

# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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## Native American Languages Act moves toward reauthorization

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

A federal law designed to help preserve Native languages is now moving toward reauthorization after being stalled in the U.S. Congress.

The Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act seeks to revitalize Native American languages through immersion and restoration programs.

Martinez was a linguist and storyteller for the Tewa people of New Mexico and was known for her commitment to preserve the Tewa language. She is the author of the San Juan Pueblo Tewa Dictionary, published in 1982. Martinez died in 2006 at 94 years old.

After her death in 2006, Congress passed a law to amend the existing Native American Programs Act of 1974. The amended Act provided funding opportunities to "assess, plan, develop and implement projects to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native languages."

It expired in 2012, although the program continued to be funded after that time.

In 2015, U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, D-NM, introduced a bill to reauthorize appropriations until fiscal year 2020. He

was joined on the Senate side by U.S. Sen. Tom Udall, D-NM. Even though both bills were introduced in their respective chambers of Congress, they were not passed and the bill's future has been in limbo since.

The current 116th Congress is now taking up the reauthorization.

Second term Florida Congressman Darren Soto, a Democrat, is an original cosponsor of the current reauthorization. He is also on the House subcommittee of Indigenous Peoples of the United States. Soto's District 9 stretches from areas of eastern Orlando, south-southeast to Yeehaw Junction. It includes the cities of Kissimmee and St. Cloud.

Soto told the Seminole Tribune that it was important for him to be a cosponsor of the bill and to be on the subcommittee, knowing the large Native population of Florida.

"It's critical that we preserve these historic American languages not only for Native children, but for all children," Soto said. "It's about history and getting in touch with culture."

Soto noted his own personal history, being of Puerto Rican descent. "I learned some Spanish growing up, but it took effort to learn it and for me to rediscover my heritage," he said.

Soto confirmed that the reauthorization was voted on favorably in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Feb. 6.

"It shows some movement," he said. "It never even got a hearing last term."

Soto said the midterm elections that recently placed Democrats back in power in the House of Representatives is a positive sign the reauthorization will keep moving forward. Not only that, but he said having Lujan as the lead sponsor is also an encouraging sign. Lujan is currently the Assistant House Speaker, among his other committee positions.

"He's a strong advocate for Native American rights," Soto said. "It bodes well for the progress of the bill compared to last term when it didn't get a hearing. Now that you have shared government, it also bodes well for many social programs affecting Natives."

### Message from the NIEA

According to the National Indian Education Association, the survival of Native languages is intricately tied to the success of Native communities and survival of Native cultures.

"Immersion programs have proven

♦ See LANGUAGES ACT on page 6A



Florida Seminole veterans participate in the 81st annual Brighton Field Day parade Feb. 16 on the Brighton Reservation. From left, Jack Smith (U.S. Army), Paul Bowers Sr. (U.S. Marines), Eddie Shore (U.S. Air Force), Billie Micco (U.S. Army), Curtis Motlow (U.S. Navy), Stanlo Johns (U.S. Army), Moses Osceola (U.S. Marines) and Sallie Josh (U.S. Navy). The veterans were aboard Stanlo Johns' trailer and they sat on hay bales donated by Walpole Feed.

Derrick Tiger

## Tribe celebrates 81st Brighton Field Day

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The 81st annual Brighton Field Day Festival and Rodeo had something for everyone. Held Feb. 15-17, the fun-filled event attracted more than 5,000 people from the region who came to enjoy

the music, entertainment, rodeo, Indian relay races, shopping and food.

As a bonus, visitors also learned about Seminole culture, food and arts and crafts. Tribal vendors did a brisk business selling patchwork, beadwork, baskets and other traditional items.

Field Day actually began as an athletic competition between the reservations in

1938. Once the rodeo, food, arts and crafts were added, the event morphed into the massive festival it is now.

On the first day, hundreds of school children filled the stands for the grand entry which included Tribal officials, Seminole royalty, Miss Indian World, the Lakota Women Warriors and Seminole Color Guards and WISDOM dancers exhibition

group. Next up was the traditional warrior demonstration which, through simulated traditional warfare, showed how the Seminoles deterred the U.S. soldiers in the Everglades during the Seminole Wars and became the Unconquered Tribe.

♦ See FIELD DAY on page 4B

## Indiantown historical marker honors Betty Mae Jumper

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**INDIANTOWN** — Born and raised in a camp in Indiantown to an Indian mother and an Irish father, Betty Mae Tiger Jumper was lucky to have survived childhood. Equally fortunate is the Seminole Tribe, who benefited from her lifetime of accomplishments.

As a "half breed" she could have been put to death, as was the custom when she was born in 1923. Instead, her mother, Ada Tiger, moved the family to what was then the Dania reservation.

"They didn't want her to live," said Moses Jumper Jr., Betty Mae's son. "In that time, they didn't want the white race to be part of our culture. When they came to take her, she wouldn't go. Her uncle stood by her and she was saved. They moved to Dania where she lived for the rest of her life."

Jumper grew up, got a degree in nursing, brought modern medicine to her people, the Tribe's first newspaper, served as the first chairwoman of the Tribe, was a founder of United South & Eastern Tribes, was appointed by President Richard Nixon to the former National Council on Indian Opportunity, was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame, earned a lifetime achievement award from the Native American Journalists Association, received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Florida State University and earned a host of other honors.

A plaque commemorating Jumper's life was unveiled Feb. 7 at the Seminole Inn in Indiantown, seven miles from her birthplace.

Jumper's other son Boettner "Ruggy" Jumper and great granddaughter Alexis Jumper also attended the event, along with more than 100 attendees who came to honor her. The marker is a Florida Heritage site and was sponsored by the Women's Club of Stuart and the Florida Department of State.

After the historical marker was unveiled, the crowd gathered under a tent behind the Seminole Inn where Moses and Iris Wall, a friend of Betty Mae's and owner of the Inn, spoke. Some of the overflow crowd set up chairs outside the tent, while others stood in



Betty Mae Jumper's sons Moses and Ruggy Jumper pose with the marker commemorating their mother's life Feb. 7 in Indiantown.

Beverly Bidney

the back in the shade to hear the speakers.

"We're very proud of her and the things she was able to do," Moses said. "She was a woman who cared about us and loved us. She was always willing to do things for us and for other people. She helped us grow and mature and become the people we are now."

Jonnie Flewelling, Wall's daughter and co-owner of the Inn, served as emcee and introduced Moses and her mother.

"One of the best things about your life is the legacy you leave," Flewelling said. "We should all think about ours."

Wall grew up in Indiantown, but was a few years younger than Betty Mae. There were only 36 kids in all of Martin County in 1948 when she graduated from high school, she said. Although they didn't know each other well as children, Wall and Betty Mae connected again in the 1960s at a rodeo in Davie.

"We stayed at the Seminole campground and we talked and talked," Wall said. "That started our relationship and we grew to be really good friends."

Wall shared a few stories with the

crowd, each one filled with warmth and humor.

"She was a wonderful lady," Wall said. "I'm a very basic person and Betty Mae was the same. She was always herself and you could depend on her being herself."

Although Siggie Jumper isn't a member of the Seminole Tribe, he is Chiricahua Apache from New Mexico and he grew up among the Seminoles and Miccosukee in the 1970s. He shared his special connection with

♦ See BETTY MAE on page 5A

# Editorial



## Native patriots at Alcatraz paved the way for all of us

### • Doug George-Kanentiio

One of the more admirable traits of the Mohawk people is the ability to shake things up, to disturb the complacent, to agitate, confront and demand.

It was no mere chance that Skennenrahowi, the Peacemaker, decided to enter Mohawk territory first as they had the most formidable reputation, one based on cruelty, vengeance and plain meanness. His reasoning was that if he could shift the Mohawks away from being artists of war to proponents of peace he could effect similar changes in any people, at any time.

Skennenrahowi succeeded but not before he proved to a doubtful people that he was, in truth, a messenger from the Creator. But he did not extinguish Mohawk characteristics such as their innate intelligence, their physical toughness, their willingness to speak out when moved by an issue or to take leadership in the face of adversity. The Mohawks then, and for most of our history, refused to be passive even in times of danger.

In the past century we have many examples of Mohawks who refused to bend to the forces of oppression. These people were not complacent with the ways things were but risked liberty, home security and their personal safety to take a stand in defense of what they believed to be right.

In the first decades of the 20th century Akwesasne in particular was mired in factionalism. The border was set, the elected councils in place and the traditional customs called the “longhouse” virtually invisible. The Nation council leaders had been jailed and one of their supporters killed by the RCMP for resisting the imposition of the Indian Act system. Despite repeated attempts to get rid of the St. Regis tribal council New York actively intervened and kept the “trustees” in place.

Yet the idea, the dream, of a united Mohawk people at Akwesasne would not fade. A new era of activism began after World War I when Iroquois leaders from New York to Wisconsin sought to assert the right to self determination. From the Oneidas of Wisconsin came Laura Cornelius Kellogg, one of the founders of the Society of American Indians, a group of Natives from across the United States who shared their common experiences and adopted a pro-unity strategy.

Ms. Cornelius-Kellogg wanted the revival of the Iroquois Confederacy as a recognized entity in the world and the return of lands stolen by New York State. She was the first person to travel to Europe using an Iroquois passport and she came to Akwesasne to help the Mohawks regain control over the territory under the jurisdiction of the Mohawk Nation Council.

Grand councils were held at Akwesasne where Ms. Cornelius Kellogg spoke with passion. She helped win the Paul Diabo case in the US Supreme Court which recognized the aboriginal right to cross the border and thereby saved the economic lives of thousands of Mohawks. She was a real troublemaker as seen by the US and tribal council supporters. She gave inspiration to the people to reject the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 which in turn led the clanmothers of the Nation to block the entrance of the old tribal building on St. Regis Road and order the tribal council to disband. Those brave ladies were certainly troublemakers.

As were the families who built the longhouse on Route 37 at great personal risk. At that time a family could have lost their jobs, been evicted from their homes and stripped of their enrollment status if they were seen to have taken part in the ancient rituals. But a group of young people refused to concede to the accusation that they were “dancing with the devil” and renewed the ceremonies.

Among these brave ones, these troublemakers, were Alec Gray, Joe Mitchell, Ross and Madeline David, Mike Boots and Ray Fadden. It was Mr. Fadden who added to this fire when he took Mohawk history into the schools and made those stories into a source of pride. He raised a generation of young Mohawks to extract the wisdom and teachings of their grandparents and restore

dignity to a people.

Among his compatriots was Ernest Benedict, one of the first Mohawk college graduates, the editor of the first Mohawk newspaper and a man who was jailed because he defied the US and said it had no right to draft Mohawks into World War II. Ernie did serve with distinction but he never compromised on his ideals.

Another contemporary was Phillip Cook. Although he remained a Christian throughout his life he was an advocate for the restoration of the traditional government. He was elected as one of the three trustees for the Tribal Council but knew the people wanted that “elected” system out. So after receiving almost universal support he, and the other trustees, disbanded the Tribe in 1948 only to have New York State hold an off territory election and using the threat of the New York State Police return the tribe to power.

In the 1950’s we had the leadership of Frank Thomas-Standing Arrow. He had been taught by his elders that the Mohawk people had never sold their ancestral lands despite the fraudulent Seven Nations of Canada and Joseph Brant “treaties”. Rather than wait for litigation he acted and in 1957 moved his family and other Mohawks to the Schoharie Creek at its confluence with the Mohawk River west of Amsterdam. He held on for two years until New York once again sent in the troopers to burn their longhouse and dismantle the community.

But Standing Arrow was right, direct assertion of Mohawk sovereignty was a possibility. His troublemaking inspired young Mohawks such as Tom Porter to become advocates for traditional knowledge and a group of Kahnawakerons to act on that knowledge in May of 1974 when they moved to secure a camp at Eagle Bay, New York, and give birth to Ganienkeh. What Standing Arrow did was to show the viability of the longhouse in political matters. A Nation Council could govern and was seen as leading the move towards unifying Akwesasne.

Among the people affected by Standing Arrow was Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell. He made serious trouble when he and his friends blocked traffic on Kawehnoke to protest the imposition of import duties on goods taken from the “US” to Mohawk homes north of the border. What Mr. Mitchell did on December 1968 ignited a national movement to assert aboriginal rights across Canada.

From that incident, which received worldwide attention, came the publication Akwesasne Notes, the most influential Native news journal in history, and the White Roots of Peace, the travel troupe which was the most effective advocate for Native sovereignty. Both were sanctioned by the Mohawk Nation Council and made Akwesasne the beacon for the the rights of indigenous people worldwide. Now that was epic troublemaking.

Then came the takeover at Alcatraz in November, 1969. The Native peoples of the US were ready for the spark which would ignite the movement and it came from Richard Oakes, the son of Irene Foote (my grandmother’s niece) and Arthur Oakes, both Akwesasnorons. Richard was schooled in Mohawk nationalism by the White Roots when the troupe visited San Francisco in early 1968. He promoted the ideas of Standing Arrow, Ray Fadden and Ernie Benedict-his edicts read at Alcatraz were absolutely pro-Native sovereignty and when he swam to that island on November 9, in 50 degree water through 250 yards of lethal currents he initiated what we all have benefited from: the principles of Native self determination and the use of direct action to assert those rights.

Oakes did not wait for the courts, he did not engage in useless, confidential negotiations with government officials, he would not be coerced by those who wanted to take a more “reasonable” approach to Native rights. He saw the dangers of appeasement so he stripped off his shirt, plunged into the San Francisco Bay and did a perfect Akwesasne backstroke to Alcatraz. Joining Oakes in that epic swim were Joe Bill, Ross Harden, Jim Vaughn and Jerry Hatch.

And so began a truly historic trouble making with international ramifications.

Richard Thariwasatse Oakes was murdered in 1972 in his 30th year but his

legacy is wide reaching. When he was shot and killed a national caravan was organized to go to Washington and demand his death be investigated by the federal government. This caravan, originally named after Oakes, would become the Trail of Broken Treaties and arrive in DC in later October, 1972 on the eve of the US national elections. The headquarters of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (an agency then led by Akwesasne Mohawk Louis Bruce) was occupied and ransacked (some say by government agents).

After leaving the BIA with money given by the Richard Nixon reelection campaign many of the occupiers would rally to the call for support at Pine Ridge, South Dakota in February, 1973. With the American Indian Movement in prominence the standoff at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, would last for over 100 days and become the longest armed standoff between the US and Native peoples in the 20th century.

There would be other incidents of trouble at Akwesasne and elsewhere across both Canada and the US. To respond to this the Americans would pass new legislation including the 1988 National Indian Gaming Act, a law impossible to conceive of without Native activism with an economic slant. If those troublemakers had not been brave enough to take their stands we would all still be under the heavy hand of Indian agents, hostile courts and oppressive state and federal legislatures.

We should all be grateful for those Native patriots even as we look for those in this generation to show the same leadership, to show the same courage and unbending will as their troublemaking grandparents. With Oakes at Alcatraz were the original group: LaNada Means War Jack, Joe Bill, David Leach, John Whitefox, Ross Harden, Jim Vaughn, Linda Arayando, Bernell Blindman, Kay Many Horse, John Virgil, John Martell, Fred Shelton, Rick Evening, Jerry Hatch and Al Miller with prime organizer Adam Fortunat Eagle and spokesperson John Trudell. Peter Blue Cloud Aroniawenrate Williams of Kahnawake would become the poet and chronicler of Alcatraz.

Other events and laws which came about directly because of the new activism coming from Alcatraz:

- BIA takeover
  - Wounded Knee 1973
  - Ganienkeh 1974
  - the end of the termination era and the restoration of federal recognition to many nations including the Menominee and Klamath
  - the enactment of the American Indian Freedom of Religion Act
  - the passage of the Indian Education Act
  - the enactment of the American Indian Child Welfare Act
  - the expansion of Indian Health Services
  - the enactment of the Indian Self Determination law
  - the founding of the Indian Water Rights Office
  - the passage of the Native Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
  - the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act
  - the founding of the National Museum of the American Indian
  - the 1978 Longest Walk
  - the 1977 Native presence at the United Nations Human Rights forum in Geneva
  - the 2007 passage of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- And yet there is still no formal recognition of Richard Oakes at Akwesasne. Perhaps on the 50th anniversary of the swim to Alcatraz we can do something tangible to give him and his compatriots the honor they deserve.

*Doug George-Kanentiio, Akwesasne Mohawk, is the vice-president of the Hiawatha Institute for Indigenous Knowledge. He has served as a Trustee for the National Museum of the American Indian, is a former land claims negotiator for the Mohawk Nation and is the author of numerous books and articles about the Mohawk people. This editorial appeared on Indianz.com.*

## McCoy bill would aid voting rights of Indians

### • The Herald Editorial Board (Everett, Wash.)

Thanks in part to high-profile ballot initiatives, greater interest in congressional races and — maybe — a few more votes cast because postage was paid for Washington state’s mail-in ballots this year, voter turnout for the November general election reached about 72 percent; not a record, but for a non-presidential election not bad when compared to other midterm numbers, such as 2014’s turnout of 54 percent.

Snohomish County’s turnout was slightly lower than the state mark at 70.6 percent, and turnout was higher among its immediate neighbors of Skagit (73.4 percent), King (74.8) and Chelan (75.7). Still, efforts at the county and state level to encourage voter registration and voting may be showing results.

Now there’s need to concentrate on pockets where the voter participation numbers still lag, in particular among the state’s Native American populations and on tribal lands.

The Native American Voting Rights Act, sponsored in the Senate by Sen. John McCoy, D-Tulalip, was heard before the committee on government, tribal relations and elections last week.

The bill, SB 5079 — and its companion, HB 1339 — seeks to improve access for tribal members in the state to register and vote by authorizing tribes to request county election offices provide at least one ballot drop box as well as voter-registration sites; allow tribal members to use non-traditional addresses — those without a street number, such as a P.O. box — when registering to vote; and allow the use of tribal identification for the state’s electronic voter registration system, provided the Secretary of State’s office receives a copy of the applicant’s signature.

The intent, as McCoy described it in a Jan. 20 guest commentary in *The Herald*, is to avoid the disenfranchisement that occurred last year in North Dakota, after its legislature passed a law that barred the use of P.O. boxes for voter identification, commonly used by tribal members on reservations and other tribal lands that don’t use street addresses.

“Tribes operate in a different way from many,” McCoy wrote. “Our community is relationship-based; those that live on the reservation know all their neighbors. There is no need for a residential address when you already recognize where everyone lives. Indian communities know how the reservation works; it is the outside world that doesn’t.”

Nor has the Snohomish County elections office placed a ballot drop box on Tulalip or other tribal land in the county for recent elections. The nearest one to the Tulalip reservation was one at Marysville City Hall. The need for ballot drop boxes is even greater on some of the state’s larger reservations, such as that of the Yakama Indian Nation, which is home to some 11,000 residents spread out over 1.4 million acres of land.

And while online registration makes that process simple and quick for many in cities, more rural areas — again Tulalip and other reservations — have only spotty access to broadband internet, another subject for which McCoy has advocated.

The result nationwide has meant that voter turnout by Native American populations has lagged behind general numbers by about 14 percentage points, Alex Hur, who represents One America and the Washington Voting Justice Coalition, told the Senate committee on Jan. 23.

The remedies sought in McCoy’s bill aren’t ones that should require much in the way of financial outlay, although we’d like to see the Legislature cough up more money to reimburse county election offices for the operation of all ballot drop boxes, at the same time as they consider making postage-free ballots permanent.

When women won the right to vote in 1910, the Amendment that was adopted specifically kept Native Americans disenfranchised, according to History Link.org. Amendment 6 to the state Constitution read: “That Indians not taxed shall never be allowed the elective franchise.” Even with passage of the federal Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, that language remained in the Washington state Constitution until 1974.

The measures called for in the Native American Voting Rights Act would represent a small apology for allowing those words to fester in our state Constitution for that long.

## Native organizations respond to reply briefs in Brackeen v. Bernhardt

*The Native American Rights Fund, National Indian Child Welfare Association, National Congress of American Indians and Association on American Indian Affairs issued the following statement Feb. 20:*

In reply briefs filed (Feb. 19) with the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in the case *Brackeen v. Bernhardt*, the United States and defendant tribal nations reaffirm the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The briefs also underscore why ICWA’s protections continue to be vital for Native children and families.

For over 40 years, ICWA has acknowledged the inherent right of tribal governments and the critical role they play to protect their member children and maintain the stability of families.

*Brackeen v. Bernhardt* is the lawsuit brought by Texas, Indiana, Louisiana, and individual plaintiffs, who allege ICWA—a federal statute that has been in effect for more than 40 years and has helped thousands of Native children maintain ties to their families and their tribes—is unconstitutional. It is the first time that a state has sued the federal government over ICWA’s constitutionality. The lawsuit names various federal agencies and officials as defendants, and five tribal nations (Cherokee Nation, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Navajo Nation, Oneida Nation, and Quinault Indian Nation) also have intervened as defendants. In addition, amicus briefs in support of ICWA were filed on behalf of 325 tribal nations, 21 states, several members of Congress, and dozens of Native organizations, child welfare organizations, and other allies.

ICWA is constitutional. The U.S. Constitution specifically gives Congress the power to legislate for the benefit of Native people and tribal nations. ICWA falls within that constitutional authority because it applies only to children who are

either citizens (referred to as “members” in ICWA) of a federally recognized tribe, or who are both eligible for citizenship and the biological child of a tribal citizen parent. In addition, Congress has enacted laws concerning Native children from the earliest days of the United States government. ICWA provides a productive framework for states and tribal nations to partner in protecting the health and well-being of Native children.

ICWA ensures that Native children and families receive the services they deserve.

There is a long history of Native children being removed from their families and communities without sufficient reason and often with little consideration of the rights of either the Native children or their families. Before ICWA was enacted in 1978, as many as one out of every three Native children was removed from their home. ICWA has helped to reduce these alarming removal rates and helped more Native families stay together. Child welfare research clearly shows that children are best served by preserving connections with their birth family and community. Child welfare experts across the country are working together with tribes, states, and allies to continue implementing and protecting ICWA as the “gold standard” in child welfare law and ensuring Native children and families receive the services they deserve.

Striking down ICWA would not only be wrong as a matter of law; it also would have devastating real-world effects by harming Native children and undermining the ability of child welfare agencies and courts to serve their best interest. Evidence shows that ICWA’s framework achieves better outcomes for children. National Native organizations stand with tribal nations and non-tribal ICWA allies to take action to protect ICWA and end the unnecessary removal of Native children from their families, tribes, and communities.

