

# The Seminole Tribune

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## Kastelic says challenges to ICWA aren't about protecting children

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Those who have monitored ongoing challenges to the Indian Child Welfare Act say the past 15 months have been more alarming than usual.

A Jan. 22 hearing by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans didn't do much to quell what is seen as the underlying issue: a continued and, of late, ramped up assault on inherent tribal sovereignty.

It's not known when the court will issue a decision based on the latest hearing. None had been issued by press time.

Sarah L. Kastelic (Alutiq) is in the thick of the fight. She is the executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) — a position she's held since 2015.

The group is hosting its 38th annual "Protecting Our Children" conference March 29 to April 1 in Denver. Kastelic is expecting 1,600 to attend. The Seminole Tribe of Florida is a sponsor.

"The whole organization was founded on the heels of ICWA's passage," Kastelic said. "Tribal leaders were excited their authority was being recognized."

But that authority is in increasing jeopardy.

Kastelic's organization works on a variety of issues to stabilize ICWA's standing. She and her staff train social workers and develop curriculum. NICWA's clients are tribal members and tribal affairs workers, administrators and other leaders and those who work in related areas like substance abuse and health.

The "Protect ICWA Campaign" consists of NICWA, the Native American Rights Fund, National Congress of American Indians and the Association on American Indian Affairs.

All four work in tandem to engage Indian Country and its allies on the threat to the almost 41-year-old law and direct them toward actions they can take.

After months of uncertainty, it looked as if an immediate threat to the law would ease a bit after an August 2019 decision by a three-judge panel on the aforementioned Fifth Circuit in New Orleans.

That summer ruling nullified a previous decision in Oct. 2018 by District Court Judge Reed O'Connor of the Northern District of Texas (first Brackeen v. Zinke now Brackeen v. Bernhardt) that ICWA was unconstitutional because it was "race based and violates the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution."

"The way he made that decision was kind of sketchy," Kastelic said. "He didn't do the legal analysis we would expect."

A hearing the following March in New Orleans appealing O'Connor's decision naturally made Kastelic and others nervous. Would it be upheld or overturned?

"But we had some good signals. The judges asked really smart questions; then we got a wonderful decision that basically threw out all of the claims the opposition made," Kastelic said.

However, immediately after it was overturned the Brackeens and several other families, including the attorneys general of Texas, Indiana and Louisiana, requested an

♦ See ICWA on page 9A



NICWA National Indian Child Welfare Association Executive Director Sarah L. Kastelic speaks at the 2019 National Congress of American Indians conference.

## 20th annual Rez Rally - a healthy start to new decade for hundreds of runners, walkers

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — More than 650 people came from every reservation and every generation, from elders to infants, to compete and connect at the 20th annual Rez Rally on Jan. 11 in Big Cypress.

The breezy, cool weather at the platinum edition of Rez Rally couldn't have been better. The theme, "Seminole Strong," was taken literally as the invigorated participants ran, walked or were wheeled through the 3-mile or 1-mile course.

"I do it for my health," said President Mitchell Cypress, who has walked in every Rez Rally. "I have diabetes and the medication helps, but you have to exercise and help yourself as well."

Sponsored by the Integrative Health program, Rez Rally promotes healthy lifestyle choices such as nutrition and exercise. An additional purpose of the popular event is to encourage people to remain active, have some fun and enjoy the camaraderie of the day.

"The ultimate goal is to create a community of health with everybody working together towards wellness," said Suzanne Davis, Integrative Health program manager. "It is a way for people to come together to support each other and build relationships to go forward on their wellness journey."

Before the race began, the crowd gathered in the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena to hear from Tribal leaders and to get their blood moving with some warm-up exercises



Beverly Bidney

Kaleb Thomas leads the pack at the start of the 20th annual Rez Rally in Big Cypress on Jan. 11.

led by the fitness department.

"We all enjoy getting together at these events," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. "Even though we are in teams of our reservations, remember we are all Seminole Tribal members. Do your best every day of your life from here on out."

Brighton Board Rep. Helene Buster has been involved with Rez Rally since it began in 2000.

"The years pass so quickly," Rep. Buster said. "Diabetes is our biggest problem, besides drugs and alcoholism. We all need to take care of ourselves to maintain our lives. Start working on your nutrition and exercise, which helps control type 2 diabetes."

For all its health benefits, Rez Rally is also a time for socializing. Steve Osceola has participated in about 70 percent of the events and loves seeing people he rarely gets

a chance to see.

"The family reunion of Rez Rally is the best part," Osceola said. "It's the biggest get together we have and it's great to see everyone from different reservations. It's really hard to get together like this."

Sisters Marissa and Angelina Osceola, of Naples, have been running together for a

♦ See REZ RALLY on page 4A

## Annual Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow set to kick off in Hollywood

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow will fill the Hard Rock Hollywood Feb. 7-9 with colorful regalia and the sound of beating drums as hundreds of dancers and drummers compete for more than \$150,000 in prize money.

Billed as the 49th annual Celebration of Native Arts and Culture, each day will begin with grand entries (Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Feb. 8 at noon and 7 p.m.) During the grand entry the Seminole and Lakota Women Warriors color guards, dignitaries, royalty, celebrities and dancers take the floor and fill every inch as they dance around in an ever tighter circle.

Competitive dance events will feature men's straight, fancy and grass, women's cloth, fancy shawl, buckskin and jingle and men's and women's northern traditional. The drum competition will include northern and southern categories.

The event will also offer enough traditional Seminole patchwork, beadwork, baskets and crafts, along with items from other Native American tribes, to keep any shopper busy.

Country music stars Big & Rich are scheduled to be the headliners with a free concert Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. in the Seminole

Ballroom. Special guests include Cowboy Troy and DJ Sinister.

Other entertainment on tap includes a freestyle alligator wrestling competition Feb. 8 and 9 as well as wildlife shows.

The Native Reel Cinema Festival will be held Feb. 7 and 8 and will include the 30th anniversary screening of "Powwow Highway," and a Short Film Festival. Celebrities scheduled to appear include Gary Farmer, Keith Secola, Martin Sensmeier, Eugene Brave Rock, Maddona Thunder Hawk, Marcella Gilbert, Elizabeth Castle, Adrian Stevens and Sean Snyder.

Hosted by actor and stuntman Eugene Brave Rock, the screening of "Powwow Highway" will be Feb. 7 at 8 p.m. and will feature a question and answer period with its star Farmer, who will also join Secola for a musical performance. Fans will have a chance to take photos with their favorite celebrities as well.

The Short Film Festival will be Feb. 8 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Films include "Fast Horse," "Legacy," "ALLAPATAH," "Sweetheart Dancers" and "Warrior Women." There will also be a question and answer session with Thunder Hawk and Gilbert of "Warrior Women" and Stevens and Snyder of "Sweetheart Dancers."

For more information visit [semtribefairandpowwow.com/](http://semtribefairandpowwow.com/).



Eugene Brave Heart/Facebook (above); file photo (right)

Above, actor and stuntman Eugene Brave Heart is scheduled to be among the celebrities at the Native Reel Cinema Festival during the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow. At right, a dancer performs at last year's pow wow.



## Ahfachkee murals preserved through laser scanning

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — In 1993 and 1994, Seminole artist Mary Gay Osceola used her talent and experience to paint 13 murals on the walls of the Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress. Those murals, which depict Seminole life and legends, have been preserved for posterity despite the imminent demolition of the building, which was built in 1991.

"We wanted to save the images so we have a memory of the building," said Principal Dorothy Cain. "The murals are important to the community. We would like to use them in the new building in some way. We want to be able to have some of the old in the new building."

Details of the new elementary school building have not been announced, but the project is currently in the design phase.

Working with the University of South Florida, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office spent Jan. 27 and 28 using a state-of-the-art laser scanner and photography to document the artwork and create digital three dimensional visualizations of the murals, which adorned the school's hallways, library and cafeteria.

"Laser scanning is an up and coming preservation technology," said Lacey Cofer, THPO chief data analyst. "It's gaining more ground and is becoming more popular. We are pretty excited about it."

USF lab director and archeologist Laura

♦ See AHFACHKEE on page 2B

Beverly Bidney

The large mural of a Seminole village by Mary Gay Osceola was the showpiece of the Ahfachkee School cafeteria.



# Editorial



## Being a female Native reporter in Washington

### • Jourdan Bennett-Begaye

Sometimes I walk on Capitol Hill being judged, questioned, and flagged.

Capitol Hill is a place where I attend hearings, interview representatives and senators, and report stories frequently. This morning I realized how difficult it was and still is to navigate Capitol Hill as a female Native journalist. Particularly because of my “stereotypical” Native look: brown skin, long-dark hair, and high cheekbones.

I walked into the Rayburn House Office Building, one of the handful of congressional buildings on Capitol Hill, off Independence Avenue. It is across the street from the Capitol.

As I walked up to the glass doors, my mind ran through how I was going to get through security smoothly with my belongings: putting my phone in my tote, making sure my jacket pockets were empty, and thinking how to fit my tumbler of hot tea into my tote.

I grabbed my stuff and recited in my head, “Room 2164. Room 2164. Room 2164.” My mind scrambled for the floor and I had to decide within a few seconds how to find Room 2164 without showing hesitation on my face.

Mind you, through the entire process I am reminding myself to be confident and act like I belong here. Usually, my preparation to report from Capitol Hill starts the night before. As us millennials say, “I’m my own hype woman.”

Why do I have to hype myself up? Because as a female Native journalist reporting on Capitol Hill, I have to show and

believe deep down that I belong.

I have to show that even within the marble walls of these congressional buildings (where maybe 7 out of 10 faces I pass in the halls are white) that I belong.

I faintly recall my first time walking in Rayburn. Very little windows, of course. Few signs. I found the restroom after I’d been walking forever.

White faces, white walls, white floors. And everyone is dressed to fit in: suit, dress shirt, tie, shined shoes, pencil skirt, a nice necklace, heels. Even Native people dress the part. (You can tell when someone is a “D.C. Native.” Ha. I didn’t know it was a thing until a few months ago ... but it is.)

The formality, whiteness, and colonial architecture were so odd to me. I felt out of place.

Now almost a year and half of reporting in Washington, there are only a few places I feel comfortable with my identity. The one place I feel at home on Capitol Hill is in Dirksen 628, the room where the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs holds their business meetings and oversight hearings.

Before I even enter the room, I spot Native people walking toward it. Sometimes we even ride the elevator together and chit chat.

I feel at ease in this room where woven rugs and paintings hang on the wall and there’s a Native person sitting in every other seat and behind congressional members. I see familiar faces from receptions, meetings, previous stories, or emails. Sometimes witnesses providing testimony are dressed in their regalia or traditional clothing.

It feels like home away from home. That room is a space that can easily be navigated by a Native journalist. I’m not judged, I’m not questioned, and I’m not flagged.

It’s even better than regular oversight hearings because congressional members do not ask stereotypical Indian questions ... but that’s another column.

I was reminded of these experiences as a Native journalist in Washington this morning at an oversight hearing. The hearing was for “hard-to-count” areas of the Census.

Here is what happened today: typically there is a press table in these hearing rooms where journalists can take out their laptops and write. Today when I pulled out a chair at the end of the press table in Rayburn, one white female journalist shot up a look. I instantly felt she didn’t want me there ... so I sat at the end of the row in the audience. (There were better photo opportunities in this seat anyways.)

After this, I attached my phone adapter to my tripod to get a few video clips of Rep. Deb Haaland, D-New Mexico, in the front row. A white woman came to me and whispered they typically don’t allow people to film because the hearing is being recorded. I told her I’m not recording the entire hearing. I just needed a few video clips and some photos. She said okay and walked off.

Approximately 20 minutes later after I put my tripod away, she pulled up a chair (the same chair I almost sat in at the press table) to sit right next to me. I thought this was odd and a little microaggressive, especially because there were plenty of seats in the audience. There were even a couple of seats on the other side of me, too.

I kept working and tried to brush it off. I had a job to do. And you’re supposed to have thick skin in Washington, right?

I also reminded myself I belong in this space — along with the three other Native people (who I saw) in the room.

That’s what makes the job a bit easier and it makes being in D.C., a place far from

my homelands, worthwhile. Knowing that you’re not alone and there are others fighting a similar fight: fighting for Indian Country.

Of course, you learn to navigate colonial spaces over time, speak up, and say enough is enough.

I walk taller and with more confidence now than I did in August of 2018 when I started at Indian Country Today.

I continue to prepare more for stories happening on the Hill. And overall, I feel like I do have thicker skin and continue to learn to embrace the stings of colonialism on the Hill and in the surrounding brick buildings.

I also want to point out that allies make a difference. In particular, one ally has made a difference in my experience here.

Last June, I was covering Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s visit to the White House and the Canadian Embassy.

