



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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December marks launch of sports betting, craps, roulette

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe announced Nov. 1 that it would launch limited sports betting and new games at its three South Florida casinos. Three of its other Florida casinos would also feature the new games.

In-person sports betting, craps and roulette are scheduled to start Dec. 7 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, the Seminole Classic Casino Coconut Creek and the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek. Hard Rock International also relaunched its mobile sports betting app – Hard Rock Bet – on a limited basis. The app is available for those who initially downloaded it in 2021 and for loyalty program members. There is also a waiting list for those who are interested in accessing the app.

On Dec. 8, craps and roulette are set to begin at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa; and Dec. 11 at the Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee and Seminole Casino Brighton.

◆ See BETTING on page 3A

Tribe honors its veterans

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Florida Seminole Veterans Building on the Brighton Reservation was filled Nov. 9 with tribal and non-tribal veterans who were honored at the 36th annual Seminole Veterans Celebration and Recognition.

“On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, Armistice Day was founded,” said Reina Micco before she gave the invocation to start the ceremony that was held two days prior to the holiday. “Now we call it Veterans Day. It has been 105 years of honoring men and women who served our great country.”

Tribal officials and dignitaries spoke about the importance of service and what it means to the tribe.

“The tribe is 4,333 strong and we thank you for the sacrifice of all you veterans,” said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. “Without you, we wouldn’t enjoy what we have today: freedom.”

President Holly Tiger and Brighton Councilman Larry Howard were never in the military, but both have great admiration for those who serve and have served.

President Tiger worked for former president and National Guard and U.S. Army veteran Mitchell Cypress and learned about service through him.

“I have a great affinity for our veterans. They have a great camaraderie,” President Tiger said. “I want everyone to ask a veteran about their service. It enlightens us to learn their history and it provides healing for them to talk about it.”

“Why do Native folks serve?” asked Councilman Howard. “We fight for what we believe in and we learn to be leaders and make decisions for the folks we take care of.”



Beverly Bidney

Seminole veterans, dignitaries and princesses gather at the Seminole Veterans Celebration and Recognition on Nov. 9 in Brighton. In the front row from left to right are Sallie Josh, Joel Frank, Jacob Osceola Sr., Mitchell Cypress and Moses Osceola. In the back row from left to right are Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Curtis Motlow, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Tahniah Billie, Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie, Charlie Hiers Sr., President Holly Tiger, Brighton Councilman Larry Howard and Brighton Board Rep. Bryan Arledge.

We sign up to protect the nation we live in. I appreciate each and every one of you who served and are still serving.”

Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie said Veterans Day is an opportunity to reflect on what the price of our freedom was for veterans.

◆ See VETERANS on page 5A

International array of Indigenous art, culture featured at AIAC

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum’s American Indigenous Arts Celebration (AIAC) was a popular destination Nov. 3 and Nov. 4 as Indigenous culture, arts, dance, music and food took center stage.

About 2,500 people immersed themselves in Native American culture by participating in group dances, learning about customs, shopping at arts and crafts vendors and eating traditional Seminole food.

The AIAC entertainment featured the Haka Maori cultural experience of New Zealand who shared their culture for a second consecutive year; Native Pride Productions, which showcased pow wow style dancers; and Ahfachkee School students, who put on a fashion show and concert.

Seminole artist Elgin Jumper and Maori artist Regan Balzer created a large painting of Seminole life as Maori musician Solomon Horo sang, played a traditional Maori instrument and recited poetry while Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Gordon Wareham played traditional flute.

More than 800 students, teachers and

chaperones from 11 schools in South Florida filled the main stage tent Nov. 3 for the opening ceremony.

After the Seminole Honor Guard presented the colors, Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry led a friendship dance that included Seminole princesses, tribal members, Native Pride and Maori dancers. Attendees were invited to join the circle as Henry created a large spiraling circle.

This was the 26th anniversary of the museum’s opening, but the 24th AIAC due to a two-year pause for the pandemic. Wareham’s uncle Billy Cypress started the event in 1997 to celebrate Native American Heritage Month.

“Schools in the area asked him if we did anything for Native American month, so he started the AIAC,” Wareham said. “The first one was held behind the museum and about 60 people attended.”

The event’s popularity increased each year and it quickly outgrew the museum location. It was moved to the parking lot across the street, which is now known as the museum’s festival grounds. Cypress died in 2004 and Tina Osceola took over in 2005.

◆ See AIAC on page 5B



Beverly Bidney

Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry leads a traditional Seminole friendship dance at AIAC on Nov. 3 along with tribal members and Maori and Native Pride dancers.



Courtesy photo

NICWA staff attend the 41st “Protecting Our Children” conference in Reno, Nevada, in April. Executive director Sarah Kastelic (Alutiq) is in the center of the front row.

Child welfare organization – NICWA – turns 40

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) marked 40 years in operation in 2023. The milestone came in the same year that the U.S. Supreme Court, after years of court challenges, upheld the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). Advocacy for the provisions of the 1978 federal law is one of the main thrusts of NICWA’s work.

NICWA was founded in 1983

– five years after ICWA’s passage.

“Tribal leaders were eager to exercise their newly acknowledged jurisdiction over their kids,” Sarah Kastelic (Alutiq), NICWA’s executive director, said. “How do we develop programs? Access funding? Train our own people? NICWA was established from those roots.”

ICWA sets up a hierarchy of placement for Native American children in foster care and adoption cases. It first prefers the child’s extended family, then members of the child’s tribe, then another

Native American family – even if from a different tribe. The law was passed in the wake of the removal of hundreds of thousands of Native American children from their homes by adoption agencies. They were placed with white families or in group settings – often being stripped of their identities and culture.

NICWA’s work covers other areas in addition to ICWA, some that overlap: child abuse and neglect, foster care and adoption, children’s mental health, youth engagement, and juvenile justice.

‘Building next generation’

NICWA was initially a Pacific Northwest-serving organization based in Portland, Oregon. It became a group that represented all of Indian Country in 1994. Kastelic said from the beginning the organization deliberately took direction from, and knew it was accountable to, tribes and tribal leaders. NICWA’s establishment had also received an early blessing from the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).

◆ See NICWA on page 8A

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

Editorial

FCC owes tribes billions for tribal spectrum sales

• Darrah Blackwater

It's been four years since I wrote my debut *Indian Country Today* op-ed on the subject of spectrum sovereignty, and an update is well overdue. For anyone new to the subject, electromagnetic spectrum (or spectrum, for short) is the invisible natural resource all around us that allows us to transmit information using technology without wires. For example, cell phones, car radios, walkie talkies, baby monitors, and remote controls (any many more everyday items) all use spectrum to move information from one place to another wirelessly. This means you're using spectrum each time you change the TV channel with a remote control, listen to the radio, heat up leftovers in a microwave oven, get an X-ray, or watch a video or talk on your cell phone.

Different Indigenous people have different names, understandings, and uses for what White scientists now call spectrum, but that doesn't mean it's a new concept to us. In a traditional sense, Indigenous peoples have observed how spectrum behaves on our planet for millennia, and we have many special names and ceremonies that honor this mysterious relative that presents itself to us as sunlight, rainbows, fire, and lightning. You may know of spectrum through the Beings we honor and dance for such as Sun Bearer, Thunder Beings, Tawa, lightning gods, or Jóhonaa'ei.

Now humans have developed technologies that allow us to use and capture spectrum such as radio antennas and solar panels. Spectrum is considered sacred to many Indigenous peoples, and it is an extremely valuable natural resource because it allows us to set up broadband networks that connect our communities. But it is highly regulated by the U.S. government, and it is historically difficult for tribal governments to access, even on their own lands. For example, if a tribal government wishes to set up a wireless broadband network to serve their people, the tribal government needs a license from the United States government (namely the Federal Communications Commission, or FCC for short) to use the spectrum on their land. There are obvious sovereignty implications here. You may be wondering: why would a tribal government serving tribal citizens on tribal land need to ask the U.S. government for permission to use a sacred natural resource (spectrum) on tribal land? That's a great question. I've been studying spectrum rights for over five years, and I have yet to find a good answer to that question (because there isn't one).

But I do know that since Congress authorized the FCC to auction spectrum licenses in 1994, the FCC has made over \$258 billion in auction revenue from companies like Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon. Even though none of the 574 federally recognized tribes have given the FCC consent to sell spectrum licenses on their lands, the FCC has sold countless spectrum licenses on tribal lands. Worse, the FCC has shared zero percent of the revenue from these sales with the respective tribal governments. That means the FCC has made billions of dollars selling rights to use a natural resource on tribal lands for over three decades without compensating tribal governments. Tribal

sovereignty, who? The FCC doesn't know her.

In June I was honored to speak at the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History exhibit on cell phone technology titled "Cellphone: Unseen Connections" in Washington D.C. The new exhibit includes a short video I made about the importance of Indigenous spectrum rights. While the Smithsonian did edit crucial parts of the tribal sovereignty argument out of my video, I'm happy that more people will learn about this issue through my work in the setting of an important (albeit problematic) American institution. To see the edited version of my video, visit the National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. between now and 2025.

As we all know, this is not the first time tribal governments have had to fight for the United States government to recognize their rights to natural resources on tribal lands. First it was the land itself, then the water, the oil, the gas, the coal, the copper, and now the spectrum. Securing rights to spectrum (or not) will affect our people in perpetuity. As Indigenous people within the U.S., we are not alone on the journey to getting our rights to spectrum recognized. All over the world, Indigenous peoples are having this same conversation. In Mexico, the Supreme Court recently exempted the largest Indigenous telecommunications company from paying for a spectrum license to serve Indigenous communities. In New Zealand, the Māori Interim Spectrum commission and the government of New Zealand signed a memorandum of agreement that recognizes Māori control over 20 percent of all future spectrum allocations for telecommunications. And at a Special Chiefs Assembly of First Nations in Canada, the First Nations called upon the government of Canada to immediately stop all sales and renewals of spectrum licenses and permits on Indigenous traditional territories, and to review the spectrum licensing process in Canada to ensure it aligns with treaty rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which requires free, prior, and informed consent. Here in America, national spectrum policy is currently being reformed, with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration seeking comments and input about how to move forward with the national spectrum strategy. This strategy will shape how the U.S. allocates and uses spectrum in the decades to come, including spectrum on tribal lands. Now is the time for Native nations, Native organizations, and allies to speak up about the need for spectrum rights in our nations and communities. Now is the time for the American government to honor its treaties and trust responsibilities by recognizing exclusive Indigenous rights to all natural resources on tribal lands, including spectrum.

Darrah Blackwater is an attorney and the owner of Blackwater Consulting LLC. She is from Farmington, New Mexico and is a 2020 graduate of the University of Arizona Law School. Darrah is a proud citizen of the Navajo Nation. She currently lives and works in Santa Fe, New Mexico. This op-ed appears in Indian Country Today's website at icnews.org.

Choctaw woman named first Native American to Smithsonian post

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Archaeologist Dorothy Lippert (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) has been named the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History's repatriation program manager. Lippert is the first woman and first Native American to hold the position.

"As a tribal citizen, repatriation work is challenging on a personal level, but it is also rewarding to use my archaeological expertise in service to Indigenous communities," Lippert said in a Nov. 9 news release. "This is hard work, but I am comforted by the thought of the people we've been able to help return home."

Lippert was a tribal liaison in the museum's repatriation office for more than 20 years, during which she worked with tribes from the Southeast and Southwest United States and Alaska.

Lippert's background also includes membership on the boards of directors for the Society for American Archaeology and the World Archaeological Congress as well as service on several committees for both organizations. In 2011, she was appointed by President Barack Obama to the Advisory

Council on Historic Preservation, serving two terms as an expert member and chair of the Archaeological Subcommittee and vice chair of the Committee on Native American Affairs.

Lippert has published articles in several journals including *American Antiquity*, *American Indian Quarterly* and *The American Journal of Biological Anthropology*. In November, she presented on the Smithsonian's ethical returns program as a featured speaker at the Association on American Indian Affairs' annual repatriation conference.

"Repatriation is a powerful way for the museum to respect tribal sovereignty and the rights of Indigenous people," Lippert said. "In taking on this role as repatriation program manager, I look forward to transforming our program so that we expediently fulfill our responsibilities while maintaining and creating collaborative relationships with the tribes we serve. It was a long road to get to where I am today, but this is what Native people do. We endure. We care for our communities. And we always keep moving forward."

Not Invisible Act commission concludes recommendations

STAFF REPORT

When the federal Not Invisible Act was signed into law in October 2020, it came with the establishment of a commission. Now after years of working together, the group's recommendations have been sent to the federal government. The Department of Interior (DOI) made the announcement in a news release Nov. 1.

The law's purpose, and the mandate of the commission, is to develop recommendations the federal government can take to help combat violent crime against Indigenous People, and to address the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous People (MMIP), which includes human trafficking. The law was also written to enable more resources for MMIP survivors and victim's families.

The commission is composed of

members of law enforcement, tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers and MMIP survivors and family members. Its recommendations were sent Nov. 1 to the DOI, Department of Justice (DOJ) and Congress. Those entities' responses to the recommendations are due within 90 days, according to the DOI.

The push for the law and its implementation, including the commission's creation, was led by DOI Secretary Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) during her time in Congress. She served in Congress from 2019 to 2021 and was confirmed as DOI secretary in March 2021.

"I am so grateful to the members of the Not Invisible Act commission for the time and effort they have given to this work and this report. Indian Country will be safer and lives will be saved because of this commission's work," Haaland said in the

release. "Everyone deserves to feel safe in their community. Crimes against Indigenous People have long been underfunded and ignored, rooted in the deep history of intergenerational trauma that has affected our communities since colonization. I look forward to reviewing the recommendations, which will help us continue to galvanize attention and resources toward these tragic epidemics."

The DOI said that since the law was enacted, the DOJ has made strides in implementing systems to help prevent new instances of MMIP, locating individuals who are reported missing, and investigating and prosecuting those responsible for crimes. This past summer, the DOJ launched an MMIP regional outreach program, which places attorneys and coordinators at U.S. Attorneys' Offices across the country, to help prevent and respond to MMIP cases.



Members of the Not Invisible Act commission meet in Washington, D.C., in February. DOI Secretary Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) is in the middle, front.

'Road to Healing' tour makes final stop

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Department of Interior (DOI) Secretary Deb Haaland's (Laguna Pueblo) "Road to Healing" tour made its last stop in Montana on Nov. 5. It was the last in a series of U.S. stops that began in July of 2022 in Oklahoma. Other states on the tour were Alaska, Arizona, California, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah and Washington state. The gatherings usually took place on reservations.

The tour was designed to allow Native American survivors of the federal Indian boarding school system to share their stories, to connect communities with trauma-support resources, and to record an oral history. It began in response to recommendations from an investigative report that came out of the ongoing federal Indian boarding school initiative that began in June 2021. The DOI has published the transcripts from each tour stop on its website.

"The 'Road to Healing' has been an

incredible opportunity to share with folks from across the country – and one that has left an indelible mark on how we will proceed with our work," Haaland said in a Nov. 6 news release. "This is one step among many that we will take to strengthen and rebuild the bonds within Native communities that federal Indian boarding school policies set out to break. Those steps have the potential to alter the course of our future."

According to the DOI, from 1819 through the 1970s the U.S. implemented policies that established and supported Indian boarding schools across the country. By 1926, 60,889, or nearly 83% of Indian school-age children attended boarding schools. The purpose was cultural assimilation by forcibly removing the children from their families, communities, languages, religions and cultural beliefs. Many endured physical and emotional abuse and in some cases died.

An initial DOI investigation found that from 1819 to 1969, the federal Indian boarding school system consisted of 408 federal schools across 37 states or (then)

territories, including 21 in Alaska and seven in Hawaii. Churches ran more than 150 schools – about half each by Catholic and Protestant groups, according to the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS). The investigation also identified marked or unmarked burial sites at 53 different schools across the system – a number the DOI expects to increase.

A DOI-led inventory of the schools – that includes profiles and maps – has Florida connections, too. It notes the St. Augustine Day School for Apache Children at Fort Marion, dating to 1886 and 1887. The DOI information states that while Fort Marion was used to incarcerate members of various tribes, including Seminoles, the crowded conditions prompted officials to visit the site and assess whether some of the young men and teenagers would make good pupils for boarding schools. Florida is also referenced in connection with a Mississippi school from 1820 to 1830.

More information is at doi.gov and boardingschoolhealing.org.

NCAI executive committee sworn in

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The newly elected executive committee of the National Congress of American Indians was sworn in Nov. 17 in New Orleans during NCAI's annual convention.

The committee, which will serve a two-year term, consists of four executive board officers and representatives from each of NCAI's dozen regions.

Mark Macarro, chairman of Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, was elected president. NCAI First Vice President Brian Weeden, chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, was elected first vice president.

"I am deeply humbled and pleased to have been chosen by the National Congress of American Indians to lead this esteemed organization over the next two years," Macarro said in a news release. "The next two years will undoubtedly present challenges, but together, we are ready for the journey ahead. I dedicate myself not only to the tribal leaders and delegates of NCAI, but to all of Indian Country, and I look forward to what we can achieve together."

Other officials elected included Nicklaus D. Lewis, a Lummi Nation councilmember, as recording secretary, and David Woerz, a Chickasaw Nation legislator, as treasurer.

