



# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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## New casino, hotel planned for Brighton Reservation

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

A plan to construct a new casino and hotel on the Brighton Reservation was approved by the Tribal Council at its Sept. 30 regular meeting.

Details presented to the Council by Seminole Gaming/Hard Rock International executive president and chief financial officer John Eder include a casino that would feature more than 600 slot machines and more than a dozen banked card games. It would also include non-smoking areas and high-limit gaming. Restaurants are also part of the plan, including a steakhouse, an all-day restaurant and a Constant Grind coffee house. The hotel would feature approximately 100 rooms, meeting space and a fitness center.

The new plan replaces one that was approved by the Council in the summer of 2014, but was not constructed. The new plan calls for the casino location to be moved down the road to a large, open space, according to Eder.

The current Seminole Casino Brighton, which does not have a hotel, is 27,000 square feet and offers about 400 slot machines as well as table games; the new hotel and casino would be about 160,000 square feet.

The new property's scheduled completion date is December 2023.

During the meeting, the Council also approved an expansion plan for Seminole Classic Casino in Hollywood that calls for construction of nonsmoking areas with additional slots and other amenities.

## Tribe's attorney, gaming pioneer Jim Shore receives hall of fame honor

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

LAS VEGAS — The American Gaming Association (AGA) added the Seminole Tribe's Jim Shore to its gaming hall of fame Oct. 5 in Las Vegas at the Global Gaming Expo (G2E).

Shore was one of six inductees to receive the honor this year — three in the class of 2020 and three, including Shore, in the class of 2021. The two classes were grouped together because G2E was canceled last year due to the pandemic.

The inductees were introduced as gaming pioneers by AGA president Bill Miller. "All of them have contributed mightily to the success of our industry," he said.

Shore is the Tribal Council's general counsel. He most recently helped lead negotiations of the historic gaming compact between the tribe and the state of Florida that would allow sports betting and the addition of craps and roulette to the tribe's Florida casinos.

Shore grew up on the Brighton Reservation with his two brothers and four sisters where the family raised cattle. He earned his law degree from the Stetson University College of Law. He was the first tribal member to practice law, becoming deputy general counsel in 1981 and general counsel in 1982.

In addition to gaming issues, he has worked to preserve the tribe's natural resources and protect its water rights — including the impacts of Everglades restoration and Lake Okeechobee water management, which directly affects the

Brighton and Big Cypress reservations.

Shore was recognized at an invitation-only event at the Venetian Resort on the Las Vegas Strip in an event space with about 150 people — a who's who of the global gaming industry. Members of the tribe's leadership were in attendance, including Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Brighton Councilman Larry Howard. Hard Rock International chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO, Jim Allen, and Shore's executive assistant since 1989, Agnes Motlow, were also at the event.

In a video tribute before he took the stage, Shore was described by longtime colleague Jerry Straus of Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker as "a very nice guy and great listener with a razor sharp mind," who "maintained his traditional ways and never lost that connection." Allen then assisted Shore to the stage to introduce him to the audience. (Shore has been blind since a car accident in 1970).

"He was there in 1979 where it all started with the Seminole Tribe of Florida," Allen said.

The tribe, known as a pioneer of Indian gaming, opened its high-stakes bingo hall on the Hollywood Reservation in 1979. More than four decades later, Indian gaming accounts for almost half of all gaming revenue in the U.S.

"That basically all started with the Seminole Tribe and there's only one consistent thing we can talk about when we reference that, and that's the legendary Jim Shore," Allen said. "It's amazing to look at all the legal decisions that he was involved in on behalf of the tribe. But what you don't



Amar Batra

The Tribal Council's General Counsel Jim Shore, left, receives his hall of fame award after being introduced by Hard Rock International Chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen at the American Gaming Association's hall of fame ceremony Oct. 5 in Las Vegas.

know about Mr. Shore is that he's also the business mind of the tribe."

Allen said Shore was front and center when the tribe bought Hard Rock International — "...which was the largest

transaction in the history of Indian Country. Mr. Shore was the leader of that," Allen said.

♦ See SHORE on page 5A

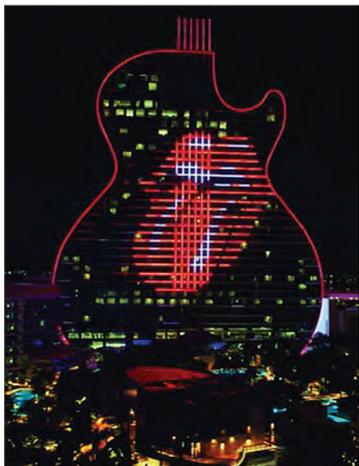
## Rolling Stones to perform at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The Rolling Stones will wrap up its "No Filter Tour" in a far more intimate setting compared to the massive stadiums the band usually performs in. The Stones are scheduled to play at the 7,000-seat Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Nov. 23 at 8 p.m.

In celebration of the announcement that was made Oct. 14, the 450-foot Guitar Hotel facade featured The Stones' logo that evening. It was the second time the Guitar Hotel has honored the Stones in recent months. The lights were lit in memory of Charlie Watts shortly after the group's longtime drummer died Aug. 24 at age 80.

The Stones' remaining tour dates include: 11/2 (Cotton Bowl, Dallas) 11/6 (Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas) 11/11 (Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta) 11/15 (Ford Field, Detroit) 11/20 (Circuit of the Americas, Austin) 11/23 (Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood) The tour was originally scheduled to be held in 2020, but was postponed due to the pandemic.



Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

The Rolling Stones' logo lit up the Guitar Hotel on Oct. 14 in Hollywood.

## Q&A with Seminole veterans OB Osceola, Curtis Motlow

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

In honor of Veterans Day on Nov. 11, the Tribune spoke with two Seminole veterans from different eras.

OB Osceola lives in Naples, not far from Ochopee where he was born and raised. Curtis Motlow, who grew up in Oklahoma, moved to the Hollywood Reservation in 2012 and has served on the Seminole Honor Guard since then.

### OB Osceola

**When did you serve and in what branch of the military?**

Served in 1959, I was in the Army in peacetime. I volunteered out of Ochopee, where I went to school.

**Where did you do basic training?**

When I left Ochopee they put me on the train in Miami to Fort Jackson in South Carolina for eight weeks. They trained me in heavy artillery. After 8 weeks I was sent home for week and a few days, then they sent me for a second 8 weeks to Fort Bliss Army Base in El Paso Texas. When I left El Paso they shipped me to Camp Hanford in Washington state. I was there for the rest of the time.

Basic training was over. We got heavy artillery to support the mountings with the missiles set up on it. I was there a little over a year when orders came for me to go to Germany. While I was waiting to go to Germany, my oldest brother died. He supported my mom and dad, who were elders. My dad signed the papers to get my help to support the family. So I went back home, I was a private. I didn't finish my four

year term, I was in the service for a little over a year.

**When you came back home, did you miss being in the military?**

I really liked the military. They teach you to take care of yourself. It was an excellent experience.

When I was home, I helped my dad build chickees. That's what we lived on and made a living doing. When my dad and mother died, I continued building chickees.

**What do you think of your time in the military?**

It was short and sweet, but I had a good time. I use that experience when I'm home; they teach you to learn how to work. I was working anyway, that's why I didn't have any problem being in the service. It was a good experience.

**When did you retire?**

I don't remember the year, but it's been a few years. [Osceola retired in February 2018.] Everything is going good. I don't build chickees, but I fiddle around with my barn. I build some tables and cut the grass and help out the family.

### Curtis Motlow

**What branch of the military were you in and when did you serve?**

I was in the Navy from 1992 to 1995 and worked in the valve shop on a repair ship. We went to Cuba and Greece, Crete specifically.

**Why did you join?**

I joined as a family thing really. My dad



Beverly Bidney

OB Osceola



Beverly Bidney

Curtis Motlow

was in, my brothers were in and I joined up as well.

**What were some of the highlights of your service?**

Mostly just getting out of a small town [Hugo, Oklahoma], being other places, meeting people. The travel was the most exciting part about it. I made friends that I don't think I would have ever met, I met many different kinds of people. That was very exciting too, I wasn't expecting to meet as many good people as I did.

**What were the highlights of traveling with the Navy?**

Seeing Cuba for the first time was a new experience for me. I had never been out of a small town and never even left the shores of America, so that was a pretty big experience.

Crete was a very rewarding experience.

**What advice would you give to young tribal members about serving in the military?**

They have to make the decision on their own. But if they do decide to go in it will be an experience they will never forget, that's for sure. Whatever they put into it is exactly what they will get out of it. They can enjoy a long, fruitful career if they choose, or just have a short experience like I did and still have a great experience with it.

**What was one thing you wish you would have known when you joined?**

The experience mostly, I didn't know how much I would be getting out of it. I had a great time and would encourage young people to try it.

## Native veterans memorial to be dedicated in 2022

STAFF REPORT

The National Museum of the American Indian will hold a formal dedication of the National Native American Veterans

Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Veterans Day in 2022. The dedication and veterans procession will honor American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian veterans and their families. Earlier efforts to

hold a dedication were postponed due to the pandemic.

The memorial opened on Veterans Day in 2020. It is open 24 hours a day and there is no admission fee.

The late Stephen Bowers, who held leadership roles in veterans affairs for the Seminole Tribe and national organizations, organized and pursued years-long efforts that helped lead to the building of the memorial.

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# Editorial

## Moving forward on priorities for Indian Country

• Deb Haaland

When President Joe Biden nominated me to be the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, I felt the profound importance of what that moment meant for Indigenous peoples in our country. I knew then, as I still feel now, that we're at the beginning of a new era where Indigenous knowledge in our work to combat systemic inequities and craft policies to ensure fairness and a bright future for everyone is valued and prioritized.

Representation matters. When people whose communities have long been underrepresented and oppressed are at the decision-making table, we can develop solutions that benefit all of us.

I'm proud to be part of an administration that recognizes and trusts that my life experiences can inform policy-making in an effort to correct the mistakes of the past and help to create a future our ancestors would be proud of. With humility and gratitude, part of my role at the department is to be a megaphone for tribal issues and bring Indigenous representation to the highest levels of government. Native Americans, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians have pushed for this kind of representation for hundreds of years.



U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland

There is much work ahead. During my time in the U.S. Congress and in response to what I heard from Indian Country, I made the missing and murdered Indigenous people's crisis a priority and passed the Not Invisible Act and Savanna's Act. Now, with the formation of a new Missing and Murdered Unit and the launch of the Not Invisible Act Commission, the Interior Department is leading the way to implement these landmark laws. Working with the Department of Justice, we are ensuring that resources across the federal government bring justice to our families.

I am a daughter, a mother, a sister and an "auntie." I understand what loss of a loved one to this kind of violence would mean. As we continue to work on the crises that face Indian Country, one priority is to make sure the federal government recognizes that the long history of forced assimilation has contributed to the trauma and disparities that exist in our communities today. Sharing the truth of this dark chapter in our nation's history in order to begin to heal is why, in June, I launched a Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. It includes identifying boarding school facilities and sites; the location of known and possible child burial sites located at or near school facilities; and the identities and tribal affiliations of children interred at such locations.

Currently, the department is compiling decades of records that will help us understand and share the full picture of this tragedy. It is not the only focus, but is an important part of our work to bring the truth to light. The department is also building a framework for how we engage with tribes, boarding school survivors, families, and

outside organizations. Later this year, we will hold tribal consultations to discuss ways to protect and share information and how to protect grave sites.

The traumas of the past and the inequities of today intersect and compound the dynamics of power and oppression.

Thankfully, we have an ally in President Biden who recognizes that addressing systemic oppression is central to building back better. The president's pandemic recovery plan has made historic and unprecedented investments in tribal communities, including billions in funding for infrastructure development, public safety, social services and important governmental programs.

The Biden-Harris administration also robustly includes Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities as we build a clean energy economy that creates good-paying jobs and conserves our natural resources. Like many communities of color, Indigenous communities have borne the burden of climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately. Many communities must make tough decisions of whether to leave their ancestral homelands or stay and manage sea level rise, extreme heat, catastrophic storms and water shortages brought on by climate change.

The President's Build Back Better agenda will enable the Interior Department to help clean up legacy pollution on and near tribal lands and accelerate solar and wind energy projects on our public lands, which will help power Indigenous communities. Additional investments in broadband internet, clean water infrastructure, transportation and climate resilience will ensure better health outcomes, increase opportunity and promote self-governance.

Across the administration, we are ensuring that tribal governments, organizations and advocates are consulted in policies that impact all of Indian Country. As we enter this new era, I feel the profound weight and opportunity of this moment. I feel the responsibility to carry on the legacy of the many Native leaders who came before me. Their charge — and mine — is one in which equity, access and science can and will guide the department's decision-making.

As we move forward together, we will never forget the past. Native American history is American history, and as a country we must know that history so that we can grieve together, heal, and build a better future for our children and our children's children.

These first months have shown me and the country that we can accomplish more if we work together. I know that by acknowledging the past and valuing Indigenous knowledge, we can build a brighter future for everyone.

*Deb Haaland, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, is the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary and is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna. This op-ed appears in Indian Country Today.*

The summit will take place virtually. It will feature panel discussions and listening sessions with high level administration officials regarding tribal priorities. For more information email [TNS@who.eop.gov](mailto:TNS@who.eop.gov).



FSU Photography Services/Bruce Palmer

Connie Gowen waves to the crowd while accompanied by Kyle Doney as they cross midfield during Florida State University's homecoming crowning ceremony Oct. 23 in Tallahassee. In 1957, Gowen became the Seminole Tribe's first princess.

## A homecoming walk to remember for Connie Gowen, first Miss Florida Seminole

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

The walk from one sideline to the other at midfield of Doak Campbell Stadium was far more than just a ceremonial stroll for Connie Gowen.

The steps she took at halftime of Florida State University's football game against the University of Massachusetts on Oct. 23 were filled with emotion for the Seminole Tribe's first-ever Miss Florida Seminole.

On her way to crowning FSU's homecoming winners, Gowen walked the same path more than 30 years ago with Larry Frank, whom she helped raise and considers her son.

Mr. Frank, who was a general manager at Seminole Hard Rock in Hollywood, passed away in August at age 68. Gowen agreed to do this year's crowning as a tribute to him.

"I would do it only for one reason, for my son, Larry Frank," Gowen said.

Around the mid-1980s, they were the first from the tribe to perform the crowning. It came at the request of then-Chairman James E. Billie.

"Chairman Billie said FSU wanted someone to represent the tribe at homecoming. He didn't ask me, he just told me I was going to represent," Gowen said with a laugh.

Thus started a decades-long tradition in which the tribe is a focal point of the homecoming crowning and other activities during the week. Gowen said for a few years it was done by different people from the tribe, but then she suggested the tribe's royalty — Miss Florida Seminole and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole — perform the crowning.

The princesses have done it ever since, but not the past two years because the pandemic has halted their attendance at events and forced the postponement of the past two princess pageants.

When Gowen accepted the invitation to fill in and do this year's crowning, she knew she would be in good company. The tribe's Kyle Doney, a 2007 FSU graduate who is on its alumni association's national board of directors, escorted Gowen for the walk across the field.

Gowen usually uses a walking cane for assistance, but determined to do the walk in front of 51,915 spectators without it, she instead used Doney for support.

"I wasn't nervous because Kyle is my adopted grandson. He's always been there for me," she said. "It was a long walk, but I was hanging on to Kyle. I almost ripped his arm off."

Upon reaching the home sideline, they crowned two sets of homecoming winners, one for this academic year and one for last year when there was no crowning ceremony.

"Grandma Connie means so much to the Seminole Tribe and all who are fortunate enough to know her," Doney said. "Having the tribe's first Miss Florida Seminole do the crowning at FSU homecoming 2021 was such a wonderful moment, I was just honored to be her escort during the event."

Gowen has other connections to FSU's homecoming. She's attended homecoming for many years as a vendor with her Seminole arts and crafts, which she sets up on campus for the parade and in the VIP suites area during the game. One year she was absent because she thought she wasn't invited, but when people at FSU wondered where she was and found out why she didn't come,

they told her she has a lifetime invitation.