Prime Minister Trudeau’s public relations specialist at the embassy told the media that only seven questions would be allowed, along with one follow-up question. Six questions went to Canadian media and only one question went to international media, which meant the U.S. (I tried to tell them that Indigenous media doesn’t count. The public relations specialist sort of laughed but it didn’t convince him.)

This Canadian press person told U.S. media that we had to collectively decide what one question and one follow-up we wanted to ask. In this group of six men, I was the only woman. They wanted to ask a trade question and I wanted to ask about the recent expansion of the Trans Mountain Pipeline. The guys seemed like they didn’t want to compromise, but one gentleman could and tried.

We spoke and worked with the Canadian media on their questions that would answer everyone’s concerns, and I, as Indigenous

media, asked about the pipeline. My follow-up question went to a Latino guy who wanted to look at Mexico’s trade deal.

It all worked out in the end.

Later I found out the guy who helped was Canadian. He had been working for Bloomberg for a month. We talked in the elevator about how Canada is pretty well aware of Indigenous affairs — at least better than the U.S. for that matter. (Let’s be honest, there’s improvement to be made on both sides.)

I thanked him, and we went our separate ways.

Another woman that day befriended me in the West Wing of the White House. She shared her ways of moving through and surviving in the West Wing. She said to me make sure I bring my own snacks, water, and Keurig pods.

Washington can make a Native journalist feel small and unimportant. That’s why probably why people constantly describe it as a “transient city.” It eats and spits you out. Natives I saw a year ago aren’t here now.

But then I look down at my beaded lanyard while holding my press pass and look at my turquoise ring. I reaffirm myself to take it day by day. As a colleague, who was inspired by James Baldwin, told me, “Your crown has been bought and paid for. All you have to do is put it on your head.”

I deserve to walk into these marble buildings knowing I have important questions to ask. And as a female Native journalist, I deserve to sit at the press table feeling and knowing that I belong.

Yaadilah, Washington!  
*Jourdan Bennett-Begaye, Diné, is the Washington editor for Indian Country Today based in Washington, D.C. Follow her on Twitter: @jourdانب. Email: jbbennettbegaye@indiancountrytoday.com.*

## Acting Native and surviving

### • Doug George-Kanentio

In 2016 I wrote a column about the situation at Standing Rock and the ecological harm coming about through the use of fossil fuels. I cited an Iroquois prophecy about the coming of a time when human beings would disturb the earth by extracting things deep within her. Long ago there were species of plants and animals of great size. The animals are described as lizard like brings and the plants similar to today’s tobacco and ferns. These species became extinct and were covered by the earth. There were specific warnings against disturbing them and, if this was done, there would be terrible consequences.

Skaniaterio (Handsome Lake) was a Seneca prophet active from the years 1799-1815. He had visions given to him by spirit beings who taught him the way by which the Iroquois could survive the intrusions and disruptions brought about by the settlers from the east. Along with a strong moral code he also told the people events which would occur far beyond his time. These can be read, in part, in the book “Parker on the Iroquois” as edited by the anthropologist William Fenton and published by Syracuse University Press. It is remarkable reading.

Supplementing Handsome Lake’s visions are the oral teachings which enhance what he saw as the fate of this planet should humans expose that which was buried beneath. Using the remains of those plants, and particularly the great lizards, would cause tears in the veil which covers the planet and this would in turn heat the oceans. This energy would then come in the form of powerful and destructive winds.

That warning was interpreted as the Black Serpent, or Snake. It would make its way across continents as it devoured the land and people. The people gathered at Standing Rock took this and it became one of the symbols of those opposed to the imposition of an oil pipeline through sacred Dakota territory. That fossil fuel was to be exported to Asia, a region already facing ecological collapse.

In Australia, that semi-arid land where the sun shines most of the year, the Black Serpent has come to rest. That nation, despite the potential of alternative energy sources such as solar and wind, refuses to mandate the use of this clean energy. It generates 85% of its electrical needs from its massive coal deposits. Not content to contaminate the air, and further rip apart the earth’s ozone, Australia has become the world’s largest exporter of dirty coal, shipping over 475,000,000 tons to other Asian nations particularly China which is suffocating from filthy air caused by fossil fuel burning industrial plants.

That is an annual export level which cannot be sustained without further harmful consequences to humans and other life forms. It should come as no surprise that the prolonged drought in Australia is directly related to the burning of fossil fuels but what is alarming

for the fate of that nation is the refusal of Prime Minister Scott Morrison to acknowledge this cause and effect relationship and turn the country away from coal. So far the fires have burned over 20,000,000 acres (close to the size of Maine) and caused the death of 23 people and hundreds of millions of animals and trees. The scars of this historic blaze will endure for generations, a bitter reminder of the consequences of an exploitative, anti-nature culture and economy.

For those who ask what is to be done, the traditional leaders of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy along with the Hopi, Anishnabe and others have not only tried to warn the nations of the world about their actions but provided instruction as to another way of living and thinking based upon the ancestral customs and technologies of the planet’s indigenous peoples. It is no mere accident that prior to the arrival of the first European colonists in Australia in 1788 the Native people there had developed and sustained a way of life stable for tens of thousands of years, one in which the needs of human beings were at an absolute balance with the rights of other species.

The challenge for Australia, if it is to survive as a nation, is to put aside generations of brutal racism and research how the original people were able to avoid ecological catastrophes by making use of innovate technologies and philosophies in harmony with the earth.

It begins with a commitment to refrain from any activity which breached the rights of the natural world. It carries on to the enactment of constitutional amendments to acknowledge that earth has legal standing in the courts and assemblies of humans. It grows to embrace the legal concept of the rights of those yet unborn, which mandates the seventh generation into the future has a right to clean air, clean water, fertile lands and liberation from the artificial constraints of economic and social classes or gender identification. It means empowering leaders who are prepared to enact and enforce legislation which gives a voice to the natural world.

What is taking place in Australia was endured by California just last year. It will be repeated in other areas of the US and Canada then across the globe if the earth is further exploited. The serpent now choking off Australia will become commonplace until the people rise up and demand radical changes in governance, spirituality and economics.

Do nothing and burn. Act Native and survive.

*Doug George-Kanentio, Akwesasne Mohawk, is the vice-president of the Hiawatha Institute for Indigenous Knowledge. He has served as a Trustee for the National Museum of the American Indian, is a former land claims negotiator for the Mohawk Nation and is the author of numerous books and articles about the Mohawk people. He may be reached via e-mail at: Kanentio@aol.com or by calling 315-415-7288. This editorial appeared on Indianz.com.*

## Curing the problems that seem incurable

### • Tim Giago

Are things any better for Native Americans addicted to drugs and alcohol in 2020 than they were in 2010? I often write that the more things change in Indian Country the more they stay the same.

For example ninety-five percent of the more than 20,000 Native Americans living off the reservation in Rapid City are hard-working and law abiding citizens. It deeply wounds all of us when we see our fellow Lakota’s getting caught up in deadly car wrecks while under the influence of alcohol because it is a reflection upon all of us and we know that the average white citizen of Rapid City thinks that most of us are druggies and alcoholics. Innocent children are often the victims in these accidents.

But it seems to us that these terrible happenings are occurring with much more frequency. Indians are involved in street fights, stabbings, and deadly domestic violence that reflect poorly upon all of the Lakota people residing in the border towns and cities of this state.

The number one contributor to nearly all of these gruesome and deadly events is alcohol and drugs. It all comes down to the point that it is the individual Native American who must take the responsibility of not consuming alcohol or using drugs. For years my newspapers have been editorializing that a massive influx of money must be available to the health providers to create a cadre of trained professionals to

attack this deadly problem from the ground up. There is no other solution. The consumption of alcohol and the use of drugs is a disease and it must be attacked as a disease. Locking Native Americans up in jails and prisons does not cure the problem, but may even contribute to it. One does not cure a disease by locking up a sick person. One cures a disease by going to the roots of the problems and finding a cure.

There have been many good Lakota who saw this problem as a disease and attempted to cure it; people like Melvin “Dickie” Brewer and Glen Three Stars fought it with all of their might as counselors, but they could never secure the adequate funding to give it the all-out effort needed to kill the disease. They only got crumbs to fight it with and you can’t cure an ingrained disease with crumbs.

And so once more we turn to the Indian Health Service and to our elected representatives to please, please send your experts out to Indian Country and give them the tools to cure the disease (alcoholism and drug addiction) that are the number one destroyers of Native Americans. With a massive effort, the job can be accomplished.

We are sick and tired of seeing the lives of our friends and family members demolished because of a curable disease. And the criminal actions of those Natives addicted to these substances that cause the disease are the main reason that more than 35 percent of those incarcerated in our jails and prisons are Native Americans.

Even though many of those charged with DUI’s hold jobs and are supporting a family it makes

no difference to the white judges and juries who consider the only solution is more prison time. If this sounds racist so be it, but it is the truth. In all of my years as a newspaper editor I have seen the unfair and racist approach in our court system. An action that would get a white suspect a mere slap on the wrist gets too many Natives time behind bars and what is worse one can find Natives sitting in jails across South Dakota for much longer sentences than whites charged with the same crime. This is not a theory, it is a fact.

I could write an entire chapter on the historic trauma that has brought so many Native Americans to the point where drugs and alcohol seems to be their only respite. I am sure that Native American judges and juries would better understand these underlying problems and treat them accordingly. But there are no Native judges in our South Dakota court system (except on the Indian reservations) and Natives are seldom chosen to sit in a jury box.

They say you can’t cure a problem by throwing more money at it, but the disease caused by drugs and alcohol in Indian Country has had little money thrown at it because if this had been the case, perhaps we would have found a cure by now.

*Tim Giago, an Oglala Lakota born, raised and educated on the Pine Ridge Reservation and is the founder of the Native American Journalists Association. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard with the Class of 1991. He can be reached at najournalist1@gmail.com. This editorial appeared on Indianz.com.*

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# Community



## Wynwood murals depict Seminole teen, Miccosukee elders

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — Two very different murals are on display in the Wynwood district of Miami, but both have an association to Florida's two Tribes.

An eight-story high mural of teenage Seminole Kyle James Grant is on the northeast side of the Wynwood 25 apartment building in the heart of the trendy arts district.

When the Tribune previously reported on the mural last fall, it hadn't yet been completed by internationally renowned Los Angeles-based artist Miles MacGregor, also known as "El Mac."

Completed last December, it depicts Grant and two other youths. Grant is holding an orange rose and there is a ring of orange roses around his head. He is wearing a traditional Seminole shirt.

Grant's father is James Grant and his grandmother is Rosie Grant — all are from the Hollywood Reservation.

The connection to MacGregor began after a conversation James Grant had with his cousin, Thomas "Breeze" Marcus, who is a colleague of the artist.

To see the mural, walk south from the main entrance of the popular Wynwood Walls

outdoor museum — at 2520 NW 2nd Ave. — or walk to the east end of the Wynwood 25 development, located at 240 NW 25th St.

Meanwhile, artist Bunky Echo Hawk (Pawnee) completed "Miccosukee Heroes" late last November, just in time for the crowds of Miami's Art Basel.

The Miccosukee Tribe commissioned the multiwall mural last summer. It is thought to be the first official public art the Tribe has done outside of their reservation.

One wall features a Native American in an oversized gas mask preparing for battle with an alligator. The two are facing off on a toxic waterway, with the heading: "UnSeen," but with a line striking through the "Un."

Writing from the artist on part of another wall and retractable door reads: "The Everglades isn't just our passion. It's our home. And more needs to be done to protect it."

The main wall features two elders. The female elder has thought bubbles leading to text that reads: "Native American history is American history," and the male elder's thought bubbles lead to "We are Miccosukee. #originallocals."

The mural is located on a warehouse building at 2600 N. Miami Ave. It is expected to remain up for about a year.



Damon Scott

The mural is one of many in the busy Wynwood district in Miami — a draw for tourists.



Damon Scott

The wall, at left, depicts a Native American man in a standoff with an alligator.



Damon Scott

Bunky Echo Hawk signed the mural and directed visitors to the Miccosukee website.



Damon Scott

The artist depicted two Miccosukee elders on the main wall of the mural.

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◆ **REZ RALLY**  
From page 1A

few months. They crossed the finish line in unison.

"We are training for a 10K race in April," said Marissa Osceola, who had a baby just four months ago. "We sprint at the end of every race we do."

Alexis Aguilar, of Immokalee, had one goal in mind for Rez Rally: to finish better than she did last year.

"I kept the pace until the second mile," Aguilar said. "But then I had nothing left."

Olivia Cypress was also pleased to have finished better this year.

"I wasn't last, so I'm getting better. I used to be the last one to come in," said Cypress, who did Rez Rally for the third time.

Bonnie Motlow, who has been in recovery for 20 years, does Rez Rally for her health.

"I'm trying to stay healthy and this is good for my stamina," Motlow said. "I was a lot heavier. I walk a lot, sometimes 20 miles a week, and I do yoga."

