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## Victory in Indian Country: Court rules for ICWA

### Case could be headed to Supreme Court

**BY DAMON SCOTT**  
Staff Reporter

Advocates of the Indian Child Welfare Act have been on edge for almost a year. But an August 9 court decision has allowed them rest a little easier – at least for now.

The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reaffirmed the constitutionality of the ICWA, reversing an October 2018 federal court decision of the Northern District of Texas in Brackeen vs. Bernhard (later Brackeen vs. Zinke).

The Brackeen ruling had stated the ICWA was unconstitutional because decisions were “impermissibly based on race,” among other objections.

However, the Fifth Circuit decision said the ICWA is, indeed, constitutional “because it is based on a political classification that is rationally related to the fulfillment of Congress’ unique obligation toward Indians.”

Several ICWA stakeholders lauded the Fifth Circuit’s ruling.

♦ See ICWA on page 5A

## Ahfachkee School welcomes expansion as new school year begins

**BY BEVERLY BIDNEY**  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Ahfachkee School’s roots may be humble but its future could be spectacular.

The school was founded in a chickee, moved to a one-room building known as the Big Cypress Day School and was renamed The Ahfachkee Day School in the 1940s. Now the ever-evolving school has reached the pinnacle of 21st century learning with its new 30,000-square-foot state-of-the-art middle and high school building.

About 200 members of the community joined Tribal Council and the Board on Aug. 13 for a celebratory ribbon cutting on the shaded back patio of the new building.

“In the beginning it was a chickee school,” said President Mitchell Cypress. “We have come a long way to get here. We have a fine staff and our students will get a top-notch education here.”

The idea of expanding the school to retain and attract more students began with the 2016 XQ Super School Project, a national competition to move high schools into the 21st century. The Ahfachkee team worked with the community, teachers and students and came up with a plan for collaborative project based learning that mimics the real world. Although the school didn’t win the contest, they were in the top tier of finalists and had a concrete plan for Ahfachkee’s future.

At the ceremony, former Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola talked about the impact the XQ Project had on the school’s future.

“We didn’t win, but we accomplished



Beverly Bidney

It was standing room only Aug. 13 for a crowd of about 200, including Tribal Council, Board and princesses, who attended the Ahfachkee School ribbon cutting at the new middle and high school building on the Big Cypress Reservation.

a lot through that process,” Osceola said. “The kids came together and pushed for the school. They are leaving a legacy here.”

The design of the school fits the concept

of collaborative learning. It features flexible furniture that allows students to move around, technology that puts information at the students’ fingertips and motivates them

to learn, and an abundance of natural light that has been shown in studies to improve

♦ See AHFACHKEE on page 3B

## New THPO building to open as museum preps for overhaul

**BY DAMON SCOTT**  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — When Paul Backhouse started working at the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) in Big Cypress in 2007, it had just been set up. The Tribe had hired one staff member and an electrician.

THPO has been run out of a modular structure since then – sort of a prefab building, trailer type thing – that was only meant to be used for about five years.

Backhouse’s staff has expanded over the years – now at 16 – and the need for a bigger and more accessible building has increased as well.

Backhouse is the senior director of the Heritage and Environment Resources Office, also known as HERO.

He and Tribal leadership have long wanted a place more comfortable for Tribal members to come to in order to meet with staff and participate in THPO programs.



Damon Scott

The new two-story, 20,000-square-foot THPO building in Big Cypress is nearing completion.

## Learning experiences highlight culture workshop for Seminoles

**BY DAMON SCOTT**  
Staff Reporter

**ORLANDO** — The Chairman’s office hosted a cultural workshop event in Orlando Aug. 9 through 11 for Seminoles who live off reservations.

The nonresident gathering took place at the Rosen Shingle Creek hotel and resort. Tribal families from the Tampa area and beyond met to take part in a daylong series of activities in a large ballroom.

The activities included sewing, beading, doll making, wood and soap carving, and a language class.

“One thing I liked was talking to a man carving wood and soaps,” Aaron Tommie, who is in the advanced career development program in the Executive Director of Operations Office at Tribal headquarters in Hollywood, said.

“He mentioned the importance of patience – a lot of times kids just want to play video games and do things quickly. With this, detail and time is put into it. If you do things quickly it doesn’t always come out right. That resonated with me,” he said.

Tommie said that traditionally when woodcarvings were done, it was a time to talk, like some families do today around the dinner table.

were assisting Tribal members with any questions they had or help they needed.

The goal was for participants to be able to take back something they created or learned back to their respective communities.

Blake Osceola, who leads special projects in the Chairman’s office, helped to organize the event.

“Everyone I heard from said they had great time. I heard a lot of adults say it was their first time making a doll or basket. The Culture Department instructors enjoyed the event – a lot of them asked if the Chairman was planning to have another one and had some ideas for the next one,” Osceola said.

The day ended with a raffle. The Chairman’s office gave away sewing machines, Seminole clothing, a one night stay at the Hard Rock in Hollywood or Tampa and more.



Damon Scott

One of the goals of the cultural workshop in Orlando was to give attendees a chance to create something they could take back to their communities, like this Seminole doll.



Damon Scott

Jenny Johns, left, and Laverne Thomas work with Kaison Romero and Drayton Van Houten during a language class at the Orlando event.

# Editorial

## Why the 2020 census matters for rural Americans

•John J. Green

As director of the University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies, I regularly talk to people about how they can use data to help their communities thrive.

The decennial census is particularly important – and the next one is less than a year away.

People living in rural and small town America in particular have much at stake in the 2020 census. Unfortunately, census participation tends to be lower in rural areas.

Our research network – including the State Data Center of Mississippi, Mississippi Kids Count Program and the Southern Rural Development Center – has been working to better understand potential barriers to census participation.

**Valuable data**

Legally mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the census is an effort to count all people living on American soil for the primary purpose of apportioning political representation in the federal government. Census data are also used for drawing political boundaries for local, state and federal elections.

Government agencies must use decennial census data, often coupled with

data from the American Community Survey, to help determine government funding for rural development, infrastructure and health initiatives.

Census counts are also used to determine what places are considered rural or urban and where counties fall along the rural-urban continuum.

Researchers focusing on rural America, like myself, are concerned with many issues that census data can help us to understand.

For instance, the rate of population loss in rural America has declined and even slightly reversed in recent years. However, there can be vast differences between regions. As noted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s John Cromartie and Dennis Vilorio, “People moving to rural areas tend to persistently favor more densely settled rural areas with attractive scenic qualities, or those near large cities. Fewer are moving to sparsely settled, less scenic, and more remote locations, which compounds economic development challenges in those areas.”

2020 census data will help to improve demographers’ calculations of similar statistics to show rates and patterns of net migration. This information can be used to help leaders better understand and plan for

population shifts.

**Low rural turnout**

If many people don’t participate in the census, the data will be far less accurate. And rural people are less likely to take part.

In 2010, an average 73% of households returned the mailed version of the form. My analysis of mail response rates by the rural-urban continuum codesshowed an average of 68% for non-metropolitan counties, compared with 75% for metropolitan counties.

Analysts have been trying to better understand why some populations are harder to count. There are numerous barriers to participation in decennial censuses. Many people have limited knowledge about the census. Others distrust the government and are concerned about the confidentiality of their information.

Although rural America tends to do better on some indicators used to predict potential census participation, people who live in poverty and are isolated may be at a particular disadvantage.

In 2020, for the first time, the census will offer an avenue for online participation, with the hope this will make it easier for people to complete the questionnaire more efficiently. This is promising, but some rural

places have limited access to broadband internet service.

**Encouraging participation**

Our research network cross-referenced Census Bureau data with data on family and poverty characteristics to identify communities we thought would be likely to have lower participation in 2020.

Identifying two rural places and one urban, we held workshops with local stakeholders, including teachers, nonprofit leaders and clergy. We discussed challenges and opportunities for participating in the 2020 census, messaging that would resonate in their communities, and strategies for further engagement.

The Census Bureau assigns each area a ‘low response score,’ a predicted rate of how many people will not respond to the census.

People can promote participation in the 2020 census by discussing it with family members, neighbors, church members and work colleagues. Materials available from the U.S. Census Bureau can help.

We also emphasize that people can form or join Complete Count Committees which promote an accurate count of the population in their communities. For example, participants might coordinate census promotion campaigns within churches, or

develop community celebrations that feature the civic duty of census participation.

The 2020 census will be important for all Americans, but for those who live, work and care about rural communities and small towns, it will be critically important. I hope that Americans can work together to make sure that rural areas are accurately counted if they are to get their fair share.

*John J. Green is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Population Studies, University of Mississippi.*

*Disclosure statement: As Director of the University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies, John Green oversees the State Data Center of Mississippi, a collaborative partnership connecting data users and the U.S. Census Bureau involving projects with government agencies, foundations, and nonprofit organizations concerned with the Decennial Census and other public data. These include the U.S. Census Bureau and organizations with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and W.K. Kellogg Foundation.*

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## ICWA ruling a victory for tribes

•Tahlequah (Okla.) Daily Press staff

Native American tribes have for years worked to overcome the damage done by the federal government in the early part of the 20th Century and beyond. And on Aug. 9, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals handed the tribes another victory in the ongoing struggle to maintain their sovereignty.

At stake here was the very future of children, in the form of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978. On its face, the law is straightforward: Native children who are up for adoption will be routed to homes of relatives or other tribal members whenever possible. Logic suggests that after over 40 years, special interest groups and would-be adoptive parents of other races would have accepted the fact the ICWA is critical for keeping Native children connected to their ages-old culture and traditions. Yet here we are, once again, wrestling with the notion that Native tribes have the right to self-determination.

In October 2018, a federal judge in Texas ruled the ICWA “unconstitutional,” claiming it is a “race-based statute that goes against the grain of the Equal Protection Clause in the U.S. Constitution.” But when repeated studies have proved that children of whatever race fare better when brought up in their communities than in welfare systems or foster homes, it’s hard to understand the

Texas opinion. It’s not about race; it’s about extended family. Shouldn’t the future of a child come before the desires of adoptive parents, no matter how well-meaning?

That wrench in the works was a setback, but not a defeat. After hearing arguments back in March, the Fifth Circuit ultimately concluded the spirit of the ICWA was aimed at the future not just of the tribes, but specifically the children born into them. Tribes have made great strides in recapturing much of their heritage - like their languages - that the federal government worked hard to erase. At the time, the conventional wisdom insisted having children meld with the predominant norms was for the best. Now, everyone knows better - or at least, everyone should.

The Fifth Circuit’s decision should put to rest any further battles to wrest Native children from their birthrights. The angst of adoptive parents outside the Native periphery is understandable, but the ICWA was in place long before this particular case came to bear. It’s incumbent upon all Americans to respect the melting pot this country has become - but that also means we must respect the dynamics that existed here earlier.

Those who are able to maintain close family ties - even when the kinship seems somewhat distant - know this is the nexus of human existence. The ICWA makes that happen for Natives, as well it should.

## After investigation into violence against Native Americans, Wyoming must act

•Casper (Wyo.) Star-Tribune Editorial Board

Violence has a ripple effect.

It starts with the victim and then sears outward in all directions. It destroys families, takes away friends, and deprives us of colleagues and neighbors. Even when we don’t know the person directly, violence still affects us. It keeps a community from realizing its full promise, stealing a bit of its vitality with each brutal act.

It’s this cruel impact that makes it incumbent on us to understand why violence occurs and devise ways to address it. We might be tempted to turn our gaze away, to find sights less concerning. But that does nothing but perpetuate the suffering.

For too long, the problem of missing and murdered Indigenous women has been largely ignored, allowing the pain and destruction it causes to fester. The numbers are startling: American Indians and Alaska

Natives are 2.5 times as likely to experience violent crimes, according to a 2013 National Congress of American Indians policy brief. They are at least twice as likely to be raped or sexually assaulted compared with other groups.

Given that unfortunate reality, it’s heartening that this issue is beginning to receive more attention – and in some cases, action. States like Montana and Washington have enacted laws that attempt to combat the problem. In Wyoming, a task force to address the high rates of missing and murdered Indigenous people held its first meeting recently. While the group, which Gov. Mark Gordon announced this spring, is still in its infancy, we believe its work is vital and should receive support from across the state.

The task force must first understand the scope of the problem, which is hampered by the lack of data that exists. There are a host of issues to explore and examine, including how to improve coordination between

tribal officials and local and state law enforcement, so that when an Indigenous person is missing, the response is fast and effective.

But the group’s effectiveness will be limited if, when its job is done, state lawmakers and leaders don’t act. The task force, as Sen. Affie Ellis, R-Cheyenne, recently said, is a good step. But it’s only the first.

“I think the more we start looking at issues, I think more things will come to light and I just hope my colleagues and I are up to the task of thinking about solutions,” she told the Star-Tribune’s Chris Aadland.

In the past, we’ve seen too many instances when careful studies are ignored by lawmakers once they convene in Cheyenne. So when this task force completes its work, we all need to pay attention. And then it’s incumbent on our leaders to take decisive steps to reduce the violence. The stakes are simply too high for them to cast this matter aside.

## Sacred Seeds effort preserves history for future

• The Editorial Advisory Board, The Hays Daily News (Hays, Kansas)

The nation’s first farmers were Native Americans. Today, there still are lessons to learn from their efforts so long ago.

While evolution in the farm industry has been a constant — driverless tractors may soon dot the landscape — there’s also value in hearkening back to the earliest days of farming, when Indian farmers mainly produced corn (known as maize), beans and squash.

So it’s been with a Sacred Seed project that’s sprouted up at the Salina-based Land Institute. Sacred Seed aims to preserve plant varieties that date back to indigenous tribes. Those behind the venture see the project inspired by five-year-old Sacred Seed out of Omaha, Neb., as a way to develop alternatives to destructive agricultural practices.

A science-based research organization, the nonprofit Land Institute works to research and develop food production methods that sustain the land and soil, a precious resource in an increasingly precarious situation worldwide. Founded in 1976, the Land Institute’s attempts to preserve those resources are even more timely amid

concerns over global warming and climate change.

The Land Institute promotes food production that’s more in step with nature. The Sacred Seed project is one such initiative designed to help build and protect soil, which has the ability to store carbon and combat global warming. Plants can contribute in such a way through their web-like root system, which can serve as a sponge and repository for carbon dioxide, the world’s most prevalent greenhouse gas.

Sacred Seed’s mission centers on two distinct goals: protecting and preserving the genetic diversity of original seeds and promoting local and sustainable agricultural options for healthy food produced in an environmentally-friendly way.

Cherokee White Flour corn is part of the Sacred Seed project in Salina, alongside Cherokee Trail of Tears beans, Scarlet Runner beans, Moon and Stars melons, Lakota squash, Cherokee okra and Arikara sunflowers.

Such combinations are a nod to the “three sisters” of Native American

♦ See SEEDS on page 6A

• James C. Ramos

As the first California Native American elected to the [California] Legislature, I was honored to provide an opening blessing and sing a traditional bird song when Gov. Gavin Newsom issued his formal apology for California legacy of cruel treatment of Native Americans.

Native Americans are aware of atrocities and extermination policies against our people.

But to hear the acknowledgement of the true history of California from our governor was groundbreaking.

It was made more significant because Gov. Newsom acknowledged the history of genocide and oppression against Native American at a blessing event at the site of the future California Indian Heritage Center in West Sacramento.

Tribal representatives from all over the state came and recalled the trauma all tribes share.

Our ancestors were attacked and their families were separated. Our culture was stolen and destroyed, and we were displaced from our land.

As Gov. Newsom said, California’s first governor, Peter Burnett, declared in 1851 that “a war of extermination will continue

to be waged between the two races until the Indian race becomes extinct.”

I grew up in one of three mobile homes on the San Manuel Indian reservation and experienced poverty that many generations of Native Americans before me endured.

The tribal government survived on less than \$300 a year for its people.

There were horse stables behind the mobile homes, where my family ran a snack shop and sold soda pop and fry bread to the riders.

I still call the reservation my home.

Following the Battle of 1866, my great-great-grandfather, Santos Manuel, saved our remaining 30 tribal members from slaughter and founded the San Manuel Reservation, near the city of San Bernardino.

There is a misconception that the San Manuel Reservation is where our people traditionally resided.

Rather, before the arrival of settlers, the Serrano people lived a semi-nomadic life in search of water and peaceful climate in the mountains and deserts in accordance with the seasons.

It may surprise people today to learn that Indian people lived throughout California, but were pushed off their ancestral lands and confined to reservations and secluded areas as the genocide progressed.

Standard history books teach of the mistreatment of Native Americans in such events as the Trail of Tears.

But in California, textbooks have left out the brutal extermination policies passed in California and the greater West.

In the instance of the Serrano people, the state paid militias 25 cents per scalp in 1856 to rid the mountains of Indian people. In 1860, the bounty was raised to \$5.

To have Gov. Newsom speak of these atrocities and establish a commission to expose the truth will help begin the healing process.

It also will provide an opportunity to teach from the California Native American perspective about our ancestral lands, and how Indian people were indentured as slaves to build the missions of Spanish settlers.

It will help reinvigorate culture and language.

Gov. Newsom’s apology reflects an understanding of the state’s true history. It is my hope that in the coming months and years, this apology is identified as a landmark moment in bringing resources, support, and justice to the 700,000 Native Americans who make the California their home.

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# Community



## Court relationship yields family support, milestones for Tribe

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

As partnerships go, this one is an objective success.

Seminole Tribal Court and the 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida have been working together for a few years now – although the collaboration may be under the radar for most Tribal members.

Some background: Tribal Court consists of an appellate court and a trial court, which has broad civil jurisdiction to hear cases and controversies that end up before it.

The 17th Circuit – specifically the dependency division of its Unified Family Court – has seven circuit court judges and two general magistrates. Located in downtown Fort Lauderdale, it is one of 20 judicial circuits in the state.

The relationship began after Judge Jose Izquierdo – one of the 17th Circuit judges – met Tribal Court's Chief Justice Willie Johns and Director Stan Wolfe at the 2016 Child Protection Summit in Orlando, a conference sponsored by the Florida Department of Children and Families.

At the time, Izquierdo had been on the job in the dependency division for only a couple months. It made sense to attend the conference to learn more about dependency issues.

Dependency includes anything to do with children who are abused, abandoned or neglected. They might be removed from parents for those reasons. Outcomes can result in several scenarios, including reunification with family members or adoption.

Izquierdo went to a presentation at the conference put on by Chief Justice Johns and Director Wolfe that included a discussion on how the Tribe deals with such situations, and how it all fits under the auspices of the Indian Child Welfare Act, or ICWA.

There was a discussion about the hardships Tribal families face in navigating court systems outside the Tribe, and going before judges who aren't familiar with Seminole culture or customs, or provisions of the ICWA.

Izquierdo also learned that it is, simply, logistically hard and often intimidating for

Tribal members to make the trek from the Hollywood Reservation to downtown Fort Lauderdale for court appearances.

"I didn't have much in the way of familiarity with those topics yet, other than being aware," Izquierdo said. "It seemed to me like there was a need for something to be done; I just didn't know what it was."

Back in Broward, Izquierdo talked with colleagues about it, including the 17th Circuit's Chief Judge – Jack Tuter – and the Unified Family Court Administrative Judge – Hope Tieman Bristol. Tuter and Tieman Bristol encouraged his efforts and told him to reach out to the Tribe. So he called Director Wolfe.

"We sat down and I said: 'What can I do?' We generated an idea to have all the Seminole Tribe's [dependency-related] cases go to my division, and I would become

educated through the various [Tribal] judges," Izquierdo said.

He began to learn about the Tribe's culture, heritage, and the history of the clan system and its unique matriarchal society. He learned how Seminoles go about problem solving; how families fit together.

"I think about the culture shock my family went through coming from another country and just not having language, and I think to myself: that's got to be scary," Izquierdo said.

Born and raised in Florida, Izquierdo, 44, is a first generation Cuban American.

His mother was involved in Operation Peter Pan, when 14,000 unaccompanied children were flown to the U.S. from Cuba between 1960 and 1962. The operation was in part a reaction of opposition to Fidel Castro and the education system.

Izquierdo, who has been practicing law for 17 years, earned his law degree at the Levin College of Law at the University of Florida. He has a 7-year-old daughter.

### 'Milestone'

The partnership quickly blossomed with a handful of Tribal cases all taking place in Izquierdo's courtroom.

Hearings were soon set up to take place in Tribal Court at Tribal headquarters on the Hollywood Reservation.

"It was a big milestone to be able to sit in the Tribal Court and to have Tribal judges there to be able to address any issues I had. I was able to consult with them and the elders," Izquierdo said.

Izquierdo learned from the judges and they learned from him.

"It gave me an opportunity to understand the massive amounts of knowledge they have. That sharing, that cooperation, is what makes it work," he said.

A second milestone came April 18, 2019. For the first time, a Tribal family adoption was finalized at Tribal headquarters with Izquierdo, Chief Justice Johns and other state and Tribal officials on hand. (Another adoption had previously occurred in Izquierdo's courtroom).

The ceremony also marked a day of celebration for parents Andrea and Joshua Jumper, their family and friends. The couple officially adopted then 2-year-old Loraine Marie Stewart Jumper.