She used to do the vending by herself, but is now joined by Bobbie Lou Billie.

"She has beautiful bead work," Gowen said.

Gowen's involvement even extends to the turbans that are worn by the male homecoming winner. She's made the turbans for many years, something she kept in the family after her mother, who was the first to make them, suffered a stroke.

"I worked with her and she taught me a lot of things. I knew how it was done, but I had never [done] a turban on my own. It was scary the first time I made it," said Gowen, who has been making the turbans since about the late 1990s.

Gowen's ties to the tribe's princess program stretch back to before there was a program. In fact, it wasn't long after the tribe was first federally recognized in 1957 that tribal leaders, including President Bill Osceola, determined they wanted someone to represent the tribe in a variety of functions. They selected Gowen. There was no pageant or judges at the time; just a request from the leaders. She was hesitant at first to accept, seeing it as a big responsibility. Plus, she was living in her hometown of West Palm Beach and figured there must be women on the Dania Reservation (now Hollywood) or the other reservations better suited. But soon she heeded the advice from her mother that "first you try to do it" and agreed to be the first Miss Florida Seminole.

Nearly 65 years later, she is still representing the tribe.

"I've always tried to participate and help where I can," she said.



FSU Photography Services/Bruce Palmer

Connie Gowen and Kyle Doney enjoy their time after they crowned FSU's spring 2021 homecoming chief and princess Oct. 23.

## White House tribal summit to be held in mid-November

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The White House Tribal Nations Summit for tribal leaders, originally scheduled for the week of Nov. 8, will now be held Nov. 15-16.

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

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Publisher: The Seminole Tribe of Florida

Phone: 954-985-5700

Senior Editor: Kevin Johnson, ext. 10715  
[KevinJohnson@semtribe.com](mailto:KevinJohnson@semtribe.com)

Staff Reporter: Beverly Bidney, ext. 16466  
[BeverlyBidney@semtribe.com](mailto:BeverlyBidney@semtribe.com)

Staff Reporter: Damon Scott, ext. 10704  
[DamonScott@semtribe.com](mailto:DamonScott@semtribe.com)

Advertising: Donna Mason, ext. 10733  
[DonnaMason@semtribe.com](mailto:DonnaMason@semtribe.com)

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# Community



## Seminole DAPL flag signed by Samuel Osceola family

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Sometimes a flag is much more than just a flag; it can commemorate a place in time important to those who bore witness to it. Such is the case with a Seminole flag which flew over the Standing Rock Reservation during the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) protest.

The family of the late Samuel Osceola Sr. gathered Oct. 23 to honor his memory and sign the flag he viewed during his time at the protest in 2016.

Samuel Osceola Sr. was one of the tribal members who traveled to the Standing Rock reservation to show solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. He drove pallets of water to the North Dakota demonstration site.

Martha Tommie also protested, along with thousands of other Native Americans

from hundreds of tribes, against the construction of the pipeline under the Missouri River, the tribe's main source of water in Cannon Ball, North Dakota.

Tommie brought the Seminole flag to the protest and held it high when she helped to block a bulldozer. She donated that flag to the Tribal Historic Preservation Office during the opening ceremony of its Major Billy L. Cypress building in 2019.

The flag was the backdrop during the memorial for Samuel Osceola Sr., who passed away in July. His siblings Joe Osceola Jr., William Osceola, Janice Osceola, Beverly Alumbaugh and nephew Ricky Joe Alumbaugh attended the signing ceremony at a chickee behind the THPO building in Big Cypress.

"This flag has been on our wall since the building opened," said Paul Backhouse, Heritage & Environmental Resource Office Senior Director and THPO Officer. "It inspires us and is a powerful symbol of your

sovereignty. Martha, you are a hero to me in what you have done to stand up and advocate for the rights of your people."

Tommie wanted the flag to be signed by or for all those tribal members who were at Standing Rock. Joe Osceola Jr. signed the flag for himself and Samuel.

"We all need water," Tommie said. "Sometimes it takes a lot to get people involved. I want to leave a legacy of Seminoles fighting for our water."

Joe Osceola Jr. also protested at Standing Rock. He stayed a few days, marched with American Indian Movement founder Dennis Banks and attended some pow wows at the protest site.

Tommie opened the memorial ceremony with a look back at the DAPL protest.

"We shared so many stories up there," she said. "Samuel was a great man, he had a lot of laughter and was real. Joe, it was a blessing to stand with you at Standing Rock and a blessing to go support Indigenous



Beverly Bidney

Martha Tommie watches as Joe Osceola Jr. signs the flag which flew over the Dakota Access Pipeline protest in 2016.



Beverly Bidney

After signing the flag with Samuel Osceola Sr.'s name, his family raised their fists in solidarity. From left are Martha Tommie, Janice Osceola, Beverly Alumbaugh, William Osceola, Joe Osceola Jr. and Ricky Joe Alumbaugh.

people and protect the water."

Memories of Samuel Osceola Sr., and the laughter they provoked, were shared by his family during the ceremony.

"Sam was my younger brother," said Joe Osceola Jr. "Growing up we had our own age groups to hang out with. I didn't get close to Sam until later in life. He was a loving man, he loved his kids and grandchildren. I was sad to see him go."

William Osceola was glad his younger brother was being honored.

"He was more like a friend," William said. "We talked a lot about the Dolphins, politics, anything. I miss those conversations. He was a great brother and into helping Native Americans. He said if we show up,

that helps."

The Osceola siblings grew up in Hollywood, but moved to Big Cypress when their parents opened a grocery store there.

"This was our backyard. We lived right here," Janice Osceola said about the THPO location. "Samuel helped me with my cattle. We always help each other out, as family should. I thank God for all my brothers and sisters. Our parents taught us well, taught us how to work hard. If you show your children how to work hard, they will help you when you get older."

The consensus was clear: Samuel Osceola was a smart, loving, caring, sincere man who is greatly missed by his family.

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# Pianist Havasi debuts 'Unconquered' in world premiere at Hard Rock Live

*'The Seminole Tribe inspired me to create a piece to symbolize their journey'*

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Balázs Havasi looked more like a rock star with his spiked hair, leather jacket and jeans, than a classically trained pianist and composer when he took the stage Oct. 23 at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood to debut his new symphonic composition "Unconquered."

The piece tells the story of the Seminole Tribe in three sections: "tranquility," "turmoil" and "triumph." Havasi was inspired to create "Unconquered" through his conversations with S.R. Tommie, a tribal member who worked with him to put together the event.

Havasi was looking for North American representation and he found Tommie's company, Redline Media Group, which represents musical artists. It took a couple years for them to finally meet, but when they did Tommie and Havasi found common ground.

"The composition came about when we sat down to get to know each other," said Tommie, founder and president of Redline. "He was fascinated with the tribe. I shared stories from my mother, grandmother, aunts and elders. They shared so much with me about our early days, who we were and who we are today. He [Havasi] became emotional when I shared the stories. As I looked at him across the conference room table, his eyes were full of tears. He shared his story about how Hungarians were pushed out of their lands by the Russians. He felt my pain and I understood his. Our life experiences and stories from elders were so in line and similar."

Once the connection between the two was made, Tommie didn't hear from Havasi for a few months. He was busy composing



Havasi performs "Unconquered" on Oct. 23 at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood. It was the symphonic composition's world premiere in front of a sold out audience.

Beverly Bidney



Havasi performs at Hard Rock Live.

Beverly Bidney

and doing research on his own. He found a 100-year-old recording at the Museum of Natural History in New York City of a person chanting in Seminole Creek and he wanted to use it at the beginning of the piece.

Tommie said the words mean "everything is great, beautiful." They were used to open the "tranquility" section, which evokes the tribe's peaceful times of living at one with the earth. The second section, "turmoil," illustrates the times of adversity and the intensity of the Seminole Wars. The last section, "triumph," reflects the story of the tribe today and how prosperity has allowed it to care for and provide for tribal members.

"I was so moved that he was so moved by our story and took the time to do his

research," Tommie said. "It's a powerful piece, it's a story about never giving up. It gives the world hope that we can all rise."

Havasi, 46, is a graduate of the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Hungary. He has played his symphonic compositions around the world in Berlin, Budapest, London, Poland, Romania, Shanghai, Sydney and Vienna before coming to Hollywood.

"I am a native born Hungarian and what is amazing that two different individuals, S.R. Tommie and myself, from completely different parts of the globe, could relate to the same story in such a strong way. We Hungarians have had to overcome adversity, too. And I found the Seminole history resonating with me as I considered that the Hungarian revolution of 1956, our fight for independence against Soviet-imposed policies, was happening almost at the same time as the Seminole Tribe was finally being formally recognized by the U.S. government," Havasi said in a statement.

The performance was originally scheduled for 2020, but the pandemic put it on hold for more than a year and a half.

The sold-out show was much more than a symphonic concert; it was a light show complete with lasers, pyrotechnics and fire. The stage was filled with traditional orchestral instruments such as strings, horns and timpani drums, but it also had a chorus, solo violinist, flutist and a musician playing two electronic keyboards. It ranged from mellow to high energy songs, each one introduced by Havasi with a story about what inspired it.

The 7,000-seat venue was full. Before the performance started, tribal members in attendance said they looked forward to hearing the world premiere of "Unconquered."

"Something like this will be great for the audience," Cassandra Jimmie said. "There are different ways of telling who we are, music is another way of storytelling."

Barbara Billie brought her grandchildren to the show so they could experience different types of music.

During the concert, Havasi thanked the Hungarian ambassador who was in the house as well as the tribe. He played some of his favorite compositions, including his popular song "Storm."

"The Seminole Tribe inspired me to



S.R. Tommie, onstage with Havasi, addresses the crowd prior to Havasi's performance of "Unconquered."

Beverly Bidney

create a piece to symbolize their journey," he said as he introduced "Unconquered."

"I thought it was so inspirational," said Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall. "To be able to see and experience such a beautiful masterpiece was amazing."

President Mitchell Cypress brought his family to the show.

"The music was impressive," said Nichole Cypress, 11. "I liked the tempo."

"I liked the lasers and when they used the fire," added Mitchelanie Cypress, 8. "And the music was good."

"It was very surprising that someone from another country was interested in our unconquered history," said President Cypress. "It was a good concert. I enjoyed the entertainment. I liked in the video when the eyes were opening; it showed the future."

The video, produced by Redline, featured the 100-year-old recording, Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry moving to its chant, historic photos and a variety of tribal members. Some photos were made to come to life by using the parallax effect during production.

A group of young tribal members who were featured in the video attended the show in their finest patchwork.

Havasi described the composition as being inspired by the universal message of self-determination.

"It is a story that celebrates the human spirit and the power of our strength and will," he said. "This music is medicine for the world right now," Tommie said. "It could be a catalyst for healing the world."



Havasi presents S.R. Tommie with a plaque commemorating the performance of "Unconquered" at Hard Rock Live.

Beverly Bidney



S.R. Tommie, middle, back row, with family members, the cast of the "Unconquered" video and Hollywood Board Representative Christine McCall gather after the performance.

Beverly Bidney

# Dollar General in Micanopy draws Native opposition

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Micanopy residents have been protesting plans for the construction of a Dollar General store in their town. The proposed location is near Tusawilla Road in the Micanopy Native American Preserve. It's in the vicinity of a Native American burial mound and the site of the Battle of Micanopy – fought during the Second Seminole War.

Several activists and residents of the town, which is about 12 miles south of Gainesville, want it built elsewhere or not built at all.

Members of the Florida Indigenous Alliance (FIA) – with a presence on Facebook – argue that its construction would be no different than if a Dollar General was to be built on a non-Native cemetery.

"If you won't build it on Arlington National Cemetery [in Virginia] then why desecrate Indigenous cemeteries and build on them? If you won't tear down St. Peter's Basilica [in Vatican City] for a condo, why

destroy Native sacred sites? What is the disconnect? Is it that the dominant society does not view Native people as human?" the group said in a recent post.

The FIA describes itself as a statewide Indigenous organization "dedicated to the human, civil, treaty and sovereignty rights of the Indigenous peoples of the Western Hemisphere." The Seminole Tribe's Martha Tommie is a member of the group. She spoke in opposition to the Dollar General at a September public meeting with the Alachua County Development Review Committee (DRC).

"I tried to stand for our people, our culture and traditions," Tommie, of the Brighton Reservation, told the Tribune. "I was very humble when I got up there. I thought about my ancestors and what they went through. I look back and see how our elders were treated – I want people to know what's going on over there."

Tommie is an activist who has traveled to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation to protest the Dakota Access Pipeline. She has



Beverly Bidney

Tribal member Martha Tommie, shown here in 2019, is involved in several Indigenous causes.

also been part of public demonstrations to advocate for the release of Leonard Peltier, a member of the American Indian Movement who has been in prison since 1977.

"I went [to Micanopy] because I know some people that stand for the water and it's time to stand for the land where our ancestors are laid. I have young kids coming up and it's important to me," Tommie said.

The DRC voted to approve the final development plan for the Dollar General on Sept. 9 – a move the FIA quickly condemned. The status of the project is unclear, however, due to the denial of a scenic road variance request – sent by the developer to Alachua County. Tusawilla Road is one of six scenic roads in the county and has different guidelines and criteria for developers, such as limits on truck size and weight.

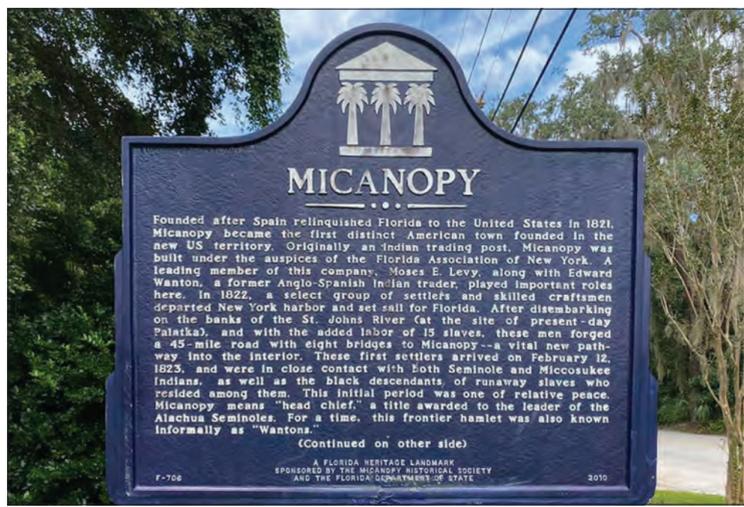
It's unclear whether a denial of the variance would derail the project completely. According to a news report by National Public Radio affiliate WUFT News, a dispute

resolution process is now in progress. Attorney Marcy LaHart is representing neighbors near the proposed site.

The news report said some residents aren't against the idea of a Dollar General – just the location. They are concerned that tractor-trailers will ruin the road, clip the old trees and create noise, the report said. LaHart said the area's ecosystem contains a lot of wildlife, including gopher turtles, cranes and coyotes. Truck drivers might not stop for turtles crossing the road, he said.

In addition, the FIA said it requested the DRC conduct an archaeological survey because of the site's location. But the FIA said the request was ignored and that the testimony of Indigenous peoples was disregarded in favor of a single archeologist who was "beholden to the developer."

Connect with the FIA on Facebook at [facebook.com/FlIndianAlliance.org](https://facebook.com/FlIndianAlliance.org).



Courtesy photo

This historical sign states that Micanopy means "head chief," a title awarded to the leader of the Alachua Seminoles.

## Tribe's Renewable Energy and Sustainability Conference set for February

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — The fourth annual Seminole Tribe of Florida Renewable Energy and Sustainability Conference will be held Feb. 22-24, 2022, at the Native Learning Center. The conference will focus on the newly changing landscape for tribal energy development and sustainability, including best practices, federal leadership, policy and regulatory changes, funding a project, and project planning/development trends. The conference will give tribes and first nations an opportunity to explore the range of renewable energy and sustainability opportunities that exist and how to start the process.