The 2023-2025 Regional Area Vice Presidents and Alternates are:

Alaska vice president: Brian Ridley, Native Village of Eagle
Alaska alternate: Clinton Cook, Craig Tribal Association
Northwest vice president: Leonard Forsman, Suquamish Tribe
Northwest alternate: Melvin Sheldon, Tulalip Tribes
Great Plains vice president: Ryman Lebeau, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Great Plains alternate: J. Garrett Renville, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
Western vice president: Randi Lone Eagle, Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
Western alternate: Warren Graham, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
Southwest vice president: Raymond Aguilar, Pueblo of Santo Domingo
Southwest alternate: Gary Lujan, Pueblo of Taos
Southern Plains vice president: Reggie Wassana, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
Southern Plains alternate: Christie Modlin, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Midwest vice president: Leonard Fineday, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe - Leech Lake Band
Midwest alternate: Michelle Beaudin, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior
Eastern Oklahoma vice president: Joe Deere, Cherokee Nation
Eastern Oklahoma alternate: Brad Killscrow, Delaware Tribe of Indians

Pacific

vice president: Leo Sisco, Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Nation

Pacific alternate: Jack Potter Jr., Redding Rancheria

Rocky Mountain vice president: Jennifer Finley, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe of the Flathead Reservation

Rocky Mountain alternate: Loni Taylor, Chippewa Cree of the Rocky Boy's Reservation

Northwest vice president: Lance Gumbs, Shinnecock Indian Nation

Northwest alternate: Rodney Butler, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe

Southeast vice president: Reggie Tupponce, Upper Mattaponi

Southeast alternate: Lora Ann Chaisson, United Houma Nation



Pechanga.net

Mark Macarro

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To our readers: Beginning in 2024, the Seminole Tribune issue dates will reflect month and year instead of a full date. Publication and delivery schedules will not change. The next issue of the Tribune will have the cover date January 2024.

Community



Tomasina Chupco featured on cover of LDL Magazine

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Tribal member Tomasina Chupco is featured on the cover of LDL Magazine's October 2023 issue, which focuses on Indigenous culture.

LDL is a Palo Alto, California-based print and digital publication that highlights entrepreneurs, small businesses, artists, authors, influencers, musicians, photographers, models and community organizers. LDL is the initials of the magazine's founder, Le'Marquita De'Sharay Lowe.

"The magazine reached out to me due to [the upcoming] Native American Heritage Month (each November) and the editor asked me to be on the cover," Chupco, from Fort Pierce, said.

The magazine features a Q&A with Chupco and several other Indigenous People involved in Native issues. Chupco said she does advocacy work on behalf of Indian



Keyra Juliana Espinoza Arroyo

The Vizcaya Museum & Gardens in Miami served as the venue for the magazine's photo shoot with Tomasina Chupco.

boarding school survivor organizations and those involved in the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW), like the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center.

"I believe in supporting Indigenous and Black causes in general, with my main focus on MMIW and violence against Native women," she said.

Chupco, who splits her time between Florida and Georgia, has a doctorate in educational leadership from Lynn University and a degree in alternative medicine. She was previously the training and development assistant at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood. She owns and operates a dual business – Indigenous Intentions and Healing Hokte – focused on wellness/healing, jewelry/beauty, advocacy, consulting and public speaking.

Chupco said she started the businesses during the pandemic. Her business Instagram accounts have more than 110,000 followers.

In the Q&A, editors asked Chupco about some of the Indigenous causes that are important to her.

"Preservation of Indigenous knowledge and land rights are paramount," she said. "I've worked with various organizations, held workshops, and spoken at conferences to raise awareness and support these causes."

For the magazine cover, tribal member Stephanie Johns of Brighton, owner of Simply Savage Steffs, designed Chupco's dress, while tribal member Petra Jewel Battiest of Hollywood, who operates Painted by Petra, did her make-up.

It's not the first time Chupco has been featured in a magazine. In 2020, Chupco and Cheyenne Kippenberger were on the cover of the February/March "Unconquered Native Women" issue of Native Max Magazine. It was the first time the magazine put Seminoles on its cover.

Chupco and Kippenberger had previously organized the tribe's first-ever symposium focused on Native trauma and healing in October 2019 – "Healing the Circle in our Tribal Communities."

Chupco can be reached through her Instagram accounts @IndigenousIntentions and @HealingHokte or via healinghokte.com. To access the October 2023 issue of LDL Magazine, go to ldlmagazine.com.



Keyra Juliana Espinoza Arroyo

Stephanie Johns designed Tomasina Chupco's dress and Petra Jewel Battiest did her make-up.

◆ BETTING From page 1A

Sports betting, craps and roulette were three significant parts of the tribe's 2021 gaming compact with the state. Hard Rock Bet was in operation briefly in 2021 before the first in a series of court challenges caused it to shut down.

Pari-mutuel operators in South Florida have sued in both state and federal courts regarding the mobile sports betting aspect of the compact, and that the compact violates a constitutional amendment requiring voter approval of casino expansion. The tribe's Nov. 1 announcement came days after the U.S. Supreme Court lifted a temporary stay that had been granted on a federal appeals-court ruling that had denied a request from the pari-mutuels, who argued that the tribe's control over mobile sports betting violated the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

While there are still legal challenges pending in federal and state courts, none are likely to be resolved until sometime in 2024, which means sports betting in Florida would continue for the near term. Florida is now the largest state – among almost 40 – with legalized sports betting.

"By working together, the tribe, the state and the federal government achieved a historic legal victory," Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., the tribe's chairman, said in the Nov. 1 announcement.

Gov. Ron DeSantis said in the announcement that implementation of the gaming compact would create jobs, increase tourism and bring billions in revenue to the state.

"With the expansion of the new scope, we are creating over 1,000 new jobs made possible by the compact," Jim Allen, CEO of Seminole Gaming and chairman of Hard Rock International, said in the announcement. "This is a historic milestone that immediately puts Florida in the same league with the world's great gaming destinations."

The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of Seminole Gaming and Hard Rock International. More is at theseminolecasinos.com and hardrock.com.

Casino to host Bluegrass Festival

FROM PRESS RELEASE

IMMOKALEE— Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee will host the Southland Bluegrass and Wilderness Festival on April 7, 2024, starting at 12 p.m. The free festival will feature concerts outdoors and in the Zig Zag Lounge and a variety of food trucks.

December 8 & 9



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Big Cypress ceremony pays tribute to veterans

BY CALVIN TIGER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS—The Seminole Tribe's ninth annual Veterans Day celebration in Big Cypress took place at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on Nov. 10, one day before the holiday. Many of the tribe's veterans and non-tribal veterans were in attendance and shared personal stories about their military service. The tribe also handed out Veterans Day T-shirts and military pins.

President Holly Tiger started the celebration by stating her admiration and respect for tribal veteran Mitchell Cypress, who was at the event.

"He has taught me a lot of life lessons," Tiger told the audience.

President Tiger also talked about the respect she has for all tribal veterans and the importance of how veterans need to be supported.

Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall spoke about her respect for the tribe's veterans.

"I am happy to be here. I am always honored and fulfilled to speak in front of my people but even more so in front of our Seminole veterans," Rep. McCall said.

A recognition of tribal/local officials was presented by Pastor LW Howard, who is a longtime friend of Cypress.

Tribal veteran Sallie Josh was honored at the event.

"It doesn't matter what color we are; we are all green, we are all fighting for the same reason," Josh said.

Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie and Jr. Miss Florida Tahniah Billie gave their respects to the tribal veterans.

The program included a short video that recognized all of the fallen Seminole veterans, which was then followed by a moment of silence.



Beverly Bidney

Jonah Cypress, at podium, says a prayer as tribal and non-tribal veterans line up to be honored during the Big Cypress Veterans Day event Nov. 10.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall shakes hands with veteran Joe Lee, who served as a guest speaker. Below, Gordon Wareham plays a traditional flute during the ceremony.



Beverly Bidney

Attendees at the Big Cypress Veterans Day event line up to shake hands with Seminole veterans and other veterans. From left to right are Wanda Bowers, Jonah Cypress and Richard Bowers, who are lined up to shake hands with veterans, from left to right, Sallie Josh, Paul Bowers, Charlie Hiers Jr. and Curtis Motiow.



Beverly Bidney

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Tahniah Billie, left, and Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie shake hands with veterans.



Beverly Bidney

Veteran Sallie Josh, who was honored at the Big Cypress Veterans Day event, addresses the audience.



Beverly Bidney

Emergency Management director Paul Downing (Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township) and Barbara Billie at the Big Cypress Veterans Day event.



Beverly Bidney

A Maori musician, poet and dancer plays a traditional horn prior to the Haka Maori cultural experience performance at the Veterans event.



Beverly Bidney

Members of the Maori group present President Holly Tiger with a Maori flag and some traditional arts and crafts from their homeland of New Zealand.

VETERANS
From page 1A

"I thank the veterans and their families, who took care of them when they came home," Billie said. "[All veterans] roles were important, whether your job was a big one or a small one."

"We are proud of you, we respect you, we honor you and we thank you," added Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Tahnia Billie.

Mitchell Cypress and Jacob Osceola Sr. were honored during the ceremony.

Cypress served with the National Guard in Oklahoma during the summer of 1966. In April 1968, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served for two years at Fort Dix in New Jersey and in Kitzingen, Germany.

He has served the tribe in a variety of elected roles, most recently as president of the board of directors.

"To all the veterans, today is your day," Cypress said after receiving a plaque commemorating his service.

Osceola volunteered for the U.S. Army after he graduated high school in 1969 and served until 1971. After training for Airborne at Fort Benning, Georgia, and then at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, he volunteered to go to Vietnam. He served at Tan Son Nhat Air Base for a year, where he was a door gunner on a helicopter. Once he crashed onboard a helicopter that suffered engine failure; another time he went down in a fixed-wing airplane.

When he returned to the tribe, Osceola became the director of the Neighborhood Youth Corps in 1974. In 1977, he was director of the Indian Action Team, which brought certified trade instructors to teach carpentry, electrical and plumbing to tribal members. The trainees in the program built a health clinic in Big Cypress and completed one in Brighton.

In 1979, Osceola was elected Big Cypress Councilman and served for four years. Now he owns businesses on the Hollywood Reservation.

After receiving his plaque, he said all veterans should be honored during their life. He talked about the importance of tribal culture.

"If we keep our culture and language intact, we have a better chance of surviving," Osceola said. "It's up to us to solidify that. We were brought up speaking English. Young kids today have everything they want, but we have to make sure our culture stays strong. I thank the leadership we have today for making sure that happens."

Okeechobee Mayor Dowling R. Watford Jr., the event's guest speaker, spoke about his time in the military.

"It is the biggest honor of my life to speak in front of veterans," Watford said. "Vietnam vets are usually very quiet about their service and I never talk about mine because there isn't much to say."

Watford began his career at the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at Florida Southern College, where upon graduation he was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He served at the Aberdeen Proving Ground

in Maryland from 1972 to 1980 and was never deployed.

"Vietnam was winding down and they had too many second lieutenants," Watford said in an interview with the Tribune in the days prior to the ceremony. "I served in the Army Reserve and left service with the rank of captain. I wish I could say I stormed the beaches at Normandy or something, but I just served my time. If something would have happened, I would have been called up."

Watford comes from a long line of veterans beginning with his fifth great-grandfather, who served in the Revolutionary War. His great-grandfather served in the Civil War, his grandfather was a World War I veteran, his father served in World War II and four of his five brothers served. Uncles on his mother's and father's side were killed in D-Day in WWII and his stepson served in the Gulf War.

"Every veteran is valuable," he said. "Only 7% of the U.S. population are veterans and only 29% of those have combat experience. Each one of us is important whether we served in peace or war. Something all veterans have in common is we all answered the call, served with honor, are very patriotic and respect our flag and our freedoms. It was the best thing I ever did in my life. It taught me leadership skills."

After the ceremonial playing of taps, attendees shook the hands of all the veterans in a receiving line.

Big Cypress hosts veterans memorial walk

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Members of the tribal community gathered in Big Cypress on Nov. 8 to recognize veterans in advance of Veterans Day on Nov. 11. Seventeen people participated in a memorial walk at the Big Cypress Veterans Memorial Fitness Trail on the reservation.

Big Cypress Health outreach coordinator Edna McDuffie and her team organized the event. Big Cypress Health educator Jamie Diersing led the group in warm-up exercises before the walk began.

There were designated stops along the walk — set up to recognize active duty Armed Forces service members, to remember veterans who have died, and a final stop to pay tribute to all veterans. Pastor Arlen Payne, of the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist

Church, and Pastor Salaw Hummingbird, of the Big Cypress First Baptist Church, led the group in moments of silence and prayer at the stops.

The group included employees from Emergency Management, Health and Human Services, the Seminole Police Department and Seminole Fire Rescue. Sunny Frank, an Emergency Management coordinator, came to pay tribute to his father, Joel Frank Sr., who served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Others in attendance included Emergency Management director Paul Downing (Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township) and Paul Bowers Sr. Downing is a U.S. Army veteran, while Bowers is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. Ruby Osceola, mother of the late Herman L. Osceola, also participated in the walk. The Big Cypress gymnasium is named for her son, a U.S. Marine who died in the line of duty in 1984.



Beverly Bidney

Sallie Josh presents U.S. Army veteran Jacob Osceola Sr. with a plaque thanking him for his military service to the country.



Beverly Bidney

Mitchell Cypress receives a plaque with a photo of him in service from Curtis Motlow.



Beverly Bidney

From left to right, Emergency Management director Paul Downing, Wanda Bowers and Joel Frank.



Beverly Bidney

Brighton Veterans Day emcee Curtis Motlow, left, presents Okeechobee Mayor Dowling R. Watford Jr. with a patchwork shirt.



Beverly Bidney

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., left, shakes hands with Mitchell Cypress in the handshake line honoring veterans.



Beverly Bidney

Beulah Gopher observes a solemn moment at the 36th annual Brighton Veterans Day event Nov. 9.



Damon Scott

Emergency Management director Paul Downing, left, and Paul Bowers Sr.



Damon Scott

Ruby Osceola is the mother of the late Herman L. Osceola.



Damon Scott

The group ended the walk at the veterans memorial wall.



Damon Scott

The veterans memorial wall and plaza on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Museum to host holiday market

FROM PRESS RELEASE

BIG CYPRESS — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation will host its third annual Big Cypress Holiday Market on Dec. 8th and Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days at the museum's festival

grounds.

Native arts, crafts, clothing, and jewelry will be for sale. Seminole food vendors will also be on site. Admission to the event and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is free.

For more information go to ahtathiki.com.

Micosukee arts festival set for Dec. 28-31

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Native American culture will be featured in a four-day gathering of music, arts and entertainment in the heart of the Florida Everglades as the Micosukee Tribe hosts its annual arts and crafts festival, Dec. 28-31 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Micosukee Indian Village festival grounds, 500 U.S. Highway 41. The village is about 20 miles west of Krome Avenue and SW 8th Street in

Miami-Dade County.

The schedule includes Indigenous music and dance performances, an artisan market featuring crafts and authentic cuisine, and alligator demonstrations teaching this traditional art of survival.

Airboat rides are available across the street. Free shuttle service will be available to and from the village and Micosukee Casino & Resort from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tribal Nations Summit set for December

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 2023 White House Tribal Nations Summit is scheduled to be held Dec. 6 and Dec. 7 in

Washington, D.C. Tribal leaders will have an opportunity to discuss priorities, policies and other issues with senior Administration officials. The meetings are not open to the public or media.



From left to right, Harry Billie family members Darnell Osceola, Susie Jimmie and Elena Jim stand outside the Harry Johnson Billie Center following the Nov. 7 dedication ceremony.

Miccosukee Tribe names gym in honor of Harry Billie

BY CALVIN TIGER
Staff Reporter

MICCOSUKEE RESERVATION — The Miccosukee Tribe dedicated its gymnasium in honor of the late Harry Billie on Nov. 7.

Members of the Billie family, tribal community, and the tribe's elected leadership were a part of the dedication ceremony at the gym. Miccosukee lawmaker Pete Osceola Jr. spoke about Billie's impact on the Miccosukee community.

"This is our first building that we named after an individual," Osceola said.

Osceola noted that he was friends with Billie and gained much respect and admiration for him.

Miccosukee Tribal Chairman Talbert Cypress described Billie as being "a pillar of the community for a long time."

Billie, from the Panther Clan, was known in the tribal community for his accomplishments in sports. He excelled in baseball, basketball and football while attending high school. Chairman Cypress said the tribal youth can learn a lot from Billie's athletic accomplishments, which included exploring the avenues of sports scholarships. According to an article by Southwest Florida sportswriter Glenn Miller, Billie briefly attended Florida State University on a football scholarship in the 1960s, but he never played for FSU.

Billie pursued a professional baseball career as an infielder. From 1964-67, he played for five minor league teams in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization, with stops in three North Carolina cities — Asheville, Raleigh and Gastonia — and Clinton, Iowa.



From left to right, Pete Osceola Jr., Lucas Osceola and William "Popeye" Osceola speak about Harry Billie and the positive impact he made on the tribal community.

His best season came in 1964 as a 21-year old in Gastonia. He racked up 102 hits, six home runs, seven triples, 10 doubles, 57 RBIs, 55 runs scored, 21 stolen bases and .232 batting average in 127 games, according to baseball-reference.com, which lists him as a 5-foot-11, 180-pound shortstop, third baseman and catcher who batted and threw right-handed.

