



Cattle feast on fruits, veggies in Brighton
COMMUNITY ♦ 3A

21st century learning at Ahfachkee School
EDUCATION ♦ 1B

Brighton trio stars for Moore Haven High
SPORTS ♦ 1C



The Seminole Tribune

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Board's ventures booming in Brighton

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Business is booming in Brighton, where the Board's ventures are thriving.

"Oranges, sugar cane and the RV Resort are all in the black," said Board Rep. Larry Howard. "The shell pit will show a profit later this year with the completion of the pending job that was delayed from last year."

Brighton is home to 366.5 acres of orange groves; 174 at Tucker Ridge and 192.5 at Flowing Well. Eight truckloads of Hamlin and Valencia oranges were recently harvested and sold. The groves were in disrepair and required a lot of work when the Board took charge of them in 2011.

"The orange groves are healthier than they have been in years," Howard said. "We are reaping the fruit of our labor. We are a player in the citrus industry."

After cleaning up the overgrowth and vines, a new microjet irrigation system was installed and citrus greening was addressed.

"We've been controlling it for the last two years," said Preston Platt, program manager and overseer of the orange groves. "Now it has no effect on the crop size, but it took almost a year to get rid of it."

The Tribe is managing the disease well, but Platt said citrus greening never really goes away. Florida accounted for 49 percent of total U.S. citrus production in the past growing season, but it has been losing its more than a decade-long battle with the incurable bacterial disease. State Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam wants state legislators to budget \$8 million in the next fiscal year to combat the disease.

"Because of citrus greening, production of our state's signature crop is down 70 percent from 20 years ago," Putnam said in a January statement. "The future of Florida citrus, and the tens of thousands of jobs it supports, depends on a long-term solution in the fight against greening."

Brighton's groves are about 15-to-20 years old. If cared for properly, trees can produce fruit for up to 50 years. The Hamlin

♦ See **BOARD** on page 3A



Kevin Johnson

After being sworn in during an inauguration ceremony Jan. 9, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., fourth from right, is joined by, from left, Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, President Mitchell Cypress, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola and Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr.

Tribal Council, Board welcome new chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — With a nod to the past and a vision for the future, Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. was sworn in as the Seminole Tribe of Florida's chairman on the morning of Jan. 9 in front of a packed auditorium at tribal headquarters.

As his peers from the Tribal Council and Board of Directors joined him on stage and family members, friends, and Tribal employees watched, Chairman Osceola raised his right hand and took the oath of office as administered by Bruce Maytubby, a regional director of the Bureau of Indian

Affairs.

"Today is historic because today a new generation takes us into the future," Chairman Osceola told the audience.

Sally Tommie served as host for the inauguration, which began with a prayer from Jimmy Hank Osceola. Tommie then called members of the Council and Board to the stage.

"This day is a perfect representation of unity for the Seminole Tribe of Florida," she said.

Later, Tommie's comments paralleled those of John F. Kennedy on his inauguration day.

"When you ask your leaders for things that might be needed in your homes, your lives, whatever personally, professionally, it must also be understood that we mustn't always look to what our leaders and our Seminole Tribe can do for us, but what we — as Seminole Tribal citizens — can do to assist our leaders and to assist our Tribe moving forward," she said.

Following the oath ceremony, Chairman Osceola, who won the seat in a special election, immediately paid homage to the Tribe's past while emphasizing unity, a theme that was stressed throughout the morning. Among his first remarks as

chairman was a reminder to the audience that "August 21st of 1957 was the birth," in reference to Seminoles signing and adopting the Constitution and Charter 60 years ago.

Chairman Osceola said now that the campaign is over, it's time to reunite.

"Let's come back together as a family, one Tribe, because that's who we truly are," he said. "For us to succeed, for us to get here to where we are today, is what it took in 1957 when they thought about the Seminole Tribe of Florida. It is our job today to carry us into the future."

♦ See **CHAIRMAN** on page 4A

Motlow, FSU wrap up season with Orange Bowl victory

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MIAMI GARDENS — When the Florida State University football team visited Hard Rock Stadium for the first time this season, Justin Motlow was among the players that didn't travel with the team for its one-point win against the University of Miami in October, but the Seminole wide receiver from Tampa suited up when the squad returned for the Orange Bowl.

All the pieces seemed to form a perfectly symmetrical Tribal triangle Dec. 30: a Seminole playing for the Seminoles in Hard Rock Stadium.

"That was pretty special to play in a stadium that the Tribe has a lot to do with," Motlow said.

The outcome was pretty special, too. FSU nipped the University of Michigan, 33-32, in one of the bowl season's most entertaining games in front of 67,432, which included Motlow's parents Clarence and Lisa and older sister Jessica. Motlow described the victory as "the most satisfying" in his three-years with the program.

FSU arrived in Hollywood on Christmas Eve and began practicing on Christmas Day at Nova Southeastern University.

"It was great to practice there during the winter. You can't beat South Florida during that time of the year," Motlow said.

Orange Bowl week wasn't all about the game and practices. Before facing Michigan, FSU participated in extracurricular activities that included a visit to Dave & Buster's restaurant and a beach outing with families.

As for the game, FSU built a 17-3 lead after the first quarter but Michigan roared back and took a 30-27 lead with 1:57 left in the fourth. FSU answered with a 12-yard touchdown pass from Deondre Francois to Nyqwan Murray with 36 ticks remaining. Michigan blocked the extra point and returned



FSU Sports Info - Mitch White

The Florida State University football team, including Seminole Tribal citizen Justin Motlow, center, celebrate the team's 33-32 win against the University of Michigan on Dec. 30 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens.

it for two points, but coach Jim Harbaugh's squad fell one point shy of victory.

After dropping bowl games the past two seasons, the Seminoles (10-3) will no doubt take momentum from the victory into next season when they are expected to be one of the top contenders for the national title. Motlow said the victory in the Orange Bowl helps provide an even brighter outlook heading into spring football and next season.

"Expectations are a little higher," he said.

USA Today ranks FSU at No. 1 in a preseason poll. A lot should be determined right away when FSU meets Alabama in the season opener.

Similar to the previous season, Motlow spent the 2016 season on the scout team's offense. As a wide receiver, he faced FSU's starting cornerbacks in practices. Motlow earned one of the scout team's MVP honors at the team's awards banquet.

"Our defensive coordinator said it was one of the best scout teams he's ever coached," Motlow said.

In 2015, Motlow saw brief action in two games. This season he didn't appear in any games, but he said he is continuing to improve.

"I had the same role. I felt personally I got a lot better," he said.

Motlow arrived at FSU as a preferred walk on in 2014 and became the first Seminole Tribal citizen to play for the Seminoles. In terms of playing eligibility, the sociology major has two years left. In terms of memories, the Orange Bowl victory will last a lifetime.

"To be able to celebrate with your teammates at the end was one of my special moments," Motlow said. "All the hard work we had to go through, it was really a proud moment that it all paid off."

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Editorial

New opportunities for Seminole Pride Beef as a USDA vendor

• Mitchell Cypress

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has a long, proud history of being exceptional cattlemen. Since 2012, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. (STOFI) created and invested in a boxed beef program called Seminole Pride Beef with the goal of creating a sustainable business with opportunities for Seminole tribal ranchers. This boxed beef program has grown significantly since inception and will continue to as word spreads of whom and what Seminole Pride beef is.

Federal contracting was the next step to building this business and gaining awareness both locally and nationally. Over the past year and a half, the Seminole Pride Beef program, operated by STOFI, has explored the option of becoming a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) beef vendor.

On Nov. 3, 2016, USDA preliminarily approved Seminole Pride Beef as a vendor pending additional documents. This approval is the first step of many needed to enter the federal contracting market. This new opportunity opens up a new beef sales market for Seminole Pride Beef. With the leadership and guidance of STOFI's Director of Strategic Partnerships, Ms. Dawn Houle, STOFI was able to gain entry into this multi-billion dollar business. USDA purchases an average of 29 million pounds of beef each year. Seminole Pride Beef aims to focus on fresh beef sales that include boneless beef combos, ground beef, and special trims through a facilities agreement with a local USDA approved meat processor.

In early December, two representatives from USDA visited the Brighton cattle and range program checking off one more step in the vendor process. This site visit included Terry Lutz and David Garcia, both of the livestock, poultry, and seed (LPS) program who oversee market research, commodity regulation, labeling, grading services and many other support programs. Mr. Garcia conducted a drive-by grading of the Seminole cattle and was very impressed and a little shocked that Florida could grow such an impressive animal. The LPS program operates a market news division that may play a major role in creating targeted tribal market statistics that could increase awareness and market price for Seminole cattle.

On Jan. 11, 2017, Seminole Pride Beef received final approval as a USDA vendor. Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) is the division of USDA food purchasing program which oversees the procurement of all food products. The AMS utilizes an online system that coordinates all solicitations, bids, and awards. As an approved vendor Seminole Pride Beef will be one of the only Native American beef suppliers in the program and can start bidding on federal solicitations. One of the many criteria for all beef suppliers is that the product be USA grown, harvested, produced and processed in order to control quality. Can't get any more American made then Seminole beef!

Upon successful award of a contract, Seminole Pride Beef will have the opportunity to participate in the national school lunch program, food banks, community centers, disaster areas and



nutritional assistance programs (Indian reservation commodity programs too). As a qualified bidder, Seminole Pride Beef may see an expansion in private industry as well since many commercial businesses partner with certified USDA vendors.

Over the next couple of months STOFI and Ms. Houle will work with Alex Johns and Mike Saucedo to prepare for bidding on federal contracts. STOFI is excited to see how this new partnership with USDA plays out. As our ancestors fought for our survival I honor their commitment and sacrifice by creating sustainable businesses that support the Seminole Tribe of Florida and its members. To learn more visit www.STOFINC.com.

Mitchell Cypress is President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

A pragmatic approach to improving nutrition in tribal communities

• (Minn.) Star Tribune Editorial Board

Visitors to the Upper Midwest's American Indian nations quickly realize that many young people share a noble goal: returning home after getting their education to strengthen their impoverished communities as educators, entrepreneurs, medical providers and political leaders.

Thanks to a farsighted initiative launched with a generous grant from Minnesota's Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, 21 ambitious young people will get a chance to realize these dreams while serving another worthy goal — improving nutrition in 10 tribal communities.

The SMSC, located in the southwest metro, operates the Mystic Lake Casino and has become a philanthropic force. Its efforts laudably include a growing focus on the

health conditions linked to poor nutrition that plague many American Indians, such as diabetes. In 2015, SMSC launched a \$5 million "Seeds of Native Health" campaign to strengthen academic research into Native nutrition and provide community grants to improve food access and push for healthier food choices.

Its latest initiative involves a \$200,000 grant to partner with the AmeriCorps VISTA program to create a "cadre of Native Food Sovereignty Fellows." Teams of VISTA volunteers will live in 10 tribal communities in eight states. Their mission: improve nutrition awareness, launch or enlarge community efforts to grow local food and bolster economic opportunities involving food and agriculture.

SMSC's gift will help fund the teams' living allowances during the program's first year. The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas law school is also a project partner.

The eight states are Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, New Mexico, Alaska, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Washington. The Minnesota locations are the Lower Sioux Indian Community and the Red Lake Nation near Bemidji. The program will recruit volunteers from these communities — giving young people a résumé-building opportunity while leveraging their local connections to make swift progress.

While VISTA has long worked with Indian nations, this is the first time in its 52 years that a tribal community is providing funding for volunteers' work. SMSC merits praise for this pragmatic approach to improving public health in often-overlooked locations. Minnesotans not only applaud this good work but look forward to seeing what this community does next.

This editorial appeared in the (Minn.) Star Tribune.

Day one: A dramatic restructuring of government, budget cuts ahead

• Mark Trahan

President Donald J. Trump's inauguration weekend: Pomp and circumstance. Pettiness and chaos. Huge crowds of supporters. And even larger crowds from the Women's March in cities and small towns around the world.

If this is day one, remember there are fourteen hundred and fifty-nine to go.

The size of the marches must have been too much for the president's ego. His press secretary took stage to denounce the media in an angry tirade.

Off-stage the Trump White House was preparing "dramatic budget cuts," according to The Hill newspaper. The Hill learned of the cuts because senior White House officials have begun telling agency budget officers to prepare for a restructuring of government.

The plan calls for a reduction of \$10.5 trillion in spending over the next decade. Except the Trump plan calls for an increase in military spending meaning that domestic

programs would have to take even bigger cuts in order to reach the total. One projection: Agency budgets would be cut by at least 10 percent and overall the size of the federal workforce would shrink by 20 percent.

The framework for these spending cuts was developed by the Heritage Foundation and the House Republican Study Committee.

Heritage recommends deep immediate cuts to reach "primary balance" in the budget the first year of the new administration. (Primary balance does not include net interest.)

The Heritage plan calls for elimination of the Violence Against Women Act funding by the Department of Justice, community policing programs, and legal aid. The conservative think-tank says those programs are a "misuse of federal resources and a distraction from concerns that are truly the province of the federal government."

Tribal governments receive Justice Department grants both in programs directed at tribes and those that are in the broader category of funding for states and tribes.

The Heritage framework proposes a

radical restructuring of Indian education programs. It calls for the creation of Education Savings Accounts for students who attend Bureau of Indian Education Schools. That funding would equal 90 percent of the per pupil funding formula. The idea is that students could use this money at any school, including private ones. "Such an option would provide a lifeline to the 48,000 children currently trapped in BIE schools which have been deemed the 'worst schools in America.'"

The idea stems from a Heritage Issue Brief on Education by Lindsey Burke. The paper says "it's appropriate for Congress to seriously consider ways to improve the education offered to Native American children living on or near reservations. Instead of continuing to funnel \$830 million per year to schools that are failing to adequately serve these children, funds should be made accessible to parents via an education savings account, enabling families to choose options that work for them and that open the doors of

♦ See DAY ONE on page 3A

Conquering opponents and obstacles

The following excerpt is from "Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team," a book for ages 10 and up by author Steve Sheinkin. The book focuses on Native American Jim Thorpe — regarded as one of the greatest athletes ever — and his time with legendary coach Pop Warner and the Carlisle football team that notched underdog wins against some of college's top teams of the era. The publisher's web site describes the story as "... a group of young men who came together at that school, the overwhelming obstacles they faced both on and off the field, and their absolute refusal to accept defeat."

Yes, Jim Thorpe made the team.

And for a brief and magical span of years, the Carlisle Indian Industrial School had the best football team in the country. Carlisle was the fastest team anyone had ever seen, the most creative, the most fun to watch. They traveled anywhere and took on anyone, playing all their toughest games on the road. The team drew crowds in train stations, hotel lobbies, and especially football stadiums—Carlisle's 1911 showdown with powerhouse Harvard University drew more fans than the opening game of that year's World Series. Carlisle had the game's most innovative coach in Pop Warner, and, in Jim Thorpe, the greatest star the sport had ever seen.

None of it was easy.

After a lifetime in the sport, Warner would say, "No college player I ever saw had the natural aptitude for football possessed by Jim Thorpe." But what the coach called "natural aptitude" was really something richer, a mix of outrageous athletic talent and a force of will hard-earned from a childhood that would have broken most boys.

The challenges began early. Jim's father, an enormous man named Hiram, saw to that.

As a toddler, Jim liked to splash around in the shallow water near the bank of the North Canadian River, which ran behind his family's cabin in Oklahoma. One day Hiram strode into the river in his boots, grabbed the kid, hauled him out to the deep water, and dropped him into the current. Hiram then waded back to the bank and watched.

Jim raised his head above the water. It was forty yards to the riverbank. It looked like a mile.

He managed to dog-paddle to shore and collapsed on dry land.

Hiram stood over his three-year-old boy and said, "Don't be afraid of the water, son, and it won't be afraid of you."

* * *

And Jim really didn't seem to fear anything, or anyone. Not even his father.

Hiram Thorpe, son of a Sac and Fox Indian mother and an Irish father, stood six foot three, 235 pounds. He walked around armed with a pistol, bullets in his belt, wearing a black cowboy hat. No one messed with Jim's mother, either. Charlotte Vieux, daughter of a Potawatomi Indian woman who'd married a French-Canadian trader, was described by friends as pretty, tall, and big-boned, about two hundred pounds, with exceptionally strong hands.

Hiram had already had two marriages and fathered five children when he and Charlotte married in 1882. They settled on Sac and Fox land in what was called "Indian Territory," which covered most of what is

now Oklahoma.

The shameful history behind Indian Territory is not the subject of this story, but it's important to know—it shaped the world Jim Thorpe and the other Carlisle School students would grow up in. In 1830, with the passage of the Indian Removal Act, the US government made it official policy to force Native Americans off their lands in order to open the land to white settlers. President Andrew Jackson explained the objective in bluntly racist language. Native Americans were surrounded by what Jackson called "a superior race" and needed to get out of the way. "They must necessarily yield to the force of circumstances," he said, "and ere long disappear."

The government set aside Indian Territory as a place to send the displaced nations, whether they agreed to go or not. In what became known as the Trail of Tears, to cite the most infamous example, US soldiers marched more than fifteen thousand Cherokee men, women, and children 1,200 miles from Georgia to Indian Territory. An estimated four thousand people died of disease, cold, and starvation before the nightmare journey ended.

Over the following decades, the US government forced the people of more than sixty different American Indian nations—including the Sac and Fox, originally from the western Great Lakes region—to leave their traditional land and resettle in Indian Territory. Different nations were assigned different areas of land, or reservations. By treaty, the reservation land belonged permanently to the Indians. Then the government changed the rules again.

Pressured by land-hungry settlers, Congress passed the General Allotment Act in 1887, stating that Native American families would be "given" 160-acre plots. The remaining land in Indian Territory would be stripped from Indian control and opened up to new settlers.

Charlotte and Hiram Thorpe were granted a piece of decent grazing land on the banks of the North Canadian River. They built a cabin of cottonwood and hickory, and it was there, in 1888, that Charlotte gave birth to twin boys, James and Charles—Jim and Charlie, as they came to be known. Jim would later explain that his mother, following Potawatomi custom, also gave her sons names inspired by something experienced right after childbirth. Through the window near her bed, Charlotte watched the early-morning sun light the path to their cabin. She named Jim Wathohuck, translated as "Bright Path." Charlie's Potawatomi name has been lost to history.

