



Tribute to Joe Dan Osceola
COMMUNITY ♦ 4A



PECS alumni share Native heritage
EDUCATION ♦ 2B



High school basketball tips off
SPORTS ♦ 6B

The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

www.seminoletribune.org • Free

Volume XLV • Number 11

November 30, 2021

Tribes seek return of Moundville items from University of Alabama

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe is one of seven tribes that are seeking the return of almost 5,900 human remains and artifacts at the Moundville site in west-central Alabama near Tuscaloosa. The remains and artifacts are in the possession of the University of Alabama.

The Moundville site (which now includes the Moundville Archaeological Park) was considered a significant area of Native American culture from about 1020 to 1650. Archaeologists have been studying artifacts at Moundville for more than 100 years. The park, operated by the University of Alabama, opened in 1939 where researchers have unearthed tens of thousands of artifacts.

"The evidence presented in this claim establishes beyond any reasonable doubt that the Muskogean-speaking Tribes are culturally affiliated with the Moundville archaeological site," reads the claim sent to the University of Alabama by the tribes earlier this year. "Moundville is at least as closely affiliated with the Muskogean-speaking Tribes as Plymouth Colony is to the United States."

Plymouth Colony was America's first permanent Puritan settlement by English settlers known as the Pilgrims. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) passed in 1990 after tribes and their supporters discovered that museums, universities and collectors held hundreds of thousands of remains and objects from Native American burial sites. NAGPRA requires federally funded institutions, like the University of Alabama, to document remains and return them to tribes. However, tribal members and those working on behalf of tribes say the process is frustrating, tedious and slow.

Joining the Seminole Tribe on the Moundville claim are the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Chickasaw Nation, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town and Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

All seven tribes say they share a common ancestry with the inhabitants of Moundville that has been passed down through language, oral history and shared traditions like architecture and craftsmanship. The tribes say they are descended from the Mississippian culture that was known for its mound building.

According to a report in Alabama news site AL.com, the University of Alabama has returned remains to tribes in the past. The current claim, however, is still under review.

"At this time, the University is still evaluating the claim and looks forward to working with the Tribes on this matter," Matthew Gage, director of the Office of Archaeological Research at the University of Alabama said in a statement to AL.com.

Whether remains and funerary objects are designated as "culturally identifiable" or "culturally unidentifiable" is what often bogs claims down and causes issues and delays. More than half of the remains in the U.S. that have been inventoried have not been claimed because they have been designated as "culturally unidentifiable" – with no alleged direct link to federally recognized tribes.

♦ See MOUNDVILLE on page 8A



Via Moundville Archaeological Park Facebook
One of the platform mounds at Moundville Archaeological Park.

'Dream' performance for Battiest brothers at NBA game in Los Angeles

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

After two years of not performing in person, Seminole brothers Spencer Battiest and Doc Native performed on one of Los Angeles' biggest stages Nov. 23 – Staples Center – in front of an audience of 17,067 during halftime at the Clippers versus Dallas Mavericks NBA basketball game.

The Clippers invited the brothers to perform their award-winning song "Dream" as a celebration of Native American Heritage Month.

"What a way to come back," Battiest said. "To get the call to come to the Staples arena is a really big honor. They specifically asked for 'Dream,' which means they agree with the message."

"I always dreamed of going there to watch a basketball game, let alone headlining at center court," Native said. "It's an honor being a representative for all of Native America and all Indigenous people."

The brothers, who grew up on the Hollywood Reservation, weren't the only Native Americans who performed. Before the game, the national anthem was sung by PJ Vegas, the son of Redbone's Pat Vegas.

"Dream" recently won best music video of the year at the American Indian Film Festival. Two Native dancers who appeared in the video, Kenneth Shirley and Nanabah Lopez Kadenehii, performed traditional pow wow dancing at the beginning of the brothers' six-minute performance at Staples Center. The dancers are from the dance group Indigenous Enterprise.

"We wanted to show as much culture as we could during our six minutes," Battiest said. "It's a total Indigenous night."



Varon Panganiban

Seminole brothers Spencer Battiest and Doc Native perform their award-winning hit "Dream" during halftime at the Dallas Mavericks versus Los Angeles Clippers game Nov. 23 at Staples Center in Los Angeles. Indigenous Enterprise dancers Kenneth Shirley and Nanabah Lopez Kadenehii performed traditional pow wow dances during the song.

During the pandemic with no in-person performances, Battiest and Native kept up their routine of writing, working out, vocalizing and working on the craft of songwriting.

"You think nothing is going to happen and then out of the blue, the Clippers call," Battiest said. "We have faith that with our

hard work and talent, we will rise to the occasion every time."

The Clippers lost the game, 112-104, but the crowd got a taste of Native American entertainment.

"It's just another moment we have a big platform to share with the world who we are as brothers and performers and bring our

culture along with us," Battiest said. "We are just a couple of rez boys doing what we do best."

♦ See DREAM PHOTOS on page 6A

Gordon 'Ollie' Wareham named Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The legacy of Billy L. Cypress, the first director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, lives on in his nephew Gordon "Ollie" Wareham, who is its new director.

"My uncle always wanted tribal members to come and be inspired," Wareham said. "Now, 25 years later at age 50, I get to follow in his footsteps to inspire the next generation as he inspired me."

Before he applied for the position, Wareham, who previously served as the Hollywood Board representative, reached out to tribal members to get their thoughts about it.

"Tribal members supported me," he said. "They said 'it's your time' so I put in the application."

Paul Backhouse, Heritage and Environmental Resource Office senior director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, hired Wareham.

"He's an all-around nice guy and has

a real love of Seminole history, culture and art," Backhouse said. "It's funny how it all worked out; the original director's nephew is now the director. I think that's a huge accomplishment for the tribe, the museum and the whole organization."

Wareham, who started the job Oct. 18, has plenty of goals for the museum. Although the museum currently has a smaller staff than usual because of the ongoing pandemic, 57% of museum employees are tribal members. Wareham wants to increase that to 70%.

"I want each employee to have a positive experience and learn something about themselves while they are here," he said.

Another goal is to create a footprint for the museum on each reservation to be a resource for the Culture Department, preschools, seniors and other departments with its collections and photos. Wareham wants the museum to go into the communities and not wait for them to come to it. He plans to be proactive so tribal members know the museum is there for them when they need information.

"I think it's vital that tribal members talk to other tribal members," he said.

"That's why I want our staff to be 70% tribal members; with that resource it would be easier for us to send people out to the communities more often."

Wareham is no stranger to the world of art, culture and museums. He has been a member of the board of trustees at the History Fort Lauderdale museum for three years.

"When we started doing shows and events and bringing artists in, I wanted to make sure their voices and art were being respected," Wareham said. "That's why I joined the board; so we weren't taken advantage of."

A new exhibition of 25 Seminole artists, "A Return to Self: The Art of Healing," opened Nov. 21 at History Fort Lauderdale (see page 3B).

After he got the job at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, Wareham spoke to his aunt Carol Cypress.

"She was ecstatic that I got this position," he said. "She told me she was praying that a tribal member would get it. When she got the news, she felt like her prayers were answered."



Beverly Bidney

Gordon "Ollie" Wareham

Marcella Billie brings passion for history as museum's new assistant director

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — After working at the Micosukee Village museum for six years, tribal member Marcella Billie joined the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in November as assistant director.

"I'm very passionate about our history," said Billie, who lives near Trail in Miami. "People who are no longer here want their stories told. Seeing the old pieces and imagining who wore them and what they did to make our lives better fills my heart with gratitude."

Billie worked as the operations manager for the Micosukee museum and heard about the opening from Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) director Tina

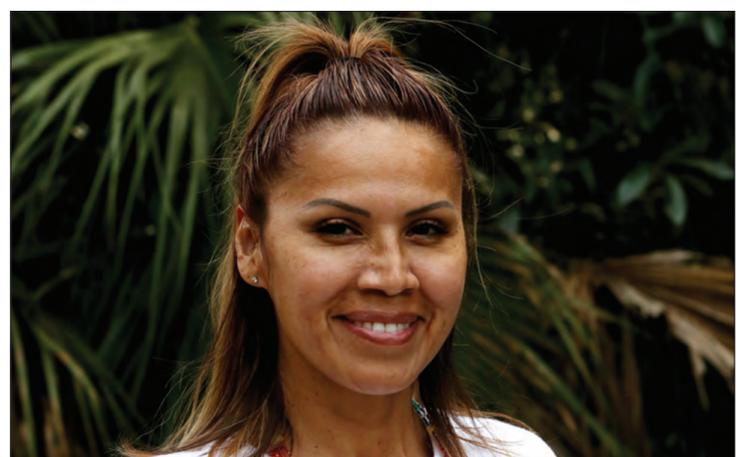
Osceola, who was a consultant for the Micosukee museum's renovation a few years ago.

During her orientation at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, Billie learned about the functions of the museum and THPO's various departments. She said she is looking forward to being part of the team responsible for keeping tribal artifacts protected.

"It is such a sophisticated staff," Billie said. "They are doing a lot of important work and I'm glad to be a part of it."

For now, Billie is still learning the ins and outs of the museum. She is impressed that exhibits include information about the individual artists and that the museum keeps exhibits updated and fresh.

Billie is excited to learn more about Seminole history and current issues such as the repatriation efforts of ancestors and just



Beverly Bidney

Marcella Billie

gaining more knowledge.

"I have a responsibility to give back to the community in the best way possible,"

she said. "I want to be more informed and share my passion. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude to be here."

INSIDE:

Editorial.....	2A	Sports.....	5B
Community.....	3A	Education.....	1B

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

Editorial

Tribal nation treaties are legally binding agreements

• Angelique EagleWoman

When the United States was established, the new federal officials followed the practice of Great Britain in entering into treaties with tribal nations to establish alliances and acknowledge territorial boundaries. Over time, the U.S. officials sought to enter into treaty agreements for land purchases. In those legal negotiations, tribal leaders reserved homelands as reservations and terms to provide for future generations.

What does not seem to be generally understood by U.S. agencies, state governments, mainstream news outlets, and the general public is that many of those treaties are legally binding long-term purchase agreements with ongoing legal obligations.

There were over 400 treaties entered into by the United States with tribal nations. Many of those treaties included a cession, another word for purchase of land, and in exchange, tribal leaders added terms of ongoing hunting, fishing, and harvesting rights on the lands purchased by the United States. There is no end date to those ongoing treaty rights terms for tribal governments and tribal members/citizens.

An example that most would be familiar with is a long-term purchase agreement with installment payments every year. The United States agreed to the purchase of often-massive numbers of acres and in exchange agreed to often a paltry sum and to ongoing legal obligations to tribal nations with no end date. Over time, the United States has not been upholding the treaty rights for hunting, fishing, and harvesting in the purchased lands, which have led to tribal nations engaging in expensive litigation to hold the United States to the purchase agreements (treaties).

Think of this as an owner signing a purchase agreement with a buyer and requiring the buyer to continue to make installment payments long-term. When the buyer stops making the installment payments, then the owner may call in the obligation or seek to legally enforce the obligation.

Tribal nations owned the lands in North America prior to the establishment of the United States. For the United States to gain territory to add more states, the U.S. officials entered into legally binding treaty documents with tribal nations to secure land purchases and these land purchases have long-term obligations (treaty rights).

Further, the state governments admitted to the United States have also blocked the ongoing treaty rights due to tribal nations. This has required the tribal nations to engage in costly litigation to hold the state governments to their ongoing obligations in joining the United States Union. To enter into the United States, new states were required to uphold applicable United States law.

In the U.S. Constitution Art. VI, the supremacy clause provides the following: "This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every State shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding."

Legally binding treaties are within the supreme law of the United States and must be followed by the state governments. This also includes the federal agreements enacted by the U.S. Congress recognizing tribal nation reservations and the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act to allow the Secretary of the Interior to take lands into trust and restore lands of tribes, 25 U.S.C. § 5108.

This discussion of the legal agreements the U.S. is bound to uphold with tribal nations is highly relevant to the continued enforcement of basic sustainability principles to ensure hunting, fishing and harvesting on the lands purchased by the United States. Running oil pipelines and other energy infrastructure through the lands with ongoing legal obligations requires at a minimum the consent of the tribal nation owner and the treaty partner. The mainstream media often leave out the legality of the treaty rights being asserted in reporting on the litigation filed, the water protector camps, and the tribal nation statements.

The tribal nation treaty rights to clean water, clean land and clean air for tribal members and for tribal treaty resources are legal obligations agreed to by the United States and required to be followed by the state governments. These are not optional and they are not "special rights."

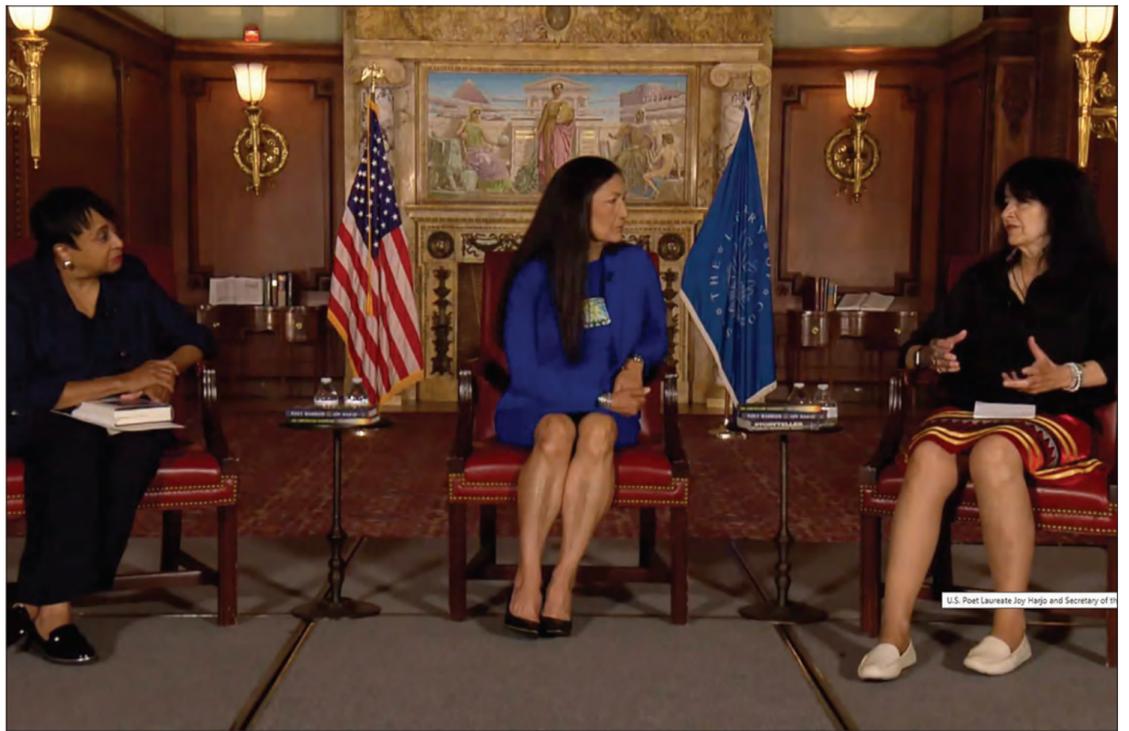
These are the terms for the land purchases that were astutely and wisely negotiated by ancestral tribal leaders. These terms do not expire and they run with the use of the land by the U.S. as the purchaser and the state governments receiving land rights from the federal government.

Tribal nations are forced to litigate, protest, and educate U.S. and state officials on the terms of the treaties and agreements ratified and entered on these lands. The rule of law requires the U.S. as a treaty partner to fulfill its legal obligations and to enforce those obligations against its component state governments.

The U.S. and state governments have benefitted immensely from the treaty agreements and cannot now in good faith ignore the long-term obligations under those same legal agreements.

This editorial appeared on IndianCountryToday.com.

Angelique W. EagleWoman, Wambdi A. Was'teWinyan, is a law professor, director of the Native American Law and Sovereignty Institute at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, an associate justice on the Sisseton-Wahpeton Supreme Court and an author. As a practicing lawyer, one of the highlights of her career was to serve as general counsel for her own tribe, the Sisseton-Wahpeton (Dakota) Oyate. She graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's in political science, received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law with distinction, and her LL.M. in American Indian and Indigenous Law with honors from the University of Tulsa College of Law. Follow her on Twitter @ProfEagleWoman.



U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo, right, and U.S. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland, center, participate in a Library of Congress program Nov. 1 hosted by Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, left.

Haaland, Harjo share stories about longtime friendship

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., kicked off Native American Heritage Month on Nov. 1 with a historic conversation between two prominent Native American women. U.S. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland and U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo spoke in a program hosted by Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden that was available to view online.

The intimate conversation between longtime friends Haaland and Harjo covered poetry, their history together and the importance of helping other Native Americans.

Hayden opened the conversation with a land acknowledgement. She said they were present on the ancestral homeland of the Piscataway Tribe and paid respects to them as the traditional custodians of the land on which the Library of Congress sits.

Haaland, one of the first Native American women elected to Congress and the first to serve as a cabinet secretary, has known Harjo since her senior year as an undergraduate at the University of New Mexico.

"I was a big fan of hers for a long time," said Haaland (Laguna Pueblo). "I needed an elective and was so lucky to take her class." Harjo, who is serving her third term as poet laureate, remembered the day Haaland walked into her classroom.

"You came in wearing a motorcycle helmet," said Harjo (Muscogee Nation). "You didn't look like the usual motorcycle person. You told me it had to do with fossil fuels and not wasting gas."

After the class was over, Harjo invited Haaland to the first Native American writers conference in Norman, Oklahoma.

"We went on that road trip and I was inspired during that entire weekend," Haaland said.

"It was the first gathering of its kind with Native writers from the continental U.S., Hawaii and people from South America came up," Harjo said. "People still talk about it; it was quite a historic gathering."

