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Hurricane Irma hits reservations



Hurricane Irma wreaked havoc in Florida in early September. At left, the boardwalk at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation is battered by a string of fallen trees. Center, a utility pole leans at about a 45-degree angle after Irma blew through the Immokalee Reservation. At right, Seminole Tribe Police Officer Shannon Salo and Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue Lt. Steve Missett distribute ice and water to Brighton residents in the parking lot of the Florida Seminole Veterans Building on Sept. 15 as the reservation dealt with power losses.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Hurricane Irma was a most unwelcome guest as it roared over Immokalee, Big Cypress, Hollywood, Brighton and the rest of the state Sept. 10-11. It was the first direct hit from a major hurricane to Florida since Hurricane Wilma in 2005 and the first Category 4 to hit since Hurricane Charley in 2004.

Even before the massive storm made landfall in Cudjoe Key with Category 4 strength, Irma made history as it barreled through the Caribbean as a Category 5 storm with maximum winds of 185 mph. It remained a hurricane for more than 11 days, the most since Hurricane Ivan in 2004. Its accumulated energy, as measured by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, was more than the first eight named Atlantic hurricanes this season combined, from Arlene to Harvey.

The hurricane measured more than 400 miles across and every Seminole reservation was in the storm's cross hairs.

Immokalee

Immokalee bore the brunt of the storm with winds of approximately 128 mph. About 37 Tribal members took refuge in the community center, which was converted into a shelter, and remained safe and sound despite

the force of the hurricane which arrived as a category 3.

The damage on the reservation was limited to downed trees and fences, tilted utility poles, some damaged roofs and sheds and flooding.

"Considering the magnitude that was predicted to come, we had minimum damage," said Immokalee Council Project Manager Raymond Garza. "I'll take that every day. No roofs were gone, even the

older houses held up."

During the havoc of the storm, Seminole Police Department and Fire Rescue coordinated with the Big Cypress Emergency Operations Center, the casino, Building and Grounds and Housing departments. The Immokalee casino housed 157 people during the storm, mostly employees and their families plus a few guests.

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HRI relocating to Tribe's Davie building

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Hard Rock International plans to shift its corporate headquarters to South Florida from Orlando in 2018. The company will move to the Seminole Tribe's building at 5701 Stirling Road in Davie, within a mile of Tribal headquarters and the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.

Purchased by the Tribe in 2014 and formerly home to Farmers Insurance, the nearly 100,000-square-foot, two-story building has hurricane impact resistant windows and shutters, an interior courtyard and 750 parking spots.

HRI has been headquartered in Orlando since the Tribe purchased the company in 2007. The company has 226 locations in 74 countries, including 175 Hard Rock Cafés,

24 hotels and 11 casinos. The Seminole Tribe owns or controls all of its hotels around the world.

The move will be conducted in phases and should be completed by spring 2018. All employees will have the opportunity to move to South Florida.

"We have many talented people in Orlando and South Florida," said Jim Allen, CEO of Seminole Gaming and chairman of Hard Rock International. "If we can all work under the same roof, there will be a tremendous cost saving for the Tribe."

In a statement, the company noted HRI will join forces with the Seminole Tribe and Seminole Gaming.

"There will be a readjustment during the process of the move," Allen said. "But once we are through it, it will make Hard Rock International stronger, as efficient as possible and more profitable."



Kevin Johnson

The Seminole Tribe's building at 5701 Stirling Road in Davie will be headquarters for Hard Rock International.

Ysla Gopher thrives in her second year of football

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — When they arrived on the first day of practice for the Moore Haven junior varsity/middle school football team, the small group of players from the Brighton Reservation was not surprised to see Ysla Gopher on the field.

Most of the Tribal kids knew she planned to play.

But the rest of the 30 or so boys on the

squad had no idea they would have a girl as a teammate this season.

"They were amazed," said Ysla, a 12-year-old girl who is one of the team's six players from Brighton.

About a month into the season, the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School seventh-grader looks right at home with the Terriers. She made a few tackles on defense and returned two punts in the team's second game of the season, a 50-6 win against visiting Donahue Academy on Sept. 21.

One characteristic Moore Haven JV/



Kevin Johnson

Ysla Gopher, 12, from the Brighton Reservation, pressures Donahue Academy's quarterback during a junior varsity/middle school football game Sept. 21 in Moore Haven. Ysla, who attends Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School, is in her second season playing football. She played cornerback and returned punts in Moore Haven's 50-6 victory.



Kevin Johnson

Ysla Gopher is the only girl playing for the Moore Haven junior varsity/middle school football team.

middle school coach Al Gary learned about Ysla right away is that she doesn't mind the physical aspect of the sport.

"She's not afraid," he said.

Ysla actually arrived in Moore Haven with some playing experience on the gridiron. She was a quarterback for the Okeechobee Eagles youth football team last year, so making the transition to JV/middle school football hasn't been too difficult. She was already acclimated to the roughness.

"I'm used to it," she said.

Ysla, who has to remove her earrings before each game per the rules, played

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Editorial

Why casting of others for Native American roles is so hurtful

• Adam Beach, actor

In Hollywood, amongst my friends, I'm known as "The Indian." I always dreamed of being an actor in Hollywood, but my biggest dream was meeting Alyssa Milano and the day that dream came true played out like this: Alyssa was dating a friend of mine in Los Angeles and when he introduced me to her, he said, "Alyssa, this is who I was telling you about ... this is the Indian." They don't mean disrespect in any way. My friends have always said they have never met a Native American before, let alone having one as a friend. I am not offended in any way because I carry my teachings and cultural values as a member of the Anishinaabe Nation. We, as friends, teach each other our experiences to be better human beings. This is the purpose of this letter. No anger, only truth and my lived experience.

For the past 200 years, Native peoples have been forced to assimilate. Native spiritual practices were outlawed. Those Natives who continued to practice ceremony were jailed and even killed. Native children were taken away from their families and placed in residential and boarding schools. Their hair was shorn, they were given European names and they were made to wear western clothes. Native children were beaten for speaking their own Native languages and abuse was rampant. Children were not allowed to see their families, and some did not survive the beatings or harsh living conditions of these horrific places. These tragic events continued to play out well into the 1970s. Many Native communities are still plagued by problems that stem directly from the historical trauma caused by the theft of tribal lands and resources as well as forced assimilation.

Natives have been fighting for centuries to preserve our lands and cultures and we are still working to reclaim our identities. Our identity is our birthright.

There is no need to cast non-Native performers and actresses in Native roles. This is not 1950. The practice of whitewashing is unnecessary, unacceptable and discriminatory. It promotes the erasure of communities of color. Natives are often typecast in stereotypical roles or removed from the narrative entirely.

Sonny Skyhawk (Sicangu Lakota), who formed American Indians in Film and Television, states, "We have a caliber of acting chops that should be utilized." There are

many talented and capable Native performers to fill Native roles and actual Native people are the only ones who should. My colleague, acclaimed director Chris Eyre (Cheyenne and Arapaho) states, "As Native American artists we have come too far to accept cultural backsliding." Mr. Eyre consults on history and contemporary appropriation of Native culture through thenativenetworkers.com

Being Native is more than claiming your great-great-grandmother was a Cherokee princess, or that people have told you that you look Native because you have high cheekbones. It's more than a last-minute bullet point on your resume or Wikipedia page to qualify you for a role you wouldn't otherwise receive. Incidentally, claiming Native ancestry without proof makes one a fraud.

Even if we overlook tribal enrollment or the Indian status cards that legally identify one as Native in the United States and Canada, there are other markers of Native identity, like kinship and community bonds. One is Native his or her entire life. It is a not a costume that we can remove. These are some of the topics that my wife Summer Tiger and I speak about on a daily basis. Only a Native knows what it is to be Native, because he or she has the life experience to show it in all its nuanced complexities. Summer, who is an enrolled member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and holds a master's degree in clinical psychology, states, "The perpetuation of historical trauma that has been handed down generation to generation is resulting in disproportionate rates of youth suicides, alcoholism and drug abuse on reservations. Hollywood profits off of telling our stories, using us as backdrops in their white savior narratives, sending the message to our people that we are disposable. The least Hollywood could do is cast Natives who are actually connected to their tribes."

When I was selected by John Woo to play the lead in the movie Windtalkers alongside Nicolas Cage, my Hollywood dreams became a reality. I was now with the big boys. However, with the respect I have for our Native peoples I put my integrity before my career and told my manager that the studio had to get permission from the Navajo Nation for me to be hired to play the role of a Code Talker. Everyone thought I was crazy to put my career on the line, but this is who I am. My next phone call was from my manager saying that the Navajo Nation has approved, with one condition: that the studio hire an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation to

play the other Code Talker in the film. Roger Willie was hired to play my friend. He taught me so much about the history of the Navajo people, which I still hold in my heart to this very day.

"There are many Native stories that are not being told. We are so much more than stories of poverty or hapless victims who must be rescued by a white savior," states Ruth Hopkins (Dakota/Lakota), a tribal attorney, activist and Native writer. Audiences are being robbed by false representation of Native identity and the chance to bear witness to our truth.

My friend Delanna Studi, a documented citizen of the Cherokee Nation, and chair of the SAG-AFTRA National Native Americans Committee, states, "I am all too familiar with the roles that are being written for our people, especially our women. All too often we are portrayed as princesses or victims adding to the 'othering' of and dehumanizing of our Native women. In truth, many of our tribal nations are matrilineal and our women hold power and stature."

It is troubling to see roles meant for Native women being given to those who are not Native, especially when that character is the victim of violence. One in three Native women are survivors of sexual assault, and while it hasn't been publicized until recently, there is an epidemic of missing and murdered Native women on this continent. Just a few weeks ago, a young Native woman in North Dakota who was eight months pregnant went missing and her remains were later discovered in a nearby river. Her child had been ripped from her womb and taken by her alleged killers. Her story is not uncommon. Right now there are thousands of missing Native women and others whose murder cases remain unsolved. Not selecting a Native woman to embody the bravery of these women is a disgrace. This particular story reminds me of my mother Sally, who was killed by a drunk driver in front of my house. She died in a ditch and was eight months pregnant with a baby girl, who also died. I was 8 years old.

These emotions I carry inform the opinions I have and the statements I make on Indians in Hollywood. We are tired of others telling us who we are. We know who we are and what we look like as Native people. After all we've overcome, being able to represent ourselves is not too much to ask.

Hozho Nahasdlii
"All has become beautiful again."

This is a first: Legislation would fully-fund Indian health system, raise billions

• Mark Trahant, Native News Online

Bernie Sanders is expected to introduce his version of health care reform, a plan he calls "Medicare for all." At least 15 Democrats have signed on as co-sponsors to the single-payer plan.

"This is where the country has got to go," Sanders told The Washington Post. "Right now, if we want to move away from a dysfunctional, wasteful, bureaucratic system into a rational health-care system that guarantees coverage to everyone in a cost-effective way, the only way to do it is Medicare for All."

Sanders' bill has no chance in a Republican Congress. Yet the Vermont Democrat is adding to the richness of the debate. He is showing a clear alternative to Republican plans (the latest is one by Sens. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, and Bill Cassidy, R-Louisiana.)

But Indian Country should take note. Sanders bill would fully-fund the Indian health system. Let's do the math. The current budget for the Indian Health Service is \$6.091 billion. And of that, roughly \$1.2 will come from Medicaid, Medicare and other

insurance. This serves about 2.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives in 39 states.

But if Sanders' proposal for universal care were enacted every one of those 2.2 million patients would have funding from insurance. The national average for Medicare beneficiary is \$10,986. The total: \$24.191 billion. A four-fold increase (and this does not include appropriations, just insurance dollars). So if you include both, the total is roughly \$30 billion.

This sound like an awful lot of money, right? That big number reflects what other health systems already spend. So actually it's the ideal demonstration of just how underfunded the Indian Health Service is under current law and insurance schemes. This is what a fully-funded Treaty Right looks like.

Of course some of this can be done now, even without Sanders' bill. Many people in tribal communities are posting on Facebook exactly how to sign up for Medicaid (the government insurance program that so many in Indian Country already qualify for.) They are doing this as an act of defiance, because the Trump Administration has recently quit advertising the program and is not actively promoting sign-ups.

But, again, let's do the math. If every

American Indian and Alaska Native was eligible for Medicaid that would net the Indian health system about \$7.211 billion (instead of the \$1.2 billion from third-party billing now). I actually think this is a more realistic number (even under a Sanders' plan) because it does not include some of the spending by Medicare (and for that matter, Medicaid) on senior citizens. The national average for Medicaid is a modest \$3,278 for an adult and for \$2,577 average for children. The total for IHS would be in the neighborhood of \$15 billion. More than double what is spent now.

Either Medicare or Medicaid: This is what full funding looks like. And a Treaty Right fulfilled. Finally.

Speaking of children, the Senate has reached a bipartisan deal in the Senate to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Plan or CHIP. This insurance plan covers 9 million young people through Medicaid. The program is set to expire at the end of the month unless Congress acts and then President Donald J. Trump signs a new legislation into law.

Mark Trahant 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 @TrahantReports

Native American students face ongoing crises in education

• Lisa J. Ellwood, Indian Country Today

American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) graduation rates have been on a downward trend since 2008 and analysis of the socio-economic reasons driving it is ongoing. As The Nation recently found, "Punitive discipline, inadequate curriculum, and declining federal funding created an education crisis."

Native-specific education media profiles mostly focus on a handful of the states with the largest Native populations (namely California, Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Minnesota), federally recognized Tribes, and/or well-known reservations like Pine Ridge. In the fall of 2013, Education Week sent a team to reservations in South Dakota and California, Pine Ridge included, for its multimedia Education in Indian Country: Obstacles and Opportunity project. While this focus is important, the reality remains that 78 percent of Native Americans live outside of reservations with 70 percent living in urban areas (U.S. Census 2010) — many of the challenges facing and solutions for "Urban Natives" will be different.

In her commentary "The Miseducation of Native American Students for Education Week in November 2016," award-winning "An Indigenous People's History of the United States" author Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz examined the dehumanizing myths and misconceptions that hurt Native American students. "Autumn, the beginning of the school year, is the cruelest season for Native American students in the United States. Between sports games where entire crowds chant about 'redskins' and other school mascots and the federal holiday of the Indian-killing mercenary Christopher Columbus, there is the misguided national celebration of 'Thanksgiving' to mark the arrival of the religious Europeans, who set the stage for Native American genocide," she wrote.

"These rituals dominate the first months of school, putting Native children in their place, holding up the traditions of white children, and championing the ideals of white supremacy and imperialism. As November's recognition of Native American Heritage Month ends, educators should ... instead discuss the reality of life, historical and current, for the more than 600,000 Native American students in our nation's K-12 public schools. Internalizing harmful images most acutely damages Native children, but absorbing racist and dehumanizing ideas about fellow classmates also diminishes the understanding and compassion of non-Native children, warping their conception of a history that often erases Native Americans altogether.

"Sadly, the education system lies at the heart of maintaining the erasure of Native Americans. Native children have been miseducated for generations under deliberately repressive federal policy, and all children in public schools are miseducated in U.S. and Native history," Dunbar-Ortiz explained. This is especially painful for urban Native students unable to benefit from strong cultural ties to their extended family and culture. This can include not being tribally enrolled and/or wholly disconnected from their culture.

Culturally insensitive and incompetent educators continue to be a problem. "Recent statistics from the Bureau of Indian Affairs have noted that between 29 percent and 36 percent of all Native American students drop out of high school. They mostly drop out between the 7th and 12th grades. These numbers are even higher in areas where parents of Native American children complain of a major lack in understanding of native culture," an editorial in Native Youth Magazine states.

"Many tribal leaders and education experts say these dismal statistics reflect, at worst, overt discrimination — and, at best, the alienation that Native students feel in a school system that has few Native teachers

overall as well as limited lessons on Native American history and culture," Rebecca Clarren wrote in The Nation.

This is even more complicated when disabilities are involved. Some of the most troubling issues for misunderstood Native American students involve "Childhood and Developmental Disorders" including learning disabilities, Autism and ADHD whether formally diagnosed or presumed on the part of educators due to entrenched ableist beliefs rooted in racist stereotypes about Native American students being "unintelligent." The same institutional racism that sees disabilities in Natives underdiagnosed or misdiagnosed, drives Special Education being disproportionately used as a form of discipline against students of color, whether they are actually disabled or not, for "behavioral issues."

The Native mother* of a 9-year-old son diagnosed with ADHD detailed her anguish to me via email over her child being the target of racism and ableism by white teachers and administration at his new, predominantly white middle-class school. Not only was her son not afforded accommodations and protections he was entitled to under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), once a "problem" was identified (relating to his disability) others were quickly found even after he was re-assigned to a new classroom as his mother demanded. The straight-As Native American student who loved school grew to hate it and began failing after being repeatedly humiliated as the "brown kid with behavioral problems."

"There were days that I would keep him home for 'mental health days.' Andy* got up on Monday morning the last week of school and was so upset by the prospect of another week of school that we finally withdrew him. The following year we enrolled him at another elementary school in the same school district. He continued having problems at the new school, however, the new school took a real interest in making school a positive experience for Andy. He is [still] attending the same school and is doing extremely well. Later on, we learned that the old school had been rejecting open-enrollment students with learning or emotional disabilities but accepting their non-disabled siblings."

In February 2016, the National Council on Disability welcomed "the Equity in IDEA rule proposed by the U.S. Department of Education, which seeks to address widespread disparities in the treatment of students of color with disabilities who too often enter the 'school-to-prison pipeline,' which refers to all policies and practices that have the effect of pushing students—especially those most at risk—out of classrooms and into juvenile and criminal justice systems." Despite this, Native American students are still disproportionately disciplined more than most other racial groups with a dropout rate twice the national average. They represent less than 1 percent of the student population, but 2 percent of out-of-school suspensions and 3 percent of expulsions.

"Many education analysts have noted that when educators don't acknowledge Native American culture with their Native student body, the students begin to feel disenfranchised, said Native Youth Magazine. "There have been a number of schools that have successfully implemented programs that teach educators and staff about Native culture, giving them a better perspective on how to interact with Native students. The schools that have these 'cultural sensitivity' classes have seen a noted decline in the amount of disciplinary actions they take against Native American students. Some credit the sensitivity training itself, but only time will tell which programs were the most effective."

For information on Native-based solutions including those organized and run by youth, check out NERDS, Pathkeepers for Indigenous Knowledge, and Education Week.

*Identifying details have been changed or omitted to protect the child and his family.

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Publisher: The Seminole Tribe of Florida

Senior Editor: Kevin Johnson
KevinJohnson@semtribe.com

Staff Reporter: Beverly Bidney
BeverlyBidney@semtribe.com

Staff Reporter: Li Cohen
LiCohen@semtribe.com

If you would like to request a reporter or would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem, please contact Senior Editor Kevin Johnson at 954-985-5701 ext. 10715

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Community

A

Seminole Tribe receives \$63,873 historic preservation grant

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

Hard work does not always go unnoticed. Because of the efforts put forth by the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Office, the Tribe is set to receive \$63,873 in a historic preservation grant from the National Park Service, a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt announced the distribution Aug. 17. The grant provided to the Seminole Tribe is in addition to the \$533,963 distributed to the State of Florida in historic preservation grants. These awards are part of a \$25.5 million initiative provided to states and tribes across the country and a \$58 million investment in preservation efforts throughout the U.S. and its territories, as well as partnering nations.

In a press release, Bernhardt said that the grants highlight the DOI's and National Park Service's commitment to preserving the history and heritage of tribes throughout the U.S. The National Park Service oversees all Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) throughout the country and distributes the annual grant to help them administer programs and site preservation.

"Through valuable partnerships, we are able to help communities and tribes protect the diverse historic places, culture and traditions unique to our country for future generations," he said.

Of 47 states and regions, Florida received the seventh largest grant, only surpassed by Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York and California. The Seminole Tribe received one of the highest awards of the 98 tribes who were granted

funds. The National Park Service administers both grants, which Congress appropriates annually from the Department of the Interior's Historic Preservation Fund. This fund ensures preservation programs are kept intact by passing 10 percent of local state funding through competitive awards granted to certified local governments.

The Seminole Tribe has received the grant in the past. With previous funding, the Brighton Field School examined a 20th century Anglo-pioneer homestead on Tzribal lands. The findings of this project are set for inclusion in the Tribal and National Register of Historic Places nominations.

"The grant allows us to really fulfill our mission in the department and support the Seminole Tribe. It adds extra resources that may not be there otherwise," said Paul Backhouse, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. "We wouldn't be doing our job as servants of the Seminole Tribe if we weren't trying to do it in a fiscally responsible manner. This has allowed us to shoot for the stars and to be the best program that we can be within Indian Country."

Tribes must be federally recognized and complete an application to be eligible for the grant. Anne Mullins, the Seminole Tribe's THPO assistant director, said that this year, the office originally thought they would only receive a partial grant for \$28,378. The week of Sept. 11, however, the National Park Service informed the office they will be awarded more than double that amount.

With the grant, Mullins and Backhouse said they will be able to purchase a new four-wheel-drive truck to keep up with field work and send THPO staff members to the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Impact

Week conference in Washington, D.C. next February.

Previously, tribes could use part of the money to place bronze markers at historical sites on Tribal lands, but new policies no longer allow this. Mullins said it usually costs approximately \$4,500 per marker, so THPO will be looking for other ways to pay for them in the future.

Although marker funds are no longer a part of the grant, THPO will allocate part of the funds to hire a Seminole culture expert to help add information about Seminole history and culture to the THPO database and a consultant to help analyze the Tribe's document management system to better organize the thousands of documents added to the file each year.

Part of this document management system is a new digital mapping database that allows THPO to map the cultural resources of Seminole lands outside of Florida. By doing so, they are better equipped to see what culturally important areas are being impacted by various federal and state initiatives.

Backhouse explained that when they receive correspondence from a federal agency, it could be from engineers, an Air Force base or anything of the like. With the mapping database, they can figure out if any of their plans impact something the Seminole Tribe cares about.

"We get between 3,000 and 4,000 pieces of compliance and correspondence from the federal agencies every year and we only have two staff members to deal with that," he said. "Having the mapping system in place allows the Tribe to be flexible enough to protect the resources it really cares about. It's essential to how we do our work."