Representatives from tribes, First Nations, tribal organizations, and private industry will give presentations and provide training objectives on a wide range of topics, including:

- Resources to help with tribal energy projects
- Achieving self-sufficiency through energy planning and resource development
- Energy saving methods in design, development and construction
- Tribes undertaking large scale energy projects
- Developments driving change in the renewable energy and sustainability marketplace
- Tribal/private partnership opportunities
- Tribal case studies and lessons learned
- Funding sources for projects
- Leveraging available federal resources and materials to support tribes and TDHE/Housing Departments

The conference will be offered with in-person and virtual options. The in-person option is limited to 75 people. For more information go to [nativelearningcenter.com](https://nativelearningcenter.com).

## Appointees named to Indian Affairs positions

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**WASHINGTON** — Two appointees of President Biden have been named to posts within Indian Affairs, the Department of the Interior announced Wednesday. Joaquin Gallegos (Jicarilla Apache Nation/Pueblo of Santa Ana) has been named special assistant, assistant secretary, and Sicangu Oyate citizen. Wizipan Little Elk (Rosebud Sioux Tribe) has been named principal deputy assistant secretary.

Other appointees announced Oct. 13 as joining DOI's Fish and Wildlife and Parks are Mike Martinez, deputy assistant secretary, and Matthew Strickler, deputy assistant Secretary.

According to the DOI, the appointees will work toward advancing President Biden's agendas regarding climate change, protecting endangered wildlife and honoring relationships with Indigenous communities.

"The Interior Department is hard at work turning President Biden's Build Back Better agenda into reality. These new team members will help serve our mission to honor the federal government's trust responsibilities to Indian Country, strengthen the Nation-

to-Nation relationship, and conserve our public lands and waters for current and future generations," Chief of Staff Lawrence Roberts said in a statement.

Gallegos recently served as a law clerk to Judge Allison H. Eid on the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which covers several districts in the Southwest. He also served as a legislative staff attorney to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, a legal fellow to former Senator Tom Udall on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and as a policy fellow to former Senator Byron Dorgan at the Aspen Institute. Gallegos graduated from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and the University of Colorado Denver.

Little Elk most recently served as the CEO of the Rosebud Economic Development Corporation in South Dakota. His other experiences include serving within the Sicangu Oyate government and at the Interior Department as deputy chief of staff to the assistant secretary of Indian Affairs. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University and a law degree from the University of Arizona. Little Elk is also a hunter and writer who lives on the homelands of the Sicangu.

## SHORE

From page 1A

"Mr. Shore is by far the most humble individual that I've ever worked with in my career. He'll never take credit for all the amazing things that have occurred under not just his leadership but his wisdom," Allen

added.

Shore told the audience that when the Seminole Tribe started what was then termed "unlimited bingo" in 1979 that at the time no one knew that it would open up Indian gaming to other tribes.

"I think it has changed the lives of many Indian tribes across the country," Shore said. "Many tribes have been able to do things

that have never been done before."

Shore said the Seminole Tribe has also not been one to "sit idly by" after achieving successes over the years.

"If anything new is going to happen in the area of gaming I suspect the Seminole Tribe will always be there, if we don't initiate the move ourselves. Maybe it's time we start looking at outer space or something," Shore

said with a smile. "That's what the Seminole Tribe is known for. We don't sit there and wait for something to happen. We go out there and make things happen."

Joining Shore as inductees were Knute Knudson Jr., VP of global business development and tribal ambassador, IGT; Jeremy M. Jacobs, chairman, Delaware North and Boston Bruins owner; James

R. Maida, president and CEO, Gaming Laboratories International; Jeffrey A. Silver, of counsel, Dickinson Wright PLLC; and Dr. Mark Yoseloff, retired chairman/CEO, Shuffle Master Inc. and founder, UNLV Center for Gaming Innovation.

The AGA has held 32 hall of fame inductions since 1989.

◆ See CLIMATE on page 9A



Damon Scott

Jim Shore speaks at the American Gaming Association's hall of fame ceremony in Las Vegas.



Damon Scott

Jim Shore, left, is joined at the event by his longtime executive assistant Agnes Motlow.

## Resiliency compact members meet for first time

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**FORT MYERS** — Members of the Southwest Florida Regional Resiliency Compact, which includes the Seminole Tribe, met with experts for the first time Oct. 8 to get a better understanding of how they will work together to prepare for the impact of climate change.

The meeting at Florida Gulf Coast University was designed to explore the organizational structure of the group and discuss specific goals and objectives of the compact.

The compact is an alliance of 15 local governments including the Seminole Tribe, Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties; the cities of Punta Gorda, Sanibel, Cape Coral, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Estero, Bonita Springs, Naples, Marco Island and Everglades City; and the Captiva Erosion Prevention District.

Brian Zepeda, Naples Council Liaison, and Jill Horwitz, Heritage and Environment Resources Office's climate resiliency officer, represented the tribe at the meeting.

"The meeting was a critical moment in the Seminole Tribe of Florida having a leadership seat at the table with other local governments in SW Florida," Horwitz wrote in an email to the Tribune. "Serving on the leadership committee of the compact advances the tribe's work in building strong and meaningful relationships with our neighbors. The Southwest Florida region faces many climate change threats, none of which can be fought individually. Knowledge sharing and joint efforts to assess risks and implement solutions with co-benefits across the land, communities and ecosystems will benefit the tribe and all the partners. This first meeting is but one small step in a long process of building the trust and tools we need to collectively succeed."

The Water School at FGCU hosted the meeting. It was attended by a representative from the FCRC Consensus Center at Florida State University (formerly the Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium), which serves as a facilitator for the compact. FCRC's role is to use their expertise so compact member jurisdictions can have efficient and effective conversations on issues.

"It's up to you to decide how the compact will run," Water School professor Michael Savarese said at the start of the meeting. "Virtually every coastal county is in a compact or alliance or considering one. With an alliance, many things can happen."

One function of the compact is to obtain funding for resiliency projects, including funds from the Resilient Florida Grant Program.

"We went from not even being able to say the words climate change to where we are now," said Noah Valenstein, former Florida Department of Environmental Protection secretary and currently a presidential fellow in water policy at the Water School at FGCU. "Half a billion dollars in grant money is available and we are trying to get it out the door. The state is very interested in being a leader on this."

Individual member municipalities and counties of the compact must apply individually for the grant money.

"While the compact may not be the grant entity, the fact that the compact exists is noticed," Valenstein said. "It's a signal that the region believes the projects are important. It lifts all the grant requests. [The state sees] the level of cooperation and teamwork that will be successfully implemented because they have a strong support system."

# Tribal member's breast cancer message: 'Get your mammogram, do your self-check, catch it early'

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Lorraine Posada, who has no history of breast cancer in her family, exercises regularly, eats well and isn't overweight, was diagnosed at age 43 with breast cancer. The surprising and somber news came Feb. 27, 2020, after getting her annual mammogram.

Posada didn't find a lump through self-exams and her doctor couldn't feel anything either. Posada didn't think she was at risk.

"Of course you cry, you cry a lot," she said about her reaction to the diagnoses. "You automatically think it's a death sentence. All you can think is I have cancer."

Fortunately, the cancer was found early enough to treat. Posada's doctor told her she was lucky, the cancer was stage zero.

After a double mastectomy and a year since the last of her four surgeries, Posada's message to women is simple.

"I want people to know I am here because I found it early," she said. "Get your mammogram, do your self-check, catch it early."

Posada's message is the same advice that was stressed throughout Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. Getting the word out has been especially critical during the pandemic as mammograms dropped drastically. From January to June in 2020, breast cancer screenings among Native women decreased by 98%, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Indigenous Pink Day was Oct. 21, but tribal members didn't wait for that day to focus on the importance of early detection and screening. Community walks – virtual and together in small family groups – and drive thru educational events served to increase awareness of the disease, which

affects one in eight women in their lifetime. Breast cancer is the second most common cancer in all women after skin cancer. Early detection is crucial to surviving it. Native American women have the lowest incidence based on race and ethnicity, according to the CDC. White women have the highest rate of breast cancer followed by Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women.

However, a 2014 study published in the American Journal of Public Health cited breast cancer as the leading cause of cancer mortality in AI/AN women. Mammograms play an important role in detection. The American Indian Cancer Foundation guidelines recommend annual mammogram screenings begin between age 40-44 and should be done annually between age 45-54 and every two years after age 55.

Increased risks include genetics, gender, family history, breast density and age. However, breast cancer may strike women with or without these risk factors. Steps which may help avoid breast cancer include breastfeeding, weight control, regular mammograms, exercise, limited alcohol use and regular breast exams.

Hollywood held a drive thru event Oct. 14 with educational information, T-shirts and a light lunch. Immokalee aimed to spread awareness during a community walk Oct. 18. Tampa held a virtual walk Oct. 19; Brighton had theirs Oct. 21.

In Tampa, tribal members walked on their own or in family groups.

"Though we could not be all together to walk, it did not stop the Tampa community from dressing up and going all out," wrote Korin Deitch, health nutritionist and educator, in an email. "We are supporting the fighters, admiring the survivors, honoring the taken and never, ever giving up hope."



Lorraine Posada, left, and daughter Lindsey Posada greet Lenore Roberts at the Immokalee drive thru breast cancer awareness event Oct. 19.

Beverly Bidney



Courtesy photo

Posing in pink are April Simmons, Michael Simmons and Zarianna Simmons.



Courtesy photo

Immokalee held its breast cancer awareness walk Oct. 18. From left are Mary Lou Alvarado, Gary McInturff, Dylan Garcia, Adrian Garcia, Linda Beletso, Lorraine Posada, Cassandra Jimmie and Elsa Zamora.



Damon Scott

Mike Cantu, Hollywood Culture language office coordinator.



Courtesy photo

Nancy Frank, an 18-year breast cancer survivor, gathers with family members for the Tampa community's virtual walk. From left are Kevin Frank, Aaron Frank (with little girl), Nancy Frank, Connie Osceola, Nigel Osceola, Dominic Osceola, Dorian Osceola, Amari Osceola and Laurie Billie.



Damon Scott

At the Hollywood event are, from left, Francine Osceola, community adviser at the Hollywood Council Office, Kenny Tommie of We Do Recover (WDR), Tomie Motlow, executive assistant at the Hollywood Council Office, Jay Holata of WDR, Charlie Tiger of WDR and Billie Tiger of WDR.



Damon Scott

Mercedes Osceola, seated, and Madeline Osceola at the Hollywood event.



Courtesy photo

Linda Henry participated in the Tampa community's virtual walk Oct. 19.



Damon Scott

Lauren Goas with Integrative Health, standing, and Valerie Frank of Hollywood Culture help out in one of the booths.



Courtesy photo

This colorful group showed their awareness of breast cancer during the Tampa virtual walk. The walkers include Jeremiah Santiago, Katie Smith, Tracie Mackenzie, Isabella Santiago and Randy Santiago.

# Q&A: Jim Allen talks gaming at G2E

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**LAS VEGAS** — The Global Gaming Expo (G2E) returned to Las Vegas Oct. 4-7 after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. About 13,000 people attended education sessions, keynotes and visited 233 exhibitors at the Venetian Expo and Convention Center.

Hard Rock International chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO, Jim Allen, was part of a keynote panel Oct. 6 with Bill Hornbuckle, CEO and president of MGM Resorts International and Matt Maddox, the CEO of Wynn Resorts. CNBC casino and gaming correspondent Contessa Brewer served as the moderator and asked questions about gaming topics.

The following is a sample of her conversation with Allen. It has been edited for length and clarity.

**Brewer:** Gaming had a sigh of relief and then came Delta. How do things look now?

**Allen:** We're in Florida, so we're very fortunate. We have a governor who is very pro-the state being open. If we look at Ohio or New Jersey it's a different mindset, but still the regional business is doing very well. If you really study the data, we're seeing a lot more visits from people 25-to-35 years old. Hopefully the 50, 60, 70-year-olds will come back. The [revenue] numbers are growing at strong double digits, but the question is — is the discretionary income sustainable long term?

**Brewer:** How is the labor and supply shortage affecting you?

**Allen:** It's not just the products that we need; it's the effect on the economy. Not today, but in the second and third quarters of next year, and that's why I'm a little bit more cautious on this incredible rush of business we've had since Covid. There's a lot of pent up money that's being utilized right now. And also obviously there's a lot of stimulus money. When you look at those 21- to 35-year-olds, and the regional markets, and you look at the theoretical value of them, you can tie that directly to stimulus money. So I'm concerned that, whether it's the employment shortage or the amazing rise in revenues, that we shouldn't over, or

under-react too rapidly until we get into next February, March, April, May. But clearly there is a shortage, not just here in the United States, but remember we're in 70 countries around the world. This is a global problem.

**Brewer:** There's been a drive to digital: sports betting, iGaming, e-wallets ... the pandemic made people more comfortable using their phones for everything from a room key to gambling to payments. What have you seen?

**Allen:** In Florida there's no doubt technology is more relevant when we look at those 25-to-40 year old guests that we've been courting for decades. I think that's extremely important versus someone who's 50-60-70, who's probably doing it because they need to. One of the advantages to having an owner that's a sovereign nation is that we have our own gaming commission, so we can be much more progressive with technology. That's how we attract the next level of customers.

**Brewer:** The chase is on for sports betting customers, which is still a nascent industry. In Florida it hasn't launched yet, but is on the cusp. How do you compete and get customers?

**Allen:** The category is extremely relevant and important, but not necessarily today — everyone is playing for 2027 and beyond. If you look at New Jersey, pre-Covid, 36 to 37 percent of the total gaming revenue was coming from iGaming and sports betting. People thought that would be five or 10 years from now. I think that that's where the business is going. We're fortunate because we knew if we won the political battle in Florida we had the chance for that to be our foundation block. Certainly we could lose in court and then we'll revisit the philosophy, but we have the referendum route that we can go. But most importantly, you take a land-based database, with the right online philosophy, but not just in sports betting. If you're only in the sports betting business and you're not lobbying the political side of this to get iGaming eventually legalized, then that's where there could be a flaw.

**Brewer:** The pandemic made people focus on a work-life balance. How do you

juggle the demands of home and work life?

**Allen:** I don't hunt, I don't fish, I don't ski — my life has been work since I started in the gaming industry in '79. I love it, it's what I do, it is my life. I got out of the hospital from open-heart surgery and interviewed someone the same day — that's what I do, that's what I love and I choose that. But I certainly recognize that's not healthy long term as far as the culture of the organization. It's not like I have a huge family with children, going to soccer games — my life is my job. That's answering the question honestly. But do I think that's healthy? Would I recommend people to do that? Absolutely not. Because happiness is a balance of family, your community, your career, your significant other and your belief system.

**Brewer:** How does the pandemic end for the gaming industry?

**Allen:** It's been a tremendous learning experience, but I think companies like the three of ours: we're going to be responsible and care about our employees. One of the first things we did was, to anyone making less than \$50,000 a year, was giving a meal card every other week. You know how that happened? Because I saw a line at a local church with people who were just trying to get food, and these weren't homeless people. So I think companies that recognized that, paid their employees, made sure they had their health care and insurance, those things matter. When it ends? I don't know if we'll ever say 'it's over.' I think it's a continuation of how we can be smarter and more appreciative of our guests and employees. And let's be honest, it certainly helped us become more margin focused.

**Brewer:** What will you consider success a year from now?

**Allen:** Most importantly just to be more humanistic, just to make sure we continue to be better listeners, specifically with our guests and employees. Specifically from the business, obviously, we'd like to win a few lawsuits and if we prevail then that really creates the magnificent foundation block for sports betting in Florida, which then takes our business to a whole other level.



A rendering of the Hard Rock Casino Rockford in Illinois.

## Hard Rock Rockford to open temporary casino

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Officials say plans for the new Hard Rock Casino Rockford in northern Illinois have been moving forward at a steady clip this year. A big step will include the opening of a temporary casino in November while the permanent development is being built.

Once complete, Hard Rock Rockford will be a \$310 million development at the city's former Clock Tower Resort and Conference Center site, about seven miles from downtown. The temporary site — to be in use for 18 to 24 months — is located about a mile away at the former Giovanni's Restaurant and Convention Center on North Bell School Road — a \$65 million investment itself.