Hayden, the first African American Librarian of Congress as well as the first female to serve the position, asked the women how it felt to be there as secretary of the Interior and poet laureate.

"There are a lot of people in my life who keep me truly humble, my child is one and the folks back home will always keep you humble," Haaland said. "It's almost like [Harjo and I] have the same relationship we had back then. Things haven't changed between us, we are trusted friends."

In addition to friendship, Haaland and Harjo share a love of poetry.

"Words have power and they move through us," Harjo said. "They come from the creative force within us. I got into poetry because I could see words could change things."

One of Haaland's poems, "For Water," is included in an anthology of Native American poems edited by Harjo. Harjo read the poem. Haaland read Harjo's poem "My Man's Feet," from Harjo's book "American Sunrise."

"A fight for water, for land, begins at home, at the kitchen table, in the bath before bed, while your mother recites a story from her childhood. Our family traditions, to watch out for land, water, animals. To pray to and for them, so they will always be there," read Harjo from "For Water."

Haaland, from "My Man's Feet," read: "They are heroic: roots You cannot mistake them For any other six-foot walker I could find them in a sea of feet A planet or universe of feet."

Harjo's latest project is an anthology of Native American poetry, "Living Nations, Living Words." Hayden wanted to know what poetry means to Haaland and Harjo as they progress in their work and move through life.

"Words matter and when you think about poetry, it's to the point," Haaland said. "You don't generally waste words in poetry, you say what you mean and mean what you say. In my business there is a lot of reading going on; some reports are 30 to 40 pages long. Picking up a book like this that is packed full of meaning and love and history is refreshing and just fills you up."

Poet laureate is the only federally funded literary position in the U.S. Hayden asked Harjo if she feels the civic aspect of the position.

"Even before I was poet laureate I felt like we all have service positions," Harjo said. "We are all here to help, to contribute

something and take care of each other. I think it gave me an opportunity to give back a project, something that could be useful for the community. There are so many Native poets, I'm not the only one. There's a diversity and diversity needs to be honored in any healthy system or community."

Haaland gave Harjo credit for being a wonderful mentor to her and to hundreds of Native students through the years and believes her class at the University of New Mexico helped Haaland find her voice.

"It's all about us leaving the ladder down so other people can climb it," Haaland said. "It's inspiring people so they too can add their voice. It isn't easy to sit down and start writing."

Harjo's new memoir "Poet Warrior" helped Hayden understand what Harjo stands for.

"We're here because someone made a ladder so we could come up, familial and poetry ancestors," Harjo explained. "The memoir is about them and learning how to listen. It's hard to sit down and listen, especially now there is so much racket going on and not just traffic, but the internet. It's constant. It's important to take care of your spirit, your soul. Poetry feeds that."

Haaland doesn't have much time to read for pleasure lately, but knows it is important to read what sustains you. She said poetry is one of those things.

"I'm here in this role as secretary of the Interior not because of anything I did, but because of opportunities people gave me, because I decided to say yes to those opportunities," Haaland said. "I'm here because of the hard work my grandmother and grandfather did to preserve our culture and traditions through the worst assimilation policies of the United States. I'm here because my ancestors fought through famine and drought because they believed very strongly that they were there to provide a future for our people. I am that future."

Along with Harjo, Haaland recognizes the obligation to give back and help as many people as possible.

"I'm fully immersed in all of this," she said. "I'm the first Native cabinet secretary and hope I am not the last. We open these doors, we are all here to help each other."

Summit puts federal focus on Indian Country

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

A two-day White House Tribal Nations Summit on Nov. 15 and Nov. 16 served as the setting for a slew of announcements regarding Native Americans.

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) opened the event and introduced President Joe Biden, who said Haaland had "energized Indian Country," since her confirmation in March.

"This is a big day. This summit is a matter of dignity," Biden said. "We have to continue to stand up for the dignity of tribal nations."

It's the first tribal summit for the Biden administration, which wasn't held during the Trump administration. Leaders from hundreds of U.S. tribes joined the virtual event, with almost 40 as speakers. The

summit coincides with National Native American Heritage Month.

A number of topics were discussed, including education, treaty rights, sacred lands, economic and workforce development, housing, infrastructure, energy and climate change.

First lady Jill Biden, an English teacher, talked about the importance of preserving Native languages.

Health care and Covid-19 were on participants' minds as Native Americans have contracted the virus at a rate three and a half times that of white people. In some states, Native Americans are dying at a rate five times their population share. Biden said, however, that in large part due to tribal leadership, Indian Country is now one of the most vaccinated populations from the virus.

One of Biden's first summit announcements was an initiative to reduce violent crime in Indian Country, where

Native Americans are more than twice as likely to be victims, and at least two times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted compared to other races, according to the Association on American Indian Affairs.

Biden said through executive order he'd directed several Cabinet departments — Justice, Homeland Security and the Interior — to collaborate to combat human trafficking and crime on Native American lands. The order also strengthens participation in Amber Alert programs and requires national training programs for federal agents and the appointment of liaisons who can speak with family members and advocates.

'Our own decisions'

Biden has been recognized for consulting with tribal leaders on federal policy development and reinforcing that tribes themselves make their own best

decisions.

"I applaud this administration's commitment to upholding the U.S.'s trust responsibility to our tribal nations, by strengthening the nation-to-nation relationship and working to empower tribal nations to govern our own communities to make our own decisions," Shannon Holsey, the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians president, said in remarks on the summit's first day.

Tribal leaders have also given Biden credit for hiring 50 Indigenous people in administration positions. He gets high marks for dedicating \$31 billion for Indian Country in his American Rescue Plan and another \$13 billion in his infrastructure bill, the most significant investments for Indian Country by any administration.

Biden also reestablished the White House Council on Native American Affairs and became the first president to issue

a proclamation designating Oct. 11 as Indigenous People's Day.

Environmentalists have praised Biden for permanently protecting Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, reversing a Trump administration decision. His administration has also pledged to incorporate tribes' ecological knowledge in its approach to climate change. At the summit, the administration announced plans to seek a 20-year ban on oil and gas drilling in Chaco Canyon, an ancient Native American heritage site in northwestern New Mexico.

The Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative was also announced, to further address the intergenerational impact of Indian boarding schools. The initiative calls for an investigation on the loss of life and the lasting effects of residential Indian boarding schools.

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

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

Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make checks payable to: The Seminole Tribune 6365 Taft Street Suite 1005 Hollywood, FL 33024

The following deadlines apply to all submissions to The Seminole Tribune:

Issue: December 31, 2021
Deadline: December 15, 2021

Issue: January 31, 2022
Deadline: January 19, 2022

Advertising rates along with sizes and other information may be downloaded online at: <http://SeminoleTribune.org/Advertise>

Postmaster: Please send address changes to: The Seminole Tribune 6365 Taft St. Suite 1003 Hollywood, FL 33024

Publisher: The Seminole Tribe of Florida

Phone: 954-985-5700

Senior Editor: Kevin Johnson, ext. 10715
KevinJohnson@semtribe.com

Staff Reporter: Beverly Bidney, ext. 16466
BeverlyBidney@semtribe.com

Staff Reporter: Damon Scott, ext. 10704
DamonScott@semtribe.com

Advertising: Donna Mason, ext. 10733
DonnaMason@semtribe.com

© 2021 Seminole Tribe of Florida

Community



Guardianship offers structure, hope to tribal members

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The tribe's Advocacy and Guardianship department might not be one of the most well known, but its staff wants tribal members to know they're available to help in a variety of ways. The department is part of the tribe's Health and Human Services department, and is divided into Tribal Family and Child Advocacy (TFCA) and Guardianship.

A new guardianship ordinance was approved this year by Tribal Council

and went into effect in August. The new ordinance sends guardianship cases through Tribal Court instead of Tribal Council.

"A family member can be a guardian or the guardianship department can be the guardian," Debra Ray, the Advocacy and Guardianship administrator, said.

Ray said tribal members can be placed under guardianship for a variety of reasons, including substance abuse issues, financial instability, or as is most often seen among seniors, a cognitive issue like dementia. Guardianship placement can be voluntary or involuntary.

"Once the court deems that a person falls under one of those categories, they are appointed a guardian to address those limitations," Trecia McCleese, the guardianship program lead who works with Ray, said. "The ultimate goal being that they get off of guardianship and are able to lead more productive lives — a life that they can be happy with."

In the case of those with cognitive issues, McCleese said that the goal is that the client is kept as comfortable as possible and gets the ongoing care they need.

'I'm very grateful'

Delphine Jimmie from the Hollywood Reservation said she entered the guardianship program in order to deal with financial and substance abuse issues.

"The money was my downfall each time I tried to get sober," Jimmie said. "Thanks to the guardianship program I'm coming up on a year and nine months clean. It really benefited me; I'm very grateful for the program."

Jimmie, 34, found out about the tribe's program from a case manager at Caron Renaissance in Boca Raton where she was in rehabilitation.

"[Guardianship] helped me manage my

money, pay my out of state fines and guided me to help build my credit and pay my taxes," she said.

Jimmie has transitioned out of rehabilitation and now runs a support group — White Bison — helping others who've had issues similar to hers. Jimmie said she can also drive a vehicle legally again after 10 years.

"I was so ungrateful and now I'm going to be the best driver on the road," she said with a chuckle. "Taking Uber all the time is very frustrating."

Jimmie said she recently got custody of two of her daughters and is working on doing the same with her youngest daughter. The guardianship program also referred her to the tribe's education department. She completed her high school equivalency and is now taking online classes in social work at Palm Beach State.

'Used to live a crazy life'

Solita Perez grew up on the Immokalee and Big Cypress reservations and now lives in Moore Haven with two of her children where she just purchased a home. She got married six months ago and is working on getting custody of her other three children.

"I used to live a crazy life back in the day — running the streets and going to jail and using [drugs]," Perez said.

Perez said she ended up in jail in 2014, was placed on probation, and later entered a substance abuse treatment program. However, she said she violated her probation and had an active warrant for her arrest for several years. She said she got pregnant and after she had her baby she went from the hospital to jail. An advocate from the tribe contacted her about the guardianship program toward the end of 2017.

"I was pissed the first two years [on the program]; I've been on it for four years

now," she said. "At first I thought: 'Y'all just want to tell me what to do with my money and get in my business.' I didn't want to listen to anybody and do my own thing and do what I wanted with my money."

Perez, 31, said she eventually got into a rhythm and found "big support and huge help" from her guardianship advocate at the tribe.

"If you actually try, things will go your way," she said. "My advocate said: 'I'm not doing this to hurt or harm you or give you a hard time, it's to help you. I'm going to stick with you. Why don't you cooperate and see?'"

Perez said she's receiving her tribal dividends again, but is subject to random drug screening and has to provide receipts and bank statements to her tribal advocate.

"I don't mind anymore because I'm not doing anything wrong. I'm in this to do the right things for me and my family," she said.

Perez said she also goes to aftercare support and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

"I've been through a lot and grew up very fast. If I didn't get on guardianship I



Solita Perez, left, with her daughter Jaidah.

Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Delphine Jimmie has successfully navigated the guardianship program.

Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc. sells Georgia cattle business

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc. (STOFI) has sold its interests in one of the nation's largest cattle businesses that it had been a part of for eight years.

STOFI announced Nov. 17 that its interests in Salacoa Valley Farms of

Fairmount, Georgia, have been purchased by Ricky Cleveland, owner of Quail Valley Farms in Oneonta, Alabama, and Erik and Kim Wiley, of Wiley Ranch in Effie, Louisiana.

Details of the transaction were not disclosed.

Salacoa Valley Farms is known for its purebred Brangus cattle.

In 2013, STOFI purchased the Salacoa

Valley Farms brand and existing cowherd of more than 1,000 head. The purchase also included embryos, semen and equipment used in the cattle operation, but not the 4,500-acre ranch. STOFI then leased several thousand acres of the land to operate the business.

The Nov. 17 sale includes assets purchased in 2013, plus additional equipment and a herd that has grown to approximately

1,300 head of Brangus cattle.

During its ownership, STOFI used its interests in Salacoa Valley Farms to assist Seminole cattle operators on the Big Cypress and Brighton reservations, including the potential to improve genetics within the cowherds.

"Tribal herds have improved from Salacoa genetics," Aaron Stam, Natural Resources director for STOFI said in a

statement. "Individual cattle owners have purchased Salacoa bulls and cows, which have helped to increase yearling weights and weaning weights of Seminole cattle."

Stam said the tribe has renewed its focus on continuing to improve cowherds and cattle operations on its reservations. He said the Salacoa Valley Farms sale is part of a reallocation of tribe resources to focus on its Florida herds.

Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade turns 50

STAFF REPORT

FORT LAUDERDALE

— This is a milestone year for the Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade as it will celebrate 50 years with its parade on Dec. 11 along a 12-mile stretch in Broward County.

This year's theme is "50 Years of Hard Rockin' Fun."

Starting in Fort Lauderdale's downtown, the parade route travels east on the New River and north on the Intracoastal to Lake Santa Barbara in Pompano Beach.

The nonprofit Winterfest Foundation describes the parade as the world's most watched boat parade. Winterfest had an economic impact on the county of more than \$50 million in 2019, according to its annual report.

The parade began in 1971. Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood became the title sponsor in 2004. Last year the parade was cancelled due to the pandemic.

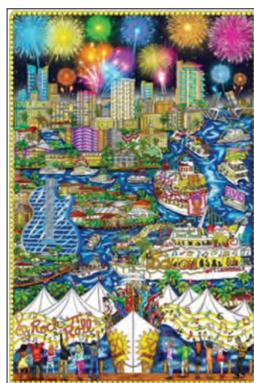
Emmy-winning television host and former "Saved by the Bell" star Mario Lopez will be the grand marshal. Lopez will also appear Dec. 10 at the grand marshal reception from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the casino. The reception will honor Lopez, the Winterfest Foundation's Jr. Captain Violet Martin from the Florida Youth Orchestra, the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center child ambassador Jordan Levy and celebrity guests. The evening will include a performance by violinist Steve Avi and appearances by founding member of NSYNC Joey Fatone and Bravo's "Below Deck" Captain Lee.

NBC Today Show meteorologist Willard Scott was the parade's first grand marshal in 1984. Other celebrities that have served as grand marshal include David Cassidy, Flo Rida, Barry Gibb, Julio Iglesias Jr., Kim Kardashian, Dan Marino, Bret Michaels, Alonzo Mourning, Pitbull and Joan Rivers.

A black tie ball is scheduled for

Dec. 4 at the casino. The ball is sold out.

For more information, including tickets and viewing details, visit WinterfestParade.com or call (954) 767-0686.



Courtesy photo

Charles Fazzino's art commemorates the event's 50th anniversary.



Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest

After a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade returns Dec. 11. In 2019, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola joined grand marshal Bret Michaels at a pre-parade event.

2 WINNERS PER LOCATION
Winners Announced January 3, 2022

Fill Up For
Your Chance
to Win A
\$25 Trading
Post
Gift Card!

10¢
per
gallon
DISCOUNT

TRIBAL LOYALTY CARD
1234567890

VALID FOR DISCOUNT AT ANY SEMINOLE TRADING POST

BIG CYPRESS
SEMIFUEL
BRIGHTON
TRADING POST
HOLLYWOOD
TRADING POST

Offer valid December 1st - December 31st, 2020 while supplies last. Gift Card Redemption valid only at Hollywood and Brighton Trading Post. One offer per card holder when you use your Tribal Loyalty Card with the purchase of any grade of gasoline automatically qualifies you for one chance to win exciting prizes! No substitutions. Void if transferred and where prohibited. Brought to you by Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

Okeechobee community honors life of Joe Dan Osceola

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Before he emerged as a leader in the Seminole Tribe and Indian Country, Joe Dan Osceola made his name known in Okeechobee as a standout student-athlete.

More than 60 years after he graduated from Okeechobee High School – and two years since his passing at age 82 – his legacy in the city was honored during an early afternoon ceremony Nov. 17. More than a dozen members of Osceola's family, including his wife Virginia and others from the tribe along with city officials, gathered at City Hall Park in downtown Okeechobee to remember the kid who wore No. 25 for the Brahms football team and the man who went on to establish a distinguished legacy in leadership.

Lewis Gopher, from the Brighton Reservation, emceed the program, which was sponsored by the Treasure Coast chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). Okeechobee Mayor Dowling Watford was among the representatives from the city in attendance.

Many from Osceola's family traveled nearly two hours from Hollywood and were grateful for the ceremony.

"It brought us together as a family. That was very special," said Jo-Lin Osceola, one of his daughters. "We thank Lewis and [FCA] and the city of Okeechobee and the mayor and everyone else. We really appreciate what they did. We're so honored and humble. We can't thank them enough for honoring Joe Dan."

Born in the Everglades and raised on the Brighton Reservation, Osceola became a role model in the tribe at a young age. He was responsible for plenty of firsts that have helped pave the way for others in the tribe, both academically and in government. He was the first in the tribe to graduate from a public school. In his early 30s, he was elected the tribe's first president. He also helped form the United South & Eastern Tribes (USET) and became its first president. USET, an inter-tribal organization, has grown to advocate on behalf of 33 federally recognized tribal nations.

"Osceola was not only a strong and visionary leader for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and USET, his leadership further served as an example for all Indian Country," read a statement from USET upon his passing in June 2019.

He also served as vice chairman and ambassador for the tribe, the latter a position that led to meeting with leaders from other countries and tribes. He worked in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services and assisted in forming the Governor's Council on Indian Affairs.

The business major in college also became a successful businessman as owner of the Anhinga Indian Trading Post in Hollywood and nearby smoke shops.

In 1998, Osceola became the first in another honor: he was in the first class of inductees in the newly-formed Seminole Tribe Sports Hall of Fame with Harry Billie, Eugene Bowers, Josiah Jones, Coleman



Joe Dan Osceola was a star football player in the 1950s at Okeechobee High School.

