



# The Seminole Tribune

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Li Cohen (2)

On left, Seminole Brighton Casino General Manager Marty Johns speaks to guests at the casino's grand opening of table games on Jan. 30. On right, President Mitchell Cypress, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger receive the first deal at the grand opening.

## Vacant Stone Beads building demolished

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The corner of Reservation and Harney Pond Roads was once the hub of Tribal activity in Brighton. A convenience store owned first by Ollie and Shula Jones and then by Joe Lester and Julie John stood at the prime location and was the only store on the res.

The abandoned concrete block structure was demolished Feb. 5.

Back in the 1960s the Tribe built convenience stores in Brighton and Big Cypress to serve the communities. Big Cypress Board Representative Joe Frank remembers them being sold to Tribal members Joe Osceola Sr. in Big Cypress and the Jones' in Brighton.

The Johns bought the store from Ollie Jones, Joe Lester's uncle, in the late 1970s and ran it until 1994. The family already had a smoke shop and convenience store in Hollywood called Stone Beads, so they changed the name of the Brighton store from OJ's to Stone Beads.

"It was convenient for the community," John said. "They could get cold drinks, the kids could get snacks and even SPD got gas there. The gas was the most convenient thing for the Tribe because they didn't have to go into town."

Okeechobee is about 30 miles away from the reservation and Beck's store on SR 78 in Lakeport didn't exist yet. Business was good during Stone Beads' heyday. Tourists came to buy cartons of cigarettes at a discount price and neighborhood kids came to play video games and hang out.

"During weekends they'd all crowd around the machines," John said. "We had to keep order."

Some of those kids cherish those memories today.

"They had arcade games and kids would bring in bottles for the few cents deposit and use that cash to play the games," said Marilyn Doney, who worked there when she was in high school in the 1980s.

"It was the only spot in town, like the Trading Post is today," said John Madrigal. "It had all the essentials."

The store employed a host of Tribal kids over the years.

"They were all very good workers and I'd like to thank every one of them for their service," John said.

♦ See STONE BEADS on page 4A

## Brighton casino deals out table games to community

BY LI COHEN  
Copy Editor

**BRIGHTON** — The year is off to a promising start for Brighton, as the Seminole Brighton Casino introduced live table games Jan. 30, a venture expected to increase patron experience and revenue.

The addition includes six tables in front of the casino's bar as well as screens for spectators to watch. At the opening, guests broke in the new seats and learned about blackjack and three card poker from the dealers after President Mitchell Cypress, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger were dealt the first hand. The grand opening concluded with a performance by Rat Pack Now, a Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. cover band as guests played blackjack and poker games.

Brighton Board Representative Larry Howard said that this gaming expansion 'was a long time coming' and that it will absolutely

provide an economic boost to the community.

"Today is a new era of life for us to broaden our endeavors. Bringing in blackjack and the other table games speaks volumes and it just shows we're making progress in the right direction," Rep. Howard said, adding that the best money people can get is a return on their investment. "With the council and what they're doing with the gaming folks, they're going in the right direction. It's a good thing for the Brighton community, too. Everybody always wants to play card games and now instead of going far, they can go right in their backyard. ... It's a great day for us all — for the Brighton community and for the Tribe."

According to the American Gaming Association, Florida's eight commercial casinos, which includes racetracks and jai alai frontons with slot machines but not Tribal-owned casinos, earned a gross gaming revenue of \$530.66 million in 2015. That same year, tribal casinos throughout 28 states in the U.S. earned a gross gaming revenue of \$29.9 billion, a 5 percent increase since 2014.

As of December 2017, Florida collected \$163.4 million in revenue from Indian gaming, more than a 141 percent increase from the previous year, according to Florida's Office of Economic and Demographic Research.

Even though Brighton houses one of the Tribe's smaller casinos, Rep. Howard said that progress Seminole Gaming has made over the past few years has made it a top competitor.

"I call the other competitors big dogs and we're like the little Chihuahua, but we're a little Chihuahua with a big bite," he said.

Marty Johns, general manager at Seminole Brighton Casino, got emotional during the grand opening as he acknowledged the support and assistance from his coworkers to make the casino continually advance. He explained that throughout the time he's been

at the casino, he and his team have maintained a standard method that has proved successful time and time again.

"We multitask and when we run into issues that need to be fixed, we investigate it and talk about it and put a plan together," he said, thanking his team and his wife Kim, who despite battling and eventually beating cancer this past year, continuously supported him.

Jim Allen, Seminole Gaming CEO and chairman of Hard Rock International, explained that the grand opening for table games at the casino marked an 'amazing and legendary day for the Tribe.'

"What's really touching to me is the emotion Marty [Johns] is outreach to all of us. It's been a long journey since I've come to work for the Tribe and to see this facility grow in a way that's so historic is something that's very important," he said. "On a percentage basis, since I've been working for the Tribe since 2001, the highest percentage of growth is here at the Brighton Casino."

♦ See CASINO on page 4A

## Wildland firefighters from Indian Country train in BC, Brighton

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Forestry firefighters fight fire with fire to prevent large wildfires from spreading out of control. Wildland firefighters from all over Indian Country have been busy setting fires in Big Cypress and Brighton to practice their skills and learn new ones.

The program began in 1994 when Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank was the Bureau of Indian Affairs Forester and it has continued ever since. The program this year started in early January and will continue with training groups through April. The firefighters, who stay for 14 days at a time, work under the auspices of the Tribe's forestry department and use reservation land as their classroom.

"Wildland fire positions are based on tasks completed," said Grant Steelman, forester/fire management officer. "They work through task books to show proficiency. Individuals are working to fulfill their task books and at the same time just being part of our program while they are here."

Some of the task books being worked on include engine boss, firing boss, prescribed fire burn boss and plastic sphere dispenser

operator.

Steelman had about 70 applicants for the 30 to 36 positions in the program. On Feb. 1, 16 firefighters from the Crow, Navajo, Gros Ventre, San Carlos Apache, Rosebud Sioux, Yankton Sioux and Ute Mountain Tribes joined the Seminole forestry department to burn 2,000 acres of underbrush in Big Cypress. Most were ground crews who burned a "black line" clear of vegetation to contain the flames, but an aviation detail was charged with igniting most of the acreage from a helicopter.

"The objective is to reduce the fine fuels and help prevent a wildfire," Steelman said. "We're trying to knock that back so if we do have a wildfire it will have less intensity and cause fewer problems for Tribal members."

Fine fuels include pine and cypress needles. The crew had previously completed prescribed burns from the ground in BC and experienced the speed and intensity of those fuels. The Tribe's forestry division tries to burn about one-third of native area vegetation in BC every year.

Members of the helicopter crew, who were working on their plastic sphere dispenser operator training task books, communicated with the ground crews and planned to drop a few thousand small plastic spheres over

the area. The spheres are filled with ethylene glycol, similar to antifreeze, and take 5 to 10 seconds to ignite after hitting the ground. It was the first aerial ignition burn attempted in the program.

"This is another tool for us to use," said Brandon Spencer of the Gros Ventre Tribe in Montana. "It's a necessity in my job."

Spencer works with the BIA in the Rocky Mountain Region as an assistant helicopter manager. He oversees a staff of seven, runs the day to day operations, assesses fires, protects property and keeps the public safe. Montana's dry season runs from late July through September.

Natalie Lynch of the Navajo Tribe is an assistant helicopter manager for the Navajo Region of the BIA with 19 years of experience who hoped to increase her knowledge.

"This will make it a lot faster, more efficient and safer for the people on the ground," Lynch said. "It would take seven days for ground crews to do what we can do in an afternoon. The training will really help us when we have large fires."

The Navajo reservation, which is comprised of 17 million acres in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, has about seven million acres of commercial timber and 10 million acres of mixed trees and sagebrush.



Beverly Bidney

Clint Smith and Joshua Hanks, of Montana, use hand tools to contain the fire and put out any errant flames as they work to create a line with no foliage in Big Cypress. A 2,000-acre parcel underwent a prescribed burn by firefighters from around Indian Country Feb. 1.

♦ See FIREFIGHTERS on page 4A

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# Editorial



## Teach Native American history in schools

• **Delphine Red Shirt, Argus Leader**

Recently, a state panel rejected the requirement to teach South Dakota Native American history, according to a local newspaper. In a state where the drop-out rate is 50 percent among Native American students, this is very discouraging.

What would it take to teach Native American history? A text book and an instructor willing to teach it. How difficult can that be?

The House Education Committee in the state of South Dakota through an 8-4 vote rejected House Bill 1253; which would have required public schools to provide instruction on Native American history, culture and government. When HB1253 was first introduced on Jan. 31, 2018, it was referred to the Committee on Education, it was scheduled for a hearing on Feb. 7 and then deferred by the chairman to Feb. 12, when it fell short of the votes needed.

Mary Stadick Smith, South Dakota Department of Education, urged the group to go slowly forward in direct opposition to what the Democratic representative from Mission, Shawn Bordeaux, emphasized in introducing the bill. As in the past, at the state

level, politicians use complexity by blaming the system to achieve nothing.

Currently, the state, along with Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Oklahoma and Arizona, is considering banning public school teaching on gender identity in elementary and middle schools. An issue is teaching students early on the importance of treating others with respect regarding gender identity, defined as an individual's inner sense of their gender.

Asking the Committee on Education to include the history of tribal peoples appears less controversial. Although both issues hinge on respect for others.

At the minimum, what the Lakota/Dakota/Nakota people in the state want is a comprehensive introductory Native American History course. There are many textbooks out there. There are now many graduates from strong Native American Studies programs from universities throughout the nation, who are returning to the state and are able to teach. It is not a difficult proposition.

By making it complex, saying there is already an Oceci Sakowin website and a state government board aligned tribal standards and social studies standards; and yet, another group assigned to coordinate tribal standards, Stadick Smith seemingly gives the run-around to those from Native American communities who are just asking for a Native American history course to be taught. Isn't

history currently being taught to children in the state?

How difficult is it to include Native American/Lakota/Dakota/Nakota history in the present system? A textbook, an instructor, and educators willing to teach truth.

However, including history along with culture is a fundamental error. If you are going to teach culture, you need to teach the Lakota/Dakota/Nakota language. The two cannot be separated.

By asking for the teaching of tribal history, the solution would be to use the current state standards in teaching American History but include Native American history. Perhaps the fear is that it would make Lakota/Dakota/Nakota people angry? Native American history is not just the Lakota/Dakota/Nakota people but all indigenous peoples whose homelands are within the current borders of the United States. It is a rich history that would teach children, especially in the state of South Dakota, how fortunate they are; to see and witness the on-going struggles of the Lakota/Dakota/Nakota people who gave up whole territories for state and nationhood.

*Delphine Red Shirt is a Native American author and educator, who is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation.*

## 'Wind River' tells the story of a bigger issue in Indian Country

• **Aaron Tommie**



"Wind River" was one of the most powerful films that I watched last year. With a star-studded cast, it tells the story of a missing Arapaho woman found dead under mysterious circumstances. Although it is not based on actual events, the film shares problems prevalent in Indian Country that include isolation, substance abuse, suicide, and most

notably, sexual abuse. In the wake of sexual harassment allegations that have shaken the entertainment industry, "Wind River" extends the public conversation concerning sexual abuse being not only a drastic issue in Indian Country, but throughout society as a whole.

Sexual abuse is defined as any form of abuse that involves sexual activity. This issue really touches my heart because I have encountered a number of people who were sexually abused throughout their lives, some who I am really close to. Pain echoes through the victims' voices when they recount their experiences involving abuse. Their stories are laced with a myriad of emotions that make it difficult to not be empathetic at the very least. Seeing people conquer and heal from those wounds caused by sexual abuse bring an indescribable joy.

The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) is the largest organization against sexual violence in the nation and has helped more than 2.5 million people through its sexual assault hotline.

RAINN's website states that approximately 69 percent of people sexually abused are under the age of 34.

Additionally, more than 320,000 people aged 12 and older are sexually assaulted annually, according to RAINN, and Native Americans are twice as likely to be sexually abused than any other race. Victims are usually family members, acquaintances and other people their abusers may closely know. Females account for the majority of sexually abused victims, and sexually abusers are usually males.

Some common signs of sexual abuse are self-injury, excessive baths, bruises around

the genitals, withdrawal from people, and a decrease in intimacy. Signs of children who have been sexually abused are that they might urinate in their beds, exhibit mature sexual behaviors, develop a bad self-image and become easily irritable. If we see the signs of sexual abuse, if damage had taken place, further damage can be prevented if signs of sexual abuse are identified in its earlier stages. When I was in high school, one of my close classmates told me that he strongly contemplated suicide because he felt as if he did not matter. I talked to him and told him that he was valued more than he knew. He never committed suicide and I later found out that my words had a positive effect on that decision.

Many victims do not report cases of sexual abuse. Unfortunately, just 1 out of 3 cases of sexual assaults are reported to police. Since only 0.6 percent of sexual abusers are incarcerated, some victims may feel as if police are incapable of helping them and consequently do not notify them. There are also other victims who cite retaliation from their abusers as another reason for unreported cases.

Victims who do not receive professional help through methods such as therapy and group counseling can have lifelong damage that can lead to severe anxiety, depression, eating disorders and substance abuse. Resources are readily available to help combat this societal issue. We all know of someone who has been through sexual abuse of some kind. It is during those times when support is needed most.

*If you or someone you know of has been a victim of sexual abuse, contact one of the following for help.*

**National Sexual Assault Hotline**  
rainn.org/get-help  
1-800-656-4674

**STOF Center for Behavior Health**  
(954) 964-6338

**STOF Children Center for Diagnostics and Therapy**  
(954) 663-5645

*Aaron Tommie has worked for the Tribe since 2015. He is a participant in the Tribe's Advanced Career Development program. He is currently working in the Executive Operations Office.*

## Boulder's indigenous community says city's deeds don't match words

• **Editorial Board, Daily Camera**

As we learn that the city of Boulder has been added to the miles-long list of those who have broken promises to Native Americans, we barely raise an eyebrow. Beginning with the U.S. Supreme Court case *McIntosh v. Johnson*, in 1823, where the court created the Discovery Doctrine of land ownership by ruling that "Indians" couldn't retain rights to land once the new white settlers discovered it, Native Americans have repeatedly drawn the short straw in a legal system designed to benefit only the white man.

It took a landmark case by the Supreme Court, after many years of effort, to establish the notion that early treaties between governments and tribes are not merely historical documents to peer at in a glass case but are in fact current enforceable contracts.

While it makes sense from a safety standpoint that open fires can pose a danger in a city neighborhood, accommodations must be provided. City Council seems sincere about the need to make some changes that will benefit our indigenous neighbors, including redrafting the 2002 agreement about the use of open space.

It makes no sense that Christians, in the name of religious liberty, can refuse to provide birth control to their employees or critical medical care to their patients that will impact millions of others regardless of their beliefs, but Native Americans cannot gather together on their ancient sacred sites to practice their religious ceremonies without jumping through bureaucratic hoops.

Local legend has it that Chief Niwot is buried under Haystack Mountain. Legend also has it that I shot a birdie on the seventh hole. Less mysterious is this current clash of conflicting orthodoxies: The Native Americans want to celebrate their religion with sacred ceremonies and the Boulder bureaucrats want to worship their religion, the regulatory state.

Can't we find a few acres of open space where such ceremonies can be held? It's not like they want to ride e-bikes with their unleashed dogs running wild on the land where their forefathers once lived.

Native Americans caught heat for celebrating on Valmont Butte too, a sacred Native American burial ground in the 1800s. Maybe they were unaware that in 1971, city officials decided to bury tons of radioactive soil in the butte that had been excavated from — what else — an affordable housing project the city was building downtown. No wonder

the indigenous people can't identify with us privileged white folk.

I have about as much Native American blood in my veins as Ward Churchill and Elizabeth Warren combined, which is to say probably none, however I am sympathetic to cultural sensitivities. Couldn't they have found a different day and not insulted the memory of the intrepid Italian immigrants who worked Boulder County's mines in the 1800s?

The city leaders' attempt to be more "inclusive" alienated some of the very people they were trying to embrace, which for the City Council is par for the course.

Here's a brief rundown of the history of the land of present-day Boulder and the city's relationship to indigenous people:

7000 BC - 1851 AD: Many peoples, beginning with Paleo-Indians, traveled or settled the area.

1851: The Horse Creek Treaty identified present-day Boulder as Arapaho land while permitting European settlers to travel through.

1858: Unwelcome gold seekers arrived in Sunshine Canyon.

1859: Gold was found in Boulder Creek.

1861: The Fort Wise Treaty assigned Boulder to the settlers and reassigned Arapaho and Cheyenne people to southeastern Colorado.

2002: The city of Boulder issued a memorandum of understanding indicating that specific tribes could use open space ceremoniously.

The 2002 memorandum of understanding requires permitting for temporary structures and contains a clause directing the city to deny a permit for a ceremony that "conflicts with the City Charter and ordinances." This reads as "no special privileges for indigenous people." Approximately 1,000 members of indigenous tribes live in Boulder County today. Since these people cannot easily practice customs and religions from their culture, revisiting the memorandum is warranted. If the memorandum actually is functioning as it is intended (that is, not at all), then it needs to be rewritten.

2016: The city of Boulder declared Indigenous Peoples Day to "forge a path forward to address the past and continuing harm to the Indigenous People and the land."

Yet again, Boulder is happy to talk the talk, and reluctant to walk it.

What the white man did to the native population in the 19th century was terrible. If the Sand Creek massacre happened today, there would be serious repercussions. However, we seem to forget historical context. The 19th century was a time of Manifest Destiny, when the United States was expanding, and white people were taking land. Should we give it all back? I don't think

so.

We should do everything possible to make life easier for those that live on reservations, make it easy for those who want to leave, and make sure that Native Americans are treated well. Do we need to amend our laws so that a small group of people can celebrate in the way they like, whether or not it is offensive to neighbors? I think not.

Many, if not most, of the tribes listed in the memorandum of understanding never lived in the Boulder area. Let indigenous people find a place for their celebrations. Let them apply for permits to celebrate, as long as they tell the neighbors and don't bang their drums excessively. Let them erect a tipi or a sweat lodge and go to it every few days to worship, just as other religions do with their houses of worship. But not in their back yards, or on open space.

Should we apologize for the Sand Creek Massacre? By all means. But we can't turn the clock back 150 years.

Changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day seemed like an easy decision to make. Even though my father's family emigrated from Italy, I have no love for Christopher Columbus. I am ashamed of the genocide that was committed by the settlers that followed. Now I wonder, is Indigenous Peoples Day a convenient way to assuage our guilt and allow us to feel we are doing something good?

Declaring a holiday, signing a letter of understanding with no follow-through, granting limited access to land; these are hollow words and meaningless deeds without concrete action. It follows the playbook from the founding fathers through to today. It isn't harmless if it obscures the reality of persistent racism and discrimination.

Maybe it is time to pay reparations. Let's deed a parcel of open space over to a tribe or a Native American entity with the express purpose of allowing them to be fully in charge of the activities on their land. Returning some of the land would be more than a gesture.

Also, our schools should teach local history. My children spent way more time learning about the Mayans than they did learning about the Cheyenne or the Arapaho tribes. I did not know that Chief Niwot was killed in the Sand Creek Massacre. Boulder could teach the real history and how we tried to repair some of the damage that was done.

We should stop the cycle of broken promises and empty gestures.

*The Camera's editorial advisory board members are: Mara Abbott, Judy Amabile, Rett Ertl, Michelle Estrella, Fern O'Brien, Cha Cha Spinrad, Alan Stark, John Tweedy, Chuck Wibby and Don Wrege. (Ed Byrne and Steve Fisher are emeritus members.)*

## How many more need to die? It's time to ban the AR-15 assault weapon

• **Levi Rickert, Native News Online**

As I re-entered the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 14, the "Breaking News" red-and-white banner caught my eye on the large-screened television. There were images of students running and law enforcement taking position outside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Someone in the hotel lobby crowd remarked, "Another school shooting."

Later in the afternoon noon I received updates via emails that said there were 17 killed and 15 another injured. Of the dead were 14 students and three were on staff as coaches or teachers.

The weapon used was an AR-15 assault weapon.

Far too often the common denominator in mass killings in the United States is the assault weapon.

It is time for Americans to ask the question, "What does allowing citizens to own assault weapons have to do with the second amendment that allows for citizens the right to bear arms?"

Citizens cannot own nuclear weapons. Why should they be able to own assault

weapons?

The argument goes that guns don't kill people, people do. Assault weapons allow a person to kill many people in a matter of seconds. Why does any average U.S. citizen have to kill a dozen people in a matter of seconds?

As an American Indian, I know America was built on violence. America was conceived in bloodshed. As an American Indian, I remember that some 300 American Indian men, women and children killed at Wounded Knee, as I remember those killed at the high school in Parkland. As an American Indian, I remember that some 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho were killed at Sand Creek, Colorado, as I pray for the families of those who lost loved ones in Parkland.

It is time to pray for the United States of America. How many more need to die? It's time to ban the AR-15 assault weapon.

