



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Hard Rock Tejon could break ground next year

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Construction on Hard Rock International's third hotel-casino project in California is expected to begin next year.

The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) approved an agreement Nov. 17 to place a 320-acre parcel of land into trust for the Tejon Indian Tribe, which entered into a partnership with Hard Rock in 2019. The DOI also approved an agreement between the state and the tribe that would allow slot machines and blackjack.

Tribes are given authority to govern land that is taken into trust by the federal government, allowing it to benefit from federal programs that protect tribal sovereignty while creating economic opportunities.

The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tejon would be located in Mettler, about 30 minutes south of Bakersfield in Kern County. Hard Rock's other California hotel-casino projects are the Hard Rock Lake Tahoe and the Hard Rock Sacramento at Fire Mountain.

The \$600 million Hard Rock Tejon would be built on 52 of the 320 acres that were approved in the DOI agreement. The project calls for an 11-story, 400-room hotel with a 165,500-square foot casino with 3,000 slots, 13 restaurants, a Hard Rock Live entertainment venue, spa-fitness center, convention space and RV park.

♦ See TEJON on page 7A

Tribal members take part in Washington memorial events

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON — It was a rainy Veterans Day in the nation's capital, but it didn't dampen the spirits of those who descended on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to celebrate a milestone for Native American veterans.

On Nov. 11, about 1,700 Native American veterans representing dozens of tribes, along with family members and friends, took part in a procession that began at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) and ended with a ceremony near the U.S. Capitol. The purpose of the gathering was to dedicate the National Native American Veterans Memorial, which opened Nov. 11, 2020. The procession and dedication was postponed for two years due to the pandemic.

Actor Wes Studi (Cherokee Nation) hosted the ceremony and introduced a line up of dignitaries, including NMAI director Cynthia Chavez Lamar (San Felipe Pueblo).

"The museum is proud to be the home of the memorial and will carry out our responsibility to forever welcome and honor veterans and educate people about the extraordinary military service of Native veterans and active duty service members," she said.

Among those in attendance were members of the Seminole Tribe.

"It was a beautiful trip," Tiffany Frank, executive assistant to Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall, said. "It was amazing. We were there to represent the tribe and be a part of history."

Frank's children joined her for the festivities — Luciano Boyce, Ky-Mani Boyce



The Frank family passes by the U.S. Capitol during the National Native American Veterans memorial procession Nov. 11. From left to right are Tiffany Frank, Gianni Boyce, Joel Frank Sr., Ky-Mani Boyce and Luciano Boyce.

and Gianni Boyce. The family walked in the procession with Frank's father, Joel Frank Sr., who served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

The dedication of the memorial was historic — it is the first monument on the

National Mall that's dedicated to Native Americans who have served in the U.S. military. Artist Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne and Arapaho), who served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, designed it.

Museum officials said that compared

with their population size, Native Americans serve at "extraordinarily high numbers." There are roughly 135,000 Native American veterans and active military service members today.

♦ See MEMORIAL on page 5A



Seminole veterans Curtis Motlow, left, and Andrew J. Bowers Jr. unveil a monument Nov. 2 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton.

Veterans honored, Army helicopter dedicated in Brighton

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Military veterans, including Seminoles and non-tribal, were honored for their sacrifice and patriotism at the "35th Seminole Veterans Celebration and Recognition" on Nov. 2 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building on the Brighton Reservation. The ceremony was followed by the dedication of a retired UH-1 Huey U.S. Army helicopter on permanent display in front of the building.

"When you speak about warriors, you speak about these veterans," said Brighton Councilman Larry Howard. "When they served this country it wasn't about the color of their skin, it was about who we are together. They fought as one. These folks set out to protect this country, not divide it."

Brighton Board Rep. Helene Buster, who grew up during the Vietnam War era,

recalled that soldiers coming back from the war were not honored.

"Today we honor them when they come back," Rep. Buster said. "Our guys didn't have to go to war, they chose to go. That to me is a warrior. We still have tribal members volunteering and still going. Without those warriors, our tribe and country wouldn't have the freedom we have today."

Guest speaker Lt. Col. Rob Barrow spoke about how his service in the military shaped the rest of his life. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1980 and served in the U.S. Marine Corps until he retired in 2001.

"It was a privilege and a duty as a citizen to serve this nation," Barrow said. "It was my obligation to serve, my personal responsibility to give back to a nation who gave so much to us. Service doesn't stop when you hang up your uniform, it stays with you forever."

Barrow said if he was 21 again, he

would "do it all over in a heartbeat."

"Every veteran I've met, whether he loved or hated his time in uniform, is staunchly proud of his service," he said. "The brotherhood lives; it transcends generations and connects young people with old. Share your experience with your children and grandchildren, it's a piece of American history. Let them know about your service and make them proud. Those stories will be treasures to your children."

The program included a tribute to former Seminole Tribe Chairman James E. Billie and the late Jack Smith Jr., both veterans of the U.S. Army. Sallie Josh, a U.S. Navy veteran, spoke about each man. Smith's family was in attendance.

♦ See HELICOPTER on page 6A

Anna Harmon finishes second in cross country championship

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

TALLAHASSEE — The Seminole Tribe's Anna Harmon admits she sometimes gets anxious while running cross country races, especially on unfamiliar courses.

Tallahassee is nearly 2,000 miles away from her college in Arizona, so it seemed likely Harmon would be uneasy running at Apalachee Regional Park. Instead, she said she felt right at home because it's the land of her ancestors.

"It felt amazing as a tribal member especially because I felt really great and comfortable coming here. It felt like I was on my home turf, that I was coming home," Harmon said.

"I told her, 'this is your land, this is where you're from, so you should do well,'" said Harmon's mother, Donna, who is a tribal member and competitive runner.

The combination of that connection to the soil beneath her running shoes and the emphatic vocal support from family helped Harmon as the Mesa Community College sophomore finished in second place out of more than 200 runners in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Women's Cross Country Championship on Nov. 12.

Her time was a personal best (PR) 18:44 on the scenic 5,000-meter course that weaved its way through woods and long stretches of open pasture flanked by sprawling oak trees.

Harmon's finish was 22 seconds behind champion Hayley Burns (Northern Cheyenne) from Coconino Community College, of Arizona, giving Indian Country a 1-2 finish. Harmon finished a whopping 30 seconds ahead of the third place finisher.

In the team race, Harmon led Mesa to a runner-up finish, just one point behind champion Lansing Community College of Michigan. Twenty-eight teams were in the field.

Harmon said when she passed by throngs of spectators during the race she heard her family cheering for her. In addition to her mom, the contingent included her sister, Jessi; brother Eli; great-uncle, Andrew J. Bowers Jr.; and cousin, Ashlee Gopher.

"That support was so nice. I heard them. It made me really happy that they wanted to come see me," Harmon said.



Anna Harmon, who finished second in the NJCAA National Division II Women's Cross Country Championship, holds her team's runner-up trophy after the race Nov. 12 in Tallahassee.

Harmon didn't see many runners in front of her; she was in the top five throughout the race and surged past a few to capture second place.

"It wasn't a shocker," Harmon said. "I've been really working hard in practice. I ran a mile PR in practice the other day; I ran a 5:16 and I've never run that fast in my life. I figured if I could run that in practice I could do it in a race."

"Super ecstatic," said Mesa coach Daniel Pescador. "Her goal was nothing less than top three. She just raced to perfection. She just started moving and she never backed off. I'm super proud of her."

♦ See HARMON on page 2C

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

Visitors enjoy 25th AIAC on Big Cypress Reservation

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — After three years without a celebration, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's American Indian Arts Celebration was finally back Nov. 4 and 5. This year it featured more than indigenous art and culture from the Americas; a Māori Indigenous group from New Zealand traveled halfway around the world to share their culture with more than 2,200 attendees.

The AIAC, which had been on hiatus since 2019 because of the pandemic, also commemorated the museum's 25th anniversary. Spectators were treated to an array of Native American culture, music, dance, food, art, jewelry, beadwork, clothing, carving and fine arts.

The morning of Nov. 4 began with the traditional friendship dance led by Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry and other Seminole tribal members, followed by hoop dancers from Arizona, the Māori group and members of the audience, including students from schools around the state.

The AIAC program included the HAKA Māori Cultural Experience performing traditional songs and dances, the Tony Duncan family hoop dancers, alligator wrestling and animal shows, Osceola's Legacy Warriors demonstration and Rez Jam featuring Seminole musicians. Additionally, the Ahfachkee School held both a fashion show and a musical showcase in the main tent.

The leader of the Māori group opened their performance by acknowledging the creator and remembering those who passed away.

"We are water people, like you," said



Tony Duncan displays his hoop dancing skills as the crowd looks on during the AIAC on Nov. 4.

Craig Muntz, director of the HAKA Māori Cultural Experience. "We are river and canoe people, our songs relate to water and canoes."

The Haka dance is easily recognizable by its fierce expressions, wild wide eyes and protruding tongues. It is a traditional Māori dance which was used on the battlefield to prepare warriors mentally and physically for battle, but was also performed when groups came together in peace. Today it is used to mark the importance of ceremonies and celebrations.

Attendees flocked to the Māori tent to learn about their instruments made from gourds and other natural objects, learn about their culture and watch a tattoo artist at work. Ahfachkee students presented the Seminole Fashion Walk which featured traditional and modern patchwork fashion modeled by the students and made by tribal members.

◆ See AIAC on page 11A



Ahfachkee students and models line up backstage before their Seminole Fashion Walk at the AIAC on Nov. 4.



Ahfachkee students with music teacher Cesar Taveras, at far left, perform at the AIAC on Nov. 4.



Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry gets things started at the AIAC on Nov. 4 as he leads the friendship dance in the main tent.



Everett Osceola gets a Maori tattoo using modern tools instead of the traditional method of hammering ink into the skin. His tattoo depicts a feather since he is a member of the Bird Clan.

Storm unearths ancestral remains in Martin County

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Beach erosion from Hurricane Nicole unearthed the remains of six skulls and smaller bones on Chastain Beach, located on Hutchinson Island South in Martin County. The remains were discovered by beachgoers Nov. 10 and reported to law enforcement.

Hurricane Nicole made landfall as a Category 1 storm south of Vero Beach early Nov. 10 with strong winds that churned up the sand. Hutchinson Island South is a barrier island about 50 miles north of West Palm Beach.

Members of the Martin County Sheriff's Office arrived at the scene with crime scene technicians and determined the remains were possibly hundreds of years old and likely Native American. Officials said they were already aware of the area because remains had been found there before, most recently after Hurricane Dorian in 2019 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Once it was determined the remains were archaeological in nature, officials said they began to excavate for safekeeping. The Martin County Sheriff's Office also published a post to its social media account with photos of the scene, and upon request, provided local news outlets with additional photos of the remains.

The activity got the attention of the Seminole Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO).

"It is not the position of THPO that ancestors be removed without tribal notification and consultation," a Nov. 10 THPO statement said. "THPO will be working closely with the Martin County Sheriff's Office to ensure they are made aware of our practices, as well as the law governing the disturbance of our ancestors' burials."

Tina Osceola, THPO director, told the Seminole Tribune that it was clear the

remains are those of the Seminole Tribe's ancestors.

"It was irresponsible of the Martin County Sheriff's Office to step outside the scope of their role as law enforcement officers and into the shoes of the state of Florida's Bureau of Archaeological Resources," Osceola said Nov. 17. "They are not trained to make those determinations."

Osceola cited Florida statute 872, which requires law enforcement to contact the state's Bureau of Archaeological Resources after a discovery is determined to be archaeological in nature. The state is then to notify the applicable consulting tribes of the finding.

THPO said it learned of the discovery through a news report by NBC affiliate WPTV, which published a story with a photo of a human skull and other skeletal remains. The tribe's public information officer and representatives of the Seminole Police Department assisted THPO by contacting local news outlets and the Martin County Sheriff's Office to request photos be removed or blurred out.

Osceola said some news outlets agreed to the request, while others did not. She said the Martin County Sheriff's Office later acknowledged that it was irresponsible to post the photo on its social media platform, and subsequently removed it.

THPO said it would work to create training materials for local law enforcement agencies and the news media so that a similar situation doesn't happen again.

"Think of your own families or anyone's families," Juan Cancel, THPO assistant director, said to ABC affiliate WPBF News Nov. 10. "We want anyone from our past that has passed on treated with the same level of respect as anyone else."

Cancel told the Seminole Tribune Nov. 17 that the remains will eventually be taken to the state's Bureau of Archeological Research, who will then consult with the tribe about their repatriation and reburial.

Seminole Tribe featured in 'Indigenous Firsts' book

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

A new book published in October takes a fresh look and a deep dive at a long list of firsts that have been achieved by Native Americans.

"Indigenous Firsts: A History of Native American Achievements and Events," features research on firsts and feats in sports, politics, art, science, business and the military.

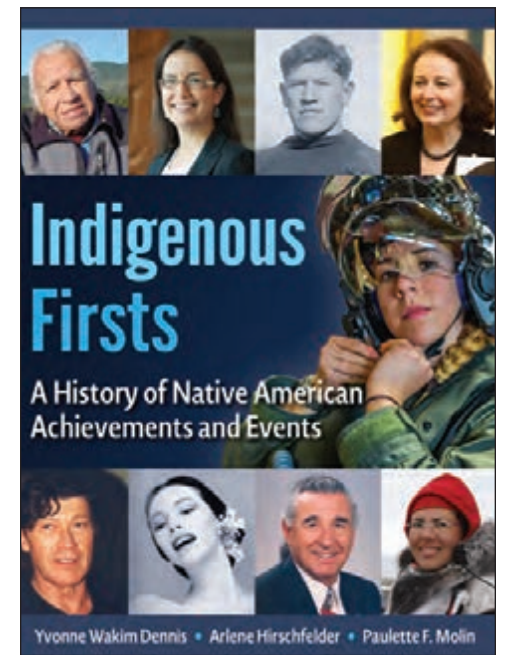
Some are better known and current, such as Interior Secretary Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) becoming the first Native American cabinet secretary in U.S. history in 2021. Haaland was also one of two Native American women to first be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2019. The other was Sharice Davids (Ho-Chunk Nation) who represents Kansas.

Others achievements in the book are less well known, such as Susan La Flesche Picotte (Omaha) becoming the first female Native American physician to graduate from medical school in 1889.

Within the book's 496 pages and 275 photos are firsts that have been achieved by the Seminole Tribe.

The tribe was the first in the U.S. to operate a high-stakes bingo hall in 1979, located in what is now the Classic Casino in Hollywood. Forty years later, in 2019, the tribe achieved another first. As the parent entity of Hard Rock International, it would see the world's first guitar-shaped hotel be built 450-feet tall at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

Another first achieved by the tribe and featured in the book took place in 2009. That's when the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation became the first tribally governed museum to be accredited by the American Association of Museums.



Visible Ink Press published "Indigenous Firsts" in October.

The book also mentions well-known tribal leader Betty Mae Jumper. Jumper was elected in 1967 as the tribe's first chairwoman. She'd serve in the position until 1971. Jumper had already been a member of the first tribal council that helped secure federal recognition in 1957.

The authors of "Indigenous Firsts" are Yvonne Wakin Dennis (Cherokee/Sand Hill), Paulette F. Molin (Chippewa) and Arlene Hirschfelder. The book was published by Visible Ink Press and is available where books are sold. More information is at visibleinkpress.com.

Tlingit woman named to FCC post

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Denise Bambi Kraus (Tlingit), a Stanford University graduate and former executive director of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, was named Sept. 27 as chief of the Federal Communications Commission's Office of Native Affairs and Policy.

According to a news release, Kraus will lead ONAP in focusing on four priority areas:

Mapping: ONAP will lead tribal consultation and provide technical assistance to ensure tribal nations have

the support to participate in the agency's ongoing broadband data collection effort and expand the accuracy of the FCC's broadband availability maps.

Access: ONAP will lead a tribal nation engagement strategy to connect tribal libraries through the agency's E-rate program.

Affordability: ONAP will continue to work within Native country to promote the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Sustainability: ONAP's Native Nations Taskforce will work to develop a framework for long-term telecommunications infrastructure sustainability.

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Community



Boys & Girls Club renamed for Max B. Osceola Jr.

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Visitors to the Howard Tiger Recreation Center on the Hollywood Reservation will soon see new large letters on the front of the building welcoming them to the “Max B. Osceola Jr. Hollywood Boys & Girls Club.”

Osceola’s life and work was recognized at an emotional ceremony Nov. 17 in the gymnasium. The center is home to the Hollywood Recreation Department, the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club and the Hollywood Community Culture Center.

Osceola died Oct. 8, 2020, at age 70 from complications of the Covid-19 virus. He was a big influence and left a rich legacy at the tribe. Osceola was Hollywood’s councilman from 1985 to 2010, but his service to the tribe dates to the 1970s when he served as the education director.

Osceola, also known as “Big Max,” was instrumental in the establishment of the tribe’s Boys & Girls Clubs program and for its growth. He helped to forge the tribe’s club charter in 2003. The Hollywood club would be the first to open in 2005. The tribe now has four clubs – in Hollywood, Big Cypress, Brighton and Immokalee.

The clubs, which operate locations across the country, are designed as an after

school activity program that provides a safe space for youth.