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

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

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### Clarification

A story about the Florida Seminole Cattlewomen’s Association on page 4A in the Jan. 31, 2019 Tribune mentioned that Martha Jones is from Big Cypress. Martha is from Brighton; her cattle are from Big Cypress. She was also in the cattle business with her brother and four sisters before she purchased her own herd.

# Community



## Tribe hosts second renewable energy conference in Hollywood

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe's idea to present a conference focused on alternative energy began a couple years ago, after the Chairman's Office organized an "Energy Committee" consisting of Special Projects Administrator Cicero Osceola and Senior Director of Operations Derrick Smith, among others.

The goal in forming the committee and then a conference was to ensure the Tribe was on the forefront of best practices in renewable and sustainable energy issues, and also to share information with others.

For the second year, it hosted the Renewable Energy & Sustainability Conference at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood. The free, three-day conference took place Feb. 5 through Feb. 7. It brought

together dozens of attendees, including Seminoles and Native Americans from across the country, as well as First Nations members from Canada. "We appreciate you coming and returning and the new faces that we have this

year," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. when opening the conference.

"Every day a new person is born into the world. And that requires more energy for that person to live, right?" Chairman Osceola said.

The Chairman stressed the importance of the Tribe taking up the issue of energy and energy dependence, which include the use of renewable and alternative sources.

"As a Tribe we wanted to get in front of this. We're still trying to learn. Twenty or 30 years ago alternative energy wasn't something that was spoken about a lot. We thought fossil fuels would last forever," Chairman Osceola said. "We don't all live off the grid [although] we wish we could live off the grid like we once did."

As the stature of the conference rises and evolves, the Tribe stands to position itself at the forefront of energy solutions for Tribal communities.

### Why it's important

Tribes across the U.S., as in many communities, are increasingly faced with the effects of climate change. In Florida, that means dealing with issues ranging from sea level rise to more powerful king tides and even drought conditions in some areas of the Everglades.

And scientists are virtually all singing in the same key when they place the acceleration of climate change, produced from CO2 discharge causing the "greenhouse effect," as a largely manmade issue.

Further, experts say modern societies across the globe could learn a lot about living in harmony with the earth by studying the traditional environmental practices of Natives.

"In the past, our whole life depended on alternative energy, the sun," said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank. "Everything that was provided for us was provided by the sun. As Tribes go through in the future, we're going to have to go back to looking at the sun; we're going to have to go back to looking at alternative energies."

Rep. Frank told attendees that many Tribal communities are also "trapped" in power grids that do not serve them well.

"So a lot of the Tribes are looking



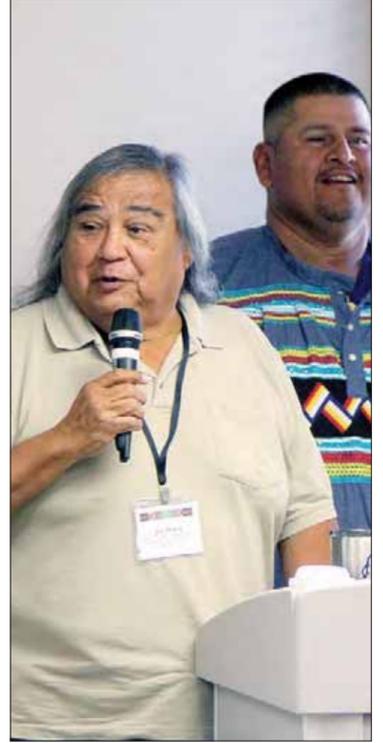
Louis Porter Jr., NLC (2)

Above, attendees participate in the Seminole Tribe's Renewable Energy & Sustainability Conference in early February at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood. Below, Jeff Benavides, one of the conference presenters, and Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank chat with attendees during a break.



Louis Porter Jr., NLC

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. gives opening remarks on the first day of the conference.



Louis Porter Jr., NLC

Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank and Chairman's office special projects administrator Cicero Osceola welcome attendees to the conference.

for ways to stabilize their communities, stabilize their energy needs, and their energy demands of the future," he said.

Native Americans often cite energy security, or energy sovereignty, as a top issue of concern. Those concerns range from the high cost of utilities to aging and unreliable infrastructure.

♦ See CONFERENCE on page 6A

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# Dancers, drummers, pageantry highlight Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow lived up to its name as it wowed participants and visitors alike from Feb. 8-10. The 48th annual celebration of Native arts and culture drew large crowds at the Hard Rock Event Center in Hollywood.

"This is one of the coolest stops on the Pow Wow circuit," said arena director Wendall Powless during the first grand entry of the Pow Wow on Feb. 8.

With those words, the weekend of drum and dance competitions commenced. The arena reverberated with the sound of the drums as the Native American Women Warriors Color Guard, Seminole Color Guard, elected officials, royalty and other officials led the grand entry. The floor filled with dancers in regalia that showed off a rainbow of colors, feathers, beadwork, ribbons, jingles, bells, headdresses, sashes and more.

Native arts from around North America, a concert headlined by Gretchen Wilson, Seminole fine arts contest, clothing contest, basketball tournament, rodeo, wildlife shows and the Native Film Festival filled out the weekend's activities.

About 400 dancers and drummers came from all over the U.S. and Canada to compete for a share of \$150,000 in prize



Hollywood preschoolers recite the Pledge of Allegiance in English and Mikasuki before the grand entry of the 48th annual Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow on Feb. 8 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's Hard Rock Event Center in Hollywood.



Current Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Clarice Demayo and Connie Gowen — who served as the first Miss Seminole Princess in 1957 — pose during the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow on Feb. 8 at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

money. The pow wow circuit is filled with

competitors and their families who travel from event to event, leading to a familiarity and camaraderie among them.

About an hour before the first grand entry, the registration area was filled with competitors and their large rolling suitcases filled with regalia. The atmosphere was convivial as people caught up with each other, babies napped in strollers and the line to register grew.

The competitive dance events were Fancy, Grass, Chicken, Northern Traditional, Northern Cloth, Northern Buckskin, Southern Straight, Southern Cloth, Jingle and Southern Buckskin for men, women and teens. Ten drum groups competed in Northern and Southern combined categories. Freeman Pinnecose, Navajo, Southern Ute and Jicarilla Apache Tribes, from Albuquerque, New Mexico, goes to as many pow wows as he can every year and makes it a point to go to all the big ones. The Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow is considered one of the big ones.

"This is part of my lifestyle," he said. "I was raised singing and dancing. If it wasn't for dancing, I wouldn't be able to travel so much. Instead of sitting and reading, I'm out and living life; I love being Native American."

Keith Sharphead, Cree Tribe, originally from Alberta, Canada, but now living in Jacksonville, has been dancing since he was a young boy. He competed in the pow wow three years ago and came back again because he wanted to see old friends and make new ones. A chicken dancer, Sharphead came in fourth in the senior division.

"I tell my friends to braid up and get sweaty," said Marty Pinnecose, Southern Ute and Jicarilla Apache Tribes, from Ignacio, Colorado. "It's physical, like high impact aerobics. It makes you strong, healthy and alive."

Pinnecose, a grass dancer, took third place in the golden age division. Jingle dancer Shaina Snyder, Navajo and Southern Ute, has been dancing since she could walk.

"It keeps you happy," said Snyder, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "I've been around pow wows my entire life. I enjoy the spirit of everything here."

Many of the dancers don't remember a time when they didn't dance. Indeed, during the pow wow's crowded grand entries and intertribal drum competitions dancers of all ages took to the floor. Babies in the arms of parents were the only ones not dancing. Toddlers and very young children were a common site and even had a competition of their own; tiny tots.

"Pow wows are a respite for me," said Orrenzo Snyder, Navajo Tribe and German, from Montezuma Creek, Utah. "I take a break from daily life and relax, reprocess

and center myself. It's all about balance in life."

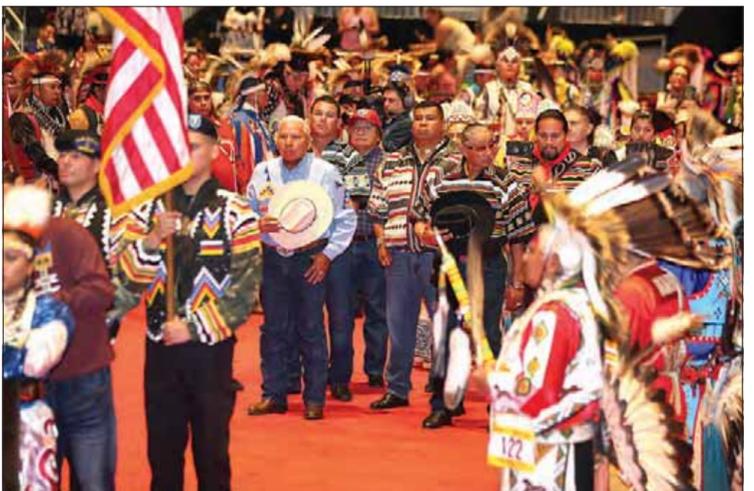
Grass dancer Snyder came in fourth in the senior division.

Not everyone at the event was there to compete; some wanted to watch and take it all in. Many shopped at some of the 67

vendor booths. "I've been coming here for four years," said Raquel Lewis, of Miami Beach. "I love the culture, the dancing and the drums. It hits your spine and your soul."



Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Clarice Demayo and Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger are joined by other Native American princesses during the grand entry.



Seminole elected officials Brighton Councilman Andrew Bowers Jr, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, President Mitchell Cypress and Naples Liaison Brian Zepeda join other dignitaries in the grand entry Feb. 8.



Colorful fancy dancers fill up the floor of the 48th annual Tribal Fair and Pow Wow in Hollywood.



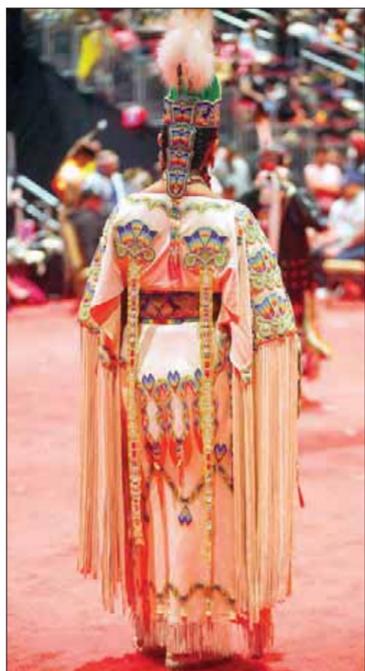
Drum groups use their drumsticks and voices to compete as judges take notes.



Above left, this tiny jingle dancer participates in the intertribal dance along with much larger dancers. Above right, children are encouraged to dance from the time they can walk, like this little dancer who was focused on his every dance move.



Beverly Bidney (2)



Kevin Johnson



Alyssa Osceola and Adrienne Bell gather at the fine arts competition after judging was complete. Alyssa won first place for a pen and ink drawing and a mixed media piece.



Golden Age chicken dancers participate in the Tribal Fair and Pow Wow Grand Entry Feb. 8 in Hollywood.

♦ **BETTY MAE**  
From page 1A

Betty Mae with the crowd. "My grandmother went to nursing school with Betty Mae," Jumper said. "I became the messenger between them. I kept a journal and they both encouraged me to write a book. Some elders told me stories and wanted me to include them in the book. I wasn't writing a book, I was keeping a journal." That book he wasn't writing, "Second Jumper; Searching for his Bloodline", was published in 2011. Jumper credits Betty Mae and her neighbor Sam Frank for the book's completion. Although Betty Mae never got to see it, he said she was the force behind it. Ruggy Jumper is the youngest of the three

Jumper children, after Moses and Scarlet. As the crowd adjourned to a luncheon in the historic Inn, he remarked on the memories of his mother shared by others. "It's really exciting and I'm just so proud of her being who she was," he said. "Sometimes I wish we had spent more time together. I used to go to the Florida Folk Festival with her every year to sell her souvenirs. It was one of my favorite places to go." "It's good to be talking about my mother and what she did and how she did it," Moses added. Alexis Jumper enjoys going to events honoring her great grandmother. She was only 16 when Betty Mae passed away. "I feel like I learn so much about her," she said. "I wish I could have known her longer."



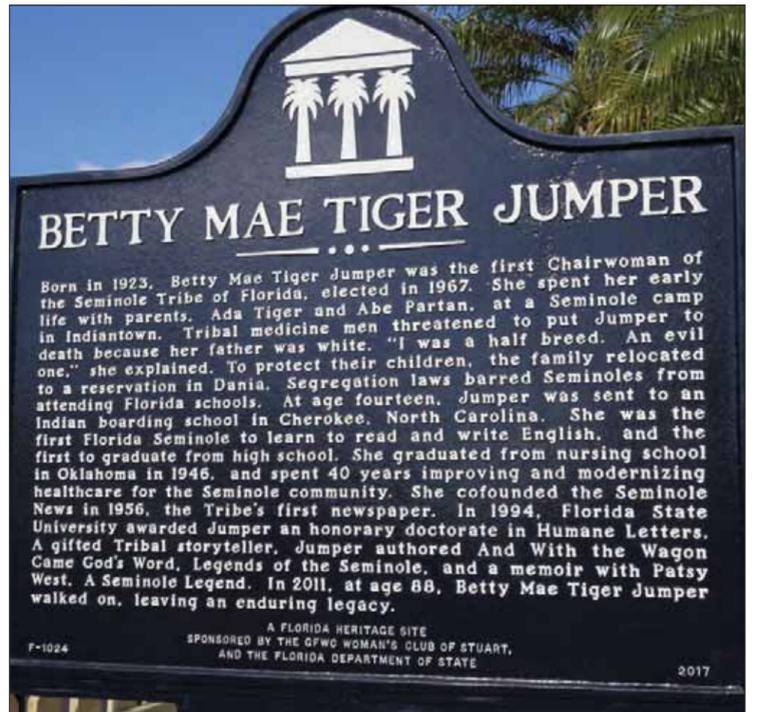
The crowd gathers for the unveiling of the plaque commemorating the life of Betty Mae Jumper. Her sons Moses and Ruggy Jumper are pictured in the center of the photo.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

Moses, Ruggy, Alexis and Laquita Jumper pose with Iris Wall at the Seminole Inn in Indiantown after the dedication of a historic marker noting the life of Betty Mae Jumper, Moses and Ruggy's mother.



## Hard Rock renews lease, plans expansion in Times Square

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Hard Rock International, whose parent entity is the Seminole Tribe of Florida, announced Feb. 12 the expansion of its presence in the Times Square Theatre District in New York City. The iconic brand has signed a lease renewal of its existing location at 1501 Broadway and is growing its Rock Shop location by 1,335-square feet.

Hard Rock Cafe New York opened its doors more than 13 years ago in the former Paramount Theatre and we are thrilled to announce that we will be here for at least another 17 years, Stephen K. Judge, President of Cafe Operations for Hard Rock International. This deal speaks to our commitment to the New York City market, as well as the tremendous demand from New York City visitors and residents for authentic experiences that rock. With the addition of this new space, guests will also

get to experience a larger Rock Shop, which will feature an impressive 90-foot wide store front and an expanded selection of our iconic Hard Rock merchandise. The Rock Shop expansion will enable Hard Rock Cafe New York to amplify its retail product visibility and will feature the brand's assortment of men's, women's and kid's apparel, collectible pins and accessories. The store will also feature Hard Rock's Classic and City T-shirts, which the United Kingdom newspaper The Sun

recently reported as being voted the third most iconic T-shirt design of all time. Hard Rock Cafe's decision to extend its long-term commitment at the Paramount Building came at an opportune time to accommodate its popular Rock Shop retail component, said Matthew K. Harding, President of Levin Management Corporation, and Charles L. Rosenberg, Managing Partner of Rosemark Management, on behalf of building ownership. The rich history of the Paramount Building within the

music industry, combined with Hard Rock's magnetic brand, truly makes this location an iconic pillar of the Times Square Bow Tie. The Times Square Cafe walls are adorned with rock n roll memorabilia from artists with New York ties such as John Lennon, Jimi Hendrix, The Ramones, and Bruce Springsteen, as well as priceless pieces from legendary artists such as The Beatles, Led Zepplin, Nirvana, Billy Joel, Elvis Presley, Madonna and Gwen Stefani.

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At left, sisters Maydell Osceola and Mary Gay Osceola, and, at right, Benjamin Billie and Vince Billie enjoy the Valentine's Day party at the Hollywood Senior Center on Feb. 14. The event featured games, raffles and food and a visit from Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger.

Damon Scott (2)

## Hollywood Senior Center holds Valentine's Day party



At left, Joe Paul Billie wears red on Valentine's Day at the Senior Center. At right, Lawanna Osceola and Loretta Micco participate in the festivities.

Damon Scott (2)



Rosie Grant and Bella enjoy the party.

Damon Scott



Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger spends time at the Valentine's Day luncheon before heading to Brighton for the Brighton Field Day and Rodeo.

Courtesy photo

# State lawmakers push forward on Native issues, policy

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

While attention is often given to the noisy political environment in Washington, D.C., state legislatures are busy introducing bills and hashing out policy issues.

Indeed, sometimes state-level actions can have a more direct effect on Florida residents including Tribal members than what is being hashed out in Congress.

In Florida there are sure to be many big issues addressed in the legislative session that begins March 5 and ends May 3. And there's a new face in town Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Lawmakers will grapple with the massive state budget, health care, education, the opioid epidemic, environmental issues, the economy and jobs, medical marijuana, voting laws, guns and school safety, and perhaps even a ban on texting while driving.

While none of those issues will likely mention Florida's Native population specifically, Kathy Atkins, the executive director of the Florida Governors Council on Indian Affairs, said she's got a big goal for the upcoming session.

"We want to work with new governor and create the awareness that there are two federally-recognized tribes [in Florida] and partner with [the executive branch]," Atkins said.

"The awareness and partnerships has diminished and seems to be going away," she said.

Atkins recently moved from Tennessee to Florida to take the helm at FGIA. She's worked as a consultant and has planned conferences on Native American issues for more than two decades.

Atkins is a full-blooded Tuscarora, a tribe that is part of the Iroquois Confederacy in New York.

She expects DeSantis to focus a lot of attention on education, jobs and producing a skilled workforce. She hopes on a macro level his focus will create a more welcoming environment for young Tribal members in Florida to perhaps stay in-state after high school or college, instead of moving out-of-state.

issin m r r

Elsewhere in the U.S., lawmakers in at least seven states have introduced legislation to address the unsolved deaths and disappearances of many Native American women and girls.

Data from law enforcement and other sources has shown a disparity in missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls compared to the rest of the population.

A recent Associated Press review of bills found that lawmakers in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, New Mexico and Arizona have recently sponsored measures on the issue.

Policymakers in South Dakota are creating guidelines for investigating cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

And in at least two cases in Nebraska and Washington State lawmakers are moving to designate a day to honor murdered and missing Indigenous women. Similar efforts are being pushed in Utah.

hi s a s

Michelle Dauphinais Echols of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa is an attorney and advocate for child sex abuse survivors from Native American boarding schools.

She is the founder of "9littlegirls" and the author of Senate Bill 196 which would "eliminate the statutory and judicial statute of limitation precedents for Native American [sexual abuse] survivors in South Dakota."

Echols said she created 9littlegirls to honor nine sisters who attended Native American boarding school and suffered "horrible physical, mental, and sexual abuse."

Echols, who spoke on a recent Native America Calling radio program, said their stories are not uncommon and the abuse suffered in the boarding schools has caused

"lifelong and generational trauma for Native Americans."

If the bill passes it would mean allowing for a time for healing, and for reconciliation with the respective churches that ran many of these schools.

Other similar issues being looked at in state governments include policies on stalking, domestic violence and family violence.



New Mexico state representative Derrick Lente

n i n o s o p s Day

There has also been an ongoing movement to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.

While many individual cities and towns have passed resolutions, states are now acting, most recently in Kansas and New Mexico.

State Rep. Derrick J. Lente, D-NM, who is of the Isleta and Sandia Pueblos introduced a bill to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day in the state.

"It's simple really," he recently said on Native America Calling. "Eliminate Columbus and put Indigenous Peoples in state statutes. Make it a state paid holiday as well."

Lente said he realizes the move to change Columbus Day is an emotional one, whether you're for it or against it.

"It's more of a debate than I expected. Some want to keep Columbus Day and add Indigenous Peoples Day. It's not a wedge to divide a state or a country, but an attempt to help define who we are as Native people to show our resilience."

Lente said it doesn't make sense to celebrate and honor the true history of Columbus.

"His legacy is one that speaks for itself: the murder, rape and torture of Indigenous People," he said.

Lente added that it's not an attempt to rewrite history.

"[It's] an extinguishment of celebrating someone with that type of legacy," he said.

Both Albuquerque (in 2015) and Santa Fe (in 2016) have passed proclamations declaring Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples Day.

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Some states are also trying to get funding to help develop strategies for ways to motivate Natives to become more involved in the voting process.

Lente is involved in trying to advance Native voting rights. He said states need to include Native American people in more of the political process and in "get out the vote" efforts.

"We need to come up with ways we can be more of a participant and be heard in the political process," Lente said.

He's proposed a Native American Voting Task Force in the New Mexico Legislature.

Bills have also been filed in New Mexico to address Native education. Another bill seeks to rename a statue on Pueblo land that features a Spanish conqueror.

"Native Americans have always been playing defense," said Lente. "Now it's time to play some offense. It's a different time."

### LANGUAGES ACT From page 1A

to be the best model for creating fluent speakers and successful Native leaders," the NIEA said in a statement. "Grants provided under Esther Martinez have empowered Native communities to establish immersion programs that are successfully revitalizing

Native languages and improving Native economies.

The NIEA is encouraging Congress to act quickly on the reauthorization.

"Preserving and promoting Native language is crucial to the advancement of Native education, said NIEA president Robin Butterfield in a statement. "By introducing and supporting this important program, Congress will ensure every Native student can thrive socially and academically because

they are taught their own language."

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's own Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School (PECS) on the Brighton Reservation has been lauded for its language immersion program.

PECS students are immersed in the Creek language throughout the school day. The program is also unique because parents are required to be involved and take a class to learn Creek.

### CONFERENCE From page 3A

m itio s a n a

The conference agenda put together by organizers focused on several areas and included many industry experts. Topics featured were the newly changing landscape for Tribal energy development and sustainability, best practices, federal leadership, policy and regulatory changes, project funding, and project planning/development trends.