*Levi Rickert, a tribal citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, is the publisher and editor of Native News Online. Previously, he served as editor of the Native News Network. He is a resident of Grand Rapids, Michigan.*

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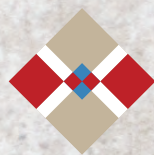
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If you would like to request a reporter or would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem, please contact Senior Editor Kevin Johnson at 954-985-5701 ext. 10715

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# Community



## Naples community can can vegetables

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Reporter

**NAPLES** — About a dozen members of the Naples community went back in time for a couple of days as they canned vegetables the old fashioned way.

Crates of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, onions, watermelons, and pinto and garbanzo beans fresh from the Immokalee farmers market filled the Juanita Osceola Center Feb. 12 and 13. Boxes of Mason jars, large pots of simmering water, knives, cutting boards and other tools of the trade were at the ready to make shelf-stable food from the fresh produce.

Last year the canning class was a big hit, so Naples Community Education Outreach Coordinator Sandra Osceola brought it back due to popular demand. Osceola's daughters Jessica Osceola, Karie Gamez and Marissa Marie Osceola were among those who requested the class.

"This was the only way we got our vegetables as kids," said Sandra Osceola. "We are trying to bring the farm to table

movement home. This is something to involve the community, it's something anyone can come to and be together."

This year the group also made sweet pickled watermelon rind, onion relish and bread and butter pickles. But the first day was all about tomatoes.

Using the water bath method of canning, participants used their own recipes to make jars of tomato sauce specific to their taste. Some were plain, others had a kick. Personalized ingredients in their sauces included items such as garlic, onions, herbs, seasonings, jalapeno, habanero or Italian hot peppers, brown sugar, salt, pepper and more.

There was plenty of warm conversation among the steaming pots of water. Everyone in the room was busy shucking, blanching, peeling, chopping and filling those jars. Once the sterilized jars were filled, they cooked in the water bath for about 45 minutes. The pressure from the cooking vacuum seals the lids, which keeps the food fresh for up to a year.



Beverly Bidney  
Blanched plum tomatoes are carefully placed in sterile jars along with vegetables and seasoning.



Beverly Bidney  
Pedro and Karie Gamez, on left, blanch and peel plum tomatoes for canning as Christina Billie tends to hers, which are already in the jars during the Feb. 12 Naples community canning class.

## Jessica Osceola designs for children's clothing line

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Reporter

**NAPLES** — When Jessica Osceola was a child, she wanted to be a fashion designer. Since then her path has been a creative one; she is an artist and sculptor who has shown



Beverly Bidney  
Jessica Osceola with her son Joaquin McKinley-Osceola who is wearing the Tea Collection hoodie made from her patchwork patterned fabric.

her work at galleries and Art Basel in Miami Beach and is a ceramics professor at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Osceola's childhood dream is now fulfilled with her contribution to the spring 2018 line of the Tea Collection, a San Francisco based children's clothing company. She and three other Native American artists

contributed designs for the Native Artists collection, including designs from Gregory Lomayeva, Hopi, Benjamin Harjo Jr., Shawnee-Seminole, Martha Berry, Cherokee.

Before agreeing to participate in the line, Osceola had many conversations with the company and was convinced it would treat the Tribe's art and culture with respect.

"I wanted it to be a celebration of culture and art," Osceola said about her patchwork design for the clothing.

"Patchwork isn't something I created; it belongs to the culture, not to each individual who creates it. I

wanted to make sure they weren't exploiting the culture."

Since its inception in 2002, Tea Collection has created clothing lines based on cultures around the world. The company contributes a portion of online sales to the Global Fund for Children and supports its mission of advancing the dignity of children and youth worldwide.

Osceola sent the company a patchwork sample and a sketch, from which they made the fabric they can use for up to two years. She also had made the final decision on what pieces were to be produced. The fashions include two girls' dresses, a baby mini dress, a long sleeve hoodie and leggings for girls and babies. The line launched in January and will be available until it sells out.

"This is the first time they have done North American Native Americans," Osceola said. "By collaborating with the company, they aren't stealing it."

Osceola is aware that other designers, such as Donna Karan and the store Anthropologie, have taken Native American designs and used them without permission from or acknowledgement of the Tribes. During her Art Basel show in 2012 she displayed a sculpture titled "Not Yours, Not Ours, Not for Sale" as a protest against the trend of the fashion industry's "Tribal inspiration." The ceramic sculpture featured legs protruding from a Donna Karan shopping bag.

Growing up in a traditional village, Osceola was surrounded by family and loved those moments when women gathered to cook over the open flame, sew together or style each other's hair in traditional ways.

"The most important message is that patchwork is about the community," Osceola said. "The things that inspire me are right here in this group with these ladies sewing, our kids being here."

Tea Collection is sold in boutiques around the country and can be purchased from its website, [teacollection.com](http://teacollection.com).

## Coconut Creek Casino names TCD graduate Neil Baxley Director of Slot Operations

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**COCONUT CREEK** – Neil Baxley has been promoted to Director of Slot Operations at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek, where he is the highest ranking team member who is also a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Baxley joined Seminole Casino Coconut Creek as Assistant Director of Slot Operations in 2016. He is a graduate of Seminole Gaming's Tribal Career Development Program (TCD), which recruits and cross-trains members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida to become future leaders of Seminole Gaming. A graduate of the Excellence in Leadership Program of Seminole Gaming, Baxley previously was manager of Seminole Casino Big Cypress. He has also worked at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood and Seminole Classic Casino Hollywood.

Baxley was born and raised on the Brighton Seminole Reservation. He is a graduate of ITT Technical Institute, formerly of Fort Lauderdale, with a degree in electronics.

In addition to his duties as Director of Slot Operations, Baxley is an unofficial ambassador of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Seminole Casino Coconut Creek. He works to recruit other members of the Seminole Tribe to participate in the Tribal Career Development Program while also serving as a role model for them to follow.

"Tribal members can't see

behind the scenes at the casinos and they have no idea what goes on day-to-day," said Baxley, who also enjoys sharing the culture and history of the Seminole Tribe with other team members at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek. "What the Tribe has done for our team members, including providing jobs for so many people, makes me feel good."

An avid fan of the Miami Dolphins and season ticketholder, Baxley is also a frequent visitor to Walt Disney World, where he vacations with his family.



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## ◆ STONE BEADS From page 1A

Diane Smith worked at the store when it was OJ's. Lewis Gopher remembers when the John family lived in a trailer behind the store.

When the Johns bought the store, they already had the store in Hollywood, the city where their children already attended school. That meant a long commute for John until she found some reliable employees. By 1980, the family put a trailer on the site and moved in full time. Hurricane Jeanne took the trailer in 2004.

Joe Lester, who passed away in 2012, was a consummate businessman. In addition to the Stone Beads stores, he was a real estate agent for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, planted orange groves on the reservation and bought land in Lake Placid to start the Stone Beads ranch. The Hollywood store and the ranch are still operated by the family.

"The store was good for us," John said. "It was a very profitable business. My daughters [Joletta and Jill] and son [Shawn] grew up here and had the means to keep up

with their friends socially."

When Shawn graduated high school, went to college and competed in rodeos it was difficult for John to run the store, so they closed it. The opening of Beck's, and the competition it brought, may have contributed to that decision. Eventually they gave the building back to the Tribe.

The future for the site is unclear, but there could be plenty of Tribal members who would like to create their own business there. Jaryaca Baker would like to take her business management degree and put it to good use with a small grocery store and/or restaurant she would build from the ground up. She is working on a business plan to present to the Tribal Council.

"Everyone drives by there," Baker said. "I don't have to start with something huge, I just have to start. This is the year I do something. I have a son now and have to show him what hard work and perseverance is."

John drove by the site and saw the pile of rubble that used to be Stone Beads just a few hours after it was demolished.

"It made me a little sad, but it brought back some wonderful memories," she said.



The Stone Beads building, which has stood on the Brighton site since the 1960s, is demolished by an excavator Feb. 5.



Beverly Bidney (2)

## ◆ FIREFIGHTERS From page 1A

More than half of the land is arid, desert climate with fires most common from May to mid-July.

Randy Pretty-on-Top of the Crow Tribe in Montana has been a wildland firefighter for more than 50 years and has trained with the Seminole forestry firefighters for 24 years. He serves as a facilitator, mentor and coach for the firefighters in the program.

"I know a few things," Pretty-on-Top said. "I hope they will get the experience to become qualified to be firing and fire bosses so they can move further in prescribed burning operations on their own reservations."

All of the visiting firefighters have terrain completely unlike Florida's and most were glad to have a few days of warm weather.

"Things burn when they are green here," said Joshua Hanks of the Crow Tribe, who works for the BIA's the Rocky Mountain Region. "But the fire challenges are the same as anywhere; to stay within the parameters of the burn."

The day began with a briefing led by burn boss Tanya Albert of the Southern Paiute Tribe. She began with the weather report and forecast and then described the area of the burn on a map. The responsibilities of the burn boss include safety of the crew, burning a small test fire and determining if it is safe to burn the rest of the 2,000 acres.

"After we light the test fire, we see how fast it spreads, the flame length and height and the rate of spread," said Albert. "If it's good to go, I tell them to ignite the rest. Safety is our first priority."

She gave the go-ahead to ignite at 11:35 a.m. The firefighters on foot and in a buggy slowly made their way deep into the woods, igniting a row of flames along the way. The flames spread quickly and a few firefighters helped keep it contained with hand tools, thus creating a line devoid of fuel called a blackline. A flock of wood storks hovered over the area, hoping for an easy meal of large fleeing insects.

There were no strong winds and thick smoke filled the woods. Pretty-on-Top put his finger up in the air.

"Listen to the wind, it'll tell you things," he said.

Brittany Iron Shell of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, walked at the front of the line with a can of fuel setting fires with every step. The heat of the flames and the smoke didn't deter her.

"It's a lot different than the grasslands at home," said Iron Shell, who works at the BIA's Winnebago Agency in Nebraska. "This is a great opportunity to transition from a hand crew to engine boss and prescribed fire burn boss."

Clint Smith of the Crow Tribe in Montana stayed at the rear of the fire to tamp down and put out any wayward flames. He adjusted easily to the weather, but moving through the BC woods was a new experience for him.

"This land is flat, I'm used to steep

mountain terrain," said Smith. "The vegetation here is super thick, like a jungle."

William Hensley of the San Carlos Apache Tribe in New Mexico was working on his engine boss task book. He has 13 seasons of experience in Arizona, Montana and the recent fires in northern California.

"Our main goal is to save people and their houses," he said. "When you can't succeed, it takes a big toll on them."

A few days after this group's training, an actual wildfire erupted in BC. It was small, only 7 to 10 acres, and didn't affect any homes. Although the firefighters in the program traveled home early due to the brief

federal government shutdown, a group of six women from the Prescribed Fire Training Center in Tallahassee were working in Big Cypress Preserve at the time and helped extinguish the fire.

"The fire helped address a hazardous fuel buildup that had been identified as a containment problem last year, but the program did not make it to that location to conduct fuel treatment work [prescribed fire or mechanical]," Steelman said. "The fire and resulting prescribed fire burn out operation helped in reducing Wind Clan and Farmer roads wildfire risk during the upcoming wildfire season."



Beverly Bidney

Brittany Iron Shell, of South Dakota, monitors the fire she started Feb. 1 as part of a black line operation in Big Cypress. Native American firefighters came from all over the country to train with the Tribe's forestry department.



Beverly Bidney

Syr Johnathan Duncan, of Nashville, Tanya Albert, of Utah, and Randy Pretty on Top, of Montana, observe the fire they set in Big Cypress to start a 2,000-acre prescribed burn.

## ◆ CASINO From page 1A

Johns said that he plans for that growth to continue.

Currently, the table games are not budgeted for with revenue and expenses because the fiscal year began in October, but they will be accounted for next year. Even though there is not a set number to the expected revenue, Johns is sure that it will have a positive impact with the latest gaming addition.

"What we're finding is that a lot of people who wouldn't come here before are now saying since this casino is closer they're going to come see us," he said, explaining that most local people would travel farther away to take part in table games.

If the table games do benefit the casino fiscally, Johns' next goal is to create a more resort-like environment by adding a hotel. Although he's wanted to add a hotel for approximately 17 years, he says that now "it may be on the horizon."



Li Cohen

From left, Big Cypress resident Charlotte Tommie and Brighton residents Rita Youngman and Mable Tichenor learn the rules of Blackjack at the grand opening of table games at the Brighton casino Jan. 30.

# Brighton RV Resort revels in busy season

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — All it takes is a drive to the Brighton Trading Post to see things are hopping at the adjacent RV Resort. A sea of recreational vehicles, boats and bikes have filled the 56-pad park to capacity.

"It's our second year in a row that we're full," said Darcey Barrows, Trading Post general manager. "We have people from all over — New York, Illinois, Indiana, Alaska, Canada. They come for the quiet; they love it."

Many are repeat customers and are already making reservations for next year. Season is from November through March and most customers stay for two to five months. The main attraction is fishing, but some also go to the casino daily.

"They come here because it's just nice," said Jodi King, campground supervisor.

This year is Gary Johnson and Mike Howard's second at the RV Resort. The Portsmouth, Ohio residents like the size of

the campsites and that they aren't too close together.

"They have a lot of room," said Johnson. "We came here to fish and there's room to back your boat in next to your camper. We plan to come back."

Paul and Rose Davy, from Nashville, Tennessee have children in South Florida and wanted to stay in the Okeechobee area. It's their first time at the RV Resort and they will stay for two months.

"God led us here," Rose said. "It's a nice set up and they have good prices. It's peaceful, clean and the people are friendly. I feel healthier here, I like the nature. We'll stay for three months next year."

Wendell Webb, of Hell, Michigan, arrived in November, will stay until March and plans to come back next year. He has friends in Fort Myers and Melbourne, so the location is perfect for him.

"It's quiet, the people are nice and they really take care of you here," Webb said. "I like the wildlife and the kayaking. We feel fortunate to get a nice place like this."



Beverly Bidney

Mike Howard and Gary Johnson are glad to have space for the boat right next to their recreational vehicle at the Brighton RV Resort Feb. 5, which is filled with campers from all over North America.

# Cattle head for the hills at Smith Family Cattle Drive

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — At the 6th annual Smith Family Cattle Drive Jan. 27, which honors the family patriarchs' contributions to the Tribe in the cattle industry and public service, about 100 family, friends and community members aimed to move a herd of 30 steer about six miles from the Brighton Marsh Pens to the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

Brighton Board Representative Larry Howard, a longtime supporter of the event, was the honorary Trail Boss.

"It means a lot that the family chose me," Rep. Howard said. "I've known all of the individuals in the family. The Smith family has meant a lot to the community and many were representatives, councilmen and even President. They took the time to serve their reservation and people respect them for it."

Four generations of the Smith family attended the event, which was organized by Diane Smith, Roger Smith's widow, with plenty of help from the rest of the family.

The surviving children of Jack Smith Sr. and Roger Smith's siblings — Jack Jr., Nellie Smith, Oneva Baxley, Linda Tommie and Mahala Madrigal — are all involved in the cattle industry and the cattle drive. Their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren participated in the annual event.



The 6th annual Smith Family Cattle Drive, led by honorary Trail Boss and Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, makes its way through Brighton pastures. The participants in the drive aimed to move the herd of 30 cattle from the Marsh Pens to the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena on Jan. 27.

But the cattle drive hit a speedbump about halfway to the destination. The yearling steers bolted in different directions near the Red Barn. Most ran into nearby woods and were recovered easily. A few others ran across a bridge, down a road and into more woods. One jumped into a wide canal and started swimming.

"The steers were a little crazy today," said Diane Smith. "These animals weren't used to being in a cattle drive." Most of the ATV drivers and horseback riders in the cattle drive anticipated a leisurely ride to the rodeo arena, as has been the case for the previous five years. But the ruckus of the escaped bovines caused these cowboys and

cowgirls to use their rodeo skills to find and capture the four-legged fugitives.

Jason Baker roped one escapee on the far side of the canal and, with the help of Daniel Rodriguez and Clint Bowers, tied its legs together and waited for a cattle trailer to retrieve it. Not quite a rodeo event since nobody kept time, but the skills they used were the same.

Of the five animals that ran away from the herd, three were caught quickly, one was lost in the woods and one drowned in the canal.

"They got hot and took off because of the heat stress," said Bobby Yates, natural resources cattle foreman and last year's honorary trail boss. "I've seen animals behave this way, it's just part of it. They are living, breathing creatures and have minds of their own."

After the excitement died down and everyone made it to the rodeo grounds, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and Rep. Howard addressed the crowd.

"Today isn't about titles; I'm a family member," said Osceola, who is married to Roger and Diane Smith's daughter Trisha. "Just being here and keeping the memories alive means a lot to the family."

Howard has also participated in the cattle drive every year since its inception in 2013.

"This one had the most excitement I've seen," Howard said. "This is something the brothers would have liked. I'll continue to do this as long as I can get up on a horse."

The Smith Family Ranch Rodeo, which took place later that day and the next, was sanctioned for the first time this year. It took a few years of effort to get qualified by the Florida Cattlemen's Association, but now, rodeo participants earn points toward the Florida Ranch Rodeo Finals to be held in September.

The ranch rodeo featured 13 teams from throughout Florida who competed in events tied closely to the work they do on the ranch every day. Teams of four men and one woman vied to be the best in stray gathering, trailer loading, team branding, team sorting and ranch bronc riding competitions. The overall winner was the team from HA Bar in Venus.



Left, Jason Baker ropes a steer that escaped from the herd during the cattle drive. Below, some of Brighton's littlest cowfolk prepare for the annual event. From left are Benjamin Smith, 6, Camelia Grzech, 4, Dahlia Grzech, 7 and Jaxson Grzech, 6.



# Tribe observes moment of silence for MSD victims

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

The Seminole Tribe of Florida observed a moment of silence Feb. 15 at 10:15 a.m. following the Feb. 14 tragedy involving a mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland that left 17 students, faculty and staff dead. In an email to the Tribal community and employees, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. asked for a moment of reflection and respect for the victims.

"It is with a heavy heart that I request this moment of silence today," Chairman

Osceola said in a statement. "Words cannot express the tremendous grief our nation is experiencing over the tragedy that occurred Feb. 14. As a community, we are stunned. We mourn the tragic loss of lives and injuries, and our deepest sympathies go out to the victims, their families and friends. We commend the heroic actions and courage of the rescue workers, volunteers and investigators."

Chairman Osceola ordered flags to be placed at half-mast in respect for the victims.



Kevin Johnson

The flags in front of the Hollywood Headquarters Building were lowered to half mast to honor the victims of the Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL.

# How to address an active shooter situation

SUBMITTED BY SEMINOLE TRIBE PUBLIC SAFETY

Unfortunately active shooters are becoming more prevalent in today's society than they have in the past. Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. It is very important for people of all ages to know how to properly react to these events. Seminole Police Department teaches the Run, Hide, Fight method.

**Run** – If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises. Warn other individuals that may be unaware of the situation and help others escape if you are able. Call 911 when it is safe to do so.

**Hide** – If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you. Attempt to lock or barricade doors or other entrances with heavy furniture or objects. Remain quiet and turn off lights in the room and make sure phones are turned to silent. Stay away from windows. Hiding behind large items can help protect you from gunfire.

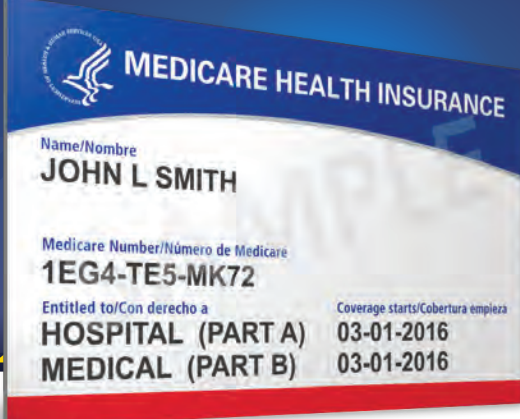
**Fight** – As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter. Look around your location for objects you can use to incapacitate the shooter. Work

together as a group and be aggressive. When possible, provide the following information to law enforcement officers or 911 operators:

- Location of the active shooters
- Number of shooters
- Physical description of the shooters
- Number and type of weapons used by shooters
- Number of potential victims at the location

Individuals typically do not just "snap," but display indicators of potentially violent behavior over time. If these behaviors are recognized, they can often be managed and treated. Indicators of potentially violent behavior by an individual may include:

- Depression/withdrawal
- Repeated violations of rules or policies
- Explosive outbursts of anger or rage without provocation
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- Escalation of domestic problems
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- Talk of previous incidents of violence.



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

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# Two-Spirit couple competes in Sweetheart's Special

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Sean Snyder and Adrian Matthias Stevens have been dancing since they could walk; Snyder is a men's fancy dancer and Stevens is a grass dancer. "We are both just natural dancers," said Stevens, who is Northern Ute, Shoshone-Bannock and San Carlos Apache. "We were raised in the pow wow world and people know our values and traditions. They watched us grow up and watched over us."

The couple put together a winning routine using both dance styles and came in second in the Sweetheart's Special Feb. 10 at the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow. Snyder and Stevens were well-received by the audience and other dancers.