Moses "Bigg Shot" Jumper Jr., who is an associate justice on the Tribal Court, is also the grandfather. He is the father of Joshua Jumper.

At the time, both Chief Judge Moses B. Osceola and Associate Justice Jumper Jr. underscored the importance of the event.

"We're very thankful that this child can remain with an Indian family. That's the most important thing that has been accomplished today," Chief Judge Osceola said.

"I think it's a good thing that the Seminoles are able to keep the kids that they have for adoption. That's a great thing for the Tribe to do," added Associate Justice Jumper Jr.

While the dependency cases are ultimately decided through the 17th Circuit, eventually it could be transferred exclusively to the Tribe. The scenario is one of the goals of the ICWA statute.

"The Tribe gets to see how a dependency court is run, at least out of Broward, and then as the Tribe develops its procedures in the future for having these courts, they can implement the parts they like and don't like," Izquierdo said.

In other words, the Tribe could reach a point of hearing and deciding the outcome of its own dependency cases.

In the meantime, Izquierdo, who was appointed in 2016 and reelected in 2018 for an additional six year term, said he's still learning and hopes he's still providing valuable information as well.

"The Tribe has been a dream partner to work with," he said.



Seventeenth Judicial District of Florida Judge Jose Izquierdo has been assisting the Tribe with adoptions for the past three years. He has held hearings and even a final adoption ceremony at Tribal headquarters in Hollywood.

Damon Scott

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# Hard Rock’s grand opening to include debut of new culinary offerings

## Canoa, Cipresso, Fresh Harvest, others join the menu

FROM PRESS RELEASE

LL The \$1.5 billion expansion of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino Hollywood is one step closer to the Oct. 24, 2019 grand opening with the announcement that came Aug. 15 of new culinary experiences that will be part of the new experience.

Upon its completion, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino Hollywood will feature 19 dining options and 20 bars and lounges. New restaurant offerings will include an Italian restaurant, an American live fire grill, a 24-hour deli/diner, a buffet with multiple live action stations, poolside dining with a tropical twist, an artisanal coffee shop and much more.

New culinary arrivals will include:

Canoa – The new American wood fire grill restaurant will celebrate the culinary techniques of solid fuel grilling inspired by South Florida’s unique and bold flavors. Canoa’s open-kitchen concept will highlight live fire grilling of seafood, meats and fresh produce, while bartenders craft farm fresh-inspired cocktails and more than 100 wines.

Cipresso – With a contemporary twist on Italian-American fare, Cipresso will still be rooted in tradition. The menu will feature creative interpretations of handmade pastas and pizzas, and composed specialty dishes. A mix of family-style banquettes and bar top seating creates a vibrant energy. Cipresso will highlight an extensive wine list with a focus on Italian varietals and other old world offerings, as well as a creative cocktail menu featuring the best Negroni in town.

Fresh Harvest – This contemporary buffet will offer guests five themed dining genres and live action stations, including salad/soups/raw bar; pasta/pizza; dim sum/ rice and noodles; rotisserie and grill; and decadent desserts. Each station will feature chefs cooking to order creating a vibrant and energetic display of culinary action.

Rise Kitchen Deli – Located at the base of the Guitar Hotel, the new 24-hour American diner/deli will boast incredible views with floor-to-ceiling glass windows overlooking the pool lagoon. Rise will offer all-day breakfast; salads; hearty burgers and sandwiches; and New York City-style deli offerings, as well as a unique juice bar.

Constant Grind – The new artisanal shop will feature Lavazza coffee and specialize in varied brewing techniques such as nitro, cold drip and pour over. Led by Pastry Chef Ross Evans, the French-inspired, American bakery will highlight breads and pastries made in-house; a grab-and-go station of sandwiches, salads and other savory bites; decadent gelato display; and glass counters lining the shop with meticulously designed chocolates, cakes and sweets.

Oculus Bar – Centrally located in the hotel lobby, the Oculus Bar will offer a unique take on the classic wine bar with a focus on craft beers, curated wines and signature cocktails, where aperitifs, after dinner drinks and vermouths take center stage.

Daer Nightclub/Dayclub – The 44,000-square-foot, indoor-outdoor entertainment complex is set to debut Fall 2019, with three distinctive concepts – a day club, nightclub and rooftop bar – the venue is the second location and continuation of the DAER franchise.

A signature of Seminole Hard Rock, Council Oak Steaks Seafood will return in a new location. The menu will offer USDA prime cuts of beef, signature raw bar and seafood selections, and more. Council Oak’s drink menu will feature an award-winning selection of more than 400 labels, along with well-known and approachable liquors, alongside an exclusive list of high-end spirits as part of the One Ounce Club. Other additions include two poolside dining concepts – a refreshed Pool Bar Grill and the new Beach Club Bar Grill – offering classic favorites with a tropical twist on a mix of small and large shareable plates; and Entice, an ultra-lounge opening in the resort’s new Promenade.

Hard Rock Cafe led the way as the first renovated restaurant to open within the complex, featuring a new open-kitchen design, with contemporary menu additions of time-honored classics. Guests can also experience the new Center Bar, where the drink menu celebrates Florida’s fresh produce with cocktails created with fresh juices and herbs.

In addition to a relocated food court, the refreshed L Bar and greatly expanded and redesigned Bōl restaurant, guests can indulge at the popular and innovative Kuro. Led by Creative Culinary Director Alex Becker, Kuro is the new-style Japanese concept spotlighting worldly dishes using both locally sourced and imported ingredients.

♦ ORLANDO  
From page 1A



Damon Scott

Mike Micco carves a bar of soap, a method used to teach young children how to carve safely.



Damon Scott

Aaron Tommie, far right, is pictured with Jason Grasshopper, center, and his family at the Tribe's culture event in Orlando.



Damon Scott (2)

Above, Mercedes Osceola helps one of the kids with sewing skills. At left, examples of different sashes were on display for participants.



Damon Scott

Vinson Osceola helps some of the younger Tribal kids with a woodcarving activity.



Damon Scott

The sewing table attracts a lot of attention from young people eager to learn the craft.



Damon Scott

Darliah Cypress, right, assists Katina King on her project during the workshop in the main ballroom.

♦ **ICWA**  
From page 1A

“The Court’s ruling affirms the federal government’s unique political relationship with Tribes. We hope that this groundbreaking law will continue to help keep Indian families whole,” National Indian Health Board chairperson Victoria Kitcheyan said in a statement.

Earlier this year, the NIHBS, along with 57 other Tribal organizations and 325 Tribal nations, signed on to an amicus brief supporting ICWA. The Seminole Tribe and Miccosukee Tribe were both signees on the January brief.

“It is a resounding victory for the law and those who fought to protect it,” Sarah Kastelic, executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association, said in a statement.

“ICWA is vital for protecting the wellbeing of Native children. [The] decision reaffirms tribal nations’ inherent sovereign authority to make decisions about Native children and families wherever those children and families may live.”

ac ground

The ICWA of 1978 was put in place to prevent the separation of Native children from their parents and extended families by state child welfare and private adoption agencies.

But recent years have seen an increased number of challenges to various provisions of ICWA. Supporters are hopeful such challenges will end.

“[The Fifth Circuit] decision clearly defines the breadth of the relationship between the federal government and tribal nations [and] sends a sharp message as to the strength of tribal sovereignty, which will safeguard Indian Country from such misguided litigation in the future,” Kevin Allis, CEO of the National Congress of American Indians, said in a statement.

i eline

A couple months after the ruling by U.S. District Judge Reed O’Connor of the Northern District of Texas, a stay was granted by the Fifth Circuit.

At that time, 14 amicus briefs were filed in support of the various positions of the parties, including a brief by the state of Ohio supporting the plaintiffs, and a brief filed by 21 other states supporting the defendants.

Brackeen vs.inke was brought by a Texas couple who sought to adopt a Native American baby – one whose biological parents were from the Cherokee and Navajo tribes. The couple fostered the baby from the time he was 10 months old to age two.

The couple initially sought to adopt the male child with the support of the baby’s biological parents. But a family court in Texas prevented the plans, blocking the adoption on the grounds of the ICWA. The couple sued and were joined in the suit by the states of Texas, Louisiana and Indiana.

The Cherokee Nation and many others intervened as defendants.

While the ICWA does not bar non-Native families from adopting or fostering Native American children outright, in order for a non-Native family to succeed, they have to show “good cause” that the child can’t or shouldn’t be adopted by other Native Americans – a main hurdle for the parents in this case, experts have said.

It is anticipated that the plaintiffs will appeal the Fifth Circuit’s decision to the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, all provisions of ICWA are fully enforceable as are similar standards enacted by various state legislatures, such as the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act.

or ore

The Protect ICWA Campaign was established by NICWA, NCAI, the Association on American Indian Affairs and the Native American Rights Fund. The campaign works to “serve and support Native children, youth, and families through upholding the [ICWA and to] inform policy, legal, and communications strategies.”

More information is at nicwa.org. The full Fifth Circuit’s decision can be found at narf.org.

**Solar energy program to train Native American scholarship recipients**

FROM PRESS RELEASE

E E Red Cloud Renewable (RCR) and Solar Energy International (SEI) announced Aug. 15 the selection of the first class of Native Americans to receive a full scholarship as part of the professional level Tribal Train the Trainer (T4) Program for Solar Certification.

Seven Native Americans – four men and three women – from four tribes have accepted positions in the program, each receiving a scholarship that covers their classes, travel, lodging, food, workbooks and testing costs. The cohort will learn through classroom theory, and hands-on applications, through four primary SEI foundational classes in solar photovoltaics.

Students selected to participate are Marie Kills Warrior (Oglala), Lance Daniels (Muscogee Creek), Leo Bear (Shoshoni-Bannock), Leo Campbell (Rosebud), Cassandra Valandra (Rosebud), Gloria Red Cloud (Oglala) and Henry Red Cloud (Oglala).

Upon satisfactory completion of these classes, trainees will test for their national NABCEP certification.

# Tomasina Chupco-Gilliam receives national 40 under 40 honor



National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development  
Tomasina Chupco-Gilliam, third from left, is honored during the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's 40 under 40 awards gala Aug. 24 at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass in Chandler, Arizona.

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (the National Center) announced Aug. 5 its 2019 Native American 40 under 40 award recipients. Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal member Tomasina Chupco-Gilliam made the list of honorees.

I am so honored to receive the 40 under 40 award,” she said. “It’s not only for me, but it’s for the pride of our Tribe. We have so many talented and intelligent Seminole women on the rise within our community and it’s great to receive an award being one of those women.

Chupco-Gilliam is a project specialist for the Seminole Tribe’s Native Learning Center in Hollywood. She has a doctorate degree in education from Lynn University.

Each year, the National Center recognizes 40 emerging Native American and Alaska Native leaders who have demonstrated leadership, initiative, and dedication and made significant contributions in business, their professions or in their communities.

This year’s class features leaders from a wide variety of fields, including tribal and state government, gaming, tribal economic development, business and consulting, academia, health care, the law, theater, marketing, and hospitality. Winners hail from 18 states and Washington, D.C. More than 30 unique tribes and Native affiliations are represented among the winners.

“The 2019 class of our Native American 40 under 40 award winners is a truly impressive group of amazing young leaders,” Chris James, president and CEO of the National Center, said in a press release.



Courtesy photo

Tomasina Chupco-Gilliam

“They join a growing community of past winners who are already making a difference in their communities and professions. I look forward to honoring their achievements and welcoming them into the 40 under 40 family.”

An awards gala was held Aug. 24 at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass in Chandler, Arizona. Also honored at the gala were the recipients of the National Center’s business scholarships, which are awarded to deserving undergraduate and graduate students majoring in a business-related field.

## AIAC to be held Nov. 1-2 in Big Cypress

E The annual American Indian Arts Celebration will be held from Nov. 1-2 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. The celebration will feature arts, crafts, dance, music, culture, critter shows, alligator wrestling,

demonstrations, food vendors, food trucks and visits to the museum and boardwalk.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7.50 for seniors and students, free for children 4 and under. Free admission for Seminole Tribal members and members of other federally recognized tribes.

This year’s National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development 40 under 40 award winners are:

o asina upco illia , Seminole Tribe of Florida; Project Specialist for the Native Learning Center – Tamarac, Fla.

os uaa llison urban , Navajo Nation Acoma Pueblo; Speech-Language Pathologist/Lecturer/Research Project Coordinator at the University of Kansas – Lawrence, Kansas

enni er ig orse, Osage Sioux, Cherokee and Creek; Director of Marketing for Osage Casinos – Owasso, Okla.

nt ia ill , Muscogee (Creek); Executive/Economic Development Director for the Wichita Tribe Industrial Development Commission – Elgin, Okla.

lison lac , Cheyenne Arapaho, Ponca, Osage, Prairie Band Potawatomi; Director of Indian Education at Frontier Public Schools – Red Rock, Okla.

or lan ens ip, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; Secretary of Treasury for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians – Cherokee, N.C.

Le i ow an, Navajo Nation/Pueblo of Laguna; Computer Engineer at the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration – Albuquerque, N.M.

a lor arlton, Osage Nation; Director of Rehab and Speech language pathologist – Glenpool, Okla.

awnna astellano, Lac Courte Oreilles; Region Director for the National Indian Gaming Commission – St. Paul, Minn.

elina ordo a Mar s, Hopi; Postdoctoral Fellow Cancer Prevention and Control Cancer Center University of Arizona – Tucson, Ariz.

da repelle, United Houma Nation; Managing Fellow Native American Law and Policy Institute at Southern University Law Center – Baton Rouge, La.

la e olls, Modoc Nation; Attorney General for the Modoc Nation – Miami, OK

on albrait , Navajo; Specialist in Infectious Diseases Immunology, Internal Medicine at NYU Langone Health – Brooklyn, N.Y.

i leason, Navajo; Executive Director of Two Worlds/Native Women Lead – Albuquerque, N.M.

i an od re , Navajo; Advanced Practice Clinician, TribalEM, Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona – Tuscon, Ariz.

rianna ra , Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove; Project Coordinator for Doyon Government Group – North Pole, Alaska

oll uise, I upiaq, Native Village of Unalakleet; Postdoctoral Fellow at University of California, Irvine – Irvine, Calif.

illia unt, Lumbee; President CEO of PCI Support Services, LLC – Saraland, Ala.

o untington, Athabaskan; Principal/President of Uqaqti Consulting, LLC – Fairbanks, Alaska

La awn anis, Oglala Sioux Tribe; Owner, Bluebird Consulting – Rapid City, S.D.

lan ennings, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Indians; Director of Public Information Office for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission – Odanah, Wis.

arrie u a osep , Hopi; Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Arizona’s Center for Indigenous Environmental Health Research – Tucson, Ariz.

nt on Lindo , Tlingit and Haida, Kaagwaantaan; Owner/Operator of Kaawu Shellfish, Co. – Juneau, Alaska

rac Lowe, Osage/Creek; Project Manager for Sawyer MFG Company – Broken Arrow, Okla.

os ua Lucio, uni Pueblo; Program Associate for Scholarships and Programs for the American Indian Graduate Center – Albuquerque, N.M.

as a L ons Ec o aw , Seminole/Pawnee/Creek/Omaha/Iowa; Resource Development Coordinator for the Pawnee Seed Preservation Project – Pawnee, Okla.

L cia Maddoc s, Yuma uechan; Director of Communications for the National Congress of American Indians – Streetsboro, Ohio

Eli abet Malerba, The Mohegan Tribe; Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) – Washington, D.C.

da Mc rear , Cherokee; Government Relations Senior Manager for Cherokee Nation Businesses – Tulsa, Okla.

la Medrano, Muscogee (Creek); Executive Director of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma – Oklahoma City, Okla.

ane Morigeau, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; Attorney for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; Montana State Representative for District 95 – Missoula, Mont.

at an Moulton, Confederated Tribes of Colville Indian Reservation; Executive Director of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe – Yakutat, Alaska

ennis lson r , Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Commissioner for the Minnesota Office of Higher Education – St. Paul, Minn.

ob eters, Gun Lake Tribe; Chairman of Tribal Council for the Gun Lake Tribe – Shelbyville, Mich.

nt on urnel, Agua Caliente Band of Chauilla Indians; Council Member Agua Caliente Band of Chauilla Indians – Palm Springs, Calif.

Madeline a et, Mohegan Tribe; Freelance Theater Director – Mystic, Conn.

aniel erron, Ponca Tribe; Clinic Manager for the Osage Nation Health Services – Ponca City, Okla.

icole toops, Native Village of Kotzebue; Executive Director for the Native Village of Kotzebue – Kotzebue, Alaska

i berl ilsen ra e eart, Oglala Sioux Tribe; Co-Owner/CEO of Painted Skye Management/Etiquette Catering – Rapid City, S.D.

Megan ough, Poarch Band of Creek Indians; Director of Strategy and Special Projects for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians – Atmore, Ala.

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# Experience Florida’s Indigenous history in Weston

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

— The modern day influence of Florida’s Indigenous Peoples are everywhere – think Florida State Seminoles, town and city names, street signs, schools, buildings, parks and so on.

Not only that, but archeological evidence can be experienced as well. So if you’re feeling like a bit of a historical adventure, you can find one about 20 miles northwest of the Hollywood Reservation in the city of Weston.

Florida’s early peoples are sometimes referred to as the “lost tribes.” They include the Pensacola, Apalachee, Guale, Timucua, Potano, Ocale, Tocobaga, Mayaimi, Ais, Calusa, Jeaga, Matecumbe and Tequesta.

It’s mostly the Tequesta’s footprint that you’ll discover in Weston. Thousands of artifacts of the Tequesta have been found within the boundaries of what is now the city.

A note of caution here: A common theme among some historians is that the Tequesta were in Florida before the Seminoles. While the Seminoles are also Florida’s first residents, some say it’s not accurate that they be included on the list of “original” inhabitants.

“There’s been a fabrication of history that’s happened that say the Seminoles only

So with that advice in mind – begin your trip by driving west of Hollywood on I-595. You’ll soon start to see the Indigenous influences as you pass signs for the Indian Trace exit.

A little further west on I-75, you’ll exit to Weston. More influence is seen as you pass Indian Trace Elementary School – it’s located right next to Indian Trace Park at 400 Indian Trace.

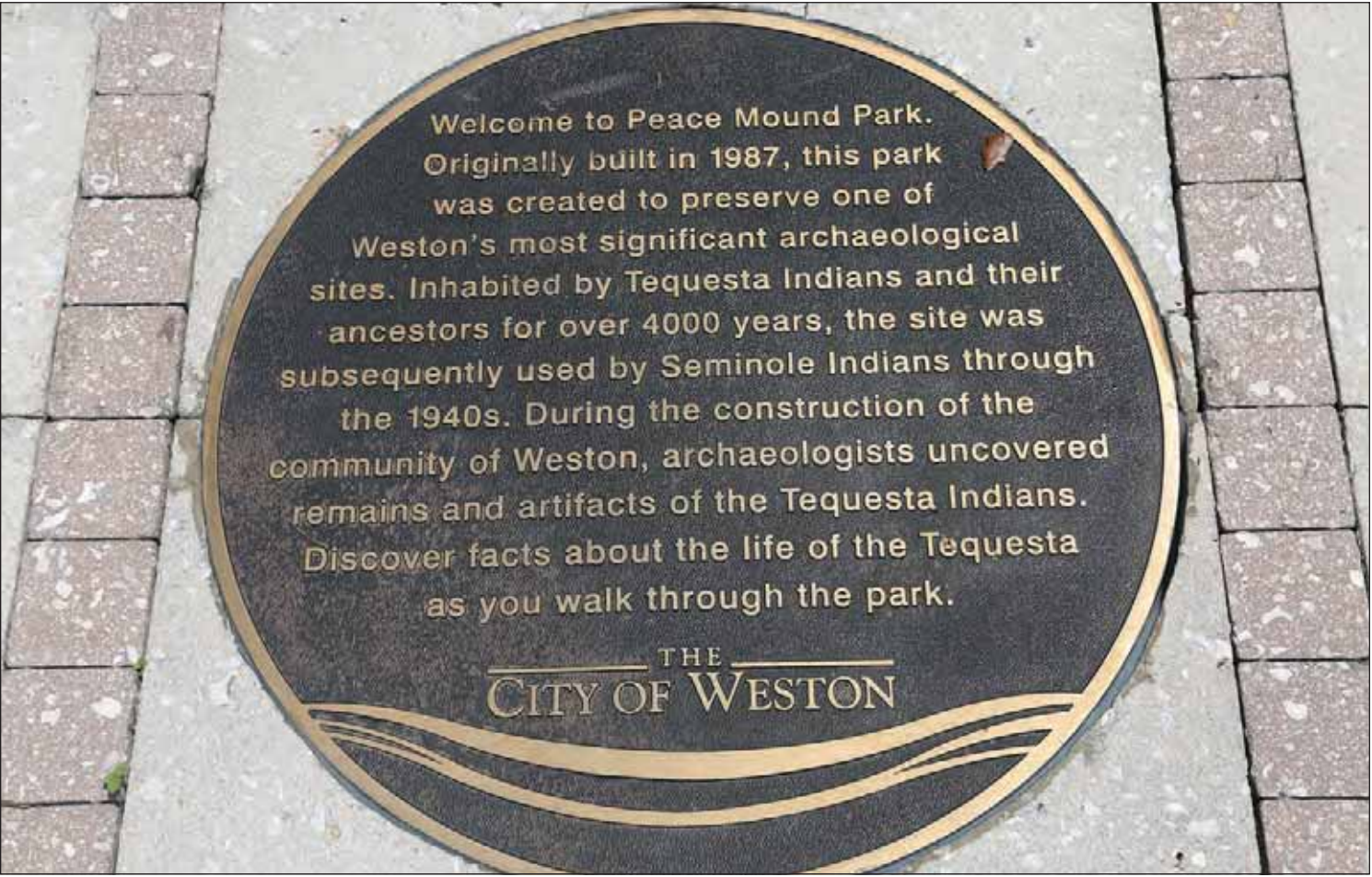
About two miles from there you can make your first stop at Peace Mound Park on Three Village Road.