Kevin M. Cunniff, the cataloging assistant at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress, said he was particularly impressed with a presentation by Jana Ganon.

Ganon is the sustainability director for the Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe in California.

"[She] detailed the multifaceted approach this Tribal Nation has taken to implement a net zero carbon society, mitigate climate change effects by taking steps to promote ecosystem and natural resource resiliency, and assert sovereignty through independent energy, water and infrastructure development,"

Cunniff said.

Cunniff said he believes the Seminole Tribe could benefit from Blue Lake's model. He said Ganon was also willing to share information with any interested Tribal Nation, including providing onsite tours, contacts, access to legal advice, and stories about successes and failures.

Paul N. Backhouse, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Office, also attended and said the conference was a valuable opportunity to connect with the best practices of capacity building for energy sustainability across Indian Country.

"Some of the focused Tribal case studies were phenomenal and showed how much potential there is in this arena," Backhouse said. "Our team got a ton of ideas for the Museum campus," he said, adding that he's interested in development of a micro grid at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki.

tt n s h a n too

The Native Learning Center staff made sure to give attendees plenty of information about what to do when they weren't at the conference.

Some stayed at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

Hollywood and took advantage of all its amenities. Others got the golf clubs out and attended the Tribe's inaugural "Chairman of the Greens" charity tournament on Feb. 8. In fact, the conference date was set specifically so attendees could attend the Tribal Fair and Pow Wow which ran Feb. 8 through Feb. 10.

Attendees came from the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, Sioux, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Penobscot Nation, Comanche Nation, Navajo Nation, Cheyenne River Indian Reservation, Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma, Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Cherokee Nation and Red Lake Indian Reservation, and elsewhere.

The Native Learning Center is located at 6363 Taft Street in Hollywood. To access the conference agenda, and to learn more about their programs, go to [nativelearningcenter.com](http://nativelearningcenter.com), or email Louis Porter Jr., marketing coordinator, at [louisporter@semtribe.com](mailto:louisporter@semtribe.com).

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# NCAI's Keel sees strong, resurgent Indian Country

PECS' Joy Prescott mentioned in address

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

U.S. President Donald J. Trump gave his State of the Union address to Congress on Feb. 5, an annual message meant to lay out a legislative agenda and course for the country. Similarly, every year the president of the National Congress of American Indians gives a State of Indian Nations address, not only to inform the U.S. Congress and other officials, but tribal leaders and tribal members.

NCAI President Jefferson Keel delivered the speech Feb. 11. The address is scheduled to land near to that of the U.S. president's.

"On behalf of the 573 federally recognized tribal nations, dozens of state-recognized tribal nations, and millions of Native people across this land I proudly proclaim the State of Indian Nations is strong, and we grow stronger every day," Keel said.

Keel is the 22nd president of NCAI. He was elected in Oct. 2017 to serve his third nonconsecutive term.

"From our cultures and languages to our economies and political power, tribal nations are crafting a great resurgence that is forging brighter futures for our communities and generations yet to come," Keel said.

However, Keel also spoke of "strong headwinds and resistance," and listed off several challenges for Indian Country, many of which he laid at the feet of the federal government and particularly the Trump Administration.

Keel mentioned the recent court challenge to the Indian Child Welfare Act and the recent federal government shutdown that disproportionately affected Native Americans. Other concerns were climate change effects, and the Trump Administration's "effort to undercut" the regulatory framework by which tribal nations place land into trust.

He had harsh words for the Department of the Interior and said it cannot, "be allowed to simply make it up as it goes along" when deciding whether to take land into trust for tribal nations. Keel said a rushed and ill-conceived reorganization of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs was equally concerning.

"We also demand [the] Interior heed the call of Indian Country and Congress by creating an Under Secretary for Indian Affairs, so that our priorities can get their just due," he said.

Keel spoke at great length about

positives across Indian Country, too. He said its resurgence could be seen in areas as diverse as sports and the arts.

Close to home, he lauded Joy Prescott, a fourth-grade math teacher at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School on the Brighton Reservation, who was recently named Florida's Teacher of the Year.

Keel highlighted the election of the first two Native American U.S. Congresswomen Deb Haaland of New Mexico and Sharice Davids of Kansas.

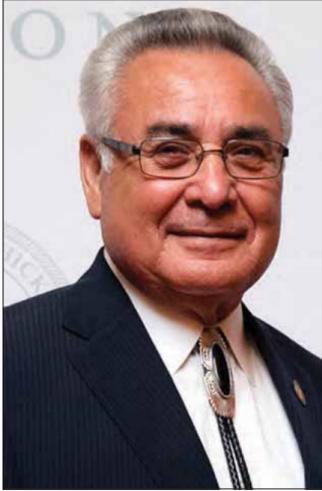
"Our resurgence is seen in the record number of Native candidates who ran for federal, state, and local office – and won," he said.

Keel ended his address by listing off several initiatives he wants to see addressed by the U.S. government. They include, in part:

- Strengthening the Violence Against Women Act.
- Passing Savanna's Act and including tribal nations in Victims of Crime Act funding.
- Ending an assault on Indian Country's unique political status.
- Investing substantially in tribal infrastructure.
- Passing the Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act and Native American Business Incubators Act.
- Properly implementing the Farm Bill and 477 workforce development law.
- Combatting the growing number of hate crimes against Native people.
- Ensuring a complete count of Native people in Census 2020.
- Repairing the "Broken Promises" reported by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.
- Committing to appointing federal judges who understand and respect the unique political and legal status of tribal nations.
- Confirming a permanent Indian Health Service director.
- Ensuring the Interior Secretary upholds tribal sovereignty.

"Casual observers of Indian Country's resurgence may deem it an overnight phenomenon," Keel said. "Nothing could be further from the truth. Our success flows from the foresight and counsel of our ancestors. It is driven by the core values and relentless spirit that have sustained our societies and cultures for millennia."

The NCAI was founded in 1944. For more information and to read a transcript of Keel's address, go to [ncai.org](http://ncai.org), and click on "State of Indian Nations."



National Congress of American Indians President Jefferson Keel



Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger speaks in February at the United National Indian Tribal Youth midyear conference in Scottsdale, Arizona.

## Valentine's, Pow Wow, Field Day, UNITY all part of busy times for Miss Florida Seminole

BY CHEYENNE KIPPENBERGER  
Miss Florida Seminole Princess

Being from Hollywood, our Tribal Fair and Pow Wow is one event I look forward to every year. I love the dancers, the visiting tribes and nations, the drums, and the energy it brings right here to our own backyard.

Attending the event just as a community member is always great, but getting to experience the festivities and Pow Wow as Miss Florida Seminole was something I'll always remember. My favorite part of the weekend was definitely Grand Entry, when you're stepping out onto that arena with your feet moving to the beat of the drums and the dancers all around you, it is beautiful.

After an eventful weekend, I got to start off my day of love with the Hollywood seniors at their Valentine's Day party, and boy do they know how to party. We played pin the lips on the Indian dolls, took some silly photos, and shared some good laughs.

It is always time well spent when you get to be around your fellow community members, whether it is for a Valentine's Day party or for Brighton Field Days. To see people's reactions watching alligator wrestling or marvel at our clothing and crafts is what Brighton Field Days is all about, showing and sharing our culture with others. The parade was especially fun too. I loved seeing the girls on horseback in their bright Indian dresses and shirts.

As soon as I was done waving my princess wave and saying my goodbyes, I was off to Arizona for UNITY's midyear conference held in Scottsdale. Being surrounded by over 400 Native youth and watching them create "rezolutions" to issues on their own reservations, sharing cultural traditions with one another, and dancing hand in hand was amazing to be a part of. I even had the honor of mediating a panel on the final day, Women in Leadership. It makes me excited for the National UNITY Conference we are in the midst of planning that will be held in Orlando this coming July.

I love representing our tribe and I love being your Miss Florida Seminole. Shonaabesha



Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger, far right, poses with other Native royalty at the UNITY midyear conference.

## Junior Cypress Cattle Drive & Rodeo set for March 16

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

BIG CYPRESS— The 23rd annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive & Rodeo will be held March 16 on the Big Cypress Reservation. The day will begin with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. followed by the cattle drive at 10 a.m. Registration will be held

from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at Billie Swamp Safari.

There will also be a BBQ dinner as well as the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association kids rodeo at noon and adult rodeo at 7 p.m.

For more information call 954-347-9220 or 863-228-1333 or 863-902-3200, ext. 13237.

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

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 A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

## Tree islands and sustainability at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and THPO

BY MISTY SNYDER  
 Registrar, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

One of the objectives of the Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Office's (THPO) Strategic Plan is to "practice responsible environmental stewardship." There are many projects underway and multiple divisions within the department working toward this goal. I have had the opportunity to spearhead one of these exciting new projects and to serve as a partner to implement others.

While having distinct capital improvement projects that have tangible end products is an important component of achieving this goal, other ongoing efforts to reduce resource use and energy consumption are equally important. Taking a holistic approach will not only improve infrastructure but ultimately contribute to creating systems, processes, and an operating philosophy that promote sustainability throughout all aspects of the Museum and THPO.

My involvement in the tree island



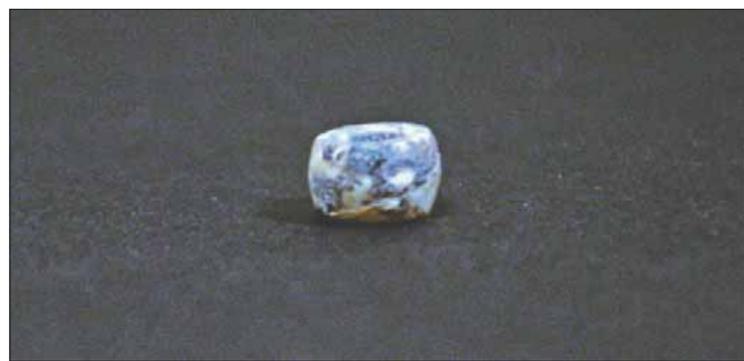
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Artifact found at tree island site. Glades pottery sherd with a mend hole. Mend holes were used to tie together broken pieces of pottery.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Tree island on Josie Billie Highway, just outside of the Big Cypress Reservation.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Artifact found at a tree island site. Marine shell bead.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Artifacts found at tree island site. Tiger shark teeth used as cutting tools.

## Outdoor art at NAMI to raise awareness for missing, murdered Indigenous women

FROM PRESS RELEASE

AS IN G N — The National Museum of the American Indian will present, for the first time in the U.S., "The REDress Project" by M tis artist Jaime Black. The outdoor art installation of empty red dresses centers on the issue of missing or murdered Indigenous women.

Black hopes to draw attention to the gendered and racialized nature of violent crimes against Native women and to evoke a presence through the marking of absence. In her artwork, Black attempts to create a dialogue around social and political issues, especially through an exploration of the body and the land as contested sites of historical and cultural knowledge. This special installation will be on view March 1 through March 31 to commemorate Women's History Month.

"The National Museum of the American Indian highlights traditional and contemporary Native artists and looks to address topics in contemporary Native communities," Monenerkit said. "On this occasion, the museum is showcasing The REDress Project' by M tis artist Jaime Black who centers her artwork on the issue of missing or murdered Indigenous women. Through the installation of Black's work, our museum brings wider attention to the issue."

Several red dresses will be displayed along the Riverwalk located in the museum's Native landscape. These dresses have been collected through community donation and installed at several Canadian galleries, museums and universities since 2011.

"Black's project focuses on the missing women in Canada, but sadly this issue transcends borders and affects Indigenous women throughout the Americas," Monenerkit said. "Art transforms, and definitely transcends, and moves our perspectives of how we face a tragedy. We hope the public takes the opportunity to see, for the first time in the United States, 'The REDress Project' at our museum in Washington, D.C."

Black will also participate with other Native artists, activists and scholars in the symposium "Safety for Our Sisters: Ending Violence Against Native Women" March 21. During the program, the participants will share their stories and engage in important conversations about violence against Indigenous women.

Black is a M tis multidisciplinary artist based in Winnipeg, Canada. She studied English literature at the University of Manitoba and has an education degree from The Ontario Institute of Studies in Education. She is currently a mentee with Mentoring Artists for Women's Art. She is particularly interested in feminism, Aboriginal social justice and the possibilities for articulating linkages between and around these movements.

## Report cites 'continued failure' of Congress to fund Native obligations

BY DAMON SCOTT  
 Staff Reporter

In 2003 it was described as "A Quiet Crisis." Now more than 15 years later, officials say not much has changed.

The noted crisis is the failure of the U.S. Congress to live up to its special trust relationship with Native Americans. That basic obligation was set in motion many decades ago in exchange for the surrender and reduction of tribal lands and the removal and resettlement of about one-fifth of Native American tribes from their original lands.

The U.S. government signed 375 treaties in the process. It passed laws and instituted policies that "shape and define the special government-to-government relationship between federal and tribal governments."

The relationship obligates the federal government to "promote tribal self-government, support the general wellbeing of Native American tribes and villages, and to protect their lands and resources."

But a new report says those obligations require funding, and the funding has been woefully inadequate.

### Broken Promises

The United States Commission on Civil Rights issued the "Quiet Crisis" report in 2003. Then in 2015, 20 members of the U.S. House of Representatives requested an update to that report.

Those members were concerned about a continuing "lack of basic infrastructure" in Indian Country. They noted, in fact, that it had grown over the previous decade.

In their 2015 letter, the Congressional leaders noted "significant budget cuts due to sequestration, increasing threats from natural disasters, and a continued lack of quality housing, educational support, and economic development opportunity" for

Native Americans.

The updated report was recently released: Broken Promises: Continuing Federal Funding Shortfall for Native Americans. The title tells much of the story of what has, or hasn't, happened since the 2003 report.

"Unfortunately, the Commission's current study reflects that the efforts undertaken by the federal government in the past 15 years have resulted in only minor improvements, at best, for the Native population as a whole," the report's executive summary states. "And, in some respects, the U.S. government has backslid in its treatment of Native Americans ..." it continues.

### Consequences of inequity

The report says the lack of adequate funding has had real-world consequences for Native Americans. For example, Native Americans rank near the bottom of all Americans in metrics involving health, education, and employment outcomes.

To make matters worse, the report says the federal government has also failed to keep accurate records of federal spending on Native American programs, making monitoring of federal spending to meet its trust responsibility difficult.

Other consequences cited include a diminishment of tribal self-determination and negative impacts on criminal justice and housing, among other issues.

### Push to address inequity

The Commission majority voted for key recommendations, including passing a spending package to fully address unmet needs and targeting those that are most critical for immediate investment.

"This spending package should also

address the funding necessary for the buildout of unmet essential utilities and core infrastructure needs in Indian Country such as electricity, water, telecommunications, and roads," the Commission stated among several other recommendations in the report.

### Indian Country reat ion

The National Congress of American Indians issued a statement concerning that improvements needed to be made across Indian Country.

"This report confirms what Indian Country knows too well federal programs designed to support the social and economic wellbeing of American Indians and Alaska Natives remain chronically underfunded, leaving many basic needs unmet," said NCAI president Jefferson Keel in the statement.

"... Our tribal nations seek only those things promised to us and our citizens by the U.S. Constitution and the solemn treaties and agreements reached between our tribal nations and the United States. When tribal nations agreed to accept smaller land bases, the federal government promised to safeguard our right to govern ourselves, and to enable tribal governments to deliver essential services and provide them adequate resources to do so effectively. We appreciate the Broken Promises report's recommendation that 'the United States expects all nations to live up to their treaty obligations; it should live up to its own,'" Keel's statement continued.

The Seminole Tribe is not directly mentioned in the report. It is cited in one footnote as the owner of the Hard Rock Cafes. The footnote was in reference to a statement that some tribes are able to be successful within the "tribal framework."

The Broken Promises briefing report is more than 300 pages long. It is available at usccr.gov.

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#### Saturday March 16, 2019

**Per Person**

\$50- ages 13 & UP

\$25- ages 7-12

Age 6 and Under FREE

Package includes:

Breakfast, Dinner, Rodeo Admission and a Commemorative Bandana

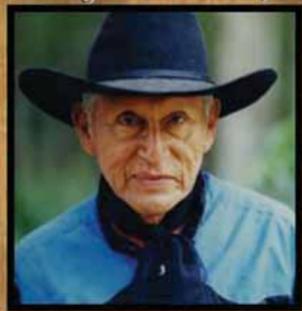
**Register**

7:30-9:30am

Billie Swamp Safari

Big Cypress

Seminole Reservation



**EIRA Rodeo & EIRA Kids Rodeo**

Saturday March 16, 2019

12:00pm- EIRA Kids Rodeo

7:00pm- EIRA Rodeo

**Rules:**

- No Horse Drawn Carts
- Required Up to date Negative Coggins Horse Paper
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- No ATVs or Dogs
- No Loud Music

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Courtney Ervin- (863)902-3200 EXT 13237

This is A Drug And Alcohol Free Event

# Health

## How diabetes is affecting Native American tribes

BY NATIVE NEWS ONLINE STAFF

Native Americans are facing a health crisis. Over the recent years, more and more Native Americans are finding themselves at risk for diabetes, obesity, and high blood pressure.

It has been observed that non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, or NIDDM, is the only type of diabetes that occurs among Native Americans. The high levels of glucose in the body can lead to complications that affect the overall health and well-being of an individual. These include but are not limited to: renal failure, vascular damage, visual impairment, nerve damage, reduced mobility, as well as a compromised immune system. Such major effects to the body can reduce the life expectancy of a Native American with diabetes.

But such health issues do not only affect the individual; it can even affect the next generation of Native Americans. A 2018 study by Jeff Dennis examined the prevalence of low birth weights among American Indian and Alaskan Native mothers, following the 'weathering hypothesis' posited by Palacios and Portillo in a separate study in 2009. The weathering hypothesis was first presented by Arline Geronimus in 1992 which suggests that exposure to cumulative incidences of stress, trauma and socioeconomic disadvantages can lead to the deterioration of the health of African American mothers in their early adulthood.

Using data from the 2014-2016 US Birth File, the study found that relative to white mothers, incidences of low birth weights were more common as American Indian and Alaskan Native mothers aged. Birth outcomes become increasingly

unfavorable with age, which can lead to a host of problems that are not just limited to the health of the child or mother.

Coupled with the numerous health risks that come with older age, some American Indian and Alaskan Native mothers are not entirely opposed to surrogacy. In a bid to seek more information, searches for surrogacy have increased in the past 3 years.

Other studies have also explored the impact of health issues on pregnancy among Native Americans. In 2017, a study was made to examine the relationships between race, maternal risk factors, and infant birth weight. Using data from the South Dakota Department of Health, it was found that Native American infants had greater birth weights on average than non-Native American infants. The study confirmed that the high infant birth weights were due to the prevalence of diabetes and obesity among Native Americans, a health concern that has since been observed in multiple studies.

There is very limited knowledge as to why diabetes, obesity and high blood pressure is becoming more and more prevalent among Native American tribes. But in an effort to reduce the risk of stroke among Native Americans, numerous institutions have made concerted efforts to curb these health risks.

The Urban Indian Health Institute, for one, has awarded grants to organizations for the development of diabetes prevention programs and other similar seminars and services.

Educational programs have been launched among multiple tribes to teach Native American tribes and encourage them to adopt healthier lifestyles to help reduce the risk of diabetes and lower the prevalence of obesity, especially among the younger Native American population.



## Celebrating Heart Health Month

Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, BC health outreach coordinator Edna McDuffie, BC health nutritionist/dietician Marianna Nikiforov, BC health educator Jamie Diersing, Claudia Doctor, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki head of security Ellen Batchelor, Moses Jumper Jr. and Esther Buster show off their red for the annual Heart Health Month photo op in Big Cypress on Feb. 12. At right, Immokalee health nutrition counselor Andrea Kuzbyt takes Dorothy Jumper's blood pressure Feb. 14. The health department provided yummy and healthy snacks along with information about heart health outside of the Immokalee field office.



## One Walks to help JDRF

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) will hold fundraiser walks in South Florida on the following days:

- March 16, Tropical Park, Miami

- April 6, Nova Southeastern University, Davie

- April 13, Mizner Park, Boca Raton.

For more information go to [www2.jdrf.org](http://www2.jdrf.org).

## Mosquito season varies by region

SUBMITTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Mosquito activity is closely linked to temperature; the actual mosquito season can vary from one region to another and even from one year to the next. The warmer the climate, the earlier the mosquito season starts and the longer it's likely to last. While residents in some areas of the U.S. may not see the first mosquito until May or June, here in Florida the mosquito season will vary depending on which part of the state you're located in. The cooler northern portion normally doesn't begin to experience mosquito activity until early March, while South Florida may see mosquitoes in early February. The tropical South Florida climate is especially conducive to the mosquito lifestyle, since mosquitoes are attracted to moisture and humidity for breeding and laying eggs.

The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, infamous for transmitting yellow fever, also carries

many other infectious viruses such as Dengue, Chikungunya, West Nile and Zika.

The 2015-2016 Zika epidemic was primarily caused by this nasty,

little bug.

The Life Cycle of the *Aedes* Mosquito

Knowing the different stages of the mosquito's life will help you prevent mosquitoes around your home. All mosquito species go through four distinct stages during their life cycle:

- Egg - hatches when exposed to water.
- Larva - (plural: larvae) "wiggler" lives in water; molts several times; most species surface to breathe air.
- Pupa - (plural: pupae) "tumbler" does not feed; stage just before emerging as adult.
- Adult - flies short time after emerging and after its body parts have hardened.

The first three stages occur in water, the adult mosquito emerges onto the water's surface and flies away, ready to begin its lifecycle. Only the female mosquito bites and feeds on the blood of humans or other animals. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito bites primarily during the day, both indoors and outdoors. They are most active for approximately two hours after sunrise and several hours before sunset, but can bite at night in well-lit areas.

Flight range studies suggest that most female *Ae. aegypti* may spend their lifetime in or around the houses where they emerge as adults and they usually fly an average of 400 meters. This means that people, rather than mosquitoes, rapidly move the virus within and between communities and places.

In urban areas, it is possible to discover the eggs of the *Aedes* in various exterior objects where water collects. Garden pots, used tires, children's pools, roof tanks and rain barrels are ideal spots for a female mosquito to lay her eggs. Therefore, it might be worthwhile to inspect your property and attempt to eliminate items that collect water in order to limit mosquito breeding.

