now she loves going fishing.

"There's something about that tug on



Beverly Bidney

Lorraine Posada holds a young snook, which got caught in the cast net off this island in the Ten Thousand Islands. The snook was thrown back since it was too small to be legally caught.

your line," she said. "You can get bored if you don't get one, but catching them is fun. We don't go fishing, we go catching."

For more information, visit the

Saltwater Hottie Fishing Charters Facebook page, email saltwaterhottiefc@gmail.com or call (239) 530-8662.

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

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# Substance abuse impacts users, families

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Kaitlin Michelle Billy was a vibrant young woman who loved music, purchased her own home at age 19 and had a family who loved her. By age 26 she was dead of a fentanyl overdose.

Billy's family said she experimented with and abused drugs. Her father, Seminole Tribe member David Billy, who is a former police officer for the tribe, admitted her to a residential drug rehabilitation facility in September 2020. When she completed rehab, Billy lived in a halfway house, where she had more freedom and access to her car. Her father said that on the evening of Aug. 1, 2021, she went out, took some drugs and was found dead in her bed the next morning.

"I got a knock on the door from two of my best friends from [the] Collier County Sheriff's Office. I was dreading that day. I knew if I didn't do something this would happen. I did something and it happened anyway," said David Billy, who was a CCSO police officer for 23 years before joining the Seminole Police Department.

The Billy family honored her memory on Sept. 13 – which would have been her 27th birthday – with a ceremony at sunset on Naples Bay. Family members who attended included Billy's stepmother Heather Billy, brothers Ian Billy and Tim Jones, her mother Nikki McDaniel and stepfather Greg McDaniel. All met on David Billy's 24-foot boat for the remembrance.

The trip was both mournful and joyful as they released flying sky lanterns over the bay. They sang "Happy Birthday" while tossing bouquets of flowers into the bay,



A grieving David Billy is comforted by his wife Heather Billy as they play some of daughter Kaitlin Billy's favorite songs during the family's memorial tribute to her life Sept. 13 on Naples Bay.

for more than a year and serves as a mentor and guide to someone else in recovery.

"Tribal members in recovery serve as sponsors," Bullington said. "We have some really sharp people who are willing to do that. We want to plug clients in to strengthen their recovery and keep them moving in the right direction."

Bullington has seen a lot of changes in the 22 years he has worked for the tribe. He said the start of prescription drug abuse began in the early 2000s when physicians were encouraged to prescribe narcotic medication for physical therapy and post-surgery pain. It soon became an accepted practice in the medical world.

"That was a major shift in the mindset," Bullington said. "They gave high powered narcotics no matter the patient's age. There were pain clinics and pill mills. It was crazy. Over the last three or four years the introduction of fentanyl has been brutal. Dealers are sprinkling it on everything, including cannabis. It's lethal."

Bernard Colman, CBH aftercare, re-entry and WDR administrator, was formerly involved in the aftercare piece of recovery. Now he spends most of his time helping tribal members re-enter society after an incarceration, most of which are substance abuse related.

"I'm an unofficial liaison and am still very involved in the recovery community," Colman said. "There is a lot going on here, such as generational trauma. We are trying to break that cycle, but it will take some time for us to affect real change. The pathology in some families runs deep."

## Indian Country issue

The Seminole Tribe isn't the only tribe affected by the scourge of substance abuse in Indian Country.

According to the Indian Health Service (IHS), Native Americans experience higher rates of substance abuse compared to other racial and ethnic groups. IHS identifies it as the most significant and urgent problem facing Native Americans.

The 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health findings include:

- 10% of Native Americans have a substance abuse disorder.

♦ See SUBSTANCE ABUSE on page 9A



From left, Tim Jones, David Billy, Nikki McDaniel, Heather Billy and Ian Billy prepare to throw bouquets of flowers in honor of Kaitlin Billy on what would have been her 27th birthday.

wept as they listened to some of her favorite songs and laughed while sharing memories.

By the end of the memorial, the mood was lifted as the family remembered Kaitlin for who she was, not how she died.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fentanyl overdoses in 2020 rose 31% from 2019 for all sexes, ages and races.

"My family isn't the only one in the tribe who has been through this and everyone knows it," Billy said. "We tend to put our heads in the sand and don't pay attention."

Billy blames easy access to money as a factor in the amount of substance abuse in the tribe.

"People really need to understand what's at stake; our children's lives and the future of the tribe," he said. "If we keep losing tribal members, what's going to happen next? Is money more important than keeping tribal members alive? The cost is their lives."

## We Do Recover

Charlie Tiger, supervisor of the We Do Recover (WDR) program, is in recovery and is a grieving father who lost two children to drugs about three years ago.

"For a small tribe, this is a big problem because of money," Tiger said. "We become targets for drug dealers and other addicts. Even with guardianship, they can use their allowance [for drugs]. It's a matter of getting them into a program and keeping them there. Sometimes that's impossible."

WDR helps participants through alcohol, drug and substance abuse recovery by doing community work, such as helping seniors,

Tiger said some people join the program when they get tired of not having enough money, watching their health deteriorate and sometimes having their children taken away.

"Our program gets them back on track by putting them to work and keeping them busy," Tiger said.

The program encourages participants to get their driver's license, take a food handlers course, life skills courses and remain certified in those skills. To join the program, people must have been sober for 90 days, be in the tribe's Center for Behavioral Health (CBH) aftercare program and be in counseling. If they relapse, they must start over and be approved by their therapist to get back into the WDR program.

"The program gave me an avenue to stay busy with my job and meetings," Tiger said. "We need to lead by example."

Tiger believes parents need to pay attention to their children and be involved in their school. He said if a child loves to do something, parents should encourage and support that. They should also watch who comes into their kids' lives and who they are interacting with on social media.

"I see a lot of tribal members that I worry about," he said.

## Center for Behavioral Health

Tony Bullington, director of CBH, is in the process of re-envisioning the department by using the power of the tribe's culture and medicine. He's been attending community meetings and talking about the Marchman Act, which helps families get family members affected by substance abuse

and addiction into treatment through a court process, and the Baker Act, which enables families to provide emergency mental health treatment and temporary detention for those who are impaired by their mental illness and substance abuse issues.

Bullington said CBH aims to spend more



A photo of Kaitlin Billy is part of the "Faces of Fentanyl" exhibit at the Drug Enforcement Administration Museum in Arlington, Virginia.

time educating the community and families about the latest drugs, such as fentanyl. CBH also gives them drug abuse warning signs to look for and offers Narcan training to show how to administer the lifesaving drug. Narcan is a nasal spray medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose in minutes.

"We've been getting a good response," Bullington said. "We need to do a lot more listening than talking."

CBH has altered its aftercare program to get patients involved while they are still in residential treatment. Bullington said the result has been more people staying in aftercare, getting a sponsor and going to Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

A sponsor has typically been in recovery



Members of David Billy's family toss sky lanterns in Naples Bay on Sept. 13 to memorialize Kaitlin Billy, who died of a fentanyl overdose.



Billy family (2)

# CBH increases programs, services

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe's Center for Behavioral Health is in the process of adding more programs and revising others to improve its service to tribal members.

CBH director Tony Bullington has been attending community meetings to share information about the changes and get input from the community.

To help clients in recovery, the tribe has a guardianship program in which a

tribal member's money is put on hold while they get treatment for their addiction. An allowance is granted to cover normal bills and living expenses. Bullington said he has seen success in that program; sometimes the accomplishments are recognized during tribal council meetings.

"We try to spend time educating the community and family members about the latest drugs," Bullington said. "We give them warning signs to look for in their loved ones and have given them short training sessions on how to administer Narcan."

Narcan is a nasal spray medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose in minutes.

CBH works collaboratively with clients for their recovery. Programs include residential treatment, outpatient treatment and counseling.

Among new CBH initiatives is the formation of a crisis intervention team that will be available after hours. The initiative has a grant and is expected to soon start a pilot program in Hollywood. The team will work collaboratively with the Seminole

Police Department on some issues. He said it may take time to develop the program, but Bullington is optimistic.

Through Native Connections, another grant-funded program, Bullington plans to develop community activities and events that will get young people involved in substance abuse prevention.

The Tribal Opioid Response grant is being retooled to go beyond Narcan alone. Bullington would like to have more tribal members working on community engagement since his goal for CBH is to be

more community based.

"My hope is to re-envision the department with three things in mind: culture, community and family," Bullington said. "We want to reprogram through those eyes so there will be a buy-in that will have much more of an impact. I hope more people will take advantage of those things. We would like to have input from the Elders. They are the most powerful source of wisdom in the tribe."

# HRI, Seminole Gaming nab two awards

STAFF REPORT

The International Entertainment Buyers Association (IEBA) has recognized Hard Rock International (HRI) and Seminole Gaming with two industry awards.

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood was named casino of the year and Andrew Saunders, vice president of entertainment for Seminole Gaming, was named casino buyer of the year. The IEBA gave out the awards at a ceremony during its annual conference in Nashville, Tennessee, on Oct. 11.

"We are honored to receive these awards from fellow entertainment industry leaders," Keith Sheldon, president of entertainment for HRI and Seminole Gaming, said in a news release. "Our team continuously strives to provide the best entertainment experience to our guests with artists from all over the world."

Hard Rock Hollywood is home to the iconic Guitar Hotel and is one of two

flagship properties in Florida — the other is the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa. Saunders has been in his position since 2021. He's credited with bringing big name acts to the 7,000-seat Hard Rock Live, such as Guns N' Roses, Elton John, Billy Joel, Chris Rock and Metallica.

The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of HRI and Seminole Gaming. The IEBA is a nonprofit trade organization for live entertainment industry professionals who buy, book, and sell talent.

More is at [hardrock.com](http://hardrock.com) and [ieba.org](http://ieba.org).

Hard Rock

From left to right are Victor Sanchez, entertainment manager for Hard Rock International; Keith Sheldon, president of entertainment for Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming; and Andrew Saunders, vice president of entertainment for Seminole Gaming.



# Billy Joel comes to Hard Rock Live in 2023

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Six-time Grammy Award winning singer, songwriter, pianist and composer Billy Joel will return to Hard Rock Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Jan. 23, 2023, at 8 p.m.

For more information go to [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com).



Billy Joel via Facebook

Billy Joel

# Judds 'Final Tour' to stop at Hard Rock Live

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — "The Judds: The Final Tour" will be at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Feb. 25, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Visit [myhrl.com](http://myhrl.com) for tickets. The first run of the tour saw generations of Judds fans singing along to the Judds' most enduring and beloved hits.

Wynonna Judd will be joined by many of her musical friends, including Ashley McBryde, Brandi Carlile, Kelsea Ballerini, Little Big Town and Martina McBride.

The tour is scheduled to be in Tampa on Feb. 24 at Amalie Arena.

# Regional chamber honors Seminole Casino Coconut Creek



Johnny Brief

The Coral Springs Coconut Creek Regional Chamber of Commerce recognized the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek as its "community impact business of the year." The chamber presented the award at its annual gala Oct. 20 at the Fort Lauderdale Marriott Coral Springs Hotel & Convention Center. From left to right is chamber board chair Ron Renzy, Coconut Creek Casino community affairs specialist Tracy Lautomne and chamber president/CEO Cindy Brief.



Taylor Dayne



Joey Fatone

# Grand marshals named for Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade

STAFF REPORT

For the first time in its 51-year history, the Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade will feature a trio of grand marshals.

Justin Wyborn, vice president and assistant general manager of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, announced Oct. 24 that artists Taylor Dayne, Joey Fatone and Chris Kirkpatrick will serve as co-grand marshals.

The colorful parade annually attracts thousands of spectators along the New River in downtown Fort Lauderdale and beyond. This year's parade is scheduled for Dec. 10. The grand marshals will kick off the parade

while performing aboard the lead yacht.

Dayne's music career skyrocketed in the late 1980s with her debut single, "Tell It To My Heart." Fatone and Kirkpatrick were members of the 1990s boy band NSYNC, which was founded by Kirkpatrick.

The grand marshals will also perform at a private Winterfest reception Dec. 9 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

Seminole Hard Rock became the event's title sponsor in 2004.

For more information visit [WinterfestParade.com](http://WinterfestParade.com) or call (954) 767-0686.

# Seminole Casino Hotel to hold hiring event

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**IMMOKALEE** — Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee will host a hiring event

Tuesday, Nov. 8 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Human Resource office behind the Seminole Center. For more information visit [gotoworkhappy.com](http://gotoworkhappy.com).

# G2E recognizes Indigenous Peoples' Day

STAFF REPORT

Indigenous Peoples' Day was recognized at the 2022 Global Gaming Expo (G2E) in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Oct. 10. G2E is a gambling industry trade show that debuted in 2001 and is held each fall. This year's conference ran from Oct. 10 to Oct. 13 at the Venetian Expo.

The chairman and spokesperson of the Indian Gaming Association, Ernest Stevens Jr. (Oneida Nation), led a keynote and panel discussion

recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day, held on the second Monday of October to honor the cultures and histories of Native American people.

Stevens' session "Honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day: A Special Look at Tribal Gaming" also examined the progress tribes have made since the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act in 1988.

Following the session, there was a reception for attendees to meet Stevens and the other speakers who participated on the panel. Stevens was joined by former Colorado Sen.

Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Northern Cheyenne), who served in the U.S. Senate from 1993 to 2005. Campbell was the only Native American in Congress at the time, and the first in the Senate in more than 60 years.

Also on the panel were Reid D. Milanovich, the chairman of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and political consultant Holly Cook Macarro (Red Lake Band of Ojibwe).

More information is at [globalgamingexpo.com](http://globalgamingexpo.com).



Courtesy photo

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, second from left, and Gov. Ron DeSantis, fifth from left, were on stage Oct. 16 at Hard Rock Live with Lynyrd Skynyrd for the announcement of \$200,000 in donations to help Hurricane Ian-impacted communities.

# Tribe, Lynyrd Skynyrd team up to help hurricane recovery efforts

STAFF REPORT

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe and longtime legendary southern rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd joined forces to help with recovery efforts in communities impacted by Hurricane Ian.

During its stop at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood on Oct. 16, Lynyrd Skynyrd announced a \$100,000 donation to the Florida Disaster Relief Fund. The tribe matched the donation with another \$100,000 donation.

Check presentations on stage

included Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Seminole Gaming Chief Operating Officer David Hoemeyer, Gov. Ron DeSantis, First Lady Casey DeSantis, Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno and members of the band.

"We appreciate the overwhelming support of the Florida Disaster Fund to help Floridians recover and rebuild," Casey DeSantis said in a press release. "We are committed to helping folks get back on their feet, and support from Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Seminole Tribe gets us closer to that goal and we thank them for their support."

Hurricane Ian was a Category 4 storm when it walloped Southwest Florida in late September. The death toll in the state was more than 100.

According to the release, the fund has raised more than \$45 million for hurricane-impacted communities. The fund is the state's official private fund created to provide financial assistance to communities dealing with emergencies or disasters.

Lynyrd Skynyrd was formed in Jacksonville in the mid-1960s. Its signature song "Sweet Home Alabama" was released in 1974.

# Immokalee to host Rockabillaque festival

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**IMMOKALEE** — Rockabillaque Florida will be held Jan. 21, 2023, at Seminole Casino Hotel in Immokalee. The festival is free and open to all ages.

Rockabillaque Florida celebrates mid-century and 1950s Americana. The all-day festival includes musical acts from all over the country, a classic car

and vintage bike show, contests including pin-up, tattoo and beard market, food trucks and more.