“It is overwhelming to be a part of this event,” Robert C. North Sr., the longtime tribalwide Boys & Girls Clubs director, said. “We wanted to make this ceremony meaningful, because Big Max was a big man and he created a long shadow and he taught us all how to be stronger. He taught us to understand the importance of investing in our youth.”

Friends and family say Osceola’s support of the Boys & Girls Clubs was an extension of his commitment to youth and education.

Osceola’s son, Max B. Osceola III, said his father taught him that tribal education began from a culture where the Elders are the teachers. But that he also understood that the tribe no longer lived in the Everglades and needed to acquire additional knowledge and education to work and live.

“He believed that anything that helped the education system was a plus,” Osceola III said. “The more we learn the better off we all are – it’s truly the point of the Boys & Girls Clubs.”

His father earned degrees from Broward Community College and the University of Miami. He was inducted into the hall of fame of the Broward Education Foundation in 2017.



From left to right are Carla Knapp and members of Max B. Osceola Jr.’s family – Meaghan Osceola, Melissa DeMayo, Max Osceola III, Margaret Osceola, Sharon Osceola and Amy Cox.



From left to right are Mitchell Osceola, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Steve Osceola. Mitchell and Steve are Max B. Osceola Jr.’s brothers.

“Education was the key,” Osceola III, also known as “Little Max,” said. “He said if we make a person strong, we make a family strong. If we make a family strong, we make a community strong. If we make a community strong, we make the nation strong. This is who he was at the core. This is why we remain the unconquered Seminoles.”

As a longtime Hollywood councilman, Osceola also influenced future tribal leaders, including Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.

“I didn’t know how I was going to feel today. Much like some of you, I never got to say goodbye to Max,” Councilman Osceola said. “I just learned so much from this man. I honestly wouldn’t be where I am today if it wasn’t for his leadership, his vision, for the work that he put in, and for his love of his people.”

Osceola and Councilman Osceola both shared a love of motorcycles and went on

road trips together across the country.

“Probably 90% of his riding was to raise money for kids,” Councilman Osceola said.

He recalled that Osceola would ride hours out of his way to stop by other Boys & Girls Clubs across the country with a donation in hand. Councilman Osceola also traveled with him to visit Victory Junction, a North Carolina nonprofit Osceola supported. The group helps youth with serious medical conditions.

Carla Knapp (Penobscot Indian Nation), national vice president of Native services for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, presented Osceola’s family with a plaque that formally names the Hollywood club in his honor.

“He was a visionary who touched the lives of so many with his leadership, his work ethic and joy for life – as well as a deep commitment to his family, tribe and all of Indian Country,” Knapp read.



Robert C. North Sr., longtime tribalwide Boys & Girls Clubs director, speaks at the Nov. 17 ceremony. North knew Max. B. Osceola Jr. for years.

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Big Cypress ceremony remembers, honors veterans

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — About 225 members of the Big Cypress community gathered at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on Nov. 11 to honor the military service of Seminole and non-tribal veterans at the annual Veterans Day celebration.

Following the invocation by Jonah Cypress and the flag presentation by the Seminole Tribe's Public Safety Color Guard, students from the Ahfachkee School said the Pledge of Allegiance.

"My wish is that every veteran around the world knows how much we appreciate them," said master of ceremonies S.R. Tommie. "As veterans, you hold the flag close to your hearts."

President Mitchell Cypress welcomed the community and recognized the family of U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Herman L. Osceola, who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in South Korea in 1984. He was among 29 military personnel from the U.S. and South Korea who died in a helicopter crash during a military exercise.

"We are here to honor those who served," said Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie.

Big Cypress Board Rep. Nadine Bowers has veterans in her family and said she is "grateful for all veterans who are dedicated to our country to protect our freedoms."

"Seminole know war," Rep. Bowers said. "We fought to protect our tribe, but also answered the call to fight for our country. We fight for what we believe in."

Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall said she is proud the tribe has so many veterans, including her late uncle Stephen Bowers.

"He was an inspiration to me and helped me understand what veterans need," Rep. McCall said. "I'm so proud that he dedicated his life to service."

Guest speaker Timothy E. Moore, president of Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, served as an officer in the U.S. Army from 1985 to 1992.

"As a veteran, I know first-hand that no

one serves alone," Moore said. "Your family sustains you; they are the ones who sacrifice and keep the home fires burning."

He emphasized the importance for veterans to share the stories of their service.

"Our young generation doesn't know what service above self is all about," Moore said. "It's up to us veterans to tell them."

Although former Miss Florida Seminole and former Miss Indian World Cheyenne Kippenberger couldn't attend the event, she spoke in a video about the importance of Veterans Day.

"I've never been in uniform or put on combat boots and I have no idea what war is like," Kippenberger said in the video. "But I have gratitude, respect and admiration for

veterans. Your courageous service has given us a chance to live free lives. We can never say it enough, thank you for your sacrifice."

Before the reading of Seminole veterans' names, Moses Jumper Jr. read his poem "Flag of Our Fathers."

"Flag of our fathers forever let it fly," Jumper read. "It stands for freedom and a way of life, never let it die."

Every Seminole and non-tribal veteran in the crowd stood together at the front of the room and was recognized for their service. Each veteran introduced themselves and identified what branch of the military they served in and when. Attendees lined up to shake their hands in appreciation and honor.



Beverly Bidney

From left to right, Seminole military veterans Curtis Motlow, Sallie Josh, Gary McInturff, Paul Bowers Sr. and President Mitchell Cypress are recognized by emcee S.R. Tommie during the Big Cypress Veterans Day event Nov. 11.



Beverly Bidney

Timothy E. Moore, president of Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, speaks as Moses Jumper Jr., left, and Big Cypress Board Rep. Nadine Bowers, right, listen during the Big Cypress Veterans Day program at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.



Beverly Bidney

Longtime friends and U.S. Army veterans Harry Akins, left, and President Mitchell Cypress, who served together in Germany in 1969, are happy to see each other again at the ceremony.



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee students recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the Big Cypress Veterans Day.

Honors for Joy Harjo's poetry map project

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums has presented one of its Guardians of Culture and Lifeways International Awards to the Library of Congress and former U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo for "Living Nations, Living Words," Harjo's signature project as the nation's first Native American poet laureate between

2019 and 2022.

Harjo's project was honored with the Outstanding Project/Non-Native Organization Award. The project features a sampling of work by 47 Native American poets through an interactive story map and a newly developed Library of Congress audio collection. Each location marker reveals a Native poet and features an image, biography and link to hear the poet recite and comment

on an original poem.

"For my signature project as the 23rd Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, I conceived the idea of mapping the U.S. with Native Nations poets and poems," Harjo, an enrolled member of the Muscogee Nation, said in a statement. "I want this map to counter damaging false assumptions — that Indigenous peoples of our country are often invisible or are not seen as human. You will

not find us fairly represented, if at all, in the cultural storytelling of America, and nearly nonexistent in the American book of poetry."

As part of the "Living Nations, Living Words" project, Harjo edited a companion anthology of participating Native poets. It was published in 2021 by W. W. Norton & Company in association with the Library of Congress.

Arts, crafts on display

FROM PRESS RELEASE

EVERGLADES CITY — Local artists and crafters will have tables set up Dec. 10 in Everglades City. The informal, free event will be behind the playground in McLeod Park near City Hall. For more information call Marya at (239) 451-0265.



RICHARD CASTILLO
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◆ **MEMORIAL**
From page 1A

Seminole Tribe brothers and musicians Spencer Battiest and Doc Native walked in the procession and performed several of their songs inside the museum on two occasions during a weekend's worth of activities. Native's fiancé and Navy veteran Raquel McCloud (Ojibwe/Red Lake Nation) joined the pair in the procession as well.

Battiest said he remembered singing the national anthem when he was as young as 10 years old at various tribal events with the Seminole Color Guard. He said his grandfather, Gustavus Adolphus Baker III, was a staff sergeant in the Marine Corps for over 20 years.

Battiest's sister, Petra Battiest; mother, June Baker; grandmother, Judy Baker; and cousin, Gus Baker, came to support the pair during their performances. Cheyenne Kippenberger was also in attendance. She worked with Seminole Media Productions to conduct video interviews with veterans throughout the weekend.

More Seminole connections

Many attendees visited the 12 foot tall memorial – called the "Warriors' Circle of Honor." The elements Pratt used in its design are significant to Native American cultures – the memorial's stainless steel circle balanced on a carved stone drum represents the cycle of life, and the pulsating water at its base represents a drumbeat that calls people to gather. The memorial includes the seals of the Navy, Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marine Corps. Visitors often tie cloths for prayers and healing – a Native American

tradition – on four lances around its edges.

The memorial's cost was \$15 million. In 1994, Congress passed legislation to establish it, and museum officials spoke to more than 1,200 veterans and tribal leaders in forums across the country to get their input.

The Seminole Tribe's Stephen Bowers was on the memorial's advisory board. He traveled the country for a decade talking to tribal leaders and congressional representatives to raise money and awareness to ensure the memorial would be built. It was one of his personal missions to see it come to fruition as quickly as possible.

Battiest took time during his performance to recognize Bowers, who was also the tribe's director of veterans affairs.

"I want to do a special shout out to someone who told me over a decade ago about the beautiful memorial they wanted to build here," Battiest said. "His name is Stephen Bowers, who passed away recently and didn't get the chance to come and see this."

Bowers died June 1, 2020, at age 71, just months before the memorial opened to the public. Battiest remembered traveling with Bowers on some of his trips to encourage people to donate to the memorial.

"I know his family is watching now on a livestream, and I just want to say a special 'I love you and I appreciate you and thank you,'" Battiest said. "I carry him within my heart today as well as all the veterans."

Bowers' sister, Wanda Bowers, and his niece, Rep. McCall, were both scheduled to attend the procession and dedication, but plans were cancelled due to Hurricane Nicole.

More information is at americanindian.si.edu.



Tribal representatives and NMAI officials, including NMAI director Cynthia Chavez Lamar (in red dress) and memorial designer Harvey Pratt (in blue cap), take part in the memorial's dedication.

NMAI



Damon Scott

Seminole musicians Doc Native, at left, and Spencer Battiest, perform inside the museum as part of the weekend's events.



Joy Arisco/AP Images for NMAI

The memorial's procession included Native American veterans from dozens of tribes who came to Washington, D.C., for a Veterans Day ceremony.



Damon Scott

Mitchelene Bigman (Crow) is the founder and president of the Native American Women Warriors and a retired U.S. Army combat veteran.



Courtesy Spencer Battiest

From left to right (standing) are Gus Baker, Ally Romero (Baker's fiancé), Spencer Battiest, June Baker, Petra Battiest, Raquel McCloud (Native's fiancé) and Doc Native. Seated is Judy Baker.



Matalong Du for NMAI

The memorial is located on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) on the National Mall near the U.S. Capitol.



Damon Scott

The Shiprock (New Mexico) High School Marine Corps JROTC walked in the memorial's procession.



Damon Scott

Veterans from the Delaware Tribe of Indians (Lenape) hold a sign as they walk in the memorial's procession.

Work goes on as court decides ICWA's fate

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Supporters of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) will have to wait months for the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on recent challenges to the 1978 law. It heard more than three hours of oral arguments Nov. 9.

An aggregate of cases – now known as *Brackeen v. Haaland* – took years to reach America's highest court as lower courts first grappled with challenges to ICWA's constitutionality and other provisions. The Supreme Court is expected to render its decision next June.

Three states – Texas, Louisiana and Indiana – and seven people sued the federal government to challenge the law. Citing the equal-protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, the plaintiffs claim that ICWA violates their constitutional rights to adopt or foster Native children because it is "race based." The plaintiffs also argue that the U.S. Congress doesn't have the power to enact it. ICWA supporters say the challenges aren't about caring for the welfare of Native American children, but are part of a long-term goal to undermine tribal sovereignty.

ICWA states that Native American children should be placed with a member of their extended family, if possible. Otherwise, they should be placed with another member of their tribe. If neither scenario is possible, they should be placed with "other Indian families."



ICWA supporters line up with signs near the U.S. Supreme Court on Nov. 9.

Court watchers say part of what makes the case complex is that many identify Native Americans as a racial group. Under federal law, however, tribes and tribal citizens are a political group. Therefore, ICWA applies to Native children who are either enrolled in a federally recognized tribe or are eligible

based on a tribe's citizenship requirements. Sarah Kastelic (Alutiiq), the National Indian Child Welfare Association's (NICWA) executive director, joined supporters from across Indian Country near the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 9 to show public support of ICWA. She

said the gathering was a peaceful experience and further proof of how important ICWA is to tribes and in upholding tribal sovereignty. Indeed, many stakeholders across Indian Country believe a dismantling of ICWA would be a bellwether for threats to land rights, water rights, health care, gaming, criminal and civil jurisdiction, and tribal self-governance.

Kastelic said that while she's not in the business of predictions, judging by the justices' questioning during oral arguments, there is at least a fair prospect that it could strike down part of the law.

In the meantime

But Kastelic said that while supporters anxiously wait for the court's decision, it's not a time to be idle.

"There are many important things that we can be working on now – things that need our good thoughts and energy," she said.

Kastelic said NICWA and its supporters can continue to advocate for better services and support for tribal families, and work with tribal leaders and tribal child welfare departments to exercise good governance over culturally based programs and services.

"We can direct resources to our tribal programs that help keep our children out of the state and county child welfare system – systems that are characterized by perpetuating the trauma children and families have experienced," she said.

Kastelic said it's also important for



ICWA supporters gather outside the U.S. Supreme Court on Nov. 9.

tribes to strengthen working relationships with state child welfare agencies, state courts and state legislatures.

"State ICWA laws can be an important tool to codify protections for Native children and families," she said.

More is at nicwa.org.

'Protecting Our Children' conference to return in-person

STAFF REPORT

It's been three years since the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) has hosted its annual conference in-person. The previous three have taken place in a virtual format because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Organizers chose Reno, Nevada, to be the host city for its 41st "Protecting Our Children" conference. It is scheduled for April 2-5, 2023, at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino.

The conference theme is "Healing Our Spirits: Nurturing and Restoring Hope."

"As Indigenous peoples, we know a lot

about healing. Healing is culturally specific and nonlinear. It happens collectively with our families and communities. It's not all or nothing, but a lifelong journey of reestablishing our balance," a conference description read.

Each year the conference focuses on the needs of Native American children and their families. NICWA invites experts in child welfare issues who work in many fields and specializations, including mental health, juvenile justice, law, advocacy and more. A diverse mix of presenters is featured, including tribal and federal leaders.

One of the most talked about topics at the conference is the status of the Indian Child Welfare Act. ICWA has been

challenged in lower courts in recent years, but reached the U.S. Supreme Court this year. The court heard oral arguments Nov. 9 in the case known as *Brackeen v. Haaland*, which challenges the constitutionality of ICWA. The court is expected to render a decision next summer.

"In times of uncertainty and stress, when we lose balance and a sense of wellbeing, we come together in small and large groups," the conference description reads. "We gather our energy, share burdens and joys, and reaffirm the indispensable truth that we are here and will continue to be here. We are healing ourselves for ourselves, for the seven generations before us, and for the seven generations to come."

For more information and to register, go to nicwa.org.

Next year's conference artwork, "Lifeway," is by North Dakota-based artist Shawna Fricke (Taos Pueblo/Paiute). Fricke said culture is represented through the northern baskets in the floral designs, the traditional dress, and the color scheme of the family. She said the brown tones on the woman represent Mother Earth and the blue on the children represents water and lifeways.



✦ HELICOPTER From page 1A

"We appreciate the time Jack gave to his family, the tribe and the Army," Josh said. "He was a key ally for the tribe's sovereignty and self-determination. We are grateful for the time we had with him. He is missed to this day. James gets very humble sometimes and couldn't make it today."

The ceremony also commemorated the life of the late Stephen Bowers, a Seminole veteran of the U.S. Army who worked diligently inside and outside the tribe to help Native and non-Native veterans receive benefits and services. He was instrumental in getting a monument honoring Native American soldiers at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, D.C., and procured the Vietnam era chopper for the tribe.

"My uncle Stephen dedicated his whole life to make sure veterans were empowered," said Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall. "He instilled in me at a young age to respect veterans and taught me to never give up."

"I know all the work he did to get the National Native Americans Veterans Memorial," Wanda Bowers, his younger sister, said. "He went from Florida to Arizona to Alaska to get support for the memorial initiative, which he started in 2010 with Mitchell Cypress."

The memorial opened in 2020 and was officially dedicated Nov. 11 of this year.

"I couldn't be any more proud of my brother than I am talking about him today," Bowers said.

Before Marc McCabe, bureau chief and chief service officer of Vietnam Veterans of America's St. Petersburg office, read the roll of Seminole veterans, he mentioned the

recent passing of Dan Hunt, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served as president of the Okeechobee chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Hunt was a friend of several veterans from the tribe; some were at the ceremony.

"I know what he meant to this community. He was able to give back because of his friendships with Seminole tribal members," McCabe said. "I think everyone in this room has been touched by him. Dan and his friends gave back so much to this community. I am a better person today because of everyone in this audience."

After the reading of the names of Seminole veterans, the crowd adjourned outdoors for the dedication of the helicopter.

While standing in front of the Huey, former Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., who served in Vietnam in the U.S. Marine Corps, shared his memories of chopper pilots.