## Peace Mound Park

Among Peace Mound Park’s 8-acres of walking paths, a dock, and a playground, is what has been described as a Tequesta burial mound.

As you take a stroll, you’ll see that the city of Weston has installed plaques in the sidewalk with bite sized chunks of history to consider.

“Originally built in 1987, this park was created to preserve one of Weston’s most significant archeological sites. Inhabited by Tequesta Indians and their ancestors for over 4,000 years, the site was subsequently used by the Seminole Indians through the 1940s. During the construction of the city of Weston, archeologists uncovered remains and artifacts of the Tequesta Indians. Discover facts about the life of the Tequesta as you walk through the park,” reads the first



Damon Scott

At Peace Mound Park in Weston, you'll find a series of sidewalk plaques with historical information.



Damon Scott

Peace Mound Park is right off I-75 about 20 miles northwest of Hollywood.



Damon Scott

Tequesta Indians were some of South Florida's early peoples.

come from Georgia and Alabama and they were new to Florida,” Paul Backhouse, the senior director of the Heritage and Environment Resources Office (HERO) for the Tribe said.

Backhouse argues that history is more complex and nuanced.

“Tequesta, etcetera, are just names archeologists give. In all of Florida, there were people moving back and forth constantly. So to put these arbitrary areas on the archeology map where it says: Calusa lived here, they stopped here ... all of that has done a number on Tribal history. It’s not as if the Seminoles appeared out of nowhere,” he said.

plaque.

Other markers describe what the Tequesta’s children were like, their burial rituals, religion, leadership structure, transportation methods, and the extermination that took place at the hands of the first Spanish explorers. There’s also a dedicated marker on the “mound” section of the park.

You’ll also notice a reference to Library Park – which can be your next stop – located about three and a half miles south of Peace Mound Park on Bonaventure Boulevard.

## Library Park

Library Park is named very specifically



Damon Scott

A visit to Library Park will allow you to explore more about Florida's early residents.

because of its proximity to the Weston Branch Library just adjacent to it. But it’s also a place to learn more about Weston’s Indigenous footprint.

In case you need a break from the sun at first, and a little bit of air conditioning, you can first look through any number of books inside the library on Broward County and its history.

One to consider is the “Postcard History Series: Broward County” by Seth H. Bramson.

The front cover of the book features a postcard with a Seminole family either on or near the Hollywood Reservation pointing up at a National Airlines plane. While the postcard isn’t dated, the airline operated from 1934 to 1980 and image shows the Seminole family in the thick of the Everglades.

Another book with a comprehensive history of the area is “Beyond the Sunshine: A Timeline of Florida’s Past,” by former St. Petersburg mayor Rick Baker. His book goes deeper into state history, including the influences of its premodern times.

And finally, one book that was on its way to the branch (maybe it will be available when you go) is “Ancient Miamians: the Tequesta of South Florida,” by William E. McGoun. The author goes deeper into 10,000 years of human history to what is described as “a missing piece of Florida archeology.”

When you’re finally ready to stroll through Library Park, you’ll see more historical plaques on the sidewalk, with additional information about the Indigenous Peoples who were in the area, including animals.

“Before there was a state of Florida, or the city of Weston, even before the European’s discovered the area we call Southeast Florida, the Everglades and its hammocks and waterways were inhabited by creatures and early humans. Through archeological investigations, modern man has assembled a timeline that describes the history of the eastern Everglades area known as Weston,” reads the first plaque on the path.

You’ll read that evidence has been found in Weston that herds of mammoth, bison and other “mega animals” once roamed the area. Archeologists have found a 3,000-year-old apple snail shell in one of Weston’s ancient ponds – where there is also evidence that early people camped on its banks.

Only a half mile from Library Park is Cypress Bay High School, where archeologists previously found evidence of a “trash heap” with remains of animal shells,

snails, snakes and turtles – used by early people more than 5,000 years ago.

The adventure can go on, but if you’re interested in ending your time with a view – consider a drive about four miles from Library Park to Weston Regional Park, where you will see a wetland preserve.

The preserve appears as it would have thousands of years ago when early peoples were living and animals were roaming on the land now known as Weston.



Damon Scott

Florida's Indigenous history has influenced school names and more.

## SEEDS From page 2A

mythology, which includes corn, beans and squash: Beans climb cornstalks and put nitrogen taken by corn back into the soil while squash provides ground cover, using spiky leaves to ward off varmints. There’s also fourth “sister” in sunflowers that break the wind and draw metal from the soil.

Aubrey Streit Krug, director of ecosystem studies at the Land Institute, explained how

the Sacred Seed project fits the institute’s goal of developing perennial grain crops that can be grown alongside other plants in an approach known as polyculture farming.

The mix of crops provides an interesting glimpse at American Indian traditions and an ecosystem-friendly approach that stands the test of time.

A look at history can serve as inspiration for the future. Consider the Sacred Seed project interesting food for thought.

## Budget meetings set for September

A Tribal budget meeting to discuss the proposed FY2020 budget will be held Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be livestreamed to Hollywood (headquarters auditorium), Brighton (Veterans building), Big Cypress (public safety building), Immokalee (preschool community center),

Tampa (Sheraton Tampa East), Naples (Tribal field office), Fort Pierce (gym conference room) and Trail (multipurpose room). Dinner will be served prior to the meeting at each location.

A tribalwide senior budget will be held

Sept. 10 at 12 p.m. The meeting will be livestreamed to senior centers in Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood, Immokalee and Tampa. Lunch will be provided prior to the meeting at each location.

# Presidential candidates court Native American vote at forum

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Strictly as a voting bloc, Native Americans might not seem big enough for politicians to care about.

The five million-strong living in the U.S. make up less than 2% of the total population; African Americans are about 13%; Latinos more than 18%.

Further, among the number of Native Americans eligible to vote, only 66% are registered to do so – an eligible 1 million are not. In comparison, 74% of eligible non-Hispanic whites are registered to vote.

To be sure, there are reasons many might not be registered, or voting, including Native American voter suppression and distrust of the U.S. government.

But in key voting states like Arizona, Michigan, Nevada and Wisconsin, there are about 1 million Native Americans with lots of electoral sway.

Because many elections are decided by such a slim margin, an increasing number of politicians at every level of government have started to pay more attention to the Native American vote.

Indeed some candidates also say they actually care about finding solutions to issues that affect many in Indian Country – high poverty rates, infrastructure problems,



Democratic presidential candidate Julian Castro speaks at the Native American Presidential Forum in Sioux City, Iowa.

NCAI



Elizabeth Warren Facebook

Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren greets a Native elder before talking at the Native American Presidential Forum in Sioux City, Iowa.

education options and violence against women.

It's for those reasons, and more, that the 2020 Democratic presidential race is one taking Native Americans more seriously.

It might not be too much of a surprise, then, that a Native American presidential forum was convened last month, featuring a slew of the presidential candidates running for the Democratic nomination.

The National Congress of American Indians partnered with voting rights group Four Directions to co-host a first-ever presidential candidate forum focused entirely on the concerns of Native People.

The Frank LaMere Native American Presidential Forum took place on Aug. 19 and Aug. 20 at the Orpheum Theatre in Sioux City, Iowa.

## Issues elevated

Billed as a nonpartisan forum, it featured panels of leaders and youth representing tribal nations and Native organizations who posed questions and engaged in dialogue with the candidates about Indian Country's most pressing issues and priorities.

Candidates who attended include Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, Former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro, Navajo Nation

citizen Mark Charles (I), Former Maryland Congressman John Delaney, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-MN, Sen. Bernie Sanders, D-VT, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-MA, and author Marianne Williamson.

Sen. Kamala Harris, D-CA, and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio participated via teleconference.

Forum organizers said candidates from all the major political parties were extended invitations to participate.

Mark Trahan (Shoshone Bannock), the editor of Indian Country Today, was the moderator. He was asked on a National Public Radio interview about the forum's significance.

"Well, certainly it elevates Native American issues to a level that just hasn't been part of the conversation before," Trahan said. "Instead of having candidates do their normal stump speech, they're really forced to address things that don't get talked about very much, like treaty rights and the role of the Indian [Health Service] and that sort of thing."

## Pollog part two

Notably, when it was time for Warren to speak, she began her remarks by giving what appeared to be a more straightforward apology for previously identifying as a Native American for two decades while she

was a law professor.

"I want to say this, like anyone who's been honest with themselves, I know that I have made mistakes," Warren said. "I am sorry for harm that I have caused. I have listened, and I have learned a lot, and I am grateful for the many conversations that we've had together."

In a February interview with the Washington Post, Warren had said: "I am sorry for furthering confusion on tribal sovereignty and tribal citizenship and harm that resulted."

That apology hadn't resonated as much with some in Indian Country.

Political observers say Warren's previous comments claiming Native heritage are likely to be used against her by Republicans if she wins the Democratic presidential nomination.

Warren has said she claimed Native heritage because of family stories that she had Cherokee and Delaware ancestry.

President Donald Trump has continued his taunting of Warren by calling her an incendiary slur — "Pocahontas." He has showed no signs of letting up on the strategy.

"Like, Elizabeth Warren — I did the Pocahontas thing," Trump said at a rally in New Hampshire in August. "I hit her really hard, and it looked like she was down and out, but that was too long ago. I should've waited. But don't worry, we will revive it."

At the forum, South Dakota Rosebud Sioux tribal member and co-executive director of Four Directions, O.J. Semans, called the controversy over Warren's ancestry a "nonissue" and said it was "trivial" compared with issues like health care and voter suppression.

Warren spent most of her time at the forum talking about a plan she recently released on how her administration would work toward closing health, income and wealth disparities in Native American communities.

The proposal would seek to provide tribal leaders with far more influence than they now have over federal policy that affects their land.

## More

Videos of both days of the forum are available on vimeo.com, by searching "Native American presidential forum."

More about NCAI can be found at ncai.org; Four Directions is at fourdirectionsvote.com.

# Raising the bar: Justine Osceola's soap business is flourishing

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

LL — Would you like to enjoy the scent of orange, oatmeal or freshly cut grass while taking a morning shower?

How about bathing in the aroma of leather, bubblegum or even marshmallow while soaping up?

Justine Osceola's new handmade bar soap business provides a vast variety of nasal-pleasing smells and eye-catching colors.

What started out as a hobby and craft in early 2018 has officially turned into a business — her brand known as Made by Justine O recently became an LLC — but it's also a labor of love for Osceola, 33, of the Hollywood Reservation.

"I've always been at Seminole Pow-Wow and Tribal Fair selling my crafts and things, and I wanted a new craft; soap is what came about," she said. "And then I started getting a demand for it overall last year. I realized I had to turn it into a business."

And business is booming. Her success with suds has bred challenges, but in a good way that would please any business owner.

"I didn't think it was going to be a business. I've grown tremendously. I can't keep up with my stock. I'm starting to run out of stock. The demand is starting to demand me," she said.

Osceola purchases the ingredients for her soaps through Amazon and makes all of the bars herself. Each bar requires about three hours to make. She also takes suggestions for new scents from her family.

"It's vegan organic, premium fragrance oils, essential oils, and a whole lot of love put in them," she said.

Honey heart and bubblegum were among the first bars she made. A recent creation is called moccasin.

"It's brown and it smells like leather," she said.

The moccasin bar also ties in with the culture aspect that Osceola incorporates in some of the soaps. Her "La Florida in a Bar" soap features the colors of the Seminole Tribe in stripes. The Seminole scents are: orange (yellow), mango seeds (red) and freshly cut grass (black). There's also a peach scent to top it off.

"I say this smells like the land," she said. "I definitely look for inspiration from my culture. Me saying it's Seminole handmade and it's made on the Seminole reservation, people say that's so different."

Osceola said she and her mother are considering using Seminole patchwork designs for little bags for the soaps.

Osceola loves the creativity and culture aspects of her products, but she also takes the business side seriously. In May, she drove from Hollywood to Tulsa, Oklahoma,



Kevin Johnson

Justine Osceola displays a variety of the colorful soaps she makes. Her company is named Made by Justine O.

to attend the Native Business Summit. A recent article about her business appeared in Native Business magazine. She's also met with a "table full of suits" to discuss doing business.

"They said 'you are doing a job for 20 people all by yourself. I'm like 'tell me about it.' I almost died in my first month of doing this. It was so stressful for me, but now I'm finding my flow. I know what I'm supposed to do. I take my days one at a time," she said.

Her schedule routine includes a day of making soap, a day for curing and a day for packaging and labeling, which she said is the most difficult part.

Osceola sells her bars at many Tribal functions that feature vendors, including Tribal Fair and Pow Wow in Hollywood and American Indian Arts Celebration in Big Cypress. The sizes range from four to seven ounces; the prices are from \$5 to \$12. Her products are also available through online ordering.

She doesn't take any sale for granted. In fact, each sale is a cause for a celebration.

"I definitely want to keep going," she said. "This is something I love to do. I love to be creative. When someone buys it, I do a little happy dance because I'm so happy somebody loves my product that I put a lot of time and effort into."

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Kevin Johnson

Justine Osceola's "La Florida in a Bar" soap features the Seminole Tribe's colors.

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

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

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

## Our primary source: Marlin Billie

MARY BETH ROSEBROUGH  
AND TARA BACKHOUSE  
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

One day this past May we had what turned out to be a very special visitor to the library, Marlin Billie. Marlin had heard about our mission to get photos identified for the benefit of the entire Tribe. With over 150,000 photos, the task is daunting. Marlin accepted the challenge and by now has identified people and events in well over 1,000 photos donated to the museum by The Seminole Tribune in 2015. In fact, Marlin worked at the Tribune in the 1980s as a photographer, graphic designer, and journalist. In addition, the newest volunteer to be part of our team here in Collections has officially loaned us hundreds of negatives of images taken around the reservations. We will digitize them and provide him with copies. This is one of several ways we can serve the community. The museum also accepts donations of pertinent items if people want to give them to us permanently. We preserve them using best museum practices. Staff has all been trained in the proper ways to manage and store precious photographs, books, correspondence, media, and objects for longevity and safety.

Our goal is to protect Seminole heritage

and culture. Marlin has gifted the museum with nearly 200 photographs, as well as stickball sticks and other carved wooden items all made by his late father, the exceptional woodcarver Henry John Billie. In fact, Henry John appears in the museum's introductory movie. He is carving a canoe.

Not only was Marlin preceded by his father in helping the museum but also by his son, Darryl Billie. Darryl worked with the museum in 2014 as an Ahfachkee intern and he also identified people in photos from our collection. We have many binders filled with photos from the 1930s to the early 2000s that are stored on the front library shelves and can be viewed anytime Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Three generations of the Henry John Billie family have devoted time to the preservation of Seminole tradition and history. Each one an individual, yet united in purpose.

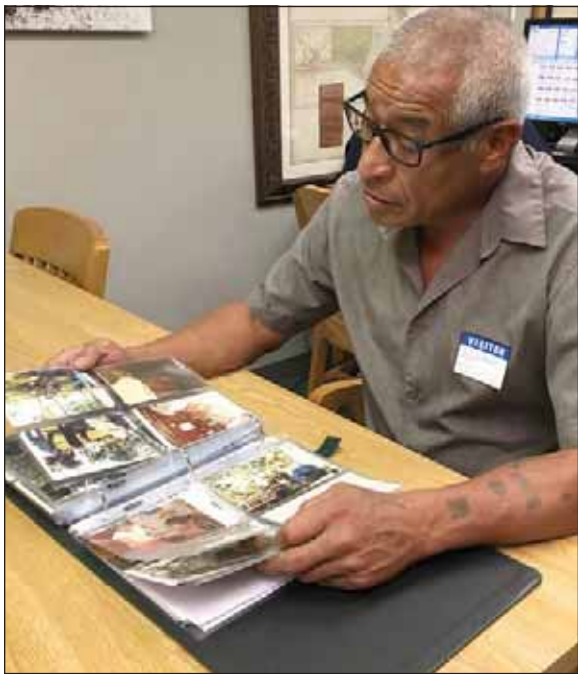
Marlin's love of documenting history through photography also found expression in other creative avenues. For example he sat down with our exhibits team to discuss plans for upcoming exhibits and the museum redesign, scheduled to begin in the spring of 2021. They spoke about life in a camp, tourist attractions and alligator wrestling – all topics Marlin is familiar with, remembering what it was like pre-Hard Rock.

The museum, along with Seminole Media Productions, is also collaborating



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Marlin Billie hard at work at the Tribune offices circa 1985. This image was found by Marlin while identifying photos donated to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum by The Seminole Tribune.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Volunteer Marlin Billie looks through some of our late 20th century photographs during a recent visit to the museum. He'll be able to identify many of the people, places and dates in this binder which will help us provide more images back to the community.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

In this photo donated to the museum by Marlin Billie, the Seminole Color Guard participates in the Seminole Tribe of Florida's inauguration in 2007. Stephen Bowers holds the American flag and Paul Bowers holds the Tribal flag. Moses Jumper Jr., Max Osceola, Roger Smith, Cicero Osceola and Joe Frank can be seen onstage in the background.

### THPO From page 1A

outdoor boardwalk built between the THPO and museum.

One of the stairwells is painted by Tribal graffiti artist Wilson Bowers of Big Cypress. "We want to make this somewhere that's inviting and feels alive," Backhouse said. "Somewhere that's relevant not just to this generation [of Tribal members], but to future generations."

Backhouse said he and Tribal leadership also wanted a space where Tribal members can see their modern history in action.

"We want to open up so they feel like they can come in, work with the team here and look for careers in this field. That's our aim – to have more Tribal people working on the reservation and to eventually have a completely Tribal staff doing this program. That is the shift and [the new] building represents a big step in that evolution."

The THPO works on a variety of projects across the state. They keep tabs on what the Army Corp of Engineers is doing with the Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP), including its proposed massive water storage projects that directly affect Tribal lands.

Those proposed projects have implications for flooding and the Tribe's cultural and burial sites.

The THPO handles issues regarding Seminole remains – such as those discovered in downtown Tampa due to its gentrification.

"We're trying to very respectfully deal with what came out of the ground there and get them back in the ground nearby as fast as humanly possible. It's got to be in the same place or as close as possible. We're taking all the precautions to make sure the remains are never messed with again," Backhouse said.

THPO also handles environmental resource management, mapping, archeology work, surveys and more.

Backhouse said a grand opening community event is scheduled for Oct. 23.

#### Museum

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum celebrated its 22nd anniversary this year, and Backhouse said it's not only come a long way since 1997, but is due for an overhaul.

He said the museum's exhibits as they exist today sometimes appear as if Seminole history only took place from 1890 to 1900.

"The new redesign allows us to tell the

whole story. That's super important, because at the moment there are a lot of people trying to make the argument that Seminoles haven't always been from Florida, that they came from somewhere else," Backhouse said. "It's absolutely not true. The Tribe understands its history and it goes back thousands of years in Florida."

Backhouse said the overhaul will allow a visitor to see a more comprehensive history, or have the choice to access certain subjects in more bitesize chunks – like Seminole cooking or a particular war. The physical flow of the floor plan will be better, too, he said.

The museum's exhibit teams have been working closely with the Tribal community to get feedback. Backhouse said that process should be done by the end of the summer.

"Toward the end of 2020 we'll close the museum and begin the actual installation and it'll take about six months. By 2021 you should see the whole redesign. It's amazing and exciting," he said.

A particularly cool aspect, Backhouse said, is that as a museum visitor leaves, they'll go through a tunnel to the outside boardwalk through an electronic system that is taking real time feeds from social media projected along the walls.

"You can see live updates from the Tribe – things the Tribe is doing now. Everyone thinks the Tribe's not here anymore. It is, and it's alive," he said. "We can help to educate people that the Tribe's not just a casino. The Tribe's got history; it's got culture. That's what gets us jazzed up here. It's a labor of love. We love doing what we do."



Damon Scott

Paul Backhouse, left, and Juan Cancel, right, meet with a contractor outside the new THPO building.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

This rendering shows a multimedia tunnel that will feature real-time social media posts as you enter or exit the museum.