For Esther Gopher, of Big Cypress, Rez Rally was a family affair. She walked with her daughters Chelsea Mountain and Kristen

Billie and four grandchildren. Together they crossed the finish line well ahead of Gopher's husband, John Billie Jr.

"He didn't keep up," said Gopher, of the Snake Clan. "He was the caboose."

Not all seniors opted to walk the "senior mile" course, some raced through the entire 3-mile course at full speed.

"I ran all the way," said Ronnie Billie Sr., of Big Cypress. "I've been doing it off and on and I try to stay in shape. I lift weights and do push-ups. I always run at Rez Rally."

Rez Rally is such a popular event that, for some, even illness didn't stop them from hitting the course.

Rosie Grant walked the senior mile for the second time and was determined to finish it, despite battling a cold.

Kaleb Thomas, of Brighton, was clearly under the weather before the start of the race, but pushed himself to run the full course. His efforts paid off with a third place finish in the 18 to 36-year-old category.

"I was the fourth one in," Thomas said. "I almost stayed in bed this morning and didn't expect to do so well."

After the race, a festive atmosphere filled the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena as competitors finished the race and enjoyed a healthy brunch.

As the winning times were being tallied, Moses Jumper Jr. read a poem he

wrote specifically for the 20th Rez Rally and named it after the theme of the day, "Seminole Strong."

Connie Whidden, Edna McDuffie and Davis were recognized for their part in making Rez Rally happen 20 years ago. McDuffie was presented with a commemorative trophy for her service.

"I don't do this by myself," McDuffie said. "Let's keep this up and stay healthy."

Karen Two Shoes, health clinic nutrition coordinator, mentioned all the programs available to help Tribal members, including the Center for Behavioral Health.

"What I love about our Tribe is that we take care of each other," she said. "This helps us stay unconquered and stay 'Seminole Strong.'"

Medals were given out to walkers, runners, wheelchairs and strollers who placed first, second and third in every age category. Each person was congratulated with a hearty handshake from council members and board representatives.

The medals were presented on beaded necklaces made by Linda Beletso and her daughters Lorraine Posada and Lenora Roberts, of Immokalee. The trio couldn't start working on the necklaces until the medals and beads arrived, just before Christmas. That left them a few short weeks to get them done.

"We were really pushing it and were in a real time crunch," Posada said. "We worked every moment we could get. It was almost like sweatshop conditions. But it was worth it, I think they came out beautiful."

The 113 beaded necklaces were the largest order they had ever done. They used a technique Beletso taught her daughters; the beads sit side by side and create a flat necklace.

"When I was running I thought I better place because I want one for myself," Posada said. "I made second place and Lenora got third so we earned our beads back."

Immokalee won as the Reservation with the highest Tribal percentage participating and took home the large basket trophy, which was also made by Beletso. Hollywood's crowd of 199 won the Reservation trophy for most participants overall.

**Rally founders look back at 20 years**

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Back at the turn of the millennium, Connie Whidden and Suzanne Davis, who both worked in the Tribe's health department, were looking for a way to get Tribal members to increase their physical activity.

"We were working with people who had diabetes," said Davis, Integrative Health program manager. "It's really important for those people to remain active."

Working together with Edna McDuffie, Mitchell Cypress and Helene Buster, they tapped into their passion for fitness and walking. They wanted to create an event that would be fun and inspire people to keep moving even after the event was over.

"We wanted to have it at the beginning of the year to inspire people to get involved in fitness and bring them together to have a good time," Davis said. "The sense of competition gives it a fun twist."

About 380 people showed up for the first Rez Rally, which surprised Davis.

"We didn't have enough T-shirts to go around," Davis said. "That's when we said we have to continue this."

Rez Rally has been an annual event ever since that first one in 2000.

"I was there at the beginning and I have seen this grow and grow," said McDuffie, health outreach coordinator. "Now I see so many of our people walking and running, the younger ones too. This is what we do for our health."

Every reservation has a team to get the community involved and interested in competing with other reservations. It all starts in October with health department sponsored walks, pedometer and fitness programs to get

people in shape for the January rally. It's no coincidence that the training begins and goes through the holiday eating season.

"We are all watching football, gathering for Thanksgiving and eating more than usual," Davis said. "Keeping the activity level up at that time of year is important."

Rez Rally's more than 640 participants this year prove the event is a success.

"I love the energy of all the people," said Whidden. "I do it for my health and walk two or three times a week with my sister [Patty Waldron]. It makes me feel good; I am not diabetic and I have no hypertension. I have some heart issues so my doctor told me to start walking years ago. My heart is stronger now than ever. He said whatever I'm doing, to keep doing it. So I keep doing it and will continue to walk as long as I am able."

Both walking and running can provide positive health benefits. For some people, running pushes the heart and improves cardiovascular health more than walking. But walking and movement of any kind improves circulation and brings oxygen to the body. It's also less likely to sustain an injury while walking.

"Movement makes a huge difference in physical and mental health," Davis said. "It's a great form of therapy for your body. When you add the community and the rapport with other people at Rez Rally, it adds a synergy and helps people move to a better place of wellness."

Davis is inspired by people who make real changes in their lives because of Rez Rally.

"The 20th year is special, it's the start of a new decade," Davis said. "The event is huge, but what happens afterward is also important."



Crossing the Rez Rally finish line are Agnes Motlow, Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress, Lawanna Osceola Niles and Joe P. Billie.



Brighton Councilman Larry Howard and Bobby Frank prepare to cross the finish line with other Rez Rally walkers and strollers.



HERO senior director and THPO Officer Paul Backhouse is in a peaceful mood as he runs the Rez Rally course.



Andrew Bowers Jr. competes at Rez Rally in the middle of a pack of runners.



Hollywood team leaders Michael Cantu and Francine Osceola join Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Board Rep. Gordon Wareham with the winning trophy for the reservation with the most participation at Rez Rally.

**2020 REZ RALLY RACE RESULTS**

Tribal 3-Mile Run Category			
Male Youth 6-11	Female Youth 6-17	Male Youth 12-17	Female Youth 12-17
1. Carter Wilson 2. Josiah Holt 3. Clinton Billie	1. Tatum Billie 2. Jayla Macias 3. Amalia Estrada	1. Dakota Entry 2. Chanon Frye 3. Bryce Osceola	1. Denise Gonzalez 2. Aubee Billie 3. Kimora Alex
<b>Male 18-36</b>	<b>Female 18-36</b>	<b>Male 37-54</b>	<b>Female 37-54</b>
1. Hunter Osceola 2. Chayse Billie 3. Kaleb Thomas	1. Ariah Osceola 2. Courtney Osceola 3. Desiree Smith	1. Gil Yzaguirre 2. Marcellus Osceola 3. Richard Keyser	1. Cathy Cypress 2. Lorraine Posada 3. Lenora Roberts
<b>Male 55-68</b>	<b>Female 55-68</b>	<b>Male 69+</b>	<b>Female 69+</b>
1. Joe Kippenberger 2. Ronnie Billie 3. ---	1. Shirley Clay 2. Patty Waldron 3. Helene Buster	1. Andrew Bowers 2. --- 3. ---	1. Mary Tigertail 2. --- 3. ---

Tribal 1-Mile Walk Category	
Male 1 mile 60+	Female 1 mile 60+
1. Mitchell Cypress 2. Roy Snow 3. David Cypress	1. Rose Jones, Loretta Micco 2. Mahala Madrigal, Jenny Johns 3. Nancy Frank

Tribal Stroller Category	Tribal Wheelchair Category
<b>Female</b> 1. Brooke Osceola 2. Jaryaca Baker, Kristen Billie 3. Janet Smith	<b>Male</b> 1. Jarrid Smith 2. Aero Osceola 3. Michael Cantu
Kayven Emley Maxine Tucker Jock	

Tribal 3-Mile Walk Category			
Male 18-36	Female Youth 6-17	Male 37-54	Female 37-54
1. Bryan Arledge 2. Adrian Baker 3. Clinton Holt	1. Tianna Garcia 2. Robin Landin 3. Janet Mata	1. Todd Johns 2. Peter Hahn 3. Chris Osceola	1. Marlin Miller 2. Melissa Billie 3. Virginia Billie
<b>Male 55-68</b>	<b>Female 55-68</b>	<b>Male 69+</b>	<b>Female 69+</b>
1. Jeff Johns 2. Sandy Billie 3. Charlie Tiger	1. Janice Braswell 2. Bonnie Motlow 3. Jeannette Cypress	1. Andy Buster 2. Joe Osceola 3. ---	1. Connie Whidden 2. Minnie Bert 3. Martha Jones

General Category		
<b>Youth Run 6-17</b> 1. Jamesia Prue 2. JC Dimas 3. Adrianna Sigurani	<b>Run Male 18-54</b> 1. John Crossdog 2. Paul Backhouse 3. Hector Casallas	<b>Run Female 18-54</b> 1. Saige Osceola 2. Shawna Lambert 3. Allison Nemes
<b>Run Male 55+</b> 1. --- 2. --- 3. ---	<b>Run Female 55+</b> 1. Patricia Miller 2. Johanna Albrecht 3. ---	<b>Walk Female 55+</b> 1. Frieda Utt 2. Naomi Seymour 3. Sherry Allgair
<b>Walk Male 18-54</b> 1. Jose Ramirez 2. Jeffrey Kozdron 3. D'Anjelo Ware	<b>Walk Female 18-54</b> 1. Monique Young 2. Rossana Hahn 3. Terri Frank	<b>Walk Male 55+</b> 1. Kenneth Doney 2. Kenny Hill 3. Seecharran Ramdass

Rez Rally Team Results	
<b>Most Participants Overall</b> 1. Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trial 2. Big Cypress 3. Brighton/Tampa 4. Immokalee	<b>Highest Tribal Percentage</b> 1. Immokalee/Naples 2. Brighton/Tampa 3. Big Cypress 4. Hollywood



**Immokalee Council Liaison Ray Garza and Amy Garza proudly display the team percentage winning trophy, a basket made by Immokalee resident Linda Beletso.**



**Hunter Osceola heads toward a first place finish in the male 18-36 category for the 3-mile run.**



**Lorretta Micco picks up fruit and water during her Rez Rally journey.**



**Jason, Laverne and Elle Thomas enjoy being part of Rez Rally.**

## Seminole Strong

BY MOSES JUMPER JR.

It started out as a group of people who had a vision on their mind  
 Many thought it was a waste of time  
 They brought to the tribe this quest for better health for body and brain  
 They walk and ran sometimes in the rain  
 Soon this rez rally began to attract people from all reservations both high and low  
 It brought together people, and this rally began to grow  
 It brought families together that hadn't seen each other in a while  
 They walk and ran and push each other in wheelchairs mile after mile  
 Young men and women ran while others would walk and jog their way to the finish line  
 Some raced while other took their time  
 Everyone is encouraged to finish no matter what their time may be  
 It's a walk or run or push your way to victory  
 This rally is now in its 20th year  
 Many have come and gone and for them we shed a tear  
 And though we all come out one day of the year to run  
 It encourages us to come out each day and have some fun.  
 Your health you cannot trade or buy your life today  
 You control your life in every way  
 We want to thank all the departments who made this dream come true  
 We hope each day we can get out and run, walk or push ourselves anew  
 In God we trust and it is Him who gives us life both short or long  
 And with this together we are Seminole Strong



**Echo Billie looks strong as he gets close to the end of the race.**



**Running to his own beat, Gil Yzaguirre crosses the finish line in Big Cypress.**

## Native American languages program lands four-year funding

BY DAMON SCOTT  
 Staff Reporter

After years of fits and starts and intermittent funding, a federal law that seeks to strengthen tribally-developed Native American language revitalization programs has found more solid ground.

The Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act was signed into law in late December 2019 by President Donald J. Trump after making its way through Congress.

The bipartisan legislation would help to revitalize Native American languages through immersion and restoration programs, something the Seminole Tribe is very familiar with.

The Tribe's own Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School (PECS) on the Brighton Reservation has been recognized in Florida and across the country for its unique language immersion program.

PECS students are immersed in the Creek language throughout the school day. Parents are also required to be involved and take a class to learn Creek.

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

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

But the legislation expired in 2012, although the program continued to be funded. In 2015, U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, D-NM, introduced a bill to reauthorize appropriations until fiscal year 2020. He was joined on the Senate side by U.S. Sen. Tom Udall, D-NM.

However, neither chamber ever passed the bill and its future stayed in limbo. It is now funded through 2024.

"When we invest in revitalizing Native languages, we are also investing in rebuilding connections between generations of Native Americans and promoting higher academic achievement outcomes among Native youth," Udall, who is vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, said in a statement.

Deb Haaland, D-NM, the co-chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus and one of two Native American women members of the House of Representatives, said the bill's passage was important because programs that support language preservation are underfunded or have no funding at all.



Rep. Deb Haaland



Courtesy New Mexico Historic Women  
 Esther Martinez

"Now that our bill ... is signed into law, we will move forward on important work to revitalize our languages and traditions," Haaland said in a statement.