Three years later, twenty thousand settlers lined the edge of what had been Sac and Fox land. A government agent fired a gun, the signal for the land rush to begin, and everyone raced in on horseback or in wagons, claiming open sections of land by driving stakes into the soil.

By nightfall, the plains around the Thorpes' farm were dotted with settlers' tents and campfires. In just a few hours, the Sac and Fox had lost nearly 80 percent of their land.

From UNDEFEATED: JIM THORPE AND THE CARLISLE INDIAN SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM © 2017 by Steve Sheinkin. Reprinted by permission of Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing Holdings Limited Partnership. All Rights Reserved

U.S. Mint releases 2017 Native American coin

WASHINGTON — The United States Mint's 2017 Native American \$1 coin was released Jan. 25. The coin honors Sequoyah of the Cherokee Nation, creator of the Cherokee language. The reverse (tails) design features a profiled likeness of Sequoyah writing "Sequoyah from Cherokee Nation" in syllabary along the border of the design. Inscriptions are "United States of America," "\$1" and "Sequoyah" written in English in the field of the design.

The obverse (heads side) design retains the central figure of the "Sacagawea" design first produced in 2000 with the inscriptions "Liberty" and "In God We Trust."



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Community



Cattle feast on fruit and vegetables at Brighton feedlot

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Most reputable weight loss programs endorse eating fresh fruits and vegetables for health benefits and as a way to lose those excess pounds. That may be true for humans, but in Brighton the cattle have been eating their fill of produce and gaining weight steadily.

Brighton's recycled produce cattle feed program, which has been in place at the feedlot for three years, has been a cost saver and efficient weight increaser. Eating typical cattle feed, cows gain about 1.75 pounds per day; eating the produce mix they can gain about 2.5 pounds per day.

"This has all the protein, vitamins, nutrients and fat they need," said feedlot manager Ernie Lopez. "It's cheap and the cows love it."

Depending on the season, the program receives weekly deliveries of about 160,000 to 240,000 pounds of fruits, vegetables and bread not fresh enough to be sold to consumers. The food comes from Walmart stores in South Florida and is mixed with 10 percent hay, 30 percent conventional cattle feed mix and nine percent molasses fortified with antibiotics, medications and fly control. The fresh product comprises 51 percent of the cattle's food at the feedlot.

The produce changes with the season. Fall features an abundance of pumpkins. Winter loads include a lot of citrus and tomatoes. Summer brings more variety and quantity of fruits and vegetables.

"We try to put a little bit of fat on them," said Alex Johns, Natural Resource director. "We are influencing their diet to have them

gain weight. At the same time, we are building fat and marbling."

Throwing scraps to livestock is an age-old practice. The Food and Drug Administration has allowed recycled organic waste to be used in animal feed since 1958 and the General Recognized as Safe process outlines the definitions and practices.

Recycling the produce provides food for farm animals, keeps the material from clogging landfills and is a cost savings for ranchers and farmers. In a 2012 interview with Harvest Public Media on Kansas City's KCUR radio in Missouri, Iowa State

the animal arrived at the feedlot until it is sold at market.

The feedlot's goal is to assure each animal gains 250 pounds before being sent to the Quincy Cattle Company finishing lot in Chieffland, Florida. The process takes between 90 and 120 days, depending on the season; cattle gain more weight in winter than summer.

The produce mix is a high moisture diet, which means they can eat more of it. Cattle eat up to seven percent of their body weight by the end of their stay at the feedlot, or about 50 pounds of feed daily. By eating more, their four stomachs are accustomed to a large intake of food.

"This keeps them at the finishing lot for a shorter time than other animals," Johns said. "It's about 30 days less, which is another cost savings."

After gaining 600 pounds at the finishing lot, the animals are sent to market. Expenses are lowered with the shorter stay at the finishing lot and the cost of gain is reduced further.

"Cattle is a capital intense business and the cows are liquid assets," Johns said.

"Volume and liquidity are key."

Johns said the cows earn about a 3.2 percent return over three months, or close to a 10 percent return annually. But because market factors fluctuate, he believes participating in the Chicago Mercantile Exchange's cattle commodity futures market will allow the Tribe to lock in a price per pound before sending the cattle to market. If proper risk management strategies are implemented, the rate of return could be higher. However, as with any investment, nothing is ever guaranteed.

"Futures are good for hedging your bets," Johns said.



Beverly Bidney

Lunchtime at the Brighton feedlot Jan. 11 includes a heaping helping of recycled produce cattle feed.

University animal scientist Mike Persia said, "Animal agriculture is one of the leaders in the green revolution, even though they have never touted that."

That the produce comes from Walmart is no accident. The company set a goal in 2009 to work toward a zero-waste future. Its 2016 Global Responsibility Report states that by the end of 2015 Walmart achieved 82 percent diversion of materials from landfills in the U.S.

Johns said the cattle program saves about 50 percent on feed by using the recycled produce. To calculate the cost of raising cattle, Johns uses the cost of gain, which factors in all costs starting from when

to be picked. Howard said a competitor told him the Brighton fruit is much sweeter than others.

"There is something in the soil here that makes these oranges better," Howard said. "They are special."

Sugar cane fields comprise 1,000 acres in Brighton, 100 of which were added two years ago. The giant grass thrives in Florida's hot, humid climate. Six varieties of cane

are planted in Brighton, some of which can withstand freezing temperatures. The fields are planted at different times to ensure three harvests annually. As one field is harvested, other sections are still growing. The plants can grow to 7 to 16 feet tall and bloom with tassels at maturity.

Before fields are harvested they are burned to remove the leaves. Fields were ablaze in January for the harvest. Once the fields cooled, large mechanical harvesters cut the remaining stalks and loaded them into awaiting trucks. The Tribe sells the cane to U.S. Sugar Corp. in Clewiston, which processes it into the crystallized version.

The 125-acre shell pit was a flurry of activity recently as a parade of trucks drove in empty and left heavy with Florida Department of Transportation-certified fill to be used in projects such as the U.S. Army



Beverly Bidney

Recycled produce is dumped into a grinder Jan. 11 in Brighton. The ground produce will be mixed with conventional feed, hay and molasses to provide all the nutrition necessary for the cattle in the feedlot.



Beverly Bidney

The final product packs on the pounds and cattle at the Brighton feedlot love it.

◆ BUSINESS From page 1A

trees are about 7 or 8 years old; the Valencias about 15 years.

During a recent foray through the groves, the sweet smell of orange blossoms distracted only slightly from the sight of the trees loaded with bright orange orbs waiting



Beverly Bidney

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard cuts into a Hamlin orange Jan. 20 prior to the harvest at the Tucker Ridge grove in Brighton.

◆ DAY ONE From page 2A

educational opportunity."

The report doesn't not address what private alternatives, or even what the public school options, are available in remote reservations communities.

Another radical restructuring plan involves Indian housing programs. The Heritage Blueprint calls for a phasing out of subsidized housing programs over the next decade. "States should determine how and to what extent they will replace these subsidized housing programs with alternatives designed and funded by state and local authorities," Heritage said.

All Indian housing programs, or what's left of those programs after budget cuts, would be transferred to the Department of the Interior.

The Heritage Blueprint calls for more tribal authority over fracking, limiting the regulatory oversight by the Department of the Interior or other federal agencies.

The Heritage plan would eliminate the Minority Business Development Agency, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and privatize the Corporation for Public Broadcast. Energy programs that focus on renewable energy and climate change would also be gone.

The Heritage Blueprint does not address appropriations for either the Indian Health Service or the Bureau of Indian Affairs. However The Hill reports one of the architects for the budget is reportedly a former staffer for Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky. Paul proposed a budget in 2012 that would eliminate the Bureau of Indian Affairs and slash the Indian Health Service budget by 20 percent.

The Heritage Blueprint does not address Medicaid spending but

House conservatives have routinely called for that program to become a block grant for states.

One difference between the Heritage plan and early reports about the Trump transition team is that entitlement programs would not be subject to budget cuts. Yet all of the plans call for more money for military spending. That puts all the burden on domestic programs, an idea that is unlikely to work.

The official Trump budget proposals are expected within 45 days, according to The Hill. That budget would then go to Congress for debate and approval.

Mark Trahan is the Charles R. Johnson Endowed Professor of Journalism at the University of North Dakota. He is an independent journalist and a member of The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. On Twitter @TrahanReports

Corps of Engineers repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee. The Tribe's contract with the Corps for the work will be completed this year, which will show up on the books this year.

The shell pit is the only one in the area with FDOT-approved shell for road bases, so area municipalities are also customers. Upgrades on state roads 70 and 78 were done with Seminole fill.

Another Board business, the Bright-

ton RV Resort, is filled to capacity through March with campers from all over the U.S. and Canada. Renovations began in 2011 and the investment is paying off.

The resort has 56 RV slots and four cabins; there are plans to add another two cabins. The site is listed as one of the top RV parks by Good Sam Club, the world's largest organization of RV owners.

"We can see the full potential of the park," Howard said.



Beverly Bidney

Brighton oranges are loaded into a trailer heading for market in LaBelle Jan. 20.

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◆ **INAUGURATION**
From page 1A

The chairman encouraged young Tribal members to get involved and to “ask an elder what do they remember so you remember where you came from and help you to where you are going.”

Chairman Osceola’s reminisced for a moment about his younger days.

“Where we are at today, what I remember, was a hog farm,” he said while also recalling that the corner of Stirling Road and 441 years ago only had a small BIA office building, pow-wow grounds and an arts and crafts building.

Culture and education were among the topics that the chairman mentioned in his address.

“We all have to work at it,” Chairman Osceola said in reference to culture preservation before he stressed the importance of education. “Educating our Tribal members is most important I think to all of us because how are we going to fight in the new world. There’s no more guns; there’s no more battlefields. We fight in the courtrooms today. So we’re all well-educated [and] diverse in what we need to do to make sure we instill the future of this Tribe.”

Chairman Osceola also invoked humor. “To a lot of you, I’m just a kid, 44 years old. To my kids, I’m an old man,” he said.

Chairman Osceola recognized guests in the audience, including Steve Tooshkenig, of the Walpole Island First Nation, and Bill Taylor, chairman of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Chairman Osceola will complete the remainder of the previous chairman’s four-year term.

“We’re going to work hard; we’re going to work tirelessly to make sure we have a brighter future,” he said. “We have two years and five months to make a difference, and I know we can do it.”

Following his address, Council and Board members congratulated and praised the new chairman.

“Today is a great day,” said Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. President Mitchell Cypress. “God has blessed us with a great leader...”

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola said he’s known the chairman his entire life, having grown up across the street from each other on the reservation.

“I’m extremely confident that he has what it takes to lead this Tribe,” Councilman Osceola said. “I know he’s a man of integrity; he’s a man of his word. Like he said, there’s going to be changes, and not everybody likes change, but in the world we live in today, things have to change in order to get to the next level, in order to grow as a tribe.”

Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola said he fully supports the new chairman and noted that Chairman Osceola is only the third person to hold the seat in the past 30 years.

Junior Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie also addressed the audience.

After the formal words were finished, the new chairman greeted a long line of well-wishers in front of the stage for more than an hour before he embarked on his first day of work as the leader of the Tribe.



Kevin Johnson

Bureau of Indian Affairs regional director Bruce Maytubby, right, swears in Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., left, as chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida during an inauguration ceremony Jan. 9 at the tribe’s headquarters in Hollywood. Also participating in the ceremony is Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, center.



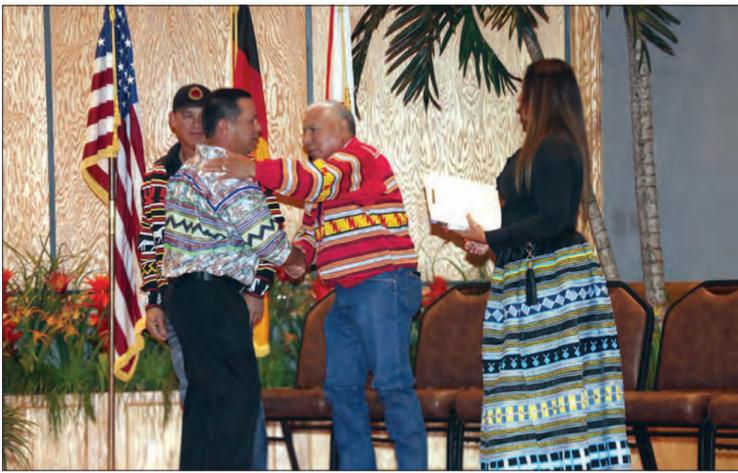
Kevin Johnson

Seminole Tribe Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. addresses Tribal Council and Board members and the audience Jan. 9 after he was sworn in as chairman.



Kevin Johnson

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., right, is joined his father, Marcellus Sr., center, and Bobby Henry, of Tampa.



Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. is congratulated by Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. as Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Sally Tommie look on during the ceremony.



Kevin Johnson

After being sworn in as chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. is congratulated by Seminole Gaming CEO and Hard Rock International Chairman Jim Allen at Tribal headquarters on the Hollywood Reservation.



Kevin Johnson

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. joins Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess Thomlynn Billie for a photo during the chairman’s inauguration ceremony.



Kevin Johnson
Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and Stephen Bowers take a moment for a photo during inauguration day.

Seniors share stories at culture day

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Sharing history and personal stories was the theme of the Jan. 19 tribal wide Senior Culture Day in Brighton as seniors from every reservation gathered to enjoy each other's company, a traditional Seminole meal and some shopping.

Around the tables and on the big-screen TV under a large tent, Tribal members shared stories and reminisced about their youthful activities and escapades.

"Thanks to everyone, there will be a lot of stories told today and you are giving me a chance to learn something," said Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard in his welcome remarks to the crowd. "You have all paved the way for me to have the opportunity to represent you."

In 2004, a video was produced by the Board because Tribal citizens needed home sites but no one knew the precise history of the camps on or near the sites. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office didn't exist yet, but information was necessary before home sites could be approved. Johnny Jones, who served on the Board at the time, spearheaded its production.

The video, which was the highlight of the day, featured Tribal citizens talking about growing up in Brighton. Memories were shared of grandparents, parents,

camp, childhood, family life, school, work and more. The crowd of about 100 seniors appreciated the trip down memory lane.

"It's always good to get seniors together to swap stories and tell on each other," said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank.

Childhood memories that were shared included making things with palm fronds to play with instead of dolls, and riding wooden stick horses in the woods all day long. Stories of fishing, hunting, horseback riding, swimming in ponds and swinging on vines like Tarzan were met with nods of recognition by the seniors.

"We always had someone to play with," Willie Johns said on the video. "We were dirt poor but nobody knew it because we always had food to eat. It was a great life and I don't regret it at all."

"Red Barn was our playground," Amos Tiger said on the video. "We'd go up in the loft and play. They used to get mad at us for dumping the hay down. It was our historic playpen."

Stories of hard-working Seminoles were recalled and included grandparents and parents who spent time picking produce in Florida fields, their children along with them. Earnings were tiny, about one dollar per day, but groceries didn't cost much at the time.

"My family was mostly labor workers," Johns said. "They planted grass and probably



Beverly Bidney

A traditional lunch is prepared by culture volunteers under the cooking chickee in Brighton for the tribal wide Senior Culture Day Jan. 19.



Beverly Bidney

Seniors from every reservation peruse the luncheon buffet of traditional Seminole food during the Senior Culture Day Jan. 19 in Brighton

planted all the good grazing pastures in Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties."

Keeping a subsistence garden was a common practice throughout Brighton back in the day. Corn, pumpkins, pole beans and potatoes fed families.

"We mixed sour orange juice with honey, that was our lemonade," Connie Whidden recalled in the video. "It was that or sofkee."

Medicine was practiced in the traditional way. Many grandparents mentioned in the video knew how to do Indian medicine, but sometimes they would recommend going to a medical doctor.

"My sister got sick with the flu and Josie Billie told my mom to take her to the hospital," Edna McDuffie said in the video. "It was double pneumonia. Even the medicine man knows what he can and cannot do."

Schools and school nurses were discussed and at the memory of shots being administered, seniors erupted into laughter. According to the stories on the screen, the nurses used the biggest, sharpest needles they could find.

School was also the place many Tribal students first felt the sting of discrimination. Since the students weren't proficient in English, they were not allowed by teachers

to play with the other children. Cultural differences, such as being taught at home not to look someone directly in the eye, were also barriers for them. At school they learned reading, writing and arithmetic along with how to talk to people and look them in the eye.

Women from the Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee culture departments worked together in the cooking chickee to prepare a Seminole feast. Sofkee, fry bread, lapalle, fried chicken and catfish were some of the traditional fare on the buffet table.

After the video ended and before lunch was served, a few seniors spoke to their peers and everyone else in attendance.

"You lived the culture, what you observed from your elders is what you learned," said Martha Jones. "It's up to you to pass this down to the next generation and tell them they need to pass it down to their kids. We teach our children to make sure our culture doesn't get lost. What you know, that's what you will live by."

Willie Johns echoed that sentiment and voiced his concerns for the future of the Tribe.

"My uncle Willie Gopher said a profound statement that stuck with me my whole life," he said. "If you don't speak your

language and don't have a clan, what are you going to tell people who you are? That made it my point in life to learn everything I can."



Beverly Bidney

Shopping was a popular pastime at the tribal wide Senior Culture Day in Brighton. Nancy Willie, of Hollywood, searches for the perfect patchwork garment.

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Dramatic drop reported in diabetes-related chronic kidney disease in Native Americans, Alaska Natives

BY EILEEN SOLER
Special to The Tribune

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced in early January at a press conference attended via phone by The Seminole Tribune that diabetes-related chronic kidney disease among Native Americans and Alaska Natives has reached a remarkable low.