While the Tribal grant may be used according to the Tribe's discretion, the award the State of Florida received has specifications for use and is not available to the Tribe. According to the Florida Department of State, the money received from this grant is put into the Historic Preservation Grants Program, which allocates the funds, as deemed appropriate, for non-Tribal lands within the state.

Within this program, organizations can apply to either Small Matching Grants — which provide assistance up to \$50,000 and require grantees provide a matching share equal to the award in any combination of volunteer labor, donated materials or cash-on-hand that must be at least 25 percent of the total match — or Special Category Grants — which provide assistance between \$50,000 and \$500,000 and require grantees provide a matching share of either \$50,000 or 50 percent of the award, whichever is larger, in any combination of the aforementioned contributions. Small Matching Grants are awarded to projects related to acquisition, development, community education, survey and planning, main street start-up, historical markers, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and special statewide projects. Special Category Grants, on the other hand, may only be granted to projects related to acquisition, development, archaeology or museum exhibitions.

Despite the seemingly large sums the state and Tribe received, Backhouse said that the numbers have actually declined in the past decade.

Since the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum became a THPO in 2006, dozens of more tribes have also established preservation

offices. While the numbers of these offices have increased — which Backhouse explained is a great accomplishment for tribes — the federal funding for site preservation has remained stagnant. Because funding has not correlated with need, preservation offices receive less money every year as the money is split among more groups.

The cause for this is a lack of financial support for the National Parks Service. The Department of the Interior's fiscal year 2018 budget created a multi-million dollar deficit for the bureau. Just for the Historic Preservation Fund, the DOI proposed a \$14.2 million reduction from fiscal year 2017. As such, the National Parks Service requested that Historic Preservation Fund Grants-in-Aid for states and territories be reduced by \$4.7 million and HPF Grants-in-Aid for tribes be reduced by \$1 million. Both reductions are requested to "allow the National Parks Service to balance remaining resources between park operations and program investments."

"It's unfortunate that the federal [budget] for the program hasn't been consistent with the national increase of THPOs," Backhouse said. "Unfortunately, the burden has been put on the Seminole government, but those services are fiscally challenging. The more grants we can bring through the door, the more we can offset what the Tribe has to provide for those Tribal services."

Despite this decline, Backhouse expressed his pride for the work the Seminole Tribe's THPO has completed and plans to complete in the future. The office plans to continue applying for grants and working toward fulfilling their mission.

Lee Tiger advocates love with new album

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — For Miccosukee rock musician Lee Tiger, music is not just a creative outlet, it's a way of advocating for

what one believes in. Tiger's latest album, "One Earth, One People, Come Together" does just that.

Tiger released the album Sept. 7 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino's Hard Rock Café in Hollywood, playing album songs live for guests. While the release party was an exciting experience for Tiger and his

band, "Tiger Tiger," he believes the meaning behind the album is even more sensational.

"The whole concept is a global message. It reaches out farther than just reservations or this country," Tiger, 67, said. "I hope people take something away from it that they didn't think about before, which is the commonality of respect, love and respect for the earth."

Tiger explained that as time passes, people seem to lose touch with what matters in life and that government, politics, money and other issues block individuals' perspectives. "One Earth" is his attempt to address this issue and restore peace into the world.

"The world is so complicated now. We have somehow lost the chain of love and the chain of respect and compassion has broken in the last 50 years or so," he said. "This statement of 'one earth, one people, come together' is an effort to bring awareness of the love that we have lost for each other and the respect and love we have lost for Mother Earth. We will destroy it if we continue the way we are. It will cease to exist and we will as well."

This belief stems from the teachings of Tiger's late father, Buffalo Tiger. Buffalo taught Lee and his late brother and bandmate, Stephen Tiger, that in order to be successful and grow, people need to respect Mother Earth and stay in touch with Native American culture. Growing up, Buffalo — who was instrumental in helping the Seminoles gain federal recognition as a sovereign tribe

— instilled the importance of harmony in his sons' minds, which played a large part in their musical success.

The backbone song of the album, "One Earth One People" is a testament to this lesson.

"This song reaches out from the spirit and the heart of Native America. It goes with what we were taught which is to respect and harmonize with nature and get along with all cultures and religions," Tiger said. "It is the idea of people coming together and uniting as one. We need to think about what is going to harm the earth or what the ability will be for our children and grandchildren to have good lives."

This message translates into eight songs on the latest album, all written and produced by Tiger. He said the music resembles the



Lee Tiger's new album, "One Earth One People Come Together."

Courtesy photo



Lee Tiger performs at the Hard Rock.

Courtesy Photo

influences of The Beatles, Rolling Stones, The Animals and The Kinks, as well as country rhythms. "One Earth, One People, Come Together," is the ninth album Tiger has released total and only his third solo album.

The album is available on his website tigertigermusic.com.

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Cattle sale draws hundreds of buyers, sellers from Southeast

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Creating a sea of cowboy hats, more than 250 ranchers from Florida and around the country crammed into the Florida Seminole Veterans Building on Aug. 31 hoping to buy or sell the perfect heifers at the Cattle Country Commercial Replacement Sale in Brighton.

By the end of the day, more than 1,100 head of cattle changed hands and were hauled off the reservation in a caravan of cattle trailers.

“This was the largest sale of its kind in the Southeast and the largest the Tribe has ever held,” said Alex Johns, natural resource director.

Buyers and sellers came to Brighton from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas for the sale.

“It was a good day for all cattlemen in Florida,” said Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard. “We showed what we do best: raise cows, manage them and sell them too.”

American Marketing Services, based in Texas, managed the sale. They took bids live in the room, by phone and online during the sale.

“If you came to buy good heifers, I don’t know if there will be another chance,” said auctioneer Tommy Barnes.

The cadence of Barnes’ voice created an urgency in the room as ranchers bid furiously until only one emerged victorious with a “lot” of bred (pregnant) or open (not pregnant) heifers.

Barnes’ voice served as the soundtrack of the auction, but it was interrupted often by the barks of ringmen Richard Hood and E.C. Larkin as they updated the auctioneer on the latest bidders.

Cattle were sold in lots of four to 15 animals and sale prices averaged approximately \$1,100 to \$1,700 per animal. Total gross sales were more than \$1.6 million. Seminole owned Salacoa Valley Farms bulls, whose seed stock is highly sought after by ranchers for its superior genetics, bred or sired about 80 percent of the heifers.

Prior to the sale, Clay and Cole Overstreet of the Overstreet Family Ranch in



Beverly Bidney

Auctioneer Tommy Barnes monitors the bidding as he updates bidders on the latest price for heifers being sold in Brighton.

Sebring, checked out the animals in the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena. They went to purchase about 10 bred heifers.

“These are great looking heifers,” said Cole Overstreet. “Amazing.”

“They are out of good bulls,” added his father Clay Overstreet. “This ain’t about junk; these are top cattle here.”

One hundred-thirty-nine Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.-owned heifers were sold in 18 lots. Tribal cattle owners attended the auction to sell, “browse” or buy animals. About 15 purchased animals to add to their herds.

Nineteen non-Tribal cattle owners sold animals at the sale, but it was the first time Daniel Moen, of Moen Cattle in Inverness, sold heifers.

“We usually sell calves, but figured we’d give it a try,” said Moen, who sold 10. “You never know going in what the price is going to be. It was pretty good, a little better than we expected.”

Rep. Howard acknowledged all the hard work done behind the scenes by Johns, Salacoa Valley Farms general manager Chris Heptinstall and others to make the sale a success.

“It was a team effort,” he said. “All the cattlemen had a part that day. These men work the pastures from sunup to sundown. As a Board member, I’m proud of the progress that has taken place and hope to continue to grow the cattle industry and keep it moving.”



Beverly Bidney

After the sale, new owners herd their cattle onto trailers for transport to their new pastures.



Beverly Bidney

The Veterans Building in Brighton is filled with ranchers vying to buy and sell heifers Aug. 31 at the Cattle Country Replacement Sale.



Beverly Bidney

Standing in front of a video of the lot of cattle up for auction, ringman E.C. Larkin takes bids on heifers during the cattle auction in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Heifers are on display in the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena before the Cattle Country Replacement Sale in Brighton. Bidders had the opportunity to view all the animals for sale prior to the auction.

Access Broward County’s free Family Resource Guide

The Children’s Services Council of Broward County created the Family Resource Guide, a free handbook for parents in the community. The guide includes important information for parents, including county department phone numbers, helpful websites, tips for staying involved with children’s education, childhood development and health, and more. This free guide is available for download in English, Spanish, Creole and Portuguese from <https://cld.bz/OE0huTt/a>.

Attend financial literacy seminars

The Native Learning Center’s Office of Trust Management will host a financial literacy seminar for Seminole Tribal Members aged 17 and older on Oct. 21 and Nov. 18. The sessions are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and students must arrive by 8:45 a.m. at the Native Learning Center, room 204, 6363 Taft Street, Hollywood. To fulfill the Minor Trust Financial Literacy requirement, students must attend both sessions. Visit semtribe.com/signmeup to register. For more information, contact Lisa Estopinan at 954-966-6300, ext. 11442.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum prepares for 20th American Indian Arts Celebration

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Nestled in between Naples and Fort Lauderdale lies the opportunity for Native Americans throughout the country to unite. The Big Cypress Reservation's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum has received national recognition for its initiatives, and the 20th annual American Indian Arts Celebration is expected to only add to its well-known reputation.

The celebration, scheduled for Nov. 3 and 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, will feature some programming similar to previous years, including arts and crafts vendors from tribes throughout the country, but this year's schedule will slightly vary.

Unlike previous years when a main stage was used for highlighted performances and other forms of entertainment, this year will discontinue the main stage and focus on smaller demonstrations throughout the two-day event.

Carrie Dilley, visitor services and development manager at the museum, explained that in the past, visitors gravitated toward smaller programs, like alligator wrestling, rather than the main performances. By setting up the celebration as a smaller scale fair or festival, she believes it will be more of an inviting experience for guests.

Although the main stage will not be a part of this year's festivities, visitors can still expect to have a packed schedule of entertainment. Vendors, many from other



Courtesy photo

Alligator wrestling is a fan-favorite at the American Indian Arts Celebration, and the show is expected to return this year.



Courtesy photo

Visitors at the American Indian Arts Celebration last year take part in a traditional Tribal dance.

Native American cultures, will showcase traditional arts and crafts, such as beadwork, as well as prepare traditional foods, including swamp cabbage and fry bread. Wildlife shows and food trucks are also in the works.

"It's a way to get different tribes and different cultures together and bring them to the forefront of the museum," Dilley said. "It provides an interesting experience for the community in Big Cypress and other visitors."

Last year, more than 1,400 people attended the celebration. This year, one guest,

H. Dale Herring, will also attend the event for a special signing for his new book, "Bowlegs Town," a fictional novel about a young Seminole Chief, Billy Bowlegs, who led the Seminoles during the Second and Third Seminole Wars. Herring will have a booth at the event to sell and sign books Nov. 4.

"It's a great opportunity for cultural exchange. Nothing happens in a vacuum and I think that it's important for Seminoles to see what other cultures are doing in terms of their crafts and arts," Dilley said. "It's just a really unique experience for everyone."

The event is free for Seminole Tribe of Florida members and employees. Non-Tribal members can purchase tickets at the museum. All tickets include admission to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and boardwalk, as well as the Arts Celebration, and are \$10 for adults, \$7.50 for teachers and students and free for children ages 4 and younger.

Anyone interested in hosting a demonstration can contact Dilley at 863-902-1113, ext. 12211 or carriedilley@semtribe.com. More detailed programming will be available closer to the event.

Native American Voting Rights Coalition to hold hearings

PRESS RELEASE

With growing concerns over voter suppression and voting rights violations, the Native American Voting Rights Coalition will be holding several field hearings in upcoming months across Indian Country. The goal of the hearings is to identify and document the obstacles indigenous voters continue to face. The first hearing was held Sept. 5, in Bismark, North Dakota.

The goal of the hearings is to hear about Native American voters' experiences in voter registration and voting in federal, state, and local (non-tribal) elections. Issues to be addressed include whether Native voters have opportunities in their communities that are equal to those of non-Natives or if they experience discrimination in:

- Location of voter registration and voting
- Voter identification requirements
- Vote-by-mail and early voting
- Poll worker opportunities

- Redistricting
- Treatment at the polls
- Language barriers
- Other discrimination

Witnesses will include tribal leaders, advocates, and voters. Those who would like to testify or want more information can register to attend or submit testimony by emailing vote@narf.org.

The Native American Voting Rights Coalition is an alliance of national and grassroots organizations, scholars, and activists advocating for equal access for Native Americans to the political process. It is holding — field hearings throughout Indian Country to document barriers to registration and voting in non-tribal elections. Information from the hearings will help promote public education, identify policy solutions, and advance other legal remedies to expand Native access to voting.

To learn more about Native voting rights and NARF's work to ensure those rights, please visit narf.org/cases/native-american-voting-rights-coalition/.

Get ready for the Bowers Family Reunion

Members of the Bowers family can join their parents, aunts, uncles, siblings and cousins for a day of fun at the Bowers Family Reunion on Nov. 4. The event will be held at Howard Tommie's Camp on the Brighton Reservation. Breakfast will be served at 10 a.m. and lunch will be served at 2 p.m. The event will feature a game of horse shoes, a bounce house, music, bingo for those 18 years and older and more.

Donations continue to be accepted for Native Relief

Janice Osceola and her granddaughter recently donated items for the Native Relief Foundation. They brought toys, shoes, clothing and more to Tribal headquarters.

All donated items will go to the South Dakota Sioux Tribes. Donations of items and money are still being accepted and can be made up until mid-December when a truck loaded with all the items will leave Florida for South Dakota.



Courtesy photo

Donations continue to be accepted for the Native Relief Foundation, including at the box in the Tribal headquarters. Below, Janice Osceola and her granddaughter donate bundles of items for the South Dakota Sioux Tribes.

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Battling Hurricane Irma



Agencies unite to handle storm

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Hurricane Irma stormed into Florida as a category 4 on Sept. 10 leaving nearly 16 million people, including Seminoles, without power and hundreds in a crisis situation. For some Seminole reservations, the storm's impact was mild, but for others the damage proved hazardous as Tribal members endured days without power.

The preparations for the storm began about a week earlier when the Seminole Police Department and Emergency

special certification from BIA to help with emergency situations, to assist in the relief efforts. Originally, the four officers were ordered to help with efforts in Houston, but BIA decided their assistance was needed more in South Florida.

"If officers are needed somewhere and I have qualified officers that I can send, then we're going to do that," Griffin said. "We've had tornadoes and flooding here and we understand what it's like. I don't hesitate one bit if I have the resources to help with situations like this."

The four Comanche officers were part of a 25-man quick response team with other



Kevin Johnson

Comanche Nation Police from Oklahoma, shown here in the parking lot of the Seminole Tribe's headquarters in Hollywood, and a few other tribes were among agencies that provided assistance during Hurricane Irma.

Management Department began monitoring the storm more closely and reviewing emergency activation plans. Police Chief and Executive Director of Public Safety William Latchford spent the week meeting with the Tribal Council and executive directors, who are responsible for the emergency plans of their respective departments, to prepare departments and the reservations.

At the time, hurricane models predicted the storm would directly hit some of the reservations, so Latchford explained they were preparing for the worst scenario. Prior to the storm, Emergency Management secured 144 pallets of water, two ice trucks and three gas tankers from Seminole Petroleum. These resources are part of the Tribe's all-hazard plan and the Board works to purchase these items as soon as possible.

As the storm drew closer, Latchford met with the directors and the Council via conference calls, which also included the National Weather Service.

"They [National Weather Service] were able to give us detailed descriptions of what they thought the weather predictions were going to be at that moment," Latchford said. "Nothing is exact and the spaghetti models were changing between left, right and center [of the state]."

By Sept. 8, the Tribal government was closed and only essential personnel, which included emergency services and some regular employees, were called to work to assist public safety.

"We brought everybody in knowing the storm was going to impact multiple reservations, just not knowing how that impact would be," Latchford said.

Bureau of Indian Affairs recruits Tribal assistance

Joining in the support were law enforcement officers from other Native American tribes, including the Comanche, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee and Quapaw tribes.

Comanche Police Chief Vernon Griffin said that the Bureau of Indian Affairs contacted his department around Sept. 1 asking if there were officers available to travel to the Seminole reservation. Comanche sent four officers, whom have a

personnel from Oklahoma, including BIA Office of Justice Services officers and Tribal members. The team was responsible for helping officers from the Seminole Police Department respond to incidents during and after the hurricane as part of a Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) mission.

Latchford explained that many employees were sleeping in cars, on floors and in chairs for short amounts of time and many of them hadn't spoken to or seen their families. When the additional help arrived, many were able to return home for an hour, call their loved ones and get much-needed sleep after working extended hours.

"They put the Tribe first," Latchford said of the employees. "We have very dedicated employees and that was very rewarding to watch. ... It's the employees and the community that really make this a success."

BIA also sent radio technicians to the reservations. In total, 75 of 125 approved personnel from DFA assisted the Tribe in Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee and Hollywood.

"Who better to send, if you have the resources available, then another tribe to assist a tribe?" Griffin said. "We might not have exactly the same culture but we understand Indian culture. Ninety-five percent of my commissioned officers are Tribal officers. Most of them are Comanche Nation members."

Bringing in BIA officers proved helpful during the storm. In addition to monitoring casinos and patrolling areas, they also took part in a few emergency calls. Police arrested one man and seized his car for a drug-related incident and two individuals — one who overdosed and the other who had a heart attack — were revived by Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue personnel. All individuals are reportedly doing well.

FEMA and White House send help

President Donald Trump's Sept. 11 declaration that Florida was in a state of emergency brought thousands of volunteers and workers to assist in disaster relief efforts under the direction of the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). According



Courtesy photo

Officers and officials from law enforcement and other emergency agencies gather to discuss preparations for Hurricane Irma on the Hollywood Reservation.



Courtesy photo

Law enforcement working during Hurricane Irma say a prayer before being provided meals from Hollywood Community Culture.

to FEMA, federal agencies deployed approximately 22,000 employees to assist Floridians, Tribal members and local states. According to FEMA, this is the first time the government has ever approved a Presidential Emergency Declaration for a Tribal nation.

"To be able to have the relationship with the federal government to ensure the support and safety of all Seminole Tribe of Florida Reservations and our members is a testament to the relationship of two sovereign governments," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola in a U.S. Department of the Interior press release. "I would like to thank President Donald Trump for his commitment to deploy all necessary resources to assist the Seminole Tribe of Florida during this difficult time."

Elisa Roper, a regional Tribal liaison for FEMA, explained that when an emergency situation is activated for one of the six federally-recognized tribes in her region, she and FEMA's Incident Management Assistance Team travel to the tribe to help. FEMA deployed Roper to the Tribe on Sept.

12 to help address power outages, diesel and propane shortages and other issues that arose from the hurricane.

"FEMA is committed to our partnership and collaboration with the Seminole Tribe," she said. "We were definitely going to provide support in response to recovery from Hurricane Irma and maintaining the nation-to-nation relationship with the Seminole Tribe and its people."

As part of the response, the Tribe and FEMA dispersed Points of Distribution (PODs) throughout Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee, Hollywood, Naples and Trail. At these locations, Tribal members and employees were able to pick up water, ice and non-perishable foods. As of Sept. 25, all POD locations were closed, except for ones in Trail, at which Public Safety continued delivering ice and water because those with power services from Lee County Electric Cooperative were still without power. All other locations had regained power.

FEMA also helped Tribal officials with the paperwork process. Latchford said that

the Tribe gets reimbursed for losses, such as manpower hours, preparations and damages to government buildings. So far, FEMA has allocated \$4 billion to the Tribe for hurricane response.

To move forward, the Tribe has submitted a request to FEMA for a Direct Disaster Declaration. Unlike the Presidential Declaration — which provides immediate short-term assistance — this declaration requests for the White House to provide an aid expansion for public and individual assistance within the Tribe. Essentially, Roper said, the Council is asking for some additional assistance in getting Tribal affairs back to normal.

During this process, the Tribe assesses critical infrastructure and homes of members who live on and off the reservations. This data is provided to the FEMA headquarters, where they determine if there is enough information to determine the cost of damages, before being sent to the White House for final approval. This request is currently under review.



Kevin Johnson

A FEMA trailer is stationed outside the Seminole Tribe's headquarters in Hollywood after Hurricane Irma.



Kevin Johnson

A K9 unit from the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, shown here in the parking lot of the Seminole Tribe's headquarters, assists with Hurricane Irma operations.

Battling Hurricane Irma



Courtesy photo

Glades Electric meter technician Donnie Murphy joins Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger in BC. The Senior Center treated Murphy and the other workers to a hot lunch Sept. 22.



Courtesy photo

Linemen from Glades Electric Cooperative listen as Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank addresses the group before lunch. Seated are Lindsey King and Betty King, who said the prayer before food was served.

Big Cypress expresses gratitude in Irma's aftermath

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole spirit of hospitality remained strong in the wake of Hurricane Irma. To show gratitude to Glades Electric Cooperative linemen, the Senior Center treated the workers to a hearty lunch Sept. 22 in the air conditioned facility.

"It was the community showing appreciation to the individuals who came out to re-hook us up," said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank. "I was glad to see the response we had. We received a lot of help from employees and community members who stepped up to help."

Irma's winds toppled utility poles and power lines that provide power to the reservation and it took 13 days for the power to be restored. Electrical workers from Louisiana assisted Glades Electric in restoring power to customers in Big Cypress.

"We really appreciate the linemen and Glades Electric. They spent their time

out here away from their families," said President Mitchell Cypress. "They didn't have to, but that's what we do in the United States after a disaster."

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger noted that this was the first time the Tribe was under a state of emergency Tribal wide. He appreciated the community volunteers and employees for their efforts during the disaster.

"Community members and staff thought it would be a good idea to invite the workers in and feed them to thank them for their work," Councilman Tiger said. "They gave up their family lives for 13 days so we could have service."

The idea for the luncheon developed when a few senior women saw the linemen working Sept. 21 in hot conditions and decided to bring them cold water and Gatorade. The men were so appreciative that the decision was made to invite them in for a hot lunch the following day.