## THPO awarded grant to examine effects of Hurricane Irma on cultural resources

BY MAUREEN MAHONEY

Tribal Archaeologist, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Seminole Tribe of Florida

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO) was recently awarded a \$400,000 grant from the Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund from the National Park Service. The grant funds will be used to determine the impact that Hurricane Irma had on cultural resources on the Seminole Tribe's reservations. As a result of this project, damage caused to sites within the interior of Florida will be better understood. While it has long been clear that hurricanes wash away sites along the state's coastline, the interior of Florida, has been similarly hard-hit, yet has been little studied for impacts to sites. Based on the work that the THPO will do through this grant award, any impacts to these important interior sites

will be better recognized and assessed prior to future damage.

Cultural resources identified during survey work often include animal bones, which highlight what people used to eat, as well as pottery sherds, lithics (stone tools), historic objects such as glass bottles, and other items people have used throughout the thousands of years that reservation lands have been occupied. At this time, any damage to these objects and the sites that they are found within is unknown. Impacts may have occurred from uprooted trees or rising waters that occurred during the hurricane, which may have caused damage to these undocumented artifacts.

In order to determine the damage, archaeologists from the THPO will complete about 8,000 shovel tests (round holes that are approximately 1.5 feet in diameter and are roughly 3 feet deep) to assess the artifacts and archaeological sites. While in the field,

the archaeologists will document any soil disturbance, uprooted trees, or water damage that could have been a result of the storm. All artifacts collected during fieldwork will be assessed in the THPO laboratory, which will be able to assess microscopic damage and evaluate trends in object integrity.

This project is partially funded by the Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund, National Park Service, Department of Interior. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material do not constitute endorsement or necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior or U.S. Government.

## Nominations sought for heritage awards

FROM PRESS RELEASE

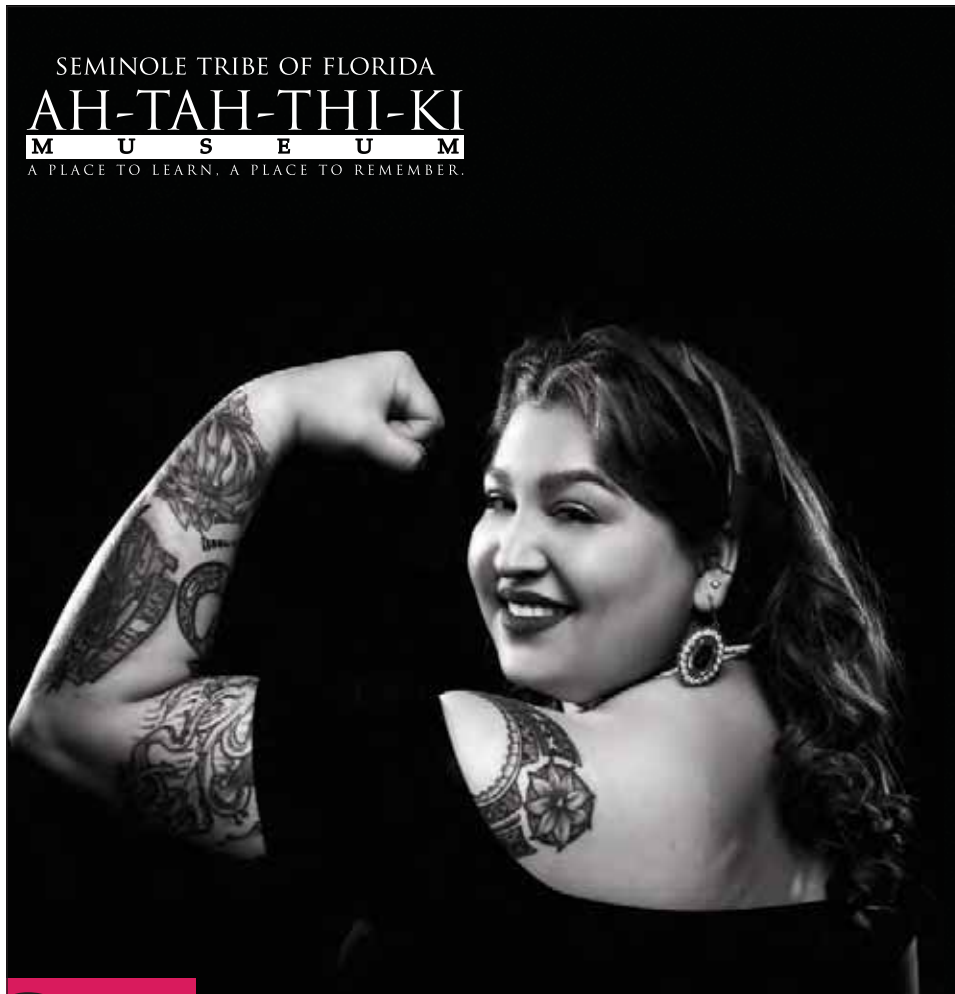
TALLAHASSEE — Secretary of State Laurel M. Lee announced Aug. 16 that the Florida Department of State is seeking nominations for the 2020 Florida Folk Heritage Awards. The annual awards recognize individuals who have made exemplary contributions to Florida's traditional culture.

The 2019 Florida Folk Heritage Awards recipients included former Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman James E. Billie.

Folklife includes a wide range of creative forms such as art, crafts, dance, language, music and ritual. These cultural traditions are transmitted by word of mouth and demonstration, and are shared within community, ethnic, occupational, religious and regional folk groups. Nominees should be individuals whose art or advocacy has embodied the best of traditional culture in their communities.

Nominations should describe the accomplishments and background of the nominee and explain why he or she deserves statewide recognition for preserving a significant facet of the state's cultural heritage. Supporting materials such as photographs, slides, audio-visual samples and letters will assist the state's Florida Folklife Council in evaluating nominees. Each nomination requires at least two letters of support from community members, colleagues, peers, cultural specialists or any other individuals who can confirm the details of the nomination and attest to the nominee's qualifications.

Nominations must be postmarked no later than Oct. 1, 2019, and mailed to: Florida Folklife Program, Division of Historical Resources, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250. Nominations can also be emailed to folklife@dos.myflorida.com.



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY: Drew Osceola

WITH CURATION BY: Lorelei Matthews

ON EXHIBIT: August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - January 12<sup>th</sup> 2020

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# Health



## Tribal executive hopes to motivate others with weight loss story

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

LL — Like a lot of Seminole Tribe employees, Tena Granit has built up some longevity.

She was single and in her 20s when she started working in finance for the Tribe in April of 2000.

Fast forward and she has years of experience and has climbed the ladder to be the executive director of finance — a role she's had since Jan. 2016.

She's also married now — to a police detective. And she's the mother of a 10-year-old daughter and 13-year-old son.

Granit said she's been overweight much of her life, but in was in her late 20s that she was heavier than she'd ever been: 313 pounds.

That's when she tried Weight Watchers, which has recently rebranded itself to "WW." The company offers its customers various products and strategies to help achieve healthy habits, including losing weight and keeping it off.

The program worked for her then — she was able get down to 247 pounds. Granit was feeling good about herself and the prospect of losing more weight. But that was the time of marriage and children.

"And the weight creeps back up," Granit said. She gained 70 pounds from her first pregnancy.

After some time past, things at work got particularly stressful and she found herself grappling with a serious weight problem again — not back at 313, but fully 100 pounds overweight.

In Nov. 2016, she ended up in the emergency room with an elevated heart rate thinking she was having a heart attack.

"It was later determined it was probably a panic attack, but nonetheless, my blood pressure had gotten extremely high, I had to be put on blood pressure medication," Granit said. "I thought to myself, I have two young children, I've got to get this under control."

She'd tried Weight Watchers before and knew that it worked for her, so she decided to start it again in Jan. 2017. She hit a three month "bump in the road" after a family vacation the following summer, but decided then to really focus on the program that November.

Weight Watchers had begun to offer a "Freestyle" program — among other features it allows for a wider range of food options using its point system. Granit said it resonated with her.

"It's really just about eating healthier, not promoting chemical laden foods, or sugar free foods," Granit said.

She fully embraced the concept. Granit had a target weight in mind at the time: 160. She reached that goal in Nov. 2018.

Granit's still losing weight and began exercising more in the summer of 2018 — including group fitness classes at 5:15 a.m. every day before work.

Weight Watchers sets a "healthy weight range" for clients based on height, age and other factors. Granit's top range was 146, so she decided she'd be happy with 150. She reached 150 and her program leader told her to try for 149, just so she'd achieve being in the 140s.

She not only reached 149, but kept going

and got to 146 on May 5. She's even lost a few pounds since then — she's currently at 140.

"To me it's the easiest program, you're not restricted as to, oh, I can't go out to eat with my family or I can't go have an ice cream with my kids," Granit said. "Whereas some of these other diet programs say you can't eat carbs or you have to eat their frozen meals."

In May of last year, Granit, now 46, got off her blood pressure medication. She completed her first half marathon in Fort Lauderdale earlier this year.

She credits her success on the program and her increased exercise, not only for the weight loss and improved health, but also in keeping the weight off.

"I think weight training is especially important for women to help fight off osteoporosis. And the more muscle mass you gain the higher the metabolism gets. When you've been heavy your whole life your metabolism is shot. I've been able to repair my metabolism through exercising, building muscle and eating," Granit said.

She said that women, especially, tend to put everybody else first in life before themselves — kids, family — but that women should realize they have to take care of themselves in order to take care of others effectively.

It's a lifestyle change now, she said. Things feel different.

"I look at food completely different now. I look at it for what it can do to fuel me, fuel my workout, fuel my day. If I want something, I'll have a bite or two of it, I don't need to eat the whole thing, I don't need to eat three of them," Granit said.



Courtesy photo (left), Damon Scott (right)

At left, Tena Granit was 313 pounds at her heaviest. She is pictured at right in her office at Tribal Headquarters in August 2019 at 140 pounds.

Even though work can still be stressful, Granit feels more at ease with herself and with her life.

"If I can be here for another 40 years, I want them to be 40 good years. I want to be able to travel and see the world and I don't want to see it from a wheelchair or with oxygen."

Besides leading by example, Granit hopes others will find her story inspiring on some level.

"If I can touch three or four lives ... you don't have to lose 100 pounds, but focus on eating healthier, focus on moving some

more, a little bit at a time. If you lose 20 pounds, you're better off than you were 20 pounds ago, and if you have a lot to lose, don't look at the big number, take it five pounds at a time. Know that you can do it. Anybody can do it."

Granit's husband recently decided to go on the program. He lost 25 pounds in less than a year.

Editor's note: Consult a physician before starting an exercise regimen or nutrition program

## Q&A with Native American dentist Dr. Crystal Willie Sekaquaptewa

BY ALLEE MEAD  
Rural Health Information Hub

As the managing dentist of Monument Valley Dental Clinic and assistant dental director for the company, Dr. Crystal Willie Sekaquaptewa is the first Native American to work as a dentist in the Utah Navajo Health System. Becoming a dentist to serve elders like her grandmother, she now inspires the youth in her community to pursue a career in dentistry.

**Q: Tell me about our patient to dentist.**  
I'm Native American, from the Navajo Tribe, and my family originates from New Mexico. I got into dentistry because within my own family I saw a need. My grandmother was truly my inspiration. My grandma didn't have teeth, and I never understood as a little girl why. I saw her struggle to eat and I saw how her malnutrition affected her muscles and bones. With a lot of my patients, we do dentures, and those days are the best. I could never put into words how it feels to deliver a denture and to be able to instantly change someone's life. I feel that when I give someone dentures, it's like I'm giving them to my own grandmother. I'm fulfilling something I never had the opportunity to do.

**Q: What role does patient education play in our practice?**  
Patient education plays a big role, because frequently you assume people know the basics. For me, in my practice, I strive to educate as much as possible, because if patients know the why, then it'll help them to make better decisions about their health.

It's your mouth; it's such an intimate space, and the things we do are so small

and tedious. If patients really understand the reasoning behind why a tooth would need this as opposed to that, then hopefully the next time around, we can change — if not for themselves, then for future generations. It's amazing how frequently patients comment, "Wow, nobody told me that!"

If you tell patients, "You should be doing this, or you should be doing that," it could negatively affect their confidence. If you sit down with that patient and show them a model or a picture, and you explain why, they're more responsive to it. Instead of using big words like periodontal disease, you can explain, "This is how it affects your bones." When you do that, the communication is improved but, more importantly, they also get more comfortable with you.

The majority of my patient population is Navajo. The Navajo language is the predominant language, so it's important to have someone there to interpret and to make sure that our patients are getting a full understanding of what we're trying to communicate.

**Q: You talked about edentulous toothlessness in our community. How do you see that as a root cause of dental and other oral health disparities in our community?**

I would have to say patients not understanding the connection of oral health to overall health, and that goes back to patient education. Not realizing, "How does my mouth affect me when I'm pregnant? How does tobacco affect my mouth?" I think a big factor is knowing that healthcare is a full circle and all providers strive for a common goal.



Rural Health Information Hub

Dr. Crystal Willie Sekaquaptewa

**Q: What strengths do you see in our service area?**

I'm very fortunate to work on the Navajo reservation but also to live here and immerse myself in a different community other than my own. In my area, specifically, the people are maintaining some of the traditional aspects of the culture. It's such a beautiful culture, and to see the culture preserved and passed down for generations, it is so special. I would say another strength is just the hope and the desire to get more Native Americans into higher education and getting them into the education or healthcare professions, so they themselves can make a difference in their own community.

**Q: How are cultural competence and representation important for oral health especially tribal health?**

With a lot of Native American tribes and the culture in general, it's a lifestyle. It

is important for providers to know what their patients' home conditions are and what their barriers to health are in general. These things play a major role not only in gaining trust but ultimately understanding patients better. I am Navajo, and I'm fortunate to work amongst my people. When my patients find out that I am Navajo, some of them immediately trust me, which I am very thankful for. Trust is the most important thing you need with your patients, and so I'm very fortunate to be able to immediately have that with some of mine.

**Q: What success stories can you share?**  
I have a lot of little girls who come into the clinic, and I try to be an example to these younger kids. When little girls tell me, "I'm going to be a dentist too," and they come and ask questions, it feels good to know, "Hey, if I can do it, these little ones can do it too." I try to be as encouraging as possible.

A lot of patients do come in with toothaches. The best part about my job is being able to get them out of pain. I went into dentistry because if there's a problem, there's always a solution. It brings me peace to know that if someone comes in, I have the ability to help them or direct them to someone who can.

**Q: What are some of the inspiring things you see going on in our profession?**

The Utah Navajo Health System works with different schools and colleges in allowing med students, physician assistant students, dental students, and even just college students the opportunities to experience and shadow the healthcare profession. I love that these students get to see what a rural clinic is like and that they get to learn about more

rural opportunities. Even if they don't stay with us, they are aware that they could go to another reservation or another place in the country to serve a community like ours.

It is so important in working in a rural location that you immerse yourself into that community and involve yourself in the things that are important to them. My husband is a teacher, so by default I was going to basketball games and football games. Just for the kids to say, "Hey, there's my dentist," to see you out there, it further builds that trust, but it also lets them know that you care.

Every Wednesday morning is flea market day, so a lot of the patients cancel appointments or head that way to go shop or get some food. It's amazing how there are those events that mean so much to a rural community, and I don't think people tell you that. There's no handbook of what to do. If somebody was considering working in a rural community, they need to know the importance of those little events and understand how they factor into providing excellent care.

I love dentistry — I love the interaction that I get to have with my patients. But, more importantly, I enjoy seeing the difference that we're able to make in the community, to see the community thrive not only with myself but with other providers who are there to help and service them.

Allee Mead is a writer for the Rural Health Information Hub, where this article appeared on August 30, 2019. The article has been edited for brevity.



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# SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

**HEALTHY FUN:** Faith Billie, 6, celebrates as she completes the 3D fruity puzzle as Lynn Osceola, 6, watches during the Immokalee back to school bash Aug. 12. Tribal departments set up tables with school supplies and other goodies. This was the health department's table, at which they encouraged healthy eating.



Beverly Bidney

**RIVER OF RAFTS:** Seminole youngsters enjoy a peaceful float down the Ichetucknee River on Aug. 8 near Camp Kulaqua in northern Florida.



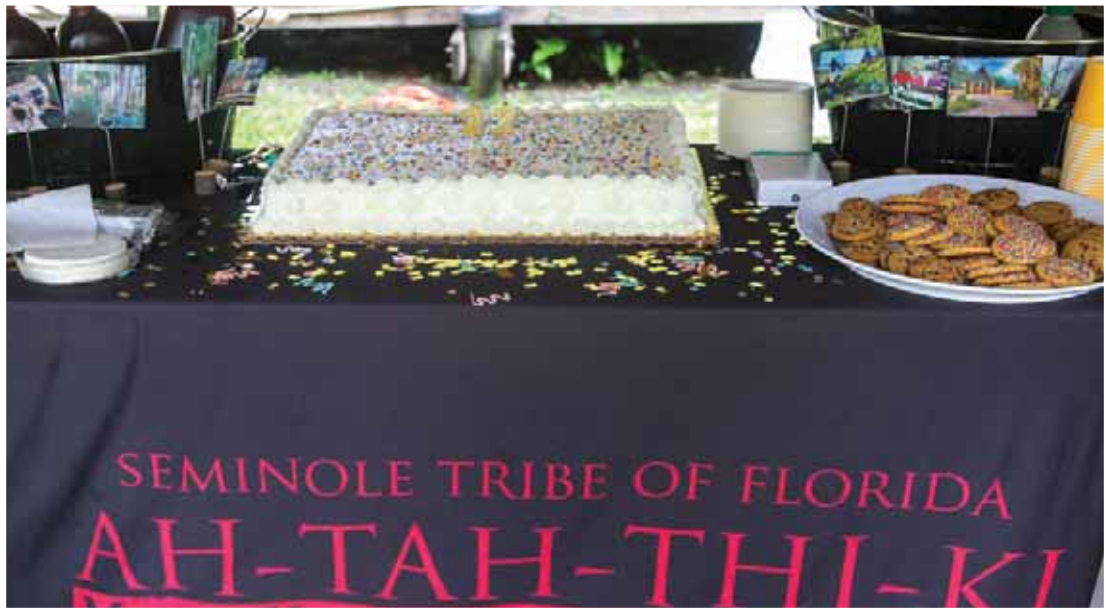
EIRA/Facebook

**RODEO ROYALTY:** The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association will be represented in the 2019-20 season by EIRA Queen Dayra Teal Koenes, left, and Little Miss EIRA Princess Rylee Bowers.



Courtesy Wanda Bowers

**PRINCESS GATHERING:** Miss Indian World Cheyenne Kippenberger joins Princess Pageant contestants during a gathering at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood prior to the pageant which was held July 27.



Analicia Austin

**LOOK WHO'S 22:** The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress celebrated 22 years in operation with a birthday party Aug. 21. The museum first opened its doors in 1997, and it has been sharing Seminole history and culture with visitors ever since. The opening date coincides with the anniversary of the federal recognition of the Seminole Tribe of Florida on Aug. 21, 1957.



Kevin Johnson (2)

**SHAPING UP:** Hard Rock Live, at left, and the pool lagoon, above, continue to take shape as part of the \$1.5 billion expansion of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, seen here on Aug. 12. The grand opening is set for Oct. 24. Maroon 5, the headline performer for the grand opening, will perform Oct. 25 at Hard Rock Live.



Hard Rock Japan/Facebook

**DOLLS AND DOLLS:** Hard Rock Japan posted this photo of giant dolls attired in Hard Rock gear on its Facebook page during its participation in a festival in Japan in August.



Seminole Hard Rock/Twitter

**ATHLETIC TRIO:** Former MLB player Jeff Conine, center, is joined by former NHL players Randy Moller, left, and Roberto Luongo during the eighth annual Jeff Conine Celebrity Poker Classic on Aug. 7 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. Proceeds from the event benefit the Conine Clubhouse at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## ill orpe son o i orpe dies at age

L e as Bill Thorpe, son of legendary athlete Jim Thorpe, passed away in Arlington, Texas, on July 4 at the age of 90. He was surrounded by his loved ones at the time of his passing; Edna Davidson of Arlington, Texas; Sandy Hayden of Mineola, Texas; and Gigi Tannahill of Dallas, Texas. Bill went to join his ancestors at 1:47 p.m.

Bill was born on Aug. 16, 1928 to Jacobus Franciscus “Jim” Thorpe and Freda V. Kirkpatrick Thorpe in Marion, Ohio.

Bill attended Indian boarding schools in California and Nevada after his parent’s divorce, then joined the U.S. Navy for the end of World War II. Eventually, he was drafted into the Army and served in Korea. He later went to work for Vaught Aircraft Manufacturing and was transferred to Texas in the late 1970’s where he retired there after 40 years.

The Jim Thorpe Award, administered by the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame, was dear to Bill’s heart. While in Oklahoma City for this past year’s award banquet, Bill was quoted as saying: “I think it was really good they did bring that along....really helped bring his name back to life. I know each year it kind of fades, then comes back with the award.”

Mike James, President of the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame Jim Thorpe Museum said: “Bill was always extremely supportive of the museum and college football award that, both, bear his father’s name. Whenever possible, he would make the trip from Arlington to Oklahoma City in order to be a part of the festivities taking place to keep his father’s legacy alive. His warm heart and his infectious smile will surely be missed.”