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

References used for this article included information from the Environmental Protection Agency, World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SUBMITTED BY DR. PAUL ISAACS  
Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services

### New Medicare Card Mailing Strategy

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is required to remove Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from all Medicare cards by April 2019. A new, unique Medicare Number is replacing the SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) on each new Medicare card. Starting April 2018, CMS is mailing new Medicare cards to all people with Medicare on a flow basis, based on geographic location and other factors.

These mailings will follow the sequence outlined below. Additional details on timing will be available as the mailings progress. Starting in April 2018, people with Medicare can get information about the mailings and sign up for emails about the status of card mailings in their area on [Medicare.gov/NewCard](http://Medicare.gov/NewCard).

#### New Medicare Card Mailing Waves

Wave	States Included	Cards Mailing
Newly Eligible People with Medicare	All - Nationwide	April 2018 - ongoing
1	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia	Beginning May 2018 <b>COMPLETE</b>
2	Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon	Beginning May 2018 <b>COMPLETE</b>
3	Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin	Beginning June 2018 <b>COMPLETE</b>
4	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont	Beginning July 2018 <b>COMPLETE</b>
5	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina	Beginning August 2018 <b>COMPLETE</b>
6	Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming	Beginning September 2018 <b>COMPLETE</b>
7	Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Virgin Islands	Beginning October 2018 <b>COMPLETE</b>



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# SEMINOLE SCENES



Kevin Johnson

**WINNING SHAKE:** After his team won a first round district playoff game Feb. 4 in Boca Raton, Ahfachkee School girls basketball coach Greg Stephens, left, is congratulated by Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger. Ahfachkee defeated Glades Day.



Robert Kippenberger (2)

**WINNER, WINNER:** Above, Team Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trail with Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola celebrate winning the champions trophy at Rez Rally on Jan. 26 in Immokalee. At left, Team Immokalee/Naples, including Timesia Jimmie, Juanita Martinez, Amy Yzaguirre, Cecilia Garcia, Marylou Alvarado and Raymond Garza Sr. celebrate winning the highest Tribal participation percentage award.



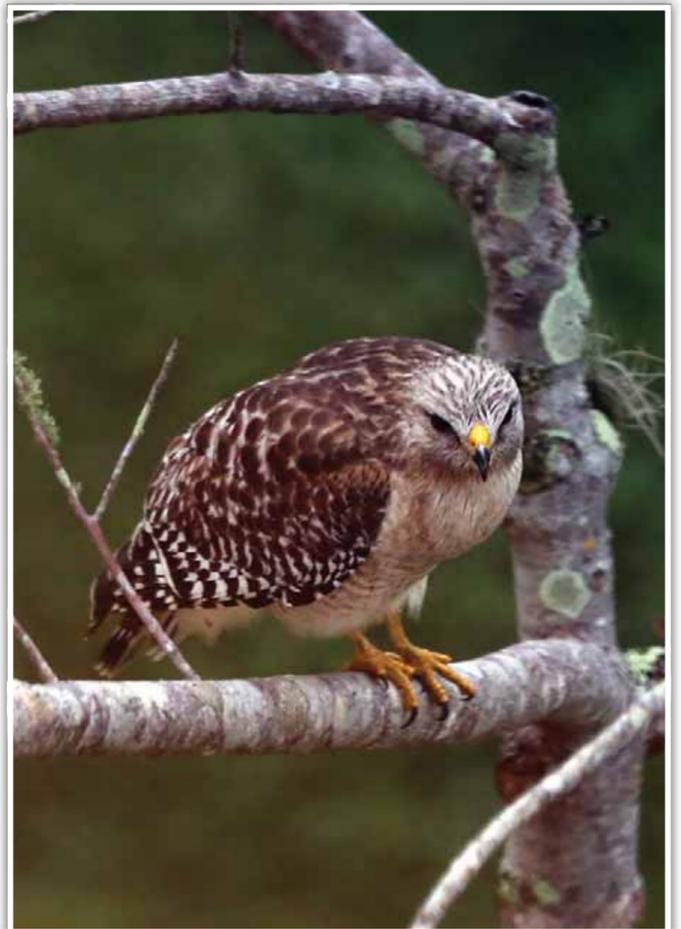
Dick Vitale/Facebook

**VITALE FOR V FOUNDATION:** Longtime ESPN college basketball commentator Dick Vitale is the center of attention during a fundraiser for The V Foundation for Cancer Research on Feb. 19 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa. The event included dinner at The Rez Grill.



Beverly Bidney

**WELL-DESERVED BREAK:** Paul Bowers Sr. and Marty Johns relax before the PRCA rodeo begins Feb. 15 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton. Retired Marine Colonel Bowers was honored for his service in Vietnam before the rodeo began.



Beverly Bidney

**WAITING GAME:** This male red shouldered hawk bided his time in a tree behind the Immokalee administration building Feb. 13. It was a day before Valentine's Day and the breeding season, so he made his intentions known with a few screeches to attract a potential mate.



American Heritage/Facebook

**SPECIAL VISIT:** 2017 MTV Video Music Award winners Spencer and Zack "Doc" Battiati visit American Heritage School-Plantation's acappella and band classes in January. The brothers from the Hollywood Reservation are scheduled to perform with Heritage students in a fundraising concert to benefit the Lighthouse of Broward for the blind on April 27 in the school's main theater.



Beverly Bidney

**COOL VIEW:** Construction continues on the massive expansion project, including the guitar-shaped hotel, at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. Here's how it looked Feb. 8.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## Archaeologists getting closer to figuring out what happened to 'Lost Colony,' expert says

Archaeologists are getting closer to figuring out where members of the "Lost Colony" went, according to Nicholas Lucchetti, the principal investigator and archaeologist with the James River Institute for Archaeology.

Lucchetti's presentation in late January at the Isle of Wight County Museum in Smithfield focused on the "possible relocation" of some of the Roanoke Island colonists to a site in eastern North Carolina named Site X. But he said others from the Lost Colony, maybe even a large group, might have migrated to somewhere near Site X.

"Now we have things pointing us in the right direction," he said. "We have Site X. We've got the map (Virginia Pars). We have a published article by a very prominent, deceased North Carolina historian Tom Parramore."

Explorers, historians and archaeologists have been trying to figure out what happened to the Roanoke colony since at least 1590 when John White, tasked by Sir Walter Raleigh with setting up a new colony in 1587, returned to the colony after gathering supplies from England to find it deserted.

Lucchetti and the First Colony Foundation subscribe to the proposition that the colonists went to a new location and have been conducting archaeological and historical investigations to figure out where.

Recent archaeological excavations — backed by the historical record and some highly respected theories — indicate that Site X in Bertie County, N.C., might be a step in the right direction.

Dozens of 16th-century, English-associated artifacts excavated at Site X include lead seals from bales of cloth, firing pans from snaphaunce firearms, aglets for shirt-lace strings, shards of Border ware (ceramics) and tenterhooks for stretching hides, Lucchetti said.

There is also the argument and evidence from Parramore's article, "The 'Lost Colony' Found: A Documentary Perspective." It holds that the English colonists deserted their site on Roanoke Island because of extreme drought and poor living conditions and migrated to northeastern North Carolina, to find sustenance with the Weapemeoc people.

But at present, Lucchetti says the Lost Colony "is still lost."

"It all seems to be pointing us pretty close to where we are (Site X)," he said. "We're not real sure what it is, but we know what it is not. It is not the relocation site of a major group of the 1587 colony. It tells us that maybe there was a big group of them somewhere close."

Lucchetti and the First Colony Foundation are among a long list of explorers and archaeologists who have examined the Lost Colony.

In 1608 when John Smith went to trade with the Warrosquoake Native Americans in what is now Isle of Wight County, he left some men to travel south with Warrosquoake warriors to try to find the Roanoke colonists who had disappeared, said Tracey Neikirk, the museum's curator.

"That was one of the tenets of the Jamestown charter. They had to look for the Lost Colony — the folks of Roanoke. They didn't find them — obviously," Neikirk said.

Despite the failures of the colonies at Roanoke, the English, according to Lucchetti, learned a lot from Raleigh's early expeditions. They learned some of the Native Americans' language, Algonquian, and they learned how valuable copper was to them. Copper was worn as jewelry and conveyed status according to Englishman Thomas Harriot, member of the 1585 Roanoke expedition.

When Harriot returned to England, he wrote a report about the natural resources, plants and animals in the area and what the English had learned from the Native Americans. Harriot wrote a memo regarding a partial phonetic alphabet of the indigenous people and also advised future expeditions to carry thin copper plates for trade with the Native Americans.

"On the memo, it says to take copper plates as thin as paper and cut them up into squares and circles of different sizes," Lucchetti said. "Harriot knew that the Indians didn't want European copper objects. They wanted what were status objects."

Lucchetti contended that the intelligence regarding the value of copper provided by Harriot, may have — two decades later — saved Jamestown from complete annihilation by the Powhatan.

"Powhatan was at war with the Monacans in the Richmond-Piedmont area," Lucchetti said. "That's where he (Powhatan) got his copper that he used to control his empire. That's shut off and here come the English guys at Jamestown who have all kinds of copper. So — maybe — that's a big reason why Powhatan didn't wipe Jamestown off of the face of the map."

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## Oklahoma legislators seek to replace Columbus Day with Native American Day

State lawmakers will again try to move Oklahoma's Native American Day to Columbus Day, less than a year after former Gov. Mary Fallin vetoed a popular bipartisan bill that would have done so.

Reps. Mike Osburn, R-Edmond, and Collin Walke, D-Oklahoma City, have introduced separate but identical bills moving the state's Native American Day from the third Monday in November to the second Monday in October, which is currently Columbus Day.

"As a member of the Cherokee Nation, leaders of the tribes approached me to ask me to file it this year and I agreed," Osburn said. "My requirement for running this bill is that Columbus Day would not be replaced but we simply would add Native American Day to that date."

Walke, who is also a Cherokee Nation member, said it's time the state give tribes and tribal members the respect they're due by moving Native American Day to October.

Former Rep. Chuck Hoskin, who sponsored the 2018 bill, is now chief of staff for the Cherokee Nation. He sought out representatives to usher the bill through the Legislature this year and found no shortage of support, he says.

"Looking back at the support that the bill had last year, I'm really not aware of anything that would cause any kind of negative response," Hoskin said.

The Legislature overwhelmingly passed his House Bill 2661 last year to move Native American Day to October. The House backed it by a margin of 71-10 and the Senate did so by a vote of 35-5.

But last May, Fallin vetoed it, writing in her veto message that it "could be viewed as an intentional attempt to diminish" other designations, such as the Native American Heritage Month in November. The move shocked and frustrated Hoskin and others who were expecting a signature, not a veto.

Fallin left office last month, handing the reins to a Cherokee Nation member, Gov. Kevin Stitt. A spokesperson for Stitt said his office is withholding comment until the governor has had a chance to meet with stakeholders and consider the legislation. Osburn, Walke and Hoskin say they've received no assurances that Stitt will sign their bills.

South Dakota currently celebrates Native American Day in place of Columbus Day. Vermont and Alaska observe Indigenous Peoples Day on the second Monday in October. Seven cities in Oklahoma also observe Indigenous Peoples Day on that date.

On Jan. 11, leaders of Oklahoma's Five Tribes — the Cherokee, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks and Seminoles — passed a resolution fully supporting the Osburn and Walke bills.

"We're not trying to remove Columbus Day or anything like that," said Hoskin. "We're simply saying this is the day that we would like to be set aside for recognition of Native Americans."

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## Arizona tribes fight and win work requirements debate for national Medicaid

Arizona has become the only state in the country where members of federally recognized tribes seeking Medicaid services are exempt from work or volunteer requirements.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, under equal protection laws, attempted last year to force work and volunteer requirements on all Native Americans collecting benefits.

But the tribes pushed back, including the second largest tribe in the country, the Navajo Nation, along with 20 other tribes in Arizona.

Lawyers for the tribes argued that the agency was ignoring the U.S. Constitution and violating decades-old treaties.

On Friday, the agency approved the work exemption for Arizona tribal members, citing the tribes' status as political entities.

That could set a precedent for federally recognized Native American Tribes in at least eight other states currently fighting the Trump administration's work requirements for Medicaid.

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## Rubio discovers Native American heritage through TV show

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) discovered a link to Native American ancestors through an appearance on "Finding Your Roots," according to the PBS show's host.

Henry Louis Gates Jr. said in a preview clip for the [Feb. 13 airing] that an ancestor on Rubio's mother's side was "pure Native American."

Gates also explained how the particular set of Native Americans Rubio is descended from migrated through the Yucatan Peninsula, a stretch of modern-day Mexico near Cuba, as early as 4,000 B.C.

"Talk about ancestral roots in Cuba ... your family on your mother's side has been there a long, long time," Gates says in the video.

Rubio responds that he has visited ruins in the area, including Chichén Itzá, before remarking, "Who knew I was going back home?"

In his own tweet, Rubio hinted of more revelations on the episode, including a "famous distant relative."

"My Native American heritage was an amazing discovery. But you forgot one of the most surprising discoveries, my famous distant relative! I will have to break the bad news to him myself," Rubio wrote.

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## Study: Native Americans face rising risk of stroke

When stroke treatment expert Atif Zafar, M.D., joined The University of New Mexico Department of Neurology faculty a few years ago, he decided to study the state's unique patient population, so he started building a comprehensive stroke database.

"As we analyzed the data, the more we found that the risk factor profile, which includes high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes, was getting worse through time," Zafar says.

It was particularly worrying, he says, that "the prevalence of these risk factors in Native Americans was going up."

Zafar and colleagues at the Cleveland Clinic presented a report on their findings at last week's annual meeting of the American Stroke Association. The research, which tries to gauge the extent of the problem by looking at health data from nearly 5,000 male Native American ischemic stroke patients enrolled in a national Cerner database serving 700 hospitals, should be considered preliminary until published in a peer-reviewed journal.

The data, collected between 2000 and 2016, found the patients had many factors putting them at risk for stroke, including:

- High blood pressure (66.6 percent);
- Diabetes (38.8 percent);
- Coronary heart disease (23.4 percent);
- Smoking (21.6 percent);
- Heart failure (12.3 percent);
- Atrial fibrillation (10.5 percent); and
- Atrial flutter (1.4 percent)

The researchers found that all the risk factors, except diabetes, rose significantly between 2000 and 2016. What is puzzling, Zafar says, is that during the same period, primary care doctors were becoming much more proactive in urging their patients to adopt healthier lifestyles. Why would Native American health measures have declined in those years?

"We want to dig deeper into assessing why a majority of our Native American population still has a risk factor that explains their stroke," says Zafar, an assistant professor of neurology. Further research will include more recent data and other types of stroke, he says.

"The strength of the epidemiological studies is defining what the future of the health care system will be," Zafar says. "I'm really confident that this result will help us shape how we intervene in the Native American population from a health care standpoint."

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## Who controls Canada's Indigenous lands?

The courts in Canada are grappling with a decision central to the relationship between Canadian and traditional indigenous laws.

The dispute involves the construction of a multi-billion dollar gas pipeline in the province of British Columbia.

It's a project which has exposed a rift between elected and hereditary chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en people, who disagree about whether to allow the pipeline to be built through traditional lands.

The elected councils have jurisdiction within the boundaries of the reservations to administer federal government legislation, but not the wider traditional territory which the pipeline would pass through.

The hereditary chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en nation are stewards and protectors of 22,000 square km (13,670 square miles) of traditional territory, outside the reserves.

They are concerned about the impact of the project on their land and natural resources.

Hereditary Chief Na'Moks of the Tsayu clan, which is part of the Wet'suwet'en people, told the BBC: "You always have to put the environment first."

So what's behind the dispute, and who have the courts favoured?

The proposed pipeline would carry gas to the port of Kitimat from the interior of British Columbia, a journey of 670 km (420 miles), passing partly through indigenous lands.

The construction company Coastal GasLink has reached deals with elected indigenous councils along the route.

This involved permission to build the pipeline in return for local jobs and investment in the area.

Coastal GasLink says it also consulted the hereditary leaders.

But the chiefs say that did not happen, and that they did not give their approval because of environmental concerns.

Suzanne Wilton, a communications adviser for the company, told the BBC: "Coastal GasLink initiated consultation with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs in June 2012 by providing formal notification of the proposed project."

"Since then, Coastal GasLink has engaged in a wide range of consultation activities with Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs."

Chief Na'Moks responded: "That is their statement...we ensured that we stated at any meetings that these meetings cannot be misconstrued as 'consultation'."

Protests by groups supporting the hereditary leaders' decision have followed near the proposed construction site, and across Canada.

In December, the Supreme Court in British Columbia issued an injunction so that construction could go ahead, and protesters were ordered to remove barriers from access roads.

Police arrived to break up the barriers and remove the protesters, 14 of whom were arrested.

But this provincial Supreme Court ruling was only temporary, and it will shortly make a final decision on the case.

At its heart, this is a dispute about who represents and speaks for Canada's indigenous communities.

Responding to a question at a recent town hall meeting, Canada's prime minister Justin Trudeau highlighted the problem of dealing with two distinct groups of indigenous representatives.

"It is not for the federal government to decide who speaks for you. That's not my job," he said.

Hereditary chiefs are chosen by elders and clan members.

The elected indigenous councils were set up by the federal government under the Indian Act of 1876, which defined "Indian" status in Canada, and were designed as a means to assimilate indigenous people.

As such, the elected councils remain a controversial legacy of the past.

"Canada has a long and terrible history in regards to indigenous people," said Justin Trudeau at the same town hall meeting.

"We have not treated indigenous peoples as partners and stewards of this land."

The Indian Act does not recognise hereditary indigenous chiefs, although they do often serve on elected councils, and the two groups work together on community-wide projects.

"We are hereditary chiefs," Chief Na'Moks told local media recently in British Columbia, and, referring to the route through which the pipeline would pass, he said "we have control of this land."

"What's called the hereditary system is the historic legal and political and economic system of the Wet'suwet'ens, which was in place for thousands and thousands of years before Europeans came to what became Canada," says Val Napoleon at the University of Victoria in British Columbia.

A federal Supreme Court ruling in 1997 gave indigenous people title over their own traditional lands which had not been ceded to the government.

This gave hope to First Nation communities across Canada which had been campaigning to protect their lands from developers.

Tensions have remained in some areas over precisely which indigenous representatives have these rights in Canada.

It's a complex issue as indigenous leadership structures vary across the country.

But the forthcoming ruling by the Supreme Court of British Columbia will have important implications for the future of the Coastal GasLink pipeline through Wet'suwet'en territory.

C e s

## NCAI executive director resigns

The National Congress of American Indians Executive Director Jacqueline Pata resigned Jan. 20 after being with the organization for 18 years.

Pata will continue to run the organization until there is a transition of the next executive director.

"After having time for thought and reflection, I have decided to resign from my role as NCAI Executive Director," she said. "Serving NCAI and tribal nations has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I am proud of that service and know that I leave NCAI with a strong foundation for continued growth under new leadership."

She is the longest-serving executive director of the organization.

NCAI President Jefferson Keel said he appreciates the work she's done.

"During Jackie's tenure, NCAI grew substantially as an organization, forged partnerships within Indian Country and among outside allies, and achieved significant successes in our advocacy with Congress, the Executive Branch, and in the federal courts," Keel said. "NCAI is appreciative of the leadership Jackie has shown in her stewardship of the organization, and we wish her well in her future endeavors."

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## Ice sculpture of American Indian removed from Michigan festival

**SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich.** — A controversial ice sculpture has been removed from the front of the Ramada Plaza Ojibway Hotel in Sault Ste. Marie after the leader of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians said it could be seen as offensive to Native Americans.

The sculpture was created for the Sault's third annual Ice Festival last weekend and depicted a bust of a Native American. Tribal Chairperson Aaron Pajment compared the sculpture to using a racial slur.

"For Indian people attuned to their culture, the use of such imagery is like using the 'N' word," Pajment said in a statement. "I appreciate that it has been taken down, and I am willing to dialogue with any who want to understand the issue further."

Mary Lou Kreig, one of the hotel's owners, said she believed the sculpture would be a way to honor the region's Native American population.

"When I was approached about participating in the Winter Ice Festival, I knew exactly what I wanted to do," Kreig said. "I thought it would be wonderful to have a statue that represents the American Indian culture in our community."

The sculpture was taken down after the Ice Festival Committee voted to do so Wednesday morning.

"It's very sad," Kreig said of the sculpture's removal.

The committee also agreed to reimburse the Ramada for the sculpture's cost. Pajment said he would be willing to contribute toward another sculpture for the hotel.

In a statement, the committee noted there were more than 30 sculptures on display and the issue was brought to its members' attention over the weekend.

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"We tremendously appreciate our sponsoring businesses and organizations that help make the Ice Festival a reality each year, and look forward to next year," the statement said. "Ice sculptures can still be seen downtown for the next few weeks at the Farmer's Market Plaza as well as in various locations along Ashmun Street and Portage Avenue."

Kreig noted the hotel has gotten plenty of support since the sculpture's removal.

"We have been receiving many beautiful letters and phone calls from supportive community members," she said.

e S a t e s

## Arkansas Dem introduces bill to honor Native Americans instead of Confederacy on state flag

A lawmaker in Arkansas introduced legislation on Feb. 15 to nix Confederate symbolism on the state's flag.

State Rep. Charles Blake (D) filed a bill that would not alter the design of the flag, but would amend language in the state's Constitution to mean a large star on the flag represents Native American nations instead, according to The Associated Press.

One of four large blue stars on the flag is meant to represent the Confederate States of America. The fourth star was introduced to the flag in 1923.

In the flag's current iteration, the Confederacy star is above the state's name, while three other stars that symbolize other key elements of state history.

Blake's bill would redesignate the star to honor contributions of the Quapaw, Osage and Caddo tribes that first inhabited the area.

The text of the proposal notes that the state's name itself is derived from a Native American word meaning "southern place."

Lawmakers in a number of states have pushed to remove monuments, plaques and other homages to the Confederacy. Last month, a Confederate plaque was removed from the Texas state Capitol following a bipartisan effort from state lawmakers.

e i

## Bill seeks tribal consultation in Nevada issues

Yerington Paiute Tribe Chairman Laurie Thom announced in February during Nevada Tribes Legislative Day she and Assemblywoman Sarah Peters, D-Washoe, are collaborating on a bill draft request calling for tribal consultation in state and land issues.

The Nevada Tribal Consultation Act, Thom said, would ensure greater representation of area tribes in local, state and federal decisions in land management and resources.