Activity coordinator Angelita Arreguin

gave head cook Maria Ramos the credit for getting it organized in just one day. The menu included pork chops, rice, vegetables and desserts.

Before lunch was served, senior Tribal member Betty King said a prayer. Twenty-eight workers ate at the Senior Center and another 23 to-go boxes were made for the next shift. The seniors thanked the workers and then left them alone to enjoy their meal.

"They couldn't believe we went out of our way to do that," Arreguin said. "They knew we were a shelter and had so much to do already. We wanted them to feel comfortable and they were loving the air conditioning."

Before the linemen left to continue working in the 90-degree weather, they were given snacks for later and more water.

"This was a monumental task and we have replaced nearly 600 poles from the south end of our system to the north end of our system and east and west. It hit us everywhere. It was quite an event and

one we've never experienced before. For the most part everyone was on by 7 p.m. Friday night with the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation coming on at that time. It was pretty exciting and a big moment. Two days ahead of schedule and actually a whole week ahead of what I thought it was going to be when we first assessed the damages two weeks ago," said Glades Electric CEO Jeff Brewington in a Facebook post.

The company's website kept a daily post-hurricane outage update. The following was posted by Denise Whitehead in its Sept. 22 update:

"We were able to bring the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation online. We have guys all over our territory still but a lot of them are at the reservation and they have power to all but 3 meters at the Reservation. Those three meters are inaccessible at the moment but we should have them finished up tomorrow. We have all the homes with power now and we are very excited about that. We are tired and wore out but finally we got that

accomplished. It was a big job. I want to say thanks to the Tribe for their hospitality to all our men, who have been working down there so hard, for inviting them to lunch today and showing them you appreciate it. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking care of them like that. They very much appreciated it. Several of the crews have mentioned they have been taken care of far better here than in any storm they have ever worked. I'm so grateful that our own crews, as well as all of the visiting crews, feel like they are treated like family."

Although things worked out well in Big Cypress and power was restored in less than two weeks after the hurricane, Rep. Frank believes this won't be a unique occurrence going forward. Storms could grow larger and stronger due to warmer ocean temperatures.

"The Tribe has to remain diligent and be prepared for the next one," Rep. Frank said. "If it's worse, we could be without power much longer."

IRMA From page 1A

"Immokalee had it the worst of the reservations, but the damage is mostly cosmetic," said SPD Sgt. Michele Harbin. "We worked well as a command center. A bunch of people came together, put our best effort forward and worked hand-in-hand to make this a smooth transition."

Harbin said communications between the departments was the key to their success. When the cell and landline telephones went down, they used SPD radios on repeaters to communicate.

As the wind and rain whipped through Immokalee, which was visible to all through the community center's hurricane impact resistant windows, SPD officers did their best to keep spirits up. They played cards and games with the children, made popcorn and generally kept everyone calm.

"It was a smooth operation and everyone was in good spirits," said Immokalee Fire Rescue Battalion Commander Robert Curtis. "We provided service throughout. We were very lucky."

Prior to the storm, Fire Rescue evacuated residents from the reservation's trailer homes and transported them to the safety of the shelter, which was still operational on Sept. 12 and continued operating until power is restored.

The generators were fueled up and the shelter had enough food and supplies to last for a few weeks. The shelter fed about 80 Tribal members three meals a day and continued to provide a cool atmosphere until the entire reservation regained electricity. Lawn companies began clearing debris from clients' yards the day after the hurricane and Fire Rescue and SPD went house to house to check on residents.

Most homes on the reservation have generators; the majority run on propane but some use diesel fuel. A generator can run an entire house, but the fuel will last only about three or four days depending on how many appliances are used. Fuel was in high demand, but the EOC secured enough for all who needed it, Harbin said.

Deloris Alvarez's Immokalee home lost power and a cooking chickee but her Big Cypress trailer survived the storm intact, save for a few downed trees, and she believes everyone got lucky.

Big Cypress

Big Cypress took a hit by Hurricane Irma, but it wasn't as severe as in Immokalee. Most of the damage on the reservation was superficial with downed trees, chickees and flooding being the most common signs of

the storm's wrath. Downed power poles on County Roads 846 and 835 leading to the reservation were the most impactful, since they left the reservation with no electricity.

The BC Senior Center was converted into a shelter and more than 60 people made it their home as Hurricane Irma rumbled through.

"When the hurricane came, we had a circle prayer," said BC Council Special Assistant Brian Billie. "Kids were around,

Sept. 12 and reminisced about storms they experienced as kids. They remembered hanging onto the chickee poles during the bad ones. But this day most of the talk was about Irma.

"It was windy and rainy and stuff was flying around," said President Cypress. "I peeked out and the front door flew open and threw me outside. I learned my lesson not to open a door when the wind is blowing during a hurricane."

down at Cathy Cypress's BC home, including five of her children who came to stay from Broward County. The home was well protected with impact resistant windows.

"We did pretty well," Cypress said. "We had a lot of rain and wind, but no flooding. The kids were fascinated by what was happening outside."

Albert Graham and his children Lucee Cypress, 10, and Herbert Cypress, 6, stayed

and were safe and secure inside buildings but the road leading to the attraction was flooded, the petting zoo lost its roof and there was damage to a couple of the dormitory chickees. As the flood waters receded, the animals were released to their outside pens.

"We expected more damage to BC," said Victor Marrero, director of Risk Management. "We are blessed that it wasn't as severe as we thought it would be. The reservation looks like it's in pretty good shape."

The Risk Management and Fixed Assets departments sent crews to every reservation to assess the damage. Marrero said every reservation had some damage and the department is in the process of completing appraisals and securing insurance estimates.

"Overall, we were very fortunate that we didn't receive a direct impact and that as the storm came through it diminished in strength," Marrero said. "If there's one thing I can say about the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the folks are resilient."

The biggest issue a week after the storm in Big Cypress was lack of electricity. Although most of the 300 or so homes on the reservation have generators, residents have continued to take meals at the shelter. According to Senior Center Site Manager Nadine Bowers, lunch is the busiest time.

"If someone's generator goes out, they can come to the shelter," said Arthur Bousquet, Fire Rescue district chief. "We want to keep a nice cool place so no one gets heat stroke. As long as there is no electricity, the shelter will be open."

In the days after the storm Fire Rescue and SPD distributed bags of ice and cases of water at the Herman Osceola Gym. A steady stream of cars, SUVs and ATVs drove up Sept. 12 for supplies given out by SPD Community Service Aide Gordon Perna and Fire Rescue Lt. Oscar Castillo.

Castillo had been working without a break for five days and spent the hurricane in Immokalee, where he helped with the cooking.

"This is what we signed up for," Castillo said. "We are here for the tough times. We're here to remind the community they can rely on us."

On Sept. 15, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) partnered with the Tribe to distribute water, ice and non-perishable goods at the BC aviation hanger and the ball fields in Brighton. Military MREs (Meals Ready to Eat), Red Cross comfort kits and tarps were piled high in the hanger and given to community members as they drove through the facility.

See IRMA on page 8A



Beverly Bidney

Power lines and poles tilt on the Immokalee Reservation in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

the Boys and Girls Club brought games and kept them busy and some firemen had karaoke. It was a good time."

The kids spent their time in the larger room as the seniors took shelter in the smaller, and much quieter, ceramics room. About 200 people were fed and a few stayed until the power was restored to the reservation.

President Mitchell Cypress and his brother David Cypress had lunch together

His house was undamaged, but the front door was off its hinges so President Cypress backed his car up to it to keep it closed for the duration of the storm.

"Nothing dramatic happened to me," added David Cypress with a grin. "A couple of trees are down, but there was no structural damage."

Irma proved to be nothing more than an adventure for the eight people hunkered

in the shelter during the hurricane. Their home had no power and the generator was too small to power up the air conditioning. The kids were entertained by their electronic gadgets; Lucee listened to music and Herbert played games on his iPad.

"My kids can't be sleeping in the heat," Graham said. "As long as they are content, I'm happy."

Over at Billie Swamp Safari, the animals

Battling Hurricane Irma



◆ IRMA From page 7A

“The ice truck is my favorite place to be,” said fire inspector Meghan Grimsley as she worked in the 90 degree heat handing out ice and other supplies.

The Swamp Water Café at Billie Swamp Safari opened for business three days after the hurricane, said Operations Manager Haftu Kahsay.

“The generator went down during the storm and we had to throw away all the food, so we started again from scratch,” Kahsay said. “The menu is limited, but we wanted to make sure the community had something to eat.”

The café is ready for the community and employees, but not yet for a rush of tourists. Four days after the reopening the café had served 164 meals. Not bad considering Billie Swamp Safari remained closed to the public.

The boardwalk at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum was damaged in a few places, but the museum building and its art collections remained intact. Museum staff removed the art from walls and showcases and stored it safely in the museum’s bunker-like, climate controlled vault prior to the storm. It took 15 people to remove a massive 6-by-10 foot painting — painted by Noah Billie and titled “Seminole Warriors Observing U.S. Army Soldiers Marching” — from the wall by the back door leading to the boardwalk.

The generators never lost power during Hurricane Irma, so no art was lost.

“It was all hands on deck to de-install everything,” said Paul Backhouse, director, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Office. “I’m very proud of them. The care of the collection is everything to us and we know how important it is to the Tribe.”

The museum has pieces on loan from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the Cherokee Nation,



A structure at the Seminole Indian 4-H Club didn't make it through Hurricane Irma.

Kevin Johnson

Tribal members and other institutions. Representatives from museums, historic preservation societies and even the Florida Secretary of State contacted Backhouse to make sure all was well at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki.

After the storm, museum staff worked together to remove downed branches, trees and other debris from the parking lot, entrance and back of the building. Despite the hot and humid weather, spirits were high as the team worked together to clean up the grounds.

The art is safe, but Backhouse said the damaged boardwalk will take a huge effort and time to repair.

“But we will reopen it, it’s an important part of what we are,” he said.

Brighton

Brighton also experienced the hurricane, but the damage was less extensive.

“It wasn’t too bad,” said Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard. “Everybody pulled together and helped each other out. We are all OK.”

Downed trees were the most common damage around the reservation — including a couple of large uprooted trees at the front of the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School — but the 4H show pavilion was completely destroyed.

“I’d be surprised if the building was able to be salvaged,” said Aaron Stam, federally recognized Tribal extension agent. “But it should have little impact on the show and sale as we are planning on hosting the event inside the Brighton Rodeo arena.”

According to Marrero, the building was appraised and declared a total loss. Risk management is waiting for approval for reconstruction.

Before the storm, plans for cattle were considered.

“Cattle are our first priority,” said Natural Resources Department Office Manager Sheri Holmes. “In case of flooding there really isn’t a whole lot you can do with them. We have crews ready to assess the damage as soon as it is safe to do so.”

The cattle stayed in their pastures and fared well during the storm, none were physically injured. But Natural Resource Director Alex Johns knows the consequences may not be felt for some time.

“The stress of the hurricane will possibly affect next year’s calf production,” he wrote in an email. “We may possibly have a higher than normal calf loss due to stress abortion from the hurricane, ants, mosquitoes, etc.”

Hollywood

The Hollywood Reservation was smack in the middle of many of the spaghetti models until Irma shifted slightly west, a move that

spared the rez from major damage. Still, the storm brought enough force to knock out power, cause a boil water advisory for the reservation and city, and bring down trees and fences.

A few days after the storm, Robert Kippenberger, similar to many of his neighbors, was still busy clearing piles of debris from his yard on the reservation. He remained in his house as Irma passed through.

“There were some major wind gusts that would happen every two, three minutes where it sounded like a jet, just howling through the trees,” he said. “Between the lulls, I went outside and a couple of times I got caught in big gusts where the trees branches sounded like they exploded, boom, like a bomb, and that scared me so I went back inside.”

Despite losing power at about 3 a.m. on the morning of the storm, Kippenberger said he and his property fared well.

“Overall, I survived. My house is intact. No roof damage; just a lot of tree damage,” he said.

The storm knocked over a pole and some palm trees at the Betty Mae Jumper Health Complex and tore apart an awning next door at the Chickee Baptist Church.

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino encountered mostly landscape damage, including a few large trees that were uprooted in the front of the property along U.S. 441. Further south on the road, the Hollywood Trading Post’s sign was bent and shattered.

For days before, during and after the storm, motorists formed lengthy lines along 441 to get gas at the Trading Post. Seminole Police Officers were stationed at the pumps to maintain orderly conduct.

Police and Fire Rescue provided assistance at the Senior Center, which served as a shelter, as well as at locations where free ice and water were distributed.

Members of the We Do Recover program played a big role in storm preparations and the aftermath. They brought dozens of cases of bottled water to the Senior Center. They were also quick to lend a hand in making



The Hollywood Trading Post sign shows the signs of dealing with Hurricane Irma.

Kevin Johnson

repairs, including fixing a damaged chickee in the backyard of Lawrence Osceola’s home.

Though it brought hurricane winds to the reservation, Irma’s wrath didn’t appear to significantly impact the historic Council Oak tree.

“I was anxious about this. Whew!” wrote one visitor on the Tribune’s Facebook page.

Senior editor Kevin Johnson contributed to this article.



A large uprooted tree takes out part of a fence on US-441 in front of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood following Hurricane Irma.

Kevin Johnson

Lending a helping hand



Kevin Johnson (2)

The We Do Recover program was busy helping residents throughout Hurricane Irma. Above, Jay Holata, left, and Kenny Tommie, from We Do Recover, unload cases of bottled water to Elder Services employee Javon Hill on Sept. 6 at the Senior Center on the Hollywood Reservation in preparation for the storm. The center served as a shelter. At right, after the storm, members help repair a damaged chickee at the home of Lawrence Osceola.



Battling Hurricane Irma



Kevin Johnson

Public Works employees fill sand bags three days before the arrival of Hurricane Irma on the Hollywood Reservation. The sand bags were given to Tribal members in preparation for the storm.



Beverly Bidney

Daniel Tommie gets some "drive through" water from SPD community service aide Gordon Perna Sept. 12, two days after Irma roared through Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum employees donned protective gloves as they pitched in to clean the grounds in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma Sept. 18.



Beverly Bidney

Fire Rescue Lt. Jason Camardese examines some of the items in the American Red Cross Comfort Kits on Sept. 18. FEMA provided the kits to the community at the Big Cypress aviation hanger along with water, ice, MREs and tarps.



Kevin Johnson

David Nelson, right, and Major Anderson stroll past a fallen fence in front of a house on the Hollywood Reservation.



Beverly Bidney

Buildings and Grounds employees Jose Cano and Jorge Rosado transform the Immokalee Community Center into a shelter from Hurricane Irma.



Beverly Bidney

Water covers the driveway entrance to Billie Swamp Safari in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Mohayla and Alitkiyo Billie are given some special pencils by fire inspector Meghan Grimsley at the BC aviation hanger, where FEMA provided a wide variety of goods to make the recovery from Hurricane Irma more bearable.



Photo courtesy Wanda Bowers

Seminole Fire Rescue and Police help out at a distribution area on the Hollywood Reservation where residents were given cases of bottled water.



Photos courtesy Wanda Bowers

Above and below, at Community Culture in Hollywood food is prepared for emergency personnel from the Tribe and out of state.



Kevin Johnson

Debris fills the corner of Frank Shore Court and Osceola Circle in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

One of two large trees that fell at the front Pemaayetv Emahakv Charter School.



Beverly Bidney

Damage from the storm was evident by these felled trees, which damaged some chickees in the Immokalee culture camp.

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

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

Fapleche Choobe (Big Wind)

BY NATASHA CUERVO
Registrar

It's been a long couple of weeks here in South Florida and needless to say we are suffering from Hurricane fatigue. As I write this, please know that all of us here at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum are thinking of the Tribal community all over Florida, its family and friends, and we hope you are all safe and getting back to your normal routines. As we work to get the museum back in running order and open to the public I take comfort in the collection and the Tribe's history being safe, and look to it to remind me of the resilience of our Florida and Tribal community.

Some of the earliest references to hurricanes in our collection are found in letters written in the 1800s, but the earliest images are mainly from a set of photographs taken by William D. Boehmer during his time on the Brighton Reservation in the 1940s. The photo of a group of men repairing a bridge after hurricane damage is one of those images. This damage was more than likely sustained by the 1948 Category 4 hurricane near Boca Chica Key which then made landfall near Chokoloskee, Florida and crossed through the state out into the Atlantic.

Although many of the images we have are of damage caused by hurricanes, there

are also those showing what a hurricane leaves behind or uncovers. Take, for example, a bingo dabber that was unearthed in 2005 at the old Bingo Hall grounds on the Big Cypress Reservation after Hurricane Wilma (a Category 3 storm at landfall). The dabber reads "Big Cypress Bingo We Set the Standard". Although a small and possibly inconsequential piece in some people's eyes, consider what this piece demonstrates about the evolution of the Big Cypress Reservation and the Seminole Tribe's Gaming industry and how far it's come in spite of all sorts of external factors - like hurricanes.

And then, of course, there was Hurricane Andrew, a Category 5 hurricane at landfall. Everyone in South Florida in 1992 has their own Hurricane Andrew story likely to be told for generations. And many also have images or video from their experiences before, during, and after the storm. The museum's collection includes images of damage sustained at the Miccosukee Tribe Reservation.

Ultimately it is the spirit of the people affected that leaves the strongest mark in history. When I found pictures of food and supplies being staged to aid those affected by Hurricane Andrew, I was once again reminded of the strength of community; the same strength of community I feel today working on the Big Cypress Reservation and

from our Seminole Tribe of Florida family. So as we continue to gather ourselves after Hurricane Irma, feel free to send us any images or stories of your experience so that one day we can be reminded once again of strength in adversity.



Courtesy photo
Pile of structural debris surrounded by damaged trees on Miccosukee Tribal lands after Hurricane Andrew in 1992.



Courtesy photo
Men repair damage to a bridge after the 1948 hurricane in Brighton.



Courtesy photo
Unidentified people gather near boxes of food at the Miccosukee Tribe after Hurricane Andrew in 1992.



Courtesy photo
This Bingo dabber from Big Cypress Bingo Hall was unearthed after Hurricane Wilma.



Courtesy photo
A damaged structure is surrounded by debris on Miccosukee Tribal lands after Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Native American history from A-Z

BY RANDEAN OSCEOLA
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum SWEPP participant

My name is Randeana Osceola and I am a part of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. I am a member of the Wind Clan family and am a freshman at Sagemont High School in Weston. This summer I decided to intern at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum through the Tribe's Summer Work Experience Program (SWEPP). I decided to write this article to inform people about our past. Below are important pieces of Native American history from A to Z.

A: Abiaka Jones "Sam" was the head of a band of Miccosukees during wartime. Seminole joined him on his quest against the United States. For this reason his "campaign" against the U.S. was one of the most successful. His legacy is a big part of why we are here today.

B: (Chief) Billy Bowlegs "Billy Bolek" was a leader of the Seminoles in Florida in the second and third Seminole Wars against the United States. He resisted at first, but eventually moved to Indian Territory.

C: Chief Cowkeeper was the Hitchiti-speaking Ocoee chief at Payne's Prairie. He challenged Jonathan Bryan, who was trying to steal Native American land. He was torn between peace and war, but later decided to fight for his land.

D: Dunlawton Plantation Sugar Mill Ruins is a Seminole war site. It was destroyed in 1835. In 1846 attempts were made of reestablishing the sugar mill, however those attempts failed.

E: (The) Everglades was a safe place for the Native Americans during wartime. While the Seminoles knew the ways of the Everglades, the soldiers were lost.

F: Fort Brooke, located on the west coast, was significant in the Removal era. In March 1841, Wildcat, a war leader, went to Fort Brooke to have a meeting with the soldiers. It was in Fort Brooke that President John Tyler allowed the Seminoles to stay in Florida, but they were not allowed to leave their land except to go to Fort Brooke. They would receive no food or water.

G: Geronimo "Go-Tay-Thlay" was an Apache chief and a medicine man. Geronimo led his followers on a series of escapes from the soldiers. However, he eventually surrendered to General Nelson Miles and stayed in captivity until his death.

H: Hills Hadjo was a Seminole leader during the 19th century. He was an active part of the Seminole Wars. He was one of the chief instigators of the second uprising.

I: (The) Indian Removal Act was signed into law by President Andrew Jackson on May 28, 1830. This gave Jackson the Mississippi land in exchange for Indian land. Only a few tribes went peacefully, many resisted and later agreed, but only a few stayed in their homeland.

J: (President) John Quincy Adams picked up on former President James Monroe and Secretary of Wars John C. Calhoun's policy toward the Indians. He was determined that there should be

no forcible removal of any tribes. Adams forbade the state of Georgia from surveying the Indian lands.

K: (Chief) King Payne was the son of Chief Cowkeeper and one of the leading chiefs in the Seminole Tribe. He led his people against the Spanish and the Americans during wartime.



Osceola

L: Lake Okeechobee was desired by many soldiers during wartime, however none were successful. Not long after the soldiers were rejected, Seminole resident James B. Brighton used the land near the lake and made another reservation.

M: Muscogulges was the referred name to the Creeks, Seminole, Yahmasee, Tuckabatchee, Hitchiti, Koasati, Timuca, and many other ancient tribes. Rather than each being named, soldiers referred to the Native Americans as Muscogulges.

N: Naiche was the last chief of the Chiricahua Apache Tribe. He was the youngest son of Chief

Cochise. He spent 27 years in captivity along with some of his people, until he was released in 1913. Naiche and his people continued to fight bravely against the U.S. and Spain until death did them part.

O: Osceola "Billy Powell" was a military leader during the Seminole Wars. He stood up for his people, as a force to be reckoned with. If it wasn't for Osceola we wouldn't be here today.

P: "Payne's Prairie Preserve State Park" is land that was home to many Seminoles. It was the site of action during wartime, and now has a visitors center on the war.

Q: Quannah Parker was a war leader of the Comanche people. He fought in the Red River War during 1874-1875 with Colonel Ranald S. Mackenzie.

R: Rain-in-the-face was a Native American leader. He was a warrior at a young age: having fought in a December, 1866 battle against Captain William Fetterman's troops during the Civil War.