The National Indian Education Association has long been lobbying for passage of the reauthorization.

"This bill represents a milestone in expanding tribal sovereignty to develop and implement Native language immersion programs that serve the unique academic and cultural needs of Native students," the NIEA said in a statement.

Currently, there are more than 40 active grants totaling more than \$11 million that are being used for language preservation and immersion efforts.

## Tribal Fair schedule

**Friday, February 7\***  
 Seminole Ballroom

**11AM** Seminole Ballroom and Vendors Open  
 Emcees: Juquin Hamilton / Howard Thomson  
**12 PM** TBA  
**2 PM** Pow Wow Grand Entry  
**5 PM** RC North - Main Stage  
**7 PM** Pow Wow continues  
**11 PM** Pow Wow ends

**Hard Rock Grand Ballroom**

**8 PM** Screening: Pow Wow Highway  
**10:15 PM** Native Celebrities Photo Op

**Sunday, February 9\***  
 Seminole Ballroom

**12 PM** Seminole Ballroom & Vendors Open  
 - Emcees: TBA  
 Freestyle Alligator Wrestling Competition

**1 PM** Fashion Show Grand Ballroom  
**2 PM** Osceola Brothers  
**3 PM** Big & Rich  
**6 PM** Tribal Fair Ends

**Saturday, February 8\***  
 Seminole Ballroom

**9AM** Seminole Ballroom & Vendors Open  
 Emcees: Juquin Hamilton / Howard Thomson  
 Traditional Seminole Clothing Contest\*

**Terrace Ballroom**  
 \*No registrations on day of event

**12 PM** Pow Wow Grand Entry  
**2 PM** RC North Terrace Patio  
**4 PM** Freestyle Alligator Wrestling Competition  
**6 PM** Osceola Brothers  
**7 PM** Pow Wow continues  
**11 PM** Pow Wow ends

**Hard Rock Grand Ballroom**

**5 PM** Short Film Screenings (5)  
**7 PM** Native Celebrities Photo Op

\*Schedule subject to change without prior notice.

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## Chairman Osceola, Jackson brothers help break ground for new Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana

BY ANALICIA AUSTIN  
Digital Content Coordinator

Indiana is getting a Hard Rock Casino for the first time

Hard Rock International and Spectacle Entertainment held a groundbreaking ceremony Jan. 9 for the development and construction of Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana in Gary, Indiana.

Chairman of the Seminole Tribe Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. was joined at the event by representatives of Hard Rock International and Spectacle Entertainment, HRI's partner on the project. Three members of the Jackson 5 – Jackie, Marlon and Tito Jackson – were on hand as well. The Jackson 5 was founded in Gary.

The 200,000-square-foot entertainment complex will include six food venues, a sportsbook, a retail shop, a 2,000-seat showroom and more than 2,130 gaming positions. Phase two of the project will see the addition of a 200-plus-room hotel and a multi-level parking garage.

Spectacle Entertainment Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Rod Ratcliff stated, "Breaking ground for Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana is the start of an incredible partnership between Spectacle Entertainment, Hard Rock International and the City of Gary, Indiana. It is an honor to

be here today and to see this dream become a reality. A lot of work has gone into this project, a lot of planning. I'm grateful to all those who played a part in it. There is no doubt this is a game changer for Gary, Indiana, and the entire Northern Indiana region."

Spectacle Entertainment pledged to work with minority and women-owned businesses. All 17 senior leaders at Spectacle's Majestic Star Casino are board directors for local charitable and community organizations in Gary and the Northern Indiana region. The team has sponsored, participated and volunteered in multiple local events and programs.

Hard Rock's involvement drew praise from the Jacksons.

"I want to thank Hard Rock International for recognizing that Gary, Indiana, is a special place," Marlon Jackson said. "Building this casino will stimulate jobs in Gary, Indiana. Building this casino will increase the economy, and we look forward to working with the mayor, and hopefully bring historical events here."

"Keep in mind that this doesn't impact just Gary itself; it impacts globally to the state of Indiana because of all the people that are going to come here," Chairman Osceola said.



Courtesy photo

From left, Seminole Tribe Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.; Marlon Jackson, of the Jackson Family; Jahnae Erpenbach, executive vice president of operations Spectacle Entertainment and general manager of Majestic Star Casino; Jackie Jackson and Tito Jackson, of the Jackson Family; Rod Ratcliff, chairman & CEO Spectacle Entertainment; and Greg Gibson, vice chairman of Spectacle Entertainment, participate in a groundbreaking ceremony on Jan. 9 at Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana in Gary, Indiana.



Courtesy photo

From left, Tito Jackson, Seminole Tribe Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Jackie Jackson and Marlon Jackson at the Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana groundbreaking ceremony.



Courtesy photo

Hard Rock International executives gather at the groundbreaking of Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana. From left, Giovanni Taliaferro, director of memorabilia design; Jon Lucas, COO; Joe Emanuele, vice president of development; Sean Caffery, senior vice president of business & casino development; and David Carroll, senior vice president of human resources.

## Trump signs order creating MMIW task force

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Despite his administration's spotty record of supporting Native American issues, President Donald J. Trump ordered the creation of a task force to address the plight of missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) and girls.

Trump's executive order was signed Nov. 26, 2019. The task force is called "Operation Lady Justice."

In 2019, almost 5,600 Indigenous women were reported missing to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center. In addition, the National Institute of Justice reports that 84% of Indigenous women experience violence in their lifetime.

Federal studies have also shown that on some reservations, women are killed at a rate more than 10 times the national average.

Further, advocates say the remarkably high numbers and sobering statistics likely represent undercounts in most official records and reports.

But the issue has begun to get more attention in recent months, partly due to the election of the first two Native American women to the U.S. House of Representatives in the 2018 midterms – Rep. Deb Haaland, D-NM, and Rep. Sharice Davids, D-KS.

Trump's task force is to run for two years and be overseen by Attorney General William Barr and Interior Secretary David Bernhardt – part of an "aggressive, government-wide strategy."

The Department of Justice will collaborate with 11 heads of other federal departments to work with tribes and state and local agencies to address reports of MMIW.

"Operation Lady Justice" stakeholders are tasked with developing protocols to apply to new and unsolved cases and create a team to review cold cases.

At the signing, Trump called the scourge of violence facing Native American women and girls "sobering and heartbreaking."

"With 'Operation Lady Justice,' we will bring new hope to Native American communities across the nation," Trump said. "We will deliver justice for the victims, closure for the families, and safety to those in harm's way."

Immediate reaction from Indian Country was generally positive, but sometimes skeptical.

"The executive order gives hope to our tribal nations that justice is being sought and that there is a path for healing of our families, victims and survivors," Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer said at the signing.

Abigail Echo-Hawk, chief research officer of the Seattle Indian Health Board, said the executive order is a step in the right direction but should focus not only on rural reservations, but urban cities, too.

"[Missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls] is a nonpartisan issue because it is simply about the safety of women," Echo-Hawk said in a statement. "We support our tribal partners and believe this federal task force has the potential to have an impact on reservations, but I urge that urban Indians have a voice within it."

Skeptics pointed to the Trump administration's past disrespectful rhetoric regarding Native Americans and his continued support of oil pipelines built near Native American lands.

"We're cautiously hopeful," Lauren French said.

French is the communications director for Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, D-NM, one of the more outspoken and supportive members in Congress on Native American issues.

"Having the White House pay attention to the issue is wonderful," French said. "It's about the follow through. If they follow through in a meaningful way with respect, partnership and sovereignty, that would be a

positive."

### More federal support

Meanwhile, the U.S. Senate, on Dec. 19, 2019, passed two funding bills that address MMIW and violence against Native American women.

### Highlights of the bills included:

- \$502.5 million for Violence Against Women Act prevention and prosecution

programs; funding for research relating to missing and murdered Indigenous girls; and violence against Indian women in remote communities that are underserved by law enforcement.

- \$38 million for tribal assistance in state and local law enforcement.
- \$30 million for tribal resources under the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, an initiative to increase the number of police officers and train them.
- \$6.5 million for the Bureau of

Indian Affairs to look at the issue of MMIW, including funding for work on cold cases, background checks, equipment needs, training and forensic training at the Indian Health Service.

- Better coordination, data collection and sharing among tribal, local, state and federal law enforcement to address and prevent violent crime.

- A 5% set-aside from the Victims of Crime Act fund for tribes to address services for victims of domestic and sexual violence.



Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian

President Donald J. Trump signs an executive order to establish a task force on missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives on Nov. 26, 2019, in the Oval Office of the White House.

## 82nd annual Brighton Field Day Festival and Rodeo to be held Feb. 14-16

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — An abundance of Native American dance, art, culture, food, music – including alligator wrestling and a pro rodeo – are expected to bring large crowds to the 82nd annual Brighton Field Day Festival Feb. 14-16 on the Brighton Reservation.

Each of the three days will kick off with a grand entry parade consisting of Tribal officials, royalty and Native American dancers.

Highlights of the weekend will include scheduled performances by country singer Elizabeth Cook on Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m., Meko & Pewo Feb. 14 at 7:15 p.m., the PRCA Rodeo on Feb. 14-15 at 3 p.m. and

"Xtreme Bulls" Feb. 16 at 3 p.m.

On Feb. 15 the Florida State University Marching Chiefs are scheduled to perform with singer Shannon Reed before the rodeo.

Daily Native American dance performances will include the Aztec Fire dancers, White Mountain Apache Crown dancers, Zuni dancers and the Haskell Pow Wow Dance and Drum Group.

Competitive freestyle alligator wrestling and a venomous snake show are sure to create thrills for the crowds. A traditional Seminole weapons demonstration, Osceola's Warrior Legacy, will entertain and educate.

Seminole culture will be on display with clothing and traditional women's hairstyle contests. Traditional arts and crafts, clothing and jewelry will be for sale along with those from other tribes.

Field Day started in 1938 as an athletic competition between reservations and a chance for Tribal members to enjoy a fun day with one another. Once the rodeo, food, arts and crafts were added, the event morphed into the massive festival it is now with thousands of visitors attending every year.

Gates open at 9 a.m. Feb. 14 and activities begin at 10 a.m.; gates open at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 15 and activities begin at 9:30 a.m.; and gates open at 9 a.m. Feb. 16 and activities begin at 10 a.m.

For more information, visit [brightonfieldday.com](http://brightonfieldday.com).



Courtesy photo

Elizabeth Cook

## Alicia Keys returns to the stage with "Alicia - The World Tour" at Hard Rock Live

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** – 15-time Grammy Award-winner Alicia Keys brings the "Alicia - The World Tour" to Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Sept. 22 at 8 p.m.

Tickets cost \$287, \$212, \$152, \$112 and \$97. VIP packages are available for purchase. Tickets are available at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com). Doors open one hour prior to show time. Additional fees may apply.

Her forthcoming seventh studio album "Alicia," is set to be released on March 20, via RCA Records.

# Native American issues once again focus of presidential forum

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Native American voters seem to be getting more attention from Democratic presidential candidates this election cycle.

For the less cynical, the reasons could be that the hopefuls actually care about issues that affect Indian Country. The more cynical might think the attention comes down to getting votes in close elections.

After all, there are a significant number of Native American voters in swing states where elections are decided by just a handful of ballots.

Nevertheless, the second (ever) presidential forum that was solely focused on Indian Country topics took place Jan. 14 and Jan. 15 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Nevada holds its presidential primary June 9 and is one of those key swing states, along with Arizona, Michigan and Wisconsin. Those four states alone have about 1 million Native Americans with lots of electoral sway.

The forum was held at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. The first forum was held at the Orpheum Theatre in Sioux City, Iowa, on Aug. 19 and Aug. 20. Both forums were billed as nonpartisan events.

## What they said in Vegas

One Democratic hopeful appeared in person, some interacted with the audience via livestream and others sent taped messages. Themes candidates referred to often included support for tribal sovereignty, pledging resources to address the plight of missing and murdered Indigenous woman (MMIW), the disproportionate violence against Native American women, and assurances the federal government would recognize existing treaties.

There was also talk about the establishment of a new Cabinet-level position for Native American affairs and for more Native American federal judges to be appointed.

Businessman Tom Steyer was the only candidate to appear in person. He spent about an hour answering questions from a panel of tribal leaders.

Steyer said he'd been working for Native American interests in Nevada through his support of a passed ballot initiative in 2018 that required electric providers to increase renewable resources.

He also said his NextGen America organization had helped to register and energize Native American voters.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-M.A., answered questions via livestream for about 30 minutes.



The Four Directions organization and its staff were organizers and sponsors of the presidential forum in Las Vegas with other Native American groups. Barb and OJ Semans (front, right) are the cofounders and co-executive directors of Four Directions.

She detailed some of the specifics of her plans regarding Native American affairs, including suicide prevention, child abuse treatment and housing legislation. Warren said it was part of 55 bills she has been involved in that have had positive effects on tribal communities.