Josh, Fred Smith and Howard Tiger.

The idea for the Okeechobee event came about thanks to a meeting over coffee. In October, while sitting in Serenity Coffee Shop in Okeechobee, Gopher and Caleb Cornett, the area director for FCA in St. Lucie and Okeechobee counties, came up with the idea to honor a Seminole athlete to coincide with Native American Heritage Month in November. Soon after, it was determined that Osceola would be an ideal honoree as the first Seminole to be honored by FCA for Native American Heritage Month.

On the morning of the ceremony, FCA members did a prayer walk in Okeechobee and prayed for the event. FCA is a national organization that works with athletes and coaches on all levels. Its stated vision is to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes.

"We are focused on a discipleship ministry with engaging, equipping and empowering the current and future generations of coaches and the athletes," Cornett said.

Cornett said he was not familiar with Osceola other than knowing he was an athlete and had heard he was a Christian. Cornett soon came to appreciate what Osceola did after hearing family members speak about him and watching a video about Osceola's legacy that is on YouTube.

"The legacy of a father that I got to learn and hear about was amazing," Cornett said. "Here I was thinking we were just honoring an athlete and his accomplishments, and I had no idea that we were honoring a man whose legacy left a community of people with so much more than the game of football."

As a member of the class of 1957, Osceola excelled in basketball, football and track at Okeechobee High School during a time when only a few Seminoles attended public schools.

Early indications of his future leadership came when he was named captain of the basketball and football teams in his senior year. His athletic accomplishments, which included being all-conference in football, helped land him an athletic scholarship. He ran track at Georgetown College – a Christian college in Kentucky – and played semi-professional baseball in the early 1960s on a Seminole team with players such as Max Billie, Sandy Billie Sr., Eugene Bowers,



A ceremony to honor the life of Joe Dan Osceola was held Nov. 17 in Okeechobee. Several members of the Osceola family attended the event, which included a framed Okeechobee High School football jersey with the No. 25, which is the number Osceola wore at OHS.

Bobbie Osceola, Jessie Osceola, Jimmie Hank Osceola, George Storm, Howard Tiger and Jackie Willie Sr.

During the ceremony, Gopher unveiled a framed Okeechobee High School football jersey with No. 25.

Jo-Lin Osceola said her father was a humble man and seldom talked about his days in high school and college. He didn't keep trophies, but he did display the letters he earned from OHS sports on a wall.

She said her dad's role as a father included being a coach. He started coaching on the Brighton Reservation and later for Optimist teams in Hollywood.

"He was out there with my brothers from T-ball all the way through high school," she said. "He coached football. He coached me in softball. He was a coach for as long as I can remember. Dad attended all the games."



A display at the ceremony honors the life of Joe Dan Osceola.



Joe Dan Osceola

File photo



Members of the Osceola family with Okeechobee Mayor Dowling Watford.



More than a dozen members of Joe Dan Osceola's family attended the event that honored his life.



Joe Dan Osceola, at the far right in the back row, played semi-pro baseball on a Seminole team in the early 1960s. Others in the photo include, back row, from left, Eugene Bowers, Howard Tiger, George Storm, (unknown), and Jessie Osceola; and in the front row, from left, Bobbie Osceola, Jimmy Hank Osceola, Max Billie, Jackie Willie Sr. and Sandy Billie Sr.

Happy Harvest in Hollywood



At left, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola helps load up vehicles with a variety of goodies, including flowers, during the Hollywood Reservation's Happy Harvest drive-thru event Nov. 18. At right, Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall readies goodie bags for the seniors, who were allowed to arrive earlier than other tribal members.



Dozens of colorful flower arrangements are ready to be given to tribal members.



Malari Baker, left, and Carlene Osceola represented the Chairman's Office at the drive-thru and handed out blankets.

State denies permit for Immokalee oil well

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) denied Trend Exploration an oil and gas drilling permit Nov. 5. The location of the well was slated to be about 2.3 miles from the Immokalee Reservation.

In a Nov. 4 letter to the FDEP, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. requested the permit be denied since the reservation's water wellfields, which provide water for tribal members on the 600-acre reservation, could be threatened with contamination.

"Like other municipalities, the Seminole Tribe blends the raw water it pulls from the aquifer directly into the distribution system with minimal treatment. The proximity of the proposed exploratory oil well to the Immokalee Reservation's potable water well fields has the potential to introduce contaminants or harmful by-products into the production wells, which could result in subsequent pollution of drinking water to Immokalee Reservation residents," Chairman Osceola wrote.

He also noted the Seminole Tribal Historic Preservation Office wanted confirmation that a cultural resource assessment survey be included as a condition for approval of the permit.

FDEP had concerns about the impact to the region's water supply, which comes from the Big Cypress Watershed; the tribe had a discussion with the agency before the letter was sent.

"We worked tirelessly to bring everything together," said Paul Backhouse, Heritage & Environment Resource Office (HERO) Senior Director and THPO Officer. "It will make it harder for Trend Exploration to get a permit for Big Cypress (Watershed)."

Trend Exploration wanted to drill a well more than two miles deep. In its denial document, FDEP stated "the application and supporting documentation do not sufficiently ensure that the exploration activities will cause no permanent adverse impact on the wildlife of the area, which is required for all projects in the Big Cypress Watershed."

"The applicant [Trend Exploration] was overly confident, but they hadn't dealt with the tribe before," said Stacy Myers, HERO senior scientist and liaison. "They were sort of surprised. I think it was a very good decision to deny it."

The tribe showed that the reservation was in the 20-year cone of influence, which means within 20 years if even one drop of oil is spilled, it will ultimately affect the water. Myers said it might take 20 years to get to Immokalee's water, but it would get there and contaminate it.

"As long as it is potentially affecting it, even over a long period of time, there is still an impact," Myers said.

If Trend Exploration, a North Fort Myers-based company, files an appeal of the decision the burden of proof will be on it to prove what it wants to do isn't going to cause harm to the water or wildlife.

"I think they will have a difficult time proving that," Myers said. "A lot more people are very wary of what they are trying to do, so there could potentially be more objections if they win on appeal."

On Nov. 24, Trend submitted an extension of time request to file a petition for an administrative hearing. According to the request, Trend wants a 90-day extension to prepare its petition seeking an administrative hearing.

President Biden signs bill removing real estate restrictions for tribe

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Since 1790, Native Americans have been required to obtain federal approval for the purchase or lease of land not held in trust, due to the Indian Non-Intercourse Act (NIA).

With a stroke of his pen Nov. 23, President Joe Biden signed a bill into law that halted the 231-year old requirement for the Seminole Tribe. The law now allows the tribe to lease, sell, convey, warrant or transfer its real property that is not held in trust by the United States.

The bill, known as S.108 in the Senate, was sponsored by Florida Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott and U.S. Representative Darren Soto. It was passed in the Senate on May 26 and in the House of Representatives on Nov. 1.

"The bill is necessary in order to create additional economic opportunities for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and its members," Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said in a statement after the bill's passage in the Senate.

The law gives the tribe greater ability to invest in commercial property now that the federal restrictions have been removed.

"Removing this paternalist, decades-old restriction on the Seminole Tribe is long overdue," Sen. Rubio said in a statement.

On Sept. 23, 2020, Chairman Osceola testified virtually before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to request an exemption to the NIA. He also gave a brief history of the tribe including its culture and ownership of Hard Rock International.

"The reason for this bill is we have created a real estate fund to diversify our money for the tribe and its future," Chairman Osceola said to the committee Chairman Sen. John Hoeven.

The tribe has established an investment fund to invest in commercial



Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. testifies virtually before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on Sept. 23, 2020.

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES: LEGISLATIVE HEARING

Hon. Chris Osceola
Hollywood Councilman, Seminole Tribe of Florida

Panelists

- The Honorable Chris Osceola
Hollywood Councilman
Seminole Tribe of Florida
- The Honorable William Harris
Chief
Catawba Indian Nation
- The Honorable Scott Neisler
Mayor
Kings Mountain, NC
- The Honorable Richard Sneed
Principal Chief
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola testifies virtually before the U.S. Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples on Sept. 24, 2020.

real estate properties and create generational wealth for tribal members. At the time of the Chairman's testimony, it was unable to move forward due to concerns by a lender and title insurance company about the NIA.

The NIA's intent was to prevent Indian tribes from being defrauded, but instead it became an obstacle.

"Today it is hampering efforts to diversify for tribes that are imminently capable of making our own business decisions," Chairman Osceola said in the 2020 testimony.

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola testified in support of the bill before the House Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples on Sept. 24, 2020. During the meeting, Rep. Soto stressed that the committee has a role to "right many wrongs over history."

"It's about justice," Rep. Soto said. "We know there have been original sins in this country that we have to atone for and there are a lot of reforms that still need to pass. It's disturbing that it takes an act of Congress for

the Seminole Tribe to be able to do their daily business that any other group in Florida would be able to do."

Soto explained the bill will send a message to lenders and title insurers that NIA doesn't apply to land the tribe wants to purchase. Councilman Osceola said in the 2020 testimony that he believes if the tribe had the exemption, it wouldn't have any problems when it tried to acquire lands.

"This is a problem for us and for all of Indian Country," he said in the testimony. "I want to urge you to really consider this. The decision you make today will set precedent for tribes in the future and help not only our tribe, but all tribes to diversify. We can't always depend on casinos; things change."

Council approves new Immokalee construction

STAFF REPORT

Construction and engineering services to build a new medical center and public safety building on the Immokalee Reservation were approved by the Tribal Council at its regular meeting Nov. 19. The agreements are with John J. Scherer Construction and Saltz Michelson Architects.

Construction is already underway on the reservation for a new Trading Post that will include a convenience store, gas pumps and electric vehicle charging stations. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in May. Also, a new recreation center will be built on the reservation.

Other action taken by the Council included:

- Appointed Amy Johns as chief justice of the tribe's Appellate Court. Johns had been serving in the position on an interim basis following the passing of former Chief Justice Willie Johns on Oct. 27, 2020. Amy Johns has served as a judge on the court since it was created in 2015. (See the December 31 issue of the Tribune for more about the appointment).

- Approved an agreement with Redman Builders to replace the roof on the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club building.

- Approved the renaming of the Center for Student Success and Services to the Education Department.

Effort underway to form group for Seminole writers

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Elgin Jumper knows he isn't the only tribal member who enjoys writing, so he created a Seminole writers group for him and others to share their passion and support one another in their creative endeavors.

"I always wondered why there wasn't a group of Seminole writers who can share, learn and study the art and craft of writing together," said Jumper, who is a writer, poet and visual artist. "I'd like to give this some rocket fuel to get it going."

The first meeting will be held at the To-Pee-Kee-Ke Yak-Ne Community Center in Big Cypress on Dec. 8 at 2 p.m.

Jumper believes there has never been a group like this and wants to create a sense of urgency to encourage aspiring writers. He envisions the group as a forum for writers which could ultimately help getting their work published. The meetings will include readings, discussions, guest speakers and possibly critiques.

"We have a garden with all these flowers, but there hasn't been any sunlight getting to them," Jumper said. "We want to part the clouds and let the sunbeam come down and help the Seminole writers group grow, stand tall and make a difference for writers."

The first meeting will be opened by



Elgin Jumper

Beverly Bidney

H.E.R.O. community engagement manager Quenton Cypress and led by Jumper. Writers will be able to introduce themselves and read from their work. The group will discuss future meetings.

"What we learn will inform how we go from there," Jumper said. "We want to create a love and passion for reading; reading and writing go hand in hand. Reading gives your imagination a place to live, a place to grow."

ICWA supporters continue to work, wait

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

November marked 43 years since the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) became federal law, and a best practice for child adoption cases across Indian Country. But the law has been challenged in recent years like never before, even as it has been upheld in dozens of court decisions. Legal pressures have increased – particularly due to the Brackeen v. Haaland case challenging its constitutionality – and it is now facing a possible U.S. Supreme Court review and ruling.

Before ICWA became law in 1978, Native American children were often taken from their parents, extended families and communities at alarming rates. The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) estimates that 25% to 35% of all Native children were removed from their homes and placed in foster care. Once removed, 85% were placed in non-Native homes. Advocates argue that Native Americans and tribal governments should determine the best interests of Indian children by keeping them connected to their family, community and culture whenever possible.

NICWA and its supporters have been working to ensure the law remains intact. In October, three amicus briefs were filed to the Supreme Court, who was petitioned in September by multiple parties (including those for and against ICWA) to rule on the law after a sharply divided and complex decision by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in April. Amicus briefs allow entities that have a stake in litigation to provide information to the court on particular issues they believe are important to the case.

The amicus briefs were signed by 180 tribal nations, 35 Native organizations, 25 states and the District of Columbia and 10 child welfare and adoption organizations, among other supporters. The federal government – specifically the Interior

Department – and tribal defendants, including the Quinault Nation, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and Cherokee Nation, asked the Supreme Court to determine whether the plaintiffs in the Brackeen v. Haaland case had standing to challenge the law's placement preferences.

NICWA's executive director, Sarah Kastelic (Alutiiq), thinks the ultimate goal of those opposed to ICWA – which include the state of Texas and the private parties in the case (non-Native foster parents who want to adopt Native children) – is to dismantle ICWA, not to, for example, strengthen it.

Early speculation was that the Supreme Court would render a decision about whether it would take the case under review by the end of October, which didn't happen. But while Kastelic and others think it's likely the Supreme Court will eventually take the case, the timeline has been extended. Kastelic said all of the parties requested and were granted an extension until Dec. 8 to respond to cert petitions – a request that the Supreme Court order the Fifth Circuit to send up the record of the case for review.

"As a practical matter, this will mean that the earliest the Supreme Court would consider the case would be January," Kastelic said. "While at first blush this is only a month of delay, it could have a ripple effect on when the Court chooses to hear the case."

Kastelic said the potential ripple effect is because the Supreme Court's oral argument schedule typically runs through April, in order to give it enough time to finish its term by late June or early July.

"Even if the Supreme Court were to take up the case [in January], a merits briefing would take several months, leaving little room on the calendar for oral argument this term," she said. "Given this, it is theoretically possible that the Supreme Court would bump the case to the next term, which begins in October 2022."

More information is at nicwa.org.

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood celebrates surpassing \$1B in jackpots in 2021

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — As part of a celebration to recognize surpassing \$1 billion in jackpots awarded in 2021, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood awarded \$100,000 to casino guest Sergio Montoya of Miami. Montoya hit a jackpot at the casino Nov. 15 and also received the six-figure surprise from Seminole Hard Rock.

Former Miami Dolphins star Jason Taylor was on site to congratulate Montoya.

As a bonus, Seminole Hard Rock also surprised Taylor by making a \$100,000 donation to the Jason Taylor Foundation.

"It is unexpected but very much appreciated," Taylor said in a statement. "Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood has always been a partner to the Jason Taylor Foundation. When things were tight during the pandemic, not only did they step up, but they gave more. They always find a way to prop us up and help us succeed."

Founded in 2004, Taylor's nonprofit focuses

on helping children in need in South Florida through health care, education and quality of life.

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood has awarded more than 340,000 jackpots this year.

"We are proud to have awarded more than \$1 billion in jackpots before the end of the year," Justin Wyborn, the property's assistant general manager said in a statement.



Ralph Notaro/Seminole Hard Rock

Holding the guitar, from left, Justin Wyborn, assistant general manager of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, former Dolphins star Jason Taylor, and Sergio Montoya celebrate the \$100,000 each awarded to Montoya and the Jason Taylor Foundation on Nov. 15.

Battiest brothers music video wins at American Indian Film Festival

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Spencer Battiest and Doc Native's music video of their song "Dream" won first place at the 46th annual American Indian Film Festival (AIFF) on Nov. 5. The best music video award came on the 10th anniversary of their first win in the same category for "The Storm."

The brothers, from the Hollywood Reservation, were presented with the award during a virtual ceremony.

"It's good that people are still responding to us as performers and what our message is. 'The Storm' was basically a history lesson; 'Dream' is who we are today; we are giving ourselves a pep talk," Battiest said.

"Dream" is about overcoming life's struggles. The brothers wrote it together; Native wrote the rap verses and Battiest wrote the chorus and the bridge.

"Some of the things we have to face given the complexities of where our people are nowadays, things that aren't really talked about are coming to life, like mental health and community issues," Native said. "I'm thankful we were able to lend our voice as a conduit and use our platform to stand with everyone."

Seminoles Paula Bowers Sanchez and former Miss Indian World Cheyenne Kippenberger appear in the video as well as other Native Americans, including two-spirit couple Sean Snyder and Adrian Matthias Stevens, tourette's syndrome advocate Bryson Jones, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, actor Wes Studi and musician Taboo.

While the brothers were in Los Angeles celebrating Indigenous People's Day by singing "The Storm" on the steps of Los Angeles city hall Oct. 13, 2019, they met director Adam Conte. After working with him during that day and viewing his work online, they agreed he would be the director for "Dream."

All three recorded acceptance speeches for the virtual ceremony. Battiest was in Hollywood, Native was in Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah and Conte was in his Utah



YouTube

A scene featuring Dowawisnima "Nima" Groves, 13, and Tuumogoy "Tu" Groves, 10, at the time of filming, from the Battiest brothers' "Dream," which was named best music video at the 46th annual American Indian Film Festival. The video was directed by Adam Conte.

studio.

"To be recognized again is really fulfilling," Native said. "We still have this chemistry between us, not only as brothers but as songwriters and artists. It's such a rare thing. It holds a special place in our hearts when I see other families working together and achieving goals together. I'm happy I get to do it with my brother again 10 years later."

The last two years has been an interesting time for Battiest and Native, who have performed only in virtual performances and at virtual festivals. In November, the brothers made appearances at five festivals, all virtual.