Hard Rock officials said the temporary casino — with 736 slot machines — would be used to excite guests and attract new employees and vendors to service the permanent casino, which is expected to bring between 800 and 1,000 permanent jobs and 1,200 temporary construction jobs.

Hard Rock Rockford will feature 64,000 square feet of gaming space, restaurants and bars, a 1,600-seat Hard Rock Live entertainment venue, 1,500 slots, 55 tables and a sports book, among other features and

amenities.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker previously signed legislation — the Rebuild Illinois Act — that provided Hard Rock a casino license for Rockford in June 2019. The law authorized the licensing of new casinos in Rockford and five other Illinois cities. In Oct. 2019, the Rockford City Council selected Hard Rock as its sole choice from three casino proposals. The Illinois Gaming Board then had until Oct. 2020, to approve the license — however, it granted itself a six-month extension due to the pandemic. The board granted a preliminary license approval in Feb. 2021, and in June 2021 issued a casino supplier license allowing construction to start on both the temporary and permanent facilities.

Officials expect the permanent casino to be completed in 18-to-24 months. Plans also call for the addition of a hotel at the site, however a timeline is not yet available.

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

The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of Hard Rock International. More is at [hardrockcasinorockford.com](http://hardrockcasinorockford.com).



Courtesy G2E

Hard Rock International Chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen is interviewed by CNBC correspondent Contessa Brewer during a panel discussion about gaming Oct. 6 in Las Vegas.

## Hard Rock Punta Cana wins Latin America property of the year award

STAFF REPORT

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana beat nine other nominees to win the Global Gaming Award as Property of the Year LATAM.

The award, which was announced Oct. 4 during a luncheon ceremony at the Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas, is in its first year. The category is designed to celebrate the diversity of casinos in Central America and South America.

Located on more than 100 acres on the eastern coast of the Dominican Republic, Hard Rock Punta Cana is a sprawling oceanfront luxury resort that features 1,800 rooms and the country's largest casino. The casino offers more than 500 slot and video gaming machines, baccarat, blackjack, craps, poker and roulette.

The resort opened in 2011.

Hard Rock won the award over City Center Rosario (Argentina), Hipodromo Argentino De Palermo (Argentina), Sheraton Puerto Rico Hotel & Casino (Puerto Rico),

Casino Club Bariloche (Argentina), Casino Carnaval (Paraguay), Sofitel Montevideo Casino Carrasco & Spa (Uruguay), Casino Buenos Aires (Argentina), Casino Luckia Bogota (Colombia) and Ocean Sun Casino (Panama).

In other awards, Hard Rock International earned third place in the Responsible Business of the Year category. The winner was the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians in California.

The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of Hard Rock International.



Hard Rock Punta Cana

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic.

## Casinos team up to help American Cancer Society



Seminole Classic Casino via Instagram

The Seminole Tribe's three casinos in Broward County — Seminole Classic Casino, Seminole Casino Coconut Creek and Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood — partnered to make a donation to the American Cancer Society. The casinos presented ACS with a check for \$100,000 on Oct. 23 in support of breast cancer research. The donation is part of the Pinktober campaign to help raise awareness about breast cancer.

## Billy Joel comes to Hard Rock Live in 2022

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Rock & Roll Hall of Fame musician and songwriter Billy Joel will perform at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Jan. 28, 2022, at 8 p.m. For tickets go to [myhrl.com](http://myhrl.com).

Joel is the sixth best-selling recording artist of all time and the third best-selling solo artist.

Joel is also the recipient of six Grammy Awards, including the Grammy Legend Award. He has received the RIAA's Diamond Award twice for "Greatest Hits Volume I & Volume II" and "The Stranger." He has been inducted into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and has received numerous industry awards including a Tony Award for "Movin' Out," a Broadway musical based on Joel's music.

## Hard Rock to honor Hip-Hop History Month

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — In July, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution to name November Hip-Hop History Month. In recognition of the inaugural Hip-Hop History Month, all Hard Rock International company divisions in November, including cafes, hotels and casinos, across the globe will honor the impact hip-hop music has had on history and culture throughout the month.

"As Hard Rock continues to evolve, just as music does, it's unmistakable how hip-hop has impacted our brand over the years," Keith Sheldon, HRI president of entertainment said in a statement.

Hard Rock's extensive collection of music memorabilia is one way the company will recognize the month. Items on display include Run-D.M.C.'s Adidas sneakers, outfits worn by Nicki Minaj during The Pinkprint Tour, a handwritten poem by Tupac

Shakur, and overalls worn by Busta Rhymes on his "Fire" music video. Contemporary items include DJ Khaled's Miami jersey from Hard Rock's commercial shoot for Super Bowl LIV and Megan Thee Stallion's bathing suit from the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit 2021 during which she made history as the first rapper to land the cover.

Another recognition includes Hard Rock's Reverb hotel in downtown Atlanta will feature ties to the surrounding neighborhood weaved throughout the property, paying tribute to the musicians and music aficionados who make the city unique.

Some properties will hold hip-hop happy hours every day. At 6 p.m. local time the music played throughout the properties' public spaces will be exclusively hip-hop.

Rock Shops online will feature exclusive autograph series merchandise including a limited-edition pin, T-shirt and sweatshirt celebrating Tupac Shakur.

# New acquisition honors donor intent and enhances museum collection

BY TARA BACKHOUSE  
Collections Manager

**BIG CYPRESS** — While 2020 was a year where few new pieces of history were added to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's

historic collection, 2021 has been a different story.

A recent donation of eight objects arrived for a unique reason. The posthumous donor was Carolyn F. Broadbent (Sept. 29, 1941 to May 26, 2019). Ms. Broadbent, a native of New York, moved to Tallahassee

in 1973 with her husband. She worked for the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs, directing the employment and training program from 1974 to 1989. She was an avid supporter of the arts, and this may be where her interest in Native American art in general, and Seminole and Miccosukee art in particular, began.

She continued working for the state government until her retirement in 2015, only a few years before she passed. It was after that sad date that the museum learned she wished to bequeath her Seminole and Miccosukee collection to the tribe.

Unfortunately, she never made contact with the museum to tell us her intentions. We would have liked to thank her in person. But the least we can do is share some images of a few of the beautiful pieces she donated.

The donation included three baskets, two dolls, a patchwork sampler, a patchwork and basket base purse and a basket centerpiece. All the pieces date to the late 20th century and they really showcase the talent of Seminole artisans in these recent decades. The centerpiece has a sweetgrass basket base and patchwork flowers embellished by artificial leaves and blossoms. Tiny dolls complete

the piece. One basket has an interesting top and handle. The framed patchwork sampler has seven rows of patchwork, including lightning and diamond patterns.

If you're interested in seeing the rest of the donation in person just let us know. These eight new pieces have joined nearly 200,000 other pieces of Seminole history in the museum's collection. Contact me to schedule a personal tour of our collection at your convenience: Tara Backhouse, tarabackhouse@semtribe.com. Thank you.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Samplers like this show the variety of available patchwork patterns.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The centerpiece is the first of its kind in the museum's collection.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Sweetgrass baskets come in many shapes and sizes.

# Indigenous site still attracts city dwellers, tourists

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**MIAMI** — In downtown Miami where the Miami River meets Biscayne Bay sits the Miami Circle — an anomaly among an overdeveloped metro area with millions of residents and visitors. For those interested in a historical look of the area's Indigenous people, it's a fascinating, accessible and free (other than parking) visit.

The Miami Circle is a 2.2-acre archaeological site on the south bank of the Miami River in the city's Brickell neighborhood. It consists of a near perfect circle measuring 38 feet in diameter. Miami condo high-rises — some of the most valuable real estate in the U.S. — surround it, but the site itself is protected.

The Miami Circle was discovered after the Brickell Point apartments were demolished in 1998 to make way for new high-rise construction. Archaeologists uncovered prehistoric artifacts. Salvage excavations revealed an unusual circular feature consisting of holes and basins carved into the shallow Miami oolitic limestone bedrock. It is thought to have been the foundation for a wooden structure built by the Tequesta Indians in what possibly served as their capital.

It is also thought to be the only cut-in-rock, prehistoric structural footprint ever found in eastern North America. Carbon dating places it at between 1,700 and 2,000 years old.

Artifacts found at the site include intact black earth midden deposits — an archaeological feature consisting of patches of dark-colored earth and "concentrated artifacts" that are from the discard of refuse, food remains, broken tools and crockery. Shell, stone, animal bone and pottery were unearthed at the site as well.

It's important when referencing the



Damon Scott

The circle has been kept buried for its protection but is landscaped in its original shape with stone and vegetation. It is surrounded by a public park.

Tequesta to note that labels don't always tell the whole story. For example, Florida's early peoples, who include the Tequesta, are sometimes referred to as the "lost tribes." The Tequesta's footprint is not only found in Miami, but in other Florida locations as well.

While the Seminoles are also Florida's first residents, some historians say it's not accurate that they be included on the list of

"original" inhabitants — that the Tequesta were in Florida "before" the Seminoles.

But Paul Backhouse, the senior director of the Heritage and Environment Resources Office (HERO) for the tribe, explains that such thinking amounts to a fabrication of history — the idea that the Seminoles were "new" to Florida. He argues that history is more complex and nuanced, that in all

of Florida there were Indigenous peoples moving back and forth constantly. The Seminoles didn't appear out of nowhere, Backhouse explains.

Nevertheless, the Tequesta, like the Seminoles, used the Miami River as a conduit between the bay and the Everglades — which provided connections to Lake Okeechobee and other areas for trade and travel.

## Circle support

The Miami Circle discovery was announced to the public in January 1999. Protecting it from development was not an easy task. Demonstrators, including many Seminoles and other Natives, protested plans to destroy it. Bobby Billie, featured on one of the signs at the site, along with other tribal members, held candlelight vigils at the site each Tuesday night after its discovery in order to gain support for its protection.

A huge amount media attention and general interest in the discovery eventually caught the eyes and ears of officials at the city and the state, who heard appeals from the public to purchase the site from the developer.

In September 1999, Miami-Dade County and the developer reached a settlement agreement — the county would pay \$26.7 million for the property. Then-Gov. Jeb Bush also agreed to contribute state funds to the acquisition, pending an archaeological investigation by the Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR).

The subsequent assessment concluded that the Miami Circle is ancient and of human origin. Intact deposits were found across 70% of the site, including many other holes cut into the limestone not associated with the circular structure.

In 2002, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was declared a National Historic Landmark in 2009. A waterfront park that opened in 2011 and is managed by the HistoryMiami Museum now surrounds it, although the circle itself is buried in order to protect it.

If you go: Search for "Miami Circle National Historic Landmark" on Google Maps. The site is open 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Parking can be found on nearby streets or via parking garages. More information is at trailoffloridasindianheritage.



Damon Scott

The Miami Circle was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2009.



Damon Scott

The site is in the middle of downtown Miami with high rise buildings on both sides, where the Miami River meets Biscayne Bay.

# Health



## Covid-19 cases stabilize; booster shots approved

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — After a concerning rise in positive Covid-19 cases among tribal members, cases have begun to decline. The tribe had seen its steepest increase over the summer months but some signs of decline in late September. October's numbers have continued to spur optimism, according to the tribe's Health and Human Services (HHS) executive director, Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley.

Kiswani-Barley said the improvement was good news, but not a reason for people to let down their guard. The tribe continues to encourage those who have not received a vaccine to do so. The tribal population is considered high risk.

On Oct. 25, HHS decided to return to normal service at its clinics instead of for essential visits only.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized booster shots from the three main vaccine distributors — Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson. The FDA also authorized that individuals can receive a different vaccine

brand for their booster shot if desired.

There are eligibility restrictions. Moderna and Pfizer recipients should wait six months after the second shot to receive a booster. The Moderna and Pfizer boosters are approved for those 65 and older, and for those 18 and older who are at high risk of severe disease. Frontline workers are also eligible.

Johnson & Johnson recipients should wait two months after their first dose. The Johnson & Johnson booster is approved for all individuals 18 years and older who received the first dose.

Additionally, HHS said Pfizer is seeking an emergency use authorization to offer vaccines to those 5 to 11 years old. Kiswani-Barley said the tribe has placed an order with the Indian Health Service to be one of the first groups to receive the vaccine for the age group. The dose for this age group is half of an adult dosage, she said.

Kiswani-Barley added that flu season has arrived and that the tribe is also administering flu vaccines for those six months and older.

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.

### Pharmacy grand opening

HHS has announced that the tribe's satellite pharmacy, located at the Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center in Hollywood, is having a grand opening Nov. 1. Tribal members will have access to a walk-up or drive-thru option for pick up of prescriptions and will be able to meet pharmacy staff members.

The center is located at 111 W. Coral Way on the Hollywood Reservation. HHS officials said the Sheridan Street and



Courtesy photo

The Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center in Hollywood.

Big Cypress pharmacies would remain operational.

For additional pharmacy information, call (954) 965-1312.

## First Native American selected as board chair-elect for nation's largest primary care association

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** — The California Primary Care Association (CPCA) announced in October that Sacramento Native American Health Center (SNAHC) Chief Executive Office Britta Guerrero (San Carlos Apache) will serve as the 2020-21 board of directors chair-elect. She is the first Native American elected to serve in this role with the largest primary care association in the nation.



Courtesy photo

Britta Guerrero (San Carlos Apache)

"I am humbled to have the support of my colleagues and the Native community who have put their trust in my ability to serve and represent them," Guerrero said in a statement. "While I may be the first Native Woman to hold this position, I am profoundly aware of the efforts of the many Native leaders before me, who have afforded me the opportunity."

CPCA represents more than 1,370 not-for-profit community health centers and regional clinic associations.

## CLIMATE

From page 5A

Objectives of the compact include working together to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change, develop a coordinated regional plan to prepare for a rapidly changing environment and create a legislative strategy which recognizes the vulnerabilities in Southwest Florida.

The compact's guiding principles — which are the guardrails of how to do the work, not what work is done — were discussed at length. A high emphasis was placed on reaching consensus among the members as they proceed with the work of the compact.

"The strength of the compact lies in what you can all collectively get behind," said FCRC's Rafael Montalvo. "Consensus

means something you can all support; not everyone has to love it. That's our suggestion what you should aim for in your decision making."

The group hopes those principles and objectives will evolve as it starts focusing on projects and addressing the needs of all residents in the region.

Comments about using other compacts' experience were made by some members,

who suggested the group reach out to other regional compacts in the state. One member said, "We want to hear about all the stuff they tried that didn't work. We need to look at other models." Another added, "You learn more from mistakes than from success."

Members appeared to have reached consensus on the need to communicate with other compacts. Another meeting will be scheduled by the end of the year.

## Proper ways to dispose of household hazardous waste materials

SUBMITTED BY ERMD

Many products used in our daily lives and discarded with our trash are similar to regulated hazardous waste produced by business and industry. Products that are corrosive, such as acids and alkalis, can be flammable, reactive or toxic. Many of these products are often found in homes, garages, workshops and gardens. Upon completing a task, residents often dispose of the containers in their regular trash bin. However that type of disposal may have environmental or safety implications. While these products are useful around the home they can create future environmental issues if not properly disposed. These items may be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers free of charge to residents. Types of materials which can be accepted include:

- paint
- batteries
- gasoline
- antifreeze
- pesticides and herbicides
- automotive cleaners
- brake fluid
- solvents
- fluorescent light bulbs
- garden pesticides
- household chemicals
- muriatic acid
- paint remover
- paint thinner
- pool chemicals
- re-chargeable batteries
- unknown chemicals
- water sealers
- wood preservatives

Tribal members who live on any reservation can call:

**Seminole Tribe:** (All Reservations)  
Public Works Solid Waste Department  
(866) 625-5376

Tribal members who live off reservation may find it more convenient to contact a county run collection center for disposal:

**Highlands County:**  
Highlands County Recycling Center  
6000 Skipper Road  
Sebring, FL  
(863) 402-7786

**Henry County:**  
Henry County Recycling  
1360 Forestry Division Road  
LaBelle, FL  
(863) 675-5252

**St. Lucie County:**  
Solid Waste Baling & Recycling

**Facility**  
6120 Glades Cut-Off Road  
Fort Pierce, FL 34981  
(772) 462-1768

**Polk County:**  
7425 De Castro Rd.  
Winter Haven, FL 33880  
(863) 284-4319 ext. 242

**Hillsborough County:**  
Sheldon Rd Household Hazardous Waste Center  
9805 Sheldon Road  
Tampa, FL 33635  
(813) 272-5680

**Broward County:**  
Various locations across the county.  
Call (954) 765-4999

## Ceremony, dedication honor Arizona's first Native physician

STAFF REPORT

**TUCSON, Ariz.** — A dedication ceremony to rename the University of Arizona Native American Research and Training Center to the Wassaja Carlos Montezuma Center for Native American Health was held Oct. 22 in Tucson.