"It's kind of like a redemption for us," Stevens said, referring to the last pow wow in which they competed.

Salt Lake City residents Snyder and Stevens were disqualified for being a same sex couple when they danced in the Sweetheart's Special at the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians pow wow in October 2017 in San Bernardino, California.

"There were three groups of about a dozen couples each," Stevens said. "The couples that were there were so excited for us, wanted us out there and supported us. The committee wasn't as progressive as the rest of California."

"It was a difficult situation," added Snyder, who is Navajo and Southern Ute. "We went out and competed and we weren't part of the finalists. We knew we could do better, but we didn't know we were disqualified. A reporter from powwows.com interviewed us. The committee told the reporter we were disqualified, but they never told us."

According to a statement from the San Manuel Pow Wow, the couple wasn't truthful about the gender of each dancer on the application form.

"The San Manuel Pow Wow competition rules state clearly that being less than truthful when entering any of our competitions will disqualify any participant. This couple misrepresented themselves as a man/woman couple to enter the contest, thereby were dismissed from competition when this misrepresentation was discovered. The same sex couple would have been ineligible to be in the competition under established rules. The Pow Wow Committee and judges became aware of the couple in question during the competition and agreed to allow them to complete the dance to honor them and their relationship," the statement read.

Both Snyder and Stevens dance individually at pow wows and Stevens came in fourth at the Seminole Pow Wow in the grass dance category earlier this month. The

Sweetheart's Special was sponsored by Wanda Bowers, who welcomed everyone to dance.

"They had a really awesome routine," Bowers said. "They stayed in and danced; I didn't have any qualms about it. And then they took second. They had the nerve to get into my dance and when they placed, they had to say how they felt about the other person. They did it just like the rest of them. Fair is fair, I just asked for sweetheart dancers."

Bowers realizes not everyone in the Tribe accepts Snyder and Stevens' lifestyle.

They have been together for five years and engaged for two. LGBTQ Native Americans are sometimes referred to as Two-Spirit people among tribes because the individuals have both a male and female spirit within them and are the embodiment of both genders.

According to Indiana University anthropologist Brian Gilley, many Native American tribes used to recognize four genders — feminine woman, masculine woman, feminine man and masculine man. Individuals in same-sex relationships were considered holy and treated with utmost respect and acceptance before European settlers arrived and reshaped Native culture.

Snyder and Stevens simply wanted to compete and were pleased when they realized they were welcome at Tribal Fair.

"The spouse of a staff member told us there were no rules here; just come here, show up and show out," Stevens said.

Knowing they wouldn't face any of the

challenges or prejudices they had in California allowed them to focus on representing themselves as a couple. They were surprised and thrilled to win second place.

"I feel incredible, I feel accepted," said Snyder. "Wanda just wanted people, couples. Those were the only rules. Compared to what we experienced before, it was night and day. The Seminoles have been beautiful. We felt so much love, positivity and hospitality here and felt good entering the arena."

Tribal Fair was the fourth pow wow in which they competed together in a Sweetheart's Special. The first was in 2015 at the Saginaw Chippewa Pow Wow in Michigan, then at a small pow wow in Washington state the following year, followed by the San Miguel Pow Wow in October.

After an article about them appeared in a People Magazine article on Dec. 15, 2017, Snyder and Stevens were invited to speak at the Human Rights Campaign's Time to Thrive conference in Orlando Feb. 17. The duo decided to stay in South Florida for the week and Bowers took them to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Billie Swamp Safari in Big Cypress.

"We are excited to come here to experience the cultural centers, which is what we do everywhere we go," Snyder said. "The culture of any tribe is what's important and that's what blows us away."

Snyder is a beader and Stevens is a sewer who is known in the pow wow world for the regalia he creates, including the Ute inspired regalia they wore for the Sweetheart's Special.

"We revamped our routine by running extra miles and really prepared ourselves for this," Stevens said. "We challenged each other as dancers and used our athleticism to come back strong."

The Sweetheart's Special was comprised of four dances of different tempos over two days. The drums set the pace and the dancers did their best to keep up. Seventeen couples competed for the prize money and the top five were awarded prizes ranging from \$250 to \$2,000 plus a sweetheart box of candy for Valentine's Day and a Seminole patchwork tote bag.

"We admire these couples," Snyder said. "When you see that type of love and companionship, we are inspired by it."



Sweetheart's Special dancers Adrian Matthias Stevens and Sean Snyder flank Wanda Bowers, who sponsored the special at the Hollywood Pow Wow.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

Sean Snyder and Adrian Matthias Stevens tour the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress Feb. 14.



Courtesy photo

Some of the couples who danced in the Tribal Fair and Pow Wow Sweetheart's Special Feb. 9 and 10. Snyder and Stevens are the third and fourth from the right.

# Cook Off makes tasty debut in Trail

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**TRAIL** — Appetite-pleasing aromas drifted through the early afternoon breeze at the Huggins camp during the first Trail Seminole Community BBQ Ribs & Chicken Cook Off on Feb. 24.

The contest attracted a handful of cooks who used either open pits or grills to work their talents on four slabs each of chicken or ribs. The biggest beneficiaries were the three judges — Erica Deitz, Machir Marsh and Matt Rockwell — who taste-tested and scored each contestant's entry. They gave rave reviews.

"Good tenderness and good flavor. There was flavor really deep to the bone," said Marsh, a firefighter/paramedic with Seminole Fire Rescue.

"Some were really good. Both chicken [entries] were moist and tender. I appreciate that," said Deitz, who works in the President's Office in Hollywood.

The best of the bunch were deemed to be Michael Osceola in the ribs contest and Jake Keyser in the chicken contest.

The contestants received prize money and trophies.

Osceola said there is no magic to his cooking and that he enjoyed competing in the Cook Off.

"It's good. I'm looking forward to the next one," he said as he prepared ribs for lunch for about 50 people in attendance.

The event also featured breakfast, music, vendors and plenty of activities for kids, such as a rock-climbing wall and giant inflatables.

"It's our first one. I'm pleased with it. We learn as we go," said Trail Council Liaison Norman Huggins.

## Cook Off Results

### Ribs

1. Mike Osceola -81 points
2. Migathe Leroy Osceola -70 points
3. Jake Keyser -62 points

### Chicken

1. Jake Keyser -74 points
2. Alvin Buster Jr. -70 points



Kevin Johnson

Mike Osceola prepares ribs for the community during the first Trail Seminole Community BBQ Cook Off on Feb. 24. He won first place in the ribs contest.



Kevin Johnson

From left, Erica Deitz, Matt Rockwell and Machir Marsh serve as judges in the Cook Off for chicken and ribs.



Kevin Johnson

Migathe Leroy Osceola finishes up his cooking on an open pit at the Cook Off in Trail.

# Conference at Native Learning Center tackles energy independence and options for tribes

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — Casey Camp-Horinek knows first-hand what kind of disruption drilling into the Earth can cause, which was one reason why the member of the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma's Business Committee expressed gratitude to the Seminole Tribe for hosting its first Renewable Energy & Sustainability Conference.

"We really learned a lot here," Camp-Horinek told Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Chairman's Office Special Projects Administrator Cicero Osceola and attendees Feb. 9, the final day of the three-day conference at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood.

"I've got a lot to take home to my people and I want to thank you and your committee for putting this together because some really strong information came through that I think we'll be able to utilize. We live in an area that is really impacted by the extractive industry and fracking is a real, real problem."

Camp-Horinek said fracking has resulted in thousands of earthquakes in Oklahoma and kills fish on a river that runs through the Ponca reservation. Last year

the Ponca passed a Rights of Nature statute as protection for its ecosystems, including wildlife. She suggested the Seminole Tribe consider a Rights of Nature measure.

"It is an added layer of protection on tribal lands," she said.

The conference, which is expected to be an annual event, brought together dozens of tribal personnel from throughout Indian Country — including STOF officials and employees — as well as representatives from the U.S. government, private business and utilities, including Florida Power & Light. Several topics centered on alternative and renewable energy and economic sustainability.

"This is the way the world is going," Chairman Osceola told the group. "It's no longer going to be natural gas or fossil fuels. We're going to start moving into something else. We're stewards of the land so we want to preserve that land and not keep digging up and fracking and mining, whatever the case may be. So this is the way of the world, the way we are going, to save ourselves. So if it's us that has to push that, we're more than happy to do that and we're more than happy to have everybody jump on board with us, or we follow them. Whatever the case may be

we don't have to take the lead; we just want to make sure that wherever we're going we all get there together, and that's the purpose of these conferences."

Chairman Osceola said the Tribe recently began to delve into looking at the alternative and renewable energy sectors.

"I was approached about eight months ago about this opportunity to pursue alternative energy, renewable energy, whether it be wind, or whether it be solar, or whether it be hydro," he said.

Last fall the Seneca Nation of Indians in New York completed a \$3.4 million solar array, which can produce 1.9 megawatts of electricity, enough to power more than 200 homes.

"We believe that investing in renewable energy is an investment in the overall health of the Seneca people," Seneca Nation President Todd Gates said in a press release at the time.

"Through these important initiatives we are able to provide our residents clean, affordable energy, while also moving the Nation away from environmentally harmful fossil fuels, and closer to our vision for self-reliance and energy independence."

Solar is the best fit in Florida, Chairman Osceola said, but he reiterated that helping Indian Country in other areas, too — such as through conferences — is a primary objective.

"We're here to help each other, to pursue that dream of being self-determination, self-sufficient, self-reliant," Chairman Osceola said.

The Chairman added that he hopes the attendees will spread the word at other conferences about the Seminole Tribe's intentions.

"We just want to do our little part, our two cents, to pursue this on behalf of all Native Americans and their tribes to help and enrich and preserve our culture because that's what this all about," he said. "We're trying to find ways to help preserve ourselves because there's nobody else out there that's going to do it for us; we have to do it ourselves."

Solar energy is more prevalent in Southwest states and California compared to Florida, but Matt Valle, vice president of FPL Development, said the Sunshine State will catch up to those states — with the exception of California — very soon.

"Florida is going to go through exponential growth in solar in the next couple years," Valle said during his presentation on the second day of the conference.

FPL announced at the start of 2018 that four of its new solar energy centers began



Kevin Johnson

Stephen Manydeeds, left, from the U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs' Indian Energy and Economic Development, and Cicero Osceola, the Chairman's Office Special Projects Administrator, shake hands Feb. 7 at the start of the first Seminole Tribe of Florida Renewable Energy & Sustainability Conference. Osceola served as host of the three-day conference at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. speaks during the Seminole Tribe's first Renewable Energy & Sustainability Conference on Feb. 9 at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood.

powering customers in Alachua, DeSoto, Indian River and Putnam counties on Jan. 1. FPL also said four additional centers — one of which is close to the Big Cypress Reservation in Hendry County — would enter service by March 1.

Stephen Manydeeds, from the energy and mineral development arm of the U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs' Indian Energy and Economic Development, explained to the group on the conference's opening day that assistance through the department is available to tribes interested in pursuing areas such as renewable energy, conventional energy or minerals. Business development, grant programs and technical services are also provided.

"Our job is if you want to develop this resource, how can we help you bring it online economically," Manydeeds, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, said in his presentation. "We only deal specifically with Indian lands."

Manydeeds said energy and minerals is the number two business in Indian Country, trailing only gambling and casinos.

Using solar power as an example, Manydeeds offered rhetorical questions to the attendees whose tribes might consider that route.

"Do you want this to be part of the tribe or do you want it to be an LLC?"

"How do you protect your assets?"

"Does this make sense for the tribe?"

If a tribe believes it makes sense, then there are other considerations.

"You are sovereign nations. You should sit down and think about what kind of codes you want to manage resources or industry on your reservation," he said.

Some examples of successful energy endeavors, he said, included the Cherokees in North Carolina getting paid to haul away plastic waste from a nearby company that makes car dashboards and then turning that waste into diesel fuel. He also highlighted the Choctaw's efforts in Mississippi that uses wood waste to help fuel a plant.

"What's great about it is they are all economically viable projects," he said.

One recurring theme echoed during the conference is that economic viability can go a long way toward energy independence.

"You want to sit down and say, 'We're a tribe. We should control our own destiny. We want to develop our energy on our reservation. This is what we want to do. We want to be in control of how we develop our resources,'" Manydeeds said.



## EGMONT KEY TRIP

10:30 am - April 5th

Join the Tribal Historic Preservation Office for a trip to Egmont Key, A site of Seminole history including the stories of Billy Bowlegs and Polly Parker



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# Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in the community

BY REBECCA FELL  
Curator of Exhibits

Throughout the year, the museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Office staff participates in many events within the Tribal community. Like many people, January, February and March are busy months for these departments, as so many great events take place, including Tribal Fair and Pow Wow, Brighton Field Days, Immokalee Shootout and cattle drives.

At many of these events there is an Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum & THPO booth. While the booth offers a lot of information for people who have never heard of it, additional services for community members and employees are also offered. For instance, copies of any picture in the museum collection are available to Tribal members for free. The staff can work with people to schedule times to see the collection, research topics and contribute their own oral histories to the collection.

At many events, binders of photos for people to see are brought along. There are many great memories in those photos. Sometimes the staff is looking for input. While people are identified in many photos, some photos could use additional expertise. If anyone recognizes someone in those photos that information can be recorded for future Tribal member use.

The staff realizes that for many people a trip to Big Cypress can be a huge undertaking. The department is always looking for ways

to bring part of the Museum and THPO to Tribal members at their convenience and has already attended the Tribal Fair in Hollywood, Brighton Field Days, the Battle of Okeechobee, and the Orange Blossom Festival in Davie. Check out the list below for what events the department will attend and what will be featured in the next couple of months.

**Immokalee Shootout (March 2 and 3)** Seminole Wars display, Cattle Cart display, Canoe, and Museum/THPO information

**Health Festival (March 13)** Museum/THPO information, upcoming events, and boardwalk information

**Big Cypress Cattle Drive (March 17)** Cattle Cart display, Cow Toss game, Maps, and Museum/THPO information

Later this year staff will also participate in the Big Cypress Indian Day events and the Red Ribbon festivities and parade. Of course, the Museum and THPO department will be hosting the annual American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) on Nov. 2 and 3. Look for more details later this year.

As always, the department looks forward to hearing ideas for sharing more of the Seminole stories in the community. If there is an idea for an exhibit display – either in the museum or for events – or other ways we can help bring the Seminole story to the community, contact Rebecca Fell at 863-902-1113 x12251 or rebecca.fell@semtribe.com. For photos or to help identify them, contact Mary Beth Rosebrough at 863-902-1113 x12252.



Museum and THPO booth at the 2017 Tribal Fair.

Courtesy photo

## Finalists present design concepts for National Native American Veterans Memorial

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian hosted the finalists, James Dinh, Daniel SaSuWeh Jones (Ponca) and Enoch Kelly Haney (Seminole), Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne/Arapaho), Stefanie Rocknak, and Leroy Transfield (Māori: Ngai Tahu/Ngati Toa), who will advance to the second stage of the National Native American Veterans Memorial design competition.

The five finalists — chosen from a pool of 120 completed submissions — shared their vision for the memorial and presented their initial design concepts at "Meet Your Designers," a public event held at the museum Feb. 7. Each had 15 minutes to introduce themselves, explain why they entered the competition and describe their concept-designs. At the event Kevin Gover, director of the museum, spoke of the gravity of the responsibility to design a national memorial to Native American veterans. Native Americans have served in every American conflict since the Revolution and have served at a higher rate per capita than any other group throughout the 20th century. Gover, with an Advisory Committee consulted Native American veterans throughout the United States to learn what is important to them in a memorial. "Most important is their pride in what they have done and their commitment to the wellbeing of the United States," said Gover. "To realize that these men and women served well a country that had not kept its commitments to their communities over its history. They are perfectly aware of it, and yet they chose to serve. And to me that reflects a very deep kind of patriotism. A belief in the promises of a country that had not kept its promises to them up to that time. I can think of no finer example of being Americans than

the way these men and women chose to serve over those years." The event was webcast and is archived at <http://nmai.si.edu/explore/multimedia/webcasts/>

The finalists are:

- James Dinh
- Daniel SaSuWeh Jones (Ponca) and Enoch Kelly Haney (Seminole Nation)
- Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne/Arapaho)
- Stefanie Rocknak
- Leroy Transfield (Māori: Ngai Tahu/Ngati Toa)

Serving on the jury to evaluate the submissions are:

- Larry Ulaaq Ahvaka (Inupiaq)
- Stephanie Birdwell (Cherokee)
- Edwin Fountain
- Mark Kawika McKeague (Native Hawaiian)
- Brian McCormack (Nez Perce)
- Lillian Pitt (Wasco, Yakima, Warm Springs)
- Herman Viola
- Kevin Gover (Pawnee)

The finalists will have until May 1 to evolve and refine their design concepts to a level that fully explains the spatial, material and symbolic attributes of the design and how it responds to the vision and design principles for the National Native American Veterans Memorial. The final design concepts for Stage II will be exhibited at both the Washington, D.C., and New York museums May 19 through June 3. The museum's blue-ribbon jury of Native and non-Native artists, designers and scholars will judge the final design concepts and announce a winner July 4.

The memorial is slated to open in 2020 on the grounds of the museum.

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

# Archaeologists investigate Seminole medicinal collector

BY RACHEL MORGAN  
THPO Archaeologist

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) aims to identify and preserve areas of cultural significance to the Seminole Tribe of Florida. As the Tribe continues to expand, THPO endeavors to ensure appropriate protection of cultural resources throughout all phases of development. In August 2017, the Tribal Archaeology Section (TAS) collaborated with Tribal member Mollie Jolly to record the historic Stella Smith Camp on the Brighton Reservation in light of future development projects with the potential to impact this site.

The THPO staff met Mollie Jolly, granddaughter of Stella Smith, at a clearing that runs parallel to Frank Shore Road. When Tom Smith walked in during the late 1950s, Stella established a camp in this clearing with her three daughters, Juanita, Wanda and Lois, along with her four grandchildren Maxie, Betty, Mollie and Wanda. There the family built a camp complete with 11 structures – eight chickees, one shower hut, a hide tanning station and a hog pen.

Life at the Stella Smith Camp revolved around tradition. As camp matriarch, Stella prepared traditional meals for her family and taught her children and

grandchildren the basics of roasting turtle and garfish. On any given day, Stella could be found sewing, making dolls, doing bead work, grinding corn and making corn meal. Outside of the camp, Stella aided those in need as a collector of medicinal herbs. In particular, Stella helped members of the community suffering from aches and pains and cared for mothers with newborn children.

In 1969, after nearly a decade at the Stella Smith Camp, Stella and her family moved once again. Following the family's departure, the Stella Smith Camp was engulfed by increasing amounts of vegetation and today no remnants of the historic camp are visible. The location of the Stella Smith Camp remains significant to Smith's descendants

who want to use the camp as a place to teach younger generations about traditional camp life.

THPO is committed to recording historic Seminole camps as a part of its broader efforts to preserve and protect cultural resources. By meeting with community members to record these places, THPO ensures that the Tribe's history is recorded and recounted from the Seminole perspective. To inform THPO about a space of historical or cultural significance to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, call the Tribal Historic Preservation Office at 863-983-6549 or stop by the offices.



Stella Smith (far right) with unknown woman and children.

Courtesy photo

## AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM *Seminole Discovery Days*

### Bring friends & family!

Get crafty, explore the Everglades, taste tradition, enjoy demonstrations and more!

March 10th: Archaeology Day

April 21st: Earth Day

June 28th: Art at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

July 28th: Seminole War Day

September 15th: We Are Here



All activities are free for Tribal Members, museum members, or included with your admission.



# Health



## Training from couch to 5K

**SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA**  
Florida Department of Health in Broward

Walking is great way to get the 150 minutes of moderate exercise needed every week for good health. For those who want to raise the bar, however, consider jogging. Yes, it is possible.

Those who have never run before should not be hesitant – here's how to work up to comfortably running a 5K, or 3.1 miles, in nine weeks, courtesy of the British National Health Service. Before starting, make sure to consult a doctor.

While the training is confined to nine weeks, it is OK to repeat a week until physically ready to move on to the next. There are many apps and websites to help with this project.

Each week will consist of three walks or runs. Start each one with a brisk 5 minute walk and after the warm up, do the following routines:

**Week one** — Do blocks of 1 minute of running and 1.5 minutes of walking. Total:

20 minutes each time.

**Week two** — Do blocks of 1.5 minutes of running and 2 minutes of walking. Total: 20 minutes each time.

**Week three** — Two repetitions of 1.5 minutes of running and 1.5 minutes of walking, then 3 minutes of running and 3 minutes of walking. Total: 23 minutes each time.

**Week four** — 3 minutes of running, 1.5 minutes of walking, 5 minutes of running, 2.5 minutes of walking, 3 minutes of running, 1.5 minutes of walking and 5 minutes of running. Total: 26.5 minutes each time.

**Week five** — Run one: Two repetitions of 5 minutes of running and 3 minutes of walking, then 5 minutes of running. Total: 26 minutes.

Run two: 8 minutes of walking, 5 minutes of walking and 8 minutes of running. Total: 26 minutes.

