The Seminole Tribune
Voice of the Unconquered
www.seminoletribune.org • 50¢
Volume XLIII • Number 1 January 31, 2019

Seminole Tribe breaks ground for new Lakeland community

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

LAKELAND — Seminoles in the Tampa area can see the light at the end of the tunnel for what will eventually be 150 new homes in Lakeland.

A ceremonial groundbreaking of phase one took place Jan. 23 in front of more than 200 people who gathered at 9523 Moore Road. The site is near where infrastructure work will soon begin for a new residential community.

Tribal Council joined dignitaries from the city of Lakeland and Polk County to mark the occasion, along with Tribal members, Seminole Tribe of Florida employees and visitors.

The message was similar from all who spoke: It's taken a long time to come to fruition, but all the effort, which involved dozens of meetings and years of planning, has finally paid off.

"We started on this journey many, many years ago," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., who described the land the Tribe acquired in Lakeland as "God's country."

Beverly Bidney

From left, Tampa Reservation Culture Language coordinator Herbert Jim, medicine man Bobby Henry and Tampa Reservation administrator Richard Henry stand together at the groundbreaking site for a new Seminole community development in Lakeland on Jan. 23.

Long and winding road

For years, Tribal officials and other stakeholders have been figuring out the best way to create a new community for those who were displaced by the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa. They've tried to do it as quickly as possible as well, to bring together scattered Tampa area residents who have yearned for a reservation of their own.

The Hard Rock Tampa opened in 2004, but Tribal members had to start leaving well before the opening date.

The Tribal Community Development office and its executive director Derek Koger spearheaded much of the work in the final stretch.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, Koger thanked his staff and the many Tribal departments who were involved in the process, including special recognition to Senior Director of Operations Derrick Smith.

"I can't wait to walk into the first home. It's been many years overdue for you to have your own community," Koger said.

Koger then introduced a short video that showed many aerial views of what the landscape of the Lakeland property looks like – a country feel with abundant water features, trees and other vegetation.

"This groundbreaking ceremony is the next step in developing what promises to be a well-planned and vibrant community," Polk County Commissioner George Lindsey said. "You've chosen one of the most beautiful locations in central Florida."

The site includes 752 acres in all, purchased in 2007. It is about 37 miles northeast of the Hard Rock Tampa. The land was put into trust in 2016.

Chairman Osceola said the Tampa community now numbers about 250. About 100 were moved to make way for the casino.

"This is a tremendous achievement. We do this for the Tampa community after all the sacrifices they made so the Tribe could prosper," Chairman Osceola said.

✦ See LAKELAND on page 5A

Alex Johns serves on governor's transition team

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Shortly after last year's gubernatorial election on Nov. 6, the Seminole Tribe's Natural Resources Director Alex Johns received an email from the staff of then Governor-elect Ron DeSantis asking if he would serve on his transition team. Johns and about 40 or 50 others said yes to the request and began to work on policy issues affecting the state.

"I believe this position I have accepted gives the Seminole Tribe a seat at the table and a voice in State policy," Johns wrote in an email to the Board. "The opportunity to serve the Governor and the State of Florida is not one that I take lightly."

Alex Johns

Johns worked on the committee that addressed environmental issues pertaining to water quality and supply, ecosystems, species, natural resources and agriculture. His work on the transition team helped to develop the administration's environmental, natural resources and agriculture policies.

Johns, who also serves as president of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, focused on water quality and supply. Water quality, specifically the abundance of algae, was the biggest challenge because of the perception of the issues versus the science.

Often, the public perception is that

✦ See JOHNS on page 8A

Future Hollywood medical center named for Betty Mae Jumper

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — A matriarch and Seminole legend – one with a long list of personal and professional accomplishments – was honored on the Hollywood Reservation Jan. 16.

A ceremonial groundbreaking for the Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center took place on a plot of land just southeast of the Seminole Classic Casino, with the towering 450-foot guitar-shaped hotel at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood looming in view to the north.

"It's a great and proud day for our family on the occasion of this great and historic dedication," Jumper's son – Moses Jumper Jr., also known as "Bigg Shot" – said. "Her whole life was an adventure. It's the kind of thing they make documentaries or even movies about today."

Indeed a book has already been written about her life, Patsy West's "A Seminole Legend: The Life of Betty Mae Tiger Jumper." West was at the ceremony and shared some of her knowledge of Jumper.

Jumper, born in 1923 in a Seminole camp in Indiantown, Florida, died in 2011 at age 88. She was the Seminole Tribe's first and only Chairwoman, beginning in 1967 at the age of 44.

Jumper Jr. served as the master of ceremonies for the groundbreaking, where generations of his family were in attendance.

Derrick Tiger

Moses Jumper Jr. speaks Jan. 16 at the groundbreaking ceremony for the medical building named in memory of his mother, Betty Mae Jumper, on the Hollywood Reservation.

'Best lady in the world'

All the members of the Tribal Council and Board of Directors, including many former Tribal leaders, spoke in glowing terms of Jumper and the work she did on behalf of the Seminole people.

President Mitchell Cypress said Jumper was his first boss when she was the director of health in 1974. Cypress said when he was born at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami it was Jumper who took the time to visit his mother and is the one who gave him his name.

"She's the best lady in the world. I really admire her," President Cypress said.

Hollywood Board Representative Gordon Wareham reminded everyone of a taste of how many hats Jumper wore in her life – alligator wrestler, historian, author, editor, educator and storyteller.

"I learned how much love this lady had for her people. Not just her Reservation but for all her people. It was a great honor to know this lady. This building will remind us that we live on the shoulders of great people, great leaders," Rep. Wareham said.

Family members and friends spoke of her big heart and shared warm memories they had of her as a generous person and loving mother.

Health care connection

"She will never be forgotten because she lives inside every single one of you," Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said to the rows of Jumper's relatives in the audience.

"She knew we needed health care in our lives," he said.

Of Jumper's many titles and accomplishments, she is well known for her work and advocacy in the realm of health care. She was a nurse for 40 years. The medical center is named after her, in part, for that reason.

"It was one of my goals to make sure the Hollywood community would get a new clinic one day," said Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola. "And without the support of Tribal Council over the past six years we wouldn't be able to be here today."

Councilman Osceola pointed out that the new clinic is actually the second to be named for Jumper. The first was dedicated in Hollywood on Feb. 10, 1984, but it has largely been outgrown.

"Moving forward with this new complex, I believe it's the future for the Hollywood community and it will be here to serve us for many years. All our services will be in one building and we're adding services that we've never had here on the reservation before," Councilman Osceola said.

✦ See BETTY MAE on page 6A

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Editorial

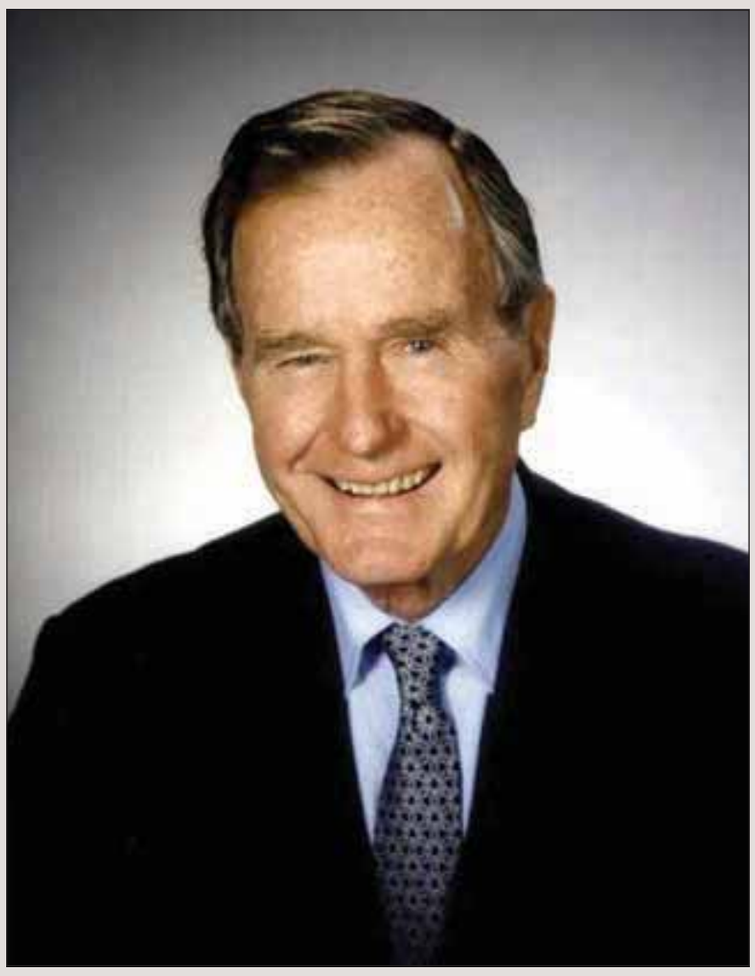
Reflection and appreciation: George H. W. and Barbara Pierce Bush

• Suzan Shown Harjo

In looking back on the year 2018, it is fitting to offer a reflection on and appreciation for the contributions of George Herbert Walker Bush and Barbara Pierce Bush to the federal policy making and institution building affecting the lives and well being of Native Peoples. They both walked on in 2018; she did in April, at 92, and he followed seven months later, at 94.

Only two score of men before George H.W. Bush ever served as President of the United States (POTUS, in official Washingtonese), or "41" as he was known casually. Before serving as POTUS for four years, he was Vice President to President Ronald Reagan for eight years, as well as President of the Senate. Before that, he was Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Ambassador to the United Nations, a Member of Congress, an oilman in Texas and the youngest Navy aviator, a fighter pilot in WWII.

He and Barbara Pierce Bush were married for 73 years, the marriage of longest duration in presidential history. She was Second Lady and First Lady for a dozen years. They were parents of six -- including one Governor (Jeb Bush of Florida) and one President (George W. Bush, "43") – and were only one of two presidential couples to be parents to a president, second only to John and Abigail Adams and their son John Quincy Adams.



Bush made history for Native Peoples, and Barbara Bush was no bystander

Bush was the POTUS who signed into law the National Museum of the American Indian Act, the repatriation laws and the Native American Language Act, and she helped him with Native advocacy. That, right there, puts him in the stratosphere of presidents who made gains for and with Native Peoples.

In 2000, I wrote a column for Indian Country Today ranking the presidents who served between 1963 and 2000 in terms of tangible, substantive and far-reaching accomplishments, considering also how they used the bully pulpit, how long they were in office and what else they did with their time.

President Bush came in second of seven (the first two being one-termers), in this order: Jimmy Carter (D/1977-1981). George H.W. Bush (R/1989-1993). Richard M. Nixon (R/1969-1974). Lyndon B. Johnson (D/1963-1969). Gerald R. Ford (R/1974-1977). William Jefferson Clinton(D/1993-2001). Ronald Reagan (R/1981-1989). In the next iteration of the rankings, Bush likely will remain close to the top after consideration of those who served from 2000 to the present: Presidents George W. Bush, Barrack Obama and Donald J. Trump.

Bush "41" approved establishment of and appropriations for the National Museum of the American Indian, and the repatriation laws that are among the most important Native human rights policies in U.S. history.

Now 20 years old, the NMAI has offices and a permanent exhibit space at the historic Custom House at the tip of Manhattan in New York City; the Cultural Resources Center for housing, caring for and researching collections in Suitland, Maryland; and the stunning NMAI Museum on the Mall, which faces the U.S. Capitol and sits between the Botanical Gardens and the National Air and Space Museum.

Already a Capitol Hill destination lunch café of Native foods, the NMAI Mall Museum will open the National Native American Veterans Memorial in 2020.

The 1989 National Museum of the American Indian Act contains the historic repatriation provision that mandated the Smithsonian Institution to return Native remains and cultural items, an agreement with Native Peoples that was prerequisite to nationalizing the vast collection of the predecessor in New York, the Museum of the American Indian.

Bush signed the sweeping 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which set a national process for all federal and federally-assisted museums, agencies and educational institutions to return human remains, funerary items, sacred objects and cultural patrimony to Native Peoples.

He signed the 1990 Native American Languages Act, the far-reaching law that declared: "It is the policy of the United States to—(1) preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American languages…."

It is the signature of "41" on a host of landmark laws: establishing the Indian Memorial at the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (and dropping the name of Custer from the battlefield's designation); promoting authenticity in Indian arts and crafts and bowing to Native Nations' sovereignty; providing Native Hawaiian health care; promoting adult and child literacy; and protecting Indian children and preventing family violence.

Bush approved measures for Indian law enforcement reform, economic development, technology-related education and for tribal self-governance programs. And, the early, difficult implementation of the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act fell to his Administration.

Much of what President Bush made legal mandates had to do with respect. Respect for the essential place Native Nations hold in this part of Mother Earth, in the international history of the hemisphere and in the United States formation and future. Respect for Native Peoples' inherent sovereignty, as with the sole right of Native Nations to determine citizenship and secure the safety and well being of citizens and others in Native lands.

Both George and Barbara Bush were instrumental, mostly behind the scenes, in correcting federal policies of the distant past and during their own time. He often used his Capitol office as President of the Senate and others' leadership rooms for meetings among Native leaders and Members of Congress -- including Senators Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO), Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI) and John S. McCain (R-AZ), and Representative Sidney R. Yates (D-IL) – who championed Native rights and had pivotal positions on Indian affairs authorizing and appropriating panels.

Second Lady Bush sometimes held teas or lunches for small groups at the Vice President's Residence at Number One Observatory Circle, two miles from the White House. As First Lady, she used her East Wing offices for gatherings, with the occasional unscheduled drop-in by her husband. Their arranged conversations were key to positive outcomes of certain appropriations and repatriation matters.

Barbara Bush may not have been present for every meeting or a party to any decisions, but her fine hand was evident in her husband's actions, and her personal and official courtesies and kindnesses eased the way and were necessary and appreciated.

Bush family and Apache ancestors – intersections

Bush's father was Senator Prescott Sheldon Bush (R-CT, 1952-1963), who was a banker and policymaker. The elder Bush (1895-1972) was a Yale University graduate and member of Yale seniors' secret Skull and Bones Society, as were his POTUS son and grandson. Skull and Bones meetings are said to be opened with the purported remains of Chiricahua Apache leader Goyathlay (1829-1909), popularly known as Geronimo.

A 1918 letter from one Bonesman to another claims that the 22-year-old Prescott Bush and friends robbed the grave of Goyathlay in 1917, eight years after he was buried as a prisoner of war at Fort Sill Army base near Lawton, Oklahoma, where the Bonesmen were stationed for military training. The letter states: "The skull of the worthy Geronimo the Terrible, exhumed from its tomb at Fort Sill by your club ... is now safe inside the (Skull and Bones building, the "Tomb") together with his well-worn femurs, bit and saddle horn."

The letter is authenticated and the existence of a skull and bones confirmed, but the identity of the remains and the manner of acquisition have yet to be proved. What is not open to question is that generations of Bonesmen have participated in activities that tacitly sanction grave robbing and desecration of a human being's remains, however, wherever and whomever obtained.

It's important to recount this grizzly history here because it was told to Vice President Bush by reporters, historians and Native advocates, and because of what he did with the knowledge of rumors, lore and facts of his family history. A faithful son and Bonesman, he did not comment publicly on the matter. I don't know about his conversations with others, but he asked what I believed.

I told the then-Vice President I believed that Skull and Bones had someone's remains, but I had two reasons for disbelieving that they were Geronimo's remains.

First: this history was related to me years earlier by Fort Sill Apache Tribal Chair Mildred Cleghorn (1910-1997), who was born into captivity as a prisoner of war of Goyathlay's band. She said she knew the story was made up, because his relatives

✦ See BUSH on page 6C

Overwhelming support for Indian Child Welfare Act

On Jan. 16, 325 tribal nations, 57 Native organizations, 21 states, 31 child welfare organizations, Indian and constitutional law scholars, and seven members of Congress joined the United States and four intervenor tribes in filing briefs to urge the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit to uphold the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), the long-standing federal law protecting the well-being of Native children by upholding family integrity and stability. Here is a joint press release from the National Indian Child Welfare Association, National Congress of American Indians, Association on American Indian Affairs, and Native American Rights Fund.

"The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is child welfare best practice. Thirty-one leading child welfare organizations stated that ICWA serves the best interest of Native children and families with their declaration that ICWA is the 'gold standard' of child welfare policy," said Sarah Kastelic, executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association. "As experts in research, education, advocacy, and providing services related to child welfare, adoption, and court-system reform, these organizations know that ICWA ensures all children and families receive the protections they deserve and that all children fare better when placed with family."

"The National Congress of American Indians is moved by the overwhelming support to uphold the Indian Child Welfare Act, which protects the best interests of American Indian and Alaska Native children. Tribal nations know, firsthand, the positive impact, the certainty, and stability that ICWA provides to our children in state-based child welfare systems," said Jefferson Keel, president of the National Congress of American Indians. "Bottom line, ICWA works and the FifthCircuit Court of Appeals should overturn the erroneous district court decision and support American Indian and Alaska Native children and families because it's the right thing to do."

"The State of Texas and other Plaintiffs, supported by the Goldwater Institute, bring this litigation against the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) stating that it seeks to protect the equal rights of American Indian children," said Shannon Keller O'Loughlin, executive director of the Association on American Indian Affairs, "but ICWA is equal rights and human rights legislation. Statistics show that state systems continue to remove Indian children from their families at greater rates than white children, even though incidents of neglect or abuse are similar. Current studies that have researched systemic bias in the child welfare system have found that Indian families were two times more likely to be investigated and four times more likely to have their children removed and placed in foster care than their white counterparts. ICWA was meant to provide protections against this systemic bias and reduce the overrepresentation of Indian children into these systems."

"The Native American Rights Fund, along with our co-counsel at Dentons, is honored to represent the 325 tribal nations and 57 Native organizations that are signatories to the Tribal Amicus Brief," said Erin Dougherty Lynch, senior staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund. "The district court's interpretation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) has never been adopted by any other court, makes no practical sense, is directly contrary to ICWA's policy and purpose, and finds no support in centuries of established federal Indian law. Indian Country is united in its support for ICWA, and we are confident the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals will overturn the district court's decision."

NAJA calls Huffington Post reporting irresponsible

• Native American Journalists Association

The Native American Journalists Association expresses concern about the Huffington Post's "Mainstream Media Is Blowing Its Coverage Of Elizabeth Warren's DNA Test" article by Jennifer Bendery and its impact on Indigenous communities and tribal citizens.

It is the job of journalists to analyze and contextualize information for audiences, and as per the SPJ Code of Ethics, it is a basic tenet of journalism to "take special care not to misrepresent or oversimplify in promoting, previewing or summarizing a story." The Huffington Post, however, has not followed this established guideline and has oversimplified a complex topic that is critically important to Indigenous communities.

Ms. Bendery has applied a shallow analysis to a complicated, emotionally charged topic that has invited multiple interpretations from all corners of Indian Country, and concluded that "tribal leaders have far more pressing matters to deal with than a senator's DNA test." This analysis is not only inaccurate, it is a disservice to audiences that may not be familiar with how charged Warren's DNA results have been and betrays the trust and agency of Indigenous communities most impacted.

Perhaps most egregiously, the story provides no analysis about the underlying question that is the central issue: Is Warren's claim and the roll out of the DNA test results harmful to Native people and their political and cultural identity? The answer to this question lies at the heart of the controversy, and Huffington Post's failure to examine it is negligent and irresponsible.

The story minimizes the consequences and concern surrounding Warren's DNA test results by comparing them to issues like domestic abuse, teen suicide, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. To suggest that the response to Warren's DNA test is overblown because tribal leaders have more "pressing matters," is inadequate.

Additionally, to misrepresent the role or authority of an Indigenous official, such as the Cherokee Nation's Secretary of State, demonstrates an alarming lapse in fact checking, a fundamental misunderstanding of tribal politics and governmental structure and a deplorable error in sourcing.

The idea that a handful of Indigenous people can speak for the majority is deeply rooted in hurtful stereotypes, colonial attitudes and ideas of racial superiority. Indigenous communities often hold conflicting viewpoints on important issues and show concern about multiple matters affecting their lives.

NAJA hopes that Bendery, her editors and staff at Huffington Post reflect on this ethical negligence, apologize for their insensitive reporting, and employ substantive changes to improve their analysis of issues affecting Indigenous communities. NAJA also recommends that Huffington Post reporters take part in cultural sensitivity training to avoid publishing such errors in the future.

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

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

Subscription rate is $35 per year by mail.
Make checks payable to:
The Seminole Tribune
3560 N. State Road 7
Hollywood, FL 33021
Phone: 954-985-5700
Fax: 954-965-2937

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

Issue: February 28, 2019
Deadline: February 13, 2019

Issue: March 29, 2019
Deadline: March 13, 2019

Issue: April 30, 2019
Deadline: April 17, 2019

Please note: Submissions that come past deadline will be published in the following issue.

Advertising:
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The Seminole Tribune
3560 N. State Road 7
Hollywood, FL 33021

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Community

ERMD monitors quality of water flowing through BC, Brighton

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

2018 was a tough year for water in Florida. An enormous, toxic blue-green algae bloom engulfed most of Lake Okeechobee while a red tide afflicted the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic shores and wildlife.

Through it all, the Tribe's Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) steadily monitored water flowing into and out of the reservations. Terms of a water compact with the state and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) prescribes and protects the Tribe's right to use the water.

Additionally, the Tribe reports to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) annually to satisfy terms of grants. The most recent reports, for 2018, were sent on Dec. 21.

In 1996 the Seminole Tribe of Florida was the first tribe on the East Coast of the U.S., and fifth nationwide, to receive Treatment as a State designation by the EPA for purposes of administering a water quality program.

ERMD's mission is to protect and evaluate the Tribe's land and water resources and to facilitate the wise use and conservation of these resources, so the department uses their expertise to manage the program. One of its responsibilities is to analyze water samples to measure the concentration of pollutants in the water, including phosphorus and other nutrients.

Big Cypress has 15 miles of canals, which get water from the SFWMD basins north and west of the reservation. Brighton Reservation's water flows south from the Kissimmee River basin through the 21 miles of its canals. All water must meet state quality standards when it flows out of the reservations.

"What matters is that the Tribe doesn't pollute its own land," said Lisa Meday, ERMD water quality program specialist. "We are essentially in tandem with the state to meet the standards."

In June, two months before toxic cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, was found in Lake Okeechobee, ERMD water quality technicians discovered it flowing into a Brighton canal from the Kissimmee River basin north of the reservation and sampled it to prove it didn't come from Tribal water.

"They were seed cells; all they need is sun and nutrients to grow," Meday said. "We saw it flowing from upstream into Lake Okeechobee before it made headlines. We watched it fly by."

Identifying the source of the nutrients is difficult and may include septic systems, wastewater treatment plants, agriculture, sludge trucked from these plants to the middle of the state for farming, sediments in canals and natural conditions. As phosphorus and other toxins get into the water, they can fall into the sediment and then be churned up whenever the water moves.

The concentrations of nutrients including phosphorus are lower leaving the reservations than coming in, which indicates the Tribe is not polluting the water and the nutrients are likely settling in the sediment. As stated in the compact, SFWMD recognizes that the Tribe is not responsible for treating storm water runoff discharged by others.

"Our water is cleaner when it leaves the reservation," said Alex Johns, the Tribe's natural resource director. "It's simple science. When nutrient laden water goes across cow pastures, the marsh grass sucks it up, cows eat the grass and excrete the phosphorus. The cow is the perfect mechanism to harvest nutrients out of the water. The waste goes into land as more organic fertilizer."

When calves are sold and shipped out of the reservation, they typically have about three to 10 pounds of phosphorus in their bodies. That phosphorus is shipped out west with the animals.

"Everyone thinks they are contaminating it, but the cows are cleaning up the water," Johns said. "They eat way more phosphorus than they excrete; their bodies utilize it for bone growth and to maintain the skeleton."

Johns believes the solution is to work with ranchers since they provide cattle that can clean the water systems before they get to the estuaries.