According to the CDC's latest Vital Signs - Diabetes report, cases of chronic kidney disease (kidney failure) related to diabetes have decreased by 54 percent since 1996. The statistic, released Jan. 11, was based on records through 2013.

CDC Director Tom Frieden credited the dramatic decrease to approaches implemented by Indian Health Services (IHS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Diabetes is more prevalent among Native Americans than among any other population in the U.S. One out of three Native Americans with kidney failure get the often fatal condition from diabetes.

"The IHS applied population health and team-based approaches to diabetes and kidney care, which reduced kidney failure rates much faster among Native Americans than among any other race of ethnic group in this country," Frieden said.

Mary Smith, principal director of the IHS, said the agency provides care to 2.2 million Native Americans throughout the U.S. with the intent to raise the people's physical, mental, social and spiritual health. The 54 percent drop includes all Native Americans and Alaskan Natives, which according to U.S. Census data includes roughly 4.4 million people.

Smith, a member of the Cherokee Nation, said the drop in diabetes-related kidney failure is good news not only for Natives but for all ethnicities. She noted the 1979 launch of the National Diabetes Program of which the IHS developed the first diabetes standards of care for Natives in 1986, which promoted evidence-based treatments and led to a series of updates spanning the 1990s.

Additionally, Congress established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) through the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. The SDPI is a \$150 million per year program that provides grants for diabetes treatment and prevention services to 404 IHS tribal and urban Indian health programs. The SDPI has two major components: the Diabetes Prevention and Healthy Heart Initiatives and the Community-Directed Diabetes Programs.

In 2016, according to an April 2016 IHS press release, the program provided approximately \$138 million in grants to prevent and treat diabetes among Native people. Grant funds went to 301 Tribes, Tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations and IHS facilities.

Ann Bullock, director of the Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention, Indian Health Services, said nearly 99 percent of Native Americans who have diabetes have Type 2 diabetes compared to Type 1.

According to the National Institutes of Health, Type 2 diabetes is primarily caused by lack of exercise, obesity and poor diet — though genetics can also play a role. Type 1 is attributed mostly to genetic or environmental factors.

Regarding the decrease in kidney failure among Natives with diabetes, Bullock said: "We never want to forget to acknowledge the efforts of our patients. Partly though patient education that our IHS, tribal and urban partners have been doing so many years . . . our patients have made remarkable efforts overcoming huge obstacles and barriers of care."

Smith said increased program availability via diabetes clinical teams had jumped from 30 percent in 1997 to 96 percent in 2013 alone while adult weight management programs increased from 19 percent to 78 percent during the same time period. The effort allowed Tribal employees time off for diabetes education and exercise. All Tribal members were provided with better access to healthier foods, transportation to clinics, and classes in diabetes and exercise.

"Management of risk factors or kidney failure have improved, including use of medicine to protect kidneys, controlling high blood pressure and controlling blood sugar," Smith said.

Recommendations from SPDI studies, some already being put to work by IHS, are expected to impact future generations. IHS is already catching at-risk patients earlier, providing them with treatment before the onset of diabetes, she said.

"This results in better health for our patients and a significant cost savings as compared to long-term diabetes treatment," Smith said.

Nationwide in 2013 alone, kidney failure from diabetes came with a price tag of \$82,000 per person while Medicare kicked in \$14 billion to treat the disease combination.

Here are some important improvements since the IHS began focusing on diabetes-related kidney care:

- * Use of medicine to protect the kidneys nearly doubled from 42 percent to 74 percent within five years. Among patients ages 65 and older with diabetes, 76 percent were treated with kidney protecting medicines.

- * In 2016, blood pressure was better controlled — about 68 percent of Native Americans with diabetes met targeted blood pressures of equal to or lower than 140/90.

- * Blood pressure improved with a 10 percent decrease in blood sugar levels within five years.

- * In 2015, more than 60 percent of people ages 65 and older had taken the recommended urine tests for kidney damage.

Environmental ambient air quality monitoring to begin in Big Cypress

BY LISA MEDAY
ERMD EPS III

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department will conduct baseline air quality monitoring on Big Cypress Reservation. The air quality monitoring equipment is scheduled to arrive in Big Cypress Reservation in late January 2017 and will be located at the ERMD maintenance compound on the south side of West Boundary Road.

The objective of the BC air quality monitoring project is to obtain general baseline air quality monitoring to characterize air quality within Big Cypress Reservation over the course of one calendar year, which would include a wet and dry season. This monitoring will include CO (carbon monoxide), CO₂ (carbon dioxide), SO₂ (sulfur dioxide) and PM_{2.5} (particulate matter). The data will be publicly available online. Also, ERMD plans to coordinate with the Tribal Education Department to offer ideas about how students could use this information in

science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) studies.

The State of Florida has no air quality monitoring stations in Hendry County. Air quality monitoring stations in South Florida are located along the coasts and in major metropolitan areas such as Tampa Bay and Miami. The closest air quality monitoring stations to Big Cypress Reservation are in Lake Okeechobee and Fort Lauderdale. This significant data gap will be filled with direct monitoring of Big Cypress Reservation air quality by the Seminole Tribe.

ERMD expects to see low concentrations of pollutants in Big Cypress Reservation as South Florida has relatively clean air, with no areas in the state exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and fine particle matter.

Please contact Lisa Meday in ERMD at 954-965-4380 extension 10621 if you have any questions, or for a link to the on-line air quality data.

Program to discuss Southwest Florida's earliest residents

EVERGLADES CITY — The Spanish found the majestic Calusa when the explorers arrived in the early 1500s but who lived in Southwest Florida before the Calusa? And, where did the earlier tribes come from? What happened to them? How and when did the Seminoles get here?

Learn what has been discovered about inhabitants in the area over the many centuries in an illustrated lecture entitled "Pre-historic Snowbirds" on Feb. 24 at the Island

Café in Everglades City. The speaker will be Rachael Kangas, public archeology coordinator at the Southwest Regional Center of the Florida Public Archeology Network.

The event is hosted by the Everglades Society for Historical Preservation (www.evergladeshistorical.org). There is no charge but reservations are required. To make a reservation, email ESHHP@hotmail.com or call Marya at 239- 695-2905.

Gaming convention to be held in April

SAN DIEGO — The National Indian Gaming Association's Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention will be held April 10-13 at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California. The tradeshow and convention, in its 32nd year, is the largest gathering of tribal leaders and casino executives in the country. The event

bills itself as the meeting place where the community gathers to learn, network and exchange industry-specific ideas and a cultural celebration of success, strength and self-reliance.

Attendees who register before Feb. 20 will receive early bird package pricing. Visit www.indiagaming.org.



Carol F. Cypress sits with Sarah McDonald and Virginia P. Tommie during the 'Rekindled: Contemporary Southeastern Beadwork' reception Jan. 15 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress Jan. 15.

Beadwork exhibit debuts at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ
Copy Editor

BIG CYPRESS — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum opened its newest exhibition, "Rekindled: Contemporary Southeastern Beadwork" in the west gallery.

A reception was held for artists and guests Jan. 15 to celebrate the exhibit, which focuses on contemporary beadwork based on traditional styles created in the 1800s. The collection consists of beaded objects, including bandolier bags, baldrics or sashes, and other beaded objects that were once thought to be a lost tradition and style for southeastern tribes, including the Seminoles.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, several Native artists, including Roger Ellis Amerman, Martha Berry, Carol Cypress, Jerry Ingram, Jay McGirt, and Brian Zepeda, and later Karen Berry, began their own modernized versions of traditional Southeastern beadwork and today have some of their work displayed in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum as part of the exhibit.

"Brian, Carol, and all of the other native Southeastern artists are rebuilding a foundation that helps their cultures thrive," said curator Rebecca Fell.

The exhibit not only features the artists' work, but guests and visitors at the reception were able to participate in crafts that incorporated some of the traditions that were used in the artwork. Guests were able to enjoy finger weaving, coloring bandolier patterns, and creating beadwork to get an idea of what it took to recreate some of the collection. The collection was based on traditional styles and knowledge from Tribal elders. The artists additionally had to research for several years in order to rekindle their crafts, which is where the name of the exhibit comes from.

Carol Cypress, one of the founders responsible for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and involved in the preservation of Seminole culture, expressed what inspired her to make designs and what made her serious about recapturing old customs.

"My ideas came to me in my sleep," Cypress said. "I've been trying to teach someone how to do bandolier beadwork to keep the art form alive."

Cypress, a former teacher, said she



Curator Rebecca Fell, left, explains the exhibit to visitors during a guided tour at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on Jan.15.

enjoys teaching others the unique skill and how to achieve a design with the right materials. She created four bandolier bags for the exhibit. Two of them were traditional designs and two of them were her own distinctive interpretations; one design based off of nature, fertility, and the next generation and the other design based on the remembrance and extinction of Weeden pottery, which began on the island near Tampa Bay.

"The most difficult part was finding the right material; wool was the best to use," Cypress said. "Measuring the material was also different because men were smaller back then compared to today."

Artist Brian Zepeda expressed similar sentiments about how the material used for beadwork today is different from over 100 years ago. His art is made with antique-size 24 micro glass beads that are more than a century old and haven't been made since the 1900s iron region of Italy.

In order for Zepeda to complete his work, he has to purchase glass beads online from different manufacturers at a going rate of \$80-90 for three grams worth of beads, roughly a little less than the size of a teaspoon.

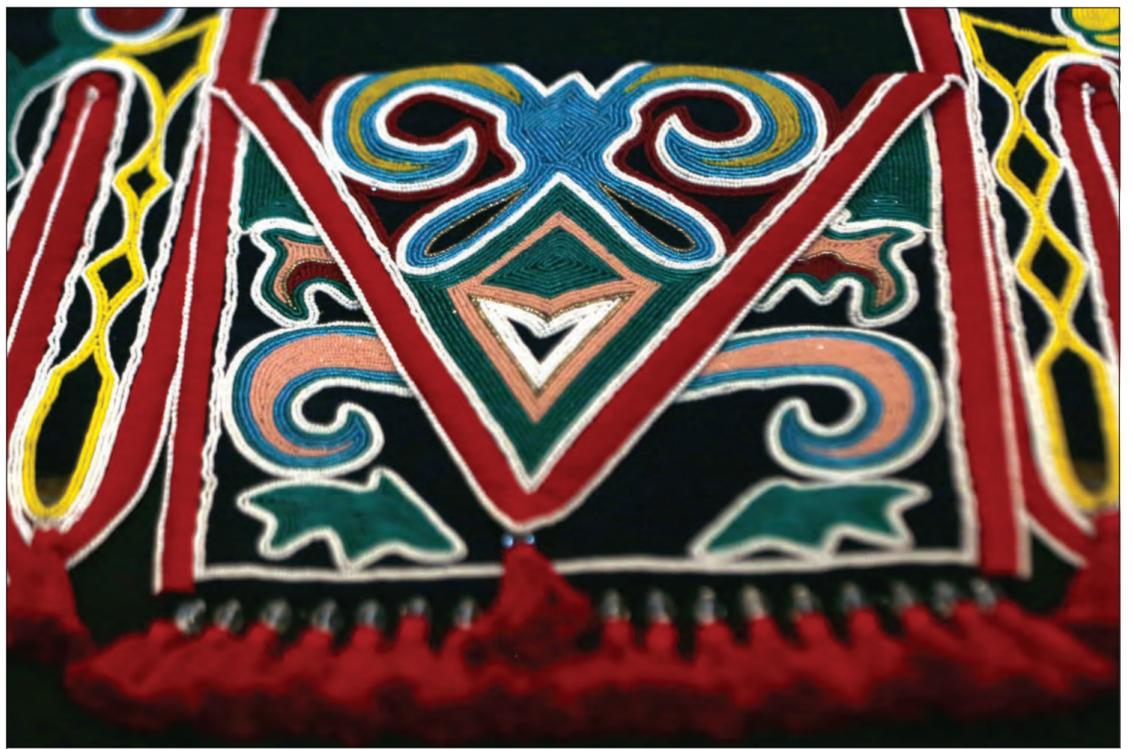
Zepeda began his art in 1996 when he was asked by Billy L. Cypress, Carol's husband, to make reproduction items for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. It took him 6 months to make his first bandolier bag.

"I did it over and over again until I was happy with the way it looked; it took me approximately three times to make it and get it right," he said.

From that point forward, he started making other items such as moccasins, leggings, and panel belts. Inside the exhibit, Zepeda's art consists of two bandolier bags, one pair of moccasins, and one panel belt, also known as a baldric or sash.

"I hope that Tribals and non-Tribals have an appreciation for the art when they come to visit; that they're inspired by the dedication of the artists and the beauty of it; that it inspires them so much that they would actually want to become an artist," Zepeda said.

"Rekindled: Contemporary Southeastern Beadwork" runs until Nov. 22, 2017 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation.



A colorful display of beadwork detail at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Pompano Beach venues welcome Seminole-theme programs

BY PATSY WEST

POMPAÑO BEACH — The first week of 2017 brought a rather remarkable collaboration in Pompano Beach. Pat Rowley Bedells, a wonderfully proactive volunteer with the small Pompano Beach Historical Society at Founders Park in Old Pompano, persuaded director Tom McMahon to procure Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's newest Travelling Exhibition "Struggle for Survival" for a month's showing.

"Struggle for Survival" discusses the heroic resistance of the Seminole leadership to remain on Florida soil, against their removal to Oklahoma, the mandate of the U.S. Government... a conflict that spanned more than 50 years of warfare and strife in the 19th century, "officially" ending for the United States in 1858.

Pat then got creative. What if she organized other small museums in town to also host exhibits on a "Seminole" theme? Then all of the museums would promote each other's "Seminole theme" programming in a cooperative effort. Visitors would not only have better exposure to Seminole/Micosukee history, but the town's cultural facilities would be participating in an unprecedented program for mutual exposure and benefit. Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is now also involved in promoting Pompano's "Seminole-themed" programming.

Pompano's museum base is what one might expect from a small, historically "farming-intense" community. In the 1950s, the area was best known for its "Bean and Pepper Jamboree" that was a huge local affair created by and held at the Pompano State Farmers Market as a celebration at the end of the harvest season. Now the older generations of Pompanoans have passed away, their offspring are often not historically motivated and the town has many newcomers. As a result, local public history has seen a decline in interest and support. The current historical entities want to change this situation and breathe life into Pompano Beach's cultural life. The Bean and Pepper Jamboree has recently been reinstated as a local event due to the new trend of community support for Green Markets.

The focus of Pompano Beach's history, other than the historical society, is a significant house museum venue. The former home of a prosperous farming family, the Sample-McDougal House was moved off the now valuable farmland real estate on Dixie Highway, aka the Old Military Trail which is the very same road that was blazed into southeast Florida by the U.S. military during the Second Seminole War, to a more centralized location at 450 N.E. 10th Street at Pompano Beach's Centennial Park.

The house museum, in the capable hands of manager Lee Waldo, is located just blocks from the Pompano Historical Society. The Sample-McDougal House is a two-story Dade County pine structure built in 1916 that is very well appointed with period furniture. Today, it presents a most unique experience for visitors to relive the affluence of the house's successful farming heritage during a time of slower pace for its inhabitants.

In an upstairs space, I installed a chronology of Seminole clothing from my Seminole/Micosukee Archive collection in Fort Lauderdale, ranging from a historic style of garment that has been retained since the days of the Seminole Wars.

The historic coat, or Long Shirt, foksikbacki in Mikasuki, was styled from the 18th century Great Coat of the British military. The Indian-made garment was called by early Florida settlers a "hunting coat," as all men wore them. By the first half of the 20th century, however, as a rule only traditional Council Elders retained the garment. The coat became known in the area communities as a "medicine man's coat."

Since the time of tribal fairs in the mid-20th century, these coats, soon made for boys and even toddlers, have been created and worn for special events and in traditional clothing contests.

The garments in this exhibition date from 1917 to the present and illustrate a brief history of the evolution of patchwork. They were all made with the aid of sewing machines, which over the decades afforded Seminole women great stylistic innovation in clothing and in the development of the patchwork art form. The exhibit concludes with outstanding contemporary examples of corn dance and contest attire from the 1970s through present, including patchwork artists Jimmie O'Toole Osceola, Francis Osceola, Maggie Henry, Kathy Huggins and Virginia O. Osceola. The Sample-McDougal family's upright sewing machine is on display.

The next museum on the tour is located nearby in downtown on First Street in the renovated space of the 1920s Bailey Hotel, now home of Bailey Contemporary Arts (BaCA). At BaCA an exhibit of enlarged images of Seminole/Micosukee postcards with informative captions was mounted at the popular Blooming Bean coffee shop adjacent to the gallery.



Lee Waldo, Sample-McDougal House Museum Exhibition, Pompano Beach

Jacket by Jimmie O'Toole Osceola C. 1950s, a product of the Seminole Craft Cooperative, Brighton and Big Cypress.

Additional postcard graphics are utilized throughout the first two venues, including selections from a graphic exhibit that originated as part of an exhibition I guest curated for the Boca Raton Historical Society's Viva Florida 500 contribution in 2013: "Native Floridians: Seminole and Micosukee Art and Culture."

This valuable collaborative effort between museums in Pompano Beach on a "Seminole Theme" is to be congratulated. Unfortunately, a fourth venue, Ali Cultural Arts, another important component of Pompano Beach's cultural community, was unable to participate due to venue restrictions, but looks forward to participation in future efforts.

The next cultural event on the calendar was a show of Florida Artist Hall of Fame, Jim Hutchinson's art, held at the John D. MacArthur Beach State Park in North Palm Beach on Jan. 12. Hutchinson and his wife, Joan, lived on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation in the 1960s for six years when Jim produced over 50 paintings depicting Seminoles in various venues, including wartime, contemporary camp life, and portraiture. A number of Jim's iconic works are in the collection of the Seminole Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Certainly 2017 has gotten off to a great start with Seminole/Micosukee-related events and exhibitions. Hopefully the year will continue to provide outlets for still more varied venues to come.