“On behalf of the Sac and Fox Nation and its Business Committee, I offer sincere condolences to the Thorpe family. Our prayers are with the family and friends of Bill Thorpe. We are one people and one family and together we thrive,” said Justin F. Wood, Principal Chief Sac and Fox Nation.

Bill is survived by his brother, Richard Thorpe, of Waurika, Oklahoma, and his niece, Anita Thorpe, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Bill was loved by many nieces, nephews, family and dear friends.

lahoma ports Hall of Fame

## doctor s ortage pro pts pus or ati e ericans to attend edical sc ool

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, American Indian and Alaska Native people suffer some of the poorest health outcomes in the United States.

But 90% of U.S. medical schools have three or fewer native students.

So insurance provider United Healthcare, and the Association of American Indian Physicians, are among those making a push to encourage more indigenous people to apply for medical school.

Native American patients often deal with missed diagnoses of PTSD, a higher chance of developing heart disease, and lowered life expectancy compared to other populations.

Karen Knight, director of tribal relations for United Healthcare, said it’s hard to address health concerns without first addressing the system that makes it difficult to get care.

“We can’t really expect to improve the access to health care or get more Native American physicians if they’re not even in medical school,” Knight said.

They’re also trying to reach people at a younger age.

“Many of them [indigenous students] have never even met a Native American doctor,” Knight said. “So they couldn’t picture themselves in that role, because they didn’t know anybody in that role.”

A white paper focused on strategies to expand Native American health care was recently presented at a gathering in Chicago organized by the Association of American Indian Physicians.

It emphasized that “one of the most pressing challenges in Indian Country is a shortage of health care professionals, especially physicians.”

In some areas, physician vacancy rates are nearly 30%, prompting the use of short-term physician contracts to meet tribal health needs. But “many of these health care professionals lack a long-term commitment and cultural connection to the land and its people.”

F News

## Lingerie co pan and uiel re o es ati e erican t e ed costu es

An Arizona lingerie distributor has quietly removed one of its most offensive costume themes from its website, following years of protest from Indigenous women. Yandy, which is based in Phoenix, had until recently sold nearly 40 types of Native American-themed costumes, which drew sharp criticism from Native communities and activists for reducing Indigenous women to sexual objects, as well as inaccurately portraying Indigenous culture.

“To all the women who were persistent with this, this is a huge victory,” said Amanda Blackhorse, a Din activist and social worker. Blackhorse was among Yandy’s most vocal critics, and in 2018 she led a group of women who attempted to hand deliver thousands of signatures calling for the removal of the costumes to the company’s offices. Instead of meeting with Blackhorse, Yandy’s chief financial officer,

Jeff Watton, called the police.

A spokesperson for Yandy declined to comment, but a search on the company’s website found that Native American-themed lingerie, which included outfits adorned with items such as leather fringe, beaded headbands and headdresses, are no longer listed for sale.

The company is still selling some of the same outfits and accessories under new names such as “Dramatic Fringe Duster” or “Beaded Tie Dye Headband.” Multiple follow-up calls and emails to Yandy were unreturned.

A petition calling for the removal of the lingerie posted on Change.org in 2018 gathered nearly 27,000 signatures as of publication. Despite the petition and vocal opposition to its Native-themed lingerie, Yandy declined for years to stop selling the products. “If it gets to the point where there is, I guess, significant demonstrations or it gets to a point of contentiousness that maybe is along the lines of the Black Lives Matter movement, where you have major figures in the sports world going to a war of words with the president, then it’s become too hot of an issue,” Jeff Watton told Cosmopolitan in 2017. He said the Native American-themed costumes were among the company’s top sellers, pulling in hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Hi h Country News

## MGM Resorts files federal lawsuit against interior epart ent o er onnecticut tribal casino

In the seemingly endless drama surrounding a proposed East Windsor, Conn., casino, American global hospitality and entertainment company, MGM Resorts International has sued the U.S. Interior Department over changes it approved in the state’s gaming compacts with the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Indians in March.

Filed on Aug. 7 in U.S. District Court in Washington, MGM’s 33-page lawsuit accuses that the modifications approved by the Interior Department and Indian Affairs Assistant Secretary, Tara Sweeney, allow the two federally recognized Connecticut tribes to operate a commercial, off-reservation casino in the Hartford County town of East Windsor, sans competition.

The planned \$300 million gambling enterprise named Tribal Winds Casino received its final state approvals in June 2017 and was to be built by MMCT, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribal nations partnership responsible for the East Windsor plan. The satellite casino would be located just 13 miles from the Las Vegas-based operator’s \$960 million MGM Springfield, Mass., facility that began welcoming players on Aug. 24, 2018.

A strategic repositioning from its previous accusation that Connecticut violated the state’s constitution in its no-bid approval of what is an effort to compete with the Springfield property (Bridgeport), MGM’s new suit argues that the U.S. Department of the Interior and its Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) lack the authority to sign off on amendments to the state’s gambling compacts with its two tribes for any such venue.

According to The Connecticut Mirror, the suit states

“The amendments are not limited to an East Windsor casino: they facilitate commercial, off-reservation gaming by the tribal joint venture anywhere in Connecticut, and state legislators have recently proposed granting the joint venture an exclusive, no-bid license to operate a casino in Bridgeport, Connecticut. The amendments thus confer a statewide, perpetual competitive advantage on the joint venture.”

orld Casino Directory

## Education con erence ocuses on i ple enting ndian Education or all standards

State education officials are stepping up efforts to ensure Wyoming school districts have the resources to meet new Native American social studies standards when they go into effect.

More than 600 educators, social workers, parents and students attended the 10th annual Native American Education Conference at Central Wyoming College [in August] where implementing the state’s Indian Education for All standards was emphasized through several breakout sessions and the announcement of new projects for educators to eventually use in the classroom.

The Indian Education for All standards, signed by then-Gov. Matt Mead in 2018, require all Wyoming schools to teach the history, culture and present-day contributions of the region’s tribes. The state must also consult with tribes when developing curriculum and resources for the schools to use.

Wyoming school districts must fully implement the standards for the 2021-22 school year.

Rob Black, the Wyoming Department of Education’s Native American liaison and social studies consultant, said the department has been getting questions about how to teach the history and culture of tribes from the region in a culturally sensitive way.

“As we get closer to full implementation, the department is endeavoring to offer more opportunities for teachers and school districts to learn what the resources are,” he said.

While resources already exist — like a Wyoming PBS video series and lesson plans about the history and culture of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho people — and are available for teachers,

education department Chief Policy Officer Kari Eakins announced two new projects to help educators meet those requirements at the conference.

The department will work with Rapid City, South Dakota-based Technology and Innovation in Education and Wind River Reservation community members to create videos of elders sharing what they want Northern Arapaho, Eastern Shoshone and non-Indigenous students to know about the tribes.

Those videos and related lesson plans — like all Indian Education for All resources — will be free and available online.

For the other project, the department received a \$1,000,000 grant to develop computer science programming in some Fremont County school districts that will meet requirements for computer science and Indian Education for All.

“These are two big things that we’re excited to get to work with,” Eakins said. “But we know that we need a lot of help in doing that work and that it won’t be successful if we are not good partners.”

Casper yo tar Tri une

## os in o es orward wit plan to send ero ee ation delegate to ongress

Cherokee Nation Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. formally announced former Obama White House adviser Kim Teehee on Aug. 22 as his choice to be the tribe’s delegate to Congress.

A provision in the 1835 Treaty of New Echota, which laid the groundwork for the federal government’s forced removal of the Cherokees from the southeastern United States, entitles the tribe to a delegate to the House of Representatives.

Oklahoma Congressman Tom Cole this week questioned whether the treaty is still valid.

“It continues to live, much like the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights lives. And so, the provisions that we are exercising today have never been abrogated in our treaties, so they are still in full force and effect,” Teehee said.

“I agree 100%,” Hoskin said.

Teehee would be a non-voting delegate, like those from U.S. territories, but that doesn’t mean she’ll be powerless.

“Non-voting delegates actually have quite a number of impacts. They can vote in committee. They can introduce bills. They have staff. They have resources. They’re an extra voice in Congress,” Teehee said.

While the Cherokee council is expected to approve Teehee’s nomination next week, working with Congress to seat her could be a long process. Hoskin said the tribe would make history as the first with a congressional delegate, but they won’t be the only ones who benefit.

“If you look around the region, when the Cherokee Nation wins, when our interests are upheld and when we are able to invest in this region, this whole region wins,” Hoskin said. “So, this is really something that the whole region can celebrate. This is something for the people of northeast Oklahoma to celebrate.”

Teehee said just two other tribes, the Choctaw Nation and Delaware, have similar provisions in their treaties with the U.S. government.

u lic adio Tulsa la

## regon sports betting to launc at ati e erican casino

Oregon sports betting will kick off in time for football season.

Chinook Winds Casino Resort announced it would take its first sports bet Aug. 27, becoming the first live sportsbook along the West Coast. The Lincoln City casino would begin taking wagers ahead of the first regular-season game of the lucrative NFL betting season.

The casino surprised the state’s gaming industry by not only announcing the opening date for a sportsbook but becoming the first gaming operator in the state to do so. The Oregon Lottery, which for months has worked to promulgate regulations and launch a mobile sportsbook of its own, is still reportedly several weeks from taking its first bet.

Chinook Winds’ sports betting launch will pale in comparison to the proposed lottery games, as football bettors will have to place bets in person at the casino in Lincoln City, a town of fewer than 10,000 people more than a two-hour drive from Portland. Still, the proactive moves by one of the state’s Native American casinos expedite the timeline for Oregon’s legal sports betting market.

Sports bettors can thank two unusual legal exemptions for the Chinook Woods sportsbook.

Oregon was one of four states with some sort of exemption from the federal sports betting ban, which paved the way for lottery officials to advance wagering without further intervention from lawmakers. Oregon’s exemption centered solely on a parlay game called Sports Action, an offering the state lottery discontinued in 2007 under pressure from the NCAA and professional sports leagues, but that limited exception was sufficient in officials’ eyes to push single-game wagering.

Delaware, the other state to offer parlay games, similarly used that federal ban exemption to implement single-game wagering, taking its first bet in June 2018. The other two excused states were Montana, which had a far more narrow exemption and subsequently passed a separate legalization expansion measure, and Nevada, which up until the 2018 court decision to strike down the ban was the only state with legal single-game betting.

Existing Oregon law also opened Chinook Woods to take bets.

The state’s Native American casino compact permits the tribes to offer the

same games as the state-run lottery. Since the Oregon Lottery has made it clear it will take sports bets, and under the previous ban exemption already has the legal authority to do so, Chinook Woods argued it could begin taking bets.

Assuming the casino takes bets as scheduled on Aug. 27, Oregon will become just the second state with Native American gaming facilities to take a bet without a formal act of the legislature. Santa Ana Star began taking bets in October 2018, opening the door for multiple tribal casinos in New Mexico to follow suit.

It remains to be seen when or if any of Oregon’s other eight Native American casinos will also offer bets, but Chinook Winds undoubtedly has put more pressure on its competing casinos.

am lin com

## irst ations educator de elops suicide pre ention curriculu or teac ers

There’s a new resource for educators interested in teaching about suicide.

First Nations educator Harvey McCue has produced a program of 24 one-hour sessions designed for youth between the ages of 11 and 13.

The experiential learning initiative features student activities, learning materials like stories, interactive videos and internet resources. It provides all required materials for in-class activities and a detailed guide for teachers.

McCue, who hails from Georgina Island First Nation but now lives in Ottawa, says the exercises were designed to make students reflect.

“What inspires me? Who are my heroes? What are my dreams? What would I like to be doing five years from now, 10 years from now?” he says.

The curriculum is free and available for download at firstnationssuicideprevention.com.

According to the website, the curriculum “connects culture with content related to resilient-rich choice-making that is applicable across the distinct First Nations in Canada.

“Framed in highly creative, stimulating, and interactive ways, the First Nations Youth Suicide Prevention Curriculum has the capacity to build resilience by being responsive, engaging, and applicable to the worldview of participating First Nation’s youth.”

McCue, who has been educating for 50 years, says the program could also be adapted to cater to non-First Nations Indigenous youth.

“It might take six or eight months for a team of Inuit educators to say, alright let’s tear this one apart — let’s not throw it out entirely, but let’s make it more Inuit specific,” he says.

A TN News

## Mass tribes see accurate census count

Native Americans weren’t counted as part of the U.S. Census until the late-1800s, and remain one of the hardest-to-count populations in the nation.

Indigenous people living on reservations were undercounted by more than 5 percent during the last decennial count in 2010, according the Census Bureau, the highest among any racial or ethnic group.

In Massachusetts, where the state’s tribes are relatively small and their people scattered across many communities, counting the Native American population is even more of a challenge.

With the 2020 Census less than a year away, state officials and tribal leaders have been organizing efforts behind the scenes in the hopes of getting a more accurate tally.

“The biggest challenge is finding them,” said John “Jim” Peters, executive director of the Massachusetts Indian Affairs Commission, a state agency. “The population is so small and people are spread around the state, so it’s not like you can go to a reservation to get a good count.”

Peters, a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag, said his office is working with tribal leaders on outreach to the Native American community to encourage participation.

“We’re gearing up to do a more concerted effort to get the word out,” he said. “The technology has changed a lot over the past 10 years, which makes it easier to reach people.”

Complicating the task is the fact that the seven-member Indian Affairs Commission is struggling to fill three vacancies on its governing board, and has not formally met in more than two years.

For the state’s two federally recognized Wampanoag tribes — the Mashpee and Gay Head on Martha’s Vineyard — there’s more at stake than just an accurate head count.

While the threat of an undercount puts the state at risk of missing out on federal funding for health care, roads and schools, tribal nations risk missing out on federal dollars for housing and employment training programs. The federal government distributes more than \$1 billion a year to recognized tribes, according to the National Congress of American Indians.

Concerns about undercounted populations were highlighted by efforts from the Trump administration to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, which was recently blocked by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The move raised the ire of congressional lawmakers and state leaders, stirring concerns that immigrants and their families — even those living in the U.S. legally — would avoid the count.

The constitutionally mandated census is required to count the country’s entire population, regardless of citizenship status. It asks questions about race, marital status and other topics.

For Native Americans, there’s an option on the census questionnaire to identify as “American Indian or Alaska Native” which the Census Bureau defines as “a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.”

But respondents must write-in their tribal association in the box below the question, to be counted as members of a specific tribe.

uestions on tribal enrollment are important for identity, but also funding, as the federal government conveys special status and benefits such as housing and tuition breaks only to tribes with which it has treaties.

But there are also concerns that Native Americans who list other races will skew the overall count of indigenous people. The 2010 Census found that 2.9 million identified as American Indian or Alaska Native alone. That figure nearly doubled among respondents who said they were American Indian or Alaska Native and another race, the census reported.

An even wider gap was found in Massachusetts in 2010, when 50,705 respondents identified as American Indian and another race, compared to 18,850 who identified as Indian alone.

The Ea le Tri une ass

## Measure to guide return o ati e erican re ains pulled b a os a ter tribal bac las

Members of California tribes not recognized by the federal government were excluded from a recent piece of legislation that would have changed the process for returning ancestral remains and artifacts — and they were not happy about it.

Assemblyman James Ramos (D-Highland), the first tribal member elected to the state Legislature, decided [in August] to throw out his Assembly Bill 275 after some Native Americans voiced frustration about the definition of tribes used in the measure.

Ramos, a Serrano/Cahuilla tribal member, used the 2001 California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act’s definition of a tribe in his bill, which defines tribes as those that are federally recognized, currently petitioning for recognition or eligible to apply for the status.

However, there are other state laws that define a tribe as one that is federally recognized or simply on the contact list kept by the Native American Heritage Commission.

Ramos’ bill would have given tribes more power to get back their ancestors’ remains and cultural items from museums or agencies through a process called repatriation.

In California, there are 109 federally recognized tribes, 78 petitioning for recognition and about 45 formerly recognized tribes that were terminated or never recognized by the federal government. California has the largest population of people of Native American ancestry in the country, according to the last census count in 2010.

Two tribal elders from Southern California told The Desert Sun they were opposed to Ramos’ bill because it excluded tribes like their own.

Tina Orduno Calderon, a Gabriellino Tongva elder, said that because her tribe is not federally recognized, it relies on other tribes that are recognized to advocate for the return of remains to the Gabriellino Tongva people. The tribe is recognized by the state.

“We have boxes and boxes of ancestors sitting in museums, in colleges, and we’re working to retrieve the ancestors so that we can repatriate them,” Calderon said.

Desert un Calif

## ie sa s ‘ illers o t e lower Moon’ filming planned in Oklahoma

After months of discussions with the Osage Nation about making “Killers of the Flower Moon” into a movie, the tribe’s chief said July 26 that director Martin Scorsese finally confirmed that his team will film the adaptation in Osage County, Oklahoma.

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear told the Tulsa World that Scorsese and members of his team visited the Osage Nation campus earlier that day for about two hours. He said the tribe told Scorsese’s team about its interest in providing resources to help ensure that the film portrays an accurate representation of the Osage people.

“I told him we’re all very excited about this movie, and eventually I came to the question that we had been wondering about for a year: Is he going to film here? And he said yes,” Standing Bear said. “And then his producer said, ‘We’re going to film all of it here.’ So that was big news.”

“Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI” is about the murder of Osage tribal members in the 1920s after the discovery of oil on their land made them wealthy. Production company Imperative Entertainment paid \$5 million in 2016 for the rights to the book and later brought Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio, a frequent collaborator of his, in on the project.

Tulsa la orld

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# Education



## This 'direct correlation' to dying Native languages often unexamined



Jade Osceola and Alice Sweat talk to students, whose Creek names are Emvnicv Nunez, Ceyafkompe Cypress and Efeke-wnhe Flood, during a language immersion class at PECS in Brighton.

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

— There's a long list of reasons that Native languages have deteriorated and entered an endangered status.

The reasons go back hundreds of years, and there are more modern day ones. They include distractions that younger generations face every day in technology and within a mass media of television, movies and more. The mass media is dominated by the English language.

Other factors have to do with the state of education, including dwindling budgets for language programs and low teacher pay.

Many Tribal communities already have a shortage of fluent speakers.

That's just a taste of the challenges Native language preservation faces.

None of it is lost on Marcus Briggs-Cloud, the culture language instructor at the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton, who has run the Creek immersion program there for the past five years.

No English is spoken in the program, only Creek. The rule applies to the kids (who start at a preverbal age), teachers, parents and elders who assist and participate.

Briggs-Cloud teaches those in the program from their preverbal days until age seven – the crucial time for learning the language fluently. In the first grade, the students are expected to transition into two hours of English

schooling a day, but to also maintain Creek instruction for six hours of the day.

As a committed educator, Briggs-Cloud worries about all the reasons the language is in danger of dying, including one that he thinks doesn't get the attention it should – the health of Tribal elders.

He said that without the elders, who are fluent in Creek, there is no immersion program. They take part in many of the program's activities, and the nature of the work is often robust.

"Health is a major concern. What I



Damon Scott

Marcus Briggs-Cloud leads a recent Creek language immersion class at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton.

consider the biggest threat to the survival of endangered languages is chronic illness that's really preventable by better dietary management," Briggs-Cloud said. "People are not talking about this."

To help, he said the program recently revamped its food by cooking healthy meals and working with a dietician at the health clinic – Cecilia Kostadinov. The idea lasted for a few months.

"It was really good, everybody felt much better, energy levels were higher, the kids started eating the healthier food – so there was better brain function, everything about it was good," Briggs-Cloud said, stressing he wished it had continued.

"If we don't change the way we eat, there's no hope for survival of the language, because elders are dying prematurely. You shouldn't be dying in your 60s and taking the language with you," he said.

Briggs-Cloud said that Tribal members currently have access to healthy food, unlike some, but that it's a matter of making the conscious choice to incorporate it into a daily diet.

Even though the healthier food is available, he said many Tribal members aren't educated in nutrition enough to make the proper decisions. It can result in diabetes and hypertension.

For example, after working with Kostadinov he and many in the program realized that some food they thought was healthy actually wasn't.

"[She] tweaked all these recipes and we started making all our food from scratch using organic ingredients," he said.

Briggs-Cloud now tries to spread the word that all language programs need to have healthy eating as a priority.

"There's a direct correlation between poor health and language loss, because our elders who are language bearers are dying prematurely," he said.

Even though the healthier cooking initiative ended, Briggs-Cloud instituted a

walking and biking program. If a participant walks outside or uses a stationary bike for 30 minutes a day for 20 days they get \$100. The funds come from various late fees paid by parents.

In addition, many of the staff have continued implementing the knowledge that Kostadinov taught them when preparing food at home.

"If you are not healthy, you cannot interact with these children," he said. "When your blood sugar's crashing, the last thing you want to do is be working with a child to impart language."

access nonet eless

The kids who started in the language immersion program completed a kindergarten curriculum last year as pre-K students.

"So they're ahead by Western standards," Briggs-Cloud said. "But what's most important to me is they get a good cultural foundation, and that they understand that the word education does not exclusively connote Eurocentric curriculum, that we have our own canon of stories and our own epistemologies and ontologies that we need to demonstrate respect for, and have command of, and make sure they're solidly integrated into the worldview we're shaping for our students. It's our responsibility to do that for our students."