"People think we need to get rid of ranchers but that's as far from the truth as we can get," he said. "I'm not the smartest person in the world, but I could calculate how many acres of pasture and how many cows you need to get rid of the phosphorus problem. We know how much phosphorus a cow leaves Florida with; it's simple but people want to overcomplicate it. The best way to do it is to do it naturally as nature intended."

Rainfall is also a factor in water quality. In 2018, BC received about 50 inches of rainfall and Brighton had about 42 inches; both quantities were among the lowest in eight years. The rainy season in BC began in May and peaked in July; in Brighton it began and peaked in May.

When the Tribe's water reserves are depleted by lack of rainfall, the reservations rely on water flowing in the canals. Indeed, for two thirds of 2018 water was taken from the canals for pasture irrigation and other uses. Drinking water is not affected since it comes from aquifers, not canals.

The flow of the canals is controlled by SFWMD which is responsible for 16 counties in the southern half of the state, not just the reservations.

SFWMD works with the reservations to ensure there is enough water in the canals. In BC, there is a water rights agreement in place that guarantees 47,000 acre feet of water per year. A U.S. Geological Survey stream gauging station is there to monitor the flow.

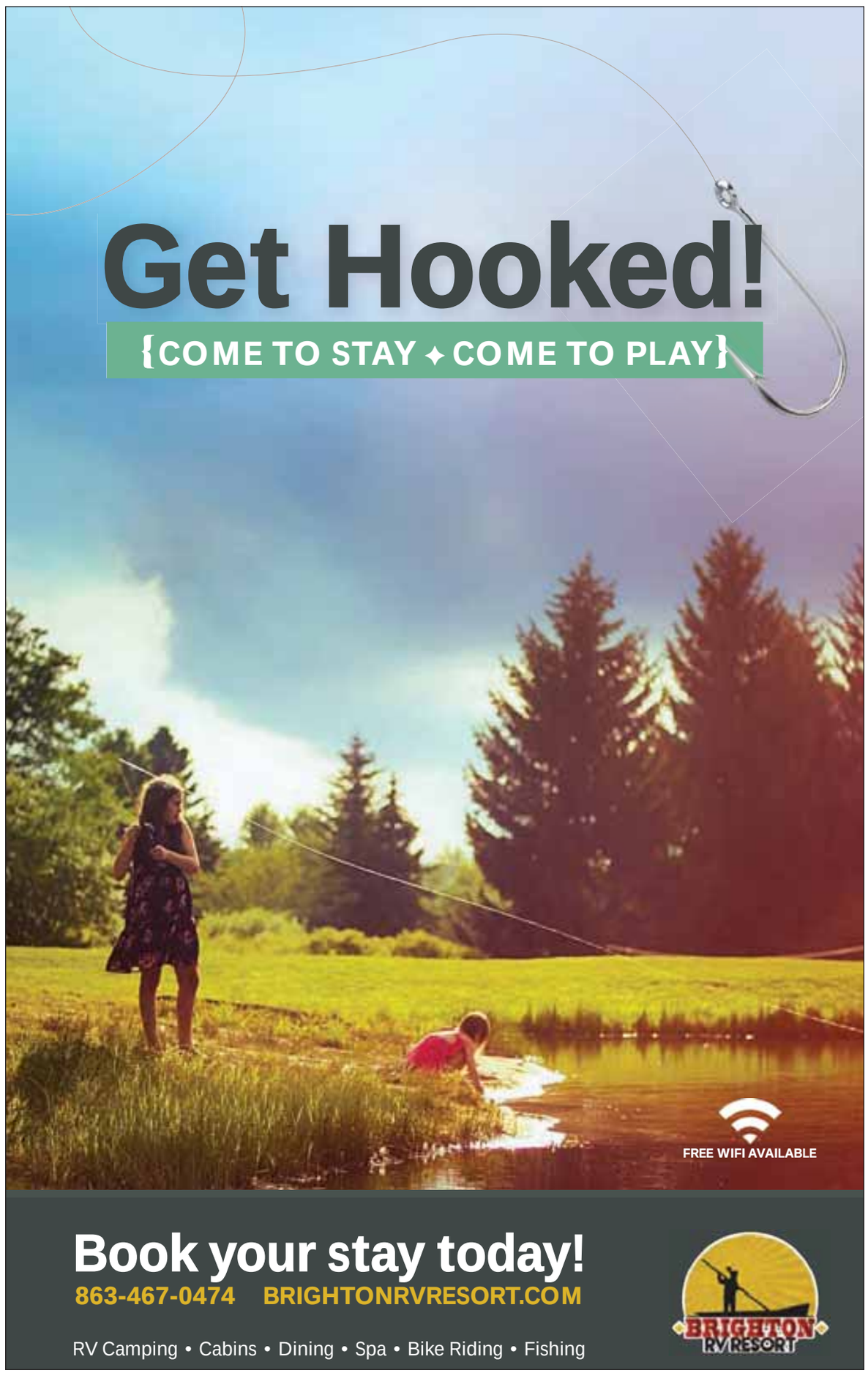
In Brighton, the SFWMD has committed to keep water levels high enough to replenish the water supply. Four new USGS stream gauging stations have been built at upstream and downstream locations.

"Now we can monitor the amount of water flowing to protect the Tribe's water supply," Meday said. "In the water compact, Brighton has water rights to 15 percent of the water in the Indian Prairie Basin and an additional share from the Lakeshore Perimeter Basin."

For the Tribe, water quality is more than just the total amount of the phosphorus the water contains. Tribal water program also monitors the health and diversity of aquatic species and levels of pollutants in those species since many Tribal members enjoy hunting, fishing and trapping. To that end, the Tribe also monitors bacteria, metals, pesticides and herbicides to keep pace with new technologies

Beverly Bidney

ERMD water quality technician Tasanee Craig and RESTORE summer student worker Gracie Lorber take water samples in the native area of Big Cypress in July 2018 as part of the ongoing monitoring of water on Tribal land.



Prominence in the pastures

Hard work, family legacies at core of re-established Florida Seminole Cattlewomen Association

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Since nearly half of the Seminole Tribe's 67 cattle owners are women, it is clear that a woman's place is in the pastures.

On Nov. 1, about a dozen of the 29 female cattle owners re-established the Florida Seminole Cattlewomen Association, whose goal is to promote the cattle industry and beef statewide.

"This group started in 2009," said President Emma Urbina. "Now we are re-booting and getting it set up again. This is our first full meeting."

Other officers of the cattlewomen's association are Wendi Riley, vice president; Lucy M. Bowers, secretary; and Carla Gopher Rodriguez, treasurer.

Prior to the meeting, Bowers spoke at length with the Florida Cattlewomen, which is affiliated with the Florida Cattlemen's Association.

"They are excited to get involved and help us build a foundation as a long lasting organization," Bowers said.

Historically, Seminole women cooked for the cowhands and worked with the cows; Bowers said they were used to doing double duty. But the women who are in charge of their herds today take on the full responsibility of the herd with confidence.

Some of the women inherited their herds and others purchased cows, but all were raised around cattle and the industry. Martha Jones, of Big Cypress, bought her own cows but previously was a shareholder with her brothers in her father's herd. Urbina, of Brighton, has a couple of combined herds, with her brothers, which they inherited from both of her parents.

"It's humbling. You work hard for it; it's your land, your power. You maintain the land; God's not making any more of it."

- Larissa Tucker

"I enjoy being out there around the calves," Jones said.

The women tend to stay in the cattle industry for the family legacy; no one at the meeting could remember anyone who opted out of taking care of the cattle. Some families are descended from the original owners from the 1940s.

"I like knowing where we came from," Riley said.

Larissa Tucker, who lives in Hawaii most of the year, manages her father Alex Tucker's herd in Brighton. She comes back during work dates throughout the year. When she isn't there, Norman Johns takes care of the Tucker Ridge herd.

Beverly Bidney

Cattle owner Janice Osceola poses in her Big Cypress pasture with grandchildren Martha Osceola-Turtle and Ariel Osceola-Turtle and some of her herd.

Beverly Bidney

Members of the Seminole Cattlewomen's Association gather for a portrait before a meeting Jan. 15 in Brighton. From left, Treasurer Carla Gopher Rodriguez, President Emma Urbina, member Martha Jones, Vice President Wendi Riley and Secretary Lucy M. Bowers.

"I feel it is time to let the world know that empowered women own and operate a cattle business just like the men do," Tucker said. "I am the third generation; my grandfather Johnny Tucker got his cattle in 1952. My kids will be the fourth generation."

Janice Osceola's father, Joe Osceola Sr., almost walked away from the cattle industry as a young man.

"An older cattle owner talked him into staying and helped him hang in there," Osceola said. "We still have that herd today. He was one of the last original cattle owners."

Osceola manages the herd with family members including her son Randall Osceola, brother Samuel Osceola and nephew Sam Jr. It's not an easy task, but clearly she enjoys it.

During the busiest times – with vaccinations, pregnancy checks and calf shipping – Osceola is in the pasture at 6 a.m. to let in the cowhands. During the rest of the year, she goes to her Big Cypress pasture nearly every day to feed the animals. She has been working with cattle all her life.

"When I was old enough, my father put me on a horse," Osceola said. "I've been working cows ever since."

Once the business of the Florida Seminole Cattlewomen Association was complete, the women reflected on their chosen lifestyle.

"I respect the tradition," said Gopher Rodriguez. "We used to have nothing, just the cattle."

"It's humbling," Tucker said. "You work hard for it; it's your land, your power. You maintain the land; God's not making any more of it."

48th annual Seminiole Tribal Fair and Pow set for Hard Rock

BY DERRICKTIGER
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The 48th annual Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow will be held at Hard Rock Hotel Casino Hollywood from Feb. 8-10.

The free family event will feature Native culture, art, dancing, and fry bread. Alligator wrestling, wildlife shows and live performances from multiple Native music artists and country music singer Gretchen Wilson are among the entertainment highlights. Additionally, the Native Reel Cinema Festival will be held Friday and Saturday evenings.

The Tribal Fair and Pow Wow brings together various Native tribes and nations to celebrate a weekend of Indigenous culture and traditions. Coinciding with the Tribal Fair is the third annual Youth and Adult Basketball Tournament at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center.

The Native Reel Cinema Festival will be screening the independent film "Smoke Signals" in honor of its 21st anniversary, which will be June 26. The festival will also feature two short films made by Native Americans.

The Tribal Fair and Pow Wow has been a South Florida staple for nearly half a century as it offers a glimpse into Native American culture and heritage.

For more information visit semtribefairandpowwow.com or call the Tribal Fair information line at 866-625-5374.

Friday, Feb. 8
(Hard Rock Event Center)
10 a.m. Event Center opens, Brian Zepeda emcee
11 a.m. Seminole War tactics demo
12 p.m. alligator wrestling
1 p.m. Cowbone band
2 p.m. Pow Wow Grand Entry
5 p.m. Anthony Balentine, Carradine Billie, DC
6 p.m. Osceola Brothers
7 p.m. Pow Wow Grand Entry
11 p.m. Pow Wow ends
(Hard Rock Salon West)
8-8:30 p.m. Native celebrities photo-op
8-10 p.m. Native Reel Cinema Festival – "Smoke Signals"

Saturday, Feb. 9
(Hard Rock Event Center)
9 a.m. Event Center opens, Brian Zepeda emcee
9 a.m. Traditional Seminole clothing contest (Terrace Ballroom)
10 a.m. Seminole War tactics demo
11 a.m. alligator wrestling
12-5 p.m. Pow Wow Grand Entry
5 p.m. Anthony Balentine, Carradine Billie, DC
6 p.m. Osceola Brothers
7 p.m. Pow Wow Grand Entry
11 p.m. Pow Wow ends
(Hard Rock Salon West)
1-2 p.m. Native celebrities photo op
2-4 p.m. Native Reel Cinema Festival – "Thunderdance" and "Two Brothers"

Sunday, Feb. 10 11 a.m. Event Center opens, Juaquin Hamilton/Howard Thompson emcees
11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dance Special Finals
1 p.m. Carradine Billie, DC (Terrace Ballroom)
2:15 p.m. Jessie G.
3 p.m. Gretchen Wilson concert
6 p.m. Tribal Fair ends

HRI enters casino venture in California

Partners with Enterprise Rancheria tribe

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole owned Hard Rock International (HRI) has entered into a hotel and casino partnership with Northern California tribe Enterprise Rancheria.

HRI will manage the Hard Rock Hotel Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain, scheduled to open this year.

The partnership constitutes a management and brand license agreement, according to Suzi Hansen of the Zimmerman Agency. Enterprise Rancheria owns the property and licenses the brand from Hard Rock.

While other tribes are licensees and operate Hard Rock casinos, this is the first such deal with another tribe that involves management of a casino by HRI, Hansen explained.

Officials are calling it a "historic partnership between two Native American tribes."

The resort is expected to feature an eight-story hotel with more than 150 rooms. The 320,000-square-foot property will also feature a casino, pool, restaurants, bar, gift shop and conference facilities. It will be built on 40 acres in a rural area of Yuba County within the Tribe's lands.

The project is expected to employ about 1,300 in both specialized and general positions.

As part of the partnership, Mark Birtha was named president of the property.

Birtha is responsible for the operations of the hotel and casino, and will serve as the main point of contact between the Seminole Tribe, HRI and Enterprise Rancheria.

"As an industry leader, Mark is the perfect candidate to bridge the exciting collaboration between the two tribes," Glenda Nelson, tribal chairperson of Enterprise Rancheria said in a statement. "We are pleased to unite with one of the most exciting and authentic gaming, hospitality and entertainment leaders in the world and can't wait to see what the future holds."

Birtha has more than 25 years of experience in the gaming and hospitality field, most recently as the president of Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park near Cleveland, Ohio.

Hard Rock

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento President Mark Birtha

Prior starting his career with Hard Rock, Birtha was vice president and general manager at Station Casinos in the greater Las Vegas, Nevada, area – a business that operates nine hotel-casino properties.

"Mark's experience and passion for the brand make him the ideal leader for Hard Rock Hotel Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain," Jon Lucas, COO of HRI said in a statement. "While working with Mark over the past few years, I have witnessed firsthand the talent and devotion that makes him an industry leader and I am confident he will continue that track record of success in this new endeavor."

Birtha has also worked for Mirage Resorts, Las Vegas Sands, Station Casinos, Marriott International and Starwood.

He has managed operations in Native American gaming enterprises as well. He was president of Sol Casinos and the AVA Amphitheater near Tucson for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Birtha oversaw the design, construction and operations of Casino Del Sol's $130 million hotel resort expansion development there.

Birtha earned a degree from the Hotel School at Cornell University and has a long list of career honors.

He's been recognized as a G2E Industry Executive Ambassador (2015); one of the Faces of Cleveland (2016); a 2017 Human Rights Campaign Ohio honoree/speaker; the honorary chair of the 2017 Urban League of Cleveland's 100th Anniversary Gala; a 2017 Susan G. Komen NE Ohio Pink Tie Guy award recipient; the 2018 Employer Support of Guard and Reserve of Ohio honoree and keynote speaker; and is a 2018 Urban League of Akron President's Award for Community Leadership recipient.

Tampa community looks forward to new Lakeland development

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

LAKELAND — The Tampa community gathered Jan. 23 to celebrate the groundbreaking of what will soon be their new neighborhood in Lakeland.

About 100 members of the community were moved off the Tribe's land in 1999 to make way for what would become the Tampa Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. The community scattered far and wide as they found homes in towns around the central Florida region, from Tampa to Orlando and beyond.

"We are trying to get our community back together," said Richard Henry, Tampa Reservation administrator. "Most haven't lived on a reservation before, this will be a first. We want to establish more culture and get younger people interested so they can step up and learn and then carry our history with them."

The 752 acre site will include 150 homes on 1-acre lots, a community center and more when the project is complete. Medicine man Bobby Henry would like to see a farm on the site to teach the next generation.

"We've been waiting and waiting," Henry said. "I feel real good about today. I need to keep talking to the young people, they don't know enough about the culture. I just want to make people understand. As I get older, I feel like I want to go faster and do more things. I'm going to keep telling our people's story."

Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. has been involved in the process of creating a community near Tampa from nearly the beginning.

"Families here want to get back together and live among themselves," Councilman Bowers said. "When the casino came in and they had to move out, they wound up scattered throughout Hillsborough County. We had to find an area they could get together. We searched long and hard and settled on this land."

The Tribe purchased the land in 2006 and started the process to get the federal government to put into trust, which finally happened in 2016.

"We've been asking for so many years," Nancy Frank said. "It'll be good to see the young ones make it their home. This is a chance for us to live together as a family."

The crowd gathered on the edge of the property's cypress swamp, where an excavator and a bulldozer flanked a large pile of dirt. Tribal and local dignitaries lifted golden shovels, pushed them into the dirt and heaved it away as the official groundbreaking took place.

The atmosphere was festive and Tribal members got into the spirit of the day. Some posed for photos; others shoveled the dirt.

"We've heard this voice since the early 1980s," said Randy Santiago. "The lord has come through for our people. Praise God."

Tina Smith moved from Bradenton to Tampa in 1980 and then to Brandon when Tribal members were moved off the Tampa land. It was hard for her to balance being Native American without having a Seminole community nearby.

"It will be good to get a reservation established for our community," Smith said. "I hope my son will move here, it'll be good for him to be with other Native Americans."

Dylanie Henry and Stacy Smith were very enthusiastic about the Lakeland property.

"It will be good for my daughter to grow up with the community," said Henry, with daughter Annie Washington, 1, in her arms. "It's harder being in the city."

"I'm glad I'm able to see it happen," Smith said. "We are an established Tribe, but it will be good to have a place to go. It's good to be back out in the woods, it's where we belong."

Beverly Bidney

Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., medicine man Bobby Henry, Senior Director of Operations Derrick Smith, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., President Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, Tampa Reservation administrator Richard Henry, Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank and other dignitaries toss dirt signifying the official groundbreaking of the Lakeland property Jan. 23.

✦ LAKELAND
From page 1A

Building a community

Smith said after the infrastructure is completed, building will start on 47 homes with 1-acre lots and different square footage options. The first phase is expected to take about a year to complete.

The originally displaced Tribal members will be first in line to apply for the new homes, Smith said.

He said staff is also working on the design for a community center, which he hopes will be completed at about the same time the first homes are done.

"It will be a flexible space to meet the needs of the residents," Smith said.

Other government structures will come later, and the Seminole Police Department and Fire Rescue will forge arrangements with Polk County officials.

'It takes a village'

Herbert Jim, the Tampa culture language director, and Tampa Reservation administrator Richard Henry were on the forefront of bringing Tribal members to the land in Lakeland and showing them its potential.

The two say they always thought it was important for those who have been scattered around Tampa to be able to gather in one location.

Jim and Henry started holding community events on the site at Moore Road. They developed a cooking area, fire pit, and held cultural gatherings like Indian Day at the site – including times of song and dance.

They wanted to make it a welcoming place, where Native language was spoken and the culture was preserved.

"It takes a village to raise children, so they can see the traditional ways," Jim said. "It has now come about. This is their home now."

President Mitchell Cypress said the location of the land, which is away from big cities, is important.

"We need to get our youngsters into a wooded area where it's clean, fresh air," President Cypress said.

Brighton Representative Andrew J. Bowers Jr. said he represents the Lakeland community as well as his own.

"When we bought the property, we didn't know that there were several owners and that set us back for about six years or so," Councilman Bowers said.

"We finally got the past owners off the ownership and asked the big folks in Washington that oversee Indian Affairs to take it into trust, and they did that about two years ago with the understanding that they're holding it for the Seminole People for you to use how you want it," he said.

Beverly Bidney

Tampa resident Nancy Frank and other community members celebrate the groundbreaking of the Lakeland community, which when complete will have 150 homes.

Beverly Bidney

A Kodak moment as a youngster runs in front of a community group photo at the groundbreaking.

Beverly Bidney

Tampa community members Susie Doctor, Jane Osceola, Bobby Henry and Linda Lee Henry toss some dirt on the site of future Lakeland community.

Courtesy SMP

A rendering of the Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center which will be built in Hollywood.

BETTY MAE

From page 1A

State o t e art acility

The medical center will be two stories tall and 40,000 square feet.

"We will have new pediatric dentistry services. We already provide medical pediatric service, but it will be expanded to include more treatment rooms," said Dr. Paul Isaacs, executive director of Health Human Services for the Seminole Tribe.

"Essentially, all programs under Health Human Services will be under the same roof to provide integrated and care coordination services," he said.

Other features and new services, according to Isaacs, include:

Dialysis treatment.

A pharmacy, including a drive-thru option.

An additional triage station.

Space that can be utilized during hurricane season to house special needs Tribal members in the event of an evacuation.

Health plan administration to discuss benefits; advocacy and guardianship.

Mental and behavioral health.

Optometry/optical services.

Massage therapy.

Chiropractic, spine care services.

Physical therapy.

"The new [center] is significant in that it will provide more urgent care services than is currently offered at the present clinic. Additionally, the services will be integrated and provide for enhanced service delivery and 'warm hand-offs' for referrals within Health Human Services ," Isaacs said.

Isaacs has a background that includes both clinical and administrative experience. He has more than 20 years of experience in health care, health care leadership and transformation, and process improvement.

The center is designed to be a hurricane category 5 rated building. It will have dedicated parking, storm water drainage areas, water and sewer infrastructure and an emergency generator unit.

Construction is expected to begin soon. It is expected to be completed in the spring of 2020.

Derrick Tiger

Tribal leaders, officials and Moses Jumper Jr., far left, gather Jan. 16 for the ceremonial groundbreaking where the Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center will be built on the Hollywood Reservation.

Derrick Tiger

From left, Joe Dan Osceola, Judybill Osceola and author Patsy West speak at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center.

Derrick Tiger

Moses Jumper Jr. welcomes Mike Tiger to the stage to say a few comments at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center.

Brighton Field Day Festival & Rodeo turns 81

FROM PRESS RELEASE

B I H ON — Celebrating 81 years, the Brighton Field Day Festival Rodeo will take place at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation in Okeechobee from Feb. 15-17.

Presented by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, many Seminole favorites will return including PRCA Rodeo, clothing contests, American Indian arts crafts and native foods. Attendees may also visit the Seminole Culture Camp where a living Seminole Indian Village will be on display.

Entertainment will include a Saturday evening concert by the Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band. Kenny Wayne Shepherd is widely considered to be one of the best blues/rock guitarists today. The event weekend will also feature native dance troupes from neighboring tribes, storytelling, alligator wrestling and a snake show.

Attendees can visit the sponsor-driven Pro Rodeo Fan Zone on the way into the arena.

Brighton Field Day started in November of 1938. William and Edith Boehmer, two teachers who were residing on the Brighton reservation, got the idea to start a "day of fun." It initially was meant to be a day for Tribal community members to visit, but now thousands of visitors join Seminole Tribal members in this annual celebration.

From Feb. 15-17, gates will open at 9 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m., respectively. Activities begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, 9 a.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. on Sunday.