Ethnohistorian Patsy West is Director of the Seminole/Micosukee Archive in Fort Lauderdale and author of "Seminole and Micosukee Tribes of Southern Florida" (Arcadia Publishing, 2003)



Stephanie Rodriguez

'The Miami River' film creator Katja Esson holds a question and answer session Jan. 9 with others who made the film possible, including Samuel Tommie and Pedro Zepeda.

River film evokes water protection discussion

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ
Copy Editor

FORT LAUDERDALE — A film screening at the Savor Cinema in Fort Lauderdale opened a conversation among more than 50 guests about the importance of water conservation.

Plenty of environmental subjects were brought to the table on Jan. 10 as part of an evening to celebrate and take action for water through art, cinema, and the community, especially with the night's feature film, "The Miami River," by filmmaker Katja Esson.

The feature film, part of a five-part series about American rivers, was first aired in Europe and premiered in the U.S. in Fort Lauderdale. The film explores Miami River's history, its changing utilization, and its developing existence throughout decades.

Subjects related to the river that were covered included gentrification, ancient burial sites, boating traffic, importing and exporting ships, existing businesses, drug trafficking, and pollution.

Tribal citizen Pedro Zepeda was also featured in the film carving a cypress dugout wooden canoe, a long lost tradition amongst Seminoles. As a recipient of the Knight Foundation's Knight Art Grant, Zepeda carved the canoe live inside the Upper Room Art Gallery, established by host of the film event and gallery executive director Robin Haines Merrill.

The Upper Room Art Gallery is a non-profit global collective of artists & designers whose artwork specializes in organic and recycled materials and who are concerned with global poverty, social justice and environmental issues.

Before the film's screening, a prayer opening with Tribal citizen and environmental activist Samuel Tommie set the tone for the evening. Tommie played his flute while a short four-minute serene silent film he produced played in the background.

"I was there for a more spiritual aspect; water is spirit and we are connected to spirit," Tommie said. "We will only understand part of its message when we include water in our meditations; when we experience water in our meditations, we become part of a much larger spiritual home."

Tommie's film gave the audience a sense of tranquility as it displayed a smooth transition from cypress trees to birds flying during his flute performance. His advocacy

for peace in and outside of the Tribe is reflected through his work and he continues to fight for causes he believes in.

Shortly after the audience experienced Tommie's dual artistic project, a creative music video of the Everglades, produced by Houston Cypress with local band Agape and singer Nadia Harris, was viewed.

"This film event was an opportunity to discuss important water quality issues using art as a catalyst," Cypress said. "The diverse projects were able to give voice to many different communities including the indigenous, immigrants, and international perspectives."

The evening evoked passion amongst activists, who attended the event not only to support the artistic movement surrounding ecological issues but to raise concerns about conservation issues facing the state, and it created an open dialogue during a question-and-answer session.

Tim Canova, a law professor and former candidate for Florida's 23rd congressional district, shared his beliefs about preserving the Florida and South Florida Aquifers while the film touched on controversial local issues like the Sabal Trail and Florida Southeast Connection pipelines.

Aquifers are bodies of saturated rock through which water can easily move and are responsible for how water is received from the ground.

"If a sink hole happens, about 1.6 billion gallons of gas can get into the state's aquifer," Canova said. "The aquifer provides 60 percent of our drinking water."

According to Canova, he delivered a petition with 90,000 signatures to Sen. Bill Nelson's office in order to stop the construction of the Sabal Trail and Florida Southeast Connection pipelines. Additionally, he was able to get the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to do an environmental impact assessment.

"We need to be more conscious of how this can potentially affect us all," he said.

Canova was adamant about environmental issues during his congressional campaign, specifically fracking problems. He continues to play a role in ecological concerns throughout the nation. He formed a group known as Progress for All that calls for strict regulation of Wall Street and predatory finance, an end to corporate subsidies, renewed public banking alternatives that meet all of society's



Stephanie Rodriguez

Samuel Tommie plays the flute at the Celebrate Water film screening in Fort Lauderdale on Jan. 9.

needs, and a revived public sector balanced with genuinely free markets to ensure a full employment economy that works for everyone, according to the group's website.

"We need more events like this where different communities can come together and collaborate to achieve positive environmental results," Cypress said.

An upcoming film screening of "The Miami River" will take place again on Feb. 19, from 12:30-3 p.m. at History Miami in downtown Miami at 101 W Flagler St.

A reception will be held with light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres, and two varieties of locally grown organic teas including a special lemongrass tea from a community garden in Broward and a tea made of wild foraged botanicals from the Everglades. Hard Rock is a sponsor.

There will be a special panel of speakers and a question-and-answer session with filmmaker Katja Esson, archeologist Robert Carr, and canoe carver Pedro Zepeda after the screening of the film.

Admission is \$20 at the door and can be purchased at www.upperroomartgallery.com.

Art from Aboriginal Australia on display at FIU

MIAMI — The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University will present "Marking the Infinite: Contemporary Women Artists from Aboriginal Australia" featuring the work of nine contemporary women artists hailing from remote Aboriginal areas. The Miami leg of this North American tour features the full breadth of the collection with 70 works

showcased in the museum's Grand Galleries, spanning more than 4,000-square feet.

Miami-based collectors and philanthropists Debra and Dennis Scholl have lent the artworks, many of which are being seen publicly for the first time.

The work will be on view through May 7. The exhibition features acclaimed artists from Australia, all of whom have

works in the Australian National Museum's collection.

"These women have redrawn the boundaries of Aboriginal art and are redefining the vision of contemporary art," Dr. Jordana Pomeroy, director of the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum FIU, said in a press release.

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A good cattle mystery

BY SIOBHAN MILAR

Exhibits Coordinator, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

During the last year the Exhibits Department has been working on various aspects of the mobile cattle exhibit, which is nearing completion. We've listened to suggestions, gathered props, conducted oral histories with Tribal members, researched content, written labels, reviewed numerous images, contacted vendors and are now putting it all together.

Since working on this exhibit, I have learned a great deal more about cattle and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. One of the most surprising things I learned was that the "reintroduction" of cattle to Seminoles started on the Dania Reservation in 1934 with a \$100 sale of green beans. The monies generated from the sale went to purchase 12 native Florida cows. This small initiative made Washington, D.C. take notice, prompting the purchase of an additional 75-80 head of cattle and setting the wheels in motion for other reservations.

It's hard to imagine there once was cattle grazing on the lands in the areas of Dania/Hollywood since little of that land remains open. For those who travel regularly to the Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations, or residents of these reservations, it's commonplace to see cattle dotting the landscape. For those unfamiliar with the area, however, it may be a bit of a mystery to see cattle in the middle of a swamp.

Mysteries can take shape in many forms. Along the way, the exhibit process can often resemble a mystery. Particularly when you've got a photo that you'd like to include, but there's little to go on: no name, no event, and no specific date. What do you do? Do you forget about it and just use a different image instead - maybe one that is neatly documented? Or do you move on, trying to fill in the blanks along the way? And so the investigation briefly halts in one direction while it moves seamlessly in others.

This is relevant for several reasons and applies to more than this exhibit. In instances where the person is known, the museum staff contacts the person in the photo (or surviving family members, or a parent in the case of a minor) directly to seek permission for its use. Also it's helpful to know in advance if someone doesn't like to have their image used.

Without information to accompany the



Photo courtesy Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

If you know anything about this photo, the Museum would like to hear from you.

photographs like the one shown, the story becomes like a cold case. The Museum staff does reach out to the Tribal community with these photographs, hoping that the person recognizes himself or herself or someone else is able to identify the individual and we're able to pick up the trail from that point forwards. If the Museum is fortunate, someone will come along and say, "I know who this is!" The staff also welcomes Tribal members to come down to the Museum or call to check out what photographs are

available.

For now, this image will remain a mystery and won't be used in the mobile cattle display. But if we know who to contact, we just might come calling later down the line.

If you'd like more information on the upcoming cattle cart exhibit, please contact the Museum's exhibits coordinator Stobhan Millar at: siohhanmillar@semtribe.com or (863) 902-1113 x 12251.

A big year for the people made from the sands of Florida

BY PAUL BACKHOUSE
 Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director and THPO

There is no doubt that 2017 is an important year for the Tribe. Exactly 200 years ago, in 1817, U.S. General Edmund Gaines attacked the Mikasuki settlement at Fowltown and effectively declared war on the Seminoles. The resultant reign of destruction in north Florida, carried out by men commanded by Andrew Jackson was short-lived but brought with it unimaginable loss. Countless Seminoles lost their homes, their families, and their lives in this brutal raid. For those who endured, it was another push in the direction ever southward toward the sanctuary of the swamps where a core group would survive against impossible odds.

Sixty years ago, in 1957, after years of struggling and facing the termination of U.S. government services, descendants of the survivors of Jackson's raid were federally recognized as the Seminole Tribe of Florida that retains its political sovereignty today. As the Tribe celebrates its diamond anniversary of federal recognition it is worth taking a moment to reflect on the lives of those brave ancestors that suffered unimaginable hardship to remain unconquered and endure for their descendants.

Exactly 50 years ago, in 1967, Betty Mae Jumper was elected as the Tribe's first female chairman. Her leadership and emphasis on education ushered in a new era for the Tribe.

Just a year after being elected she helped found the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) organization.

Twenty years ago, in 1997, the Seminole Tribe of Florida built the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. Its name means a "place to learn and a place to remember." The Museum is a community place of cultural preservation and plays an important role in communicating the Seminole story to people who visit Big Cypress from countries across

the globe. Today with the internet and social media the Seminole story is being recognized worldwide.

Ten years ago, in 2007, the Seminole Tribe purchased Hard Rock Café International Inc., leading Indian Country onto a global stage of economic opportunity.

Throughout the year please look for special coverage of these momentous dates including editorial coverage and Tribal member views in The Seminole Tribune, online and onsite exhibitory and programming at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, and community engagement with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

Coacoochee (Wildcat) said he was 'made from the sands of Florida.' The world now knows the name 'Seminole.' In 2017, we should remember the stories of those 200 who survived to become the proud nation of more than 4000 unconquered today.



Seminole postcards highlight Collier County Museum exhibition

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
 Staff Reporter

NAPLES — Picture postcards have been around since the 1880s. The first one depicted the Eiffel Tower and others that followed showed scenes from tourist locations around the globe. Their popularity hit a high mark during their heyday in the first decades of the 20th century.

"Postcards and Perceptions: Florida Seminoles and Tourism," an exhibition at the Collier County Museum in Naples through April 18, showcases postcards that document early 20th century Seminole life.

The show is one of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's traveling exhibits and features pop up banners about the history, crafts and significance of tourism in the first half of the century. Selections from the Collier County Museum's postcard and patchwork collection are also on display.

The images reveal the Seminole Tribe's evolution through the years as it strived to maintain its distinct culture and identity while relying on the tourism trade for survival. Some of the images depict Seminoles wrestling alligators, sewing patchwork and



posing with tourists.

Collier County Museum director Amanda Townsend will present a program at the museum about the history and importance of the postcards on Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. The program will explore how the postcards reflected the social values of the times and defined the image of Florida for tourists. Seating is limited, so reservations are suggested. Call Curator of Education Joy Murphy at 239-252-8242 to reserve a seat.

The Collier County Museum is located at 3331 Tamiami Trail East in Naples. For more information, visit www.colliermuseums.com or call 239-252-8476.

Photos courtesy Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

An exhibit with postcards featuring Native American life in Florida is at the Collier County Museum until April 18.



Photo courtesy Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Anniversaries of milestones in the Seminole Tribe of Florida will occur throughout 2017. Here, The Constitution and Charter Committee gather in March 1957. From left, Rex Quinn, Mike Osceola, Frank Billie, Jackie Willie, Bill Osceola, John Henry Gopher, Billy Osceola and Jimmy Osceola.

Native fashion exhibition arrives at National Museum of the American Indian

FROM PRESS RELEASE

NEW YORK — The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian's George Gustav Heye Center in New York will host the final showing of the first large-scale traveling exhibition of contemporary Native American fashion, celebrating Indigenous designers from across the United States and Canada from the 1950s to today.

"Native Fashion Now," originally organized by the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, explores the complex realms where fashion meets art, cultural identity, politics and commerce.

The exhibition opens Feb. 17 in the museum's East Gallery and runs through Sept. 4.

Through nearly 70 works, "Native Fashion Now" explores the vitality of Native fashion designers and artists — from pioneering Native style-makers of the mid-20th century like Charles Loloma (Hopi Pueblo) to maverick designers of today such as Wendy Red Star (Apsálooke [Crow]). The exhibition immerses visitors in all aspects of contemporary Native fashion — its concerns, modes of expression and efforts to create meaning through fashion.

"Native Fashion Now" is the first show to emphasize the long-standing, evolving and increasingly prominent relationship between fashion and creativity in Native culture. "New York City is a fashion capital of the world and the works shown in this exhibition belong on this stage," said Kevin Gover (Pawnee), director of the National Museum of the American Indian. "Native voice is powerful and Native culture is a megaphone. These designers' works demonstrate to visitors the contemporary strength of Native iconographies and sensibilities."

The exhibition's four themes —



Photo by Walter Silver. Copyright 2015 Peabody Essex Museum.

Jamie Okuma (Luiseño and Shoshone-Bannock), boots, 2013-14. Glass beads on boots designed by Christian Louboutin.

Pathbreakers, Revisitors, Activators and Provocateurs — reflect how designers respond to ideas and trends in the world of Native fashion.

Pathbreakers are designers like Dorothy Grant (Haida) and Frankie Welch (Cherokee descent), while Revisitors refresh, renew and expand on tradition, like D.Y. Begay (Diné [Navajo]) and Bethany Yellowtail (Apsálooke/Northern Cheyenne). Activators embrace an everyday, personal style that engages with today's trends and politics, like the work of Marcus Amerman (Choctaw) that considers the overlap between mainstream and Native culture in America, while Provocateurs, like Margaret Roach Wheeler (Chickasaw) and Sho Sho Esquiro (Kaska Dene/Cree), depart from conventional fashion to make works that are conceptually driven and experimental.



Seminole Indian making colorful garments in Florida

After nearly 50 years, Tribal Fair and Pow Wow continues to grow

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — About 46 years ago with the help of Judy Baker, Wanda Bowers spearheaded a popular annual Seminole tradition that would create a sense of camaraderie among various Native American Tribes from all over the nation.

The tradition, known as Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow, and the women's efforts continue to be a part of a legacy that brings Native culture and arts together in dancing, singing, sharing, and eating. This year's event will be held from Friday, Feb. 10 through Sunday, Feb. 12 at Hollywood's Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.

A variety of activities are slated for the Hard Rock Live arena and outdoors on the east side of Seminole Paradise. One of the largest components of the Pow Wow is the list of dance competitions with more than \$150,000 in cash rewards up for grabs. There will also be special reward opportunities available this year in addition to regular prize money.

A northern and a southern drum group competition offering prizes of up to \$10,000 each will be one of the main highlights of the Pow Wow. There will also be a three-man hand drum competition for a prize of \$500. Individual dance contests for all ages,

including seniors, juniors, teens, men, and women, will also take place. Every age group will have the opportunity to participate in different styles of dancing based on their gender and will be eligible to win cash ranging from \$100 up to \$1,200.

With more than 250 dancers who participated last year in competitions, Bowers said she expects more participants this year. The dancers are judged on their ability to stay in step to the beat and look convincing in their storylines as they often wear different regalia, which denote tribal differences. Some of the dress and ornaments signify special events or honors in a person's life, special religious traditions, and sometimes even legends.

Historically, there is a circle in most dances representing the circle of unity or cycle of life. Dancers often follow the clockwise pattern of the sun and have various styles of dances they can participate in.

Men can compete for northern traditional, southern straight, fancy, grass, and chicken style dances. Women can compete for northern traditional, southern buckskin, fancy, jingle and northern/southern cloth combined.

Pow Wows signify the renewal of old friendships and the making of new friendships. They used to hold religious significance and were an opportunity for

families to hold naming and honoring ceremonies. Some trace the word "powwow" to the Algonquin language and say non-Indians used it to mean a council or meeting.

"When I first started this, I didn't know what I was getting myself into," Bowers said. "Back then, Judy asked the chairman to start the Pow Wow but she was also a food vendor and she asked me if I could do the Pow Wow and before you know it, I got into my van with my girlfriend, and we drove up west to find out more about Pow Wows; that's where I found out about rain, sleet snow, hail, and ice on the road. I experienced all the four seasons in one trip."

Tribes from all over the nation will be coming in by the hundreds to enjoy a weekend that promises to be packed with socializing, music, all types of vendors, clothing contests, arts and crafts/fine arts competitions, alligator wrestling, wildlife shows, and plenty of food.

"Everybody come over; eat, drink, we'll trade, we'll talk, we'll gossip, we'll trade stories, and everything," Bowers said. "But here... it's about dance competition; it's really just a big gathering of Native Americans and it's turned into a big competition about their dance [other Tribes] or what dance you choose."



Health



Local group seeks increase in legal age for tobacco

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA
Florida Dept. of Health in Broward

Anti-tobacco advocates in Broward County will ask local elected officials in the coming year to consider raising the legal age to buy tobacco products, to 21, as a way to prevent youths from starting the habit.

The Tobacco-Free Partnership of Broward chose as its top priority for 2017 a project to ask elected commissioners from Broward County and its cities about raising the legal age for tobacco sales, which now is 18.

More than 80 percent of smokers start before age 18, many with help from friends who can buy tobacco legally. Researchers at the Institute of Medicine have estimated that raising the legal age to 21 would reduce under-21 smoking by 12 percent.

California and Hawaii and more than 200 U.S. cities and counties (none in Florida) have raised the legal age to 21, and four states have raised it to 19.

"Raising the age would help keep tobacco out of the schools," said Imani Richardson, a health educator at the Florida Department of Health in Broward, which organizes the Tobacco Free Partnership.

The American Lung Association in Broward has started working on presentations. In addition, the Partnership is enlisting the help of teen volunteers in the 20 Broward chapters of Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT).

The Partnership board will tackle other projects this year:

- * Encouraging more employers to ban smoking on their property and to offer free quit-smoking services to employees.