The entertainment lineup features free performances from headliners Squirrel Nut Zippers and Los Straitjackets plus even more national acts including Legendary Shack Shakers (featuring their reunited original line-up), Hot Rod Walt

and the Psycho-DeVilles, Eddie Clendenning and the Blue Ribbon Boys and others. w/their 1955 tribute to Elvis (Ed

Classic cars and vintage bikes will be on display from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Attendees are welcome to bring chairs and all ages are welcome. For more information visit [flocks.com](http://flocks.com).

# Poker tournament to benefit Irreverent Warriors

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**COCONUT CREEK** — A charity poker tournament benefiting Irreverent Warriors will be held Nov. 13 at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek in celebration of Veterans Day. Tournament registration will begin at 9 a.m.; the tournament is scheduled to start at 11 a.m. in Coco Poker.

The tournament has a \$200 buy-in and will feature \$5,000 in prizes as well as surprise bounties. There will also be special guest appearances.

"After receiving overwhelming support for the first tournament in September we decided to host this tournament again," Kelly Mautner, director of poker, said in a statement. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with Irreverent Warriors."

To participate in this tournament, guests must be a Unity member. If guests are not already signed up for Unity membership, they can sign up with a Player's Club Xperience representative.

Guests should see a poker supervisor at the casino to reserve a spot in the tournament. The mission of Irreverent Warriors is to bring veterans together using humor and camaraderie to improve mental health and prevent veteran suicide.

For more information visit [seminolecoconutcreekcasinocom](http://seminolecoconutcreekcasinocom),

# Olé, olé. Hard Rock Cafe opens in La Paz



Hard Rock

The Hard Rock Cafe at Calacoto 15th St. in La Paz, Bolivia, opened in September. At 12,000 feet above sea level, it is dubbed the highest Hard Rock Cafe in the world.

# Museum forges collaboration with Art & History Museums - Maitland

BY LAURA DELLO RUSSO  
Registrar

**BIG CYPRESS** — Since reopening after the pandemic, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum has been contacted by numerous museums and institutions across Florida requesting collaborations on various projects and events. Many of these are exciting opportunities for the museum to share its mission, its collection, and the Seminole story.

One of these requests came from the Art & History Museums of Maitland, a cultural organization near Orlando that is made up of the Maitland Historical Museum, the Telephone Museum, the Waterhouse Residence & Carpentry Shop Museum, and the Maitland Art Center (the only National Historic Landmark in the greater Orlando area). A&H Maitland is also home to a variety of art classes and workshops, as well as two artist residency programs.

This past spring, A&H Maitland was planning a new exhibit which would focus on the early Indigenous populations of Florida. As it would also discuss

Seminole Wars and Seminole history from the 19th and early 20th centuries, they reached out to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in order to better tell these stories. A&H Maitland submitted a formal request to borrow objects from the museum's permanent collection, and also worked with collections and exhibits staff on the text to be displayed. A&H Maitland's exhibitions manager, Katie Benson, traveled to the museum over the summer to meet with these staff members, view the collection and experience the unique setting of the Big Cypress Reservation. An opening date for the exhibit was then set for the end of September, and staff continued to work diligently to prepare the objects that would be on loan.

On Sept. 21, collections staff traveled to the Orlando area with these objects, including a patchwork skirt and cape, a patchwork coat, an artistic map by Guy LaBree, a palmetto sifting basket, and a historic powder horn. Additionally, A&H Maitland used copies of early 20th century postcards from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's collection, along with a reproduction of the famous "Cowkeeper Letter" from 1774. Staff from both museums carefully prepared the objects for



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Collections staff from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum prepare patchwork textiles for exhibit.

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



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

"Fumechelig: A History of the First Peoples of Florida" is now open. It features objects from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's permanent collection.

installation, which included steaming and pinning the delicate textiles. Staff also toured the beautiful grounds and viewed the current exhibits around the property. During this time, the team from A&H Maitland expressed their sincere wish that Seminole tribal members would visit and experience this special exhibit.

The exhibit, titled "Fumechelig: A History of the First Peoples of Florida," opened Sept. 23 in the organization's Maitland Historical Museum. Sadly,

Hurricane Ian hit the Orlando area less than a week later. While A&H Maitland did have some fallen trees and debris around the grounds, they were fortunate to have no damage to their buildings or the artifacts housed within. They have now reopened and are ready to receive visitors.

For staff at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, it was gratifying to see that this organization was eager to tell the Seminole story as accurately as possible. Their team readily welcomed input, and this was both

noticed and appreciated. While not all of the numerous requests received by Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki lead to a lasting partnership, it is the hope that a future collaborator and new friend can now be found in Maitland.

"Fumechelig: A History of the First Peoples of Florida" is on exhibit at the Art & History Museums of Maitland until Feb. 5, 2023. For more information, visit [artandhistory.org](http://artandhistory.org) or contact the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's collections division at [museum@semtribe.com](mailto:museum@semtribe.com).



Courtesy photo (2)

At left, "Sun on Water" by Samuel Tommie, and "Dancers" by Tia Blais-Billie, are part of a new exhibit in Fort Lauderdale.

## New Seminole art exhibit to open in Fort Lauderdale

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — A new exhibit featuring Seminole artists is coming to the History Fort Lauderdale museum next month.

"Chono Thlee: Sparking a new era in Seminole art," is scheduled to open Nov. 6 and run through Jan. 10, 2023. The exhibit, created in partnership with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, is designed to mark Native American Heritage Month — observed each November.

The exhibit "highlights new contemporary works by Indigenous artists that analyze elemental relationships for the future, based on community foundations of trust, truth, dignity and integrity," a Sept. 28 news release from History Fort Lauderdale said.

"Chono Thlee" is the ninth art exhibition the museum has done in partnership with Seminole artists.

"Settled by our Native American ancestors, the city of Fort Lauderdale continues to be a home to the rich stories and influential culture their children hold dear," Patricia Zeiler, executive director of History Fort Lauderdale, said in the release.

"Chono Thlee" is curated by Tara Chadwick, curator of exhibitions at History

Fort Lauderdale, and includes contemporary and traditional media, including oils, acrylics, fiber, glass, metals, mixed media and digital art. The exhibit will show the work of 13 Seminole artists — Durante Blais-Billie, Tia Blais-Billie, Nick DiCarlo, Jacob Osceola, the late Jimmy Osceola, Leroy Osceola, Daniel Tommie, Samuel Tommie, Shonayeh Tommie, Gordon "Ollie" Wareham, Krystle Young, Brian Zepeda and Corinne Zepeda.

The artists are scheduled to be on hand for a meet and greet, with music and storytelling, at an opening event Nov. 6 at 1 p.m. Another event featuring the artists is scheduled for Dec. 3 at 9:30 a.m.

Last year's show — "A Return to Self: The Art of Healing" — displayed the work of 25 Seminole artists, the largest number ever featured in a single exhibition.

In addition, one of the museum's permanent exhibits, "From Dugouts to Dream Yachts," traces a line from the Seminoles through the ever-changing use of Fort Lauderdale's waterways for travel, commerce and tourism. Daniel Tommie loaned the museum a small dugout canoe for the exhibit — about five feet long by eight inches wide.

For more information, go to [historyfortlauderdale.org](http://historyfortlauderdale.org) or call (954) 463-4431. History Fort Lauderdale is located at 231 SW 2nd Ave. in Fort Lauderdale.

## Pumpkins on display at museum sculpture garden

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The "Pumpkins of Devil's Garden" exhibit is on display in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's sculpture garden until Nov. 7.

The 37 pumpkins are nestled among the life-sized bronze sculptures of Seminoles, created by Bradley Cooley Sr. and Bradley Cooley Jr. The pumpkins were either decorated, carved, painted or both, as an art project by Ahfachkee School middle and high school students. Some were decorated by museum staff.

The name of the exhibit came from the story of Abiaka, aka Sam Jones, who was a Seminole leader during the Seminole Wars. He opposed President Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act of 1830 and rallied other Seminole leaders, including Coocoochee and Osceola, to fight the U.S. Army. Using guerilla tactics to resist the troops, he and his followers would appear seemingly out of nowhere, strike the troops and disappear into the wetlands of the Everglades.

The U.S. Army had various nicknames for Abiaka, including "The Devil." Abiaka's home base was referred to as Devil's Garden and lies just north of the Big Cypress Reservation. The "garden" was mostly covered in water with dense tree island hammocks. It served as an impenetrable fortress and the U.S. soldiers called it Devil's Garden.

According to early stories by the



Beverly Bidney

A pumpkin carved by Virgil Motlow appears to stand watch over a bronze Seminole family in "The Pumpkins of Devil's Garden" exhibit at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's sculpture garden.

soldiers, Abiaka would appear and a war cry would be heard coming from an unknown location. Abiaka would disappear and his warriors would strike, leading the soldiers to believe he had the ability to summon creatures of the land into battle.

Later stories told by tribal members described the Devil's Garden land as extremely fruitful with an abundance of edible food.



Beverly Bidney

Lucee Cypress's pumpkin probably isn't what the bronze Seminole warrior and his family are looking for in the sculpture garden.

## Tipi contest held in OKC



FAM via Facebook

The First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City held its first tipi raising contest Oct. 22. The event featured men's, women's and youth divisions. The men's winners (above) were Michael Elizondo, Kendrick Sleeper, James Sleeper and Cayden Brown.



# Health



## Flu season, fentanyl on HHS radar

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Flu season has begun and the Seminole Tribe's Health and Human Services Department (HHS) has begun to administer the vaccine to tribal members six months and older.

"We encourage everyone to get it. The vaccine is very effective," Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley, HHS executive director, said. "People do die from the flu, so it's important."

Tribal members can get the vaccine at the tribe's health clinics in Hollywood, Big Cypress, Brighton and Immokalee.

Kiswani-Barley said it's also important to take other preventative measures during flu season, such as covering the mouth when coughing or sneezing, washing hands, avoiding contact with the eyes, nose and mouth, and staying home when sick.

HHS has also recently sent out a warning to tribal members through email about the

"emerging threat" of rainbow fentanyl. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid and the source of an increasing number of overdoses and overdose deaths in the U.S. HHS said it is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Rainbow fentanyl is brightly colored to look like candy or sidewalk chalk and is targeted toward younger people.

"We want everyone to understand that it's no joke," Kiswani-Barley said. "Substance abuse is on the rise — we understand that some are dealing with trauma and depression — but substance abuse is not the way to go."

Eligible tribal members can obtain a free Narcan nasal spray kit, which is used to treat a known or suspected opioid overdose emergency. In addition to fentanyl, other common types of opioids include oxycodone (OxyContin), hydrocodone (Vicodin), morphine and methadone.

Kiswani-Barley said the Seminole Police Department and the tribe's emergency

medical services (EMS) personnel keep the kits on hand.

She said HHS has options for tribal members struggling with substance abuse or mental health issues.

Lately, Kiswani-Barley has been visiting off-reservation treatment facilities the tribe contracts with to make sure each is up to HHS standards. While most have passed the test, she said HHS has discontinued its relationship with some.

"We're also looking at whether it's feasible for the tribe to open its own treatment facility," Kiswani-Barley said.

Further, HHS is in the process of hiring a staff psychiatrist, and a nurse practitioner that specializes in psychiatry.

"The pandemic has been a very stressful period for many," Kiswani-Barley said.

For more information, call the HHS hotline at (833) 786-3458.



U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

HHS recently sent out a warning to tribal members through email about rainbow fentanyl.

### ◆ SUBSTANCE ABUSE From page 6A

- 20% of young Native Americans (age 18-25) have a substance abuse disorder.
- 4% have an illicit drug use disorder.
- 7.1% have alcohol use disorder.
- nearly 25% report binge drinking in the past month.
- Native Americans are more likely to report drug use in the past month (17.4%) or year (28.5%) than any other ethnic group.

#### Dealing with grief

With the help of a grieving group, Charlie Tiger said he is starting to feel better three years after losing his children.

"In the meantime, I missed my grandchildren's lives," Tiger said. "I didn't realize I wasn't paying attention to the rest of my family. I learned not to be in a big rush, just pay attention to life as it is or it's going to pass me by."

Meanwhile, David Billy and his family visited the Drug Enforcement Administration

Museum in Arlington, Virginia, a few days after the memorial for his daughter. The museum had an exhibit called "Drugs: Costs and Consequences," which featured portraits of fentanyl overdose victims. Kaitlin Billy is featured in one of the portraits.

"It was overwhelming, the amount of people on the walls," Billy said. "There must have been between 3,000 and 4,000. There were faces of every race and gender; this drug doesn't discriminate. It's heart wrenching. I hated to see Kaitlin's picture up there, but I'm glad she isn't forgotten."

After they left the museum, the Billy family attended a rally on the National Mall to bring awareness to the fentanyl problem. Billy would like to continue to spread that awareness and welcomes tribal members to send photos of their loved ones who were victims of a fentanyl overdose. Photos may be emailed to Daveb733@comcast.net.

For more information about the We Do Recover program, contact Tiger at charlietiger@semitrbe.com

For more information about the Center for Behavioral Health, contact Bullington at tonybullington@semitrbe.com.

## Indigenous food sovereignty requires better data collection

BY OMID MIRZAEI AND DAVID NATCHER

Indigenous communities are increasingly investing in agriculture to sustain their cultures and economies. Indigenous Peoples have a long history with agriculture — a history that wasn't always recognized.

For much of the 20th century, scholars claimed that Indigenous farmers in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States (CANZUS) were marginal food producers who employed unsustainable farming practices, like slashing and burning, that led to environmental declines and their ultimate downfall.

These scholars argued that the "primitiveness" of Indigenous agriculture was reflected in the technologies they used. They posited that tools used by Indigenous Peoples, like the digging stick, were rudimentary compared to the more advanced plow cultivation used by European farmers.

We now know those claims are incorrect; Indigenous Peoples throughout CANZUS have long engaged in sophisticated forms of agriculture. By some estimates, Indigenous farmers out-produced European wheat farmers in the 17th and 18th centuries by a margin of three to five times per acre.

Despite Indigenous communities' increasing desire to engage in large-scale commercial agriculture, there is still a lack of data about Indigenous engagement in the agriculture sector in CANZUS. This data is crucial to informing policies that set out to support Indigenous engagement and diversity in the agriculture sector.

Through the erasure of Indigenous agricultural histories, premised on the notion of terra nullius, CANZUS governments justified their appropriation of Indigenous lands and the territorial dispossession of Indigenous Peoples.

Latin for "land belonging to no one", terra nullius was a legal term used in the Doctrine of Discovery to refer to land that was not occupied by the settlers or used according to their law and culture. Such land was considered "vacant" and available for colonization.

Yet in the face of governmental efforts to dismantle Indigenous agricultural economies, Indigenous Peoples have remained resilient and are making important strides toward food sovereignty through the revitalization of Indigenous food systems and cultural traditions.

Beyond food sovereignty, by reclaiming

their agricultural roots, Indigenous Peoples are also alleviating food insecurity and contributing to economic development in their communities. As supporters of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, it's important that CANZUS governments prioritize and support these Indigenous food sovereignty initiatives.

Although Indigenous Peoples have been participating in the agriculture sector since precolonial times, it hasn't been until recently that contemporary agriculture has become a policy focus for Indigenous community development and well-being.