The PRCA Rodeo will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. The Kenny Wayne Shepherd concert is scheduled for Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

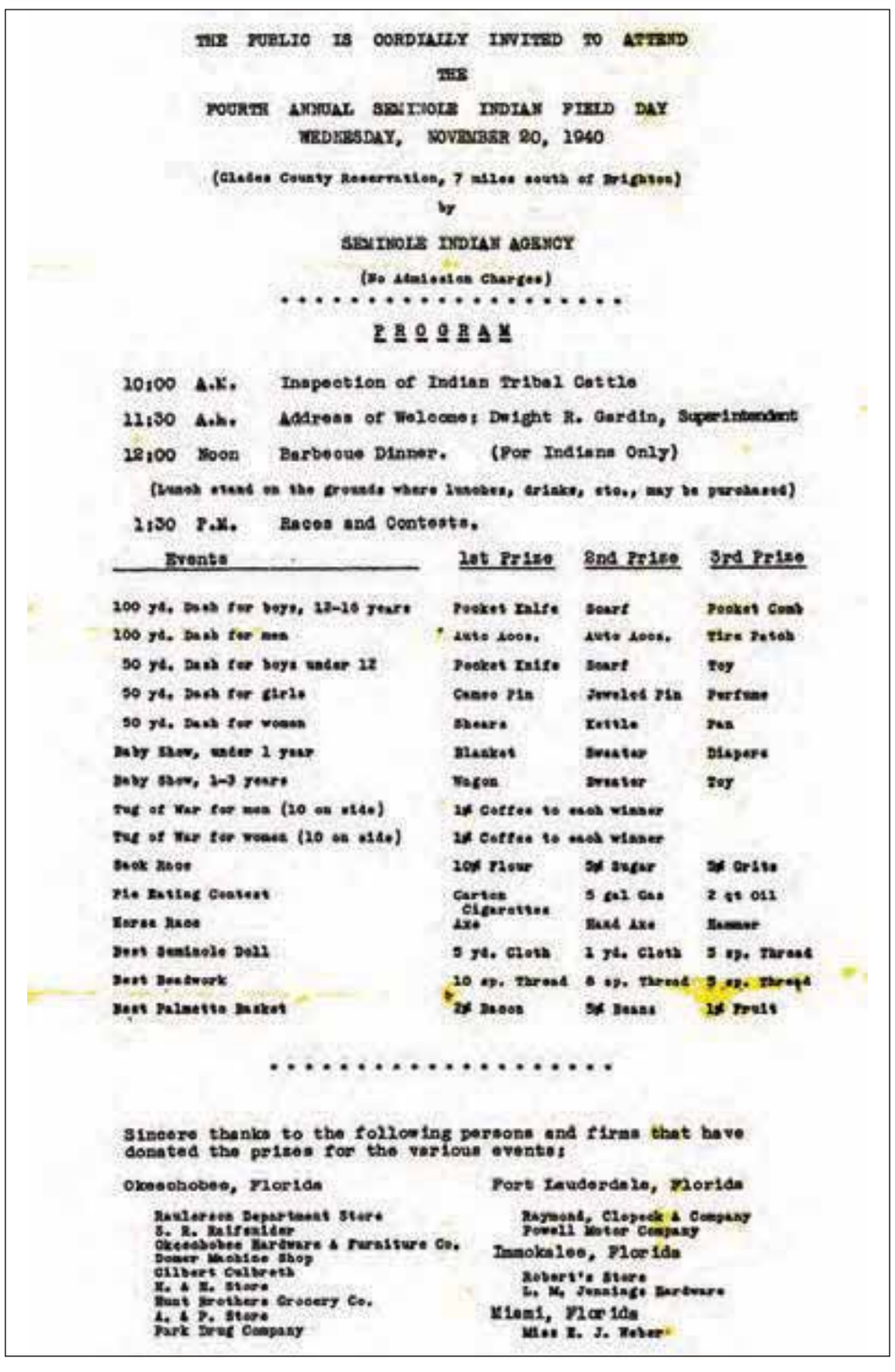
Tickets are $20 each day and event information can be found at www.brightonfieldday.com or call 863 467-6039.

Brig ton Field Day Festival odeo sc edule

Friday, Feb. 1
9:00 a.m. Gates Open
10:00 a.m. Grand Entry Introduction of Tribal Officials & Royalty, Fan Zone, Rita Youngman Band
10:20 a.m. Osceola's Warrior Legacy – Traditional Weapons Demonstration
10:45 a.m. "In Tlanextli Tlacopan" Aztec Fire Dancers
11:10 a.m. The Cowbone Band –Seminole Country Music
11:15 a.m. Alligator Wrestling
11:35 a.m. Laura Grizzlypaws
12:20 p.m. Exhibition Pow Wow Dance
1:00 p.m. Redneck Crazy Band
1:15 p.m. Venomous Snake Show
1:35 p.m. The White Mountain Apache Crown Dancers
2:15 p.m. The Cellicion Traditional Zuni Dancers
3:00 p.m. Freestyle Alligator Wrestling Competition (Preliminary Round), PRCA Rodeo, Indian Relay Race
4:15 p.m. Venomous Snake Show
4:35 p.m. "In Tlanextli Tlacopan" Aztec Fire Dancers
5:00 p.m. Redneck Crazy Band
5:05 p.m. The Cellicion Traditional Zuni Dancers
5:40 p.m. Exhibition PowWow Dance
6:30 p.m. The White Mountain Apache Crown Dancers

Saturday, Feb. 1
8:30 a.m. Gates Open
9:00 a.m. Fan Zone Open, Rita Youngman Band
9:30 a.m. Osceola's Warrior Legacy – Traditional Weapons Demonstration
10:00 a.m. 81st Annual Brighton Field Day Parade Begins
11:00 a.m. Grand Entry, Introduction of Tribal Officials & Royalty
11:10 a.m. The Cowbone Band
11:20 p.m. Laura Grizzlypaws
12:00 p.m. Seminole Women's Traditional Hairstyle Contest, Semionle Men/Women Clothing Contest
12:30 p.m. "In Tlanextli Tlacopan" Aztec Fire Dancers
1:00 p.m. Venomous Snake Show, Horse Race Indian Relay Race, Redneck Crazy Band
1:20 p.m. The White Mountain Apache Dancers
2:05 p.m. The Cellicion Traditional Zuni Dancers
3:00 p.m. Freestyle Alligator Wrestling Competition – Preliminary Round, PRCA Rodeo
4:15 p.m. Exhibition PowWow Dance
4:45 p.m. Venomous Snake Show
5:00 p.m. Laura Grizzlypaws, Redneck Crazy Band
5:45 p.m. Osceola's Warrior Legacy – Traditional Weapons Demonstration
6:10 p.m. "In Tlanextli Tlacopan" Aztec Fire Dancers
6:45 p.m. The White Mountain Apache Dancers
7:30 p.m. Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band

Sunday, Feb. 1
9:00 a.m. Gates Open, Fan Zone
10:00 a.m. Seminole Clothing Contest, Rita Youngman Band
11:00 a.m. Grand Entry, Introduction of Tribal Officials & Royalty
11:10 a.m. The Cowbone Band
11:30 a.m. "In Tlanextli Tlacopan" Aztec Fire Dancers
11:50 a.m. Laura Grizzlypaws
12:35 p.m. Osceola's Warrior Legacy – Traditional Weapons Demonstration
1:00 p.m. The Cellicion Traditional Zuni Dancers, Horse Race Indian Relay Race, Redneck Crazy Band
1:45 p.m. The White Mountain Apache Crown Dancers
2:25 p.m. Venomous Snake Show
3:00 p.m. Freestyle Alligator Wrestling Competition – FINALS, PRCA Rodeo, Professional Bull Riders
4:15 p.m. Laura Grizzlypaws
5:00 p.m. "In Tlanextli Tlacopan" Aztec Fire Dancers, Redneck Crazy Band
5:30 p.m. The Cellicion Traditional Zuni Dancers
6:00 p.m. Exhibition PowWow Dance
6:45 p.m. The White Mountain Apache Crown Dancers



THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
THE
FOURTH ANNUAL SEMINOLE INDIAN FIELD DAY
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1940
(Glades County Reservation, 7 miles south of Brighton)
by
SEMINOLE INDIAN AGENCY
(No Admission Charges)

PROGRAM

10:00 A.M. Inspection of Indian Tribal Cattle
11:30 A.M. Address of Welcome; Dwight R. Gardin, Superintendent
12:00 Noon Barbecue Dinner. (For Indians Only)
(Lunch stand on the grounds where lunches, drinks, etc., may be purchased)
1:30 P.M. Races and Contests.

Events	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
100 yd. Dash for boys, 13-16 years	Pocket Knife	Scarf	Pocket Comb
100 yd. Dash for men	Auto Accs.	Auto Accs.	Tire Patch
50 yd. Dash for boys under 12	Pocket Knife	Scarf	Toy
50 yd. Dash for girls	Cameo Pin	Jeweled Pin	Perfume
50 yd. Dash for women	Shears	Kettle	Pan
Baby Show, under 1 year	Blanket	Sweater	Diapers
Baby Show, 1-3 years	Wagon	Sweater	Toy
Tug of War for men (10 on side)	1# Coffee to each winner		
Tug of War for women (10 on side)	1# Coffee to each winner		
Sack Race	10# Flour	5# Sugar	5# Grits
Pie Eating Contest	Carton Cigarettes	5 gal Gas	2 qt Oil
Horse Race	Axe	Hand Axe	Hammer
Best Seminole Doll	3 yd. Cloth	1 yd. Cloth	3 sp. Thread
Best Beadwork	10 sp. Thread	6 sp. Thread	3 sp. Thread
Best Palmetto Basket	2# Bacon	5# Beans	1# Fruit

Sincere thanks to the following persons and firms that have donated the prizes for the various events:

Okeechobee, Florida
Raulerson Department Store
S. R. Kaiferlider
Okeechobee Hardware & Furniture Co.
Domer Machine Shop
Gilbert Culbreth
K. & K. Store
Hunt Brothers Grocery Co.
A. & P. Store
Park Drug Company

Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Raymond, Clopeck & Company
Powell Motor Company

Immokalee, Florida
Robert's Store
L. M. Jennings Hardware

Miami, Florida
Miss E. J. Weber

Courtesy photo

A program from the fourth annual Field Day in Brighton shows what the festival offered on a Wednesday in November 1940. Contests back then included running, pie eating, tug-of-wars, Seminole dolls and Palmetto baskets. Prizes included pocket knives, blankets, purfume and even diapers in the under age 1 baby show category. Also listed on the program was 'inspection of Indian Tribal cattle' and a barbeque dinner at noon.

Seminoles strut their swines at South Florida Fair

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

WES AL BEA H — Oreste Perez Jr.'s grin was about as wide as his hog's belly.

The 11-year-old had good reason to smile as he returned with his 275-pound hog, aptly named Precious, to the pens in the back barn area while proudly clutching a blue ribbon. While in the show ring moments earlier with about a dozen other competitors in his class, Oreste's hog caught the all-important eyes of the judge. Selected as among the top five in the class for build, they were set aside from the others while the judge determined the order of finish.

Oreste and Precious earned fifth place.

While the previous night agility was the focus of judging, this night it was all about brawn, muscle and physique.

"... one that has some feature, has some stoutness to her skeleton, need to help her in terms of structure to set her back angle of her blade," the judge told the audience about Precious. Then he praised the work of Oreste. "The young man does an excellent job with this project."

It was the start of the two-week South Florida Fair in West Palm Beach, and the Seminole Tribe was well represented in the hog show with Oreste and his brother Timothy Urbina, also 11, as well as Atley Driggers, 11, and Bailey Spurlock, 16. All four showed their hogs in front of hundreds of spectators for three days inside the Agriplex Indoor Barn.

Oreste and Timothy are fourth-graders at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton. Atley is home-schooled. All three represented the Seminole Indian 4-H Club at the fair. Bailey attends Avon Park High School and she represented its Future Farmers of America program.

In addition to Oreste and Precious, the other combinations were Timothy with 231-pound Lustee, which he said means 'black' in the Creek language; Atley with 259-pound Hampton, and Bailey with 258-pound Zeus.

All four youngsters from the Tribe and dozens of other kids from throughout the region showcased their hogs in a variety of categories. Aaron Stam, University of Florida 4-H cooperative extension agent, served as barn boss making sure all participants and their hogs made it from the pens and into the waiting ring in the right class and on time. From there, Kimberly Clement, 4-H program assistant, provided assistance making sure everyone made it into the show ring in about an as orderly a manner as could be expected from a group of hogs.

Stam is a familiar face in the back barn area, so much so that the kids often seek him out trying to get the early scoop on which class they've been placed in.

"Back when I started with the Tribe, Polly Hayes had asked me to help here and help run the back of the barn," Stam said. "So every year I came and it kind of grew into me running the back of the barn, which has been great..."

Stam knows the hard work the kids exert with the care of their hogs, but he said enjoyment should be part of the equation, too.

"I want them to have fun. I'm a believer in trick them with fun into learning something awesome," he said.

Although the hogs might not return to the fair year after year, a lot of the same kids do, and they're usually a year wiser.

"I have seen it through these kids that in their first year they don't know any of the concepts – average daily gain, days on feed – and then as you watch them mature they start learning about their project," Stam said. "These are at-home projects; they are doing it on their own. My thing is that if they are having a good time here, if this is fun for them, a positive experience, they come back and they're like ' I want to do that again next year.'"

As important as winning ribbons is to the kids, grasping all the responsibilities and the hard work that comes with raising a hog and prepping it to show and for sale tend to be life-learning triumphs.

"They're learning concepts like time management, responsibility, all the things that 4-H is predicated on, but this is kind of the capstone experience for that," Stam said. "I want to answer questions for them and help them learn, but even bigger than that I want to make sure this is a positive experience so they want to come back. I believe these projects are a great way for kids to learn."

Kevin Johnson

Atley Driggers (green) and Bailey Spurlock (red) show their hogs during the South Florida Fair's hog show Jan. 18 in West Palm Beach.

Kevin Johnson

Timothy Urbina and his hog Lustee make their way around the show ring hoping to impress the judge.

Kevin Johnson

Aaron Stam keeps things running smoothly in the back barn during the hog show at the South Florida Fair.

Kevin Johnson

Oreste Perez Jr.'s patchwork jersey is adorned with the ribbon he won for placing fifth in his class during the Jan. 18 portion of the hog show at the South Florida Fair.

Kevin Johnson

Atley Driggers takes care of her hog Hampton before they went out to the show ring at the South Florida Fair.

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

Shared traditions take their place in Seminole history

BY TARA BACKHOUSE
Collections Manager, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

If you're familiar with Seminole history, there are a lot of things you may recognize immediately as essential to our mission: a piece of patchwork, a doll or basket, and perhaps a historic photograph or postcard. At the Museum we're happy to see those, but we also love to uncover a piece of Seminole history and culture that we haven't talked about in a public forum. It's not always obvious if an object that's offered to us is relevant to Seminole history, and we have to scratch our heads and think outside the box at times like this. This is what happened in 2017 when we were contacted by a Mr. Sigfried R. Second-Jumper, aka Siggy Jumper. Mr. Jumper told us he had a drum made by Thomas Storm Sr., and that it would be a great addition to our Museum.

So we recognized this immediately as the type of drum used in western Native American drum circles. But a Seminole drum circle? We'd never heard of that. With Mr. Jumper's help we learned that Cypress Prairie, the drum circle he participated in from 1998-2001, was a collaboration between Seminole and other Native people, and that helped us to understand that it was indeed an important part of the Seminole story. The Seminole Tribe of Florida has welcomed the traditions of other tribes for at least 100 years. Around the turn of the 19th century Seminole people became involved with tourist attractions that featured their own cultural traditions packaged in a way that tourists would appreciate and pay for. In turn, people working in those camps were exposed other forms of art that weren't traditionally Seminole. So they adapted and took on some of those traditions.

Some people say that things like totem poles need to be thought of differently, that they are not Seminole, because they originated on the West Coast of the United States. But in my opinion that's a very narrow viewpoint. History doesn't stop, and culture changes constantly. And why should Seminole artists have been exclusionary at that time, when they saw totem poles and admired them? After all, they helped Seminole people make money. Anything that helped Seminole people gain economic independence after a devastating century needs to be appreciated. Tribal fairs and pow wows are other venues through which Seminole people have long celebrated Native talent from far and wide. Whether it is fancy dancers from the Great Plains or fire dancers from Mexico, all these performance traditions show the pride and resilience of Native peoples who were disrespected, persecuted, subjugated, massacred and driven out of their homelands over a 300 hundred year period. So it seems natural that people would want to share the beauty that managed to survive with each other. Drum circles have also been a feature at Seminole events for many decades. Some of the pictures in our historic collection illustrate the healing power of musical traditions like this.

Come see us at the Museum on Big Cypress Objects from the Siggy R. Second-Jumper collection are on display until April 4th at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. In that gallery you can read about his extraordinary story and you can be inspired by the beautiful music that Cypress Prairie created. We will continue to collect stories like his that show the wealth and variety of Seminole life, so that we can do the best job possible to celebrate, preserve, and interpret Seminole culture and history. We need your help to make it happen. Just call at 863-902-1113 and ask for the Collections Division. Please contact us if you're interested in helping tell the Tribe's story

JOHNS
From page 1A

water problems are caused by agriculture.

"The public is uneducated about the true problem, so it's easier for them to place blame," Johns said. "The transition team understood the science."

The committee looked at the science and the facts.

Every day about 1,000 people move to Florida, which already has about 20 million residents. The state also welcomes about 100 million visitors annually. There are a lot of antiquated sewage systems in the state, including some that dump sewage directly into the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. Fertilizer used in private yards is not monitored as diligently as agricultural usage is. Municipal waste water systems and septic systems also contribute to the amount of nutrients in the water, which feeds the algae.

"Blue-green algae are not coming from Lake Okeechobee," Johns explained. "It comes from the Kissimmee River basin and ends up in estuaries and Lake Okeechobee. The algae mine the nutrients out of the water and feed off them. It's a natural occurrence, but when there are plenty of nutrients there will be plenty of algae."

The quantity of algae isn't the only water issue in the state. Red tide, a naturally occurring event born about 40 miles offshore in the deep water of the Gulf, migrates to the surface and flows close to shore. Johns said the nutrients and algae from the freshwater outflow goes out to sea and intensifies the problem.

"The governor has an action plan and fully understands the problem," Johns said. "No one on the transition team blames agriculture and they understand how to clean it up. But there are policies in place he inherited and he has to deal with those plans. At the same time, he's able to start looking at policy going forward."

The committee made recommendations to DeSantis who, two days after his inauguration, signed an executive order implementing reforms to protect the state's environment and water quality.

"Our water and natural resources are the foundation of our economy and our way of life in Florida," DeSantis stated in a Jan. 10 press release. "The protection of water resources is one of the most pressing issues facing our state. That's why today I'm taking immediate action to combat the threats which have devastated our local economies and threatened the health of our communities."

The order:

Allots $2.5 billion over the next four years for Everglades restoration and protection of water resources.

Establishes a blue-green algae task force.

Instructs the South Florida Water Management District to begin the next phase of the Everglades agricultural area storage reservoir project.

- Creates the Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency to organize and direct scientific research and analysis to ensure all agency actions are aligned with key environmental priorities.
- Appoints a chief science officer to coordinate and prioritize scientific data, research, monitoring and analysis.

"It's up to agriculture and politicians to tell the public the story based on real science," Johns said. "They want to start to reach out to people to educate them and encourage best management practices for golf courses, homeowners associations and individual homeowners."

Although Johns and the rest of the transition team's job is done, they are available if the administration has questions or wants input.

James Billie named Florida Folk Heritage Award recipient

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

ALLAHASSEE — Former Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman James Billie has been named a recipient of the 2019 Florida Folk Heritage Awards. The announcement was made Jan. 15 by the Florida Secretary of State's office.

The Folk Heritage Awards are given to outstanding folk artists and advocates who have made longstanding contributions to the folklife and cultural resources of Florida.

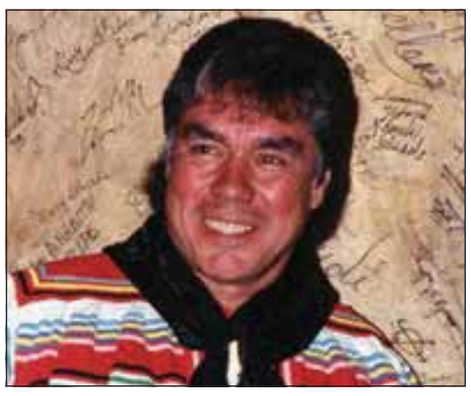
The award for former Chairman Billie comes in the category of Folklife Advocate. Tina Bucuvalas, curator of arts and historical resources for the city of Tarpon Springs, will also be honored in the Folklife Advocate category. In the category of Folk Artist, the award recipients are Jane Wells Scott, fiddler in Tallahassee, and Michael Usina, Minorcan cast net maker in St. Augustine.The awards will be presented to the recipients in a ceremony at the Word of South Festival in Tallahassee on April 13. Here are summaries of each recipient as provided by the Florida Department of State:

ames Billie

Born of the Bird Clan in Dania, James Billie rose from humble beginnings to serve as Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida from 1979 to 2001 and from 2011 to 2016. In addition to championing tribal sovereignty, he established himself as a songwriter and promoted the preservation of Seminole traditional culture and language.

ina Bucuvalas

For more than 30 years, folklorist Tina Bucuvalas has advocated on behalf of Florida's folk and traditional arts and artists. She established the South Florida Folklife Center at HistoryMiami, served as State Folklorist with the Florida Folklife Program and has continued to lead cultural and historic preservation efforts as Curator of Arts and Historical Resources for the city of Tarpon Springs.



Tribune file photo

James Billie

ane Wells Scott

As a musician, scholar and mentor of traditional old time and Irish fiddle, Jane Wells Scott has played a key role in the dynamic exchange of folk music traditions in North Florida, learning from masters, sharing techniques and preserving those skills for new generations.

ic ael sina

St. Augustine native Michael Usina celebrates his Minorcan heritage by crafting handmade cast nets using techniques passed down by his ancestors who settled St. Augustine in the 18th century.

Native Americans earn larger voice in Congress

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The 2018 midterm elections went well for Native Americans in Congress when the first Native American women were elected to the House of Representatives.

Rep. Sharice Davids, Ho-Chunk Nation, (D-Kansas) and Rep. Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo, (D-New Mexico) took their places in history Jan. 3.

Since becoming a member of Congress, Davids has been seated on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, named as Regional Whip by colleagues and co-sponsored a bill to tackle money and corruption in politics.

Rep. Haaland/Twitter

Rep. Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo, left, and Rep. Sharice Davids, Ho-Chunk Nation, are in their first terms as U.S. Congresswomen.

Haaland has been vocal in her opposition to the government shutdown and participated in a Democratic Steering and Policy Committee and House Natural Resources Committee hearing on the shutdown's effects on Native American tribes and public lands across the country. She also serves on the U.S. House Armed Services Committee.

Haaland was a speaker at the Indigenous People's March Jan. 18 in Washington, D.C., and released this statement Jan. 19.

"The Indigenous Peoples March is a national platform to raise the issues that negatively impact our communities the most — voter suppression, the border wall, the missing and murdered, human trafficking and lack of resources —just to name a few. For too long Native communities have been left out of the national/global conversation, and our men, women and children suffer because of it. As one of the first Native American women in Congress, I see it as my responsibility to educate my colleagues about the federal government's trust responsibility and provide a voice to advocate for those who have historically not had a seat at the table to make a long-awaited change," the statement read.

The House of Representatives has two other Native American Congressmen; Rep. Tom Cole, Chickasaw, (R-Oklahoma) and Rep. Markwayne Mullin, Cherokee, (R-Oklahoma). They have served since 2003 and 2013, respectively.

As Tribal members and politicians, Tribal Council and Board members are pleased to see more Native Americans in Congress.

"I'm glad to see it, I'm very supportive," Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger said. "In time, I hope there's more coming down the road for Native Americans. I'd also like to see that happen here in Florida."

"I like the idea; we need more representation from the Native American community nationwide," said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank. "As incoming freshmen, there will be a learning curve. But if they keep pushing, they can have a good impact. Other legislators will learn there are Native issues out there. For so long, Tribal folks were disenfranchised voters. Coming from that background it seems that they would be able to stage a better fight for Americans, tribal and non-tribal. Their perspective is different than the mainstream in the House. I'm kind of excited for them and hope they set a good example that Native Americans can emulate."

"This is groundbreaking," said Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon Wareham. "Having Native American women's viewpoint in Congress is huge. In my office, I'm glad I have women around me. They give me different viewpoints. They think about home, family and nurturing; guys are about providing."

"It is a big deal, but not just from a woman's perspective; from every Native American's perspective," said Erica Deitz, Hollywood President's office receptionist. "It's been a long time coming. Natives have been here for eons and now we have a say as part of Congress."

Rep. Wareham believes Native Americans are the forgotten people and are seen only through a historical viewpoint.

"I hope they bring to light to the nation that we are here today," he said. "Things that have been happening around the country are also happening on reservations."