"These folks were so dedicated. They didn't think twice about coming into a hot situation," Bowers said. "When you hear one of these machines coming, it was like music to my ears. I honor the folks who flew them."

Some non-tribal veterans shared their memories of the choppers in combat. One veteran, a former gunner on a Huey, told about going into a spiral while attempting to land in a hot zone. Bullets hit the aircraft, but it landed safely.

Curtis Motlow, a U.S. Navy veteran, and Bowers unveiled the granite marker next to the helicopter. It reads:

"Dedicated by the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Florida Seminole Veterans Foundation. In memory of the pilots and crew members who gave all to our country and to the service men and women during the Vietnam War and present conflicts. November 3, 2022."



Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall, left, and her mother Wanda Bowers stand near the UH-1 Huey helicopter on permanent display at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton during the dedication ceremony Nov. 2.



Seminole veterans Sallie Josh, Curtis Motlow and Andrew J. Bowers Jr. listen as Brighton Councilman Larry Howard speaks at the dedication ceremony for the UH-1 Huey helicopter.



Brighton Councilman Larry Howard greets Seminole veteran Joe Osceola Jr. (U.S. Army) during the traditional honoring of the veterans with a handshake at Brighton's Veterans Day event.



From left to right, Seminole veterans President Mitchell Cypress, Moses Osceola and Paul Bowers Sr. are greeted with handshakes by those in attendance.

Seminole Hard Rock Tampa donations reach 75 local charities

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The stairs that surround Elvis Presley's gold piano at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa were filled with dozens of the property's team members, each holding a check earmarked for local charities.

In all, 75 organizations, many with representatives at the Nov. 15 check ceremony, received \$10,000 each from Seminole Hard Rock Tampa, which is owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

"I just want to make sure that everybody is aware that it's the Seminole Tribe that allows us to do this and encourages us to do this. They want to be part of the community; they want to give back to the community; they want to build those bonds of community with everyone," said Steve Bonner, president of Seminole Hard Rock Tampa.

The ceremony coincided with National Philanthropy Day and took place during Native American Heritage Month.

Derrick Brooks, an NFL Hall of Fame linebacker and head of Derrick Brooks Charities, and Thaddeus Bullard, aka WWE wrestling star Titus O'Neil and president of Bullard Family Foundation, spoke to the audience.

"[Seminole Hard Rock Tampa is] watering the seeds that we are planting in our own different spaces," Brooks said. "...They continue to invest back into the community."

That investment continues to rise. This year's donation total of \$750,000 and the number of recipients increased compared to last year when \$500,000 was doled out to 50 organizations.

"We want to make sure we touch lives all across Tampa Bay; all across St. Pete, Sarasota, wherever we go and wherever we come from, that's where we want to be," Bonner said.

Indeed, the donations were spread among a vast array of charities, including those focused on animals, arts, children, health and the homeless, to name a few. Some of the charities expressed their gratitude via social media.

"We are so thankful to announce that the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Tampa has donated an extremely generous \$10,000 for children and their families who are battling pediatric cancer," the Children's Cancer Center posted.

"Days like today really do keep us going," said Julie Weintraub's Hands Across the Bay. "We are incredibly grateful to be a part of this initiative & forever thankful to the Seminole Hard Rock Tampa for all they do to support Hands Across the Bay and our wonderful community"

"Heartfelt thanks to Steve Bonner, president of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Darien Cobb, public relations manager, and their terrific team for including The Centre for Women among the 75 nonprofits that each received a \$10,000 contribution. This extremely generous gift will make a major impact at The Centre for Women. We feel very lucky...and very grateful," wrote The Centre for Women.

The 75 area charities receiving \$10,000 each are:

1. 13 Ugly Men
2. After School All Stars
3. American Cancer Society
4. Jason Ackerman Foundation
5. Best Buddies Tampa Bay
6. Big Brothers Big Sisters Tampa Bay
7. Boys & Girls Club
8. Bullard Family Foundation
9. Children's Cancer Center
10. Children's Dream Fund
11. Down Syndrome Foundation of FL
12. David A. Straz Center
13. Derrick Brooks Charities
14. Down Syndrome Foundation of FL
15. Easterseals of Florida
16. Feeding Tampa Bay
17. Florida Aquarium
18. Gasparilla Festival of the Arts
19. Girls Rock St. Pete
20. Glazer Children's Museum
21. Grady Goat Foundation
22. Gramatica Family Foundation
23. Habitat For Humanity
24. Hands Across the Bay
25. HCSO Charities Inc.
26. Hill. Fire & EMS Rescue Museum
27. Humane Society of Tampa Bay
28. Jackson In Action 83
29. JDRF
30. Junior League of Tampa
31. Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful
32. Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
33. Liberty Manor for Veterans
34. Lupus Foundation of America
35. MADD
36. Make-A-Wish Southern Florida
37. Meals on Wheels
38. Metropolitan Ministries
39. Mike Altott Family Foundation
40. Moffitt Cancer Center
41. National MS Society
42. Natl. Pediatric Cancer Foundation
43. Onbikes
44. Paint Your Heart Out
45. Pier 60 Daily Sunsets
46. Project: Vet Relief
47. Redefining Refuge
48. RISE Tampa Our Police Foundation
49. Rogai Family Foundation
50. Ronald McDonald House Charities
51. Ryan Nece Foundation
52. Skyway 10k
53. Southeastern Guide Dogs
54. Special Olympics Florida
55. Special Operations Warr. Foundation
56. St. Joseph's Hospitals Foundation
57. St. Pete Pride
58. Stano Foundation
59. TB Area Chiefs of Police Ed/Res.
60. Tampa Bay Buccaneers Foundations
61. TB Business Guild - LGBT Chamber
62. Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
63. Tampa Bay History Center
64. Tampa Bay Network To End Hunger
65. Tampa Bay Sports Commission
66. Tampa Downtown Partnership
67. Tampa General Hospital Foundation
68. Tampa Museum of Art
69. Tampa Pride
70. The Centre for Women
71. The Lightning Foundation
72. The Pepin Academies Foundation
73. The Spring of Tampa Bay
74. The Tampa Foundation
75. ZooTampa



Seminole Hard Rock Tampa doled out checks to 75 charities during a ceremony Nov. 15. From left to right are Derrick Brooks, NFL Hall of Famer; Steve Bonner, Seminole Hard Rock Tampa president; and Thaddeus Bullard, aka WWE wrestling star Titus O'Neil.



Children's Cancer Center



Gramatica Family Foundation



The Centre for Women



Hands Across the Bay

Immokalee to host fireworks display

FROM PRESS RELEASE

IMMOKALEE — Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee will host "Celebration in the Sky" on Jan. 14, 2023, at 9 p.m. The fireworks display will be choreographed to lights and a custom soundtrack. Electro-pop violin band NuClassica, who were featured

on the 11th season of "America's Got Talent," will perform. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early. All ages are welcome and admission is free. Guests should bring their own chairs to the viewing area for the show. Food and beverage options will be available for purchase at the event.

TEJON From page 1A

The Hard Rock project is the Tejon Indian Tribe's first commercial venture. The remaining land on the site would be dedicated to tribal administrative offices, a health care facility and tribal housing.

After the DOI agreement was announced, a spokesperson for the tribe said the hope was to begin construction sometime in the spring or summer of 2023. Hard Rock officials have previously said that the project would take 18-to-24 months to be completed

once construction starts.

The original Tejon Indian Reservation was established in 1853 and was known as the first Native American reservation in California. According to the tribe, it was dissolved in 1864 after many of its inhabitants were forcibly relocated to the Tule River Reservation about 60 miles away.

The tribe was federally recognized in 2012 and today has approximately 1,200 members, which the tribe says have mostly lived in the Bakersfield area since the 1950s.

The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of Hard Rock International. More is at hardrock.com.



Hard Rock officials released this rendering of the forthcoming Hard Rock Tejon in Mettler, California.

Hard Rock Bristol to open in 2024

STAFF REPORT

Construction has begun on the new Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Bristol in Virginia. Hard Rock Bristol president Allie Evangelista told the Bristol Herald Courier in an Oct. 28 report that the date for a formal groundbreaking ceremony would be announced soon.

"We are ready to move forward and will be opening [in the] spring [or] summer of 2024," she said.

Hard Rock opened a temporary casino in Bristol last July — Hard Rock's first project in the state.

Bristol is located in southwest Virginia and is nicknamed the "birthplace of country music." The Birthplace of Country Music Museum is located there — a musical connection that was appealing to Hard Rock officials. It is also the twin city of Bristol,



A rendering of the forthcoming Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Bristol.

Tennessee — just across the state line.

The permanent \$400 million hotel-casino is being built at the former Bristol Mall site. It is expected to have more than 2,700 slot machines and more than 100 table games. In addition, it will feature a 750-room hotel, seven restaurants and four bars. Hard Rock Bristol will also include a 3,200-

seat Hard Rock Live indoor entertainment venue with an outdoor option that can accommodate 20,000 people, officials said.

The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of Hard Rock International. More is at hardrock.com.

For tickets go to myhrl.com.

Foreigner concert feels like the last time

Hard Rock

The legendary rock group Foreigner rocks Seminole Coconut Creek Casino's outside stage Nov. 16. The band recently announced that it will hold its final tour starting next year.

"I had the idea that was to become Foreigner back in 1974, and I was 30 years old at the time," founder Mick Jones told Billboard in November. "By the end of our farewell tour, over 50 years will have passed, and that's a long time to be on the road."

The farewell tour is scheduled to launch July 6 in Georgia, according to Billboard. It has stops in West Palm Beach (July 8) and Tampa (July 9).



Hard Rock Live in Hollywood has new GM

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Emmanuel "Manny" Thomas has been named general manager of the Hard Rock Live entertainment venue at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. Hard Rock made the announcement in a news release Nov. 1.

Thomas oversees and manages the operations for the 7,000-seat venue. The \$100 million Hard Rock Live opened in 2019 as part of a \$1.5 billion property expansion that included the 450-foot Guitar Hotel. Hard Rock Live has hosted a slew of big name acts since, such as Guns N' Roses, Elton John, Billy Joel, Chris Rock and Metallica.



Courtesy photo
Emmanuel "Manny" Thomas

Thomas was previously the vice president of event services at the Chase Center in San Francisco. The Chase Center opened in 2019 and is home to the NBA's Golden State Warriors. He has more than 25 years of experience in the entertainment industry, much of it involving sports teams. The news release said Thomas got his start in 1996 as a ball boy for the NBA's New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden, before working his way up to building operations, event services and director of event productions.

Thomas earned a degree in athletic administration from St. John's University and a master's degree in health and physical education with a concentration in sport management from East Stroudsburg University.

The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of Hard Rock International. More is at hardrock.com.

Train to arrive in Hollywood

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — The Grammy award-winning band Train will hold a concert March 11, 2023, at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood.

The San Francisco band has had 14 songs on Billboard's Hot 100 list since the release of their debut self-titled album. Train's climb ascension began in 1994 as the original five-member band built a loyal hometown following, leading up to their debut album, released by Columbia in 1998.

The tumbling wordplay of "Meet Virginia" gave the band its first unlikely radio hit and 2001's "Drops of Jupiter" earned the 2001 Grammy Award for Best Rock Song.

For tickets go to myhrl.com.

The story of one souvenir

BY MARIA DMITRIEVA
Conservator

BIG CYPRESS — At the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Store, a new souvenir magnet is available. It resembles a clipping from an old newspaper with a very remarkable message. The headline reads: Seminole Peace Pact Has Yet To Be Signed. These words are a symbol of the freedom and independence of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

So how did this souvenir get on store shelves?

The museum archive contains many

historical documents, including newspaper clippings with articles about the difficult conditions that the Seminole people have endured, their proud disposition and endless litigation for land ownership and the rights of a sovereign people. A few months ago, an envelope from the Florida Press Clipping Bureau in Tampa that contained newspaper clippings was sent to the museum's conservation laboratory. The envelope was addressed to the "Seminole Indian Association and contained many newspaper clippings and handwritten notes from 1936.

The envelope itself was badly damaged by time, insects, and rodents. Eighteen newspaper clippings with labels pasted on them were also in very poor condition. The clippings were devoted to important news about the Seminole Tribe. The envelope, labels and folded clippings were creased, torn and soiled. Some of them had losses. There were foreign deposits inside the envelope. The paper was fragile, dried, aged and had a brown color. Over-dried and fragile paper can result in the loss of the entire



A souvenir magnet, left, and a newspaper clipping after conservation treatment.

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



Envelope and newspaper clippings before and during conservation treatment.



All processed envelopes and newspaper clippings now have separate acid-free folders for safe keeping.

document. The main task of a conservator is to preserve objects for future generations and to make them suitable for use by researchers.

After a thorough examination of the paper that involved assessing the adhesives and the strength of the newspaper text and inscriptions, the envelope and newspaper clippings were treated. During the conservation treatment, different procedures were used: dry cleaning, stamp removal, envelope

dismantling, removal of foreign deposits, bath washing, flattening, tear mending, filling losses, lining if needed, assembling the envelope, and sticking the stamp back in place. Losses were replenished with pre-tinted acid-free paper. At the last stage, the envelope was glued along the old folds and the labels were returned to their original place on the clippings.

When the work was done, we noticed one small clipping with a very significant message and suggested creating a souvenir magnet for museum visitors. Within the week, the magnet was designed and ordered, and now we have a nice beautiful magnet that references and draws us into Seminole history. And for the conservator, this souvenir brings back memories of preserving a piece of Seminole history. It shows how meaningful museum work can be.

If you'd like to see some of these pieces of history and how we preserve them, contact us by phone at (863) 902-1113 or via email at museum@semtribe.com.

Seminole artists gather for new show opening

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

A new exhibit featuring Seminole artists opened Nov. 6 at the History Fort Lauderdale museum. Several of the artists joined museum officials and attendees at the kick-off event.

"Chono Thlee: Sparking a new era in Seminole art," is scheduled to run through Jan. 10, 2023. The exhibit was created in partnership with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and was timed to open during Native American Heritage Month – observed each November.

The exhibit highlights new work by the artists and is the ninth art exhibition the museum has done in partnership with tribal members. Curated by Tara Chadwick, curator of exhibitions at History Fort Lauderdale, the works include contemporary and traditional media, including oils, acrylics, fiber, glass, metals, mixed media and digital art.

There are 60 pieces of work on display by 20 Seminole artists. The artists are Durante Blais-Billie, Tia Blais-Billie, Krystle Young Bowers, Wilson Bowers, Nicholas DiCarlo, Donna Frank, Danielle Nelson,

Jacob Osceola, Jacqueline Osceola, Jessica Osceola, the late Jimmy Osceola, Leroy Osceola, Mabel Osceola, Victoria Osceola, Daniel Tommie, Samuel Tommie, Shonayeh Tommie, Gordon "Ollie" Wareham, Brian Zepeda and Corinne Zepeda.

At the opening event, there was music, storytelling and artists discussed their work. Another event featuring the artists is scheduled for Dec. 3 at 9:30 a.m. at the museum.

Last year's show was "A Return to Self: The Art of Healing." It featured the work of 25 Seminole artists, the largest number ever featured in a single exhibition.

In addition, one of the museum's permanent exhibits, "From Dugouts to Dream Yachts," traces a line from the Seminoles through the ever-changing use of Fort Lauderdale's waterways for travel, commerce and tourism. Daniel Tommie loaned the museum a small dugout canoe for the exhibit – about five feet long by eight inches wide.

For more information, go to historyfortlauderdale.org or call (954) 463-4431. History Fort Lauderdale is located at 231 SW 2nd Ave. in Fort Lauderdale.



Tara Chadwick

Gordon "Ollie" Wareham describes the interlinked artistic, historical and environmental importance of the sweet grass basket in Seminole culture. His aunt, Donna Frank, made the basket he's holding.



Tara Chadwick

Daniel Tommie, center, gave a brief overview of canoe carving in the Seminole tradition. His aunt, Donna Frank, made the basket he's holding.



Tara Chadwick

Nicholas DiCarlo, left, and Samuel Tommie stand by the painting "Seminole Camp 2" by the late Jimmy Osceola.

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Health



Tampa residents support breast cancer walk



Courtesy photo (2)

A group of Tampa residents, above, all resplendent in pink, prepare to participate in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa on Oct. 29. The photo doesn't include all 32 residents who participated in what was the first walk in two years. At right, Nancy Frank, of Tampa, is a 19-year survivor of breast cancer.



Calvin Tiger

Seminole veterans gather during a Veterans Day walk on Nov. 9 at the Seminole Veterans Memorial Fitness Trail in Big Cypress. From left to right are Curtis Motlow, Jacob Osceola Jr., Paul Bowers Sr., Sallie Josh and President Mitchell Cypress.

Veterans honored at Big Cypress walk

STAFF REPORT

BIG CYPRESS — A Veterans Day walk was held Nov. 9 at the Seminole Veterans Memorial Fitness Trail on the Big Cypress Reservation. The walk was organized by Big Cypress Integrative Health to commemorate and honor the sacrifices made by all veterans in the name of freedom. The walk featured 19 participants, including Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc. President Mitchell Cypress.

President Cypress, a U.S. Army veteran, said it was "a wonderful walk" and he emphasized the importance of health. Pastor Arlen Payne, of the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church, gave a prayer for those who have served and are currently serving in the military.