Billie was also praised at the ceremony for giving back to his community. He worked at the Miccosukee's learning center, health department and recreation center.

Billie died Dec. 15, 2022. He is survived by five children.



Miccosukee Tribal Chairman Talbert Cypress speaks at a dedication ceremony at the Harry Johnson Billie Center.



From left to right, Miccosukee Tribal Chairman Talbert Cypress, Lucas Osceola, lawmaker Pete Osceola Jr., Tribal Secretary William "Popeye" Osceola and Tribal Treasurer Kenny Cypress address the tribal community that attended the building dedication in honor of the late Harry Billie.



Lawmaker Pete Osceola Jr. stands in front of the sign at the Harry Johnson Billie Center.

Seminole artists pick up Art Basel boost

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Seminole artists are poised to acquire new fans during Art Basel Miami Beach from Dec. 8 to Dec. 10.

For the first time, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress, which has Seminole art on display, is listed as one of Art Basel's cultural institutions on its website. Art Basel organizers created the list to give its visitors endorsed museum and gallery options outside of the event's main venue — the Miami Beach Convention Center. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is one of 28 venues listed on the site as cultural institutions.

Art Basel, which also produces its annual art fairs in Basel, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Paris, attracts tens of thousands of tourists, art buyers, and international visitors to Miami Beach. It first came to South Florida in 2002, and the show now features work from hundreds of galleries and dozens of countries. It is one of the most well known showcases for modern and contemporary art by both established and emerging artists.

Tara Chadwick, History Fort Lauderdale curator who has worked with Seminole artists for years, said being included on the cultural institutions list is significant because of the event's reach and reputation.

"When Art Basel came to Miami Beach it really began to boost the importance of art," Chadwick said. "The investment of Art Basel in Miami Beach on a yearly basis really pushed our South Florida community

in general to understand that arts are an economic driver and that visual art is something that's valuable and also fun. Art Basel has really shown people that art is accessible to anyone."

There are two Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum exhibits highlighted on the Art Basel listing. The first is the retrospective of the late Jimmy Osceola's work — "Seminole Pride: Celebrating the Artwork of Jimmy Osceola." Osceola's renowned paintings typically depict Seminole life, culture and history through its people, rituals and camp life. The exhibit — which runs through 2025 — features 30 of his pieces.

The second exhibit on the listing is "Ee Litch Ko: We're Glad You're Here," which runs from Dec. 1 to Dec. 5 and features the work of several Seminole artists. The museum has also organized an "Ee Litch Ko" pop-up event at the Okalee Indian Village in Hollywood on Dec. 2.

In addition, Art Basel has listed History Fort Lauderdale's exhibit "Chehantamo: How Are You Doing?" which includes the work of 15 Seminole artists. It is on display through Jan. 6, 2024. History Fort Lauderdale first appeared on the cultural institutions list in 2018. Chadwick said one of the reasons it was included is due to its annual Native American heritage exhibitions featuring Seminole and Miccosukee artists. "Chehantamo" is the 10th such exhibit.

For more information, go to ahtahthiki.com, historyfortlauderdale.org and artbasel.com.



The late Jimmy Osceola's artwork is currently on display at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, which is listed as one of Art Basel's cultural institutions for the first time.

Dustin Lynch to headline Brighton Field Day

STAFF REPORT

BRIGHTON — A concert by country music star Dustin Lynch on Feb. 17, 2024, is among the events scheduled for the annual Brighton Field Day Festival.

The festival is slated to be held Feb. 16 to Feb. 18, at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena on the Brighton Reservation.

Lynch has eight No. 1 hits and 10 gold and platinum certified singles. He has won several awards, including from the Academy of Country Music and Billboard magazine. He is a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

The festival will also welcome back the PRCA Rodeo (Feb. 16 and Feb. 17) and Xtreme Bull Riding (Feb. 18). The festival will include clothing contests, American Indian arts and crafts and Native foods. Attendees may also visit a Seminole culture camp where a living Seminole Indian Village will be on display. The schedule also features Native dance troupes from other tribes, storytelling, additional musical performances and alligator wrestling.

Tickets will be available at the event gate. Feb. 17 tickets include the Lynch concert. For more information, go to



Dustin Lynch/Facebook

brightonfieldday.com or call (863) 467-6039.

Jose Feliciano, Marie Osmond tour part of December in Immokalee

FROM PRESS RELEASE

IMMOKALEE — Here's a look at upcoming special events at the Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee in December:

Jose Feliciano

Dec. 5: Legendary singer/songwriter Jose Feliciano will perform starting at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$65 and are available at icetmaster.com or at www.moreinparadise.com. Attendees must be 21.

Feliciano is recognized as the first Latin artist to effectively cross over into the English music market, opening the doors for other artists who now play an important role in the American music industry. He's been awarded more than 45 Gold and Platinum records, has 19 Grammy nominations, and won nine Grammy Awards including the Latin Recording Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Three songs have been milestones for Feliciano: "Light My Fire," which topped the charts globally in 1968 and, according to the

song's publisher, is now a standard because of Feliciano's interpretation; "Che Sarà" the 1971 San Remo Music Festival entry that became a mega-success for Feliciano throughout Europe, Asia and South America; and "Feliz Navidad," the Christmas song that has now become a tradition worldwide during the holiday season.

Marie Osmond's Orchestral Christmas Tour

Dec. 12: Marie Osmond will perform as part of her Orchestral Christmas Tour with special guest David Osmond at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$129 and available at ticketmaster.com or moreinparadise.com. Attendees must be 21.

Osmond has spent more than six iconic decades in the entertainment business as a successful singer, television performer and talk show host, dancer, actor, author, entrepreneur and public speaker. She has continued to maintain relevance, remaining an instantly recognizable figure across the globe.



A proposed casino and entertainment complex in Queens, New York, would be built next to the New York Mets' Citi Field baseball park.

Mets owner, Hard Rock to partner on proposed casino project

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Billionaire New York Mets baseball owner Steve Cohen unveiled details of a proposed \$8 billion casino and entertainment complex in partnership with Hard Rock International (HRI) at a press conference Nov. 7. The sprawling development would be located in New York City's Queens borough, next to the Citi Field baseball stadium.

According to media reports, Cohen is competing with nearly a dozen other applicants vying for one of only three state licenses that allow construction of a full-scale casino in downstate New York. At the press conference at Citi Field, Cohen said he plans to partner with HRI and SHoP

Architects to build the gaming complex, which is being called Metropolitan Park.

"Hard Rock at Metropolitan Park will be rooted in the spirit of music while embracing the unique culture and character of Queens," Jim Allen, chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming, said in a statement after Cohen's press conference. "Metropolitan Park captures the energy and vision of bringing people together for memorable shared experiences that exemplify the company's mottoes to 'Love All Serve All, All is One, Save Time to Be Kind, and Save the Planet.' We're excited to bring our unique brand of world class entertainment to Queens."

The Seminole Tribe – parent entity of Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming – has longtime ties to New York

City. Most recently, in May 2022, the 36-story Hard Rock Hotel New York opened in Midtown Manhattan, not far from the Hard Rock Cafe in Times Square. It was the Hard Rock Cafe (which opened in 2005) where the tribe announced Dec. 6, 2006, that it purchased Hard Rock.

In addition to the casino, Cohen said Metropolitan Park would feature 20 acres of public park space, new athletic fields, a renovated mass-transit station and a "Queens food hall."

According to a recent study from gaming consultants Spectrum Gaming Group, a Queens casino could generate as much as \$1.9 billion in annual revenue by 2025.

More is at hardrock.com.

Hard Rock Atlantic City earns nod as top ACS fundraiser

FROM PRESS RELEASE

ATLANTIC CITY — Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City raised more than \$164,000 in its annual Pinktober initiative, making the resort the No. 1 fundraising team by the American Cancer Society.

Pinktober is a part of the Hard Rock Heals Foundation, the charitable arm of Hard Rock International.



Hard Rock Atlantic City raised more than \$164,000 in the Pinktober campaign.

Hard Rock Atlantic City was the presenting sponsor of the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Ocean City on Oct. 8 and a portion proceeds from rock-n-roll legends Foreigner's sold-out shows on Oct. 27 and 28 at Hard Rock Live at Eteess Arena benefited Pinktober efforts. Additional Pinktober fundraisers included themed food and beverage offerings, deluxe and Pinktober Rock Spa services.

Immokalee to host 'Price is Right'

FROM PRESS RELEASE

IMMOKALEE — Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee will host to "The Price is Right Live" interactive stage show April 30, 2024, at 8 p.m.

Tickets start at \$65. For ticket information go to ticketmaster.com or moreinparadise.com.

The legendary game show will feature a celebrity host and randomly selected contestants to play games like Plinko, Cliffhangers, The Big Wheel and the fabulous Showcase. Prizes range from appliances and electronics to vacations and a new car. spin you've always wanted!

For more information, follow The Price Is Right Live on Facebook, X, and Instagram.

Melissa Etheridge to perform in Tampa

FROM PRESS RELEASE

TAMPA — Grammy Award-winning rockstar and activist Melissa Etheridge will perform in her "I'm Not Broken Tour" at 8 p.m. on April 11, 2024, at the Hard Rock Event Center in Tampa. Tickets start at \$95. For ticket information go to ticketmaster.com or seminolehardrocktampa.com.

Hard Rock to build hotel in Long Beach

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Hard Rock International (HRI) officials announced plans Nov. 13 to build a Hard Rock Hotel in downtown Long Beach, California. A Nov. 14 news release said it would be the first "new-build, full-service" hotel built in the city in 30 years. Long Beach is located about 25 miles south of Los Angeles.

Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2024, with plans to open the hotel in the spring of 2027.

"We're grateful to [Long Beach] Mayor Rex Richardson, the city council and our partners for welcoming Hard Rock's unique brand of hospitality and entertainment to the city of Long Beach," Jon Lucas, HRI chief operating officer, said in the news release. "We are really excited about expanding our award-winning hotel portfolio on the West Coast."

HRI has 25 Hard Rock Hotels and 10 casino-hotels in its portfolio, including properties in San Diego and Sacramento.

The Hard Rock Hotel Long Beach is set to be 31 stories high with 427 rooms. Amenities include a three-story atrium,

a rooftop bar with 360-degree views, an outdoor pool with views of the Pacific Ocean, a fitness studio, two restaurants and retail options. The news release said there will also be a "speakeasy" with an intimate concert hall that seats 250.

"This incredible project is possible thanks to an amazing team of professionals. Together, we're bringing new energy and vitality to our downtown and our entire city," Mayor Richardson said in a Facebook post. "Thank you also to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, whose partnership marks the first major tribal investment in our city in modern history."

Officials said the development is expected to create 3,600 jobs – 3,100 temporary construction jobs and 500 permanent positions.

The hotel will be located at 100 E. Ocean Blvd., adjacent to the Long Beach Convention Center and near to area attractions like Alamitos Beach, Shoreline Village, the Long Beach Cruise Terminal and the Aquarium of the Pacific.

The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of HRI and Seminole Gaming. More information is at hardrockhotels.com.



Officials plan to open a Hard Rock Hotel in downtown Long Beach, California, in 2027.



Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson speaks at a Nov. 13 news conference to announce that a Hard Rock Hotel is planned for the city.

Willie Nelson coming to Immokalee

FROM PRESS RELEASE

IMMOKALEE — Legendary country musician Willie Nelson will perform an outdoor concert at 8 p.m., Feb. 7, 2024, at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee.

Tickets start at \$49.50. Go to ticketmaster.com or moreinparadise.com for ticket information.

Nelson, 90, has a seven-decade career full of accomplishments and awards as a musician, author, actor and activist.

In recent years, he has delivered more

than a dozen new albums, released a Top 10 New York Times' bestsellers book, again headlined Farm Aid (an event he co-founded in 1985) and his annual Willie Nelson's 4th of July Picnic, been honored by the Library of Congress with its Gershwin Prize for Popular Song, received his 5th degree black belt in Gong Kwon Yu Sul, headlined the annual Luck Reunion food and music festival during SXSW and launched his cannabis companies Willie's Reserve and Willie's Remedy.



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SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA AH-TAH-THI-KI M U S E U M

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

Read all about it: Historic newspapers reveal U.S. treachery

BY TARA BACKHOUSE
Collections Manager
and
JOSEPH GILBERT
Research Assistant

BIG CYPRESS — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum has just completed a two-year project to reveal hidden stories of the Seminole War. The true nature of historic events during the 1700s and 1800s were often hidden in newspapers by propaganda, prejudiced journalism, and insufficient detail. A grant-funded project at the museum made it possible to analyze over 600 of these newspapers. We wrote new descriptions that point out how the papers made enemies out of Indigenous People and glorified the attacking colonizers. Another product of this project was several finding aids that explain the project and will help researchers understand the newspaper collection. One way to see what we found is to use a hyperlinked timeline that links to the descriptions of the newspapers. You can see underlined numbers in the timeline below. From a computer, using the pdf file, you can click on any one of those numbers, and you are taken to that newspaper's record on the online collection. The collection can also be searched online at semtribe.pastperfectonline.com.

We'll be happy to provide digital copies of the finding aids and to talk to anyone about this project. Come see the newspapers in the museum's vault. They are amazing pieces of history and now they are helping to tell the Seminole story.

The newspaper shown at the top of this story was produced by the citizens of a country whose government was attempting to colonize Native American people. Many articles contain racist and elitist ideology about Native Americans and other minorities. When reading the newspaper, that implicit



The Nashua (New Hampshire) Gazette and Hillsborough County Advertiser's July 16, 1830 issue.

bias should be acknowledged and identified. "Nashua (New Hampshire) Gazette and Hillsborough County Advertiser," Vol. IV; No. 32; Whole No. 188; July 16, 1830. The Advertiser prints part of a speech about the bill in the House of Representatives intended to move Indians west of the Mississippi. The speech, given by Edward Everett, argues against the bill by reading from a letter that described the Cherokee Nation, stating they would not sell land that held their ancestors, noting that the land they are to be sent to is unsuitable for them to live, and noting that moving an entire people there could spark a war with the tribes already living there. They also print an announcement for the congressional candidacy of Mushulatubba [Mushulatubbee] of the Choctaw. Other topics include poetry, the census, Thomas Jefferson discussing Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson, the Working Men's Party in New York, civil appointments, and news from Great Britain, Greece, the Ottoman Empire, Algiers, and Scotland.

The Advertiser doesn't comment on the parts of the anti-removal speech given in the House of Representatives. Despite being against the forced removal of Indigenous People, it still speaks of Indigenous People

in a pretentious nature. Everett called their adherence to burial rituals and honoring their ancestors as a "pious weakness" and that their deaths are "clothed in corruption." He didn't have any respect for their religion or cultural beliefs. His speech made it clear that he believed civilization was working by his description of the Cherokee Nation and that the land they were sending them to was unsuitable for the agricultural life they had learned. He doesn't argue that they shouldn't be removed because they are the original owners of the land, that their culture and religious practices based on location are important and should be respected, or that forcefully uprooting and relocating an entire nation would undoubtedly result in pain, suffering, and death. The paper did comment however on the congressional candidacy of Mushulatubbee in Mississippi. They noted that because of the number of people in his tribe he would be elected. They stated that this was a result of giving Indigenous People the full right of citizens implying that this was a negative thing. The paper seems to disapprove of Indigenous People participating in the representative democracy that claimed to represent the people of North America.



Wildlife handler Justin Iguilada wows the crowd of students with an alligator demonstration Oct. 30 at the American Indigenous Arts Celebration pop-up event in Hollywood.

Tribe hosts AIAC pop-up event at Okalee Village



Daniel Tommie sharpens one of his canoe carving tools.



Wildlife handler Luis Caraballo talks about the features of a Eurasian eagle for the crowd.



The Maori dancers are a popular attraction at the AIAC event.



The Seminole War is often split into three wars, but it was really one long war from the late 1700s and for most of the 1800s. The full version of this timeline lists many events of the war and the newspapers that covered those events.

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

December 2023

When thinking about pottery, one's mind can go to the diverse nature of it. Modern pottery makers create a wide range of vessels. So, it can be expected that pottery makers in the past also made a variety of pottery types. This month in collections we have chosen to again highlight one of the many pottery types, with this Glades Tool rim sherd.

Like many ceramic types, Glades Tool pottery is a diagnostic artifact, meaning that it has a known time frame. This helps archeologists date any non-diagnostic artifacts found with it, for example, any animal bone that was a result of food preparation. In this case, the Glades Tool pottery dates from about 1400 AD to 1513 AD, and mostly occurs in South Florida (floridamuseum.ufl.edu). Not all the pottery the THPO collections section receives are able to be identified, some are so weathered that it is impossible, at least by the naked eye, to know what kind of pottery it was. Some pieces are so small that they are less than the size of your pinky nail. Others can be easily mistaken as small rocks or concretions.