Run three: 20 minutes of running. Total 25 minutes.

**Week six** — Run one: 5 minutes of running, 3 minutes of walking, 8 minutes of running, 3 minutes of walking and 5 minutes of running. Total: 29 minutes.

Run two: 10 minutes of running, 3 minutes of walking and 10 minutes of

running. Total: 28 minutes.

Run three: 25 minutes of running. Total: 30 minutes.

**Week seven** — 25 minutes of running. Total: 30 minutes each time.

**Week eight** — 28 minutes of running. Total: 33 minutes each time.

**Week nine** — 30 minutes of running. Total: 35 minutes each time.

Structure greatly helps motivation, so choose certain days of the week for runs and stick to them. Be sure to have a rest day between each run to reduce your chance of injury. On the off days, strength and flexibility classes, such as weight training and yoga, are great for recovery.

Some new runners may experience sore calves or shins, often caused by running on hard surfaces or wearing shoes without enough support. Don't worry if some runs don't go well. Just move on to the next one. Even a bad run is good for you. Make sure to consult a doctor before starting any exercise regimen.

To find a 5K race, visit [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com) or [active.com](http://active.com).

## Karen's Corner: Making the most of Heart Month

**BY KAREN TWO SHOES**  
Health Clinic Dietitian and Nutrition Coordinator



Let's start with the major theme for the month, the heart. February is Heart Month and statistics shows it deserves a whole month's worth of attention. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC),

heart disease kills over 600,000 Americans each year, making it the leading cause of death for both men and women. Risk factors include smoking, lack of exercise and an unhealthy diet. These lead to even more serious risk factors like high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes.

Despite these dismal details, there are actions anyone can take to fight cardiovascular disease. The following diet and lifestyle recommendations come from the American Heart Association (AHA).

### Get moving

Not only does physical activity help people lose or maintain weight, it exercises the heart leading to cardiovascular fitness. Aim for 30 minutes most days of the week and make sure to feel that heart pumping to get the best of benefits. For those with high blood pressure, the AHA recommends 40 minutes of aerobic activity three to four times a week.

### Eat nutritious foods

When grocery shopping, think nutrient-dense – pick foods rich in vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, healthy fats, proteins and whole grains. These foods nourish the body

and most are naturally lower in calories. According to Harvard Health, some heart healthy nutrients to consider are the omega-3 fatty acids found in salmon to protect against stroke, soluble fiber in whole grain bread to help lower cholesterol and flavonoids in dark chocolate (over 70% cocoa), all of which are shown to improve blood flow to the brain and heart. And one can never go wrong by including more fruits and vegetables in his or her diet for a power punch of antioxidants.

### Eat less nutrient-poor foods

Can anyone guess the foods in this category? Fried foods, junk foods, sugar-sweetened beverages – these foods are usually high in calories and low in nutrients. They contain the baddies that contribute directly to heart disease. Saturated fat and trans fat causes plaque buildup in the arteries leading to coronary artery disease. Excess sodium leads to high blood pressure. Excess sugar leads to weight gain and can lead to insulin resistance and Type 2 diabetes. Limit or eliminate these foods.

### Quit (or don't start) smoking tobacco

Also make sure to avoid second-hand smoke. It can't be stressed enough the damage smoking does to the body. If the damage to the heart isn't bad enough, the cancer surely must be. Do the heart a favor – seek help and quit smoking today.

*Karen Two Shoes is a registered dietitian and the nutrition coordinator for the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Health Department. She is a member of the Panther Clan and is a married mother of two. Every month, she will share tidbits of healthful information she hopes the community will be able to find beneficial and implement in their everyday lives.*

## When does mosquito season really begin?

**SUBMITTED BY AVA JOHN**  
Environmental Health Program

Most people don't give much thought to mosquitoes until they get a red, itchy welt on their skin from a mosquito bite. There's no doubt that mosquitoes are annoying.

The start of mosquito season depends on both temperature and rainfall. Mosquitoes that hibernate need warm weather to become active, while mosquito eggs need rainfall to hatch. As one might expect, the warmer the climate, the earlier mosquito season starts and the longer it's likely to last. The tropical South Florida climate is especially favorable

to the mosquito lifestyle where there may be at least a little mosquito activity during the cooler months; however Floridians begin to experience a rise in mosquito activity from early February.

The actual preparation for mosquito season should begin before the mosquitoes have had the change to breed because as the weather warms, the mosquito breeding cycle time shortens, which ultimately results in an increase in the number of mosquitoes on property.

It's never too early to begin the process of making a yard less inviting to mosquitoes. This can be done by removing any objects

that collect water, cleaning clogged gutters, covering potential water collecting objects when not in use, such as above ground pools, and filling in low lying areas around the home. Swimming pools should also be kept clean and it's important to use mosquito repellent as per manufacturers' recommendations.

The Environmental Health Program requests that you call the STOF Health Department with any environmental health issues. The department can be reached at 954-985-2330.

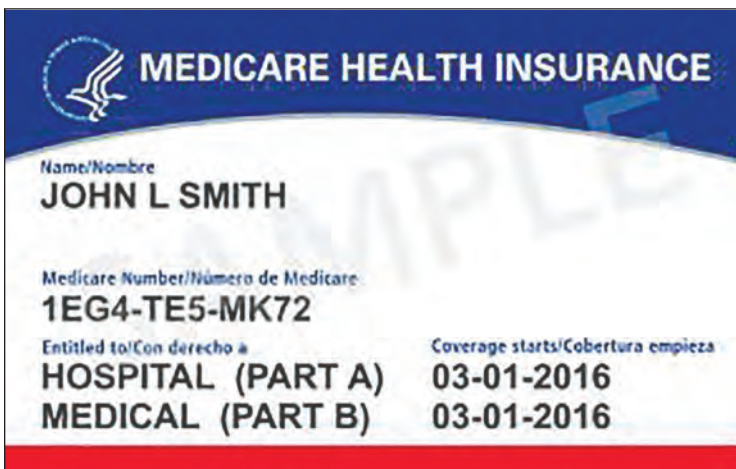
## New Medicare cards coming soon

**SUBMITTED BY PAUL ISAACS, MD**  
Department of Health and Human Services

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will mail you a new Medicare card between April 2018 and April 2019. Medicare is removing your Social Security number from your card and is replacing it with a number that is unique to you. Your new Medicare number will contain a combination of numbers and uppercase letters. This change will help protect your identity.

Once you get your new card, safely and securely destroy your old card and start using your new card right away. Protect yourself by making sure no one can get your personal information from your old Medicare card.

Please make sure your mailing address with Medicare is up to date. If your address needs to be corrected, contact Social Security at [ssa.gov/myaccount](http://ssa.gov/myaccount) or 1-800-772-1213. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778. You may also contact one of the Medical Social



Workers at the STOF Health Clinic for assistance in updating your address.

Beware of anyone who contacts you about your new Medicare card. CMS will never ask you to give them personal or private

information to get your new Medicare number and card.

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# SEMINOLE SCENES



Kevin Johnson

**DOWN THE SLIDE:** Rayann Thomas, 5, enjoys an inflatable slide during the Trail Seminole Community Cook Off on Feb. 24. In addition to the cooking contest, games and activities were set up for kids.



Beverly Bidney

**CELEBRATING THE HEART:** Valentine's Day was the perfect time for the Big Cypress community to gather for the annual photo recognizing Heart Health Awareness Month. Seniors and staff dressed in red- and the more romantic shade of pink- took a few minutes to pose for the picture. Beverly Bidney photo



Courtesy of Ruth Osceola

**REPRESENTING THE NATIONS:** Chandler DeMayo represents the Seminole Tribe of Florida in Washington, D.C. while attending the Close Up program with other student leaders from tribes around the country.



Beverly Bidney

**NEW HOME:** Members of the Naples community pose with their new chickee, which was completed in December 2017. Plans for the chickee include traditional cooking classes, bi-monthly breakfast and lunch and monthly programming for youth. Built Cynthia Osceola, the chickee measures 20 by 40 feet and is vented on each side of the roof for cooking. The custom 8 by 10 foot grill was built by Danny Tommie of Brighton. From left are Bryce Osceola, Jessica Osceola, Joaquin McKinley Velasco-Osceola, Brian Zepeda, Christina Billie and Brittany Billie. Beverly Bidney photo



Beverly Bidney

**BREAKFAST CLUB:** A flock of wood storks gather in a shallow pond on the Immokalee reservation to feast on fish in the early morning of Jan. 31. Two of the storks appear to enjoy a morning dance as the rest of the flock search for fish.



Beverly Bidney

**KODAK MOMENT:** Cayden Jumper and Dalina Rodriguez enjoy their seat aboard a horse at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.



Courtesy photo

**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY:** Brother Darence Fuentes, 7, and Ryland Fuentes, 6, can hardly contain their excitement at the Super Bowl Sunday feast at the Hollywood Boys and Girls Club.



Beverly Bidney

**PICTURE PERFECT:** Diane Smith (holding the camera/phone) and daughter Amanda Smith enjoy the ride during the Smith Family Cattle Drive on Jan. 27 in Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

**WELCOME LAP:** Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. waves the crowd as part of the opening ceremony of the Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association event Feb. 16 during the Brighton Fair Day and Rodeo.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## New exhibit looks at Native Americans' impact on US culture

**FLAGSTAFF, Ariz.** — Bold. Visionary. A spectacular success.

The words in an online promotion for a new museum exhibit in Washington, D.C., describe an 1830 U.S. law that forced thousands of American Indians from their lands in the South to areas west of the Mississippi River.

Provocative, yes, says the co-curator of the exhibit "Americans" that opened last month at the National Museum of the American Indian. Bold and visionary in imagining a country free of American Indians. A spectacular success in greatly expanding wealth from cotton fields where millions of blacks worked as slaves.

"When you're in the show, you understand bold and visionary become tongue in cheek," co-curator Cecile Ganteaume said.

The exhibit that runs through 2022 has opened to good reviews and pushes the national debate over American Indian imagery — including men in headdresses with bows, arrows and tomahawks — and sports teams named the Chiefs, Braves and Blackhawks. The NFL's Washington Redskins logo on one wall prompts visitors to think about why it's described both as a unifying force in D.C. and offensive.

The exhibit falls short, some say, with an accompanying website and its characterization of the Indian Removal Act.

The online text is a perplexing way to characterize an effort that spanned multiple presidencies and at one point, consumed one-fifth of the federal budget, said Ben Barnes, second chief of the Shawnee Tribe.

The law led to the deaths of thousands of people who were marched from their homes without full compensation for the value of the land they left behind. And it affected far more tribes than the five highlighted online, he said.

"It made it seem like it was a trivial matter that turned out best for everyone," he said. "I cannot imagine an exhibit at the newly established African-American museum that talked about how economically wonderful slavery was for the South."

Ganteaume said the website isn't encyclopedic and neither it nor the exhibit is meant to dismiss the experiences of American Indians. Instead, it challenges the depths at which people recognize indigenous people are ingrained in America's identity and learn how it happened, she said.

An opening gallery has hundreds of images of American Indians — often a stoic chief in a Plains-style headdress or a maiden — on alcohol bottles, a sugar bag, motor oil, a missile mounted on the wall and a 1948 Indian Chief motorcycle.

Dozens of clips expand on how the imagery has permeated American culture in television and film.

But when historic or cartoonish images are the only perception people have of what it means to be Native, they can't imagine American Indians in the modern world, said Julie Reed, a history professor at the University of Tennessee.

"Even when I'm standing in front of students, identified as a Cherokee professor, making the point from Day 1 that I'm still here and other Cherokee people are still here, I still get midterm exams that talk about the complete annihilation of Indian peoples," she said.

Ganteaume said that while Native people have deep histories in other countries, the United States is more often fixated on using images of them.

Side galleries expand on what's familiar to most Americans: the Trail of Tears, Pocahontas and the Battle of Little Bighorn. An orientation film on the invention of Thanksgiving starts with a once widely used television screen test featuring an Indian head and then questions the hoopla of the national holiday when America already had Independence Day.

Eden Slone, a graduate student in museum studies in the Washington, D.C., area, said she was impressed by the exhibit's design and interactive touch tables. She never realized that Tootsie Pop wrappers featured an image of an American Indian in

a headdress, holding a bow and arrow.

"I think the exhibition was carried out well and it definitely makes you think of Native American imagery," she said. "When I see images like that, I'll think more about where it came from."

Reed, University of Tennessee professor and Cherokee woman, fears people will get the wrong impression about the Indian Removal Act from the website. An essay puts a positive spin on what Reed calls ethnic cleansing.

Yet, she plans to visit. "I think there is legitimacy to say, come look at this exhibit. That's a fair response to criticism," Reed said. "I want to go and give the exhibit a fair shake because it may be brilliant and could do everything the website does not."

- Las Vegas Review-Journal

## Harvard University's first tenured Native American studies professor gets to work

Harvard University has hired its first tenured Native American studies professor following multiple calls for the school to offer formalized Native American studies as part of its curriculum, reported The Harvard Crimson.

Philip J. Deloria started teaching in January of this year, transferring to Harvard from his former position in the American Studies department at the University of Michigan. Harvard History Department Chair Daniel L. Smail called Deloria "the leading — I was gonna say one of the leading, but he's really the best — historian of Native Americans active today," in a statement to the Crimson.

Penn has hired multiple tenure-track Native American studies professors. In 2013, when the University hired Assistant Professor of Anthropology Margaret Bruchac, she was the third tenure-track Native American studies professor to be hired by Penn.

Deloria is currently teaching a graduate seminar on Native American historiography, and will begin teaching an undergraduate introductory course on Native American studies in the fall 2018 semester.

Harvard student groups have been calling for the appointment of this position for years. Truman M. Burrage, the president of Native Americans of Harvard College, praised Deloria's appointment, but also described it as an "overdue" first step in expanding the Native American presence and curriculum at the University.

"This can't be the end," Shelly C. Lowe, the executive director of the Harvard University Native American Program, said to the Crimson, calling on Harvard to continue hiring faculty for a formalized Native American studies program.

If Harvard were to offer formal academic specialization in Native American studies in the near future, it would become the fourth Ivy League institution to do so, following Cornell, Dartmouth, and Penn.

Penn's curriculum committee voted unanimously in 2014 to offer a Native American and Indigenous Studies Minor following efforts for its establishment from the Undergraduate Assembly and other on-campus groups. Similar programs at Cornell and Dartmouth have their roots in the 1970s and 1980s.

- The Daily Pennsylvanian

## School board votes down Native American charter school

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — Oklahoma City Public Schools board members have voted 7-1 to shelve the creation of a Native American charter school on Monday night.

Board members said they are not opposed to the premise of having an indigenous-focused school but they are concerned the financials are not right at this time.

"We've got a great set of charters schools in this district," said board member Mark Mann. "We've had a lot of success with them, and we want to make sure we

continue with that success."

Native American leaders want to create Sovereign Community School, a 6-12 grade charter school that would incorporate native themes in all aspects of learning.

"This stuff is stuff that everyone should know. It's not just important for indigenous communities to care about things like tribal sovereignty and the role our tribes played not just in shaping our history but in shaping the sciences, in shaping math, in shaping literature," said Phil Gover, head of Sovereign. "We can create an educational curriculum that does all of those things."

Oklahoma City has one of the highest per capita rates of native students in the country. Community leaders and child advocacy groups said it's important for parents to have choices.

"For a lot of parents, they haven't had an option like this to have a school founded by indigenous school leaders and educators that would offer a culturally relevant education to Native American children," said Robert Ruiz of Scissortail Community Development. "So, for us and for our Native American parents, this is a very exciting and historical day."

Opponents said schools like Sovereign would actually segregate the students.

"If we give this, then the Latino students are going to want their own school and the black kids are going to want their own school. Aren't you just segregating schools? I've heard that word, segregated schools. Segregation is a system of oppression, and this is a system of choice," Gover said. "This is a system where parents get to opt in to hopefully give their kids an education that they want."

Sovereign Community School can appeal the vote and continue their push to create the charter school.

- Oklahoma News 4

## Program helps Native American students get ready for college

**DURANGO, Colo.** — "You don't have to go through this alone."

With that simple statement, Torey Archuleta, a Fort Lewis College freshman majoring in elementary education, explained the greatest benefit she had received from the American Indian Measurable Success Initiative.

AIMS is a broad partnership among tribes, school districts and state programs and agencies that strives to "dramatically increase college readiness, attainment and success of Native American students in higher education programs."

Archuleta, who would be the first in her family to graduate from college, said: "Ask for help. You don't have to face it alone. Ask: How do I do this? How do I get through this? Just ask for help."

With four simple words, you can scare the pants off your parents, with extra points going if you frighten them over the phone. Just please don't give them a heart attack! Credit: Various via Storyful

Being the first in her family to attend college, Archuleta said she began her college career feeling isolated without anyone to reach out to, but she credited the constant attention she received from counselors and educators with the AIMS program for helping her through her first-year struggles.

In addition, she attributed a transfer from the University of New Mexico, and its large impersonal campus, to FLC, and its ability to offer more personal and immediate services to students, with improving her college career.

One unanticipated problem the program encountered in increasing Native American matriculation was described as "summer melt," which is the failure of a student to enroll in college after being accepted upon graduation from high school.

In 2016-17, AIMS administrators noticed 46 Native American students from high schools in southwest Colorado had been accepted to college, but only 26 actually enrolled in a college. The next year, counselors reached out to Native American students who had been accepted to college to increase the enrollment rate.

In addition, AIMS has been able to increase the number of local Native American high school students taking advanced-placement classes or concurrent college enrollment classes from three in 2015-16 to 75 in 2018-19.

AIMS held a forum in the Student Union at FLC to present some of its work and recognize numerous collaborators who helped the program for the past two years.

Reaching out to the Native American community was the biggest reason the program was able to make a difference and increase Native American students' entry into college, said Robert Aspen, an academic adviser at Durango High School and a member of the AIMS team.

"After all the bullet points," he said, "the big part of this success is developing individual relationships and trust with students, families and tribes."

The program was funded for two years by a \$300,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Higher Education and \$100,000 from a matching grant from the Colorado Education Initiative. In addition, Richard Ballantine, the chairman of the board of Ballantine Communications Inc., which owns The Durango Herald, provided a private donation to help pay for counselors to reduce the summer melt issue.

Now, Mike Hudson, a member of the board of directors of the Community Foundation Serving Southwest Colorado, said the organization is looking for community donations from Southwest Colorado in an effort to continue the program.

"We want to keep the program going in perpetuity, and we will continue to seek federal, state and national funding, but we'd like to receive funding from the region as well. We want southwest Colorado to have some skin in the game," he said.

- Chron

## Tribe found by Columbus didn't go extinct after all

A 1,000-year-old tooth has provided genetic evidence that the first natives to meet Columbus in the New World have living descendants in the Caribbean.

DNA from the Taíno people, who were thought to have been wiped out after Europeans arrived in the Bahamas in 1492, has been found in modern-day Puerto Ricans.

The new research provides the first concrete proof that indigenous ancestry in the Caribbean has survived to the present day.

Previously, it was thought the 'handsome' Taíno people were wiped out shortly after Christopher Columbus arrived in the Caribbean.

The tooth used in the new study was found on the island of Eleuthera in the Bahamas, and marks the first complete ancient human genome from the Caribbean.

It belonged to a Taíno woman who lived sometime between the 8th and 10th centuries, at least 500 years before Columbus's arrival.

Comparing the ancient genes to those of contemporary Puerto Ricans, scientists found they were more closely related to the ancient Taíno than any other indigenous group in the Americas.

However, the researchers, from Cambridge and Copenhagen Universities, argue that this characteristic is unlikely to be exclusive to Puerto Ricans alone.

When Columbus arrived in the New World the 15th Century, he described the Taíno as a generous people.

"They will give all that they do possess for anything that is given to them, exchanging things even for bits of broken crockery," he noted upon meeting them in the Bahamas in 1492.

"They were very well built, with very handsome bodies and very good faces.... They do not carry arms or know them.... They should be good servants."

Few of the Taíno were left a half-century later, wiped out by European disease and the slave trade, and it was thought for centuries they had gone extinct.

The new findings are likely to be

significant for people who have long claimed indigenous Taíno heritage.

While historians, archaeologists and descendant communities had claimed the Taíno weren't extinct for decades, until now they lacked clear genetic evidence to support their case.

Lead author Dr Hannes Schroeder, from the University of Copenhagen, said: 'It's a fascinating finding.'

"Many history books will tell you that the indigenous population of the Caribbean was all but wiped out, but people who self-identify as Taíno have always argued for continuity."

"Now we know they were right all along: There has been some form of genetic continuity in the Caribbean."

Study co-author Professor Eske Willerslev, from the University of Cambridge, said: 'It has always been clear that people in the Caribbean have Native American ancestry, but because the region has such a complex history of migration, it was difficult to prove whether this was specifically indigenous to the Caribbean, until now.'

- Daily Mail

## Native American treatment center faces lawsuit from Yolo County

The federal Indian Health Service wants to put an adolescent rehab program on farmland northwest of Davis, but Yolo County officials say the current proposal is a recipe for traffic disaster.