Warren also said that as president she would halt the Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines and that she wanted to see the Native American Voting Rights Act passed.

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii, appeared briefly via livestream and former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg offered a pre-taped interview to the forum. Gabbard and Buttigieg, both military veterans, praised the history of Native American contributions to the country's Armed Forces.

In a brief video statement, former Vice President Joe Biden promised to strengthen tribal nations in the same way the President Barack Obama administration did.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, D-VT., submitted a six-minute video message late in the day that organizers described as "substantive."

Native American activist Mark Charles,

an independent running for president, was involved in both days of the forum.

"I think we have now done one of the most powerful things in Indian Country that is going to be carried on from generation to generation," Four Directions co-founder and co-executive director OJ Semans (Rosebud Sioux) said after the final day of the forum.

Four Directions is a Native American voting rights organization and one of the main sponsors of the forum.

"We did this for our people and our only ask of all of this is for our people to respond in order to empower more of our people. So this is not about me or about an organization, it's about us. It's about nations, it's about our people and it's about empowering us and taking back what is ours."

Along with Four Directions, sponsors included Nevada Tribal Nations, Native American Rights Fund, National Congress of American Indians, Native Organizers Alliance and Seeding Sovereignty.

Find videos of the forum on vimeo.com, by searching "Native American presidential forum." More information is also available at fourdirections.com.

# For Tribe's wildland firefighters, Australia blazes hit close to home

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Nearly 28,000 square miles of Australia have been consumed by wildfires since September. That land, more than 18 million acres, is larger than the states of New Jersey, Massachusetts and Maryland combined.

As of Jan. 13, 28 people have perished in the fires, nearly 3,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged and about 1 billion animals have been killed.

Summer in Australia is typically hot and dry, leading to fire season. This year the season is more intense and expected to last a few more months.

Fighting the out of control fires in New South Wales, the most populous state in the country and home to Sydney, has proved to be a challenge. To alleviate some of the burden on Australian wildland firefighters, as of Jan. 7 the U.S. sent 159 wildfire and aviation management personnel including seven from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The U.S., Australia and New Zealand have been exchanging fire assistance for more than 15 years; the last time American wildland firefighters fought fires in Australia was in 2010.

In June 2018, the Seminole Tribe hosted a few Australian wildland personnel and gave them a fact-finding tour of Big Cypress. They came to learn how Native Americans manage their wildlands, deal with wild fires and respect Native customs and culture simultaneously. Australia doesn't have the federal framework like the U.S. and Native Americans have in the BIA.

"The aborigines don't have federal interaction with the Australian authorities to manage their land," said Grant Steelman, ERMD fire management officer/forester. "The purpose of the trip was for aboriginal and Australian federal fire officers to see how they can work together by mirroring how Native American tribes and the federal government do."

Chris Kemp, fire rescue assistant fire management officer, also went on the tour of Big Cypress with the Australians, which included a fire burning in the Big Cypress National Preserve.

"They explored our wildfires and are trying to get better acquainted with how we work in the U.S.," Kemp said. "Their terrain and weather patterns are different than ours. I wish them the best of luck."

Australian aborigines are more focused on ecological management of the land for their traditional uses, but according to Steelman,

they are treated by the government as if they are doing illegal burns.

"They are working to move into those legal bounds," Steelman said. "They are trying to do it successfully by focusing on educational and spiritual connections."

The Australians' takeaway from the trip was one that is a familiar issue in the U.S.

"They realized they had to get the historic attitudes out of the picture and understand that aborigines were going to have issues in the process," Steelman said. "But the end goal is a healthier, more productive and more spiritual landscape. But they can't do that without getting the old stereotypes out of the way."

For 50,000 years Australia's aboriginal people have been managing the land by focusing on prevention through prescribed burns of small, low intensity fires which have usually been successful in preventing the large out of control fires. According to historian Bill Gammage, emeritus professor at Australian National University, the aborigines know what types of land to burn, when and for how long.

"Where the aboriginal people are in charge, they're not having big fires," Gammage said in an interview on CNN. "In the south, where white people are in charge, we are having problems."

Like the aborigines, Seminoles are proactive with land management and understand the seasonality, climate and what flourishes on their land. Australia's climate has monsoonal patterns; it is similar to the U.S. southwest and is dry before wind events and monsoons occur. But like the southeast, their plants need prescribed burns to keep the landscape from getting out of control during fires.

"It's made for fire over there," Steelman said. "I heard that the land burned already is greater than the fires in the Amazon, Indonesia and California put together."

The 2019 fires in the Amazon burned more than 2.3 million acres, in Indonesia more than 2.1 million acres burned and in California more than 259,000 acres burned. More than 18 million acres have burned in Australia so far.

The BIA crew will remain in Australia for about 30 days, which Steelman noted is an extended run. Fourteen days is more typical, but they have done 28 day rotations.

"That's about as long as you can go without mental exhaustion," Steelman said. "The physical exertion combined with the stress can lead to exhaustion. That's when people get hurt. They [Australians] are in a bad way now and relief is not in sight. I would expect the U.S. to send more firefighters over time."



The Sydney Opera House as it projected images of firefighters on its iconic exterior Jan. 11 as a tribute to firefighters who have been battling the Australian blazes.

# Native American voting reforms in 2020 spotlight

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Election officials across the country continue to prep for the coming elections of 2020, and voting rights advocates are keeping an eye on issues related to registration, identification and access.

Lawmakers are also involved in bills that seek to expand strengthen voting rights.

The Democrat-controlled U.S. House of Representatives passed the Voting Rights Advancement Act (included in H.R. 4) in early December 2019 on a near party-line vote. It would reestablish federal oversight of state election law and solidify protections from racial discrimination based on the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

The bill is now in the Senate (S. 561), where its future with the Republican majority is uncertain.

Meanwhile, another voting rights bill is moving through the House that deals specifically with Native Americans. It is a separate bill that was not included in H.R. 4.

The Native American Voting Rights Act (H.R. 1694) was reintroduced in the House in March 2019 by Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, D-NM, and in the Senate (S. 739) by Sen. Tom Udall, D-NM.

The bill is currently in the process of committee reviews.

Udall, who had originally introduced the bill in the last Congress, is the vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

The bill aims to expand Native American voter registration and education, establish accessible polling and voter registration sites, clarify language requirements, authorize tribal ID cards for voting purposes and require that certain decisions affecting

access to voting be handled (or precleared) by tribes. (Preclearance is typically a process approved by the U.S. Department of Justice).

The bill would create a first of its kind Native American voting rights task force and establish a grant program for get-out-the-vote efforts and increase election infrastructure.

"Unfortunately we've continued to see barriers erected to stop Americans from exercising their right to vote. And too often those barriers target Native American voters and other Americans of color, including recent measures that forced strict and burdensome voter ID laws on tribal communities in North Dakota," Lujan said in a statement.

North Dakota was in the spotlight during the 2018 midterm elections. Its state legislature implemented a voter-ID requirement that served as a barrier to voting for thousands of Native Americans who live on reservations and use P.O. boxes rather than residential street addresses.

Despite many obstacles, the Native American vote continues to play a significant role in national, state and local elections.

Native Americans have been elected to state and federal governments at a higher rate in recent years. In Alaska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and South Dakota, Native Americans make up 10% or more of the voting population.

And yet, as many as 1 million eligible Native American voters are unregistered.

"For too long, Native Americans have been blocked from exercising their constitutional right to vote," Udall said in a statement. "With every election cycle, state and local jurisdictions come up with new ways to deny Native Americans equal access to the ballot box."

The legislation is so far co-sponsored



Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, D-NM, is the original sponsor of the Native American Voting Rights Act.

by 15 senators and 94 House members. Supporters are hoping for passage of both bills sometime this year.

"We are really hopeful. There's a lot of support within the House. It could move in this Congress," Lauren French said of the Native American Voting Rights Act.

French is the communications director for Rep. Lujan.

"It would be really helpful if our Republican colleagues would see the importance of making sure all Americans who have the right to vote go to the ballot box," she said. "We want to make it as bipartisan as possible, but it's not an issue that Republicans in the House are rushing to embrace, which is unfortunate."

The BIA sent registration packets to all eligible voters in December. The deadline to register was Jan. 15. The election will be held by mail in ballot only. BIA ballots were sent only to those who have registered. Ballots must arrive in the post office by Feb. 12. Mailing them early enough to arrive at the post office will ensure a vote will be counted.

There will be three amendment changes on the ballot, which were included in the registration packets. If ratified, the changes will be reflected in the amended constitution and bylaws of the Seminole Tribe of Florida

upon approval by the Secretary of the Interior on March 28.

At least 30 percent of registered voters must vote for the election to be valid. If the 30 percent threshold isn't reached, there will be no changes made to the constitution and bylaws.

If the 30 percent of voters cast ballots, the votes will be counted and results posted at all Tribal office administration buildings on Feb. 12.

It establishes a foundation for improved coordination, planning and implementation of USDA programs on Indian lands. In addition, the signatories seek to improve assistance to American Indians in addressing the comprehensive agricultural, conservation and economic needs of communities on

# Tribes to gain better farm agency access through new agreement

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

It's a more than 10-page document that can look intimidating. But the underlying goal is to improve assistance to Native Americans farmers and advance conservation efforts across Indian Country.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by leaders of several agencies under the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) who are tasked with carrying out the objectives.

The agreement took place Nov. 6, 2019, during the National Tribal Conservation Districts Conference at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa in Catoosa, Oklahoma.

The Seminole Tribe asked Barry A. Hamilton of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to break it down. He is the national tribal relations liaison officer and national tribal environmental adaptation coordinator at the agency.

**How would you explain the basics of the MOU?**

The MOU is in place to ensure that each of our signatory federal agencies are working collaboratively to address the needs of Indian Country. By being aware of each of our agencies requirements and agency's trust responsibilities to our tribes, we can streamline information and communicate more clearly on the needs and concerns of our tribes and Native Americans producers to ensure better participation in our federal programs.

**What would be of interest to the Seminole Tribe, knowing it's involved in agriculture and cattle producing?**

It establishes a foundation for improved coordination, planning and implementation of USDA programs on Indian lands. In addition, the signatories seek to improve assistance to American Indians in addressing the comprehensive agricultural, conservation and economic needs of communities on

Indian lands. [It] provides outreach to Indian tribes, Indian landowners and Indian land users, including non-Indian producers that are leasing Indian lands, in order to inform the respective tribe or person of NRCS program opportunities.

**Anything else you'd like to mention?**

This MOU supports collaboration, coordination and cross training between the three agencies (BIA, NRCS, and Farm Service Agency) to become better knowledgeable of each agency's function and programs to better serve the tribes and tribal producers. It also allows BIA and NRCS to leverage technical and financial services to support the tribe's efforts to improve their natural resources on agriculture and range lands.

The MOU also states that [the] Farm Service Agency will work to inform others of county committee elections. County committee members are elected by the local community and can impact producers through their decision making and help shape the culture of a local FSA office. They also ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties and are accountable to the secretary of agriculture. All members of Indian tribes holding agricultural land are eligible to vote in county committee elections if they meet the age requirement.

More information is at [nrsc.usda.gov](http://nrsc.usda.gov). Hamilton can be reached by phone at (202) 260-8540 or via email at [barry.hamilton@usda.gov](mailto:barry.hamilton@usda.gov).



Barry Hamilton, national tribal relations officer at the USDA's NRCS.

# Secretarial election to be held Feb. 12

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has scheduled a Secretarial election for Feb. 12. This election will replace the one previously scheduled for Dec. 2018 which was cancelled due to a U.S. federal government shutdown.

Secretarial elections are federal elections administered by the BIA and are conducted through the U.S. mail. All Tribal members must be registered for this specific election and are eligible to vote if they are 18

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

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

## Halapata Chobee: big alligator!

BY JUSTIN GILES  
Oral History Coordinator  
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Happy New Year! As I practice the annual beneficial cliché of reflecting on the year past, it has come to my attention that 2020 marks two years I've been working for the Seminole Tribe of Florida as the oral history coordinator at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. These past two years have flown by and it is an amazing feeling to be comfortably immersed in my job, loving my new Seminole community and family, and living the Florida beach lifestyle. Although, one specific aspect of my new life in Florida really sticks out the most: I hang out with alligators!

Driving to and from the Big Cypress Reservation every weekday morning and evening entails a quick visit to a bridge I've

dubbed, "Alligator Bridge." Depending on the season, wet or dry, there are a few to as many as 10 'gators that seem to just love hanging out. Even while on the museum grounds at work there are 'gators that come and visit us as well. For a more controlled alligator environment, you can head down the road from the museum to Billy Swamp Safari and see some alligators hanging out too. One thing is for sure, when you work or visit the Big Cypress Reservation, you will be hanging out with 'gators. So be sure to be aware of your surroundings. The good thing is, if you don't mess with the 'gators, they won't mess with you. Sage advice indeed for every human.