- * Holding an anti-tobacco event at a Florida Panthers game.

- * Participating in Relay for Life walk/run events with the American Cancer Society.

- * Expanding its Youth Essay Contest to be more often than once a year.

Methamphetamine prevention program starts for Native Youth

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — Lawrence S. Roberts, principal deputy assistant secretary of Indian Affairs, announced Jan. 19 that the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education joined with their federal partners last month to launch the Culture and Meth Don't Mix program, a multi-agency methamphetamine ("meth") prevention initiative for Native youth.

The program is the result of collaboration under the Gen-I initiative between the White House Council on Native American Affairs, which is chaired by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, the BIA's Office of Justice Services, BIE, and the Substance Abuse and Mental

Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its aim is to be a culturally appropriate approach for meth prevention among Native American youth through community and interagency involvement.

"The Culture and Meth Don't Mix program's goal is to strengthen meth prevention in tribal communities through the combined efforts of the BIA's Office of Justice Services, BIE schools, and SAMHSA," Roberts said. "I want to thank SAMHSA for working with us to help tribes with protecting their children and youth, and tribal leaders for participating in this important effort."

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OkeechobeeBattlefield.com

SEMINOLE SCENES



NICE GESTURE: Seminole Tribe Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., left, is presented a blanket from Dennis "Bill" Taylor, Tribal Council Chairman of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, during Chairman Osceola's inauguration ceremony Jan. 9 at tribal headquarters on the Hollywood Reservation.

Kevin Johnson



CHRISTMAS CUTIES: The Immokalee reservation's float is all loaded up with kids and ready to take to the streets Dec. 10. The float won Best All Around Float in the town's Around the World Parade. From left are Susan Davis, Zoey Garcia, 5, Elana Kendricks, 5, Remy Rodriguez, 8, Gia Garcia, 3, and Ruby Pequeno, 7.

Photo courtesy of Cecilia Garcia



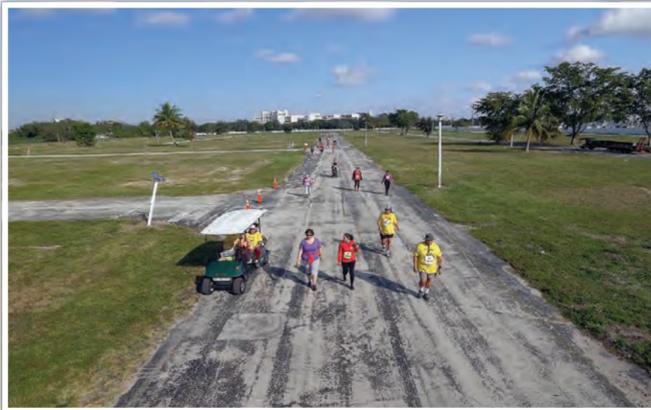
rodstewart.com

ROCKIN' ROD: Rod Stewart and Cyndi Lauper will kick off their 18-city tour at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood on July 6 at 7:30 p.m. Stewart has earned several of the music industry's highest awards, including two inductions into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the ASCAP Founders Award for songwriting and Grammy Living Legend. In 2016, he officially became "Sir Rod Stewart" after being knighted by Britain's Prince William at Buckingham Palace for his services to music and charity. Tickets are on sale.



FIELD OF FLAMES: This Brighton sugar cane field is burned in preparation for the harvest Jan. 20. The burn gets rid of the leaves, weeds and wildlife.

Beverly Bidney



VIEW FROM ABOVE: Walkers participate in the annual Rez Rally on Jan. 21 on the Hollywood Reservation. This photo was shot with the Seminole Media Productions' drone.

Martin Ebenhack/Seminole Media Productions



SEMINOLE SK8ER: Tyrus Billie practices the frontside feeble grind at the Big Cypress skate park Jan. 24. The Ahfachkee School graduate is looking into starting a business making decks for skateboards.

Beverly Bidney



CHEERING SECTION: The family of Moore Haven High School's Sydnee Cypress cheers for her during her senior night game Jan. 12.

Kevin Johnson



HEALTHY SHOP: Hungry customers Che-Ke Moore and Timy Jimmie choose from the colorful selection of fresh produce at Wendie Jimmie's produce stand in Big Cypress Jan. 5. Wendie and her husband Jorge Lara sell the fruits and vegetables in Big Cypress twice a week, Mondays at the RV Resort and Thursdays on Josie Billie Highway. The couple, who also sell their goods at farmers markets around Southwest Florida, plans to expand the business and begin sales in Brighton on Saturdays.

Beverly Bidney



GROWING GRAIN- The winter grass planted at the Brighton feedlot in November pushes through the ground in Jan., despite a lack of rain. A few types of cool weather grass were planted, including this rye.

Beverly Bidney



READY FOR THEIR CLOSEUP: These cows in the Brighton feedlot Jan. 11 appear to be posing for the camera, but they were really waiting for the food tractor to come into the pasture.

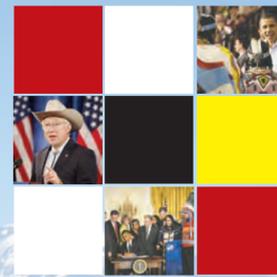
Beverly Bidney



FILL 'ER UP: A welcome sight at the Brighton Trading Post Jan. 19 is the Seminole Petroleum tanker truck, which filled the underground tanks and thus supplied drivers with the fuel they need to get to their destination.

Beverly Bidney

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Canada's first indigenous business district is coming to Toronto

TORONTO — Toronto is planning to create Canada's first indigenous business and cultural district.

"It's a timely initiative considering the reconciliation efforts that are underway across the country," said city Coun. Kristyn Wong-Tam. She initiated the idea about six years ago because her ward has one of the city's largest indigenous populations, up to 75,000 across Toronto.

"You can go through Little Portugal, you can go to Chinatown, you can go through Little Italy. You have these wonderful culturally diverse sections of Toronto. We don't have that type of space here for Canada's first peoples," said JP Gladu, president and CEO of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and an Ojibwe of the Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation.

"The idea is to create a space where independent business can come and flourish," added Gladu, who is working with Wong-Tam and Chief Stacey Laforme of Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation whose traditional territory the city of Toronto and beyond is built upon.

The district, which will likely combine street-level businesses, start-up incubators and a cultural gathering place, is widely supported but she says the holdup has been finding land.

Wong-Tam recently secured a site with over 13,000 sq. ft. at the downtown corner of Jarvis and Dundas streets. But the rest is to be determined, from timeline to cost to the name itself.

"I essentially said 'Whatever the name is, we will learn to pronounce it.'"

Laforme said, "Having a business district that also ties in the cultural aspects of things gives the indigenous people in Toronto an opportunity to showcase who they are and what they can accomplish."

Laforme believes it will also improve relations between indigenous and non-indigenous people.

"The greatest thing that draws people together is finding commonalities," he said. "Having a district where it's open and welcoming, everyone will be happy to go there and learn a lot about each other."

This indigenous business district comes on the heels of Toronto introducing indigenous names on street signs, Toronto schools acknowledging indigenous lands and plans to start hoisting the Mississaugas flag at City Hall.

"There's just so much racism right now in the country and I think it's a real opportunity to address the ignorance," Galdu said of these efforts.

— *The Huffington Post*

Connecticut eyes another casino to battle nearby competition

Another Connecticut casino could soon be on the way should the state's General Assembly approve a forthcoming proposal presented jointly by the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes.

The Native American groups are trying to make sure gambling revenue in the state remains there, and doesn't flow north into Massachusetts where MGM Resorts is building a \$950 million casino resort in Springfield.

The Mashantucket and Mohegan tribes are the only two federally recognized Native American groups in the state. They each currently have one casino, Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun.

Like so many other states, Connecticut is strapped for cash. While Gov. Dannel Malloy (D) won't reveal his fiscal plan for the next two years until February, he's already warned legislators to look for new ways to grow revenue.

As is the case across much of the northeast, resort-style casino gambling is seen as one way to increase tax money. Hartford is facing a deficit of at least \$1.4 billion, and bringing a third casino to the state could help offset some of those losses.

Just miles across the state's northern border, MGM Springfield is hoping to capitalize off not only those in Massachusetts, but also Connecticut's wealthy clientele in areas such as Hartford and other northern communities. Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun both reside in the southeast corner of the state.

The two tribes are expected to collaborate on the third potential casino property. Lawmakers have already approved another gambling destination, but the sovereign groups must first obtain authorization for any plans before building.

— *Casino.org*

Mohegan Tribe considers redeveloping hospital for destination attractions

NORWICH, Conn. — Southeastern

Connecticut, long the state's tourism mecca, could become something much more if the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority's plan to redevelop the former Norwich Hospital property materializes.

It could become a "destination." Such is the promise of the project, which, though still in a conceptual stage, had state and local officials praising the Mohegans' vision during a January news conference at Mohegan Sun.

Renderings unveiled for the first time depicted the layout of features of the proposal that had been outlined days earlier: a theme park, sports and entertainment venues, hotels, senior housing, timeshares and a marina.

Nothing's cast in stone, said Kevin Brown, the Mohegan tribal chairman who also heads the gaming authority's management board. "It may end up including something that hasn't even occurred to us," he said. "But the tourism mix is going to be a big part of it."

The gaming authority has pledged to deliver a project that tips the scales in the \$200 million to \$600 million range, with third-party developers expected to bid on various phases of it. The process of pitching everything could take up to 18 months, Brown said.

It could be two years before a shovel is in the ground and as many as five years before anything is in place.

"Tourism's a huge aspect of this," said state Sen. Paul Formica, the East Lyme Republican who founded the legislature's tourism caucus. "You come into this region on Interstate 95, it's the gateway to 'Mystic Coast and Country' ... and Preston. The possibilities are endless."

While the state needs to attract investment in biotechnology and manufacturing, there's no denying tourism's importance, particularly to this region, Formica said.

"It's the power of having two of the largest casinos in the world in your backyard," he said, referring to Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods Resort Casino.

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy noted that the state has invested more than \$9 million in the hospital property over the years and is committed to bonding another \$10 million to cover environmental cleanup costs. Under Malloy, Connecticut also has invested heavily in tourism promotion in recent years.

— *The (New London, Conn.) Day*

Judge halts enforcement of American Indian art law

A federal judge ordered the enforcement of a new state law that places restrictions on what can be described in Oklahoma as "American Indian arts and crafts" be halted.

The order was recently issued in response to stipulations agreed to by the parties about the nature of the lawsuit, the claims alleged, and "to avoid the need for preliminary litigation before a final judgment on the merits." Online docket for the U.S. District Court of Western Oklahoma show a status conference is scheduled Feb. 1.

Peggy Fontenot, an award-winning photographer and artist and member of the Patowomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia, contends the law violates several provisions of the U.S. Constitution and seeks a permanent injunction. Fontenot alleges the state law, which restricts the definition of an American Indian to enrolled members of federally recognized tribes, is an infringement upon her First Amendment speech rights and her "right to participate in the interstate market for American Indian art."

The complaint further alleges the provisions of House Bill 2261 restricts her "right to pursue a trade without being subjected to irrational, arbitrary and discriminatory laws" in violation of the 14th Amendment. Fontenot further contends the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution "forbids state laws that override the objectives of an explicit federal law."

An American Indian tribe as it now pertains to the American Indian Arts and Crafts Sales Act of 1974 includes any "tribe, organized band or pueblo ... domiciled in the United States." HB 2261 further limits the definition to tribes "federally recognized" by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The lawsuit was filed Nov. 22, naming as a defendant Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, whose office agreed to halt enforcement of the state law "against any other person who may ... lawfully market his or her art as 'American Indian-made' consistent with" federal law. Pruitt's office made "no admission concerning the merits of Fontenot's claims" or the likelihood of her ability to "succeed on the merits of those claims."

House author Rep. Chuck Hoskin, D-Vinita, said the measure was intended to protect Native American artists and collectors of their art. During debate of the measure, he rejected the notion that it would prevent artists who are not members of a federally recognized tribe from creating art with Native American styles or expressions.

The measure has been met with resistance on several fronts since its passage. In addition to Fontenot's federal lawsuit, at least two Native American organizations have adopted resolutions that condemn the state law.

A resolution approved in June by the Alliance of Colonial Era Tribes cites its opposition to "any action seeking to limit the definition of American Indian and related nomenclature to tribes listed by the BIA as federally recognized." The National Congress of American Indians adopted a resolution that protects "Native artisans against impermissible restrictive state legislation."

— *The Muskogee (Okla.) Phoenix*

IHS pledges quality improvements in wake of GAO report

WASHINGTON — The Indian Health Service is seeking a new quality chief to implement remediation programs at agency facilities, many of which it admits are delivering poor quality care to the nation's native American population.

The new position will implement a program developed over the past several months after Senators John Barasso (R-Wyoming) and Jon Tester (D-Montana) sought a Government Accountability Report evaluating the quality of care at agency hospitals, especially across the Great Plains states.

The GAO report, released Jan. 9, found several IHS facilities provided limited and inconsistent quality reports to their government boards and agency headquarters and failed to report many adverse events. The government auditors also documented the massive leadership turnover at many facilities.

A Modern Healthcare report last month documented a series of deaths and incidents at a small IHS hospital in Winnebago, Neb., which led to the facility being cut off from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid funding. The facility has had 10 CEOs, eight of them acting, in the past five years.

In response to the Congressional scrutiny, the agency in recent months has signed a \$700,000 contract with The Joint Commission Resources to develop uniform quality standards for the IHS' 26 hospitals and 56 health clinics. The 19 hospitals and 287 clinics independently operated by Indian tribes weren't evaluated by the GAO.

In a response to the GAO, Jim Esquea, the assistant secretary for legislation at the Health and Human Services department, said the agency was taking a number of steps to improve quality at IHS beyond developing new standards and hiring a new quality chief. It recently contracted with HealthInsight, a federally-qualified quality improvement organization to "redesign, if needed, the IHS hospital operating infrastructure ... focus(ing) on leadership, staff development, data acquisition and analytics, clinical standards of care, and quality of care."

The agency last month also began implementing a "just culture" program to encourage employees to speak out about poor quality care at facilities. The goal is to create "an environment in which staff are encouraged to report errors and other safety events without fear of retribution or retaliation and where data are used to drive improvement," Esquea wrote in response to the GAO report.

The agency also pledged to track the remediation efforts.

— *Modern Healthcare*

Supreme Court won't hear American Indian girl's case

LOS ANGELES — Family members said Jan. 9 they were disappointed that the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear a case involving their former foster daughter, a girl with Native American ancestry who was ordered removed from their California home and reunited with relatives in Utah.

Rusty and Summer Page said in a statement that the high court's decision was a "crushing blow."

Lexi, who is part Choctaw, was 6 years old when she was taken from her foster home near Los Angeles in a tearful parting last March. She was placed with extended family in Utah under a decades-old federal law designed to keep Native American families together.

A California appeals court affirmed in July a lower court's decision to remove the girl.

The Pages said Jan. 9 they will keep fighting for changes to the law "and the rights of other children unnecessarily hurt by the Indian Child Welfare Act."

Lexi was 17 months old when she was removed from the custody of her mother, who had drug-abuse problems, and placed in foster care. Her father has a criminal history, according to court records.

Although foster care is supposed to be temporary, the Pages wanted to adopt Lexi and for years fought efforts under the

federal act to place the girl with relatives of her father, who is part Choctaw.

Lexi is now living with relatives of her father who are not Native Americans.

The case was one of dozens brought by foster families since the Indian Child Welfare Act was passed in the late 1970s. Lawmakers found that Native American families were broken up at disproportionately high rates, and that cultural ignorance and biases within the child welfare system were largely to blame.

— *Fox News*

Lawsuit claims Havasupai students are deprived of 'basic general education'

WASHINGTON — Nine students in the Havasupai Nation have filed a lawsuit against the federal government claiming that agencies including the Bureau of Indian Education "have knowingly failed to provide basic general education" to children in the remote area of Arizona.

The suit revolves around Havasupai Elementary in the small village of Supai within the Grand Canyon, accessed only through an eight-mile hike or by helicopter. With about 75 total students, according to 2012-2013 BIE numbers — the latest numbers available — the school is small. But parents involved in the lawsuit say its problems are critical. Among their complaints: the school is understaffed, does not provide a general education curriculum, and lacks a system for offering special education.

"This is a landmark civil rights case," said Alexis DeLaCruz, an attorney with the Native American Disability Law Center, one of the firms involved in the case. "This is the first time anyone has ever filed a lawsuit attempting to address the wholesale denial of equal education opportunities to students attending a BIE school."

According to the complaint, Havasupai Elementary is so chronically understaffed that the school has been shut down "for weeks at a time" and that "there is no science, history, social studies, foreign language, arts, or physical education curriculum."

The Bureau of Indian Education, a defendant in the case, told Cronkite News that the agency does not provide comment on pending litigation.

Laila R. is one of the parents who has signed on to the lawsuit. She is only using her first name in the lawsuit and in interviews to protect the identity of her children. She had to send her oldest son to high school outside of the Havasupai reservation. There are no options for high schoolers in the area.

Laila R. eventually decided to take her whole family out of Supai, moving to Yavapai County, because she worried that her younger son was not getting a decent education.

"It made me leave, you know, my culture, my way of life and now I have to kind of put that aside and focus on my kids because my kids have to survive," she said in an interview with Cronkite News.

Havasupai Nation Chairman Don E. Watahomigie said the school's problems take a toll on the entire community.

"It's a burden: a burden all the way around because the way the school is graduating eighth-graders who are not ready for high school yet," he said.

About 16 percent of students at Havasupai Elementary are proficient in reading and zero percent are labeled as advanced, according to 2012-2013 data from the BIE. One hundred percent of the students are at a basic level in math and science. DeLaCruz said a persistent lack of proficiency in these subjects hamper students in finding a high school to attend.

"Because of the substandard education that the children who attend the school are provided, students cannot meet entrance and admission requirements for admission to even other BIE schools," she said.