However, little knowledge exists about contemporary Indigenous agriculture in CANZUS because of the lack of comprehensive databases at the national level. National scale data collection tools that are currently available are still fairly new or non-existent.

#### 1. Canada

In Canada, the Census of Agriculture does not allow farm and ranch producers to self-identify as Indigenous. However, data from the Census of Agriculture and the Census of Population provide some information about Indigenous engagement in agricultural activities.

Data from both censuses is linked using information which is common to both questionnaires such as name, sex, birth date and address of the operators. This information is used to create the Agriculture-Population linkage database, which provides useful information about Indigenous engagement in agriculture in Canada.

#### 2. Australia

Australia does not maintain a national scale database on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (collectively referred to as Indigenous) production in the agriculture sector. The Australian Bureau of Statistics' Agriculture Census also doesn't allow farm and ranch producers to self-identify as Indigenous, which creates a significant data gap about Indigenous agricultural operations in Australia.

Despite this, there is still information available about the people employed in the industry, including those who identify as Indigenous, through the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Census of Population and Housing.

#### 3. New Zealand

In New Zealand, information about Māori farms (the Māori are the Indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand, or Aotearoa in the Māori language), are compiled using the Agricultural Production Survey.

Māori farms are identified by matching the survey to three sources of data: Māori enterprises from the Māori authorities, self-identified Māori businesses from the business operations survey and a database held by Statistics New Zealand's partner Poutama Trust. The matching process yields information about Māori engagement in agriculture, such as the number of agricultural operations, livestock and horticulture crops Māori farm operations have.

#### 4. United States

In the U.S., a national scale data collection effort was piloted in 2002 in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota to collect information about agricultural activity on American Indian reservations. Starting with the 2007 Census of Agriculture, this pilot project was expanded to include reservations across the U.S.

The Census of Agriculture in the U.S. allows farm and ranch producers to self-report agricultural activity on American Indian reservations. If producers don't respond to the mailed report, census employees — many who are tribal members that can bridge language or cultural barriers — follow up with them in person to help them completing their forms. The process yields an overview of agricultural activity on reservations in the U.S.

The lack of baseline data on the scale and scope of Indigenous involvement in the agriculture sector continues to be an obstacle to effective engagement of Indigenous communities within the sector. This gap in data prevents governments and agri-food organizations from knowing what kinds of supports should be provided to reinvigorate Indigenous agricultural economies.

In order to better support the involvement of Indigenous Peoples in agriculture, more accurate data is needed. Being able to collect such data is crucial for developing a framework for Indigenous Peoples and communities that are interested in starting or expanding their engagement with the agriculture sector.

The authors are university professors in Saskatchewan, Canada. This article is from *The Conversation at theconversation.com*.



A sky lantern is placed on Naples Bay in memory of Kaitlin Billy.

Beverly Bidney

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# SEMINOLE SCENES



NSU University School via Facebook (2)

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY TALK:** Students at the NSU University School in Davie learned first-hand about the Seminole Tribe from Tiffany Frank and her son Gianni Boyce. In recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day in October, Frank discussed the tribe's culture, history and traditions. Students received a taste of frybread and Seminole doll necklaces (below).



FSU

**HELMET HONOR:** Florida State University football players wore the Seminole Tribe's seal on the back of their helmets against Wake Forest on Oct. 1 in Tallahassee.



Beverly Bidney

**STORE SURVIVES:** The Smallwood Store in Chokoloskee Island near Everglades City was built by Ted Smallwood in 1906 as a trading post for pioneers who tried to survive in the wilderness of the Ten Thousand Islands. Smallwood also traded with the Seminoles in the area. The landmark building survived Hurricane Ian's assault Sept. 28 intact. The stilts it was built on provided ample room for the storm surge to move underneath and not get into the store itself. For about seven months, the Boatwreck BBQ food truck has been parked next to the store and has been offering refreshments to those who visit.



Kevin Johnson

**VETERANS DAY:** The tribe will recognize Veterans Day with events in November. Scheduled events include a program at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building (above) Nov. 3, a walk Nov. 9 at the Big Cypress fitness trail and a program Nov. 11 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney (2)

**SKATING DELIGHT:** The Big Cypress Recreation Department held a field trip to Spinz roller skating rink in Fort Myers on Oct. 22. Some in the group were more experienced skaters than others, but they enjoyed the skating, the music and a pizza lunch. At right, Ryana Mathias (in the red shorts) and Aubrio Billie confidently skated the afternoon away.



Kevin Johnson

**HERE COME THE JUDGES:** Staff from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum serve as judges for the Trail community's Indian Day clothing contest Sept. 23. From left are James Patrick, Ellen Batchelor and Joseph Gilbert.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## University of Oregon to cover tuition and fees for in-state Indigenous students

The University of Oregon celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day by announcing a new program that will cover tuition and fees for Indigenous tribal members residing in Oregon.

The Home Flight Scholars Program was launched Oct. 10 and will immediately allow the estimated 150 to 175 eligible self-identified American Indian/Alaska Native undergraduate students on campus to receive financial assistance.

“The Home Flight Scholars Program tackles the unique challenges these students face and prepares them to graduate with an education and the experience that empowers them to return home and make a positive impact in their communities and for their families,” said the school’s interim president Patrick Phillips in a news release.

The goal of the program, according to the university, is to combat the three biggest issues Indigenous students face: financial issues, academic difficulties, and the struggle to connect with their culture.

“With Home Flight, we can provide academic and social guidance that will compliment tribal educational values,” the university’s assistant vice president Jason Younker said in the release. “We hope that each graduate will consider returning to their home reservations and become future stewards and leaders within their communities.”

Younker, who joined the university as its first formal governmental liaison to the nine federally-recognized tribes of Oregon, is a member of the Coquille Indian Tribe and lead efforts to pitch and develop the Home Flights program.

“Most of us have grown up wondering whether we were going to be able to afford college, or whether going to college or staying home is our choice,” Younker explained. “But each of us has had ancestors that sacrificed and survived so that we could have the choices that we do today. The choice should be where to go to college, not if we can go to college.”

The program was created in consultation with the university’s Native American Advisory Council and is made possible by federal, state, and institutional grants, according to the university.

- CNN

## Arizona colleges begin programs aimed at helping Indigenous entrepreneurs

The University of Arizona and Arizona State University’s Thunderbird School of Global Management have developed programs geared to help Indigenous entrepreneurs.

The University of Arizona will work with five Indigenous entrepreneurs from the San Carlos Apache Tribe as part of Native FORGE. The program aims to provide and facilitate high-quality entrepreneurship development and support services to underserved communities in Tucson and the 22 federally recognized tribes in Arizona.

“Working with these entrepreneurs is an exciting opportunity for both FORGE and the tribal community,” said Rafael Tapia Jr, the Native FORGE program’s mentor-in-residence.

“The University of Arizona learns more about how to best support the needs of tribal businesses, and the entrepreneurs gain resources and education that they can share and use to scale their businesses,” Tapia added.

The University of Arizona received a five-year, \$500,000 matching grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to establish Native FORGE.

In 2018, the U.S. Small Business Administration reported that less than 0.8% of Arizona businesses were Native American-owned, according to the University of Arizona.

Native FORGE aims to help close those gaps by supporting Arizona tribes’ efforts to create and implement viable strategies to build capacity for job growth.

The entrepreneurs from the San Carlos Apache Tribe will be the program’s first cohort, and they will be attending the first Native FORGE Conference held in Tucson on Nov. 2 and 3.

“The impact from the Native FORGE program that I hope to see within the San Carlos Apache tribal communities is economic growth through small business,” said Kodee Goseyun, the Economic Development Specialist for the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

“The San Carlos Apache Tribe needs additional resources to provide business consultations, business outreach, and entrepreneurial opportunities for our tribal members to be successful in the business field,” Goseyun added.

The five entrepreneurs from the San Carlos Apache Tribe participating in the program include Alice Juan of Bylas District Economic Enterprise, Rachelyn Kenton of Seven Mile Wash Economic Enterprise, Davida Olivar of Hometown Events, Tristan Sneezy of Apache Fuel & Public Management and Davison “Beejay” Ward Jr. of Sewn by Beejay.

The other program working to help Indigenous entrepreneurs comes from the Thunderbird School of Global Management.

Project DreamCatcher, the free business development program, offers a one-week business training program with MBA-level business classes taught in person at the Thunderbird School of Global Management’s Global Headquarters on ASU’s Downtown Phoenix campus.

“Project DreamCatcher provides

a supportive community where Native American women can gain not only strategic business skills but also nurture professional relationships that can help them as they start or grow their businesses,” said Dinora Gonzalez, project manager for Project DreamCatcher.

The program’s latest cohort included 21 Indigenous women.

As part of the program, participants had access to graduate-level classes, coaching and advising sessions with business professionals, and networking activities designed to develop new skills and the confidence to start or grow a business.

“This is a place for Native American women to share their culture, dreams, and goals with other like-minded entrepreneurs,” Gonzalez said. “Our goal is to empower these women to pursue their dreams by helping them develop the skills critical to their success.”

- The Arizona Mirror

## Asheville City Council declares support for efforts to restore the name of Clingman’s Dome

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — The Asheville (N.C.) City Council declared Oct. 11 support for the efforts of the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to restore the name Kuwohi to the mountain presently known as Clingmans Dome.

The proclamation stated the city is committed to creating an inclusive community that celebrates diversity and ensures all residents have equitable opportunities to lead healthy, peaceful, safe and sustainable lives.

The area currently known as Asheville in Buncombe County, North Carolina, rests on land that was first inhabited by the Cherokee and their ancestors; and which covered more than 100,000 square miles of what today is western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, northern Georgia, and upstate South Carolina; and white settlers began arriving in what would become Buncombe County in the 1760s and laid false claim to this Cherokee land.

In July, the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians unanimously supported a resolution to restore the name Kuwohi to the mountain.

- City of Asheville (N.C.) press release

## Wounded Knee Massacre artifacts — once touted as ‘a curiosity’ — returned to Lakota Sioux

The return of artifacts from the Wounded Knee Massacre in South Dakota will help Lakota Sioux elders start to heal from their trauma, and give young people a chance to learn about their history, said Kevin Killer.

A Massachusetts museum says it will return about 150 Sioux items, some of which are believed to have a direct link to the 1890 massacre in which U.S. soldiers killed more than 250 Lakota men, women and children.

“I hope it’s a beginning of a path of healing,” Killer, president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, told “As It Happens.” Nil Köksal.

The items — which had been kept at the Founders Museum in Barre, Mass., for more than a century — include weapons, pipes, moccasins, arrows and clothing.

Their return is part of a broader effort by the museum to repatriate its Native American collection, and the museum will remain closed to the public until that process is complete.

“This is not our history of Barre. This is the Lakota Sioux’s history, and we should honour the Lakota Sioux and what they desire,” Ann Meilus, president of the museum’s board of directors, said in a news conference.

On Dec. 29, 1890, U.S. Cavalry troops opened fire at a camp on the Lakota Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, near Wounded Knee Creek, killing more than 250 people and wounding more than 50. Twenty-five soldiers were also killed.

“It was a pretty sad day, I think, in a lot of people’s histories, especially our nations,” Killer said.

It was one of the deadliest massacres in U.S. history. But for generations, it was celebrated as a victory for the U.S. army, and its artifacts were paraded around the country and the world as curiosities in travelling shows and museums.

The return of the artifacts, Killer said, reflects society’s changing narratives about Indigenous history.

At the time, the U.S. referred to the incident not as a massacre — but as a battle. The soldiers had been sent to disarm the Lakota, some of whom had been participating in a religious ceremony called the Ghost Dance, which white settlers saw as a threat and a precursor to war.

“Media was really irresponsible, too,” Killer said. “They were actually drumming up some of this discussion and the fever for war.”

In the end, 20 of the soldiers involved were awarded the Medal of Honor, the U.S.’s highest military distinction.

Artifacts from the grisly event are scattered around the U.S. and the world, at various museums. Those in Barre were acquired from Frank Root, a 19th-century travelling shoe salesman who collected the items on his journeys, and once had a road show that rivalled P.T. Barnum’s extravaganzas, Meilus said.

Root is believed to have taken some of the items from the dead at Wounded Knee when he was hired to clear the field, reported Native News Online, citing the museum’s records.

“In the early 1900s it was almost a curiosity/circus act/something to gaze at.

And now ... we’re in a different time in the 2020s,” Killer said.

“It’s just the pendulum of time, you know, basically swinging back the other way and saying, OK, how do we honour and recognize the history of a lot of our communities?”

The items being returned are just a tiny fraction of an estimated 870,000 Native American artifacts — including nearly 110,000 human remains — in the possession of the U.S.’s most prestigious colleges, museums and even the federal government.

All of these items, Killer says, should be returned under the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

He says his tribe has already been in touch with institutions in California and Switzerland about organizing the return of other artifacts.

The Founder Museum items are due to be formally handed over at a ceremony on Nov. 5.

- CBC Radio

## Lithium Americas signs agreement with tribe

Lithium Americas Corp., the company working toward developing the Thacker Pass lithium mine north of Winnemucca, announced in October that it has entered a Community Benefits Agreement with the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe.

The CBA establishes a framework for continued collaboration and defines the long-term benefits for the tribe, the largest Native American community within the vicinity of the project.

“We are pleased to have the support of the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe as we advance Thacker Pass towards construction and look forward to generations of future collaboration,” said Jonathan Evans, Lithium Americas president and CEO. “The signing of the CBA is a testament to our company’s commitment to go beyond our regulatory requirements and to form constructive relationships with the communities closest to our projects. We are focused on being a good neighbor, hiring locally and providing the job training to prepare tribe members for long-term, family-supporting careers critical to developing a North American battery supply chain.”

Tim Crowley, Lithium America’s vice president of government affairs and community relations, said this week that Lithium Americas, working in partnership with Cashman Equipment, held another heavy equipment training at the tribe’s reservation this last weekend.

Lithium Americas said the CBA is a product of years of engagement, job training and relationship-building between the company and the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe. The CBA states that Lithium Americas will continue to provide additional training and employment opportunities, and the company will support cultural education and preservation.

Also, Lithium Americas has agreed to build an 8,000 square foot community center for the tribe that includes a daycare, preschool, playground, cultural facility and communal greenhouse to support reclamation efforts and provide income for the tribe.

Over the summer, Far Western Anthropological Research Group Inc., with oversight and assistance from tribe members, completed cultural work on approximately 13,000 acres at Thacker Pass. Lithium Americas stated that the work was a key requirement from the National Environmental Policy Act process and found no areas of archeological significance at the Thacker Pass project.

Lithium Americas has received all the federal and state environmental permits necessary to begin construction and awaits a ruling on the appeal against the Bureau of Land Management on the issuance of the Record of Decision. Following the completion of briefings on Aug. 11, 2022, the U.S. District Court, District of Nevada has scheduled an oral hearing for Jan. 5, 2023.

“The ruling on Thacker Pass’ ROD represents the final regulatory hurdle to move forward the largest and most advanced lithium chemicals project in the U.S.,” Evans said.

Crowley said there was some optimism that a decision would be rendered soon after the Aug. 11 briefings, but a sixth-month wait is pretty standard for these kinds of decisions.

“So January 5th is fine,” Crowley said. “We’re delighted that we’re going to get our day in court, and we’re prepared.”

The federal Record of Decision, a major step in the approval of the mine, was issued by the Humboldt River Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management on Jan. 15, 2021.