On Nov. 23, the duo performed in person during a halftime show of a Los Angeles Clippers game at the Staples Center during the team's Native American heritage night.

Native plans to release an album in early 2022 and is scheduling a tour. Battiest will perform in the play "Distant Thunder" in Oklahoma next year; no date has been

set. They plan to perform together at the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow in February.

"We've been stuck inside for about two years," Native said. "It's time to go out and reach people face-to-face, as safely as possible."

Despite the pandemic, the brothers are in the midst of exciting times for their careers.

"I love this business so much," Battiest said. "You go through ups and downs and never know what tomorrow will bring. You just give back your gift however that is, in person or Zooming from your home."

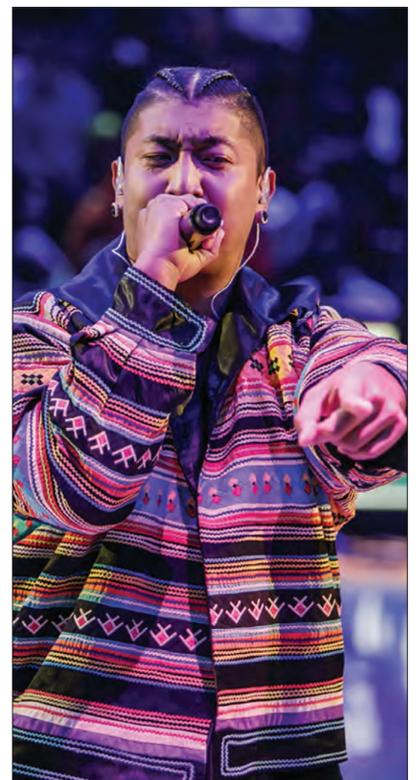
The AIFF is part of the nonprofit American Indian Film Institute, whose stated mission is to foster understanding and appreciation of the culture, traditions and issues of contemporary Native Americans.

"The award shows we are still relevant," Battiest said. "People still relate to our music. We are still doing what we were put on earth to do; inspire and encourage."

Battiest brothers at Staples Center in LA



Varon Panganiban (2)



Spencer Battiest, above, and Doc Native, right, perform their song "Dream" at halftime of the Los Angeles Clippers home game Nov. 23 at Staples Center.



Varon Panganiban

Seminole brothers Spencer Battiest, left center, and Doc Native, right center, finish performing their award-winning hit "Dream" at Staples Center in Los Angeles. Indigenous Enterprise dancers Kenneth Shirley, left, and Nanabah Lopez Kadenehii, right, performed traditional pow wow dances during the song.

Rolling Stones finish tour with performance at Hard Rock Live

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

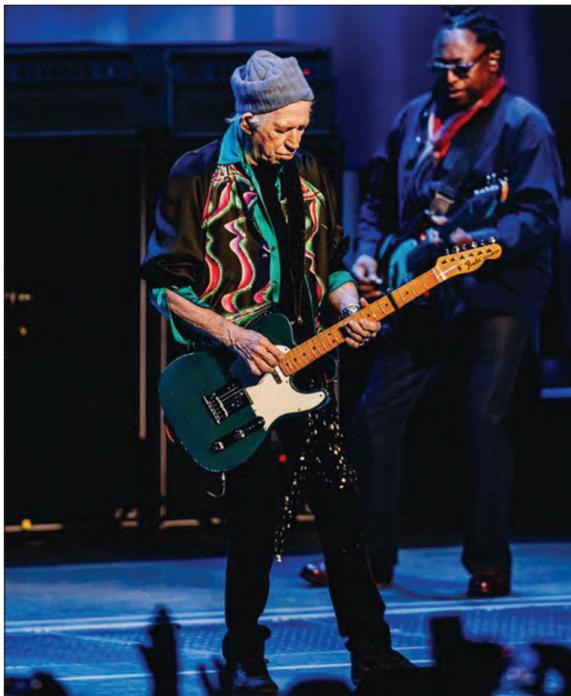
The Rolling Stones finished its 14-city 2021 "No Filter" tour with an intimate show at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood on Nov. 23.

According to the Stones, the 7,000-seat venue was the smallest one it has played in more than a decade. The band typically plays large stadiums. The Stones last played

in South Florida on August 30, 2019, at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, which turned out to be the final concert with the group's longtime drummer Charlie Watts, who died in August 2021.

The sold-out concert at Hard Rock Live was dedicated to Watts. The show opened with a video tribute to Watts, who was shown playing one of his renowned drum solos. Then the curtain opened and Keith Richards' familiar guitar riff for "Street Fighting Man" filled the venue. Front man Mick Jagger, who entered between Richards and guitarist Ronnie Wood, gave his typically energetic performance.

Instead of seats in front of the Hard Rock Live stage, there was an open pit filled with dancing fans. The band played 16 songs and ended the evening with "Satisfaction."



With Mick Jagger, left, and Keith Richards, right, the Rolling Stones perform before a full house Nov. 23 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood's Hard Rock Live, below. It was the final concert of the group's "No Filter" tour.



Hard Rock sets its sights on Chicago casino

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Chicago officials are considering five proposals from three firms that want to operate a casino in the Windy City. One of the firms is Hard Rock International – owned by the Seminole Tribe. The other two firms are Bally's and Rush Street Gaming.

The Chicago Tribune reported Nov. 8 that Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot and city officials were in the process of looking at the bids in advance of recommending a firm.

Hard Rock's bid, with Landmark Development, includes a gambling emporium located in a massive mixed-use project called One Central. Developers want to build it over train tracks west of Soldier Field, the storied football stadium of the NFL's Chicago Bears.

If a majority of the Chicago City Council gives Lightfoot's recommendation the green light, it would then head to the Illinois Gaming Board for an up-or-down vote on whether to award a casino license, the Tribune report said.

Lightfoot has said she would like to have a finalist picked out to recommend to the gaming board sometime in the first quarter of 2022. After an application is submitted to the board, regulators would conduct background investigations of all the parties involved in the proposal – a standard procedure.

Hard Rock and Landmark's plan is to develop a 35-acre train yard with a platform on which a retail, dining and entertainment destination will blossom. It would include thousands of residences and significant office space. The Hard Rock casino portion would serve as the anchor of the project.



This rendering is from Hard Rock's proposal for a casino and hotel in Chicago.

"Hard Rock International is excited to participate in the RFP (request for proposals) process to bring our unique brand of world class entertainment to the city of Chicago at One Central," Hard Rock spokeswoman Gina Morales said in a statement to the Tribune.

Hard Rock has been active in other areas of Illinois and also in Indiana recently. The new Hard Rock Casino Rockford in the northern part of the state has been moving forward at a steady clip – with the opening

of a temporary casino this month while the permanent one is being built. Hard Rock Rockford will be a \$310 million development once complete.

Meanwhile, about two hours away from Rockford, the Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana opened May 14. The \$300 million casino is located in Gary, home to the iconic music group the Jackson 5.



Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. welcomes the crowd at the grand opening of the Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati on Oct. 29.

Hard Rock Cincinnati opens; \$70 million hotel on tap

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati officially opened Oct. 29 with a traditional guitar smash, live music and throngs of eager casino customers.

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Big Cypress Councilwoman Marian Billie were on hand for the festivities, along with Hard Rock officials and celebrities like former Cincinnati Reds baseball player Pete Rose. Rose, who is 80-years-old, placed the first table bet and signed a guitar that was added to the casino's memorabilia collection. Legendary band Earth, Wind & Fire performed live.

The site began its transformation into Hard Rock Cincinnati after a deal was struck in 2019 between Hard Rock International and VICI Properties for a \$745 million purchase of the JACK Cincinnati Casino. The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of Hard Rock International.

Phase one of the rebranding efforts began after the deal was made but was significantly slowed by the pandemic, which hit all U.S. casino operations hard. After Covid-19 curfew restrictions were lifted the rebranding

efforts began again. A Rock Shop opened in April 2021 and a Hard Rock Café – with a stage and dance floor for live music events – was completed soon after. The rebrand included a Council Oak restaurant and Hard Rock memorabilia featured throughout the property.

The development was also to include a Hard Rock Hotel, but those plans were paused, until now. Hard Rock officials announced Nov. 1 its plan to build a \$70 million hotel located adjacent to the casino.

Hard Rock's chief operating officer, Jon Lucas, told Gambling News that the hotel is a crucial piece to the ongoing success of the property. He said with the addition of a hotel, customers would be less rushed to drive back home or book lodging elsewhere in the Cincinnati area.

There's no official hotel completion date, but Lucas expects construction to move along steadily because Hard Rock already had plans drawn up and a feasibility study completed with its brand partners.

The hotel is expected to have 300 rooms, including several luxury suites. It would include a fitness center and spa as well as other amenities.

Hard Rock Cincinnati is located on 22 acres in the Broadway Commons area of the city's downtown district.



Former Cincinnati Reds player Pete Rose, 80, signed guitars at the Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati grand opening Oct. 29. Rose is a 17-time All-Star and the 1975 World Series MVP.

The Spinners to perform free outdoor concert in Brighton

FROM PRESS RELEASE

BRIGHTON — The Spinners will perform its R&B hits in an outdoor concert at Seminole Brighton Casino on Jan. 12, 2022, at 8 p.m. Gates will open at 7 p.m.

Presented by Gold Entertainment, the free concert is open to the public. Attendees must be at least 21 years of age and a Seminole Wild Card Member (a valid ID is required to sign-up). Guests can sign up on the day of the show. The Wild Card is also valid at all Seminole Casinos and Seminole Hard Rock Casinos in Florida.

Attendees at the show should bring their own chairs for seating in the viewing area. Additional information is available online at seminolebrightoncasino.com.

Rod Stewart comes to Hollywood in February

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Two-time Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee Rod Stewart will return to Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Feb. 15, 2022 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at myhrl.com.

Sir Rod Stewart is one of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music with more than 250 million records and singles sold worldwide.

Stewart has earned countless accolades, including two inductions into the hall of fame, the ASCAP Founders Award for songwriting, New York Times bestselling author, Grammy Living Legend, and in 2016 he officially became "Sir Rod Stewart" after being knighted at Buckingham Palace for his services to music and charity.

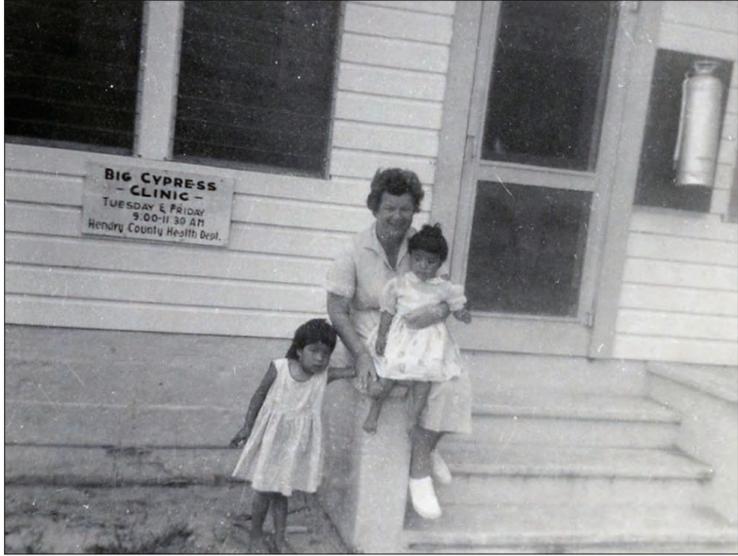
A nurse's notes: Claudia Wilson's collection within the tribe

BY LAURA DELLO RUSSO
Registrar

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Tribe has overseen the creation and management of its modern health care services for the past 50 years. However, prior to 1971, it was the Florida Division of Health who provided these services to the Seminole community. A small group of doctors, nurses and medical assistants from the state were selected to travel between reservations and treat the ailments and regular health needs of tribal members. One of these nurses was Claudia Wilson of Clewiston, who worked

with the Seminole community for 11 years and became an influential figure in the tribe's health care from the late 1950s to the early 1970s.

Sadly, Claudia passed away in 2017 at the age of 99. Upon her death, her family donated her extensive collection of photographs, letters, newspaper clippings and other documents to the Clewiston Museum for preservation. The collection then made its way to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in 2018, and staff members have been working diligently since then to catalog the nearly 900 documents and objects that Claudia had gathered and preserved so meticulously. The cataloging of Claudia's



Claudia Wilson and two children outside of the Big Cypress Clinic.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

collection was finally completed this past summer, and the documents within it provide a rare and fascinating look at health care within the tribe during the mid-20th century. Those decades, specifically the 1960s and 1970s, saw crucial developments in

health care; the polio vaccine was developed and made available for commercial use, electrocardiograms (EKGs) became more widespread, and birth control pills were approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Being a nurse with the

Florida Division of Health, Claudia was instrumental in bringing these services to the Seminole community she served.

Claudia ran the medical clinics on Big Cypress and Brighton where she held clinic days twice per week. On those days, she provided regular health checkups, gave vaccines and booster shots, administered family planning and prenatal services, performed tuberculin testing, and checked children's vision and hearing for school health programs. She also took part in fitness and weight loss clubs that were formed on the reservations. Additionally, she assisted with the implementation of the cardiac screening program in Hendry and Glades counties, which was made available to tribal members living in those areas. As a regular fixture around the reservations, Claudia became both a nurse and a friend.

Finally, in 1971, the United South and Eastern Tribes Inc. requested that management of the Seminole's health care services be transferred over to the tribe, and the Florida Division of Health's contract was not renewed. It was at this time that Claudia had to decide whether to continue her career with the state or take a new position with the U.S. Public Health Service. She chose to stay with the state.

Claudia's work with the Seminole Tribe was influential to the field of health care during those formative decades. Her medical notes and records were included in reports by the Indian Health Program of the U.S. Public Health Service, as well as medical reports conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Additionally, in October 1978, she received the Florida Public Health Association Meritorious Service Award in recognition in part for her work with the Seminoles.

Her collection of memories, including photographs from clinic days, pharmacy prescriptions, and letters from tribal members regarding their medical needs, now provide us with a detailed look at the development of health care services within the tribe. The collection also offers a glimpse into life in the Seminole community shortly after it gained its federal status in 1957.

The 897 items within this collection, stored for decades in boxes and Claudia's family photo albums, are now carefully preserved in the archives at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, where they can continue to serve the Seminole community.

These historic photographs and documents, along with thousands of other items, are available for the community to access anytime. If you'd like to see the collection, you can make an appointment by emailing museum@semtribe.com, or you can check out the museum's collection online: <https://semtribe.pastperfectonline.com/>.



Claudia Wilson administers a booster shot to Mary Tigertail at the Big Cypress Clinic in July 1964.

Clewiston News

Study would help boost Big Cypress tourism

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe has been selected to receive federal funds to study ways to bring more tourism business to the Big Cypress Reservation.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs awarded the tribe \$60,000 for a "tourism feasibility study" to "determine methods to identify potential tourists" on the reservation that is known for its attractions like the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Billie Swamp Safari, the Big Cypress RV Resort and the Junior Cypress rodeo and entertainment complex.

"The firm selected to conduct the study will take into account a number of factors," Carrie Dille, Florida Seminole Tourism's marketing and advertising coordinator said. She said factors include tribal community input, location, tourism trends, current offerings and potential offerings.

"Given all these factors, can Big Cypress grow into a cultural heritage tourism destination? The results of the study will be critical in guiding future decision making processes regarding the attractions and business on the reservation," Dille said.

Such feasibility studies can be used in a variety of ways, including to help persuade lenders and investors to provide financial backing for a given project, Indian Affairs said in a statement.

The tribe was one of just 18 federally recognized tribes across the country to be selected as 2021 awardees. More than \$1.5 million in funds were designated in all.

The effect pandemic shutdowns and restrictions have had on tribal tourism was one of the catalysts for the current round of Tribal Tourism Grants Program (TTGP) awards, which have been in place since 2016. Grants were awarded based on the given proposal's potential to create jobs for tribal members and stimulate economies in tribal communities, Indian Affairs said. Awardees are given the option to hire consultants, perform feasibility studies and/or develop business plans of proposed tourism projects.

"With the ongoing impact Covid-19 is having on the tourism industry, it is important to recognize how much more the tribal tourism sector, which is a vital part of many tribal economies, is suffering," Bryan Newland, assistant secretary of Indian Affairs said in a statement. "The [TTGP] is one way we can aid tribal governments and organizations in their efforts to stay open for business during this time of national crisis." More information is at bia.gov.

How loss of historical lands makes Native Americans more vulnerable to climate change

BY RACHEL TREISMAN
NPR

Indigenous nations across the U.S. have lost nearly 99% of their historical land base over time. And it's not just the quantity of land that matters, but the quality too: Tribes were displaced to areas that are now more exposed to a wide variety of climate change risks.

Those are among the key findings of a multi-year study published [in October] in the journal *Science*. Researchers at Yale University, Colorado State University and the University of Michigan constructed a first-of-its-kind data set to quantify the history of land dispossession and forced migration in the U.S., and examine its long-term environmental and economic impacts.

As a result of the near-total loss of their tribal lands, the researchers say, Indigenous people are forced to live in areas that are, on average, more exposed to climate change hazards like extreme heat and decreased precipitation. Those lands are also less likely to lie over valuable subsurface oil and gas resources.

"When we think about how to address climate change, we sometimes forget that past U.S. policies and actions have led to conditions in which some groups are burdened more by climate change than others," said Justin Farrell, a professor at the Yale School of the Environment and the study's lead author.

"And so when we're talking about Native land dispossession [and] forced migration, in the American narrative at least, it's this story of past harm done ... there's less attention to, how is this an ongoing story about current climate risk? How is this an ongoing story about future climate risk?"

Many tribes are facing more extreme heat, less precipitation and increased risk from wildfires

We know that European and American settlers forced Indigenous people off their lands and that settler colonialism laid the groundwork for systemic inequalities that persist to this day.