Montezuma was Arizona's first Native American physician. The renaming of the Native American Research and Training Center in his memory honors Montezuma's

achievements, advocacy and enduring impact on American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Montezuma was born into the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation in Four Peaks, Arizona, in 1866. His name, Wassaja, means "to signal" or "to beckon," and Montezuma did just that as one of the first Native American advocates for tribal self-determination and land protection in the United States. He died from tuberculosis on Jan. 31, 1923.

Established in 1983, the Native

American Research and Training Center supports health-related research and training for Native American students pursuing health care professions and serves as a resource for communities nationwide. The center is housed in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the UArizona College of Medicine - Tucson.

For more information go to [nartc.fcm.arizona.edu](http://nartc.fcm.arizona.edu).

National Archives

Dr. Wassaja Carlos Montezuma



## Center to mark Native American Heritage Month

The Center for American Indian Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health will celebrate Native American Heritage Month in November with a series of events. Virtual lectures include an Indigenae podcast screening and discussion Nov. 8 at 12 p.m., a beading workshop Nov. 12 at 5 p.m., and a keynote address "Indigenous Lessons for the World: Traditional Perspectives on the COVID-19 Pandemic & Climate Change with Oren Lyons and Thomas Banyacya Jr. Nov. 17 at 12 p.m. For more information go to [caih.jhu.edu](http://caih.jhu.edu) or contact Olivia Trujillo at [otruijil2@jhu.edu](mailto:otruijil2@jhu.edu).

Life's an adventure, but your health shouldn't be.

Check out open enrollment options on November 1, 2021 through January 15, 2022.

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



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# SEMINOLE SCENES



Damon Scott

**GAMING EXPO:** From left, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Hard Rock International Chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen and Brighton Councilman Larry Howard attend the Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas in early October. Jim Shore, the Tribal Council's general counsel, was inducted into the American Gaming Association's hall of fame during the event.



Courtesy photo

**DREAM TEAM:** Hollywood Reservation brothers Spencer Battiest, left, and Doc Battiest are up for an American Indian Film Festival Award. Their "Dream" song, the first they've done together in a decade, was released in March. It is one of five nominees for AIFF's Best Music Video. The video was directed by Adam Conte. The virtual festival runs Nov. 5-13. For more information and to see the awards ceremony and festival, go to [aiff.com](http://aiff.com).



Lauren Gonzalez Mathis/Facebook

**HOMECOMING ROYALTY:** Moore Haven High School senior football player Jaytron Baker, from the Brighton Reservation, had a busy night Oct. 6. In addition to playing against Immokalee, Baker was also named homecoming king during the school's ceremony. Gloria Rico won homecoming queen honors.



Beverly Bidney

**FLORIDA FALL FOLIAGE:** A sure sign of fall in Florida is the annual blooming of the *Helianthus agrestis*, or southeastern sunflower, such as this one in Big Cypress. The bright yellow wildflower plant prefers direct sunshine, so it is commonly found in or near fields, pastures or on the sides of roads throughout the state.



File photo

**FESTIVE FESTIVAL:** The dates for the 74th annual Chalo Nitka Festival & Rodeo are set. The community event will be held March 4 and March 5, 2022, at Chalo Nitka Park in Moore Haven; kids day is March 4. The celebration dates back to 1948. Seminole culture has been a big part of the event. Seminoles, including Mingo Jones in 2017 (above), have participated in the parade. Chalo Nitka means "big bass" in Creek. For vendor information email [chalonitkasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:chalonitkasecretary@gmail.com).



Damon Scott

**HOLLYWOOD HALLOWEEN:** In preparation for Halloween, some homes on the Hollywood Reservation were decorated with scary and/or fun displays. The reservation held a home decorating contest and pumpkin contest.



Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

**FIREFIGHTER FOOD:** In tribute to Firefighter Appreciation Month in September, Seminole Casino Coconut Creek delivered lunch to the Coconut Creek Fire Rescue Department.



Damon Scott

**WHISPERING GIANT:** Almost 40 years after it was first dedicated in 1983 at the DC Alexander Park in Fort Lauderdale, this 30-foot sculpture carved from cypress faces east toward Fort Lauderdale Beach on A1A. The sculpture was the 44th of more than 50 created by artist Peter Wolf Toth. It is part of Toth's "Trail of Whispering Giants," designed to honor Native American tribes across the U.S., including the Seminole and Miccosukee tribes in Florida.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## First Lady Jill Biden visits Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, discusses mental health program

**MT. Pleasant, Mich.** — First Lady Jill Biden visited the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe in Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 24 in the first of two planned stops in Michigan, during which she held a discussion on youth mental health.

Biden arrived at the Ziibiwing Center and was greeted with a ceremonial dancing, singing and drum performance by members of the tribe.

Biden's discussion centered on Project AWARE, or Advancing Health and Resilience in Education, a five-year grant program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that looks to train educators on how to best identify and respond to mental health issues and help connect children and families to the services they need for mental health support.

The tribe received a \$9 million grant through Project AWARE in 2019 and serves Saginaw Chippewa Academy, Mount Pleasant Public Schools and Shepherd Public Schools through its program. The American Rescue Plan Act included \$30 million for Project AWARE and President Joe Biden's 2022 proposed budget includes a further \$60 million increase, potentially bringing the program's total funding to \$191.5 million, according to information provided by the White House.

Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Chief Tim Davis, educators, community members and local Project AWARE administrators joined Biden for the discussion. Tribal Education Director Melissa Isaac said she once discovered as a school administrator that 83% of her students had at least one form of trauma they could identify. In her first year as a teacher, she had two 2nd graders who had lost a parent, one to cancer and one to suicide. She was a "driving force" in bringing the program to the community, Murthy said.

"We pulled the grants team together... got the door shut in our face a lot by different (agencies) only to realize something better was waiting, and that was Project AWARE," Isaac said.

The participants said the program has had a considerable impact at its three districts by implementing a social and emotional curriculum, providing counselors to give students a support system and teaching kids strategies to better manage their mental health. Mgzzi Wemigwans, a senior at Mount Pleasant High School and co-chair of the SCIT Youth Council, said he can feel the joyful impact the program's therapy dogs have on everyone around when they walk by.

"My hope is that no child feels like they have to go through a battle alone," said Kelly Bechtel, a teacher at Mount Pleasant Middle School. "We're here to help them fight the battle and get them through it."

Davis said Project AWARE is also helping to maintain and preserve the tribe's language and culture, citing the damage done by a local government boarding school that tried to separate Native American children from their culture.

"We are a strong, resilient culture and community, but we also carry significant trauma in our past that has lasting impacts," Davis said. "Project AWARE is significant because in many ways it's reversing some of the qualities that were so harmful to our community in the past."

- mlive.com (Michigan)

## Regional Chief to represent Manitoba First Nations in meeting with Pope Francis

A prominent Indigenous voice in Manitoba who survived Canada's residential school system has been chosen to represent the province when a First Nations delegation travels to Rome to meet with the Pope later this year.

On Oct. 20, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse announced that Phil Fontaine will act as the Manitoba representative to the delegation that is headed to the Vatican for four days of meetings scheduled with Pope Francis starting on Dec 17.

"Mr. Fontaine will participate in discussions regarding reconciliation with First Nations for the role of the Catholic Church in the administration of the former Indian Residential Schools, and the need for an official apology from the Pope on behalf of the Catholic Church," Woodhouse said in a Wednesday statement.

Fontaine is a former AMC Grand Chief and three-time AFN National Chief, and he led negotiations that resulted in the 2006 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA).

According to AMC, Fontaine began speaking more than 30 years ago about his own traumatic experiences at the Fort Alexander Residential School, which ran for decades on the Sagkeeng First Nation, about 120 kilometers north of Winnipeg.

"Those revelations, along with the voices of other survivors, led to increased awareness of the legacy of Canada's residential school system," AMC said.

The December meeting in Rome was organized after the recent discovery of unmarked graves on the grounds of former residential schools in British Columbia and Saskatchewan in May and June of this year, and AMC said the discoveries have sparked renewed attention to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report and 94 Calls to Action.

"Many of the Calls to Action remain unaddressed, including the need for an apology from the Pope to Survivors, their

families, and communities for the Roman Catholic Church's role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools," AMC said.

Over the course of Canada's residential school system's more than 100-year existence, approximately 150,000 Indigenous children were taken from their homes and their families and forcibly placed into residential schools across the country.

- Winnipeg (Manitoba) Sun

## Navajo president backs bill to protect Native American voting rights

**WASHINGTON** — Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez told a Senate panel Wednesday that special protections are needed to reverse the "very disrespectful" treatment of Native Americans who face extraordinary challenges in the voting process.

Nez joined others urging a Senate Judiciary subcommittee to support the Native American Voting Rights Act, which would set minimum federal requirements for voting on tribal lands, including early voting, mail-in balloting, ballot collecting and ID standards.

"It's not about Democrat or Republican," Nez said. "It's about doing the right thing."

This includes addressing the many voting barriers that are unique to Native Americans, such as the lack of voting locations on reservations, which makes it difficult for them to vote, Nez said.

"Traveling to polling places can be particularly burdensome," he said.

But critics at the hearing said the bill goes too far and would open tribal voting to abuse and fraud.

"I agree that we should vigorously protect every American's right to vote," said Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas. "But unfortunately this bill ... would expand voter fraud rather than combat it."

Cruz accused Democrats of using voting rights as a cover for election reforms aimed at "seizing power and ensuring Democrats stay in power for the next 100 years."

The hearing came less than an hour after Senate Republicans blocked debate Wednesday on the Freedom to Vote Act, a voting rights bill aimed at all Americans that would expand voter registration, increase early and mail-in voting and make Election Day a national holiday, among other measures.

That bill was a slimmed-down version of the House-passed For the People Act, which Senate Democrats had amended in hopes of getting some Republican support. But all 50 Senate Republicans voted against it Wednesday, denying Democrats the 60 votes needed to end a filibuster and proceed on the bill.

The Native American Voting Rights Act was introduced in August by Sen. Ben Ray Lujan, D-N.M., and has 17 co-sponsors, all Democrats. One of those co-sponsors, Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., said the bill is needed to "ensure that Tribal communities are not denied equal participation in our democratic process."

The bill would allow tribes to specify locations of voter registration sites, ballot drop boxes and polling locations on reservations and requires states to accept tribally issued ID cards as valid voting identification. It would also make it harder for states to cancel polling places, set minimum standards for early voting and require that states allow voters to give their ballot to someone else to deliver — even in states, like Arizona, that otherwise prohibit such so-called "ballot harvesting."

Sara Frankenstein said the bill is too broad and "takes control over elections out of the hands of the election administrator, for which he is trained and elected. This raises several legal and practical concerns."

Frankenstein, a South Dakota attorney who represents election officials and handles election law cases, pointed to the bill's requirement that Native American voters can have their absentee ballots sent to a public building, since many homes on reservations do not have street addresses. Having hundreds of ballots arrive at a public building — and with no person in charge — can lead to fraud because there is no way to know the ballot was received by the correct owner, she said at the hearing.

"This is a solution in search of a problem," Frankenstein said.

That was echoed by Wyoming Secretary of State Edward Buchanan, who said that the measures would not increase security or confidence in the vote but would only lead to doubt in the election process.

"You cannot have an election that people don't believe in," Buchanan said. "Because if they don't believe that the result has integrity, you will drive down election participation."

He pointed to the ballot harvesting requirement, which said states "may not allow any limit on how many voted and sealed absentee ballots any designated person can return." That would lead to fraud because there would be no way to know that absentee ballots were delivered to a registered voter.

"There is no way it can't happen, and the hard part is that you won't even know that it is happening," Buchanan said.

But supporters said ballot collections, drop boxes and absentee ballots address very real problems on tribal lands.

In the 2018 election, Navajo voters in Arizona had to travel up to 236 miles round trip to participate in early voting, Nez said. Tribal members may not own a vehicle that will let them make that trip on their own, and many may not have mailing addresses

needed to get a mail-in ballot.

Jacqueline De León, staff attorney for the Native American Rights Fund, said the difficulty Indigenous voters face "also communicates to Native Americans that their vote is unwelcomed."

"What is being communicated ... is that your vote doesn't matter and that you're not part of the American system," she said.

De León said the lack of home addresses on tribal lands and requirement of an ID in some states are examples of "ongoing discrimination and governmental neglect."

"Many Native Americans live in overcrowded homes that do not have addresses, do not receive mail, and are located on dirt roads that can be impassable in the wintery November," De León said.

De León and Nez rejected the fears of fraud raised by critics, saying protections are still built into the law and election fraud would still be illegal. They pointed instead to the rights that are being denied under the current law, which is why the new law is needed.

"We need to make sure the rights of Indigenous peoples are protected," Nez said. "There should be a responsibility to fight for Indigenous peoples' rights."

- Cronkite News/Arizona PBS (Phoenix, Arizona)

## Moccasin maker Minnetonka has apologized for appropriating Native American culture

The Minneapolis-based footwear company Minnetonka is not actually run by Native Americans, its CEO acknowledged Oct. 11.

David Miller issued the statement on Indigenous People's Day apologizing for profiting off Native culture and pledging to do more to support Indigenous communities going forward. He noted that Minnetonka first publicly apologized for this appropriation in the summer of 2020, calling that step "long overdue."

"We recognize that our original products, some of which are still sold today, have been appropriated from Native American culture," Miller wrote. "We deeply and meaningfully apologize for having benefited from selling Native-inspired designs without directly honoring Native culture or communities."

Miller said he was issuing the statement in order to "directly address two questions that have often been asked of us (rightfully so): Is Minnetonka Native-owned? Does Minnetonka support Native American peoples or causes?"

Minnetonka started in 1946 as "one of many companies who sold handcrafted moccasins and Native-inspired accessories to roadside gift shops," Miller explained, and is now in its fourth generation of family ownership. It originally made its products in Minnesota, but has since shifted manufacturing operations to factories in China and the Dominican Republic.

While the company has since evolved to sell other kinds of shoes and accessories, it acknowledged that "moccasins remain a core part of our brand." And it's not just the product that has been appropriated, Miller said: The word "moccasin" itself is an anglicization of the Ojibwe word "makizinan."

The company actually redesigned its logo in 2008 to take out the word moccasin, which had previously appeared beneath its name in a slightly smaller font. Another redesign last year removed Native-American inspired symbols above and below the letter "T."

"For many years, we have privately supported Native causes in our home state of Minnesota — but simply giving back is not enough," Miller wrote. "We are taking a more active and public stance in supporting Native communities." He said the company developed an action plan last fall, and is working with members of the Native community to deliver and expand on it. It's brought on one of its advisors, Adrienne Benjamin, as a "reconciliation advisor."

Benjamin, who is Anishinaabe and a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, is an artist and community activist.

- NPR

## Two Mniconjou Lakota Sioux Chief artifacts returned to tribe

On Oct. 4, the Mniconjou Lakota Tribe received donations of a pistol and knife that belonged to Chief Spotted Elk (1826-1890), who was killed in the 1890 Massacre at Wounded Knee in South Dakota. Maine auction company Thomaston Place Auction Galleries managed the transfer of the artifacts on behalf of an anonymous client who wanted them returned to the tribe.