Figure 1 (floridamuseum.ufl.edu)



The Glades Tool pottery type is most easily characterized by the series of parallel lines across the top of the vessel, or in this case the pieces of pottery. These ridges were supposedly created when a small round tool was pressed down into the damp clay (Goggin and Sommer 1949:35). According to Goggin and Sommer (1949:35), all cases of Glades Tool pottery design are characterized by simple, repetitive, patterns. This is not to say that there is not a wide range of variety in this type of pottery. Some things that can create variation are the depth of the marks (Goggin and Sommer 1949:35), and angle of the lines (McGregor 1974:11). There are examples of this variety in Figure 1 (left). The Glades Tool pottery type is just one type that belongs to the Glades series. Other notable Glades series pottery types are Opalocka Incised, Miami Incised, and Fort Drum Punctuated (floridamuseum.ufl.edu).

For more information about the Pottery types of Florida visit the resources at www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu
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SEMINOLE HISTORY STORIES - DECEMBER 2023

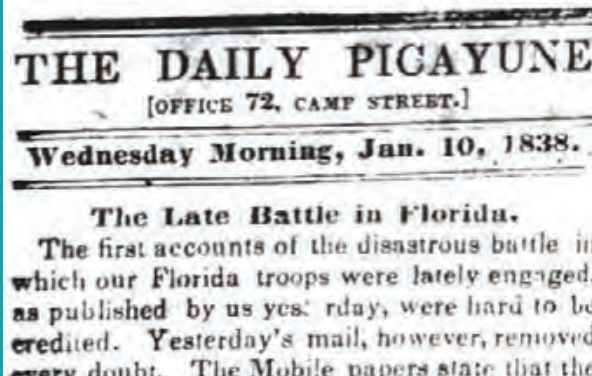
THE BATTLE OF OKEECHOBEE

On Christmas day of 1838, Colonel Zachary Taylor ordered his men to charge a fortified Seminole position on the outskirts of Lake Okeechobee. His forces were tired and poorly provisioned, having followed Seminole tracks for weeks into the wetlands. The charge did not go as he had planned.

The battlefield had been specifically chosen and prepared by Seminole strategists. They cut back sawgrass along a path that would lead the American troops into an open area, surrounded on three sides by cypress trees on higher ground, with fortified cover built up to hide and protect Seminole soldiers. When Taylor ordered the charge, his men found deeper water than expected, and sharpened cypress knees. Behind the tree line, men and women reloaded guns for the soldiers, treated the injured, and prepared canoes for the withdrawal. The trap had been laid and set off all according to the plans laid out by Coacoochee (Wildcat), Halpatter Tustenugee (Alligator), and Abiaka (Sam Jones).

Initial reports led newspapers to declare the battle "disastrous news" in the National Intelligencer, and "one of the most disastrous battles that has yet been fought" in the New Orleans Picayune. The Seminole had lost roughly a dozen men, with fourteen wounded. More than two dozen American soldiers and militia men had been killed, with over 100 wounded.

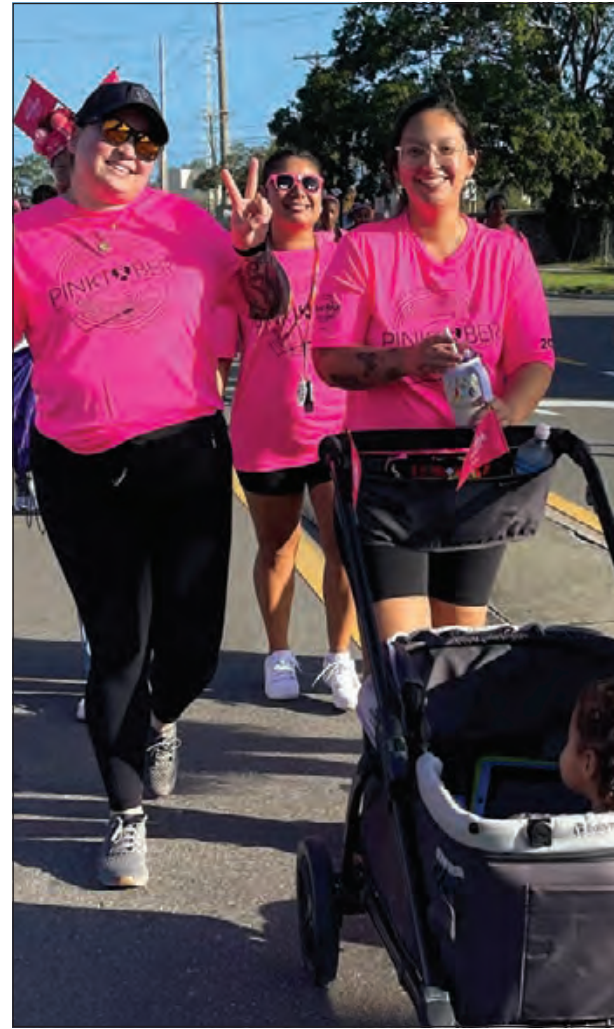
Despite the disproportionate losses that came from Taylor's pursuit of the Seminole, the colonel showed his political talent by rebranding the battle as a total victory, claiming that he had run the Seminole off, even though his goal was capture. With its record costs in men and money, the Seminole War was already deeply unpopular with the American public. Needing good news, the military ran with the Colonel's account. Despite the Seminole victory, Zachary Taylor was hailed as a hero, and his tales of his success carried him into the White House as the 12th President of the United States.



TO LEARN MORE
Read *The Second Seminole War and the Limits of American Aggression* by C.S. Monaco
And visit the Tribal Historic Preservation Office website at stfthpo.com or use the QR code
For more Seminole history resources



Health



Diabetes program renewed through Jan. 19

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The U.S. Senate passed a funding bill Nov. 15 to avoid a government shutdown that was to take effect two days later. The measure extended the Indian Health Services' (IHS) Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) through Jan. 19; it had expired Sept. 30. The program was established by Congress in 1997 and is typically funded on an annual basis.

SDPI helps keep type-2 diabetes intervention and prevention programs running in Native communities. The program has helped increase the number of on-site nutrition services and the number of physical activity and weight management specialists and sites for adults and youth.

The Seminole Tribe has received SDPI funds for many years. It is used for a variety of diabetes prevention and mitigation programs through the Integrative Health program, part of the tribe's Health and Human Services Department.

Even after decades of flat funding, Indian Country officials say SDPI has been very effective in strengthening community-based diabetes prevention programs. Native American communities have traditionally experienced higher numbers of type-2 diabetics compared to other populations.

"... SDPI has become the nation's most effective federal initiative to combat diabetes and serves as a useful model both for diabetes programs nationwide and public health programs in Indian Country," Navajo Nation president Buu Nygren said in congressional testimony last summer.

SDPI is currently funded through mandatory appropriations at \$150 million per year – the same amount for the past two decades. Tribal officials say the appropriation should be \$250 million in order to be adequately funded.

"While type-2 diabetes continues to impact our people at alarming rates, there is hope. Thanks to the impact of SDPI, we have increased nutrition counseling and patient interventions to help them treat or even reverse type-2 diabetes," Nygren said in his testimony.

It was unclear at press time how the program would be funded after Jan. 19.

The tribe's Tampa community participated in the annual "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk Oct. 28. From left to right, Amaria Osceola, Nigel Osceola, 20-year breast cancer survivor Nancy Frank, Corinne Zepeda, Stacy Smith and Jessica Lopez. Amaria and Nigel are grandchildren of Nancy Frank.

Tampa community takes steps in fight against breast cancer

STAFF REPORT

The Seminole Tribe's Tampa community joined about 25,000 others in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk at Raymond James Stadium on Oct. 28.

"It was another great time of sunshine, celebration, honoring and encouraging, as well as reminders of breast cancer prevention and hope for the future," Tampa health and nutrition educator Korin Deitch

wrote in an email to the Tribune. "We celebrated Nancy Frank's 20th year as a brave fighter and survivor."

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa continued its longstanding support of breast cancer awareness and research with its annual Pinktober campaign, and was also the Pink Premier sponsor for the walk.

The Tampa walk generated more than \$700,000 in donations, according to the American Cancer Society.



From left to right are Korin Deitch, Nancy Hailey, Christina Clark, Phaydra Clark, Nigel Osceola, Nancy Frank, Kevin Frank, Amari Osceola, Connie Osceola, Talia Frank, Jae Frank and Aaron Frank at the Tampa "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk Oct. 28.

NICWA

From page 1A

Kastelic began at NICWA in 2011 as its chief of staff, before being named its executive director in 2015. She'd previously worked for NCAI in Washington, D.C., for 13 years. NICWA's founder (and now senior adviser) Terry Cross (Seneca) had been mentoring young Native social workers across the country and identified Kastelic as the organization's next leader.

"He's like an elder in residence who helps to prepare our junior people," Kastelic said of Cross's role today. "The goal was that he wouldn't disappear – just work fewer hours and work on community outreach."

Kastelic previously worked on welfare reform at NCAI in the mid-1990s. She advocated for tribes to be included in major federal funding that goes to states, which she

continues to do at NICWA. Kastelic helped establish NCAI's policy research center and was director of policy and programs. She earned a master's degree and a doctorate in social work from the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis.

Kastelic said NICWA continues to hire seasoned staff, including child welfare director Tara Reynon (Puyallup), who has 25 years of experience. The organization has also focused more attention toward communications and fundraising.

"We're building the next generation of leadership," Kastelic said. "Our donor base has grown and more philanthropists and private foundations have come to us. We've been more active on social media and have connected with white allies and organizations of color to help them understand why they have a stake and should care about our work."

Kastelic said NICWA's programs are at the heart of its work. She said NICWA has

helped generate more than \$3 billion for programs that benefit families and children in tribal communities over the last 20 years.

'Time to be emboldened'

Kastelic said while the Supreme Court's ICWA ruling in June was clearly positive, she expects its opponents to issue more challenges to the law.

"We have to be vigilant about that," she said. "Now is the time to be emboldened in advocacy and get better compliance – there's a lot of work we can do at federal, state and tribal level to push implementation and compliance."

Kastelic said the goal is always to do what's best for Native kids.

"Tribes need programs that don't look like the state system," she said. "The legacy of tribal welfare in our community has traditionally been a removal system, but that's hogwash. How do we prevent

the transmission of trauma to further generations? We don't need systems that mirror state and county systems that harm. Let tribes re-indigenize or decolonize their systems, and NICWA helps with that."

Meanwhile, registration is open for NICWA's 42nd "Protecting Our Children" conference in Seattle from April 7-10, 2024. The Seminole Tribe has been a NICWA supporter and major sponsor of the annual conference for many years. The family friendly event features a variety of offerings, including 84 workshops.

"One of the really exciting things to see is how tribal cultures are integrated across our conference – culture as a foundation for healing," Kastelic said.

More information is at nicwa.org.

Workshop proposals sought for conference

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) invites tribal leaders, health and public health professionals, policy specialists, advocates, and allies to submit workshop proposals for the 2024 National Tribal Health Conference (NTHC) on May 19-23, 2024, at The Monument Convention Center in Rapid City, South Dakota.

The conference welcomes proposals that advance tribal public health and health equity for American Indians and Alaska Natives; use a tribal lens and come from a perspective of Indigenous identity; and are action-oriented.

The conference theme is "Tribal Health Equity on Our Terms."

For more information go to nihb.org.



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SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

ROOF REPLACEMENT: The Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton is sporting a new roof. The replacement was made recently.



Beverly Bidney

PERFECT PLEDGE: Student council members from Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the Brighton Veterans Day event Nov. 9 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building.



Beverly Bidney

HONOR GUARD: The Seminole Honor Guard opened the American Indigenous Arts Celebration in Big Cypress on Nov. 3, with Paul Bowers, second from left, holding the Missing in Action (MIA) flag.



Kevin Johnson

CHEERS: Moore Haven High School senior cheerleader Summer Gopher gets ready to cheer for the Terriers football team in a Class 1S regional final Nov. 24 in Naples. It was Gopher's final football game as a cheerleader, as Moore Haven's season ended with a 35-0 loss to host First Baptist Academy.



FLIFF/Facebook

TOAD IN TOWN: Actor Charles Martin Smith appeared at a Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival event in November at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. Martin Smith played the character Terry "The Toad" Fields in the 1973 film "American Graffiti," which was the breakthrough film for its director, George Lucas.



Kevin Johnson

HOLIDAY SPIRIT: A happy snowman and colorful wreaths are among the holiday displays at the entrance of the Frank Billie Field Office on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Damon Scott

LET THE GAMES BEGIN: The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood set up a craps table display inside the main entrance to promote Dec. 7 as the starting date it will offer craps and roulette to its patrons.



Courtesy photo

WORK OF ART: Artists Ragan Balzer (Maori), left, and Elgin Jumper show the art piece they created during a live art presentation at the American Indigenous Arts Celebration in November.



Beverly Bidney

SNOWBIRD SEASON: Like migrating birds, out-of-towners and their recreational vehicles have arrived at the Brighton RV Resort for some warmth over the winter season.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Gila River Indian Community moves forward with solar canal project, first in country

In an effort to address the ongoing drought affecting the Southwest, the Gila River Indian Community is taking an innovative step forward by launching its Solar Canal Project to construct the country's first solar-over-canal project.

"A tribe is leading the way," Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis said, adding that the shovel-ready project will immediately address water conservation.

The Gila River Indian Community and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed an agreement on Thursday in Sacaton, kicking off construction on the first phase of the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project Renewal Energy Pilot Project, which is expected to be completed in 2025.

"This new technology fits and supports our culture and tradition as we look forward to being sustainable in the future in a very real way," Lewis said. The project may break new ground for the tribe, but he said it furthers their role as stewards of their water.

Lewis said they're looking at this in terms of a Blue-Green Tribal Agricultural Economy, in which blue represents conserving water and green symbolizes renewable energy.

The GRIC has over 150 miles of canal that could ultimately be covered with solar panels, and this project could be a game changer for creating energy.

The first phase of the project involves the construction of solar panels over a portion of the GRIC's Interstate 10 Level Top canal, according to the tribe, and the project works to conserve water and generate renewable energy for tribal irrigation facilities.

David Deyoung, the director of the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project, said there are two ways this project can conserve water: reducing the evaporative water losses and minimizing water use for power generation. The combination, he said, will save about 200 acre-feet a year.

The project is expected to produce approximately one megawatt of renewable energy to offset energy needs and costs for tribal farmers, according to the GRIC.

The solar panels are expected to cover more than 1,000 feet of the canal as part of phase one of the project. Lewis said he hopes to launch phase two in December, which involves installing solar panels on top of more canals near Casa Blanca.

Michael Connor, the assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, called the project incredibly innovative work toward clean energy and water conservation.

"The community has helped us innovate our process for working with tribes," Conner said in a video about the signing shared on X.

Lewis said it's great to see all the plans come to fruition, and he believes that the Gila River Indian Community is setting new ground for other tribes to follow.

- Arizona Mirror

Makah Tribe nearing final answer on bid to hunt whales again

CLALLAM COUNTY, Wash. — The Makah Tribe is one step closer to returning to the water to resume its traditional hunting of gray whales off the coast of Washington.

In November, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued its final environmental impact statement that recommended the tribe hunt up to 25 whales over the course of 10 years.

It's a decision the tribe has been awaiting for nearly two decades.

Whaling has long been a central part of Makah culture. Whale hunts and the ceremonies around them are considered spiritual.

The Makah Tribe hasn't successfully hunted a gray whale since May 17, 1999. They had abandoned the practice in the 1920s over their own fears of dwindling numbers, but when they returned to their whaling practices in 1999, the Makah people were met with backlash from animal activists.

That kicked off a series of legal battles that ultimately turned into an administrative process.

The final environmental impact statement reviewed various scenarios, and ultimately showed support for a plan that would require the tribe to request a permit for each individual hunt. Hunts would have to alternate the winter/spring and summer/fall season, to reduce the risk of a specific type of endangered gray whale population that isn't meant to be included in the waiver.

In the past, Makah Tribal Chairman Timothy Greene has told FOX 13 that not returning to their traditional whale hunts was not an option.

"If it's approval, our next steps means we're preparing to get out on the water to carry out our traditions, our culture, our spiritual beliefs of who we are as Makah people," said Greene. "If it's disapproval, then that means we're going to a different approach so we can get to a place to carry out our whaling activities — that's not going to go away in our lifetime. Our future generations will carry it on."

- Fox 13 (Seattle, Wash.)

Maine governor, tribal leaders hold summit on sovereignty issues

Maine Gov. Janet Mills has met with leaders from five Wabanaki tribes to discuss possible legislation for the upcoming session that would expand the rights and jurisdiction of tribes over their own communities.

The 3 ½-hour meeting at the Blaine

House last Friday — the first annual state and tribal summit as envisioned in a law signed last year by Mills — did not result in a breakthrough in the long-running effort to restore tribal sovereignty. But the two sides agreed to keep open the lines of communication, something that did not occur last session as tribes sought to build legislative support to overcome Mills' expected vetoes.

Maulian Bryant, a tribal ambassador for the Penobscot Nation, said she was hopeful that the meeting, which took place on Nov. 17 with little fanfare and no publicity, will help tribal leaders work with the state and build on previous successes, including laws that granted tribes exclusive rights to the online sports betting market, provided tax benefits for tribal members and designated tribal liaisons through state government.

Bryant suggested that Mills continues to oppose sweeping changes to the 1980 Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act, which allows the state to treat tribes more like municipalities than sovereign nations, a status enjoyed by roughly 570 federally recognized tribes across the country. The settlement agreement ended the tribes' claims to two-thirds of the state in exchange for an \$81.5 million payment and a guarantee that state laws apply across the entire state, including tribal lands.