But experts have not previously been able to fully quantify the extent of that displacement, or measure how contemporary Indigenous lands compare to those that they lost in terms of environmental conditions and economic potential.

The study offers one of the most complete accountings of that history, and presents a stark illustration of how, more than two centuries later, the legacy of displacement

has compounded the challenges faced by Indigenous groups as they confront the growing threat posed by climate change.

Indigenous nations in the U.S. have lost 98.9% of their historical land base since European settlers began colonizing the continent, the researchers found.

More than 42% of tribes from the historical period now have no federally- or state-recognized land, and the present-day lands that tribes do still possess are an average of 2.6% the size of their estimated historical area.

Present-day lands are also generally far from historical lands, averaging a distance of roughly 150 miles.

In terms of climate change, the analysis found that tribes' current lands face more extreme heat and less precipitation. The Mojave tribe (along the Colorado River), for example, experiences an average 62 more days of extreme heat per year than it did on its historical lands. Nearly half of tribes experience heightened wildfire hazard exposure.

The study also found that Native lands are less likely to include economically valuable oil and gas resources. And about half of tribes saw an increase in their proximity to federal lands, leaving them limited in how they can manage and use the land.

Researchers say this isn't necessarily a coincidence

When it comes to the climate change vulnerabilities of today, Kyle Whyte, one of the study's co-authors, said many people mistakenly perceive the situation as one of tribes being in the wrong place at the wrong time. But it's no accident, he added.

"The reason why tribal nations are located in the places they are is because the U.S. tried to remove them and get them out of the way, so that the U.S. could build this massive industrial economy, that we now know contributes to increased concentrations of increased greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere," he said.

Farrell said there was no knowledge of rising temperatures at the time, but that settlers' economic interests motivated them to push tribes to areas they viewed as "less important" to the building of a nation.

The study was seven years in the making

To arrive at their findings, the researchers examined everything from Indigenous nations' archives and territory maps to

federal records and digitized treaties. This data is now publicly available in the Native Land Information System.

They classified each tribe's land base data within the historical and present-day periods, then turned to statistical models to answer their driving questions: What was the full extent of land dispossession and forced migration for tribes, and did their new lands offer improved or reduced environmental conditions and economic opportunities over time?

The project took seven years, and meant having to navigate myriad methodological and ethical challenges.

For example, Farrell said that accurately representing the ways in which Indigenous nations see their relationship with land meant resisting the more traditional academic approach of imposing strict boundary lines on tribes (and instead allowing for the fact that multiple tribes may occupy the same land). He also noted that most of their historical sources came from settler colonial records.

"That's a limitation in the study, and why we see this collection as more of a start than a finish," Farrell explained.

Whyte, a professor at the University of Michigan and an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, also noted that the number of Native American professors is relatively small, and that few non-Native scholars are interested — or qualified — in documenting complex situations of land dispossession.

The authors want the public's help in painting a fuller picture

After nearly a decade of work on the project, the researchers are now making their data public in the hopes that other scholars and members of Indigenous nations will review and improve upon their findings to provide an even more specific picture.

They say that information is crucial for establishing policies aimed at mitigating future impacts of climate change, as well as remediating the land dispossession that caused these vulnerabilities in the first place.

For his part, Whyte said that the tools and data sets that the federal government has historically used to assess environmental justice issues facing Indigenous people have been lacking.

He thinks this new data offers tribes an important tool in being able to articulate the land loss issues that they face and argue for greater support for tribal sovereignty and the capacity to manage their own lands — including so that they can deal with the

effects of climate change.

Specifically, he said, it could help identify the tribal communities that would benefit from a Biden administration pledge to deliver at least 40% of the overall benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities.

The data also holds important takeaways for those outside of the Indigenous community and federal government.

Whyte, who serves as a member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, encouraged the general public to advocate for the importance of the federal government engaging in "nation-to-nation consultation with tribes," noting that voters don't typically evaluate politicians based on their track records for working with tribes.

"Our study shows that the U.S. needs to strengthen its consultative work with tribes to figure out — for each tribe — how to deal with the effects of land dispossession, how to engage in landback and how to promote self-governance and sovereignty of native people," he said. "Readers need to hold the government accountable for that whether they live in Indian country or not."



University of Michigan

Kyle Whyte (Citizen Potawatomi Nation), is co-author of the study and a professor at the University of Michigan.

◆ MOUNDVILLE From page 1A

Tribes establish connections based on different types of evidence, like similarities in a pottery style or Native language place names. Efforts are being made to revise NAGPRA to make the overall process more easy, fair and efficient for tribes.

Seminole success

The Seminole Tribe has made gains in recent years, especially as it pertains to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (NMNH). The NMNH has a vast collection of about 1,500 Seminole ancestors and tens of thousands of archaeological artifacts.

In late 2020, the tribe's eight-member repatriation committee, part of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), was successful in pushing the NMNH to revise its policy. The updated policy includes provisions to repatriate that which

was previously identified as "culturally unidentifiable." It was considered a significant breakthrough, as NAGPRA does not apply to NMNH, which is covered by a separate repatriation law.

Domonique deBeaubien, THPO collections manager and member of the repatriation committee, said that along with NMNH there is other work always in progress, such as the current claim with the University of Alabama.

This year alone, deBeaubien said she's worked with more than two-dozen federal

agencies on NAGPRA repatriation-related consultations. She has also consulted on more than a dozen inadvertent discoveries throughout Florida — remains or objects that arise from work done by archaeological companies or commercial developers. Other discoveries from previous years often roll over as claims are resolved, deBeaubien said.

When remains or funerary objects are released to the tribe, a strict process is followed. Legal paperwork is completed and there are approvals that come from senior

tribal leadership. Secure and private travel arrangements are made and the repatriation committee consults with cultural advisers on a location for reburial as close to an original site as possible. If an area has been bulldozed or it has a development on it, often a state or federal park is used. Nothing is ever collected or put on display and funerary objects are buried together with the respective ancestor.

For more information, go to stfthpo.com. On social media, follow "NoMoreStolenAncestors" on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Health



Kiswani-Barley reflects on unprecedented time for Health and Human Services

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Dr. Vandhara Kiswani-Barley began her career with the tribe in 2018 as a family practitioner working at the Big Cypress health clinic. Two short years later, in June 2020 and during critical months of the pandemic before vaccines were available, she became the interim executive director of Health and Human Services (HHS), succeeding former executive director Paul Isaacs. In part due to her leadership during those early months, the interim label was soon dropped.

Kiswani-Barley and the head of public safety, William Latchford, oversaw the tribe's vaccine distribution, which began in December 2020 when tribal leaders sought to set an example by receiving some of the first shots. She still oversees vaccines, boosters and treatments for Covid-19 for tribal members.

Now based out of the Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center in Hollywood, we asked Kiswani-Barley to look back on the string of months that were a stressful, and ultimately hopeful, time for the tribe.

What was the experience like in those early months? You had a family to take care of as well.

As a practicing provider I understand the need for all hands on deck to ensure the wellness and safety of tribal members, patients and staff. It has been very challenging, but I took it on for the better

good of the people I serve. My family is very understanding, and although at times 18 hours of my day was devoted to the tribe during the surge, they understand the importance of saving lives and the time we live in now. Currently, the numbers have trended downwards so I am able to have a better work-life balance without impacting the delivery of services we provide to the community.

What were the challenges in terms of getting tribal members and tribal employees to take precautions seriously in those early months?

The challenging part was getting people to adhere to strict personal protective equipment (PPE) guidelines and quarantine/isolation guidelines.

Once the vaccine became available, what were the barriers in convincing people to get their shot?

The challenges we face at the health department are the fact that the vaccine is new. The myths that are on social media have dampened the acceptance. We continue to work through our challenges and we continue to educate the community.

What is your feeling with where things stand now?

Currently, we are in a much better situation. However, it is too early to tell if we are out of the woods. History shows that every major holiday brings a spike in the number of cases in the tribe and the nation. To be cautious, it is advisable to continue



Damon Scott

Dr. Vandhara Kiswani-Barley oversees operations at the Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center in Hollywood. She was named to lead HHS in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

these strict protocols to see the impact of the next few holidays we have.

Looking back, is there anything you would have done differently?

We would have collaborated with hospital systems earlier.

What are some of the successes – things that made you feel good?

Saving life, educating the community

and ensuring that the tribe has stellar resources and a team to help fight this pandemic.

Editor's note: Tribal members can call their local clinic or the HHS hotline at (833) 786-3458 for more information about the Covid-19 vaccine, booster shots, antibody treatments and the flu vaccine. Tribal employees can call the hotline for vaccine information as well.

IHS offers more than \$46M in behavioral health funding opportunities

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The Indian Health Service on Nov. 4 announced \$46.4 million in funding opportunities to address suicide, domestic violence, and substance abuse, and supporting an integrative approach to the delivery of behavioral health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the lives and mental health of so many people across the country," Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said in a statement. "Strengthening mental and behavioral health is a priority for us at HHS. With today's investment, we get one step closer to helping more families – particularly across American Indian and Alaska Native communities – as we work to tackle public health crises associated with Covid-19 and support people struggling with the pandemic's impact."

The funding opportunities focus on a half-dozen areas including substance abuse, suicide, domestic violence and forensic healthcare.

Proposed new Utah state agency would focus on healthcare, social services for Native Americans

FROM KUER PUBLIC RADIO

Utah could have a new agency dedicated to American Indian-Alaska Native Affairs, after a legislative committee gave the proposal the green light Nov. 22.

The office would be in the state's Department of Health and Human Services and would focus on healthcare and social programs for Native Americans.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Jani Iwamoto, D-Salt Lake City, said it consolidates and expands existing efforts to address healthcare and social programs for Native Americans.

"It's been in a way diluted in the past," Iwamoto said. "Indian children and families will be best supported through the creation of a dedicated Indian child and family office that will immediately support and strengthen their array of services and supports that are needed for this vulnerable population."

Aspen Jensen, a member of the Navajo Nation and a law clerk, told the committee the United States has a history of separating Native children from their families through boarding schools. She said the state needs to work with tribes.

"The current bill does that," Jensen said. "It opens that consultation. It puts people in place that understand these tribal sufferings and the cultural sensitivities."

The office would also be required to consult with tribes when the Department of Health and Human Services is considering a decision that would impact a tribe's sovereignty.

"Native American children are overrepresented in Utah's child welfare system," she said. "Lack of critical infrastructure and state and tribal systems have left Indian children in Utah state welfare systems with the poorest of outcomes. Targeted and strategic infrastructure must be in place to support the underserved population of American Indian and Alaska Native children and families in Utah."

Pharmacy opens at Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center



Damon Scott (4)

A grand opening was held Nov. 1 for the satellite pharmacy at the Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center on the Hollywood Reservation. The pharmacy is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Its prescription services features a walk-up window and a drive-thru window. The Big Cypress and Sheridan Street pharmacies will still remain operational.

Clockwise from the top: Jennifer Valle, pharmacy technician (left) and Fiona Lawrence, pharmacist; the drive-thru window area; Pernel Prince, pharmacist (left), and Liliana Casas, pharmacy technician; the walk up window inside the center.



Health insurance:
The gift of good medicine. Sign yourself and your loved ones up today.

Contact your local Indian health care provider for more information, visit [Healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov), or call 1-800-318-2596.



Dr. Brian C. Rush
Chiropractic Physician
Successfully Treating...

- Neck Pain
- Lower Back Pain
- Headaches
- Leg & Arm Pain
- Joint Pain
- Muscle Pain
- Auto Accident Pain

We accept your insurance plan, PPO's, POS, Medicare, Auto Insurance.
Dr. Rush Can Help You!

FREE SPINAL EXAM & CONSULTATION TO ALL TRIBAL CITIZENS AND EMPLOYEES (\$150 Value)

Dr. Brian C. Rush
Chiropractic Physician
10830 Pines Blvd.
Pembroke Pines

954.432.5006
(Located next to YouFit Gym in the Bahama Breeze plaza.)

THE PATIENT AND ANY OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT HAS A RIGHT TO REFUSE TO PAY, CANCEL PAYMENT, OR BE REIMBURSED FOR PAYMENT FOR ANY OTHER SERVICE, EXAMINATION, OR TREATMENT THAT IS PERFORMED AS A RESULT OF AND WITHIN 72 HOURS OF RESPONDING TO THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FREE, DISCOUNTED FEE, OR REDUCED FEE SERVICE, EXAMINATION, OR TREATMENT.

SEMINOLE SCENES



THANKSGIVING MEALS: Immokalee Reservation employee Amanda Deck loads up a vehicle with turkeys and hams during the reservation's Thanksgiving drive thru Nov. 16. Other reservations held similar events for employees before the holiday.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney (2)

THANKSGIVING DISPLAYS: Above and below, the Immokalee Recreation Department decked out the gym with festive Thanksgiving decorations, inside and out, despite not having a community dinner this year.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

HOLIDAY ORNAMENT: A Seminole doll head basket ornament is available for the holidays through the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum store at seminole-store.com.



Beverly Bidney

HANGING AIRPLANT: An airplant takes in all the nutrients it needs as it thrives on the trunk of a cypress tree near the boardwalk at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress on Nov. 17.



Facebook

OHS SALUTE: In a Veterans Day video honor, Okeechobee High School paid tribute to its graduates who have served in the military, including the Seminole Tribe's David Nunez, who served in the U.S. Navy. The video was posted on the school's Facebook page.



Beverly Bidney

AH-TAH-THI-KI LEADERS: The new leadership at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum - assistant director Marcella Billie and director Gordon "Ollie" Wareham.



Hard Rock/Facebook

PRODUCTIVE PINK: Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City raised \$125,000 in its Pinktober campaign in support of breast cancer awareness and research. "Thank you to our friends at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City and its patrons who generously raised \$125,000 for the American Cancer Society through their 22nd annual Pinktober campaign," the American Cancer Society posted on social media.



John Anderson/Facebook

BIRTHDAY BOY: A December birthday for John Anderson, who wrote and recorded "Seminole Wind." Anderson was born Dec. 13, 1954. Released in 1992, "Seminole Wind" reached No. 2 on the Billboard Hot Country Singles & Tracks chart in the U.S. and hit No. 1 on the Canadian RPM Country Tracks chart.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Ontario First Nation declares state of emergency, looks to trace source of blastomycosis

A First Nation in northern Ontario was working Nov. 23 to trace the source of a fungus suspected of causing lung infections in several residents.

The chief of Constance Lake First Nation said three recent deaths in the community may be linked to blastomycosis — although that has yet to be confirmed — while nine residents are thought to have the infection and 24 others are under investigation for it.

The First Nation declared a state of emergency Nov. 22 after cases came to light in recent days.

“This has never happened,” Sutherland said in a phone interview.

“We declared the state of emergency so that we can have access to everything possible to hopefully find the source of this problem to contain it, limit its exposure or remediate something and help our people.”

Sutherland said nine people were being cared for in hospitals in various communities. At least one child was sent to a hospital in Ottawa on Nov. 22, she said.

Blastomycosis is a lung infection typically caused by a fungus that grows in moist soil, leaves and rotting wood, and is spread when a person breathes in small particles of the fungus into their lungs. Symptoms range from a mild cough to serious breathing problems. Some people may not show any symptoms, while others may develop a long-term form of pneumonia.

Sutherland said there are at least 11 different places in the community where samples will be gathered to check for sources of the fungus.

She said the First Nation, which is located near Hearst, Ont., is looking into evacuation plans as a precaution but isn't planning an evacuation just yet.

— *The Canadian Press*

Native America's musical matriarch dies at age 63

On Nov. 22, Joanne Shenandoah, a Native American Music Awards & Association lifetime achievement honoree and 14-time award winner, died at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona, following complications of abdominal bleeding and suffering a cardiac arrest. She was surrounded by her husband, Doug George-Kanentiio, and daughter Leah.

A member of the Wolf Clan of the Oneida Nation, of the Haudenosaunee Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy, Shenandoah was the most critically acclaimed and honored Native American singer since her debut recording in 1989. She went on to record a total of 15 albums with numerous more collaborations. She won a multitude of awards, including 14 Native American Music Awards, the most ever awarded to a singular artist, and a Grammy for her contribution on “Sacred Ground: A Tribute to Mother Earth.” She earned two Grammy nominations for her albums “Covenant” and “Peacemaker's Journey” and an Emmy nomination for the PBS special “Native America.” She was inducted into the Syracuse Area Hall of Fame and received an honorary doctorate of music from Syracuse University in 2002. She was also an original board member of the Hiawatha Institute for Indigenous Knowledge, which operates in partnership with the university.

Just this year, she released her last full length recording entitled, “Oh Shenandoah,” which is available on Amazon.com. The 12-track recording features a collection of country infused songs along with a dedication to Missing Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). “Missing You.”

She leaves behind her husband Doug, daughter Leah, grandson Kieren Ryder, sisters Diane and Vicky and numerous nieces and nephews.

Artists are invited to share photos and comments to NativeMusicAwards@gmail.com for a future memorial posting.

— *Native American Music Awards & Association*

Controversial Roosevelt statue outside of New York museum finds a home in North Dakota

A controversial statue of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt in front of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City has found a new home in Medora, North Dakota, the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation announced in a statement.

The statue will be on long-term loan to the newly announced Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library opening in Medora in 2026, according to the Nov. 19 statement.

In June, the New York City Public Design Commission unanimously voted to remove and temporarily store the statue after years of debate. The statue's removal is subject to final approval by the Design Commission and is expected to take several months beginning late fall, American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) President Ellen V. Futter said in a statement.

The statue features the 26th president on horseback flanked by a Native American man on one side and an African man on the other — conveying a “racial hierarchy that the museum and members of the public have long found disturbing,” wrote the museum in its initial removal request in June 2020.