S: Seminoles are Native Americans, many who live in modern day Oklahoma, but the descendants of the unconquered still live in Florida. The Seminole Tribe of Florida is a federally recognized tribe.

T: The Trail of Tears was the name given to President Andrew Jackson's actions toward the Native Americans to vacate their lands. He forced them to go to Indian Territory. A Choctaw Indian told an Alabama newspaper that it was a "Trail of Tears and Death."

U: The Ute people are the oldest residents of Colorado. Their home is in the mountains and vast areas.

V: (Captain Joseph) Van Swearingen was recognized because of his actions during the Battle of Okeechobee. His brave actions lead him to death. U.S. Army troops made a fort in Martin County, Florida during the Second Seminole War and named it after him.

W: Wilma Mankiller became the first female Cherokee leader. She won many awards for her leadership, including Women of the Year in 1986.

X: Xega or "Jaega," are Indians who identified by 16th century Spanish explorers. There is little information about the Jaega Tribe, but there are known links to the Ais Tribe. The Jaega Tribe and the Ais Tribe are joined together by marriage. Just west of Boynton Beach in an area of agricultural reserve people have found what seem to be Jaega remains.

Y: Yoholo-Mico was a Creek Indian. He protested the Indian Springs Treaty. He was the head man of Eufaula town, as well as an outstanding warrior.

Z: The Zunis are from New Mexico. Spaniards found their land and demanded they move out. Instead of submitting, the Zuni's resisted. The Zunis are still a part of New Mexico today.



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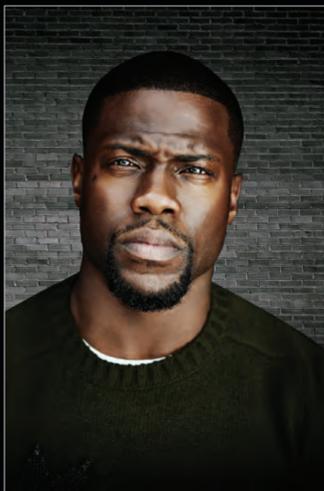
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HOLLYWOOD, FL

Education

B

CSSS offers free SAT/ACT prep program

Registration is open for the free SAT/ACT preparation program, hosted by the Center for Student Success and Services. The program is for high school students in 11th and 12th grade. Students will meet in four sessions: Oct. 9, 16, 23 and 30 at the Northwest Regional Library, 3151 University Drive, Coral Springs, in the multi-purpose room from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Students must commit to all sessions to participate and parents are encouraged to attend the first 30 minutes of the Oct. 9 session. Registration is capped at 30 students. To register, call the Youth Services Information Desk at 954-765-1585 or visit the library.

PECS students of the month



BRIGHTON — The following students earned Student of the Month honors for August 2017 at Pemaeyt Emahakv Charter School:

PECS Elementary: Miranda Tommie, Dylanie Peak, Nakoa Smiley, Onnie Osceola, Russell Osceola, Rosie Jones, Kulipa Julian, Jalene Smith, Jenna Huff, Logan French, Lucianna Banda, Zoey Bowers, Landon French, Tehya Nunez, Joleyne Nunez, Ava Taylor, Bryce Trammell, Sariya Alvarez, Serenity Lara, Keenan Jones, Carlee Osceola, Stanley Rodrigues.

PECS Middle: Santana Alvarez, Riley Mullens, Elle Thomas.

One student from each pre-kindergarten through eighth grade class was selected for student of the month.



Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute offers new scholarship

The Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute created the New Student Scholar Award, which waives all fees and covers meal plans for residential and commuter students, for incoming freshmen and commuter students. To be eligible, students must be fully admitted to SIPI by the spring deadline on Dec. 8 or the summer deadline on April 13, be a first-time SIPI freshman or transfer student, have a 3.0 GPA or higher, and be enrolled full-time. The scholarship will automatically renew if students continuously enroll at SIPI, maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher and refrain from receiving Student Code of Conduct violations. For more information, contact SIPI President Sherry Allison at 505-922-4087 or at sherry.allison@bie.edu.

Broward helps special needs teens transition to adulthood

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

For students who have learning disabilities, transitioning into adulthood can be difficult for them and their families. To help prepare Broward County youth and their families prepare for this transition, the T2I Special Needs Advisory Coalition, a subcommittee of Children's Services Council of Broward County's Children's Strategic Plan, hosted the Teens' Transition to Life Summit on Sept. 23 at the Fort Lauderdale Marriott North Hotel.

Carl Dasse, community systems administrator at CSC Broward, urged for parents to be involved with their children's post-high school plans.

"Even though they may be between the ages of 14 and 21, they're still young people and they don't have a lot of experiences," he said. "They need the help and the guidance of a caring adult to give them direction whether they have a disability or not."

The eighth annual summit provided information about college, vocational education and other options for post-high school graduation. Russell Lehmann, an award-winning public speaker, author, poet and autism awareness advocate — who has autism — spoke at the free event. He discussed how he does not let his autism control his endeavors and encouraged others to do the same. After his motivational speech during the opening session of the event, children and parents parted ways to attend youth-focused and parent-focused workshops.

Youth workshops covered creative relaxation, self-management, financial education, relationships and self-determination, stigmas and labels, and question-and-answer panels about soft

skills needed for employment, disabilities and student employment. Parent workshops discussed deferment/diploma options, the importance of family empowerment, creative relaxation, a growth mindset, available services for behavioral and emotional problems, and question-and-answer panels about housing and independent living, post-grad options, employment training and services provided by the Social Security Administration and Vocational Rehabilitation of Florida.

Following a courtesy lunch, children attended a summit after-party where Stichiz and DJ Ivory from iHeart Radio provided entertainment while parents attended a final workshop about programs available for their children.

Dasse explained that the summit is an important resource for individuals with special needs and their families because attempting to navigate the information and opportunities can be an arduous process. The Special Needs Advisory Coalition discovered that an alarming number of youth with disabilities would not pursue helpful programs, higher education or employment because they did not know about assistance opportunities. Dasse explained that this lack of knowledge created a low educational and workforce success rate for special needs students and that with the summit, CSC Broward hopes to encourage these individuals to further pursue opportunities.

The U.S. Department of Education reported that in the 2014-15 academic year, only 64.6 percent of U.S. students with disabilities graduated from high school, which is 18.6 percent lower than the national average for non-disabled students. In Florida, the rate was worse for disabled students at only 56.8 percent. While the national average saw a slight increase since 2010 of about 5

percent, the situation is different for Native Americans.

In 2015, the number of Native American or Alaska Native 16- to 20-year-olds who reported a disability was higher than the national average, according to the American Community Survey. While the national average was 6.9 percent for all races, Native Americans were at 8.6 percent nationally, and that number was more than doubled for those in Florida. Furthermore, only 30.5 percent of Native American or Alaska Native adults with disabilities were employed, which is 5 percent lower than the national average for that year.

The number of reportedly disabled Native Americans and Alaska Natives showed an overall increase since 2010 and the employment rate for those individuals has remained the same.

Dasse said that the graduation and employment rates could increase if programs and opportunities were laid out better for special needs individuals and their caregivers. With the Transition to Adulthood Summit, Tribal and Broward community members have better access to this information, as approximately 30 vendors attended to provide information about their service and products for special needs individuals.

"The unemployment rate in the post-secondary achievement level for youth with disabilities is significantly lower than the general population as a whole," he said. "Because of that, you really have to make an effort to educate these young people and also their parents about the opportunities that do exist."

The Special Needs Advisory Coalition plans to continue holding the summit and other programs to assist the community. More information can be found on the CSC Broward website at cscbroward.org.

CSSS: Be prepared when attending college fairs

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

The beginning of autumn is more than just a time for pumpkins, apple pie and scary movies. For high school students, it is also the time to narrow down the search for colleges.

As part of this search, many organizations host college fairs throughout the fall and winter semesters. At these fairs, colleges from around the nation, and sometimes the world, come together to offer admission information to students and their families.

The Center for Student Success and Services is working to share college fair opportunities with the Tribal community. A Broward County college fair will be held at Nova Southeastern University on Oct. 9 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Alvaro Perez, higher education program manager at CSSS, said that while it's particularly important for high school junior and seniors to attend college fairs, younger high schoolers and even middle schoolers should attend.

"To get into the school you want to go to, you have to be successful in high school. In order to be successful in high school, you have to be prepared before you get to high school," he said. "The earlier you're prepared, the easier the application process will be and the more likely you'll get into your school of choice."

Generally, each college, university, technical school or other post-graduation opportunity has an individual booth or station at the fair. A representative — usually someone who works in the admissions or human resources department — is available to answer questions and provide information about what their particular organization is like. Perez said these recruiters typically have a mental checklist of what they look for in students and that college fairs are their

chance to recruit as many people as possible.

Perez said that learning about the schools from someone who is familiar with the environment is a great way to figure out where one wants to commit to school. Students come to understand more than admission requirements; they get a better feel for if the school fits their personalities.

"We're working with students and families who, by nature, are generally minorities in the college system. For them, maybe a big question about a college is, 'Am I going to be comfortable? How many other Native Americans attend this college?'" he said. "It's not just about the requirements. It's about the fit."

To further this understanding, he recommends that students show up prepared at as many college fairs as possible. They don't necessarily need to have resumes prepared or bring files and documents, but they should be able to tell recruiters what classes they've taken, as well as their GPA, standardized test scores and career and academic goals. He also recommended students wear school-appropriate clothing to give their best first impression.

"If you plan on going to speak to admissions officers, there's a chance that if you speak to 20 of them, at least one of them will definitely remember you. They'll remember you for a really good reason or one that's not so good. If you wear a shirt that has profanity all over it, they may not remember you for a good reason."

To find out about more college fairs, contact CSSS or school counselors and advisors. CSSS also plans to send out information about upcoming fairs through Tribal announcements.

To register, find out what schools will be present and learn more details about the Oct. 9 fair, visit browardschools.com/collegefair.

Education Expo pushes for Tribal success

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

The possibilities to pursue education and advance in a career are not limited to children and young adults. In an effort to broaden opportunities for all Tribal members, the Center for Student Success and Services will host its Education Expo on Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Signature Grand, 6900 W. State Road 84 in Davie.

Alphonza Green, assistant director for CSSS, explained that the expo is a chance for Tribal members of all ages to come together and learn about various aspects of education and careers. Tribal departments, colleges and other organizations will have booths at the expo to teach guests about college and K-12 opportunities, discuss education trends, provide test-taking strategies and offer one-

on-one assistance with career exploration for students and adults.

"We're focusing on a wide variety of educational needs, not just college opportunities or opportunities for high school seniors," Green said. "This opportunity that we're providing will give families and students a way to identify new schools and learn about careers that they may be interested in."

While many students tend to gravitate toward college fairs, Education Director Randall Budde said that the expo is an event catered to the students, not to the visiting colleges and universities. Traditionally, college fairs center the attention on college marketing to help schools reach their enrollment goals, he explained.

"The goal for the education expo is different from a college fair because our goal isn't to help the colleges or high schools

enroll students," he said. "Our goal is to help create the future leaders within the Seminole Tribe of Florida."

According to a survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2012, only about 17 percent of Native American students pursue education after high school and only 13 percent continue to obtain a bachelor's degree or higher. Education Week has found that even high school graduation rates have significantly decreased since 2008, getting down to just over 51 percent as of 2010.

While the decline is more of a national average, Green claims the key to ensuring student success is identifying institutions that are the best fit for students from the get-go. In this way, he says, students pursue education that caters to their goals and helps them stay committed to pursuing education experiences.

"We're happy to say that our students are

graduating," he said. "The students who are going through school at a 4-year institution are actually more likely to graduate because they found the appropriate placement at the very beginning."

Since 2014, CSSS has held three education expos to ensure those fits are made.

Budde explained that the Seminole Tribe consistently supports education and it makes all the difference in students' ultimate pursuits.

"We're very lucky that the Seminole Tribe of Florida truly supports education and allows students and families to choose a school because it's the best fit [for the student]," he said.

The expo is free for Tribal members and their families. CSSS will distribute more information about the event in the coming weeks.

Tutoring now available

The Center for Student Success and Services now provides one-on-one tutoring for Tribal students. GED candidates and parents who wish for their children to participate must fill out a tutoring request form, available at csss.seminoletribe.com under forms. For more information, contact Charvelle McClendon, tutoring coordinator, at 954-989-6840, ext. 10501.



Steven Lewis Simpson brings Native American story to life

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

Long gone are the days when films like “Pocahontas” represent the imagery of Native American culture. In a new film, “Neither Wolf Nor Dog,” filmmaker Steven Lewis Simpson effortlessly captures the heritage of the Lakota Nation. Based on the 1996 Kent Nerburn novel, “Neither Wolf Nor Dog” tells the story of a white writer, played by Christopher Sweeney, who is suddenly whisked away on a road trip through Native American lands by a Lakota elder, played by the late Dave Bald Eagle, and asked to tell the story of the Lakota tribe.

Originally from Scotland, Simpson started out as the youngest fully-qualified stockbroker and trader in Britain at only 18 years old. After a few years in the financial world, he took a short trip to Los Angeles to learn the art of film from Roger Corman’s Concorde Pictures, soon after returning to the U.K. to shoot his first feature film, “Ties.” Since then, he has written, produced and directed 12 other films and documentaries around the world, including “Neither Wolf Nor Dog,” which he filmed in just 18 days in Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

The Tribune spoke with Simpson about his new film and he shared the good, the bad and the life-changing moments he experienced.

Q: You actually started out as the youngest fully-qualified stockbroker and trader in Britain. How did you make the transition from a stockbroker to an award-winning filmmaker?

A: “I grew up in Scotland. For a while, I was a stock broker and trader. It was one of those stupid things you do when you’re young and then I grew up and decided to leave it. I metaphorically ‘joined the circus’ — I went to Los Angeles, worked for a little while for a studio of a legendary producer and came back to Scotland and started making films. ... Even when I started in financial service I knew it was temporary; it wasn’t something a grown-up should be doing. In my hometown nobody had ever made a feature film before, so it wasn’t a path anyone had known. I had to figure it out myself and have a day job in the meantime. It gave me a financial platform to be able to go spend time in the U.S. and learn the business. My job in this world is to communicate, and the way my towns converged, it’s best to do it in the visual medium.”

Q: Where do you currently reside?

A: “I’m based wherever. If you were speaking to me last week, then Poland. If you spoke to me over the weekend it would be Berlin and now it’s Bulgaria. I end up spending quite a lot of time in the U.S., but that’s pretty much all just because of the work. I have no home and I haven’t for a long time. I spend my time between as many places as possible to keep it interesting. I spend most of the time working so I need to be able to spend the time in different places to kind of break it up. ... We’re living in that day and age where we can travel for the most part. I’m working 16 hour days so my time pretty much crosses over with people from anywhere.”

Q: What drew you to document the Native American story with “A Thunder-Being Nation,” “Rez Bomb” and “Neither Wolf Nor Dog”?

A: “The important thing to me and humanity in general, is to bridge the gap between, and create understanding, with all of us in the world. The key places for that are where it is least exposed to or listened to or where the greatest injustice is. There are a lot of great injustices in the world in different forms, but the injustice perpetrated against Indian Country is multifaceted, and part of it is a narrative injustice. The history has been a pack of lies and the depiction has been a pack of lies. If you were to translate what a lot of classic Hollywood movies did — for example,

almost scene-by-scene in German cinema, it was them looking back at Jewish ghettos and massacring people and having gleeful quips about it — it would be hard to imagine that existing in even the most abhorrent scenes. ... When you see that sort of situation and you have the skill set that I have, it seems that story telling within that sphere could have the most purpose to it. When I was starting out about 18 years ago, there was very little being filmed about it. It’s about deconstructing the myth and to humanize and put a face to the people who are ignored. ... For me, there’s a cultural apartheid until any story is told anywhere by anyone. There should be teen comedies in Indian Country; there should be horror movies and thrillers. It shouldn’t just be a film about somebody going back and trying to reconnect with their roots, but that’s what it gets cornered into.”

Q: Can you tell me a little about “Neither Wolf Nor Dog”?

A: “Narratively, this elder requests for a white author to come visit and distill down notes from his life and his perspective and put them into a book. The elder’s best friend persuades him to discard that and sucks the author into a road trip of his experience. [The author] isn’t getting a sanitized version; he’s getting to really experience what the elder did from a complete perspective so he can see everything from first hand. It’s interesting because a lot of times, people in the U.S. look at it as a dynamic between Native Americans and white people, but it’s not quite right; it’s the dynamic between white Americans and Natives and that’s a very important distinction. It’s something I’ve had the privilege of enjoying over the years. Particularly in Lakota Country, they embrace Europeans — I get embraced there more than anywhere else on earth and I’ve been in a ton of countries and some amazingly hospitable countries — but on Pine Ridge it’s like nowhere else for me. I could just reel off the most amazing experiences. The way this narrative is, it wouldn’t exist in my own experience in regards to when I would just turn up and meet the elders. We’d be cracking up jokes in the first five minutes and I’d be crashing on his couch that night and just getting engrained with his family. The author talks about the shadow in the room between white people and Natives, whereas for me, I say no, no, no. It’s white Americans that are sort of going in with the ghost of history and the funny thing is, within the separation dynamic, when I’m in South Dakota I feel way more at ease and embraced in Lakota Country than I do if I’m in a white border town, and that’s as a white person. That’s the sort of perspective that allowed me to understand what stands between those two sides because I was never really embedded in either one. It gave me more of a neutral perspective which was very useful and I think that’s one of the interesting things. ... It’s kind of interesting how some people form it all based on stereotype. It’s something we’re clearer of as Europeans because we didn’t read your history books about the sanitized version of manifest destiny and that sort of thing. People in Europe typically watched westerns and thought ‘This is absurd. We know who the invaders are here.’”

Q: How did you come across the opportunity to translate Kent Nerburn’s novel into a film?

A: “The author approached me. I had been screening the movie ‘Rez Bomb’ in Pine Ridge, and he stumbled upon this little theater I was showing it in a border town. He was intrigued because for 18 years he had been getting false promises from people in Hollywood saying they would turn it into a movie and he was just getting fed up. He just said, ‘Here’s a guy who gets things made,’ and could do it from the rez-out, not from the Hollywood in. I was looking at it and about two years later I committed to doing it by any means necessary. That was almost six-and-a-half years ago. ... Nobody was going to finance us on a Hollywood budget with a 95-year-old star. I pretty much

did everything — all I had was a sound person and someone running around helping out a bit. That gave me the creative freedom to go ahead and do the film. The intimacy allowed us to go to very deep places within the filming, Dave Bald Eagle, in particular, went to some very deep places in scenes that he probably wouldn’t have if there was a crew of 40 people standing around. We managed to create a complete trust between us all and we became a type of family and that helped very much with us getting to where we needed to go.”

Q: What was it about the author’s approach and the novel itself that compelled you to translate this story onto film?

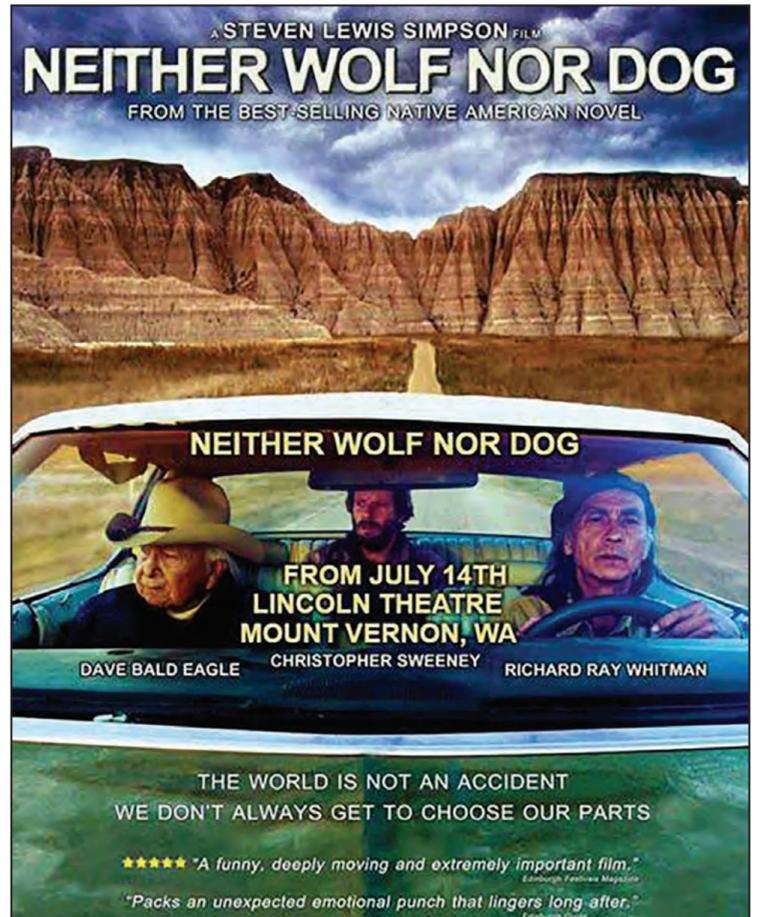
A: “I never figured that out. There was a part of it that, in a sense, was impulsive. I think it was a sense of being very familiar with the space and being able to see the difference between my realities on the reservation and seeing Nerburn’s reality that allowed me to give it a perspective. The key thing was that when I look back on it, the whole purpose for making it didn’t have so much to do with the novel but had more to do with Dave Bald Eagle, as far as when you try to figure out why something happened in the greater scheme of things. Bringing him to the world is what really is knocking the socks off the audience. ... The thing that made it work is that he was closer to the character than even the character. The climax of the film takes place at Wounded Knee and Dave’s own family heritage and his links to Wounded Knee were more direct, even more so than the character he was playing. We threw away the script and Dave improvised the whole sequence. At the end of it, he turned to Christopher Sweeney, who plays Nerburn, and said, ‘I’ve held that in for 95 years.’ It was just remarkable. When he saw it he was so happy and said it was the only film he’d been in about his people that told the truth.”

Q: Everyone has raved about Dave Bald Eagle’s impromptu speech in the film. What was it like witnessing such an emotional moment for Dave? Was there a particular line in the speech that resonated with you?