Rather than supporting sweeping changes to the act, Mills prefers incremental reforms to benefit tribes and has vetoed bills to restore full sovereignty to tribes and to grant tribes automatic access to benefits available under federal laws. She cites the legal complexities and potential for conflicts that would come with unwinding the 1980 agreement.

"I do think we're still coming at it from different places in a lot of instances, but it's encouraging that there's dialogue happening," Bryant said. "Taking sovereignty in incremental steps costs the tribes a lot of money and resources and time. We would prefer to amend the settlement act and mimic the efforts we have already made and were vetoed a lot of time."

Mills' office said the governor would explore possible legislation for the upcoming session, including expanding the jurisdiction of tribal courts. She also will work with tribal leaders to meet with Maine's congressional delegation to ensure tribes have access to new federal laws and benefits. The settlement act says that tribes in Maine must be specifically included in bills that automatically benefit other federally recognized tribes but may impact the state's jurisdiction.

A spokesperson for the governor said Mills had a "constructive conversation" about economic development, renewable energy development, offshore wind, fisheries regulations, state and tribal licensing, and the application of federal law to tribes, among other things.

- Portland (Maine) Press Herald

Native leaders, Democrats respond to North Dakota redistricting ruling

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — Even if the legislative map hasn't been redrawn yet, last week's ruling ordering North Dakota to redraw its legislative districts to increase Native Americans' voting power was a win for representation for Jamie Azure.

"It shows a lot of our younger generation that has that distrust of government that we don't have to settle," said Azure, chair of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. "It shows these generations if you put in the work, you can achieve it."

Much is still to be decided after a district judge ruled Nov. 17, that North Dakota's 2021 legislative redistricting effort violated the voting rights of Turtle Mountain Band and Spirit Lake Tribe members and ordered the state to redraw its legislative borders.

State officials have not indicated whether they will appeal last week's decision. Legislative leaders have not said whether they'll call for the second special session of the year to redraw the map in accordance with U.S. District Chief Judge Peter Welte's decision.

A Monday ruling from the Eighth Circuit, which includes North Dakota, could also jeopardize private parties' ability to sue under a provision of the Voting Rights Act on which the tribes' lawsuit hangs.

But the legal victory in North Dakota told Azure that people were paying attention. "It's good having the hard conversations," he said. "These things open the minds of not only Native people but also the people who want to know what it's like to be a Native in 2023."

Republican elected officials did not respond to requests for comment for this story.

Emails and phone calls to North Dakota Secretary of State Michael Howe's office on Friday and Monday were not returned. House Majority Leader Mike Lefor did not respond to email queries on Monday, nor did the North Dakota Republican Party respond to a voicemail left Monday afternoon or a subsequent email.

House Minority Leader Zachary Ista said he had not yet conferred with Lefor on whether another special session would be called, though he said he expected that conversation to take place in the coming days. The Secretary of State and Legislature have until Dec. 22 to "adopt a plan to remedy the violation" of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, according to Welte's ruling.

The two tribes unsuccessfully proposed to the Legislature a single legislative district encompassing both reservations during redistricting in 2021, and Azure said this scenario is still the Turtle Mountain Band's preference.

Ista said if the Legislature does convene to approve the map requested by the

tribes, the Democratic-NPL Party would aggressively recruit Native candidates for the redrawn districts or back an incumbent like Rep. Jayme Davis of District 9A, a subdistrict of one of two legislative districts that were the subject of the suit.

"The North Dakota Democratic-NPL has a strong tradition of allyship with Native voters in North Dakota," Ista said. "Certainly there should be a strong candidate for the House or Senate in a redrawn tribal district."

Prairie Rose Seminole of the North Dakota Native Caucus said she hopes to see multiple Native candidates run for office if the map is redrawn and elections are called in 2024.

Davis, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band, told the Herald she'd initially planned to serve one four-year term when elected in 2022, but would run for one of the new seats if an election was held in 2024.

While she said she was proud of her fellow tribe members for their work on the lawsuit, she'd focused more on a portion of Welte's ruling that focused on the broader underrepresentation of Natives in the state Legislature.

Welte's opinion noted that based on their share of North Dakota's voting-age population, Natives should hold three Senate seats and six House seats. Instead, Indigenous North Dakotans currently hold two House seats and zero Senate seats.

"That would be a great next goal — to fill three Senate seats and six House seats with the representation we should have," Davis said.

On the other hand, Republicans could instead appeal the ruling to the Eighth Circuit, which on Monday ruled there is no "private right of action" for Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act in an Arkansas racial gerrymandering case.

In essence, the Eight Circuit ruled that only the federal government could sue under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, a key provision under which the tribes sued the state in North Dakota.

Attorney Michael Carter of the Native American Rights Fund, which represented the tribes in the North Dakota lawsuit, said the tribes' case rested on different legal grounds than the Arkansas case.

"We would continue to ask for and to hope the state would do the right thing and propose (the tribes' preferred map)," he said. "The court's made it pretty clear that's what the state should be doing to comply with the Voting Rights Act."

The Democratic-NPL Party has already released a statement to the Herald attacking Republicans for the financial cost of the lawsuit.

"Republican lawmakers ignored tribal leadership and the Voting Rights Act when they drew our current legislative districts," the statement read. "Now North Dakotans will have to foot the bill for this expensive litigation and potentially for yet another special session because of their incompetence."

Ista took a softer tack, but did note both a special session and further litigation would cost the state financially.

Azure, for his part, assumed an appeal was likely. But his spirits were still buoyed. "People are watching," he said. "People are asking the right questions. ... However this all goes, it's a victory already."

- Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald

N.S. First Nations to exercise right to moderate livelihood during upcoming lobster season

For the third consecutive year, four First Nations in southwestern Nova Scotia will exercise their treaty right to fish for a moderate living when Canada's most lucrative lobster fishery opens (in November).

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans announced Nov. 20 that it has again issued an interim authorization to Wasoqopa'q (Acadia), Annapolis Valley, Bear River and Glooscap First Nations.

The "understanding" between DFO and the groups authorizes an overall number of 5,250 traps distributed across Lobster Fishing Areas (LFA) 33 and 34 which run from Halifax to Digby and LFA 35 in the upper Bay of Fundy, where there is a limit of 1,000 traps.

In 2022, DFO announced it had approved 3,500 traps for the four bands. It later quietly increased the number by 50 per cent to 5,520 traps. The allocation was never announced and the incorrect lower number remains on the DFO website.

A department spokesperson said the number of traps may be increased again this year, without notice.

"This total allocation is subject to change. The Department continues to work with the Kwiilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office on the 2023-24 fishing plan that is enabled through this interim authorization," wrote Lauren Sankey in an email.

- CBC (Canada)

Supreme Court agrees to hear San Carlos Apache appeal on health care funding

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Nov. 20 it will consider a claim by the San Carlos Apache tribe that the federal government is shortchanging it on funds it needs to operate tribal health services.

The case turns on whether the Indian Health Service should reimburse the tribe's overhead costs for health services it delivers with the support of third-party insurers, like Medicaid or private insurance. In the case of the San Carlos Apache, that amounted to \$3 million in overhead expenses over a three-

year period, according to court documents.

The IHS claims it already pays tribes an administrative fee to offer health services. Requiring it to pay overhead for services paid for by a third party would be a "sweeping" expansion of its obligations that would cut the budget for health care for "some of the most underserved tribal communities in the country."

When asked for comment, IHS said it does not comment on pending litigation. But an attorney for the tribe called the case "another effort by IHS to penalize tribal governments trying to maximize quality health care for their communities with extremely limited resources."

"On two prior occasions the Supreme Court has rejected government efforts to restrict contract support cost payments to tribes operating self-determination contracts (Cherokee Nation and Ramah Navajo)," Lloyd Miller, the attorney, said in a text message Nov. 20.

The San Carlos Apache is one of two tribes, along with the Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming, suing IHS over the agency's obligations under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Among other things, the act allowed tribes to take over operation of health services that had been provided by IHS.

In exchange, the IHS paid the tribes the cost of care it would otherwise have been providing, as well as a "contract support costs" fee to cover tribes' administrative costs.

The law also allows tribes to bill third-party insurers and keep the payments, as long as the money goes back into tribal health care. But a lower court noted that "there is a hole" in that plan, since tribes are stuck with the additional cost of processing the third-party payment.

"When Tribes operate the enlarged program, they incur increased overhead expenses, such as increased auditing and financial management costs," the San Carlos Apache said in their appeal to the Supreme Court. "If the government refuses to reimburse these overhead expenses, Tribes must divert program income away from (health care) services."

Both parties agree that IHS is woefully underfunded, leading to "persistent health disparities" in American Indian communities." According to documents in the case, IHS spends \$4,078 per capita, compared to \$8,109 for Medicaid and \$13,185 for Medicare.

But IHS claims that forcing it to pay for third-party overhead would make things worse by saddling the agency with additional costs estimated between \$800 million and \$2 billion a year.

Appeals courts in the 9th and 10th judicial circuits sided with the San Carlos Apache and the Northern Arapaho Tribe, respectively. IHS appealed to the Supreme Court, saying that if those rulings are allowed to stand, tribes that collect third-party payments "would be able to significantly expand their IHS funding" while noncontracting tribes "would likely face reduced programs or services."

The tribes agreed with IHS that the Supreme Court should hear the case and settle the issue, but that it should uphold the circuit courts' decisions.

"The Tribe's request for reimbursement of contract support costs is not a cash grab, as the government implies," the San Carlos Apache filing says. "Rather, it is the Tribe's attempt to obtain the funding it needs and deserves under the statutes to start closing the healthcare gap."

- Cronkite News (Arizona)

Native American boy forced to cut hair to comply with school hair policy, ACLU says

An 8-year-old Native American boy in Kansas was forced to cut his hair to comply with his elementary school's hair policy, according to the Kansas American Civil Liberties Union, which called the policy "discriminatory."

In a letter sent Nov. 17 to school officials with the Girard Unified School District in Girard, Kansas, and the R.V. Haderlein Elementary School, the ACLU demanded the school rescind its hair policy.

The ACLU Kansas said it wants the school to "immediately grant [the redacted student's name] an accommodation allowing him to wear his hair below his shoulders in accordance with his cultural and religious traditions."

According to the legal advocacy group, the boy is a member of the Wyandotte Nation, a federally recognized Native American Tribe based in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. The ACLU did not release the name of the child or his mother.

In August, the boy was told to cut his hair and the following month his mother asked for an exemption because of his Native American heritage and spiritual beliefs, the ACLU wrote in the letter. Many men in the Wyandotte Nation only cut their hair when mourning the loss of a loved one, the letter said.

The school's assistant principal sent an email to the boy's mother saying the boy's hair had to be cut, "or he will be sent home," the ACLU said in its letter.

According to the ACLU, the mother decided to cut the boy's hair out of fear that her son would be reprimanded and to ensure he would be able to go to school, but the decision "caused him distress."

The Wyandotte Nation said in a statement shared with CNN that the school and school district should "take a close look at its rule governing boys' hair length in light of the unique history involving Native American children."

"For centuries, tribal people have faced a siege of cultural oppression. This

oppression has taken many forms including, but not limited to, the forced cutting of Native American men and boys' hair in order to impose conformity with dominant white culture and to stifle long-held religious and traditional Native American practices and beliefs," the tribe said.

"This is a culturally sensitive issue that brings to light historical traumas for many tribal nations, beyond our own," the tribe added, referencing when Indigenous children were sent to Indian residential boarding schools.

"We hope that a respectful, culturally informed discourse between the family and the school representatives will ultimately lead to a workable resolution."

The R.V. Haderlein Elementary School student handbook has a policy specifically for male students' hair that states, "Hair is not to touch the collar of a crew neck t-shirt, cover the eyebrows, or extend below the earlobes. Ponytails, rat tails, or any other style that would circumvent the policy are not permitted."

When asked about the school's policy and the letter from the ACLU, Girard USD Superintendent Todd Ferguson told CNN the district will review the policy.

"Nothing matters more to the USD 248 district and staff than creating a safe, respectful and caring school for every student. I am unable to comment on individual students, families or employees, due to confidentiality laws," Ferguson said in an email. "I can share that the USD 248 Board of Education is planning to review and consider updates to the dress code policy when they meet on December 14th."

Jenessa Calvo-Friedman, an ACLU attorney and co-author of the letter, told CNN she appreciates that the school board is going to consider updates to the policy.

"I hope that the school district changes the policy now and takes seriously the statement that a safe, respectful and caring environment for every student is important," Calvo-Friedman said. "But also, nothing will sort of undo the fact that this little baby was forced to cut off his hair by the community that was supposed to be his own learning community."

The ACLU's letter follows a recent series of incidents regarding hair policies in schools that advocates have called discriminatory.

In Texas, a Black high school student was referred to alternative school last month over the length of his locs hairstyle, CNN previously reported.

- CNN

Feds to fund Native Hawaiian-led climate resilience program

Democratic Senator Brian Schatz, chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, announced in November \$20 million in funding for the Kapapahulau Climate Resilience Program to help the Native Hawaiian community mitigate the challenges of climate change.

"Through the Kapapahulau Climate Resilience Program, the federal government is directly funding Native Hawaiian-led climate solutions for the first time ever," Schatz said. "This \$20 million down payment — part of the Inflation Reduction Act's historic investment in climate action — recognizes the critical role of the Native Hawaiian Community in charting a path towards a sustainable, climate resilient future in Hawaii and beyond."

The Fifth U.S. National Climate Assessment, released in November, says Indigenous peoples and their knowledge will be central to the resilience of Hawaiian and Pacific Island communities addressing changing climate.

- Voice of America

New institute aims to help Native American tribes advocate for their water rights

For years, drought and development in the West have caused water shortages for Native American tribes. Now, a new institute aims to give tribes resources and training to advocate for their water rights.

The Tribal Water Institute's goal is to help tribes navigate water laws and policies, and recruit and train young Indigenous water attorneys.

The project was created by the Walton Family Foundation, a group working to protect rivers, and the Native American Rights Fund, a nonprofit law group in Colorado, where the institute will be based.

Helping tribes protect and assert water rights comes at a critical time, said David Gover, a managing attorney at the Native American Rights Fund.

"Climate change is impacting all of our communities, right?" said Gover, who is Pawnee and Choctaw. "And there becomes more competition for that resource. And, of course, the states and industries are not waiting around, right? They'll continue to find what they can and take what they can."

Gover said the institute will allow the law group to double its water staff to 14 members. Moreover, the team will publish a semiannual report to educate tribes, policymakers and attorneys about water rights cases and issues.

To date, the federal government has spent more than \$8.5 billion on 39 water rights settlements with tribes. Another \$2.5 billion has been set aside for settlements in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which passed in 2021.

Mountain West News Bureau

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DEC 6
BRETT GOLDSTEIN



DEC 7 & 8
BRUNO MARS



DEC 9
SARAH BRIGHTMAN



DEC 10
DEREK HOUGH



DEC 13
GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF SOUTH FLORIDA



DEC 14
PENTATONIX



DEC 15
JOHN MULANEY



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Education



B

Ahfachkee students learn about film industry from actor Ryan Begay

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Actor, director and screenwriter Ryan Begay was a guest motivational speaker Nov. 3 at the Ahfachkee School, where he told students about his life in the film industry.

As students were getting their hair and makeup done for their fashion show at the American Indigenous Arts Celebration later that morning, Begay shared the importance of using their voices.

"I started writing scripts to get my voice out there," said Begay (Diné), of New Mexico. "I didn't see [Native Americans] doing that."

A U.S. Air Force veteran, Begay discovered his passion for film while studying at the former Colorado Film School

in Denver. He continued his education and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. His career began behind the camera, but he started acting in 2011 and has appeared in numerous films and TV shows including "Get Shorty," "Breaking Bad," "Dark Winds," "Yellowstone" and "Rutherford Falls."

Begay told the students the film industry has an abundance of jobs behind the camera including electricians and other key roles that make productions possible.

"It's great to collaborate, like on this fashion show," he said. "It's a whole production, like film, and everyone is doing their part."

Begay spoke in the school's art room as tribal member Mya Cypress did makeup and Goldie Tom (Diné) did hair for the fashion show. He told the students not to be afraid to



Actor, director and screenwriter Ryan Begay speaks to Ahfachkee students Nov. 3 about his journey in filmmaking.

Beverly Bidney



Make-up artist and Ahfachkee alumna Mya Cypress applies makeup for students participating in the AIAC fashion show.

Beverly Bidney

ask people for help.

"If you have a vision, ask people to be a part of it," Begay said. "Everyone is here to support that, just ask."

After Begay's presentation, Ahfachkee PTA president Lenora Roberts asked Cypress, an Ahfachkee alumna, how it felt to be back at the school in a different capacity. Cypress is a make-up artist and licensed master esthetician with a studio in Boca Raton, where she stays busy doing weddings and other events.

"This is so special for me. Ahfachkee is the only school I ever attended," Cypress said. "I knew I wanted to come back and share what I learned. I feel like I've come full circle. I want to show kids that it is possible to move on and succeed."

Tom, a hair and make-up artist based in New Mexico, works in the film and fashion industries and has worked at Fashion Week

in Los Angeles, New York and Paris.

Begay recalled his emotions after his first audition and advised the students to do their best.

"I want the kids to know they are capable of doing anything they set their minds to," he said. "If they support one another, nothing can get in their way."