Members of the Roosevelt family support the decision to move the statue to the planned North Dakota presidential library, and the statement said they “will establish an advisory council composed of

representatives of the Indigenous Tribal and Black communities, historians, scholars, and artists to guide the recontextualization of the statue.”

“The Equestrian Statue is problematic in its hierarchical depiction of its subjects and should be removed from New York State's official memorial to Theodore Roosevelt,” Theodore Roosevelt V, a descendant of the late President, said. “Rather than burying a troubling work of art, we ought to learn from it.”

He continued: “It is fitting that the statue is being relocated to a place where its composition can be recontextualized to facilitate difficult, complex, and inclusive discussions.”

The statue, which was unveiled in front of the museum in 1940 as part of a larger statewide memorial to Roosevelt, a former New York governor, was originally intended to celebrate him, according to a statement by the AMNH.

“At the same time, the statue itself communicates a racial hierarchy that the Museum and members of the public have long found disturbing,” the statement from the museum reads.

“Museums are supposed to do hard things,” Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation CEO Edward F. O'Keefe said in a statement. “It is said that ‘those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it,’ and our job is to forthrightly examine history to understand the present and make a better future.”

— *CNN*

Renowned Native American WWII veteran Marcella LeBeau dies

Native American war hero Marcella Rose LeBeau has made her journey to the spirit world.

News of her death broke Nov. 22 on social media, and several people close to LeBeau confirmed the death to South Dakota Public Broadcasting. LeBeau was 102.

LeBeau was born in 1919 and grew up in Promise, South Dakota, as a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. She was given the name Wigmunke' Waste Win', or Pretty Rainbow Woman, by her grandmother. LeBeau credits her father for guiding her and stressing the importance of education. That paved the way for her to become a registered nurse.

She grew up in an era of adversity during a time when her culture was being eradicated at the hands of the U.S. government. She was a boarding school survivor and like many Native Americans and people of her generation, she answered the call to serve her country during World War II in the United States Army Nurse Corps.

During that time, LeBeau used her expertise to save the lives of those who stormed Normandy on D-Day and during battles, including the Battle of the Bulge. She went on to be honored by the country of France with its highest military honor, the French Legion of Honor Medal.

LeBeau took her talents back to her tribe where she went on to become a major advocate of Native American Health. She became the director of nursing at Eagle Butte Indian Health Services.

LeBeau also served on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council in the early 1990s and was highly regarded for her health policy leadership.

LeBeau is a member of the South Dakota Hall of Fame and a recipient of the Women in History Award from Spirit of the Prairie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

LeBeau often gave speeches about her experiences and never forgot those that she served with. She often ended those speeches with a prayer like the one that follows here:

“O Great Spirit, guide my hand as I collect sand from this hollowed ground. Great Spirit accept now my prayer for the brave and courageous soldiers who saw the horrors of war here this day 60 years ago to 1944,” said LeBeau. “Great Spirit, please also accept my prayers for Lieutenant Harry, Sergeant George Sweitzer. Great Spirit keep us ever mindful of the great sacrifices made to liberate France and bring peace to our world by these fallen men. O great spirit now hold my hand and walk with me up the cliff of Omaha Beach filled with emotion. No words can ever express.”

— *South Dakota Public Broadcasting*

Senate confirms Chuck Sams III as first Native American to lead National Park Service

The U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed Chuck F. Sams III on Nov. 18 as the first Native American to serve as director of the National Park Service in its 105-year history.

Sams, a member of the Cayuse and Walla Walla tribes, which are part of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, will be the first confirmed director of the NPS since 2017 as the agency has been led by acting directors since then.

Sams, who has years of experience in land management, most recently served on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden took the floor Nov. 18 to ask the Senate to confirm Sams, a U.S. Navy veteran.

“Chuck Sams is the right nominee to lead the National Park Service as it addresses these challenges. I know Chuck. He is hardworking. He is committed,” Wyden said after the confirmation. “Chuck is a role model in the stewardship of American land and waters, wildlife and history. And now thanks to the Senate's unanimous decision to confirm his nomination, Congress and park-goers will have someone steady and

experienced to rely on in the years ahead.” The park service is a bureau of the Department of Interior, led by Secretary Deb Haaland, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna.

— *Oregon Public Broadcasting*

Aquinnah seeks gambling compact in Massachusetts

The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah has asked Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker to enter into negotiations for a Class III casino compact, according to a letter sent by the tribe to Baker.

In a letter dated Sept. 8, Aquinnah Wampanoag chairwoman Cheryl Andrews-Maltas requests the compact negotiations. A Class III casino under the state's gambling laws would allow for slot machines and table games such as blackjack and roulette.

The document became public at Nov. 22's select board meeting in Aquinnah. Town counsel Ron Rappaport said he requested a copy on Nov. 15 during a conference call with Baker's office.

“I think that it's important for this letter to be shown to our community and shared with our community,” Tom Murphy, Aquinnah select board member, said.

Board members had no further comment.

Baker's press office did not immediately return a call seeking comment. A spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Gaming Commission said she would check to see if the request is on the commission's radar. The state has two Class III casinos — one in Everett and the other in Springfield, as well as a slot parlor in Plainville. A third Class III casino license set aside for southeastern Massachusetts has never been awarded by the state because of legal issues involving the state's other federally recognized tribe — the Mashpee Wampanoag.

Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), federally recognized tribes have the right to seek casino licenses in states where gambling is legal.

The Aquinnah Tribe, after a protracted legal battle with the state, the town of Aquinnah, and a community association, had its rights to a Class II casino — a so-called bingo hall — affirmed.

The tribe broke ground on the gambling hall in Aquinnah, which would have contained bingo machines, but work was halted by a legal challenge. Due to a legal technicality, the tribe would have to seek building permits and go through the Martha's Vineyard Commission in order to build on its reservation.

A Class III casino is more likely being considered off-Island because of the size and infrastructure needed to support it. Though no site is mentioned in the letter to Gov. Baker, Andrews-Maltas recently announced to tribe members that the tribe is looking at property in New Bedford to expand services off-Island, where many tribe members live, sources within the tribe told The Times.

Andrews-Maltas did not return a message seeking comment.

“We would like to set up a meeting in the immediate future to discuss and establish a protocol to move forward,” the letter to Baker states. “The tribe looks forward to frank and successful negotiations to establish a regulatory framework for Class III gaming.”

A spokesman for New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell said the tribe has not approached the city about a casino there.

In 2018, the New Bedford city council approved sending a letter to the Aquinnah Wampanoag expressing support for a tribal casino in the city. “The city of New Bedford could be poised to host such a casino, given its available space for potential economic development, strong workforce, solid public infrastructure, community support, and nearby location to Rhode Island and Cape Cod,” the motion stated, according to a report in the New Bedford Guide.

In 2012, the Aquinnah Wampanoag had a purchase and sale agreement on 500 acres on the Freetown-Lakeville town line, but that deal fell through when then-Gov. Deval Patrick refused to negotiate a compact with the tribe, and instead set his sights on working with the Mashpee Wampanoag.

The Mashpee tribe has had legal troubles of its own, which have stalled plans that tribe had to build a Class III facility in Taunton.

Terry MacCormack, press secretary in the Baker-Polito administration, said, “The administration received the letter and is reviewing it,” and is communicating with the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe on this topic.

— *Martha's Vineyard (Mass.) Times*

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe launch digital Ute language dictionary

TOWAOC, Colo. — The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, with support from The Language Conservancy, launched a web and mobile Ute Language dictionary Nov. 18.

The Ute Language digital dictionary is the latest resource for speakers and learners of the Ute Language. Time is critical for this Indigenous community as it fights to reinvigorate the next generation of learners. It is estimated that today there are about 110 fluent Ute Mountain Ute speakers. The Ute Mountain Ute digital dictionary will be free for learners to access on the web or to download the app on both iOS and Android devices.

Building the dictionary has been a process involving 21 Ute Mountain Ute speakers, a team of linguists, and multiple Rapid Word Collections (RWC). RWC is a contemporary method of compiling language databases. The initial RWC was hosted in 2019, and speakers and linguists collected roughly 3,000 words for the dictionary.

The second virtual RWC in January and February 2021 resulted in another 4,000 words collected. The Ute Mountain Ute digital dictionary will continue to be updated over time as additional words are gathered and verified.

The web and mobile dictionary's release comes just ahead of what the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has deemed the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, starting in January 2022.

The Language Conservancy (TLC) is a nonprofit organization that supports and advocates for the revitalization of Indigenous languages by developing programs, materials, and technologies in close partnership with Indigenous communities.

— *From press release*

National Park Service, tribes sign agreements

WASHINGTON — The National Park Service announced Nov. 24 that seven new Tribal Historic Preservation agreements were completed and signed with tribes in seven states in 2021. The tribes are:

- Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Washington
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, Texas
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado
- Resighini Rancheria, California
- Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Utah
- Santo Domingo Pueblo, New Mexico
- Moapa River Indian Reservation, Nevada

The NPS has the responsibility under the National Historic Preservation Act to administer the Tribal Historic Preservation program. According to NPS, the program assists Indian tribes in strengthening their historic preservation programs managed through Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) on tribal lands. Once signed, THPO agreements transfer certain historic preservation responsibilities to tribes that would otherwise be the responsibility of the state.

There are currently 207 tribes with signed THPO agreements nationwide.

— *From press release*

California governor grants clemency to two Native Americans

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California Gov. Gavin Newsom granted pardons to two members of California tribes — the Koi Nation of Northern California and the Resighini Rancheria — on Nov. 19. According to the governor's office, tribal leaders support the pardons. The announcement highlighted the grantees' success in rehabilitation post-conviction and “their extraordinary service to their communities.” The pardons to Robert Morgan (Koi) and Frank Spa-ghe Dowd (Resighini Rancheria) coincided with Native American Heritage Month.

Both men were convicted of assault with a deadly weapon in the early 2000s.

— *Staff report*

Virginia requires tribal consultation on permitting

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam and leaders of tribes Indigenous to the state praised an executive order signed by Northam on Nov. 18 that requires formal tribal consultation for state environmental and historic protection permits. Through the order, Northam has directed state permitting agencies to consult with the tribal nations.

According to the governor's office, the order is designed “to help identify any potential environmental or cultural concerns for the tribes regarding the proposed development projects.”

The order requires the permitting departments to establish a tribal consultation policy that will allow for input by tribal representatives on permits and reviews.

“The Commonwealth has an important and unique government-to-government relationship with Virginia's tribal nations,” Northam said in a statement. “In recent years, we have worked to address past wrongs and strengthen our relationships with Virginia's tribes. Tribal nations have always been integral to the cultural and historic fabric of Virginia, and this order is among the first steps that will affirm tribal sovereignty and enhance relationships between our governments.”

Northam joined chiefs of the seven federally acknowledged tribal nations Indigenous to Virginia, including the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, Monacan Indian Nation, Nansemond Indian Nation, Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Rappahannock Tribe, and Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, as well as leaders of permitting departments.

“This order helps advance the relationship between the Commonwealth and our tribes, after the United States recognized our sovereignty in 1818, and affirms the Commonwealth's obligations under treaties stretching back more than 300 years,” Anne Richardson, Chief of the Rappahannock Tribe, said in a statement.

“This executive order is an historic step forward in advancing the government-to-government relationship between Tribal Nations and states in this country, and we applaud Governor Northam's bold and courageous leadership for honoring tribal sovereignty and the inherent right to free, prior, and informed consent,” Fawn Sharp, president of the National Congress of American Indians, said in a statement.

— *Staff report*

Chaco Canyon: Project aims to preserve a sacred landscape

The striking landscape of northwestern New Mexico holds deep meaning to Indigenous peoples, whose ancestors established the Chacoan culture of the high desert. Today, the Chaco Culture National Historical Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and nearly 200 archaeological sites dot the surrounding landscape.

However, this sacred land of mountains and mesas faces some very modern threats from oil and gas development.

One of the main points of “The Greater Chaco Landscape: Ancestors, Scholarship, and Advocacy,” a volume co-edited by Binghamton University anthropology professor Ruth Van Dyke and Carrie Heitman of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is to raise public awareness of these threats.

Released in April by University Press of Colorado, The Greater Chaco Landscape volume and related endeavors represent eight years of work that brought together scholars and Native American cultural experts.

In partnership with nonprofits, tribes and environmental groups, the scholars have been pushing for a 10-mile buffer zone around the park in which new oil and gas leases would be prohibited. They finally have a victory: In November, President Joe Biden and Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, a member of the Laguna Pueblo Tribe, announced the establishment of the buffer zone by executive decree.

The battle isn't over yet, Van Dyke cautioned: The moratorium only applies to new leases over the next 20 years and about 90 percent of the federal lands in question have already been leased. Plus, many understudied archaeological sites lie outside of the buffer zone.

“But we are celebrating at the moment; this is really huge,” Van Dyke said.

While Chaco has been studied for around 120 years, most of the attention has focused on Chaco Canyon, famous for its multi-storied, sandstone masonry great houses built by ancient Pueblo farmers between 850 and 1150 CE.

However, the canyon is the epicenter of a phenomenon that stretched across the Colorado Plateau, encompassing an area the size of Alabama. These 200 “outlier” sites include great houses like those found at Pueblo Bonito, but most are smaller; they have been a focus of study since the 1970s.

Chaco scholars have several competing theories to explain why the architecture is so far-flung, said Van Dyke, who has been working in this area since 1991. Some believe the ancient Pueblo lived in egalitarian farming communities and used the great houses as a type of community center; on the other end of the spectrum are scholars who believe that the canyon was the center of a hierarchical, expansionist state.

“The explanation that makes the most sense to me involves Chaco Canyon as the center of a religious belief system in which pilgrimage figured prominently,” Van Dyke said. “The people who lived in the far-flung outliers came to Chaco Canyon, perhaps on the solstices or equinoxes (we have lots of evidence for that), and took ideas back home with them.”

For all of its history, the area is understudied: Only a handful of the 200 outlying sites have been excavated, and only 30 to 40 have robust community data. Understanding this wider area is key to understanding Chaco Canyon — a tenuous undertaking, since most of the sites aren't well-protected.

The San Juan Basin, with Chaco at its heart, sits on top of the Mancos shale formation. Like the Marcellus shale in the Southern Tier, it's considered ripe for oil and gas extraction, which could potentially endanger the landscape and the archaeological sites within it.

Tom Lincoln, who retired as the Department of Interior's inter-mountain regional director for cultural resources in 2016, invited scholars to study the situation, which proved the genesis of the project. Between 2013 and 2019, Van Dyke and Heitman held two conferences with more than 20 scholarly and Indigenous experts, and also published an 87-page white paper used for archaeological management today.

Native communities — specifically the Hopi, Acoma, Zuni and Navajo — still visit the canyon and other sacred sites as part of their religious practices. The volume features video chapters in which Native culture experts discuss the landscape within the landscape itself. That's a shift away from the discipline's early days, in which Eurocentric anthropologists treated Native peoples as little more than hired labor.

“For them, Chaco is more than a scholarly pursuit; these are the homes of their ancestors. They have oral traditions going back generations that talk about the things that happened at Chaco,” Van Dyke said. “It is really important for me and for my white colleagues to foreground Native voices and concerns with respect to Chaco. It's not our landscape; it's theirs.”

While published in hard copy, the book also exists in an open-access, hybrid work that allows users to seamlessly toggle through video chapters and color photos while reading the text. You can read it here.

Van Dyke and Heitman are planning to raise funds to continue the video project, adding more Native voices to the work. Native voices also need to be heeded by the Bureau of Land Management when it comes to making mineral leasing and management decisions, Van Dyke said.

“Native voices should be the first ones we turn to when we are thinking about how to treat their sacred landscapes, and the archaeological materials left by their ancestors,” she said.

— *Binghamton (N.Y.) University*

SOUTH FLORIDA'S ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION



DEC 8
NEIGHBORS 4
NEIGHBORS COMEDY
FOR A CAUSE



DEC 10
OLD DOMINION



DEC 12
JOE
BONAMASSA



DEC 18
RON WHITE



DEC 19
GAY MEN'S
CHORUS OF
SOUTH FLORIDA
WITH DEBORAH COX



DEC 27 & 28
JIM GAFFIGAN



JAN 6
TIM ALLEN



JAN 14 & 15
MIAMI COMEDY
FESTIVAL



FEB 5
GLADYS KNIGHT



FEB 10
DEEP PURPLE
WITH BLUE OYSTER CULT



FEB 11 & 12
VAN MORRISON
12 - SOLD OUT



FEB 15
ROD STEWART



GET TICKETS!
TICKETMASTER.COM
MYHRL.COM • HARDROCKHOLLY.COM



HOLLYWOOD, FL

Education



PECS celebrates Native American Heritage Month

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School was alive in November with Native American Heritage Month celebrations. Principal Tracy Downing acknowledged the month in a message to students.

"The month of November is deemed Native American Heritage Month. A

time for learning about, appreciating and acknowledging the contributions of Native Americans. The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions and continuing culture of Native people," Downing wrote in the Nov. 8 weekly newsletter.

Activities included classroom projects and lessons, a celebration of moccasins called "Rock Your Mocs" on Nov. 15 and plenty of patchwork was worn at school all

month. Throughout the month, social studies teacher Michelle Pritchard's second through fourth grade classes completed a weeks-long unit on Native Americans.

The students studied tribes across the country including the Tlingit in Alaska, Cheyenne in the Plains, Hopi in the Southwest, Iroquois in the Northeast and Seminole in Florida.