A: “You were just there. It just tore us apart. There was another similar scene in advance that was similarly powerful, where at the end of it, you just don’t know what to say. We all just look at each other and know what we just experienced. It’s just one of those rare moments. I can never imagine filming scenes more powerful than the two I filmed with him in those moments. I’ll also never film a more beautiful face. I’d line the shot up on him at times and it would almost just take your breath away. It was so breathtakingly interesting. The keynote in casting was that he had this twinkle in his eye. I’ve known a lot of elders over the years who have twinkles, but Dave’s was the most spectacular. There wasn’t so much an individual line as it was more of complete moments. When you would see him tearing up, you would see this remarkable man who had a life so layered with so many extraordinary experiences, good and bad, who had a lot of tragedy in his life and a lot of love. He shared that emotion so openly. It was quite amazing.”

Q: How did filming on the Lakota Sioux Reservation enhance the film?

A: “That was my third feature so it’s a very easy place to film. The locations are so beautiful and that makes the life a lot easier. That was actually a great advantage of shooting so fast. The film looks lavish in many ways because with the Great Plains, you can’t really get anything other than beautiful. It didn’t take a lot of complex cinematography usually needed to make a dull place look good.”



Courtesy photo

“Neither Wolf Nor Dog” is scheduled to be released on DVD later this year.

Q: What was it like experiencing the reservation first-hand and filming there instead of a place that just has a similar landscape?

A: “Filming there is easier. Because of the relationships I have with people there ... the tribe basically said welcome back, have a good time. With all three projects, I’ve never had anything but support from the tribe. They know that I’m not there for profit and I’m not there for any momentary accolades; I’m a friend. Eighteen years has proven that. If you just give up yourself completely wherever you are in the world, the chances are you’ll have a good time and I think that’s what people always appreciated there. I’m just showing up and hanging out with friends.”

Q: Do you plan on furthering your film experience with Native American culture?

A: “For the most part, I’m kind of desperate to do something somewhere else in the world, but I do have a very exciting action TV show, which is based on something kind of real within Indian Country, where it’s about something kind of amazing that they do that’s the best of the best. It would be very mainstream and very exciting and it could be a big hit show. This would be unlike anything that’s ever happened before. They think it would be very satisfying to do because it would be pure entertainment, but also for non-natives watching it, they would appreciate cultural diversity, an incredible skill-set within Native American people. For folks in Indian Country, they’d be getting lost in seeing heroes on their screen that are from their nation. Folks in Indian Country could use heroes that resemble them, and that would be wonderful. There needs to be some highly successful commercial project that’s more Indian Country-out than Hollywood-in to start getting the ball rolling for more things. A great thing with an all Native cast is

it gives a greater chance to create a lot more household names that are then more bankable for more movies and projects thereon. That can be an exciting byproduct.”

Q: If there was one thing you would want the audience to take away from this movie what would it be?

A: “I think by the end their hearts are completely opened up by Dave Bald Eagle and they’re hit with the gravity of what happened at Wounded Knee in just an expanded form. The gravity of it and the fact that it’s still rooted in the DNA of Native people today hopefully will help them learn to have greater empathy.”

Q: Adam Beach recently commented about the whitewashing of Native American roles. Was this something you considered while selecting your actors? Why do you feel it’s important to reserve cultural roles for people of that respective culture?

A: “It’s a very important issue. For me, it’s never been a problem in the films I’ve made. In ‘Neither Wolf Nor Dog,’ the biggest stretch we had was someone who’s Cree playing Lakota. A majority of the characters are part Lakota and part of other tribes. Even in the film ‘Rez Bomb’ every Native actor, besides the lead, is from Pine Ridge. ... Accuracy is important. I try to be as close to the nationality of the character as I can be. The actors that I’ve had also had very deep connections to the places where we were filming. ... Ethnicity is one thing, but having that cultural weight adds so much more as well. I think that’s an even deeper thing.”

Though “Neither Wolf Nor Dog” only showed at Savor Cinema Fort Lauderdale from Sept. 15 to 21, the DVD is set to be available later this year. The film has drawn praise from audiences with 8.3/10 stars on IMDb and a 94 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes.



Courtesy photo

Dave Bald Eagle smiles for the camera during a scene in “Neither Wolf Nor Dog.”



Courtesy photo

From left, Tatanka Means, Roseanne Supernault and Christopher Sweeney act in one of the film’s most notable scenes.

Dale Herring transforms Bowlegs Town into literary adventure

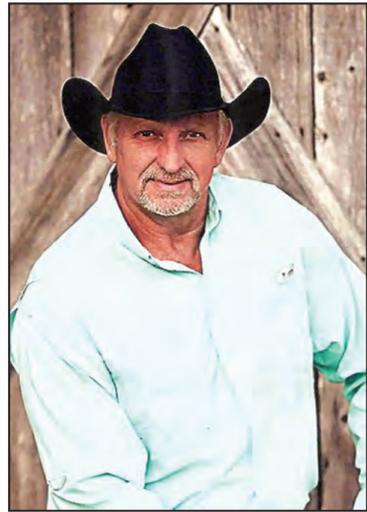
BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

Real estate developer and businessman H. Dale Herring had no idea his new home was Bowlegs Town, a Seminole site packed with history.

When he found the property — located next to the Suwanee River — about 18 years ago, Herring originally intended to develop the land. After spending time in the area, however, he claims it became the ideal spot to live and care for his cattle. The story of Bowlegs Town “fell into his lap” when in 2015, Herring and archaeologist John Edwards stumbled upon artifacts tracing back to the Seminole Wars. The artifacts they found are evenly split between originating from the U.S. military and Seminoles.

“We started digging and 3,400 artifacts later, we found Bowlegs Town,” Herring said. “When you start doing the research and really digging into it, you find out how significant this site really was and is.”

Inspired by the discovery, Herring spent the past three years writing a book about



Courtesy photo

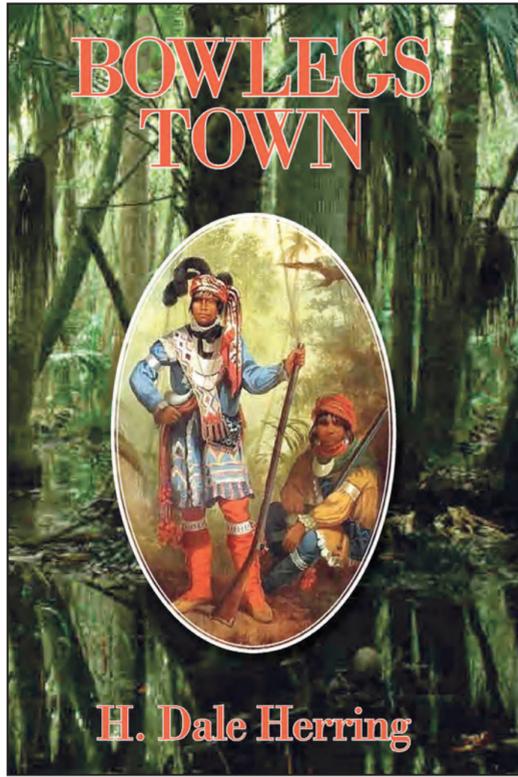
H. Dale Herring went from businessman to author.

Bowlegs Town. The book, “Bowlegs Town,” revolves around the adventures of two young boys, Billy Bowlegs and Tink, who grew up together as pledged blood brothers until the time came for them to part ways. In this piece of historical fiction, Billy became the chief of the Seminole Tribe and Tink went on to escape slavery.

The premise for the book is based on the Seminole Wars, which started in the early 1800s when Secretary of War John C. Calhoun ordered Gen. Andrew Jackson to invade Florida and attack the Seminoles. After the U.S. military killed Seminole Chief Cowkeeper, King Payne — the real Bolek “Billy” Bowlegs’ older brother — led the Tribe against the military and established numerous towns. When Payne was killed in 1812 after Col. Daniel Newman led a surprise attack, only a small group of Seminoles remained. Bowlegs assumed the leadership position and took the group to present-day Bowlegs Town, where he remained a prominent leader during the Second and Third Seminole Wars.

“This historical site is in my backyard. It’s such a significant site that’s always been overlooked,” Herring explained. “For years, the history books said the Seminole Wars took place along the Suwanee River, but they didn’t say where.”

Other historical components of the book incorporate the Seminole Wars, the Suwanee River, Manatee Springs, Seminole culture and even the trial of Scottish trader Alexander



Courtesy photo

The cover of H. Dale Herring’s book “Bowlegs Town.”

George Arbuthnot and former Royal Marine Robert Ambrister, who were captured and executed by Jackson. Herring acquired the transcript of this trial and other historical events during his research. At 11 chapters and about 160 pages, the book serves as a small insight into a large piece of Seminole history.

“It was a project I really enjoyed. And now I want to do as much as I can as far as telling about the site and preserving it,” Herring said. “I created the stories in my mind. I took the historical facts and the research I did during the years and the

Tim Giago receives NAJA-Medill Milestone Achievement Award

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

Tim Giago, a game-changer in Indian Country journalism, never ceases to amaze members of the Native American Journalists Association. In commemoration of his numerous achievements, NAJA awarded him the 2017 NAJA-Medill Milestone Achievement Award, which includes a \$5,000 cash prize, for his commitment to journalistic excellence and advancement in Indian Country.

Aside from being a founder of NAJA and the first president of the Native American Press Association, he also founded the Lakota Times in 1981, which was later renamed Indian Country Today. The publication remains one of the largest sources of Native American news today. Additionally, Giago collaborated with Pennsylvania State University journalism professor Bill Dulaney to raise money for the first NAJA conference in 1984 and was the editor and publisher of another one of his creations, the Lakota Journal, from 2000 to 2004.

While many of his notable achievements took place in the newsroom, they did not end there. A member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe, he grew up on the Pine Ridge Reservation

in South Dakota and, upon the start of the Korean Conflict in 1951, enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After being honorably discharged in 1958, he attended the University of Nevada at Reno, where he majored in business and was awarded the Nieman Fellowship in Journalism to Harvard University.

Since then, he has published a few books — on top of his numerous articles — including “The Aboriginal Sin and Notes from Indian Country Volumes I and II,” and “Children Left Behind.” He also helped write the book, “The American Indian and the Media.”

Patty Loew presented the award to Giago at the NAJA Membership Luncheon on Sept. 8 in Anaheim, California.

“Initially, he [Giago] founded the Native American Press Association, but broadened that to include Native broadcast reporters and the more inclusive Native American Journalists Association was born. So, I supposed you could say that he predicted media convergence 30 years before it actually happened,” she said in a press release. “Since the founding of NAJA, Tim’s fearlessness has only increased. He has never wavered from his reporting on Native sovereignty, treaty rights and environmental destruction and serves as a model for all of us in Native media.”

artifacts we found and put them all together.”

Although he enjoyed the entire process of the making the book and is fascinated by all aspects of Seminole history, Herring said his favorite part of “Bowlegs Town” is Chapter 10: The Tall Stranger. The chapter focuses on a person who is seen as a mystical shadow figure riding his horse on the edge of town. While the figure refuses to speak to anyone else in the town, he regularly meets with Billy Bowlegs and counsels him about leadership. In some ways, Herring said he feels as if he is this character and ended up in Bowlegs Town to look after the history of the Seminoles.

“I’ve met some of the greatest people I’ve ever met through this process. I want to establish a stronger friendship with the

Seminoles,” he said. “I feel them here; I feel them on my land. ... Now that Bowlegs Town has been revealed, I feel a connection with the Seminoles.”

Though the self-proclaimed entrepreneur-at-heart typically invests his time into pursuing business ventures, he never thought of Bowlegs Town as a way to make money. To him, the most important part of this venture was to share the story of the unconquered Seminoles.

The book will be released on Oct. 1. Herring will host a book signing on Oct. 7 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Putnam Lodge in Cross City, Florida and on Nov. 4 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum’s American Indian Arts Celebration in Big Cypress.

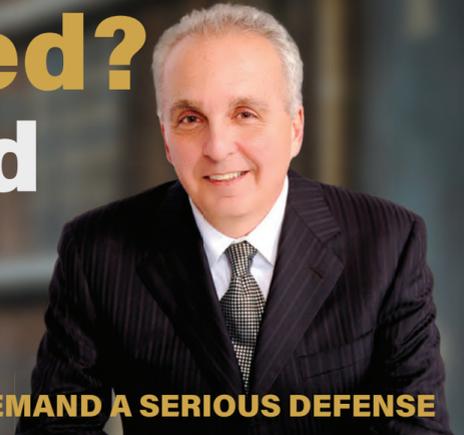


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Battiest brothers reflect on VMA win

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas, Seminole Tribe brothers Spencer and Zack “Doc” Battiest and seven other Native American artists won an MTV Video Music Award (VMA) Aug. 27 for the “Stand Up / Stand N Rock” music video.

The group, dubbed the Magnificent Seven by Taboo, is comprised of Spencer and Doc Battiest, Emcee One, Drezus, PJ Vegas, SupaMan and Natalia Aka “My Verse.”

Nominated in the Best Fight Against the System category, the song is a protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline construction near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and serves as an opportunity for Native American artists to voice their opinions and show their support.

After the VMA ceremony, the Battiest brothers reflected on the experience and the songwriting that led to it.

“It felt like a dream,” Spencer said. “We were just happy to be here and not really expecting anything. Getting together to write the song, we didn’t expect any recognition. We hoped to reach a few people and let them hear our voices together.”

It was the first time Doc had seen Native Americans represented at the VMAs.

“For so long we’ve only had other races to look up to on TV,” Doc said. “To see

someone who comes from the rez is pretty special; it’s like opening a door for some of our peers. Hopefully they will get looked at by the industry. There is so much more Native talent out there.”

The day of the show began when the Battiest brothers and manager Max Osceola met the rest of the Mag7 at Taboo’s Black Eyed Peas studio and creative space in Hollywood, California.

“It was a spiritual moment, it was the only second time we’ve all been in the same room,” Spencer said. “We are still learning about each other; we each have our own stories and traditions. It was like a history lesson among friends.”

The group gathered in a prayer circle where Taboo and SupaMan said prayers from their own traditions, one of the drummers from Indigenous Women Rise led a song and Taboo asked Doc to end with a Christian prayer since that’s how he and Spencer were raised.

Then it was off to the blue — not red — carpet. Spencer and Doc were proud to represent the Tribe by wearing patchwork jackets made by Tribal member Melissa DeMayo.

“I was keeping my cool until we drove onto the blue carpet and then it hit me that I was at the VMAs,” Spencer recalled. “There was no turning back and when we stepped out of the car, all eyes were on us. We stepped out with pride and our heads held high.”

The drumming group Indigenous Women Rise led the Mag7 onto the blue carpet, where 200 cameras followed the group for photos in front of the step and repeat wall.

“Once we got there, Taboo said we would all walk together. He was adamant that he wouldn’t walk the carpet without everyone else,” Spencer said. “He made sure we were all noticed and seen. He’s a stand-up guy who worked so hard. He made sure we all shared our stories with the world.”

Press interviews followed with USA Today, CNN, Good Morning America, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, E News, MTV and iHeartRadio. The group was on the press line for about an hour and each member had the opportunity to talk about their tribe and contribute their message to the media.

“We are modern people who have strong ties to our culture,” Doc said. “People see us as like a unicorn, like we’re not real. This was a chance to show us in a different light. It was very important that day to represent our people the right way; not just our people but the water protectors at Standing Rock. It was important to be able to talk to the media and tell them about the struggles we are going through currently. There is a racial divide going on in our nation, but our voices need to be heard as well.”

While Spencer and Doc were going to their seats, Drake Bell, known for Nickelodeon’s off-air show “Drake and Josh,”

spotted Spencer and called out to him. The two toured together during the summer of 2016. Spencer was a bit awestruck and hit by the reality.

“These are my peers. I do have a career and I am accepted here,” he said. “I’ve worked hard all my life for my name. I was thrilled; we did something special. All we have in life is our reputation and our music.”

Then they sat back and enjoyed the show, which opened with a performance by Kendrick Lamar. Spencer, whose family members were in attendance with him, was impressed that Miley Cyrus had her family with her as well.

Winners in the Best Fight Against the System category were



Courtesy photo

Doc Battiest, Taboo and Spencer Battiest pose with a life sized version of MTV’s iconic Moon Person prior to the VMA show. A much smaller version is used as the trophy for winners of the award.



Courtesy photo

With fists raised high, Native American musicians who appeared in the “Stand Up / Stand N Rock” music video show their Native pride on the red carpet at the MTV VMA show. Photo courtesy MTV

announced at the ceremony by Susan Bro, the mother of slain protestor Heather Heyer, who was killed during a protest against neo-Nazis and white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia on Aug. 12.

“I want people to know that Heather never marched alone,” Bro said. “She was always joined by people from every race and every background in this country. In that spirit, MTV has decided to honor all six nominees for Best Fight Against the System. Through their diversity, these six videos show there are many ways to take action and many battlegrounds in the fight for social good.”

Hearing Bro announce the award was a poignant moment for Spencer.

“We were so emotional and moved by her presence, which made that moment so much more special,” he said. “Our song has a deeper meaning; the real story is about the people on the front lines who were fighting. The song was for the Standing Rock Tribe members and those people who were there for all those months.”

The winning videos were Taboo ft. Shailene Woodley “Stand Up / Stand N Rock #NoDAPL,” Logic ft. Damian Lamar Hudson “Black SpiderMan,” The Hamilton Mixtape “Immigrants (We Get the Job Done),” Alessia Cara “Scars To Your Beautiful,” Big Sean “Light,” and John Legend “Surefire.”

“The red carpet and pictures were fun, but the energy during the show was so strong,” Spencer said. “We aren’t going to

let them silence us and who we are in our cultures. You could really feel the energy of unity; we as a young generation aren’t going to put up with those injustices. It was such an emotional moment and something we will remember for the rest of our lives.”

The show wasn’t broadcast live in Los Angeles, so Spencer and his family watched it together on TV later that night. Once he returned home, Spencer began to process just what had happened.

“We’re ever so grateful and still on cloud nine,” Spencer said. “I’ll be glad to have some quiet time and reflect. Social media was blowing up, which was so encouraging. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for taking the time to vote, we appreciate the fans. The fact that MTV decided to give it [the VMA] for all of us doesn’t erase the fact that all these people took time out of their busy days to vote to us. It takes a team, a village, and we are all in this together. The more we have moments like this one, the more we can shed light on Native American people and our tribe.”

The excitement for the Battiest brothers and Mag7 will continue; the video was nominated for a NAMMY for Best Music Video — Best Narrative. The 17th Native American Music Awards will be held Oct. 14 at the Seneca Resort and Casino in Niagara Falls, New York. To vote for the video, visit nativeamericanmusicawards.com/home.

Seminole Hard Rock sponsors “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Broward”

PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Throughout the month of October, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Hollywood will help support breast cancer awareness in South Florida as the title sponsor of the American Cancer Society’s “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Broward.”

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood has donated \$50,000 to help build awareness and support the organization’s lifesaving mission. The resort will continue to raise funds for Making Strides’ annual 5K walk on Oct. 28, at 8 a.m. at Huiyenga Plaza in downtown Fort Lauderdale. For more information on the walk and how to get involved, call 954-200-7516 or visit MakingStridesWalk.org.

Guests can also show their support for this cause that affects millions by visiting the resort throughout October and taking advantage of its PINKTOBER specials. Proceeds from PINKTOBER will benefit the American Cancer Society. For additional information on Seminole Hard Rock’s PINKTOBER initiatives, visit seminolehardrockhollywood.com/pinktober.

Hotel & Resort

The resort will be illuminated in a pink glow to show support and hotel guests can spend a day lounging at the pool in an exclusive pink poolside cabana with 20 percent of the rental fee donated to American Cancer Society.

Food & Beverage

To celebrate PINKTOBER, indulge in specialty drinks while supporting a great cause. Pink drink specials include a Pink Daiquiri available at Council Oak Steaks & Seafood and Plum Lounge; PINKTOBER Champagne Cocktail at Center Bar and on

the casino floor; Watermelon Sangria at L Bar; The Pink Melon at Beach Club and Pink Cranberry Peach Bellini at Blue Plate. Seminole Hard Rock’s Japanese restaurant, Kuro, will feature its sweet cocktail Ni and Seared Salmon Sashimi dish. Pink doughnuts, pink parfaits and other sweets will be available at Constant Grind, Blue Plate and in-room dining. A \$1 donation from each item sold will benefit American Cancer Society.

Rock Spa

At the Rock Spa, guests can enjoy the Pretty in PINKTOBER package with a 50-minute pink rose petal aromatherapy massage followed by a relaxing hair wash with blow-dry. Showcase your support for the cure by adding a pink hair extension to your new style. Complete your philanthropic pampering with a choice of manicure or pedicure and a take-home pink polish. Proceeds from each Pretty in PINKTOBER package will benefit breast cancer awareness. To reserve a service or treatment, please call 954-797-5888.

Social Message of Strength

As part of the 2017 PINKTOBER campaign, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino encourages fans and followers to show their support by using the #PINKTOBER on social media. Visitors can find an official Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino PINKTOBER social wall located inside the hotel — the perfect backdrop to show support for the fight against breast cancer. Follow and tag Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Hollywood on Facebook @SeminoleHardRockHollywood, Twitter @HardRockHolly and Instagram @HardRockHolly.