Beverly Bidney

Hair and make-up artist Goldie Tom does hair for Ahfachkee students before the fashion show at the American Indigenous Arts Celebration on Nov. 3.

PECS community enjoys 'Survivor Day'

STAFF REPORT

BRIGHTON — The annual Pemaayev Emahaky Charter School's "Survivor Day" is a tradition that brings students and families together for fun competition on the last day of school before the Thanksgiving break.

The event Nov. 17 consisted of wacky

challenges including a puzzle race, flippin' cones, stack attack, jump rope hero, toilet plunger ring toss, shoe scramble, hole in one, round the world football, mail run and pin up.

Students and a family member teamed up to compete. The winners of each challenge competed against each other in the final event that included a few challenges itself.

Competitors had to pull their teammate on a large garbage bag and pretend "the floor is lava" while stepping on the bag to the next challenge, a hopping garbage race and the final scootch to the finish line.

Sisters Dalysse Baker, 10, and Adryauna Baker, 20, teamed up as "Mismatch" and won the event.



Participants in PECS' "Survivor Day" hop their way to the finish line Nov. 17.

Beverly Bidney



Teammates Okalani Collins, left, and Rosa Urbina, niece and aunt, respectively, try to flip smaller cones onto the large one during the flippin' cones challenge.

Beverly Bidney



From left to right, Lason Baker and Kaliya Hodge jump their highest together as they compete in the jump rope hero challenge.

Beverly Bidney



Teammates Ken Doney, left, and Chance Madrigal compete against other teams trying to finish a puzzle first in the puzzle race.

Beverly Bidney

Anti-bullying week focuses on ‘Be a Good Human’

STAFF REPORT

The Tribe’s Health and Human Services Department hosted a “Be a Good Human” anti-bullying week Nov. 13-17. Each day represented a different theme, such as “Wear odd socks” on the first day of the week, which was used to represent differences and to promote diversity with tribal youth.

“Thoughtful Tuesday” promoted a moment to think about someone who has had a positive impact on their life and to let them know about it.

“We-Fie Wednesday” promoted taking a group selfie photo with someone who has supported or will support you if need be.

Thursday consisted of two themes, “Unraveling the threads of time” and “When the good guys win.” “Unraveling the threads of time” was used to show understanding the history of bullying and importance of healing, which was followed by a webinar facilitated by the Native Wellness Institute. “When the good guys win” was a bullying movie marathon which focused on empowerment and resilience.

Friday’s “Run, Walk, Roll” was a group walk with tribal youth that sent a message moving towards a bully-free community.

“Project AWARE’s ‘Be a Good Human’ anti-bullying week aimed to empower the community against bullying, fostering kindness and inclusivity. We hoped everyone that participated learned that by standing together, they can make a difference, creating a safer, more compassionate community for everyone,” said Franchesca Meyers, AWARE program manager for the tribe.

AWARE stands for “Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education.”



Above and below, a group walk on the Hollywood Reservation Nov. 17 wraps up the anti-bullying week activities.

Calvin Tiger (3)



Thanksgiving lunch for Brighton employees



Beverly Bidney

Center for Behavioral Health employees Emily Kern, left, and Cathy Barber at the Brighton employee Thanksgiving luncheon Nov. 17.



Beverly Bidney

Jo Johns, left, and Joanie Johnson, who work in the Brighton Council Office, distributed gifts to employees attending the luncheon.



Beverly Bidney

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Creek language instructor Janelle Leitner, left, and Chairman’s Brighton office manager Jessica Billie enjoy the employee luncheon in the gym.



Beverly Bidney

Sheri Holmes, Natural Resources Department office manager, left, and Lucy Bowers, Brighton Board Representative assistant, have some fun at the employee Thanksgiving luncheon.

Tribal Water Institute created

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON – The Native American Rights Fund and the Walton Family Foundation announced Nov. 13 the creation of the Tribal Water Institute. It will provide tribal nations resources and training to advocate for their water rights and develop water policy solutions. The Walton Family Foundation is making a three-year, \$1.4 million commitment to launch the Institute. It will be housed within the Native American Rights Fund.

“Addressing the West’s significant water challenges requires an all-hands on deck approach. Tribal nations must be included in water decision making,” Moira Medonald, environment program director of the Walton Family Foundation, said in a press release. “Tribal nations often have the most senior water rights in the Colorado River Basin and throughout the West. But they are under-represented in federal and state policy discussions. That is unjust and unwise. We need to listen to their voices. More inclusive decision-making will lead to greater benefits for the environment and society as a whole.”

The Native American Rights Fund has a long history of representing tribal nations on water rights. The Tribal Water Institute will double their water staffing. They will be able to take on more casework. It will also build a pipeline of new leaders and develop research and forward-thinking policy proposals.

“The Tribal Water Institute helps fill a critical gap,” David Gover, Native American Rights Fund staff attorney, said in the release. “It will provide legal support, train water attorneys, develop policy ideas, and educate state and federal decision makers. By increasing law and policy expertise within tribal nations, we can help Indian Country ensure water is available for generations to come.”

For more information go to narf.org.



Courtesy photo
From left to right, at a tour of Alton Southern Highlands in Las Vegas, are Chucky Osceola, Alicia Cabal, Naomi Fewell, Barbara Osceola, Anna Osceola, Dora Tiger, Edna Bowers, Rosie Grant, Verna Billie and Patrick Doctor.

Seniors tour tribe's SemREF property in Las Vegas

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

A group of Hollywood seniors from the Seminole Tribe spent Oct. 23-30 enjoying Las Vegas's offerings, including a show and a concert. They also explored one of the tribe's real estate properties in its Sovereign Wealth Fund.

Alton Southern Highlands, which features one-, two- and three-bedroom apartment homes in a master-planned community in the southern part of Las Vegas, is owned by the tribe's real estate fund, known as SemREF. The group of about 40 – including seniors, spouses, chaperones and staff – toured the four-story property, which was built in 2022 and features 228 units. They saw the common areas, including a fitness center, clubhouse, pool, business center and a resident speakeasy.

"They seemed very interested in the property and were pleased with what they saw," said Jonathan Levy, SemREF executive director. "When we heard they were going to Las Vegas, Tribal Council wanted to show the property. We have been trying to build greater engagement for the tribal community to see where their investments are going."

The mission of SemREF, which began in 2020 as the real estate investment vehicle for the tribe, is to enhance the intergenerational wealth of the tribe. SemREF invests in rental apartment properties located in major markets. The goal is to generate sustainable and verifiable annual income along with long-term asset appreciation.

The fund has invested about \$300 million in 11 properties across the country so far, including Atlanta, Charlotte, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Tampa and the Seattle area.

All of the properties are Class A, boutique, mid-rise buildings with 150 to 300 units. Levy said the sizes of the properties are small enough to create a community that people want to live in and renew their leases. Community managers, aka property managers, organize events to encourage residents to interact.

"It fosters a real sense of community," Levy said. "There is an entire social calendar so residents can stay involved."

Since all the buildings share the same SemREF property management, SemREF portfolio manager Chris Pagan said if someone needs to relocate to another city



Courtesy photo
A kitchen at Alton Southern Highlands.



Courtesy photo
Alton Southern Highlands is located at 3030 Robert Trent Jones Lane in Las Vegas.

they can feel confident of the quality of the building they may choose to move into.

"We want to make their moves seamless," Pagan said. "We aim for consistency across the brand."

Sen. Jon Tester, Democrat of Montana,

of fentanyl appears and comes back at us with even deadlier effects," Hillaire said.

Tribes in Washington state have called on Gov. Jay Inslee to declare a public health emergency over the opioid crisis.

Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington state, who pushed for the hearing, asked about the relationship between federal law enforcement relations and tribes.

"What I feel and hear from the Lummi (Nation) is that without the adequate tribal resources, I almost feel that Indian Country is being targeted," Cantwell said.

Hillaire said that there are issues with jurisdiction. A U.S. Supreme Court case in the 1970s limited the ability of tribes to prosecute non-Natives who commit crimes in Indian Country. In 2021, the Supreme Court ruled that tribal officers have the authority to detain non-Natives suspected of committing crimes on reservations until non-Native law enforcement arrives, but the authority to detain can only go so far.

asked Bryce Kirk, the councilman for the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, what happens if someone is caught selling drugs on a reservation, and they are non-Native.

Kirk, of Poplar, Montana, said that if the nearest county can't take in that person, then tribal police have to let them go.

Tester asked what action Congress could take.

"Give us the criminal jurisdiction to be able to charge them in tribal court, so we're able to hold them in our jails," Kirk said.

Federal funding needed

Jamie Azure, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and chair of the tribe in North Dakota, said federal funding for treatment centers is crucial to combating fentanyl addiction.

Azure and Kirk added that there needs to be a better investment in mental health.

Kirk said that in all the reservations across Montana, a leading cause of death is

Brighton, Hollywood water treatment plants win awards

BY CALVIN TIGER
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe's Public Works Department recently won multiple awards from their regions of the Florida chapter of the American Water Works Association (AWWA).

The water treatment plant on the Hollywood Reservation won the 2023 most improved plant award and a 2024 award for best drinking water taste. Meanwhile, the Brighton Reservation plant won best tasting drinking water award in its region.

The AWWA is an international, nonprofit, scientific and educational association with a stated mission to improve drinking water. The Florida chapter consists of 12 different regions, including region VI in southeast Florida, which includes the Hollywood water plant, and Region VIII in east central Florida, which includes the Brighton water plant.

The plants have won several awards in the past in their quest to provide the best quality of water to the reservations.

Hollywood also won first place in a USET drinking water taste contest for the

second year in a row. It's also captured most outstanding and safety awards in recent years.

"We take a lot of pride in our water treatment plant at the Hollywood Reservation. Our goal is to ensure the Seminole Tribe has the very best quality of water and these awards are evidence of our progress," said Bryan Fogle, a Public Works water plant operator on the Hollywood Reservation.

Brighton has now won eight best tasting drinking water awards, including six from the AWWA chapter (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023). Brighton won the 2023 award competing against a field of utilities that included the City of Stuart, Fellsmere, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, Indian River County, Martin County, Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, St. Lucie West, South Martin Regional and Vero Beach.

Jason Kite, a Public Works water plant operator in Brighton, praised the hard work and dedication of the treatment operators who helped to achieve the award.

"Feels good because the dedication that the water treatment operators give to produce great water results are awarded with the best drinking water awards," he said.



Courtesy photo
The Brighton water treatment plant won an AWWA Florida regional award for best drinking water in its region.



Courtesy photo
Public Works' Robert Rossi holds an AWWA Florida regional award that the Hollywood Reservation's water plant recently earned.



Courtesy photo
From left to right, Bryan Fogle, Rudy Garcia, and Bassem Sanaallah hold an award won by the Hollywood Reservation water treatment plant.

Fireworks show to be held in Immokalee

FROM PRESS RELEASE

IMMOKALEE — Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee will light up the sky with "Celebration in the Sky," Jan. 13, 2024, at 9 p.m. The fireworks display will be choreographed to lights and a custom soundtrack. Violinist Timothee Lovelock, who is nationally recognized for his one-of-

a-kind violin and DJ shows, will perform.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early. Parking at Seminole Casino Hotel will be limited, with clearly identified overflow parking nearby. All ages are welcome and admission is free. Guests should bring their own chairs to the viewing area for the show. Food and beverage options will be available for purchase at the event.

found that culture is essential to recovery and resilience.

"Having our traditional ways, and that may be very different for many of our different communities," she said. "Drumming, dancing, song, traditional ceremonies, bringing in our community, our elders. Culture is essential."

This story is via Source New Mexico and Creative Commons.

Tribal leaders ask Congress for help with fentanyl crisis in Native American communities

BY ARIANA FIGUEROA

WASHINGTON — Leaders of Native American tribes detailed the fentanyl crisis in Indigenous communities during a U.S. Senate hearing Nov. 8.

"This growing crisis is rooted in the longstanding structural inequities in Native communities," said Sen. Brian Schatz, Democrat of Hawaii, who chairs the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

Alaska GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski said she was disturbed that Alaska Native populations have some of the highest fentanyl overdose and death rates.

Tony Hillaire of Washington state, chair of the Lummi Indian Business Council — the governing body of the Lummi Nation — said tribal leaders are not only battling fentanyl, but are coming across another drug called Carfentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is 100 times more lethal than fentanyl.

"Just when we think we have a grasp on how we are handling this drug epidemic and reducing harm, a new, more robust version

of fentanyl appears and comes back at us with even deadlier effects," Hillaire said.

Tribes in Washington state have called on Gov. Jay Inslee to declare a public health emergency over the opioid crisis.

Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington state, who pushed for the hearing, asked about the relationship between federal law enforcement relations and tribes.

"What I feel and hear from the Lummi (Nation) is that without the adequate tribal resources, I almost feel that Indian Country is being targeted," Cantwell said.

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Sen. Jon Tester, Democrat of Montana,

asked Bryce Kirk, the councilman for the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, what happens if someone is caught selling drugs on a reservation, and they are non-Native.

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Federal funding needed

Jamie Azure, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and chair of the tribe in North Dakota, said federal funding for treatment centers is crucial to combating fentanyl addiction.

Azure and Kirk added that there needs to be a better investment in mental health.

Kirk said that in all the reservations across Montana, a leading cause of death is

suicide. He urged Congress to include the president's request of \$80 million for fiscal year 2024 to support Native behavioral health and substance abuse disorder programs.

Kirk told senators that there needs to be more support within the Indian Health Service for treatment because there is currently only one outpatient treatment facility on his reservation.

"While I acknowledge this is more than many reservations have," he said, "it is not enough... many people on our reservation need inpatient treatment."

Hillaire told senators that when tribal members want treatment, "too often, we must turn them away because we do not have beds or capacity."

He said that the Lummi Nation has raised about \$15 million to build a "culturally attuned detox center," but that they need an additional \$12 million.

Claradina Soto, an associate professor at the University of Southern California who studies behavioral science, said that in her research with Native communities, she's

Big Cypress holds Indigenous Resilience Celebration luncheon

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress community commemorated the fall season at the Indigenous Resilience Celebration luncheon Nov. 14 in the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium. Bingo, raffles and lunch were all on the menu for the event.



Beverly Bidney
President Holly Tiger, standing, visits with Ayze Henry and her daughter Ada Bruised Head at the Indigenous Resilience Celebration Nov. 14.



Beverly Bidney
Tonia Cypress displays a T-shirt with an appropriate slogan for the Indigenous Resilience Celebration luncheon.



Beverly Bidney
Darah Cypress and her baby L. B. Baker enjoy playing bingo at the Indigenous Resilience Celebration.



Beverly Bidney
Migathe Osceola helps his daughter Lottie Osceola, 1, learn how to walk.



Damon Scott
Paul Buster plays guitar in the ballroom at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

Seniors celebrate Thanksgiving in Hollywood Nov. 13



Damon Scott
Jeanette Cypress, left, and Mary Jene Koenes enjoy the day.



Damon Scott
Sandy Billie stands behind his wife Betty before the festivities begin



Damon Scott
Patrick Doctor Sr., left, and his wife Colleen get into the Thanksgiving spirit.



Damon Scott
Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie attended the event.



Damon Scott
Moses B. Osceola poses with a scarecrow friend in the ballroom.

Seminole Casino Coconut Creek to host upcoming events

FROM PRESS RELEASE

COCONUT CREEK — The following special events are scheduled to be held at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek:

Fireworks show by Grucci

Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. (entertainment runs 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.).

The sky will light up in celebration of the addition of craps, roulette and sportsbook at the casino. The fireworks viewing area will be located at the East driveway area parallel to 54th Ave. (along front of Sunset Grill, East Exit, Fresh Harvest). Admission is free and the event is open to the public. Invited guests are eligible to watch from a reserved seating area, which requires RSVP.

Tesla

Tesla is scheduled to hit The Stage at Coco on Jan. 14, 2024, at 8 p.m. Visit ticketmaster.com for ticket information.

Created in the mid-1980s, California-based Tesla features a bluesy, soulful sound

that is strongly embedded in the roots of organic, authentic, 1970s rock and roll, similar to the roots that produced bands like The Allman Brothers, Grand Funk Railroad, AC/DC, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and Aerosmith.

Their debut album in 1986 earned platinum.

In 1990, TESLA helped reshape the face of modern rock music by stripping down to the Five Man Acoustical Jam, an informal collection of their biggest hits peppered with rock and roll classics by the Beatles, Stones, and others. This album produced their biggest hit single to date, a cover of Five Man Electrical Band's "Signs."

Jo Dee Messina

The Stage at Coco will host the Jo Dee Messina: Heads Carolina, Tails California Tour as the second stop on her tour Feb. 4, 2024, at 7 p.m. Go to jodeemessina.com/tour for ticket information.

The country star has been nominated for "Musical Event of the Year" at the upcoming CMA Awards.

Thomas Rhett to play Tampa as new games debut

FROM PRESS RELEASE

TAMPA — Thomas Rhett will take the stage at Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa at 8 p.m. on Dec. 8, the same day that the resort will launch craps, roulette and sports betting.

Tickets start at \$99. For more information go to seminolehardrocktampa.com or ticketmaster.com.

Rhett has 21 number one singles, 15 billion streams and the longest current active streak of consecutive No. 1's in the format (Mediabase/CountryAircheck Chart). His most recent sixth studio album is "Where We Started."