Other claims in the case: • The school practices "excessive exclusionary discipline." The complaint alleges that disciplinary actions cause one plaintiff to miss half of instruction time during the week.

• The advisory school board is not included in decision-making. Community members do not have access to recent school data and there is a "pattern of retaliation" against community members who speak up about the school, according to the complaint.

• Students with disabilities do not have equal access to education. The needs of students with disabilities are not being met, DeLaCruz said. Those needs include specialized instruction and necessary accommodations.

— *Cronkite News*

Appointments made to Commission on Native Children

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senators Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) announced Jan. 18 that

the first two members to the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children — created by their legislation that was recently signed into law — were appointed by President Obama before he left office.

The appointments are United Tribes Technical College President Russ McDonald and Anita Fineday of Casey Family Programs

Signed into law in October, Heitkamp and Murkowski's bipartisan bill will create a new commission to address the challenges facing Native children — including poverty, substance abuse, and domestic violence — and offer solutions to address them. McDonald and Fineday will serve as two members of the 11-member Commission, which will be comprised of individuals specializing in juvenile justice, social work, as well as mental and physical health.

McDonald previously served as the chairman of Spirit Lake Tribe in North Dakota, as well as the vice president of academic affairs at Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC).

Fineday is the managing director of Indian Child Welfare Program for the Casey Family Programs and previously served as the chief judge for the White Earth Tribal Nation in Minnesota for 14 years. She also previously served as an associate judge for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa.

— *press release*

Uranium mine cleanup settlement reached for Navajo Nation

WASHINGTON — The United States and the Navajo Nation have entered into a settlement agreement with two affiliated subsidiaries of Freeport-McMoRan, Inc. for the cleanup of 94 abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation. Under the settlement, valued at over \$600 million, Cyprus Amax Minerals Company and Western Nuclear, Inc., will perform the work and the United States will contribute approximately half of the costs. The settlement terms are outlined in a proposed consent decree filed Jan. 17 in federal court in Phoenix, Arizona. With this settlement, funds are now committed to begin the cleanup process at over 200 abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation.

The work to be conducted is subject to oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in collaboration with the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency.

"This remarkable settlement will result in significant environmental restoration on Navajo lands and will help build a healthier future for the Navajo people," said Assistant Attorney General John C. Cruden for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "We appreciate the extraordinary commitment by Freeport's affiliated subsidiaries to clean up 94 mines, and to achieve this settlement without litigation. The Justice Department is always ready to work cooperatively with the Navajo Nation and responsible private parties to address the legacy of uranium mining on Navajo lands."

"This historic settlement will clean up almost twenty percent of the abandoned mines on the Navajo Nation," said Acting Regional Administrator, Alexis Strauss for the EPA Pacific Southwest. "Cleaning up the uranium contamination continues to be a top environmental priority for our Regional office."

— *press release*

Obamacare repeal could put Native American health care at risk

WASHINGTON — Native Americans, Alaska Natives and a bipartisan group of their allies are worried that repeal of the Affordable Care Act will also eliminate a non-controversial portion of that law that commits federal funding for tribal health care around the country, a move that the National Indian Health Board warns would be "catastrophic."

"It would hurt, I mean, everyone, not just us but across the country. Every tribal health facility would suffer because of budget cuts," said Jefferson Keel, who is the lieutenant governor of the Chickasaw Tribe in Oklahoma. Chickasaw Nation operates one of the largest tribal hospitals in the country, and Keel said the current relationship with the federal government is "working very well for us."

The Indian Healthcare Improvement Act is a separate piece of legislation that has been around for decades. However, it expired in 2000 and wasn't reauthorized until 2010, when it was lumped into the ACA bill. Now some worry that the association with the controversial bill could mean it gets eliminated in the Republican effort to get rid of the ACA.

— *USA Today*

Compiled by Senior Editor Kevin Johnson



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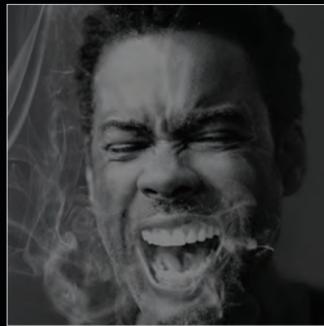
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THREE DOG NIGHT & AMERICA



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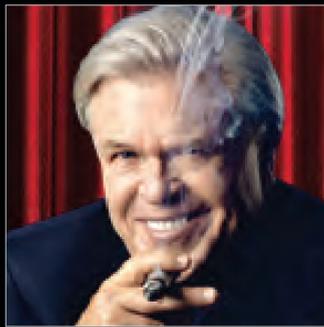
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HOLLYWOOD, FL

Education



Ahfachkee in midst of changes inside and outside classroom

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Change has come to the Ahfachkee School this year with the implementation of more project-based learning and will continue with the renovation and expansion of the school in the next year.

Project and collaborative learning, which encourages students to work together to acquire knowledge and solve problems, is being integrated throughout Ahfachkee as the teachers are trained.

“We are teaching students to think about the future,” said Principal Dorothy Cain. “Students need to learn how to solve all kinds of problems.”

Another bonus for students is the school’s participation in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers after school enrichment program. The program is hands-on, project based and integrates a variety of disciplines that help students to achieve goals and use critical thinking skills.

The 21CCLC curriculum includes STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), Lego robotics, gardening, cooking and performing arts classes. Media production, homework help and community service are also part of the program.

21CCLC is funded by a Bureau of Indian Education grant for rural schools. Objectives of the program are to provide opportunities for academic enrichment, offer a broad array of programs and activities and get families involved.

Plans are being developed for the school’s existing building to be gutted and reconfigured for prekindergarten through fifth grades and a new two-story building to be built for grades 6-12.

Cain has given input to Zyscovich Architects in Miami to assure the space will suit the school’s needs. The open classroom concept, with sliding doors that can be left open or closed, is one she believes will benefit the students.

“The whole idea of 21st century is about learning differently and collaborating,” Cain said. “The classrooms will have an area to allow students to work on group projects together. Schools in today’s world are being built for collaboration, which mimics the real world.”

Culture will be at the center of the school. The cafeteria, media center, art room, music and science, engineering and robotics labs will be housed in the new building located north of the existing one. Once the plans are completed and approved, Cain believes construction could begin in August with a target opening date of the following August.

“It’s a brand new model of school design,” Cain said. “The population of students could double once it is built. We will offer all the culture, 21st century skills, STEM and more. We will provide the right education and students will come back.”



Ahfachkee students prepare black bean quesadillas as part of the 21st Century Community Learning program.

Beverly Bidney



Contributed photo

Ahfachkee second-grader Jaleesa Hill shows off the cherry tomatoes she harvested from the school’s garden as part of the 21st Century Community Learning program.



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee student Gilbert Guerrero prepares a black bean quesadilla as Owens Mumford and Allied Health program manager Suzanne Davis watch during a 21st Century Community Learning Centers cooking activity in the Big Cypress Health Department Kitchen Jan. 24.

Living the ACD experience: Africa trip yields newfound respect, appreciation

BY AARON TOMMIE
Contributing Writer

In September 2016, my family and I traveled to Cameroon, a West African country, and primarily stayed in Limbe. Limbe is a beautiful city within a valley that overlooks the eastern part of the Atlantic Ocean. Since my wife Marceline is from there, we spent a lot of time with her family, as well as did some touring. I have been to South Africa twice, but this was my first time in Cameroon. I always wanted to have as authentic of an experience as possible during each trip. In true African culture, there is a strong sense of solidarity and pride, as is the case with Native Americans.



In addition to being some of the most hospitable people, Cameroonians are undoubtedly the hardest working people I have ever seen.

In Limbe, it was common to see young children take long trips carrying jugs of water from a public tap to their homes atop a hill for their families to wash and cook with. There were teenagers who sold roasted meat roadside for long hours into the night after they arrived home from school. I witnessed elderly women who walked through the local markets holding large bags of yams, plantains and other harvested crops to sell, all while balancing sacks of grains on their heads. Most people in Cameroon who till the farmlands do so without the use of farming machinery. Unfortunately, the majority of the people are impoverished and do drudging work to survive. Despite these hardships, Cameroonians are generally upbeat people and love to party.

My time in Cameroon further strengthened my appreciation for the blessings we have not just as Tribal citizens, but also as Americans. Although the United States has a plethora of issues concerning its citizens, people living in the U.S. usually have more opportunities to have even a decent quality of life compared to those living in other countries. Prior to my trip to Cameroon, there were days when I would loathe having to cover certain assignments for work. I have always been willing to do what was asked of me, but would sometimes do so with reluctance.

“I became angry with myself when I reflected on the times I felt any sense of entitlement for simply being a Tribal citizen.”

I became angry with myself when I reflected on the times I felt any sense of entitlement for simply being a Tribal citizen. Many of the Cameroonians I spoke to expressed that they felt there was a ceiling to what they were able to accomplish due to the lack of opportunities. I met a few people there who had advanced degrees. They were only able to find employment in fields not requiring much more than a basic education. As Tribal citizens, there is no limit. We are afforded every opportunity to live out our dreams and to be successful. It is easy to complain about things we feel we lack, but that prevents us from acknowledging what we do have.

Money no longer drives me as much as it did years ago. As mentioned in my past ACD columns, I initially chose to work for the Tribe to give back to my ancestors. I am always gracious and honored to benefit from being a Tribal citizen. There is no reason for me to ever complain.

As Seminoles, we are very fortunate. In all honesty, the routine that comes with being a disciplined professional has been an adjustment for me. I continue to learn patience and the importance of self-discipline based on my experiences thus far in the ACD program.

Since I have been employed by the Tribe, my motivation has been propelled by the change I know I can contribute towards the Tribe’s future. I willingly feel forever indebted to my ancestors to continue carrying the proud legacy they have left behind for us.

OSHA course stresses workplace safety for STOF employees

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — From ladder, electrical and chemical safety to ergonomics, emergency action situations, exits and personal protective equipment, the menu for more than two dozen Tribal employees was checked full of safety lessons and reminders.

“It’s not that they don’t know this stuff. This is not rocket science; this is just everyday safety stuff, but that safety never, ever, ever goes away,” said Linda Light, an authorized trainer who led the 10-hour OSHA general industry outreach course Jan. 11-12 at the Tribe’s Native Learning Center in Hollywood. Several of the attendees work in the Housing Department.

Ladder safety, for example, was emphasized in a portion of day one as a part of basic safety practices that should never be taken for granted.

“Using the wrong ladder or using the ladder in the wrong way; not inspecting the ladder to make sure it is in good repair,” Light said. “We talk electrical safety, not understanding the hazards of shock and fire, and how to protect themselves from shock and fire.”

Making safety a habit at the workplace is a goal, Light said, rather than just a one-



Contributed photo

Tribal employees hold up their certificates of completion at the conclusion of a two-day OSHA workplace safety course at the Native Learning Center.

time thought.

“They need to do this ongoing,” she said. “Safety training isn’t one time a year or one time in public; they need to keep the training ongoing and remind themselves at the worksite what are the safe practices. We have a three-step formula. They have to know what a hazard is, they need to know how to control that hazard, and they have to know how to act. And if they just keep reminding themselves and learning it and reinforcing those practices then they become more habitual and they create a safer workplace overall.”

During a portion of day one, Light showed the class photos of workplace

hazards, such as mold, corroded hand rails and tripping hazards. The program also provided information regarding workers’ rights and employer responsibilities.

Safety practices also extend into rural areas, such as farms and ranches.

“Agriculture is a more dangerous industry,” Light said. “Historically, farmers have been exempted from lots of federal rules, but agriculture is not exempt from safety rules. It’s just when a farm is run by immediate family members – like mom, pop and the kids – then technically they are exempt, but when farming is business, when you have agriculture as a business, then it’s covered in the same way. You have

machinery concerns, heat illness concerns, using the tools or the equipment they have, knowing how to use personal protective equipment, plus they have chemicals and hazardous stuff they use, like fertilizers.”

Light said the Tribe, although a sovereign nation, must meet or exceed federal OSHA requirements.

“They are expected to follow federal OSHA requirements, and they are expected to either manage that internally or the federal government would hold them to account to make sure they did that,” she said.



Contributed photo

PECS seventh- and eighth-graders tour Washington, D.C. from Dec. 9-12 and enjoy a visit to the National Cathedral.



Contributed photo

PECS seventh- and eighth-graders pose in front of the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. during a class trip Dec. 9-12.



Contributed photo

PECS student Karey Gopher ice skates in the shadow of the Smithsonian Institution on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

History-filled itinerary for PECS students in D.C., Philly

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — For 29 Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School seventh- and eighth-graders, a four-day trip to learn about government in the halls of power, past and present, was the highlight of the school year so far.

Quenten Pritchard's social studies

students, accompanied by 23 adults, traveled to Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. for the Dec. 9-12 trip. They toured Independence Hall, the National Constitution Center, Betsy Ross House and Liberty Bell during their day in Philadelphia.

The group spent the next three days in Washington where they toured the U.S. Capitol and National Archives, went to the National Cathedral, Ford's Theater, the

Holocaust Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum and National Museum of the American Indian as well as various monuments on the National Mall.

The trip, which is taken every other year, focused on government so students would have a better understanding of how it works. At the National Archives, students saw the original Constitution, Declaration of

Independence and the Magna Carta.

"A lot of the students got a better appreciation for U.S. history, especially in Philadelphia," Pritchard said. "The trip had a lot of firsts for a lot of them; some had never been on a plane, gone ice skating or experienced such cold weather."

A group of eighth-graders recently reflected on the trip. They agreed the weather was too cold, the cheesesteaks in

Philadelphia were delicious and an evening cruise on the Potomac River was awesome. Ice skating on the National Mall was another memorable moment.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Holocaust Museum touched the students, who said they were so sad. Inside Ford's Theater, the students sat in the audience as a tour guide stood on stage and recounted the history of the theater.

Literacy Week offers vast variety of book-related events for PECS students

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School joined with schools statewide Jan. 23-27 for the Florida Department of Education's ninth annual Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! The week was filled with fun activities to promote literacy and encourage students to keep reading to improve their skills.

Guest readers, field trips to the Billy Osceola Library, a book fair, buddy readers, a door decorating contest and a reading rally kept students busy all week. Activities also included students dressing up like a rock star and a favorite book character, as well as wearing a favorite hat.

"We want them to be lifelong readers," said instructional coach Victoria Paige. "If they can enjoy reading, they can communicate. It opens doors to every type

of communication including writing and speaking. We are starting to see our students do a lot more reading."

The schoolwide Stop, Drop and Read activity encouraged noses in books for 20 minutes. Buddy readers paired older students reading with the youngest. The Student Council showed off its reading skills as they read to seniors.

During Hats Off to Reading day, kids were decked out in all types of headgear. During a trip to the library for a puppet show, a group of first-graders proudly donned colorful and fanciful hats.

The book fair was open for business all week in the media center. Shopping for books and other interesting things, like cool pens and posters, was a popular pastime for students. Ryanna Osceola, Joss Youngblood and Mariah Billie perused the shelves Tuesday.

"I like that you can take the books home

without having a due date," said seventh-grader Joss Youngblood, 12, who had an armload of books to purchase and another to check out of the media center.

Media specialist Alisha Pearce helped the students as they shopped. She said non-fiction is more popular in the library than novels, "they like weird facts."

"When they found the joy of reading it makes me feel good," Pearce said. "When they read for pleasure, they aren't just doing it because they have to. It makes me feel good when they come in looking for a certain title. I know they will read for the rest of their lives."

Paige noticed more participation from students, family members and parents this year.

"We want parents to enjoy reading with their children and see the importance of literacy and reading," she said.



Beverly Bidney

Above, first-graders return to school after a field trip to the Billy Osceola Library on "Hats Off to Reading" day Jan. 24 as part of Celebrate Literacy Week at Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School. Marley Jimmie sports a striking pink squid hat. Below, Joss Youngblood attends the book fair at the school. At left, guest reader Howard Harrison reads to a third-grade class during.



PECS names December students of the month

BRIGHTON — The following Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School students earned Student of the Month honors for December 2015:

Elementary: Robbie Jimmie, Beni Girtman, Naraeh Gopher, Urijah Bowers, Kulipa Julian, Ross Jones, Karter Puente, Walt Fortner, Troy Billie, Gregory James,

Serene King, Waniya Fortner, Kashyra Urbina, Juanita Billie, Keanu Bert, Maylon Foster, Waylon Yates, Kayden Warrior, Keiyana Osceola, Hannah Wilson, CeCe Thomas.

Middle: Janaya French, Kayven Emily, Aleah Turtle.



Photo courtesy PECS

Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School middle school students of the month for December.



Photo courtesy PECS

Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School elementary students of the month for December.

Ahfachkee students artwork on display at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Ahfachkee kindergarten through fifth graders had what some artists wait a lifetime for: a show of their work at a museum. The young artists enjoyed the opening reception for the annual showcase at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

on Jan. 24. The school's visual arts program examines the artwork of some of the world's most celebrated artists. Students study the work of the masters and, inspired by their newly found knowledge, create their own masterpieces using the lessons of composition and color.

The enthusiastic artists were proud of what they created. Mauro Avalos, 11, was pleased with all the colors he used in his piece.

"I love art because you get to use your imagination," said fifth-grader Riley Jumper, 11. "I have the best one in the bunch."

The Ahfachkee School show will be on display at the museum through April 16.



Ahfachkee students pose proudly in front of the exhibit of their work at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress Jan. 24.

Photo courtesy Carrie Dilley



Part of the Ahfachkee art show at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress, on display through April 16.

Beverly Bidney



Jennifer Jumper

Jennifer Jumper earns HVAC certificate

TAMPA — Jennifer Jumper, from the Tampa Reservation, earned her certificate in HVAC on Nov. 12 from Southern Technical College. She plans to continue her studies at STC in January 2017.

Ahfachkee recognizes students for second quarter achievements



Contributed photo

Ahfachkee students stop by the prize table and select a prize after from receiving their awards. From left, Chanel Cypress, Little Tigertail Jumper-Garcia, Herbert Cypress.