"Each tribe has its own consultation process, but at least we can get an act together that states these tribal liaisons or even agencies that don't have them still will have to consult on whatever their issue is that affects them," Thom said Feb. 12 during Nevada Tribes Legislative Day. "And it's not a letter that shows up on a chairman's desk that says, 'Well, you have 30 days to respond. That's not consultation.'"

Thom said she and Chairman Amber Torres of the Walker River Paiute Tribe had attended a training hosted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Services Administration last year in New Mexico. SAMHSA, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agency, aims to lessen the use of substances and mental illness in American communities, including local tribes, and it had invited tribal leaders to a clinic addressing opioid addiction, Thom said.

Topics of conversation included determining where tribes fit into licensing needs for rehabilitation clinics. Thom returned and eventually began working with Peters on a BDR to institute a policy that would require Nevada's agencies to work with tribal liaisons in its various institutions.

Thom said Peters has been a special partner, and she was the one to introduce several tribal members at this year's Tribes Legislative Day.

"She's been our consultant on the Anaconda Mine issue and worked very closely with us," Thom said. "She told everyone that being a female leader ... gave her that incentive to go forward and become an Assemblywoman, and I was real proud of that and for our tribe."

Peters has worked with tribal governments for the past five years and recalled meeting Thom in 2015.

"She has been an incredible partner and leader in our fight to hold BP (America) accountable for cleanup of the poisoned groundwater and soil at the Anaconda Mine Superfund site," Peters said. "The cleanup process at the Superfund site has shed light on an important gap in communication among government agencies and Nevada's tribal communities."

In February 2018, Environmental Protection Agency head Scott Pruitt signed a deferral agreement to clean up the site near Yerington. Thom called the situation a "black eye" to the Native community who were not consulted during the process and ended up suing previous mine owners Atlantic Richfield Corp. and BP.

Peters said this BDR would strengthen processes for involving the tribe in future land matters.

"Oftentimes, there are difficulties in connecting Native communities with vital government services, and tribal leaders are left out of decision-making processes that impact their lands," she said. "My bill would create a structure for transparent communication among state, local and tribal governments so that we could better leverage resources and coordinate at each level."

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# Education



B

## PECS celebrates Heart Month with aerobic activities

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

BRIG N — February has been linked to heart health since it was designated American Heart Month in 1964, with the goal of raising awareness of cardiovascular disease- the No. 1 killer of all Americans.

According to reports by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, Native Americans have good reason to take Heart Month's message seriously. The reports found that Native Americans are more likely to be diagnosed with heart disease than whites since the risk factors, including high blood pressure, obesity and cigarette smoking, are more prevalent among Native Americans.

To help spread the message and educate Tribal members about how to prevent heart disease, throughout the month the health department held events on every reservation including wear red day photo ops, heart walks and blood pressure checks.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School stepped up and jumped up in the annual Jump Rope for Heart celebration Feb.15. To attend the event, students needed to raise at least \$25 for the American Heart Association. Those who raised at least \$50 got to douse dean Emma Johns with the makings of a chocolate sundae.

Together, the students raised about \$5,000 (as well as their heart rates) during the celebration. Students participated in single, long and Chinese jump ropes. Others preferred a rousing dance party on the gym's stage, a challenging limbo line or trying to master the Hula Hoop.



Beverly Bidney  
First-grader Raylee Turtle, 7, manages to jump rope in her patchwork skirt during the PECS jump rope for heart event Feb. 15.



Beverly Bidney  
Third-grader Bobbi Johns Osceola, 9, shows her skills on the long jump rope, proving the message on her shirt is accurate and she really is just that awesome.



Beverly Bidney  
Students watch as their classmate maneuvers his way under the limbo line during the PECS jump rope for heart celebration.

## Tribe's Boys & Girls Clubs honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a 'Week of Service'

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day the Boys & Girls Clubs tribalwide decided to have a "Week of Service" program Jan. 22-25 to teach the youth the importance of serving their community in different ways. All together 170 youth/teen members and staff participated in different service activities tribalwide. Members clocked in 300 service hours at four BGCs doing

these various activities. This will also go toward hours for the nationwide Boys & Girls Clubs of America initiative "Million Members Millions Hours of Service," which encourages good character and appreciation for citizenship and provides every Club member with opportunities to serve in year-round Club and community-based volunteer service experiences.

Some of the activities during the "Week of Service" were:

- Bully Busters Members learned

about bullying and how to conquer it using different scenarios and techniques and then enrolled in the BGCA Bully Busters Club where they pledged not to be a bully.

- Kindness Stones - The members found rocks and decorated them with kind words and then placed them around the exterior of the club so they can be found and offer a kind word to whoever may need it

- Random Acts of Kindness - Throughout the reservations the members sent thanks and baked goods to different

departments and created love bags for seniors at the Senior Center.

- Community service activities - Ranged from community clean up to volunteering time in other departments while learning different tasks along the way.
- Youth Mentoring - Older youth mentored and ran activities for the younger members.

"The youth learned so much this past week through taking time to give back to their communities and show their

appreciation to all who helped along the way," said Valentina Arce, tribalwide youth events coordinator for Boys & Girls Clubs of the Seminole Tribe. "It was an important lesson and one everyone enjoyed and we are very proud of our youth. We look forward to implementing more community service activities throughout the year and look at MLK Service week as a wonderful kickoff in doing so."



Courtesy photo  
Boys & Girls Club members in Brighton gather for a photo during the BGC's tribalwide 'Week of Service' program in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



Courtesy photos  
Above, in Immokalee, and below, in Hollywood, teens spend time reading to youngsters, one of several community service activities Boys & Girls Clubs tribalwide held in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



Courtesy photo  
From back, left to right, London Osceola, Jamyah Wilson, Le'Niyah Wilson and Uriah Cozad participate in a 'Week of Service' activity at the Boys & Girls Club in Hollywood.



Courtesy photo  
Tahniah Billie holds a stick bully during a Boys & Girls Club program in Big Cypress about conquering bullying.





Courtesy photo  
Leilani Gopher, student government treasurer; Priscilla Alvarado, high school representative; Celeste Billie, PTSO vice president; Lenora Roberts, PTSO president; Alena Stockton, student government high school president; Tahnna Billie, student government elementary school president; Dorothy Cain, principal, pose with the check donated by the Starting Line Foundation on Feb. 14.

## PECS Students of the Month - December 2018

BRIG N — The following Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School students earned Student of the Month honors for December 2018:

Elementary  
Quitman Johnson  
A'milya Rodrigues  
Ryker Miller  
Jeremy Jones  
Micah Jimmie  
Makai Newkirk  
Giovanni Ford  
Teodoro Estrada  
ayden Pewo  
oie Foster-Snow  
Karter Puente  
Alanna Pritchard

Khoal Cochran  
Lliam Berry  
Luci Banda  
Jaliyah Kroepin  
Hannah Platt  
Brayden Huff  
Yani Smith  
Deanthony Torres  
Aaryn King  
Etanis Torres  
Troy Billie

Middle S hool  
Serenity Lara  
Eric Puente  
Janaya French  
Lupe Mora-Lara



Courtesy photos  
PECS Students of the Month for December 2018: elementary (above) and middle school (below).



## Starting Line Foundation donates to Ahfachkee PTSO

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ahfachkee School's Parent Teacher Student Organization received a donation of \$700 from the Starting Line Foundation on Feb. 14.

Founded by Mario and Lorraine Posada, Starting Line Foundation's mission is "to

encourage, equip and empower individuals which in turn will foster a growing movement of leaders and ultimately strengthen our community."

The Posadas began the foundation in June 2017 as a way to continue mentoring youth, which Mario had been doing elsewhere in Immokalee with at-risk students. The foundation's first student brought a few friends with him and completed the 10-week, faith-based program. Today that student is

back in school and knows the value of what he lost.

"A dream is only a dream if you take no action," Mario Posada said. "I just want to help them become the best person they can be with a foundation based in scripture."

The donation to Ahfachkee is another way to give back to youth and will help the school meet the students' needs with extra items they may need.

## Hollywood Preschool celebrates Valentine's Day



Derrick Tiger

Braxton Osceola-Heart enjoys Valentine's Day with his parents Mercedes Osceola and Jess Heart at the Hollywood Preschool Valentine's Day Festival on Feb. 14.



Derrick Tiger

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Clarice Demayo poses for a picture with preschoolers Maseo Marziliano-Osceola and Valentina Stewart and Valentina's mother Pamela Maldonado.



Derrick Tiger

Ariette Micco-Spiveyn gives a big smile for the camera Feb. 14 at the Hollywood Preschool Valentine's Day Carnival.



Derrick Tiger

Fathers are all hats and smiles with their littles ones on Valentine's Day.



Derrick Tiger

Zoey Calisce enjoys the festivities at the preschool Valentine's Day Carnival.

# Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum displays Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club art



Joel Colon (2)

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress hosted a reception Jan. 24 to celebrate the opening of a new art exhibit by the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club. Students and staff from the Boys & Girls Club attended the reception. The exhibit will run until May 12 at the museum.



## NIEA convention to be held in Minnesota

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The 2019 National Indian Education Association's convention will be held Oct. 9-12 at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The theme "Celebrating 50 Years of Building Education Nations: Strengthening and Advancing Native Control of Native Education" recognizes the role educators and communities play in shaping the future leaders of Native

education. The convention will not only celebrate the successes realized in Native education over the past 50 years but also look forward to the future as NIEA seeks to ensure that Native students thrive in the classroom and beyond.

The convention and trade show will include participatory workshops, research presentations, poster sessions, and keynote addresses by prominent educators and advocates. Early bird registration runs March 1-July 12. Regular registration is July

12-Sept. 27. On-site registration is Oct. 9-12. Registration is open to all educators, advocates, and students who are interested in attending.

NIEA voting members in good standing may nominate and/or be nominated for awards from Feb. 4-April 26. Winners will be announced at the annual evening awards gala and are expected to be present.

For more information visit [www.niea.org](http://www.niea.org).

# More than 100 descend on D.C. to push Native education

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The ultimate goal is to bolster the health of education for Native students across the country, and stakeholders say big steps are underway.

The National Indian Education Association hosted its "NIEA Hill Day" events Feb. 12 through Feb. 14 in Washington, D.C. More than 100 tribal leaders, educators and students attended.

The ambitious three-day agenda placed attendees in sessions that immersed them in key issues in Native education. They were also trained in advocacy work, to better navigate the often rough waters in the halls of Capitol Hill.

Engagement with congressional leaders and their staffers was front and center on the first day of activities. High profile politicians who met with attendees included Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, D-NM, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-NY, Rep. Debra Haaland, D-NM, and Rep. Betty McCollum, D-MN.

Organizers admitted that the ground to cover under its three ambitious headings was immense: advocacy, appropriations and legislative authorization.

But the training sessions and panel discussions, including one-on-ones with elected representatives and their staffs, made the task less daunting.

Attendees took advantage of the unique

access to advocate for key policy priorities that impact Native students.

Those priorities include critical funding for school construction in Native communities; passage of the Esther Martinez Native Languages Programs Reauthorization Act (which funds immersion programs); provisions that support Native students and schools in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act; and an overall push for full funding of federal programs that support Native students in fiscal year 2020.

Attendees were provided with talking points to help them along the way. It helped direct them to interact with lawmakers about funding priorities, including:

- \$198 million for the Indian Education Formula.
- \$430 million in construction for Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools.
- \$500 million in construction for public schools that serve Native students.

BIE funded schools serve 48,000 Native students in primarily rural and reservation areas.

Florida has two BIE funded schools Ahfachkee School on the Big Cypress Reservation and the Miccosukee Indian School west of Miami.

"Thank you to each of our members and to our attendees. Your engagement created an opportunity for community-created change and elevated Native voices for education in the heart of national politics," organizers said in a statement on the final day.



Courtesy photo

A panel of congressional staffers met to talk to attendees during NIEA's Hill Day events. From left are Mary Nguyen Barry - policy adviser for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions in Sen. Patty Murray's office (D-WA); Kim Moxley - policy adviser for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs with Sen. Tom Udall's office (D-NM); Naomi Miguel - professional staff for the House Committee for Natural Resources in Rep. Raul Grijalva's office (D-AZ); Jake Middlebrooks - professional staff for the House Committee on Education and Labor in Rep. Virginia Foxx's, office (R-NC); and Loredana Valtierra - policy director for the House Committee on Education and Labor in Rep. Bobby Scott's office (D-VA).



Courtesy photo

The NIEA board from left are Darrick Franklin, parliamentarian; Marita Hinds, president-elect; Michael Vendiola, vice president; Savannah Romero, student board member; and Robin Butterfield, president (in background).

## MARCH 26

### is American Diabetes Association Alert Day

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**FIELD DAY**  
From page 1A

Members of the warrior team, Quenton Cypress, Tucamah Robbins, Jason Melton and Andrew Walin train long and hard to perfect the moves while using authentic weapons from the 1800s. The "fights" are actually carefully choreographed stunts; they each take a beating, but none more than Walin, who plays the U.S. soldier. He lost every "fight" and wound up on the ground each time.

Tara Johns brought a group of home schooled students from Highlands County to experience their first Field Day.

"It was very interesting," said ninth grader Lantana Turner, 14. "We usually just see the settlers' side of it."

Fueled by the Buck Wild drum group from Arizona, the WISDOM dancers from Oklahoma each showcased their own dance style. Feathers, ribbons, jingles and shawls made for a stunning display of fancy, grass, traditional, jingle and fancy shawl dancing. A spirit and shield dance between a hoop and fancy dancer was colorful simulation of warfare.

Tribal member Shylah Walker, 10, who has been jingle dancing for four years, joined the WISDOM dancers in the amphitheater.

Aztec Fire Dancers, alligator wrestling, venomous snake shows, Laura Grizzlypaws, White Mountain Apache Crown Dancers and Zuni Dancers rotated through the amphitheater each day of the festival. Over in the Fan Zone concert area, attendees were entertained by the Cowbone Band, the Redneck Crazy Band and the Rita Youngman Band.

The Fred Smith Rodeo arena came to life each day with the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association rodeo, which featured cowboys and cowgirls from around the nation as well as Seminole reservations. An appearance from Florida State University's Osceola and Renegade added to the colorful pageantry as part of the rodeo Feb. 16.

Paul Bowers Sr., retired Marine Corps colonel and recipient of two Purple Heart awards, was honored for his service in Vietnam before the Lakota Women Warriors presented the colors. Mackenzie Bowers displayed the American Flag on horseback and Rita Youngman sang the U.S. national anthem.

With that, the cowboys and cowgirls did their best to earn points and accolades as they rode broncs and bulls, wrestled and roped steer and sped horses around stationary barrels.



Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. tips his cowboy hat to the crowd during the Brighton Field Day & Rodeo's second day Feb. 16.



An Aztec fire dancer begins the troop's performance by blowing a conch shell Feb. 15 at the Brighton Field Day & Rodeo.



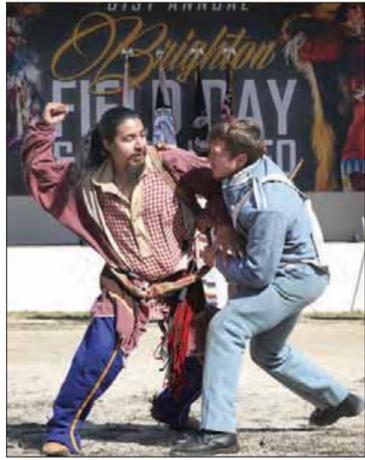
Shylah Walker jingle dances in the amphitheater at Brighton Field Day on Feb. 15.



Hvse Osceola, 5, shows the man with the adorable furry things exactly which one she wants as her father Joe Osceola and sister Jaleigh Braswell, 10, watch her choose the cuddly shark.



Contestants line up for the judges in the Seminole clothing contest.



Quenton Cypress and Andrew Walin demonstrate how the Seminoles beat the U.S. Army during the Seminole Wars in the 1800s.



Juanita Osceola and J.T. Osceola compete in the clothing contest.



Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard and President Mitchell Cypress wave to spectators at the rodeo.



Fancy shawl dancer Verna Street surrounds herself with ribbons as she flawlessly executes the dance.



EIRA Rodeo Queen Madisyn Osceola, Miss Indian World Taylor Susan, Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Clarice Demayo at the Brighton Field Day on Feb. 15.



Florida State University's Osceola and Renegade rev up the audience at Brighton Field Day & Rodeo.



Aztec Dancers perform a dance in front of a big crowd at Brighton Field Day & Rodeo.



Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Clarice Demayo and Miss Indian World Taylor Susan join the Lakota Women Warriors for a photo at Field Day.

## Natives in entertainment industry offer insight at Native Reel Cinema Festival

BY DERRICK TIGER  
Staff Reporter

**Y D** — A panel of Native American musicians, actors, and filmmakers discussed their obstacles and successes in the world of entertainment during a question and answer forum at the Native Reel Cinema Festival as part of the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow in Hollywood. The group of artists are leading the way for other young Native artists and spreading messages of encouragement.

On day one of the Tribal Fair, Feb. 8, the Native Reel Cinema Festival started its four annual outing with a screening of the 90s independent film "Smoke Signals." Actors Cody Lightning and Simon Baker attended

work with Native American activist John Trudell on the set of "Smoke Signals." Baker admitted that they were both young at the time and did not know Trudell's significance in Native American culture.

Lightning recalls Trudell being somewhat of a mentor while growing up in Los Angeles. While reminiscing about Trudell, Lightning became emotional when discussing Trudell's passing in 2015.

"I want to say to the youth that anything is possible as long as you get out and go forward," Baker said. "Our elders have left these imprints in our lives for a reason and those imprints we need to follow, but we need to make sure those imprints go forward and our generations are going to leave footprints for the next to follow. I say to the youth, look at what we've done, look at what we can do,



**From left, Cody Lightning, Simon Baker, Zack Battiest, Martin Sensmeier and Spencer Battiest take a moment during a Q&A session at the Native Reel Cinema Festival to sing along with Keith Secola at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Feb. 8.**

the festival, both of whom played the younger versions of the two main characters Victor (Lightning) and Thomas (Baker) in the film. Lightning and Baker were both around the age of 12 when "Smoke Signals" was filmed.

Also in attendance for the Q&A were Martin Sensmeier, Spencer Battiest, and Zack Battiest. Sensmeier is an actor of Alaskan Native of Tlingit, Koyukon-Athabaskan descent. He was one of the supporting actors in the 2016 remake of "The Magnificent Seven."

A commonality among the panel was the struggles of navigating the entertainment industry where Native American presence is virtually nonexistent. Indigenous movies such as "Smoke Signals" do well with critics and film festivals, but big budget movies involving Native subjects tend to revolve around a white protagonist a movie trait that has come to be referred to by Natives as the "white savior" character—or the main Native characters are completely whitewashed.

On the music side of entertainment no Native American has yet to claim the status of icon despite the significant influence Native American culture has had on many music genres.

"You are going to be doubted, you are going to get rejected," Sensmeier said. "Failure isn't the opposite of success; it's a part of success. You have to fail to succeed, and you have to have the courage to fail. It takes courage to get out there and try. You're never going to succeed if you don't try."

A member of the audience asked Lightning and Baker what it was like to



**Keith Secola performs during the Native Reel Cinema Festival.**

and see what the future holds for all of us and it's beautiful."

On the second day of the Tribal Fair, the Native Reel Cinema Festival wrapped up with a screening of several short films made by Native Americans, including a new music video featuring Spencer and Zack Battiest and the short film "Mud" directed by Diné filmmaker Shaandiin Tome, who hails from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## Indian Key holds intriguing Seminole connection, history

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The Florida Keys are well known as a place to destress, to kick back and relax, maybe go fishing, snorkeling or scuba diving all while thinking about where you'll grab a bite to eat and perhaps drink a beer or two as the sun goes down. You get the idea.

But that laid back and warm environment, like many parts of Florida, hasn't always been the reality.

While historians agree the Keys were not a major battlefield area during the Seminole Wars, they were a part of it, and Indian Key located about halfway between Miami and Key West is one of the more intriguing sites where a significant attack took place.

The attack is often referred to as the "Indian Key Massacre." It happened Aug. 7, 1840, and involved a number of lively characters, both Native and not.

"The interesting thing about [the attack] is the group that was involved [was] under the leadership of Chakaika," said Dave Scheidecker, research coordinator and archeologist at the Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

Chief Chakaika, often misspelled as "Chekika," was known as a fierce Seminole warrior.

Scheidecker said while Chakaika's group was part of a coalition that were the Seminole at the time (there were many individual bands within the Seminole, from the Miccosukee and the Cow Creek, to the Tallahassee and the Black Seminole) — they were often referred to as Spanish Indians. There's some confusion about what that means.

"There's some evidence that this was a group with direct ties to either the Calusa or the Tequesta, survivors of them who had joined with the Seminole," Scheidecker said. "There's also evidence that this group had a lot of Spanish blood and were closer in culture to the Spanish."

Scheidecker said there are records that the group were fisherman who regularly traveled between Cuba and Florida.

"Given the circumstances of Spain losing Florida (in 1819), there's certainly good reason for them to have sided with the Seminole. It's also known that the Seminole kept up trade, and it's possible the Spanish Indians were the link to Cuba for the Tribe. It also explains why they would have good knowledge of Indian Key and the stores there," Scheidecker said.

he Massa re

Historians say hostilities with the Seminoles on Florida's mainland added to an increasing population on Indian Key. The 11-acre island had significant stores because it was known as a site with a busy wrecking operation, and it had fresh drinking water and other resources.

Chakaika's band knew there was valuable bounty to be had.



**Brad Bertelli is the curator at the Keys History & Discovery Center in Islamorada. He is considered an expert on Indian Key.**

Accounts say Chakaika came ashore with 60 to 130 warriors. The number of dead varies as well, from six or seven to upwards of 18 people. There is agreement that most of the structures on the Key were burned that day.

The "massacre," which seems to be a term used by white men to describe any Indian attack, resulted in the death of an important figure on the Key — Dr. Henry Perrine, a physician and horticulturalist living there with his family.

Records say Chakaika's group carried off "tons of loot and supplies" among the large stockpiles of salvage and other materials stored in warehouses.

The warehouses were owned at the time by notorious wrecker Jacob Housman, who



**Kayaking is one of the easiest ways to access Indian Key. Some people use canoes or paddleboards. The boat dock at site was damaged during Hurricane Irma and has not been fully repaired.**

was known to own most of the island.

Chakaika and his crew left with as many as 28 canoes and six of Housman's boats filled with their bounty. They sailed and paddled about 90 miles back to what was known as Chakaika's base hidden in the Everglades.