Health

Young adult Natives sought as advocates for Indian health through policy

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

An emerging program designed to engage Natives who are entering adulthood is entering its second year.

The "Health Policy Fellowship for Native Youth" immerses participants in health-related discussion and policy solutions during its year-long progression.

The National Indian Health Board is taking applications for its next class through March 30.

Fellows work with Tribal leaders, policy specialists and public health experts to become health policy advocates who identify and help solve problems related to Indian health through policy solutions.

The program sets many goals for its fellows and they are expected to learn a significant amount of material over the course of the year.

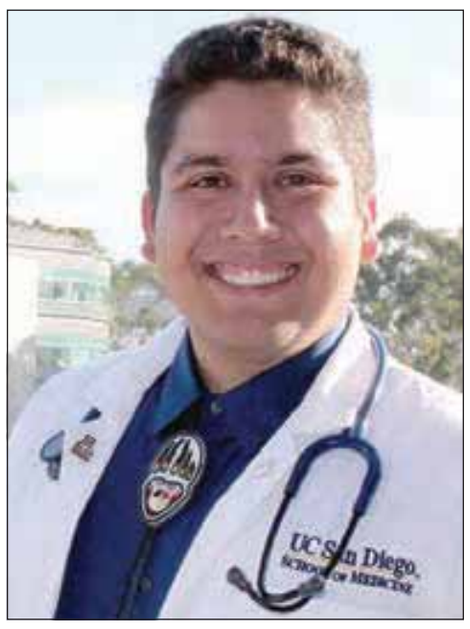
Applicants must be enrolled in a federally recognized Indian Tribe and be between 18 and 24 years old. Potential fellows should also have an interest in Indian health policy or health care and be able to engage with their Tribal leaders, officials said.

"We need more Native Congresswomen and men, health advocates, and warriors in suites at our federal agencies who open up the doors for Tribal leaders to share their Peoples' voices," said NIHB's Native Youth Engagement Manager Dr. Wendee Gardner (Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians).

"We know that Native youth are involved in the political tides shaping Indian Country. Just look at social media and you will see Native youth getting involved in their communities through their youth councils, advocating for our environment and sacred spaces, and participating in grassroots movements for change," Gardner told The Seminole Tribune.

The program requires three in-person meetings. Gardner said the next group will meet two times in Washington, D.C., and a third time at a location to be determined.

The NIHB's location in Washington is important because its staff regularly works with members of Congress, federal agencies and Tribal leaders, Gardner added.



Courtesy photo

After his experience in the fellowship program, Alec Calac has been advocating that campus leaders address the underrepresentation of Natives in medicine.

Courtesy photo

Chris Gallo said the fellowship inspired him to set a career goal to help eliminate Native American health care disparities.

Courtesy photo

Natahlia Enoah said the fellowship helped her gain confidence as a youth leader and showed her the importance of youth involvement in policy decision making.

"We are in a good position to offer meaningful educational experiences to Native youth who want to make a difference," she said.

eet t e movers and s akers

Gardner said the first class of fellows took their experience and translated it into work within their respective communities; many spoke at national conferences about their policy research projects; and they helped develop two national resolutions that were passed by the NIHB board.

"They also met with their members of Congress and educated them on different health topics," Gardner said. "In fact, some of the content from fellow's behavioral health resolution made its way into a bill considered by the U.S. Congress."

The first group reported the experience as overwhelmingly positive.

The inaugural class, which didn't have any Seminole or Miccosukee Tribal members, included Alec Calac (Pauma Band of Luise o Indians).

Calac graduated from the University of Arizona in 2016 with a degree in neuroscience and biology. He was then involved in a number of health care and research related programs and made connections with policy makers and legislators.

Through the fellowship, Calac worked on issues like curbing childhood obesity and diabetes by strengthening food sovereignty in Indian Country; creating a special behavioral health program for Indians with a focus on culture as prevention; and promoting K-12 and higher education attainment.

"One of my highlights in the fellowship was traveling to Anchorage, Alaska, for the NIHB National Tribal Public Health Summit in 2017 and addressing the audience in my tribe's language and sharing some of my experiences in the fellowship," he said.

Calac is now in medical school at the University of California San Diego and has been advocating that campus leaders address the underrepresentation of Natives in medicine.

"My experience in the NIHB fellowship has drastically improved my public speaking skills and I am confident in presenting my 'asks' for meaningful change across the board when it comes to increasing opportunity for Native youth," Calac said.

'Helped me gain confidence'

Natahlia Enoah (Diné) is working toward her master's degree in health education at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. She is a community health coordinator at the Center for Community Health at Presbyterian Healthcare Services.

"The fellowship helped me gain confidence in myself as a youth leader and has showed me the importance of youth involvement in policy decision making," Enoah said.

Inaugural fellow Chris Gallo's father was the first American Indian surgical pathologist and spent the beginning of his career working for Indian Health Services in Phoenix. Gallo was born in Phoenix and grew up in Prescott.

"I raised more like an 'urban Native' as some would say – and did not fully connect with my heritage and Native culture until I attended the University of Arizona," he said.

At U of A he participated in the American Indian Alumni Club and delved deep into culture, perspectives and current events of several communities in Arizona, he said, including the Tohono O'odham, Pascua Yaqui, and White Mountain Apache.

"On this journey I learned about the health care disparities that impact these people. I became motivated to help and I founded the organization – American Indian Medical and Health Initiatives," he said.

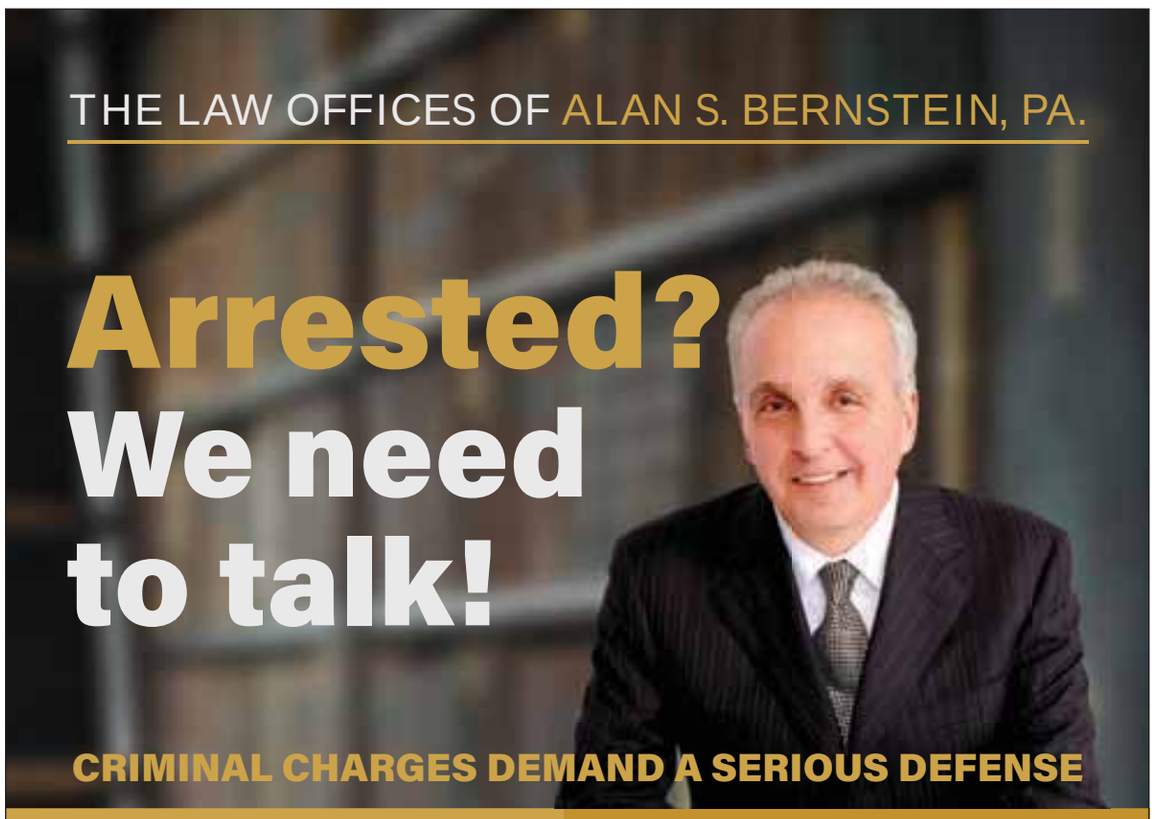
Through his organization Gallo would teach high school students about exercise and heart health by coming to their science class and leading them through sheep heart dissections.

He's now in the process of finishing his medical degree at Duke University.

"The fellowship was one of the best experiences of my life. I knew a decent amount about health care before the fellowship, but absolutely nothing about policy," he said. "I was also astounded by the different perspectives each fellow brought to the table – we had a filmmaker, a scientist, and now someone who is an elected Tribal official. I couldn't have asked for a better experience and I felt like I made a difference in the lives of Native Peoples."

The NIHB works through its Congressional relations team and federal relations team to strengthen Tribal public health systems and advocates to ensure the federal government upholds its trust responsibility to provide quality Tribal health care. The NIHB also has a public health team. It's the organization's youth department which offers the health policy fellowship.

For more information, a full list of eligibility requirements, and to fill out an application, go to nihb.org/for youth. Those interested can also contact Gardner via email at wgardner@nihb.org or by calling (202) 548-7297.



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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.

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 **COMPLETE**
2	Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon	Beginning May 2018 **COMPLETE**
3	Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin	Beginning June 2018 **COMPLETE**
4	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont	Beginning July 2018 **COMPLETE**
5	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina	Beginning August 2018 **COMPLETE**
6	Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming	Beginning September 2018 **COMPLETE**
7	Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Virgin Islands	Beginning October 2018 **COMPLETE**

SEMINOLE SCENES

Beverly Bidney (2)

HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT: The Immokalee community showed its competitive nature during a pre-Rez Rally horseshoe tournament Jan. 11. Men and women took aim and threw the 2.5 pound horseshoes hoping for a ringer every time. Regardless of the final outcome of the games and tournament, the community's team spirit, friendly competition and good cheer was in abundance. Above, Gary Frank takes his best shot as Ray Yzaguirre watches. Below, Gale Boone takes aim and gets two ringers in a row.

Beverly Bidney

FOILED ESCAPE: During the EIRA rough stock clinic Jan. 19 in Big Cypress, a group of steer the kids were supposed to wrestle managed to escape. In true rodeo fashion, the adult cowboys tore out of the arena to retrieve them. It took mere moments before the animals were returned to the arena to face the budding young cowfolk.

Beverly Bidney

ADORABLE DISTRACTION: Rylee Osceola holds her son Blaine Marks, 8 months, as she listens to speakers, including her father, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Lakeland community Jan. 23.

Hard Rock

TRIUMPHANT TUNES IN TAMPA: Christopher Escott, from Pinellas County, was a recent Blake Shelton Video Slots jackpot winner at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa. The jackpot that Escott won awarded a Blake Shelton autographed guitar, the gaming industry's first in-game giveaway of its kind. In September, Seminole Hard Rock Tampa became the first casino in the world to receive IGT's Blake Shelton Video Slot machines, which are located in the art deco-inspired mezzanine level casino. The new video slots were created by IGT to feature Country Music Association's Entertainer of the Year Blake Shelton. He's known for his success in country music and his role as a coach on the Emmy Award-winning television show "The Voice."

Beverly Bidney

WILD LAND: At right, the 752-acre Lakeland property includes pristine cypress swamps that give a wild ambiance to the soon to be developed land. Much of the landscape will be left untouched as 150 homes are built.

Courtesy photos

RIDING THE RAILS: Immokalee recreation brought 14 kids to Legoland in Winter Park Jan. 2, where the group enjoyed a day of immersion in the Lego-universe. At left, Denise Gonzales, Jazzy Garcia, D'niya Pray and Curmya Smith are about to enjoy a trip on the Lego train. At right, Faith Billie enjoys a rousing ride on a Lego horse at Legoland.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Bill ould allo Native American students to ear regalia

In 2015, Chelsea Schmitt and six other students successfully petitioned officials at Bismarck Public Schools to allow students to wear eagle feathers at their high school graduation ceremonies.

The eagle feather — a symbol of strength and honor, and "not just a decoration" — is gifted to Native Americans when they reach a milestone in their lives, such as a graduation, Schmitt told a room full of lawmakers on Monday.

"Like my Native American family members have in the past, I got to wear a piece of my culture, a piece of who I am, on a very important day in my life," Schmitt said.

On Monday, the House Education Committee held a hearing for a bill that would allow students to wear "traditional tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance" at public events, such as a graduation. The bill — House Bill 1335 — would prohibit school districts from creating policies that bar students from wearing these items.

Bismarck Public Schools is one of a number of schools in the state to allow students to wear eagle feathers at their graduation. Mandan Public Schools also allows students to wear feathers and has for the past five to six years, according to Superintendent Mike Bitz.

Still, there are some school districts who do not allow students to wear feathers, according to state officials.

Rep. Ruth Buffalo, D-Fargo, said she pushed for the bill after researching two other states, Kansas and South Dakota, that have passed similar legislation.

"Our young people thrive while being able to embrace their Native American heritage," Buffalo said, pointing to the state's high rates of suicide and low graduation rates among Native American youth. The bill will help contribute to student success, she said.

Scott Davis, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission's executive director, called the bill "long overdue." Every spring, right before the graduation ceremonies, Davis said he gets numerous calls from families whose children can't wear an eagle feather to graduation.

The eagle feather is important in Native American cultures, reserved for special occasions, Davis said. Several years ago, Davis said he brought in a Native American elder to educate BPS superintendents and principals of the feather's importance.

Rep. Pat Heinert, R-Bismarck, said he was shocked to learn some North Dakota school districts don't allow students to wear a feather at graduation.

"I can't believe we have to pass a state law that tells school boards that they have to allow our Native American population in North Dakota to be able to wear these at school functions," Heinert said.

There have been similar situations in other states, including California in 2015, when a student wasn't allowed to wear an eagle feather on his graduation cap.

Brianna Tortalita, a student who also helped lead the effort to repeal the policy in Bismarck, told lawmakers that she was mocked and called names in school, including one time when a student cut her hair, and when she said a complaint was filed against her for wearing a beaded medallion.

This bill would help non-Native students better understand Native culture, she said, adding that she would like the bill to extend beyond just an eagle feather, but other items of cultural significance.

State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler also testified in support of the bill, which she said was a recommendation from the North Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council.

Alexis Baxley, director of the North Dakota School Board Association, said her organization supports the bill if it would specify the type of regalia as an eagle feather. Another proposed amendment was to specify at graduation.

- The Bismarck (North Dakota) Tribune

S orts betting in Ne York state casinos ill soon get t e go a ead

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York is expected to move soon to allow sports betting at four upstate casinos and Native American casinos.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday backed letting the upstate casinos in the Finger Lakes, Southern Tier, Albany area and Catskills add sports betting to their portfolio.

Now the state Gaming Commission has to issue regulations to allow for it. The betting would only be on site because state officials said current law and the state Constitution doesn't allow for mobile sports betting.

"We invested in upstate casinos. Let's authorize sports betting in the upstate casinos," Cuomo said during his State of the State address Tuesday.

"It's here. It's a reality, and it will help generate activity in those casinos."

The casinos have been waiting since last May to get the go-ahead from New York regulators after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled states could legalize sports betting.

But the commission has yet to issue the regulations.

The delay appeared to be in large part due to a tax dispute with the Seneca Nation of Indians, who operate three casinos in western New York.

Earlier this month, though, an arbitration panel ruled that the Senecas need to pay the state more than $200 million in back taxes, ending the stalemate.

Under the state law authorizing four upstate casinos, it also allowed for sports betting at them if the federal ban was lifted. It also allows sports betting at the state's seven Native American casinos.

Now with Cuomo's nod to the Gaming Commission to move ahead, casinos said they are eager to add sports betting.

"We look forward to offering sports betting once the New York State Gaming Commission promulgates regulations," said Ryan Eller, CEO of Empire Resorts, which runs Resorts World Catskills in Thompson, Sullivan County.

What will be offered?

Casinos were hoping to be able to add mobile betting in addition to having it available on site. And the state's racetracks with video-lottery terminals, as well as Off-Track Betting sites, wanted in on the action.

But Robert Mujica, the state's budget director, said the Cuomo administration believes it would require a constitutional amendment to allow for mobile betting or any further expansion.

Any changes would require votes by consecutively elected state legislatures and vote by the public. So the earliest that could happen is 2021.

Mujica said Tuesday current law "doesn't open the door for sports betting anywhere else but the land-based casinos. If we want to expand it beyond the land-based casinos, including online, you need a constitutional amendment. And that's a separate conversation."

So for now, the upstate casinos said they expect to expand quickly once the regulations are out to offer sports betting. It's unclear, though, when they could be up and running.

There was no immediate comment from the Gaming Commision on when it would release the regulations. Its next regular board meeting is Jan. 28.

Each of the casinos, as well as the Oneidas in central New York, have partnered with sports betting firms to offer it.

Sports betting will be a boost, said Jeff Gural, who owns the Tioga Downs Casino in the Southern Tier.

The four upstate casinos have failed to meet revenue projections, and the del Lago Casino in the Finger Lakes and Resorts Worlds have particularly underperformed.

"It will bring people into our facilities. It will create a new energy, and we know for sure they'll spend money on food and beverage and we think they'll probably try their luck in the casino," Gural said.

"I think it's going to be a big help for the four of us. We're very appreciative that the governor said that."

- Democrat & Chronicle (Rochester, N.Y.)

ourt ruling to grant First Nations a muc bigger cut o resources royalties in Ontario

Forty thousand members of 23 First Nations communities in Northern Ontario have been receiving $4 a person each year from the Crown for ceding rights over a resource-rich territory about the size of France under 1850 treaties.

The Indigenous groups filed a court challenge against the Crown, saying the $4 annuity did not reflect the spirit of the treaties. And now a judge – after an exhaustive examination of the history of the treaties – has ruled that the signatories intended that the annuities should grow to allow the First Nations to share the growth in revenues governments receive from resource companies in the territory.

Wiikwemkoong Chief Duke Peltier, who was involved in the case, said the ruling shows that the courts are pushing government to "place our people back to the way we once were, that is as true partners in the development of this country, living together in harmony." He described the $4 annuity as barely enough to buy a coffee in Toronto.

His community has high unemployment and social problems, he said, while mining, forestry and land-leasing businesses thrive.

The Canadian government had argued that the courts have no authority to review the agreements. It said the Crown had sole discretion over whether to increase the payments, and did not have to disclose resource revenues, or consult Indigenous communities. The Ontario government went further, saying the agreements capped the annuity at $4, although it said the figure should be adjusted for inflation. (Because the treaties were signed before Confederation, both governments represented the Crown.)

But Ontario Superior Court Justice Patricia Hennessy, in a ruling released late last month, said the Crown had acted without honour. The last increase came in 1875. A lump sum of a few thousand dollars was paid to the communities in 1850.

"Since 1850, the Crown has acted with unfettered discretion in their interpretation and implementation of the treaties, in a way that has seriously undermined their duty of honour," she said in a 124-page ruling. "This left the treaties' promise completely forgotten by the Crown." She said that if the Crown had used its discretion, even to consider and reject raising the annuity, there would have been written reasons for the rejection. But none existed.

And she served notice that the courts will continue to supervise the Crown's exercise of its obligations under the treaties (one covers 21 communities, and the other covers two). Most of the First Nations in question are on the northern shores of Lake Superior and Lake Huron, on territory stretching as far north as Hudson Bay.

"I find that the Crown has a mandatory and reviewable obligation to increase the treaties' annuities when the economic circumstances warrant. The economic circumstances will trigger an increase to the annuities if the net Crown resource-based revenues permit the Crown to increase the annuities without incurring a loss."

The interpretation of a $4 cap, she said, "suggests that the treaties were a one-time transaction. As the historical and cultural context demonstrates, this was not the case; the parties were and continue to be in an ongoing relationship."

The amount of money that the First Nations communities are entitled to will be the subject of a later stage of the lawsuit, although a settlement is possible. Given the period it will cover – 168 years, plus future revenues – hundreds of millions of dollars, perhaps more, are at stake.

Peltier said the ruling has wide importance for other First Nations that have signed treaties.

"The courts have determined that the treaties are in fact living documents that need to be reviewed periodically, and they need to be honoured by the Crown," he said in an telephone interview from Manitoulin Island.

Jane Deeks, a spokeswoman for Carolyn Bennett, the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, said the federal government is reviewing the decision.

"Honouring the treaty relationship, based on the recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership, is important to this government and is key to advancing lasting reconciliation," she said in an e-mail to The Globe and Mail.

Justice Hennessy delved into 30,000 pages of documents. She heard from historians, chiefs and elders (and permitted live-streaming of the case), as she recreated the history of the treaties, and the contemporaneous understanding on both sides. She brought in experts in Anishinaabe law, and an interpreter who told the court the First Nations' language, Anishinaabemowin, had no translation for "as Her Majesty may be graciously pleased to order," wording that related to increases in the annuity.

"Her Majesty wasn't gracious," Joe Arvay, a lawyer for 21 of the First Nations, said in an interview.

He called the ruling "a big deal. This is the first treaty I believe in Canadian history in which a court has said that the Crown has to actually share in the revenues of the resources that the territory generates."

- Globe and Mail

emains o t o members o t e Beot uk eo le to be returned to anada rom Scotland

The skulls of chief Nonosbasut and his wife Demasduit were acquired by the National Museum of Scotland in the 1850s.

A request came from the Canadian government last year was given legal endorsement by the Scottish government.

The museum's board of trustees will now transfer the remains to the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa.

The Beothuk were indigenous to what is now Newfoundland, but almost all had died out by the early 19th Century.

The remains were discovered in a tomb by William Eppes Cormack who was born in St John's, Newfoundland in 1796 and educated at Glasgow and Edinburgh universities.

In 1828, he sent them to his mentor, Prof Robert Jameson, for the collection of the University Museum in Edinburgh.

This collection was later transferred to the Industrial Museum of Scotland (now the National Museum of Scotland) in the 1850s.

'Careful consideration'

Dr Gordon Rintoul, director at National Museums Scotland said: "We are pleased to have reached this agreement and to be able to transfer the remains of these two Beothuk people to the country where they lived and were buried.

"The board of trustees of National Museums Scotland considered a formal request received from the Canadian Government in July 2018 to transfer the remains of two Beothuk people, Nonosabasut and Demasduit, from National Museums Scotland to the Canadian Museum of History, Ottawa.

"Following careful consideration in line with our human remains in collections policy, the board approved the request and we have subsequently sought and now received the required approval from the Scottish government. We have informed the Canadian government and the Canadian Museum of History and are now making arrangements."

- BBC News

Native American voting rig ts bill ro osed

OLY IA, Was . — A proposed bill in Washington state would allow the residential address portion of a voter registration form to be filled out with a nontraditional address.

Democrat majority caucus chair, Sen. John McCoy, D-Tulalip, pre-filed Senate Bill 5079, titled the Native American Voting Rights Act, (in early January).

"The Washington state Legislature has a chance to rectify historical wrongs with the passage of the Native American Voting Rights Act," McCoy said.

"In doing so, we will send a loud and simple message to the Native community: We recognize that civic participation as we know it today began with American Indians, and as sovereign citizens of the United States you have the right to have your voice heard at every level of government."

A nontraditional address consists of a narrative description of the location of the individual's residence, according to the bill.

The bill modifies the minimum information required for voter registration under state law, to allow for "unmarked homes" and "a nontraditional residential address may be used when a voter resides on an Indian reservation or on Indian lands."

The pre-filed bill also allows for voters to list a building designated by the tribe in their precinct as their residential address if need be.

McCoy is a Tulalip Tribe member and has served as chairman of the executive committee of the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators.

"Now, more than ever, we must reassure the American people that their government works for them — regardless of their appearance, ethnic origins or history, or any other discriminatory artifices," McCoy said.

- Peninsula (Wash.) Daily News

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Education

Jade Osceola named Glades County Teacher of Year

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

B I H ON — Jade Osceola just may have been born to teach at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School.