"We went deep into each tribe," Pritchard said. "The kids were fascinated by the Tlingit and their Raven and Eagle

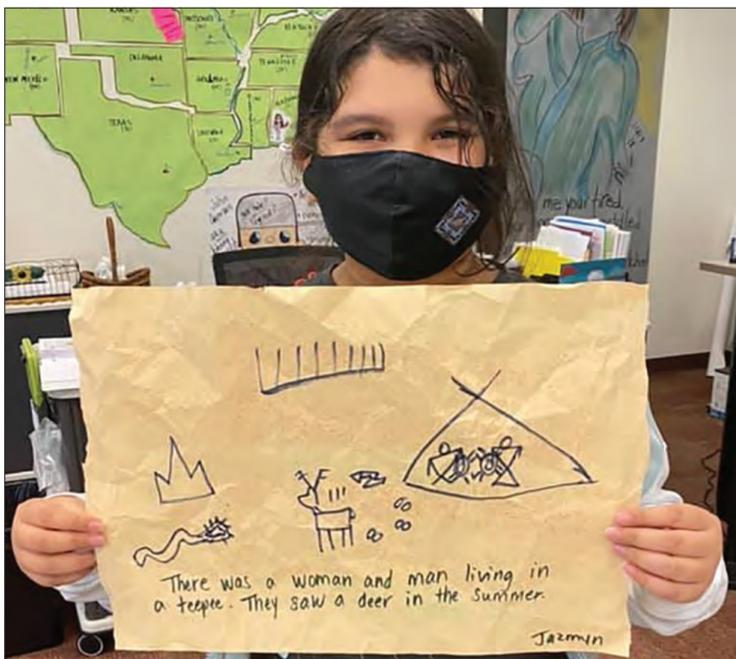
clans. They learned if you are a Raven woman, you have to marry an Eagle man in arranged marriages. The women raise their sister's daughters and the boys are raised by her brother. Legend says you spoil your own children but you won't spoil nieces and nephews."

Students learned that like many tribes, including the Seminole, the Iroquois plant the three sisters - squash, corn and beans - together in the garden. Corn is planted first, then the beans grow up the corn stalks and

squash is added to the ground. The three plants work advantageously together in the soil.

Students also learned there are 574 federally recognized tribes in the U.S. and 50 First Nations in Canada.

"This was a great awakening, the students didn't know that," Pritchard said. "There was a lot of discovery during the unit."



A second grader shows her pictograph that pictures a man and woman living in a teepee who saw a deer during the summer.



A video shown at PECS commemorating Native American Heritage Month included brief biographies of many notable Native Americans, including Seminole women, such as Lorene Gopher, Jennie Shore and Louise Jones Gopher, who stressed the importance of language and culture.



Students and teachers donned moccasins to "Rock Your Mocs."



A group of students show off their patchwork on a lawn at PECS.



Students examine a display for Native American Heritage Month in a PECS classroom.

Brooke Simpson, Quannah ChasingHorse to be featured speakers at UNITY conference

FROM PRESS RELEASE

MESA, Arizona — "America's Got Talent" finalist Brooke Simpson (Haliwa-Saponi) will be the in-person keynote speaker at the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) annual midyear leadership conference Feb. 25-27, 2022, at the Hilton Phoenix Resort at the Peak in Phoenix, Arizona. Simpson will also perform at the conference. Indigenous land protector and IMG model and actress Quannah ChasingHorse (Han Gwich'in and Sicangu/Ogala Lakota) will join the conference virtually.

"They serve as an inspiration to all of our youth, who are looking forward to connecting in person this year for learning, community, and sharing," Mary Kim Titla, executive director of UNITY, said in a statement.

As in the past, the 2022 events are geared to engage Native youth from across



Brooke Simpson, left, and Quannah ChasingHorse.

Photos via UNITY

the country through workshops, breakout sessions, music and cultural sharing. UNITY trainers and presenters will return. Attendees will participate in speed workshops, hear

from guest speakers and spend time to meet and network with other Native youth.

UNITY has been fostering the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth, and helping build a strong, unified, and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement since 1976.

From recording her first song at the age of two years old to charting the top 10 in the iTunes and Billboard charts, Simpson is no stranger to music. She is a powerhouse vocalist who is passionate about music, people, and her culture. She is a member of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe of North Carolina.

Simpson has had the opportunity to work with artists such as Miley Cyrus, Sia, Taboo (of The Black Eyed Peas), Bishop Briggs, Allen Stone and more. She also was a top three finalist on season 13 of NBC's "The Voice."

Simpson will be making her Broadway debut in the Diane Paulus revival of the Tony Award-winning musical 1776. Even

more recently she became a top four finalist for Season 16 of "America's Got Talent."

ChasingHorse, 19, is from the Han Gwich'in from Eagle Village, Alaska, and Sicangu/Ogala Lakota tribes from the Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota, but currently lives in Fairbanks, Alaska. She grew up learning her ways of life and values and continues to uphold them as they are sacred and keeps her grounded. She is an Indigenous land protector for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, protecting those sacred lands from oil development and fighting for climate justice. She is passionate about Indigenous sovereignty/rights, MMIWG and representation. She is an avid snowboarder, guitar and ukulele player, and is apprenticing as a traditional Indigenous tattoo artist. Quannah was honored to make the 2020 list of Teen Vogue's "Top 21 under 21". She is an IMG fashion model and actress.

Visit Unityinc.org for more information.



Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School alumni, from left, Ashlynn Collins, CeCe Thomas, Eric Puente and Summer Gopher show various aspects of Seminole culture at Moore Haven Middle-High School on Nov. 12.

'Indian Education For All' curriculum is now required in all Wyoming schools

FROM WYOMING PUBLIC RADIO

Starting this fall, schools across Wyoming should have been including social studies curriculum about Native American history, government, culture and contemporary contributions. That's because back in 2018, the state legislature passed the "Indian Education For All Act" that gave schools three years to adopt the new curriculum.

Wyoming Department of Education's (WDE) chief policy advisor Kari Eakins said Wyoming's two tribes worked tirelessly to get this curriculum into schools. She said it wasn't easy. At first, some argued for a short-term education project.

"An initiative or a project is great for a short-term goal that needs to be done," Eakins said. "But when you have two sovereign nations that are part of your state, that's not a short-term thing; that is a permanent status that everybody needs to be educated about."

Eakins said, to guarantee that school districts comply, the curriculum will be included in each school's annual accreditation review.

WDE Social Studies consultant Rob Black said another aspect of the program is that on the Wind River Reservation, students are also using the new curriculum to learn computer science.

"We saw an opportunity to develop some lesson plans that include coding and other computer science concepts that are related to our standards for grades three to five on the Wind River Reservation," Black said. "The hope is to take the lessons statewide once they're developed. They combine the social studies standards that address Native American history and culture with our computer science standards."

University of Minnesota establishes tuition assistance program for Native American students

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The University of Minnesota announced Nov. 1 an expansion of Native American student tuition support. According to the school, the new initiative will be among the nation's most comprehensive free and reduced tuition programs for Native American students.

Starting in fall 2022, the university will provide free or reduced tuition on any of its five campuses statewide to first-year undergraduate students and tribal college transfer students who are also enrolled citizens in one of the state's 11 federally recognized tribal nations. The University of Minnesota Native American Promise Tuition Program expands upon a full tuition waiver program on the university's Morris campus, which has long been in place through Minnesota statute given the campus property's history with Native American boarding schools previous to its time as a U of M campus.

The program will provide a scholarship covering full U of M tuition at the Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester or Twin Cities campus for first-year or tribal college transfer undergraduate students with an annual family income under \$75,000. Students from higher-earning families (up to \$125,000 annually) will be eligible to receive discounted tuition through the program, as much as 80 to 90 percent in many cases.

Those interested in more information about the program can visit the Native American Promise Tuition program webpage.

PECS alumni bring Native American Heritage to Moore Haven Middle-High School

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Tribal students at Moore Haven Middle-High School, who are all alumni of Pemayetv

Emahavk Charter School in Brighton, brought displays of Seminole culture to the school Nov. 12 to celebrate Native American Heritage Month.

Ashlynn Collins, CeCe Thomas,

Summer Gopher, Eric Puente and Jaytron Baker showed off an abundance of Seminole arts and crafts including patchwork clothing, traditional dolls and beadwork. Fry bread was cooked over an open flame and even

an alligator was there for students to see up close.

Every grade level in the school came out to see the Seminole display.



Courtesy photo

A fry bread cooking demonstration was part of the presentation of Seminole culture.



Courtesy photo

Jaytron Baker and Ashlynn Collins hold an alligator that was part of the Seminole display.

Tribal governments honored with Harvard awards

FROM PRESS RELEASE

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Six tribal governments from across the country were honored Nov. 10 by the Honoring Nations 2021 Awards. Based at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government through the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, the awards, according to Harvard, identify, celebrate and share outstanding examples of tribal governance and help expand the capacities of Native nation builders by enabling them to learn from each other's successes.

By exercising their self-determination, these programs implemented effective solutions to universal governmental challenges in the areas of education, justice, energy independence, land management, natural resource management and taxation.

"New stories of success emerge from Indian Country daily. These are stories that need to be told, heard, and told again to assist tribal nations to learn from each other's successes and to teach our non-Native neighbors about the extraordinary and applicable lessons Indian Country has to offer local governments everywhere," Megan Minoka Hill, director of the program, said in a statement.

The 2021 Honoring Nations finalists are:

Agua Caliente People Curriculum
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

As with many reservations with checkerboarded land and jurisdiction, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the city of Palm Springs, California share boundaries, public resources, and urban development challenges. Despite these many intersections, for decades local public schools failed to consult tribal members when teaching about the Agua Caliente, furthering misinformation and promoting stereotypes.

To address this disconnect, the tribe partnered with the Palm Springs school district and the district's philanthropic foundation to create and mandate an elementary-level Native American Studies curriculum that meets State of California educational standards. The program fosters greater community understanding throughout the region by teaching the history and culture of the Agua Caliente people through their own words.

Cherokee Nation ONE FIRE
Cherokee Nation

Facing similar epidemics of domestic violence as many other communities throughout the U.S., the Cherokee Nation established ONE FIRE (Our Nation Ending Fear, Intimidation, Rape, and Endangerment) Victim Services. ONE FIRE is a streamlined "one-stop" program that provides wraparound services to all survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and dating violence in the tribe's 14-county jurisdiction within Oklahoma. Using a trauma-informed care model, ONE FIRE meets the immediate needs of those in crisis and supports the healing of survivors and their families over time. It also seeks to address the root causes of domestic violence and sexual assault to create a safer community for everyone.

Energy Lifeline Sector Resilience: Low-carbon Microgrids

Blue Lake Rancheria
The Blue Lake Rancheria is located in a rural, geographically isolated region of northwestern California where power outages — which have long been common — are now increasing in frequency due to the climate crisis. To develop energy sovereignty, the tribe's Energy Lifeline Sector Resilience: Low-carbon Microgrids program installed two climate-smart electric microgrids, with a third currently in design. The microgrids not only provide significant electricity savings but also increase tribal sovereignty and self-sufficiency by providing resilient, low-carbon power. During emergencies, the tribe has operated its microgrids independently, providing reliable power and, in turn, an array of other critical resources, making the tribe the emergency preparedness hub for the tribe's entire region of California.

Pe' Sla
Great Sioux Nation

Preserving traditional homelands and sacred sites is a challenge shared across Indian Country. The option to purchase land and place it into trust is a difficult and costly process which many tribes cannot afford. When Pe' Sla, a sacred site in the heart of the Black Hills of South Dakota, was put up for sale in 2012, eight tribes of the Great Sioux Nation came together to protect this sacred area. Over several years, they successfully placed more than 2,000 acres of land in trust. This intertribal collaboration has led to a restoration of native buffalo, grasses, flora, and fauna, as well as land preservation

for traditional ceremonies and cultural programming in perpetuity.

Sitka Tribe of Alaska Environmental Lab

Sitka Tribe of Alaska
Changing ocean conditions brought about by climate change have put the future of marine resources in jeopardy. To address these risks, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska took the lead in forming the Southeast Alaska Tribal Oceans Research (SEATOR) group, a regional conglomerate of 16 tribes in Southeast Alaska. The Sitka Tribe of Alaska Environmental Research Lab (STAERL) is a tribally-owned environmental lab established to support the SEATOR partnership. It provides real-time testing of marine subsistence resources to ensure their safe consumption. The Lab also monitors for harmful algal blooms and continuous ocean acidification and provides science educational opportunities for tribal youth.

Swinomish Tax Authority
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

After a Ninth Circuit Court ruling in 2014 declared outside state and local government property taxes could not be imposed on permanent improvements on tribal trust land, the Swinomish Tax Authority was created to assess and collect the Swinomish Trust Improvement Use & Occupancy Tax within the tribe's trust lands. This decision allowed the Swinomish Indian

Tribal Community to determine how permanent improvements on trust land would be taxed and how tax revenue generated by these improvements would be used. The program expands the exercise of the tribe's sovereignty and creates an additional revenue stream to help fund essential government services. The tax revenue also funds voluntary contributions to local non-tribal entities, including school, fire, and library districts, enhancing these entities' abilities to continue providing valuable services to on- and off-reservation residents. The result is stronger intergovernmental relationships and cooperation for the whole region.



RICHARD CASTILLO
FLORIDA CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY
WWW.CASTILLOLAWOFFICES.COM

RICHARD CASTILLO
954.522.3500

HELPING THE SEMINOLE COMMUNITY FOR MANY YEARS

24 HOURS A DAY

Since 1990 I have protected rights like yours. My office defends DUIs, drug offenses, suspended licenses, domestic violence, and all felonies and misdemeanors throughout Florida and the United States.

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.

'Wonderful time for Seminole art'

New exhibition opens at History Fort Lauderdale

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — The walls of the History Fort Lauderdale museum have been adorned with the work of 25 Seminole artists, displaying an array of talent and diversity — painting, photography, sculpture, beadwork, patchwork, mixed media and digital art. The art is part of a new show — “A Return to Self: The Art of Healing.” It’s the largest number of Seminole artists ever featured in one exhibition, something artist Elgin Jumper said is “extraordinary.”

“We definitely need more of that spirit and energy,” Jumper said. “We’re sharing our art, discussing it, analyzing it. I look forward to other Seminole artists bringing their art out for the world to see.”

The museum opened the exhibition Nov.

21, a showcase of art from five generations of Seminoles. Joining Jumper are Durante Blais-Billie, Tia Blais-Billie, Wilson Bowers, Carla Cypress, Nicholas DiCarlo, Erica Dietz, Ruby Dietz, Donna Frank, Stephanie Hall, Eden Jumper, Danielle Nelson, Alyssa Osceola, Jackie Osceola, Jacob Osceola, Jessica Osceola, the late Jimmy Osceola, Leroy Osceola, Madeline Osceola, Iretta Tiger, Daniel Tommie, Samuel Tommie, Gordon “Ollie” Wareham, Brian Zepeda and Corinne Zepeda.

The program’s theme of healing was chosen to acknowledge the pandemic and its sweeping affect on the tribal community and beyond. Last year’s show was only virtual; this time people can see it in person or virtually.

“I think the theme of this show — it’s just giving everybody a chance to show what’s

inside them,” Hall said. “That’s what we really need is just to express what’s inside of us, the emotions, our feelings — really acknowledging how we feel, even if it’s not good sometimes.”

Hall thanked Jumper and Jimmy Osceola for motivating her.

“I’m grateful to Jimmy and I just want to acknowledge him while we’re here, his impact on the community, his legacy that he’s left; it’s just once in a lifetime,” she said.

Seminole artists have been part of the museum’s programs and shows for many years, but Jumper and Jimmy Osceola were two of the first — they took art classes there together almost a decade ago.

“We kept at it and it’s paying off. It’s certainly a wonderful time for Seminole art,” Jumper said.

Jumper said he’d previously taken

painting lessons from Osceola himself, who died in June and is considered one of the most prominent Seminole artists.

Jackie Osceola’s work is represented in the show along with her son, DiCarlo.

“Art is healing to me and it helps a lot of people to get through certain things that they’ve gone through in their life,” she said. “I love seeing all of this art here and I’d like to see more because we have a lot more artists.”

Samuel Tommie said he laid out four of his pieces at the show in the style of Seminole patchwork, something he’s been experimenting with and wants to continue.

“That’s my way of saying the Seminole women are the ones who have kept us going and kept us alive. Because of Seminole women we are who we are today,” Tommie said.

At the show’s opening, Wareham, a longtime photographer, played musical pieces on his flute.

“You can see our world through our art. Art brings those emotions, whether it’s going to be sad, whether it’s going to make you think about something, or just bring a smile to your face,” he said.

Tia Blais-Billie is the exhibit’s curator with History Fort Lauderdale’s Tara Chadwick.

“I’m so grateful that I was born into a culture that’s so imbued with art,” Blais-Billie said. “Going through the pandemic it was really important that we came together for this show.”

“The Art of Healing” runs through Jan. 9, 2022. More information is at historyfortlauderdale.org.



Damon Scott

Corinne Zepeda is one of several young Seminole artists featured in the show.



Damon Scott

Samuel Tommie hung his art in the style of Seminole patchwork at the “A Return to Self: The Art of Healing,” an exhibition featuring Seminole artists at History Fort Lauderdale museum. An opening reception attended by some of the artists was held Nov. 21.



Damon Scott

Artist Wilson Bowers has several pieces on display at the museum.



Damon Scott

Gordon “Ollie” Wareham plays peaceful sounds on his flute while fellow artist Brian Zepeda and others at the opening reception listen.



Damon Scott

A piece by the late Jimmy Osceola titled “The Late Jimmy O’Toole” hangs in the museum



Damon Scott

Carla Cypress has art from the collection of Donna Frank in the exhibition.



Damon Scott

Nicholas DiCarlo says his mother, Jackie Osceola, is his greatest artistic influence. Both have art displayed at the show.



Damon Scott

Elgin Jumper is one of the tribe’s most prolific artists.



Damon Scott

Brian Zepeda’s digital photos printed on aluminum are part of the show.

SEE THE DIFFERENCE



COME **SEE** THE TWO BEST IN THE EYE WORLD!

Dr. Alan Mendelsohn M.D. F.A.C.S.