Great Basin Resource Watch, Western Watersheds Project, Basin and Range Watch, and Wildlands Defense filed a challenge to the ROD on Feb. 26, 2021.

“In the rush to implement the project, defendants violated federal environmental statutes and swept under the rug the mine’s serious environmental impacts,” the filing said.

Crowley pointed out that the two tribes that have signed on to the appeal to the Thacker Pass Record of Decision -- the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and the Burns Paiute Tribe -- are both a long way from the Thacker Pass site.

“The Burns Tribe is right at about 200 miles from us, and the Reno Sparks Indian Colony is 260 miles from our project,” Crowley said.

He said the three tribes that are within a 200-mile radius from the project are not

opposed to it.

The Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe, about 35 miles north of the Thacker Pass site, is the closest to the project.

Crowley said the lawsuits have not slowed the project down and there has been a lot that the company has been working on. They completed their 30,000-square-foot Lithium Technical Development Center in Reno in July. They have been finishing up putting together their financing package, and they have been working on selecting an Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management firm.

- Elko (Nevada) Daily Free Press

## \$40B First Nations child welfare deal upended by Canadian Human Rights Tribunal

A key part of a \$40 billion dollar First Nations child welfare agreement described as “historic” by the federal government could unravel following a ruling Oct. 25 by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.

The tribunal rejected Ottawa’s \$20 billion offer to compensate First Nations children and families harmed by the discriminatory on-reserve child welfare system.

It said the deal did not meet its criteria because it left some children out and did not guarantee the \$40,000 in compensation for each child and caregiver ordered by the human rights body in a landmark ruling.

“The Tribunal never envisioned disentiling the victims who have already been recognized before the Tribunal through evidence-based findings in previous rulings,” the decision said.

The tribunal said the federal government’s cap of \$20 billion for compensation would leave out some victims covered by the ruling.

The tribunal said First Nations children removed from their homes and placed in non-federally funded placements are excluded from the final settlement agreement, along with the estates of deceased caregiving parents and grandparents.

It also said that some parents and grandparents would get less than the \$40,000 it ordered, along with some children and caregivers denied essential services under a policy known as Jordan’s Principle.

“We are willing to work with First Nations partners to make sure that children aren’t left behind,” said Indigenous Services Minister Patty Hajdu after the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal rejected Ottawa’s \$20B offer to compensate First Nations children and families harmed by the discriminatory on-reserve child welfare system.

The tribunal also took issue with the short time frame for victims to opt out of the final settlement agreement.

Under the agreement, claimants have until February 2023 to opt out of compensation and litigate on their own. If they don’t, they won’t be able to take their own legal action.

“Such an opt-out scheme would place victims who are receiving less than their CHRT (Canadian Human Rights Tribunal) entitlement of \$40,000 in an untenable situation whereby they either accept reduced entitlements under the FSA [final settlement agreement] or opt-out of the FSA to be left to litigate against Canada from scratch,” the decision said.

The federal government announced in January it had reached a \$40 billion agreement with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to settle two class action lawsuits. The government said it met the terms of the human rights tribunal’s ruling.

The agreement set aside \$20 billion for individual compensation and \$20 billion for long-term reform of the on-reserve child welfare system.

Now, the federal government’s plan to finalize the \$40 billion deal by the end of the year could be derailed unless it can address the tribunal’s concerns.

At a press conference in Winnipeg on Oct. 20, the AFN’s lead negotiator said she was “deeply frustrated.”

“It’s a sad day for the many First Nations families learning today that their long wait for compensation and acknowledgement is going to continue,” said AFN Manitoba Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse.

“I don’t know when or if compensation will flow to these kids and families at this stage.”

Indigenous Services Minister Patty Hajdu said the government wants to make the \$40 billion agreement work.

“It is, I think, disappointing to many First Nations people that a First Nations-led, Indigenous designed approach hasn’t been accepted as complete by the CHRT,” Hajdu said.

“There’s a continued commitment to First Nations to make sure that we satisfy both aspects of these historic agreements.”

NDP MP Charlie Angus said the federal government must comply with the tribunal’s orders.

“This government must respect their obligation to pay compensation to the children who have been put at risk through the wilful and deliberate negligence of this government,” Angus said.

The agreement needed the approval of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, which ruled Ottawa’s on-reserve child-welfare system and its health care delivery discriminated against First Nations children. The tribunal ordered \$40,000 in compensation to affected children and caregivers.

The federal government lost a challenge of the tribunal’s order before the Federal Court and paused a subsequent appeal pending the approval of a settlement

agreement.

With the tribunal’s rejection, it appears Ottawa is headed back to court, continuing a legal battle it has waged since the First Nations Family and Caring Society — with the support of the AFN — filed its human rights complaint in 2007.

The First Nations child welfare settlement agreement between Ottawa and AFN is the largest in Canadian history.

It covers children and families on-reserve or in the Yukon who were discriminated against from 1991 on — a period 15 years longer than the one covered by the tribunal’s orders.

- CBC

## Feds reopen door for casino near Muskegon

FRUITPORT TOWNSHIP, Mich. — After Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer refused to sign off on plans to create a tribal casino near Muskegon in June, the casino may now have a second chance.

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians worked for more than 12 years to get through the process of getting the casino approved. But in June of this year, Whitmer would not sign off on the project because of a pending decision on whether the Department of Interior would recognize another tribe, the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians.

At the time, Whitmer said her decision hinged on knowing whether the Department of the Interior will grant federal recognition to that tribe, saying that was “critical” to her “making an informed decision.”

In an Oct. 26 release, Fruitport Township said the DOI has now invited the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians to resubmit an application for the casino, something the township described as “an unusual twist.”

“The Department of the Interior has been very clear in their letters saying that they support this project for the benefit of the Little River Band and the whole area,” Fruitport Township Supervisor Todd Dunham said in the release.

He said the DOI had originally approved the casino in 2020 and again in 2021, while understanding the “territorial claims” of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians. According to Dunham, the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians was issued a four-month extension in an Oct. 4 letter from the DOI.

“There is nothing to suggest a Preliminary Finding will come anytime soon,” the release says.

“This letter is the decision the Governor said she was waiting on. We now have it. The public supports this project. Every surrounding municipality supports this project. Three presidential administrations and two previous governors have supported it no matter the political party. Everyone knows it would be a huge economic engine for the lakeshore,” Dunham said.

Larry Romanelli, tribal ogema for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, said the opportunity to submit another application means a lot not only to his tribe, but to the Muskegon-area and West Michigan as a whole.

“We’ve had overwhelming support from the community for these years,” Romanelli said. “The first package that we submitted was very good. It was one of the best that the Department of Interior had ever received, and because of the outpouring of support for this, (the DOI) recognize it as a very good deal.”

The project still needs the governor’s approval. Romanelli said he’s not heard back from Whitmer’s office yet but is still considering submitting a new application and feels “confident” about the future of the project.

“It provides everything that Michigan needs. We talk about jobs ... 1,500 to 4,000 jobs in West Michigan is huge. When you talk about the economic development, again, that’s huge. All the ancillary businesses that would benefit from this, and then you talk about how we supply money to the state, to the local government, to the tribe, and it’s a win-win-win.”

Plans for the project include a casino and 220-room hotel. It would create 1,500 construction jobs and 1,500 full-time jobs, the tribe says.

Although the first application was a 12-year process, the new one would take a fraction of that time because much of the information submitted for the first application is still relevant. The tribe hopes to have the governor’s support this time around.

- WOOD-TV (Michigan)

## Feds file discrimination lawsuit against South Dakota hotel owners

The U.S. Justice Department has sued the owners of a Rapid City, South Dakota, hotel, alleging that they violated the civil rights of Native Americans by trying to bar them from the property.

The complaint states that in March, Connie Uhre and her son Nicholas Uhre turned away Native Americans who sought to book a room at the Grand Gateway Hotel.

As VOA reported in March, Connie Uhre had also told other Rapid City hotel owners and managers that she did not want Native American customers there or in the hotel’s bar, Cheers. A post on her Facebook account said she cannot “allow a Native American to enter our business including Cheers.”

Uhre’s comments and actions, which followed a fatal shooting involving two teenagers at the hotel, sparked large protests in Rapid City and condemnation from the city’s mayor, Steve Allender.

- Voice of America

# SOUTH FLORIDA'S ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION



**NOV 2**  
**STARS AND STRINGS**



**NOV 4**  
**LAUREN DAIGLE**



**NOV 6**  
**METALLICA**



**NOV 8 & 9**  
**ADAM SANDLER**



**NOV 11**  
**RUSSELL PETERS**



**NOV 12**  
**CUBATONAZO**



**NOV 17**  
**FOX NATION PATRIOT AWARDS**



**NOV 19**  
**DANIEL TOSH**



**NOV 20**  
**CHELSEA HANDLER**



**NOV 25**  
**GLORIA TREVI: ISLA DIVINA TOUR**



**NOV 26**  
**TOM SEGURA**



**NOV 30**  
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# Education



## USF works to return remains to tribes

### STAFF REPORT

The University of South Florida's Department of Anthropology said Oct. 10 that it is in the final steps of a long process to return ancestral remains to various tribes, including the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. USF said in a school news report that the remains have previously been used for "research purposes."

The report said USF has catalogued the remains of 200 individuals collected over several decades. It said many were discovered during archaeological investigations, excavations for construction projects, or had been donated by the public. USF anthropology professor Thomas Pluckhahn has identified USF's collection as being affiliated with nine tribes across Florida, Oklahoma, Arizona, Arkansas and California.

"With support from the Seminole Tribe of Florida, some of their ancestors were recently reburied on protected land," the report said.

Federal law requires institutions to consult with tribal leaders when remains have been found to determine a course of action. Due to their condition, the report said, archaeologists have previously labeled many remains as "culturally unidentifiable," and used museums and universities as repositories for storage.

"The repatriation of our ancestors is paramount to the health and well being of tribal populations today. Let's not forget, the ancestors who sit in collections were erroneously stolen from their graves," Tina

Osceola, the director of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Office, said in the report. "The more universities like USF work to correct the wrongs of the past, it is our hope that the moral compass of society will change, and the ancestors of Indigenous people are no longer collected like fossils to line shelves."

USF has three campuses in the Tampa Bay region. To read the full report go to [usf.edu/news](http://usf.edu/news).



Tina Osceola

File photo



This platform mound at the Safety Harbor archaeological site in Pinellas County's Philippe Park is the probable location of a town once inhabited by the Tocobaga Indians of Tampa Bay. USF professor Thomas Pluckhahn said the school has the "very partial remains" of an ancestor that may have been obtained from the site.

## Former FSU star's journey to surgeon includes PECS connection

### BY KEVIN JOHNSON Senior Editor

It wouldn't be a stretch to say Dr. Myron Rolle's path to becoming a neurosurgeon went through the Brighton Reservation.

The former Florida State University football standout is a neurosurgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. His extraordinary story of being a standout on the football field to the medical field was profiled in a New York Times feature in October.

While at FSU in 2008, Rolle partnered with the Seminole Tribe to develop a curriculum at Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton. The curriculum emphasized the importance of living a healthy lifestyle, including avoiding diabetes.

"I love coming back and I am always welcomed with warm arms," he told the Tribune during a visit to the school in early 2009. "It's a wonderful experience to fellowship and have a relationship with the Seminole Tribe of Florida."

At the time, Rolle had just received a Rhodes Scholarship, one of the world's most prestigious scholarships. He would go on to study at Oxford University in England before embarking on a brief NFL career.

Rolle, who earned first team freshman All-American accolades at FSU, was selected by Tennessee in the 2010 NFL draft and spent time with the Titans and

the Pittsburgh Steelers. He played in pre-season games, but never a regular season or postseason game. He left football in 2013 and returned to Tallahassee to attend FSU's College of Medicine.

He said in the Times' article that he adheres to a philosophy he learned from Mickey Andrews, who was his defensive coordinator at FSU.

"Can you be two percent better than you were yesterday? You can if you take small steps every single day toward a larger goal. It helps me make more sense of the challenges, the tasks, responsibilities that I have," Rolle told the Times.

Rolle turned that philosophy into a 240-page book that was published in May. "The 2% Way: How a Philosophy of Small Improvements Took Me to Oxford, the NFL, and Neurosurgery," is available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other websites.

According to the Times, Rolle is in his sixth year of his neurosurgery residency at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Rolle, 36, is married to pediatric dentist Dr. Latoya Legrand Rolle. They have two sets of twins. He is also the founder and chairman of the Myron L. Rolle Foundation, a nonprofit focused on supporting educational, health and wellness initiatives throughout the world that benefit children and families in need.



A feature about Myron Rolle going from a college and pro football player to a neurosurgeon appeared in the New York Times in October.



File photo

Myron Rolle visited with Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School students in 2009 in Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

A display case in the lobby of the PECS gymnasium features an autographed photo of Myron Rolle and an article.

# Indian Day writers contest inspires tribal members

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Challenged with putting their thoughts about Indian Day on paper, 75 Seminole tribal members submitted essays for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's writers contest in September.

Ahfachkee students from kindergarten through high school and adults sent their essays to the museum. On Oct. 20, an awards ceremony was held at the museum to celebrate and congratulate the first, second and third place winners in all age groups.

"We didn't know if anyone would enter

and we had 75 entries, so shonabish," said Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie. "It takes a lot for us to write. I didn't like writing so much in school, so I'm glad you all participated."

Councilwoman Billie recognized every winner and presented them with certificates. The first place winners in each category—kindergarten, first to third grade, fourth and fifth grade, middle school, high school and adult—read their winning essays to a crowd of other writers and family members.

Chelsey Motlow, first place winner of the fourth and fifth grade category, read from her essay. "What Indian Day means to you, probably won't be the same as what it means

to me. Indian Day to me isn't just an excuse to not go to school, it's a day to honor our culture and heritage. This is a day to honor our people. The people who die for us to live. Without them we wouldn't be where we are as people today. This isn't just a holiday, it's a reminder, a reminder that we are still here and thriving and that they couldn't wipe us out."

Adult category winner Andrea Jumper spoke to the students before she read from her essay.

"I want to encourage you to keep speaking in front of people," Jumper said. "One day you will grow up and be our leaders and you will talk in front of a lot of

people."

Jumper then read from her essay, in which she recalled her grandmother. "Her smell, her voice, her laughter and her essence lace my existence in love and a definitive spirit that has never left me. She lingers on my identity just like the smoke from the campfire that perfumed her clothing and beckoned to me to come sit by her side."

Elgin Jumper and Krystal Bowers from the Seminole Writers Group served as judges for the contest.

"It was very hard to pick a winner, but it was great to read everyone's essays," Bowers said. "I encourage everyone here to keep writing, it will help you no matter what

you do in life."