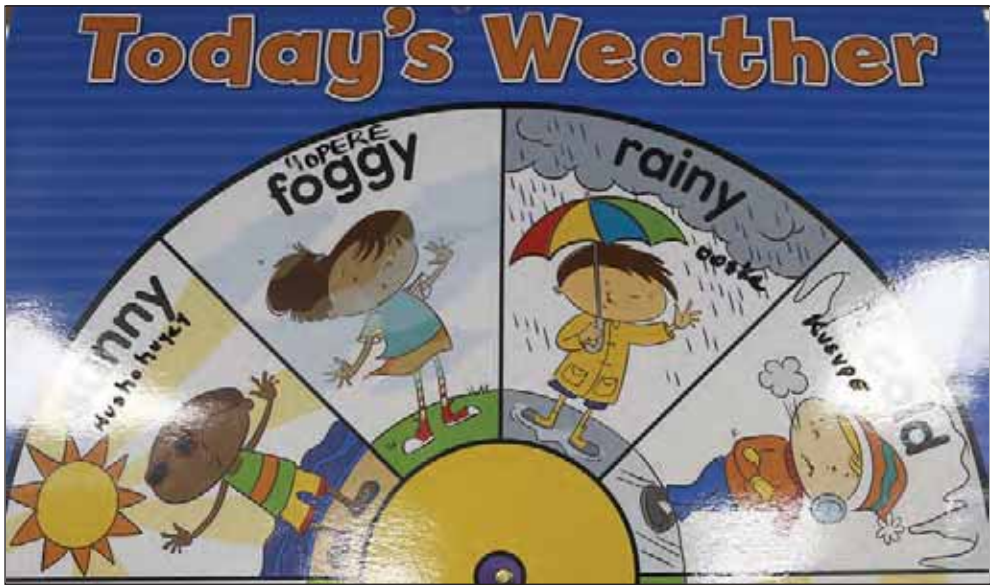
Indeed the PECS language immersion program has been held up as a model to observers and educators across the country and in Canada.

Many from different Tribes have come to the school to see how they can start a similar program of their own.



Damon Scott

Language immersion program student Hopany Smith, her Creek name, talks with instructor Jewel Lavatta during a class.



Damon Scott

This "weather wheel" helps students explain the weather in Creek instead of English.

## Immokalee's backpack giveaway a big hit

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

MM LEE — Immokalee students started the school year with new backpacks and school supplies thanks to Tribal Council, the Board and other Tribal departments. Students and parents came

to the field office Aug. 12 to choose from 200 colorful backpacks and an abundance of notebooks, pencils, notebook paper, markers and other classroom essentials. Supplies in hand, these students were off to a good start at school, which began Aug. 13 in Immokalee.



Beverly Bidney

Summer Martinez, 17, and Jazmine Garcia, 10, show off their new backpacks Aug. 12, just in time for the new school year.



Beverly Bidney

Alice Jimmie, 11, at left, chooses the perfect backpack to start the school year at the Immokalee back to school bash.

## NIEA convention to be held in Minnesota

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The 2019 National Indian Education Association's convention will be held from Oct. 8-12 at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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

The Convention and Trade Show will include innovative participatory workshops, research presentations, poster sessions, and keynote addresses by prominent educators and advocates.

Registration is open to all educators, advocates, tribal leaders, researchers, parents, students, and anyone else interested in learning and sharing about Native education. Regular registration ends Sept. 13.

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

# Seminole campers return to Camp Kulaqua

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

la. - Nearly 200 Seminole kids had a blast at Camp Kulaqua where they stayed active, made new friends and had the time of their lives as they learned to live away from their families.

After a three-year hiatus, Tribal youngsters returned to the camp in High Springs, about 20 miles northwest of Gainesville, from Aug. 4-9. Campers were divided into age groups of 7-to-12-year-olds and 13-to-17-year-olds, where they thrived among their peers. Groups were divided even further by age and sometimes by gender, depending on the activity.

The schedule was filled with fun camp activities such as swimming, kickball, basketball, volleyball, go-karts and the wet and wild Seminole Olympics. On the last night, the campers put on a talent show for which they had practiced all week.

Activities also included STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) classes which focused on science experiments, Center for Behavioral Health interactive classes and daily culture lessons.

“Our goal was to stimulate the kids,” said Cathy Cypress, Seminole Recreation director and camp director. “Even if they only remember one thing, I’m happy with that.”

Cypress believes camp give kids a unique experience which can build great memories and relationships.

“They meet family members they didn’t even know were family,” she said. “Those relationships can last a lifetime. I love seeing them enjoy camp. The parents are also happy camp is back and have been posting positive comments on Facebook.”

Camp was nonstop rigorous fun; each day began with a morning walk at 7 a.m. and ended with lights out at 9:30 p.m. Some of the teens had attended camp when they were younger and were glad to be back.

“I missed it,” said Patsy Veliz, 17, of Immokalee. “It’s so good to see everyone again.”

The teens stayed in the camp’s lodge, where they lived three or four to a room and “didn’t have to worry about spiders,” said Jahniyah Henry, 16, of Hollywood.

“We don’t get to see each other a lot, so this is good,” Jahniyah said about her friend Patsy.

Quite a few campers shared that sentiment and were glad to see people they don’t see very often.

Some of the campers’ favorite activities

included being launched high in the air off the Blob into the camp’s chilly Hornsby Spring and tubing down the Ichetucknee River.

“The Blob is scary, but it’s a lot of fun,” said Lola Veliz, 13, of Immokalee. “The rope swing is also fun. Every time I’m in the water it’s fun.”

Every night after dinner the Culture Department gave lessons under the large pavilion. Kids learned to make beadwork, carve and sew. Instructors helped them along and shared Seminole traditions.

“The most important rule is to take your time,” said Vinson Osceola, Big Cypress Culture instructor.

He also briefed the group about their culture, traditions and responsibilities as Seminoles.

“Some took it in, some are still processing it and some didn’t know what hit them,” Osceola said. “I briefed them on what is to come in life and told them they will all face challenges. Having this knowledge and traditions will be helpful.”

Hollywood culture instructor Tyra Baker also knew the importance of passing on the culture to the next generation.

“I want them to know how important it is to preserve our traditions,” she said. “They are eager to learn. Everything we tell them should be imbedded in their minds.”

Outdoor activities were plentiful and camp wasn’t immune from the daily summer showers or storms, but they were taken in stride. The skies opened up for nearly an hour before the teens were set to compete in the Seminole Olympics at the River Ranch. Their spirits weren’t dampened at all; they made their own fun as music played, they tested their knowledge of song lyrics, laughed and generally made their own good time until the all-clear was sounded.

“Camp is about developing relationships, meeting people from other reservations and learning to work together,” said Suzanne Davis, Integrative Health program manager. “These things are important traits in the adult world; sharing and being open to new experiences. Everything that is done here offer those opportunities to grow into positive, healthy young adults.”

Camp was also about living a healthy lifestyle, eating right and exercising. The dining room had salad and fresh fruit available at every meal, kids were kept moving all day and awakened at 6:30 a.m.

“I look at these kids as being the Tribe’s future leaders,” said Salina Dorgan, recreation coordinator. “This camp is about being fit, living a clean life and promotes a

healthy lifestyle. If they do that, they will be the leadership of the Tribe and be able to continue its prosperity.”

This was Darrel Tiger’s first time at camp and he enjoyed making new friends.

“It’s been a great experience,” said the 11-year-old from Hollywood. “We’re outside a lot and this is the most exercise I’ve had in a long time.”

The younger kids didn’t have access to their phones very often; some even left them at home. It was a real adjustment for these kids, but occasionally they were allowed to send a text to their family.

“I love camp,” said Destiny Cypress, 18, of Big Cypress. “I’ve been here a lot and I’m glad it’s back. I love that I’m constantly on the move and get to do a lot of different things.”

After a day tubing down the Ichetucknee River, a few campers reflected on the week at camp. They agreed the Blob, the Ichetucknee, making s’mores and staying together at the lodge were some of the highlights. Carlise Bermudez, 15, of Immokalee, Ramona Jimmie, 16, of BC, Dacia Osceola, 16, of BC and Skye Stubbs, 15, of Hollywood had all been to camp when they were younger.

“It’s like bringing back old memories and making new ones,” Carlise said. “I’m going to miss it when I get home.”

“It’s a good break from my family,” Dacia said.

“There are other kids from the rez, so it’s like having a home away from home,” added Ramona.

The campers were eager to share their feelings about Camp Kulaqua and how different it was from life at home.

“It’s fun without my parents here,” said Jeremy Urbina, 10, of Brighton. “I don’t get yelled at.”

“I don’t have to talk to anyone if I don’t want to,” added Yani Smith, 11, of Brighton.

“I like camp because there are a lot of people and a lot of things to do,” said Nigel Osceola, 14, of Tampa, who has been away from home before. “It’s not a school trip, so it’s a lot different. I met a lot of interesting people.”

It took a huge effort from a lot of people to make camp appear easy. Recreation staff, counselors, chaperones and Camp Kulaqua staff all came together to make camp memorable for the campers.

“I love what happens here, everyone comes together for one cause,” Davis said. “They are the lifeblood of this place, it is very inspiring. The experience the kids have here they will remember throughout their whole life.”



Beverly Bidney

Nigel Osceola carefully roasts a marshmallow for s’mores, a camp classic treat of roasted marshmallows, chocolate bar and graham cracker sandwich during the Seminole Tribe’s week at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida.



Beverly Bidney

Being launched from the Blob and into the nippy waters of Hornsby Spring was one of the highlights of many campers at Camp Kulaqua from Aug. 4 to 9.



Beverly Bidney

Canaan Jumper squeals with delight as she hovers over the Blob at Camp Kulaqua before hitting the 72 degree water below.



Beverly Bidney

Culture instructor Darlah Cypress shows Camille Billie, 7, how to make a beaded key chain during the culture activity at Camp Kulaqua on Aug. 6.



Beverly Bidney

Jayde Billie makes sure the beads on her key chain are lined up properly at the culture activity at Camp Kulaqua.



Beverly Bidney

Culture instructor Tyra Baker shows Ina Robbins the fine points of sewing a straight line. The culture activity at Camp Kulaqua included sewing, beading, carving and more.



Beverly Bidney

Teens roast marshmallows for s’mores over a camp fire Aug. 7.



Beverly Bidney

The chilly 72 degree water can be a shock to the system as demonstrated by these campers getting into the tube at Ichetucknee Springs State Park.



Beverly Bidney

Kids play a game of tube soccer during the Seminole Olympics at Camp Kulaqua on Aug. 7.



Beverly Bidney

A group of campers makes its way through the woods at Camp Kulaqua to the zoo and nature center Aug. 7.



Beverly Bidney

Adriana Osceola Turtle and Clinton Billie float down the Ichetucknee River with the rest of the campers on Aug. 8.



Beverly Bidney

Kids ride the waves in the wave pool at Camp Kulaqua’s River Ranch on Aug. 7.

◆ AHFACHKEE  
From page 1A

student performance in school.

“Our mission is to inspire students to have a lifelong love of learning,” said Principal Dorothy Cain. “Council had an unwavering commitment to provide the highest quality school, teachers and environment. The 21st century learning framework is about collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking. We have changed the landscape of the campus and it will inspire those students yet to come.”

The new building contains a cafeteria, art studio, music room and media center with a large computer area. High school and middle school classrooms are on the second floor along with labs including science, engineering, robotics, biomedical, MakerBot 3D printing and TV production.

“I love seeing this completely done, its needed here,” said former Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, who along with Cicero Osceola facilitated the project. “I

believe in education and this is one of the greatest investments the Tribe has ever done. You can’t go wrong with education.”

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. grew up in Big Cypress.

“This is a true testament of how God has blessed the Seminole Tribe,” Chairman Osceola said. “How fortunate we are to have modern, state-of-the-art classrooms for our children.”

Emcee uenton Cypress is a 2014 graduate of Ahfachkee and is now the community engagement manager at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

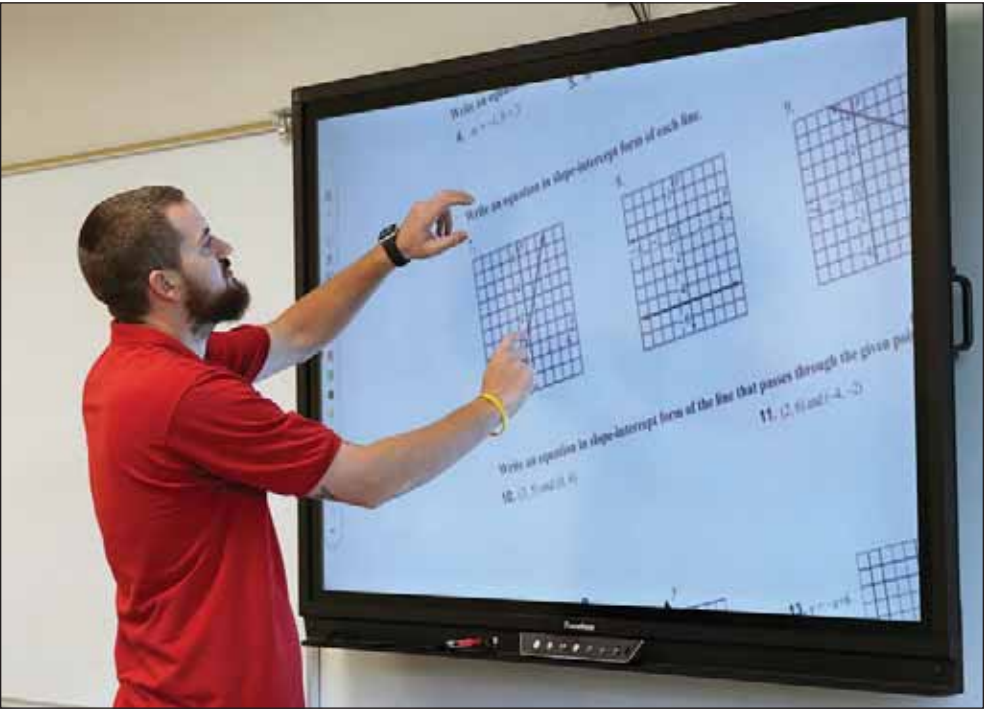
“I wish I was still going here because of this facility,” he said. “There is no other building in the Tribe like this one.”

Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress said the school was another example of the Tribe giving advantages to its students. Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank thanked everyone who had a hand in the school and said the Tribe gets the biggest bang for its bucks when it invests in its youth.

“This has been a long time coming,”



Beverly Bidney  
Parents and students tour one of the school's classrooms. The large interactive Promethean Board on the wall is a feature in every classroom.



Beverly Bidney  
Middle school math teacher Tim Pruitt demonstrates how the Promethean board's smart screen works during a tour of classrooms.



Beverly Bidney

The new addition to the Ahfachkee School opened in time for the first day of the new school year.



Beverly Bidney

It took 10 oversized scissors to cut the ribbon and open the Ahfachkee School's new middle and high school building Aug. 13. Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Executive Director of Administration Lee Zepeda, President Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Miss Florida Seminole runner-up Alycia Mora, Principal Dorothy Cain, former Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Aubee Billie, Brighton Councilman Larry Howard and Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress did the honors.

said Brighton Councilman Larry Howard. “If you think about the things we want for our kids and are able to see them here today, we have to be grateful. It’s a happy day.”

Ahfachkee means happy in Elaponke, and many speakers made reference to it during the celebration.

“I love this community and I know the school has been on the minds of Tribal leaders for a long time,” said Brighton Board Rep. Helene Buster, who worked in Big Cypress for 15 years. “The structure and environment we come to every day makes a difference. It’s a wonderful day any time the Tribe can open a school for our children.”

The middle and high school building was the first phase of the Ahfachkee expansion. Phase two will include the renovation of the existing building for the pre-K to fifth grades, move the culture department into the former science building and rework the administrative offices.

“We are celebrating the new school and new dreams and new futures,” said Lee Zepeda, the Tribe’s executive director of administration, who served as principal at Ahfachkee in the 1990s. “Students will discover their purpose here. Twenty years ago I used to greet all the students who came in; it’s no coincidence that Ahfachkee means happy. We can all be very proud of this school.”

Jose Murguido, vice president of yscovich Inc., worked with the team of architects on the design of the school.

“Many architects designed this building,

but three students - Elisah Billie, Eyanna Billie and Dasani Cypress - had a vision for this school that shaped the architecture,” Murguido said.

The original goal of keeping students and attracting new ones to Ahfachkee seems to be working, in part thanks to the new facility and programs. About 220 students are expected this year. The pre-K through 12th school already has a waiting list for its pre-K program and, in a break from previous years, many (18) sixth graders stayed at Ahfachkee instead of going to schools elsewhere.

“They are coming back,” Cain said. “Students are staying and they come from all over the place. We take students from Immokalee and off the reservation in Broward County.”

Tribal Council, Board Reps, Miss Florida Seminole runner-up Alycia Mora, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Aubee Billie, Cain and Zepeda cut the red ribbon indicating Ahfachkee was open and ready to educate its students.

“It has been said that a man plants a seed for all other generations to follow,” said Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon Wareham. “This is just the beginning for Ahfachkee.”

*Tribe's higher education 2018-19 graduates*

|                         |                                   |             |    |                                    |   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|----|------------------------------------|---|
| E                       |                                   | E           | EE | M                                  | M |
| Kimberly Arledge        | Hollywood Inst. Of Beauty Careers | Certificate |    | Skin Care                          |   |
| Tiffany Baker           | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| Thomas Benson           | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| Durante Blais Billie    | University of Scotland            | M.A.        |    | Art History and Management         |   |
| Crystal Billie          | Sunstate Academy                  | Certificate |    | Cosmetology                        |   |
| Peter Billie            | Keiser University                 | B.A.        |    | Business Management                |   |
| Holly Bowers            | Nova Southeastern Univ.           | J.D.        |    | Law                                |   |
| Patrick Brady           | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| Skyler Burke            | Troy University                   | B.A.        |    | Communications                     |   |
| Bonnie Callins          | Keiser University                 | A.A.        |    | Accounting                         |   |
| Brittany Cox            | University of Oregon              | B.S.        |    | General Social Science             |   |
| Jon Davis               | Immokalee Technical College       | Certificate |    | Construction Technology            |   |
| Nathaniel Doctor        | Penn Foster                       | HS          |    | High School Diploma                |   |
| Tiyonda Farrior         | Hollywood Inst. Of Beauty Careers | Certificate |    | Full Specialist                    |   |
| Sharka Frank            | Sheridan Technical College        | Certificate |    | Early Childhood Professional       |   |
| Tarra Gamez             | Keiser University                 | A.A.        |    | General Studies                    |   |
| Angela Garcia           | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| Michelle Garcia         | Penn Foster                       | Certificate |    | Dental Assistant                   |   |
| Tianna Garcia           | Broward College                   | A.A.        |    | General Studies                    |   |
| Anthony Gentry          | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| David Gonzalez          | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| Peter Hahn              | Florida International University  | M.S.        |    | Finance                            |   |
| Eli Harmon              | U.S. Air Force Academy            | B.S.        |    | Physics                            |   |
| Levi Harmon             | Virginia Military Institute       | B.A.        |    | Modern Languages and Culture       |   |
| Ozzie Wildcat Holdiness | SAE Institute                     | Certificate |    | Audio Technology                   |   |
| Valentino Ramos Huggins | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| Samuel Hunter           | Sheridan Technical                | Certificate |    | HVAC                               |   |
| Maleah Issac            | Belhaven University               | B.S.        |    | Science                            |   |
| Cassandra Jimmie        | Keiser University                 | A.S.        |    | Sports Medicine/Fitness Technology |   |
| Joseph John             | Dartmouth College                 | B.A.        |    | Native American Studies            |   |
| Harley Johns            | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| Katinna Jumper          | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| Symphoni Jumper         | Boca Beauty Academy               | Licensure   |    | Cosmetology                        |   |
| Cheyenne Kippenberger   | Keiser University                 | A.A.        |    | Business                           |   |
| Kurya Kippenberger      | Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale  | B.S.        |    | Fashion Design                     |   |
| Mya Langston            | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| Justin Motlow           | Florida State University          | B.S.        |    | Sociology                          |   |
| Kenzie Motlow           | Aveda Institute                   | Certificate |    | Cosmetology                        |   |
| Aaron Olejnik           | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| Courtney L. Osceola     | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| Elizabeth Osceola       | Estrella Mountain Comm. College   | A.S.        |    | Arts                               |   |
| Juanita Osceola         | Aveda Institute                   | Licensure   |    | Cosmetology                        |   |
| Phyllis Osceola         | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| Roberta Osceola         | Indian River State College        | Certificate |    | Information Technology             |   |
| Shelby Osceola          | Troy University                   | B.S.        |    | Exercise Science                   |   |
| Shelli Mae Osceola      | Florida Career College            | Certificate |    | Cosmetology                        |   |
| Myrick Puente           | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| Natomah Robbins         | Douglas Education Center          | A.A.        |    | Special Makeup Effect              |   |
| Priscilla Sigurani      | Florida Gulf Coast University     | B.A.        |    | Integrated Studies                 |   |
| Elijah Snell            | GED                               | GED         |    | GED                                |   |
| Derrick Tiger           | Ringling College                  | B.F.A.      |    | Film                               |   |
| Krystle Young           | Florida International University  | M.S.        |    | Biology                            |   |
| Cleofas Yzaguirre       | FL SouthWestern State College     | A.A.        |    | General Studies                    |   |



Beverly Bidney

Students and parents gather in one of the second floor work areas just outside of a cluster of classrooms. The computer station is for finishing work or researching, the tables are for collaborating.