Contributed photo

Ahfachkee junior Eyanna Billie received the highest academic award – Principal's Gold Honor Roll. The award is given to students who earn a 3.5 or higher GPA.



Ernie Stevens

Stevens named to AIGC board

Ernie L. Stevens Jr. (Oneida Nation) has been named to the board of directors for the American Indian Graduate Center, a non-profit Native scholarship organization. Stevens is in his eighth two-year term as the chairman and national spokesperson for the National Indian Gaming Association.

"Mr. Stevens has a phenomenal record of advocating for sovereignty and economic development and a huge proponent of education for building tribal capacity," Rose Graham (Diné), AIGC Board President, said in a press release.



Contributed photo

These Ahfachkee high school students proudly display the awards they won for the second quarter. Back row from left, GraySun Billie, Mikiyela Cypress, Dr. Gwen Coverson, Mya Cypress, Janessa Jones. Front row, from left, Aldricia Cypress-Cummings, Nashoba Gonzalez, Geneva Garcia, Priscilla Alvarado and principal Dorothy Cain.



Contributed photo

Ahfachkee fifth-grade students show the awards they earned during the 2nd quarter. Back row, from left, principal Dorothy Cain, Dr. Gwen Coverson, Alicia Richards (teacher); front row, from left, Mauro Avalos, Ezekiel Billie, Jody Cabral, Dyani Koenes.

FLORIDA INDIAN YOUTH PROGRAM 2017

- College Preparatory Program for Native American Youth (ages 14-17)
- Classes held daily from 9 am – 5 pm
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- Students live on campus at FSU to gain college experience
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- College and Career Fair to explore post-secondary education and technical careers!



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17th Annual Rez Rally

Hollywood races to the the winner's circle

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The 17th annual Rez Rally brought together all the Seminole Tribe's reservations with 474 people who ran and walked amid a nostalgic environment on the Hollywood Reservation as many Tribal citizens hadn't seen each other in years prior to the rally.

"This is one of the few events throughout the year where the entire Tribe gets together," said runner J.D. Bowers. "I enjoy the rally because it creates positivity and encourages health in the community; especially, for the kids."

Walkers and runners registered in the Classic Gym. They were designated different color t-shirts according to their reservation before setting out for the 2.9-mile course.

Miranda Motlow, of Tampa, said she had a fun time with family and the race was a great way to stay healthy.

"I hope everyone had a good time, and I hope more people continue to come out and participate," Motlow said.

Tables inside the Howard Tiger Recreation Center were decorated with diabetes brochures and information as part of an effort to combat the disease that plagues the Tribe. An awards reception and brunch, sponsored by the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, was held after the race.

According to one of the brochures, 68-year-old Tribal citizen Nancy Shore has managed her type 2 diabetes with medication for 30 years. In the last two years, she has managed to lose weight and reduce her glucose and cholesterol levels by participating in diabetes management classes, diabetes-friendly cooking classes, and weight loss challenges.

Nearly 16 percent of Native Americans suffer from diabetes and are almost three times more likely than any other ethnic group prone to getting the disease that inhibits the body from producing hormone insulin, according to the American Diabetes Association. The Rez Rally's purpose is to help gather people together to beat odds against the disease and to promote fitness within the Tribe.

"[Seminoles] love to eat; so they gotta get a little bit of exercise," joked Rosie Alanis, event coordinator for the Rez Rally.

Alanis, of Tampa, participates in at least three marathons a year, including the Marine Marathon, Gasparilla and the Miami Marathon. She walked with Tribal elders Mandy Frank, Peggy Cubis and Suzie Doctor in the race.

Other highlights were not hard to miss as certain volunteers went the extra mile this year in cheering on runners and walkers.

Brownie Girl Scouts Teena-Maree Covarrubias and Avahny Jim teamed up with their fellow Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts to cheer on runners and walkers as they passed out water and later handed out medals at the finish line. The Girl Scouts continued to help volunteer in different capacities, they won a community service award, and were even able to sell their entire Girl Scout cookie inventory onsite at a remarkable amount of 156 boxes.

"I'm so humbled by how united the Seminoles are and how family-oriented the Tribe is," said Marite Ricardo, Girl Scout troop leader. "It's a beautiful experience to be a part of such a unified culture."

The Girl Scouts weren't the only ones who achieved a milestone. Hollywood captured this year's trophies for most tribal participants and for overall team participation.

"Running is fun," said Rhett Tiger, who participates in the event every year. "I run track, and I like getting out and having



Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola and President Mitchell Cypress hold this year's winning trophy for most tribal participants while Bobby Frank and Hollywood Councilman Christopher Osceola hold this year's trophy for highest team participation percentage next to the Tribe's new Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.



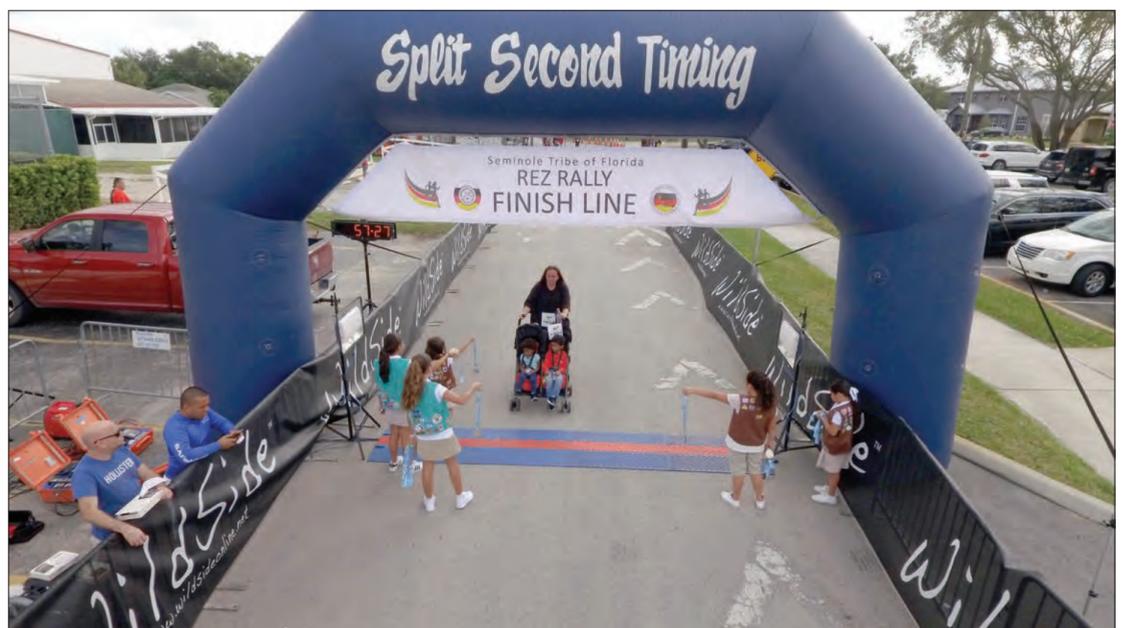
Hollywood employee, Maxim Boiko has a great time at the Rez Rally held for the Tribe and the community on Jan. 21.



Wesley Frank, of Hollywood and Fort Pierce, walks in the Rez Rally to keep up with his fitness routine.



A runner listens to music while breaking a sweat during this year's 17th annual Rez Rally in Hollywood.



Girl Scouts give away medals to every single participant that passes through the finish line at the Rez Rally on Jan. 21.

Stephanie Rodriguez

Stephanie Rodriguez

Stephanie Rodriguez

Stephanie Rodriguez

Stephanie Rodriguez

17th Annual Rez Rally



Runners take off as soon as the host announces the official start of the Rez Rally on Jan. 21.

Stephanie Rodriguez



Runners show off their medals after the race is over in front of the finish line at the Rez Rally in Hollywood.

Stephanie Rodriguez



Aaron Alvarado, from Immokalee, runs on Jan. 21 for the Rez Rally held in the Hollywood Reservation.

Stephanie Rodriguez



Duane Jones, of Brighton, (top) receives a medal from Brownie Girl Scouts Teena-Maree Covarrubias and Avahny Jim at the Rez Rally finish line.

Stephanie Rodriguez



At left, President Mitchell Cypress walks next to Sandra H. Atkins, Director of Operations at the Executive Operations Office, while she waves during the Rez Rally. Above, Robert North Jr., of Hollywood, works up a sweat as he runs with energy during the Rez Rally.

Stephanie Rodriguez

Native Nations Ball boosts fundraising for Veterans Memorial

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ
Copy Editor

The Native Nations Inaugural Ball, honoring Native American veterans, was held Jan. 20 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

The evening was part of an earlier inauguration for a veterans' memorial that will be built on the outside of the museum to honor contributions and sacrifices of American Indian/Alaska Natives, and Pacific Island military veterans.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Stephen Bowers and his wife, Elizabeth, attended the Inaugural Ball, which was part of a fundraiser to build the memorial slated to be completed on Veterans Day 2020. Both were honored as turquoise level sponsors for their generous donation. More than \$500,000 has been donated to the cause from several Native Americans and non-Indian organizations, corporations and individuals. For the past five years, with the support of the Seminole Tribal Council, Stephen and Elizabeth Bowers have campaigned for the recognition of Native American Indian veterans.

"The Ball and the Committee meeting held the day before were great. We had a broad representation of natives and non-natives. Alaska Natives also came; they have a rich history of involvement in our military. It was exciting to finally see one's work start to come to fruition," said Stephen Bowers, a Vietnam combat veteran.

Bowers is a member of the Veteran Memorial Committee that the museum has assembled to help establish the design criteria, select judges, and develop a variety of fundraising activities for the memorial. The museum staff has had outreach consultations with Tribes throughout the country and Alaska to get input on the memorial's design as well as an interactive exhibit that is planned for the museum.

Several Natives attended the National Inaugural Gala event including Chairman Ernie Stephens of the National Indian Gaming Association, and Peter MacDonald, one of the last 13 surviving Navajo Code Talkers. Major sponsors of the event included the Chickasaw Nation, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

The Inaugural Ball was just the start of fundraising efforts for the veterans memorial at the museum.

Stephen and Elizabeth Bowers are



Tony Powell. 2017 NMAI Inaugural Event

Stephen Bowers, left, stands next to Anne Marie Gover while his wife Elizabeth Bowers stands next to National Museum of the American Indian director Kevin Gover for a photo at the Native Nations Inaugural Ball at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian on Jan. 20 in Washington.

also working with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to help raise funds for a Native American exhibit in the new education center that will be built near the Lincoln Memorial and Vietnam Wall.

Elizabeth Bowers continuously reminds people about the historical importance of Native Americans in the military.

"Many Native Americans fought during World War I without citizenship, a fact that few non-Indians know. Also, many people are surprised to learn that Native Americans fought the most per capita in the Vietnam conflict," she said.

In the future, there will be more opportunities to get educated on Native American veterans. The NMAI museum has developed a traveling exhibition, which depicts some of the military involvement of Native Americans.

"Keep your eyes open for when we have it here on the Seminole Tribe of Florida reservations," Stephen Bowers said.



Kevin Wolf

President/founder of the Native American Women Warriors Mitchelene BigMan (Crow) salutes as the group performs the Presentation of Colors at the Native Nations Inaugural Ball at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian on Jan. 20 in Washington.



Kevin Wolf

Glynn Crooks, former Vice Chairman of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community salutes the presentation of colors during the National Anthem at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington.



Kevin Wolf

WWII Navajo Code Talker Peter MacDonald Sr., center right, meets with the museum Board of Trustees Chair Brenda Toineeta Pipestem (Eastern Band of Cherokee), left, and Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., center, during the Native Nations Inaugural Ball at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington.



Tony Powell. 2017 NMAI Inaugural Event

Stephen and Elizabeth Bowers attend the Native Nations Inaugural Ball at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington.



Kevin Wolf

Councilwoman Monica Mayer, M.D. (Three Affiliated Tribes), right, speaks with Interior Secretary nominee Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., after presenting Zinke with a blanket during the Native Nations Inaugural Ball at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.



Kevin Wolf

Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., talks with Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian Kevin Gover (Pawnee) during the Native Nations Inaugural Ball at the museum.

Sports



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Sunni Bearden, left, battles Evangelical Christian School's Morgan Tyson during a foul shot Jan. 12 at Moore Haven High School. Bearden scored 18 points.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven senior guard Sydnee Cypress drives toward the hoop in the Terriers' 78-58 victory Jan. 12. Cypress scored a game-high 36 points in her final regular season home game.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Aleina Micco battles for a rebound against Evangelical Christian School. Micco scored 13 points.

Brighton trio racks up 67 points to lead Moore Haven High Sydnee Cypress scores 36 on her senior night

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — A big exclamation came from Moore Haven High School girls basketball coach Vincent Lewis.

"Wow!," the coach beamed after being told of the point total — 36 — racked up by his standout guard Sydnee Cypress.

Lewis gave Cypress a powerful high-five as the Terriers celebrated a memorable night in their gym Jan. 12.

Thanks to Cypress's outstanding performance as well as impressive contributions from her other Terrier

teammates from the Brighton Reservation (Sunni Bearden and Aleina Micco), Moore Haven pulled away from Evangelical Christian School-Fort Myers, 78-58.

"We've never beat that team before. We've always lost to them by 20 points," Cypress said.

Not only did Moore Haven send ECS reeling, but the Terriers did it on a senior night when the spotlight shined on Cypress, the squad's only member from the class of 2017.

"She's an excellent leader," Lewis said. "She's our team captain. She's stepped up a little bit more and been more vocal. I'm very

proud of her."

After a brief pregame ceremony in which Cypress and her mother Eileen Cypress and stepdad Junior Martinez walked between the Terriers lined up at midcourt, Sydnee showed she was in no mood to let ECS spoil her senior night. She scored the game's first four points and set up Bearden for a three-pointer that staked Moore Haven to a 7-0 lead.

But ECS charged back.

ECS led 38-36 at halftime, but the second half belonged to Cypress, who seized command with quick hands, a soft scoring touch in the lane and a determination level that eclipsed anyone else in the gym. Cypress dominated the third quarter with 15 points,

several coming off steals as she and Bearden (18 points) forced turnovers with suffocating backcourt pressure.

After Micco (13 points) scored on a layup to give Moore Haven a 44-43 lead with five minutes left in the third quarter, Cypress shifted into a higher gear that sent ECS reeling. In a remarkable span of about 20 seconds, Cypress scored eight points with four steals and she fed Bearden for a 3-pointer. By the time ECS scored again, Moore Haven had gone on a 16-0 tear.

"We're usually like a third or fourth quarter kind of team," Cypress said.

Cypress scored 23 points in the second half. Overall, the Brighton trio of Cypress,

Bearden and Micco combined for 67 points. Lewis said he recognized Cypress's high basketball IQ as soon as she joined the varsity four years ago.

"That's something a lot of girls don't have," Lewis said "Syd really understanding the game, the plays. She can see two plays down the road. A lot of girls don't have that ability, but she does."

After four years on varsity, Cypress said her final regular season home game couldn't have worked out any better.

"I'm glad my family came, and I scored my highest on my senior night," she said. "I did good for my last game."



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven High School senior Sydnee Cypress is joined by her mother Eileen Cypress, stepdad Junior Martinez and other family members on senior night Jan. 12.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven sophomore Aleina Micco tries to take the ball from Evangelical Christian School's Morgan Tyson during the Terriers' 78-58 win Jan. 12. Micco scored 13 points.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Sunni Bearden, left, and Sydnee Cypress apply backcourt pressure against Evangelical Christian School's Elizabeth Wetmore early in the Terriers' 78-58 win Jan. 12.

Marquis Fudge emerges as pivotal part for Moore Haven

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — High school basketball coaches enjoy pleasant surprises, so when a player like Marquis Fudge adapts to a coach's style of play and surpasses expectations, the results don't go unnoticed. "He's been really good for us this year," said Moore Haven boys basketball coach Matt Zinser. "He's been a bright spot for us. We weren't really expecting that from him, but he's played well. He's starting for us and he's doing a good job rebounding the ball for us. He's been really fun to coach this year." In a 61-49 win at Clewiston on Jan. 10, Fudge's presence in the paint at both ends was hard to miss. Defensively, the 6-foot-2 Seminole forced opponents to take bad or awkward shots and he prevented second chances by snagging rebounds. Offensively, he wasn't shy about taking the ball from up top and driving the lane. "He plays hard and he plays the style we want to play. We want to get up and get out on the floor and he likes to do that," said Zinser, whose team improved to 9-7.

"He does a really good job getting to the rebounds, both offensively and defensively. And he's been doing a good job of getting the ball to the rim lately." Fudge is one of the reasons Moore Haven is above .500. The Terriers entered late January with a 9-7 record. "His role for us is to get in there and rebound and get after it on the boards and defensive end. Anything we get offensively is a bonus," Zinser said. Zinser said Fudge is averaging about nine points and six rebounds per game. Fudge hasn't been the only surprise for Moore Haven. Sophomore forward Andrew Fish, who played at PECS and lives on the Brighton Reservation, provided several quality minutes coming off the bench in the win at Clewiston. He chipped in with six points and, similar to Fudge, made his presence felt in the lane. "He's doing OK," Zinser said. "He's getting used to my style of play. He's been getting better these last couple games than where he was at the start of the year. He's been solid for us these last few games."



Kevin Johnson

Clewiston High's Alonzo Wargolet goes airborne against Moore Haven Jan. 10 at Clewiston High School.