Rhett has been honored with eight ACM Awards including Entertainer of the Year, two CMA Awards, five Grammy Awards nominations, plus trophies from the CMT Music Awards, Billboard Awards and iHeart Radio Awards, in addition to being recognized with four CMA Triple Play awards for penning three number one songs within a 12-month period. The hitmaker has also launched a tequila brand, Dos Primos, now offering Blanco, Reposado and Añejo variants. For more information, visit ThomasRhett.com.



Courtesy photo
Thomas Rhett

Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade set for Dec. 16

FROM PRESS RELEASE

FORT LAUDERDALE — The Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade will be held Dec. 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in downtown Fort Lauderdale. A pre-show starts at 6 p.m.

The parade will stage on the New River in downtown Fort Lauderdale, along the docks west of Stranahan House to the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Participating boats will be adorned with hundreds of thousands of lights, music, entertainment, decorations, celebrities, musical groups, beauty queens and many other entries.

The parade's grand marshal reception will be held Dec. 15 from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Seminole Ballroom at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

Boyz II Men will serve as this year's grand marshals.

Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis will give the co-grand marshals a key to the city. Riverwalk Inc. will present a brick in their names for the Riverwalk Celebrity Walk of Fame on the banks of the staging area of the parade.

For more information, visit winterfestparade.com.

Hollywood's fall festival brings out Halloween spirit Oct. 31



Damon Scott

From left to right are Avynn Holata, Maycee Holata and Taylor Holata.



Damon Scott

The Hollywood Preschool Department created a Barbie-themed booth for kids and adults. From left to right are Dana Rolle, LaToshia Huell, Marantha LaConte, Dorothy Williams, Tanya Gibson and Tommy Doud.



Damon Scott

Grayson Jackson, left, visits Ms. Bre at the Boys & Girls Club booth.



Damon Scott

Konstance Sanchez is all smiles.



Damon Scott

Employees from the Children's Center for Diagnostics and Therapy dress in their Halloween best.

◆ AIAC From page 1A

"She let us loose with our imagination and we brought Native Alaskans here," Wareham said. "2005 was the year of Hurricane Wilma. We lost electricity, but had it restored really fast. It was the first festival after the hurricane and 700 tribal, non-tribal and veterans attended."

Since 2012, when Paul Backhouse, senior director of Heritage and Environment

Resources Office, was at the museum, the AIAC has continued to grow and bring in other tribes, Indigenous art, artists and performers.

In 2022, Everett Osceola, founder of the Native Reel Cinema Festival, wanted to bring the Maori in for another event, which led to discussions with the museum. The group traveled halfway around the world to participate in the AIAC. Wareham said the AIAC isn't just about Seminole culture.

"The Maori asked what it means to be Indigenous," Wareham said. "Our stories are

our common bonds. Let's celebrate everyone being Indigenous. We are all Indigenous to somewhere, so let's celebrate us all as a people and have the world come together from both sides of the Earth; not just Native Americans, but all communities."

Attendance was expected to be higher than previous years thanks to a vibrant social media presence.

"Our social media has increased 247% since last year," Wareham said. "The eyes of America are on us right now, right here."



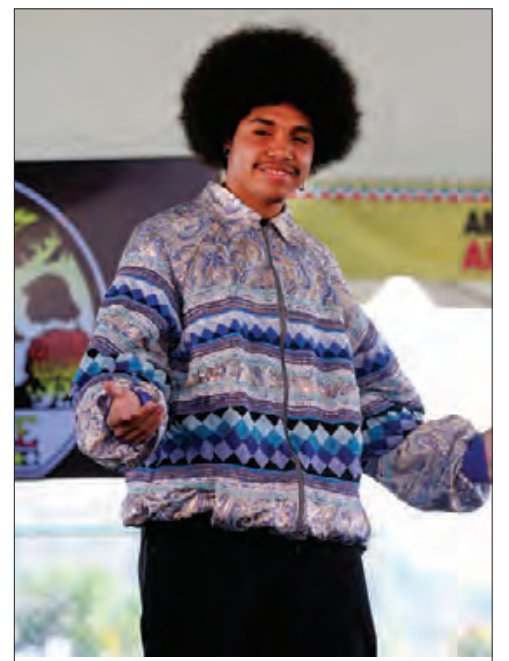
Beverly Bidney

Tribal and non-tribal students in the audience learned some traditional Maori dance moves after the Maori performance at AIAC.



Beverly Bidney

Native Pride dancers are joined by Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie, third from right, and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Tahnna Billie, second from right, during a friendship dance. Many AIAC attendees also joined in and created a large "spiraling circle of friendship."



Beverly Bidney (3)

From left to right, Ahfachkee students Vanessa Osceola Garcia, Curmya Smith and Zechariah Stockton model Seminole clothing at the AIAC fashion show.



Beverly Bidney

Mary Sanchez, foreground, spent some time shopping at the AIAC vendor displays.



Beverly Bidney

A shawl dancer performs in front of students.

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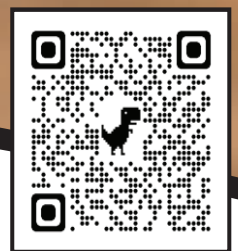
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Sports



Okeechobee standout Carriss Johns earns all-district honor

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Throughout the high school football season, Okeechobee coach BJ Pryor sent weekly emails to the media, highlighting top performers from the Brahms most recent games.

One name that showed up in the inbox week in and week out was Carriss Johns. The Seminole descendent capped off his fourth and final season with the Brahms while earning accolades and praise along the way.

Johns and quarterback Ni'marion Bryant were the only two Brahms named all-district. Johns made the squad as a running back.

In nine games, Johns racked up 643 yards on 111 carries. He scored six touchdowns as Okeechobee produced its first winning season (6-4) since 2016.

It was a remarkable turnaround for a team that won just one game in each of the past two seasons.

"Carriss was one of the major reasons we had a winning season," Pryor said. "His dedication, leadership, football IQ, athletic abilities, and his pure love for the game will be hard to replace offensively, defensively, and special teams."

Indeed, Johns' versatility allowed him to be an all-around presence on the field and help the team in several positions. He

was a four-year starting running back and linebacker.

Some of his top games on offense included

- 105 rushing yards, two rushing touchdowns and two two-point conversions in a 40-13 win against Lake Placid on Oct. 20.

- Three solo tackles and six total tackles against Immokalee on Oct. 6.

- 10 carries for 128 yards in a win against St. Edwards on Aug. 31.

Pryor said Johns plans to play football in college and is weighing his options.

"He will be a valuable asset to any college program," Pryor said. "Carriss has the grades and the test scores to add to his resume."

Pryor said it will be tough to replace Johns.

"Carriss will be sorely missed by his coaching staff and his teammates. It was an honor to watch him play and coach him," he said.

Santana Alvarez

Santana Alvarez, another Seminole descendent, was among the 11 Brahms nominated for all-district honors. Although he wasn't selected for all-district, the senior cornerback compiled a season that received plenty of attention from the coaching staff.

"Santana's 2023 season was also one of the major reasons we were successful,"

Pryor said. "He has those intangibles like his teammate Carriss, leadership, dedication, football IQ, and the love of the game. His physical presence as tackler and shutdown corner will be hard to replace."

One of Alvarez's highlights this season came in the waning moments of a 48-0 win against Ambassador Christian. He kept the shutout intact with an interception.

In addition to the interception, Alvarez made 15 tackles this season (including 11 solo) and recovered two fumbles.

Alvarez was a four-year varsity player. Similar to Johns, Alvarez is considering his college football options, Pryor said.

"Santana will also be missed by his coaches and teammates. He has plans to play at the next level and his grades and test scores are impressive," Pryor said.



OHS/Facebook
Carriss Johns

Lexi Foreman starts third season with UCO

STAFF REPORT

After a rough start, the University of Central Oklahoma women's basketball team notched its first win of the season Nov. 22. UCO defeated Oklahoma Christian 89-75 in Edmond to up its record to 1-5.

The Seminole Tribe's Lexi Foreman played five minutes and snagged one rebound.

Foreman, a guard, is in her third season at UCO. Last season she played in 24 of 30 games and made 12 starts. She averaged 3

points and 2.5 rebounds per game and shot 70.8 percent from the free-throw line.

She excelled in the classroom. She earned a conference academic excellence award, which requires a minimum 4.0 GPA. UCO is coming off an 11-17 season.

Foreman is one of eight juniors on the squad.

Foreman opened this season playing a season-high 16 minutes and she scored 7 points in a two-point loss to the University of Mary.



UCO

Lexi Foreman (#31) is in her third season playing for the University of Central Oklahoma women's basketball team

PECS girls start basketball season on winning note

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

A young Pematv Emahakv Charter School girls basketball team – with just three eighth graders – made a successful season debut Nov. 16 at West Glades Middle School.

PECS sprinted to a 19-0 lead and went on to post a comfortable 36-12 win.

PECS coach Jovanny Torres used all 13 of his players as the team spread around the scoring. Jalene Smith led the way with seven points, followed by Azariah Washington and Cordelia Snell (6 each), Kulipa Julian (5), Eri'Mya McQueen (4), Jaiden Fludd (3) and Margaria Fudge, Neveah Gopher and Eleanor Osceola (2 each).

Torres said he is using a similar approach and systems with this team as he did when he was Okeechobee High School's head varsity coach. So far he likes what he sees.

"They are really doing a great job of understanding the defensive responsibilities in our full court trap and zone defense," he said. "It took them a full two weeks at practice to learn and understand their responsibilities. They are learning some of the same things I taught in high school, so when they get there in a couple years, they will be well prepared."

West Glades edged PECS in the boys game that followed the girls game.

December will be a busy month for PECS' boys and girls. They have seven games in a 17-day period, starting Dec. 4 with a home game against Yearling. Other games in the month are Dec. 5 at LaBelle, Dec. 11 at home versus Clewiston, Dec. 13 at Moore Haven and home games against West Glades (Dec. 19), Osceola (Dec. 20) and LaBelle (Dec. 21) to end the calendar year.



Beverly Bidney

PECS' stingy defense, led by Margaria Fudge (0), Jaiden Fludd (4), Melaine Bonilla and Cordelia Snell (11), closely guard a West Glades Middle School player Nov. 16. PECS allowed only 12 points in its victory.



Beverly Bidney

PECS' Melaine Bonilla eludes a West Glades player while keeping control of the ball.



Beverly Bidney

PECS' Kulipa Julian gains position in the lane as she drives toward the basket.

Jacoby Johns, Norman Osceola lead Seminoles at INFR

STAFF REPORT

The Seminole Tribe was well represented at the Indian National Finals Rodeo that was held Oct.24-28 in Las Vegas.

Jacoby Johns produced the best finish among Seminoles with fourth overall in bareback.

Norman Osceola also had an outstanding INFR. He finished sixth in bull riding, which included a tie for second place in round 3.

Ahnie Jumper earned second place in round three's ladies breakaway. Her time of 2.56 seconds was just one-hundredth of a second from first place.

Other Seminoles who competed included Kalgary Johns Motlow (barrel racing) and Josh Jumper (team roping).

INFR's champions were:

All Around Cowboy: Hiyo Yazzie, Navajo Nation

All Around Cowgirl: Tara Seaton, Navajo Nation

Bareback: Evan Betony, Navajo Nation

Ladies Breakaway: Janae Todacheenie, Navajo Nation

Ladies Barrel Racing: Graysen O'Connor, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Steer Wrestling: Tydon Tsoie, Navajo Nation

Tie Down: Dontre' Goff, Cherokee Nation

Team Roping, Header: They Begay, Navajo Nation

Team Roping, Heeler: Dennison Boone, Navajo Nation

Saddle Bronc Rider: Cash Wilson

Bull Rider: JaCauy Hal

INFR Jr./Sr. World Champions

Jr. Bull Riding: Royd Billie, Navajo Nation

Jr. Breakaway: Tanner Not Afraid, Crow Tribe

Jr. Barrel Racing: Graysen O'Connor, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Sr. Breakaway: Alfred Armajo Jr., Arapahoe Tribe

Sr. Team Roping, Header: Jimmy Roper, Cherokee Nation

Sr. Team Roping, Heeler: Ralph Williams, Cherokee Nation



Jacoby Johns is in control as he competes in bareback at the Indian National Finals Rodeo.



Norman Osceola shows good form on a bull at INFR.



Kalgary Johns and her horse make a clean turn around a barrel in ladies barrel racing.



Ahnie Jumper and her horse come out of the gate in ladies breakaway at INFR.



Josh Jumper competes in team roping.



The 2023-24 Ottawa University women's bowling team includes the Seminole Tribe's Allie Williams, sitting in the first row at left.

Allie Williams bowls for high ranked Ottawa

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The Ottawa University women's bowling team, which includes the Seminole Tribe's Allie Williams, was ranked No. 5 in the first NAIA ratings.

"These rankings are fun to look at and they get a good conversation started," head coach Geoff Poston said in a statement. "In the end, we know what we need to do and we know where we want to be at the end of the season. We need to continue to put out good outings, and the rest will take care of itself. The ranking that matters the most is the one at the beginning of March."

Williams is a sophomore who competed in seven tournaments last season as a freshman. She had an overall average of 177.88 and earned one All Tournament honor.

In high school, Williams was a standout at Neshoba Central in Mississippi, where she earned First Team All State three times and was on several state championship teams.

Through the first month of the season, the team had two second place finishes in tournaments, a sixth place finish and an 11th place finish. The runner-up finishes have come at the Bronco Open in Nebraska and the Jayhawk Collegiate Challenge in Kansas.

The NAIA releases four in-season national RPI rankings throughout the year for bowling with the final set of rankings scheduled for March 1. The RPI rankings are used for seeding and at-large selection at the NAIA national championships.

Ottawa returns to action Dec. 18 for the first of two tournaments in Las Vegas.

Lexi Thomas, Yani Smith help OHS to memorable season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

JENSEN BEACH — Despite a season-ending loss to its nemesis – Jensen Beach – the Okeechobee High School varsity volleyball team departed the FHSAA playoffs with plenty of good vibes thanks to one of its best seasons ever.

Head coach Jerry Veloz described the seasons for the program's three teams as "phenomenal." The varsity went 17-9, which included an eight-match winning streak and its first appearance in a regional final since 2003. The junior varsity finished 18-5 and the new freshman squad went undefeated with a 9-0 record.

The varsity, which includes Seminoles Lexi Thomas and Yani Smith, reached the championship games in the district tournament and the regional playoff bracket. Both times Jensen Beach thwarted the Brahmins as it also did in the teams' lone regular season meeting.

In the FHSAA playoffs, Okeechobee defeated Hialeah and Archbishop McCarthy to reach the Class 5A regional final, believed to be only the second time in team history that Okeechobee has advanced to regional finals. On Nov. 1 at Jensen Beach High School, Okeechobee knotted the score against the hosts, 14-14, in game one on a service point by Thomas, but Jensen Beach won the next five points and captured the set 25-19. Jensen Beach cruised to a 25-15 win in the second set, but Okeechobee was determined not to let its season end without a battle. The Brahmins were even with Jensen Beach for a good chunk of set three before succumbing 25-15.

Thomas, the team's setter and a defensive specialist, played nearly the entire match; Smith did not play.

Thomas is a senior who was a standout in her final season.

"Lexi was a crucial part of our offense and defense this season as she led the team in assists (285) and contributed 101 digs," Veloz said. "Lexi brought great energy during our games,

pushing the players to do better – overall a great teammate – and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to coach her in her final season."

Smith is a sophomore middle blocker/hitter. Veloz said he sees plenty of potential in her game.

"Yani was an amazing player this season on and off the bench averaging 1.2 kills and 0.3 blocks assist. What's most impressive about Yani is her charisma and willingness to learn by pushing herself. I'm looking forward to seeing her grow in the sport," Veloz said.

Veloz's coaching staff included varsity assistant and tribal member Amanda Julian. Veloz said he's grateful for the job his entire staff did this season.

"I would like to give a big thank you to the coaching staff as they are the rock that helps this program grow, coach Amanda Julian, coach Kalani Karrati, coach Carrie Heineman, and our newest member, coach Kailyn Duyen," said Veloz, who also praised the parents of the players and the school administrators for their support.



Kevin Johnson

The Seminole Tribe was well represented on the Okeechobee High School varsity team with players Yani Smith, left, and Lexi Thomas, center, along with assistant coach Amanda Julian. The Brahmins finished as a regional runner-up.



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee wrapped up its season with a 3-1 loss to Jensen Beach in a regional final. Lexi Thomas is holding the runner-up trophy.

PECS From page 1C



Beverly Bidney

PECS' Logan French (3) wins a battle for the ball in the paint against West Glades.

2023-24 PECS girls basketball

- Melaine Bonilla
- Jaiden Fludd
- Elainna Fonseca
- Zoie Foster-Snow
- Margarita Fudge
- Kulipa Julian
- Eri-Mya McQueen
- Eleanor Osceola
- Jalene Smith
- Cordelia Snell
- Azariah Washington
- Neveah Gopher
- Shaela Isaac
- Caysie Platt
- Ciani Smith
- Jaelee Weimann
- Head coach: Jovanny Torres

2023-24 PECS boys basketball

- Liam Berry
- Amani Billie
- Damahni Bonilla
- Landon French
- Josiah Gopher
- Gus Jumper
- Chance Madrigal
- Derrick McQueen
- Kowi Osceola
- Milo Osceola
- Storm Osceola
- Silas Snow
- Zaden Spencer
- Head coach: Preston Baker



Beverly Bidney

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School coach Preston Baker talks to his players during a break.