As an elementary school student in the 1990s at Seminole Elementary School in Okeechobee, Osceola was one of the students who participated in the Friday pull-out program. Once a week Tribal students were allowed to attend culture class on the Brighton Reservation to learn Seminole culture, history and legends. It was Osceola's favorite class.

Osceola always had a knack for simplifying things; when she took Creek language at Okeechobee High School, she knew she could make it simpler.

As a college student, she realized teaching came naturally when her roommate told her she was good at explaining things. After graduating from Edison College in 2004, she was offered a job helping to teach Seminole history at the Friday pull-out program with her uncle Willie Johns.

The Friday program eventually led to the creation of PECS in 2007, where Osceola taught Seminole history with Lorene Gopher, one of the school's founders. In 2008, she was given her own classroom and taught history until 2015.

In 2016, she began teaching Creek language 1 and 2, an accredited high school class, to PECS's seventh- and eighth-graders.

On Jan. 10, Osceola was named Glades County School District Teacher of the Year 2020.

It was the first time her name was on the ballot. She did not expect to win.

"I don't feel like I won, I feel like the language won," said Osceola. "For once, it is perceived as an academic subject like algebra."

Although Osceola doesn't take credit for the curriculum of her class - it was developed by Marcus Briggs-Cloud, culture coach Eduarda Anselmo, Osceola and Tribal elders - it is Osceola who brings it to life for her students.

"Our curriculum is very strong," Osceola said. "It's comprehensive and understandable; the kids get it."

Osceola isn't quite fluent in Creek; she is a second language learner just like her students and often learns what she will teach them the day before class. She never loses sight of the importance of teaching language.

"There's a reality, a harsh truth," she said. "We have only 33 speakers left so we are definitely in survival mode. We have to do everything we can to keep this language alive. There are strong Native people who have a dead language. We don't want to be in that position."

Osceola is also proud to teach the students about their identities as Native Americans and she encourages them to practice speaking and to text each other in Creek. Like all teenagers, they want to figure out who they are.

"Learning the language is the key to everything," Osceola said. "The thing I like best about my day is that I get to teach identity."

The biggest challenge she faces is time; there is never enough of it.

"We are in a race against time," she said. "The young people of yesterday are the elders of today."

Courtesy photo

Glades County School District Superintendent Scott Bass and Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School teacher Jade Osceola pose together at the Jan. 10 ceremony where Osceola was named the district's Teacher of the Year 2020.

Courtesy photo

Jade Osceola poses with members of her family and PECS staff after being named Glades County School District Teacher of the Year 2020.

Archery hits the mark at Ahfachkee School

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BI Y ESS — The ancient sport of archery has come to the Ahfachkee School as part of its physical education classes and the 21st Century afterschool program and students are eager to learn the skill.

Big Cypress wildlife manager Jake Osceola teaches the after school program along with teachers Gualberto Mollings and Sissy Cook three times a week. They hope the students will be ready to compete at the National Archery in the Schools Program in Bartow at the end of February.

"Archery is a skill everyone should learn," Osceola said. "It teaches self-discipline, patience and how to focus. This is the basis for everything."

The sport requires precision, control, focus, repetition and determination, which are all skills that cross over into other areas of life.

A group of young students picked up bows and aimed the arrows for the target's bullseyes on Jan. 16, as the teachers coached them on technique, made sure they were handling the equipment properly and cheered them on.

Although Osceola never had formal training in archery, he is now certified by the NASP.

"Primitive man of all cultures had variations of archery," said Osceola. "It is the basis for survival; you can feed yourself anywhere in the world."

Osceola would like to see Tribal youth compete and train for the Jim Thorpe and North American Indigenous Games, but students had their own reasons for wanting to learn archery.

"I thought it would be fun," said third grader Bryce Billie, 8.

"I like that we get to shoot the arrows at balloons," added second grader John Hall, 9.

During the class, balloons were added to the targets as an extra incentive for accuracy. Osceola warned the students that if they didn't hit a balloon after shooting all five arrows in their quivers, he would take a shot at their balloons. None of the students wanted to allow that to happen, so they tried their hardest to hit them. Only one of the three students in the class that day succeeded.

Over the years, Osceola has taught archery to individuals from age 5 to 80.

"If you can pick up a bow and see the target, you can do archery," he said.

Beverly Bidney

Sissy Cook, traditional preservation research specialist, helps first-grader Tikara Hall with her posture and grip during an archery class at Ahfachkee.

Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress wildlife manager Jake Osceola shows Ahfachkee kitchen manager Horatio Smith how to hold the bow and arrow properly during an archery class at school.

Beverly Bidney

Third-grader Bryson Billie retrieves his arrows from the target after emptying his quiver during an after-school archery class Jan. 16 at the Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress.

Beverly Bidney

John Hall, Bryson Billie and Tikara Hall get readyto shoot their arrows.

Adakai Robbins to Broward school board: 'This is our land, this is our home'

Resolution asses that celebrates Nati e merican contributions, acknowled es in ustices

BY DERRICK TIGER
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal member Adakai Robbins spoke in support of a Native American Heritage Month resolution in December in front of the board of Broward County Public Schools.

He took the moment to share stories about the struggles he's experienced as a Native American living in a culture that can often be unwelcoming.

Robbins is one of 17 Seminole students who attend Hollywood Hills High School, which has a student population of 1,924.

"I feel like this colonized education system excludes proper Native representation and the effects it's taken on us" Robbins, a 16-year-old-junior, said.

Robbins, of Seminole and Navajo descent, has a deep passion for his Native American heritage and is not afraid to express it.

During the Pledge of Allegiance at the school board meeting, Robbins, who wore traditional Seminole clothing, remained seated with his mother Sherry Robbins.

He's a former student of the private American Heritage School but says he feels more comfortable in the public Hollywood Hills. A strict dress code was one reason he switched schools.

"It wasn't the best for me … that's why I left, because I felt like there were a lot of restrictions when it came to me being myself," he said. "Part of being myself is my culture and my language and that was never represented well in history books or anything. We were never really represented."

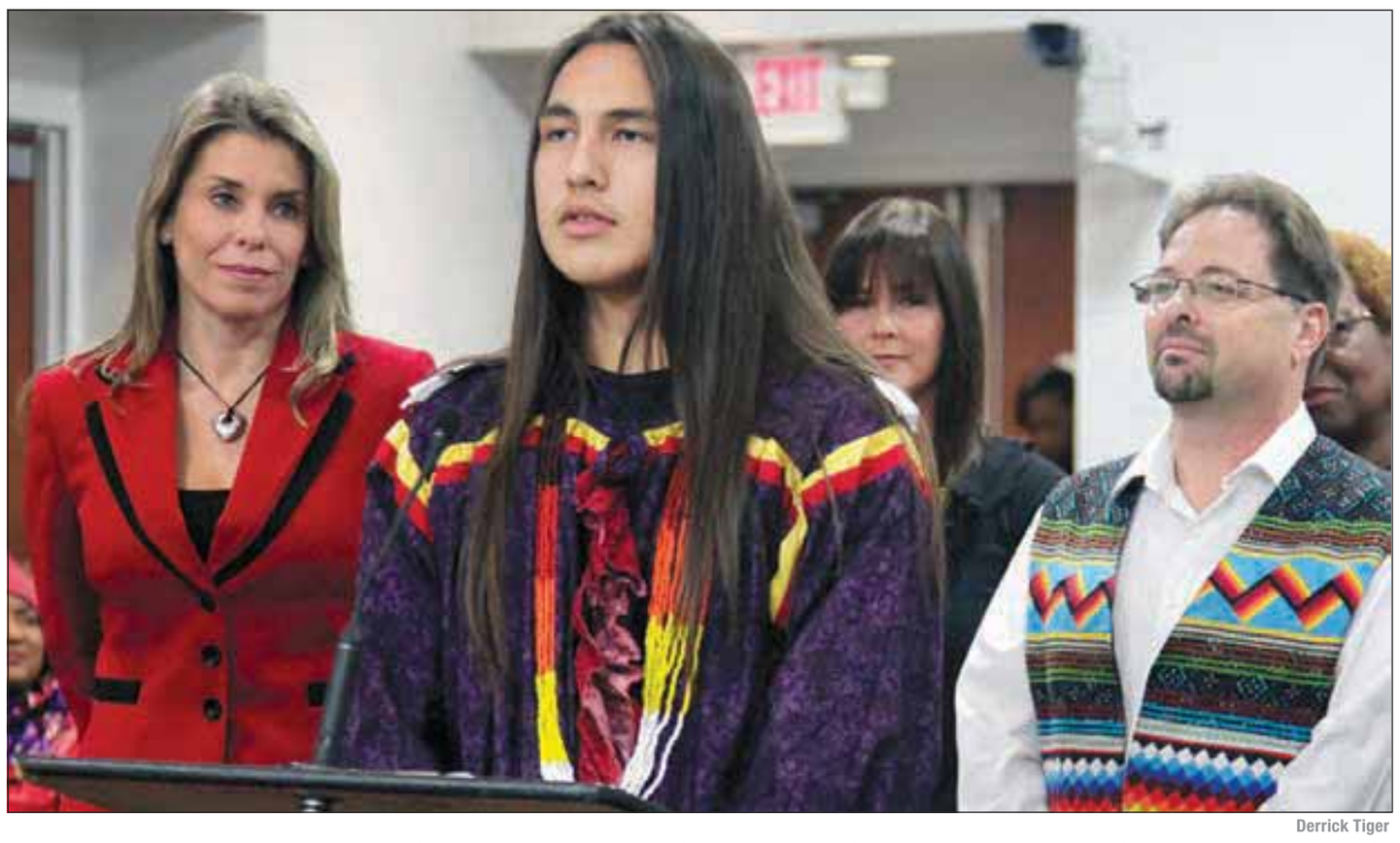
The sense of freedom to be able to wear beaded jewelry made him feel more at ease at Hollywood Hills.

Robbins said what he's learned about his culture isn't found in school textbooks. He's learned it from his relatives. Robbins said it's a strange feeling not to see his culture represented in textbooks, when so many others are.

"It's a sign of unequal treatment, and it's something that should be solved," Robbins said to the school board. "People always forget about what land we're on. This is our land. This is our home. We should be placed in the conversation as much as everybody else."

Robbins was emotional when he explained to the school board and others who were in attendance that he had never voiced his feelings about his culture and heritage in such a public setting. He then read a poem he wrote for the occasion.

Struggles remain



Derrick Tiger

Adakai Robbins addresses the Broward County School Board in December to voice his support for a resolution regarding Native American Heritage Month and to bring awareness to other issues. At left is Donna P. Korn, the board's vice-chair, and at right is Tom Albano, a staff assistant for Broward County Public Schools and former principal at the Miccosukee Indian School.

Native American culture is often underrepresented or misrepresented in U.S. history books, but recently there has been some progress.

For example, several states have proposed bills that seek to rename Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. In addition, two Native American women were elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time in the midterms.

There are still significant challenges.

Oil companies continue to place pipelines on Native lands, despite disapproval and protest from Native tribes. Native American women are being reported missing at a higher rate than any other demographic in the country and many are found dead or never found at all.

And there are regular news reports of Native students who continue to be discriminated against, ignored, and failed by the American school system.

esolution assed, rogress made

The board passed a resolution that celebrates the contributions Native Americans have made to the United States and acknowledges the injustices they continue to face.

It says they should be recognized and honored during Native American Heritage Month. Although Native American Heritage month is in November, due to scheduling conflicts the resolution was on the agenda in December.

Vice Chair Donna P. Korn presented the resolution.

"Since the dawn of American history the first Americans have made significant contributions to the establishment and growth of the United States of America," said Korn. "I am honored to be here today to celebrate and recognize a heritage with such deep rooted culture and traditions that we've been passed down through the generations."

Tom Albano, staff assistant for Broward County Public Schools and former principal of the Miccosukee Indian School, continued the resolution.

"Che-hun-tamo," said Albano, explaining that it is the Miccosukee word for "hello."

Albano then gave a brief history of Native Americans from the European invasion to the passage of Indian Removal Act and the Seminole Wars.

"As the United States government conquered Indian tribes, they relocated them to reservations and set up schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs," Albano said. "Those schools were designed to take the Indian out of the Indian by not allowing their tribal languages to be spoken, nor their tribal customs and beliefs to be practiced."

Albano said two schools with the assimilation method of "kill the Indian, and save the man" were built in Florida for the Miccosukee and Seminole tribes. The Miccosukee school was located in the Everglades in Miami and the Seminole school was located on the Big Cypress reservation.

Both schools have completely changed their teaching methods since they were first built.

However, Albano said, there was never a tribal school established for the Hollywood Reservation in Broward County. (Seminole students represent less than 1 percent of the total Broward student population).

This led Tribal members of the Hollywood community to attend schools within the melting pot of Broward, a situation with advantages and disadvantages, Albano explained.

Advantages included being exposed to a diverse mixture of racial backgrounds, so Seminole students would be able to socially interact with people outside their culture.

The disadvantage is that through the generations, Seminole children have often become more accustomed to American values.

"Most of our Seminole students do not speak their Native language fluently and often struggle between their Seminole culture and traditions and the majority culture that surrounds them," said Lided Cerda, behavioral specialist and equity liaison for Hollywood Hills High at the meeting.

In the end, Korn was impressed with what Robbins had to say.

"Truly there is no voice more powerful and moving than that of our students," Korn said. "In all of my years of being here, I have never heard a message like that. So I appreciate you coming and sharing that and opening yourself to all of us. Thank you and we hear you loud and clear."

Adakai's oem

In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue, he stumbled upon a land that he thought he knew

Then he realized he doesn't have any type of clue

He first ran into the Tainos, another native crew

A century later y'all still follow this Columbus fool

You don't want to believe me but it's true, calling me an Indian shows me something about you, it shows us you don't understand the land that we're on, does it look like we're in India? Obviously not

Although we have 3rd world reservations and get disrespect from the cops

We will raise our fists up strong for however long we need to

We will dance sing and pray along

Till our souls shatter

Till our hearts ripped out

Till we lose our voices

Till our legs go out

And I have two hearts, one from each tribe, Seminole and Navajo.

Assimilation can try to hide us but our souls are too bright and refuse to be in the shade

Our fury and passion is a fire that will never reside

So please provide us support as we continue this fight

Maybe in this journey we'll find something alike

Shanobisha and ahéhéé (thank you)

Preschoolers delight Hollywood with Christmas play

Derrick Tiger

Hollywood Preschool's three-year-old class dances to Christmas songs in their play Dec. 19.

Derrick Tiger

Preschoolers lining up for a rock-and-roll-themed Christmas Play on Dec. 19 in the auditorium at Tribal headquarters.

Derrick Tiger

Amari Torres shines on stage in a jingle bell costume.

Derrick Tiger

Preschoolers have no problem with shyness as they perform in front of an audience.

Derrick Tiger

Rockin' around the Christmas trees as the preschool students entertain the audience.

Xiora Osceola costume designs earn thespian honors

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

iora Osceola is an eleventh grade student at Nova Southeastern University School in Davie, but she is also an award-winning costume designer and performer in the school's thespian arts program.

The 17-year-old recently earned two superior and an honorable mention awards in the Florida State Thespians District 13 competition for her costume designs and ensemble group performance.

Xiora Osceola

For costume design, iora had to draw five costumes for five different characters in a play. She chose "The Play That Goes Wrong", by Henry Lewis. She used quotes from the characters to imagine what their costumes would look like based on their personalities.

Her passion for technical theater bloomed as iora worked on the school's production of "Sleeping Beauty Kids" and realized she would be happy working on a variety of different shows. Although she knows she won't become a professional costume designer, she chose it because she loves to draw. iora also likes to sing and play musical instruments.

"I've always thought of myself as more creative than some kids I've met in the past," iora wrote in an email. "I've liked drawing and playing guitar since middle school."

When she started high school, iora learned she loved being part of the theater arts program either building sets or being a spot operator.

Knowing the competitive nature of theater and the thespian arts, iora believes she would lose the love she has for the field if she were to pursue it as a career. Instead, she plans to go into veterinary medicine and keep her artistic side as hobbies.

After graduation, iora plans to get her general studies out of the way at a community college and then hopes to attend Penn State University to study veterinary medicine.

Courtesy photo

Xiora Osceola's winning costume designs, which she created based on the personalities of characters in "The Play That Goes Wrong", are pictured with the Florida State Thespian District 13 awards she won.

Tribal gamers compete at Chairman's Gamer Challenge in Big Cypress

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

About 150 million people spend about 3 billion hours per week playing video games in the U.S. and about 70 more from Big Cypress joined the fray Jan. 7 at the Chairman's Gamer Challenge.

Held at the Big Cypress Rodeo grounds on a day off from school, most of the competitors were under age 17 but a lot of adults competed as well. The most popular games at the challenge were also some of the most popular games in the country and included Mario Kart, Fortnite, Call of Duty, Mortal Kombat, Dragon Ball Z and Super Smash Bros.

According to the Entertainment Software Association the average gamer is a 34 year old man, 72 percent of all gamers are over age 18 and 67 percent of parents play video games with their child at least once a week.

The event was deemed a success and the Chairman's office hopes to bring it to other reservations in the future.

Courtesy photos

Above, Kids gather around a screen to play video games at the Chairman's Gamer Challenge Jan. 7 in Big Cypress. Below, Chairman's office Special Projects Administrator Cicero Osceola talks to competitors at the Chairman's Gamer Challenge.

CSSS meets with Immokalee community

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

I OKALEE — Immokalee parents and community members had the opportunity to have their questions about education answered Jan. 10 by the Center for Student Success and Services staff.

"We want to brainstorm about education with Tribal members," said CSSS Director Randall Budde. "We also have new staff to introduce."

This was the third such meet-and-greet session hosted by CSSS; the first two were in Brighton last year. Budde said it is up to the reservations to invite the department to make a presentation and share ideas.

In Immokalee, CSSS serves 12 students with tutoring, 10 to 15 with homework help, two are in the Work Experience Program and 16 are in higher education.

J. Webb Horton, Florida Gulf Coast University assistant director of community outreach, was the featured speaker. He explained the bridge program between FGCU and Florida SouthWestern State College, which allows students to earn an associate's degree at FSW and transfer into FGCU to complete a bachelor's degree.

"We are trying to raise the number of Tribal students on campus," Horton said. "College is a great thing, it lets you grow. Education is the key."

A discussion ensued between Horton, CSSS staff, parents and community members about how to retain students in college and ensure they graduate. Horton spoke of the importance of orientation and having a current FGCU student walk new students through the process of starting college.

"Students have to have a connection or they get overwhelmed," Horton said. "It's everybody's job for retention. We have to care about the students' well-being."

During a discussion about communications between CSSS and families, the importance of parental involvement was emphasized. Email, flyers, phone calls and other methods of communications are currently used to get the attention of the students' family members.

At the end of the evening, staff and community got to know each other a little bit, which should open the door to more frequent communications.

Native American Journalism Fellowship available for college students

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) is committed to increasing the representation of Indigenous journalists in mainstream media. One of the ways NAJA supports and empowers members is through the annual Native American Journalism Fellowship (NAJF), which is open to current American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian and First Nations college students, undergraduate and graduate, pursuing media degrees. NAJF is an opportunity for students to deepen and broaden their reporting and multimedia skills, while learning from tribal journalists and news industry professionals from across the country.

The deadline to apply is Feb. 28, 2019.

Selected fellows will build their reporting skills during an on-site immersion newsroom experience in Prior Lake, Minnesota, Sept. 12-19, 2019 in coordination with the 2019 National Native Media Conference. The conference will be held in association with the 2019 Native American Nutrition Conference where journalists and experts in food sovereignty, nutrition and health experts will convene to learn best practices for covering Indigenous issues and reporting on health in Native American communities. Fellows will be encouraged to report on relevant program content and explore deeper coverage post-conference in order to complete their fellowship requirements.

Fellows will also have the option of gaining three hours of upper-level internship credit through their respective universities and NAJA.

Selected student fellows may receive:

Experience in an on-site immersion newsroom during the 2019 National Native Media Conference in Prior Lake, Minnesota Sept. 12-19, 2019.

Personalized hands-on multimedia training, focused on the student's area of interest

Professional NAJA mentor

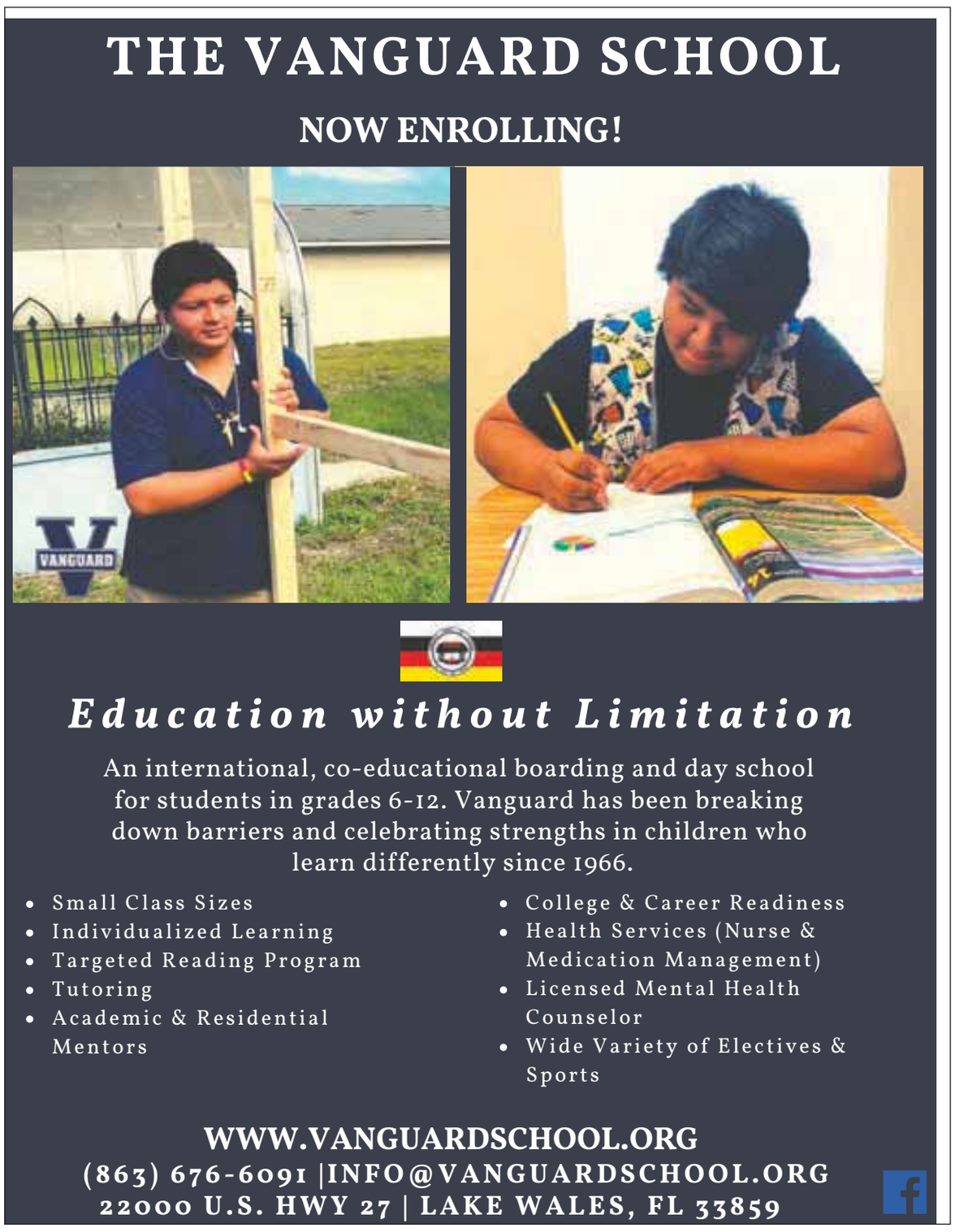
Resume critiques

Unique networking and career-building opportunities with members and recruiters from the mainstream, nonprofit and tribal media sectors

Recommendations for internships, fellowships and media careers upon graduation

Three hours of upper-level college credit (optional)

NAJA is currently accepting NAJF applications through Feb. 28, 2019.