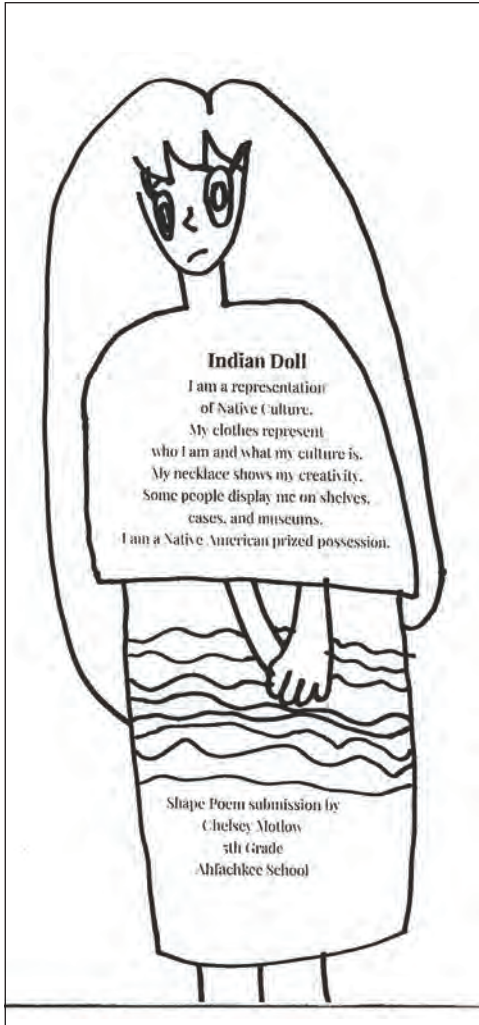
Elgin Jumper was glad to see the amount of interest in writing within the tribe.

"The future of Seminole writing is in talented hands," he said.

Councilwoman Billie told the students they are the future of the tribe and gave them some advice.

"Be proud of who you are, where you come from and don't be afraid to ask questions," she said. "Just remember, for us every day is Indian Day."

## Chelsey Motlow – Elementary winner grades 4-5



Ahfachkee School students who participated in the Indian Day writing contest attend the awards ceremony at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Oct. 20.

Beverly Bidney

## Andrea Jumper – adult winner

As I reflect on what Indian Day means to me, my memories take me to my Grandmother. Her smell, her voice, her laughter and her essence lace my existence in love and a definitive spirit that has never left me. She lingers on my identity just like the smoke from the campfire that perfumed her clothing and beckoned to me to come sit by her side. As the cacophony of our modern day existence dictates our lives and competes for our attention, Indian Day is a day to remember exactly who we are as Indigenous people. It is a day that was originally given to us as a way to recognize the Indigenous people of the United States, however for me it is a day to appreciate the sacrifice, perseverance and resilience that our ancestors embodied throughout their lives.

Indian Day to me is also a reminder for me to live my life with intentionality and purpose. As a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, I realize I have a duty and obligation to leave this Earth and my Tribe a better place. As a Native woman, I have the honor and privilege of passing on the lifeline of our identity to the next generation. It is a day of reflection and remembrance of teachings that have been passed down and a personal recalibration of sorts as we gather and collectively solidify our identities as Indigenous people.

So as we gather together as a community and in solidarity with all Indigenous people across the nation, let us breathe in the smoke from our family campfires and exhale the pride and spirit that inhabits our memories and teachings. Let us be thankful for the sunrise and accept it as another opportunity to remain Unconquered. Indian Day to me is ultimately another day for me to look in the mirror and say, "I am still here" and for my life to show the world that regardless of where I am, "WE are still here". That is what Indian Day means to me.



Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie and museum educator Van Samuels listen as adult category winner Andrea Jumper addresses the students before reading her essay.



Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie, left, and museum educator Van Samuels, in back, watch as Chelsey Motlow reads from her winning essay.

Beverly Bidney

## Vivi Osceola – Elementary winner grades 1-3

When I wear necklaces, traditional clothing, and bracelets it makes me feel close to my ancestors, like my Grandma. My dad taught me that my ancestors were strong. When I celebrate Indian Day, it makes me feel excited to be with friends and family.

I love you, Grandma.

## Sautva Billie – high school winner

What Indian Day Means to Me?

I wasn't exposed to my culture as a child. I was taken from my mother and placed into the care of my grandma, who was distant from her culture. I was never taught our language, I was never taken to Corndance, never scratched (up until recently) and until a few years ago. Indigenous Day meant nothing more to me than any other day. But since I've reconnected with my mother, my friends, and my community, I can fully celebrate my heritage.

Primarily, Indigenous Day makes me appreciate the languages we speak. Many Indigenous languages have been lost, and many are becoming less and less common. I remember while reading up for this essay, I stumbled upon an article about a young girl named Miranda Washinawatok, who was punished for speaking her language, and I quote, "Miranda told her mother that her teacher, Julie Gurta, slammed her hands down on her desk and said she wasn't supposed to be speaking Menominee because how would she know if Miranda was saying something bad." She was reprimanded, and forced to sit out while the other kids played basketball. Sad to say, she is not alone, the number of times I've heard and spoken to people who have similar stories to Miranda is upsetting. It makes me realize how lucky I am to have the opportunity to learn and speak my language, in a safe environment. Hence why our language is an integral part of our culture, and why we should start going out of our way to learn/teach it more.

Moreover, Indigenous Day helps me look at Indigenous art in a different way.

Whether it's patchwork, beading, or woodcarving, I can feel the passion that goes into the pieces. My sister has been beading and sewing for years now, and when I asked her why she does it, she explained to me, "It's therapeutic ... At the time I don't think I knew I was missing something, but once I started I couldn't stop." I think she speaks for a lot of the indigneous community who

do sewing, carving, patchwork etc. It allows us to be more in tune with our roots, and acts as our creative outlet. This appreciation shouldn't stop at beading and patchwork though, as there are other artforms to appreciate as well, like fashion, music, writing, and acting. We should appreciate all of the art the Indigenous community has produced, because it's important to celebrate our cultural traditions which can lead to our own sustainability.

Finally, I'm reminded to appreciate our history on Indigenous Day. For too long we've been ignored, and put in a bad light. I asked my teachers about their first experiences with Native Americans history, and my teacher, Mr. Burley, told me, "My first experience with Native American history was in highschool, my history textbook referred to a native as an outlaw who threatened the settlers on the Great Plains." Not once did the textbook mention settlers nearly killing off the bison, one of the main supplies of food, and resources for the natives, or the horrible treatment of the Native Americans, which forced them to leave their home. It's really only in the past 10 or so years that we've managed to change this, and even then it's still hard to change peoples views on something they think they know all about. It doesn't stop at textbooks however, the education system as a whole has contributed tremendously to the ignorance around Indigenous history. I remember

when I was in primary school, before I came to Ahfachkee, I was at Sheridan Park Elementary. When we got onto the subject of Native Americans, we were fed a simplified version of what actually happened. We'd watch movies on Columbus and his 'heroic voyage' across the sea, we'd read passages on how the settlers and the Natives lived peacefully. I still wonder how my teachers could look into the eyes of a native boy, and tell him a fabricated story of his people's history. It just goes to show that there is still a huge problem when it comes to properly teaching Indigenous history, and how ignorance around the subject still remains, from the people, and the school system at

large. All things considered, Indigenous Day reminds me to celebrate the culture I'm so proud to be a part of. It helps me appreciate the language, the art, and the history of the Indigenous people, and I believe that these things are a part of what makes us unconquered. They tried to take our homes, they tried to kill us off, but we stood strong, and we will continue to until the end of time.

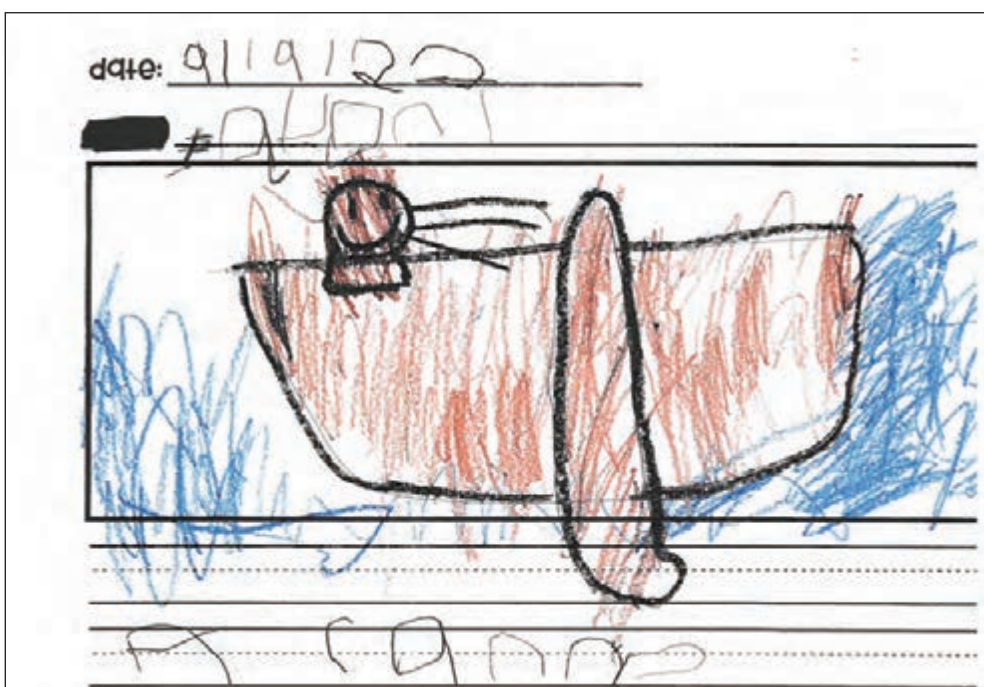
## Tahniah Billie – middle school winner

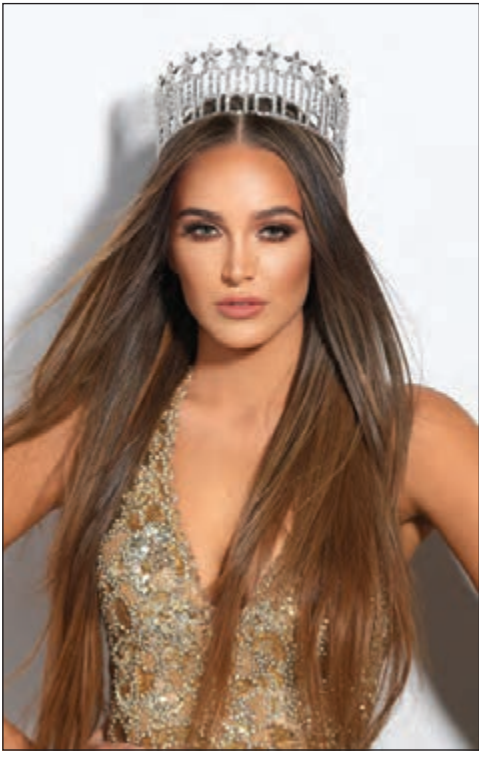
What Indian Day means to you. Probably won't be the same as what it means to. Indian Day to me isn't just an excuse to not go to school. It's a day to honor our culture and heritage. This is a day to honor our people. The people who died for us to live. Without them we wouldn't be where we are as people today. This isn't just a holiday, it's a reminder, a reminder that we are still here & thriving & that they couldn't wipe us out.

We are still here & still fighting. We've fought so hard for this day but the fighting isn't over just yet. We've still got to fight For Our People, Our Homes, Our Land & Our culture. The government is still trying to take our children away, but we aren't going to let that happen, not again. Our women are going missing and being murdered but they won't search for them like they searched for Gabby Petito, to them we don't matter. This is the day to shout "Land Back" louder than ever. This the day to continue to fight for clean water. But it's not only this day that we do this, because this is an everyday thing.

To me this day is an honor & a privilege. This is the day to celebrate. I'm proud to be Indigenous. We deserve this day. We've made it so far. We have grown as a community & as people. Our ancestors must be so proud of how far we've come. Lastly, we must stay strong & resilient.

## Equoni Cypress – Kindergarten winner





Taylor Fulford

Courtesy photo



Taylor Fulford competes in the Miss USA pageant Oct. 3 in Reno, Nevada.

Photo via Miss Florida USA Instagram

## PECS teacher, aka Miss Florida USA, helps raise diabetes awareness

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 14, Taylor Fulford now has a platform to bring more awareness to and advocate for the 1.45 million Americans who have the disease.

Fulford, a kindergarten teacher at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School on the Brighton Reservation, won the Miss Florida USA crown in May. She served as proof that perseverance pays off; this was the eighth try in the competition for the 28-year-old from Okeechobee.

"It was never just about winning," Fulford said. "The progress I made each time, the life skills, friendships and memories I made are so much more than a crown. The journey made me who I am today."

That journey continued Oct. 3 in Reno, Nevada, where she represented Florida in the Miss USA pageant. Although she didn't win – the winner was R'Bonney Gabriel from Texas – Fulford made history as the first woman to walk across the Miss USA stage wearing an insulin pump.

"I felt honored to wear my state across my chest and my insulin pump on my hip,"

she wrote in a post on Instagram. "For me this was a win in itself. Walking on stage as representation for the T1D community and for anyone else who has chased a life long dream... this is your sign don't give up. If I can do it so can you."

Fulford, who said it has been a process to learn to live with Type 1 diabetes, volunteers with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to help raise money. She will be the grand marshal at the JDRF Community One Walk in West Palm Beach on Nov. 6.

"It hasn't been an easy journey. The hardest part is being confident in the skin I'm in, learning to love my imperfections and wearing an insulin pump," Fulford said. "I wanted to push myself to compete to show others that having an illness doesn't define you and doesn't stop you from chasing your dreams."

She founded Crowns for a Cure, a nonprofit which has raised more than \$30,000 for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. She also started the Own Your Sparkle initiative to promote self-confidence and poise. She has mentored more than 140 girls from age 4 to 18 and hopes to inspire them to pursue their own dreams.

Fulford said she has loved every

minute of her pageant years, including the friendships she's made.

"Getting to meet all of my sister queens, the other girls from other states is my biggest takeaway from this journey," Fulford said. "They are all beautiful, outstanding and accomplished young women. The sisterhood has been great. You are what you surround yourself with."

She has been teaching for five years and loves the support she gets from her students and the school.

"The students tease me about being the queen of Florida," Fulford said. "They were cheering me on when I went to Miss Florida USA and they tell me I'm their Miss USA. They have been awesome and the support I've gotten from my PECS family has been truly invaluable."

Serving as Miss Florida USA has been a time consuming endeavor, which Fulford loves. Every weekend she is either appearing somewhere in the state or planning her next appearance. She will continue to serve until the next Miss Florida USA pageant May 13 and May 14, 2023.

"I tell girls to enter, it will change your life even if you don't win," Fulford said.

## Kimberly Clement wins Glades County School Board seat

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Kimberly Clement, the Seminole Tribe's 4-H special projects coordinator, wanted to be more involved in her third-grade son's school district, so she ran for a school board seat and won. Clement received 57% of the vote at an Aug. 23 election to be the District 4 representative on the Glades County School Board.

"I wasn't fully educated on what was going on in the district, but when the seat became available I decided to take a stance and run," Clement said.

She's set to be sworn in Nov. 22 for the start of a four-year term.

The Glades County School District is comprised of Moore Haven Elementary School, Moore Haven Middle-High School and West Glades School. It serves about 1,650 students.

Clement said her goal is to learn about the needs of everyone served by the board, not just her District 4 constituents, and make sure their viewpoints are acknowledged. She said too many people expect to be able to get things changed through social media.

"That's not how to get things done," Clement said. "So many people want to be heard, but they don't know the right chain of command to follow to get their voices heard."

"I will do whatever I have to do to fight for our small county. We have amazing kids who excel so much after graduation. We want to give them the stepping stone to higher education so they can make their goals come true. That fueled my fire so much."



Kimberly Clement

Courtesy photo

Clement lives in Palmdale with her husband Russell and sons Corbin, 8, who is a third grader at West Glades School, and Caine, 1.