"We greatly appreciate the donation of these important pieces to our collection at the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation," Steve Vance, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, said in a statement. "Cherry Creek, SD, Chief Hump's camp and the oldest still inhabited Mniconjou community in the Dakota's, was the place Spotted Elk stopped before the final journey towards Wounded Knee."

Chief Spotted Elk's Smith & Wesson Schofield Second Model 45-caliber single action pistol was one of his possessions later found in Geronimo-Mangas Caves in Canada. It is accompanied by documentation from Deborah Spotted Tail Elk, the Chief's great-great-granddaughter, confirming that this pistol was his.

His personal knife with 19th century blade, stag elk handle, and brass fittings was assembled by Spotted Elk himself as part of the Ghost Dance tradition. This piece was removed from the Chief's frozen body by a soldier after the Wounded Knee massacre.

Spotted Elk became hereditary chief of the Mniconjou Sioux in 1874. He participated in the Indian Wars of 1875-1876, most notably the Battle of Little Big Horn, and he took part in the exodus to Canada in 1876. On return to the United States, the Tribe was assigned to the Wounded Knee Creek Reservation. With the rise of the "Ghost Dance" (a spiritual movement that prophesied the reunion of Indian tribes and removal of the white man), of which he was a proponent, and the death of Geronimo in 1890, the leader known by U.S. soldiers as "Big Foot" was deemed to be the last major threat from the Sioux, which the Army solved by massacring them all in their winter camp.

- From press release

## Historic first as Monacan Tribe breaks ground for healthcare facility in Virginia

**AMHERST COUNTY, Va.** — Oct. 20 was a historic day in Amherst County as ground was broken on the very first Native American owned and operated full service tribal clinic in the state of Virginia.

There are about 1,600 Monacans in Southwestern Virginia and they are the largest Native American tribe in the state. Soon, they will have a free, full-service healthcare facility solely for their people.

"A lot of these people have never seen a doctor or a dentist," explains tribe administrator Adrian Compton. "So this is the opportunity for these people to have full healthcare."

The facility will be 13,000 square feet and cost \$10 million that the tribe has self-funded. It's being built on part of the six acres of land that they recently purchased at 111 Highview Drive in Madison Heights.

"It is set up for native people," adds Chief Kenneth Branham. "A lot of the elders, I know in my tribe, do not like to go out to other doctors that they don't know. Hopefully in a year or so, they'll get to know who is waiting on them and it'll be like a friendship and they'll be more comfortable going here than to Lynchburg or somewhere else."

The Monacan Native American tribe plans to employ 20-30 people in high paying positions at the center. They say that the construction of the medical facility is a sign of progress.

"When I was growing up, I had to fight to go to school in Amherst County," remembers the Chief. "So to stand here today and break ground for a clinic for the Monacan people and Indian people, it's a dream."

Chief Branham says that he hopes to eventually expand and open the facility to anyone in the community.

- WDBJ-TV (Roanoke, Virginia)

## New owners of Caesars Southern Indiana working toward generational wealth as tribal population grows

**ELIZABETH, Indiana** — EBCI Holdings leadership was on hand for a ribbon-cutting to celebrate their ownership of Caesars Southern Indiana.

This is EBCI Holdings' first move into commercial gaming, and also their first property in Indiana. EBCI Holdings operates two tribal casinos in North Carolina, both managed by Caesars.

Principal Chief Richard Sneed said diversifying EBCI Holdings assets was key as their tribal population continues to grow and the interest in commercial gaming spikes.

"We needed to position ourselves so when those emerging markets occurred we would be able to participate," he said.

Sneed said as a tribal community, their focus is providing for the next generation.

"All of the revenue from this property will go into endowments to fund health care, housing, and higher education for generations to come," he said.

Of note, EBCI Holdings will continue to use Caesars branding as well as participate in the popular Caesars loyalty program, Caesars Rewards. Additionally, Caesars Southern Indiana has retained nearly 900 team members in their current positions and is looking to hire additional staff to join its expanding team.

The celebration of new ownership comes two weeks after Churchill Downs Inc. announced they are placing a Derby City gaming location in downtown Louisville come 2023.

The location will be home to a casino-style historical horse betting facility. Of note, Derby City Gaming is not a full-fledged casino, but some viewed the expansion as a way for CDI to compete with Caesars Southern Indiana. CEO of EBCI Holdings, Scott Barber says the expansion was not a concern.

"I think there is a very differentiated gaming product. I think there is room for them to grow and us to grow. I think there is a lot of room for this market to grow in overall gaming," Barber said.

- WHAS-TV (Louisville, Ky.)

## Yurok Tribe receives approval to rename state park

On Sept. 30, the California State Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously approved the Yurok Tribe's request to change the name of Patrick's Point State Park to Sue-meg State Park, an acknowledgment of the designation the Yurok people have always used to describe the place.

The Yurok Tribe is California's largest tribe.

"This genuinely historic decision represents a turning point in the relationship between tribes and the state. We asked the Commission to alter the name of the park because we have an obligation to ensure the next generation inherits a more just world," said Joseph L. James, the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "On behalf of the Yurok Tribe, I would like to thank the Commission for accepting our request to restore the name of this important part of our ancestral territory. We are equally grateful for the support we received from California State Parks and North Coast Redwoods District Superintendent Victor Bjelajac. I'm so glad that Sue-meg will now be referred to by its correct name."

"The Yurok people have always referred to this place as Sue-meg and now it will forever be called its correct name. We continue to practice our cultural traditions at Sue-meg just as our ancestors did for millennia," added Rosie Clayburn, the Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer. "For me, the decision represents an acknowledgment of an injustice that we have endured for 170 years following the colonization of our ancestral homeland. Renaming the park is an important step toward healing the wounds the state inflicted on our people."

Based on the government to government relationship between tribal nations and the state, the Yurok Tribe requested and received an extended period of time for Chairman James to inform the Commission about why the park should be renamed. At the Sept. 30 meeting, Chairman James described in detail the tribe's longstanding link Sue-meg Village, which occupies a prominent bluff on the far Northern California coast. Located in the general vicinity of the park, the village of Sue-meg is a culturally invaluable place for the Yurok Tribe. Every year prior to the pandemic, Yurok families held Brush Dances at a site within the current park boundaries. Hundreds of tribal citizens typically attend the healing ceremony.

The park's former namesake, Patrick Beegan, committed acts of violence against Yurok people around the time of the gold rush. Beegan murdered a young Yurok boy near Chue-rey (Turai - Trinidad) area and is believed to have killed additional tribal citizens. During this tumultuous part of the tribe's history, Yurok men, women and children faced unspeakable, state-sanctioned violence over the course of decades.

The renaming of the park aligns with a growing movement to remove public monuments bearing the appellations and likenesses of individuals who perpetrated atrocities against people of color. Since May of 2020, more than 100 symbols have been eliminated from numerous cities across the U.S. Earlier this month, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill proposed by Assembly member James C. Ramos and endorsed by the Yurok Tribe to replace the statue of father Junipero Serra at the Capitol with an art installation that honors the many tribal nations in the state.

Newsom's 2019 Executive Order N-15-19 also played a positive role in the state park name revision. The historic order included an apology for the state's role in the attempted genocide of Native Americans and a pledge to work more with tribes on addressing the wrongs of the past. The governor also formed a Truth and Healing Council and appointed tribal leaders to serve on the advisory board. Yurok Vice Chairman Frankie Myers was selected to be a member of the council which seeks to create an accurate account of California's involvement in the massacre of Indigenous people. The comprehensive record will serve as a sturdy foundation from which to mend the relationship between tribes and the state.

"The partnership between the Yurok Tribe and North Coast Redwoods District Superintendent Victor Bjelajac is a shining example of how state governments can work with tribal nations to create a more inclusive and prosperous future for generations to come," said Chairman James.

- From press release

## Wes Studi's mother passes away at 92

Maggie Studie (Cherokee), mother of Native American Academy Award winning actor Wes Studi (stage name), passed away on Sunday, October 17. A fluent speaker of the Cherokee language, she taught her tribal language for decades to others. She was 92.

Born in Norfire Hollow, Okla., her preferred language was Tsalagi or Cherokee. Her parents spoke Cherokee at home and as a young girl, she became bilingual by teaching herself to speak English by listening to others and observing the actions of English-speakers and making the connection between the two.

She was a strong advocate for the Cherokee Nation to preserve the Cherokee language for future generations.

Maggie married Andy Studie. The couple had four sons, Wesley, Andy Lee, Bobby Lee, and Calvin. As a couple, they made a life for their family working on ranches and farms on the far western reaches of Cherokee Nation and came to rest in Collinsville, Okla. While there they developed their favorite project of teaching the sons music while they were still in school. The boys formed a rock-n-roll band. Andy Senior became their manager and Maggie became a rock-n-roll mom as they traveled from one band engagement to the next throughout eastern Oklahoma.

- NativeNewsOnline.net

# SOUTH FLORIDA'S ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION



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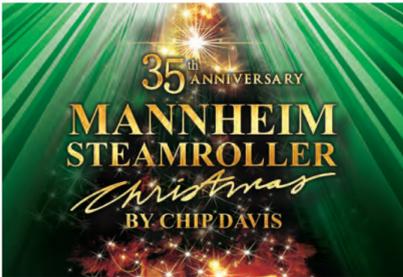
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**NOV 20**  
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**NOV 24**  
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CHRISTMAS



**NOV 26**  
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**DEC 3**  
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HOLLYWOOD, FL

# Education



## Ahfachkee welcomes new guidance counselor Harold 'Chip' Osborn

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Harold "Chip" Osborn, Ahfachkee School's new guidance counselor, brings a wealth of experience with him to the job.

A native of Hollywood, Osborn has worked in Broward County schools as a principal, assistant principal, guidance director, guidance counselor and classroom teacher for 34 years. This is his first time working with a homogenous Native American student population.

"I like the culture of the school," Osborn said. "The whole idea of culture classes and teaching them the language is great. My goal is to learn a few phrases of Elaponce."

Osborn's objective is to bring a comprehensive guidance program to the school based on the American School Counselor Association standards, which include the idea of a positive self-concept, social and emotional learning and college readiness or a post high school plan. He recently administered the SAT and PSAT college entrance exams to 11th and 10th grade students.



Harold "Chip" Osborn

"There is another benefit to taking the exam; when students get information from colleges it can be an aha moment," Osborn said. "We want to get students excited about post-secondary plans whether college,

vocational, technical or military."

The virtual classroom — which continues along with in-person classes — is among the pandemic-related challenges Osborn and teachers face this year.

"I'm happy we are a hybrid this year," he said. "But ask any teacher, they are going to want to have a student in front of them instead of virtually on a screen. Counseling a student virtually is harder, but we are a small school. There is a lot of room for individual attention."

Since school began, Osborn has been meeting with high school students to make sure they are on track for graduation. He has worked his way down through all the grade levels, including elementary.

"My role is to provide the resources, tools and assistance students may need to be successful in school," Osborn said. "I am committed to maintaining the individual uniqueness of each student, to use interventions to maximize the educational experience and enhance the development potential of each student."

Osborn earned a bachelor's degree from Asbury University in Kentucky and a master's in counselor education from Florida Atlantic University.



Courtesy photo

The Cherokee Language Immersion Academy in Cherokee, North Carolina.

## FIU Indigenous Peoples' Day program highlights Cherokee language

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Florida International University's Global Indigenous Forum commemorated Indigenous Peoples' Day on Oct. 11 with a program which included a screening of "First Language: The Race to Save Cherokee," an award-winning documentary about the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian's effort to save its language.

Rev. Houston Cypress (Miccosukee) hosted the event on Zoom. After the screening of the 56-minute film, two language experts and the producer of the documentary spoke about the film and larger issues about Indigenous languages.

The 2014 documentary follows members of the North Carolina-based tribe as they navigate the challenges of passing the language on to the next generation through its immersion school.

The film won the award for best public service film at the 2014 American Indian Film Festival, grand jury prize as best documentary featurette at the 2015 Red Rock Film Festival, and best cultural documentary at the 2016 Midsouth Emmy awards.

The film describes the difficulty students have learning Cherokee as their second language since it has a unique syllabary unlike English and other European languages. A syllabary is a set of written characters representing syllables and serves the same purpose as an alphabet. Cherokee syllabary was created by Sequoyah in the late 1810s and early 1820s, making Cherokee a written language for the first time.

However, children in the Atse Kituwah Cherokee Language Immersion Academy are meeting with success. They begin as infants and attend until they reach middle school. The tribe is grooming them to be the ones to ultimately pass the language on to their children. For 60 years, the sound of children speaking Cherokee hasn't been heard.

"When they learn the language, they are learning everything about the Cherokee people," said Renissa McLaughlin, program director. "Without language, we lose the heart and soul of who we are as Cherokee people. If we shut our doors, the language will just be a list of vocabulary words from a dictionary. We're running out of time because we are losing too many speakers."

After the film, Cypress introduced the panel: Benjamin Frey, professor of American Studies at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; María-Luisa Veisaga, director of the Andean Studies Program at FIU; and Walt Wolfram, renowned linguist and producer of the film.

Cypress posed some issues for discussion, starting with how language and land are interconnected.

"The language isn't just the words, it's the sound that is appropriate for that place,"

Frey said. "Like birds who belong to a place."

"Usually language goes with the territory, but now in 2021 with all the migration going on I have a different view of that," Veisaga said. "The only way to preserve it is to talk, talk, talk. You can survive with different languages, but the language of your territory is home."

Cypress asked Wolfram what some of the challenges were as a linguist making the documentary.

"I've spent 50 years working in a variety of communities," Wolfram said. "One reason we make documentaries is to make them accessible. If you know something is valuable to the community that served as the research for your work, you have an obligation to serve the community. It's about working with the community, for the community on behalf of the community."

About 40% of the film is in Cherokee. The Cherokee are now using the film to teach the language.

"When you speak and think in the language, you switch the way you see the world," Frey said. "Sometimes things don't belong in the other language. In Cherokee, 'I love you' really means 'I'm stingy with your existence.' It's protective."

"Languages are so elastic and are a dynamic thing," Veisaga said. "It's a good time to revitalize it by creating a language that goes along with us. It's up to the community, but that's what usually happens to languages."

Veisaga noted that she speaks Spanglish in addition to Spanish, English and her Native language. Frey cited an example of blending the language of technology into Cherokee, translating the word for computer into "electric brain," which the elders didn't like. Instead, they use the word meaning "it contains things."

"Kids were talking about iPads, but they knew they weren't supposed to say iPad, an English word," Frey said. "So they translated it into Cherokee."

Since the film was made seven years ago, many fluent Cherokee speakers have died leaving only 180 alive; most of those are over 65 and some have health issues. The emphasis on immersion has declined at the school. Now that it is accredited, it is subject to state regulations and exams which are administered in English. Frey believes students are only getting a couple of hours per day in Cherokee.

The discussion also mentioned language apps, such as Rosetta Stone or Duo Lingo, and university language instruction of Cherokee for non-Native students.

"I consider it really valuable," Frey said. "As far as I'm concerned, there needs to be someone who still speaks it. I wish that more of our own people would learn it, but if I come across someone who has an earnest desire to learn, I will teach them."

## Ahfachkee students embrace character education program

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Ahfachkee School students are learning that character counts in school, at home and throughout life.

The school's character education program is implemented across the curriculum at all grade levels one character trait at a time. Teachers incorporate one of eight traits in daily activities and lessons. After a month of learning and implementing a character trait, teachers award a certificate to one student based on their understanding and use of the trait throughout the month.

The eight traits are cooperation, responsibility, citizenship, kindness, respect, honesty, self-control and tolerance.

"I can tell you from my classroom presentations, discussions and student

interaction, most of the students have a very good concept about cooperation in their own lives," said guidance counselor Harold "Chip" Osborn.

In October, the trait was responsibility. A group of high school students met with Osborn to discuss what it means to be responsible.

"It means meeting obligations," said senior Tim Tigertail. "For example if we had a group project, each person is responsible to complete their assigned section."

Daleen Osceola, a senior, described it as being trustworthy, sophomore Jaylee Jimmie said it meant being accountable, and junior Maggie Jimmie defined it as having "a clear mindset of duty."