Calvin Tiger

Walkers make their way around the fitness trail in Big Cypress.

HHS issues notices on RSV, dengue fever

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe's Health and Human Services (HHS) Department issued two warnings via email to tribal members and tribal employees.

The first warning concerned respiratory syncytial virus, commonly known as RSV. HHS said the virus is usually contracted during the winter months — which begin Dec. 21 and end March 20.

RSV can cause mild cold symptoms, wheezing (bronchiolitis) and pneumonia. HHS said it is the most common cause of bronchiolitis in children under one year old.

"Most children get RSV by the time they are two years old," the HHS notice said. "It tends to last one to two weeks, but can persist for up to four weeks in some cases."

HHS said RSV is contracted in much the same way as other viruses — through respiratory droplets from a contaminated person or from infected surfaces. Symptoms include runny nose, cough, decreased appetite, irritability, and sometimes a fever.

While there is no treatment for adults with RSV, there is medication available for premature infants and high-risk children. Prevention includes washing hands, keeping hands off of the face, avoiding contact with sick people, covering the mouth when coughing or sneezing, cleaning and disinfecting common surfaces, and staying home when sick.

Dengue fever

The second warning concerned dengue fever and dengue hemorrhagic fever (a more severe form of dengue infection). HHS said both are known diseases carried by mosquitoes. There is no vaccination or specific medication for treatment.

The most common symptoms are a fever plus any of the following: nausea or vomiting, rash and aches and pains in the eyes, behind the eyes, in muscles, joints or bones.

◆ See HHS on page 11A



Calvin Tiger

Participants in the Veterans Day walk get together at the Seminole Veterans Memorial Fitness Trail on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Enroll in health care coverage through CMS today and keep your health protected all year long.



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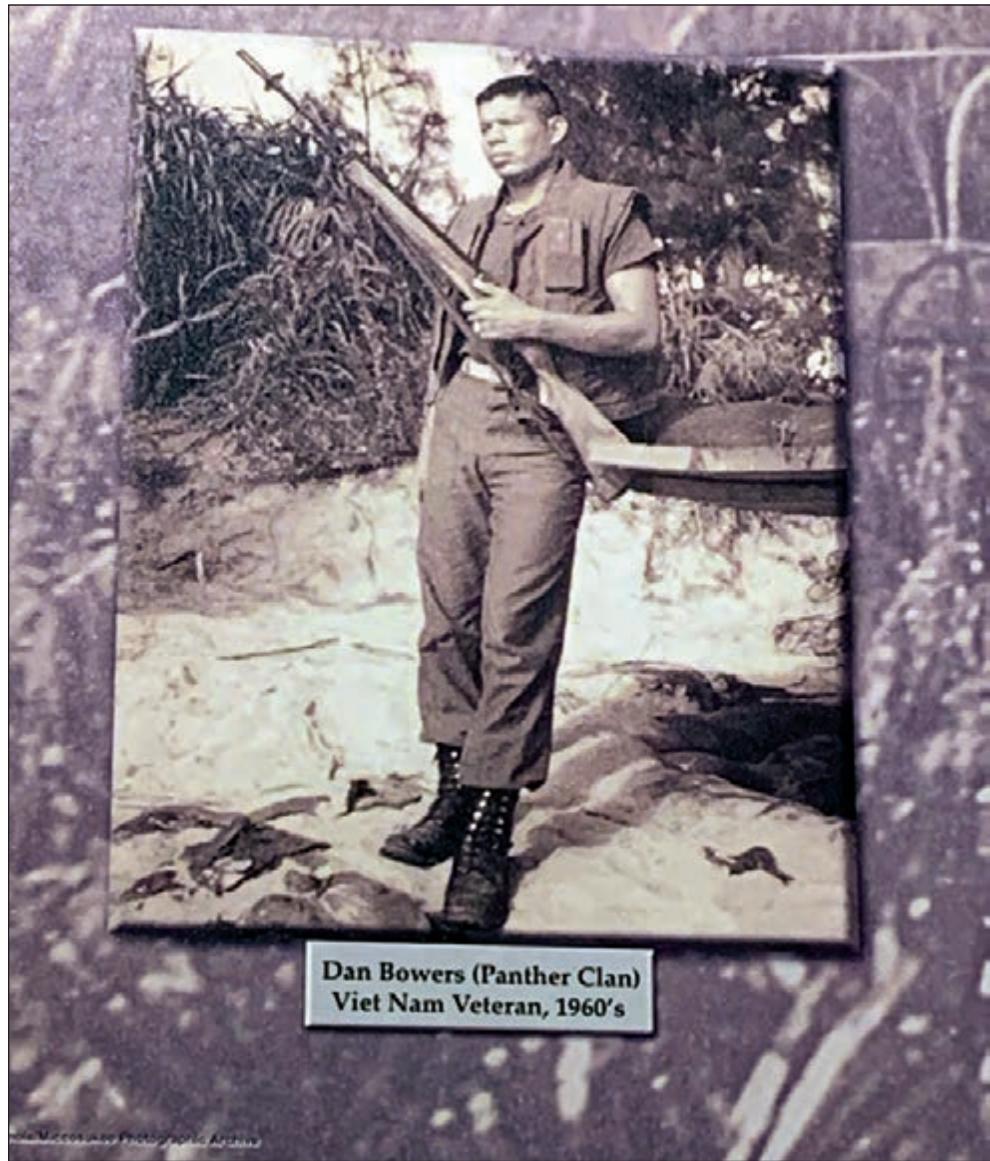
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SEMINOLE SCENES



Dan Bowers (Panther Clan)
Viet Nam Veteran, 1960's

Kevin Johnson (2)

SEMINOLE VETERANS: Photos of Seminole veterans Dan Bowers, above, and Howard Tiger, below, are part of the tribe's display of photos on the wall of an entrance to the Seminole Coconut Creek Casino.



Howard Tiger (Snake Clan)
U.S.M.C. WWII, 1943



Elgin Jumper

HORSE ON A COURSE: A photo of Seminole artist Elgin Jumper's painting "Seminole Foal" includes its miniature subject on the top. Jumper said he painted a foal in acrylic about 10 years ago and just wanted to do an update of sorts.



Beverly Bidney

BON APPETIT: Students from the Ahfachkee School and Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School enjoy a lunch together in the Ahfachkee School's culture camp in November. PECS principal Tracy Downing is at far left; Ahfachkee acting principal Philip Baer is standing.



Beverly Bidney

HONORING VETS: Andrea Jumper's lap is full of children during the Big Cypress Veterans Day event Nov. 11. From left are daughter Justice Jumper, Andrea Jumper, granddaughter Sawyer Jumper and daughter Lorraine Jumper.



Beverly Bidney

ON ITS WAY: Construction is well underway for the elementary school addition to the Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress. The site is seen here in November.



Hard Rock

TEAM MEMBER VETERANS: Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City hosted a Veterans Day luncheon for its team members who are veterans. Brigadier Gen. Patrick M. Kennedy, assistant adjutant general - air, New Jersey National Guard, (center, in uniform) was a guest speaker. Hard Rock also presented a check for \$12,000 to Veterans Haven South to purchase mattresses for its facility that houses and rehabilitates homeless veterans.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Wisconsin unveils dual-language highway signs for Menominee Tribe

Together with the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), Gov. Tony Evers on Nov. 17 unveiled new dual-language signs for placement on state highways.

The new signs indicate the Menominee Nation's Tribal boundaries and other landmarks in both English and the Menominee Language.

"The Menominee Nation, standing alongside our ancestors, are very pleased with the dual-language signs created for our homelands," Menominee Chairwoman Ron Corn Sr. said. "This is another example of how our state recognizes and respects our lands, sovereignty, language, and unique cultural identity. Maec Waewaenen [Great Thanks] to Governor Evers and the Department of Transportation for their continued support."

The sign unveiling took place at the Menominee Casino Resort and Convention Center in Keshena and expands on a statewide dual-language sign initiative launched by WisDOT in 2021 to collaborate with Native Nations in Wisconsin to install road signs on Tribal lands in both English and Indigenous languages. The Menominee Nation is the third Tribe in the state to install dual-language signs, following the Oneida Nation and the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

The new Tribal boundary signs feature the Menominee Nation seal next to the Tribe's name in the Menominee Language, "Omāēqnomēw Eskōnekan." Pronounced Oh-Mat-Na-Mah-Nay Esco-Nee-cun, Omāēqnomēw Eskōnekan is the traditional name for the Reservation and means "land set apart for Menominee people." The unveiling comes during National Native American Heritage Month.

- Lake Geneva (Wisc.) Regional News

Pentagon allows Native American airman to grow out his hair

WATERTOWN, N.Y. — The Pentagon has granted a religious accommodation to allow a Native American airman from the Antwerp area to grow out his hair.

"The longer it is, the closer it is to the ground, the more connected I am with the earth. The longer my hair is, the more spiritually strong I am, you know, I have more power," said Airman 1st Class Connor Crawn.

As part of the Mohawk Tribe, Crawn says the values and length of hair are spiritually crucial.

"If I were to braid it, it's even more strength. Those three strands together makes everything strong, so a lot of it just comes down to spiritual strength and connection to the creator, connection to the earth," he said. But once Crawn enlisted in the Air Force, he cut his hair due to regulations. For the next 2 years, he pushed to get a religious accommodation. Last month, he got it. The approval came from the Pentagon.

He will now follow Air Force rules for a woman's hair standards.

"I'm starting to feel a little better that my hair is not shaved down to the skin like that anymore, that, you know, I have that permission to grow it out, but it really felt like a part of me died when I lost my braid," he said.

Crawn says he hopes to motivate other Native American service members to fight for their beliefs.

"Trying to make that change and be an advocate for that change in the military so we can grow our hair and keep our hair in uniform," he said.

- WWNY

Isaiah Poor Bear-Chandler, WSU respond to announcers' comments on Native American name

Comments from a CBS Sports Network broadcast on the name of Native American player Isaiah Poor Bear-Chandler in Wichita State's basketball game against Grand Canyon on Nov. 21 have spread across social media.

After Poor Bear-Chandler scored a basket in the game, the broadcast team of Chick Hernandez and Chris Walker repeatedly referred to him as "Pooh Bear" while laughing through the conversation.

"He's got Pooh Bear on the back of his jersey," Walker said. "I love that."

"It is one of the better names in college basketball," Hernandez said. "No, that is the best name in college basketball," Walker followed. "Pooh Bear? You've got to be kidding. I was like, 'OK, let me look in my notes. Maybe I said something wrong here.'"

Later in the broadcast, the duo mentioned Poor Bear-Chandler's Oglala Lakota heritage but followed with another "Pooh Bear" joke. "I love that and shoutout to coach Isaac Brown for allowing him to have that on his jersey," Walker said. "I love it." "You know opponents opponents are calling him 'Winnie' at some point," Hernandez said.

Both announcers began properly referring to him as Poor Bear in the second half of the game, but the clip of their mispronouncing his name from the first half went viral. Poor Bear-Chandler responded on Twitter on Nov. 14.

"This (is) not cool (for real)," wrote Poor Bear-Chandler on social media. "So it's okay to make fun of my last name? Just shows your ability to be serious in a professional setting. Just because my people was almost colonized doesn't mean I don't know where I come from!" continued Poor

Bear-Chandler on social media.

Hernandez and Walker met with Poor Bear-Chandler on Nov. 22 to apologize in person before the Shockers played in the Hall of Fame Classic championship game against San Francisco, an effort the WSU senior appreciated while taking the opportunity to educate them on why his Native American name means so much to him. The broadcasters publicly apologized on air when Poor Bear-Chandler checked into the Nov. 22 game for the first time.

"Chris and I would like to take this time to publicly apologize to Isaiah Poor Bear-Chandler, his family, the Native American community, NABC, the Hall of Fame Classic for our comments and lack of sensitivity surrounding Isaiah's name during yesterday's game," Hernandez said. "We ... met with Isaiah this morning to apologize in person and express our deep regret. We appreciate Isaiah taking the time to educate us on the significance of his name and his heritage. We will continue to learn from this and be better moving forward."

- The Wichita (Kansas) Eagle

Tribal development organizations form joint construction company

Three Michigan tribes have come together for a first-of-its-kind joint venture.

Odawa Economic Affairs Holding Corp., Mno-Bmadsen and Gun Lake Investments have launched Aki Construction, the first such tribal joint venture in the Midwest, according to an announcement from the trio last week.

"Aki" in Ojibwe means "earth, land or ground."

The joint venture started when Odawa Holdings Executive Director Shanna Shananaquet and GLI CEO Monica King ran into each other at the Gun Lake Powwow and realized there were several projects and investments between the organizations that aligned.

"We have a lot of the same goals and thought we could build on that," Shananaquet said. "Later on, we hit it off with Julio and tribes always end up talking about coming together, sharing ideas and thinking about bringing things into fruition."

GLI is the economic development arm of the Gun Lake Tribe in Grand Rapids. Odawa Holdings is part of the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians and based in Petoskey, while Mno-Bmadsen is the non-gaming investment arm of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians in Dowagiac.

With similar interests and investments across Michigan, the three tribes felt there were enough overlaps it made sense to team up and pool resources.

"We realize we're stronger together, and this was a good time to come together," Shananaquet said.

The Odawa have Victory Square in Petoskey, a cannabis company in northern Michigan and multiple other commercial projects in the pipeline. GLI has a large-scale corridor project coming up, while Mno-Bmadsen also has variety of hotels and retail projects.

There's no shortage of their own projects to build. Still, Shananaquet said eventually Aki Construction will work with other tribes and construction projects as well. This is also just the beginning of collaborations between the trio, Shananaquet said, as "this relationship grew so fast, and the synergy is awesome."

"We expect this joint venture to expand on the very important work we do to grow our tribe's economic development investments for the benefit of future generations," said Mno-Bmadsen CEO Julio Martinez.

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) Business Journal

Harvard to return Native American hair samples

Harvard University has apologized for holding and is pledging to return to tribes and families hundreds of hair samples taken from Native American children in the federal boarding school system.

In 1930, physical anthropologist and Colorado State Museum curator George Woodbury launched a study of the structure of Native American hair to determine Native Americans' racial origins.

He collected hair samples from hundreds of Native American children in federal boarding schools, comparing them to hair samples from indigenous individuals in Canada, Asia, Central America, South America and Oceania, as well as mummified remains found in Colorado. And he took them with him when he became a lecturer at Harvard in 1935.

"We recognize that for many Native American communities, hair holds cultural and spiritual significance, and the Museum is fully committed to the return of hair back to families and tribal communities," Jane Pickering, director of Harvard's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, said Nov. 10.

- Voice of America

First Nations chief critical of Alberta Premier Danielle Smith's Indigenous heritage claim

A First Nations leader in Alberta is questioning Premier Danielle Smith's claim of Indigenous heritage.

Smith has said she has some Cherokee roots and years ago declared herself as a person of mixed race.

Chief Tony Alexis of Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, west of Edmonton, said on Friday that a true Indigenous person would

not go against treaty people.

He made the comment at a news conference where leaders of Treaties 6, 7 and 8 said they oppose Smith's plan to introduce an Alberta sovereignty act that would allow her government to opt out of federal measures deemed harmful to provincial interests.

When the leaders were asked about Smith's ancestry claim, many in the room erupted with laughter.

"A true Indigenous person would not go against all the treaty people of this land," said Alexis.

"What we're realizing is that anybody wants to be a part of the Indigenous community if there's a benefit."

A story this week by the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network looked into Smith's family tree and found no evidence of the premier being Indigenous. APTN worked with Canadian and Cherokee genealogists and examined U.S. census reports from the late 1800s in its investigation.

CBC has not independently verified APTN's reporting.

The premier's office issued a statement following the story stating, "Smith hasn't done a deep dive into her ancestry but is proud of her roots."

"Like so many Albertans that have origins from all over the world, Premier Smith has heard about her heritage from her loved ones. Her family has spoken for years about their ancestry and she is proud of her family history."

APTN said Smith claimed to be a person of "mixed-race ancestry" in 2012, when she was leader of the Wildrose Party.

In the legislature that year, APTN said Smith spoke about her great-great-grandmother.

"She was a member of the Cherokee Nation that had been forcibly relocated to Kansas from the southeastern United States in the 1830s by the U.S. government, a terrible stain on the history of America known as the Trail of Tears," Smith said, according to legislative records obtained by APTN.

More recently, Smith declared Indigenous lineage during the United Conservative Party leadership race.

"As someone with Indigenous ancestry, I honour the heritage of Canada's Indigenous Peoples as one of our nation's and province's greatest treasures and strengths," said the tweet from Smith on Sept. 28.

Some false claims of Indigenous ancestry have recently come to light at universities in Canada.

Alexis said there's always a reason for Indigenous identity fraud.

"At the university level, we have people who are not Indigenous who claim that they are Indigenous to gain benefits, to gain bursaries and so on," said the chief.

"There's always something behind it."

- The Canadian Press

Potential Cherokee Nation delegate optimistic she'll join Congress

For the first time in nearly 200 years, a member of an Indigenous tribal nation may have a seat in Congress.

The House Rules Committee held a first-of-its-kind hearing last week to discuss potentially adding a non-voting delegate to represent the Cherokee Nation in Congress. The provision was written into the Treaty of New Echota in 1835, which promises the Cherokee Nation a delegate in Congress in exchange for Southern tribal lands. The exchange led to forced western migration along the Trail of Tears, leaving nearly a quarter of the Cherokee population dead along the way.