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Florida State University Tallahassee, FL	11/01/2017	02/07/2018	Yes	Yes	3.25-3.75	SAT: 1200-1340 ACT: 26-30
University of Florida Gainesville, FL	NA	11/01/2017 —after is space only	Yes	Yes	3.5-4.0	SAT: 1250-1440 ACT: 27-31
University of South Florida Tampa, FL	11/01/2017	03/15/2018	No	Yes	3.0-3.5	SAT: 1190-1320 ACT: 27-31
University of Central Florida Orlando, FL	01/01/2018	05/01/2018	Encouraged but not required	Yes	3.25-3.75	SAT: 1150-1330 ACT: 29-34
University of Miami Coral Gables, FL	11/01/2017	01/01/2018	Yes	Yes	3.5-4.0	SAT: 1280-1460 ACT: 28-32
Florida International University Miami, FL	11/01/2017	05/01/2018	For SAT/ACT only	Yes	3.25-3.75	SAT: 1120-1280 ACT: 22-27
Nova Southeastern University Ft. Lauderdale, FL	NA	04/01/2018	Optional	Yes	3.0-3.5	SAT: 1000-1290 ACT: 22-29
University of North Florida Jacksonville, FL	10/31/2017	Rolling admission deadline	No	Yes	3.5-3.5	SAT: 1060-1300 ACT: 22-27
University of West Florida Pensacola, FL	11/01/2017	06/01/2018	Optional	Yes	3.0-3.5	SAT: 1020-1200 ACT: 20-26
Florida Gulf Coast University Ft. Myers, FL	11/15/2017	05/01/2018	No	Yes	3.0-3.5	SAT: 1060-1220 ACT: 22-26

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NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Museum of the American Revolution to hold premiere for film on Oneida Nation's role in U.S. history

PHILADELPHIA — On Columbus Day, Oct. 9, which has recently gained momentum as Indigenous Peoples' Day, the newly opened Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia will hold a premiere for its film about the Oneida Indian Nation's unique role in America's history "People of the Standing Stone." Narrated by Academy Award-winner Kevin Costner and directed by award-winning documentary Ric Burns, the film's premiere will be paired with a panel discussion on how the roles of many of our country's multiethnic ancestors have often been misrepresented in—or altogether excluded from—the telling of our nation's history.

"In an increasingly diverse country, it is more critical than ever for people today and future generations to learn about and appreciate America's multicultural roots and history," said Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Nation Enterprises CEO Ray Halbritter.

"The Oneida Nation is pleased to partner with the Museum of the American Revolution to present our people's role in the founding of America with this film premiere, especially on a day that so often omits Indigenous People altogether."

At 6 p.m. on Oct. 9, the Museum will present a special showing of the 25-minute film. The documentary traces the history of the Oneida Nation and how it stood in solidarity with General George Washington to help America forge its independence during the Revolutionary War. The film also explores how, despite that history, the Oneida people's land was slowly appropriated by the federal government and European settlers.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion entitled "Our Shared History: Lifting Up Lesser Known Stories of our Nation's Founding." Panelists include Kevin Gover, Director of the National Museum of the American Indian; Ray Halbritter, Oneida Nation Representative, Nation Enterprises CEO, and a Museum Board Member; Rosalyn J. McPherson, president of The ROZ Group, which managed community relations and oversaw historical content for The President's House Project in Philadelphia, among many others; and Dr. R. Scott Stephenson, the Museum's Vice President of Collections, Exhibitions and Programming. It will be moderated by Sara Lomax-Reese, President and CEO of WURD 900-AM.

Tickets to the screening and discussion are \$15 for general admission, or \$5 for Museum members and students (must show ID on site), and can be purchased here. The Museum's exhibits will remain open until the screening at 6 p.m. A printed gallery guide highlighting Native American artifacts and exhibits throughout the Museum will also be available.

On Oct. 9 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., ahead of the film's screening, dancers from the Oneida Indian Nation will perform traditional Haudenosaunee social dances, incorporating drumbeats and chants, in authentic dress in the Museum's Patriots Gallery. Darren Bonaparte, a member of the Mohawk community of Ahkwesáhsne will also perform in the Patriots Gallery on Oct. 7, 8 and 9.

The Museum showcases personal stories of the diverse range of individuals who were part of establishing our nation, including women, free and enslaved people of African descent, and Native peoples, including the Oneida Nation. The entire second-floor atrium at the Museum is named for the Oneida Indian Nation, and a prominent multimedia gallery, complete with recreated settings and recreated recordings of Nation discussions, pays homage to the rich historical account of the Oneida Nation's heritage.

"The Museum of the American Revolution gives voice to the lesser-known people of our nation's founding and explores the stories that have often gone untold," said Museum President and CEO Michael Quinn. "History is rarely simple and it is a disservice to all of us to gloss over the pieces that don't fit in with a desired narrative. We invite visitors to wrestle with those complexities in our nation's history, many of which are still present today."

- National News Online

Apple sued for patent infringement by Native American tribe

Apple gets sued for patent infringement dozens of times each year, mostly by little-known shell companies with no products—the types of companies often derided as "patent trolls." But the newest lawsuit seeking royalty payments from iPad sales is likely a first: the recently created plaintiff, MEC Resources LLC, is wholly owned by a Native American tribe. The MEC lawsuit appears to be using Native American legal rights to avoid having the US Patent Office perform an "inter partes review" that could invalidate the patent.

The case had a typical beginning. In March, a Texas company named Prowire LLC filed a lawsuit (PDF) against Apple in

Delaware federal court, claiming that the iPad 4 infringes its US Patent No. 6,137,390. Apple asked the judge to transfer the case to California. Prowire lawyers opposed that motion, but they didn't hang around to see the litigation through. In August, they informed the court that the patent had been handed off to MEC Resources LLC, a North Dakota firm. Shortly thereafter, the Delaware judge granted a transfer to California, noting that MEC is a "North Dakota citizen" and that keeping Apple in Delaware's overcrowded courts made little sense.

MEC Resources is wholly owned by the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, also known as the Three Affiliated Tribes. Neither MEC's CEO nor its lawyers responded to a request for comment from Ars. However, recent developments in other patent cases shed light on why there's suddenly a connection between patents and Native Americans.

In September, the New York-based St. Regis Mohawk Tribe disclosed that it was given a set of valuable patents belonging to the drug company Allergan. In return for holding on to those patents, which were licensed back to Allergan, the company would pay the tribe an annual royalty of \$15 million, as long as the patents remained valid.

Both the tribe and Allergan were explicit about why they executed the deal: to avoid having the US Patent Office review their patents in a procedure called inter partes review, or IPR. The IPR process, which went into effect in 2012, is a kind of mini-litigation system that takes place before the Patent Trial and Appeals Board (PTAB), rather than in district courts. Because it's faster and cheaper than the courts, IPR has been one of the most efficient ways to get rid of bad patents. That has made it loved by tech companies, who are often patent defendants—and hated by the drug companies, who are usually asserting their patents against generic competitors.

But there are certain parties that can't be challenged with an IPR because of "sovereign immunity," an old legal concept codified in the 11th Amendment of the US Constitution. Sovereign immunity prevents states from being sued in federal court unless they agree to the suit. It dates back to pre-revolutionary times, in which laws prevented anyone from suing a sovereign ruler, like a king or queen, without their consent.

In the patent world, sovereign immunity protects public universities, which are viewed as essentially arms of the state. Two PTAB cases so far have established that patents owned by public universities can't be challenged in IPRs. (Sovereign immunity also protects state entities from "declaratory judgment" lawsuits seeking to invalidate their patents preemptively, so public university patents can only be invalidated in court if the university initiates a lawsuit.)

As expected, during the week of Sept. 18, the St. Regis Mohawk tribe filed papers requesting that the IPR filing against Allergan's patents be thrown out on the basis that the tribe is a sovereign government and therefore qualifies for immunity. Mylan Pharmaceuticals, which initiated the IPR, has said it will fight it out, calling the deal a "sham transaction."

- Ars Technica

Brown settles land dispute with Native Americans

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Brown University recently announced an agreement with Native Americans who have been holding a protest encampment on land owned by the university in Bristol, R.I. The Native Americans claim the land is theirs, although Brown has said that it purchased the land over time, in legitimate ways. The land is removed from Brown's main campus in Providence and is home to Brown's Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology's Collections Research Center, which holds more than one million ethnographic objects and archaeological specimens.

Under the agreement, Brown agreed to transfer a portion of its Bristol property to a preservation trust that will "ensure the conservation of the land and sustainable access by Native tribes in the region." In return members of the Pokanoket Tribe agreed to end their encampment. Brown also stated that it acknowledges that the land is "historically Pokanoket and that part of the land contains sacred sites that are important to the present-day Pokanoket Tribe and Pokanoket people, who are dispersed among many tribes, and other Native American, American Indian and aboriginal peoples of New England."

- Inside Higher Ed

Entrepreneur fights pay gap for Native American women

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A new report says that Native American women are among the worst paid in the country. In New Mexico, that same group saw pay drop over the last decade. But there's an Albuquerque Native American woman trying to change that.

Navajo entrepreneur Vanessa Bowen made national headlines when she started selling her "Make America Native Again" hats. It was her spin on President Donald Trump's campaign slogan.

That story has since cooled, but her creative design business "Bowen Creative" in Nob Hill has taken off.

"When I was working underneath a different person for a different business doing creative work, I did the math and when I broke down the hourly rate, I was making far less than what I am currently making as my own creative director," Bowen said.

Such is the experience of many other women in the United States. A new report from the American Association of University Women highlights the pay gap between Native women and men. On average, it's 57 cents to the dollar.

"A lot of it has to do with cultural issues in terms of formal education they receive, where they are located geographically," said Julia Brown, board chair of the American Association of University Women in Las Cruces, referring to whether they work on the reservation.

Bowen said it's tough for her people. "Particularly here in New Mexico, I find that Native Americans have a lot more negative stereotypes stacked up against them," she said.

According to The Institute for Women's Policy Research, Native American women's pay in New Mexico also fell by \$3,000 a year over the last decade.

Adjusted for inflation, in 2002-2004, Native American women were making \$30,080 a year. In 2012-2014, they made \$27,000 a year.

"Something needs to be done in terms of legislation, in terms of educating and making people aware of these differences," Brown said.

In a perfect world, Bowen said women would make the same as men. Until then, she wants to serve as a role model for women entrepreneurs, especially Native American ones.

"It may be scary at first because you're stepping into the unknown. But be patient with yourself," she said.

- KOB 4

NTU signs agreement with NAU to improve Northern Arizona and Navajo Nation education

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — On Sept. 20, Navajo Technical University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Northern Arizona University in effort to better meet the higher education needs of residents in Northern Arizona and the Navajo Nation. The signing took place in a special ceremony at NAU's Native American Cultural Center, which included representatives from each institution.

The MOU will seek to enhance academic programming and student success at NAU and NTU, as well as explore faculty collaborations and exchanges for the purpose of research and scholarly activities. While NTU and NAU have collaborated on several initiatives in the past, NAU President Dr. Rita Cheng explained that the time was right to commit to something formal.

"The formality of a MOU is so important for us to send a strong signal that it is important to have this partnership. And why it's important is for the students and their opportunities," stated President Cheng. "I think together we can provide a great number of opportunities for our students no matter what they want to study, and we can help them fill their dreams."

Curriculum development and articulations through programs such as joint admission, 2 + 2 programs, dual enrollment, and integrated academic degree progression plans will be a key focus of the MOU, but it will also emphasize shared resources. In operating in this manner, students will be able to benefit from each institution in regards to academic advising and other services that contribute to student success, such as library services and student tracking.

"With dynamic leadership at both institutions, now is the time. This is the moment to create a partnership that will be equitable, innovative, and enduring," explained Dr. Chad Hamill, Vice President of NAU's Office of Native American Initiatives. Hamill emphasized that the MOU would greatly benefit each institution in that it brings something unique and enduring.

"Given the wide diversity of our native students at NAU, TCU's offer something we can't; a localized, culturally-centered education that expands the students knowledge of self, of community, and the broader world," said Hamill, who explained that students who come to NAU from TCU's are more academically prepared and likely to graduate.

The MOU agreement will be effective for a term of five years. At the end of the initial five-year term, the agreement will be evaluated and renegotiated. To ensure the MOU's success, a liaison will be appointed at each institution that will work closely with inter-institutional disciplinary teams that can properly monitor each initiative.

"We're very pleased we're doing

something formal," stated Dr. Elmer J. Guy, president of NTU. "We've never done anything at this level and we're really looking forward to this opportunity."

- Playbill

UCR linguistics professor to host Native American languages conference

University of California, Riverside linguistics professor, Wesley Leonard, who specializes in Native American languages, has been awarded a government grant to host a unique workshop on the intersection of linguistics and activism. Professor Leonard of the UCR Department of Ethnic Studies received a \$150,000 grant to organize and facilitate "Expanding Linguistic Science by Broadening Native American Participation," an application-only conference to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah in January 2018.

The conference seeks to promote activism for the preservation of linguistic diversity among Native American populations. Featuring eight speakers, all of American Indian or Alaska Native descent, the workshop will seek to cover how diverse attitudes from different American Indian communities can intersect to aid the preservation or revitalization of said languages. A particular focus will be placed on cultural factors such as religion, spirituality and society, and how these are integral to understanding Native American languages. The conference is organized as a prelude to the Linguistic Society of America's (LSA) 92nd annual meeting, which will occur in Salt Lake City shortly after the symposium.

Professor Leonard, in an earlier press release, emphasized that traditional attitudes toward studying languages often fail to capture the complexities and intricate characters of Native American languages. Instead of viewing them as "games to be solved," Leonard argued, progress in the study of these languages requires a more holistic and personal approach. True to the conference's title, such an approach will be promoted in the form of increased awareness within American Indian communities to their own rich linguistic heritage.

Leonard also stressed that the extinction and decline of languages was often more a result of outside factors than of the resiliency of the language itself. Persecution, lack of support from the US government, economic hardship and the resulting social misfortune pose serious threats to the survival and use of Native American languages. Primary among these causes is the cultural and linguistic pressure American Indian communities have historically faced from mainstream American culture. The symposium is intended to lay the foundation for a more holistic and effective future approach to preserving these languages.

Leonard's interest in organizing this conference stems from researching and, sometimes successfully, attempting to revive dormant or "sleeping" Native American languages. Leonard was inspired by 1990s efforts to revive Myaamia, an extinct language originally spoken by the tribe Leonard is a member of. After witnessing the strong collaboration between the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and Miami (Ohio) University, resulting in approximately 500 Myaamia speakers, Leonard seeks to foster a stronger connection between mainstream linguistic academia and tribal communities which often lack the resources to undertake such efforts on their own.

- San Francisco Chronicle

Top Native American news site on 'hiatus'

Indian Country Today Media Network, a comprehensive source of original reporting about Native Americans, "is taking a hiatus to consider alternative business models," Publisher Ray Halbritter of the Oneida Indian Nation announced on Sept. 4.

"The last day for the staff was yesterday," Chris Napolitano, the network's creative director, told Journal-isms by telephone on Sept. 4. But, he said, "nobody wants to stop working" and the dozen or so full-time staff members are staying in touch, expecting another iteration. Most work from their homes around the country. Napolitano, a non-Native, does so from Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Oneida Nation, based in upstate New York, prepared staff members for the Monday announcement, Napolitano said. It plans to keep the website fresh until January.

The network began in 1981 as the Lakota Times, founded by veteran journalist Tim Giago. After he sold it in 1998 to the Oneida Nation, its name was changed to This Week From Indian Country Today. It launched in its current form six years ago, publishing IndianCountryMediaNetwork.com. In April, it debuted Indian Country magazine.

The site "provides a mixture of straight news stories and commentary by tribal members, and it is often a way for politicians to get their messages out to Native American communities," Kristi Eaton reported in 2013 for the Associated Press. "President Barack Obama, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid

and House Speaker John Boehner have all done interviews or written opinion pieces."

However, Halbritter wrote Monday, "ICTMN has faced the same challenges that other media outlets have faced. It is no secret that with the rise of the Internet, traditional publishing outlets have faced unprecedented adversity. These economic headwinds have resulted in ICTMN operating at an enormous — and unsustainable — financial loss, and now have caused us to take a hiatus to explore new partnerships or economic strategies for ICTMN. . . ."

Suzanne Sobel, the managing director of Indian Country Today Media Network, said in 2013 that the website had 550,000 unique visitors. Its print magazine, which folded then, had a circulation of about 15,000, Eaton reported then.

The passion for the product among those readers "is undeniable," Napolitano said. The network sends out about eight emails to them a week, reaching 50,000 at a time. But despite that enthusiasm, he said, projections were that it would be four years before the publications would break even. If they are sold, the Oneida Nation would transfer them to a Native tribe or entity, Napolitano said.

Halbritter wrote in his online announcement, "More than six years ago, the Oneida Indian Nation decided to develop Indian Country Today Media Network from its core property, the then-weekly newspaper Indian Country Today, with a singular goal in mind: We wanted to generate award-winning journalism that gives voice to Indigenous Peoples, wherever they lived, to the widest possible audience. That investment has succeeded beyond our expectations."

The website claimed 550,000 unique visitors in 2013.

"Over the last few years, ICTMN has aggressively covered the critical issues facing Indian Country — and has done so in ways that have empowered Natives to tell our unique stories from our perspective. We reported extensively on challenges to the Indian Child Welfare Act with a series of stories spanning several high-profile cases; produced human-interest stories and analysis of the latest studies regarding Intergenerational Trauma; corrected the historical record by presenting authentic, proven Native traditions about events and people, such as Pocahontas; celebrated the cultural achievements of Native artists, thinkers, actors and musicians; continued Indian Country Today's groundbreaking coverage (now spanning decades) on murdered and missing Indigenous women; and worked tirelessly to report directly from the field in Standing Rock on the opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline.

- The Root

Local jewelry company collaborates with Native American artisans

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A local company is seeing great growth after only a few years in business. It sells high-end jewelry but it's doing much more than providing women's fashion.

Sydney Alfonso is still settling into her new showroom downtown. She founded Etkie just three years ago.

"Etkie is a jewelry company that collaborates with Native American artisans in New Mexico," she said.

Her background includes working with women's cooperatives abroad.

"So when I returned home, I just realized that there was such amazing talent in my own backyard," she explained.

Etkie means 'impact' in Turkish. Alfonso says she wanted to find a way to empower Native American women to use their craft and be "able to promote that in a way that elevates it and really enables families to earn an income and a living wage from the quality products that they produce."

Etkie began with a single artisan. Now, about ten women are involved. Some are mothers and daughters.

They hand-make high-end bead-work cuffs that are being sold in 100 stores around the globe.

"There's data that suggests that if you invest in a woman, she invests into her community," Alfonso said.

She explained that she recognized the importance of family and community responsibilities.

"Having a business that enables women to create the kind of flexibility that they need in their life is the very core of our business model," she said.

The jewelry is pricey, but Alfonso says it is part of a growing ethical fashion trend and helping Native American women behind the product to support their families.

"We don't have the answers but all we can do is provide an opportunity through business to enable extremely talented individuals to thrive."

- KRQE News 13

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Notice of settlement agreement entered with the Nooksack Tribe

WASHINGTON — Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC), Jonodev O. Chaudhuri, entered into a Settlement Agreement on Sept. 8 with Robert Kelly, chairman of the Nooksack Indian Tribe, relating to the issuance of the Notice of Violations and Closure Order issued June 15.

The Settlement Agreement allows the Nooksack Northwood Casino to reopen with certain conditions: 1) Chairman Kelly complies with the obligations under his August 25, 2017 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of the Interior (DOI), including holding a timely election acknowledged by Interior's Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs (AS-IA); 2) the Tribe's net gaming revenue shall be used solely for enumerated governmental expenditures; 3) all issues raised in the Environmental Protection Agency's administrative orders must be resolved by Oct. 10; and 4) the parties agree that any violation of the agreement will result in the imposition of an agreed-upon suspended fine of \$13 million, and failure to comply with the terms of the MOA or correct the EPA violation will result in immediate closure.

"The NIGC understands that gaming operations are a critical source of jobs and services for tribal members and the local community, and therefore we did not take lightly the severity of the closure order imposed in this matter. Since the casino's closure, tribal representatives have resolved significant issues cited in the NOV, and through the MOA with DOI, a path to resolve the Tribe's sole proprietary interest violation is available. The Settlement Agreement ensures that the Tribe's assets and operations, as well as the interests of the public, are protected. With these safeguards in place, I am suspending the closure order so people may return to work and vital programs and services can be restored to all Tribal members," Chaudhuri said.

Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement and MOA, the Chairman suspended the temporary closure order effective Sept. 8 and the \$13M fine levied against the Tribe.

The full Settlement Agreement (SA-17-02) is available at nigc.gov.

- National Indian Gaming Commission

Hotline for Native Americans facing abuse now available in New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A first-of-its-kind hotline has been launched for tribal members living in New Mexico.

The goal of StrongHearts Native Helpline is to fill the gap in services for victims of domestic violence to help lower the rates of abuse.

Fifty-six percent — that's how many Native American women reportedly experience physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

"They have so much information and a really good database system that is very much needed," said Cheyenne Antonio with the Red Nation, an activist group.

StrongHearts provides immediate over-the-phone assistance to tribal members experiencing domestic violence or sexual abuse.

With Native Americans accounting for 10 percent of New Mexico's population, the hope is for major change here and nationwide.

The advocates are said to have a strong understanding of native culture and tribal sovereignty.

Albuquerque local Deleana Otherbull is the executive director of the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women and she is helping to spread the word of the hotline.

"The advocates are very knowledgeable about jurisdiction issues. They're also able to help victims of domestic violence walk through the steps in safety planning," said Otherbull.

Both Otherbull and Antonio are hoping this hotline can change the negative statistics.

"Sometimes, victims have a hard time channeling resources because maybe they live in a small community. This kind of takes the stigma off of that," said Otherbull.

The StrongHearts helpline operates 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. After hours, the hotline will transfer callers to the National Domestic Violence Hotline. Their number is 1-844-762-8483.

- KRQE News 13

Drug company hands patents off to Native American tribe to avoid challenge

A drug company has found a novel way to avoid challenges to some of its most prized patents: handing them off to a Native American tribe for safe-keeping.

Allergan disclosed that it gave six patents covering its top-selling dry eye drug Restasis to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe in

Northern New York. The deal will provide the tribe with \$13.75 million immediately and an annual royalty of \$15 million as long as the patents are valid. The new deal was soon reported in both The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal.

Allergan made the unprecedented move because it will prevent any meaningful challenge to the company's patents at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, or PTAB. Challenging patents at the PTAB in a process called "inter partes review" (IPR) was authorized by the America Invents Act of 2011, and the IPR process has significantly changed the patent landscape since then. While invalidating a patent in district court typically costs millions of dollars, invalidating a patent via IPR can happen for the relative bargain of a few hundred thousand dollars.

Lawyers for Allergan and the tribe expect that the concept of "sovereign immunity," which bars lawsuits against certain types of government entities, will protect patents owned by St. Regis from any IPR proceeding. In fact, university patents have already been found to be immune to IPR under the concept of sovereign immunity. That will give Allergan a major edge as it clashes with generic drug companies who are trying to knock out the patent so they can produce a cheaper generic version.