For senior Jordan Osceola, responsibility at home means "completing assigned chores, for example cleaning up my room."

An Ahfachkee Power Point presentation about the character education program stated it will help to develop a positive school atmosphere, reduce the number of discipline referrals, increase academic achievement, reduce absenteeism, embrace parental and community involvement and help students become leaders for the future.

Osborn sends parents a monthly newsletter announcing the trait of the month along with ideas for home activities. Families are encouraged to participate in the related activities at home to reinforce the lesson.

The program is designed to bring the trait to life in a way that is relevant to the students and integrates the traits into their daily lives.



Courtesy photos

Ahfachkee high school students are, from left, Maggie Jimmie (junior), Timothy Tigertail (senior), Jordan Osceola (senior), Jaylee Jimmie (sophomore) and kneeling in front is Daleen Osceola (senior).

## UNITY in-person conferences return in 2022

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**MESA, Ariz.** — United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) will hold its Midyear Leadership Conference from Feb. 24-27, 2022, at the Hilton Phoenix Resort at the Peak in Phoenix, Arizona. The National Conference will be July 8-12, 2022 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Early bird registration for each conference is \$250 through Nov. 30.

The conferences engage Native youth

from across the country through workshops, breakout sessions, music, and cultural sharing. Attendees will participate in speed workshops, hear from guest speakers, and meet and network with other Native youth from around the country.

"With both conferences returning to a fully in-person format this year, it will be wonderful to see our youth in Phoenix and Minneapolis, making connections and coming together for learning and community," Mary Kim Titla, executive

director of UNITY, said in a statement. "We are looking forward to sharing our experiences and traditions once again."

UNITY's goals include fostering the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth, and building a strong, unified and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement.

For more information go to [unityinc.org](http://unityinc.org).

## Scholarships offered for boarding school descendants

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**DENVER, Colo.** — The American Indian College Fund and the National Native American Boarding School (NABS) Healing Coalition have joined forces to provide scholarships to descendants of boarding school survivors. Twenty scholarships of \$3,000 each were awarded for the academic

year 2021-22.

The scholarship is designed to acknowledge the experiences of boarding school survivors and to allow families to come together and heal. In the application process, students share a 500-word essay about their relationship with a boarding school survivor in their family.

"We know that the impacts of Indian boarding schools are intergenerational

and have played a profound role in the educational disparities Native American students experience today," said Christine Diindiisi McCleave, CEO of the NABS.

For qualifications and applications, go to [collegefund.org/students/scholarships/](http://collegefund.org/students/scholarships/).



Students study in an immersion classroom.

Courtesy photo



Cypress Billie performs for Rez Jamz, a new musical series at To-Pee-Ke-Ke Yak-Ne Community Center in Big Cypress. Beverly Bidney

# Rez Jamz spotlights tribal talent

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Tribal singers, songwriters and musicians now have a place to share their talents with the tribe and the world at large.

Rez Jamz is a new musical series designed to showcase tribal musicians and is produced at the To-Pee-Ke-Ke Yak-Ne Community Center in Big Cypress.

"Rez Jamz is for artists who aren't super well known," said Quenton Cypress, Heritage and Environment Resources Office community engagement manager. "Some do it as a hobby and may have Instagram and Facebook pages where they sometimes post. It's modeled after MTV Unplugged and is mostly acoustic music."

To-Pee-Ke-Ke Yak-Ne means gathering place in Elaponce, so it's a natural location for folks to get together. Cypress said once the pandemic restrictions are lifted, the plan is to open To-Pee-Ke-Ke Yak-Ne as a venue where people can listen to live music. Food trucks and barbeque aren't out of the question either.

For the time being, the shows can be seen only virtually on the To-Pee-Ke-Ke Yak-Ne YouTube channel. Artists come to To-Pee-Ke-Ke Yak-Ne and perform their acoustic music for a Seminole Media Productions video and sound crew. Cypress wants to post about three performances a month.

"Right now we hope to raise awareness of Rez Jamz," Cypress said. "So far, it's spreading by word of mouth."

Singer songwriter Cypress Billie was

the featured performer during a taping in late September. Billie, who performs as Cornwallis, is a member of the Long Tail Panther Clan and the Big Cypress community. He is also an educator at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Billie has been writing songs since he was 13 years old. His father, former Chairman James Billie, was his inspiration. As a kid, he played ukelele, but as his hands got bigger his father gave him his guitar.

"He told me to stop covering other people's music and start writing my own," Billie said. "He said 'you are living your life and are living a story; it's up to you to depict it.' I listen to other artists, but it's better to sing my own songs."

Billie was inspired by bands with a variety of musical styles including the Beatles, Rolling Stones, the Clash, Jim Croce, Credence Clearwater Revival with John Fogarty, Grateful Dead, Allman Brothers and most importantly, he said, Black Sabbath.

"The riffs they include and the musical orchestration they had was profound," Billie said. "They were the pioneers of a new sound in a new age."

Guiseppe Tartini, a Venetian baroque composer from the 1700s who is best known for the Devil's Trill Sonata, also caught Billie's ear and piqued his interest.

"He writes with no words at all and shows how frequencies can be manipulated into another language," Billie said. "He evokes emotion without speaking a word."

Billie uses the art of storytelling as he tells the story of his life in his songs. It isn't always easy to write, but he perseveres.

"If it was easy, everyone would do it," Billie said. "Songs are a memory in time, like photos."

He performed a dozen songs during the taping, including two of his favorites, "Enchanted Oklee" and "Summer Wind."



A crew from Seminole Media Productions tapes Cypress Billie during a Rez Jamz performance. Beverly Bidney

# 'Machu Picchu And The Golden Empires Of Peru' opens at Boca Raton Museum

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**BOCA RATON** – The world premiere exhibition of "Machu Picchu and the Golden Empires of Peru" opened Oct. 16 at Boca Raton Museum of Art South Florida. It is the first stop on an international tour featuring 192 priceless Andean objects. After its limited run in Boca Raton, the exhibition will leave the U.S. to embark on an international tour.

Many of the artifacts are from royal tombs, including objects that belonged to noble Andean lords, some of which have never been before out of Peru. This collection of art of ancient America is on loan from Museo Larco in Lima, Peru, and Museo de Sitio Manuel Chávez Ballón in Aguas Calientes, Peru.

"We look forward to introducing South Florida and the world to the wonders of Machu Picchu and the power and beauty of the Inca civilization for what promises to be a memorable exhibition," Irvin Lippman, executive director of the museum, said in a statement.

The experience will also feature the first-ever virtual reality expedition of Machu

Picchu. Virtual reality motion chairs are fully equipped with premium multi-sensory stimulation features: high-resolution six degrees of freedom (6-DOF) VR headsets, haptic feedback on the backseats, scent dispensers and 360-degree rotation.

Andean societies dominated a substantial segment of South America for more than 3,000 years through the reign of the Inca Empire. Visitors will see the marvels of engineering that sheltered the civilization and the ornate riches they once cherished. Nestled in a cloud forest, this great Inca Empire's enduring symbol of architectural prowess is protected by twin sacred mountains and is invisible from below.

The exhibit will be at the museum until March 6, 2022. Tickets start at \$19.95. Purchase tickets at bocamuseum.org/golden. A portion of every ticket sold goes to the Inkaterra Asociación, a nonprofit organization that works to help the conservation of the Amazonian forests, and to the Ministry of Culture of Peru.

The museum is located in Mizner Park at 501 Plaza Real. For more information go to bocamuseum.org.



Courtesy photo

"Machu Picchu and the Golden Empires of Peru" is at the Boca Raton Museum of Art until March 6, 2022.

# Student Council selected at PECS



PECS

The 2021-22 Student Council at Pemaevy Emahakv Charter School is in place. The representatives are: Chairwoman Yani Smith, Jayleigh Braswell (8th grade), Ila Trueblood (7th), Kiera Snell (7th), Paizlee Miller (6th), Ciani Smith (5th), Hayden Nunez (4th), Makai Newkirk (3rd), Serenity Bishop (2nd), Kreed Snow (1st) and Mahala Bishop (kindergarten).

# Pumpkins help educate PECS immersion students

STAFF REPORT

**BRIGHTON** — Pemaevy Emahakv Charter School immersion students engaged in various pumpkin investigation activities

Oct. 26, all of them done in Este Cate (Creek) language.

The different activities were read-aloud with Jennie Shore. Activities included pumpkin measuring with corresponding math and pumpkin carving and painting.

Students did a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) activity in which they built a structure made of pumpkin candy and toothpicks to see if it was capable of supporting the weight of different sized pumpkins. Through this STEM challenge

students utilized physics, engineering and math skills to design and build the structure.

The last activity was cooking pumpkins over the open fire of the chickee. Students made pumpkin fry bread.

"What better way to end this wonderful

learning experience than to enjoy a piece of delicious pumpkin bread after all the hard work," wrote Jade Osceola on the PECS Facebook page.



Courtesy photo

Efeke-wvnehu Fludd considers the variety of colors as he prepares to paint his pumpkin.



Courtesy photo

Immersion teacher Jade Osceola cooks squash and pumpkin in the PECS cooking chickee.



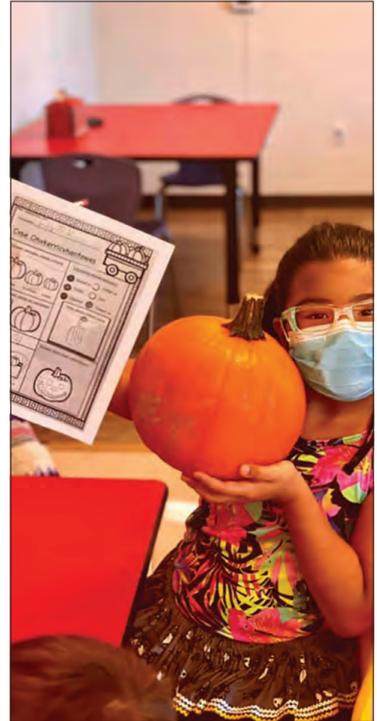
Courtesy photo

Hvse-hecv Osceola reaches deep as she carves a pumpkin during the immersion class's pumpkin activity day Oct. 26.



Courtesy photo

Vpuyet Lawrence mixes cooked pumpkin for pumpkin bread.



Courtesy photo

Vtvsv Lavatta holds a completed worksheet in Creek along with a pumpkin.

# 'Elgin Jumper's Colorful Journey' debuts at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — When Elgin Jumper was 6 or 7 years old, he picked up a pencil, started drawing and kept at it until it became a part of him.

Today, he is a renowned Seminole artist with a new documentary, which premiered Oct. 6 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

"It was quite an experience," Jumper said after the screening. "I wanted to have something out there. I hope this is the beginning of other Seminole artists getting their work out to a broader audience, to get inspiration and follow their dreams. I've done so many things I never dreamed of."

The 20-minute documentary was filmed and produced by Seminole Media Productions. Jumper worked closely with

videographer and editor Matt Fernandez. The team will film more footage in early 2022 and present the final version in the spring.

"He saw my vision and listened to my ideas," Jumper said. "We will be adding about 10 more minutes to it. We got a great response, that was encouraging to go further with it."

"Elgin Jumper's Colorful Journey" documents his voyage of healing through art.

In 2004, Jumper left a lot of drama and turmoil related to alcohol behind him. He knew he had to make a change in his life and reinvent himself. He already knew how to draw and believed he could take his talent further by painting.

"It was a blank canvas," said Jumper, 57. "It's turned into colorful, meaningful, purposeful painting. It's so rewarding what you get out of it."

Tribal members are an important part of the documentary and add their voices to the film.

"Elgin's art represents the Seminole's ability to work within the modern world and also have relevance with our past and in our own truths and knowledge," said Durante Blais-Billie, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki assistant director. "Seminole art is really important. It's claiming that voice for us in contemporary society. It's more than just an expression of our culture, it's a negotiation of our identity."

Jumper works in a variety of mediums including acrylic, chalk, oils and watercolors.

"He has taken masterpieces and included Seminole subjects in that," said James Patrick, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki head of exhibitions. "He has paintings that remind you of masterpieces by Picasso and Matisse. It's very interesting how he incorporates Seminole subjects into that. His paintings are very thought provoking."

Jumper's style is eclectic and ranges from almost realistic landscapes to stylized portraits. An unfinished painting in the documentary is a portrait of Billy Bowlegs with the background that pays homage to Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night."

"I think it is stunning," Blais-Billie said. "Elgin really brings so much life to it, it really resonates with Seminoles today."

"Elgin has a unique Seminole style," Patrick said.

Jumper grew up on the Hollywood Reservation with Councilman Chris Osceola, who had no idea his friend was so talented.

"I saw what he was doing on canvas and thought he had a really special gift there," Councilman Osceola said. "When I see Elgin's work, you see how things change and evolve. You see more modern in Elgin's work, you see a whole different style than what I was accustomed to seeing over the years from a lot of the Native artists on the reservations."

As an artist, Jumper also delves into music, performance, poetry and writing. In a performance at the Old Fort Lauderdale Village, Jumper played guitar with a bow



A documentary about artist Elgin Jumper debuted Oct. 6 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. Seminole Media Productions filmed and produced the documentary.



Gordon "Ollie" Wareham, on flute, accompanies Elgin Jumper as he reads a poem during a performance at the Old Fort Lauderdale Village.

meant for a violin, viola or cello. He read a poem about life during the Seminole Wars as Gordon "Ollie" Wareham played flute.

"Elgin will get an idea and give me a call, so we sit down and work on it," Wareham said. "Through rehearsals, ideas start to develop. The creative process with Elgin is mind-blowing; you think you are going in one direction and he'll come back and say let's do this and let's experiment with this. He's always pushing the boundaries."

In the documentary, Jumper talks about how he approaches a painting as he sketches and then paints one. He usually sketches on canvas with charcoal or pencil and when he sees the image he wants, he goes over it with paint.

"Every painting is different, every painting is its own journey," Jumper explained. "It evolves like that, it's always changing, it's always evolving."

Wareham said the documentary is an example of how the tribe is much more than the Hard Rock brand.

"We fight every single day for our uniqueness, our culture, what makes us us, whether it's our language or art," Wareham said. "Being part of this world and having this reputation in Florida, I have a saying:

'We aren't part of Florida, we are Florida.' We are here because this is where our creator has put us. This is our story and we are so proud to tell our stories."

Whether they're on canvas or with his words or music, Jumper's stories provide artful proof that his life is in a much better place.

"If I can do this with all my heart and just stay busy and focused on it, it would keep me away from all the negativity I lived with before," Jumper said.

## Seminole art takes center stage

STAFF REPORT

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — The public will get a chance to see the work of more than two dozen Seminole artists in November.

In recognition of Native American Heritage Month, History Fort Lauderdale will host "A Return to Self: The Art of Healing," which features works by the tribe's most prominent artists. The exhibit will open Nov. 21 and run through Jan. 9, 2022.

"This is especially relevant now as we navigate new ways to connect with and care for loved ones during the pandemic and learn from Native American artists who have been nurturing themselves and this land for hundreds of years," said Patricia Zeiler, executive director of History Fort Lauderdale. "We are grateful to the Seminole Tribe of Florida for its continued support of History Fort Lauderdale during Native American Heritage Month and beyond."

Opening day will feature a VIP tour and a meet-and-greet with artists.

Curated by Tara Chadwick and Tia Blais-Billie, "A Return to Self: The Art of Healing" will showcase a variety of contemporary and traditional media including oils, acrylics, fiber, glass, metals, mixed media and digital art from 25 Seminole artists spanning five generations. The artists are:

- Durante Blais-Billie
- Tia Blais-Billie
- Wilson Bowers

- Carla Cypress
- Nicholas DiCarlo
- Erica Dietz
- Ruby Dietz
- Donna Frank
- Stephanie Hall
- Eden Jumper
- Elgin 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 Oliver Wareham
- Brian Zepeda
- Corinne Zepeda

Complimentary admission is available for Art Basel First Choice or Preview cardholders. Guests can participate in the exhibit's premiere in-person or online through [bit.ly/HFLAReturnToSelf2021](https://bit.ly/HFLAReturnToSelf2021).