Cherokee Nation officials are advocating for Kim Teehee to represent the group as a non-voting delegate in the House, similar to that of the District of Columbia, Guam, and other United States territories. While Teehee would not have the ability to vote on legislation, she would be able to vote in committee sessions and speak on the House floor.

Teehee is optimistic that the measure could be put into place this year.

"It's never been done before," Teehee said on Meet the Press Now on Thursday. "What impressed me was how well informed the members were, how thoughtful they were. But also, more importantly, the comments they made were made on a bipartisan basis, and they were supported."

Teehee says her presence in Congress could open the door for other tribal nations with similar treaties to have representation in Congress.

"It gives Cherokee Nation a seat at the table when formulating laws that impact us, but impacts other tribes, too," Teehee said. "It gives us a unique opportunity to educate members about tribes in this country, about ways in which we need to adequately address the great needs of Indian country."

Teehee's seat differs from other congressional delegates in that she was appointed by principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, Cherokee Chuck Hoskin Jr., rather than elected. Both Cherokee Nation officials and members of Congress have signaled support for opening the position up to an elected role.

House Rules Committee Chairman Jim McGovern, (D-Mass.) said at the conclusion of last week's hearing, "This can and should be done as quickly as possible. That is my view. The history of this country is a history of broken promise after broken promise to Native American communities. This cannot be another broken promise."

But the next steps are not yet clear. Lawmakers discussed various options to seat a new delegate at last week's hearing, per the New York Times, including adding a provision to the House rules package for

the next Congress, which would also need to be approved every two years at the start of a new legislative session.

Teehee, though, remains optimistic. "The stars are completely aligning," Teehee said, "This is the most diverse Congress in my lifetime, the most women in Congress in my lifetime. And I hope to join them next year."

- NBC News

Tribes awarded state grants for the first time to conserve Va. forestland

In a mission to gain back lands lost since Capt. John Smith's first expeditions throughout the Chesapeake Bay in 1608, state and federally recognized Indigenous tribes are tapping into state funds.

In November, two tribes were awarded grants directly from the Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF) to acquire and preserve forestlands for the first time. The grants will only cover a portion of the cost of the land acquisitions and will be available to the tribes for two years.

During this time, the rest of the funding must be raised for a successful property transaction to take place. A one-year extension can be given if progress on the acquisition is being made, said Suzan Bulbulkaya, a land conservation manager at the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The historic moment resulted from legislation passed earlier this year allowing Virginia's state and federally recognized tribes to receive grants from VLCF, one of the state's premier sources of conservation money, funded through the budget. In the past, tribes were required to work with another public body, such as a nonprofit or government program, to receive those funds.

The Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe was awarded \$310,000 to acquire over 800 acres in King William County, and the Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia was awarded \$500,000 to acquire roughly 700 acres in Richmond County.

"We're thrilled to have gotten these applications and to be able to help the tribes," said Bulbulkaya. "VLCF funds are used frequently as seed money to help leverage other federal funds and private funding, and it's exciting to see these new entities and the energy and the diversity of funding that they're going to be bringing in."

The ability to leverage other funding is "extremely important when you're trying to acquire land, because the Land Conservation Fund doesn't have money for the entire thing," said Rappahannock Chief G. Anne Richardson.

The VLCF grants awarded to the tribes add to a recent uptick in land acquisitions by tribes in Virginia that began with their long-awaited recognition by the federal government in 2018.

Joel Dunn, president and CEO of the Chesapeake Conservancy, a nonprofit that has partnered with the Rappahannock on land conservation efforts, said "the pattern that's emerging here" with tribal land acquisitions in Virginia "marks a new era for the conservation movement in the Chesapeake and beyond."

The Rappahannock tribe is seeking to acquire roughly 700 acres of land that will connect to the 400 acres it successfully acquired in April along the Rappahannock River's famous Fones Cliffs.

Three historic villages along this stretch of the river, known as Wecuppom, Matchopick and Pissacoack, were home to the Rappahannock long before English colonists first arrived.

"A goal of the tribe is to repatriate all three of those towns to our tribe and put them into federal trust so that they are never desecrated again," said Richardson.

Along with its cultural significance, Fones Cliffs is also a critical habitat for bald eagles and other migratory birds. Richardson noted: "These cliffs are really important to the whole ecosystem over there, and we want that to continue not just for tribal people but for all people and the sustenance of people on that river."

By conserving property inland of the river, the tribe aims to connect the land it acquired in April with two properties owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create a more connected stretch of preserved forestland. If acquired, the property will be placed by the tribe into trust with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and under easement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

- Virginia Mercury

Lumbee Tribe launches agricultural department

PEMBROKE, N.C. — The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina began its new tribal Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources in November.

The Lumbee Tribal Council approved the department in April, but since then, the Lumbee Tribe has raised \$1 million for department initiatives.

ANR will address needs that strengthen farming communities in the Lumbee Tribe by advocating for Lumbee agricultural opportunities and promoting tribal food sovereignty. The department will also look to address issues relating to food distribution, agricultural educational opportunities, financial training, resource networking, agri-tourism, forestry and natural resources and rural development which strengthens the agricultural economy within tribal communities.

HHS From page 9A

During mosquito season, each of the tribe's reservations are sprayed weekly with substances that control populations and mosquito-borne illnesses. HHS said there are other preventative measures, including avoiding outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active (normally at dusk and dawn); dressing in clothing that covers the skin (long pants and sleeves); and using insect repellent products that contain the chemical DEET (no more than 35% for adults and less than 10% for children two months and older). HHS said infants should be kept indoors or mosquito netting should be used to cover strollers.

Prevention measures also include the removal of any standing water where mosquitoes can lay their eggs, and making sure screens on windows and doors are tightly fitted.

For more information, call the HHS hotline at (833) 786-3458.

AIAC From page 2A

Student Ronnie Jimmie plans to be a fashion designer after graduation and debuted his new collection called "The Beginning." The garments show his distinct vision for fusing traditional Seminole clothing with a contemporary edge.

Music teacher Cesar Taveras worked with the students for the music showcase. The students chose the three songs they played on keyboard, guitar, bass, percussion and drums.

"Most of these kids picked up an instrument for the first time this year," Taveras said.

Forty arts, crafts and food vendors filled tents throughout the grounds across from the museum.

"When we heard of this we immediately came," said Giuseppe Cammarata, from Italy, who attended with his wife Naira and 4 year old daughter Eleonora. "We see Indians in the movies, but we never see them in person. The hoop dancers were amazing. This festival is interesting and beautiful."

Fourth, fifth and sixth graders from the South Florida Montessori Academy in Tamarac enjoyed the day. A group of them blurted out their favorite moments, which included the Maori instruments and dance, the jewelry and seeing what the Seminoles made.

Anna Schinella, of Homestead, follows the museum on social media and knew she had to bring her children and a nephew, who she home schools.

"If the Maori can come all the way from New Zealand, then I can make the two hour drive to be here," said Schinella. "I want them to meet new people and see new things. My daughters loved the jewelry and they all loved the movie 'Moana' and were really excited to see the Maori dancers."

Skye Brown, of West Palm Beach, also home schools her children and attended with another home school family.

"I want them to see the different cultures and how different we are, but also how much we have in common," Brown said. "They loved the Maori and the alligator wrestling, but are looking forward the looking at the jewelry and arts and crafts."

Greg and Tomoko Garrison, of Cape Coral, spent their 50th anniversary at the AIAC.

"We finally made it here," Greg said. "I like culture and history and am glad we came. The highlight was seeing Bobby Henry; I can see what he tries to do as a medicine man."



Friends Deloris Alvarez, left, and Linda Beletso dressed for the occasion in their patchwork and beads at the AIAC on Nov. 4.



A Maori dancer expresses himself fiercely with wide eyes and a wild tongue, which is a traditional part of their cultural dance.

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Education



Author Robin Wall Kimmerer meets with Seminole students

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — About 175 students from the Ahfachkee School and Pemaityv Emahakv Charter School gathered to hear renowned author Robin Wall Kimmerer speak on Nov. 16. She talked about her latest book, “Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants.”

Kimmerer, a member of the Potawatomi Nation, is a distinguished teaching professor of environmental biology and the founder and director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment at the State University of New York in Syracuse. She told the students gathered at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium about her work in plant knowledge and how Indigenous people have always cared for the Earth.

“Our own people have always been scientists,” Kimmerer said. “Our Indigenous way of how we care for the land is ancient, time tested and right for this moment.”

The title of her book refers to her tribe’s tradition of finding and braiding sweetgrass.

“Sweetgrass has a wonderful fragrance that reaches out to you,” Kimmerer said. “It is a sacred plant for us and delivers kindness and healing. It is always braided because of the creation story around it. The braids are seen as the hair of Mother Earth.”

Although she grew up trained in traditional Indigenous ecological science, Kimmerer became a biologist and botanist who uses Western and Indigenous science together. She wanted to study botany and traditional plant medicine.



Author Robin Wall Kimmerer signs a book for student Alice Jimmie during an appearance in Big Cypress on Nov. 16.

Beverly Bidney

Her early experience in college almost deterred her from pursuing her goal. She said the first university she attended did

not believe plant medicine was science and did not welcome her Indigenous outlook on plants.

Changing schools helped Kimmerer to pursue her interests. She received her bachelor’s degree from SUNY Syracuse and

a master’s degree and doctorate in botany from the University of Wisconsin. This year she was awarded a prestigious MacArthur Fellows grant for her work as a plant ecologist, educator and writer.

“Things have changed, our Indigenous knowledge belongs in the university and is present there,” Kimmerer said. “My grandfather is a survivor of the boarding schools. He was also told his way of thinking didn’t matter and didn’t belong. Today, we have a center for Indigenous science. The world is listening; it’s so important for you honor your Indigenous knowledge and raise your voices about it.”

The Biden administration recently sent a memo to federal departments to elevate Indigenous science in land management. The new policy means Indigenous scientists are needed to do the work.

“I’m looking at you,” Kimmerer said to the students. “Indigenous science is our legacy. We take care of the world. It’s part of our creation stories. We are a long time from the origin of the world but it’s our turn now to return the gift.”

During Kimmerer’s presentation, slides were shown on a large screen behind her. One slide was an old photo from an Indian boarding school showing a crowd of young students. The image struck Cody Motlow, Heritage and Environment Resources Office climate resiliency coordinator, as significant.

“Here we have today’s students facing that image while reclaiming their heritage and Indigenousness,” Motlow said. “It shows we are always resilient.”

◆ See AUTHOR on page 2B

Tous Young featured in UNM profile

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

Editor’s note: Tous J. Young Sr. was recently featured on the University of New Mexico’s Office of Advising Strategies Transfer Student story highlights page.

Young is a student from the Seminole Tribe’s Higher Education program.

His story was selected along with others to help inspire those wishing to or have already transferred to UNM.

Here is the profile:

Tous Young

Hometown: Fort Lauderdale

Major: Business Administration

School/College: Anderson Schools of Management

Transfer Institution: Harvard University and Nova Southeastern University

Graduation: Spring 2023

What helped in making your transfer or transition successful?

The admissions administration and faculty, especially my academic advisor Nissane Capps. When I had an issue, not just with academics, there was always someone I can reach out to who would help me. It’s one thing to reach out in a time of need but it’s another to have that someone actually hear the need, care enough to take me by the hand and lead me to where I needed to go. If that person didn’t know, they sure helped me get to the person who could. For that, I am grateful.



Courtesy photo

Tous J. Young Sr.

How did you overcome any challenges during your transfer or transition?

I started at UNM the semester before COVID shut everything down. Class and school in general gave me a structure to look forward to in terms of interaction and mental stimulation. When the university opened back up, I worked to find spaces where I could connect with people again. Places like El Centro and the CCS Casita offered community and opportunities for academic and personal growth with other people who were interested in the things I wanted to study and learn. I met professors and administrative staff who supported and continue to support me as I work through my undergraduate program and the application process for graduate school.

Words of wisdom for future transfer students:

It all starts with transfer orientation. The group that facilitates that needs special recognition for laying out almost everything that a student needs or will need while attending UNM. Don’t be afraid to reach out and ask for help. The administration and faculty, as well as the student body can help you with whatever the need or answer whatever the question. It’s just like research, you have to dig sometimes but it’s worth it in the end.

PECS continues its ‘Survivor Day’ tradition

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemaityv Emahakv Charter School’s “Survivor Day” challenge was held Nov. 19 on the Brighton ballfields. The annual tradition brings students and families together for friendly competition right before the Thanksgiving break.

“‘Survivor Day’ promotes our family and community feeling we have here,” said PECS principal Tracy Downing. “It’s a lot of fun.”

The event, which was organized by physical education teachers Pam Matthews and Chris Goodwin, consisted of 10 challenges where competitors earned points. Those who earned the most points at each challenge faced off in the final challenge, which determined the overall winner.



Beverly Bidney

The Hunsinger brothers, Bryant, left, and Braylen, try to pick up a Starburst candy with one chopstick each. The competition was deemed the most difficult of the day and involved both coordination and cooperation to complete.



Beverly Bidney

Participants compete in the tire pull as spectators wait their turn to compete during the PECS “Survivor Day” at the Brighton ballfields Nov. 19.

Students paired up with a parent, sibling or family member and competed for the championship title and trophy. The pairs also competed in a costume contest. “Survivor Day” has been held every year since the school opened in 2007.

The competitive spirit was on display at the 10 stations, which included an obstacle course, wall ball carry (balls weighed up to 20 pounds), a lawn dart game played with golf balls, a shoe kick, tire pull, tire roll, scoop it up, speed corn hole, chopsticks and cup stack.

The winners of event were cousins Brady Markham and Tate Matthews.



Beverly Bidney

Students jump the hay bales during the obstacle course challenge.



Beverly Bidney

Cousins Brady Markham and Tate Matthews hustle to the finish line for the final event of “Survivor Day.” They won the championship.



Beverly Bidney

Jovanny Torres builds a pyramid made of cups in the cup stack challenge as his teammate and brother Kaine Torres waits for his turn to dismantle it and restack the cups.

National celebration recognizes first-generation students

STAFF REPORT

First-generation college student success stories were part of a national celebration Nov. 8. The annual “National First-Generation College Celebration” was launched in 2017 by the Council for Opportunity in Education and the NASPA Center for First-Generation Student Success.

The event was held to coincide with the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

As part of the celebration, the Seminole Tribe’s Higher Education program sought input from its first-generation college students. The program asked students to

submit their stories as to why they pursued higher education and “why I’m first.”

Roberta Osceola was among the first generation students to respond. She has earned administrative support certification and medical office technologist certification through the Indian River State College’s office administration career training program in Fort Pierce.

Here is her response to “why I’m first:” “I know that our children may sometimes seem as though they’re not listening or watching but actually they are. So, I hope all our children will see what accomplishments I have made and understand that you are never too old to learn new things. Also, failure is the first step towards progress. Never quit!”



Courtesy photo

Roberta Osceola, left, and Cynthia Smith, Fort Pierce campus instructor at Indian River State College, hold Osceola’s administrative support certification and medical office technologist certification.

GIS reaches across several tribal departments

STAFF REPORT

The annual international celebration of geographic information system (GIS) was held Nov. 16. GIS Day serves as a global movement to spread knowledge about geography.

The Seminole Tribe’s GIS Department provides GIS support to all tribal departments. The team creates maps that enable users to explore, discover and interpret patterns that tell the stories of tribal lands. The department promotes participation, sharing and collaboration between the various business units within the tribe. With GIS, one can gather, analyze and visualize geographic data to make informed decisions.

The tribe had a strong presence at the annual Esri User Conference held July 10-15 in San Diego, California. Tribal departments represented at the conference were Environmental Resource Management (ERMD), GIS, Information Technology, Planning & Development, Public Works and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), demonstrating the vast use of GIS across the tribe. Tribal staff who attended

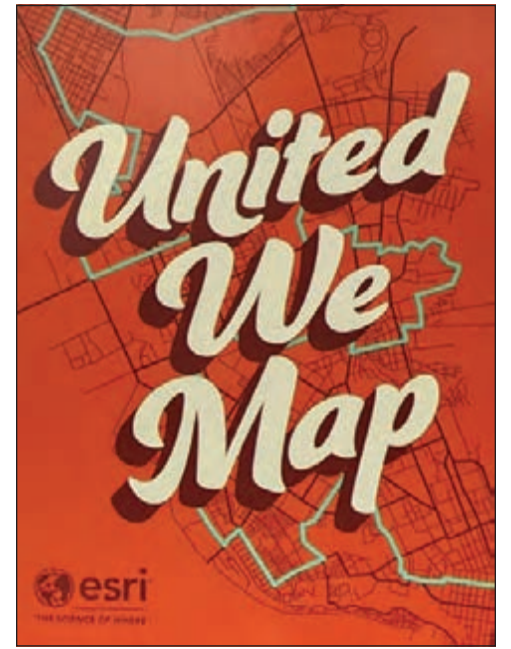
the conference noted the opportunities it provides for training, networking, learning about new resources, problem solving and gaining insights on the latest advances in GIS.

“The items that caught my attention to use in our department are the flood mapping, ArcMap survey, enhancing ground water planning for conservation, and many others,” said ERMD’s Roel Herrera.