"The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and its counsel approached Allergan with a sophisticated opportunity to strengthen the defense of our RESTASIS intellectual property in the upcoming inter partes review proceedings before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board," Allergan Chief Legal Officer Bob Bailey said in a statement.

Given the potential power of the move, there's little doubt that tech companies, or the "patent trolls" that harangue them, will be next in line. In fact, at least one technology patent-holder has already done so. A lawyer for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe told The New York Times that even before the Allergan deal, the tribe agreed to hold patents for a "technology company," which he declined to name.

"Sovereign immunity" is a legal concept that predates the American republic and stems from the basic notion that you can't sue a monarch, like, say, the King of England, in a court of law. It's codified in the 11th Amendment to the US Constitution, which prohibits "any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States" by an individual.

While the amendment was written to apply to US states, Native American tribes enjoy the same immunity. So do state-owned universities, which have been able to use their own patents to extract settlements and verdicts without worrying about being subject to accusations of patent infringement.

And there's worry the matter could go beyond just stopping IPRs. Allergan CEO Brenton Saunders gave an interview to Reuters in which he said that the move "only affects the flawed IPR process," but tribal immunity has applied in federal court in other situations.

Josh Landau of the Computer and Communications Industry Association, a longtime patent reform advocate, said in a blog post yesterday that he's not sure the strategy will work. A Supreme Court case from last term called *Lewis v. Clarke* found that tribal commercial activity wasn't necessarily immune.

But more important than whether or not it will work, Landau argues that it shouldn't work. Hiding the patents with "sovereign" entities will simply allow people who own shaky patents to assert them more easily, without fear of IPRs. The rule shouldn't be that "the validity of your patents is subject to review, unless you pay off some Indian tribe," he writes.

St. Regis' general counsel, Dale White, told the Times that the royalty payments will be a significant boost to the tribe's annual budget, which is about \$50 million.

The idea was broached to the tribe earlier this year by a Dallas law firm, Shore Chan DePumpo, White said.

- Ars Technica

Tribal leaders urge Yellowstone Park name changes

GARDINER, N.D. — Leaders of Native American tribes gathered the weekend of Sept. 16 to urge the U.S. government to rename a valley and a mountain in Yellowstone National Park.

They say the names are associated with a man who advocated killing Native Americans and another who did just that.

The Billings Gazette reports the tribal leaders delivered a petition Sept. 16 to park officials noting their opposition to the names of Hayden Valley and Mount Doane.

U.S. Army Lt. Gustavus Doane participated in an 1870 massacre of 173 noncombatant Indians in Montana.

Ferdinand Hayden, whose explorations were a key element in the eventual creation of the park, called for exterminating American Indians who wouldn't become farmers and ranchers.

Leaders of the Blackfoot Confederacy and Great Sioux Nation led a procession on

horseback and on foot through the historic Roosevelt Arch to the park's north entrance. There, they delivered the petition to the park's deputy superintendent, Pat Kenney.

Leaders of the Blackfoot Confederacy and Great Sioux Nation gathered Sept. 23 at Yellowstone's North Entrance near Gardiner.

The tribes seek to change the name of Hayden Valley, a subalpine valley just north of Yellowstone Lake, to Buffalo Nations Valley. They want to change the name of Mount Doane, a 10,550-foot peak five miles east of the lake, to First People's Mountain.

Efforts to change place names and remove monuments to controversial figures in U.S. history have gained momentum since white supremacists opposed to taking down a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee clashed in August with counter-protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Several Native American renaming efforts — some simply to erase racist terminology from maps — have been going on for years. In Wyoming, tribes seek to change Devils Tower, the name of an 870-foot volcanic mesa in the first U.S. national monument, to Bear Lodge.

Devils Tower is the name white settlers gave the feature. Bear Lodge is what the Lakota, Crow, Cheyenne and other tribes call the formation important if not sacred to their cultures.

The U.S. Geological Survey's Board on Geographic Names oversees the renaming process.

- Great Falls Tribune

Longest-running Native American theatre company to celebrate 40th anniversary

Feminist performance collective Spiderwoman Theater in New York, the longest-running Native American theatre company, celebrated its 40th anniversary Sept. 19 with a benefit event at La MaMa. The celebration in La MaMa's Ellen Stewart Theatre kicked off with a concert show, followed by a dance party and live music.

Established by Muriel Miguel, Spiderwoman Theater has been developing its signature creation process, "storyweaving," on the downtown theatre circuit for 40 years. The Public Theater Artistic Director Oskar Eustis hailed the company as "one of the most influential Native theatre companies in the history of the country."

Guests who attended the anniversary celebration include Bette Bourne and Paul Shaw of London's drag theatre group Bloodlips; Carmelita Tropicana; indigenous Coatlucue Theatre activists The Colorado Sisters (Hortencia and Elvira Colorado); and electronics violinist Laura Ortmann.

The program also included performances and tributes by Taylor Mac, Soni Moreno, First Nations electronic group A Tribe Called Red, Split Britches' Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw, La MaMa Safe Harbors Indigenous Collective director Murielle Borst-Tarrant, and Kevin Tarrant and The SilverCloud Singers, among others.

Other additions for the Sept. 19 event included Alessandra Belloni, Henu Josephine Tarrant, Monique Mojica, PJ Rose, Randy Reinholz, Sharon Day, Sid Bobb, Steve Elm, the folk-country Thunderbird Sisters, the Leaf Arrow Theatre, and Oneida-Oswegan singer Lacey Hill. Sharing MC duties were Louis Mofsie, Peggy Shaw, and the Carmelita Tropicana.

- Playbill

Alaska Native interns with NASA, helps with Mars mission

BETHEL, Alaska — An Alaska Native interned with NASA this summer and was tasked with helping the administration get its next orbiter mission to Mars.

Bethel resident Christopher Liu, an electrical engineering graduate student at Stanford University, worked on something called the missed trust problem, KYUK-FM reported (bit.ly/2fdYpbC).

It was Liu's job to make sure that if the spacecraft drifted off course unexpectedly, it would have enough fuel on board to correct its trajectory and plot a new course to Mars.

"I think I just continued to maintain this sense of curiosity," Liu said, "about the world, how it works."

Liu presented his work at the end of his internship, which he called the "Muktuk Plot" — named after the traditional whale meal.

Liu said he learned there aren't many Native American people in his field — so he took it upon himself to share some tradition.

"I shared some pikes, uquq, seal, and dried fish with some of the other JPL employees," Liu said. "And akutaq as well. And they were pretty happy to try it."

Liu will return to Stanford this fall to finish the final year of his master's program and he encourages Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta teenagers to follow him into technical and scientific fields.

"It shouldn't be a barrier," he said, referring to living in the Delta. "A lot of people, they can't even visualize themselves working for NASA or being an astronaut, but it's definitely possible. And it's something

that should excite students who are currently in school."

- San Francisco Chronicle

Energy company consults Native American tribe on wind farm

BISMARCK, N.D. — Native American tribes are consulting with an energy company on a proposed wind farm in southern North Dakota.

Leaders with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe recently worked with NextEra Energy to identify and protect cultural resources in an area where more than 120 wind turbines are proposed in Emmons and Logan counties, the Bismarck Tribune reported.

The company reached out to five tribes and other stakeholders in the early stages of the 300-megawatt project, NextEra spokesman Steve Stengel said. He said working with the tribes helped the company avoid sensitive areas identified by tribe officials.

The efforts could serve as a model for other infrastructure projects, said Jon Eagle Sr., a Standing Rock Sioux official who recently worked with the company to identify sensitive areas.

"As tribal historic preservation officer, it's not my job to stop an undertaking. It's my job to protect the resources," Eagle said. "I enjoy my pickup, just like everybody else does. I enjoy our lights. We can do it in a more sensible way, a more respectful way, in a way that values all of our voices."

Standing Rock Sioux members spent months protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline, arguing the tribe wasn't adequately consulted on the project and the pipeline threatened sacred sites.

Eagle said he's seeing positive signs now that North Dakota regulators and the energy industry are putting in more effort to consult early with tribes. He said NextEra could be a model for other such projects.

"I really believe there's an opportunity for them to set the bar on what consultation with tribes should look like," Eagle said.

Stengel said the company's current approach is standard for NextEra and wasn't affected by the pipeline protests.

"Our philosophy and our practice is we reach out to all of the tribes and share information and ask them if they're interested in talking to us," he said. "It is in our best interest, as well as for the project and all stakeholders, to be as open and transparent as possible."

The wind farm project has yet to be proposed to the North Dakota Public Service Commission, but it's expected to begin in 2019.

- Sacramento Bee

The Hillsboro nonprofit Redbridge Foundation aims to open doors and break down barriers

Students from across the West coast landed in Hillsboro last month as part of a tour of energy and technology companies across Oregon and California aimed at getting Native American teenagers interested in math and science.

The annual Inter-Tribal Energy and Tech Tour connects Native American teens with science and technology professions across the West Coast every summer.

Juxtaposing technology, energy and the need for diversity, the tour aims to open doors, ignite minds and break down barriers to opportunities, according to Shannon Hulbert, whose Hillsboro nonprofit, the Redbridge Foundation, is a marketing company for Native-owned entities in science, health, technology, and energy.

"As a Native American I grew up in a rural area that had very little access to energy and technology," said Hulbert, a member of the Yurok Tribe in northern California.

Hulbert organizes the tour every summer to get kids interested in science, technology, engineering and math.

"Native Americans are an underrepresented group in the STEM fields," said Eric Hulbert, chief executive officer of Opus Interactive Shannon Hulbert's husband.

- Hillsboro Tribune

\$150,000 grant ignored in feud with Clark County schools

Native American students in Clark County, Nevada, are caught in the middle of a feud over the educational support they receive from the school district.

Long-simmering tensions over the level of funding for educating Native American students boiled over recently, when the Clark County Indian Education Parent Committee chose not to apply for a \$150,000 federal grant through Title VI of the Civil Rights Act — one of two federal grants totaling nearly \$200,000 it has regularly received in recent years.

The decision to forgo the funding, designed to ensure equal educational opportunities, is an attempt to demonstrate that the Clark County School District is overreliant on federal grants when it comes

to providing resources for Native American education, said Petra Wilson, the committee chairwoman.

"The school district thinks that those two grants should be pretty much the base of funding for Indian ed. They've never really offered anything else," she said. "Everyone else is complaining about the budget cuts. We're complaining there's never been a budget."

Between 1,300 and 1,400 of the district's 320,000 students are Native American or Alaska Natives. That's less than half a percent of the district's overall population. But federal protections are in place to guarantee them a certain level of support, since they tend to graduate at lower rates than their classmates of other ethnicities.

Ongoing issue
The district owns and operates the Moapa Educational Support Center, a resource and counseling center on the Moapa River Indian Reservation. It is open to all district students but serves Native American children primarily.

It also staffs and runs an Indian Education Opportunities program in the town of Moapa.

Including employees, benefits, supplies and technology, the district expects to spend \$187,868 on the programs this year, school district spokeswoman Melinda Malone said. That doesn't include the cost of utilities and a district vehicle, she said.

But tribal members and the parent committee think the district needs to do more.

"This was not a rash decision. This is several years of dealing with the same thing over and over," Wilson said of the decision to forgo the grant. "It was bold, but it needed to be done."

Wilson, 50, has been involved with the committee for almost 10 years and said it's been a constant battle with the district.

"Our tribes are sovereign nations, and they don't treat them with the respect of a sovereign nation," she said.

District officials said they were disappointed the parent committee chose not to apply for the grant. But district-funded student success advocates (SSAs) are still meeting with Native American students in their schools and trying to help guide them to resources, the officials say.

"I have the SSAs meeting with students at their home schools, connecting them to the resources and academic support that is available in their individual schools," said Tammy Malich, the district's assistant superintendent for the education services division. "Sometimes, for our native students, they're not quick to call attention to themselves or go ask questions, so it's kind of taking them by their hand to say, 'Here's your counselor.'"

When the grants were functional, Malich said, the advocates would also let students know about academic resources or cultural events the grants were funding.

- Las Vegas Review-Journal

Conn. casinos diversify resorts with new nongaming amenities

The Native American tribes that own Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun are pushing ahead with continued investments at their respective casino resorts to attract new guests to southeastern Connecticut.

Foxwoods announced this week that it's constructing a multi-level indoor go-kart track that is scheduled to open in 2018. According to a statement from the resort, the attraction will "feature dramatic elevation changes, hairpin turns, and gas-powered, nine-horsepower karts that give drivers the power and control necessary for the ultimate high-speed rush."

Less than 10 miles west at Mohegan Sun, construction continues on the property's \$80 million expo and convention center. Slated to open next year, the Exposition Center expands the resort's meeting capabilities by more than 140,000 square feet.

Both resorts are facing increased competition in the northeast.

Foxwoods opened in 1986, and Mohegan Sun a decade later in 1996. They enjoyed limited competition for many years, but neighboring states have recently liberalized commercial gambling in order to generate new forms of tax revenue.

Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun's expansion projects are part of an effort to keep enticing tourists, gamblers, and businesspersons to Connecticut. MGM Springfield, a \$950 million integrated resort being built just miles north of the Connecticut and Massachusetts border, has the tribes and state lawmakers on edge.

Earlier this year, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes successfully petitioned the state for authorization to build a satellite casino in East Windsor just 13 miles south of the MGM project in Massachusetts.

- Casino.org

Sports



Stephanie Bowers Hiatt inducted into University of Sioux Falls Athletics Hall of Fame

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

When Stephanie Bowers Hiatt was a sophomore in high school back in the early 1990s, she met a boy at a summer church camp in North Dakota.

A couple years later that boy convinced her to join him in attending the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota. Although her roots were firmly established in Florida — born on the Hollywood Reservation and growing up in Bradenton, where she excelled in volleyball — Bowers Hiatt decided to head to the upper Midwest.

“My friends and family thought I was crazy to go to Sioux Falls,” she recalled.

More than 20 years later, Bowers Hiatt has no regrets about following that boy and picking USF.

“It was one of the best decisions I ever made,” she said.

Bowers Hiatt majored in elementary education and graduated in 1997 after compiling such an impressive resume as a standout on the women’s volleyball team that her play on the court earned her a place in the USF Athletics Hall of Fame. She was among six individuals inducted as members of the Hall’s Class of 2017 during a ceremony Sept. 22 at the McDonald’s Center on the USF campus.

“It’s an honor to be inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame and to be included with names I know and people I respect and admire,” Bowers Hiatt, 42, said in a phone

interview the day before the induction.

Her love for volleyball emerged from playing with friends on the beaches in Bradenton.

“I think it started because all my friends were doing it. I didn’t come from an athletic family,” she said.

As Bowers Hiatt continued to get better, accolades followed her as she enjoyed a successful four-year career on the volleyball court at Bradenton Christian, where she earned All-State honors and was named

at USF with 387 in 1996 and 356 in 1995. By the time she finished her USF career, her kills average per game of 3.21 in 1995 was third all-time and her 1996 mark of 2.93 ranked fourth in school history. Hiatt set a school record with 174 blocks in 1996. She also ranked second in digs for a season with 656 in 1994.

Ironically, one of the most memorable games for the woman from Bradenton occurred while USF was playing in a tournament in Florida. Before a match against Palm Beach Atlantic, Stephanie said she overheard an official refer to USF as “a Podunk team from South Dakota.” Bowers Hiatt relayed that comment to her teammates and the spark was lit for a USF victory.

“We played one of our best games. It was probably one of the best defensive performances of my career,” she said.

So whatever happened to that boy from summer camp?

“I’m still married to that boy today,” Bowers Hiatt said.

Stephanie and Jon Hiatt have been married for 20 years and live in Sioux Falls. They have three sons: Tyler, Caleb and Lucas. All play sports. Tyler, the oldest, is the starting center on the Lincoln High School varsity football team. He had a game on the

same night of the induction, but the rest of the family attended the ceremony, including Bowers Hiatt’s mother Debbi Johnson and her husband Rick, and Bowers Hiatt’s father Stephen Bowers and his wife Elizabeth. Stephen is the Seminole tribal liaison for the Florida Governor’s Council on Indian Affairs and Veteran Affairs.



Courtesy photo

Stephanie Bowers Hiatt, center, is joined by members of her family and former coaches during the University of Sioux Falls Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony Sept. 22 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Bowers Hiatt, who played volleyball for USF in the 1990s, was inducted as a member of the Class of 2017.

Player of the Year by the Bradenton Herald.

At USF, Bowers Hiatt starred for the Cougars as a middle hitter from 1993-96 while etching her name in the record books. She concluded her career second on USF’s career kills list with 1,141 and ranked second at USF in career blocks with 517. She had two of the top-five kills per season marks



Courtesy photo

Former University of Sioux Falls volleyball standout Stephanie Bowers Hiatt speaks during the USF Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony Sept. 22 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Although she lived on the Hollywood Reservation for only the first six months of her life, Bowers Hiatt has fond memories of coming back to the rez as a youngster, including volunteering at Tribal fairs and working with her aunt Wanda Bowers.

A former English language arts teacher, Bowers Hiatt is pursuing a doctorate in education from Hamline University in

Minnesota. She said it’s an opportunity made possible from assistance provided by the Seminole Tribe.

“I’m so thankful for the opportunities the Tribe provides for its members. It wouldn’t have been possible if I wasn’t a member of the Tribe,” she said.

Fast start for Pemayetv Emahakv volleyball as season kicks off

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BRIGHTON — Similar to just about every scholastic fall sports team in the state, the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School volleyball team’s season was interrupted by Hurricane Irma in September.

But before the big storm arrived, the Lady Seminoles opened their season with a pair of impressive wins at home against LaBelle Middle School.

“The girls have been working really hard,” varsity volleyball coach Pam Matthews said after her squad swept LaBelle 25-9, 25-10 on Sept. 5. Earlier, the junior varsity team, coached by Mary Huff, cruised past LaBelle, 25-5, 25-6.

Led by captains Karey Gopher and Elle Thomas, the varsity features plenty of experience with five eighth-graders.

Leading by example worked out well in the opener as Karey delivered four service points, one kill and had a strong defensive game as the team’s libero while Elle led the way in the hitting department with five kills.

“They lead the team at practice, in



Kevin Johnson

PECS’ Elle Thomas lines up a big hit in the team’s win against LaBelle Middle School on Sept. 5.

stretches, warming up. They’ve done a great job,” Matthews said.

Matthews encouraged the team to bring

what they do in practice to gameday. “I told them today to swing, hit the ball like you do in practice,” she said.

The starting lineup at the net featured Elle, her younger sister Lexi and eighth-grader Ta-fv Harris, and Karey, Giselle Micco and LaShae King in the back row.

Giselle, one of two seventh-graders on the team, has shifted from the defensive specialist spot she played last season as the libero to a hitting role this season. She delivered 18 service points — which included a blistering ace to start the match — and two kills.

“Giselle played [libero] last year and I really needed her to hit this year and set. She’s amazing at all three parts of the game,” Matthews said.

Ta-fv also shined at the net both offensively and defensively.

“Ta-fv played a fantastic net game with a huge block and two kills,” Matthews said. Leilani Burton, another eighth-grader, had six service points.

In the JV match, Jana Johnson sparked the Lady Seminoles early by delivering 10 consecutive service points to start the match. She finished with 26 service points and one kill. Taryn Osceola added 10 service points and Tammy Martinez had a kill.

2017 PECS Varsity volleyball

Coach: Pam Matthews
1 — Lexi Thomas
2 — Nena Youngblood
3 — Giselle Micco
4 — LaShae King
6 — Karey Gopher
7 — Elle Thomas
8 — Melina Steve
11 — Leilani Burton
12 — Ta-fv Harris

Junior Varsity volleyball

Coach: Mary Huff
2 — Kalyn Hammil
3 — Angelie Melton
4 — Saniya Rodriguez
6 — Winnie Gopher
7 — Taryn Osceola
8 — Karlyne Urbina
11 — Tammy Martinez
12 — Javale Anderson
13 — Jana Johnson

♦ See VOLLEYBALL on page 5C



Kevin Johnson

Elle Thomas, center, leads the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School volleyball team through its prematch skit in which all the players fall and do backward somersaults.



Kevin Johnson

Karey Gopher delivers a serve as her teammates and coach Pam Matthews look on during PECS’ season opening victory against LaBelle on Sept. 5 in Brighton.

Sunni Bearden leads Moore Haven to senior night victory

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — Sunni Bearden saved her best volleyball on her senior night until the final set.

The Moore Haven High School senior captain from the Brighton Reservation blasted five kills in the fifth set to lead the Terriers past visiting Glades Day, 3-2 (24-26, 25-14, 20-25, 25-15, 15-9), on Sept. 19.

Before the game, Bearden, a three-sport standout, was accompanied by her mother Timi Bearden and grandmother Helene Buster during a ceremony that also honored seniors Jo'Keria Crawford and Cristina Maria. Bearden has been a key figure on the varsity since her freshman season in 2014.

"She's a great athlete," said Moore Haven coach Paige Raulerson. "She's not a very vocal leader, but she leads by example because she comes out here every day, whether it's practices, games, helping us set up; anything she does, she does 110 percent. She never slows down."

Bearden's leadership and versatility were on display throughout the night. She was a leader offensively with her hitting and defensively in the dig department. She also shined serving, especially in the third set when she reeled off six consecutive aces that frustrated Glades Day players, who either came up short diving for balls or were handcuffed.

But the serving star in the decisive fifth set was Jacee Jumper, a sophomore from Brighton who staked Moore Haven to a 5-0 lead, which included two aces. Madisyn Osceola, another sophomore from Brighton, also saw action at the net, often alongside Jumper. The duo combined for a block that gave the Terriers a 14-9 lead.

"[Jacee] works very hard," Raulerson said. "We're happy to have her here. She's come in and filled in one of the roles we were missing from graduating Syd [Sydnee Cypress] and a few others. Madisyn has been transitioning to the middle. We have three middle, so it's kind of just a circuit, they all rotate in and out, and she's been doing a good job for us."

Jumper said playing on a team with Sunni is never boring.

"It's been great. Definitely a lot of laughs during games and practices," she said.