# Hollywood Seminole seniors take Minnesota by storm

BY WANDA BOWERS  
Tribal Elder

On Tuesday morning, Aug. 13, 2019, about 40 Seminole seniors from the Hollywood Reservation boarded American Airlines in Miami and took a direct flight to Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minnesota. This began our senior trip, Shokapee, here we come

We arrived in Minnesota around noon, so the first thing we did was have lunch in town. Then to keep with tradition, we stopped at Walmart. After an hour or so we all loaded back up on the bus one by one. Some had cases of water, others had snacks for the weekend, and someone had a bag of socks? Wonder who that was? Anyway, as long as Dan got his bologna, cheese and bread. We were all happy to head on out to the hotel. We arrived at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, checked in then we were on our own. Once that was known, we all cleared out and no one was seen until the next morning for breakfast.



Courtesy photo  
A sign welcomes the Seminole Tribal Elders to the wacipi, or pow-wow, in Minnesota.

We started our first day of adventure to the Shakopee Cultural Center. We watched a short video called the "Creation Story." After the video we went straight to the gift shop. Of course we had to do some shopping; there were fleece blankets, Native print



Courtesy photo  
Lawanna Osceola-Niles with Sharon Roberts, Southern Cloth Dancer.

table covers, sea shells, postcards. I can't remember everything but I tell you what, we had that cashier going for about an hour of ringing up our sales.

You'd think we were done shopping but, no we weren't, we wanted to buy more. So Elizabeth found a little single wide trailer that said "Trading Post" on it. I called it the smallest trading post in Minnesota. I think we scared that sales lady in there too. We all went in there to shop for more stuff. We all squeezed in there looking around and saying excuse me, excuse me, but that was fine. We took it slow. We looked like ants in there going round and round and stopping, looking, going again. After one was done shopping they would go back to the bus and so on and so on. Finally, we were done. Then we headed back to the hotel and got ready for the nightlife, which was the slot machines

Our next adventure was the Mall of America. Oh my gosh, I thought I could handle it, but nope after an hour my feet



Courtesy photo  
Kella With Horn, Lakota Women Warriors Color Guard and Army veteran, holds up a Seminole Tribal Fair & Pow-Wow flier at the Shakopee Pow-Wow in August.



Courtesy photo  
From left, Barbara Osceola, Mary Moore, Loretta Micco, Lawanna Osceola-Niles, Polly Osceola Hayes and Wanda Bowers enjoy their trip to the Mall of America, the largest mall in the United States.



Courtesy photo  
During the Hollywood Reservation's seniors trip to Minnesota in August, Wanda Bowers, center, enjoys meeting Scott and Kella With Horn, who are both Navajo and dance Northern Traditional.



Courtesy photo  
Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. acts as a waiter for the camera and for Barbara Osceola.

were killing me, but I continued on, as we all did. They all went their own way, some went to lunch, some went shopping some got lost but then was found. As usual I went to Hard Rock Caf for lunch and met up with some of the staff who were also having lunch.

After lunch we went to watch the Native American dance exhibition. There I met up with some old friends from the pow-wow world. Juaquin Hamilton, from Oklahoma, was the emcee. He recognized the Seminole senior group from Hollywood, Florida, and welcomed us. I ran into Ronnie Jr., who grabbed me into round dancing with him. It was fun, but I needed oxygen after that. It was great seeing all my old friends again; it was just like seeing an old family member. Everyone enjoyed themselves watching the different dances and dance competition.

But, as all good things must come to an end, we loaded back up on the bus and headed back to the hotel to get ready for dinner.

We also had a trip to Paisley Park on Friday where we visited Prince's home. We took the tour through his house and took pictures outside in front of his house. There is a strict rule about no photography inside. Heading back to the hotel we met up with the Chairman Marcellus Osceola Jr. at the Steak House in the Shokapee Hotel. Of course we all had steak and good conversation among each other. The Chairman made his way around the tables to say hello to everyone and enjoyed our conversation of the day and what we were expecting for tonight.

Then POW-WOW TIME. We were received very well. The pow-wow committee announced to the crowd and the dancers that the Seminole Tribal elders from Florida were attending the pow-wow. We also got to have our own seating area at the pow-wow that the Tribe/committee designated for us for the weekend along with a Tribal group from Canada. There was more shopping, but this time it was with Native vendors that set up at the pow-wow. Boy, you talk about up and down walking. I thought I was on a treadmill just to go look around, but that didn't stop



Courtesy photo  
Kenny Tommie and Loretta Micco enjoy desserts during a meal for the Hollywood seniors trip.

Our last day there, Sunday, we took a trip to Twin Cities Premium Outlets. The most purchased item was a large suitcase for everyone, because we bought so much stuff.

When we were together at our meals we talked about our family, told what we bought that day, cracked jokes on each other, and mainly enjoyed each other's company. A lot of reminiscing was done and we just laughed the whole weekend.

We would like to thank the Hollywood Senior staff for all their help, guidance, support and a few laughs with them also. Joe Kippenberger, Elizabeth, Jayne, Javon, Jane, and the EMT staff.

From Elizabeth Bridon: "I'm so glad you really enjoyed yourself. My biggest reward on these trips is knowing that the elders truly enjoy themselves."

We had a great time in Minnesota, but, it's always good to come home.



Courtesy photo  
STOF staff gather for a photo during the trip. From left, Janet Gerena, Joe Kippenberger, Jayne Salgado, Juan Salazar, Elizabeth Bridon and Javon Hill.



Courtesy photo  
Mary Moore holds an album by the late music star and Minnesotan Prince outside of Prince's estate, which the Seminole seniors toured.



This year's Florida Indian Youth Program and Leadership Academy in Tallahassee saw participation from several Seminoles.

Kajir "Kai" Harriott (CSSS)

# Tribal students participate in leadership program

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

One of the more unique experiences available to Tribal youth takes place each summer in Florida's capital, and this year was no exception.

The 2019 Florida Indian Youth Program and Leadership Academy took place July 13 through July 27 at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Several Tribal students took part in the activities. It's a free program for Native American, Native Alaskan and Native Hawaiian youth tribal members and descendants from Florida and Georgia.

The youth portion is offered as a college preparatory program for those who are high school freshmen or sophomores. The leadership academy is for juniors, seniors or recent graduates who are not older than 19.

Participants typically live in a residence hall on campus or nearby. Classes and activities are held each day between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Those in the youth program learn about STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), computer literacy and SAT/ACT preparation. Leadership academy students are expected to gain leadership skills as well as independence during the course of the program.

All of the students practiced writing and



From left, Luxi Billie, Adakai Robbins and Elyse Billie participate in the Florida Indian Youth Program in Tallahassee.

Kajir "Kai" Harriott (CSSS)

learned more about tribal government issues, financial literacy and art. They rack up more than 70 hours of classroom activities in all.

The evening hours and weekends are reserved for parties, trips to the mall and other activities like bowling.

Some students took college site tours and were able to explore academic programs of study they are interested in perhaps pursuing.

An awards banquet took place on the last night to recognize all the attendees.

Martha Santibanez, a K-12 adviser assistant in Brighton, visited the program for a few days – her first time making the trip. She said there were two students from the Brighton Reservation who attended.

"They had good feedback and were happy. The kids seemed to enjoy it," Santibanez said.

She said some students gave presentations and many did creative projects like making a bridge out of Popsicle sticks. They did other arts and crafts and composed their own mission statements, too, Santibanez said.

"It was nice to see them come together. A lot of parents were out there interacting," she said.

Kajir "Kai" Harriott, a student success

coach at CSSS in Hollywood, attended part of the program with the students as did Unethia Brown, a K-12 assistant, also from Hollywood.

The "intensive away from home educational experience" is organized by the nonprofit Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs.

The program was originally developed by the state of Florida to give Native American students the opportunity to spend two weeks in the state's capitol and be exposed to higher education and state government.

More information is available at [fgcia.org/youth-program](http://fgcia.org/youth-program).



Kajir "Kai" Harriott (CSSS)  
Kaleb Thomas poses with his certificate of completion.

# Oklahoma town declares 'Cheyenne Kippenberger Day'



Miss Indian World/Facebook (2)

El Reno, Oklahoma, is 1,500 miles from Cheyenne Kippenberger's home reservation in Hollywood, but the reigning Miss Indian World "owned" the town for a day during a visit in early August. Kippenberger was presented the key to the town by El Reno Mayor Matt White. The ceremony included a proclamation that declared August 2, 2019, as "Miss Indian World, Cheyenne Kippenberger Day" in El Reno. Kippenberger, the 2018-19 Miss Florida Seminole Princess, is the Seminole Tribe's first Miss Indian World winner. El Reno, population of 16,000, is in central Oklahoma, about 25 miles west of Oklahoma City.

# HRI promotes David Pellow to senior VP position

FROM PRESS RELEASE

LL Hard Rock International announced Aug. 22 the appointment of David Pellow to senior vice president of Company Cafe Operations. Pellow, who has been with Hard Rock for nearly 20 years, previously held the position of area vice president of cafe operations – Europe, where he managed operations for Hard Rock Cafe locations in 13 countries across the continent.

In his new role, Pellow will lead the Cafe Operations team, managing more than 60 company owned locations throughout the United States and Europe, and will oversee the brand's area vice presidents, facilities team, retail operations and sales marketing team. He will report directly to president of Cafe Operations of Hard Rock International, Stephen K. Judge.

"David Pellow has been a vital part of the Hard Rock team for many years and is the ideal executive to be at the forefront of the Cafe business," Judge said.

In 2001, Pellow began his career with Hard Rock as Assistant General Manager of Hard Rock Cafe Edinburgh and was quickly promoted to General Manager. In 2009, Hard Rock International named Pellow "General Manager of the Year". Just one year later,



Hard Rock International

David Pellow

under his leadership, Hard Rock Cafe Edinburgh received the prestigious "Cafe of the Year" award at Hard Rock International's 2010 Global Conference.



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# Sports

## Pursuing his passion: Duelle Gore's journey in pro basketball

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

LL The Las Vegas that most people think of – bright lights, star-studded shows and, of course, enormous casinos – isn't the Las Vegas that Duelle Gore thinks about, nor are they the reasons he's spending the summer in the city.

Gore ignores all the tempting distractions Las Vegas offers for people in their mid-20s; instead the smooth-shooting Seminole is focused solely on his basketball career.

He has an apartment in Las Vegas. His car and truck are there, and so, too, is his dream of reaching the NBA.

After growing up on the Hollywood and Brighton reservations, playing at Okeechobee High School and being a star in his final season at Haskell Indian Nations University, Gore has played the past two seasons in professional leagues in Mexico. The 6-foot-6 shooting guard/small forward averaged nearly 20 points for a team in Carmago – about a five-hour drive south of El Paso, Texas – this past season.

Gore, 26, understands that it takes more than putting up solid numbers in a Mexican league to attract the attention of the right people; that's why he's set up shop in Las Vegas, which has become a summer hotbed for pro basketball.

In order to grow his exposure with hopes of moving up the development ladder, Gore has become embedded in workouts, invitation-only pro-am games and gyms filled with fellow pros, including some from the NBA. He trains in a basketball development facility that includes current and former NBA players, such as Lance Stephenson, DeMarcus Cousins, Kyle Lowry and Glenn Davis. Gore has met former Miami Heat assistant coach and current New York Knicks head coach David Fizdale as well as RJ Barrett, the second overall pick of the 2019 NBA Draft.

"Going to Vegas, going out west, was probably the best thing I've ever done career-wise," Gore said in July while on a visit to the Hollywood Reservation. "Now I'm playing with NBA players and top college players. It was better for me to be out there. I'm getting more exposure, playing in front of a lot of different trainers and a lot of different workouts. I get to see what I need to work to compete with these guys to get a chance."

When Gore went to Mexico this past season, he figured that path could bring him a step closer to the NBA.

"In Mexico, I wanted to win a championship because I thought that would be the way to propel me to the Summer League, and the Summer League would propel me to a training camp spot. That was kind of like my set plan, but it didn't work that way. We lost in the first round in Mexico, so we left early. I was upset," he said.

Gore didn't get into the Summer League, but he does play in invitation-only pro-am games with pros in Las Vegas. He has a Houston-based agent – Mark McNeil – and said he has offers from teams in Mexico and Canada for the upcoming season. Ideally, though, at this point in his career, Gore would like his next step to be a ticket into the G-League – the NBA's minor league.

This summer he's training and eating differently than in previous off-seasons. On the court, he used to dedicate most of his workouts to improving his shooting, an appropriate focal point for a shooting guard. But now that his shooting is "reliable," as he describes it, Gore's desire is to become a more complete player, so he's concentrating on areas that he previously neglected, such as dribbling, working on pick-and-rolls and being a better small forward defender who could have to guard large forwards or small guards on any given night. Off the court, he works out three times a day. He's altered his diet, including increasing his water intake and eliminating smoking, sodas and fast food. He's running sprints. He said he's in the best shape of his life.

His 215-pound frame features far less body fat than it used to; his goal is to get it down to 9 percent.

Whether Gore's hard work on and off



Kevin Johnson

Duelle Gore dribbles in the Classic Gym in July during a visit back to the Hollywood Reservation.



Courtesy photo

Duelle Gore, shown here in a summer pro-am game in Las Vegas, has his sights set on climbing the development ladder with hopes of reaching the NBA.

the court lead him to a higher level remains to be seen, but wherever he plays he takes plenty of Native American pride with him.

"Every time I put on a jersey, I'm playing for my Tribe, my family, for the Natives everywhere," he said.

But the odds of reaching the NBA are daunting. As popular as basketball is on reservations from coast to coast, Native Americans in the NBA are extremely rare, but that's not going to deter Gore's determination.

"I can live with me giving it my best shot and not making it than not taking one at all," he said.

Last season Gore's shot on the court often found its way through the nets in the Chihuahua State Basketball League in Mexico. In January, he poured in 30 points in a 101-89 loss to Manzaneros. His sizzling night included 11-of-13 from the field, 2-for-2 from the line and 2-for-2 from 3-point range.

In February, he scored 21 points, grabbed nine rebounds, had two steals and one block in a win against Cerveceros. The following night his hot streak continued as he drained 28 points, snagged six rebounds and had three steals and two assists in a win against Soles.

Gore said the regular season games usually drew about 1,500 fans; the playoffs had about 2,000.

His toughest challenge was dealing with communication issues with coaches and players because he didn't speak Spanish, but he has since learned the language.

"Best thing was me learning Spanish. I didn't know anything. I had to speak Spanish on the radio. I was nervous," he said.

As for living in Las Vegas, Gore said he's too determined and driven toward basketball to be occupied with anything that might derail his plans.

"When I go out to Vegas, I'm not out on the Strip. The Strip is cool, but that's more like a different crowd, the party crowd. My goal is to get to the NBA. That's what I've been concentrating on the last three, four years," he said.

His life isn't only about hoops. He's discovered hobbies that he can enjoy long after

his playing days end.

"I'm into art now," he said. "I love art, I love painting, drawing. I never knew that until like a year ago. I love reading. I've been reading a lot more. I'm trying to learn something new every day. That's what helps me stay focused in Vegas," he said.

Even when he's in other time zones or other countries, Gore maintains close ties with his family back on the reservations. He returned to Florida in July in time to celebrate his mother Claudia's birthday. All of his siblings play basketball, so it's not too difficult to find someone to shoot around with in the gyms.

"My family is what keeps me going. That's what pushes me," he said.

Gore also wants to give back to the Tribe and be someone the kids look up to for reasons other than he's 6-foot-6.

"I see the little kids," he said. "I grew up the same way they did. They have all the opportunities. They need someone to take charge and lead them. That's what I want; I want to be a role model. I come from Brighton. I come from where these kids come from. If I was just to turn my back and keep going and not really think about them, it's like I'm not doing any service to anyone."



Courtesy photo

Duelle Gore chats with former Duke University star RJ Barrett, the second overall pick in the 2019 NBA Draft by the New York Knicks, during the NBA Summer League in Las Vegas.

## Allie Williams competes in national junior bowling tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Bowling is more than just a hobby for Allie Williams.

The Seminole teenager, who lives in Philadelphia, Mississippi, has been bowling since age 7. She watches the sport on television. She has her favorite stars to follow, namely Jason Belmonte and Danielle McEwan. She hasn't attended a pro bowlers event, but would like to someday. She's also helped the Neshoba Central High School girls bowling team win three state championships.

Before Williams started her sophomore year in August, her attention shifted to the national stage. She brought her passion for the sport to Detroit, Michigan, where she competed in the United States Bowling Association's Junior Gold Championships from July 15-20. The national tournament is for the top male and female youth bowlers in the United States. The tournament has eight divisions – U12, U15, U17 and U20.

"I knew there would be a lot of good people because it's a national tournament," she said.

Held at bowling centers throughout metro Detroit, the event drew thousands of youth bowlers who qualified from across the country.

Bowling in the U15 girls division that featured nearly 400 bowlers, Williams placed 81st on the first day. She said she was glad to crack the top 100.

She had solid, consistent rounds in the ensuing days, ranking 124th after round two, 98 after round three and finished up 111th after round four.

Her scores didn't get her into the so-called Advancers Round of the top 52, but she was satisfied with her performance among the nation's best in her age group.

"I was happy with it. It was my first experience there. To place where I was, it wasn't bad," she said.

Her top game was 186, which came in the third round. Her average was 165 for the tournament.

Williams will be shift her focus to the high school season in the coming months, and after that, hopefully a return trip to the national juniors. Next year's tournament will be in Las Vegas.

"I'm looking forward to going if I qualify," she said.



Courtesy photo

Allie Williams enjoys her trip to Detroit, Michigan, to compete in the U.S. Bowling Association's Junior Gold Championships in July.

National competitions and state championships are already part of her impressive, growing resume, but it wasn't that long ago when Williams first picked up a bowling ball.

A new bowling facility – the Depot Family Fun Center – had just opened near the Williams' home.

"We went there when it opened," said Williams' mom, Brandi. "We signed her up for a weekend hobby, but it turned into something she loves. She wanted to keep playing."

And keep playing she has. The Depot is where Williams has developed her skills and love for the sport. It's also where she bowled her best game, a 264.

"It's like her second home," Brandi said. "Everybody knows her at the Depot."



Courtesy photo

Allie Williams stands under a sign at Detroit Metro Airport welcoming the nation's top youth bowlers to the U.S. Bowling Association's Junior Gold Championships.

## Pemayetv Emahakv 2019 volleyball schedule

| E        | E M                 | ME                              |
|----------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sept. 4  | PECS at Clewiston   | JV 5 p.m., varsity 6 p.m.       |
| Sept. 10 | Yearling at PECS    | JV 4:30 p.m., varsity 5:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 12 | LaBelle at PECS     | JV 4:30 p.m., varsity 5:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 17 | PECS at Osceola     | JV 4:30 p.m., varsity 5:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 19 | West Glades at PECS | JV 4:30 p.m., varsity 5:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 23 | Clewiston at PECS   | JV 5 p.m., varsity 6 p.m.       |
| Sept. 26 | PECS at Yearling    | JV 4:30 p.m., varsity 5:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 30 | Osceola at PECS     | JV 4:30 p.m., varsity 5:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 10  | PECS at West Glades | JV 4:30 p.m., varsity 5:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 15  | PECS at LaBelle     | JV 4:30 p.m., varsity 5:30 p.m. |

Home matches are played at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's gymnasium on the Brighton Reservation. Varsity may play first in the matches on Sept. 17 and Sept. 26. Eighth-grade parent night will be Sept. 30 when PECS hosts its final regular season home match.

# Hayla Boyz hit their stride at NASA tournament

eminole team defeats Ala ama’s oarch Cree to win men’s championship

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

It wouldn’t be a NASA softball tournament without encountering the obstacles of summertime elements.

The Seminole Tribe’s Recreation Department hosted this year’s annual competition that drew about 60 teams in men’s, women’s, co-ed and legends divisions from five Native American tribes.

Most of the games were played four fields at Brian Piccolo Park in Cooper City; a few were held on the Hollywood Reservation.

All the rain, thunder, lightning, mud, puddles and weather delays that accompanied the three-day tournament on the first three days in August didn’t rattle the Seminoles’ Hayla Boyz men’s team. They were determined to win in their own backyard in a division that featured 14 teams.

The Hayla Boyz, organized by Naha Jumper, outlasted powerful Sneaky Creek from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in



Kevin Johnson

As his Hayla Boyz teammates cheer him on, Greg Thomas sprints toward home plate in the NASA men’s softball championship Aug. 3 at Brian Piccolo Park in Cooper City. The Hayla Boyz captured the title against a team from Poarch Creek.

Alabama to win the men’s championship at Brian Piccolo Park in Cooper City.

It was a long, hot, sweaty and dirty journey, but all worth it for the Hayla Boyz, which featured a blend of veterans, like Jumper whose experience in NASA extends decades, and an influx of younger newcomers.