History Fort Lauderdale admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$7 for students (through age 22 with a valid student ID). Admission is free for members, military and children ages six and under. Tickets are available online at [bit.ly/HistoryFortLauderdaleTickets](https://bit.ly/HistoryFortLauderdaleTickets).



Works by Seminole artists Tia Blais-Billie, left, Jessica Osceola, center, and Brian Zepeda, right, are part of an exhibit that starts Nov. 21 at History Fort Lauderdale.

Courtesy photos (3)

## Okeechobee Music And Arts Festival returns March 2022

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**OKEECHOBEE** — After a one year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Okeechobee Music & Arts Festival (OMF) will return to Sunshine Grove in Okeechobee from March 3-6, 2022.

Headliners will include Tame Impala, Porter Robinson, Megan Thee Stallion, Rezz, Denzel Curry and more. More than 125 artists are expected to perform. The festival features multiple stages, art, food, wellness, yoga, workshops and camping.

Held at Sunshine Grove, an 800-acre venue north of SR-70 and east of US-441, the festival is celebrating its fifth year. Its early

March dates makes it one of the country's first major festivals of the annual music festival season. The venue includes various types campsites from tents only to luxury "glamping" accommodations to RV sites.

OMF will take place rain or shine. The Sunshine Grove site includes specific areas for food, recreation and wellness. ChobeeWobee Village offers a variety of food and alcohol. Free water refill stations are located throughout the venue. Battery charging stations, lockers, information booths, ATMs and a general store are all available onsite. Safety and medical personnel will be present throughout the event.

OMF's outreach in the

community has included several donations through the years. In 2020, it donated \$50,880 to local nonprofit organizations, gave more than 5,000 pounds of food to the Treasure Coast Food Bank and provided more than 3,000 pounds of reusable goods such as tents, cooler and camping equipment to Thank You for Your Service, a nonprofit in Okeechobee County.

Tickets can be purchased at Okeechobee Music & Arts Festival or at Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center box office, 4601 Hwy. 710 in Okeechobee.

For more information go to [okeechobeeffest.com/](https://okeechobeeffest.com/)



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# Sports



## Mary Huff named Most Valuable Player of softball World Tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Mary Huff encountered frustration when she returned to the softball field after recovering from a serious injury.

Huff, who is a pitcher for a Pittsburgh-based slowpitch team that plays in tournaments throughout the country, didn't exactly bounce right back from her torn anterior cruciate ligament injury, more widely known as an ACL.

"I had a really hard time at the beginning of the season trying to get my feet back under me with the injury and then I had a hard time mentally being present and being able to throw strikes. I walked a lot of people," Huff said.

At that time, she wasn't in a good place with her game, but that all changed in late September when Huff helped her team – La Famiglia – win the USSSA Women's "A" World Tournament in Viera.

"This is the biggest tournament of the season. This is what we work all year for," said Huff, who is from the Brighton Reservation and is an elementary physical education teacher at Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School as well as the head coach of her alma mater Okeechobee High School varsity softball team.

Proof of Huff's determination to overcome both the injury and those lingering doubts came when she was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament, which featured 15 teams from more than a dozen states.

"I did a lot of work. I figured out myself physically and mentally and finally at the World Tournament I couldn't miss. I was so on, I was so locked in, I was so focused. I had hardly any walks in the tournament," she said.

The quality of softball in La Famiglia's world is highly competitive. There are sponsors who pay for the players' travel costs, including cross country trips to tournaments. All equipment is covered. There are workout

and batting practice requirements. Thomas Wingard is the team's main sponsor and manager.

Most of the players are in their 20s and 30s; some are former college athletes, including Huff, who is 31 and whose college career included Indian River State College, the University of Central Florida and St. Petersburg College.

"The team puts in a lot of work. They are some of the most in-shape girls out there because of the requirements that we have," Huff said about her teammates who come from 11 states.

As for defense, Huff said it's easy for her to trust her teammates.

"They're amazing. I probably have the best defense in the country, or at least one of the best," she said.

Huff joined La Famiglia more than a year ago. The team saw her playing for another team in a tournament in Maryland and liked what they saw. Unfortunately, it was at that tournament she suffered the ACL injury, but she still managed to fit in with her new team right away.

Huff came aboard at a good time because La Famiglia has continued to move up in class while winning championships. In fact, the World Tournament win was the club's fourth World championship in a row in its class. It was a two-day tournament. La Famiglia went 6-1, but needed to beat the Classic Glass team twice in a row to claim the title.

"The way we won the entire thing was unreal," Huff said. "We run-ruled them twice to win the championship. The last three games we scored 73 runs."

The offensive outburst proved to be more than enough support for Huff. She pitched every game in the tournament and her best outing came in a 3-2 win.

Slowpitch has its own intricacies for pitchers which might not always be noticeable to the casual observer.

"It's not as easy as it looks. There's still ways to hit corners and to change heights and



Mary Huff receives the Most Valuable Player award at the USSSA World Tournament in Viera.

to change looks. You can throw knuckleballs and curveballs. It's not just lobbing it in there," Huff said.

La Famiglia didn't have much time to celebrate because it played in another tournament in Viera right after the World Series, which it didn't fare as well.

It's only about a 90-minute drive between Viera and the Brighton Reservation, but time didn't allow Huff's teammates to visit the rez.

"We actually talk about it," she said. "They're all kind of from the city and they don't get to experience what the rez is like. When I'm doing my workouts or I'm on a run, I'll send pictures of a gator or turtles. They're amazed by it."

Huff said she enjoys playing high level slowpitch softball as much, if not more, than when she was in high school and college.

"I don't think I'll ever stop playing," she said.

## 'Fresh' Walters making big strides in senior year

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Roger "Fresh" Walters is making the most out of his final high school season.

The speedy multi-purpose player for St. Lucie West Centennial High School entered the final two games of the regular season as the team leader in touchdowns with eight.

Walters, a senior wide receiver who grew up on the Seminole Tribe's Chupco's Landing in Fort Pierce, had a team-high seven TD catches, including two against Fort Pierce Central on Oct. 15 when he hauled in 169 yard reception yards on seven catches.

In five games played, Walters was second on the team in reception yards with 467.

On defense, he has one interception. He's also one of the team's top kick/punt returners. He has one touchdown on a punt return.

Earlier this year Walters committed to play for the University of North Carolina Charlotte.

With a 4-3 record, Centennial was scheduled to wrap up the regular season with games Oct. 29 at home against Treasure Coast and Nov. 5 at Port St. Lucie.

Walters is the son of tribal member Sheree Sneed.



Kevin Johnson

Roger "Fresh" Walters

## Elle Thomas wraps up four-year volleyball career at OHS

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Elle Thomas has her sights set on her final season of high school softball that starts in a couple months. She's also eying college ball after graduation, with plans to perhaps play for Indian River State College.

But first the Okeechobee High senior from the Brighton Reservation wrapped up a stellar, four-year volleyball career.

"It's been a ton of fun," she said about this season following the team's final regular season match, a 3-0 loss at South Fork High School on Oct. 14 in Stuart.

On Oct. 5, Thomas was among five seniors honored on the team's senior night before the Brahms hosted Jensen Beach.

Each senior was introduced to the crowd and escorted by family members. Thomas was guided by her parents Laverne and Jason. Her younger sister Lexi, who also plays in the OHS program, presented flowers.

The other seniors honored were Kiersten Kennedy, Anja Koivunen, Morgan Tucker and Joy Whipple.

"I'm proud to be a four-year letterman and be able to play with my seniors all four years," Thomas said through the public address announcer's introduction.

At the time, Okeechobee was in the midst of an outstanding season. The Brahms entered the match with a 10-2 record, but Jensen Beach emerged with a 3-0 win. Each set was close. The scores were 27-25, 25-21, 26-24.

After the loss, the Brahms struggled to notch wins. They finished with an 11-11 record that included a loss to Suncoast in the district playoffs and a 3-1 setback to Merritt Island in a Class 5A regional quarterfinal.

Thomas, one of the team's top defenders, had 117 receptions in the regular season, good enough for fourth highest on the team, according to statistics on MaxPreps.com. She also had 78 digs and served 14 aces prior to the start of the playoffs.

Sophomore middle hitter Nena Youngblood, also from the tribe, registered



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee High School's Elle Thomas follows through on a kill attempt during the Brahms' final regular season match Oct. 14 at South Fork High School in Stuart.

11 kills in limited playing time as a sub on varsity this season.

Although Thomas' high school volleyball career is over, there is plenty of talent from the tribe still with the program, such as Youngblood and the JV's Lexi Thomas, Giselle Micco and Tiyanni Anderson.

"I wish them good luck," Thomas said.



OHS/Facebook

Okeechobee High School's Elle Thomas, second from right, is honored in a senior night ceremony Oct. 5. With her are her parents Laverne and Jason and her sister Lexi.

## Gabby Lemieux reaches final stage of LPGA Tour qualifying

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

DAYTONA BEACH – A fast start for Gabby Lemieux (Shoshone-Paiute Tribes) propelled her onto the leaderboard Oct. 7 in the first round of the Symetra Tour Championship in Daytona Beach, but she struggled in the third round and wound up in a tie for 63rd.

The Symetra Tour is the official qualifying tour for the LPGA Tour.

Lemieux opened with a 7-under-par 65 at the LPGA International's Jones Course. Through 15 holes, Lemieux was 9-under before she bogeyed two of her final three holes.

She was in tie for third place, but followed up with 71-76-73 to finish with a 3-under 285 total.

The following week, Lemieux punched

her ticket to the LPGA Q-Series by finishing 25th in stage II of the LPGA Qualifying Tournament in Venice. The top 45 players plus ties advanced to the Q-Series that will be held Nov. 29-Dec. 12 on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Alabama. The Q-Series is the final stage that determines LPGA Tour and Symetra Tour status for the upcoming season.

Lemieux generated her best season this year, which included both of her career top

10 finishes, including a tie for third at the Circling Raven Championship in August when she finished at 14-under par. Lemieux finished the season 49th on the money list.

Lemieux, 25, grew up in Idaho and played college golf at Texas Tech University. She has been on the Symetra Tour since 2018 and has steadily climbed each year in money rankings, going from 207th in her rookie season to 135th in 2019 to 117th last year.



Cris Cyborg via Instagram

Cris Cyborg

## MMA women's title bout set for Hard Rock Live

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD – Current 145-pound world champion and top-ranked women's fighter Cris Cyborg will make her third straight featherweight title defense when she takes on the No. 5-ranked contender and Irish boxing sensation Sinead Kavanagh at Bellator MMA 271 on Nov. 12 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood's Hard Rock Live.

Showtime will televise the main card live at 10 p.m. Additionally, the preliminary card will air live on the Bellator and Showtime Sports YouTube channels as well as Pluto TV.

Currently fighting out of Las Vegas, Cyborg is coming off the second defense of her Bellator crown when she scored a TKO over Leslie Smith at 4:51 of the fifth round in May 2021.

Kavanagh, a winner of her last two Bellator outings, will try to live up to her "KO" moniker when she attempts to stop the sport's most dominant female athlete.



Courtesy photo

Yearling Middle School's 2021 Indian River Conference championship volleyball team included four players from Pemaeytv Emahakv Charter School. They are Yani Smith, Ka'Shyra Urbina, Melaine Bonilla and Alyssa Madrigal. The team was led by coach Carrie Heineman and assistant coach Raylee Coleman.

## With an assist from PECS, Yearling Middle wins conference championship

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Even though the volleyball season at Pemaeytv Emahakv Charter School was cancelled for the second straight year this fall due to the pandemic, PECS still produced

champions on the court.

Four PECS students – Melaine Bonilla, Alyssa Madrigal, Yani Smith and Ka'Shyra Urbina – played for Yearling Middle School, which won the Indian River Conference championship Oct. 21 at Osceola Middle School.

“Ranked 3rd and thought of as the

complete underdogs, [Yearling] had to win three games straight to be the Indian River Conference Champs,” Yearling coach Carrie Heineman wrote in a Facebook post. “OMS packed their gym with their entire school to watch this game and [Yearling] didn't even flinch. They came and conquered.”



Kevin Johnson

The “A” team for Moore Haven Middle School volleyball included, back row, from left, coach Brianna Nunez, Laniya Ash, Ila Trueblood, Tahniah Billie, Riana Kelly, Joleyne Nunez, and, front row, from left, Tehya Nunez, Alexus Navarro, Aaryn King and Sa'Nyree Myers.

## In first year as coach, Brianna Nunez leads Moore Haven Middle to 5-1 record

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**MOORE HAVEN** — While her players performed their postgame tasks of removing the net and cleaning up for the final time this season, Moore Haven Middle School “A” volleyball team coach Brianna Nunez reflected on her team's performance.

“Very proud of them, very proud of our season,” said Nunez, a former Miss Florida Seminole from the Brighton Reservation who guided the team to a 5-1 record in her first year as coach. Moore Haven shutout Clewiston in the season finale Oct. 13.

In addition to the strong record, Nunez was impressed by the team's cohesiveness.

“I've never seen a group of girls get along so well,” she said. “There's never been a problem all season. There's nothing more that you could ask for for middle school girls to get along. That's perfect.”

The team featured a mixture of students from Moore Haven Middle and Pemaeytv Emahakv Charter School, including Nunez's younger sister Tehya. Their father Dallas coached the “B” team. Since PECS did not offer sports this fall due to the pandemic, volleyball players were allowed to join teams at other schools. For Moore Haven, having players from PECS proved to be invaluable.

“The Charter School girls are very crucial to our team. They are a big part of the team,” Nunez said.

Winning helps, but regardless of the record, Nunez said she loved her rookie season as the coach. It was an eye-opener for the Okeechobee High graduate to be on the coaching side rather than on the playing side.

“I played volleyball my whole life. I'm all about the sport. I have a big heart for it,” she said. “Being on the other side and coaching, it's been a learning experience. I have to be more strategic with the game play and positions and I have to think about all positions at one time and not just my one position.



Kevin Johnson

From left, Moore Haven Middle School “A” team players Tehya Nunez, Joleyne Nunez and Tahniah Billie celebrate a win against Clewiston.

“I was asked to coach. I didn't have to think too long about it. Volleyball has always been the big passion of mine. I love the sport.”

## Trio from tribe helps OHS JV to near perfect season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

The Okeechobee High School junior varsity volleyball team nearly made it through the season without a loss.

The team, which includes the Seminole Tribe's Tiyanni Anderson, Giselle Micco and Lexi Thomas, entered its final match Oct. 14 with a 14-0 record. Its hopes of a perfect season were spoiled by South Fork, which defeated the Brahmins, 2-0, in Stuart.

Despite the setback, Okeechobee coach Jacalyn Sutton was still thrilled with how her team performed this season.

“All my girls are really good. They can play almost any position. They give me the flexibility to do what I want,” said Sutton, a first-year coach.

Sutton said the players from the tribe are all outstanding players. Micco, a junior, and Thomas, a sophomore, handled a lot of the setting. Thomas notched 201 assists, by far the most on the club. They'll be candidates to move up to varsity next season to fill holes.

“Varsity has two senior setters this year, so [the coach] is definitely looking at bringing up two setters next year,” Sutton said.

Thomas also excelled in serving. She led the team with 92 service points and 45 aces.

Anderson is a freshman outside hitter who finished with 18 kills and 31 digs.

After nearly 50 players tried out



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee's Giselle Micco provides a set during the team's final junior varsity match of the season Oct. 14 against South Fork in Stuart.

for volleyball this season, Sutton said Okeechobee hopes to add a freshman team next season.



Kevin Johnson

Tiyanni Anderson delivers a serve for Okeechobee during a JV game against South Fork.

## Tribe's Moore Haven seniors honored



Lauren Gonzalez Mathis/MMHS Facebook (2)

The tribe's Moore Haven High School senior football players and their parents were recognized on senior night in October. Above is Jaytron Baker, and below is Pherian Baker. The Terriers have one game remaining on Nov. 5 at Marco Island Academy.



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