Other players from Brighton are shining in the program as well. Raulerson said she's been pleased with the play of Alice Osceola and Alyssa Gonzalez on the junior varsity.

"They both do very well for the JV team. Alice is a setter and Alyssa primarily plays backrow defense," Raulerson said.

As for Bearden, more senior night ceremonies await this winter for basketball and in the spring for softball.

"It's going to be sad," Bearden said.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven senior Sunni Bearden, center, eyes the ball during a senior night victory against Glades Day on Sept. 19 at Moore Haven High School. Moore Haven won, 3-2.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven sophomore Madisyn Osceola is greeted by coaches during pregame player introductions before the Terriers faced Glades Day on Sept. 19 at Moore Haven High School.

"My saddest one is going to be softball. I'm going to cry."

Bearden is the softball team's leadoff batter and a star defensive player in center field. She hopes her softball career continues

after high school.

"I want to go to college for [softball]," she said. "My coach is going to get colleges to look at me. He's saying they might give me a scholarship. I'm crossing my fingers."



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven senior volleyball player Sunni Bearden is accompanied by her grandmother Helene Buster and mother Timi Bearden during the Terriers' senior night ceremony Sept. 19. Sunni is a four-year varsity player.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Jacee Jumper gets ready to deliver a hit in a match against Glades Day.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven sophomore Jacee Jumper, left, and senior Sunni Bearden react to a point during the Terriers' 3-2 win against Glades Day.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven junior varsity player Alice Osceola returns the ball while teammate Alyssa Gonzalez looks on during a JV match against Glades Day on Sept. 19.

Haskell runners capture honors

PRESS RELEASE

A pair of Haskell Indian Nations University runners swept the Association of Independent Institutions' cross country weekly honors Sept. 25.

Freshmen Chantel Yazzie and Max Tuckfield turned in strong performances during the Emporia State University Papa John's Invitational.

Yazzie, of Fort Wingate, N.M., completed the 5-kilometer course in 23:52.72 in a meet featuring runners from NCAA Division II, NAIA and junior college teams.

Tuckfield, of Baldwin City, Kansas, posted a personal-best time of 29:44.29 over the 8-kilometer course — nearly 45 seconds faster than his previous best mark set Sept. 15.



Haskell/Facebook

Max Tuckfield



Haskell/Facebook

Chantel Yazzie

Irma wallops Clewiston press box



Kevin Johnson

The tattered press box at Cane Field, home of the Clewiston High School football team, shows its injuries from Hurricane Irma.

For Ahfachkee volleyball, a return to the court with an eye to the future

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

With nine players on its roster, the Ahfachkee School volleyball team began its season Aug. 29 with a match at Hollywood Christian School.

It didn't take long for Ahfachkee — which didn't have a team the past couple years — to generate momentum. The Lady Warriors won the first set, but then dropped three straight. Scores were 20-25, 25-9, 25-13, 27-25.

It was the first-ever volleyball match for some Ahfachkee players.

"I think we all did all right," said captain Thomlynn Billie. "I think we just need to practice on the little stuff. This is our first game all playing together, so I think we did pretty good."

Ahfachkee closed out the first set with six straight service points from captain Mya Cypress.

In the final set, Ahfachkee showed plenty of determination to keep the match alive. Trailing 24-17, the Lady Warriors were one point away from defeat, but with a couple of kills from Cypress and a few aces from Abby Tigertail, the Lady Warriors roared back to take a 25-

24 lead before Hollywood Christian notched the final three points to end the match.

Ahfachkee's team includes Thomlynn Billie (captain), Mya Cypress (captain), Aniya Gore (captain), Crystal Garcia, Alexis Gore, Alonie Gore, Janessa Jones, Mariah Smith and Abby Tigertail. The head coach is Mililani Quinsaats. The assistant coach is Alicia Richards.

Quinsaats, a native of Hawaii, brings 30 years of volleyball experience to a program that has few experienced players.

"It's a work in progress. They're new to the game. Everything is basics," she said.

One of Quinsaats' goals is to form a solid foundation so the program can help players gain experience even before they reach high school.

"Hopefully it will expand," Quinsaats said. "I intend to grow the program in the middle school, and hopefully that will be a feeder for the high school."

Billie is glad to be a part of building that foundation.

"I think it's pretty awesome that we're able to play together because some of these girls, we don't really talk to each other [away from volleyball], but we're able to all meet up [on this team]," she said.



Kevin Johnson

Abby Tigertail delivers a serve for the Ahfachkee volleyball team Aug. 29 in a match at Hollywood Christian School.



Kevin Johnson

After huddling with coach Mililani Quinsaats during a timeout, Ahfachkee gets pumped up to head back to the court Aug. 29 against Hollywood Christian School.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee's Mya Cypress (2), Mariah Smith (21) and Thomlynn Billie (26) get set on defense Aug. 29 against Hollywood Christian School in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

Above, the postgame handshake at the net between Ahfachkee and Hollywood Christian, which won 3-1 on Aug. 29. At left, Ahfachkee's Mya Cypress passes the ball during the Lady Warriors season opener.

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PECS students shine for Moore Haven JV/MS football

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School doesn't have a football team, but it does have football players.

Six kids, all from grade 7 at PECS, are playing big roles on the Moore Haven junior varsity/middle school team. They helped the squad notch a pair of impressive wins in its first two games.

With Pherian Baker, Ysla Gopher, Corey Jumper, David King, Deagan Osceola and Sir Marcus Osceola in the line-up, Moore Haven opened with a 36-6 win against the middle school team from First Baptist Academy in Naples. After a two-week interruption thanks to Hurricane Irma, the Terriers, whose roster features nearly all middle school students, improved to 2-0 with a 50-6 win against Donahue Academy of Ave Maria on Sept. 21.

The Brighton-Moore Haven pipeline helps place students from PECS with a team while benefiting Moore Haven, too.

"It's awesome," said Moore Haven varsity coach Max Manin. "We have a great relationship with them. Those kids are so respectful and they work really hard. I know it's great when they come here. We really enjoy having them on the team."

Deagan didn't play against Donahue, but the other five players made significant impacts led by Corey at middle linebacker. In a defensive series in the first quarter, Corey made two tackles that forced Donahue to punt. When it looked as though nobody would pick up the ball on the ensuing punt, Corey grabbed it and outran defenders on his way to a 45-yard touchdown.

"He brings a whole lot to the football team on the defense," said Moore Haven JV/middle school coach Al Gary.

Pherian Baker played center against First Baptist, but switched to the defensive line against Donahue. He also made a solo tackle on a kick return in the fourth quarter. Moore Haven's defense held Donahue scoreless until the final play of the game.

"He's a very good, talented kid. I think he should go very far in football," Gary said.

Ysla, the only girl out of 35 players, played cornerback and returned a pair of punts. She brought the quarterback down on a scramble and made a solo tackle on special teams.

David saw plenty of playing time at safety and was involved in a handful of tackles.

"David is outstanding," Gary said. "Very humble kid. Always likes to be on the tackle."

Sir Marcus fought his way through the



Moore Haven's Corey Jumper returns a punt for a touchdown against Donahue Academy in a junior varsity/middle school football game Sept. 21 in Moore Haven. The Terriers won, 50-6.

Kevin Johnson

line to put pressure on the quarterback all game from the left tackle spot.

"Sir Marcus, first year here, had an outstanding game tonight. He surprised us. He was in on a lot of tackles," Gary said.

Donahue had just 11 players and two coaches, so the game was played 8-on-8 on an abbreviated field.

All the Brighton kids said they would like to continue playing football when they reach high school.



Moore Haven defensive lineman Pherian Baker (50) battles a Donahue player.

Kevin Johnson



Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School students who play for the Moore Haven Middle School/junior varsity football team gather for a photo following the team's 50-6 win against Donahue on Sept. 21. From left, Ysla Gopher, Deagan Osceola, Corey Jumper, David King, Pherian Baker and Sir Marcus Osceola.

Kevin Johnson



At left, as Sir Marcus Osceola lines up on the defensive line, David King (6) and Corey Jumper (26) get ready in the secondary for the Moore Haven junior varsity/Middle School football team during a game Sept. 21. Above, Sir Marcus Osceola has his sights set on tackling Donahue Academy's quarterback.

Kevin Johnson



◆ **YSLA**
From page 1A

cornerback and was on kickoff coverage against Donahue, but the girl in the No. 12 gold jersey opened more than a few eyes as a punt returner. On the first of her two returns, she sprinted back to scoop up the ball at the Moore Haven 15-yard line and proceeded to evade defenders with a couple of quick moves as if she was an experienced running back. At one point during the 30-yard return, she bumped into one of her large teammates, but simply bounced off him and kept going as her teammates on the sideline erupted with cheers.

"She surprised us. Very juky. Something she pulled out of the hat," said coach Gary,

who added that Ysla is also the team's third string quarterback and wide receiver.

Ysla's presence has been welcomed in more ways than one.

"It's awesome to have a girl on the team. It's awesome to have another tribal member on the team," said lineman Pherian Baker of Brighton.

"I think she's doing really well," said Moore Haven varsity coach Max Manin. "I haven't had too many conversations with her, but the few I've had she seems to really be enjoying it. I know the kids really like having her on the team. She's a really hard worker."

Ysla has played basketball and softball, but she's always enjoyed watching football. Florida State is her favorite team.

"I told my mom I wanted to play football because I like it. I want to continue playing it," she said.

Ysla's mother Johnanna Gopher and stepfather Jason Jenkins were among the approximately 100 spectators who watched the game against Donahue.

"We're proud of her," Jenkins said. "She was in on a couple of tackles and got to return a couple of punts. It was cool."

As for being nervous watching Ysla play a rough-and-tumble sport against boys, those feelings haven't arrived ... yet.

"I will be when she wants to play varsity," Johnanna Gopher said. "That's when those boys are big."



Kevin Johnson

Ysla Gopher avoids Donahue Academy defenders during a punt return for the Moore Haven junior varsity/middle school football team Sept. 21.

◆ **VOLLEYBALL**
From page 1C



Kevin Johnson

PECS junior varsity volleyball coach Mary Huff prepares her team for victory against LaBelle.



Kevin Johnson

Tammy Martinez controls the ball during PECS junior varsity's win against LaBelle on Sept. 5.

Memorial fishing tournament to be held in BC

BIG CYPRESS — The Roger Billie Memorial "Big Bass" Fishing Tournament will be held Oct. 14 at the South Boundary Canal near Sadie's in Big Cypress.

Cash prizes will be awarded for the biggest bass and the most weight with a limit

of five fish.

Entry fee is \$50. Registration will be at 6 a.m. Fishing will take place from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Weigh-ins will be from 12-2 p.m. Fish must be alive at weigh-in.

Awards will be presented from 3-4 p.m. The tournament is open to tribal members and community members only.

For more information call Cecilia Tigertail at 863-599-4363.

Hollywood to host For the Love tournament

HOLLYWOOD — After being postponed, the fourth annual For the Love of the Game basketball tournament has been rescheduled for Oct. 6-7 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood. The all Native American adult tournament will

feature men's and women's teams age 18 and up.

For more information contact tournament organizer Courtney Osceola at 954-648-4683.

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Announcements



Obituary: John Lee Chaves

When John Lee Chaves took his last breath in the early morning of Aug. 13 at the age of 76, he completed a remarkable journey that began under the hardest of circumstances. Born in Albuquerque, New Mexico to Max and Mildred Chaves, John's early life was largely defined as a member of the Laguna Pueblo Tribe. Determined to live a life that his parents and ancestors couldn't, John joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 17; during his service he fell in love with aviation, which eventually led him to Northrup University's engineering program and later, President of his graduating class. Following his bachelor's degree and his early professional achievements, John was invited by the American Indian Law Program to try his hand at law school; Native American lawyers were desperately needed. That invitation changed his life—and the lives of many who would come into John's orbit.

Upon the completion of two law degrees, John worked in Washington, D.C. with the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs on economic development, environmental issues, and land use. Eventually finding his way to Florida as a highly sought-after voice on Native American legal issues, John was a co-founder and co-director of the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs. His legal work on behalf of the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes was pivotal in passing several pieces of state legislation. John had a long and varied career within state government that included working for the



Department of Environmental Protection, the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation. At the time of his death, as an attorney for the Florida Council on Human Relations, John was still actively pursuing solutions to the many injustices he encountered. John not only actively shaped policy and law, but he also taught it to the generations following him. Here in Tallahassee, students at FSU, TCC, and Lively learned from one of the nation's true legal pioneers.

An avid "collector" of friends and stories, John was also an "enthusiastic"

collector of stuff—from pocketknives and ball caps to car parts, classic cars and trucks. In fact, John's backyard bears vivid testimony to his mechanical passions! During his other passion — cooking gourmet meals for friends — John's storytelling ran the gamut: from tales of reservation life, working on "that corner" in Winslow, Arizona, and his Navy adventures in Rhoda Spain, to discussing complicated Native American issues, airplane designs and describing the next truck or car part he was going to buy.

John is survived by his beloved wife, Deborah "Goldie" Chaves, brother, Glenn Chaves (Diane), daughters Maxette Arney (Tim), Joelle Smith, Tamiene Nims, stepdaughter Kathryn Rowe, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Allen Fred Chaves.

Goldie will host a gathering for family and friends to visit and remember John. It will take place at the Tallahassee Automobile Museum (6800 Mahan Drive) on October 7, from 3-5 PM. In lieu of flowers or food or heaven forbid, car parts please drive your favorite old car and bring your memories and stories to share!

Please visit www.culleysmeadowood.com to share online condolences.

Arrangements under the direction of Culley's MeadowWood Funeral Home, Tallahassee.

Noel Morreale named VP of Food and Beverage at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

FROM PRESS RELEASE

COCONUT CREEK — Noel Morreale has been named vice president of Food and Beverage at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek.

Morreale will oversee all food and beverage operations connected to the property's restaurants and bars, which includes 12 departments, 73 managers and 700 team members.

"I am proud to be part of such an incredibly talented and focused group here at Coco. We will continue the aspirational food and beverage program, while challenging our team to raise the bar with fresh menu options and exceptional service," Morreale said.

Morreale started his career as a sous chef for Station Casinos, working his way up to an assistant beverage manager and beverage manager before joining Morton's as a restaurant manager. He rejoined Station Casinos as a steakhouse general manager before opening his own restaurants.

In 2014, Morreale joined the Seminole



Noel Morreale

Casino Coconut Creek team as the general manager for NYY Steakhouse. Under his leadership, NYY earned three straight Wine List Award of Excellence designations from Wine Spectator Magazine and "Best North Broward Restaurant" honors from SouthFlorida.com. From there, he was promoted to director of Restaurants.

Morreale attended Canisius College in Buffalo, New York.

Kevin Hart to perform at Hard Rock Live

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Comedian and actor Kevin Hart will perform at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Fla. on Friday, Dec. 22, at 8 p.m. The use of cell phones and other mobile devices are prohibited during the show.

The first comedian to sell out an NFL stadium, Hart has made a name for himself as one of the industry's foremost comedians, entertainers, authors and businessmen. In June, Hart released his memoir "I Can't Make This Up: Life Lessons," which debuted No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list, remaining on the list for five consecutive weeks. The book also topped records on the Audible platform, selling more than 100,000 copies in the first five weeks.

As a standup comedian, Hart has sold out major arenas across the country, including Madison Square Garden and Barclays Center in New York City. Hart's 2016 comedy tour "What Now" grossed more than \$100 million worldwide.

Earlier this year, Hart voiced the title character in "Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie." Hart's upcoming movies include Sony's reboot of the classic film "Jumanji" alongside Dwayne Johnson and



Kevin Hart

Jack Black, and "The Upside," marking Hart's first dramatic role alongside Bryan Cranston and Nicole Kidman. Hart will soon begin shooting the feature comedy "Night School," a film in which he will star in and co-write under the Hartbeat production banner.

Tickets cost \$150, \$130, \$105 and \$70. All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets online at www.myhrl.com, www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone: 1-800-745-3000. Doors open one hour prior to show start time.

Seminole Tribune wins 11 NAJA awards

FROM PRESS RELEASE

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Native American Journalists Association awarded more than 250 National Native Media Awards at the organization's awards banquet that was held in coordination with the Excellence in Journalism conference Sept. 7-10 in Anaheim, California.

The annual competition recognizes excellence in reporting by Native and non-Native journalists across the U.S. and Canada.

The Seminole Tribune earned 11 awards in the Division II Associate Category.

Beverly Bidney, staff reporter, won six

awards:

- First place for Best News Story, "Ahziya Osceola Remembered During National Child Abuse Awareness Month Walk"

- Second place in Best Coverage of Native America, "Longest Walk 5 reaches Washington"

- Second place in Best Environmental Coverage, "ERMD balances needs of wildlife and community on reservations"

- Third Place in Best Feature Photo, "Thomlynn Billie sheds a tear being named Jr. Miss Florida Seminole"

- Second and third place in Best Photo of Native America, "Dancer holds toddler in his arms" and "Longest Walk 5 reaches

Washington"

Kevin Johnson, senior editor, won five awards:

- First place for Best Sports Story, "Offering the art of Jujitsu, and much more"

- First place for Best Sports Photo, "American Heritage wins Class 6A state championship"

- Second place for Best Feature Story, "MBA grad Anthony Frank makes most of education"

- Second place for Best Sports Photo, "Seminole teams soar at NAYO basketball tournament"

- Second Place for Best Sports Story, "Gore thrives as Haskell's top player."

NAJA elects new board members, selects executive committee

FROM PRESS RELEASE

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Members of the Native American Journalists Association elected three new members to the board of directors: Shyanne Beatty (Hangwichin Athabaskan) from Anchorage, Alaska; Graham Brewer (Cherokee) from Oklahoma City; and Jacqueline Keeler (Diné / Ihanktonwan Dakota) from Portland, Oregon, who will each serve a three-year term.

NAJA Election Chair and outgoing board member Jolene Schonchin announced the official results at the conclusion of the 2017 NAJA National Native Media Awards Banquet on Saturday, Sept. 9, held in conjunction with the 2017 Excellence in Journalism conference.

The NAJA Board of Directors also selected 2017-18 officers during the first meeting with new members in attendance on Sunday, Sept. 10. Bryan Pollard and Jennifer Bell were unanimously elected to second terms on the executive committee.

- Bryan Pollard (Cherokee), President

- Victoria LaPoe (Cherokee), Vice President

- Jennifer Bell (Citizen Potawatomi Nation), Treasurer

- Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton (Cherokee), Secretary

Darren Brown (Choctaw / Cochiti Pueblo) and Ramona Marozas (Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians) will remain seated for the duration of their terms.

Frankie, Fabian, Bobby to perform at Seminole Casino Hotel

FROM PRESS RELEASE

IMMOKALEE — Frankie Avalon, Fabian and Bobby Rydell — also known as Dick Fox's Golden Boys — will be live in concert at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee on Saturday, Jan. 13 at 8 p.m., with doors opening at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are on sale for \$70 and are available at the casino or by calling 800-218-0007. Attendees must be 21 years of age.

The trio was united by producer Dick Fox. These "Golden Boys" were three of the most popular teen idols of the late 1950s and 1960.

The Golden Boys concert spotlights each of the performers and their all-time greatest hits: "Turn Me Loose," "Tiger" and "I'm A Man" (Fabian); "Venus," "De De Dinah" and "Bobby Sox to Stockings" (Avalon); and "Volare," "Wild One" and "Kissin' Time" (Rydell). The three stars combine their talents on several songs and

perform a tribute to the material of Elvis Presley, Bobby Darin, Rick Nelson and Bill Hailey.

Avalon made the transition from teenage idol to mature professional and now has a career that spans three generations. His first single "De De Dinah" became a smash hit, and his recording of "Venus" was one of the biggest selling hits of the era.

Poem: Until I Breathe My Last

Until I breathe my last and long after I'm gone,
I hope to continue touching spirits as life goes on.

In everything I write I always put my heart and soul,
It's not just ink on paper it's the reality I know.

Throughout all these years of writing maybe I've inspired someone to change,
There's just no future in being an alcoholic, dopefiend or mentally deranged.

You can get right before it's too late,
Either six feet deep or in the land of evil and hate.

There is no middle road it's either wrong or right,
Stop fooling yourself to think you're maintaining because you do what you do out of sight.

When I get free at least I now know I'm coming home to someone that loves and

cares,
Two great minds makes one of a kind pair.

From Cali to Florida that's a lot of miles in between,
The Creator has blessed me with this pure Aztech queen.

The blessings continue to come and I appreciate each one,
Sincere thanks from this unconquered Native son.

I have a dream that one day I'll be giving speeches to our youth,
Just as I write I will talk bluntly giving them the truth.

Until I breathe my last from East Los Angeles to my last ride,
I have no doubt she will represent "right" at my side.

Warrior 4 Life,
Ike T. Harjo
Koowaathi

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A52489	2003	FORD SUV	EXPLORER (RWD)	74,160	Poor	\$1,050.00
287543	2007	CHEVROLET SEDAN	IMPALA	101,808	Fair	\$1,162.00
213695	2008	CHEVROLET SUV	TAHOE (4WD)	186,037	Poor	\$5,498.00
161547	2009	CHEVROLET SEDAN	IMPALA	123,973	Fair	\$2,700.00
226781	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER (RWD)	173,229	Fair	\$4,183.00
226742	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER (RWD)	123,851	Fair	\$6,758.00
226778	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER (RWD)	124,860	Fair	\$6,458.00
226777	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER (RWD)	153,393	Fair	\$2,037.00
265319	2012	CHEVROLET SUV	TAHOE (RWD)	123,521	Poor	\$7,805.00
226720	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER (RWD)	125,305	Fair	\$6,458.00
A82202	2007	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F150XL SUPER CAB (4WD)	106,451	Poor	\$5,813.00
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Theodore Nelson Sr.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, SW5813, Indian Child Welfare Consultant-Expert, Board Member National Indian Child Welfare Association, Licensed and Insured, Seminole Health Plan Provider

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I offer 20 years of professional experience as a qualified therapist working with children, teens and adults in a confidential, private setting in your home or my office. I am available for individual counseling, dependency/custody cases and tribal court; services are available for all reservations.

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