## Native author to visit Big Cypress Reservation

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Climate Resiliency Program will join Florida Gulf Coast University in hosting national bestselling Indigenous author Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer on the Big Cypress Reservation on Nov. 16. A public reading and book signing will be held at the museum's sculpture garden at 5 p.m. This is a free event.

Kimmerer is a mother, scientist, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is the author of "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants." She lives in Syracuse, New York, where she is a SUNY (State University of New York) Distinguished Teaching Professor of environmental biology, and the founder and director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment.

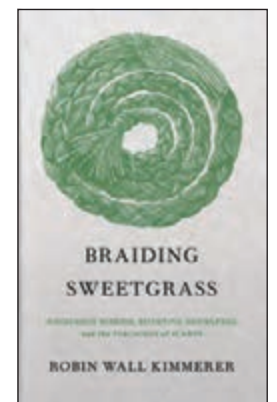
In October, Dr. Kimmerer received a prestigious "genius grant" award when she was named a 2022 MacArthur Fellow for her research and writing on the principles of traditional ecological knowledge.

The museum's address is 34725 West Boundary Rd., Clewiston, FL, 33440. For more information visit ahtathiki.com and follow the museum on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



SUNY (above), robinwallkimmerer.com (below)

Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of "Braiding Sweetgrass."



## IEI head named to MIT Indigenous fellowship

STAFF REPORT

Chéri Smith, the founder and CEO of the Native-led nonprofit Indigenous Energy Initiative (IEI), has been named to the 2022 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) "Solve Indigenous Communities Fellowship." Smith is a descendant of the Mi'kmaq Tribe, a First Nations people.

IEI works with tribal communities on energy sovereignty projects. Solve is an MIT initiative with a similar mission – to drive innovation that considers technology and traditional Indigenous knowledge for

projects in tribal communities.

"Chéri Smith was selected because she and her team are taking an inclusive, systems-based approach to leveraging the power of clean energy to address significant climate, economic, and energy challenges faced by Native American communities," Aaron Slater, senior officer of Indigenous Communities for MIT Solve, said in an Oct. 11 news release.

Smith originally founded IEI as the Covenant Solar Initiative in 2016, in response to tribes that were resisting fossil fuels and had a desire to explore renewable

energy projects on tribal lands.

"This fellowship represents a watershed moment, when a world-class technical institution like MIT has recognized the critical need for the work we are doing supporting tribes in their efforts to move away from extractive and exploitative fossil fueled energy in a self-determined way," Smith said in the release.

More than \$2 million in funding was awarded to the 2022 Solve teams and Indigenous Communities Fellows, the release said.

## ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

November 2022

Carbonated water, ginger extract, and high fructose corn syrup are the basic ingredients of ginger ale. This drink, once incredibly popular, now only carries a fraction of the ingredient its named after: ginger. Most North American companies that still bottle ginger ale had real ginger as part of their original recipes but have since moved to utilizing an extract, natural flavors, and caramel to mimic the taste and color. There are several companies in North America that boast to being the best ginger ale brand, and many consumers have their favorites such as Canada Dry, Vernors, Schweppes, and Seagram's. But what about outside of North America?

November's artifact of the month highlights a ginger ale bottle from Belfast, Ireland found on the Big Cypress Reservation. Belfast has a long history of manufacturing ginger ale. The Ross company, created in 1879, became incredibly popular because of the ingredients within their ginger ale product. Jamaican ginger, sugar cane from the West Indies, and the famous aerated waters found in the city of Belfast all contributed to the "champagne" of ginger ale at the time. Due to the use of ginger and the way the manufacturer treated the plant before use, the product was known to significantly help with digestive issues (The Board of Trade Journal, 1923).

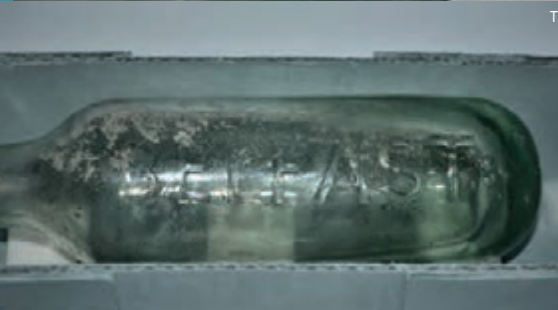


Production of Ross's Belfast ginger ale was largely sent overseas to the United States. In fact, after one of Ross's sons settled in New York, almost one million bottles of ginger ale were imported into the state in 1883 (Letslookagain.com). The ginger ale was packaged inside of a torpedo bottle (left) which has a rounded bottom forcing the bottle to be laid on its side for transportation and storage. The bottle was embossed with "ROSS'S" on one side and "BELFAST" (bottom) on the other. Laying a bottle on its side helped to ensure the cork stayed wet and the contents did not lose carbonation (sha.org).

Eventually the company merged with its competitors in 1975 and the Ross name and recipe were phased out in 1986. However, recently companies like Gray Brewing Co. in Wisconsin are aiming to bring back the original taste and flavor of Belfast ginger ale.



THPO



The original location of the creation of ginger ale is purported to be in Belfast City Center. The plaque "Established in 1852" sits on the front of the Costa coffee establishment which was the original site of Ulster Medical Hall. The Thomas Cantrell factory named for the distributor and chemist who created ginger ale is located in Victoria Square. The magazine article (top) is from Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News circulated in London in December 1913.



SEMINOLE HISTORY STORIES - NOVEMBER 2022

## TOM TIGER STARTS THE SEMINOLE TOURIST TRADE

A Camp of Seminoles.

Captain Tom Tiger has opened a camp in the south fork of the Miami river and on Monday evening will entertain the visiting tourists with

Clipping from The Miami Evening Record, March 7, 1904



Right: Photo of "Captain" Tom Tiger Photonegative of a postcard by H.&W.B. Drew, Jacksonville

In March of 1904 the first Seminole Tourist camp opened on the South Fork of the Miami River, with notices sent out in the Miami newspapers to invite one and all to come see traditional crafts, canoe-making, and Seminole dance. This first of its kind camp, built nearly three decades before Florida tourism became the driving force of the Sunshine State, was established by the Seminole leader Thloclko Tustenuggee. But most visitors knew him as "Captain" Tom Tiger.

Tom Tiger was a veteran of the Seminole War who had become a leader among the Cow Creek band of Seminole people. He was one of the first to make cautiously open contact with the American settlers around Okeechobee, and helped the Tribe to secure regular trade without ever giving up their location. He became a prominent figure in Florida, speaking for his people and their concerns to the growing city councils, taking a white man to court for stealing his horse, and meeting and smoking a cigar with President Chester A. Arthur when he visited Florida.

Tom Tiger's Tourist Camp was a community affair, and a successful one. He received a merchant's license from the local judge for the Tribe to sell goods, and the local newspaper noted a number of Tribal Members who helped to run the camp. Tom Tiger, along with Frank Jumper, John Osceola, Sam Huff, Jackson Charlie, Willie Jumper, Jim Truitt, Young Ingraham, Clyde Tiger-Tail, Little Tiger, and Cypress Tiger, along with the many women who weren't named, kickstarted both Seminole and Florida Tourism.

Captain Tom Tiger was no stranger to making the news. He famously was the first Seminole to take an American to court (a man who had stolen his horse), as well as the first to meet with an American president (Chester Arthur) in Florida.



## Hollywood preschoolers welcome guest reader



Courtesy Dana Rolle

Each year, the Broward County School District selects a book for early childhood centers and elementary schools to read to young kids to promote literacy. This year's book was "Nigel and the Moon" by Antwan Eady. Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall, also the parent of a preschooler, was invited to read the book at the Hollywood Preschool on Oct. 27. Rep. McCall also read another book that she brought to the event – "We Are Water Protectors," by Carole Lindstrom.

## 'Fun-a-Ween' fun with Hollywood Preschool



Damon Scott

Hollywood preschoolers line up for treats at the "Fun-A-Ween" costume festival in the gymnasium at the Howard Tiger Recreational Center on Oct. 28.

## Seminoles at Vanguard

Courtesy photo

Four Seminoles are attending The Vanguard School in Lake Wales this year. The school provided the following information: From left to right, Marciano Calderon, 8th grade, began at the school during the Covid-19 pandemic when he was a sixth grader. He is a leader and provides campus tours for new enrollees. Academically, he has made great progress and said he really likes being a Vanguard student. This is Dallas Garcia-Olivera's first year at Vanguard. After many years at the Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress, the 8th grader is adjusting well and has gained new tribal friends. Jayden Henderson and Javon Hubbard, siblings from Big Cypress, are both new students at Vanguard this year, are making new friends and are happy at the school.



## PECS targets bullying as part of national program

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Students at Pemaevt Emahakv Charter School learned about bullying in October as part of National Bullying Prevention Month.

Tracy Sills, PECS dean of mental health and behavioral support, led classroom meetings with students in all grade levels where they discussed bullying and harassment, bullying prevention and a new Kindness Club which will be launched soon.

"We are starting the Kindness Club to encourage students to treat each other with kindness," Sills said. "Being out [of the classroom] for two years, we see some decline of social and personal skills. They aren't always getting along and need to learn to recognize what behaviors are not OK."

Discussions in the classrooms have addressed disrespectful or mean behavior between students. Sills said sometimes the students think the behaviors are acceptable. Some of the responses have been "he doesn't

mind when I hit him" or "it's okay, he's my cousin." Sills explains how that may be considered bullying and suggests how they can be better classmates and friends to each other.

"We are raising awareness of how the students are treating each other," Sills said. "We've had a lot of participation; they are talking about bullying and coming forward when they think someone is bullying."

Students are learning they can advocate for themselves and tell a teacher they don't like it when someone calls them a name or disrespects them in some way.

"I encourage students to speak up against it," Sills said. "I have a lot of kids and parents who come to me before it turns into full blown bullying. I help them understand it before it escalates."

Sills believes being in groups after two years away from school has been challenging for some students.

"We are, as always, focused on ensuring our students have a safe and comfortable environment in which to learn and thrive," said PECS principal Tracy Downing.

"Tracy Sills ... is doing an awesome job of counseling our students with an emphasis on teaching positive social and emotional growth."

Sills also works closely with the Project AWARE team, which works to identify mental health issues in children at an early age.

"We want everyone who comes here to be safe and comfortable," Sills said. "I tell the student if we all work together, it can be. I never want a kid to tell me they don't want to come to school because they don't feel comfortable. We need to make sure their emotional safety is taken care of as well."

From Oct. 12-21, during morning announcements the school showed video presentations on bullying and held interactive activities. Students were encouraged to wear orange Oct. 19 for Unity Day, which is celebrated during National Bullying Prevention Month, and to wear blue Oct. 21 for Blue Up Against Bullying Day in connection with the World Day of Bullying Prevention.



PECS (2)

Students and faculty at Pemaevt Emahakv Charter School wore blue (above) for Blue Up Against Bullying Day and orange (below) for Unity Day.



Damon Scott

Ruby Billie enters the gymnasium dressed as a princess.



Damon Scott

Preschooler, Antonio Alcantara, and his mom, Nicole Osceola, enjoyed the event together.



Damon Scott

Excited preschoolers enter the gymnasium ready to get treats and show of their costumes.



Damon Scott

Melissa Forges, left, higher education program manager, and Valarie Roberts, a bus monitor, greet preschoolers at the Education Department's table.

## California scholar takes back Native identity claims

FROM VOICE OF AMERICA

A scholar who for decades claimed Native American identity has resigned her position with a leading Indigenous food sovereignty organization after backing down on long-standing claims of indigeneity.

In a statement on her website, Elizabeth Hoover, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and an expert in Native American environmental health and food sovereignty movements, said that after questions about her heritage were raised, she researched her genealogy and found no records of tribal citizenship "in the databases

that were accessed."

"Now, without any official documentation verifying the identity I was raised with, I do not think it is right for me to continue to claim to be a scholar of Mohawk/Mi'kmaq descent, even though my mother is insistent that she inherited this history for a reason," she wrote.

The Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance is a nonprofit that promotes food security and food sovereignty in local, tribal, regional, national and international arenas." The group on Oct. 25 issued a statement accepting Hoover's resignation as secretary of its leadership council.



# Tribe displays support for breast cancer awareness

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

In what has become a fall tradition for the Seminole Tribe and Seminole Hard Rock, Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities were held throughout October.

Indigenous Pink Day is held on the third Thursday in October to raise awareness of breast cancer in Indian Country. This year it was on Oct. 20, but activities from the Integrative Health Department were held all week on every reservation.

Cancer survivor Lorraine Posada held an Indigenous Pink bake sale in Immokalee on Oct. 20 to raise money for the Cancer Alliance of Naples. Posada spent four days baking individual sized pumpkin cheesecakes, carrot cake cookies and apple puff pastries. She made 60 of each sweet treat.

Tribal members and employees were smart to get to the bake sale early. It started at 11 a.m. and everything was sold out by 11:35 a.m. The sale raised \$1,203.

Pinktober, a campaign aimed at promoting breast cancer awareness and raising money to fight the disease, is a long-standing tradition at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casinos in Tampa and Hollywood as well as other Hard Rock properties around the world.

A kickoff event Oct. 4 in Hollywood featured celebrity chef Dominique Crenn and a five-course dinner at Abiaka restaurant. Crenn is a breast cancer survivor and an advocate for women's rights and the LGBTQ+ community.

Through the Hard Rock Heals Foundation – the company's charitable arm – proceeds from the campaign support the American Cancer Society (ACS) and other organizations in the fight against breast cancer. Last year, Hard Rock said the 2021 Pinktober campaign raised more than \$700,000, the largest amount since the program began in 2000.



Tribal members and employees in Big Cypress wear pink as they participate in the annual "Pink Out" photo Oct. 18.

Beverly Bidney

"Music is our heart and philanthropy is our soul," Gina Cadahia, vice president of brand reputation for Seminole Hard Rock support services, said during the kickoff event.

Pinktober features special pink-themed menu items at the properties and retail stores.

Seminole Hard Rock Tampa is the "Pink Premier" sponsor for ACS's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. The 2.5 mile walk was held Oct. 29 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa.



Breast cancer survivors Maggie Porter, left, Lorraine Posada, center, and health nutrition counselor Andrea Kuzbyt pose together during the Indigenous Pink bake sale in Immokalee Oct. 20.

Beverly Bidney



A creative and colorful display was set up for Brighton's "Think Pink" photo with several employees.

Cecilia Kostadinov



From left, Lillian Joni Johnson, Brighton Councilman Larry Howard and Lois Billie show plenty of enthusiasm.

Cecilia Kostadinov



Ahfachkee School staff poses for a Pink Day photo in the school cafeteria Oct. 18.

Courtesy photo



From left, Nauthkee Henry, Erika Dias Vargas, and Bryan Arledge at Brighton's "Think Pink" photo event.

Cecilia Kostadinov



From left, Kianna Emery, Chelsy Wisniewski, Carley McCoin, Wayne Reese, Hyatt Pearce and Kai Setty in Brighton.

Cecilia Kostadinov



Chef Dominique Crenn, right, prepares food while Elena Alvarez, Hard Rock International's vice president of sales and marketing cafes, looks on during the Pinktober kickoff Oct. 4 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

Hard Rock

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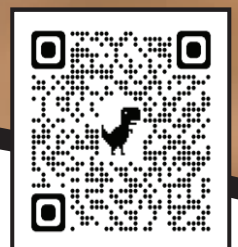
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# Sports



## Osceola sisters help University win another district title

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**DAVIE** — Besides being sisters from the Hollywood Reservation, Mary-Sally Osceola and Xiya Osceola have something else in common that has helped drive the success of the NSU University School girls volleyball team.