This New Year also brings more alligators to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum with our new exhibit, "Alligator Wrestling: Danger. Entertainment. Tradition." I had the privilege of assisting with the curation of the exhibit by conducting and providing archival oral history interviews relating to

the relationship of the Seminole people to the alligator. Surely, a walk through the exhibit will provide an appreciation of these reptiles and their environment they share with us. The Seminole alligator wrestlers that you will see and hear in the exhibit have opened up a small window into their role as cultural caretakers and entertainers, "walking in two worlds" type of stuff. Certainly, that is the fun of this exhibit as we learn that the alligator is so much more than some 'gators hanging out at "Alligator Bridge."

The exhibit is showcased through Nov. 29, 2020, and I encourage a visit to experience more Seminole culture. I am very thankful that my role with the oral history program at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum has provided me many friendships and experiences that consistently include our reptilian alligator friends. Please be aware my human friends, come hang out with alligators on the Big Cypress Reservation and enjoy!



Justin Giles and an alligator at the opening of the Billy L. Cypress Building in 2019

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

## Alligator wrestling comes to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The opening reception for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's latest exhibit "Alligator Wrestling: Danger. Entertainment. Tradition." on Jan. 11 drew an impressive crowd.

The lawn behind the museum was packed to capacity with about 150 people eager to learn about the history of alligator wrestling and see it in person.

The afternoon began as attendees enjoyed a catered lunch under the trees and chickees. Music was provided by Paul Buster, who peppered his set with stories about growing up among nature in Big Cypress. Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie conveyed the importance alligator wrestling had on the Tribe.

"The alligator wrestling tradition of the Tribe shows the ingenuity of our ancestors," said Blais-Billie. "We turned to alligator wrestling and tourism to survive. It has been passed down from generation to generation and is unique to our Tribe. It's something we are very proud of."

Moses Jumper, of the snake clan,

explained that traditionally, his clan is the one that blesses alligator wrestlers. Although he tried wrestling as a young teen, he didn't stick with it. Both of his parents, Moses Sr. and Betty Mae Jumper, wrestled alligators.

Seminole realized the economic impact gator wrestling could have when tourists used to "throw money" at them as they caught the animals in the wild. They used to eat them and trade the hides with settlers near the coast.

Alligator wrestler Billy Walker, who grew up in the Everglades near Everglades City, shared a bit of history about his chosen avocation.

"We used to catch gators as a food source and kept them alive in pits with turtles," Walker said. "We didn't have refrigeration."

Walker was mentored by Thomas Storm Sr. and started wrestling gators when he was 13 years old.

"Alligators fed us, clothed us, housed us and helped us travel the world," said Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon Wareham. "Thomas Storm Sr.'s motto was 'have gator, will travel.'"

Wareham then told the Seminole legend about the alligator and the rabbit. The rabbit

wanted to get the best of the gator and got it to admit to its weakness, which the rabbit used against it. The moral of the legend is to be careful who to trust.

"We use stories to tell kids what to be and what not to be," Wareham said. "During the Seminole wars sometimes there were enemies in our camps who said they were friends. They were really U.S. Army scouts looking for information. It was important then, and still is now, to know who you give information to."

With that, the grassy area was given over to Walker and an eight-foot alligator named Blackjack. Walker caught it in a Brighton pasture last year, but this was the first time he wrestled it.

Armed with cell phones and cameras, the crowd documented the action as Walker first tired out the feisty gator and then took control of it. He explained what he was doing as he jumped over the beast, dragged it by the tail, captured it by the snout and ultimately subdued it by sitting on its back.

After the show, attendees posed with a baby alligator and toured the museum.

The interactive exhibit is open through Nov. 29, 2020.



Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon Wareham delights the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum crowd with a Seminole legend as a slide show from the exhibit "Alligator Wrestling: Danger. Entertainment. Tradition." plays in the background during an opening reception Jan. 11.

Beverly Bidney



At left, as spectators at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum watch, alligator wrestler Billy Walker works to get control of an alligator by tiring it out through a series of actions forcing the animal to quickly move around. Above, patrons enjoy a luncheon under the trees behind the museum at the opening reception for the alligator wrestling exhibit.

Beverly Bidney



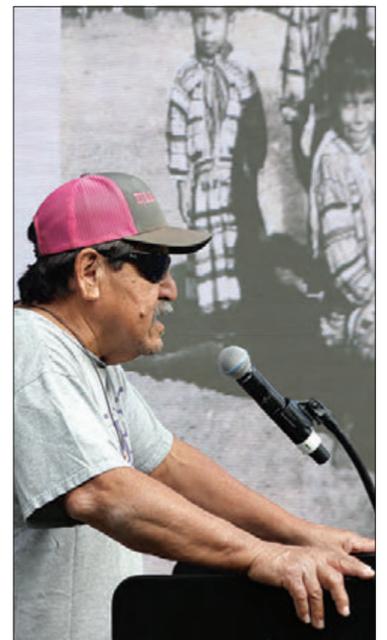
Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Aubee Billie introduces herself to the museum goers.

Beverly Bidney



Above, Billy Walker approaches an alligator as helpers remove tape from the animal's jaw. At right, Moses Jumper Jr. explains the role of the Snake Clan to bless alligator wrestlers and entertains the crowd with stories of his very brief foray in the sport of alligator wrestling as a young teen.

Beverly Bidney



# Health

## Diabetes program funded for short term (again)

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Advocates for the funding of two diabetes-related programs that benefit Native Americans have once again come up short in the federal budget process.

The Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) and the Special Diabetes Program (SDP) were given five-month extensions in Congress' recently passed 2020 budget.

However, the National Indian Health Board and at least 19 other Native American advocacy organizations have been intensely lobbying for months to secure five years of funding.

The latest short-term fix is not the first one, either. There have been at least two others in the past two years. The current funding lasts through May 22.

"NIHB continues to stress to lawmakers the undue challenges and problems with short-term extensions and will continue

to strongly advocate for long-term reauthorization of SDPI," the group said in a statement.

There had appeared to be an agreement on SDPI funding at \$150 million for four years in a House version and for five years in a Senate bill. Tribes had asked for \$200 million.

But despite bipartisan support during the summer months, many lawmakers expressed concerns with part of the packages that would have established a "median in-network reimbursement rate for all out-of-network providers."

"Multiple lawmakers and many external stakeholders would prefer that disputes be settled through a 'baseball-style' arbitration approach, which several state governments have opted to use to address surprise billing," the NIHB said.

In addition, external stakeholders such as hospital and provider associations were hoping to see more widespread use of arbitration, as opposed to a more narrow scope proposed in the package.

Nevertheless, SDPI is considered one of the most successful public health programs in Indian Country and nationwide. Over the life of the program, the incidence of end-stage renal disease among Native Americans has dropped 54% - the largest decline for any demographic in the U.S.

Cost savings highlighted in a 2019 report from the Department of Health and Human Services estimates that SDPI saves Medicare up to \$52 million each year.

"The data suggests that SDPI funding the Seminole Tribe of Florida receives is having an impact on the prevalence, severity and early detection of diabetes in Tribal members," Dr. Paul Isaacs, the executive director of the Tribe's Health and Human Services Department, said.

SDPI typically funds prevention and treatment related to type-II diabetes, while SDP funds type-1.

"Whether the Tribe is fortunate enough to have their own self-funded health insurance, we should never lose sight of the trust obligation the U.S. government has to provide health care to Native Americans," Isaacs said.



Tribune file photo  
Dr. Paul Isaacs is executive director of the Tribe's Health and Human Services Department.

### ICWA From page 1A

en banc hearing with the Fifth Circuit. The request for an en banc hearing was an unusual one, Kastelic said, if for no other reason than it's rare to get one granted - usually about a 3 percent chance.

It's simply tough logistically, because now instead of three judges ruling on the issue it must go before the entire 17-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit.

Kastelic did her best to remain optimistic.

"We could have looked at it as a blow. I guess the way I looked at it is the Fifth Circuit, which doesn't have much experience with Indian Country, recognized the responsibility it had to rule on it," she said. "They were saying: we're willing to expend the energy and resources to rule on this and the far-reaching impacts of the decision."

But regardless of the Jan. 22 result, Kastelic doesn't see the fight ending any time soon, if ever.

She estimates there are more than a dozen other cases in different states and federal courts challenging the constitutionality of ICWA. Kastelic thinks the next step is likely the U.S. Supreme Court.

#### 'ICWA is the first domino'

Since ICWA's passage in 1978, there have always been challenges and opponents.

Some opponents have come in the form of private adoption agencies and their attorneys. The reason is that ICWA makes fewer children available for adoptions.

Kastelic describes it as a supply and demand issue. International adoptions have decreased and it's put more pressure on the domestic market.

At any given time, Kastelic said, the domestic market has 2-million families who are looking to adopt. But there are only about 50,000 children who are considered healthy and available.

"Native [American] children are highly prized in the adoption market," Kastelic said.

Author Suzette Brewer (Cherokee), and others, have said that Native American children are also in demand because they are seen as being both "closest to white" than other ethnic groups and at the same time "exotic."

But Kastelic suspects the larger issues to the ICWA challenges have less to do with caring about the welfare of Native American children and more to do with a long-term goal of undermining tribal sovereignty.

One example is the efforts of the Goldwater Institute - a conservative public policy think tank located in Phoenix that has played an active role in trying to overturn ICWA.

The Goldwater Institute operates an "Equal Protection for Indian Children" project. The project is described as being "devoted to ensuring that the individual rights of



NICWA held its conference in Fort Lauderdale in 2014, where Sarah L. Kastelic met kids from the Seminole Tribe's Head Start program.

vulnerable kids take precedence over racial considerations."

"They have no history of caring about Indian issues or child welfare issues," Kastelic said. "It isn't really about Indian kids and families; you're trying to take down hundreds of years of federal Indian precedent for tribal sovereignty, natural resources, economic development. It's all about undermining tribal sovereignty. ICWA is the first domino."

Attempts to reach representatives from the Goldwater Institute by the Seminole Tribune were not successful.

Further, what distinguishes the Brackeen case from past challenges is that it was a state suing the federal government on ICWA's constitutionality. Kastelic said that is what makes it unprecedented and presents a "whole other level of opposition."

It doesn't prove, however, that a majority of states are turning against the law.

While Indiana and Louisiana joined Texas in the Brackeen lawsuit - 26 other states and the District of Columbia so far have said ICWA is the "gold standard" and best practice for the adoption of Native American children.

"States are overwhelmingly in support of ICWA," Kastelic said. "You have three rogue attorney generals who have the same agenda as the Goldwater Institute - going after tribal protections."

Further, she said the state of Texas, ironically, is embroiled in several class action lawsuits over claims it runs a subpar child welfare system.

"They are fighting all these changes they are supposed to be making to the state systems," Kastelic said.

#### Fight continues

Moving forward, Kastelic said NICWA will continue to keep tribal leaders updated on the latest developments. She continues to work with state leaders to promote a pro-ICWA position, too.

There's also been greater engagement with local and national media.

That was a lesson learned from 2013, Kastelic said, over media coverage of a U.S. Supreme Court-reviewed ICWA case.

The high court ruled 5-to-4 that Dusten Brown (Cherokee) did not have a right to his child because he had signed it away - though he claimed he did so under misleading circumstances.

The justices granted custody to a white couple from South Carolina who had adopted the child while Brown was serving in the U.S. Army.

"[Media coverage] was so anti-ICWA. All the terrible things said about Native families - that they don't care about their kids, they are alcoholic and poor. We knew this time around we had to approach the media differently," Kastelic said.

NICWA has written more op-eds and pitched more stories since then.

"We are really trying to push out messages about Indian County and Indian families and why [ICWA is] still necessary and why it's the gold standard," Kastelic said.

More information is at nicwa.org.

## NIHB Youth Fellows meet with Native lawmakers

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — In January, the 2020 cohort of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) Health Policy Fellows held its first face-to-face meeting in Washington, D.C. As part of a week's worth of events toward training the next generation of Native health leaders, NIHB's Youth Fellows had the opportunity to visit with all four Native lawmakers - Representatives Tom Cole (R-OK), Deb Haaland (D-NM), Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), and Sharice Davids (D-KS) - and engage in discussions about their experiences on Capitol Hill. The gathering marked the first time all four lawmakers had attended an event together. Each lawmaker shared about their experiences with the Indian health system, and their efforts within Congress to honor and fulfill the federal trust responsibility for health services.

"We have Democrats and Republicans, and we have men and women," said Cole, highlighting the fact that there is currently the largest and most diverse Native caucus in congressional history.

Through the sharing of personal experiences, all four members encouraged NIHB's Fellows to apply their passion for Indian health to advocate for positive change.

"I think you will be amazed how quickly you will be called to lead" Mullin

told the fellows. "I went to my first political meeting and was elected to Congress" he said. Further, Haaland encouraged NIHB's Youth Fellows to create their own path to advocate for change in Indian Country.