The raid was considered significant, in part, because it was an embarrassment to the U.S. Navy who had a depot only about a mile away on Tea Table Key.

Eventually Chakaika and many of his warriors would be brutally killed because of the raid — hung at the hands of Lt. Col. William Harney of the U.S. Army. The nature of their deaths was significant as it would enrage Sam Jones, one of the most influential Seminole leaders.



**Indian Key, an island, in the Upper Keys.**

It seems to have fed more escalation of violence. "We have given them heretofore, when prisoners, a decent death, and shot them instead of hanging them like a dog," Jones is quoted as saying. He promised "eternal hostility and cruelty" to his enemies after Chakaika's death.

"Indian Key's significance to the Seminole War is that the island demonstrates the desperate nature of the Indians and the steps they were willing to take to fight for what they believed," said Brad Bertelli, the curator at the Keys History & Discovery Center and an expert on Indian Key.

"The attack on Indian Key was unique in the sense that the Indians traversed a great distance over water in order to attack, and it is one of the rare instances where the Indians used one of the island's cannons to fire at American forces," he said.

If you go

Despite its sometimes violent and bloody history, those who have studied Indian Key cite its natural beauty and encourage people to visit and learn more about it.

A Historic State Park since 1971, it can only be accessed by kayak, canoe or paddleboard. Its boat dock was damaged by Hurricane Irma and has not yet been repaired.

To get there, you can rent a kayak at the Kayak Shack at Robbie's Marina in Islamorada. From Robbie's docks it is about a 20 to 30 minute paddle in mostly shallow waters to the shores of Indian Key.

Once there, you will see remnants of many of the homes and warehouses that existed in the 1800s, as well as cisterns and

other structures. The Key is home to a unique mix of plant life, due in part to experiments that were carried out by Perrine.

Plan to spend at least an hour walking around its well-maintained paths. There is good snorkeling off its north shores. There is a \$2.50 per person State Park fee at the site.

Before you go, however, consider taking a trip to the Keys History & Discovery Center at the Islander Resort in Islamorada, where you'll likely run into Bertelli.

"We have a model of Indian Key how it would have looked prior to the Indian attack," Bertelli said.

In fact, Indian Key is Bertelli's favorite subject. He's written books about snorkeling in Florida and on other Keys-related topics, but he's most excited about his forthcoming book on Indian Key and a mobile app he's developing Walk Indian Key which should be available in May.

"For me, all of Upper Keys history starts with Indian Key. It is this little, seemingly no-nothing island that people drive by every day with no understanding of the vast history associated with [it]."

"The island also serves as a monument to the Seminole War and offers the chance for historians to tell the story of the war — sadly uses of the word "massacre" and the white bent of the stories that are often repeated tell only one side of the story and by no means create a complete picture of what was going on at the time," Bertelli said.

Ma or Indian ey dates

The first time the name Indian Key appears on a chart. The chart used the Bahamian name for the island Key Comfort.

The first white settler comes to Indian Key and builds a general store.

Thomas Gibson purchases a two-story home and the general store and begins to create the Tropical Hotel.

Wrecker Jacob Housman moves to the island.

John James Audubon visits. Post Office first opens. Dade County formed and Indian Key becomes County Seat.

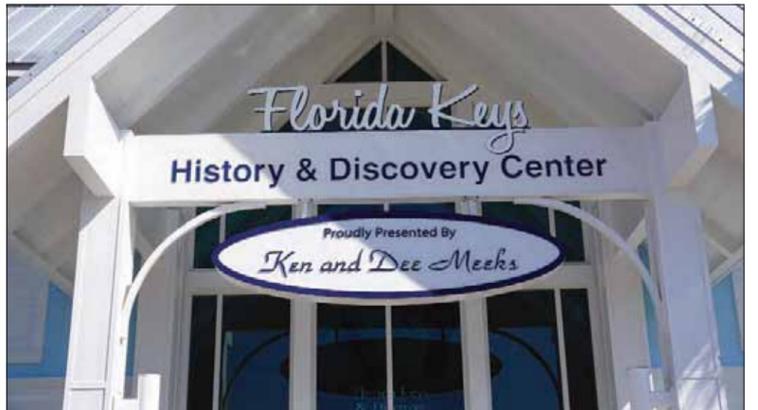
On Christmas Day, Perrine arrives with his family. He has plans to create the Tropical Plant Co.

On Aug. 7, Indians attack. There were approximately 50 people on the island at the time. (Bertelli thinks six or seven people were killed, depending on the account. Some documents do not account for one of the young boys who was killed a black slave).

Indian Key becomes the base of operations for construction of Alligator Lighthouse.

Purchased by the State of Florida and becomes Indian Key Historic State Park. (Source: Brad Bertelli)

More information can be found at floridastateparks.org. Click on "Find a Park."



**The Florida Keys History & Discovery Center is a great starting point to learn about Indian Key and many of Florida's Indigenous People. It's located about four miles from the Indian Key Historic State Park.**

## Seminole Casino Coconut Creek makes \$50,000 donation to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**C C N CREE** — Seminole Casino Coconut Creek recently presented a \$50,000 donation to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network following its support of the charity during Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN) is dedicated to fighting the world's toughest cancer. Its urgent mission is to save lives and attack pancreatic cancer on all fronts: research, clinical initiatives, patient services and advocacy. The organization's effort is amplified by a nationwide network of grassroots support.

Through its "Coco For A Cure" program, Seminole Casino Coconut Creek helped raise

awareness and funds for the fight against pancreatic cancer via various initiatives including two special events, the sale of logoed items, food and beverage programs, and purple-themed décor throughout the property.

"Our team is determined to help find a cure for this terrible disease," said Larry Buck, president of Seminole Casino Coconut Creek. "To that end, we're thrilled to be able to donate \$50,000. We're avid supporters of PanCAN's mission to save lives."

"We're so grateful and moved to see Seminole Casino Coconut Creek put its heart and soul into giving back to pancreatic cancer patients in such a generous way," said PanCAN Founder Pamela Acosta Marquardt.



**Seminole Casino Coconut Creek executives, from left to right, Robert Dearstine, Jonathan Marcus and Larry Buck present a \$50,000 donation to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network representatives, from left to right, Pamela Acosta Marquardt, Carlos Ayala and Addie Vroom.**

# ‘Road Trip to Saint Augustine’

BY ELGIN JUMPER

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IN ER, Y D  
SEMIN E INDIAN RESER A I N,

My name is John Night, Seminole, and in the mid-1960s, I was born over to a hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and was brought home to the Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation in an old Indian car, dented, nary a floorboard for the most part, the make and model of which eludes me at present, and as an adolescent later on I was much-inclined to reading, writing, and drawing, attended public schools right down the road from the rez with everyone else, which is where I derived a working knowledge of the American English lingo, and even held discourse in the Miccosukee terminologies, taking after my parents, you see.

However, much to my bewilderment, I had my freedom taken from me for a time as an adult, yes, all due to alcohol, of which, I am never proud, surviving county jails and even “the big house,” though I’ve had many a harrowing adventure and fearful frolic while commencing it. Oh, it’s quite a story, as you will see, and of course, I’ll paint in more colors and background for you as we go, among other things, so never you worry, hear, ‘cause I gotcha.

I was back a couple days from, oh, let’s just say, from “state service” shall we, when I went over to the new rez and asked my Uncle Wilbur to drive me up to Saint Augustine, as I had been powerful compelled to fulfill a promise I’d made while still in. I had been away for two-years, unfortunately, only seeing my family, and friends every now and again out on the visiting park. So sad.

But don’t cha know while inside, I’d been reading and writing and studying up, working on myself, gathering my thoughts, and researching Seminole History, so I wouldn’t be forced to repeat it. And, oh yeah, having the most profoundest of visions and dreams direct from Seminole History, which I’m not afeared to say, had made a deep and lasting impact upon me, more so than any monochromatic tattoo ever could.

I had a little money saved up, so that part was okay. And the way I was feeling was there really wasn’t anything that could’ve held me back? No, I didn’t see it as such. There was a prayer there that had to be said, though, and so, I had to find a ride to make it to Saint Augustine. Uncle Wilbur had written to me regularly and he knew all about my plight, but he didn’t know I was going to go to him for help.

“Uncle,” I said, “I really need to get to Saint Augustine, to the old fort there, just something I have to do.”

“John,” Uncle Wilbur, who had previously been undergoing a sunny disposition, said, “Hey, hey, hey, you’re catching me way off guard here - I hear you, but I can’t drop everything, and measure out a couple of days to take you up. It’s not that easy.”

“Come on, you said when you were young there was all them things you wished you’d followed through with. How you regretted not doing certain things.”

He sighed and groaned. “I just got the Wagoneer back from outta the shop, and now I can’t see us driving all those miles it’s going to take. To Saint Augustine?”

“It’s what I haveta do,” I said, “I’m pretty sure we could just borrow an old Indian car with the parts falling off by the wayside, then wheels screaming for mercy. Someone must have one. What do you say?” He even look like a tired old horse what rode in with the Conquistadors. But getting to Saint Augustine, that’s the main idea.”

He frowned. “It’s a hard question you’re asking of me, nephew. And I know what we talked about, what I said. Them stories we shared. It’s still a hard question. How do I deliver?”

“You can deliver by delivering me to Saint Augustine.”

My uncle sighed, and groaned again. I said, “Haven’t you ever wanted to follow-through on something? And felt real

bad about not doing so?”  
“There’s an art to it, kid, to that kind of stuff, and I’m not a young man, anymore.”  
My uncle hung his head, grimaced, and exhaled, finally relenting. “Okay,” he said softly. “Okay. We’re family.”  
“Please, just give me a chance,” I said. “I have to go there. It’s important.”  
“Okay, let’s take a road trip, John,” he urged. “Go home, pack a bag, if you haven’t already. We’ll figure it out.”

Whew So that was one obstacle down, a major one. Thank the Maker of Breath. But who else could I could I have asked? Who else could have taken me? I thanked him, and went home to where mom was cooking dinner. The smell was amazing. I dipped into my room and started putting clothes and other items into a red duffel bag. I made sure to include my notebook and sketchpad, pens and pencils and the like. I also put in my copy of Black Elk Speaks, as I was interested in studying the stories from the venerated holy man.

My mind was racing across a gazillion subjects even though it didn’t have to. I was going over things, over some unexpected concerns, processing. While still inside and since I was ten or something, I had written poems, plays, short stories, essays, etc, trying different things. While inside I kept it up on a grand scale, just to get me through. And so, one miraculous day in the prison library I discovered a book of Native American Prayers, so that was quite memorable. A blitzkrieg of thoughts.

Back in the day, when I was twelve-years old I read this story to a close school friend: “So there’s this young man, and a young woman, but from different tribes, and these tribes are at war. The young man has momentous questions and dilemmas. But it’s this war that’s brought them together, that’s swept them up into this epic adventure.”

“On some mornings, even though they’re constantly on move, she tells him her people’s Creation Myths, and he earnestly loves to listen to them. They are so illuminated by their love, regardless of the conflict raging around them, the devastating battles, the sad losses, the hair-breadth escapes, the chaos.”

“Every day I thank the Great Spirit for you,” he says to her one morning.  
“Nothing will keep us apart,” she responds. “Nothing.”

They embrace.  
Well, more of an outline, if you want to get technical here, but yeah, I wrote that one back when I was a little guy imbued with dreams and aspirations, so that I would hide myself away on most days, and become what I’d always been, a writer, to think up and write stories, as if obtained from the ancients what had been here long ago.

“I like that one,” my school friend had said. “Thank you.”

Meanwhile, I was constantly thinking I had to make it to Saint Augustine, the historic fortress, a heartfelt prayer, ancestors. Armies of thought. Yet how to achieve it? What’s the plan? I knew I had to make the trip right after that series of visions and dreams. And I knew I wasn’t goin to be the same afterwards. I didn’t know how, but I knew somehow I would. It had been a long time coming. And if I tarried, utter disaster, and the vicious cycle of the vicious circle.

Pulled abruptly from my thoughts, I heard my mom calling me for dinner so I quick cleaned up, splashing water like an ol’ river otter, and went out and sat down with her at the dining-room table. My mother took my hand and I prayed:

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a r e c i a t e d t e r a t e t u e r e r e i  
o a l a d d r e a e t u e e c l o e i t  
o u r o u l i t o u r o e o t a t e a e e  
a d o l l o o u r t r u e a t S o a i a

In between bites and sips of Seminole cuisine and dinner conversation, I said, “So I’m figuring we’ll be gone for like a couple of days, mom.”

“Oh okay. So there’s no changing your mind about it, huh?” she said.

“Well, it’s been on my heart and mind for sometime now.”

“Okay,” she sighed. She smiled, but with it was intermingled love and concern.  
She had figured out I was set on the trip, whereas at first she had cautioned against making the road trip at all, especially so soon after my release back into the free world, what with parole and all. Yes, parole. But thereupon she soon recognized the situation and relented, soon as I came up with the story that I had managed to clear it with the authorities. So the road trip was set, and so, it had to be made.

“It took some convincing for Uncle Wilbur to finally say okay,” I revealed. “He says we’re going in his old Wagoneer, which apparently he’s just had tricked out, you know, souped up?”

“Ohh okay,” my mother said.  
“He says it’s either that or na-da, zilch, so . . .”

“Yes, yes, a fine car. Powerful magic. You’re in for a real treat.” My mother giggled playfully.

Thus I finished my meal, gave mom a hug, and retired to my room, where I soon picked up a framed photograph of mom and examined the image. I was thinking of the time when she took me fishing in Big Cypress. It was just her and me, because my parents had split up again for some months. And we didn’t know a thing about rods and reels, but she had borrowed them all the same from my granpa, and so, we spent a memorable day filled with merriment at a little pond in Big Cypress.



The writer as a young man, circa 1970s.

SPRING, BIG CYPRESS  
SEMIN E INDIAN RESER A I N,

I was twelve, and sat on an old bench in front of my granma and granpa’s house in Big Cypress. I was sketching cartoons from an old newspaper. This was way before the divorce, and I was thin and scrawny like a young ailing twig, but at least I had long black hair, so not-so-bad, not-so-bad, thank goodness.

“Come on, ‘J,’ my mom said - she called me ‘J,’ - on her way out the front door. She was holding two fishing rods and a tackle box. “We’re going to catch us some big fish today. Are you up for it?”

I immediately hopped up, got my drawing supplies, and bolted for the car, ready for travel. “Yay!”

“Wow, I wish you’d be that ready for school in the mornings,” my mother laughed, amused. She was rarely amused those days, so I was glad to be the reason behind it this time.

“Whoo-hoo-hoo!” I exclaimed. “Thank you for letting me miss school today, mom.”

“We’ll say we had to go to Hollywood,” she said, smiling.

“Okay. Ooh, next time we go for real, can we see Star Wars?”

We loaded up the car, got in, and searched the backroads for a good place to fish. The sun was moving across a light blue sky and the mists of the morning had by now all burned off. Now a contingent of clouds remained, holding court with the sun.

I said, “Hey, we’ve never fished before, mom.”

“Well, ‘J,’ my mom observed, “there’s always a first time for everything. Besides, you’ve already put up with a lot - we can have a day to ourselves with no worries. And maybe we’ll catch the biggest fish ever.”

“Fish squares? Sometimes they serve fish squares in school.”

Me and mom burst out laughing.

It was strange how we finally found a good place to fish. The little pond was so close to granma’s and granpa’s. We only found it on our way back after having no luck, after never finding a good location to cast our lines. It was the perfect size, too, as far as ponds go, shimmering, mirrored by the sky.

Yet it was slightly muddied and was being laid siege to by intermittent small trees, as felled branches, leaves, and twigs lay strewn in the tall grass and foliage. Decades later, in passing through the area, I saw it was still there, but it’s pleasant nature had sadly been overgrown along it’s shores.

But it weren’t much to report, anyways, that is, in terms of the great fishing expedition, save for the fumbling about with the rod and reel, the wind that abruptly picked up and swept up dust and debris and the swift turning grey of the day, and oh yeah, how we declared to the sky that we’d leave it to the pros from there on out.

We had a nice lunch in the afternoon, though, at a charming little cafe-gift shop just off Snake Road, on the north side of the reservation.

We were taking in the wonderful Seminole oil paintings on the walls of the cafe. The waitress had just taken our order and I was jotting down notes for future stories.

“Have -- Have you written anything new, ‘J’?”, my mother asked.

I flipped through my notebook, found something fairly-recent, and began to read: “Many centuries ago, there was a young tustenugee chief who could outlast and outplay anyone in a stickball game. He was funny, witty, endearing. He was wise and thoughtful. He led warrior armies in devastating battles. He saved men, women, and children from formidable villains and ferocious beasts.”

“He could converse with the birds and critters of the forests (that is, unless they were upset with him, because of some unintended slight, or other). He was an imaginative storyteller. He held his people spellbound with his storytelling skills. He accomplished enormous physical feats. Some said he was a myth, some said he was a legend. He was much more than that.”

“And, uh, that’s all I have . . .” I said, looking down. “I need to work on it.”

“Wow! That is so good, ‘J!’” my mother said. “I--I love it. I’m so proud of you. Oh my god. Keep it up.”

“Okay, mom,” I said, smiling. “I will.”

So we made it back to granma’ and granpa’s, gave thanks, and had an early dinner. Then we called it a day, tucked out from our happy day as we were. That night I dreamed of our day, of picturesque sunrises with wondrous sunflowers in sparkling vases.

“We walk in the cool light of early morning, mom.” I recall saying in one particular dream.

“I know, son, I’ll light the fire in the cooking chickee, to keep us warm,” my mother answered. The dreams seemed so real.

Well, eventually, we returned to the Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation, right where we had left it, joining back at last with my father and the rest of the family.

IN ER, CEN RA RIDA,

Uncle Wilbur and I were on the road, on the way to Saint Augustine, Florida. Uncle Wilbur’s Wagoneer was our chariot. On the cd player, Johnny Cash was singing about Folsom Prison and I could relate to the feeling in the words and music. This last time the authorities had really gotten my attention, Lord knows, and so upon my release, I was certainly regretful, trying to see opportunities rather than obstacles.

“I just know I have to make a real change this time, without a doubt,” I said, and, at that, Uncle Wilbur nodded, lean over and turned the volume down on the cd player.

He said, “Okay. Go on, tell me about it.”  
“I can’t do it anymore, unc’,” I lamented. “I’m done. I have to try something else this time.”

“Might have something there.” He looked over and smiled. “Me, I say go with your strengths, your drawing, your writing.” He was counting them off on his fingers as he drove.

“I’ve been thinking about it a lot. And I mean Serious, too, Serious with a capital ‘S’ on it’s chest. You know. For all to see. Full-Time. I’m going to do it with all my heart.”

“Good. I’m glad.”

“I want to try some drawing classes first, and then, maybe some poetry workshops. See what places they got. And then I want to go to places where poets read their work and try that.”

“Oh absolutely. They’re out there, the places of which you speak. I mean your Broward College, your Art Studios, your Coffee Houses, your Bookstores.” He drove and gestured.

I managed a nod and a smile. I knew it would take much time and tremendous sacrifice. And it wasn’t going to be easy. But by then I was more than ready to put the work in. I had no other choice.

“I’m so ready to learn,” I said.

Now I was thinking, yeah, time for change, time for change, the sooner the better. Yes, indeed! “Good Ol’ Johnny Night,” that former no account, wrong path choosing, ne’er-do-well, was going on and on about a real and lasting change. Who would have thought it?

“Yes,” my uncle said, “I agree, nephew, it is going to take a lot. I’ll help you, and I would say your mother’ll help you, too.”

Right then, I made like I was painting on an invisible canvas, with imaginary paintbrush in hand. Then I got out my notebook and pretended I was dashing off poems, left and right. It seemed like the thing to do. My uncle chuckled heartily and patted the steering wheel a good time or two.

“Hey,” my uncle said, “you’ve got some parole to tend to, as well, right? I mean, that’s what your mother was saying.”

“Yeah, little ol’ 2 months,” I disclosed. “I’m putting myself into a treatment center for the whole time.”

We stared at the highway in a brief silence.

My uncle said, “So--So where’re you stayin after that?”

“Uh, thinking of getting a place off the rez, maybe, I don’t know, but not that far off.”

“Nice.”

We talked about favorite books, whether or not we’d ever seen this classic movie or that one, about different kinds of music, all kind of bands. We discussed the past two years. We talked about younger days on the rez, and about how things had changed.

We talked in some detail about Florida History and Battlefields. And of course, we talked Sci-Fi novels: H.G. Wells, Ray Bradbury, Richard Matheson, Ursula LeGuin, to name a few, of which we both aspired to achieve something like aficionado status in the genre.

“Imagine adding a first-edition of H. G. Wells’, The War of the Worlds, to your collection. Now, I know you’ve read that one, right?”

“Ah, but of course!” my uncle agreed. “That would be so cool,” I said, looking upwards.

“Quite the imagination,” my uncle stated, energized by the mention of Mr. H. G. Wells. Here come the Martians, y’all! So yeah, he rules, what more can I say?”

“So true,” I said.

“It’s like if see the man - or someone of his caliber - you know, walk in the sidewalks approachin towards me, you know what I do, I kindly cross the street and tip my hat in earnest salute, till he passes, you know. Hey, I don’t make the rules, nephew.”

“Right, right, The Man, The Myth, and when in The Legend’s presence, the salute, yeah, I know the routine, heh-heh.”

“I might have to re-acquaint myself with that book, actually. Just for good measure, you see.”

“Imagine if Those Martian Invaders landed on a Seminole Indian reservation. Can you imagine?”

We went to crackin up laughing. Oh, the

story possibilities  
Thus, on I-95, my uncle and I rode passed pine forests and cypress swamps, in every variation of green, golf courses and hotels, outlet malls and shopping centers, which were now perched on lands with renowned histories, all on our way to the oldest city in the United States.

“You know, Uncle,” I said, “I regret all them times I talked back to you, when you tried to set me on the right path.”

“Don’t worry about it,” my uncle said. “I always wanted to tell you that.”

“Don’t mention it.”  
Soon thereafter we pulled off 95 for a bite to eat at a quick drive-thru, and sat in the parking lot and scarfed down burgers and fries and soda. We acquired coffee, too, we didn’t care, to keep us wide awake for ride.

I went to thinking of our flashy chariot. Uncle Wilbur’s ride. “You really fixed up the Wagoneer,” I said. “I remember ridin’ in here just before I fell. You remember?”