University coach Corey Sarubbi talked about the Seminole sisters' high volleyball IQ after the Sharks swept David Posnack Jewish Day School in a Class 3A-District 13 semifinal Oct. 19. He mentioned the IQ factor again the following day when the Sharks edged Westminster Academy of Fort Lauderdale, 3-2, in Davie to win their third consecutive district championship.

"They read the game really well," Sarubbi said. "They make great decisions; they make quick decisions. They have a really good touch on the ball. At the end of the day, especially at the high school level, it's all about ball control and limiting errors, and that IQ and that touch they have for the game helps us with eliminating a lot of errors."

There wasn't much room for error in the tightly contested championship match. With Xiya, a sophomore, leading the back row in the libero position — as she has done for two years — and Mary-Sally, a freshman, providing valuable versatility on offense and defense, the sisters helped the team win the first two sets. Westminster battled back to even the match at 2-2 before the Sharks prevailed in the winner-take-all fifth set, 15-7. Mary-Sally provided three strong serves — including an ace — in the final three points that sealed the win.

"I was just focusing on getting it in," she said.

Earlier in the fifth set, University began to pull away thanks to a kill by Chelsea Ventura on a set by Xiya that made it 5-2. The lead was extended to 9-4 on Xiya's serve that ended with a kill by Hazel Alevek.

Late in the first set, with Xiya serving, University won three consecutive crucial points to take a 24-20 lead. The Sharks won 25-21. Xiya came through in the clutch again late in set two. Her two aces gave the Sharks a 23-13 lead and they went on to win 25-18.

Sarubbi praised the sisters' decision-making in the match.

"They made really great decisions at the right moments. Their confidence was great



Kevin Johnson

**NSU University School freshman Mary-Sally Osceola, left, and her sister, sophomore Xiya Osceola, celebrate after the Sharks girls volleyball team won the Class 3A-District 13 championship Oct. 20 in Davie. It was the team's third consecutive district championship.**

tonight. They stayed level-headed," he said.

The sisters, who are in their second season playing together on the team, provide leadership on the court and in the celebrations, too. As the team was in the midst of whooping it up after winning the district, Mary-Sally sprinted to the sideline, grabbed a sign from a parent that read "3 PEAT" and brought it back to the celebration.

When Paul Herfurth, University's director of athletics, presented the district trophy to the team, it was Xiya who received it first and promptly hoisted it into the air in the middle of her cheering teammates with the home spectators, including their mom



Kevin Johnson

**NSU University School freshman Mary-Sally Osceola keeps the ball in play while her sister, sophomore Xiya Osceola, looks on during a Class 3A-District 13 semifinal Oct. 19 in Davie.**

Tasha Osceola and grandmother Virginia Osceola looking on.

Both triumphant scenes were examples of how much the sisters love the sport.

"They do a lot of training and play year round," Sarubbi said. "They're very competitive. You can tell that they play volleyball because they enjoy it. They bring that enjoyment to the style that they play on the court."

University needed the victory in order to advance to the regional playoffs.

"We didn't want our season to end. We've gone through a lot of ups and downs this season," Mary-Sally said.

Indeed, the team lost a good chunk of last year's roster to graduation. Claiming another district title as the team did in 2019 and 2021 was far from a sure thing. (There was no district playoff in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic).

"We basically had to rebuild our team again," Xiya said.

The 5-19 record in the regular season

was a bit deceptive because of a strong schedule, but still somehow the team went from being shutout in its first three matches of the season and having a nine-game losing streak at one point to repeating as district champions.

"This year was more of mental toughness and confidence, like some of those intangibles. There's not a blueprint for that and there's not always the right practice plan for that, so it's just staying after it and you hope they put it together at the right time and they did that," Sarubbi said.

In the semifinal against Posnack, Mary-Sally sparked the team early with a bunch of aces to put University ahead 8-0 in the first set. The Sharks breezed the rest of the way to a comfortable win.

Mary-Sally is a left-handed server and hitter who contributes in many areas.

"Mary-Sally is very versatile. She's played a lot of positions for us. She's set, she's played a lot of defense and she's played a lot for us in the front row now," Sarubbi said.

When Mary-Sally is in the back row, the sisters are often next to each other awaiting opponents' serves. Xiya is the team's leader in serve receptions. She has thrived in the defensive specialist libero spot.

"Xi has been our libero since last year. It was a new position for her last year and she's really taken ownership. She's been excelling on a daily basis," Sarubbi said.

"I used to play outside. I've always been better at defense, so I enjoy it," Xiya said.

Volleyball is the sisters' No. 1 sport. Having a net set up at home

helped spark their interest. They play on club teams. They've dabbled in basketball, but volleyball is their primary athletic focus, so much that they traveled nearly 5,000 miles to help improve their skills. They went to Hawaii for a volleyball camp this year.

"It was a really good experience. We met new people from all over," Mary-Sally said.

University's season ended Oct. 25 with a 3-0 loss against undefeated Westminster Christian School of Miami — the state's No. 1 overall ranked team — in a regional quarterfinal. The Sharks will lose four seniors, but 11 players on the roster can return next season. The sisters still have two years left as teammates. They have already made their mark on the program.

"They've both done an amazing job," Sarubbi said.



Kevin Johnson

**NSU University School's Xiya Osceola keeps a point alive in the Class 3A-District 13 championship.**



Kevin Johnson

**The NSU University School's girls volleyball team, including the Seminole Tribe's Mary-Sally Osceola (holding sign) and Xiya Osceola (holding the trophy), celebrate after winning the Class 3A-District 13 championship Oct. 20 in Davie.**



Kevin Johnson

**NSU University School freshman Mary-Sally Osceola delivers a serve.**

## Allie Williams rolls top JV score for Ottawa

STAFF REPORT

The Seminole Tribe's Allie Williams began her college bowling career in October. The Ottawa (Kansas) University freshman competed in the Mid-States Championships on Oct. 15 and Oct. 16 in Wichita, Kansas.

Williams bowled the top score among the six bowlers on Ottawa's JV squad. Her scores were 185, 202, 147, 178, 167 and 189 for a 178 average.

The varsity squad earned third place out of 25 teams.

Ottawa's season runs through March.

Williams was a key member on multiple state championship teams at Neshoba Central High School in Mississippi where she earned first team all-state three times.

She is the daughter of Brandi and Gavin Williams.



Ottawa University

**The 2022-23 Ottawa University women's bowling team, including Allie Williams, front row, second from left.**

## MMA bouts to be held at Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Cage Fury Fighting Championships will hold mixed martial arts card Nov. 10 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

The night's featured bouts will see a pair of titles on the line, with Tampa's Blake Smith (7-2) seeking the second defense of his belt when he faces challenger Kendly St. Louis (6-4), while interim flyweight champ Lloyd "Albie" McKinney (16-8) looks to defend his title for the first time when he faces an opponent whose name has not been announced.

The evening will feature eight bouts. Tickets are on sale now at CFFC.tv. The event streams live on UFC Fight Pass.

# PECS finishes unconquered season with championship win

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BRIGHTON** — Even though the 12-0 deficit in the semifinal of a single-elimination tournament presented a bleak picture for the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School volleyball team, the coach and players didn't panic.

They had made it all the way to the final day of the season with a perfect record, but their bid to finish without any losses was in jeopardy against Imagine School of Vero Beach at the Around the Lake Tournament on Oct. 15 at PECS.

"I looked at all of them in the eyes and said, 'We will not lose this game. Do you understand me?,'" PECS coach Elizabeth Tauchen said.

The answer was yes with an exclamation point.

PECS didn't rally to win the set, but they roared back to win the second set and kept the momentum train on the tracks to win the third set and then swept LaBelle Middle School in the championship, thus completing an undefeated 15-0 record.

"I'm really proud of them for not getting down on themselves and crawling out of that hole," Tauchen said.

For its accomplishment, the team received a trophy and will see a banner placed on its gym wall next to the 2015 team, the school's only other undefeated volleyball squad.

"We're really excited about that," Tauchen said.

What made PECS' journey to perfection even more remarkable is that the team didn't play for the past two years due to the pandemic. Most teams missed only one season. In fact, some PECS players joined other teams while their team was idle.

"To come back that strong is awesome," Tauchen said.

This year's squad will certainly always carry a special place in Tauchen's heart. This was her first season coaching any sport.

"I care about them a lot. They made my season so exciting. They made me feel like I can accomplish everything in the world," Tauchen said.



Kevin Johnson

The undefeated Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School volleyball team celebrates after winning the Around the Lake Tournament on Oct. 15. Standing, from left to right, are Hannah Platt, Dalayah Nunez, Tehya Nunez, Azariah Washington, Joleyne Nunez, Melaine Bonilla and Kulipa Julian. Kneeling is Amalia Estrada. Not pictured are Ila Trueblood and Harmany Urbina.

PECS' junior varsity team also had a strong showing in the tournament, making it to the championship match before falling to Imagine.

A few days before the tournament the varsity and JV eighth graders were honored. The players were accompanied by family

members during a ceremony. Teammates presented them with gift baskets. The players honored were Bailey Bowers, Jaliyah Kroepin and Delilah Young from the JV team and Harmany Urbina, Joleyne Nunez, Tehya Nunez, Hannah Platt and Ila Trueblood from varsity.

"They're awesome; they're wonderful. They are very hardworking," Tauchen said. "I was blessed with an awesome group."

◆ See more photos on page 3C



Kevin Johnson

Melaine Bonilla



Kevin Johnson

Joleyne Nunez



Kevin Johnson

Ila Trueblood



Kevin Johnson

Hannah Platt



Kevin Johnson

Tehya Nunez

# Strong middle school numbers bode well for Moore Haven

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BRIGHTON** — Some of the future talent for Moore Haven High School's volleyball program was on the court at the Around the Lake Tournament on Oct. 15.

Mona Baker, who coaches the high school varsity team and oversees the entire high school and middle school program, liked what she saw this season from the middle school players. She coached them in the junior varsity portion of the six-team middle school tournament at Pemaeyt Emahakv Charter School.

"It's wonderful. I can't wait. That's the future," she said.

That future includes the Seminole trio of Mohayla Billie, Ada Bruised Head and Marley Jimmie. They were among the Terriers' top players in the tournament. Although the team lost its first and only match in the single-elimination format, Baker pointed to the strong interest in

volleyball at the school that bodes well for upcoming seasons.

The middle school fielded two teams this year with a total of 17 players; a dozen of those played in the tournament.

On the varsity high school level, Moore Haven finished the season with an 8-8 record. The Terriers lost to St. John Neumann, 3-0, in the first round of the Class 2A-District 12 playoffs Oct. 17 in Naples.

Moore Haven's varsity features three players from the tribe: Summer Gopher, Miley Jimmie and Baker's daughter Preslynn. Gopher is a junior, Jimmie is a freshman and Baker is a sophomore, so all three could continue to be part of the team's core next season.

This year's highlights included five-set wins against East Lee County and Immokalee and four shutout victories.

"Overall, it's been a good year. The girls have a really positive attitude and are willing to learn," Baker said.



Moore Haven Middle School's Marley Jimmie (12), Mohayla Billie (10) and Ada Bruised Head line up in the back row during the Around the Lake Tournament on Oct. 15 in Brighton.



Moore Haven Middle School's Marley Jimmie keeps a point going as teammate Mohayla Billie looks on during the JV portion of the Around the Lake Tournament.



Moore Haven volleyball coach Mona Baker cheers after her team won a long point in a match at the Around the Lake Tournament.

## ◆ PECS From page 2C



Pemaeyt Emahakv Charter School eighth graders on the varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams were honored Oct. 12 prior to their final regular season home game. Standing, from left, are Joleyne Nunez, Hannah Platt, Bailey Bowers and Delilah Young. Kneeling, from left, are Tehya Nunez, Ila Trueblood, Harmany Urbina and Jaliyah Kroeplin.



Pemaeyt Emahakv Charter School has had plenty to cheer about this season, including its win against West Glades Middle School on Oct. 12 in Brighton.



The JV's Caysie Platt



The PECS JV team earned runner-up in the JV portion of the Around the Lake Tournament.

# Season set to start for Skyla Osceola, NSU basketball

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

The Nova Southeastern University women's basketball team is set to start its season Nov. 11 in Alabama. This season marks the return of Seminole standout athlete Skyla Osceola from the Hollywood Reservation.

Osceola is a graduate student who last played for the Sharks in the 2019-20 season. She debuted with the Sharks all the way back in 2017, when she quickly made her mark on the program by playing in all 27 games and dishing out a team-high 90 assists. She also led the team and the Sunshine State Conference in assist-to-turnover ratio.

Since her freshman year, however, she has seen action in only 15 games as she's battled injuries. The former standout at American Heritage-Plantation was not with the Sharks last year, but she returns this season on a squad that has high expectations. The Sharks were picked to finish third out of 11 teams in the Sunshine State

Conference women's basketball preseason coaches poll. The team has several new transfers.

"It is nice to see the SSC has great respect for our current roster," NSU coach LeAnn Freeland-Curry said in a statement. "I believe our team has tremendous potential, but we need to keep grinding harder every day to reach it. With so many new faces, we must grow and adapt quickly to be ready for our season opening weekend against two south region opponents."

Osceola is a 5-foot-8 guard. She's not the only Native American on the squad. Her teammates include the Grant sisters, Kyarah and Kyannah. Kyarah is in her second season with the Sharks. She averaged eight points last season and had 30 steals. Kyannah is a transfer from the University of Tennessee-Martin.

The sisters (Navajo and Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians) previously starred at Choctaw Central High School in Mississippi.

After facing the University of



The 2022-23 Nova Southeastern University women's basketball team includes Skyla Osceola (back row, third from right), Kyarah Grant (24) and Kyannah Grant (31). The Sharks open their season in November with their home opener set for Nov. 19 in Davie.

Montevallo on Nov. 11 and Auburn University Montgomery on Nov. 12, the Sharks will return to Davie for their home opener Nov. 19 against Flagler College from St. Augustine. Game time is 2 p.m.

## Big Cypress kids take part in high-flying fun



Calvin Tiger (3)

The Big Cypress Recreation Department organized a high-flying experience Oct. 21. Kids from the reservation came to Davie to experience the windy adventures at iFLY, a business that simulates sky diving without having to jump out of a plane. The kids were guided by iFLY staff during their venture in the vertical wind tunnels.



## Marciano Calderon competes on Vanguard XC team



Courtesy photo

Marciano Calderon, far right, joins his teammates from the Vanguard School's cross country team at a meet in Lakeland.

### STAFF REPORT

The Seminole Tribe's Marciano Calderon, an eighth grader at the Vanguard School in Lake Wales, competed in the Hoka Flrunners.com Invitational

on Oct. 14 at Holloway Park in Lakeland.

Calderon ran in the 3K middle school boys race. He finished with a time of 16:39, which was the second fastest on his team.

"Marciano did a wonderful

job running and helped other Vanguard students keep pace in the event," Susi Vacek, who is in the school's admissions and marketing department, wrote in an email to the Tribune.

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## With a new name, this Indigenous team is honoring the sacred origin of lacrosse

BY NOELLE E. C. EVANS  
WXXI News (Rochester, N.Y.)