Alonzo Wargolet soars with Clewiston High School

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

CLEWISTON — In the brief span of a high school basketball season, Clewiston High School boys coach Tim Carter has learned a lot about Alonzo Wargolet, including not to doubt his point guard's shooting. After transferring from American Heritage School, Wargolet has made a smooth transition to America's Sweetest Town this season. Most notably, Wargolet is Clewiston's leading scorer "by a lot" Carter said. "He just jacks them up and they go in," Carter said. "I'll be hollering 'No, bad shot, and then it hits the bottom.'" Wargolet, a senior from the Big Cypress Reservation, has found the bottom of the

net to the tune of about 26 points per game through mid-January. But if you think Wargolet is only a shooter, think again. "We're blessed to have him. He's not only a good scorer, but he's a good team player. He tries to get the whole team involved. He does a good job," Carter said. Last season Clewiston struggled and posted a weak 5-18 record. This season the team matched last year's victory total within the first couple weeks thanks in part to the arrival of Wargolet. "He's meant a lot to the team. He has changed the dynamic of our team. He's made the rest of the team better," Carter said. Wargolet shined in a double overtime win against Moore Haven in the teams' first meeting. He poured in 27 points. He's reached 20-plus points on several occasions. Although Wargolet is the team's go-to

guy, he doesn't think of himself as a shooter. "I like putting points on the board, but I also love to pass and I love assists," he said. Wargolet said he plans to continue playing basketball after high school, including Native tournaments. He played in last year's NABI and plans to play in NAYO and NAIG. "I love this game too much to give it up," he said. Wargolet comes from a basketball family. His older siblings both played in high school. Carter is glad the Wargolet from the class of 2017 choose to play at Clewiston. "We've come a long way and a lot of that is contributed to him. He's made the team better," Carter said. "I wish I had him for three more years."



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Marquis Fudge, left, attempts to stop a Clewiston player during the Terriers' win on Jan. 10 at Clewiston High School.



Kevin Johnson

Alonzo Wargolet takes the court with his Clewiston High School teammates as they get ready to face Moore Haven on Jan. 10.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Marquis Fudge drives toward the hoop against Clewiston.



Kevin Johnson

Clewiston's Alonzo Wargolet (4) guards Moore Haven's Marquis Fudge (0) while Andrew Fish takes the inbound pass.

Seminole basketball teams shine at NASA tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Seminole adult basketball teams generated one of the Tribe's most successful showings in a NASA tournament. They returned from Choctaw, Mississippi in mid-January with a championship in the men's regular division, runner-up in the men's legends and third place in the women's division.

DeForest Carter, Hunter Osceola, Duelle Gore, Eric Sanders and Nate Long propelled Native Soldiers to the championship title in the men's division, which featured 32 teams.

Despite playing the championship game with the bare minimum five players and despite facing a Choctaws' squad in front of a packed house full of hometown fans, Native Soldiers somehow found enough energy to pull away in the second half for a comfortable victory.

"We were definitely using [timeouts]. Oxygen was a must," Carter said. "The Choctaws don't give up. They run you and run you. It was a full house. Everyone was going against us."

The team lost Tyler Harjochee earlier in the tournament to a shoulder injury.

Native Soldiers reached the championship in impressive fashion that included four mercy rule wins when they were up by at least 30 with 10 minutes left



Native Soldiers celebrates after they won the NASA men's basketball championship in Choctaw, Mississippi. The team included DeForest Carter, Hunter Osceola, Tyler Harjochee, Duelle Gore, Nate Long and Eric Sanders.

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The Seminole men's Legends team proudly holds up the long-sleeve shirts they won for finishing runner-up at NASA. From left, Jonathan Washington, Charlie Tiger, Kenny Tommie, Gary McInturff, Vince Billie, Chris Thomas, Sandy Billie Jr. and Elton Shore. Not in the photo: Mahokin Tiger.



Kevin Johnson

Vince Billie, left, and Kenny Tommie hold the trophy their Legends team won for finishing second at NASA in Choctaw, Mississippi.



Joe Collins

Kenny Billie takes a foul shot for the Seminoles in a men's Legends game at NASA.

in games. Sanders was the star of one game as he hit nine 3-pointers. Osceola was a standout, especially in the later games.

"Hunter was spectacular for the last three games. He averaged about 30 points. It was a complete effort from the whole team, but Hunter was the catalyst," Carter said.

The team received a trophy and jackets in a postgame ceremony.

"It's all about the jackets," said Carter, who won his first NASA tournament.

Considering most of the players are all in their early-to-mid 20s, more NASA hardware could follow in the years and decades to come.

"Once Legends comes, we'll take that one, too," Carter said.

The Seminole Legends men's squad (ages 40 and up) made an early statement by winning their opening game by about 30 points. They won their next two games, including a nail-biter by two points.

"We had the game by like 19 points and then we slacked off and they almost got us," said Vince Billie.

The Seminoles advanced to the championship with a 3-0 record thanks in part to the sharp shooting of leading scorer Elton Shore.

The team's winning ways ended in the championship where they dropped two straight.

"We couldn't get rebounds," said Seminoles' Kenny Tommie, who organized the team. "They were keying our main man, Elton, and following him around, and that was leaving us open, but we couldn't knock them down."

Despite losing their final two games in the championship, the Seminoles departed in an upbeat mood. Other players included Gary McInturff, Charlie Tiger, Mahokin Tiger, Daniel Billie, Jonathan Washington, Chris Thomas and Sandy Billie Jr.

"Everything went well. This is the best we've done in a long time; it's usually two-and-out," Tommie said. "It was good. We had practices every Thursday for 40 and over here in the gym. We try to keep them in shape."

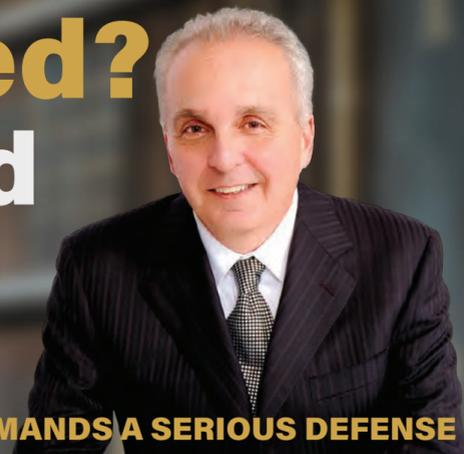
Tommie said he's been playing against some of the same opposing players since he was a teenager.

"Everybody knows each other. It's a little get together to see how everyone is doing. Everyone wants to win," he said. "I know it's part of being healthy and having fun."

In the women's regular division, the Lady Seminoles finished third. Their squad's registered roster included Kristen Billie, Lorri Osceola, Kaitlynn Osceola, Kelcie Jumper, Chelsea Mountain, Ariah Osceola, Jewel Buck, Phalyn Osceola and Cara Osceola.

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Kevin Johnson

PECS guard Donovan Harris battles for the ball against Clewiston on Jan. 19. Clewiston handed PECS its first loss of the season.

After strong regular seasons, PECS basketball teams await playoffs

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BRIGHTON — For the first time an additional caveat to the middle school basketball season awaits PECS teams in the form of a playoff.

PECS and its opponents decided there should be more to the culmination of a season than just the end of a regular season. So, this season the boys and girls teams will vie for conference championships.

Specific details were still being ironed out as of press time, but the debut of the postseason is scheduled for early February. PECS will be the host school for both the girls and boys.

"I think it's great," said PECS boys coach Kevin Jackson.

PECS girls coach Tim Thomas also supports the playoff concept and the crowning of a champion.

"Hopefully it will be us," he said. Before the start of the playoffs, both PECS teams had to finish up work in their regular seasons, which included honoring their outgoing eighth-graders before facing Clewiston in a doubleheader Jan. 19.

After 10 straight wins, the PECS boys were dealt their first loss by Clewiston, 60-51, in a fast-paced battle of unbeaten teams.

"That was the most competitive game," Jackson said.

Donovan Harris led the hard-working Seminoles at both ends. He scored 23 points followed by Jaylen Baker with 11 and Ramone Baker with 8.

With quick guards such as Dathan Garcia and Dakoya Nunez, PECS' swarming defensive pressure has been a key ingredient in the team's success this season, but the squad's depth isn't as deep as it was earlier in the year.

"We like to play uptempo and put a lot of pressure on them, but with the depth we have right now we can't do that all the time,"

Jackson said. "I thought we handled the ball well; we just didn't come up with a few more stops defensively."

Before the boys game, the PECS girls overwhelmed Clewiston, 46-10, to continue an impressive season that coach Thomas didn't expect.

"They really surprised me. I didn't think we were going to be this good. At one point, we were 8-0," Thomas said.

Fittingly, two eighth-graders led the way. Sisters Caylie Huff (13 points) and Haylie Huff (11 points) were the team's top scorers. Shaela French, another eighth-grader, scored 7 points as did Karey Gopher.

"Haylie shot good tonight," Thomas said. "[The previous night] she had zero points and I told her we needed her. She picked it up tonight."

PECS entered the playoffs with a 10-2 record. Thomas said the team wasn't far away from a perfect season.

"It's been a good year; could have been better; he said. "We missed 18 free throws and lost by one against LaBelle. Over at West Glades, we had like 12 layups that we missed. We could have been undefeated right now, but we still have the conference to go."



Kevin Johnson

PECS' Shaela French (22) and Haylie Huff (5) eye a rebound against Clewiston on Jan. 19.



Kevin Johnson

PECS' Kalyn Hammil tries to knock the ball away from a Clewiston player Jan. 19.



Kevin Johnson

PECS guard Dakoya Nunez takes a shot against Clewiston on Jan. 19.



Smith Rodeo Photography

PECS guard Caylie Huff fires a pass to a teammate during the team's win against Clewiston on Jan. 19.



Kevin Johnson

PECS guard Ramone Baker goes the extra effort to try to win a battle against Clewiston.

Big Cypress kids enjoy cool day at the ice rink



Stephanie Rodriguez

Darwin Brooks skates along the boards during a Big Cypress Recreational outing at the Pines Ice Arena in Pembroke Pines on Jan. 5 during the holiday break.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Aaliyah Billie gives out the peace sign as she has a great time while ice skating Jan. 5 at the Pines Ice Arena in Pembroke Pines. Big Cypress Recreation brought kids to the rink for the public skating session.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Mylly Chapa, Mary Jane Vasquez, Canaan Jumper and Gabriel Billie hang out together during their Christmas break at the ice rink.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Thelma Tigertail skates like a ballerina on the rink at Pines Ice Arena on Jan. 5.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Big Cypress Recreation Christmas break campers get together for a group photo at Pines Ice Arena.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Blaze Cypress smiles as he tries to skate like a professional at Pines Ice Arena.

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Announcements



Photo courtesy Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa

A guitar smash ceremony to open a new poker room at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa features Larry Frank (General Manager Seminole Hard Rock Poker), Paul Mollo (Vice President of Table Games), Thomas Bates (Director of Poker), Brad Garrett (comedian/actor) and Joe Lupo (Seminole Hard Rock Tampa President).

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa opens new poker room

TAMPA – Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa unveiled its new state of the art poker room Jan. 12 with a guitar smash ceremony that featured comedian/actor Brad Garrett.

Seminole Hard Rock Tampa's 46-table, non-smoking poker room features wi-fi throughout and 40 TVs, including six 75-inch TVs and four 65-inch TVs.

To celebrate the opening of the new

poker room, Garrett, best known for having played the role of Robert Barone in the hit CBS series "Everybody Loves Raymond," participated in a ceremonial guitar smash before the new venue opened

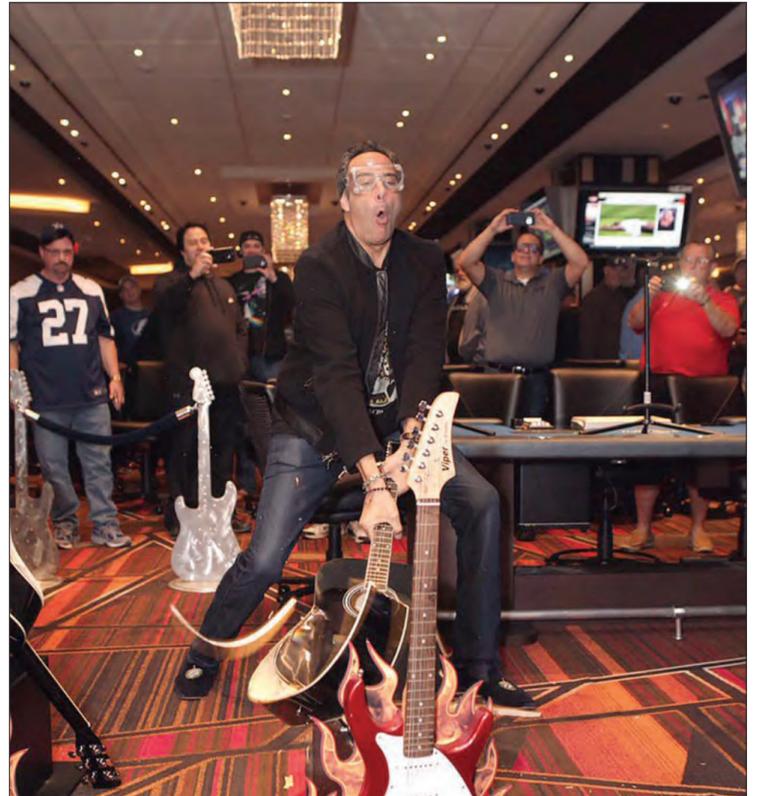


Photo courtesy Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa

'Everyone Loves Raymond' actor Brad Garrett slams a guitar during the opening of a new poker room at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

to the public. Garrett played the first hand, which will include the presentation of a commemorative chip.

Following the ceremony, Seminole Hard Rock Tampa presented to Garrett a

\$10,000 check for the charity of his choice, Maximum Hope Foundation, which offers urgent financial relief to families caring for a child with a life-limiting illness.

Florida International University's Indigenous programs update

FIU Honors College Study Abroad Program in Japan: Searching Reciprocity with Masako Kubota

The Florida International University Honors College will study abroad in Japan and will learn about the country from periods 1600 to 1868, focusing on a variety of perspectives from the society of the Tokugawa years—also known as the Edo period. The college will research Edo's ecological and reciprocal lifestyle in downtown Tokyo first, and then research the spiritual interrelation between nature and the Ainu people, the original people in Japan. The Ainu people have kept a reciprocal lifestyle with nature and animals on the island of Hokkaido. A multi-perspective approach will be used to discuss and analyze Ainu traditions, art, village tourism, and their reciprocal models of caring for elders and the children. In the Akan Kotan village students will learn traditional craft making, cooking, songs and dances, and experience Akan Ainu spiritual interaction with animals. Students will also assist an elder day service program in Tokyo and Sapporo. For more information, visit

http://honors.fiu.edu/studyabroad/japan/ FIU Library "Indigenous Peoples of the World" Study Guide

Learn to quickly access informational resources provided by the FIU Library related to indigenous people of the world by visiting <http://libguides.fiu.edu/indigenous>. This study guide recommends electronic and printed sources for peoples of North America, Asia, Oceania, Europe, Latin American and the Caribbean. The study guide also includes publications and sources for the growing field of Global Indigenous Studies.

Learn to Speak Quechua – FLAS Fellowships

The Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship supports language training in Less-Commonly-Taught Languages, including Quechua. The fellowship assists in the advancement of knowledge, resources, and trained personnel for foreign language and area/international studies and supports the development of a qualified pool of international experts with global competence designed to meet

U.S. national needs. FLAS Fellows receive tuition, fee waivers, and a stipend. For more information, visit <https://lacc.fiu.edu/academics/financial/flas-fellowship/>.

Fourth Annual Indigenous Celebration

An annual celebration with Indigenous performers, speakers, videos, and artists will take place April 15 at Florida International University's main campus, Mardique. The event is free and open to the public and will take place in the Graham Center ballrooms. The event is collaboration between the FIU Global Indigenous Forum and the student club, the Global Indigenous Group. If you would like to be a part of this event, or be a sponsor, email Dennis Wiedman at wiedmand@fiu.edu.

Senators selected for Indian Affairs Senate Committee

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senators John Hoeven (R-N.D.) and Tom Udall (D-N.M.) were elected chairman and vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for the 115th Congress on Jan. 5.

"I am honored to serve as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and look forward to working with Vice Chairman Udall and members of the Committee to pass legislation that helps improve the lives of people across Indian Country. In our roles, we will address the issues of job creation, natural resource management, health care, education, public safety and housing in Indian communities," Hoeven

said in a press release. "We will also make it a priority to promote economic growth. Jobs and economic growth are the priorities that will help Indian families, communities and businesses succeed."

"I am enormously honored to become the Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, a role that will strengthen my ability to fight for and defend the sovereignty of New Mexico's 23 tribes and all Native American communities," Udall said in a press release.

Benefit bake sale on Valentine's Day

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Boys and Girls Club's Hollywood Rez Torch Club/Keystone Club will offer a Valentine's Day Bake Sale on Feb. 14 from 3-6 p.m. in the lobby of the Howard Tiger Recreation Center on the Hollywood Reservation.

The menu includes red velvet cupcakes with cream cheese frosting, vanilla cupcakes with vanilla frosting, homemade BGC chocolate chip cookies and fudge brownies.

The minimum quantity is six for pre-orders.

Money raised will help the wish list at a local children's hospital as part of the National Service Project.

For more information email valentinaarce@semtribe.com.

FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
C17326	N/A	VALLEY COUGAR POOL TABLE	COIN OPERATED 7FT POOL TABLE	N/A	Poor	\$675.00
79508	N/A	VALLEY COUGAR POOL TABLE	COIN OPERATED 7FT POOL TABLE	N/A	Poor	\$675.00
79564	N/A	VALLEY COUGAR POOL TABLE	COIN OPERATED 7FT POOL TABLE	N/A	Poor	\$675.00
C17321	N/A	VALLEY COUGAR POOL TABLE	COIN OPERATED 7FT POOL TABLE	N/A	Poor	\$675.00
79600	N/A	VALLEY COUGAR POOL TABLE	COIN OPERATED 7FT POOL TABLE	N/A	Poor	\$675.00
C48807	N/A	VALLEY TIGER POOL TABLE	COIN OPERATED 7FT POOL TABLE- PANTHER	N/A	Poor	\$618.00
A17877	2010	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT RWD	147,825	Good	\$5,675.00

Note - Previously advertised items are not reflected on this advertisement, only new listings. For more information contact Fixed Assets Dept. 954-966-6300 ext. 20034.

NEW!! - Tribal Members only- access this information at the website: <http://semtribe.com/FixedAssets>. (Registration required)

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