The NIHB Youth Fellows also provided an opportunity to ask questions and inform the lawmakers about the health issues facing their own Tribal communities. Later that same afternoon, NIHB's Youth Fellows traveled to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for a special bipartisan roundtable discussion with SCIA staff and with staff from the Congressional Native American Caucus. NIHB's Fellows were able to learn about congressional staff's personal experiences that inspired them to get involved in national policy and advocacy, while also learning about ways they could get engage at the local level. Congressional staff also shared additional information about the legislative process, including how legislation with Indian provisions moves in both the House of Representatives and in the Senate.

The NIHB Health Policy Fellowship is a professional development program for Native youth who are dedicated to making a difference in the health of their communities. Each year, a cohort of fellows is selected to work directly with their tribal leadership to identify a priority health issue.

#### Timeline of recent ICWA challenges

- 2017: Texas couple Chad and Jennifer Brackeen sue the U.S. Interior Department after their petition to adopt a Native American toddler they had fostered for more than a year was challenged in state court.
- Oct. 2018: U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor (Brackeen vs. Bernhardt) rules ICWA is unconstitutional; appeals are immediately filed.
- Dec. 2018: U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals grants stay on O'Connor ruling.
- March 2019: Three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit hears oral arguments in the case.
- Aug. 2019: Panel rules 2-to-1 to overturn O'Connor's ruling.
- Nov. 2019: En banc rehearing granted with Fifth Circuit.
- Jan. 22, 2020: En banc hearing results in [?].

#### What is ICWA?

ICWA requires states to prioritize placing Native children in foster or adoptive homes with Native families over non-

Native families.

#### Why is it necessary?

The U.S. Congress passed ICWA in 1978 to try and remedy a period in American history when the government took tens of thousands of Native children (25% to 35%) away from their families on reservations. They were sometimes taken by force and put in boarding schools or to be assimilated with white families. Children often suffered physical, sexual and cultural abuse. Some never returned home.

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**Camping information call:** Alice Tucker - 954.732.8353  
**Deadline for space reservation is January 24, 2020.**  
 No drugs allowed to Tribal event.

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Performers are allowed to bring folding chairs into the venue.

SEMINOLE Hard Rock HOTEL & CASINO HOLLYWOOD FL

# SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney (2)

**ROYALTY WORKOUT:** Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie, left, and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Aubee Billie warm-up for Rez Rally on Jan. 11 in Big Cypress. At right, the medals of the race feature Seminole Strong.



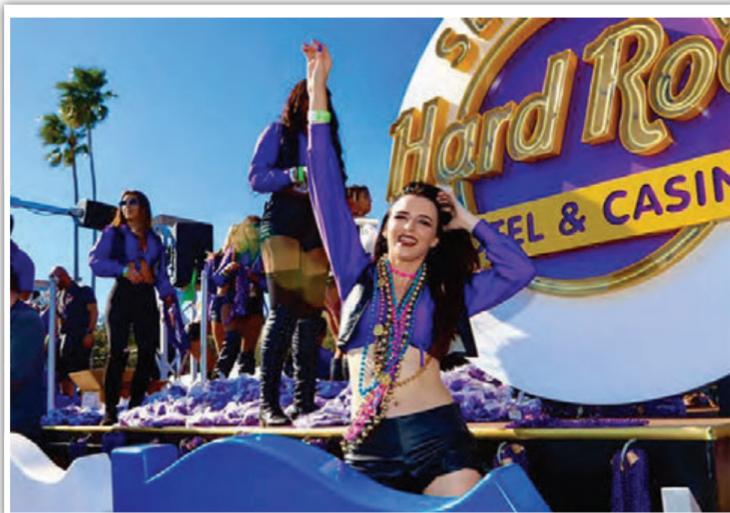
Beverly Bidney

**IMMOKALEE IBIS:** Ibis enjoy the water and sun during a recent visit to the Immokalee Reservation.



Hard Rock Cafe NYC/Facebook

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT:** Hard Rock Cafe in New York City presents a check in the amount of \$5,000 to Gigi's Playhouse on behalf of the Hard Rock Heals Foundation in January. According to its website, Gigi's is New York City's only community center specifically for individuals with Down syndrome and their loved ones.



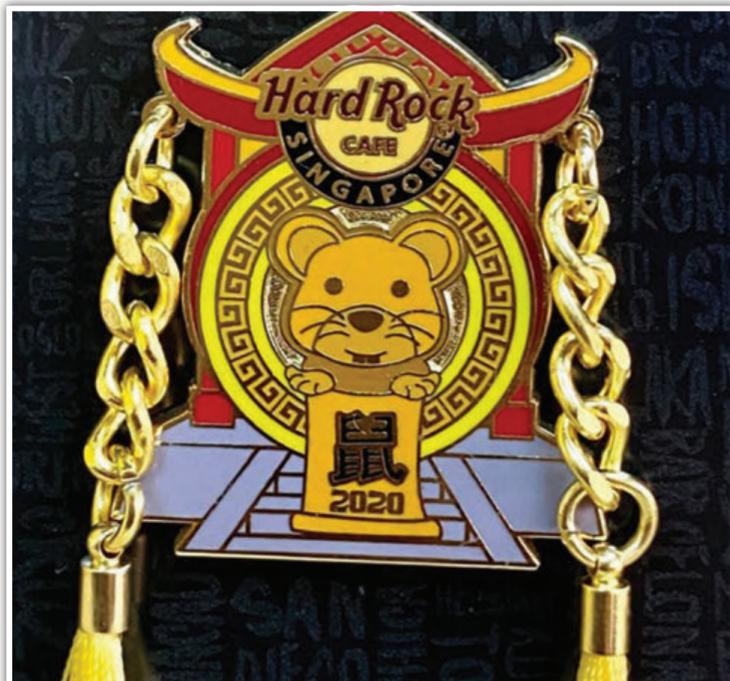
Hard Rock Tampa/Facebook

**AHOY!** Thousands of people attended the Seminole Hard Rock Gasparilla Pirate Fest on Jan. 25 in Tampa. The Hard Rock Girls participated in the parade and other related events in the city. Marvel star and six-time WWE world champion Dave Bautista served as grand marshal.



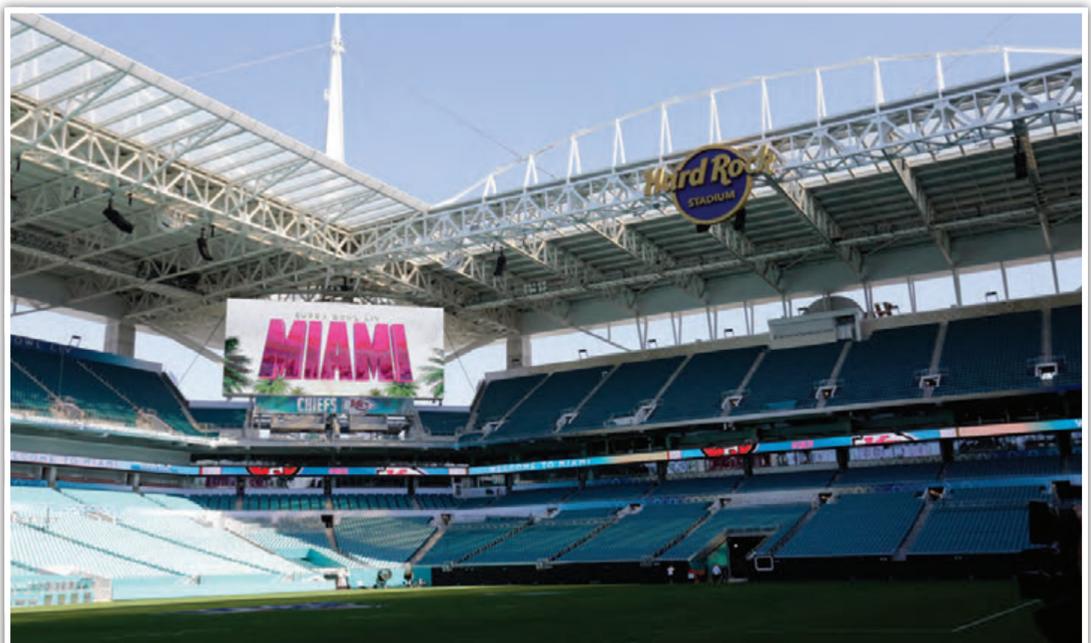
Kevin Johnson

**MEN AT WORK:** The Seminole Tribe held "Fun at Work Day" on Jan. 24. Employees were encouraged to be creative and inject fun into the workplace through contests, games, music and other endeavors. Seminole Media Productions employees, from left, Martin Ebenhack, Gilbert Fevry and Carlos Menendez entertained co-workers with rock 'n roll music at lunch.



Hard Rock Cafe Singapore/Facebook

**OH, RATS:** 2020 is the "Year of the Rat" in the Chinese zodiac cycle, so Hard Rock Café Singapore is offering this pin as part of its new collection.



Kevin Johnson

**SUPER STADIUM:** Hard Rock Stadium, shown here on Jan. 24, prepared to host the Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl LIV on Feb. 2. Jazz in the Gardens will be held at the stadium from March 13-15 and the best tennis players in the world will be at the stadium March 23-April 5 for the Miami Open.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## Native American group files new claims in Alamo lawsuit

A Native American group has filed an amended petition in its federal lawsuit claiming the Alamo is a cemetery that merits legal protection.

The Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation filed the new document in January that focuses claims against the nonprofit Alamo Trust Inc. — as well as its CEO, Douglass W. McDonald — and Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush.

In December, a federal judge had dismissed San Antonio and two state agencies as defendants in the lawsuit seeking to slow the \$450 million, four-year overhaul of Alamo Plaza in efforts to protect the area as a historic cemetery.

The group's amended petition accuses the Alamo Trust and General Land Office of selectively applying and interpreting the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act in an attempt to exclude Tap Pilam from participating in the Alamo project.

Members of Tap Pilam claim lineal ties to ancestors at the Mission San Antonio de Valero.

Tap Pilam executive member Ramón Vásquez said Alamo officials have "weaponized" NAGPRA by inviting "tribal representatives not native to Central or South Texas," with different cultural practices than those of Tap Pilam, to guide the project on an archaeology advisory committee.

"This approach indicates Commissioner Bush regards all Indians as the same, regardless of their direct connections to those buried at the Alamo, and that having Indians at the table is enough," Vásquez said at a news conference Jan. 23.

The amended petition was filed Jan. 22 meeting a deadline set by Chief U.S. District Judge Orlando L. Garcia.

Vásquez said his group also plans to file a new lawsuit over the cemetery issue in state district court in Bexar County. It will list the city and historical commission as defendants, he said. The move is an effort to address Garcia's concerns over jurisdiction, he said.

The latest developments in the lawsuit follow recent discoveries of human remains.

After finding unattached human bones and bone fragments in the Alamo mission church in August, September and October, archaeological crews uncovered skeletal remains in November and December that were identified as an infant, a teenager or young adult and a large adult.

- San Antonio (Texas) Express-News

## Gov. Newsom apologized to Native Americans. Now he's ready to fund a healing council

California Gov. Gavin Newsom wants nearly half a million dollars per year to fund the Native American council he created in June, according to public documents detailing the governor's state budget plans.

Newsom established the Native American Truth and Healing Council last summer through an executive order that formally apologized for California government's slaughter of native people, family separations and forced servitude. The council will include representatives from California tribes who will compile stories from native people clarify the historical record of government violence against them.

"It's called a genocide," Newsom said at an event announcing the apology in June. "No other way to describe it... I'm sorry on behalf of the state of California."

A budget request prepared by Newsom's tribal adviser Christina Snider outlines uses for \$450,000 per year for four years, then \$225,000 in the 2024-25 budget year for the council's work. The money would come from the state's Environmental License Plate Fund.

The money would fund stipends and travel for the 12 council members and a researcher to compile documents from the California State Library and Archives. It would also fund psychological support services for people who attend the council's meetings because of the traumatic history being discussed.

California government's history of violence against native people dates back to the year California became a state in 1850, when the state passed a law to remove indigenous people from their traditional lands.

It continued a history of oppression institutionalized by Spanish settlers through California's mission system in the late 1700s, which forced indigenous people to convert to Christianity and perform labor.

The Truth and Healing Council is tasked with finishing its work and creating a report on native history for the governor by 2025.

The funding would also cover Snider's travel to California's 171 tribes over four years as part of her work with the council.

In addition to advising Newsom on native issues and proposed legislation, Snider also oversees the state's Tribal Nation Grant Fund, which distributes money raised from gaming to tribes. She also leads the state's effort to incorporate feedback from native people as it builds a new California Indian Heritage Center to replace the State Indian Museum in Sacramento.

The Newsom administration is also requesting separate funding to hire an assistant secretary for tribal affairs in the California Natural Resources Agency to help native Californians access state parks and assist with the development of the Indian Heritage Center.

The administration is requesting \$360,000 per year for that position and another assistant secretary for environmental justice who would also work on expanding

park access for marginalized groups.