Runners, walkers warm up to chilly Rez Rally

eminole tron ser es as theme

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

I OKALEE — Runners and walkers from all Tribal communities woke up early Jan. 26 to participate in the 19th annual Rez Rally held on the Immokalee Reservation.

Despite cold temperatures, breezes and intermittent rainy conditions, participants stayed fired up to tackle a 5K run, 5K walk or one-mile walk. Each reservation had members at the event who were represented in teams.

"Seminole Strong" was the theme of this year's event.

"It's really cold out here. I'm glad to see a good turnout," Council project manager Raymond Garza of Team Immokalee said. "Rez Rally means a lot to our Tribe. Good luck to all the Reservations, but we've got this in the bag," he said with a smile.

Tribal members and employees of all shapes, sizes, ages and abilities competed and participated in the festivities within several categories. It was all meant to bring a focus to diabetes awareness and prevention, as well as the general importance of maintaining an overall healthy lifestyle.

"Everyone's a winner just for being here," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. before the event. Osceola thanked Edna McDuffie, Big Cypress health outreach coordinator, who helps to organize Rez Rally with other departments.

"Walk, crawl, whatever you have to do to get across that finish line," said a chuckling Osceola who ran the 5K.

Other members of Tribal Council were on hand and either ran or walked, including President Mitchell Cypress, who was instrumental in the creation of the Rez Rally and is a fixture as one of the walkers every year.

President Cypress is also very vocal about his own diabetes diagnosis in 1983 and his ongoing health journey. He wrote a book about it 10 years ago – "Having Diabetes Acting in an Honorable Way."

"Do it for yourself, for your health," President Cypress said. "We do our best to try and make it to the finish line. Today we're all winners."

President Cypress stressed the importance of parents being positive role models in the realm of health and nutrition for their kids.

Before the awards ceremony, prolific runner Kaleb Thomas of Brighton was asked by his peers to give some words of encouragement to the crowd.

"You can make a change right now and make better choices. Whether you're a runner or a walker, you can make a difference," he said.

Thomas is a junior at Okeechobee High School and has run in the Rez Rally many times.

Staff from the fitness department led everyone through a pre-warmup stretch. Refreshments were served as well as a buffet lunch after the event. There was also a booth set up for voter registration.

Participants received team t-shirts and medals for running or walking.

Damon Scott

Kaleb Thomas (#1140) leads out in front as the group of runners begins the 5K course in the annual Rez Rally on Jan. 26 in Immokalee.

Damon Scott

Some teams had their own shirts, like these yellow shirts worn by youngsters on team Big Cypress.

Damon Scott

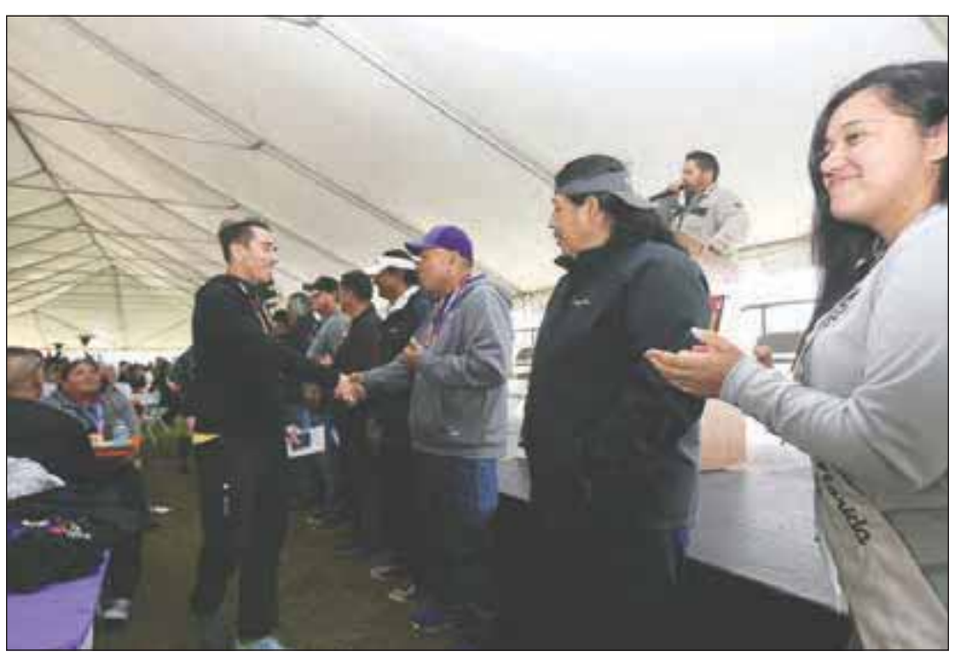
Jamie Diersing, left, is a health educator in Big Cypress. She helped to hand out medals at the finish line for all the participants.

Damon Scott

Even though it was a colder than normal day in Immokalee, those that came out were happy to be a part of the festivities.

Damon Scott

President Mitchel Cypress, left, (#3050) participates in the one-mile walk as he does each year.



Damon Scott

Dr. Paul Backhouse, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, took third place in the male 18-54 (run) general category.

Damon Scott

Kaleb Thomas, of he Brighton, placed first in the male youth category. He's greeted by Tribal leaders during the awards ceremony.

Damon Scott

Runners and walkers line up for the start of Rez Rally.

Arts & Entertainment

From New York to Miami, Spencer Battiest sings, acts with Native pride

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

IA I — These are busy times for Spencer Battiest, and that's just fine with the multitalented 28-year-old full-time musician and part-time actor from the Hollywood Reservation.

Battiest finished up 2018 by acting in a Broadway-hopeful musical in New York City. He started the New Year by joining his Mag7 teammate Supaman for an appearance at a Miami Heat game Jan. 10.

Later this year, a documentary about Mag7, which was partially filmed on the Big Cypress and Hollywood reservations, is expected to be released along with a new album from the group.

Indeed, there's plenty of activity filling up Battiest's days.

"I can't be anything but grateful for the opportunities that have come my way in 2018, and the really cool opportunities that are coming up in 2019," Battiest said during a break from the performance in Miami. "I'm very happy where I'm at, but I'll always be working for the next thing and I'll always be striving to be the best version of myself on any stage."

The stage Battiest occupied in early December was full of fellow Native Americans in "Distant Thunder," an all-Native musical that is trying to reach Broadway.

Battiest, who has been part of the production for a few years, plays one of the lead kids in the play, which is about the Blackfeet Nation.

Kevin Johnson

Spencer Battiest and Supaman perform during halftime of the Boston Celtics-Miami Heat basketball game on Jan. 10 in the Xfinity East Plaza at American Airlines Arena in Miami.

Kevin Johnson

Spencer Battiest joins friends and fans for a photo during halftime of the Miami Heat game.

"Bringing culture like this to the Great White Way is so cool and it definitely gives us that extra buzz and extra push to be our best and shine our best for all Native America," he said.

Battiest is no stranger to performing in New York City, but he never takes for granted any opportunity he gets to work in the Big Apple.

"I've performed on Broadway a few times since I was 14, but anytime I get the opportunity to act, which I don't do every day, and then singing, which is what I love to do, and do them together, it's a wonderful time," he said. "Live theater is tough. You've got to trust your counterpart. You've got to remember your lines. You've got to remember your dance moves. It was a wonderful experience to keep me sharp in my every day performing that I do, but also help me keep my acting going which is something I like to do in my career, also."

Here's a description of "Distant Thunder" from Broadwayworld.com: "In 'Distant Thunder,' Darrell Waters, a brash young attorney, returns to his childhood home in Montana to broker a deal between a large energy company and the impoverished Blackfeet Nation. In the process, he is forced to confront his reclusive father about their painful past. Through a childhood sweetheart, Dorothy Dark Eyes, he rediscovers his identity and feels his perspective shift: his clever business deal will destroy her language school, further erode Blackfeet culture and taint their land. Darrell must grapple with the paradigm of being Native American in America."

Rehearsals were held at Playwrights Horizons, the same venue where the megahit "Hamilton" rehearsed.

"Distant Thunder" hasn't ascended to Hamiltonian status yet, but Battiest said the performances, which were held at A.R.T./New York Theatres on West 53rd St., received positive accolades. The goal, Battiest said, is for the musical to get the backing it needs to become a full-blown Broadway show.

"We got great responses. We had three major performances where each one we had the public along with very high profile producers who are looking to produce the show," he said.

The responses were positive, too, when Battiest and Supaman (Apsáalooke) took the stage in Miami for pregame and halftime performances. They performed in the American Airlines Arena's Xfinity East Plaza, an open-air gathering space on the east side of the arena that overlooks scenic Biscayne Bay with massive cruise ships and towering skyscrapers nearby.

The pair sang the highly-acclaimed "Stand Up/Stand N Rock #No DAPL" in both performances. The song, from their all-Native Mag7 group that includes Taboo from the Black Eyed Peas, won an MTV Video Music Award in 2017. It was created to show the group's support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's battle against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The song hit the right note with the movement and within the music industry. Thanks in part to be an MTV Video Music Award winner, the song has helped propel the career of Battiest and his brother Zachary "Doc" Battiest in many ways.

"Ever since the winning of that, it's created much more opportunities for us to get on bigger stages and get our names out there and our music out there along with our culture as well, which is what we aim to do as artists and as performers, speaking on behalf of me and Doc," Battiest said.

The song has blossomed well beyond expectations.

"The song itself has built so many connections with other Native artists and activists," Battiest said. "I think when we wrote it we just wanted to show our solidarity with the people of Standing Rock and those on the front lines; nothing more than just to let them know that we were there with them through music and through our voices."

Using their voices to lend support to the movement has meant a lot to the group.

"It wasn't a vanity song or something that we were looking to draw attention to ourselves; it was just our way of letting the people of that tribe know that we stood with them and that we believed in the fight and the people that stood for months on the front lines; we released it and expected it to do just that,"Battiest said. "Months later, when the (MTV Music Award) nominations came out and we were informed that the video was nominated, that just made our hearts explode because not only did it bring attention to that specific issue, but it also brought attention to each individual artist and activist who were a part of that song and whatever it is that they were pushing for at that moment, whatever fight they were currently in."

In the Miami performance, Supaman, aka Christian Parrish, of Montana, also performed other songs, danced a Fancy Dance and discussed its significance for Natives, and brought up a few members of the audience for an impromptu mini recording session.

As for the road ahead, Battiest is excited about the release of the Mag7 documentary and the new album.

"It's a documentary that explores our individual upbringings, our culture, our tribes, our hometowns. We have new music that is being released at the same time of the film. It will be later this year. It will be a major release for us," Battiest said.

Besides the Battiest brothers, there will be additional Seminole flavor to the film.

"Elder Bobby Henry is featured and a few other Natives who came to help and make sure we spread our culture and our message in the right, appropriate way," Battiest said. "That's how we've always been raised is to include our family and our teachers, especially when we get a big platform and opportunity like this one."

Kevin Johnson

Supaman and Spencer Battiest

Festival celebrates Everglades unique history, culture

FROM PRESS RELEASE

E E LADES I Y — The Museum of the Everglades' 15th annual MSD History Heritage Festival will be held Feb. 19-23. The event celebrates the region's unique past with presentations by a variety of authors, artists, scientists, historians and adventurers.

The museum is located at 105 West Broadway in Everglades City. For more information call 239-695-0008.

Also, the Art-in-the-Glades arts and crafts show will be held Feb. 23 in Everglades City to coincide with the last day of the festival. Art-in-the-Glades will be held under the pavilion in McLeod Park across from the museum from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Local artists and crafters will offer photos, prints, handmade soaps, jewelry, and other items for sale. Baked goods will be available for a donation to benefit a local charity. For more information about the arts and crafts show go to www.evergladeshistorical.org or call Marya at 239-695-2905.

Schedule

uesday, Feb. 19 • 10:45 AM – 3:00 PM

Opening Luncheon at Everglades Isle $25 per person, $20 for members of Friends of the Museum of the Everglades

"A Lunch, A Postcard and Nickname: Marjory at Yale" by Cesar Becerra, author. Share with Cesar his memories of Marjory Stoneman Douglas

Wednesday, Feb. 0 – Education and Adventure

Historic Canoe Tour: Big Cypress*, 8:30 a.m. • Max 12 people, approx. 2-3 hrs

"History of the Fakahatchee," Ranger Mike Duey, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve 9 a.m.

"And Then There Were Five: The Story of the Collier County Museums," Amanda Townsend, Director, Collier County Museums 10 a.m.

"A Drive Through the Park: The Road to Flamingo," Cesar Becerra, Author • 11 a.m.

"Life in the Ten Thousand Islands from 1870 to 1970," Marya Repko, Author 1 p.m.

"The Biology of the Fakahatchee," Mike Owen, Biologist Fakahatchee State Park 2 p.m.

"History of the Tamiami Trail, Conner's Highway, and Ingraham Highway," Bruce Emerson, Author 3 p.m.

ursday, Feb. 1 – Step Into the Glades

Kayaking the Fakahatchee with Tod Dahlke*, 8:30 a.m. • Max 12 people, approx. 3-4 hrs

"Repurposing the Past: Naples Depot & Beyond," Lisa Marciano, Naples Depot Museum 9 a.m.

Otter John's Wild Everglades Animal Presentation 10 a.m.

"The History of Seminole Cattle in Florida"Rey Becerra, Adventurer/Activist • 11 am

"History of the Gladesmen," Jack Shealy, Jr. 1 p.m.

Swamp Walk with Mike Owen*, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, 1 p.m. • Max 12 people, approx. 3-4 hrs

"A Man Named Jaudon: New Insights of Loop Road," Cesar Becerra, Author • 2 p.m.

"The Price of a Feather," Ranger Pele LaFrance, Big Cypress National Preserve •3 p.m.

Friday, Feb. – History and Heritage

"Working Together: The Unique Sociology of Punta Gorda," Martha Bireda, Director, Blanchard House Museum of African History 9 a.m.

"The Value of Green," Ranger Erica, Big Cypress National Preserve • 10 a.m.

"The Wild, Wild South: The History of Florida's Cattle Industry," Theresa Schober, Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch 11 a.m.

"How the Jet Port Saved the Swamp," Tony Pernas, Supervisory Botanist, Big Cypress National Preserve • 2 p.m.

"A Line in Memory: The Seminole Wars of the 19th Century," Ranger Jon Swain, Big Cypress National Preserve • 3 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. – Our Path from the Past

"Does Smokey Have it Wrong?," Ranger Daniel Higinbotham, Big Cypress National Preserve • 9 a.m.

Fakahatchee Tram Tour*, 10 a.m. • Max 20 people, approx. 1.5 hours

Otter John's Wild Everglades Animal Presentation, 10 a.m.

"What Happened to Ochopee," Jeff Whichello, Author 11 a.m.

"Museum of the Everglades: From Laundry to Museum," Martha Hutcheson, Museum of the Everglades 12 p.m.

* Reservations required for excursions, Call 239-252-5026 for more information.

Dane Cook comes to Hard Rock Event Center this fall

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Dane Cook brings his "Tell It Like It Is" Tour to Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino Hollywood on Sept. 28 at 8 p.m.

Cook is known as a stand-up comedian and actor who has appeared in film and TV projects. He has been featured in numerous Comedy Central and HBO specials, and has created comedy albums. Cook's unique brand of stand-up and accessible guy-next-door attitude have galvanized audiences of all ages.

Tickets cost $115, $95, $75 and $55. All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at www.myhrl.com, www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone: 1-800-745-3000. Explore the new Hard Rock Event Center with a 360-degree virtual seat map of the venue at www.myhrl.com. Doors open one hour prior to show start time. Additional fees may apply.

Hard Rock Japan resort concept revealed to public

Guitar-sha ed hotel art o lan

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Jim Allen was in Japan Jan. 9 to unveil what is expected to be a new Hard Rock integrated resort in the East Asian island country.

A full-scale model of the proposed entertainment resort was presented to the public at an event featuring Allen, the chairman and CEO of Hard Rock International (HRI), and Japanese officials. The Seminole Tribe of Florida is the parent entity of HRI.

The occasion and venue for the unveiling was the Integrated Resort Showcase in Hokkaido, Japan's second largest island. Along with the Hard Rock, the showcase and conference hosted several other major casino operators.

The proposed Japanese resort would be located in the city of Tomakomai. While it would be the first of its kind in Japan, residents are at least somewhat familiar with the Hard Rock concept as there are currently six Hard Rock Cafés spread throughout the country.

Hard Rock

Pictured is a rendering of Hard Rock Japan's proposed entertainment resort, which features a guitar-shaped hotel like the one being built in Hollywood.

"We are extremely excited about the prospect of introducing our Hard Rock family to the people of Hokkaido, Japan, with this world-class entertainment resort," Allen said in a statement. "It will not only bring economic benefits to the local community, but also act as a gateway to learn more about the wonderful heritage of Japan and all that it has to offer."

Officials have not yet released a timeline for construction of the proposed project.

esort elements

Officials say some of the key elements of the design would include monorail access from Chitose International Airport; a Four Seasons Resort; Hard Rock Live venue; multipurpose Broadway-style theater; state-of-the-art wellness center; more than 215,000 square feet of retail and dining space; and Hard Rock's signature guitar-shaped hotel.

Hard Rock is currently building its first guitar-shaped hotel concept at its resort in Hollywood, Florida. The 450-foot hotel is expected to be completed later this year, along with other additions and renovations to the site.

In Japan, the project would also feature an authentic Ainu village experience – designed to raise awareness for the local indigenous Ainu people.

Other key partnerships Allen announced at the unveiling included:

New York Yankees: Expanding on its 12-year relationship with the Yankees, HRI would expand its "NYY Steak" concept and New York Yankee experience at the proposed site.

NEC: HRI expects to use the latest in facial recognition and security services at the resort through the information and communications technology company.

Music Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame: Hard Rock will work to bring "praise and awareness" to the musical accomplishments of Japanese, Asian and global artists through a hall of fame concept.

"With Hard Rock's 35 years of business experience in the Japan market, we look forward to developing a premiere world-class Broadway theater in Hokkaido, so both Japanese and international visitors can enjoy a variety of popular theatrical shows throughout the year," Robert Nederlander Jr., chairman and CEO of his family's company said in a statement.

Allen also used the occasion to announce Hard Rock's participation in Hokkaido's world-famous Sapporo Snow Festival, which began Jan. 30 and is celebrating its 70th anniversary.

Hard Rock Japan constructed a massive snow sculpture, towering over four stories, showcasing famous Japanese animated rock star Hatsune Miku — a full 3D holographic 'Vocaloid' who appears in concerts all over the globe and is accompanied by a live band performing in sync to her performance.

Allen also thanked Yoshikazu Nonomura, chairman and CEO of the Hokkaido Consadole Sapporo Professional Soccer Club, on Hard Rock's recent sponsorship with them and to wish them a successful 2019 season.

Allen presented Nonomura a check for $100,000 to the team's Hokkaido Earthquake Charitable Relief Fund, which provides direct aid to Hokkaido residents who suffered losses in last September's massive earthquake.

Hard Rock

Jim Allen, chairman and CEO of Hard Rock International, presents a check for $100,000 to Yoshikazu Nonomura, chairman and CEO of the Hokkaido Consadole Sapporo professional soccer club, to assist with the team's Hokkaido Earthquake Charitable Relief Fund to help the victims of a massive earthquake that hit the island last September.

Hard Rock Event Center to feature Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons for two nights

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons will play at Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino Hollywood for back-to-back shows Feb. 14-15 at 8 p.m.

Guests at Hard Rock Event Center can expect to hear Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons perform countless hit singles, including "Sherry," "Walk Like A Man," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Rag Doll," "December, 1963 (Oh, What a Night)," "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," and "Grease."

Valli rose to fame in 1962 as the lead singer of the Four Seasons. The group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990.

Tickets cost $105, $80, $60 and $40. All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at myhrl.com, .ticketmaster.com or charge by phone 1-800-745-3000.

Atlantic City Hard Rock team makes donations to homeless center

Hard Rock/Facebook (above); Turning Point/Facebook (right)

Before the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City opened on June 28, 2018, its table games dealers decided they wanted to donate their tips from the pre-opening events to a local charity, and Hard Rock matched it. On Jan. 22, the Hard Rock team presented two checks, each in the amount of $8,200, to Turning Point Day Center for the Homeless which helps provide meals, showers, drug counseling and more for the homeless, working poor and others in need. "God is Great- we are so pleased to be thought of by the dealers and then the casino matching it. We are able to continue to provide much needed support for people in our community. Remember, there but for The Grace of God go I. Let us Never look down on someone else's circumstances unless you are reaching down to help them up. Love your fellow man," Turning Point posted on its Facebook page. At right are Rev. Richard Andrews and Deacon Donald Scott.

Judas Priest to kick off 'Firepower 2019' Tour at Hard Rock Event Center

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Heavy Metal icons Judas Priest kick off their highly anticipated "Firepower 2019" tour with special guest Uriah Heep at Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino in Hollywood on May. 3 at 8 p.m.

The "Firepower 2019" tour will feature performances from Judas Priest's most recent studio album "Firepower," as well as fresh classic cuts from across the decades. The tour will also feature a visual stage set and light show.

Throughout their 50-year career, Judas Priest has received numerous accolades including a Grammy for Best Metal Performance, VH1 Rock Honors and a nomination for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Comprised of Rob Halford (vocals), Glenn Tipton (guitar), Richie Faulkner (guitar), Ian Hill (bass) and Scott Travis (drums), Judas Priest is responsible for the heavy metal classics "Living After Midnight," "Breaking the Law" and "You've Got Another Thing Coming," and the albums "British Steel," "Point of Entry," "Screaming for Vengeance," "Defenders of the Faith," "Painkiller" and "Nostradamus."

Hard Rock

Heavy metal icons Judas Priest comes to the Hard Rock Event Center in May.

Share an 'Evening with Steve Miller'

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — "An Evening with Steve Miller Band" comes to Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino Hollywood on Mar. 17 at 7 p.m.

In 2018, Steve Miller produced and directed two new career-spanning collections titled, "Ultimate Hits." The special project is available in one-disc and digital edition, featuring 22 essential Steve Miller Band tracks, including three previously unreleased hits. "Ultimate Hits" is also available in an expanded two-disc and digital deluxe edition with 40 tracks, including the band's top hits, live tracks and eight previously unreleased recordings from the studio.

Miller was a mainstay of the San Francisco music scene that upended American culture in the late 1960s. With albums like "Children of the Future," "Sailor" and "Brave New World."

In the 1970s, Miller crafted a brand of rock and roll music that continues play on the radio through today. The Band's hits include "The Joker," "Livin' in the USA," "Take the Money and Run," "Rock'n Me," "Fly Like an Eagle," "Jet Airliner," "Jungle Love" and "Abracadabra."

The Steve Miller Band has played to more than 20 million people in the last 20 years. From 2015 to 2017, Miller presented seven sold out shows at the Jazz at Lincoln Center, including "Ma Rainey Meets Miles Davis," "T-Bone Walker – A Bridge From Blues to Jazz" and "The Blues Triangle: Memphis, Texas and Chicago," followed by two more sold out shows of "Music from Appalachia" in 2018.

Sir Tom Jones comes to Hard Rock

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Sir Tom Jones comes to Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino Hollywood on May 11.

A living legend with a 50-year career, Jones is best known for his hit singles "It's Not Unusual," "Kiss," "Delilah," "What's New Pussycat," "I'll Never Fall In Love Again" and "If I Only Knew."

In 2006, Jones was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II, and in 2012 he performed at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee concert at Buckingham Palace. Other highlights of his career include receiving BRIT Awards for Best Male and Outstanding Contribution to Music, a Silver Clef Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Hitmaker Award from the U.S. Songwriters Hall of Fame, GQ Man of The Year and the UK Music Industry Trust Award.