“The overall Esri conference experience was extremely insightful,” said Planning & Development’s Veronica Sanchez. “I didn’t know there were so many products. Out of all of them, I found the ArcGIS Urban to be more relevant to Planning. This program allows us to create an interactive 3D environment to show consistency and compatibility within areas. This could be beneficial for future planning and also for public engagement.”

Planning & Development’s Mariluz Irizarry said several sessions were helpful, including a tribal session.

“Learning what other tribes are doing, the features they are using, and realizing we are ahead with some of the platforms and capabilities,” Irizarry said.



Courtesy photo

An Esri poster.



Courtesy photo (2)

Seminole Tribe employees from various departments attended the Esri User Conference this summer in San Diego, California. At left, Emran Rahaman (left) and Michael Espinoza from Public Works. Above, from left to right are Harvey Rambarath, Veronica Sanchez, Mariluz Irizarry, Keisha Coombs and Fabian Lefler.

Q&A: Rep. McCall talks climate change, food link

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall grew up on the Hollywood Reservation with her mother, Wanda Bowers, who was part of the tribe’s princess program for many years. Rep. McCall said she knew from a very young age that she wanted to be a part of it.

“I couldn’t wait to run. I thought it was so cool that they got to speak on a microphone and were comfortable up there,” she said. “I saw so much confidence [in] these teenagers. I was so motivated.”

Rep. McCall would first run for Jr. Miss Florida Seminole at age 12 and Miss Florida Seminole at 17. She ran for Miss Indian World twice. Just before she turned 19 she’d capture her first crown – Miss Florida Seminole.

She said the experience, and her mother’s example, taught her about leadership and to speak out on issues like climate change and health. McCall, 36, was part of a historic election in 2021 as one of four women elected to tribal leadership positions.

About five years ago, Rep. McCall became a vegan and said she found

connections to food and climate change issues. The Tribune asked about her views.

How did climate change first come on your radar?

I got more informed just from living in Florida. I remember going to elementary school and waiting at the bus stop in October and we’d have to wear a jacket because it would be cold outside. In December it’d be cold in the morning and we’d wear sweatshirts to school. Now, I’ve noticed that every year it just keeps getting hotter. And we keep seeing all these horrible storms – like the hurricane in November, which is very rare.

Part of the equation, for you, has been a focus on food.

When I adopted a vegan lifestyle, that’s when I started getting really informed about what was going on with our environment. Not just here in Florida or the states, but across the planet. It made me aware that we’re the generation that needs to make change.

The biggest impact you can have to save our environment is to stop consuming as much. People need to decide for themselves –

even a diet that isn’t vegan, but is vegetarian, or is simply eating less meat – would make a big difference in deforestation.

It relates to health, too?

I can only talk about my own experiences. I used to have chronic back pain that was inflamed at the drop of a hat. I had back surgery and it helped, but I was still in a lot of pain. Going vegan was the tipping point because I wanted to be healthier and I realized I wanted the planet to be healthier – it’s a byproduct of being vegan. Some people say it’s really expensive to be a vegan, but I say medical bills are also expensive.

You’re concerned about the health of tribal members?

Our tribe deals with so many health ailments. It comes back to nutrition. The people that are our Elders now – when they were younger they were walking every day; they weren’t consuming as much high fat, high protein, highly processed food. You see more and more tribal members developing cancer, high blood pressure and diabetes today.

You recently read the book “We Are Water Protectors” to Hollywood preschoolers, which is about a young Native girl who comes face to face with a black snake that is a metaphor for the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). Why was that important to you?

As Native people we’re stewards of the land. What’s our responsibility here? We had all those Natives go up to DAPL to protect their lands. What are we doing? If we are taking care of our planet and we’re taking care of ourselves then we’re setting ourselves up for success.

You’re sponsoring a “fireside chat” with the tribe’s climate resiliency program to discuss these issues?

I’m a question person. Sometimes I annoy people with the amount of questions I ask, but I think that’s the only way you can truly make a good decision. Climate resiliency stems from our own actions. What am I doing to my body? What am I doing to my environment? Hopefully this planet will still be here when my grandkids are here.

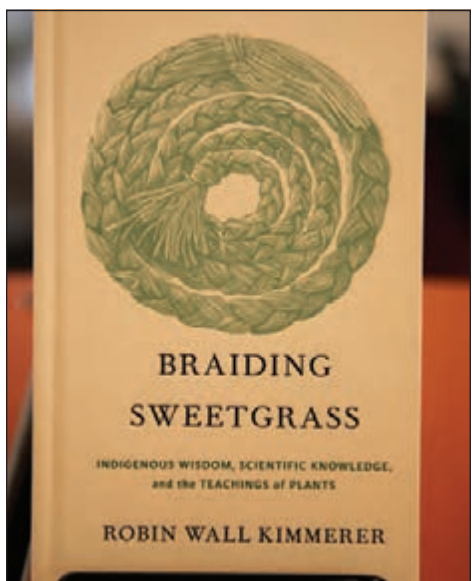


Damon Scott

Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall outside of the Hollywood Community Culture Center on Nov. 17.

◆ **AUTHOR**
From page 1B

Kimmerer’s visit to Big Cypress was organized by HERO’s climate resiliency program and also included a community luncheon, a visit to the seniors’ Thanksgiving luncheon and a public reading and book signing at the nearby Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, author Robin Wall Kimmerer addresses students from the Ahfachkee School and Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter school in the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress. At left is Kimmerer’s book “Braiding Sweetgrass.”

New program aims to help small Native businesses

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Grow with Google’s Digital Coaches program and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) announced Nov. 3 a digital coach for Native and Indigenous-owned small businesses (SMBs).

The program hosts local workshops, provides hands-on coaching and offers opportunities to meet and learn from successful local businesses. The company’s philanthropy, Google.org, is also providing a \$750,000 grant to NCAI to support the organization’s digital skilling efforts. NCAI said it will use this investment to foster a community of learning and to share best IT practices with Native and Indigenous-owned SMBs.

This initiative builds on a previous \$1.25M Google.org grant to NCAI and an NCAI pilot training program that was created with support from Grow with Google.

Jake Foreman, a program director at the nonprofit New Mexico Community Capital, will serve as the Grow with Google Digital Coach for Indigenous-owned businesses.

For more information go to ncai.org.



An Indigenous Maori from New Zealand honors the memory of Osceola after the sash was placed for display at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on Nov. 2.

Beverly Bidney

Florida judge recognized for work with Seminole Tribe

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Judge Jose Izquierdo, who serves in the 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, has been recognized for his ongoing partnership with the Seminole Tribe. Izquierdo received the 2022 William E. Gladstone award at the Florida Children and Families Summit in Orlando over the summer.

Gladstone was a Miami judge who died in 2015. He is recognized for his work in family law and in family court.

Izquierdo has been conducting dependency hearings at Tribal Court for several years. The hearings typically involve children who are abused, abandoned or neglected. The children might be removed from parents, reunified with family members, or sometimes adoptions take place.

Izquierdo's relationship with the tribe first started in 2016 when he met then-Tribal Court Chief Justice Willie Johns and director Stan Wolfe at a Child Protection Summit in Orlando. Izquierdo began to learn about the tribe's culture and the history of the clan system with its matriarchal structure. He learned how Seminoles go about problem solving and how families fit together.

The partnership quickly blossomed with a handful of tribal cases taking place in Izquierdo's courtroom. Hearings were later set up to take place in Tribal Court at tribal headquarters on the Hollywood Reservation — a first.

Another first took place April 18, 2019,



Jose Izquierdo

Florida Bar

when a tribal family adoption was finalized at tribal headquarters. A previous adoption had also taken place in Izquierdo's courtroom.

The 17th Circuit is located in downtown Fort Lauderdale; it is one of 20 judicial circuits in the state. Izquierdo was appointed to the bench in 2016 and reelected in 2018 for an additional six-year term.

Sash believed to be Osceola's displayed at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A Seminole sash purported to belong to the legendary Seminole leader, Osceola, was kept in a brown paper bag since the 19th century before it was donated to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in 2018. The fragile artifact was displayed at the museum for three weeks in November.

"Today we honor Osceola, a great man," Gordon Wareham, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director, said during a ceremonial unveiling of the sash Nov. 2. "He would have made the



Beverly Bidney

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Gordon Wareham plays traditional Native American flute as a tribute to the sash put on display for the first time.



Beverly Bidney

Members of the HAKA Maori Cultural Experience with Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Gordon Wareham and the sash that probably belonged to Seminole leader Osceola, which was on display for three weeks in November.

sash to go into battle. He gained the respect of his tribe because he had the ability to bring his soldiers home. We honor him by putting up this sash and telling his story properly."

When the museum received the sash, it was in terrible shape; much of it had disintegrated and was missing. The sash was professionally conserved by a high level specialist.

"We didn't recreate what was gone, that wouldn't be ethical," said museum conservator Robin Croskery Howard. "The restoration is as good as it gets."

Due to its fragility, the sash was displayed flat in a darkened area of the museum for three weeks. It was displayed only briefly since light would have deteriorated the

fabric further.

Made of finger-woven wool with glass beads, museum collection manager Tara Backhouse is 80-to-90% sure the sash was one of the regalia pieces Osceola was wearing when he was captured by the U.S. Army in the Second Seminole War in 1837.

Members of the visiting HAKA Māori Cultural Experience, from New Zealand, attended the unveiling. They honored it with a traditional warrior tribute.

"The Māori had the same situation as the Seminoles in the 1800s where they faced imprisonment and death," said Melissa Sherman, museum visitor services manager. "It was a parallel event happening on different sides of the world."

Indigenous public health success stories focus of new book

FROM UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

A University of Hawai'i at Mānoa faculty member explores ways that community-engaged research and service can improve Indigenous health while honoring the culture and norms of Indigenous communities in a new book.

Kathryn L. Braun, a public health professor in the Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health, along with Linda Burhansstipanov (Cherokee Nation) from Native American Cancer Research, are co-editors of "Indigenous Public Health: Improvement through Community-Engaged Interventions." It was released in August.

"Many reports on Indigenous health focus on the negative. In contrast, this book features 30 stories of success, including initiatives to address racism, reduce diabetes, and increase cancer screening and treatment. Chapters on community-based participatory research and the building of strong public health infrastructures also include examples of success," Braun said in a statement.

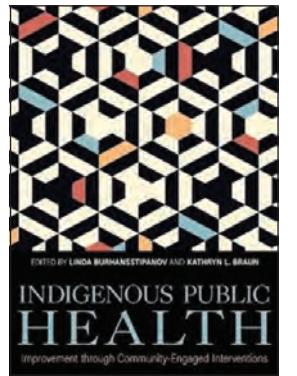
The Indigenous peoples highlighted in this book are the original peoples of the contiguous 48 states of the United States, Alaska, Hawai'i and the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Island jurisdictions of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.

"I was honored to feature some of the wonderful work being led locally by Native


Hawaiians, including the university's initiative to transform UH into a Native Hawaiian Place of Learning; Waimānalo's initiative to restore traditional food systems and increase food security through aquaponics; Moloka'i's initiatives to improve heart health; and Papa Ola Lokahi's efforts to increase the number of Native Hawaiians in healthcare professions," Braun said.

The book acknowledges the negative effects of colonization experienced by American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and the peoples of the USAPI. Another chapter addresses racism, its prevalence and its negative effects on health. However, eight of the 10 chapters summarize efforts by Indigenous people to address and overturn the effects of these negative experiences.


The book is available on Amazon in Kindle as well as hard-cover versions.




University of Hawaii
"Indigenous Public Health: Improvement through Community-Engaged Interventions"



PROBLEM?



SOLUTION:




GUY SELIGMAN, P.A.
Attorney at Law

954.760.7600


ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

December 2022



Bruce Leander

Now that we are out of hurricane season, we are opting to highlight a plant that had the time of its life over the past 5 months. Starrush Whitetop is part of the *Cyperaceae* or Sedge family that rely mostly on wind pollination. Therefore, while our afternoons have certainly felt blustery, this plant was thriving in the environment it loves best. Along with our windswept afternoons, we have all felt the deluge of water pouring down from the skies. While we may not always enjoy the extra wind and rain this is a lovely atmosphere for the Starrush Whitetop plant. But what makes the Starrush Whitetop different from its other family members? It doesn't solely rely on wind pollination (Texas University at Austin, Wildflower.org). This plant, with its bracts (leaves with bright colors) acts as a homing beacon for insects that carry pollen (Andee Naccarato, 2015).




THPO

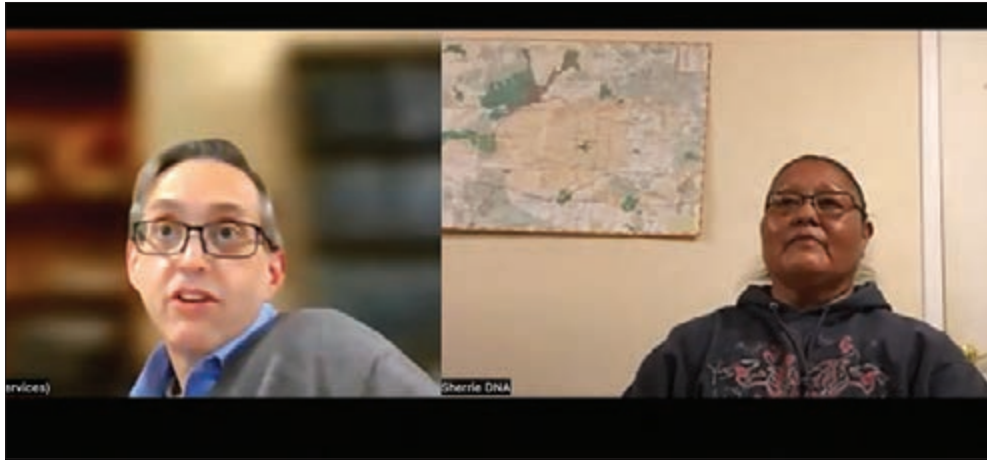
The bracts are long and white and eventually become green in color as they come to a point. The flowering part of the plant sits in the middle of bracts on top of a spike, making the plant look like a star. Depending on the Starrush Whitehop plant you are viewing, the plant can have anywhere from five to seven bracts, or leaves, attached to it (Wild South Florida).

Starrush Whitehop can survive in areas with good or no drainage making it the perfect plant to thrive in the swamps as well as commonly viewed areas such as roadside ditches. Often found in water gardens because it can spread using underground stems, the plant usually appears in clusters and patches, rather than solo (Gardenia.com). It enjoys full sun but can flourish in partial shade as well. While it sounds like the perfect plant to appear year round in Florida, Starrush Whitehop only "fruits" from June to October. So as the next hurricane season rolls around, keep an eye out for the white stars among the many landscapes of Florida (NC State Extension Gardner).

That wraps up the Artifact of the Month series for 2022. If you want to view previous years you can find them on the THPO website: www.stofthpo.com.

Check back in January for the kick-off of the 2023 series. Who knows what will be found by the THPO archaeology team or what will be featured next! Will it be an unknown animal bone, an interesting bottle, maybe a piece of pottery? Don't miss it.





Michael Elliott, left, staff attorney for DNA People's Legal Services, listens as his client, Sherrie, tells her story about being scammed at a car dealership in Arizona.

FTC advises Indian Country about scams, fraud

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Scammers steal from victims who may not be savvy to an attractive, if fraudulent, pitch. Fortunately, the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) mission is to stop fraud and protect consumers.

In an effort to alert Native Americans about fraud targeting them, the FTC held an online workshop Nov. 10 about how to spot and avoid scams in Indian Country.

In 2021, the FTC, a law enforcement agency, received more than 2.9 million reports about fraud representing about \$6.1 billion of lost money.

"We know fraud losses are much higher, that's just what people told us they lost," Monica Vaca, associate director for the division of consumer response and operations in the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, said during the workshop. "It's our goal in every single case to return money to those who lost it."

One example of a successful FTC case comes from Sherrie (last name not given), a member of the Navajo Nation in Arizona, who tried to buy a vehicle from a nearby dealership and got much more than she bargained for. She was on the hook for more than \$10,000 in addition to the cost of the new vehicle, because she trusted what the salesman told her.

Michael Elliott, an attorney for DNA People's Legal Services in Flagstaff, Arizona, represented Sherrie and invited her to the workshop to tell her story.

There is a lot of auto fraud in the Navajo area, Elliott said. The reservation consists of more than 27,000 square miles, communities are widely dispersed, most of the roads are either not paved or in poor condition and residents have to drive far distances on bad roads.

"Merchants in the border towns take advantage of the Navajo culture. Culturally, to a Navajo, what someone says counts, but legally that is not the case," Elliott said. "Dealers will say one thing and the paper contract has none of those promises made."

Sherrie lives on a dirt road, which sometimes gets muddy. She had a small car and needed a four-wheel drive SUV to manage the terrain. Sherrie went to a dealer in Winslow, Arizona, after seeing a flyer that said it would take a trade-in.

"The salesman never appraised my car," Sherrie said. "I was there for three hours. He brought out papers and told me I just need to sign them. He didn't explain them because he was in a hurry to close and I didn't want to wait any more."

Sherrie signed the papers and asked about the terms of the trade-in. The salesman told her not to worry about it. She left with the new car and gave the keys to her old car to the salesman. She stopped paying the old car payment, since she thought she sold it to the dealer. A few weeks later, the auto loan company called and told her she owed them \$500.