The \$20 million live-in facility would treat roughly 100 substance-addicted American Indian and Alaska Native youth each year.

But Yolo County supervisors say it would also pose a major safety issue due to cars coming around the bend of county road 31. The county has asked the federal entity to add a left turn lane to mitigate the risk, but Supervisor Don Saylor says they haven't budged.

The county filed a lawsuit over the traffic issue last week.

"They're basically shifting the burden of traffic safety from their project to the Yolo County taxpayers or the state of California taxpayers," Saylor said.

The federal service declined to comment on the lawsuit, but IHS engineering director Michael Weaver said this about the project at a county supervisors meeting last summer.

"The Indian Health Service doesn't have the authority or the monies to make such improvements. We're going to be looking for solutions here, working with the county folks, our tribal partners."

They've already moved forward with the project despite multiple objections from the county about water use, flood risk and impact to local birds. They don't need local approval to start construction.

This would be the federal service's 12th youth treatment facility, including one in Riverside County. Northern California is home to a large population of native youth. Nationally, these teens have higher rates of drug and alcohol abuse than any other ethnic group.

- Capital Public Radio

## Kansas House prepares to vote on bill authorizing state income tax refunds to Native American veterans

The Kansas House advanced a bill forming the legal foundation for refunding to Native American veterans the improper assessment of state income tax for nearly a quarter century.

The House bill up for a final vote Tuesday would allow the filing of refund claims for state personal income taxes inappropriately withheld from federal military paychecks to Native Americans who had official residences on tribal lands and served on active duty in the years 1977 to 2001.

In conclusion here are your options for payment:

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  - Sign up for automatic one time yearly deduction for 2018 for March 15
  - Contact your Housing Insurance Coordinator for assistance regarding payment or
  - Contact Risk Management Risk Analyst Clint Byers for assistance
- Thank you for your prompt response and attention to this very important matter.

# Hurricane v. Insurance; Did I pay for my insurance?

## SUBMITTED BY RISK MANAGEMENT

On Feb. 1 during the distribution of 1099's for Tribal members at the Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood reservations, representatives from Risk Management were also present to discuss homeowners insurance provided by AMERIND Risk.

During the visit many Tribal members had questions related to their insurance premiums, coverages and how best to pay for the premiums. Risk Management facilitated the process of paying for the "split bill" or premium portion owed by Tribal members by having Tribal members sign

an authorization form allowing the Tribe to make an automatic one time deduction for their 2018 premium. For premiums owed for 2018 the deduction will take place mid-month in March 2018. Beginning in 2019 the deduction will occur mid-month in January of every year going forward.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida currently insures 687 homes on the reservations under the Community Shield Program which covers up to \$250,000 towards the value of the home and \$80,000 toward the value of a modular home. In many cases these low limits are not enough to cover the full "replacement" or cash to reconstruct

therefore creating a shortage and the home being underinsured. In order for your home to be insured 100 percent to value the full premium must be paid otherwise risk cancellation.

**IMPORTANT:** It is extremely important if you received a bill from AMERIND Risk to please pay your premium prior to June 30, 2018. Failure to pay the full premium on your policy will result in immediate cancellation. Also pursuant to the recent change in the Housing Policy you may not be entitled to maintenance services if your insurance coverage is not paid to full value.

There is still time to pay for your 2018

premium before going into Hurricane Season which begins June 1. Having insurance for your home offers you the protection you need in the event you sustain a loss as a result of a catastrophic event. If you have any questions relating to your homeowners insurance program under the Community Shield Program offered by AMERIND Risk please do not hesitate to contact Risk Management at 954-966-6300. Our offices are located at Tribal headquarters on the second floor #212.

You can also contact your local Housing Office and ask to speak with an insurance coordinator for directions as well.

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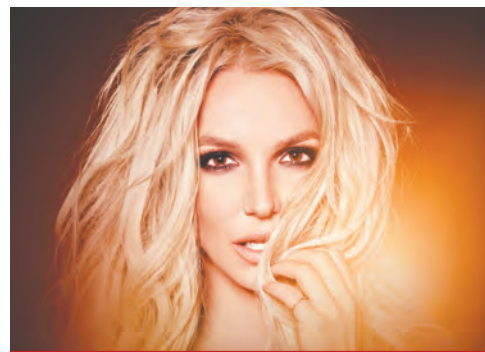
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HOLLYWOOD, FL

# Education



## Hollywood Hills student shares Seminole story

BY LI COHEN  
Copy Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — For one local Tribal student, being a teenager is merely a gateway to having a loud voice for change. Talia



Li Cohen

Talia Rodriguez, 16, tells Hollywood Hills High School students, parents, faculty and staff about the Seminole culture during their multicultural night Feb. 22.

Rodriguez, 16, is a sophomore at Hollywood Hills High School looking to help people understand the Seminole Tribe in a way that goes beyond school textbooks and history lessons.

On Feb. 22, the school hosted a multicultural event where students can demonstrate their cultures. Students representing Israel, Jamaica, Argentina, China, Colombia and other countries displayed cultural clothing, food, dances and singing for the 100-plus guests. Each representative gave a brief speech about their culture, including Rodriguez, who described the

significance of Seminole ceremonies and medicine men, ending her 30-second speech with, "We are forever unconquered and we are the Seminole Tribe of Florida."

At her table, where she displayed cultural items such as handmade skirts, beads, baskets, a carved canoe and an alligator head, Rodriguez explained that many people don't know about Seminole culture. Many people, she said, just know the stereotypes.

"I want them to know we are way more than that. We fought in wars and our ancestors died for us to be here right now," she said. "I just want to share with everyone that there's a deeper meaning behind the Seminole Tribe of Florida."

This wasn't the first and will not be the last time Rodriguez seeks to share the Seminole story. She has made it one of her priorities to take every opportunity possible to share the story and her next goal is to do so as Miss Florida Seminole Princess.

"I want to be the voice for our people," she said. "When the opportunity strikes I have to take it and show everyone that we are here, we're not small and we have voices."

Rodriguez competed for the title of Junior Miss Florida Seminole Princess a few

years ago, but didn't win. This year, she said she is much more prepared and is determined and confident in her abilities to be a leader for the community.

After high school and her hopeful role as princess, Rodriguez plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University to play basketball, a sport she's played since she was 5 years old.

Though future plans are still uncertain, Rodriguez assured that one fact she knows for sure is that she will continue sharing the Tribe's story in all of her endeavors.

"I think of it as being a sponge where I can absorb all of the knowledge I can and hold it in me," she said. "Then when I go and travel, I can release that knowledge to everyone I meet."



Li Cohen

Talia Rodriguez, back, brought along her three younger siblings, from left, Alex, Dalina and Justin, to show traditional clothing.

## Students get a Close Up of DC

BY LI COHEN  
Copy Editor

**WASHINGTON** — The nation's capital is home to more than just legislation and historical buildings — it also provides an education experience visitors will never forget. From Feb. 4 through 8, Seminole students congregated with dozens of other high schoolers from Tribes around the U.S. in Washington, D.C. to learn about the impact they can have on their communities through the Close Up Foundation's United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Impact Week Youth Summit.

Throughout the week-long venture, students learned about USET, congress and current legislation impacting Indian Country

careers.

Ahfachkee School junior Janessa Jones, 16, said this trip essentially determined the rest of her life. The workshops and discussions with national leaders inspired her to narrow down her career path and pursue a career in political science and business administration.

"I've always wondered what it's like working in an office and [creating solutions to problems] we go through and how things are ran [in Indian Country]," she said, explaining that the entire trip opened up her eyes to happenings and issues surrounding dozens of other tribes. "I see myself as a leader and coming here, I never knew there was such a thing as Indian Country. It really opened up my eyes and I really like how we

respective issue with a bill. Each committee first discussed the issue with each other, then with pro and con lobbyists, before their bills went to the mock congress floor. Once on the floor, all students — acting as legislators — debate whether the bill should progress in the legislative process.

Later in the day, students addressed those same concerns at a panel discussion with senate interns, public policy officials and representatives from the Committee of Indian Affairs. A handful of students asked about violence against women in Indian Country, their thoughts about the recent language immersion acts, and what a day in the life is like for congressional members.

Jones, who asked if the representatives ever go back to their Tribal lands to see what is happening firsthand, said that despite many people attending the program beat around the bush with their concerns, it is the students' responsibility to express how they feel and get straight to talks on solutions.

"It was very educational and it taught a lot of people to come out of their shells and speak up," she said.

### Students turn thoughts into actions

Toward the end of the conference, students collectively decided on a particular issue they wanted to present to the USET Board of Directors. Jones' idea, to create an elective for elementary, middle and high school students that focuses on Native American history and culture, was ultimately selected. She and her co-presenter Maranda Mather, 17, said that schools in areas with larger tribal populations, both federally recognized and unrecognized, would offer the electives and focus on the local tribes. If an elective is not possible, Jones and Mather want to see the subject implemented into U.S. history courses.

"U.S. history is mandatory for all children in the U.S. to take. Making it a class is the most effective way we can think of and it's a better way to get information out and reach out to the students," Jones said. "In history classes, there's really not a lot of information about Native Americans; it's always the bad pieces and treating us as the bad guys."

After presenting the idea, the board decided to adopt the plan into its plans for the upcoming year. In doing so, they plan to place pieces of this initiative in various amendments and resolutions. No details on this have been released.

While it may be a while before results from the acceptance of this resolution are seen nationally, Jones is making sure that local results are seen as soon as possible.

Jones has set up a series of meetings with Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger and Ahfachkee School officials to discuss implementing her idea into Ahfachkee. Meetings started on Feb. 23 and updates will be provided in the coming weeks.

### Close Up in a wrap

The 12 Seminole Tribe of Florida students ended their week in Washington tired in body, but energized in spirit to take what they learned back to their communities.

Deven Osceola, 17, lives in the Tampa area and doesn't belong to a specific reservation. The Mount Dora Christian Academy junior said that despite not living on a reservation, communicating and socializing with fellow Tribal members and those from other Tribes is essential in making progress throughout the Tribe and even the nation.

"The best part [of the trip] was just how much they tried to push you out of your comfort zone and socialize and make friends. It kind of changes you by the end of the week," he said. "It makes me want to be in a leadership position, even though I'm usually introverted and don't really talk too much."

This was Osceola's second time attending the conference and he hopes to return next year. In the meantime, he said he's going to keep learning about Seminole culture and



Li Cohen

Chandler DeMayo, 16, of Hollywood, contemplates the solutions Close Up students came up with to address Native American issues during a mock USET council session on Feb. 7.



Li Cohen

Students, including some from the Seminole Tribe, attending the trip to Washington, D.C. show their excitement to spend a day on Capitol Hill, where they visited the Library of Congress and the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

through various workshops and activities throughout the city. Included in the itinerary were panel discussions with members of USET and the Senate's Indian Affairs Committee, mock congress sessions, debates and leadership trainings. While education was the primary time commitment, fun was not lost for the students, as they also visited numerous memorial sites, including Iwo Jima and the war memorials, Capitol Hill and even a theater performance of "Shear Madness" at the Kennedy Center.

Many students enjoyed the trip because of the opportunities to connect with other students from around the nation. LaBelle High School junior Allegra Billie, 17, for example, said that Close Up helped her come out of her shell and network with people to learn more about them, their tribes and the issues they currently face. For her, socializing is usually a challenge and this trip was unlike any educational experience she's had.

"It's more of an experience to open up to more people," said the Immokalee resident. "Without coming here, I don't think I would have ever had that experience."

As challenging as the week was socially, it also helped students identify their future

have Native Americans that actually work in offices up here [in Washington]. That was mind-blowing to me because our statistics are so low, but it is very inspirational."

According to the Pew Research Center, the 115th Congress — in session until Jan. 3, 2019 — is the most racially and ethnically diverse Congress in U.S. history. The Center reported that nearly one-in-five voting members of the House and Senate are a minority; however, out of the 535 members, only two of those individuals are Native American.

While Native American representation in these positions is low, these statistics simply served as motivation for students to spark change.

This spark ignited during the mock congress workshops, which aimed to teach attendees about issues in Congress affecting different tribes individually and as a whole. They primarily focused on legislation recently debated in congress — the Tribal Recognition Act of 2015, the Police Camera Act of 2015 and the Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act of 2015.

With these issues in mind, students were divided into committees — one for each issue — to decide if they wanted to address their



Li Cohen (2)

USET representatives and students were led by military members to lay a special wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.



become more active in news related to Indian Country. He hopes to show elders that his generation is not a lost cause and can uphold Seminole culture and sovereignty.

Hollywood resident Chandler DeMayo, 16, also attended the conference for his second year. Though he and Osceola live in different areas of Florida, he said attending this conference allows them to develop a friendship and work on ideas for the betterment of their community and other tribal nations, as well.

"It was good to interact with kids from

different cultures that I haven't really known before," the Nova Southeastern University School sophomore said, adding that attending workshops throughout the week was his favorite part. "It allowed me to meet people from my Tribe whom I never met before and express ideas to solve problems on our reservations."

DeMayo plans to take the solutions discussed at the workshops to the youth club in Hollywood, which he said he is an active member of to act as a youth councilman for the Tribe.

# State of Indian Nations recognizes new tribes, discusses legislation

BY LI COHEN  
Copy Editor

The 2018 State of Indian Nations, held by the National Congress of American Indians, gathered hundreds of spectators on Feb. 12 to hear about goals, opportunities and priorities regarding the federal government and Indian Country. NCAI President Jefferson Keel delivered this year's speech and Senator Tom Udall, D-NM, delivered the congressional response.

In congratulating newly recognized Virginia tribes, including the Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Upper Mattaponi, Rappahannock, Nansemond and Monacan Tribes, Keel explained that this success is just another testament to the influence Native Americans have had on the world.

"In developing agriculture, building infrastructure, managing lands and natural resources, in governing and solving shared community challenges, we are and always have been innovators and leaders," he said, pointing to specific impacts Indian Country has had on the U.S.

According to Keel, agriculture is one of the biggest contributions Indian Country has on the U.S., summing it up to be a \$3.2 billion industry that supports nearly 72,000 jobs for natives and non-natives. Individual nations have also contributed to local and state economies, such as the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, which provides 6,000 full-time jobs, half of which are held by non-natives.

Unlike other jobs outside of Indian Country, Keel assured that Native-run jobs are not going anywhere.

"You're never going to read about how these jobs are being moved overseas because native businesses don't pull up stakes, even

when market conditions change," he said. "We root our businesses in local communities for good. If you want to buy American, then do business with Tribal economies."

Sen. Udall agreed with Keel, going on to say how these successes are implemented into the three core principles he brings to all legislative decisions regarding Indian Country – guiding tribal sovereignty, promoting tribal self-determination and ensuring that meaningful government-to-government consultation happens when federal action affects Indian Country.

"Decisions made for Indians by Indians produce the best outcomes for the unique needs, cultures and beliefs of their communities," Udall said. "President Keel's address poignantly recognized the challenges Indian Country faces, but it also recognizes your success and determination in uncertain times."

Some of these uncertain times are being address by Congress, including the Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act, a continued effort based on the Violence Against Women Act of 2013.

Explaining that VAWA was a critical step, Udall assured people that "there is still more to do" and said that the Native Youth Act hopes to protect women and their children from domestic abuse on Tribal lands, as well as the officers who responds to those crimes. Part of the reasoning for this revision stems from the Department of Health and Human Services report "Addressing Trauma in American Indian and Alaska Native Youth," which found that native children are 2.5 times more likely to suffer from trauma, as compared to non-native youth. It also found that 22 percent of native youth suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder, which is the same rate as Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Another main point Udall addressed

was the legislative combat of the ongoing opioid congress. While many policies have addressed the crisis nationally, tribal nations are usually not included in legislative plans for this issue.

The National Indian Health Board reported that the grants stemming from the 2017 State Targeted Response to the Opioid Epidemic did not pertain to Indian Country, despite Native Americans having statistically higher opioid issues when compared to other races in the U.S.

As reported by the Centers for Disease Control, Native Americans lead second in the U.S. – whites leading in first – in overdose rate. While rates statistically have a higher rate, they also have more public health initiatives available that Native Americans do not have as much access to. Additionally, Native American youth are twice as likely as white and three times as likely as black youth to use nonmedical opioids.

Udall hopes to combat this issue by implementing more tribal-specific measures and resources.

"We can win the battle against addiction, but we must invest real resources and action, not just lip service," he said. "We must ensure that anyone who wants treatment can get it."

Other topics discussed included the continuing the survival of native languages, farming policies and procedures, infrastructure and the opioid crisis. The State of Indian Nations ended with a question and answer session with guests and a final note from Keel.

"To those young children watching, get involved, stay involved and look at what's going on around you. If you want to be part of what's happening you can do that and we look forward to working with you to help you with that."

# United South and Eastern Tribes and UNC Asheville sign education agreement for Native Americans

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — In a signing ceremony Feb. 5, United South and Eastern Tribes Inc. (USET) and the University of North Carolina at Asheville (UNC Asheville) agreed to collaborate on an education initiative that will offer undergraduate opportunities at one of the nation's top public liberal arts universities, while enhancing cultural research and resources across the southern and eastern United States.

With the signing of the Instructional Credit and Admission Agreement, USET and UNC Asheville will jointly develop programming and research projects for UNC Asheville faculty and students in areas such as economic development, environmental sustainability, health and wellness, and language revitalization, along with other Tribal sovereignty initiatives.

USET will help develop and support UNC Asheville with programs that will enrich not only the UNC Asheville campus, but the broader Asheville community. Some of these Native American initiatives include programming in the arts, crafts, dance, storytelling, Tribal governance, and issues related to Tribal sovereignty and U.S. federal relations.

"We are honored and excited to sign this agreement today and to partner with USET on ongoing programming and educational opportunities that connect the liberal arts and sciences to Tribal experience and expertise," said UNC Asheville's Interim Chancellor Joe Urgo. "This initiative – the first of this magnitude – highlights our commitment to UNC Asheville's core values of innovation, diversity and inclusion, and sustainability, as well as statewide priorities of affordability, access to higher education, and student success. On behalf of our faculty, staff and current students, I look forward to working together and to welcoming students from USET member Tribal Nations to UNC Asheville."

As part of the agreement, UNC Asheville will work with faculty and administration to expand its existing American Indian &

Indigenous Studies minor to incorporate curriculum specific to students who matriculate from USET member Tribal Nations.

Other entities expected to support the faculty program include UNC Asheville's North Carolina Center for Health and Wellness and the National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center. Additional support may come from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, as well as the Cherokee Preservation Foundation. UNC Asheville has an existing instructional credit agreement with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, which began in 2015.

Beginning August 2018, UNC Asheville will set aside 20 enrollment slots for enrolled citizens of USET member Tribal Nations for the fall semester. Then a minimum of 20 enrollment slots will be set aside for the spring semester. Students who can demonstrate full financial support will be considered a resident student and be able to take advantage of in-state tuition rates at UNC Asheville.

The agreement is for a period of three years and may be renewed for four successive one-year periods.

"On behalf of the entire USET family, we are pleased to sign this agreement today that provides a unique opportunity to youth across our area," said USET President Kirk Francis. "We are hopeful that through our partnership with the University of North Carolina Asheville, we will be able to develop curriculum and research projects that benefit our Tribal citizens and communities."

The signing ceremony took place at the annual USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) Impact Week meeting. Tribal leaders from 27 Tribal Nations across the eastern United States gather to discuss important topics such as Indian Country legislative priorities for 2018, current threats to sovereignty, and the battle against opioid addiction.

USET SPF Impact Week took place Feb. 5-8, at the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Arlington, VA, and on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

# Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian launches national education initiative

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The National Museum of the American Indian has launched a national education initiative, Native Knowledge 360 Degrees, which provides online materials, professional development and training, and advocacy to improve teaching and learning about American Indians.

"We're looking to change the narrative about American Indians and emphasize that

American history cannot be understood without understanding American Indian stories," said Kevin Gover, director of the National Museum of the American Indian. "By offering better materials to our educators about American Indians, we are looking to create a more empathetic and better educated citizenry."

Native Knowledge 360 has four components:

- Essential Understandings about American Indians

- New Online Materials for Educators and Students
- Professional Development for Teachers
- National Advocacy and Partnerships

The program provides educators with essential understandings about American Indians that serve as a framework for teaching about Native American history, cultures and contemporary lives. It offers teacher training and online classroom lessons based on accurate and comprehensive

Native American history and is designed to meet national and state curricula standards. Native Knowledge 360 challenges common assumptions about Native peoples—their cultures, their roles in U.S. and world history, and their contributions to the arts, sciences and literature. It advocates at the national level for teaching an American history that

integrates important Native American events in the nation's narrative and recognizes the richness and vibrancy of Native peoples and cultures today.

The National Museum of the American Indian acknowledges the support of the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation in the development of these educational resources.