“I’m very proud of my squad,” Jumper said. “They played their hearts out.”

The addition of a few players under age 20, such as Lucas Osceola and Ozzy Osceola in the outfield and Kenny Descheene at first base, provided a spark at the plate and in the field.

“I love their quickness and speed,” Jumper said.

Hayla Boyz also received solid defense from a number of players, including shortstop Catlen Tommie and second baseman Ray Yzaguirre, who combined to turn multiple double plays.

Championship Saturday was interrupted multiple times by inclement weather. Afternoon games finished in the evening.

“It was whoever could outlast each other. We kept hitting rain and lightning delays. Then there was like a monsoon when we were playing,” Jumper said.

The Hayla Boyz won their first three games against Southern Natives, Arrows and Sneaky Creek to reach the championship undefeated.

Coming out of the losers’ bracket in the double-elimination tournament, Sneaky

Creek needed two wins against the Hayla Boyz to claim the title. Sneaky Creek accomplished the first leg by rallying from a 4-0 deficit to win, 11-7, and force a winner-take-all showdown.

In the final, the score was tied 8-8 until the Hayla Boyz, who weren’t about to settle for the runner-up trophy, erupted for seven runs in the final inning to win, 15-8.

Jumper said his team and Sneaky Creek, who have met in previous NASA championships, have accumulated plenty of respect for each other throughout the years, and this year was no different.

“Before the game we’re buddies. During the game we’re enemies. At the end, we’re still friends,” he said.

Jumper praised Hollywood Recreation manager Joe Collins and all of the STOF Recreation Department for the work they did in tough conditions throughout the tournament.

“They did a good job,” he said.

A few of the older Hayla Boyz did double-duty in the tournament. They also had a successful run in the men’s legends division on the Mound Pounders team, also organized by Jumper, but came up one win short of a title and finished in second place behind L.A. Legends. The long days took their toll on the team, which went 2-2.

“We kind of died in the last game. We



Kevin Johnson

Hayla Boyz outfielder Ozzy Osceola charges the ball in a NASA men’s game.

only had 10 players; some could barely run,” Jumper said.

In the women’s legends division, there was no stopping the Lady Seminoles, who overpowered opponents on their way to winning the championship with an undefeated record. With just three teams in the division, the Lady Seminoles went 2-0 with both wins coming against C-Nation.



Kevin Johnson

Hayla Boyz first baseman Kenny Descheene battles for position against Sneaky Creek while trying to catch the ball.



Kevin Johnson

Naha Jumper makes solid contact for the Hayla Boyz in a men’s division game.



Kevin Johnson

After taking a toss from second baseman Ray Yzaguirre, Hayla Boyz shortstop Catlen Tommie tries to turn a double play in a NASA men’s game.



Courtesy photo

The Hayla Boyz celebrate after winning the NASA championship in the men’s division Aug. 3 at Brian Piccolo Park in Cooper City. The players are, from left, Blevyns Jumper, Catlen Tommie, Jason Grasshopper, Layton Thomas, Leon Wilcox, Ozzy Osceola, Roger Neadeau, Lucas Osceola, Charlie Micco, Duke McCoy, Kenny Descheene, Greg Thomas, Marshall Tommie, Naha Jumper and Ray Yzaguirre. Also pictured is team scorekeeper Susan Davis.



Kevin Johnson

Layton Thomas sprints toward home plate on his way to scoring a run for the Hayla Boyz.



The Lady Seminoles celebrate after winning the NASA women's legends championship at Brian Piccolo Park in Cooper City. Standing, from left, Boogie Johns, Trish Osceola, Salina Dorgan, Dana Osceola, Laverne Thomas, Carla Gopher Rodriguez, Reina Micco, Billie Tiger, Henrietta Welch, Susan Davis, Rita Gopher and Melissa DeMayo. Kneeling, from left, Wendi Riley and Charity Waller.



Rita Gopher delivers a pitch in the rain on the Hollywood Reservation for the champion Lady Seminoles in the legends division.



Boogie Johns belts a base hit for the Lady Seminoles in a NASA women's legends game at Osceola Park in Hollywood.



Lady Seminoles shortstop Carla Gopher Rodriguez makes a nifty backhanded catch during a NASA women's legends game at Osceola Park in Hollywood.



The Seminoles' Mound Pounders proudly hold the runner-up trophy they earned for finishing second in the men's legends division at the NASA tournament. The Mound Pounders are from left, Albert Arch, Jason Grasshopper, Duke McCoy, Stu Wildcat, Jay Liotta, Richie Kirkland, Milo Osceola, Roger Neadeau, Naha Jumper and Roy Garza. (Not pictured: Preston Baker).



Lady Seminoles batter Billie Tiger gets ready to drive in a run with a single.



Above and at right, despite huge puddles and plenty of mud thanks to heavy rain, players played on at NASA, including these players who opted to go shoeless in a women's adult division game at Brian Piccolo Park.

# EIRA holds regional final; Vegas next stop for some



Justin Gopher knows he has to get this calf down quickly during the calf roping competition at the EIRA regional finals July 26 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton. He'll be headed to the Indian National Finals Rodeo in team roping.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

The road to Las Vegas runs through the Brighton Reservation. That's the path about 20 members of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association took to qualify for the 44th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo that will be held Oct. 22-26 at the South Point Equestrian Center in Las Vegas.

INFR bids were up for grabs at EIRA's Region 13 rodeo July 26-27 at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton. It was the season finale for EIRA, whose season began in February.

Here are the EIRA members who qualified for INFR:

- udden deat winners  
Blevyns Jumper – calf tie-down roping  
Madisyn Osceola – ladies breakaway roping  
Connor Osborn – team roping (header)  
Josh Jumper – team roping (heeler)  
Loretta Peterson – ladies barrel racing  
Atley Driggers – INFR Jr. breakaway roping  
Ed Harry – INFR Sr. breakaway roping  
Jalee Wilcox – INFR Jr. barrel racing
- Shelby Osceola – ladies breakaway roping  
Justin Gopher – team roping (header)  
Blaine Courson – team roping (heeler)  
Megan McKerchie – ladies barrel racing  
Jaylen Baker – bull riding  
Jaytron Baker – INFR breakaway roping  
Theresa Johns – INFR Sr. breakaway roping  
Janae Bankston – INFR Jr. barrel racing  
Norman Osceola – INFR Jr. bull riding
- egional winners  
Blevyns Jumper – steer wrestling  
Dayne Johns – steer wrestling  
Ivan Bruisedhead – calf tie-down roping
- laine Courson is una le to attend INF , so Naha umper will e the heeler with ustin opher



Jobe Johns has his eyes on his target in calf roping.



Above, Cyiah Alvia heads for the barrels as she competes at the EIRA regional finals.



Ashlynn Collins competes in ladies breakaway roping.



Mackenzie Bowers rushes her horse to get the best time after competing in the ladies barrels.



Taylor Johns flies the American flag during the opening ceremony of the EIRA regional final.



Myron Billie tests his meddle as he tries to stay on the bull for eight seconds.



Norman Osceola is in control as he rides the bull at the EIRA regional finals.



Jalee Wilcox leads her horse quickly around the barrel.



Cat Tommie and Cory Wilcox team up for a successful run.

# Countdown underway for NAIG 2020

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Preparations for the 2020 North American Indigenous Games are well underway.

Organizers held a one-year countdown ceremony on July 12 in the host city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. With more than 5,000 Indigenous youth athletes from Canada and the U.S. expected to compete, including from the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the event is being described as the largest sporting event Halifax has ever hosted.

About two dozen Seminoles competed in the 2017 Games in Toronto. Seminole gold medal winners were Santiago “Echo” Billie (rifle shooting), Sammy Micco Sanchez (wrestling) and Conner Thomas (archery).

Halifax is known as Kijipuktuk to the Mi’kmaq, a First Nations who are Indigenous to the area. Halifax has a population of about 400,000 and is a vital port for the region on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. It’s located about 500 miles (over land) from Portland, Maine.

Competitions are slated to be held in Halifax and Millbrook First Nation.

Indigenous athletes from the Canadian Maritime provinces participated in the countdown ceremony.

“[The Games are] infused with the cultural side of it, and that’s really what the Games represent to me, it’s really that spirit and beauty of who are as Indigenous People from across the world.” NAIG 2020 CEO Kevin Sandy told APTN National News.

Singer Emma Stevens, 16, whose rendition of The Beatles’ song “Blackbird” in the Mi’kmaq language has garnered more than 1 million YouTube hits in just a few months and received a nod from Paul McCartney during one of his concerts, performed at the ceremony. Stevens is from Eskasoni First Nation in Nova Scotia.

The Games will be held July 12-18 and feature 15 sports, including 3D archery, athletics (track and field), badminton, baseball, basketball, beach volleyball, canoe/kayak, box lacrosse, golf, rifle shooting, rugby 7’s, soccer, softball, swimming, volleyball and wrestling.

Here’s a letter from George “Tex” Marshall, president of the NAIG Host Society:

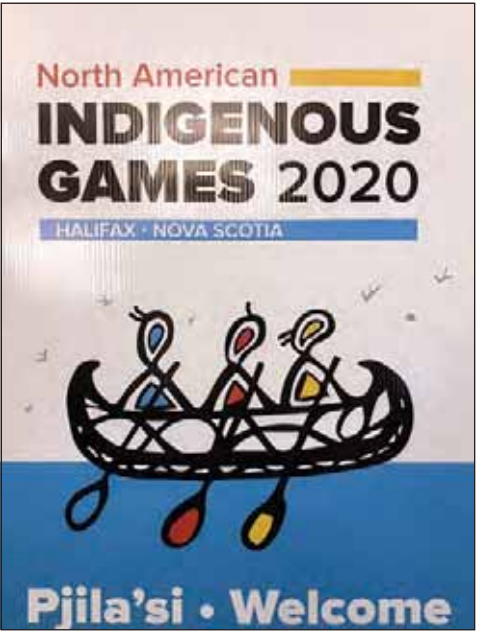
Hello Friends and Family,  
My name is George Te Marshall I am from Eskasoni located east of Halifax in the Cape Breton area I have been building strong friendships through sport my entire life including strenuous young people

in my capacity as the Aboriginal Port Consultant for Mi’kmaq Ina’matnewey my dream has always been to bring the North American Indigenous Games to Nova Scotia, and we’ve done it

As a resident of the North American Indigenous Games Host Society, we are excited to have the 2020 North American Indigenous Games NAIG 2020 held in jipu tu Halifax, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq. Our success in bringing the Games to Nova Scotia was a collaboration between the Government of Nova Scotia, Halifax Regional Municipality and Mi’kmaq Ina’matnewey. We’d also like to acknowledge the numerous individuals who shared their expertise and passion throughout the bid process that allowed us to be awarded the first multi-sport Games in Halifax history.

NAIG 2020 are an amazing opportunity for people that will be held July 12-18 at venues in Halifax Regional Municipality and Millbrook First Nation. Halifax Commons will be a cultural village, performances, demonstrations, art and soft play. As we get ready for the 5,000 participants joining us next year, we have some exciting activities in place throughout Nova Scotia. You will see our NAIG 2020 team out in full force, sharing the excitement of the Games and how you can get involved.

On behalf of the 2020 North American Indigenous Host Society, we welcome everyone to Mi’kmaq Ina’matnewey Territory.



The NAIG 2020 logo

To celebrate the 2020 North American Indigenous Games, Friends, Family, Athletes, Culture, and Community are invited to get involved.

George Te Marshall  
Jila’si Welcome



Halifax Mayor Mike Savage speaks at a one-year countdown kickoff ceremony for the North American Indigenous Games on July 12 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.



A ceremony to launch the NAIG 2020 brand was held in June in Halifax.

## Rockin’ and kickin’



Hard Rock Sacramento/Facebook

While wearing a Hard Rock Cafe shirt, Villyan Bijev, who plays for the Sacramento Republic team in the United Soccer League, kicks a soccer ball around during a visit in July to the Rock Shop at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento. Earlier in his career, Bijev belonged to Liverpool in the Premier League.

# Native American pro golfer competes in LPGA event

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

Gabby Lemieux (Shoshone-Paiute Tribe) shot 75-71 at the Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic in early July at Thornberry Creek golf course in Oneida, Wisconsin. The course is owned by the Oneida Nation.

Lemieux’s 2-over par total wasn’t good enough to make the cut for the weekend, but she provided upbeat comments afterward on social media.

“Well, my time at the Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic was cut short this week. One thing I can say is that my game is headed in the right direction,” she posted on Instagram. “I’d like to give a huge thank you to Amerind Risk. I’ve had a great year this year and I couldn’t have done it without their help. Serving Native American communities is a huge mutual interest of ours and I’m glad to have this partnership. Looking forward to my upcoming events.”

Shanshan Feng won the tournament. It was her 10th LPGA win.

Lemieux, of Caldwell, Idaho, was a standout on the Texas Tech University



Gabby Lemieux

LPGA/Facebook

women’s golf team before she became a professional in 2018. She played in the Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic on a sponsor’s exemption.



Oneida Nation/Facebook

Oneida Nation royalty and officials take part in the trophy presentation with tournament winner Shanshan Feng in July at the Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic in Oneida, Wisconsin.

## Schimmel sister transfers to Eastern Florida

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

Milan Schimmel (Umatilla) recently announced that she has transferred to Eastern Florida State College in Melbourne. Schimmel is a younger sister of Shoni and Jude Schimmel, who were standouts on the University of Louisville women’s basketball team.

Milan Schimmel, a guard who grew up on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon, played for Hutchinson Community College in Kansas in the 2018-19 season. She averaged 6.7 points and nearly four rebounds in 37 games.

Eastern Florida is coached by former Broward College coach M.J. Baker. The team plays in the Southern Conference, which includes Broward College, Indian River State College, Miami Dade College, and Palm Beach State College.



Milan Schimmel

Hutchinson CC

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# Announcements

## Seminole students take tours of Florida colleges, capitol

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

The CSSS college tour returned after a five-year hiatus and the Tribe's Center for Student Success and Services (CSSS) staff said it was a success.

The July 29 to Aug. 2 tour took 20 students across Florida by bus to visit Florida A M University, Florida State University, University of Florida, University of Central Florida and Full Sail University.

The group also visited the State Capitol building in Tallahassee; made a pit stop

for a little bit of fun at Universal Studios in Orlando; met with higher education students who were Tribal members; and attended presentations by university staff on admission requirements.

CSSS staff who went on the tour included Melissa Forges, Keivon Bell, Cynthia Mills, Mayra Beraza and Tiawannah Calhoun.

In the future, CSSS acting director Alvaro Perez said the department would consider possible tours outside of the state as well, including at various Tribal colleges and universities around the country.



The lights shine brightly on this group of Seminole students during their tour at FSU.



Students on CSSS's college tour get an opportunity to be on the field at Florida State University's Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee.



During CSSS's college tour, Adakai Robbins and Cachalani Frank pose in front of the Stormsong sculpture in Waller Park behind the State Capitol building in Tallahassee.



The tour included a visit to Full Sail University in Winter Park and its green room.

## Navajo Code Talkers honored

FROM PRESS RELEASES

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer were joined by Navajo veterans, youth, elders, dignitaries, and many others on Aug. 14 to commemorate Navajo Code Talkers Day during an honorary event held at the Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock — the capital of the Navajo Nation.

During his keynote address, President Nez delivered a heartfelt message of appreciation to the Navajo Code Talkers, as well as their families, several of which were honored guests at the event.

President Nez also highlighted the historic proclamation signed by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan that designated August 14 as the National Navajo Code Talkers Day. President Reagan's proclamation finally allowed the Navajo Code Talkers to be recognized appropriately decades after their brave service.

"Today is a remarkable day for the Navajo Nation as we recognize and honor our great, selfless, and brave Navajo warriors and their families and communities. Many of our Code Talkers have gone on, but we are blessed to have several with us today. Our Navajo Code Talkers deserve a salute for their bravery and courage to defend and protect our country using our sacred Din language," said President Nez.

Five surviving Navajo Code Talkers including Thomas H. Begay, John Kinsel, Peter MacDonald, and Joe Vandever were present at the event and each was provided the opportunity to address the audience and share their personal experiences and recollections. Navajo Code Talker Samuel Sandoval was unable to attend.

In 1942, the Navajo Nation answered the call of the United States of America during World War II and sent brave men and boys, known as the Navajo Code Talkers, to



Navajo Code Talker Peter MacDonald speaks at a White House ceremony in November 2017.

defend the Navajo people, Navajo Nation, and the country. The young Navajo Marines helped to devise an impenetrable code based on Din Bizaad, the Navajo language, that is widely acknowledged as the deciding factor in the Pacific Theatre of the war effort.

"We ask our people to take time during the week to remember those who have passed on and their families who continue to honor them. Most of us will never experience what the Navajo Code Talkers and their families went through, but we can thank them by honoring their service and our sacred Navajo language," added Vice President Lizer.

The event included a parade, Post of Colors by the Ira H. Hayes Legion Post 84, 21-gun salute by the U.S. Marine Corps, laying of a wreath at the Veterans Memorial Park, and an address by U.S. Sen. Martha McCally (R-A ). Many of the families of the late Navajo Code Talkers were also present, and shared photos and stories of their loved ones with the public.

On Aug. 12, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, 24th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Seth Damon, and Chief Justice JoAnn B. Jayne signed a proclamation recognizing Aug. 12 to 16, 2019 as "Navajo

Nation Code Talkers Week."

U.S. Sen Tom Udall (D-N.M.) issued this statement on Aug. 14:

"In May of 1942, in the midst of World War II, 29 young Navajo recruits arrived at Camp Pendleton, where they embarked on a secret mission: To develop a code so strong it couldn't be cracked. Without using any modern technology, they developed a secret code based on the Navajo language that helped save the lives of countless Allied troops and played a pivotal role in securing victory in the Pacific — even as they faced discrimination at home. The complex code they crafted remains one of the only unbroken codes in the history of modern warfare. And the story of the Navajo Code Talkers, whose numbers swelled to over 400 as the war progressed, still stands as one of the most compelling in American military history.

"But for too long, their story went untold, and their heroic achievements went unrecognized for decades. On National Navajo Code Talkers Day, we remember these great Americans and commemorate their strength and their sacrifice. We best honor their service by pledging to serve Native veterans as well as they have served us and upholding the federal government's trust and treaty responsibilities to Indian Country. We owe the Code Talkers a deep debt of gratitude for their extraordinary courage and commitment — both forever unbreakable, just like their code."

## Tony Bennett to sing at Hard Rock Live in December

FROM PRESS RELEASE

LL — Nineteen-time Grammy Award-winning musician Tony Bennett will bring his "I Left My Heart Tour" with special guest Antonia Bennett to Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino Hollywood on Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. Hard Rock Live, Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood's new entertainment venue, is part of the \$1.5 billion property expansion that will be completed October 2019.

Tickets cost \$131, \$91 and \$71. All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets and online at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com) and [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

Having just turned 93, Bennett is not slowing down and his latest recording, with longtime friend and musical colleague, Diana Krall, "Love is Here to Stay" topped the jazz charts upon its debut and was nominated for a Grammy. The album celebrates the music of the Gershwins and includes the jazz standard, "Fascinatin' Rhythm," which Bennett and Krall perform as a duet.

Bennett's daughter, Antonia Bennett has been touring with her father and will open the performance with a collection of jazz/pop standards. Antonia Bennett is a graduate of Berklee College of Music.

### FOR SALE

| LAST SIX OF VIN# | YEAR | MAKE        | MODEL           | MILEAGE/ HRS                        | CONDITION | STARTING BID PRICE |
|------------------|------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 16158            | N/A  | BRUNSWICK   | POOL TABLE      | GOLD CROWN 9 FT                     | N/A       | Fair \$100.00      |
| 261492           | 2007 | FORD        | SEDAN           | FUSION SE (FWD)                     | 251,842   | Poor \$497.00      |
| A28296           | 1991 | FORD        | TRACTOR TRAILER | L9000 DIESEL                        | 17,233    | Poor \$2,195.00    |
| A72699           | 2007 | FORD        | PICKUP TRUCK    | F250 XLT SUPER DUTY SUPER CAB (4WD) | 142,070   | Poor \$2,917.00    |
| 30952            | N/A  | HOUGH FRONT | SCOOP LOADER    | H-1000                              | N/A       | Poor \$3,700.00    |

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)



Navajo Nation

Navajo Code Talkers are honored during a ceremony with the Navajo Nation government Aug. 14 in Window Rock, Arizona.



## Theodore Nelson Sr.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, SW5813, Indian Child Welfare Consultant-Expert, Board Member National Indian Child Welfare Association, Licensed and Insured, Seminole Health Plan Provider

Are you unhappy with your current counseling/child welfare services? Now there are alternative services for you and your family. Philosophically, we all have difficulty balancing social life, culture, health, substance use/abuse, self-esteem, sense of belonging, emotions, our hopes and dreams.

I offer 20 years of professional experience as a qualified therapist working with children, teens and adults in a confidential, private setting in your home or my office. I am available for individual counseling, dependency/custody cases and tribal court; services are available for all reservations.

Office: (754) 215-3113

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