"I called the salesman and asked where my old car was," Sherrie said. "He said it's in an impound lot and I needed \$2,650

for storage fees and it goes up every day. I couldn't afford to get it out, so I left it."

The lender ultimately repossessed the car and told her she owed them \$10,500. The salesman told her to ignore the calls from the lender. She sought legal help and Elliott began a mandatory arbitration process. The arbitration favored the written contract and didn't sympathize with Sherrie's case.

"We spent six months trying to get a remedy, but we had to just walk away and got nothing for the client," Elliott said. "It was far more effective to use the FTC fraud reporting mechanism; the dealer was willing to talk to us. It took a year and a half to get Sherrie the deal she should have had on day one."

Sherrie said the process was very stressful.

"I think the car dealer should hire people that are truly honest and straightforward instead of people that play with your mind just to sell a vehicle," she said. "It was a hard learned lesson. I thought the salesman was supposed to tell you everything."

Elliott said people who plan to trade in a vehicle should get an appraisal first. He suggests not to go alone to a dealership, never rush into something, take your time, don't trust anything said to you unless it's in the contract and read the contract.

Dishonest salespeople are only part of the scam problem in Indian Country. The top scam is someone who pretends to be a person the victim can trust, such as a government agency or business. They get the victim to reveal their social security number and other information to perpetrate the crime. Imposter scams cost individuals an average of \$1,000.

Other scams include phishing emails, which lure people to share personal information, and tech support scams which often target older adults.

Sometimes tribal communities distrust federal and local authorities and it can be difficult for tribal members to open up and trust the FTC. To help avert that issue the agency holds conversations with tribal members about its mission.

"The only way to get past the distrust is to open lines of communications," said Joannie Wei, assistant director of the FTC's Midwest region in Chicago. "Trusted sources like Native organizations, leaders and media are vital in our efforts to get consumer fraud messages out to the community. Information is power. The more we talk about the scams the more we can recognize them."

To learn more about how to avoid scams, the Native Learning Center's "Hoporenkv" podcast addresses the topic as well. NLC's training and development coordinator Ouista Atkins serves as the moderator of the podcast that features guests Rosario Mendez, attorney at the FTC's division of Consumer and Business Education, and Kira Crown, FTC consumer education specialist.

Mendez and Crown share their expertise about how people lose money to scammers on the telephone, how to spot and avoid common scams, what to do if scammed and where to report those scams.

For more information go to nativelearningcenter.com.

Big Cypress hosts tribalwide Thanksgiving celebration for seniors



From left to right, Deloris Alvarez, Dora Tiger, Jeannette Cypress, Wanda Billie and Linda Beletso pose at the seniors Thanksgiving event at the Big Cypress Senior Center on Nov. 16.



Annie Osceola, left, and Jennie Shore enjoy the tribalwide seniors Thanksgiving event.



Jane Osceola, left, and Colleen Henry, of Tampa, enjoy the festivities at the seniors Thanksgiving celebration in Big Cypress.



Sisters Louise Osceola, left, and Agnes Motlow revel in each other's company at the Thanksgiving feast.

"Reservation Poetry"

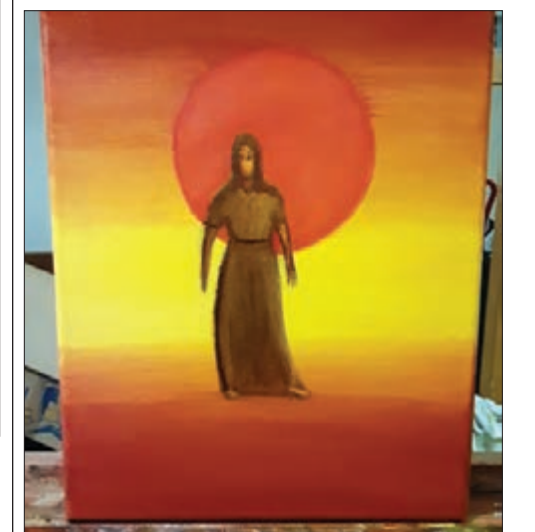
BY ELGIN JUMPER

Author's note: "It's crucial for me to try different genres as a way to keep my writing from becoming stale or unexciting. That certainly gives variety and diversity to what I do. You see, all the great writers were and are masters of more than one genre. "Reservation Poetry" is a blending of the love story genre and literary fiction."

In the late-1980s, when I was in my early twenties, 64th Avenue carved a straight line north and south through the reservation, which was then bounded on the northern end by Sterling Road, and on the southern end by Sheridan Street. The Florida Turnpike, with its own fenced-in corridor, ran high and mighty, and more or less, parallel to 64th. There were no gates back then, only clans. The Turnpike howled, night and day, with the thunderous sounds of urgent wheels and hurried machinery. And these roadways formed a kind of picture frame to the reservation community, where yet remained undeveloped areas thus overgrown with brawling shrubbery and rioting foliage. Some houses still stood ancient and had seen a great deal, and yet, they serenely endured the era.

In the backroom of the house I was staying in, there had once resided a painter, along with his lady friend. The feeling and spirit of those lodgings was time-honored, and coupled with the leftover canvases and drawing materials intermingled, in prayer, with an enlightened warmth. Studies of colorful warriors and blue troops in battle had been placed here and there near a well worn easel. Beneath some sketches, I found frayed and tattered editions of Reynold's, Discourses on Art, Henri's, The Art Spirit, and another called, Experimental Drawing, though I cannot recall the author's name. Even so, I was rather impressed by these study materials. There was a chickee hut behind the house, where the painter must've spent hours working on studies for his paintings, because I saw them in various folders out there. I heard his stay at the house had been for about a year, and then, one fine day, he and his lady friend, had mysteriously taken their leaves in haste.

Some evenings I would sit out on the front steps and gaze off to the west, to see the yellow-gold and the orange-red colors in their grand productions known as sunsets, and even from the city limits, they were the most spectacular shows ever. Contingents of those specific colors had taken action, and had made moves within the dwelling, maneuvering, positioning, retreating, advancing, and then, fading away altogether for the day. And so, that was when the coolness and warmth took to the fields in battle array, striving for dominance. The radiance of a city at night then cloaked itself in brilliance. And if one war-cry echoed out in the late-hours, it was no doubt answered by another in the unlighted distance. The smells of Seminole meals emanated forth from Seminole houses. I had known an enchanting girl prior to moving up to northern Florida for a time and upon my return I had paced and debated whether to renew a romance that had been lost years earlier. I recalled her father, Zachariah, was a preacher and she had practically grown up in the church. As I was walking with friends one day, I saw her near a neighborhood park. Our last moments together, before I moved north, had been filled with trials and tribulations, to say the least. She gradually picked up her pace on noticing me, and as she rushed by, from her footsteps arose a glorious echoing!



I was delighted when I saw her drive by the house the next day, alone, in her father's blue pick-up truck, a strong truck used for chickee-building. I hoped and prayed our paths would merge somehow, so I could steal my heart long enough to speak with her. Oh, could the embers of yesterday, now nearly-faded, resolve themselves to flame, incline, and climb anew? For aside from those last inconveniences, our histories together had been as compelling as if a complex love potion had been played upon a blessed flute to engulf us.

One night after the sun and sky's performances, I went out to the chickee hut in the back. I was looking up at the frame and the palmetto fans from underneath the structure, when a scent of impending rain, musky, fresh, earthy, swooped in like a nightbird. At times it would be somber out there, but that night the mood was glimmering and alive and quite moving. I raised my arms and allowed the poetry of that moment to inundate my feelings. I closed my eyes as if in prayer, whispering her name again and again.

Then one cloudy day, we spoke at long last. I had thought we were going to give our looking down, hardly noticing acts, so I was rather taken aback when she inquired, "Are you still writing your poems?"

◆ See POETRY on page 5B

Thanksgiving celebration in Immokalee



Despite the action of the bingo game, six-week-old Kamden Pawelczyk relaxes in the arms of John Vinton as he and Dorothy Scheffler play a game of bingo at the Immokalee Thanksgiving event Nov. 16.



Mom Mallory Hernandez snuggles her baby Ocean Hernandez, seven months, at the Immokalee Thanksgiving luncheon.



Tampa Recreation

A couple days before Halloween, kids from the Tampa community got an early start on the festivities with a party hosted by the Tampa Recreation Department.

Tampa community hosts Halloween fun



Tampa Recreation (2)

Robert Jim, left, and Leticia Foster participate in arts and crafts at Tampa's Halloween event.



Tampa Recreation

Phaydra Clark, left, and Quinton Jim show off their artistic skills at the Halloween event.



Tampa Recreation

Tables were full of activities throughout the Tampa Recreation Center.



Tampa Recreation

Kids's costumes showcase a variety of characters.

Farmers markets encourage healthy eating

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Seminole Integrative Health set up farmers markets in Big Cypress and Immokalee on Nov. 15 to promote diabetes awareness and healthy eating.

In Big Cypress, the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium was transformed into a farmers market featuring tables laden with produce, a pumpkin bowling alley where bowlers had to knock down butternut squash "pins," a corn hole corner, a Tai Chi stretch exercise class and an informational table sponsored by Native Connections of the Center for Behavioral Health.

"We want to break the idea that CBH is only in the office by connecting with the community," said Gherri Osceola, Native Connections support specialist. "CBH isn't just about mental illness, it's about mental health."

Tribal members in Immokalee also loaded up with fresh vegetables and a box lunch under the chickee by the health department.



Beverly Bidney

Lauren Jumper, left, and Eden Jumper both like to cook and chose the right onions at the Big Cypress farmers market Nov. 15.



Beverly Bidney

Health nutritionist and dietician Marianna Nikiforov, left, helps Claudia Doctor fill her bag with vegetables, including Doctor's favorite squash.

◆ POETRY From page 4B

"Me?" I responded. "Yes, thank you for asking."

"You should try and get them published. They're beautiful."

"Do you think they're good enough?"

"They're lovely, believe me."

At that, sunbeams had broken through the clouds and I was grateful for it. I was silent for a moment. Everything seemed brighter. Our eyes met and held and did not fly from their colors. She was an angel and

her hair was the color of Florida rivers at midnight. Her dark-brown eyes glistened, for they were strong, sophisticated. When she spoke her words were illuminating and brought enlightenment to the tone of the moment. We gazed up, admiring the now uncloudy day.

"You've got this," she encouraged.

"Thank you," I answered.

In the days following our encounter, Thoughts, for me, were like wild horses upon which I could not bring about control, moving ever-forward, across a field of hope, as if words being written on a page. A hurricane of her image tore through the

realms of my spirit.

Once, the reservation was a lonely place, that was how I saw it, but sometimes those memories and those people who truly meant something before reenter unexpectedly. And the sounds of caring voices from the past see us through.

I decided right then to seek publication for my poems.

Tribal member Elgin Jumper is an artist and writer from the Hollywood Reservation. He is a contributor to the Tribune.

Toy drive to be held in Hollywood

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc.'s Seminole Veterans Toy Drive will be held Dec. 8 to Dec. 10 in Hollywood. New unwrapped, non-plush toys for children ranging from infants to age 18 can be dropped off at Seminole Classic Casino, 4150 N. State Road 7. Donations will be accepted on the corner of US-441 and Stirling Road.

Santa Claus will be available for photos from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Toys collected will be donated to children impacted by Hurricane Ian in the Naples and Fort Myers area.

Mitchell Cypress, president of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc., and members of the Seminole veterans will work as volunteers at the toy drive.

Joan Jett, Aaron Lewis to play in Coconut Creek

FROM PRESS RELEASE

COCONUT CREEK — March 2023 will feature a pair of big names in the music industry at Seminole Coconut Creek Casino. Longtime rock 'n' roller Joan Jett and her Blackhearts band will perform on The Stage at Coco on March 9 at 8 p.m.

Country and rock singer Aaron Lewis will bring his "Frayed At Both Ends, The Acoustic Tour" to The Stage at Coco on March 23 at 8 p.m.

For tickets and more information go to seminolecoconutcreekcasinocom.



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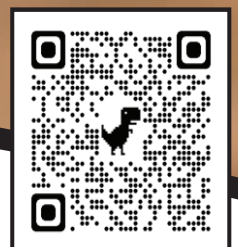
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Sports



Overcoming adversity, Kalgary Johns and her horse shine at INFR

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

A sixth place finish for Kalgary Johns in ladies barrel racing's average results at the Indian National Finals Rodeo would be impressive enough in any year, but there was far more to her story than what took place in the arena.

Johns' horse, Kicks, a 20-year-old mare that she adores, almost didn't make it to South Point Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada, to compete in Indian Country's biggest rodeo.

Kicks was being driven cross-country from the Brighton Reservation to Las Vegas by Johns' mom, Boogie, and friend Connor Osborn when their truck and trailer were involved in an accident in Alabama.

Johns, who was not traveling with the group, said a speeding car blew a tire and hit the truck.

"On impact it detached the trailer from the truck. The trailer kept going straight. It went off the road and hit an embankment and stopped," Johns said.

In a Facebook post, her mom described it as "the scariest thing I have been involved in."

Boogie and Osborn were OK, but Kicks and two other horses in the trailer were shaken up.

"They were sore," Johns said.

There was discussion about canceling the trip and returning to Florida, but Johns said after a veterinarian in Alabama checked out the horses it was decided to continue west.

Despite their truck and trailer being "totaled," Boogie, Osborn and the horses made it to Las Vegas with plenty of help from other rodeo folks along the long journey.

As for the barrels, Johns entered the final day in 10th place, but she moved up four spots thanks to finishing fifth in the championship round with a time of 15.624 seconds.

Overall, she was thrilled with the results.

"Kicks is 20 years old; it's old for a performance horse. I was happy with [sixth place]. It was probably her last trip," Johns said.

Johns, 25, has owned Kicks since her sophomore year at Moore Haven High School.

"She's special for sure," she said.

Back in her days as a junior rider, Johns earned top 10s at INFR, but this was the first time she competed in the adults' category. The strong showing served as an encouraging sign for the future. The mom of twin girls and a boy said she's contemplating buying her Women's Professional Rodeo Association card and competing in the Southeast circuit.

Johns was part of a small contingent of Seminoles who competed in INFR. The group included Jacoby Johns (bareback), Jobe Johns (tie down roping) and Norman Osceola (bull riding). Jobe Johns earned fourth place in the championship round with a time of 8.82 seconds.

More than 400 Native Americans representing more than 100 tribal nations from across the United States and Canada

competed in INFR.

INFR is scheduled to return to South Point Arena in 2023 from Oct. 24 to Oct. 28.

Indian National Finals Rodeo results

All Around Cowboy: Erich Rogers (Navajo Nation)

All Around Cowgirl: Kassidy Dennison (Navajo Nation)

Bareback Bronc: Steven Dewolf (Oglala Sioux Tribe)

Steer Wrestling: Jim Stevens (Siksika Nation)

Ladies Breakaway Roping: Bailey Bates (Navajo Nation)

Saddle Bronc: Cash Wilson (Oglala Sioux Tribe)

Tie Down Roping: Jaxon Clegg (Cherokee Nation)

Ladies Barrel Racing: Sonya Dodginghorse (Tsuut'ina Nation)

Team Roping-Header: Trey Begay (Navajo Nation)

Team Roping-Heeler: Cody Lansing (Navajo Nation)

Bull Riding: Robbie Taylor (Navajo Nation)



Kalgary Johns smiles as she heads toward a fifth-place finish in the championship round of the Indian National Finals Rodeo on Oct. 22 in Las Vegas.



Kalgary Johns and her horse Kicks cut a tight corner around a barrel at INFR.

Native American Basketball Invitational honored at NBA game

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) was honored during a Phoenix Suns game Nov. 22.

The recognition came on the court of the Suns home game against the Los Angeles Lakers. The Suns wore special uniforms designed to honor Native Americans.

Founded by Mark West, a former Phoenix Suns player, the late Scott Podleski and GinaMarie Scarpa, NABI is the largest all Native American basketball tournament in North America with 136 teams representing tribal communities from across the country during the tournament each summer.

"Our 20-year collaboration with the Suns and Mercury has elevated NABI significantly. The tournament showcases 'Rezball', a popular form of basketball played on tribal lands all over the Americas," Scarpa said in a statement. "Our annual tournament highlights the overlooked talent of our Indigenous athletes who play the championship games on the same wood floor that both the Suns and Mercury compete on."

"For two decades, the Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury have led the way and set the stage for other NBA teams to embrace and support Indigenous youth and communities in their respective states. This moment marks a significant time for NABI, the Suns, Mercury, and all Indigenous people across Arizona and beyond," said Stephen R. Lewis, Governor of the Gila River Indian Community.

Each summer, NABI has an estimated \$1.5 million-dollar economic impact to the city of Phoenix. In addition, NABI has awarded over \$400,000 in grants and college scholarships. For more information please visit NABINation.com.



NABI personnel are honored during a ceremony at a Phoenix Suns game Nov. 22.

Fast start for Lexi Foreman

STAFF REPORT

The Seminole Tribe's Lexi Foreman is off to a strong start in her second season with the University of Central Oklahoma women's basketball team.

As of Thanksgiving Day, UCO remained undefeated with a 3-0 record.