Greg James shines in Moore Haven's regional final

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

NAPLES — The Moore Haven High School football team wasn't victorious on the scoreboard in a Class 1S regional final Nov. 24 against First Baptist Academy in Naples, but Terriers' offensive lineman Greg James, a Seminole, won battles in the trenches.

Moore Haven was held scoreless in a 35-0 setback and ended its season with a 7-4 record. James, and other young players around him, showed why Moore Haven's future should be bright.

Although he's a freshman, the 6-foot-3, 255-pound James didn't look out of place against one of Southwest Florida's top teams. He started on the right side of the offensive line and helped protect freshman quarterback Tykeem Paseler and pave the way for decent runs by sophomore running back Daquon Adderly and senior running back Zailin Jackson.

Frequently, Moore Haven opted to run the ball on James' side. Fueled by their running game, the Terriers produced a couple decent drives in the first half. James did his job blocking on a 4th down and one that resulted in a first down on a run to his side.

Moore Haven's hopes of advancing to the state semifinals were dashed in the first half due in part to a few costly penalties, a blocked punt and a momentum-killing TD pass on a 4th down and 22 that came right after the Terriers made a 15-yard sack.

The tribe's Waylon Yates, a sophomore lineman who saw action on both sides of the ball this season, did not start or play in the first half against First Baptist Academy.

Moore Haven won its playoff opener, a 28-14 upset against Community School of Naples, which had lost just one game.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven offensive lineman Greg James provides pass protection for quarterback Tykeem Paseler in a Class 1S regional final against First Baptist Academy in Naples on Nov. 24. James and Paseler are freshmen.



Kevin Johnson

At left, Waylon Yates (No. 60) and Greg James (No. 52) warm up prior to the start of Moore Haven's game against First Baptist Academy. Above, James, center, gets set on the offensive line.

Sports keep BC kids busy during break

STAFF REPORT

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress Recreation Department kept kids busy during Thanksgiving week, Nov. 20-22, with a variety of fun activities during its Thanksgiving camp. On Nov. 21, kids tried

their skills at archery and golf in the morning and had a pool party and barbeque lunch in the afternoon.

Other activities scheduled for the camp included fishing, skate park games and a trip to Dave & Buster's.



Beverly Bidney

Jayceon Billie, in foreground, and Ada Bruised Head, in background, hit golf balls at the reservation's driving range during Big Cypress Recreation's Thanksgiving camp.



Beverly Bidney

Campers line up and take aim at a row of targets during archery class at the Big Cypress golf driving range Nov. 21.



Beverly Bidney

Above, a group of campers share a laugh as they await their turns at the driving range.



Beverly Bidney

Jake Osceola helps Santino Tiger aim the bow and arrow during Thanksgiving camp.



Beverly Bidney

Lakota Correa learns how to retrieve his arrow from the target.



Beverly Bidney

Hallee Martinez drives the golf ball far down the driving range during Thanksgiving camp.



Beverly Bidney

Campers enjoy a pool party during the Big Cypress Recreation Thanksgiving camp.

Goalie mask designer says NHL ban ignores Indigenous Peoples

BY MARK COLLEY
Toronto Star

Minnesota Wild goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury planned to wear a custom-designed mask for the team's Native American Heritage Night to honour his wife, who is Indigenous. Instead, the NHL tried to quash the tribute.

Mdewakanton Dakota artist Cole Redhorse Taylor designed the mask for Fleury to wear Nov. 24. He told the Star the league's decision ignores the importance of acknowledging Indigenous Peoples.

"What they don't realize is ... they're being racist towards Indigenous Peoples without intentionally doing so," Taylor said. "We were exiled from our homelands. My ancestors were executed for defending our rights to exist ... That's something that I feel a lot of institutions really don't think about when they have to make these really hard decisions."

According to Fleury's agent Allan Walsh, Fleury had planned to pay a league fine and wear the mask despite the ban. The NHL then threatened the Wild with an "additional significant fine," Walsh posted on X. In the end, Fleury did wear it during warm-ups, an apparent violation of the league's policy, but didn't get the start in the Nov. 24 game against the Colorado

Avalanche.

The mask was added to the Wild's Native American Heritage Auction, which also includes themed Minnesota jerseys signed by players. Bidding reached more than \$5,000 (U.S.) before game time.

The NHL banned specialty jerseys in games and warm-ups prior to this season. The league also barred players from using Pride tape on their sticks, but walked that back after weeks of outcry from players and fans.

Taylor said his tribe, the Prairie Island Indian Community, chose him to design Fleury's mask after an application process. He decided on flowers with a white base and yellow, red and magenta petals since floral designs are important to the Dakota people. He later learned Fleury's nickname is Flower.

He presented it to Fleury at practice on Nov. 22, then learned via social media that the goalie might not be able to wear it in games or practice. He said he hadn't heard from Fleury about the league's decision.

"It is unfortunate, but I'm still very thankful for the whole opportunity," Taylor said. "It meant a lot for me to represent my community, represent my people."

He said the project was an opportunity to acknowledge "the first people of the land, when so much was taken from us."

That includes the Dakota War of 1862,



Alan Walsh/X

Marc-Andre Fleury's goalie mask.

in the aftermath of which 38 Dakota men were hung, the largest single execution in U.S. history. Taylor said recognizing that history with the Wild's Native American Heritage Night is important.

"It's beyond something that is political ... It's a way to really acknowledge the First Nations," he said. "I hope that one day there can be more efforts made to acknowledge Indigenous peoples that will not offend and will not cause controversy."

Keya Luta Win Hunt on bringing Native representation to volleyball court

FROM UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

Growing up, Keya Luta Win Hunt didn't always see herself represented on the volleyball court. Now, a setter on the University of St. Thomas volleyball team in St. Paul, Minnesota, she hopes to help inspire a new generation of Native student-athletes.

Hunt is an enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin. Her father is Ho-Chunk and Leech Lake Ojibwe and her mother is Oglala Lakota. She grew up in Minneapolis and played volleyball at Breck School in suburb Golden Valley before joining the Division I team at St. Thomas.

"It's important to have representation always," Hunt said. "If other people see that and they know that it's possible, then they'll be able to see that they can do it. It's just something to be proud of."

The Newsroom spoke with Hunt about her culture and traditions in honor of Native American Heritage Month. The month is set aside as a special time to celebrate the rich ancestry of Native Americans, the first people to inhabit the land that the University of St. Thomas now occupies.

Why did you decide to attend the University of St. Thomas?

I was being recruited by several schools

for volleyball, and originally I thought I might head to a different state. But the environment of Minnesota, especially the Twin Cities and my home, ended up keeping me here. The chance to be close to my family was a big factor and also the campus is really beautiful.

Growing up, how would you connect with your Native culture?

My culture has always been a part of my daily life. Every day I carry my cultural values and teachings that have been passed down for many generations. I offer tobacco and other spiritual offerings to say thank you for my life, health, and assistance.

How do you celebrate and honor your Native heritage at St. Thomas?

As many of our elders say, 'every day is a ceremony' that you should be trying to live by what you believe. A big part of it for me is just being in the moment, taking care of other people, and appreciating the land. I want to respect everyone and value everyone for who they are, no matter what they do. I still go to ceremonies, and I'll light sage, which is a plant and sacred medicine, to cleanse spaces.

♦ See VOLLEYBALL on page 6C

USA Lacrosse CEO highlights sport's Native American roots upon its Olympic return

BY ISABEL GONZALEZ
CBS Sports

After 120 years, Lacrosse will be making its return as a medal sport in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Lacrosse isn't exactly the most mainstream sport in the U.S. right now, but those in the community are excited for more people to learn about it.

This will be the sixth time lacrosse has been included in the Olympics, with the most recent being a demonstration in 1948 and the last medal competition taking place at the 1908 London Games.

USA Lacrosse CEO Marc Riccio said the process of bringing it back started about seven or eight years ago. He gave credit to his predecessor Steve Stenersen and World Lacrosse, the international governing body of the sport.

"The real process has just started. Now it's about how we turn this into an opportunity," Riccio told CBS Sports. "Even just the fact that we've been talking about lacrosse with people who otherwise we would not be talking to about lacrosse all over the U.S. and over the world."

Lacrosse was one of five sports recently approved in a proposal by the International Olympic Committee, along with baseball, softball, cricket and squash. These sports represent different parts of American culture, with lacrosse originally being played by indigenous tribes in North America centuries before the arrival of Europeans.

"It's a really compelling story. When you listen to stories told by elders, and those in the Native American community, the first game of lacrosse was between the land animals and the air animals," Riccio said. "The story shows that the game is for everyone. From the mouse, to the deer, to the sparrow, to the eagle. The game is about inclusivity, it's about positivity and friendship."

Lacrosse was played to help toughen up young warriors, but it was also played for recreation and religious reasons. One of its other names is the medicine game.

"Yes, the game was used to train warriors, but it was also used to settle disputes," Riccio said. "The game is called the medicine game because it is about healing, and medicine makes you feel better. When you play the game with a clear mind and a clear spirit, you feel better."

"Learning about it is important and it matters. It does make our game different. We are very fortunate that we have this and that Native Americans shared the game with us."

There are a few different versions of the game, and the one chosen for the Olympics will be Sixes. World Lacrosse describes it as "an incredibly fast-paced, compact version of lacrosse." It is played 6-on-6 on a grass or turf field, leading to high-scoring action.

The game is divided into eight-minute quarters with a five-minute halftime. There are no specialist positions, only runners and goalies. Sixes was created in 2018 to help with the sport's approachability, and although it is still fairly new, this version of lacrosse is now accomplishing its mission on an Olympic stage.

"People who know the game are thrilled. People who don't know or only casually know about the game are now being exposed to it," Riccio said. "It will be an opportunity to see the game and that is really important."

"Ultimately, our mission is to field the growth, enrich the experience and field the best national team. The Olympics is an opportunity to bring all of that to life."

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Classic cars on display at Okalee Village

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Vintage cars and trucks were on display at the Seminole Okalee Village in Hollywood for the Classic

Car Showcase on Nov. 11. The schedule for the event, which ran throughout the afternoon and evening, included food trucks, games, music, a short-film fest, Seminole storytelling, Polynesian

and Haka dance performances, and a Seminole stomp dance.

BY PGA.COM

Native American Open draws more than 150 golfers

Over 150 Native American golfers from 71 bands, nations or tribes represented 17 states and Canada at the Native American Open in October.

Hosted at Twin Warriors Golf Club in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, for the third consecutive year, the Native American Open succeeded in its quest to bring Native Americans together from all backgrounds, while also providing a 36-hole, top-flight competition.

Skyesong Alexis from the Alexis Nakoda Sioux Nation in Alberta, Canada, was crowned the Women's Champion, winning by a whopping 15 shots over Glynnis Price. Alexis also placed first in the Indigenous Ontario Championship in August.

The Men's Championship Flight was a little tighter competition, and Eric Frazier of the Navajo Nation in Albuquerque, eked out a one-shot victory over Aidan Thomas. Frazier had an eagle in both rounds at Twin Warriors, proving to ultimately be the difference.



Calvin Tiger (2)

Above and below, classic vehicles are parked in front of Seminole Okalee Village.



Courtesy photo

Native American Open women's champion Skyesong Alexis.



Courtesy photo

Golfers get ready to play in the Native American Open.

◆ VOLLEYBALL From page 5C

Your mother had a specific request to honor your heritage on the volleyball team.

My full first name is Keya Luta Win and it means Red Turtle Woman. My mom thought it was really important that it be on the roster, not just Keya Hunt, because when we travel around and we go to these different states, there might be different Indigenous kids who want to pursue sports to a different level. And if they see someone who is at the Division I level and has a name like them and see someone who looks like them, they can think they can do it.

How has your Native heritage impacted your journey at St. Thomas?

My grandpa was in the boarding school in South Dakota, and he had a really hard time with that, but despite everything that he went through, education was still very important to him. He encouraged my mom to go to college and because of that, she really encouraged me to go to college. Education is one of those things that can significantly impact your life in a good way. And I think, because I know how hard it was for my mom and my grandpa to go to college, I really want to prove to them, prove to myself that it's an important thing we can accomplish. I think it's a really good thing that I'm here and that I'm playing volleyball, showing people that we can do this.

What would you like the St. Thomas community to think about during Native

American Heritage Month?

It's important to remember that this land was occupied by Indigenous people before all of this was made and this school was built. It's not just a piece of land that was originally empty. The people that lived in this area have been through a lot of trauma — it's important to recognize that. Indigenous peoples have rich cultures full of traditions, stories, songs and ceremonies that are very much alive and well in the present moment. There are 574 federally recognized tribes in the U.S., including 11 in Minnesota, with each one having their own traditional ways.



University of St. Thomas

Keya Luta Win Hunt (Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin) poses in a star quilt at her high school graduation. The quilt was created by a member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community.

The Indigenous legacy and resilience of Gallup High School cross country team

BY NATIVE NEWS ONLINE

GALLUP, N.M. — Running is more than just a sport in the heart of Native American communities; it's a sacred tradition, a source of healing, and a testament to the enduring spirit of Indigenous people. For centuries, running has been woven into Native culture, serving as a connective thread that transcends physical fitness. It's about prayer, resilience, and building better communities.

Kyle Benally, the head coach of the Gallup High School Cross Country team, embodies that tradition. In February 2021, he assumed the coaching role of the Bengals' distance-running teams with a mission to rebuild a program steeped in pride and history. Benally himself is a product of Gallup's remarkable legacy, having once run under the guidance of Curtis Williams, a New Mexico Hall of Fame coach who claimed 25 team state titles and nurtured 18 individual state champions.

After high school, Kyle joined the Marines, later returning to his community, eager to rebuild an athletic program that had profoundly shaped him. Despite the program's historic success, recent years have seen them starting from scratch. Many of the student-athletes come from families living

below the poverty line, where running shoes are a luxury, and often, they must train and race in the same pair.

In September, a glimmer of hope dawned for Gallup's young runners. Nike hosted an experience where they received Nike running and training gear, heard from Hosava Kretzmann, a Hopi/Navajo runner who was the top American finisher in the Los Angeles Marathon, and more. What made this gift even more special was the opportunity for the student-athletes to customize their Nike gear with phrases, patches, pins, and their names, representing their unique cultural identity.

Nike has a long history of working with Native American and Indigenous communities. Nike's N7 brand started in 2000 with the vision of Sam McCracken (Sioux and Assiniboine), who proposed selling Nike products directly to Native American tribes. His vision was to support health promotion and disease prevention programs, recognizing the transformative power of sports and physical activity. The N7 name is inspired by the Native American wisdom of the Seven Generations, emphasizing responsible decision-making that considers the impact of current choices on future generations.

Since 2009, the Nike N7 Fund has been a catalyst for change. It has awarded more

than \$8 million in grants that have benefited over 270 communities and organizations, making a substantial impact in the lives of Native American and Indigenous youth.

Nike's N7 brand is not just about sport; it's about empowerment, cultural recognition, and building stronger, healthier communities for generations to come. It's part of a larger effort by Nike to bring to light stories of young athletes participating in the sport of running and to grow BIPOC representation in cross country.

Every year, 423,000 high school boys and girls across the nation compete in cross country. Yet, the sport of cross country often fails to accurately reflect the rich history of running. Historically, it has been presented and covered through a predominantly white filter, creating a perception of exclusivity. In truth, it is a sport with a diverse population of runners — including legendary Native American champions — who have been participating for generations.

In Gallup, running isn't just about crossing the finish line; it's about connecting with a cultural legacy, transcending adversity, and reimagining victory. The resilience of the Gallup High School Cross Country team reflects the spirit of Indigenous communities across the country, where running isn't just a sport but a way of life.

Haskell basketball starts season



Haskell

The Haskell Indian Nations University women's basketball players wear their team and tribe attire in a group photo. Haskell started its season with a win against York University (Nebraska) on Oct. 27. With one game left in November, the team had a 2-6 record.

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B62648	2010	FORD SUV	EDGE (FWD)	108,746	Poor	\$3,628.00
A62087	2012	FORD CARGO VAN	E250 (RWD)	118,537	Poor	\$7,021.00
679333	2013	RAM PICKUP TRUCK	1500 ST CREW CAB SHORT BED POLICE (4WD)	140,679	Poor	\$7,560.00
F38595	2011	FORD SUV	EXPEDITION XLT (RWD)	140,620	Poor	\$4,616.00
285870	2012	FORD SEDAN	FUSION SE (FWD)	120,557	Poor	\$4,115.00
111383	2010	DODGE MINI VAN	GRAND CARAVAN SE (FWD)	36,158	Fair	\$6,127.00
C20330	2014	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT (FWD)	178,744	Fair	\$5,821.00
A04212	2014	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT (FWD)	168,251	Fair	\$6,675.00
F51844	2013	FORD SUV	EXPEDITION EL LTD (RWD)	168,788	Fair	\$7,696.00
A09073	2017	FORD SUV	FLEX (AWD) LTD	128,656	Fair	\$12,518.00
033185	N/A	JOHN DEERE GATOR XUV	GATOR 620II	N/A	Poor	\$162.00

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