Courtesy photo

Tom Jones

Sports

Rough stock clinic full of learning experiences for youth

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BI Y ESS — As a warm up to the upcoming Eastern Indian Rodeo Association rodeo season, kids from age 6 to 17 practiced their skills at a rough stock clinic at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress.

About 20 kids took turns at mutton busting, pony riding, chute doggin, calf riding, steer riding and junior bull riding on Jan. 19. The young participants were allowed to do an event repeatedly; after all, the point of the clinic was to build skills and confidence.

"This is an open clinic, so you can ride as much as you want," Moses Jumper Jr. told the group of young rodeo riders. "This is a good sport, but it's a tough sport."

Before the clinic began, Justin Gopher, former professional bull rider, spoke to the kids about his experience in the rodeo.

"I love the sport of bull riding," Gopher said. "As a kid growing up, it was fun. I never thought I'd quit."

Injuries sidelined his bull riding career in 2009. Gopher started doing rodeo at age 9 and retired at age 26 after eight years on the professional circuit.

"To be successful, you have to make rodeo your life," Gopher said. "This is a mind game; if you believe you can do something, you can do it. It's all about what you have in your head. You can do anything if you believe in yourself."

The kids suited up in helmets and vests before each event, starting with the mutton busting, during which the kids needed to stay on the animal for 15 seconds to get points during a real rodeo. They had to stay on a calf for six seconds and eight seconds on a bull for it to count.

During the clinic, Tribal experts coached and encouraged the kids in their events.

Professional bareback rider Jacoby Johns shared his expertise with the aspiring young pony riders as he helped get the horses and riders ready in the chute. He even got on a pony and demonstrated how far back the kids should lean as they try to hang on.

During chute doggin, Blevyns Jumper showed the kids how to bring down a steer by its horns. It didn't take long for his clean white shirt to get covered in rodeo red dirt. As Johns held onto the steer's tail, the kids tried to take down the animals, which were much bigger and stronger than them.

Jeff Johns, Naha Jumper and Cyrus Smedley also coached the kids and gave them tips as they struggled. Some of those pearls were "don't be afraid" and "put your hip into it."

Gopher helped the kids get ready for the bulls and made sure the equipment was secure before the kids mounted the feisty beasts.

"Watching these kids brings back a lot of excitement and memories," said Gopher, who has two sons in the rodeo. "They love it."

Beverly Bidney

As Chunk Osceola's bull ride is about to come to an end, Cyrus Smedley remains ready to help him if necessary during a rough stock clinic Jan. 19 at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress.

Beverly Bidney

Cash Jumper gives it his best as he tries to stay on the calf for six seconds. Alas, it was not to be.

Beverly Bidney

These little cowboys watch their peers participate in the EIRA rough stock clinic Jan. 19 in Big Cypress.

Beverly Bidney

Creek Gopher attempts to wrestle the steer to the ground while being coached by experienced rodeo hands, from left, Moses Jumper Jr., Jeff Johns, Jacoby Johns and Blevyns Jumper. He finally got the animal to the ground with no injuries to either party.

Beverly Bidney

Brody Riley shows his mettle as he rides this fast-moving pony through the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.

EIRA starts new season Feb. 2 in Hollywood

Here's the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association schedule for the 2019 season. For more information contact Melissa Gopher.

Feb. Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo (Hollywood Reservation Rodeo Arena), 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Feb. 9 Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo (Hollywood Reservation Rodeo Arena), 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Feb. 1 Brighton Field Day Rodeo (Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, Brighton Reservation) 7 p.m.

arc 1 Junior Cypress Memorial Rodeo (Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena, Big Cypress Reservation) 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.

A ril 0 Sports Festival Rodeo (Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena, Big Cypress Reservation) 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.

uly Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo (Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, Brighton Reservation) 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.

uly Regional Finals Rodeo (Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, Brighton Reservation) 7 p.m.

Tribune file photo

The annual Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo will start the EIRA season Feb. 2 in Hollywood.

All-Native team to compete in PBR Global Cup

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The PBR Global Cup, the only nation versus nation bull riding competition, will make its U.S. debut, and third stop, at AT T Stadium in Arlington, Texas on Feb. 9-10. The new team tournament debuted in Edmonton, Alberta in November 2017 and then visited Sydney, Australia in June 2018.

The all-Native American Team USA-Wolves contingent will be coached by Wiley Petersen (Fort Hall, Idaho; Shoshone Bannock), with his roster of riders including: Ryan Dirteater (Hulbert, Oklahoma; Cherokee), Stetson Lawrence (Williston, North Dakota; Chippewa and Sioux), Keyshawn Whitehorse (McCracken Springs, Utah; Navajo), Cody Jesus (Window Rock, Arizona; Navajo), Cannon Cravens (Porum Oklahoma; Cherokee), Justin Granger (Tuba City, Arizona; Navajo), Colten Jesse (Konawa, Oklahoma; Potawatomi) and alternate Dakota Louis (Browning, Montana; Northern Cheyenne and Black Feet).

Seasons begin for Tribe's college players

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Some of the Seminole Tribe's top college athletes have begun their seasons.

Cheyenne Nunez, of the Brighton Reservation, started the softball season on a positive note by going 2-for-3 with two walks, two runs scored and a stolen base to lead State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota to a season opening 6-5 win against College of Central Florida on Jan. 25 at the JUCO Kickoff Classic in Clearwater.

Nunez, a former Okeechobee High School multisport standout who is in her second season with SCF, was the leadoff batter and played center field.

She had one hit and one run scored in each of the team's next two games, a 6-2 win against Pensacola State College and a 7-6 loss against Miami Dade College.

Ahnie Jumper, of Big Cypress, returns for her second season of NCAA Division I softball with Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers.

The Eagles open their season Feb. 8 with home games against Kent State (4:45 p.m.) and Penn State (7 p.m.).

Other highlights on the schedule include a home exhibition game against Team Japan on Feb. 16, the San Diego Classic in California in March and the Atlantic Sun Conference championship in May at FGCU.

Jumper, who helped American Heritage-Plantation win three state championships, saw action in 22 games last season as a freshman. Most of her appearances were as a courtesy runner. She scored eight runs, which ranked ninth on the team.

Jumper is listed as a third baseman/catcher on the roster which has five catchers in all.

FGCU went 39-17 last year, including a stellar 20-6 mark at home.

Former Moore Haven High School standout Sunni Bearden, from the Brighton Reservation, is in her freshman season on the South Florida State College softball team in Avon Park. The team opened its season Jan. 25.

On the baseball side, Sean Osceola, of Brighton, is in his freshmen season at Pasco-Hernando State College in New Port Richey. Osceola, whose arm and bat helped Okeechobee High School reach the regional finals last spring, is listed as a pitcher, first baseman, third baseman and designated hitter on Pasco-Hernando's roster.

The team started the season with two losses and a win against Tallahassee Community College. Osceola did not play in any of the games.

Tribune file photo, above/FGCU Athletics, below

State College of Florida's Cheyenne Nunez, above, and Florida Gulf Coast University's Ahnie Jumper, below, have begun their sophomore seasons in college softball.

Basketball camp strives to pump up interest in instruction

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Jason Billie figured the lengthy holiday break for kids would be an ideal opportunity to offer them full days of basketball instruction.

So in late December and early January, Billie ran an all-day basketball holiday camp offered tribalwide at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood.

Billie said the results for the first-time camp were mixed. He was thrilled with the participants, but wished more kids would have filled up the court.

"Ups and downs," he said while taking a break from the camp on its final day Jan. 4. "First day we had 17; yesterday we only had nine; today we had 14. As many kids as we have here in basketball tournaments, I thought we should have had more."

Those who did attend were treated to instruction and drills on everything ranging from dribbling, passing, shooting, defense, sprints and other aspects, all which Billie hopes will make the kids better players and grow their enjoyment of the sport. Time was set aside for mini-games, too.

"The goal is to get them engaged," said Billie, who played basketball in college, worked at summer camps and provided personal training. "Get the kids involved, get them active instead of just sitting around…"

Most of the kids were ages 6 to 12 and came from Hollywood with a few from Big Cypress and Brighton. Hollywood Recreation site manager Joe Collins said a unique thing about the camp is that it is all basketball, all the time.

"It's basketball from start to finish," Collins said. "They run drills all day. They eat lunch with us; snacks in the morning and afternoon. We're kind of experimenting with it. We'll do it again at spring break."

The game plan also includes offering the camp throughout the summer and during other breaks from school.

Billie and Collins said they would like to see improved results from the Tribe's teams at NAYO, which the Tribe will host this April in Hollywood.

Awards were handed out at the end of the camp in the all-tournament, most valuable player and hustle categories.

Kenneth "KJ" Tommie won the MVP and Mr. Hustle awards on the boys side; Presleigh Osceola-Hahn won the girls MVP and Maddey Huggins was named Miss Hustle.

The all-tournament team was Phillip Frank, Daveny Osceola-Hahn, Ben Purvis, Jamaylah Wilson and Quinton Wilson.

Kevin Johnson

Daveny Osceola-Hahn goes through a dribbling drill at the holiday camp in Hollywood on Jan. 4.

Billie knows the camp is just in its infant stages and he hopes to see it grow in 2019.

"I'm not happy with the turnout, but I am happy with the people who showed up. I wish there would have been more," he said.

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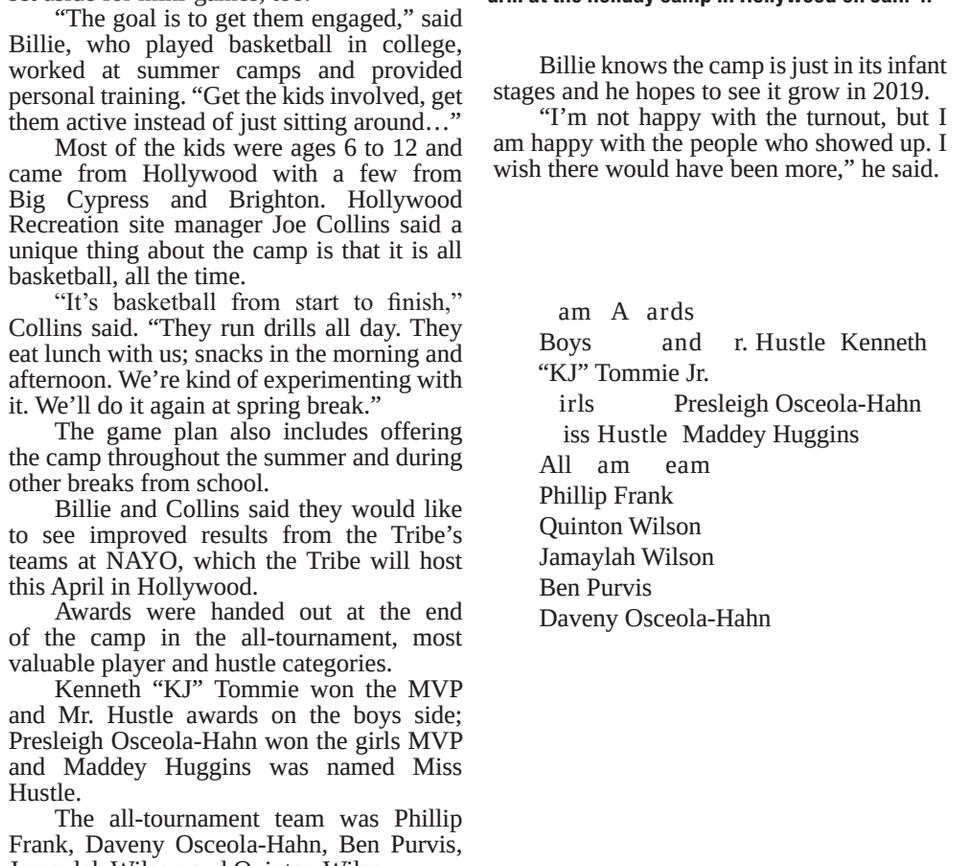

Kevin Johnson

Maddey Huggins goes airborne during a mini-scrimmage at the camp.

Kevin Johnson

Jason Billie provides instruction to kids at the Christmas basketball camp on Jan. 4 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood.

Courtesy photo

Boys MVP and Mr. Hustle award winner Kenneth "KJ" Tommie Jr.

Courtesy photo

Girls MVP Presleigh Osceola-Hahn.

Courtesy photo

Girls Miss Hustle winner Maddey Huggins.

Courtesy photo

All Camp Team Phillip Frank.

Courtesy photo

All Camp Team Quinton Wilson.

Courtesy photo

All Camp Team Jamaylah Wilson.

Courtesy photo

All Camp Team Daveny Osceola-Hahn.

Courtesy photo

All Camp Team Ben Purvis.

Veteran Moore Haven squad holds off young Brahmans

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

OKEE HOBEE — A veteran Moore Haven squad emerged from a packed Okeechobee High gym with a hard-fought win as the Terriers edged a young and determined Okeechobee team that kept things interesting all the way until the final buzzer Jan. 7.

The high school girls varsity basketball game featured seven players from the Seminole Tribe's Brighton Reservation (Moore Haven's Alicia Fudge, Tafv Harris, Burgundy Pierce and Caroline Sweat and Okeechobee's Adryauna Baker, Karey Gopher and Caylie Huff). Several Tribal members in the stands were treated to a gem as Okeechobee, which trailed most of the game, mounted a furious comeback in the second half, but Moore Haven used its experience in the waning moments to prevail.

Fudge, a senior guard, was a force at both ends of the court in the final few hectic minutes. She dominated on the defensive boards. While Okeechobee's inexperience in a tight game showed up on the foul line, Fudge calmly went 4-for-4 from the line in the final two-and-a-half minutes thanks to drawing fouls on coast-to-coast rushes.

"When you're a senior and you've been playing basketball for many years, and it's time to be a leader, that's what leaders do. Leaders step up and take control of the game," said Moore Haven coach Al Gary, whose team improved to 8-4.

All 12 of Fudge's points came in the second half.

Sweat, who scored 16 points, which included 10 in the first half, made a free throw with 16 seconds left in the game that proved to be critical. That point gave Moore Haven a seemingly comfortable 64-57 lead, but Okeechobee, as it did all game, just never gave up.

"That's one thing about this group. They have bad days, but they don't quit. They keep fighting. Whether we're up by 30 or down by 30, they're always fighting. That's all you can ask for as a coach," said Okeechobee coach Jovanny Torres, whose team is 5-9 overall and 2-1 in its district.

Okeechobee's grit was on display literally right up until the horn went off. With her team down by four points and with only four tenths of a second left, Gopher received an inbounds pass and sank a 3-pointer as time expired.

Although they didn't win, being in a close game against a rival school in a frenzied atmosphere should help the Brahmans in the experience department for the rest of the season and the coming years.

"They've got all seniors except for maybe two or three; we've got all freshmen except for two. I've got one junior and one sophomore; all the rest are freshmen, so they're still learning. When they get the ball they're like a deer in headlights sometimes. They're not calm, cool and collective yet, but we'll get there," said Torres, whose assistant coach and sister-in-law is Tribal member Audrey Snow.

Gopher scored eight points, including a pair of 3s from in front of the team's sideline, and Baker, nicknamed Nova, who earned Okeechobee News' Big Lake Athlete of the Week honor earlier in the season, had seven points. Both are starting guards who have emerged as pleasant surprises for Torres this season.

"They're big surprises. Karey is a pure shooter. Once she gets in that spot, you can't stop her," Torres said. "Nova still has a lot to learn on defense, but offensive-wise she's a real beast at putting the ball on the floor and getting what she wants. She was real nervous today. She was playing against her cousins and her friends and she was trying to do a little too much, but she's been a great player. She moved into the starting lineup after the first day of practice. She's a leader on the court. She tells everyone where they need to be."

Huff, a sophomore, came off the bench and provided a spark in the first quarter. With Okeechobee down 11-3 early, Huff entered the game and promptly had two assists and made a layup that keyed a 10-0 run.

"She's definitely our sixth man. She comes off the bench with fire and energy," Torres said.

Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven High School and Okeechobee High School players from the Brighton Reservation gather before their game Jan. 7 at Okeechobee High School. From left, Tafv Harris, Caylie Huff, Alicia Fudge, Adryauna Baker, Burgundy Pierce, Karey Gopher and Caroline Sweat.

Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee's Adryauna Baker tries to get a shot off against Moore Haven's Burgundy Pierce.

Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Alicia Fudge tries to dribble past Okeechobee's Caylie Huff.

KevinJohnson

Moore Haven's Tafv Harris looks for open teammate as she dribbles amid traffic against Okeechobee.

Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee's Caylie Huff is congratulated by head coach Jovanny Torres, assistant coach Audrey Snow and teammates after Huff helped the team erase an early eight-point deficit against Moore Haven.

Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee High guard Karey Gopher and the Brahmans bench watch her 3-point attempt against Moore Haven.

Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee's Adryauna Baker and Moore Haven's Alicia Fudge battle for the ball.

Ahfachkee girls return from break with win in Hollywood

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Abby Tigertail scored 13 points to lead the Ahfachkee School girls basketball team past host Hollywood Christian, 39-17, on Jan. 11.

Nine points in the first half from Tigertail and eight from Carlise Bemudez boosted the Lady Warriors to a 22-9 lead at halftime.

Lele Gopher and Destinee Cypress had the hot hands for Ahfachkee in the second half. Gopher scored seven points in the second half and finished with nine for the game. She also had a block. Cypress had nine points, which came on three 3-pointers, all to the delight of her teammates.

Ahfachkee didn't show any signs of rust despite playing its first game after a three-week hiatus for the holiday break.

"Their attitude is great. They were positive and they had fun tonight," said Ahfachkee coach Greg Stephens, whose team, which played without injured Alena Stockton, evened its record at 2-2. "They've been improving in everything. It's just hard because as soon as we got a little rythym going we had to take three or four weeks off. Now we're back at it again. They're kids; it's hard when they have a couple weeks off to get back into it."

Hollywood Christian features two players from the Tribe: Mary Osceola, who did not play, and Kimora Alex, who started at point guard. Alex scored on a pair of layups in the second half.

Both players have established themselves as key parts on an extremely young team.

"Both of them are doing very good. I love that they came out to play for us. They have a positive attitude," said Hollywood Christian coach Hadee Espinoza.

Espinoza said Alex is averaging about six points per game.

This season is no doubt a learning experience for Hollywood Christian, which is filled with middle schoolers. In fact, their oldest players are two ninth-graders.

"We have a very, very young team. They're learning," Espinoza said.

The boys game between Ahfachkee and Hollywood Christian was cancelled due to a lack of players for Ahfachkee. Stephens also coaches the boys team. He said the squad started the season with six players, but injuries to two players prevented the game from being played. It was recorded as a forfeit win for Hollywood Christian.

Kevin Johnson

The Ahfachkee bench reacts in jubilation after Destinee Cypress sank one of her three 3-pointers in the team's 39-17 win against Hollywood Christian on Jan. 11 at Hollywood Christian.

Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee's Abby Tigertail scores two of her game-high 13 points on a layup.

Kevin Johnson

Hollywood Christian's Kimora Alex takes a jump shot against Ahfachkee.

Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee's Aleah Billie plays tough defense as she gets in the way of a Hollywood Christian pass.

PECS boys, girls sweep Yearling in home finale

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

B I H ON — One by one, the basketball players from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's class of 2019 were escorted to center court by family members. A dozen eighth-graders – three on the girls team and a whopping nine on the boys team – were presented with hugs and gifts from coaches before both squads went out and accomplished the same feat: beat Yearling Middle School in the Seminoles' final home game.

Both PECS teams suffered a few losses along their journeys this season, but nonetheless compiled winning records.

"The season was up and down," said boys coach Preston Baker after his squad triumphed 38-25 against Yearling in the home finale Jan. 24 in Brighton. "We had some rough games, some tough games, but some games we beat ourselves. We bounce back. Tonight we played a much better game than we did last night (a two-point loss against Moore Haven)."

The nine eighth-grade boys honored before the game were Charlie Armstrong, Pherian Baker, Jarrett Beecham, Leviticus Berry, Jace Brown, Jason Haydon Jr., Wyatt Hines, David King and Bryce Ward.

Hines and Ward will be headed to different high schools next year – Hines to Moore Haven, Ward to Okeechobee – but in their final home game as teammates they led the way to victory with 10 points each.

The score was knotted at 17-17 at halftime, but a huge third quarter from Hines, a forward who won a lot of battles on the boards at both ends, helped PECS go on a 13-4 tear in the quarter. The team also received a boost in the third quarter from guard Bryce Baker, who scored the first four points to put the home team ahead for good.

Ward scored most of his points on driving layups, often shifting into a higher gear to blaze past Yearling defenders.

The Seminoles will have gaps to fill next season with the loss of some speed and size, but the cupboard isn't bare.

"They had some good kids down there on JV. We'll have some pretty good kids coming up next year," coach Baker said.

The boys love to play an up tempo game as do the girls.

"If we have the speed, then I'm going to use it, and we've got the speed," said girls coach Jewel Buck after the Lady Seminoles came through in the clutch late in the game to edge Yearling, 29-25.

The team honored its 8th-graders -- Javale Anderson, Giselle Micco and Shylynn Testerman – in the pregame ceremony.

Micco scored a team-high 11 points followed by sixth-graders Presylnn Baker (5 points) and TT Anderson (4 points).

The teams were tied 24-24 with four minutes left in the game before PECS finished on a 5-1 run. Baker, Micco and Carlee Osceola each made key free throws in the waning minutes and Baker helped seal the victory by finishing off a fast break layup.

Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School boys basketball coach Preston Baker and the bench celebrate a basket toward the end of the team's 38-25 win against Yearling Middle School on Jan. 24 in Brighton.

Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School forward Wyatt Hines snags a rebound against Yearling with teammates Bryce Baker (3) and Aunre Baker (10) providing assistance.

Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School guard Giselle Micco gets ready to score two of her team-high 11 points in a 29-25 win against Yearling on Jan. 24 in Brighton.

Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School guard Carlee Osceola drives the lane against Yearling.

How the young team, which has six sixth-graders, handled the pressure situations said a lot about how the team has grown this season. Buck, in her first year at the helm, said the learning experiences, including making free throws with the game on the line, have been plentiful.

"Me, personally, I'm not good at finishing in those types of situations, but the girls handled it very well," Buck said. "They kept the pressure down. In normal situations, as young as they are, they would panic, but I'm glad they kept their composure throughout the last couple minutes."

Buck said she enjoyed her first season as head coach and was pleased with the team's development throughout the season.

"I'm just excited about the growth they had," she said. "Team growth, personal development, skills, building confidence and pushing toward the next level, I can see it."