“Yep, and, as it turned out, that was to be one of our last talks and drives for a couple years, huh?”

“I know, right.”

Whereupon we topped off on fuel and got back on 95. The Wagoneer held the fading aroma of burgers and fries, and no cherry pies. Yet, after a while, though, all that remained was the cherry scented air-freshner, hanging from the rear-view mirror. Now we just needed to put more miles behind us before nightfall.

“Wow,” I exclaimed, “I still can’t believe we’re actually on our way to see the old fortress! You know, ‘The Fountain of Youth’ is there, too, unc’ . All this time, it’s been right there.”

“Should be powerful cold there.”  
“I-I promised I would go. It’s--”  
“Lots of history there.”

“Yes, Seminole History,” I said, “Imagine: Seminole men, women, and children. Locked up in there during the Seminole Wars. And, as you know, even the formidable, Wildcat himself, and yet, unable to withstand being caged, he busted out in great haste”

“Formidable, indeed.” Uncle Wilbur commented. “Wasn’t having it. Hey, I don’t blame him.”

Thus, we crossed the threshold at last and arrived into the old city of Saint Augustine, a historic, tourist-oriented city nowadays, just as the long rays and shadows of a yellow-orange-red sunset painted themselves on historic streets and neighborhoods.

SPRING, Y D  
SEMIN E INDIAN RESER A I N,

Okay, so I was twelve-years old again, and my brother had gone off somewhere for something or other. I had the bedroom we shared to my lonesome self, and would you know that very night, at that time of night when you can hear the solemn drone of faraway trucks and motorcycles afar off and after awhile they pass and then, you can still hear the sorrowed hum till it long fades you to sleep, it was then that I dreamed of my father, but I was younger in the dreams and it was long before my parents eventual divorce.

Thereon, in one dream, we were in an old western town and my dad was a stuntman, can you believe it, an outlaw in black cowboy duds and he had prop six guns in holsters, one to each side and in a show for the tourists who had accumulated to the attraction, he made like he was frightful shot by the cowboy hero of the piece and so he fell off an old 1800s-style building and landed down below onto empty cardboard boxes, and thus to adoring applause.

In another dream, we were in Moore Haven, Florida, and my dad was wrestling alligators, and it was a close contest with a lot of people gathered around, watching. It was a bright sunny day, but the heat weren’t that bad. The crowds stared at the contestants. My dad had to do something different to win, so he pulled them ferocious alligator jaws apart--he was an overachiever by trade, you see--with them Seminole hands and went to giving that gator a dental exam, and the only thing he was a-missin was a dental assistant to hand him dental tools and suchlike.

His Seminole vest held all the colors of the Everglades upon it, if mem’ries of dreams serve me correctly, and the bandana tied loosely around his neck was red and new. His blue jeans were battle-scarred at the knees. It was a dying art, after all, a performance art, and he’d been doing it a long time, ever the grand showman.

“Seminole magic,” someone whispered. “Serious business slaying dragons.”

And here, in the dream, I must convey to you that I knew that in whatever daring thing or risky venture I’d ever be called upon to perform, I’d be okay, because that was where I had come from, I had come from someone who would risk the ultimate, put his head in the gator’s mouth, when the stakes were at their highest, yay, to risk it all, and to win the day, which my father did in that particular contest.

And then, the sounds of an early morning downpour, rapping, tapping, creeping gradually across the roof, woke me up.

IN ER, SAIN A G S INE,  
RIDA,

We were in Saint Augustine, but it didn’t feel like I had thought it would. You see, I had envisioned shimmering angels singing the magical creation of the world, coupled with the greyest of clouds opening up underneath an onslaught of golden sunbeams, angels from the olden days, singing. I was anticipating some kind of miraculous way forward. But it was not to be.

We secured two rooms for the night, and

# Sports



## Ahnie Jumper helps FGCU to victory over Team Japan

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**R MYERS** — The Florida Gulf Coast University softball team picked up an international victory thanks in part to a squeeze bunt from Ahnie Jumper.

FGCU emerged from its exhibition game against Team Japan with a 7-5 win Feb. 16, but the Eagles needed a late-inning rally.

FGCU trailed the No. 2 ranked team in the world 4-3 in the fifth when Jumper, of the Big Cypress Reservation, laid down the bunt that brought home Diane Servideo to

ignite a four-run rally in the seesaw affair that featured a few lead changes.

This is Jumper's second season with the team. Last year she was a backup third baseman, but this season she has returned to behind the plate, a spot she occupied for most of her high school career at American Heritage.

"I feel like a veteran now that I'm catching this year," Jumper said. "I feel more at home coming back to catching. It was all natural; I just needed a little touch up here and there."

During pregame warmups, Jumper said she and her teammates were excited to play

Team Japan.

"It is a great opportunity to play someone of that caliber," Jumper said. "We expect to bring the same energy we bring to every game."

Prior to playing FGCU, Team Japan defeated the University of South Florida and the University of Florida. The Japanese Women's National Team won the gold medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and is ranked second behind Team USA in the World Baseball Softball Confederation rankings. The team also won a silver medal at the WBSC 2018 Softball World Championships.

FGCU coach David Deiros has led the Eagles to a 617-318-3 record in his 17 years at the helm.

"Our kids played as well toe-to-toe with the second best team in the world so I can't be more proud of them," Deiros said after the win. "It was a great experience and the turnout we had was fantastic for this community to see that kind of softball being played."

FGCU is usually in the upper echelon of the Atlantic Sun Conference. The Eagles have won three regular season conference titles. They reached the NCAA Division I tournament a few years ago. Deiros said he expects another strong season this year and he's been pleased with Jumper's work behind the plate.

"We are a good team and we plan to be in the mix in our conference," he said. "Ahnie has done a really good job and having her defensive skills behind the plate is a plus. She understands the game and has a good head for the game. Everyone feeds off her confidence."

Jumper, a sophomore, lives off campus with a couple of her teammates and is studying elementary education. She is taking teaching classes and has observed at the Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress. Her goal is to someday teach there.

"I like to give back," she said.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Ahnie Jumper is greeted by her FGCU teammates during player introductions before the Eagles faced Team Japan on Feb. 16 in Fort Myers. Below, Jumper catches a strike as a Team Japan batter misses.



Beverly Bidney

Florida Gulf Coast University softball catcher Ahnie Jumper eyes a runner during the Eagles' 7-5 win against Team Japan on Feb. 16 at FGCU in Fort Myers.



Beverly Bidney

Ahnie Jumper, center, and the FGCU softball team huddle before facing Team Japan in an exhibition game Feb. 9 in Fort Myers.

## Jacelyn Billie glad to be part of surging girls basketball program at Hollywood Hills

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**Y D** — Jacelyn Billie picked a good time to join the Hollywood Hills High School girls basketball team, and she's glad she did.

Billie, a sophomore forward, had played basketball before this season, but never for an organized team, such as a school. With encouragement from her dad Jason, who has a basketball background as a player and coach, Billie decided to try out for the Hollywood Hills team.

"It was something new," she said. "I had never been on an actual basketball team. I wanted to try something new to get out of my comfort zone. I'm really glad I did it. I met some new people."

And she became part of the program's stunning turnaround under coach Tavorus Davis.

Before Davis arrived two years ago, the team had endured some winless seasons and only won one game in four years. But Davis, a former University of Central Florida football player, quickly shifted the team

from a cellar-dweller into a contender.

The team won nine games in Davis's rookie year and this season went 16-7, which included its first-ever win against South Broward High and a spot in Broward County's Big 8 for the first time.

"With the hard work we've put in the last two years, things have started to pay off," Davis said.

Billie is among those hard workers, something Davis witnessed immediately at a tryout. In an attempt to attract enough players to the program to add a JV team, Davis held open tryouts for girls who were not already part of the program. He said six girls showed up. Because some girls arrived a few minutes late, Davis had all six run "suicide drills," or in other words, a lot of running.

"We ran four suicides. After the second one, (Billie) was the only one who stayed. The other girls left," Davis said.

Billie carried that hard work ethic into the season.

"Her hard work and her determination works good for her," Davis said.

The program ended up not having enough players to field a JV team, but the

varsity squad was deep, talented and mostly young, with just two seniors. Billie was among the subs who provided quality time when she got in.

"She came off the bench and gave us some good minutes," Davis said. "She played hard, played tough, but for someone new to the program and to an organized team, she had to make some adjustments, but she adjusted pretty fine."

Davis sees Billie's role increasing next season, which should be another strong one.

"As far as going forward, she'll earn some more playing time," he said.

Kevin Johnson

Coach Tavorus Davis and sophomore forward Jacelyn Billie helped the Hollywood Hills High School basketball team post a 16-7 record this year. It was the program's best record in more than 15 years.



# Andrew Fish signs with St. Thomas

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**MORE A MEN** — Another chapter in the rapid ascension of Moore Haven High School football player Andrew Fish was written Feb. 9.

In front of close to 100 people, including teammates, classmates, coaches, administrators and family members who filled bleachers in front of him in the school's gymnasium, Fish signed with St. Thomas University on National Letter of Intent Signing Day.

Fish, a member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, grew up on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Brighton Reservation and attended Pemeyev Emahavk Charter School on the reservation. He has only been playing football for two years, yet the 6-foot-4, 320-pound offensive lineman quickly turned heads as he helped the Terriers compile a 20-3 record in his career. Interest and offers came from colleges such as Florida Atlantic, Western Kentucky and Georgia Southern, but Fish was attracted to the newness of the St. Thomas football program in Miami Gardens, about 12 miles south of the Hollywood Reservation.

"It's a new program. Everything is going to be new. It's going to be good. I can't wait," said Fish, who wore a red, long sleeve STU jersey at the signing and put on a hat from the school right after he signed.

St. Thomas, which made the announcement to add football last August, will debut this fall and play in the NAIA's Sun Conference.

"It will be an opportunity for him to kind of make history, to lay that ground work with that program. That's a good opportunity," said Brent Burnside, who was promoted to head coach at Moore Haven in January after serving as defensive coordinator.

Fish is the son of Michelle Grindler and the late Mike Fish. After the signing, Fish received big hugs from his mother, grandmother Emma Fish and several other family members and relatives, including his cousin and teammate Rob Harris, also from the Seminole Nation. Fish and Harris formed a formidable tandem on the offensive line, often towering above their opponents. Harris, a junior who is slightly



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven High School senior offensive lineman Andrew Fish signs with St. Thomas University on National Letter of Intent Signing Day, Feb. 6 in Moore Haven's gym.

taller and heavier than Fish, is also receiving interest from colleges, including Florida International University and the University of South Florida.

"He'll get some looks from some of those major colleges," said Burnside, who replaced Max Manin at the helm after Manin recently accepted an assistant coaching position at St. Augustine High School.

While a signing day ceremony for Harris could come next year, Fish was the lone Terrier in the spotlight for this year's ceremony. Offensive coordinator and offensive line coach Chris Cook described Fish as a "very good kid" with "great character." Cook said there's more to Fish than just his size.

"To be such a big guy, he's so agile. He may have been the best athlete on the team, even with that size," Cook said. "He's a very athletic young man. He picked up the game mentally and physically in just a snap, almost instantly. He was able to do the assignments we taught him and he was able to make the plays extremely quickly."

Moore Haven senior captain Conner Thomas also pointed to other aspects of Fish's game that impressed him.

"I know a lot of people like his size, but he loves the game. His drive and his willpower to want to play is crazy," Thomas said.

If it wasn't for Thomas, a Seminole Tribe of Florida member from Brighton, Fish likely would never have shifted his athletic interest from basketball to football. Thomas, who was the leader on the OL at right guard, played a pivotal role to get Fish onto a football field.

"I wouldn't be here if he didn't encourage me to come out here," Fish said. Fish's athletic career at Moore Haven isn't over yet. He and Harris excelled in shot put on the track and field team last spring as both reached the state tournament. Fish finished third in district, fourth in regional and 15th in Class 1A. After track season and graduation, his attention will shift to St. Thomas and college football. He plans to start school in August.



Kevin Johnson

After signing with St. Thomas University, Moore Haven High School offensive lineman Andrew Fish is joined by his family and relatives at Moore Haven High School.



Kevin Johnson

Two big reasons why Moore Haven High School won 20 of 23 games in the past two seasons are offensive linemen Andrew Fish, left, and Conner Thomas, who were all smiles at Fish's signing day ceremony with St. Thomas University on Feb. 6.

# Strong starts from college athletes

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

College athletes from Seminole Tribe of Florida reservations are off to strong starts on the softball and baseball fields this season. Here's an update as of Feb. 14 on how they're doing.

• Ahnie Jumper, of the Big Cypress Reservation, scored Florida Gulf Coast University's third run in a 4-0 win against Ball State in Fort Myers as the Eagles' softball team improved to 4-0 on Feb. 9. Jumper, a sophomore catcher, also caught the final three innings of the shutout.

Jumper, who played on state championship teams at American Heritage-Plantation, has been the late-inning catcher in all six of FGCU's games, including a 2-1 win against Penn State on Feb. 8 when she caught the fifth, sixth and seventh innings.

• State College of Florida leadoff batter Cheyenne Nunez continued her hot start to the 2019 softball season. The Okeechobee High grad from the Brighton Reservation recorded her third multiple-hit game of the young season with a pair of hits in a 5-2 win against Lake-Sumter State College on Feb. 7. She also scored a run and had one RBI. Two days later Nunez had a triple, three runs scored and a stolen base in a doubleheader

sweep against Santa Fe College as SCF upped its record to 6-1.

Nunez, a sophomore outfielder, is second on the team in batting average (.426) and stolen bases (4).

• Sunni Bearden, of the Brighton Reservation, went 2-for-2 and scored two runs for the South Florida State College softball team in an 11-3 win Feb. 1 against Lake-Sumter State College. In a rematch four days later, Bearden, a freshman outfielder, had a double, RBI and run scored in a 5-3 win. The Moore Haven High grad went 2-for-3 with an RBI and scored a run in a 3-2 loss Feb. 9 against Pasco-Hernando State College.

• For the second time in six days, Pasco-Hernando State College freshman pitcher Sean Osceola tossed four shutout innings of relief on the baseball diamond. Osceola, a former Okeechobee High ace from the Brighton Reservation, notched the victory in a 15-1 win against Florida Southern College JV on Feb. 11. He fanned four and allowed two hits as he improved his record to 2-1. On Feb. 5, Osceola struck out five and walked just one batter in four innings of shutout ball as PHSC blanked Inspiration Academy 15-0. Through 10 innings this season Osceola had yet to allow an earned run.

• Through four games this season, Trevor Thomas, of the Brighton Reservation, is

batting over .400 for the Warner University JV baseball team.

Thomas, a sophomore outfielder, went 1-for-1 in the season opener against Polk State on Jan. 29. The following day he had a 2-for-3 day at the plate against College of Central Florida.

The Okeechobee High graduate also notched a hit against Elite Squad and had two hits against Webber International.

As of mid-February, he had a .461 batting average with two doubles, two stolen bases and one RBI.



Ahnie Jumper  
Florida Gulf Coast University softball



Sean Osceola  
Pasco-Hernando State College baseball



Cheyenne Nunez  
State College of Florida softball



Trevor Thomas  
Warner University baseball



Sunni Bearden  
South Florida State College softball

# With one Stubbs out, the other steps up as Heritage wins regional final

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

(ditor ote: e erica erita e Sc ool irl a et all tea ic i clude Se i ole i ter ece er Stu a dia a Stu ad a ced to te la ial our ic a c ded to te la tart a ter ri ti o ti ue o e Se i ole ri ue ec out te ri ue ace oo a ea dte arc i ue or u date a da ra u )

**PAN A I N** — Before the start of the season, the American Heritage girls basketball team had to overcome the loss of a few key seniors who played vital roles in the Patriots' journey to a state championship last winter.

Losing players to graduation is a given that every team encounters, but unexpected hurdles that pop up during the season can throw a team for a loop.

A few weeks ago Tiana Stubbs suffered a season-ending leg injury. Stubbs, who was a solid and consistent contributor on the championship team a year ago, continued to blossom as the sixth player off the bench this year and she earned a starting role at times.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage's December Stubbs (No. 15) is right in the middle of the battle during the Patriots' 63-26 win against Bishop Moore-Orlando in a Class 6A regional final Feb. 22 in Plantation.

But a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and meniscus in her left knee has regulated her to being a vocal supporter from the sideline, which she did with great enthusiasm Feb. 22 as Heritage moved on to the Class 6A Final Four with a comfortable

63-26 regional final rout against a younger and smaller Bishop Moore-Orlando squad.

Tiana's sister December, a starting guard, helped keep Heritage on the path to Lakeland by scoring five points with a steal and a rebound in the first quarter, which



Kevin Johnson

Tiana Stubbs, far right, is out for the season due to injury, but she still helps out by supporting her American Heritage teammates from the bench, such as here in the team's regional final win.

turned out to be the only close quarter in the game.

Heritage turned a 10-8 lead after eight minutes into a lopsided affair. The Patriots blitzed Bishop Moore 53-16 over the final

three quarters.

December finished with eight points and plenty of praise from her coach.

♦ See HERITAGE on page 5C

# Lucas Osceola, Silas Madrigal win district title with OHS

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

SAR — Okeechobee High School boys basketball coach Demetre Riles said during the district playoffs that he wanted this year's team to leave a legacy that wouldn't be forgotten.

The Brahms did just that. As the No. 3 seed, Okeechobee swept the Class 7A-District 13 tournament. The Brahms, loaded with seniors playing in their final district tournament, captured the district title with a 44-40 win against top-seeded Jensen Beach on Feb. 16. According to the Lake Okeechobee News, it was the team's first district title in 28 years.

Although their dreams of making it to Lakeland for the Final Four fell short after a 45-44 loss to Dillard-Fort Lauderdale in the regional quarterfinals, the Brahms' accomplishments won't be forgotten anytime soon.

The Tribe's Lucas Osceola and Silas Madrigal played key roles in one of the most successful seasons in school history as the team finished with a 23-5 record, marking the third straight year of 20-plus wins, all with Riles at the helm.

Osceola, a starting senior guard, shined in his final season. He averaged about five points, four rebounds and two steals per game while providing valuable versatility all over the court. Ball-handling, shooting, passing, steals and even having a presence on the boards were all areas Osceola excelled in as he provided an all-around abundance of benefits. Despite being one of the smaller players — 5-foot-8- on a tall team that featured four players 6-foot-4 and taller

Osceola's hands often grabbed rebounds. He had 11 boards in a regular season game against Eau Gallie.

"He's a rebounder, too. He's an all-around player. He'll get in there and mix it up. He can rebound with the best of them and he can block shots," Riles said after the team's 63-49 win against Bayside in the district semifinals at South Fork High School.

Osceola snagged five rebounds against Bayside and hit a key 3-pointer from the corner that put the Brahms up 35-30 during a pivotal 9-0 run late in the third quarter after Bayside had taken a 30-28 lead, which turned out to be its last lead of the



Courtesy photo

Lucas Osceola (holding championship plaque), Silas Madrigal and their Okeechobee High School teammates and coaches celebrate after winning the Class 7A-District 13 boys basketball championship Feb. 16 at South Fork High School in Stuart.

game. "Big-time 3. It kind of opened up the game a little bit," Riles said. Osceola finished with five points. The next night in the district title game he scored nine points and proudly clutched the championship plaque during the team's celebration. In an interview after the Bayside game,

Osceola said this year was by far the most fun season of his high school career. "We all have a lot of chemistry together," he said. Osceola is part of the huge group of seniors who no doubt left their mark on the program. The only non-seniors on the club were three juniors, including Madrigal, a smooth-shooting guard who provided some

scoring punch off the bench. Although his playing time was limited at times on a senior-dominated squad, he scored in double digits in back-to-back games late in the season, first with 16 points against Clewiston and then 12 points against Berean Christian. He averaged more than five points per game. Okeechobee will lose plenty of height to graduation, but the smaller returning group,

including Madrigal, have already been a part of plenty of successful nights, not only this season with varsity but also last year when they went 18-1 on JV. "They're a smaller group. They play a different style. Next year you'll see a different style with those guys," Riles said.

# Short-handed Moore Haven comes up short in district playoffs

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

NAP ES — The numbers on the bench and the scoreboard didn't favor the Moore Haven High School girls basketball team.

Despite a determined effort from start to finish from the Brighton Reservation trio of starting seniors Alicia Fudge, Burgundy Pierce and Caroline Sweat, Moore Haven's season ended with a 48-41 loss to First Baptist Academy in a Class 3A-District 6 semifinal on Feb. 7 at FBA in Naples.

Moore Haven was the No. 3 seed; FBA was No. 2.

In their final game as Terriers, Fudge (18 points) and Pierce (12 points) combined for three-fourths of the offensive production. In fact, they scored the team's first 10 points, which included a 3-pointer from Fudge near the end of the first quarter that pulled Moore Haven to within a 13-10 deficit.

But Moore Haven only had two substitutes on the bench and only one of those played. On the other side, FBA's bench was chock full of players. Eventually, Moore Haven wore down.

The Terriers led 24-22 at halftime, but FBA took the lead with a minute left in the third quarter and never trailed again, although it was anything but a comfortable lead.

Moore Haven trailed 40-39 after Fudge made a layup and free throw for a three-point play with three minutes left in the game. But Terrier shots began hitting the front of the rim, a sign of tiredness as FBA finished the game on an 8-2 run.

Sweat scored two points in her final game and provided tenacious defense the



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Alicia Fudge drives the lane for a layup in a 3A-6 district semifinal against First Baptist Academy on Feb. 7 in Naples. Fudge finished with a team-high 18 points.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Caroline Sweat, left, wrestles for a loose ball in a Class 3A-District 6 semifinal against First Baptist Academy on Feb. 7 in Naples.

Although they fell short of qualifying for regionals, the Terriers generated plenty of highlights this season, notably a 17-6 record

under coach Al Gary, by far the program's best mark in at least the past 13 years. They ruled the Lake by going a combined

3-1 against Okeechobee and Clewiston.

entire night.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Burgundy Pierce fights off a First Baptist player during a district semifinal in Naples.

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# Playoff victory helps Ahfachkee end season with optimism

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**B C A R A N** — Ahfachkee School basketball coach Greg Stephens is a big believer that programs start with effort, which is why he was pleased with what he saw in his girls team's final game this season.

The scoreboard showed a lopsided loss as Ahfachkee dropped a Class 2A-District 7 semifinal to host and No. 1 seed Grandview Prep, but Stephens pointed to his players' desire rather than the final score.