# PECS February Students of the Month

## PECS Elementary

- Micah Jimmie
- Slate Hipp
- Tawnee Baker
- Jamelynn Anderson
- Neveah Gopher

## Jaiden Fludd

- O'Shaa-ne Rodriguez
- Elainna Fonseca
- Azanah Washington
- Bobbi Osceola
- Heidi Thomas

## Marley Jimmie

- Kajay Anderson
- Jace Johns
- Oreste Perez
- Hilowa Garcia
- Juanita Billie

## Willo James

- Keenan Jones
- Jetta Osceola
- Maleah Rodrigues
- Rozin Fish

## PECS Middle

- Kendra Thomas
- Bryce Ward
- Karey Gopher



# Thousands warm up to Brighton Field Day

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BRIGHTON** — The Brighton Field Day is still looking good at 80.

The 80th edition of the annual event welcomed thousands of visitors to the Brighton Reservation for three sun-splashed days of art, dance, food, music, wildlife and professional rodeo.

Field Day started Feb. 16, a day when the temperature reached the mid-80s but it felt more like summer than winter.

"Kansas has humidity; you have a lot of humidity," said John Richard, a dancer with the Haskell University Dance Troupe, which performed in the Grand Entry ceremony in front of stands that were filled with hundreds of kids from Clewiston, Moore Haven and Okeechobee.

The grand entry also included Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, Miss Florida Seminole Rande Osceola and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola and U.S. Staff Sgt. Gabriel Coppedge, who grew up in Big Cypress and now lives in Arizona. Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. provided welcoming remarks to the audience.

Rande Osceola introduced herself to the crowd and noted that she is from the Immokalee Reservation and is part of the Wind Clan. She urged the visitors to be inquisitive.

"I hope you learn a lot. Don't be scared to ask questions," she said.

Kailani Osceola told the audience that she is from the Otter Clan and the Trail community.

"I hope you learn lots and lots. Come up to us and ask us questions," she said.

Lewis Gopher hosted part of the opening ceremonies and explained the Tribe's culture, including its language and the different clans.

The crowd was treated to a performance by the Osceola Warriors Legacy Reenactment that featured "fights" between a U.S. Soldier (Andrew Wallin) and Seminole warriors Quinton Cypress, Tucamah Robbins and Jason Melton along with Seminole female warriors Alyssa Osceola and Charli Osceola. The group, which has expertise in martial arts, depicted the types of battles — including hand-to-hand, bayonet, knife and rifles — reminiscent of the Seminole Wars in the 1800s. They wore period-attire, which, on a sweltering day, led to sweaty and dusty tussles.

"Conditions out here today are not unlike the conditions back then," Charlie Osceola, the group's director, said in reference to the high heat.

Veteran alligator wrestler Billy Walker and wrestlers from the Freestyle Alligator Wrestling Competitions provided ample entertainment battling their sharp-toothed foes.

Taste buds were tempted by an array of vendors with names such as World Famous Ice Tea, Made From Scratch Bakery and 4th Day Homemade Ice Cream.

One week after he finished tied for 10th place at the PGA Tour's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am team event in California, singer Colt Ford, who used to be a professional golfer, entertained a big crowd as Saturday night's headliner at Field Day.



Kevin Johnson

Canku One Star, from Rosebud, S.D., performs with the Haskell Indian Nations University Dance Troupe in front of hundreds of spectators at the grand entry ceremony to start Brighton Field Day on Feb. 16.



Kevin Johnson

Participating in the grand entry to start Brighton Field Day on Feb. 16 are, from left, Miss Florida Seminole Rande Osceola, Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee School students find their shade under umbrellas they bought at the Brighton Field.



Kevin Johnson

Youngsters get to meet the White Mountain dancers from Arizona.



Kevin Johnson

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Gabriel Coppedge participates in the opening ceremony to start Brighton Field Day.



Kevin Johnson

Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. welcomes the audience to Brighton Field Day.



Kevin Johnson

The grand entry enters in front of hundreds of area school kids at Brighton Field Day.



Kevin Johnson

Andrew Wallin, left, and Quinton Cypress perform a Seminole Wars battle scene for school kids.



Kevin Johnson

Freddy and Juan Colin, twins from Okeechobee, show off purchases they made at Brighton Field Day.

# Seminoles host popular Tribal Fair and Pow Wow

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — An increase in the number of dancers and drummers highlighted the 47th edition of the annual Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow.

“We had 276 dancers. Usually, we barely make 200, so it’s a little better. It was good,” said Wanda Bowers, who is in charge of the Pow Wow.

In addition to dancers and drummers, Hard Rock Live arena was filled with Native vendors, movie actors, singers, bands and visitors from Feb. 9-11.

Led by Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., the Tribal Council entered the arena and was eventually surrounded by the colorful and energetic circle of hundreds of dancers. The Tribe was also represented by Color Guard members and U.S. Navy veterans Seminole Salli Josh and Curtis Motlow and Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola.

In his welcoming remarks, Chairman Osceola paid homage to those in the military. “Thank you to all our military veterans and our active military personnel for serving us,” he said. “We would never be able to do this without them none of this would be possible. The sacrifice they made and they are continuing to make, I appreciate that.”

Bowers said attendance was boosted in part by a strong turnout in the drum contest, which had about 10 different groups who vied for more than \$65,000 in prize money. In previous years the contest was split in northern and southern sections, but this year it was one combined contest, which turned out to be a popular move.

“We’ve never had such a big drum

contest as we did for that weekend,” Bowers said.

Bear Creek (Ojibwe), from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, won the drum contest and the \$20,000 first prize.

Thirty-one dancers from throughout North America captured first-place honors.

On the stage, the Osceola Brothers and Mag7 packed a powerful 1-2 punch that pumped up the crowd on day 2. ‘Doc’ Battiest and Spencer Battiest joined Taboo, PJ Vegas, Supaman, Kahara Hodges, Drezus and Emcee One as the MTV Music Video Award winners — known as Mag7 — generated a commanding presence much the delight of the audience.

The final day of Tribal Fair featured country singer Jamey Johnson, who used the concert to kick off his 2018 cross-country tour.

The Native Reel Cinema Festival provided plenty of value for film aficionados. Three weeks before he is scheduled to be presented at the Academy Awards, Wes Studi was among the actors — along with Martin Sensmeier, who appears in the thriller “Wind River,” Michelle Thrasher and Steven Paul Judd — who posed for photos with fans. Studi, who stars in the recently released “Hostiles,” will be a presenter alongside Laura Dern at the Oscars on March 4 for the Academy Award in Sound Editing. Film watchers were treated to “Rumble: The Native Americans who Rocked the World,” “Wind Across the Everglades,” and “Ronnie BoDean.”

This year’s Tribal Fair and Pow Wow was the final one to be held at the current Hard Rock Live arena, which is slated to be demolished and replaced with a new venue as part of the expansive project that will include a new guitar-shaped hotel.



Kevin Johnson

Bear Creek, from Ontario, performs as judges watch during the opening day of the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow on Feb. 9 at Hard Rock Live arena in Hollywood. The judges deemed Bear Creek to be the best.



Kevin Johnson

U.S. Navy veterans Curtis Motlow and Salli Josh lead the Seminoles during the grand entry Feb. 9.



Kevin Johnson

Joe Dan Osceola, center, is joined by actors Wes Studi, right, and Steven Paul Judd, as part of the Native Reel Cinema Festival at the Tribal Fair.



Kevin Johnson

Female dancers line up during the grand entry on Feb. 9.

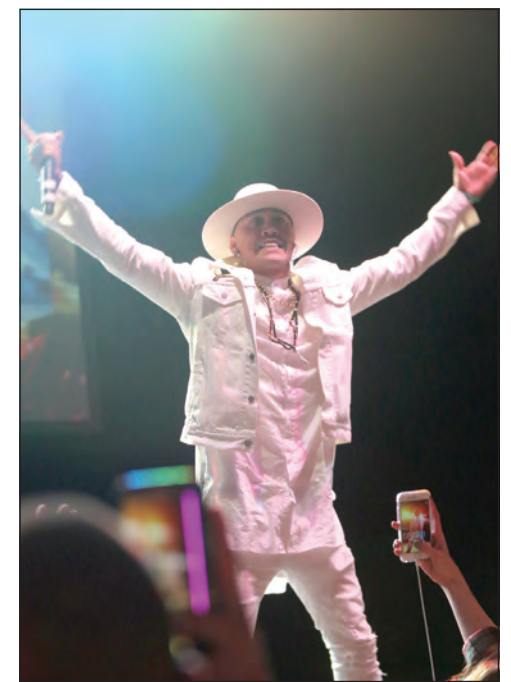
## Results

<p><b>Men’s Golden Age (55+)</b> Fancy/Grass/Chicken Combined 1st Place   Tommy Draper</p> <p>N. Traditional/S. Straight Combined 1st Place   Jim Red Eagle</p> <p><b>Men’s Senior (36-54)</b> Chicken 1st Place   Todd Papequash</p> <p>Fancy 1st Place   Michael Roberts</p> <p>Grass 1st Place   Jon Taken Alive</p> <p>Northern Traditional 1st Place   Lonny Street</p> <p>Southern Straight 1st Place   Kelly Grant</p> <p><b>Men’s Junior (18-35)</b> Chicken 1st Place   Rooster Top Sky</p> <p>Fancy 1st Place   Canku One Star</p> <p>Grass 1st Place   Trae Little Sky</p> <p>Northern Traditional 1st Place   Lakota Littlesky</p> <p>Southern Straight 1st Place   Kiowa Cozad</p>	<p>N. Cloth/Buckskin Combined 1st Place   Carmen Clairmont</p> <p>S. Cloth/Buckskin Combined 1st Place   Mary Olser</p> <p><b>Women’s Senior (36-54)</b> Fancy 1st Place   Star Whiteye</p> <p>Jingle 1st Place   Grace Pushetonequa</p> <p>Northern Cloth 1st Place   Tosha Goodwill</p> <p>Southern Cloth 1st Place   Chalene Toehay – Tartsah</p> <p>Northern Buckskin 1st Place   Thea McCloud</p> <p>Southern Buckskin 1st Place   Danita Goodwill</p> <p><b>Women’s Junior/Adult (18-35)</b> Fancy 1st Place   Bobbi Lynn Frederick</p> <p>Jingle 1st Place   Kia McCloud</p> <p>Northern Cloth 1st Place   Farica Syrette</p> <p>Southern Cloth 1st Place   Amanda Harris</p> <p><b>Women’s Golden Age (55+)</b> Fancy/Jingle Combined 1st Place   Irene Oaks</p>	<p>Southern Buckskin 1st Place   Whitney Sage</p> <p>Northern Buckskin 1st Place   Alva Fiddler</p> <p><b>Junior/Teen Boys</b> Fancy/Grass Combined 1st Place   Peyton White Buffalo</p> <p>Northern/Southern Combined 1st Place   Brycen Whiteshirt</p> <p><b>Jr./Teen Girls Categories</b> Northern/Southern Combined 1st Place   Nichole Nordwell</p> <p>Fancy/Jingle Combined 1st Place   Morning Star Roberts</p> <p><b>Drums</b> 1st Place   Bear Creek 2nd Place   The Boyz 3rd Place   Southern Style 4th Place   Sharp Shooter 5th Place   Midnight Express 6th Place   War Paint 7th Place   Wild Band of Comanches</p> <p><b>Special Sweetheart Special Winners</b> 1st Place   Jocy Bird &amp; Trae Little Sky 2nd Place   Adrian Stevens &amp; Sean Snyder 3rd Place   Brennah Wahweotten &amp; Canku</p> <p><b>One Star</b> 4th Place   Josette Wahwasuck &amp; Doug Scholfield 5th Place   Stehanie Nordwall &amp; Adam Nordwall</p>
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Kevin Johnson

With his brother Spencer Battiest in the background, ‘Doc’ Battiest sings to their hometown crowd Feb. 10 on the Seminole Hollywood Reservation as part of the Mag7 concert. It was the second day of the three-day Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow at Hard Rock Live.



Kevin Johnson

Taboo, of the Black Eyed Peas, performs during Mag7’s concert at Tribal Fair.



Kevin Johnson

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola, left, and Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola share a lighter moment during the grand entry.



Courtesy Photo

Satie Rico, of Hollywood, won first place in the 17 and under category at the Tribal Fair art show for her drawing of the late Addie Billie.



Kevin Johnson

Young dancers show plenty of colorful moves during the grand entry.



# Valentine's Day



**Aislinn Osceola** plays a Valentine's Day themed ring toss with hearts and a unicorn on Feb. 14 at the Hollywood Preschool's Friendship Carnival.



**Sharon Osceola** spend some quality time with her granddaughter **Naomi Frank** during the Hollywood Preschool's Friendship Carnival on Feb. 14, making small bead crafts.



**Agnes Billie-Motlow** shows off her Valentine's outfit to the other seniors at Hollywood's Valentine's Day party on Feb. 14 at the senior center.



**Linda Lee Henry** appears gleeful as she dances with Elvis impersonator **Daniel Cunningham**.

**Maggie Porter** shows off her pink Valentine's Day finery during the judging at the Big Cypress celebration.



**Paul Bowers** struts his stuff during the judging of Valentine's Day inspired garb at the Big Cypress senior's soiree



Elvis impersonator **Daniel Cunningham** serenades a transfixed **Nancy Billie** during the Big Cypress seniors Valentine's Day celebration Feb. 14.



**Taylor Battiest** shows off the Valentine's Day gear he made during the Hollywood Preschool's Friendship Carnival on Feb. 14.



**Naomi Seymour**, left, helps **Juanita Osceola** pin the lips on Miss Valentine during the senior Valentine's Day party on Feb. 14.

# Arts & Entertainment

## Ahfachkee art skills showcased at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** – With an array of student art from kindergartners to high school seniors, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is currently home to some of the Ahfachkee School's most imaginative work. Twenty-two pieces fill a wall in the museum as part of an annual exhibition that helps link the students and the museum for all visitors to see.

"These kids are very talented. They are natural artists. They have it in their blood," Ahfachkee art teacher Ivette Lopez said during an opening reception for the students Feb. 1 at the museum in Big Cypress.

Regardless of the age of its creators, the pieces – whose compositions include acrylic paint, collage, colored pencil, watercolor and other media – can evoke thoughts that extend beyond the boundaries of their black matting.

First-grader Cody Motlow's drawing 'The Alphabet' colorfully and creatively displays the 26 letters separately occupied inside 25 boxes, deftly using the separation lines between and above 'S' and 'U' to create 'T'.

Justin Billie, a fifth-grader, used the sun, clouds, birds, water, grass and a wooden boat in his 'Beautiful Day' mixed-media piece that practically smiles back at the viewer.

"Galaxies," created by 12th-grader Eyanna Billie with watercolor and ink, depicts a visual vastness of space that allows a mind to wander and wonder.

Rebecca Fell, the museum's curator of exhibits, said she looks forward to the exhibition each year and seeing the works of the students, including those who have participated for several years.

"With the older kids – and Eyanna's work is a good example – they start to develop their own sense of expression and style working with materials and doing it in interesting ways," Fell said. "Watching them grow and develop is a lot of fun."

The partnership between the school and museum dates back about a decade when Lopez first suggested creating an exhibit at the museum for students to showcase their skills. As Lopez explained in a letter that accompanies the art work, students at Ahfachkee delve into the work of the world's most famous artists, including Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet, Da Vinci and Kandinsky.

"If they are going to work with Picasso, they need to learn about Picasso's life and

about what is the difference between abstract and realistic," Lopez said.

The skills learned by the students in the classroom haven't gone unnoticed in the museum.

"A couple years ago one of visitors from the RV park liked a piece so much he tried to buy it," Fell recalled.

The exhibit runs until April 22.



Courtesy Photo

Ahfachkee School students gather next to their art work during an opening reception Feb. 1 at the Ah-Tah-Thi Ki Museum.



Kevin Johnson

Second-grader Casidi Motlow stands next to her art.

The students whose art work is on display and their grades:

Amaya Bert (2nd)  
Keifer Bert (kindergarten)  
Aaliyah Billie (5th)  
Eyanna Billie (12th)  
Ezekiel Billie (5th)  
Camille Billie (1st)  
Justin Billie (5th)  
Emma Dicarilo (5th)  
Tikara Hall (kindergarten)  
Haloma Jimmie (1st)  
Hank Jumper (kindergarten)  
Casidi Motlow (2nd)  
Cody Motlow (1st)  
Coda Porter-Osceola (1st)  
Siya Osceola (2nd)  
Christopher Smith (1st)  
Curmya Smith (3rd)  
Abigail Tigertail (10th)  
Rebekah Tigertail (2nd)  
Akira Tommie (kindergarten)

## Seminole exhibit to open at Orlando Museum of Art

BY STAFF REPORT

**ORLANDO** – Seminole culture is reaching beyond South Florida, as the Orlando Museum of Art will present the exhibit "Enduring Beauty: Seminole Art and Culture" from March 22 to July 8. The gallery, created by I.S.K. "Keith" Reeves V and Sara Reeves, will be displayed in the museum's Mr. and Mrs. Chesley G. Magruder Gallery.

The collection displays crafts and art from as early as the 19th century. Items include an embroidered and beaded bandolier bag, men's big shirts, women's and children's clothing, patchwork, beaded necklaces, woven baskets and dolls. There are also paintings, prints and photographs documenting important people and cultural activities.

The museum will host a reception for the grand opening on March 22 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for guests and free for museum members and include a cash bar and complimentary soft drinks and water.



Courtesy Orlando Museum of Art

## 'Hostiles' leaves a lot to be desired

BY JENNA KOPEC  
Seminole Tribune Freelance Writer

When I heard the praise that the new western movie, "Hostiles," received, I was intrigued to say the least. Supposedly a new take on the genre, the film was said to have stayed true in some key elements — like battle scenes while travelling — but taken a different direction on its message and narrative on Native Americans, who are erroneously portrayed as animalistic and savage by the genre. And while the film does stray from that offensive depiction, that isn't really saying much. "Hostiles" leaves a lot to be desired, especially when it comes to its lopsided storytelling.

Considering that the beginning of the logline names an Army chief, Joseph "Joe" Blocker (Christian Bale) and Cheyenne warrior, Chief Yellow Hawk (Wes Studi), you might assume that the movie would dedicate time to both of them, developing the relationships, pasts and character of both the major figures. It's a reasonable assumption, but it's wrong. "Hostiles" is another film about a white man, wrestling with his inner conflict and a white woman, Rosalie Quaid (Rosamund Pike) who's saved by him. Chief Yellow Hawk and his family are set to the backdrop. At least, it feels that way. We know very little about their background except

what Joe tells us in the exposition, which was mainly a defiant rant calling Yellow Hawk a "savage."

While Joe eventually aligns himself with the chief and "changes his ways," it feels lackluster because he barely interacts with him or his family throughout the film. Therefore, we as an audience barely interact with them despite the fact that they're such great characters. In what little exposure we do have to Chief Yellow Hawk and his family, we get to see their skill in battle and compassion.

One of the most obvious ways the movie lacks in terms of storytelling is the opportunities it ignores in the interesting story of Elk Woman. Shortly after Rosalie joins the group after her family was murdered, Elk Woman (Q'orianka Kilcher), the chief's daughter-in-law, offers her clean clothes and support despite being told not to speak to her. Elk Woman goes through some of the same trauma that Rosalie does. Elk Woman had been imprisoned for seven years, although her son, Little Bear, was alive, she likely lost countless family members to U.S. soldiers and halfway through the film both women are kidnapped and raped. Yet, it felt like the film and Joe were more concerned with Rosalie's fate than Elk Woman's despite knowing that the two women were friends and allies at this

point. Rosalie's character isn't necessarily a bad one, but the fact that she takes up more screen time suggests that she's somehow more important than Elk Woman whose perspective we're barred from.

Despite all this, the film does have some redeeming qualities. For one, it opens up a dialogue atypical for western films about the genocide and brutal treatment of Native Americans throughout history. Several characters, including Joe at the end of the film, mention how American land was the Native's land first, note how war has damaged not only U.S. soldiers but also Natives, and advocate for the release of imprisoned Natives. Several scenes are dedicated to displaying Cheyenne culture, such as the funeral scenes for Chief Yellow Hawk and the movie makes distinctions between tribes. Chief Yellow Hawk as an elder and warrior is portrayed as the most level and wise character of the bunch and justly so. However, because most of the commentary about war and treatment of the Natives comes from white characters, the film robs Chief Yellow Hawk and his family of much of a voice. "Hostiles" may have been a new take on the western, and perhaps even a step in the right direction, but it still leaves plenty to be desired.

## Seminole Casino Coconut Creek to host 'An Evening with Sophia Loren'

PRESS RELEASE

**COCONUT CREEK** — On April 6 at 8 p.m., Seminole Casino Coconut Creek will welcome to The Pavilion stage Sophia Loren, whom the American Film Institute calls one of the great legends of the golden age of Hollywood.

Tickets for "An Evening with Sophia Loren" (priced at \$70/\$85/\$100/\$250) are on sale via Ticketmaster locations, online at Ticketmaster.com, or by calling 800-653-8000.

The \$250 ticket will include a "Meet & Greet" session immediately following the show as well as a signed book — "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow: My Life" — by Loren. The Pavilion box office will also open at 1 p.m. on the day of the show for on-site ticket purchases and will call pickup.

The award-winning actress will share stories of her childhood in war-torn Italy, her family life and prolific career. In this Scott Stander production, Loren will be

accompanied by Entertainment Tonight interviewer Bill Harris and she will also answer questions from the audience.