Preeminent Laser Cataract Surgeon
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Fellowship Trained
Glaucoma Specialist including Glaucoma Lasers & iStents
Considered "Doctor's Doctor" in South Florida



Dr. Nathan Klein O.D.

Renowned Contact Lens Specialist, including Scleral Lenses
Comprehensive Adult & Pediatric Care
Expert in Diagnosis & Dry Eye Treatment
Specialist in Myopia Management



**Eye Surgeons
& Consultants P.A.**

954.894.1500 | MYEYESURGEONS.COM

4651 Sheridan Street, Suite 100, Hollywood, FL 33021

Hours: Monday 7:30am - 6pm • Tuesday - Friday 7:15am - 5pm • Sunday 7:15am - Noon

Sports



Seminoles, other Natives locally start college basketball season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The college basketball season began in November. Here's a look at Seminole Tribe players and other Native American connections locally.

On the women's side, the Seminole Tribe's Lexi Foreman began her rookie season at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO). Meanwhile, in Florida and not far from STOF reservations, Nova Southeastern University (Kyarah Grant) and Florida Gulf Coast University (Milan Schimmel) also feature Native American players.

On the men's side, the Seminole Tribe's Silas Madrigal started his second season of playing college ball in Chicago.

LEXI FOREMAN

After starring for Anadarko High School in Oklahoma, where she racked up 1,044 points, Lexi Foreman (Seminole Tribe/Kiowa/Sac and Fox) has begun the next chapter in her basketball career at UCO.

In its season opener on Nov. 12, UCO cruised past Northwest Oklahoma State University, 79-48, at Hamilton Field House in Edmond. Foreman came off the bench and had an active 16 minutes of playing time, finishing with two points, three assists, two rebounds and three steals.

Four days later, Foreman hit the first 3-pointer of her college career in a 69-53 loss at Southern Nazarene. She finished with three points in eight minutes of playing time.

As of Nov. 29, Foreman had appeared in four of the team's six games. UCO had a 4-2 record.

Foreman, a 5-foot-9 guard, is one of five true freshmen on a young squad that also includes three redshirt freshmen and five sophomores. Coming off a 14-9 season, UCO has been picked by the league's 14 head coaches and media to finish fifth in the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association.

Foreman has played in several Native tournaments in Florida and around the country with Seminole Tribe teams.

In high school, Foreman was a key starter for Anadarko. She helped the team win a state championship as a sophomore.

She is the daughter of Matt and Alicia Foreman.

KYARRAH GRANT

Nova Southeastern, which features Kyarah Grant (Navajo/Choctaw), opened its season far from its Davie home. The Sharks defeated Canada's Simon Fraser University, 58-45, on Nov. 5 in the D2CCA Tipoff Classic at the Trailhead in Billings, Montana.

Grant, a 5-foot-7 redshirt sophomore guard, started her season on the right note by scoring a game-high 15 points to go along



From left, Lexi Foreman (University of Central Oklahoma), Kyarah Grant (Nova Southeastern University) and Milan Schimmel (Florida Gulf Coast University).

with three assists and six rebounds.

It was NSU's first game since March 3, 2020. The team did not play in the 2020-21 season due to the pandemic.

Two days later in the Classic, Grant poured in 16 points in a 74-69 win against Minot State. She made a layup with 90 seconds left that tied the game and she hit a free throw with a minute left that gave NSU the lead for good.

Through seven games, Grant averaged 7.1 points. NSU entered December with a 4-3 record.

Grant previously played for the University of Tennessee at Martin in the 2018-19 season. She redshirted the 2019-20 season.

Earlier in her career, Grant played for Seminole Tribe teams at NAYO, including on a team with her former NSU teammate Skyla Osceola.

In high school, she helped Choctaw Central win multiple state championships.

MILAN SCHIMMEL

Milan Schimmel (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), who grew up on the west coast of the U.S., has returned to Florida for the second time in her college career.

Schimmel is in her first season with Florida Gulf Coast University, which is the preseason pick by coaches and media to win the ASUN Conference. The Eagles have made the NCAA Tournament seven times in their Division I history, including last season when they went 26-3 and bowed out in the first round of the tournament with a loss to Michigan.



Silas Madrigal (North Park University)

With a 7-0 start and a top 25 national ranking, FGCU has showed no signs of slowing down.

Schimmel debuted with five points, five rebounds and two assists in 18 minutes of playing time in a 105-41 season opening rout against Florida Memorial. Since then, she's only seen a few minutes of playing time.

She hit a 3-pointer for her only points in a win against Fairfield.

Schimmel played last season for the University of Cincinnati. She averaged

five points and four rebounds in 14 games. Previously, she played at Eastern Florida State College in Melbourne. She began her college career at Hutchinson Community College in Kansas.

She has two years of eligibility remaining.

Schimmel's older sisters Jude and Shoni starred at the University of Louisville and helped the Cardinals reach the 2013 NCAA championship game.

SILAS MADRIGAL

The North Park University men's basketball team, which includes Silas Madrigal, started its season with a win at home in Chicago, 75-63, against Lake Forest College.

North Park, which has a 27-man roster, reached December with a 2-2 record. Madrigal, a 5-foot-10 guard, did not play in any of the games.

The former Okeechobee High School standout made his college debut last season. He saw action in two games in an abbreviated 14-game season.

In addition to basketball, Madrigal is a member of the school's track and field team. As a freshman, he finished 12th in the 400 meter dash at the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin meet. His time was 52.56 seconds, a personal best in the season. He also competed in the 4x400 relay at the meet.

Park is a private Christian university on Chicago's north side.

Madrigal is the son of Howard and Letty Madrigal.

Hard Rock Live to host Sports Illustrated Awards show

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD —The sports world's spotlight will shine on Hard Rock Live in Hollywood on Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. when it hosts the annual Sports Illustrated Awards show.

The evening will be emceed by Grammy Award-winning recording artist DJ Khaled and broadcast journalist and TV personality Cari Champion with musical performances from rapper 2 Chainz and DJ Irie.

Sports Illustrated's Sportsperson of the Year will be announced at the show.

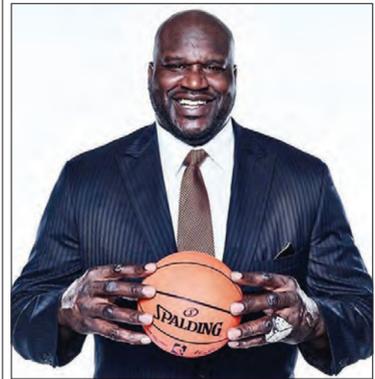
Some of the athletes scheduled to present awards include Billie Jean King, Chad Johnson, Candace Parker, Dan Marino, JuJu Smith-Schuster, Rob Gronkowski, Shaquille O'Neal, Suni Lee, Tyler Herro and Udonis Haslem.

The program will recognize the year's notable athletes, teams and sports moments. It will be livestreamed on Sports Illustrated social media sites.

Every year since 1954, SI's Sportsperson of the Year honor has recognized the athlete, coach or team who best represents the spirit and ideals of sportsmanship, character, and performance. Past winners include LeBron James, Serena Williams, Michael Jordan, Megan Rapinoe, Tiger Woods and Muhammad Ali.

The awards show comes on the heels of Sports Illustrated using Hard Rock venues, including Hollywood, for its swimsuit edition that was released in July.

For tickets and more information visit sportsillustratedawards.com.



Former NBA star Shaquille O'Neal is scheduled to be a presenter at the Sports Illustrated Awards on Dec. 7 at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood.

Coach Cheyenne Nunez receives public accolade

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

When Cheyenne Nunez was a college student she wasn't sure what she wanted to do after graduation; what she was sure of was her love and passion for the game of softball.

Nunez, who grew up on the Brighton Reservation and is one of the few Seminoles to have played NCAA Division I softball, had a successful athletic career as a player at State College of Florida (SCF) in Bradenton and the University of South Carolina Upstate before earning a degree from the University of South Florida.

When Nunez graduated from USF in September, SCF head softball coach Mandy Schuerman offered her a job as an assistant coach. She took it and hit the ground running.

Nunez's plan was to teach the players how to get to Division I level of play and give them tips on how to organize their study time as well as team time. She knew being fresh out of college herself would help her relate to the team.

Now, just a few months into her coaching career, Nunez received a public acknowledgement and praise for her work with the team. On Oct. 6, National Coaches Day, SCF posted this note from Schuerman on its social media:

"Cheyenne has been able to move from

'CHEYENNE HAS BEEN ABLE TO MOVE FROM THE PLAYER TO COACH ROLE WITH EASE. SHE BRINGS A YOUNGER AND RELATABLE PERSONALITY TO THE PROGRAM. SHE IS ABLE TO OFTEN UNDERSTAND WHERE THE PLAYERS ARE COMING FROM AND MATCH THAT WITH WHAT THE COACHING STAFF'S EXPECTATIONS ARE. IN THIS, SHE PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE.'

- MANDY SCHUERMAN, HEAD SOFTBALL COACH

Cheyenne Nunez
Assistant Coach - Softball

#SCFProud

National Coaches Day Oct 6, 2021

State College of Florida in Bradenton gave a shoutout to assistant softball coach Cheyenne Nunez on social media for National Coaches Day on Oct. 6.

the player to coach role with ease. She brings a younger and relatable personality to the program. She is able to often understand

where the players are coming from and match that with what the coaching staff's expectations are. In this, she plays a pivotal

role." - Mandy Schuerman, head softball coach.

New Miss Indian Rodeo named

STAFF REPORT

Tigh Livermont, from the Oglala Sioux Tribe, has been named 2022 Miss Indian Rodeo Queen.

Livermont, 23, is from Wanblee, South Dakota, in the Eagle Nest District of the Pine Ridge Reservation.

"I look forward to a very eventful year, from meeting new faces to seeing different places. It is an absolute honor to be able to represent Indian Rodeo, its regions and contestants, as well as all nations in Indian Country. I am excited to give back to the sport and lifestyle that has given so much to me," she posted on Facebook.



Jodie Baxendale
2022 Miss Indian Rodeo Tigh Livermont

Adryauna Baker honored on senior night

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Jovanny Torres isn't looking forward to the day he looks at his lineup and there's no Adryauna Baker.

"It's going to be an emotional night for me this year after our last game, having to say bye to her knowing I won't have her back next season," said the Okeechobee High School girls basketball coach.

Until that time arrives, Torres and Okeechobee fans can enjoy watching the final season of one of the region's top talents. In fact, Torres admits to sometimes becoming a "spectator" while watching his standout guard.

"She is definitely a game changer," he said. "She can not only score, but defend at a very high level. It's so exciting watching her sometimes I turn into a fan and start jumping around at some of the amazing things she does on the court. She brings so much energy and excitement to the game."

Baker is the only Seminole on the varsity team. She and three other players from the class of 2022 (Brianna Johnson, Morgan Tucker and Jasmine Shanks) were honored on senior night Nov. 15 before the Brahms' 56-48 win against Cardinal Newman in the season opener. Normally, senior nights are set for final regular season home games, but the pandemic has caused some programs to hold those nights early in the season to be certain that they happen.

Baker was accompanied to midcourt by



Okeechobee High School senior Adryauna Baker is honored on the team's senior night Nov. 15 with her mother Brandy Herrera, her niece Jaylee Osceola and head coach Jovanny Torres.

her mother Brandy Herrera and niece Jaylee Osceola in the ceremony. Okeechobee followed with lopsided wins against Port St. Lucie and South Fork.

Through the first three games, Baker averaged 12 points, three steals and nearly five rebounds per game.

Baker, who was the team's MVP as a freshman and sophomore, wants to play college basketball. So far, she has received interest from Division III colleges, including schools in Illinois and Pennsylvania.

It's no coincidence that Okeechobee has ascended to new heights during Baker's career. The team is 36-11 since her sophomore season. As a sophomore, Baker helped the squad set school records for most points (1,468), most wins (20), most points scored in a game (77) and best winning percentage (.771). It was the same season that Baker set individual OHS records for most blocks in a season (50) and most steals in a game (12).

Last season Baker averaged nearly 10 points and led the team in assists, blocks, rebounds and steals.

Aside from all the stats and numbers, Torres said Baker is as amazing off the court as she is on it.

"She is such a great kid to be around off the court, also," he said. "Her personality is so unique. She is always making everyone laugh, including me. She brings drinks for the entire team at practice some days, took the team out for smoothies after workouts a couple times. Just an all-around awesome kid."



Okeechobee High School senior guard Nakai Alex takes a running jump shot in the team's season opener Nov. 23 against South Fork at South Fork High School in Stuart.

Nakai Alex makes good early impressions with Okeechobee High basketball

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

STUART — Nakai Alex didn't waste any time getting into the flow of a new high school boys basketball season.

Within the first five minutes of Okeechobee High School's season opener Nov. 23, Alex scored the team's first point of the season, grabbed two rebounds on the offensive boards and blocked a shot. Later in the first quarter, he forced a turnover that led to a basket. He finished an all-around solid night with five points, six rebounds, three assists and the one block as the Brahms opened with a 50-46 win against host South Fork in the Thanksgiving Tip-Off Classic.

The following night Alex snagged another six rebounds and had three steals in a 66-51 win against Jensen Beach.

Alex, a 5-foot-10 guard, has made a good early season impression on new Brahms coach Pat Kelly.

"He's a tough guy. He plays hard. He makes plays on the ball, rebounds for his size, moves the ball, passes well. He's a chemistry player," said Kelly, who is a familiar face in the region, having previously coached Heritage, Treasure Coast and Jensen Beach.

Kelly has tough shoes to fill. He replaced Demetre Riles, who resigned after guiding the team for the past eight seasons, which included district titles and four consecutive 20-plus win seasons.

Kelly has a squad loaded with seniors and juniors. He said he is stressing fundamentals and prioritizing defense.

Alex is the only Seminole on the varsity squad. He and teammate Bryce Ward played



Nakai Alex takes a foul shot against South Fork.

their middle school basketball at Pemaquay Emahakv Charter School. Okeechobee started the season without the tribe's Lee

Edouard and Leon Edouard, who averaged a combined 13 points last season as a sophomore and junior, respectively.

'Fresh' Walters looks for big season on the court

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

STUART — Roger "Fresh" Walters entered his final high school basketball season with aspirations to attain specific goals.

From a team perspective, the quick, sharp-shooting guard wants to help lead his St. Lucie West Centennial boys basketball team to a district title and the state playoffs.

Individually, he has his eyes set on reaching the 1,000-point career milestone. He started the season about 200 points away from that goal.

"I want the 1,000-point ball bad," he said following the season opener, a 69-39 win against Jensen Beach on Nov. 23 in the Thanksgiving Tip-Off Classic at South Fork High School.

Walters, a 5-foot-10 guard, turned his left ankle early in the game and missed part of the first half while it was getting taped by a trainer. He returned and finished with 12 points.

"He battled through it. He still played with great energy," said Centennial coach Chris Carannante.

That competitiveness is one of the aspects of Walters' game that makes him a go-to guy, especially in clutch situations.

"(Last season) he hit late shots to win games. He wants the ball late, (He has) no fear. He's a guy you want riding with you no matter what because he wants to win,"

Carannante said. "He averaged 17 (points) a game last year as a junior so we have expectations of him to do the same, he's an explosive scorer and a playmaker. Not many athletes like him out there."

Walters grew up on the Seminole Tribe's Chupco's Landing in Fort Pierce. He honed his basketball skills in Chupco's gym as a youth. While he has excelled on the court, he's also a standout in football, which is the sport he plans to continue playing in college. He has an official visit to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte set for Dec. 3. He said he plans to sign with Charlotte on Dec. 15.

Walters worked on his jump shot as much as he could during the off-season, but since the high school sports seasons overlap, he didn't have much time to prepare for basketball.

"I was so focused on football and we got into the playoffs. It was hard to get into the gym," he said.

The football team reached the first round of the Class 8A state playoffs, where it was ousted by Palm Beach Central.

Walters is an all-around threat as a wide receiver, cornerback and kick returner. Despite missing three games, he led the team in touchdown catches with nine.

Centennial finished with a 5-5 record, a vast improvement from the previous year's 2-6 mark.

"Overall, I was happy with our season," Walters said.



St. Lucie West Centennial High School senior Roger "Fresh" Walters lines up a jump shot against Jensen Beach on Nov. 23 at South Fork High School. Walters scored 12 points in the team's 69-39 victory.

LPGA Tour event returns to Boca Raton in January

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BOCA RATON — Professional women's golf will be just a few miles from the Broward County border when the Gainbridge LPGA is held Jan. 27-30, 2022, at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton.

A \$2 million purse and 108-player field highlight the return of the tournament to Boca Rio, where Sweden's Madelene Sagstrom won the inaugural event in 2020. In February, the tournament shifted to

Orlando where it was won by world No. 1 Nelly Korda.

Tournament officials announced in September that the 2022 version will be back at Boca Rio.

"In the tournament's first two years, we have established the Gainbridge LPGA as a world-class championship. It is an honor for us to support women's golf and provide a platform for the game's best players to showcase their talents to fans all over the world," Dan Towriss, president and CEO of Group 1001, the parent organization of

Gainbridge, said in a statement.

Boca Rio is a member-owned golf club whose membership is by invitation only. It's one of the few courses in South Florida that does not have developed real estate.

LPGA major winners Lexi Thompson, who grew up in Coral Springs, and Morgan Pressel, who graduated from St. Andrews School in Boca Raton, were among the main supporters of the tournament when it debuted.

For more information visit GainbridgeLPGA.com.

Psychic readings by Moons Chakra
Metaphysical Spiritual Healing Shop
Services offered: Psychic love reading for \$15 special
A wide variety of spiritual instruments for self-healing
Call for more info 305-801-6584
12125 Sheridan St.
Cooper City FL 33026
Open seven days a week 9 AM to 9 PM