Ahfachkee only had five players and Stephens said they never complained nor asked to come out of the game.

"I can't be more proud of them," said Stephens, who is in his first season as Ahfachkee's girls and boys coach. "They showed up tonight knowing that we had five and out of the five I had one that's hurt and one that's sick, but they showed up. As a coach, you've got to be proud when you've got five girls who want to [play] and they kept playing hard. Right there at the end, we were still fighting and battling for rebounds and playing hard, and that's all I can ask. That's where programs start when you have that kind of effort."

Ahfachkee's points were scored by Lele Gopher with six and Abby Tigertail with four.

Grandview went on to win the district championship and advanced to the regional finals before being knocked out with a one-point loss to Miami Christian.

The team played without three of their top players who were either hurt or out sick. Even with a depleted squad, Ahfachkee started the playoffs with six players and notched a first round win against Glades Day School, 45-22, on Feb. 4.

Ahfachkee shook off a bit of slow start before cruising to victory.

"You always want to take steps forward and this is a step forward," Stephens said.

Gopher was a source of consistency as she scored eight points in both halves to finish with a game-high 16. Tigertail, who excelled at controlling the pace of the game, contributed 13 points.

Ahfachkee trailed 8-3 in the first quarter before the Lady Seminoles found their groove offensively both inside and outside. Gopher hit a pair of 3-pointers in the first half, which ended with Ahfachkee ahead 18-15.

Romona Jimmie sank two 3-pointers in the second half as the Lady Seminoles pulled



Kevin Johnson

After beating Glades Day in a first-round district playoff game Feb. 4, the Ahfachkee School girls basketball is joined by one of its biggest fans, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, far right. The players are, from left, front row: Aleah Billie, Ramona Jimmie and Abby Tigertail; from left, back row: Thomlynn Billie, Destinee Cypress and Lele Gopher.

away, much to the delight of the Ahfachkee supporters in the stands.

Jimmie, Aleah Billie and Destinee Cypress each had six points while Thomlynn Billie, the team's only senior, provided valuable minutes down low at both ends.

"Thomlynn is a good leader for us," Stephens said. "She does a lot of stuff people don't see out there. When you can occupy the other team's big people, it helps. She gets in there and she battles. I like a lot of that intangible stuff that doesn't show up in the [score]books and that's what Thomlynn does for us."

Losing just one senior should bode well for next year's squad which will return its leading scorers and have some playoff experience to build upon.

"It's a building process," Stephens said. "We've taken some giant steps to help with that; now we'll take some time off and we'll come back. Hopefully the numbers will grow."



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee's Ramona Jimmie lines up a 3-point shot in a district playoff game against Glades Day.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee's Thomlynn Billie, center, gets her hand on the ball against Glades Day.

# Tribesmen take Tribal Fair tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**Y D** — This year could shape up to be a memorable one for the Tribesmen.

It has certainly started on the right note for the team from Brighton. They won the Seminole Tribal Fair Basketball Tournament's 15-17 division Feb. 9 with a 60-53 win against Native Soldiers at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center.

The agenda ahead for the champions includes returning to Hollywood in April for NAYO and a trip to Phoenix this summer for the NABI tournament.

Led by Leon Edouard's game-high 24 points, the Tribesmen showcased its depth with a balanced scoring attack in the championship. Donovan Harris and Ramone Baker each contributed nine points.

Adryauna Baker, fresh off an outstanding season on the Okeechobee High School girls team, scored four points, battled for rebounds and never looked out of place against the boys.

Coached by Preston Baker, the champion squad also included Nakai Alex, Jayton Baker, Dathan Garcia and Dakoya Nunez.

Native Soldiers was led by Daewon Huggins with 15 points. Grant Osceola poured in 13 and his brother Bryce Osceola scored nine. Ethan Ballentine contributed five points.

Native Soldiers fell behind 26-7 in the first half, but clawed their way back. They pulled to within five points late in the game, but the Tribesmen never relinquished its lead.

In the adult tournament, the Plainzmen needed a last-second buzzer beater from Lorenzo Bell in the semifinals to stay alive and then captured the men's championship the following day.

Jess Heart was unstoppable from 3-point land, draining just about everything he put



Kevin Johnson

The Tribesmen hold up their prizes after they won the Seminole Tribal Fair Basketball Tournament's 15-17 championship Feb. 9 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood.

up. The team also included Jim Archambault, Jerel Moore and Sparky Pease. Most of those players also captured the legends 35-plus

championship.

The Lady Ballers won the women's adult tournament.



Kevin Johnson

Tribesmen's Adryauna Baker puts up a 3-point shot.



Kevin Johnson

Native Soldiers' Ricky Garza looks for an open teammate during the Tribal Fair championship game.



Kevin Johnson

Dakoya Nunez goes airborne as he drives the lane for the Tribesmen against Native Soldiers.



Kevin Johnson

Native Soldiers' Grant Osceola controls the ball while defended by Tribesmen's Donovan Harris.



From left, Charlene Owle, Miranda Motlow, Jim Owle and Gilbert King react to King's putt that just missed the hole. They participated in the Chairman of the Greens Charity Golf Tournament on Feb. 8 at Pembroke Lakes Golf Club in Pembroke Pines.

Kevin Johnson

## Golfers tee it up for charity at Chairman of the Greens tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

PEMBROKE PINES — The 18 holes at Pembroke Lakes Golf Club filled up Feb. 8 with the debut of the Seminole Tribe's first Chairman of the Greens Charity Golf Tournament, which drew 35 foursomes, or about 140 golfers.

No team generated a hotter round than Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, Charlie Cypress, Ricky Doctor and Mateo Jimenez. Their score of 51 was three shots clear of the nearest teams. Doctor stamped an exclamation mark on the round on the 18th green, the team's final hole of the day, when he sank a 20-foot putt for birdie. All four golfers received large gift baskets.

Prizes were also handed out to those at the other end of the scorecard spectrum. The foursome of John Nixdorf, Jessica Kopas, Tony Sanchez Jr. and Steven Osber carded a 78, the highest score, or at least the highest



The winning foursome of the Chairman of the Greens Charity Golf Tournament hold up their prizes. They are, from left, Ricky Doctor, Charlie Cypress, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger and Mateo Jimenez. They scorched Pembroke Lakes GC with a score of 51.

Kevin Johnson



Kevin Johnson

Idly Garcia chips the ball onto the 18th green.

score turned in, but they didn't leave empty-handed.

No matter what the scores were on the sunshine-filled day, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. emphasized that "everybody is a winner" because the tournament raised money for two charitable causes. Chairman Osceola told the golfers that the money will help the Native American College Fund and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

"With Native Americans, there's a very high rate of diabetes, both type 1 and type 2," said Tracey Paige, executive director of the South Florida chapter of JDRF. "The Tribe has been very generous to us in the past and had given us a very generous gift several years back. Since then, we've had a nice relationship through the hotel and casino and we've done a lot of work together. They've continued to support us in all of our efforts."

Paige said the money raised from the tournament will go directly to supporting projects and raising awareness about diabetes, especially type 1 diabetes.

She said JDRF's efforts also benefit the Seminole and Miccosukee tribes.

"On a national level, we have a very big advocacy effort," Paige said. "Every year we go up and we work with the government to get dollars allocated to the special diabetes



Kevin Johnson

Cicero Osceola, who won a prize for the second longest drive, watches his drive on the 10th tee at the Chairman of the Greens tournament.



Kevin Johnson

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. is joined by Laura Lou and Ariana Silva from the Sagemont School golf team at the Chairman of the Greens golf tournament. Laura and Ariana were part of the foursome that finished in second place.

program of which both tribes in Florida are

beneficiaries. They've benefited from almost five million dollars from the special diabetes program dollars allocated specifically to diabetes research for Native Americans."

After the completion of golf and lunch, JDRF ambassador Sebastian Alcala spoke to the golfers about living with type 1 diabetes as a 12-year-old. He described it as "insulin dependent diabetes," which he was diagnosed with at age 7.

"It's a way of life. You have to live it, and deal with the ups and downs," he said.

But he hasn't let it deter him from playing soccer and the piano.

"It hasn't stopped me from doing the things I love," he said.

Sebastian urged the golfers to join him at the One Walk fundraiser April 6 at Nova Southeastern University.

Kevin Johnson

Sebastian Alcala, 12, talks to golfers at the Chairman of the Greens tournament about living with type 1 diabetes.



## Kevin Sandy named CEO of 2020 NAIG

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia — The Mi'kmaw Sport Council of Nova Scotia announced Jan. 11 the appointment of Kevin Sandy as the Chief Executive Officer of the Halifax 2020 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) Host Society.

"I am tremendously excited and honoured to play a key role in planning the games which will be hosted in Mi'kmaw territory," Sandy said in a statement. "I look forward to working with all stakeholders in Nova Scotia. Our vision will be to honour and respect the games that empower, inspire and teach our youth, while promoting Indigenous culture and heritage."

Sandy's tasks will include working with the NAIG Council and the Mi'kmawey Debert Elder's Advisory Council on developing a stronger cultural program consistent with the council's three guiding principles, according to the press release.

"We are excited to welcome Kevin Sandy to our province," said Leo Glavine, Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage. "His experience, knowledge and expertise in the area of business and sport development, as well as his understanding of Indigenous customs, culture and history make him very well-suited to the position. I am confident



Kevin Sandy

that Mr. Sandy will make a positive impact on the North American Indigenous Games."

Sandy is a member of the Cayuga Nation (Wolf Clan), according to an article in the Anishinabek News. He has played, coached and managed numerous teams capturing international, national and provincial championships in lacrosse and basketball. Sandy's event leadership experience includes 2015 Pan Am Parapan Games, 2017 North American Indigenous Games and 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and Opening Ceremonies

### ◆ HERITAGE From page 3C

"December is a pit bull still," said Heritage coach Greg Farias. "She is a leader on the court, off the court. She's the hardest working kid on the team. I'll go to battle with her anytime. She's tough. She plays one through five. I always put her on the [opponent's] best player on offense."

The Patriots turned Tiana's injury into a rallying cry for the remainder of the season.

"We've been playing every game for her. We had to pick up the slack because we lost a big player," December said.

Heritage has relied on the depth of its regular season schedule to prepare for the postseason. The Patriots faced teams — including some defending state champions — from Georgia, Maryland and Pennsylvania in high profile tournaments in Washington, D.C. and Naples. They also faced Miami Country Day, the nation's No. 1 ranked team, according to MaxPreps. Heritage lost by 20 to Country Day, but losing to elite teams can have its benefits in the postseason.

"We played all these tough teams just to get us prepared for states," December said.

Farias said the tournaments have helped his players get looks from colleges. He said Tiana has caught the eyes of Boston University, Florida Atlantic University and others.

"She was having a great year. She's been amazing. She was starting a lot of the games before she got hurt," Farias said. "She's a

key part of the team. She's one of the best shooters on the team and she's very long and athletic, so we're going to miss her defense."

The good news for Tiana and Heritage is that she'll be back next season as a senior.



Kevin Johnson

December Stubbs

### ◆ ROAD TRIP From page 6B

had dinner in a pleasant restaurant nearby. Back at the motel, we paused enroute to our rooms.

"You know what," I said, "I thought it'd be different, something powerful and profound so as to thrust me forward."

"Well, you still have tomorrow morning when we see the fort," Uncle Wilbur said. "And we'll prob'ly be a-needin jackets, I'm pretty sure. Gonna be c-c-cold."

"We ain't in Kansas, anymore, unc, that's for sure."

"We're so used to south Florida," my uncle said. "And I'd imagine the folks around here are quite accustomed to the weather. Yes, sir."

"And that old fortress must get mighty cold. I'll never get used to it."

"So tell me, John, why did you promise to make this visit?" my uncle inquired. "And to whom? What's the real story, why's it so important to you?"

I sighed with uneasiness and furrowed my forehead, though not actually intending to.

"I'll tell you why," I said, "I was so done and finished with walking the wrong path all the time, and the thoughts just kept at me and I had these visions and dreams in prison. In one vision, I was on the ramparts of an old Spanish fort, The Castillo de San Marcos, perhaps. There was a fearsome fog, hovering, pulsating, gliding across the night. There were large cannons facing the wilderness as well as the sea. I couldn't glimpse out into the wilderness, though, because of the eerie lights from the fort which faded eventually into wilderness, becoming wilderness. I could only wonder at what was out there, you know, and what went where to lead me there."

"I was alone, nor Seminole, nor soldier, and it seemed so real. So cold. You know, there's a pathway through the woods, with a tunnel of trees by the shoreline, where I was hurled back into the past a good century or two. The darkness and the light danced ancient dances together in the chilling mists, and I was walking through a native encampment in olden times, as if I had experienced life there long ago, as if I was a phantom warrior in real-life struggle, and the real-life struggle comprised modern warriors fighting alongside phantom warriors of old."

"And then, the vision changed, suddenly, and now it seemed as if the walls and bars and guntowers dissolved away, and I was with the Seminoles of the past, right within their midst, Seminoles from the 1800's. There was destruction and flame all around, and the black-grey smoke rising in a ghastly plume.

I could sense deep emotions, courage, fear, because it was so real. They were in chains within the old fort.

"And I could sense a grievous cold. There was an intense sadness upon their faces, an unmistakable hurt upon their hearts, bodies and features. I was there with them and I have felt their pain. It was like feeling their every anguish, their every grief, only multiplied a thousand times, strangely felt all at once."

"They were dressed in shreds of Seminole clothes, hungry, cold, but they were looking out across the bay, Mantanzas Bay, I think they call it, hoping for the morning . . . So those are some of the reasons. I don't know . . . You have to believe me, that's all. It's always difficult to get someone to believe you in things like this. And then, it was over, and the negativity of the prison dorm came back again, as though a switch had been quick hit, and I thought about what I'd seen and felt for the longest time."

"I still do, actually, but in time, uncle, it brought me to

scenes made of sunlight, on the way to the villages of change, and I promised myself and I vowed to them, with all my heart as a gift, that I'd make the visit to Saint Augustine, to the old fort, and try to understand, to do them honor in some sincere effort, and to pray for them . . ."

We spoke not a word for a moment, only silence. I could see my uncle's eyes had become watery. He patted me once or twice on the shoulder and nodded in a shared understanding between uncle and nephew.

"Yeah," he said. "Yeah . . ."

"That's really why I'm here," I said. "And thank you so much for making it happen. Yeah, we'll go there in the morning, and most likely it'll be as cold as when they were there. I'll remember them, and mourn for them, honor them, and their courage, their spirit - and the ancestral connection will live on and remain within me, as it will within so many others, urging us onwards, to stand by our side, enduring and lovely--and in the final analysis, yes, I will write and I will make my artwork, now more so now than ever before, as if my life relied solely upon it, because now it will. It's been a long time coming."

And so, deeply-affected by the emotions brought on by our

words, I looked out into the gathering night, nodded, bid my uncle a good evening and repaired to my room, to await wholeheartedly the morning sun.

[There is another pause]  
[Let fall the curtain to joyful music]

# Announcements



## Hard Rock Heals Foundation to award \$250,000 to charity grant recipients

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Y D — Hard Rock International, in partnership with its Hard Rock Heals Foundation, announced Feb. 11 it will donate \$250,000 to 50 grant recipients around the world in 2019 as part of the brand's commitment to improving the lives and resiliency of local communities. This announcement marks the third consecutive year the Hard Rock Heals Foundation is supporting community-run programs through grants that provide greater

opportunities for those who share Hard Rock's passion for music.

The 2019 international grant recipients include a diverse group of local organizations such as Gigi's Playhouse, New York, N.Y.; Marty Wilson Jr. Art and Music Foundation, Atlantic City, N.J.; National Foundation for Youth Music, London, England; Nordoff-Robbins, Glasgow, Scotland; The MusicianShip, Washington D.C.; Bombay Teen Challenge, Mumbai, India; Trirat Foundation, Pattaya, Thailand; Pacelli School for the Blind, Lagos, Nigeria; and

Fundacion Camino, Santiago, Chile.

"As part of our effort to improve lives through the power of music, our yearly grant program provides the opportunity for each Hard Rock team to nominate a charitable organization in their community," said Kellie Brown, manager of Global Philanthropy for Hard Rock International.

Funds provided by the Hard Rock Heals Foundation help to support programs aimed at Autism awareness, instrument donations, music education, elderly care and music therapy.



United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Seminole Agency  
6100 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 206  
Hollywood, Florida 33024  
(954) 983 1537  
(954) 983 5018 fax



### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs

ACTION: Notice of Availability

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the lease and associated construction of a billboard on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Hollywood Reservation, Broward County, Florida (Township 50 S, Range 41 E, Section 36). The conceptual dimensions of the billboard are 55 x 48 feet with the sign face 14 feet long. The proposed project is located off of State Road 7 and across from Seminole Way.

The BIA has reviewed and adopted the Stromberg Supply, Inc. 2-Sided Digital LED Billboard Environmental Assessment (EA), dated January 2019, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department, to determine the environmental impacts associated with the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

**NOTICE:** This is a Notice of Availability, that the EA, supporting documentation and FONSI for the project are available for public review. The FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore cannot be appealed.

For further information please contact Chet McGhee, Regional Environmental Scientist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6500.

  
Superintendent, Seminole Agency

2-5-19  
Date



United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Seminole Agency  
6100 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 206  
Hollywood, Florida 33024  
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### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT BILLBOARD LEASE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the lease and associated construction of a billboard on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Hollywood Reservation, Broward County, Florida (Township 50 S, Range 41 E, Section 36). The conceptual dimensions of the billboard are 55 x 48 feet with the sign face 14 feet long. The proposed project is located off of State Road 7 and across from Seminole Way.

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**DETERMINATION:** Based on review and analysis of the EA and supporting documentation, it has been determined that the proposed federal action is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, according to Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and the BIA is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

This finding is based on the following factors:

- There will be less than significant impacts to land resources. See EA, Section 3.
- There will be less than significant impacts to water resources. See EA, Section 3.
- There will be less than significant impacts to threatened and endangered species. See EA, Section 3.
- There will be no impacts to cultural resources. See correspondence from Tribal Historic Preservation Officer in Appendix D.

  
Superintendent, Seminole Agency

2-5-19  
Date

## POEM

### 'Still I Rise'

Still I rise when so many take a fall,  
Some not strong enough to overcome  
the struggles as I stand strong and stand tall.

You have to believe in yourself and believe in the  
higher power,  
Feeshakeeomeche, Allah, Yahweh, are real don't  
lay down and cower.

Just as Waache I don't make excuses or  
complain,  
I handle whatever life throws my way and refuse  
to go insane.

Because I take pride in my DNA, my clan, my  
tribe,  
We true Unconquered Seminoles don't lay down  
to die, we fight and ride!!!

If anybody deserves to make an excuse to not do  
good or right it's me,  
Because as life goes on I'm losing my family  
tree.

Yet as I walk through this valley of  
shadows and death I have light,  
Poshe, Waache, Big Sis, Olivia and Sue are  
shining bright.

I'll keep my word Waache until my time comes,  
a better many yet always a hardened  
warrior of the unconquered one's.

In the event of my demise I hope to have touched  
the spirits in you,  
All that I write comes with heart and soul, too.

Maybe someone that has read my  
writings saved each one,  
To read when they are struggling again and  
overcome.



Still I rise and still I am here,  
Where freedom only comes to me in a dream  
year after year.

Warrior  
I e ar o  
Panther Clan

## Seminole Casino Coconut Creek's Tracy Lautomne honored with Coconut Creek Butterfly Award

FROM PRESS RELEASE

C C N CREE  
— Seminole Casino Coconut  
Creek Community Relations  
representative Tracy Lautomne  
was recently honored with the  
Coconut Creek Butterfly Award,  
which recognizes outstanding civic  
leadership.

Presented by the Coconut  
Creek Chamber Council, the  
annual award goes to an individual  
who gives unselfishly of their time  
and talent, while making a positive  
impact on the community. The  
individual has to live or work in  
Coconut Creek and be active in  
more than one organization.

A South Florida resident for 45  
years, Lautomne is involved with  
a number of area organizations  
in various roles including the  
Coral Springs Regional Chamber  
(Ambassador), Board of Directors  
for CSRC, Board of Governors/  
Co-Chair Coconut Creek Council,  
President of Coconut Creek  
Referral Group, the Boca Raton  
and Delray Beach Chamber of  
Commerce (Ambassador) and the  
Pompano Beach Women's Club.

Lautomne is also active as a  
volunteer with organizations such  
as the DAV American Legion  
Pompano, Tomorrow's Rainbow  
Jail n' Bale, SOS Children's  
Village, Broward Children's



Tracy Lautomne

Health, NFL Caring for Kids and  
JA Fellows Program.

## FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
044807	N/A	IMPERIAL POOL TABLE	BLACK WIDOW	N/A	Poor	\$468.00
65348	N/A	VALLEY COUGAR POOL TABLE	COIN OPERATED 7FT POOL TABLE	N/A	Fair	\$600.00
75371	N/A	VALLEY COUGAR POOL TABLE	COIN OPERATED 7FT POOL TABLE	N/A	Fair	\$600.00
A72590	2004	FORD SUV	FORD EXPLORER (4WD)	162,711	Fair	\$1,061.00
A51000	2008	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F250 XL SUPER DUTY (4X4)	129,525	Fair	\$3,550.00
F33277	2012	FORD SUV	EXPEDITION EL KING RANCH (4X4)	140,205	Fair	\$12,104.00

Note - Previously advertised items are not reflected on this advertisement, only new listings. For more information contact Fixed Assets Dept. 954-966-6300 ext. 20034.

NEW!! - Tribal Members only- access this information at the website: <http://semtribe.com/FixedAssets>. (Registration required)



## Theodore Nelson Sr.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, SW5813, Indian Child Welfare  
Consultant-Expert, Board Member National Indian Child Welfare  
Association, Licensed and Insured, Seminole Health Plan Provider

Are you unhappy with your current counseling/child welfare services?  
Now there are alternative services for you and your family. Philosophically,  
we all have difficulty balancing social life, culture, health, substance use/  
abuse, self-esteem, sense of belonging, emotions, our hopes and dreams.

I offer 20 years of professional experience as a qualified therapist working  
with children, teens and adults in a confidential, private setting in your  
home or my office. I am available for individual counseling, dependency/  
custody cases and tribal court; services are available for all reservations.

Office: (954) 965-4414; cell: (954) 317-8110; 6528 Osceola Circle, Hollywood, Florida 33024