From beauty pageant runner-up at age 14 to a modeling career that paved the way for a successful big-screen presence, Loren has firmly established her legacy as one of the most famous International Film Stars of our time.

After a series of popular Italian films in the 1950's, the screen siren caught Hollywood's eye and America's heart with a string of movies, including Boy on a Dolphin, Houseboat, Arabesque, and Heller in Pink Tights, starring with Hollywood's top leading men, including Cary Grant, Marlon Brando, Gregory Peck and Paul Newman.

However, it was Loren's performance in the riveting Italian mother-daughter drama Two Women (La Ciociara) that made cinematic history. The New York Times called her portrayal of a strong-willed woman who endures an assault to spare her daughter from the horrors of war "profound." The role scored Loren an Academy Award — the first

ever given for a non-English language role.

Loren expertly juggled European movies — garnering an Oscar nod for her performance in Marriage Italian Style — and American films such as El Cid and The Fall of the Roman Empire. The hit Italian comedy Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, which won an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, featured a striptease by Loren's character, which was re-created in Robert Altman's comedy Ready to Wear.

In addition to the Academy Award, she has won a Grammy Award, five special Golden Globes, a BAFTA Award, Laurel Award, the Best Actress Award at the Cannes Film Festival and the Honorary Academy Award in 1991. In 1995, she received the Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievements, one of many such awards.

In 1999, Loren was recognized as one of the top 25 female American Screen Legends in the American Film Institute's survey — AFI's 100 Years...100 Stars.

## New York Times best-selling Native American literature

BY LI COHEN  
Copy Editor

*Sometimes the best way to check out from daily life is to check out a book. The following books are written with a focus on Native Americans and are New York Times best-sellers. All Tribal members, descendants, community members and employees are encouraged to discover the latest stories and take a journey into the world of literature. Below is the list of the books — all available on Amazon — and their official summaries as published by the authors.*

**"The Heart of Everything That Is" by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin**

The great Sioux warrior-statesman Red Cloud was the only American Indian in history to defeat the United States Army in a war, forcing the government to sue for peace on his terms. At the peak of Red Cloud's powers the Sioux could claim control of one-fifth of the contiguous United States and the loyalty of thousands of fierce fighters. But the fog of history has left Red Cloud strangely obscured. Now, thanks to the rediscovery of a lost autobiography, and painstaking research by two award-winning authors, the story of our nation's most powerful and successful Indian warrior can finally be told.

**"Empire of the Summer Moon" by S.C. Gwynne**

Although readers may be more familiar with the tribal names Apache and Sioux, it was in fact the legendary fighting ability of the Comanches that determined just how and when the American West opened up.

Comanche boys became adept bareback riders by age six; full Comanche braves were considered the best horsemen who ever rode. They were so masterful at war and so skillful with their arrows and lances that they stopped the northern drive of colonial Spain from Mexico and halted the French expansion westward from Louisiana. White settlers arriving in Texas from the eastern United States were surprised to find the frontier being rolled backward by Comanches incensed by the invasion of their tribal lands. So effective were the Comanches that they forced the creation of the Texas Rangers and account for the advent of the new weapon specifically designed to fight them: the six-gun.

The war with the Comanches lasted four decades, in effect holding up the development of the new American nation. Gwynne's exhilarating account delivers a sweeping narrative that encompasses Spanish colonialism, the Civil War, the destruction of the buffalo herds, and the arrival of the railroads—a historical feast for anyone interested in how the United States came into being.

Against this backdrop Gwynne presents the compelling drama of Cynthia Ann Parker, a lovely nine-year-old girl with cornflower-blue eyes who was kidnapped by Comanches from the far Texas frontier in 1836. She grew to love her captors and became infamous as the "White Squaw" who refused to return until her tragic capture by Texas Rangers in 1860. More famous still was her son Quanah, a warrior who was never defeated and whose guerrilla wars in the Texas Panhandle made him a legend.

**"Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee" by Dee Brown**

Using council records, autobiographies, and firsthand descriptions, Brown allows great chiefs and warriors of the Dakota, Ute, Sioux, Cheyenne, and other tribes to tell us in their own words of the series of battles, massacres, and broken treaties that finally left them and their people demoralized and decimated. A unique and disturbing narrative told with force and clarity, Bury My Heart at Wounded Kneechanged forever our vision of how the West was won, and lost. It tells a story that should not be forgotten, and so must be retold from time to time.

**"Crazy Horse and Custer: The Parallel Lives of Two American Warriors" by Stephen E. Ambrose**

On the sparkling morning of June 25, 1876, 611 men of the United States 7th Cavalry rode toward the banks of Little Bighorn in the Montana Territory, where three thousand Indians stood waiting for battle. The lives of two great warriors would soon be forever linked throughout history: Crazy Horse, leader of the Oglala Sioux, and General George Armstrong Custer. Both were men of aggression and supreme courage. Both became leaders in their societies at very early ages. Both were stripped of power, in disgrace, and worked to earn back the respect of their people. And to both of them, the unspoiled grandeur of the Great Plains of North America was an irresistible challenge. Their parallel lives would pave the way, in a manner unknown to either, for an inevitable clash between two nations fighting for possession of the open prairie.

# Sports



## Jacoby Johns shines in front of hometown crowd

*Bareback rider from Brighton places 4th in PRCA event*

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BRIGHTON** — The loudest cheers from the crowd under the roof of Brighton's Fred Smith Rodeo Arena were directed to the bareback rider from right down the road.

When it came his turn, Jacoby Johns gave the fans plenty to hoot and holler about as he produced a score of 81 points, which turned out to be good enough for fourth place in the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association's stop at the 80th annual Brighton Field Day and Rodeo held Feb. 16-17.

"That was fun. I drew a real good horse and he bucked like I knew he was going to. I just had to do my part, which I did. It was good," Johns said as he tore off protective tape from his body following his ride.

"This sport goes through tape," he said. Johns, son of Wendy and Jeff Johns, has been in rodeos for nearly all his life, but to be able to shine in a pro rodeo in front of the home crowd carried extra significance.

"I'm like ecstatic that I'm in my hometown, good horse, good ride. I'm living the high life right now," he said. "It's always a blessing to be able to ride in front of my hometown."

Johns, 26, also considers it a blessing



Kevin Johnson

Professional bareback rider Jacoby Johns, of Brighton, competes in the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association event Feb. 16 at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena on the Brighton Reservation. Johns finished fourth.



Kevin Johnson

Jacoby Johns gets ready for the gate to open at the PRCA event.

to ride professionally, which he has done for four years.

"It's more than I thought it would be," he said. "When I watched it on TV, it's like you're in awe of all these guys, and now I'm riding against them. They're like my best friends, so it's good."

It's an environment where camaraderie and competitiveness ride side-by-side.

"We all compete against each other, but mostly we're competing against our animal," Johns said. "I've got friends and family all over because rodeo is a family. Everybody competes against each other, but we all want to see each other there at the next one. We're all friends and family."

Johns wasn't the only rider from Brighton who shined in the PRCA. Two of his cousins — bull rider Kelton Smedley and tie-down roper Jobe Johns — also had outstanding performances. Smedley didn't place in the money, but Jobe Johns placed eighth with a time of 8.7 seconds.

Up next for Jacoby Johns will be bigger rodeos out west in the coming weeks as he looks to continue momentum from an strong 2017 season in which he won both the Indian National Finals Rodeo Tour championship and short-go championship in bareback.

"I'm just living the dream now," he said. The PRCA event in Brighton paid out more than \$76,000 in prize money to the field. Wesley Brunson, from Mississippi, won all-around cowboy. At the start of the rodeo, PRCA recognized a group of first responders from the Seminole Tribe's Fire Rescue and Police and the Glades County Sheriff's Office in a program of appreciation for their work.

### Brighton Field Day Festival & Rodeo

Feb. 16-17

**All-around cowboy:** Wesley Brunson, \$3,471, tie-down roping and team roping.

**Bareback riding:** 1. Jake Brown,

85 points on JC Kitaif ProRodeos' Let It Rock, \$2,391; 2. Evan Jayne, 83.5, \$1,833; 3. Seth Hardwick, 83, \$1,355; 4. Jacoby Johns, 81, \$877; 5. (tie) Jessy Davis and Clayton Biglow, 80, \$478 each; 7. Daylon Swearingen, 79.5, \$319; 8. (tie) Kenny Haworth and Justin Miller, 76, \$120 each.

**Steer wrestling:** 1. Ty Erickson, 2.7 seconds, \$1,922; 2. Marcus Theriot, 3.7, \$1,590; 3. Jacob Edler, 4.0, \$1,259; 4. (tie) Kyle Irwin and Will Lummus, 4.2, \$762 each; 6. Eric Manos, 4.6, \$331.

**Team roping:** 1. Bart Brunson/Wesley Brunson, 4.6 seconds, \$2,367 each; 2. Cory Kidd V/Caleb Anderson, 5.1, \$2,059; 3. (tie) Travis Dorman/Bradley Massey and John Alley/Clark Adcock, 5.3, \$1,595 each; 5. Will Clark/Tanner Ward, 5.5, \$1,132; 6. Quinton Parchman/Dalton Totty, 5.6, \$823; 7. T.J. Smith/Blaine Courson, 5.7, \$515; 8. Justin Spotts/Shawn Harris, 6.3, \$206.

**Saddle bronc riding:** 1. Sterling Crawley, 83 points on Five Star Rodeo's Stars & Stripes, \$2,391; 2. Nat Stratton, 81, \$1,833; 3. Heith DeMoss, 80, \$1,355; 4. Joey Sonnier, 78, \$877; 5. Cole Elshere, 77.5, \$558; 6. (tie) Jacobs Crawley and James Greeson, 77, \$359 each; 8. Curtis Garton, 75.5, \$239.

**Tie-down roping:** 1. Shane Hanchey, 7.8 seconds, \$1,638; 2. Garrett Beach, 7.9, \$1,424; 3. (tie) Wesley Brunson and Justin Thigpen, 8.1, \$1,104 each; 5. Joey Dickens, 8.2, \$783; 6. Andrew Burks, 8.3, \$570; 7. Reno Gonzales, 8.5, \$356; 8. Jobe Johns, 8.7, \$142.

**Barrel racing:** 1. Sarah Rose McDonald, 15.68 seconds, \$1,587; 2. Shelby Kirton, 15.80, \$1,360; 3. Kristen Darnell, 15.86, \$1,134; 4. Kelley Carrington, 15.87, \$982; 5. Jenna Beaver, 15.91, \$756; 6. Nicole Love, 15.92, \$605; 7. Zoe Braman, 15.95, \$453; 8. Elizabeth Ellzey, 15.96, \$302; 9. Megan Calhoun, 15.97, \$227; 10. Kaley Bass, 15.98, \$151.

**Bull riding:** 1. Tristan Mize, 86 points on JC Kitaif ProRodeos' No. 23, \$3,412; 2.



Kevin Johnson

Jacoby Johns maintains control in the PRCA bareback riding competition in Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

After winning the INFR Tour bareback riding title in 2017, Jacoby Johns is poised for another strong season this year.



Kevin Johnson

At the start of its rodeo Feb. 16 in Brighton, the PRCA honors first responders from Seminole Fire Rescue, Seminole Police and Glades County Sheriff's Office.

Koby Radley, 82.5, \$2,616; 3. Michael Riggs Jr., 82, \$1,934; 4. Boudreaux Campbell, 80.5, \$1,251; 5. Kyler Oliver, 80, \$796; 6. Daylon Swearingen, 74, \$569; 7. Dustin Boquet, 72, \$455; 8. (tie) Tate Smith and Denton Fugate, 71.5, \$171 each.

# Yearling edges PECS in boys Around the Lake championship

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BRIGHTON** — In the Around the Lakes Conference boys tournament, Yearling Middle School edged Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School, 35-32, in a hard-fought championship game Feb. 7 on PECS' home court. Jorge Arias led Yearling with 13 points followed by Daniel Mingo (8), Trey Williams (6), Jay Thomas (4), Brandon Santiago (2) and Vincent Fennell (2).

PECS guard Dakoya Nunez poured in a game-high 15 points. PECS also received scoring from Jayton Baker (7), Jaytron Baker (6), C.J. Jumper (2) and Aundrea Baker (2).

Thanks in part to a pair of 3-pointers from Arias, Yearling built a 21-17 lead at halftime. PECS roared back to take a 28-26 lead after three quarters behind seven points from Nunez in the quarter, but Yearling responded by outscoring the hosts 9-4 in the final eight minutes to claim the title. Arias made a couple of key free throws in the waning seconds. Already without two of its

regular players for the game, PECS lost its big man Jayton Baker to an injury with three minutes left in the game.

PECS compiled an outstanding season, but the team struggled to generate momentum in the championship game.

"We had a lot of turnovers and just couldn't get it together," said PECS coach Preston Baker, who guided the squad to a 12-2 record.

This was the second year of the Around the Lake Tournament, which serves as a conference postseason tournament for middle schools in the Lake Okeechobee region. The teams include PECS, Clewiston, LaBelle, Moore Haven, Osceola, West Glades and Yearling, although some of the schools did not participate in the tournament.

Overall, coach Baker said he was pleased with his team's season, especially with a defense that often left opponents frustrated.

"It was mainly our defense. They couldn't stop our press. It gave them a lot of headaches," he said.



PECS guard Dayoka Nunez soars down the lane on his way to scoring a game-high 15 points in the Around the Lake boys tournament championship Feb. 7 in Brighton.



PECS coach Preston Baker provides pregame instruction to his players before the championship.



PECS forward Jayton Baker (24) takes the opening tip in the Around the Lake boys tournament Feb. 7 in Brighton.



PECS forward C.J. Jumper takes a jump shot against Yearling Middle in the Around the Lake boys tournament championship game Feb. 7 in Brighton.



Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School celebrates winning the Around the Lake girls basketball tournament Feb. 3 in Brighton. Front row, from left: CeCe Thomas, Kalyn Hammil, Lexi Thomas, Giselle Micco. Middle row: Elle Thomas, Ysla Gopher, Angelie Melton, Jana Johnson, Tafv Harris, Adryauna Baker, Karey Gopher. Back row, from left: assistant coach Sherie Thomas, head coach Tim Thomas (not in photo: assistant coach Jewel Buck). PECS finished its season with a 13-1 record.

# PECS girls finish almost perfect season by winning Around the Lake championship

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BRIGHTON** — The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School girls basketball team concluded its nearly perfect season Feb. 3 by winning the Around the Lake Conference girls tournament in Brighton.

PECS wrapped up a 13-1 season by defeating Osceola Middle School, 47-26, in the championship game. Adryauna Baker paced a well-balanced offense with a game-high 15 points. Other scoring came from Tafv Harris (8 points), Karey Gopher (7), Ysla Gopher (7), Elle Thomas (5) and Giselle Micco (4).

The only thing that prevented PECS from a perfect record was a one-point, double-overtime loss to Osceola early in the

season. "That team there is a thorn in my side," said PECS coach Tim Thomas. "First game, double-overtime. Second game, we only beat them by two, so we kind of picked up the defense on this one. We didn't want to leave them any chance of sticking around and hitting a last-second shot on us."

PECS delivered a championship victory for its coach in his final game. Thomas has led the team for eight years, including a perfect 15-0 squad in 2012-13 and last season's team which won the inaugural Around the Lake tournament. He said he has decided to step aside and assistant coach Jewel Buck will take over.

"Jewel is going to step in and she'll do a good job," Thomas said.

PECS reached the title game thanks to a

37-30 win against Yearling in the semifinals. The teams were knotted at 25-25 through three quarters before PECS pulled away in the fourth behind four points from Micco, three points from Harris, a 3-pointer from Baker and two points from Karey Gopher. Baker finished with a game-high 15 points with other contributions coming from Harris (8 points), Micco (7) and Gopher (4).

As for the six eighth-graders, the championship game was also their final middle school game. So it was fitting that coach Thomas, his wife Sherie, who is also an assistant coach, joined Baker, Harris, Gopher, Micco, Thomas and Kayln Hammil for photos with the conference trophy at midcourt as they all departed as winners.

"Another banner on the wall," Harris said.



Above, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Adryauna Baker (4) guards an inbounds pass against Osceola Middle in the Around the Lake girls tournament championship game Feb. 3 in Brighton. At left, PECS players celebrate with the trophy.



Coach Tim Thomas and his players celebrate right after the final buzzer as PECS claimed its second consecutive Around the Lakes championship.

# Cheyenne Nunez, State College of Florida softball prove to be ideal fit

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

There's been a lot for Cheyenne Nunez to like about her first season of playing college softball.

She likes her teammates, coaches and school and loves being a starter on the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota softball team which won 10 of its first 12 games this season with the former Okeechobee High School standout providing plenty of contributions at the plate, on the base paths and in the field.

Nunez, from the Brighton Reservation, has started in right field and batted from the No. 2 spot for most of the season. She entered March as the team's second leading hitter with a batting average of .344 and a team-leading seven stolen bases.

She had 11 hits through her first 13 games. She didn't waste any time producing for the Manatees, coming through with a hit, walk and RBI in her first career game, a 6-5 loss to Iowa Central Community College

Being out of the lineup was something Nunez had to get used to last year when she redshirted in her first and only season at Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers before transferring 90 miles up Interstate 75 to FSC in Bradenton. She practiced with Florida SouthWestern last year, but did not appear in games, which means even though she is a sophomore academically, she is still a freshman athletically and will have three years of playing eligibility remaining after this season.

"Coming from high school, I went through some bumps in the road. Bouncing back I think was the biggest thing for me," Nunez said. "A lot of people doubted me ... but I was like 'You're here for a reason. God has your back; your family has your back. They're going to support you.' Now that I'm here and I'm in it and I'm getting at-bats and fielding time, I'm living it and I love every second of it."

By sticking with softball, Nunez hopes that she and other Seminole athletes – such as Florida Gulf Coast University softball



Kevin Johnson

Cheyenne Nunez, third from left, has compiled a stellar first season with the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota softball team in Bradenton. Nunez was the team's second leading hitter through the end of February.

in late January. She's had two-hit games against St. Johns River State College, Lake-Sumter State College and Seminole State College.

After years as a starter in Okeechobee High's infield, Nunez has made a smooth transition to right field this season.

The only bump on an otherwise smooth road so far was a painful one. Nunez's strong season was interrupted Feb. 10 when she was plunked by a pitch on her right forearm while attempting a bunt in a game against Santa Fe College. She had to leave the game and she sat out a doubleheader against Indian River State College in Fort Pierce the following week.

"I thought it was broken," Nunez said between games as SCF was swept by IRSC, 9-1 in a five-inning game ended by the run rule, and 3-0 in the nightcap.

"This is the first time I've ever been run-ruled. My coach is not very happy right now; none of us are," Nunez said about game one. "My coach hates losing. I hate losing."

The following day Nunez returned to action – although only as a pinch runner – and SCF returned to the win column with a 9-4 triumph in the first game of a doubleheader sweep against Broward College. Nunez stole a base and scored a run. The injury, however, continued to keep her out of the lineup as the team headed into March.

player Ahnie Jumper and Nova Southeastern University basketball player Skylia Osceola – can be inspirations for younger athletes to follow in their footsteps and play college sports.

"I hope a lot more Native Americans could live this because it's just an awesome experience to keep playing," Nunez said. "I wish everyone would live this if they want to, like the athletes that are coming up in high school and the ones that are graduating because it's definitely worth it. I'm definitely glad I stuck with it."

SCF has turned out to be a good fit for her under a coaching staff led by Mandy Schuerman.

"They're going to want you to hit the way they want you to so you can be more progressive and better, and these coaches know exactly what they're talking about," Nunez said.

The coaches have helped her on and off the field.

"They try to change you to be a better person, not just in softball, but in life," Nunez said.

As for academics, Nunez, daughter of Peggy and Daniel Nunez Sr., plans to focus on getting degrees in business, psychology and/or biology. She said her career objective is to be a dental hygienist for the Tribe.

"That's the goal," she said.



Kevin Johnson

Until an injury sidelined her, former Okeechobee High School standout Cheyenne Nunez had started most games this season in right field for State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota.

## Golfers tee it up in Tribal Fair tournament



Kevin Johnson(3)

Golfers participate in the Seminole Tribal Fair Golf Tournament on Feb. 9 at Grand Oaks Golf Club in Davie. At left, Larry Osceola watches the putt of his grandson Donovan Osceola roll toward the hole. Center, Terry Tartsah chips the ball onto the green on the final hole for his group. At right, Mateo Jimenez putts the ball.

## Ahnie Jumper scores winning run as FGCU improves to 10-0

FORT MYERS — The Florida Gulf Coast University softball team's winning streak to start the season reached 10 games thanks in part to Ahnie Jumper from the Big Cypress Reservation.

As a pinch runner, Jumper scored the winning run in FGCU's 2-1 win against Stony Brook on Feb. 23 in Fort Myers. The victory upped FGCU's record to 10-

0. Jumper scored from second base on a single by Bri Bennett in the sixth inning that snapped a 1-1 tie.

The following day FGCU defeated Wright State and Southern Illinois to move to 12-0. Jumper scored her fifth run of the season in the Wright State game and she stole her first base of the season in the Southern Illinois game.