Tentative Rez Rally results

ribal K run

ale yout 11
1. Hinton Anderson
2. Curtis Motlow
3. Bill Osceola

Female yout 11
1. Denise Gonzales
2. D'Niya Pray
3. Tyanni Anderson

ale yout 1 1
1. Kaleb Thomas
2. Andrew Bowers
3. Nikko Doctor

Female yout 1 1
1. Kimora Alex
2. Eliska Slavik
3. Adrianne Bell

ale 18
1.Peter Foret
2. Chayse Billie
3. Clinton Billie

Female 18
1. Ariah Osceola
2. Courtney Osceola
3. Jessica Osceola

ale
1. Raul Escobar
2. Marcellus Osceola
3. Preston Baker

Female
1. Lorraine Posada
2. Lenora Roberts
3. Angel Billie Marks

ale 8
1. Patrick Doctor
2. Ronnie Billie
3. Joe Kippenberger

Female 8
1. Shirley Clay
2. Patty Waldron
3. Verna Billie

ale 9
1. Andrew Bowers

ribal K alk

ale 18
1. Jordan Baker
2. Spencer Jock
3. Waylon Micco

Female 18
1. Josie Davis
2. Maleah Isaac
3. Lauren Posada

ale
1. Mohakin Tiger
2. Johnnie Jimmie
3. Duane Jones

Female
1. Rita Youngman
2. Almira Billie
3. Francine Osceola

ale 8
1. Sandy Billie
2. Timesia Jimmie
3. Aaron Billie

Female 8
1. Kay Braswell
Tie: Mary Tigertail/Bonnie Motlow
3. Elizabeth Shore

Female 9
1. Connie Whidden
2. Martha Jones

ribal one mile alk

ale 1 mile 0
1. Mitchell Cypress
2. Roy Snow
3. David Cypress

Female 1 mile 0
1. Rose Jones
2. Helene Buster
3. Nancy Frank

ribal stroller category

1. Brooke Osceola
2. Tiffany Billie
3. Nikki Baker

ribal eelc air category

1. Kayven Emley
2. Maxine Tucker Jock

eneral category

Yout run 1
1. Denito Gonzales
2. Madison Martinez
3. Dakota Mariscal

ale run 18
1. Isael Villa
2. Mario Silva
3. Paul Backhouse

Female run 18
1. Elizabeth Bridon
2. Nyeema Roberts
3. Kenia Fritz

ale run
1. James Jackson

Female run
1. Patricia Miller

Female alk
1. Frieda Utt
2. Tie: Monica Gallet/Sherry Allgair
3. Naomi Seymour

ale alk 18
1. Jose Ramirez
2. Chris Goodwin
3. Michael Osceola

Female alk 18
1. Zonia Rodriguez
2. Monique Young
3. Bianca Huggins

ale alk
1. Kenneth Doney
2. Harley Roberts
3. Paul Isaacs

eam results

ost artici ants overall
1. Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trail
2. Immokalee/Naples
3. Brighton/Tampa
4. Big Cypress

Hig est ribal ercentage
1. Immokalee/Naples
2. Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trail
3. Brighton/Tampa
4. Big Cypress

Seminole brothers step up in big way for Hollywood Christian

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole trio of brothers – Bryce Osceola, Grant Osceola and Chayse Billie – have made significant impacts on the Hollywood Christian School boys basketball team this season. Opposing teams are probably fortunate all three haven't been on the court at the same time.

On Jan. 15, only one of the three played, but it was more than enough to propel Hollywood Christian past Glades Day, 79-46, as Chayse poured in a season-high 34 points with a crisp shooting night in a breakout performance. The smooth-operating 6-foot-2 shooting guard joined the team about a month into the season and he's been improving with each outing.

"You can tell his growth from the first game until now, it's a lot," said Hollywood Christian coach Josh Gertner. "I think it's the first time he's been asked to be put in that position, to lead, not only in scoring, but as well as distributing and defense and off the court as well. He's doing a great job stepping up."

Kevin Johnson

Hollywood Christian junior Chayse Billie launches a 3-point shot on his way to a 34-point performance in a 79-46 win against Glades Day on Jan. 15.

Chayse, a junior, helped get his team off to a fast start with nine points in the first quarter as Hollywood Christian built a 17-8 lead. His versatility was evident in the quarter with two layups, a 3-pointer and a pair of free throws.

"He's definitely maturing," Gertner said. "At the beginning of the season, some bad shots, but now he's definitely learning bad shot from good shot, when to make the extra pass."

Grant, a 6-foot-3 senior, was doing a lot of good things all over the court until an Achilles injury ended his year just five games into the season.

"He did really well. He was like our point forward. He did rebounds, defense, blocked shots; he did everything for us," Gertner said.

Although Grant's basketball career at Hollywood Christian appears to be over, Bryce's is just beginning. He's only an eighth-grader and the future already looks bright thanks to some standout moments. He was named to the all-tournament team at a holiday tournament at South Fork High School, where he made six 3-pointers in one game.

"He started off, like a lot of eight-graders a little timid, but by the middle of the season he was our go-to guy. He was our leader in points for our Christmas tournament as well as our New Year's tournament. He's an unreal shooter," Gertner said.

Bryce didn't play against Glades Day, but the team hopes to have him back before the end of the season. With four more years of eligibility, Bryce is on a path to continue his family's legacy at Hollywood Christian. His sisters Ariah and Skyla helped power Hollywood Christian to a 31-1 record and state championship in 2011. Their names and those of their teammates are prominently displayed on a purple banner in the gym. Brother Hunter was a standout at the school and teammate of Gertner before Hunter went on to win a state championship at American Heritage in 2014. Dad Marl was an assistant coach on the girls state title team and a former head coach of the boys. He has returned this season as assistant coach to Gertner, who is only 23.

"It's been great having him here, just learning from him," Gertner said. "He's high energy and a great conditioning and skills coach."

Gertner is in his first full season as head coach. He started last season as the JV team's head coach and finished it as varsity head coach.

Gertner has his alma mater pointed in the right direction. By late January, the team had already doubled its win output from a year ago with a 12-9 record.

Cameron Gunville stars on and off the field

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

SE INOLE, Okla. — Cameron Gunville, a member of Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and of the Tallahassee Band, recently completed an outstanding season on the gridiron.

As a running back for the Seminole High School football team in Seminole, Oklahoma, Gunville racked up 2,174 rushing yards on just 194 carries. He scored 33 rushing touchdowns and caught two TD passes. He also plays free safety on defense.

The team finished with an 8-3 record.

The field isn't the only place where Gunville excels; he has a 3.70 grade point average and is a National Honor Society inductee.

Gunville's Seminole name is "Wind Spirit," which was given to him by his Great Uncle Charlie Hill. His parents are Olie and Antonia Gunville.

Gunville is a junior who is attracting attention from colleges.

"I am thankful to all the coaches, fans, and teammates I have the opportunity to work with," Gunville wrote in an email to The Seminole Tribune. "I have been shown interest from the Oklahoma Baptist University Bisons and Ohio Bobcats. I have also received an email from Harvard University. With the help of God, family, and friends the possibilities are endless."

Courtesy photo

Cameron Gunville (Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and Tallahassee Band) rushed for more than 2,000 yards in his junior season last fall at Seminole High School in Seminole, Oklahoma.

Welterweight showdown comes to Hard Rock

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Rumble at the Rock IV will be held March 1 at the Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino in Hollywood, Fla., with Rumble at the Rock IV, The event will be televised live on Boxeo Telemundo.

In the 10-round welterweight co-main event, Miami-via-Puerto Rico's Derrieck Cuevas (18-0-1, 14 KOs) will face fellow Floridian Ed "The Lion" Paredes (38-7-1, 25 KOs) of Pembroke Pines.

Tickets for "Rumble at the Rock IV" cost $60, $100, $150, $250 and $500 and are available through ticketmaster.com.

Cuevas, 24, originally from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, is known as a fearsome power puncher and former Puerto Rican National Amateur Champion. As a professional, he has already won the World Boxing Association Fedecentro Welterweight Championship with a unanimous decision over Daniel Sostre in 2016. He was last seen at Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood in November of 2018, scoring a unanimous 10-round decision over Breidis Prescott

"Every fight, they say, will be the toughest of my career, and I keep passing the tests with flying colors," Cuevas said in a press release. "I'm happy to be back on the Telemundo airwaves. I find that fighting better opponents makes me a better fighter, and the fans will see the best version of me they've ever seen against Ed Paredes. I am training hard and looking forward to coming out on top once again."

Paredes, 33, is originally from Lawrence, Mass. and currently lives in Pembroke Pines, A well-respected contender, Paredes is a 14-year pro, who once held the WBC Caribbean Boxing Federation (CABOFE), WBO Latino Welterweight, WBA-NABA Welterweight and WBC Youth World Welterweight Championships.

"I took some time off to heal my body completely, and now I'm back and better than ever," Paredes said. "Cuevas is young and undefeated, but he's never faced a guy on my level in front of a huge crowd of my fans."

On fight night, the Hard Rock Event Center doors open at 6 p.m., and the action starts at 7 p.m.

Derrieck Cuevas/Twitter

Derrieck Cuevas will square off against Ed Paredes on March 1 at Hard Rock Event Center in Hollywood.

✦ OPINION: BUSH
From page 2A

reburied him in his Chiricahua homeland in present-day New Mexico shortly after his burial at Fort Sill. She did not rule out the possibility that the Bonesmen robbed the grave of another Apache person at the same cemetery.

Second, Cleghorn and her relatives, Chiricahua Artists Allan Houser and Bob Haozous, father and son sculptors, all descend from Membreno Apache Chief Mangas Coloradas (1793-1863), also known as Red Sleeves, whose head has been missing for more than 150 years. Tortured and murdered at Fort McLane, New Mexico, while in U.S. Army custody, the Chief was decapitated, his head measured, his brain weighed and his lye-blanched skull was sent to Washington for the Army Surgeon General's Indian Crania Study.

There are several mentions in literature of the time about the fact that Coloradas had a big head. After noting that he was decapitated immediately after being shot and falling to the ground, the Army officer who filled out the bill of lading reported that the Chief's head was smaller, but brain larger than that of Daniel Webster, which is a startling bit of information to have at a western outpost in the 1860s. This supports a family view that the Chief was murdered for his head.

A phrenologist in New York City published a detailed illustration of the skull 10 years after Coloradas was killed. At the end of the 1800s, Europeans and Americans decided the study of heads was invalid, because it concluded that the French were not as bright as Cro-Magnons. The U.S. Army Medical Museum transferred at least 4,500 crania to the Smithsonian Institution, but its spokespersons say the head of Coloradas was not among them, despite its records of transmittal in the Smithsonian archives today. Some of his descendants think it is possible that Coloradas' remains were stolen, bought or otherwise made their way to Skull and Bones.

Whatever the Vice President may have done, if anything, about the remains in New Haven, he pledged to support our efforts to achieve federal repatriation policy and a national Native museum. As President, he overrode Administration opposition and agreed to support new law to return Native Peoples' ancestors and cultural items from repositories with a federal nexus. He greenlit the NMAI Act and the historic repatriation agreement regarding Smithsonian collections and the following year's application of repatriation to entities throughout the U.S.

The path to establishment of the NMAI and repatriation laws involved numerous conversations in the mid- and late-1980s among Bush, as Vice President and as President, Representative Barber B. Conable, Jr. (1922-2003), Author/Theologian Vine Deloria, Jr. (1933-2005), Chase Manhattan Bank Chair and CEO David Rockefeller (1915-2017) and me.

Conable, Deloria, Rockefeller and I were Trustees of the Museum of the American Indian in New York City and became Founding Trustees of the NMAI. At the same time, I was Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians and President of The Morning Star Institute, which funded the cultural rights agenda of NCAI. We all were trying to save MAI's priceless collection, to return what should not be in any collection and to achieve what became the NMAI.

A Republican Representative from New York (1965-1985), Conable was ranking member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee for his last eight years in Congress. A Nixon supporter until the Watergate scandal of the early 1970s, Conable famously dubbed as the "smoking gun" the tape of the President directing Chief of Staff H. R. Haldeman to obstruct the FBI investigation.

President of the World Bank (1986-1991), Conable was appointed by Reagan, but promoted by Bush, and he and the Vice President shared priorities for the Bank of environment protection and promotion of women. He relinquished all board positions except his MAI trusteeship to assume the World Bank presidency. As MAI Chair, he skillfully led even the most recalcitrant Trustees to a position of unanimity on the first return of wampum belts to the Haudenosaunee, in 1988. He later served as Chairman of the Smithsonian Board of Regents.

David Rockefeller, Sr. (1915-2017), a banker and philanthropist, was Chair and CEO of Chase Manhattan Bank and a longtime supporter of the MAI. He selected the U.S. Custom House as NMAI's New York site and hosted many meetings in New York and D.C. to jumpstart negotiations and untie political knots.

Rockefeller and Conable worked closely with Representative Charles B. Rangel (D-NY, 1971-2017), who was a 1971 founder and later Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and became the first African American Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee (2007-2010). The MAI was in Rangel's congressional district in Harlem, which some MAI spokespersons called "Upper Manhattan."

Together, they represented "the New Yorkers" and held periodic meetings with state, city and federal luminaries who were interested in the MAI collection and its future. Deloria and I were invited to one meeting for the purpose of striking a deal – the New Yorkers would support our repatriation and national museum goals in Washington and we would support their goal of maintaining a permanent museum presence and exhibitions in the City. The agreement and strategy were readily supported by NCAI and our alliance proved formidable.

A ro riations battles

As Vice President, Bush was an important behind-the-scenes advocate with Congress and within the White House for restoring Native program funding. The Reagan Administration sent six annual budgets to Congress that proposed cutting one-third of the funding for Native Peoples across the federal government. Most federal funding for Native health, education, housing, economic development and other programs and services derive from treaties and from laws that strive to improve conditions in Indian Country caused by detrimental and misguided U.S. practices.

Native people and allies found someone in the White House who would listen -- the Vice President -- who was shocked to learn some real life consequences that would result from many of the budget proposals. Bush was particularly appalled by the callous proposals to eliminate the Indian Health Service program for diabetes prevention and treatment, and to increase funding by the identical amount for amputations, most of which occur from diabetes untreated.

Bush and his staff quietly signaled to congressional members and staffers those items that the Administration would not defend, which helped advocates on the Hill with the heavy lifting to restore and fund the programs and services. Also part of this effort was First Lady Barbara Bush, who had policy chops and a network of astonishing reach.

While Native advocates defeated each of the draconian budget proposals, no new funding was added to compensate for escalating costs of running the programs, or to make up for turning Native parents, educators, health professionals, social workers and finance officers into crisis managers. And, the socio-economic indicators in Indian country worsened during the Reagan Administration.

Native Nations also were forced to expend time, energy and capital to battle the dastardly plans advanced by Interior Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Ross O. Swimmer, former Cherokee Nation Principal Chief, to turn over Native schools and education programs to the states; to dismantle the federal underpinnings of land and other property protections; and to privatize the trust resources and monies under management of a handful of banks, including one from which he would have benefitted directly.

Swimmer opposed the election of Winnebago Chair Reuben A. Snake, Jr., as president of the National Congress of American Indians. The newly ensconced face of the Trustee United States held court at a home in Tulsa, near the convention hotel, granting meetings to tribal leaders who would wear his candidate's campaign buttons. His reasons for not supporting Snake -- who also was a Native American Church Roadman and the candidate of then-NCAI and Quinault Nation President Jos DeLaCruz – was that Snake would back the NCAI priorities of a national museum, repatriation, sacred lands protection, Native languages preservation and sacramental peyote use, which Swimmer and his friends called "cultural crap."

Bush eventually convinced Reagan to abandon the White House budgeteers' failed efforts to slash Native funding and to forego the one-third cuts in his seventh and eighth proposed budgets. And, Bush did not wage anti-Native budget warfare during his own presidency.

As President, Bush selected an Assistant Secretary who was more in touch with and respectful of Native Peoples, but Swimmer resurfaced as Interior Special Trustee for American Indians in the George W. Bush Administration, and again in the campaign and transition of Donald J. Trump, peddling his same agenda, which has found greater receptivity in the current White House.

Broad Bus olicies su orted by and a ecting Native eo les

The budget battles produced a cadre of Native Peoples who were effective in making the case for fairness and countering injustice. Native Peoples proved invaluable to the overall lobby that achieved passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which President Bush signed into law in 1990. The U.S. was the first country to enact human rights law for people with disabilities, prohibiting discrimination in employment, public services, public accommodations and telecommunications.

"This historic act is the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities -- the first," said Bush upon signing the ADA. "Its passage has made the United States the international leader on this human rights issue." Calling it "powerful in its simplicity," Bush said it "will ensure that people with disabilities are given the basic guarantees for which they have worked so long and so hard: independence, freedom of choice, control of their lives, the opportunity to blend fully and equally into the rich mosaic of the American mainstream…Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down."

Bush negotiated and approved the 1990 Immigration Act, the first sweeping revision of immigration law in a quarter-century. Introduced by Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA; 1932-2009) and widely supported in Congress, the Act provided for family-based and employment-based immigration visas, a lottery for immigrants from "low admittance" countries, non-immigrant visas for highly skilled workers and fast-track deportations of criminals. It lifted certain English language testing of senior green-card residents and disallowed continued exclusion of homosexual immigrants as "sexual deviants" or on "mentally defective" or other prejudicial grounds.

In a provision with relevance to today's situation at the U.S.-Mexico border, the Immigration Act contained an authorization, tailor made for El Salvador, for the U.S. Attorney General to issue temporary protected status visas to admit immigrants who could not safely return home, due to armed conflict, environmental disaster or other extraordinary circumstances.

Other landmark laws signed by Bush include the 1990 the Older Workers Benefit Protection Act and the Age Discrimination Claims Assistance Act Amendments; the 1991 Civil Rights Act; and the 1992 EEOC Education, Technical Assistance and Training Revolving Fund Act.

In approving the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendment and backing its vigorous implementation by the Environmental Protection Administration, Bush placed the U.S. among world leadership addressing the hazardous and damaging effects of acid rain, stratospheric ozone depletion and of mercury and other toxic air pollution from auto gasoline emissions and from fossil fuel (primarily coal) powered electrical plants and other stationary industrial sources.

The Amendments established the first national cap-and-trade program and stepped up national and international efforts to regulate, prevent, research, replace and enforce against chemicals that threaten and destroy the ozone layer and air quality. They contained provisions to control and abate noise pollution, as well.

Congress had passed the Clean Air Act Amendments in lop-sided votes, with only 25 in opposition in the House and 10 in the Senate, and widely approved Bush's 1992 signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico. He praised it as the "most environmentally sensitive, the greenest free trade agreement ever negotiated."

Bush also had broad congressional support for signing the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the international agreement to deal with greenhouse emissions, and participating in the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The U.S. led the world's industrialized nations in ratifying the U.N. climate treaty, which Bush called the "first step in crucial long-term international efforts to address climate change."

More Native-specific laws approved by resident Bus

As the President was working on broad environmental initiatives and laws of general applicability, he supported and approved an astonishing number and kind of Native-specific laws, such as the 1990 Indian Environmental Regulatory Enhancement Act and the 1992 Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act.

He signed an authorization for every November to be "Native American Indian Heritage Month," and proclaimed November 1990 as the first. He declared the year of the Columbus Quincentenary as the "Year of the American Indian" and signed the congressional enactment of 1992 as the "Year of Reconciliation Between American Indians and non-Indians."

In 1990, he approved the recognition of criminal jurisdiction of Native Nations regarding citizens of other nations. In 1991, he signed the Navajo-Hopi Relocation Housing Program Reauthorization Act. In 1992, he signed the Indian Health Amendments, the Advisory Council on California Indian Policy Act and an extension of time for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to obligate funds for school operations.

Other laws ensured that funds under the 1986 Indian Alcohol and Substances Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act could be used to acquire land for emergency shelters, authorized self-governance demonstration projects and authorized a feasibility study for a Native American cultural center in Oklahoma City.

President Bush approved bills to restore, settle and clarify land, water, boundaries or jurisdiction of individual Native Nations, which secured rights and meant the world to the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, Catawba, Cochiti Pueblo, Coquille, Fallon Paiute and Shoshone, Jicarilla Apache, Nez Perce, Northern Cheyenne, Ponca, Puyallup, Rumsey, San Carlos Apache, Seminole, Seneca, Shoshone-Bannock and Zuni Pueblo, along with others earmarked in appropriations acts.

While this is not an exhaustive record of actions, I hope it provides the reader with reason to appreciate the tremendous difference George and Barbara Bush made in the lives of Native Peoples.

u an hown ar o, Cheyenne & odul ee Musco ee, is a writer, curator and olicy ad ocate, who has hel ed Nati e Peo les rotect and reco er sacred laces and o er one million acres o lands. n award-winnin Columnist or CT and the Guest Curator and ditor o the award-winnin e hibition (-) and book ( ), Nation to Nation Treaties Between the nited tates and merican ndian Nations, she has been awarded a Presidential Medal o reedom, the hi hest . . ci ilian honor.

Hard Rock-sponsored fishing championship features $1.75M purse

FROM PRESS RELEASE

KEY LA O — Sponsored by Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino in Hollywood, the eighth annual Jimmy Johnson's "Quest for the Ring" Championship Fishing Week will take over Key Largo from March 2-9. The annual four-day fishing tournament includes the one-day celebrity charitable pro-am and the two-day billfish championship which features a catch release division, a new weighted division and, in partnership with Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino Hollywood, the world's richest guaranteed purse of $1.75 million. Only 10 fishing entry spots remain open as of Jan. 22. The final entry opportunity will be at the end of the Captain's meeting on March 6, if spots are still available.

"Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino Hollywood is thrilled to once again be the presenting sponsor for Jimmy Johnson's "Quest for the Ring" Championship Fishing Week. This tournament is undoubtedly the most dynamic, fun-filled and exciting sport fishing competition in all of Florida. With this year's guaranteed prize purse of $1.75 million, every team will be pulling out all the stops to hook a prize-winning fish," Auggie Cipollini, president of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino Hollywood, said in a press release. "From the kick-off Gifting Experience Poolside Celebration at Hard Rock to the Ring of Honor awards presentation at the final dinner and all the parties and fishing in between, this is definitely a tournament that any serious angler needs to be a part of. We are pleased to support our good friend, Coach Jimmy Johnson, and the week-long festivities that generate much needed funds for a number of worthy charities."

Jimmy Johnson's "Quest for the Ring" Championship Fishing Week is "all about the ring" according to coach Johnson. Each year teams vie for entrance into the Ring of Honor, an elite group of champions who have taken home the top prize.

Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill Restaurant at MM 104 in Key Largo hosts the week long festivities. Guest accommodations can be made at Marriott Key Largo and Ocean Reef Club, among other locations. The kick-off event takes place on Saturday, March 2, at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino Hollywood, where anglers will be decked out head- to-toe with over $5,000 worth of fishing gear at the Gifting Experience before heading out to the ultimate Poolside Celebration. Then, the tournament takes over Key Largo starting March 6.

The 2019 JJ's Quest for the Ring Championship Fishing Week schedule includes the following events:

arc Angler Gifting Experience Poolside Celebration at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino Hollywood..

arc Packet Pick Up Kick Off Captain's Meeting at The Big Chill for JJ's Celebrity Pro-Am and JJ's National Billfish Championship.

arc JJ's Celebrity Pro-Am, where Jimmy's friends, celebrity athletes and entertainers will join the pros for a fun-filled day of competitive fishing in support of their favorite charities. That evening JJ's Ring of Honor Champions dinner will be held at Ocean Reef Club.

arc 89 Registered anglers head out for two days of competitive fishing in the history-making National Billfish Championship tournament.

arc 9, 6 p.m.: All tournaments culminate with a celebratory awards dinner and pool party as JJ's Backyard BBQ takes over JJ's Bill Chill.

Boat Entry information and the full schedule of events can be found at www.jjfishweek.com. Registration can be completed on the tournament website.

'War at The Rock' to be held Feb. 16 in Hollywood

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Mixed martial arts promotion Action Fight League returns to Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino in Hollywood, Fla. with "War at The Rock" on Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now.

The evening will highlight entertaining and highly competitive fights between some of America's top combat sports fighters. Scheduled fights include: Michel Quinones versus Yosdenis Cedeno; Christian Ynastrilla versus Edwin Sarria; James Hay versus Chris Salerno; Christopher Boasso versus Joseph Billingsley; and Devon Lira versus Adrian Garcia. Other fighters scheduled to appear include Danny Sabatello, Dilano Taylor and Jessica Branco, in matchups to be determined.

Tickets cost $100, $70, $55 and $40. VIP packages are also available for purchase. All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at www.myhrl.com, www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone: 1-800-745-3000. Explore the new Hard Rock Event Center with a 360-degree virtual seat map of the venue at www.myhrl.com. Doors open one hour prior to show start time. Additional fees may apply.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to those in Florida who have been adversely affected by the government shutdown, Wounded Warrior Project and other charitable organizations.

FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
016096	2011	JOHN DEERE GATOR XUV	855 DSL XUV (4X4) Diesel	N/A	Poor	$488.00
79562	N/A	VALLEY POOL TABLE	COUGAR	N/A	Fair	$600.00
TC5205	N/A	VALLEY POOL TABLE	N/A	N/A	Fair	$600.00
B39192	2012	FORD SUV	ESCAPE FWD	198,268	Fair	$2,900.00
A72822	2010	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F350 XL REG CAB (RWD) ENCLOSED WORK BED	218,875	Poor	$6,404.00
039242	2012	TOYOTA SUV	SEQUOIA (RWD) LIMITED	183,088	Good	$13,365.00

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.

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