Foreman, a 5-foot-9 guard from Anadarko, Oklahoma, has appeared in all three games. She played 21 minutes in a season opening 99-84 win against the University of Missouri Science & Technology on Nov. 18. She scored six points, which included a perfect 4-for-4 from the foul line, and grabbed four rebounds.

On Nov. 22, she played 18 minutes in a 72-65 win against Cameron University. She scored three points and had three rebounds, two assists and two steals. She also had one block, which came with 12 seconds left in the game to help secure the victory.

UCO, an NCAA Division II team, plays in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association. The MIAA features schools from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma.



Lexi Foreman

Courtesy photo

HARMON
From page 1A

Harmon's performance should help open more doors for her as she seeks another college now that she's nearing the end of her two years at Mesa.

Ironically, the Apalachee course is the home course of Florida State University's cross country program. FSU just happens to be at the top of Harmon's wish list.

"I would love to run for [FSU]. I would love to be around my family. I would love to be a Seminole in more than one way," Harmon said.

Harmon's running talents stretch back to her youth when she would run – and sometimes win – 5Ks while attending her mom's half-marathons. Despite that early success, when she started running at Flagstaff High School in Arizona as a sophomore her focus was initially on sprint distances. Long distance was a distant thought for her until the cross country coach suggested she give it a shot.

"As a junior, I started out running a 24 minute 5K, then I finished the season with a 19:47 PR," Harmon said. "I thought, wow, this is something I could be good at."

Not only is cross country something Harmon has become good at, but it also benefits her in other areas.

"I've really loved to learn running because it's made me feel so great about myself," she said.

Running has also helped her carve her own niche in her family. Eli is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy who is in the process of moving to the Panhandle where he'll be stationed at Elgin Air Force Base. Another brother, Levi, graduated from the Virginia Military Institute. He is currently serving overseas in the U.S. Army. Jessi is in JROTC at Northern Arizona University near the family's home in Flagstaff. She will be joining the U.S. Army.

"It's difficult being the youngest in a family when everyone is super successful. It just makes me want to be the best version of myself," Harmon said.



Kevin Johnson

Anna Harmon nears the finish line at the NJCAA Division II Women's Cross Country Championship on Nov. 12 in Tallahassee. She finished in second place out of more than 200 runners.

So far, Harmon hasn't had any military inclinations; she said she's majoring in business with hopes to someday own a bakery.

She said her second place finish was a pinnacle so far in her cross country career, but not the pinnacle.

"I'm one of those people who if I do something, I want to do [it] better every time; I want to get progressively better," she said.

Next up for Harmon is Mesa's track and field season, which starts in January.



Kevin Johnson

Anna Harmon hoists the team runner-up trophy while surrounded by her Mesa Community College teammates.



Kevin Johnson

Anna Harmon (#667) competes on the course at Apalachee Regional Park in Tallahassee.



Kevin Johnson

From left to right are Ashlee Gopher, Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Anna Harmon (holding the team trophy), Donna Harmon, Eli Harmon and Jessi Harmon.



Kevin Johnson

Champion Hayley Burns, left, from Coconino Community College in Arizona, and runner-up Anna Harmon from Mesa Community Collge, also in Arizona, hold their prizes at the awards ceremony.



Kevin Johnson

Anna Harmon, center, and a couple of her Mesa Community College teammates are amid the pack of runners at the start of the race.

Skyla Osceola, Grant twins grateful for being NSU teammates

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

DAVIE — Life is good for Skyla Osceola, Kyannah Grant and Kyarah Grant. Osceola (Seminole Tribe) has returned to playing college basketball while the Grant twins (Choctaw/Navajo) have been reunited on the court.

The best part of it, they said, is that they are all together on the same team and living under the same roof. The roof belongs to Osceola, whose house on the Hollywood Reservation is home to all three. For math majors, that figure represents 21 percent of the Nova Southeastern University women's basketball team, not including Osceola's three dogs.

Of course, winning helps keep the house a happy one, and NSU has been piling up victories. As of Nov. 29, the Sharks remained perfect with a 6-0 record.

A year ago, only Kyarah was on the team. It took some persuading and lobbying to get all three on board this summer. Osceola said the twins were the main reason she decided to return to the team after a hiatus.

"They definitely had a big influence on me coming back," Osceola said.

As soon as Kyannah, who played the past four years at the University of Tennessee at Martin, became available to pick a new school, her twin and Osceola were on her like vultures to come to NSU.

"I decided to put my name in the transfer portal. As soon as I got in there, Kyarah was on me and Sky was on me and they even had (NSU) coach (LeAnn) Freeland on me," Kyannah said.

In fact, NSU was alone at the top of Kyannah's list.

"My parents wanted me to see what offers I could get, but I was like, 'no, this is the place I want to go,'" said Kyannah, who is four 30-second shot clocks older than Kyarah.

All three are graduate students in pursuit of master's degrees: Osceola (leadership), Kyannah (computer science) and Kyarah (public health). They take their academics seriously as well as their basketball careers, but they also embrace their status as Native Americans in NCAA college athletics.

The trio was recently highlighted by the team in an Instagram post where they shared their thoughts about the importance of National Native American Heritage Month in November.



Kevin Johnson

From left to right, Kyarah Grant, Skyla Osceola and Kyannah Grant are playing together on the Nova Southeastern University women's basketball team.

They've succeeded in reaching high levels of collegiate ball and want younger Natives to know they can do the same.

"When you do it, you grow so much more from it," Kyarah said. "That's what I want for everyone in our tribe and every tribe to know that you can do it, and when you do, you will be so much better for yourself and for the tribe."

"At the end of the day, it comes to just wanting to be better for yourself, wanting to make a difference for your tribe and where you come from and who you are representing," Osceola said. "Yes, I'm representing myself, but what it all comes down to is I'm representing where I come from."

It was at a 2017 Native tournament – NAYO – where Osceola and the Grants first tasted success together. They were teammates on a championship team and remained friends as they began their college careers. Osceola started at NSU in the fall of 2017 and made an immediate impact on both sides of the court with 90 assists and 66 defensive rebounds – both team highs.

Since then, injuries have prevented her from attaining those types of numbers again, but she is determined to enjoy this season. She has contributed coming off the bench, most notably with nine points in 16 minutes in a win against St. Augustine's University on Nov. 22.

"I'm pretty healthy. I'm still working through some things – I always will be – but overall I'm feeling pretty good," she said.

The Grants, meanwhile, starred for four years at Choctaw Central High School in Mississippi and remained together for one year at UT-Martin. Kyarah left, but Kyannah stayed.

"We always decided that we were going to play college all four years together,"

Kyannah said. "We committed to the same place. I didn't have a good time there, so I wanted to transfer early. We had a tough talk about that. It was really rough, the first few months I was away from her, because we were practically stuck to the hip together every day."

Now they are in the same backcourt again as starting guards. The sisters are each averaging about seven points per game and

have had multiple double-digit games in scoring.

Although NSU didn't crack Division II's top 25 rankings that was released Nov. 15, the Sharks should begin to catch attention soon with their strong start that has been fueled in part by the Grants and Osceola.

"It's amazing for all of us to be together at a top D-II college," Osceola said.



Kevin Johnson

Nova Southeastern University's Skyla Osceola brings the ball up the court in a game against Flagler College on Nov. 19 in Davie.



Kevin Johnson

Kyannah Grant provides a pick for her twin sister Kyarah Grant during a game against Flagler College.

Gregory Thomas ready to rise for American Heritage

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

PLANTATION — When it comes to football, Gregory Xavier Thomas has lofty goals.

Similar to many of his teammates at American Heritage School in Plantation, Thomas wants to play big time college football (Florida State is one of his favorite teams) and make it to the NFL.

Getting there, of course, is the hard part, but being a player at one of the nation's top high school football programs is an advantageous starting point.

Thomas, whose friends call him Xavier or "Zae," is one of two members of the Seminole Tribe on the Patriots, who went 9-1 in the regular season. Playoff victories against Inlet Grove, Boynton Beach and Cardinal Gibbons secured a spot for the Patriots in the FHSAA Class 2M state semifinals. Heritage is slated to host Bolles Academy of Jacksonville on Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. The winner will advance to the state championship game Dec. 9 against Miami Central or Lakewood. Fort Lauderdale's DRV PNK Stadium is the host site for four state championship games, including 2M.

After playing wide receiver for Heritage's junior varsity team last season (he also spent some time on varsity), Thomas switched to cornerback in the spring and earned a spot on a senior-laden varsity roster.

"He's growing, he's young, he's only a sophomore. He's really developing. We expect some big things out of him moving forward," said Heritage coach Mike Smith, who is in his first season at the helm and has been a part of the program for more than 10 years.

Learning and waiting for opportunities as a young player – which Thomas has done a lot of this season – comes with the territory on a program that has won five state championships in the past nine years and whose alumni includes an array of college standouts and NFL players such as Sony Michel, Patrick Surtain II and Khalil Herbert.

Heritage features a highly talented secondary, including at cornerback, where Thomas is in a backup role. He also plays on special teams. Although his playing time is sparse, he has played in every game.

"It's just tough right now. We've got two super elite guys [at cornerback]; one guy is trying to decide between Miami and Alabama, the other guy is a Missouri commit. The deal here is you've kind of got to wait your turn and go through the process, but [Thomas] is doing a really good job."

At 6-foot-3 and nearly 200 pounds, Thomas already sports an ideal size for cornerback. His height has increased in the past year. He has the athleticism and versatility to play other positions if needed. Smith said college coaches noticed Thomas



Kevin Johnson

Gregory Xavier Thomas, right, runs a special teams drill during an American Heritage practice in November.

during the spring.

"He's got the measurements. He's got size. He can run. He's developing. He's just waiting for his opportunity," Smith said.

Not only is Thomas playing with major college talent on his side of the ball, but he's also facing big time recruits on the other side in practices, notably Brandon Inniss, an Ohio State commit who is ranked by ESPN as the class of 2023's fourth best wide receiver in the country.

"Working with him gets me better. Going up against Brandon, nobody in the game is going to be like Brandon," Thomas said.

Heritage has 27 seniors, so there will be holes to fill next season, and Thomas is ready to step in. He said he likes that the tradition and culture of the program emphasizes hard

work.

"It's a standard. Every practice we come out and we practice hard. Every game we play hard," he said.

Thomas has been a part of Heritage even before he was born. His father, also named Gregory, played football for Heritage.

"He told me they were good and they made the playoffs, like second round every year, but they definitely weren't like where we are now," Thomas said.

Thomas has been playing football since age six. He's been a student at Heritage since he was about eight or nine. He attended games when the Patriots won state championships with Seminole brothers Andre and Blevyns Jumper on the team.

Smith said there will be high expectations for Thomas come next spring.

"From being a back up to being thrust into a role that we expect you to play," he said. "He's on schedule and he's doing a great job."

Avery Bowers

Avery Bowers is the other Seminole on the Heritage squad. He's a 5-foot-11, 280-pound backup senior defensive lineman who joined the team in the spring.

"For a kid who has not played a lot, Avery has done a pretty good job," coach Mike Smith said. "He practices hard. He's done everything that we've asked him to do. He gets some playing time late in games."

Bowers was among the 27 seniors honored at the team's senior night game toward the end of the regular season.



Kevin Johnson

Gregory Xavier Thomas, center, is in his sophomore season on the powerful American Heritage football team.

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Auto show tackles future of electric vehicles, other hot topics

BY CALVIN TIGER
Reporter/Intern

LAS VEGAS — The SEMA Show, an annual massive trade show and conference for people in the automotive industry, took place Oct. 31 to Nov. 4 in Las Vegas, Nevada. SEMA, which stands for Specialty Equipment Market Association, brings together different facets of the automotive industry, ranging from Toyo Tires to Magnuson superchargers.

SEMA is a trade association that includes a variety of automotive manufacturers, distributors, retailers and publishing companies. The show featured several seminars at the sprawling Las Vegas Convention Center.

Feasibility of widespread EV adoption

This seminar consisted of speakers Graham Conway, Southwest Research Institute; Matthew Cox, Webasto Charging Systems; Robert Freerks, RLF Enterprises; and Kerisa Paige, Bolts EV. The discussion focused on the realistic approach to electric vehicle (EV) adoption throughout the U.S. and around the world. The rising EV vehicle market share in the U.S. is 4.6% and growing, according to Car and Driver magazine.

One of the main contrasting discussions was about the current grid system in the U.S. Freerks explained that the current grid system would not be sustainable if everybody in the U.S. had an EV. He also stated that such a scenario would require the construction of nuclear power plants throughout the country to meet the electricity demands.

Another interesting point in the seminar was about the availability of lithium minerals that are used for EV batteries.

"If England went full EV for the entire country, all the available lithium in the world would be used up right now," Freerks told the audience.

Paige, the CEO of Bolts EV, emphasized that the majority of current drivers in the U.S. are not informed enough about EVs and that there is a lack of public awareness. Paige also said that most EVs are not affordable to most people and it is a situation that the automotive industry needs to address. The average price of an EV is roughly \$50,000.

Protect your rights to modify

This seminar consisted of speakers Mike Copeland, CEO of Arrington Performance; Chris Johnson, founder at Derive Systems; Dan Millen, president of Livernois Motorsports & Engineering; and David Goch, board of directors SEMA. The speakers really shed light on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



The SEMA Show in Las Vegas attracted a variety of unique vehicles.

Calvin Tiger (4)



and the issues that aftermarket companies face in order to comply with the EPA for custom modifications made to street legal vehicles. Aftermarket companies produce replacement parts and software tuning that are not made by the original manufacturer. Street legal vehicles are vehicles that meet regulations to be driven on public roads. Vehicle manufacturers are making aftermarket electronic control unit (ECU) tuning more difficult by encrypting them. ECU tuning results in a vehicle making more horsepower than originally made from the manufacturer.

"What we do today is the most difficult it has ever been done," Johnson said regarding the current state of modifying cars while being EPA compliant and also working around encrypted ECUs.

The future of tuning ICE vehicles

The speakers for this seminar included Andrew Mernone, HP Tuners; Brian Herron, OPUS IVS; Dan Millen, Livernois Motorsports & Engineering; Christopher Johnson, Derive Systems; and Dustin Whipple, Whipple Industries.

The speakers from different parts of the aftermarket automotive industry emphasized how difficult modifying vehicles is becoming, noting EPA crack downs on emissions. They also discussed the inconsistencies of modifying vehicles in different states. For example, California currently uses the California Air Resource Board (CARB) to review all vehicle modifications that are compliant with the

state's emission standards. Parts from aftermarket companies that modify exhaust systems and internal combustion engines (ICE) have to be submitted to CARB for review before they can be sold to the public.

In Florida, it is quite the opposite. There is currently no state air resource board that oversees aftermarket parts for emissions, though that might change eventually. The contrast makes it difficult for different aftermarket companies to stay compliant with the EPA.

Innovation alley

EV powertrains for classic cars was among the newer innovations displayed at SEMA. Software modifications and bigger

battery packs for EVs is another innovation that is being explored. Bigger battery packs would give EVs more horsepower and torque simply by tuning the ECU. At the SEMA show, there was a 1972 Plymouth Satellite with a Tesla 100kWh battery pack powering the vehicle. With the Tesla battery pack swapped into the Satellite, the vehicle can go 0 to 60 mph in 3.2 seconds, producing 636 horsepower, along with a 325-mile range.

Tribal member Calvin Tiger is in the Education Department's Emerging Leaders Program. He specializes in writing about the automotive industry and anything vehicle related. Contact him at calvintiger@seminoletribune.com or (954) 966-6300, ext. 10739.



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Christmas tree lighting draws big turnout in Big Cypress



SMP (2)

The Big Cypress community turns out in big numbers to celebrate the lighting of the reservation's Christmas tree Nov. 21. The event got into the winter spirit with hot cocoa and music. Members of the First Baptist and New Testament churches sang hymns.

Seminole Okalee Indian Village hosts pow wow marketplace



Kevin Johnson

Van Samuels, an educator from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, keeps spectators updated with all the events and performances at the pow wow marketplace.

The Seminole Okalee Indian Village held a pow wow demonstration and a marketplace Nov. 17-19 in Hollywood. The event featured a friendship dance (above) led by tribal performers with participation from the public. Dozens of vendors were set up inside the village and in rows of chickee huts on the grounds. Wildlife exhibits and performances were also part of the event.



Kevin Johnson

Amanda Grant, one of the performers at the event from Cherokee, North Carolina, gets a close encounter with an alligator.



Kevin Johnson

Jensen Peone (Spokane Tribe of Indians) delights spectators with a performance at the pow wow marketplace.



Kevin Johnson

Maria Whitehorse (Taino) performs a dance for the audience.



Kevin Johnson

Vendors sell crafts, jewelry and other items inside Seminole Okalee Indian Village.

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701340	2013	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER POLICE (RWD)	134,250	Poor	\$1,036.00
226741	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER POLICE (RWD)	177,050	Poor	\$919.00
A88631	2008	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT (4WD)	148,393	Poor	\$2,306.00
600870	2008	DODGE MINIVAN	CARAVAN SE (FWD)	127,432	Poor	\$2,422.00
A10569	2010	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT (RWD)	159,512	Fair	\$3,650.00

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

954-967-3640, 954-966-6300 ext. 20034.

Tribal Members Only website: <http://semtribe.com/FixedAssets>. (Registration required)