Jumper, a freshman who has been used as a pinch runner and had yet to have an at-bat through the first dozen games, also scored runs against North Carolina State, South Florida and Oakland.

FGCU will face powerhouses Florida State and Oregon in the FSU Unconquered Invitational from March 2-4 in Tallahassee.

## Skyla Osceola nets season-high 13 points in Nova Southeastern's win vs FL Tech

DAVIE — The Nova Southeastern University women's basketball team finished its regular season on a winning note as the Sharks topped Florida Tech, 87-73, on Feb. 24 in Melbourne.

NSU freshman guard Skyla Osceola, from the Hollywood Reservation, scored a

season-high 13 points to go along with five assists and one rebound. Osceola was 5-for-8 from the field and made three 3-pointers.

The victory capped a strong week for Osceola, who scored nine points in a loss to Barry and had five assists, three rebounds and three points in a win against Palm Beach

Atlantic.

Osceola concluded the regular season as the team's leader in assists with 87.

Next up for NSU is the Sunshine State Conference playoffs, slated to start Feb. 28.

## Curtis Osceola, OCU basketball head into postseason

OKLAHOMA CITY — Freshman guard Curtis Osceola, of Anadarko, Okla., has appeared in six games this season for the Oklahoma City University men's basketball team, which was ranked No. 12 in NAIA Division I as of late February.

Osceola scored his first collegiate points Oct. 28 on a 3-pointer against Manhattan

Christian. He also made a 3-pointer against Barcone in a late-January game. He grabbed three rebounds in a November game against Ecclesia.

For the season, Osceola has played 31 minutes with nine points, two assists, one steal and five rebounds.

Osceola is a business major.

With one game left in its regular season, Oklahoma City had a 21-7 overall record and 13-6 mark in the Sooner Athletic Conference, whose tournament will be held Feb. 27-March 2. OCU is a six-time NAIA Division champion. Its roster this season includes eight seniors.

## Triple Crown fishing starts March 10

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Sportsman's Triple Crown Fishing Series in Big Cypress kicks off March 10 with the Bass Busters' Fishing Tournament from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Other tournaments include the Howard

Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament on April 14 and the Seminole Sportsman's Championship Tournament on May 12.

The tournaments are open to Tribal members, Community members and STOF employees. Each team must have at least one

Tribal member.

For more information call Moses Jumper Jr. at 954-931-7118 or Joe Collins at 954-931-7793 or email BigShotSports@aol.com.

## Rise and shine in Brighton for heart healthy 5K



Courtesy photo Barbara Boling/STOF Health Education Coordinator

As part of Heart Health Awareness in February, runners and walkers participate in the Brighton Field Day 5K early in the morning on Feb. 15 near the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

# EIRA season starts in Hollywood, Big Cypress

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association's 2018 season started in February on consecutive Saturdays with a pair of memorial rodeos on two reservations.

Cowboys and cowgirls filled the new rodeo arena on the Hollywood Reservation on Feb. 3 for the third annual Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo before all the action – which was originally scheduled to stay in Hollywood – shifted to Junior Cypress Arena in Big Cypress for the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo, an INFR Tour event, on Feb. 10.

Betty Mae's son and EIRA youth director Moses Jumper Jr. served as the announcer for the kids rodeos as the youngsters were in the spotlight for afternoon sessions while adults occupied the prime time sessions. Participation numbers were strong across the board. For example, about 90 slots were

filled in the youth rodeo at the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo. Miss Indian Rodeo Kayln Bunion, of Navajo Nation, attended the rodeo as did Bill Osceola's daughter Cynthia, whose granddaughter Cyiah Alvia participated in the barrel racing. At the conclusion, Cynthia presented the winners with buckles.

There's nothing like starting the season with a winning streak, which is exactly what four kids and two adults accomplished. In the youth rodeo, Summer Gopher (Pony Riding), Norman Osceola (Jr. Bareback Riding), Thadd Johns (Calf Riding) and Jaylee Wilcox (9-12 Barrel Racing) started their EIRA seasons in outstanding fashion by winning their events at both rodeos. On the adults side, Alan Golbert (Saddle Bronc) and Ed Harry (Sr. Breakaway Roping) swept both rodeos with victories in their events.

The next rodeo will be held March 17 at Junior Cypress Arena.



Kevin Johnson

From left, Moses Jumper Jr., Miss Indian Rodeo Kayln Bunion, Cynthia Osceola and Cyiah Alvia gather for a photo Feb. 10 at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress. The EIRA held rodeos in February in memory of Moses' mother Betty Mae Jumper and Cynthia's father Bill Osceola.

## Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo Results

Feb. 3 at Hollywood

### Kids Rodeo

Dummy Roping - 1st Place Tyse Osceola, 2nd Koty Gopher-Turtle, 3rd Chance Madrigal  
Mutton Busting - 1st Place Twister Fischer, 2nd Brace Miller, 3rd Caden Jumper, 4th Chance Madrigal, 5th place Nolan Gopher Jr.  
Youth Pony Riding - 1st Place Gus Jumper, 2nd Justin Rodriguez, 3rd Thadd Johns  
Pony Riding - 1st Place Summer Gopher  
Jr Bareback Riding - 1st place Norman Osceola  
Calf Riding - 1st place Thadd Johns, 2nd Kuli Julian, 3rd Gus Jumper  
Steer Riding - 1st Place Chunky Osceola, 2nd Bryce Baker  
Jr Bull Riding - 1st Place Tucker Johns, 2nd Cisco Rodriguez, 3rd Aiden Tommie  
Chute Doggin - 1st Place Jaytron Baker  
Jr Breakaway Roping - 1st Place Annie Quinn Barney, 2nd Jaytron Baker  
4-8 yr ol Barrel Racing - 1st place Paizlee Miller, 2nd Talen Jumper, 3rd Tawnee Baker  
9-12 yr ol Barrel Racing - 1st Place Jaylee Wilcox, 2nd JoJo Fischer, 3rd Summer Gopher, 4th Jayleigh Kroepin  
13-17 yr ol Barrel Racing - 1st Place Budha Jumper, 2nd Madison Jumper, 3rd Jacee Jumper, 4th Annie Quinn Barney

### Adult Rodeo

Bare Back Riding: 1st place - Clay Ramone, 2nd place - Jacoby Johns  
Saddle Bronc - 1st Alan Golbert  
Steer Wrestling - 1st Quinton Inman, 2nd place - Dayne Johns  
Tie Down Roping - 1st place Jobe Johns, 2nd place - Quinton Inman, 3rd place - Naha Jumper  
Lady's Breakaway Roping - 1st place Annie Quinn Barney, 2nd place - Ahnie Jumper  
INFR Sr Breakaway Roping - 1st place Ed Harry  
INFR Jr. Breakaway Roping - 1st place Annie Quinn Barney  
Team Roping - 1st place Josh Jumper and Naha Jumper; 2nd place - Greg Louis and Jayde Murphy, 3rd place - Preston Louis and Jayde Murphy, 4th place - Terry Fischer and Ed Harry, 5th Place - Cody Barney and Ed Harry  
Lady's Barrel Racing - 1st place Annie Quinn Barney, 2nd place - Ashley Parks, 3rd place - Boogie Johns, 4th place - Ahnie Jumper, 5th Place - Budha Jumper  
No Qualified Bull Riders  
INFR Jr Bull Riding - 1st Place Norman Osceola, 2nd place - Tucker Johns

## Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo Results

Feb. 10 at Big Cypress

### Kids Rodeo

Dummy Roping - 1st Place Brace Miller, 2nd Ryker Miller  
Mutton Busting - 1st Place Caden Jumper, 2nd Twister Fischer, 3rd Brace Miller, 4th Nolan Gopher Jr.  
Youth Pony Riding - 1st Place Thadd Johns, 2nd JB Anderson, 3rd Oreste Perez  
Pony Riding - 1st Place Summer Gopher, 2nd Alex Rodriguez  
Jr Bareback Riding - 1st Place Norman Osceola, 2nd Chunky Osceola  
Calf Riding - 1st Place Thadd Johns, 2nd Alex Rodriguez, 3rd Kuli Julian  
Steer Riding - 1st Place Ethan Marceau, 2nd Chunky Osceola  
Jr Bull Riding - 1st place Aidan Tommie, 2nd Cisco Rodriguez, 3rd Norman Osceola  
Chute Doggin - 1st Place Creek Gopher, 2nd Jaytron Baker  
Jr. Breakaway Roping - 1st Place Jaytron Baker, 2nd Annie Quinne Barney, 3rd Bryce Baker  
4-8 yr old Barrel Racing - 1st place Hannah Platt, 2nd Paizlee Miller, 3rd Edie Johns  
9-12 yr old Barrel Racing - 1st place Jaylee Wilcox, 2nd Jayliyah Kroepin, 3rd JoJo Fischer  
13-17 yr old Barrel Racing - 1st place Ginger Cohea, 2nd Annie Quinn Barney, 3rd Jacee Jumper

### Adult TOUR Rodeo

Bareback Riding - 1st Place Jacoby Johns, 2nd Buck Lunak, 3rd & 4th Tie Split Clay Ramone & Steven DeWolfe, 5th Jaylen Baker  
Steer Wrestling - 1st Place Dayne Johns, 2nd Greg Louis, 3rd Quinton Inman  
Saddle Bronc Riding - 1st place Alan Golbert  
Tie Down Roping - 1st Place Quinton Inman, 2nd Bryton Edmunson, 3rd Gavaro Harrison, 4th Naha Jumper, 5th Jobe Johns, 6th Clint Bruisedhead  
Lady's Breakaway Roping - 1st place Tiffany Teehee, 2nd Kelsey Anderson  
INFR Sr. Breakaway Roping - 1st & 2nd Tie Ed Harry & Brett Givins, 3rd Sallee Williams, 4th Jake Longbrake  
INFR Jr. Breakaway Roping - 1st Place Annie Quinn Barney, 2nd Canaan Jumper  
Team Roping - 1st Place Jason Baker and Jaylen Baker, 2nd Robbie Inman and Ralph Williams, 3rd Jake Longbrake and Ed Harry, 4th Josh Jumper and Naha Jumper, 5th Preston Louis and Jayde Murphy, 6th Robbie Inman and Brett Givens  
Lady's Barrel Racing - 1st Place Ashley Parks, 2nd Annie Quinn Barney, 3rd Boogie Johns, 4th Tiffany Teehee, 5th Kelsey Anderson, 6th Mackenzie Bowers  
Bull Riding - 1st Place Slick Phelps  
INFR Jr Bull Riding - 1st Place Kasen Johnson, 2nd Justin Gopher Jr.  
INFR Jr. Barrels - 1st Place Jaylee Wilcox, 2nd JB Bruisedhead, 3rd Annie Quinn Barney, 4th Ashley Walker  
INFR Team Roping - Robbie Inman and Ralph Williams



Kevin Johnson

Cody Tommie, 4, eyes the target in dummy roping at the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo on Feb. 10 at Junior Cypress Arena in Big Cypress.



Kevin Johnson

Morgan Yates carries the Seminole Tribe's flag during the opening ceremonies of the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo on Feb. 10 in Big Cypress.



Kevin Johnson

EIRA Jr. Rodeo Queen Madisyn Osceola carries the U.S. flag at the start of the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo on Feb. 10 at Junior Cypress Arena in Big Cypress.



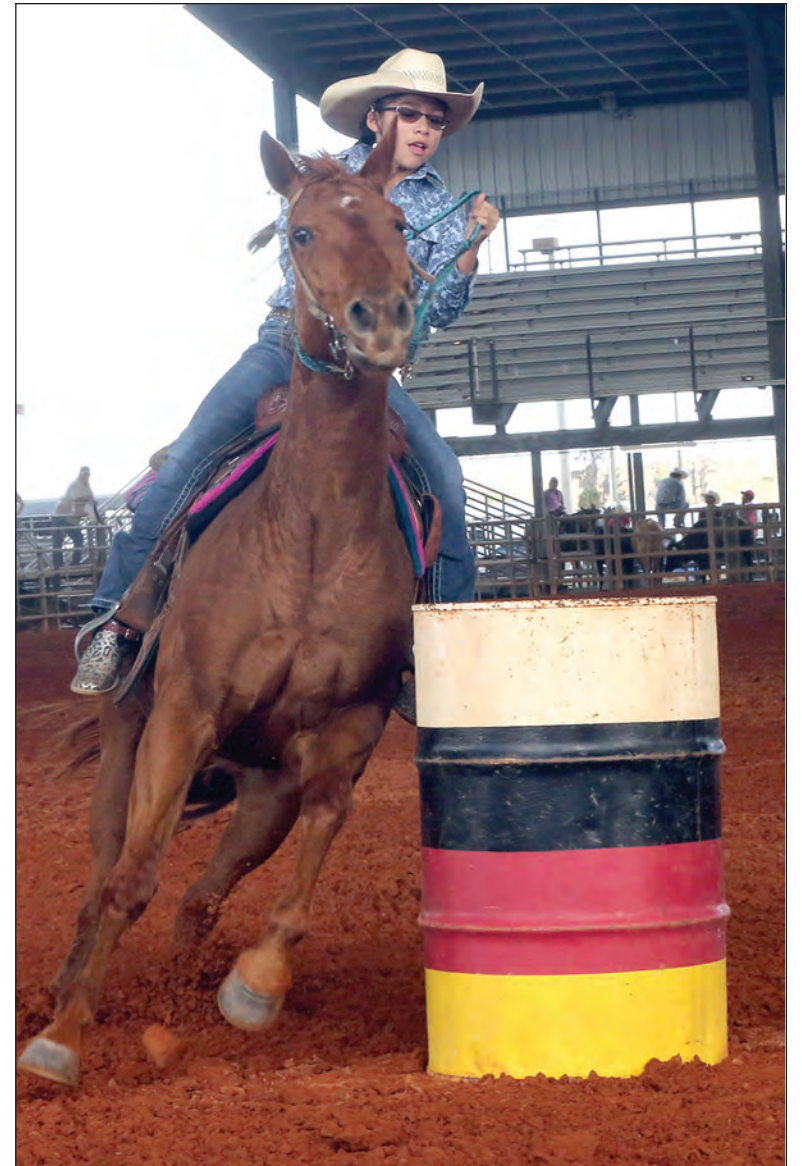
Kevin Johnson

Dalina Rodriguez competes in mutton busting for ages 4 to 6 at the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo.



Justin Gopher gains the upperhand during the third annual Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo on Feb. 3 in Hollywood.

Maury Neipris



Kevin Johnson

TT Anderson competes in 9-12 barrel racing at the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo.



Ivan Bruisedhead competes at the Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo.

Maury Neipris



Leann Billie is in good position to rope the calf during the Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo.

Maury Neipris



Jobe Johns does a quick tie up in the Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo in Hollywood.

Maury Neipris



Kevin Johnson

Oreste Perez Jr. was atop his pony for a long time before taking a spill in the youth pony riding for ages 7 to 9 at the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo at Junior Cypress Arena in Big Cypress.



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# Adults, youth battle for Tribal Fair basketball titles

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribal Fair's activities extended beyond the Hard Rock Live arena. Youth and adult teams took to the basketball court at the Howard Tiger Gymnasium in Hollywood for the Tribal Fair Basketball Tournament from Feb. 1-3 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood.

Led by the hot shooting of Wayne Runnels, who poured in 30 points, the Plainzmen held off Big Town, 90-85, to win the men's championship game. The Plainzmen, who built a 52-37 lead, also received big games from Malcolm Moore (16 points), Alphonso Hubbard (14 points) and Jess Heart (12 points). The team shined from beyond the arc, with six 3-pointers in the first

quarter alone. Runnels finished with four 3's. Big Town received 22 points from Hunter Osceola.

The teams met earlier in the tournament with the Plainzmen emerging with a 76-68 win.

The women's championship game wasn't nearly as close as the men's game. The Lady Ballers rode the remarkable shooting of 3-point specialist Jenna Plumley to an 80-50 victory against X-Factor. Plumley, a former University of Oklahoma and Lamar University player, drained 38 points, including 10 from 3-point land. Ariah Osceola contributed 13 points and Courtney Osceola scored 10 points for the champions.

Nobody was able to cool off Seminole Heat in the 17U co-ed division, which featured five teams. The Heat went 4-0, including a 63-61 win in the championship against Aden's Squad. Robert Harris paved

the way to victory with 21 points. Michael Harvey scored 10 points and Julia Smith contributed seven points. Todd Pierce led Aden's with 24 points.

In earlier games, Lucas Osceola (18 points), Harvey (12 points) and Harris (10 points) led the Heat past Brighton Hoops. The Hoops notched an 81-53 win against the Canes behind 29 points from Cisco Rodriguez and 22 points from Alyke Baker.

The Tribesmen used balanced scoring to capture the 14U co-ed title with a 58-25 win against Unconquered. Jaytron Baker led the way with 14 points followed by Dathen Garcia (12 points), Roger Walters (12 points), Nakai Alex (8 points), Ellery Huggins (7 points) and Ramone Baker (5 points).



Kevin Johnson

Tropics' Ethan Cypress makes a strong move to the hoop against the Plainzmen's Wayne Runnels in an men's division game Feb. 2 during the Seminole Tribal Fair Basketball Tournament at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

The Plainzmen's Alphonso Hubbard (3) and Tropics' Charles Frye battle for the ball.



Kevin Johnson

Above and right, action from the women's tournament in a game between X-Factor and Wide Open.



Kevin Johnson

Above, the Tribesmen, coached by Preston Baker, celebrate winning the U14 division. Below, Unconquered earned runner-up honors in the division. Posing with both teams is Virginia Osceola representing the Tribal Fair.



Kevin Johnson

The Plainzmen and Big Town meet in a pool play game. The teams squared off again in the title game.

## Announcements

### Center for Native American Youth welcomes Sally Jewell to Board

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Center for Native American Youth at The Aspen Institute has added former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to its Board of Advisors.

Jewell has been a longtime advocate for tribes and Native American youth. During the Obama Administration, she was instrumental in supporting the President's cross-sector Generation Indigenous initiative to decrease barriers and increase opportunity for young Native Americans. While working alongside tribal leaders to address challenges with Indian education, environmental

protections, and tribal consultation measures, Jewell also worked to make the Administration more accessible to Native youth. She regularly held dialogues with young people about federal policies and played a critical role in supporting the Obama White House Tribal Nations Conferences and Tribal Youth Gatherings.

"Secretary Jewell knows all too well the disparities that Native American youth face," says former Senator and CNAY Founder Byron Dorgan. "She has been a leader in helping Native American youth as they work to improve their lives and improve the communities in which they live. We look forward to working with the Secretary to

ensure that these remarkable young people have all the tools they need to succeed."

Among Jewell's top priorities during her time as Secretary was working with Congress to increase funding for the Bureau of Indian Education so that Native youth have safe and supportive learning environments. In addition to developing new grant programs to promote tribal control of education, Jewell worked within the Administration to restructure the BIE so that tribes are in the lead when assessing their needs and determining the best education strategies for

### Rebecca M. Benally joins Tribal Treasury Advisory Committee

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Senator Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, announced Rebecca M. Benally as the final appointee to the Tribal Treasury Advisory Committee (TTAC). The appointment was announced by the Department of Treasury. Benally is the final appointment necessary for the

TTAC to begin conducting business on behalf of Indian Country.

Benally is a member of the Navajo Nation. She currently serves as the county commissioner of San Juan County in Utah. She is the first Native American woman to hold this post. Benally has over 20 years of experience in the education field as a teacher, school principal,

and at the college administration level.

Benally joins six other appointees to the TTAC who will serve an important role in Indian Country by advising the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury on taxation issues

### Native Youth Agriculture Leadership Summit set for June

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**FAYETTEVILLE, Ark.** — The 5th annual Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Leadership Summit at the University of Arkansas School of Law will be held June 7-17 in Fayetteville at the University of Arkansas School of Law, home of the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative. The summit is open to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian youth, ages 15-18 (including recently graduated high

school seniors).

Some travel assistance may become available; participants will receive information about this after they are accepted into the program.

The summit will build on previous summits, but will be more intensive. The 2018 Summit will be a skills-development focused event that will give attendees an opportunity to do a deep dive in a particular area of food and agricultural production or policy. The four subject matter areas are: Agricultural Business and Finance; Conservation Practices

and Planning for Agricultural Production; Agricultural & Food Law and Policy; and Nutrition and Health.

The priority deadline for applying to the 2018 Summit is March 1. Priority students will be allocated additional points in the selection process. The final deadline for applying to the 2018 Summit is March 15.

Contact Erin Shirl on the IFAI staff at [eshirl@uark.edu](mailto:eshirl@uark.edu) or call 479-575-6572 or 479-575-5128 or visit [indigenousfoodandag.com](http://indigenousfoodandag.com) to register.

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772143	2007	CLUB CART	XRT-800 (Gas)	N/A	Poor	\$1,059.00
795109	2007	CLUB CART	XRT-800 (Gas)	N/A	Poor	\$999.00

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

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



### Theodore Nelson Sr.

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