Bean Minerd runs onto the field wearing a white pinny with the word "Haudenosaunee" printed across her chest. Some of the other players wear older ones that read "Iroquois Nationals" instead.

"It feels liberating when you get to ... put the Haudenosaunee jersey on and get to wear it around and play and know (where) you're coming from," Minerd says.

After nearly 30 years as the Iroquois Nationals, Haudenosaunee lacrosse athletes are embracing their roots as they vie to be world champions. The Indigenous lacrosse program's name changed earlier this year to better represent the people of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, who travel on their own sovereign passports.

Minerd is one of about 20 athletes here at Highmark Stadium in Orchard Park on a Sunday in late September. They're competing for a spot in an international tournament this month in Canada: The Super Sixes.

"I'm from Onondaga," Minerd says. "I represent my people and my nation, as well as I get to represent everyone from all across Indigenous countries."

The word Iroquois is rooted in colonial influences. It's a French variant of a word that the Algonquin American Indians bestowed on the Haudenosaunee people around the 1600s during the Fur Trade Wars.

The word "Iroquois" is derogatory. The Algonquins and Haudenosaunee were enemies. While there's no clear definition of the word, it is often understood as meaning "snake" -- but according to a researcher with the University of Amsterdam, based on the etymology, the word could also mean "murderers."

### 'We created it'

To center the teams' identity from within their indigenous nations' roots is a matter of justice, Minerd says. This is where the sport of lacrosse, as it is known today, came from.

"We created it. So, you know, it's just like paying that respect," Minerd says. "It's supposed to be a gift, and it's a gift of peace and bringing everyone together as one."

The origins of lacrosse go back centuries, when it was part of sacred medicine games. According to the Smithsonian Institution, Indigenous nations across North America often played lacrosse ceremonially to cure illness or prevent it. Among them: the Cherokee in the southeast, the Menominee in what is now Wisconsin, the Winnebago

in current-day Nebraska, and the Mexican Kickapoo.

Researchers with the Smithsonian Institution say it has also been performed as funeral and memorial rites, so long as someone requests a game be played. Onondaga Chief Oren Lyons says it has been a way to lift spirits and settle disputes within a community and between communities, as well.

But the complex history of lacrosse goes back much, much further in time, Lyons says.

"That game was in our cosmology," says Lyons, chairman of the Haudenosaunee Nationals. "That game was played on the other side of the stars, while the Earth was still covered with water."

Lyons, 92, is a legendary lacrosse goalie himself. He and the Grand Council of the Haudenosaunee founded the Haudenosaunee Nationals program back in the early 1980s. At the time it was known as the "Iroquois Nationals."

Their teams compete internationally, including at the World Games this past summer.

However, that tournament appearance almost didn't happen. Initially, the Haudenosaunee were barred from participating because organizers said they were not from a sovereign nation and therefore were not eligible, despite ranking third in World Lacrosse, according to NPR.

In response, the Irish team dropped out, giving the spot to the Haudenosaunee.

"As far as I can see, (lacrosse is) the only peaceful game that we have with our non-native brothers," Lyons says. "They love that game. The players know. They know there's something special about that game, but they don't really understand how deep it is. We said, 'Don't you worry about that. You just behave yourself and play the game.'"

### Game's restorative power remains

In Orchard Park at the team tryout, women's program director, Claudia Jimerson



Noelle E.C. Evans

Haudenosaunee lacrosse players scrimmage in a tryout in Orchard Park for an international tournament in Canada in October.

stands on the sideline carrying a clipboard under her arm and wearing a baseball cap and sunglasses. She watches the scrimmage intently.

"It's really been a blessing for me to see how the game has evolved," Jimerson says. "Because it's so fun to watch now."

Jimerson also has a storied career in the sport. In 2013, she played in the World Games in 2013 alongside her teenage daughter. Jimerson turned 40 just after the tournament ended.

Her work is about more than preparing for the next tournament. It's about developing and uplifting excellence among the athletes on and off the field. It's also about serving the community of Haudenosaunee people and Indigenous people at large.

"Our people have suffered a lot of trauma through the years," she says. "And we're at the point now, where we acknowledge it, and we claim it, but now it's time to break that cycle."

Just as lacrosse was created as a medicine game, that same restorative power exists today, Jimerson says.

"Part of why we can do that is to empower our young people to believe in themselves and let them know that, you know, this game is a part of who we are, but it's also given to us to help heal," she says.

Lacrosse is currently on the shortlist for the 2028 Olympics. If it ends up being included, Jimerson wants to see the Haudenosaunee represent their people and what the game stands for.

## Hall of Fame Indigenous hockey star reflects on his journey in new book

BY MOUHAMAD RACHINI  
CBC Radio

When a young Bryan Trottier watched the legendary Jean Béliveau lift the Stanley Cup following one of his 10 championship wins with the Montreal Canadiens, he knew what he wanted to do in life.

"I was sitting on a little blanket, and I looked back at dad and I said, 'Dad, I want to lift the Stanley Cup like Jean Béliveau,'" he told The Current's Matt Galloway.

"All he said was like, 'Well, you better start practising.'"

Suffice it to say, Trottier practised — a lot.

Over the course of an 18-season NHL career, the young boy from Val Marie, Sask., developed into one of the league's premier centre-men.

Trottier won six Stanley Cups as a player, including four-straight championships with the New York Islanders between 1980 and 1983, and a seventh as an assistant coach with the Colorado Avalanche in 2001.

But don't expect him to brag about his accolades.

"I've lost more than I've won," he said. "But the winning just supersedes all the losses."

Trottier retired nearly 30 years ago. But the 66-year-old still has a lot of stories to tell.

In his new book, "All Roads Home: A Life On and Off the Ice," Trottier explores the moments that shaped his hockey career — and what it was like being one of the sport's elite Indigenous players.

"All roads lead me home because that's where my roots are," he said. "It taught me everything about life, everything that's good, everything that's proud."

"Where I come from is what I have today, and hockey has been my vehicle."

Trottier's mother was Irish, and his father was Cree Métis Chippewa.

He loved both sides of his family, and said he never felt like an "outcast" within his parents' communities.

"I felt extremely welcome because I think both parents were kind of respected in their communities," he said. "So I didn't feel discrimination to that degree."

But growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, Trottier still saw and heard others say "horrible, nasty things" about Indigenous peoples.

Not even the hockey rink was safe, he learned. In a tournament in Weyburn, Sask., a young Trottier saw the crowd rooting against an all-Indigenous team.

"[I said,] 'Mom, why are these people saying all these strange things?'" he recalled. "That was kind of a big, big taste of it."

Trottier said his parents taught him and his three siblings that if people made fun of them, it's because they were jealous of their talents.

"We're taught at an early age as well ... just let it roll off your back because everybody has some kind of ... ethnic background — and there's ugly stigmas about everybody, so just don't get involved in that junk," he said.

He wants the Indigenous stars of tomorrow to be proud of their heritage, like his family taught him to be proud of his.

"There's so much talent in First Nations [communities] — I'm so proud of that," he said. "So take pride in and use that as your vehicle."

Trottier said former NHL players take "great pride" in being ambassadors of the sport. That's why he hopes the proper attention is given to stories like the recent Hockey Canada scandal.

"I'm still in Pittsburgh, so we don't get as much [news] on that as to make a real great comment," he said. "But anything to do with sexual abuse? Absolutely not. It's just tragic."

Hockey in Canada was rocked earlier this year with the revelations of a 2018 alleged group sexual assault involving members of that year's Canadian world junior championship team — and Hockey Canada's handling of it.

Since then, major sponsors have pulled their funding from Hockey Canada. The organization announced its CEO and entire board of directors will step aside.

But Trottier, who represented Canada at the 1975 World Junior Championship and the 1981 Canada Cup, said the positives of hockey stand out more than its negatives.

"Hockey culture, to a degree, is all about teamwork. It's all about acceptance," he said. "It's all about working together, being dependable, responsible, all those things that have to do with desire and dedication."

"Those are the things I believe stand out more about hockey than the negatives."



Jen Worley

Bryan Trottier



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# Fall events held in BC, Immokalee



Beverly Bidney

Allie Billie, 6, tries her hand at carving a pumpkin at the Big Cypress Recreation Department's block party outside of the Herman L. Osceola Gym.



Beverly Bidney

Abigail Billie, 8, has fun turning flips in the air on the bungee ride at the Big Cypress Fright Night Block Party on Oct. 27.



Beverly Bidney

In the center, Nancy Shaffer tosses a bean bag into a corn hole target as Nicko Shaffer, at left, and Zielah Cantu watch during the Immokalee Fall Festival.



Beverly Bidney

Ray Yzaguirre, from the Immokalee Building and Grounds Department, and Immokalee Board Liaison Rafael Sanchez give out handfuls of candy to eager Immokalee trick or treaters during the Fall Festival on Oct. 28. Each department hosted a booth with games, activities, and, of course, plenty of sweet treats.



Beverly Bidney

Cali Osceola, 9, is all business in Big Cypress as she decorates her pumpkin with red handprints, which she said symbolizes people who passed away.



Beverly Bidney

Zechariah Stockton, 15, carves his pumpkin while surrounded by a group of friends at the Big Cypress block party.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Summer Martinez, Mary Jane Martinez and Susan Davis test their aim at throwing coins at the Immokalee Culture Department's booth. If a coin lands in a cup, glass, bowl or vase, the thrower wins it.

# Excerpt from 'Moccasin Flowers'

BY ELGIN JUMPER



Courtesy photo

Elgin Jumper, circa late 1970s.

Several months back I was reading poems online by Mary Oliver and I came across a beautiful poem called, "Moccasin Flowers" Not only did I enjoy the poem and the title, I thought what an awesome character name for a story it would make. Now, I didn't know for certain whether it was a real flower or just something made up. Well, I'm happy to report after some research, it is a real flower! So cute, too. The story is semi-autobiographical. It takes place during the tribal fair in the 70s, when it was held where the Hard Rock and Guitars Hotel now stand. I hope you like it.

### Tribal Fair, February 1978

An awesome day, sunny, yet rightly cool at times. Yep, Good Ol' Moccasin Flowers here at the pow-wow area where the dances and contests are held. I'm loiterin and writin in a journal I made in art class. I'm wearin my light blue long shirt, a red sash, sans leggings, thanks to my dad not lettin me have em. I don't know why. The area I'm at is way towards the back of the property. Vendors are hard at work, feedin the people and sellin their wares and fineries, doing good business, too. I had just sent an Indian Burger and a cup of sofkee down the ol' hatch, so I was dabbin a napkin around my laughin gear. I'm Seminole so, to me, I had just partaken of Seminole Cuisine, a rich poetry of the finest quality.

I'm 12, going on 13, so, I'm lingerin and loungin and gazin up at the grey-white clouds driftin gradually across a vast sheet of colbalt blue. My older brother, Malachi, walks up with his Indian Burger and cup of sofkee, which he proceeds to skarf down in no time flat and then wipes his hands and mouth with a napkin. "Some of the kids are playin armies in the back," Malachi says. "You in? I mean, let's go check em out." After we discard our refuse, we take an indirect route to the back, detourin down a rarely-used cordoned off pathway. We see some bullies takin a kid's toys so we deal with em proper, and give the kid back his belongings. And then we're on our way again. My brother's 13, going on 14 and so we scamper away, negotiatin through crowds of tribal fair attendees. We're usually skippin school or stayin out late, way beyond curfew, so tribal fair is a good time for makin new troubles for ourselves.

"Yeah they were talkin about doin the Tet Offensive or something," my brother says. "Vietnam, I think. Ever hear of it?"

"68... I was only 3 when that happened, so no, not too much." I scribble a note in my journal for later.

"Oh well, let's check em out, anyways." I would rather have continued with my journalin, but then again, you really can't pass up an opportunity to play soldier and armies and run around and make all the cool army noises and suchlike. I make a mental note to write later about travails I had had with my parents 'bout watchin movies so much, whether tv or at the movie theater when I'm supposed to be in school.

Now, the tribe has a truant officer and let me tell you, she is the top truant officer in prob'ly all the world, 'cause she'll track you and chase you all over the Hollywood areas, to shoppin centers, to the malls, and to dang near everywhere else in betwixt. Heck, one time she pursued us near the Fashion Center and dang near latched onto us, too, but I yelled for "Crumb," my school-avoidin accomplice at that time, to dip in a Burdines Dept. store, soldier!, which we both did pronto and perched ourselves in a couple of the clothing racks, so she ought not to observe us. Suddenly, we saw her race passed us in a purposeful rush, never takin note of us. We sat there a good while, startled a few ladies who were flippin through the racks, and in time we got out and made our way back to the rez, like airborne rangers after mission accomplished.

"I've been waiting for you, Obi-wan," I said to Crumb, imitating Darth Vader. "We meet again at last." Crumb gave me the eye roll, shook his head. Well, we eventually went our separate ways that evening. Tired like anything.

At home, I fixed a big plate of Indian Stew, polished it off right quick, and then, watched my mom piece together patchwork

designs on her Singer sewin-machine. "Movies and stories are fine, Moccasin," she'd say from time to time, "but what you really need is an education, so you can get a good job." I usually just say okay.

But she'd never say anything to my sisters, who were goin crazy over John Travolta, and a new movie he'd just made called, "Saturday Night Fever." And I suppose that was okay, I didn't mind, actually. My siblins could go wild over Disco, but I was die-hard Rock-N-Roll and Heavy Metal, like most of my friends. And my dad didn't want us around that kind of riff-raff, but he'd let us go to concerts where the riff-raff flourished. Go figure, huh. He would be like, "Okay, if y'all boys can get tickets, I'll drop y'all off." So we do what we can and see whoever we can see and play our armies when we can, which is way cool. It truly is. And some guys play good soldiers, too, like when they get play shot, they yell and fall out of the trees for real, and it was just something we yearned to be able to do. I can see us now, two groups of rez kids facin off from across a fateful field, like in ancient armies before a great battle.

Getting back, we come quick to the battle-site, right, a campsite, enclosed in a small wooded area, all the way in the back of the tribal fairgrounds. We immediately enlist with one of the groups, the ones we figure will win, arrayed against each other in a phony war of boys and some girls. Our General, who had just put down a comic book, come over to the motley crowd of us, and says, "You know, by God, I, uh, actually pity those poor bastards we're goin up against. By God, I do." He was pacin back and forth and watchin us like a hawk as he's sayin it. Well, his lieutenants all nodded, and clapped him on the back and shoulders. By which the General then added to his speech with, "I-I'll be proud to lead you wonderful people anywhere, anytime." Evidently, our Boy General had recently seen, George C. Scott's award-winnin portrayal of General Patton. Awesome flick, that.

Just then, the high command holds a quick "Council of War" and the General he come over and says to his army, "Okay, so we weaken our center, and strengthen our flanks, and when they charge and push in our center, which they're sure to do, we'll just encircle em, and the day will be ours." Everyone yells and hoots out approval of the battle plans, just as the orange-red sun was goin in for a landing off to the far west. And so, the battle commences, and it all happens just as the General had said it would, as if the enemy troops were conductin manuevers that our Boy General was orderin. Such a brilliant victory!

O, my people, my people, how long? How long must these phony wars prevail? (I hang my head).

Elgin Jumper is an artist and writer from the Hollywood Reservation. He is a contributor to the Tribune.



Beverly Bidney

Sisters Aniah, 10, left, and Aliyana Posada, 12, compete in the costume contest at the Immokalee Fall Festival.

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