Newsom's budget proposals must be approved by lawmakers. The governor and the Legislature must agree to a budget deal by June, in time for the 2020-21 fiscal year to start in July.

- Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

## Native Americans protest against Department of Social Services

**RAPID CITY, S.D.** — Dozens of protesters gathered on Cambell Street across from the Department of Social Services in Rapid City to express their frustration as they say there is a problem of taking Native American children from families and putting them into foster care.

Native American protesters chanted and held signs reading "our children are not for sale" along Cambell Street on Jan. 21.

Roberta Shoulders was one of the protesters and said the movement was partly sparked by the death of her friend's little brother who she said died in foster care.

The protesters said the Department of Social Services is not following the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) by not returning children to their families.

ICWA is a federal law created to govern the removal of Native American children who are in the state's custody.

As someone who was in the foster care system for about seven years, Shoulders said it was a horrific experience.

She said Native American children need to be placed with their families to protect their culture.

"The White system, there not taught who they are. They lose their identity. They lose who they are. They are not taught their traditional ways and they need to know that. They need to know who they are and where they come from. That's very important to keep our tradition alive. Like they say the children are sacred and they are," Shoulders said.

We reached out to the Department of Social Services and have not heard a response yet.

- KOTA-TV (Rapid City, S.D.)

## Mayflower 400 events could help recover lost Native American treasure

Native Americans whose ancestors suffered at the hands of 17th-century European settlers and adventurers are hoping commemorative events marking the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's journey will reveal their story to the whole world — and even lead to the recovery of one their long-lost treasures.

A year-long series of exhibitions, performances and community events will be centered on the Devon port of Plymouth, England, four centuries after the ship set sail for North America, and thousands of people from both sides of the Atlantic are expected to take part.

Organizers say that the close involvement of members of the Wampanoag nation, whose ancestors were all but wiped out following the arrival of the colonists in 1620, is crucial to the success of the project. "We're very pleased to be standing up as equals on an international platform to tell our story," said Paula Peters, who is a member of the Wampanoag and sits on an advisory committee helping shape the British commemoration.

"So often the story of the Mayflower is just about the boat. The Mayflower lands and the pilgrims are depicted as founders, not takers," she said. For Peters' ancestors, it was very different: a brutal tale of disease, enslavement and massacre.

But it is not just about looking back, Peters said. "The commemoration also gives us the opportunity to remind the world who we are and that we are still here. We are a viable and very active nation of indigenous people."

One of the most eye-catching commemoration projects is the exhibition of an ornate wampum (shell bead) belt, which is being created by more than 100 Wampanoag people. Patterns on the belt made out of thousands of quahog (clam) shells tell the story of the Wampanoag through symbols such as whale, deer, fish and a creation tree.

The belt has been worked on at powwows and other gatherings in Massachusetts since July and will be complete by February. It will be a star attraction in a show that will tour UK cities connected to the Mayflower from April, led by the city's new cultural centre The Box.

Peters hopes the making of the belt may prompt the return of an old one, that of the Wampanoag chief Metacom. It has not been seen since it was taken to England in 1677 following the bloody King Philip's War between Native Americans and colonists.

"We continue to look for this belt," said Peters. "It's not just a treasure, it's our story. It could be in England still, perhaps in a private collection. It may be pie in the sky but we hope the tour of our new belt may jog someone's memory. That's a tangible thing that could come out of all this."

Julia Marden, the weaving manager for the new belt, and a specialist in eastern woodland art, said she was honoured to be part of the project. "We're getting as many tribal members as possible involved," she said.

Marden, who is also a member of the Wampanoag, said she supported the idea not of recovering the Metacom belt, but seeing others held in places such as the British Museum handed back. "As an indigenous person I would say we want it all back, but we're realistic. We know we're not going to get it all back."

Marden also said she hoped the

commemoration would remind the world that the Wampanoag people and other Native Americans were still around. "We're hidden in plain sight," she said. "If we're not living in a teepee or riding a horse on the plains we're not recognisable but we're your neighbours, your co-workers, we go to school with you."

Among the other commemorative events in Devon involving Native Americans is a community theatre piece called This Land, which wrestles with the history of the Mayflower and the impact of its arrival. It is to be performed and created with hundreds of residents of Plymouth in the UK and members of the Wampanoag people and will feature songs written and performed by the Devon folk artist Seth Lakeman.

Another intriguing project is Settlement, billed as a collaboration between a Plymouth collective and the Native American artist Cannupa Hanska Luger. It will involve Native American artists "occupying" Plymouth's Central Park to explore colonialism.

Charles Hackett, the chief executive of Mayflower 400, said Native Americans had been missing from previous UK commemorations. "This is not a story about a boat leaving one place and arriving in another place," he said. "It is a story that has a huge sweep of history."

Hackett said the arrival of the Mayflower was a seismic moment in the creation of what is now the west, but was cataclysmic for the Wampanoag people. "It's important we include all the voices that are significant. We won't get it entirely right. How can you? But we're committed to doing it better than it was before."

- The Guardian

## Pamunkey Tribe launches plan for \$350M casino resort

A Virginia Indian tribe that includes Richmond as part of the territory where tribal ancestors lived and hunted before the English invasion is planning to make a splashy return to this modern city in the form of a \$350 million resort hotel and casino.

The Pamunkey Indian Tribe, no longer confined as it had been for 362 years to a 1,200-acre reservation in King William County that nestles the river that bears the tribe's name, announced its huge proposal Jan. 17.

According to a statement, the tribe is planning to put its gambling resort on a 36-acre warehouse and storage complex at Ingram Avenue and Commerce Road in South Side — a property once eyed for a modern city jail before the current Shockoe Valley location north of the James River was chosen.

The only Virginia tribe with the right to develop casinos, the Pamunkey stated the tribe has an option to purchase the property made up of three parcels. The tribe also has a separate option to purchase a 13-acre property at Walmsley Boulevard and Jefferson Davis Highway that was the site of a King's Department Store, part of a now-defunct chain.

The tribe plans to initially use the old department store property as a training center for future casino employees and indicated that the space later could be converted into a community grocery store or health care operation.

The casino plan is not a done deal. The development currently awaits re-enactment of state legislation allowing casinos that was first approved last year. That legislation included a requirement for a referendum to allow Richmond voters to decide whether to allow casino operations.

Still, the tribe is bullish on the prospects for acceptance and eventual success.

Chief Robert Gray stated the tribe "is excited about our plans" to transform a commercial area on South Side into a high-quality gaming center to help "secure our future and provide an economic boost for the city and its residents."

As currently envisioned, the resort would feature a four-diamond, 275-room hotel tower with views of the James River and Downtown from the upper floors. Along with a casino, the hotel also would feature a spa, fitness center and pool, high-end restaurants, a food court and at least 1,000 parking spaces.

The tribe projects the gaming resort would attract 4 million visitors a year.

Tribal spokesman Jay Smith said unlike other businesses for whom a casino is a profit center, this casino is seen as a means for the tribe to gain a revenue stream to be used for other projects, such as creating a university for Native Americans, developing senior residences for tribal elders and others and other beneficial community projects.

The prospect of the casino development appears to counter Mayor Levar M. Stoney's refrain that Richmond's prosperity requires the \$1.5 billion Coliseum replacement project, otherwise nothing would happen in Downtown or elsewhere.

"The mayor is excited about the opportunity to bring a resort casino to Richmond," said Jim Nolan, Mayor Stoney's press secretary, in responding to a Free Press query about the casino plan. "We'll wait to see what happens in the General Assembly and what it means for the city."

- Richmond (Va.) Free Press

## Bureau of Indian Affairs proposes change affecting Alaska tribal recognition

**JUNEAU, Alaska** — Alaska tribes seeking federal status will have to demonstrate more than 80 years of history under a new process proposed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The proposed rule would require Alaska

Native groups seeking tribal status to prove a common bond back to at least 1936, CoastAlaska reported Jan. 16.

The bureau would settle expectations among tribes petitioning the federal government, the state of Alaska, tribes already federally recognized, and local governments, the agency said.

The Department of the Interior currently reviews petitions on a case-by-case basis.

"This proposed rule would not affect the status of tribes that are already federally recognized," the BIA wrote.

An attorney representing two unrecognized tribes that have been trying to gain federal recognition since the 1990s said a new rule could further slow the process.

Michael Willis represents the Qutekcaak Native Tribe in Seward and the Knuagank tribe near Dillingham in the Bristol Bay region.

"It seems like the Department of Interior is trying to find ways to delay yet again rather than treat the Qutekcaak Native Tribe consistently with other Alaska Native entities who have organized under the Alaska IRA," Willis said in reference to the Alaska Indian Reorganization Act, the law that guides tribal recognition.

Several tribes and Alaska Native organizations expressed skepticism that a new rule would be necessary. There was also criticism of the BIA for sending letters to tribal leaders during the peak fishing season in early July.

"The arrival of a 'Dear Leader' letter, much of it written with legalese, during the subsistence season prompted widespread concern and forced tribal leaders to choose between subsistence and consultation," wrote Vivian Korthus, CEO of the Association of Village Council Presidents in Bethel.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

- Anchorage Daily News

## Schools start teaching lessons from Oregon's Native American tribes

This month, Oregon's Department of Education finally rolled out the first pieces of new statewide curriculum on the history and culture of Native Americans in Oregon after lawmakers passed Senate Bill 13 in 2017 with the hope of remedying years of incomplete or inaccurate teachings.

This school year is the first time districts are required to implement the change in classrooms — but the curriculum is not yet available for all grades.

Because the department is "behind," it decided [recently] to do a soft roll-out this year with a hard implementation starting this summer, said April Campbell, the advisor to deputy state superintendent on Indian education.

But despite the delay in full implementation, local educators are excited for the positive impact the new curriculum will have on Native communities in local schools when it arrives.

"It just warms my heart and makes me happy. It makes me smile," said Brenda Brainard, who is a member of the Confederated Tribe of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. "Having worked in Indian education for 25 years, I never thought this would happen — I never dreamed."

SB 13 is short and clear in its purpose: to ensure that all of Oregon's public schools have curriculum related to "the Native American experience in Oregon, including tribal history," according to the bill language.

This encompasses the history of topics such as sovereignty issues, Native culture, treaties and current events. The teachings must be historically accurate, "culturally relevant," and community-based.

This law follows similar mandates to teach tribal history enacted in Washington state in 2015 and Montana in 1999.

The state department's responsibility per the law was to work with the nine Native American tribes in Oregon to develop 45 lesson plans across all disciplines and grades, Campbell said. The department also is required to provide professional development trainings to school districts about how to teach this curriculum.

The laws says districts are responsible for implementing in their schools a minimum of 15 of the 45 lessons available.

Although the curriculum is not yet available for all grades, the lessons that are available — for fourth, eighth and 10th graders — were put out by the department this month.

"We were hoping to have all 45 lessons up before the beginning of this school year and now we're just putting up some of the lessons this month," Campbell said.

There was supposed to be a hard rollout of the material — which is distributed through the department website — this year.

The primary delay on the curriculum development was due to extra time working with Native leaders to create the "Essential Understandings of Native Americans in Oregon," which are nine foundational topics, such as sovereignty, treaties, genocide and identity, they decided the curriculum should be built on.

The law only states that the implementation of the curriculum must first start during the 2019-2020 school year, but does not dictate any other deadline within that year.

"We're encouraging districts to look at the lesson plans as they can," she said. "We've been doing professional development since last summer. ... There's still a significant need to continue to do professional development," so more will be provided this summer.

The state developed the curriculum with the input of Native leaders for 18 months, Campbell said.

"It's a 50,000-foot level (look) — critical, essential concepts that they wanted

to make sure lesson plans were aligned to," she said. "These concepts are sovereignty, identity, federal laws and policies and genocide. So those essential understandings were developed with the intent as a framework as the lesson plans were created."

They purposely tried to form the curriculum around unraveling stereotypes and misconceptions about Native Americans and provide professional development that would reinforce to educators why this is important and instrumental in teaching a full image of history.

Native American curriculum can be taught in every class, educator Brainard said, beyond just social sciences and history.

As the director of the Natives Program in Eugene School District for 25 years, Brainard has taught on topics such as Native American dance in physical education classes, Native foods in health, basket weaving and totem carving in art, and native storytelling in language arts.

Last year she taught more than 500 lessons across all disciplines and grades, she said.

The history piece is, of course, still a major pillar of lessons, Brainard said. There's still much to be taught on topics such as restoration and termination, Native American housing, tribal comparisons and, of course, the expedition of Lewis and Clark.

"So much of our history here in Oregon, but for the whole United States is always East looking West," she said. "It's this magnificent expansion, and we rarely look at the West viewing what happened to the East."

"I always tell my students, that I want to be very clear that I think Lewis and Clark (are) heroes — but so is Sacagawea," Brainard said. "There are some inaccuracies, but there are also missing points — the wonderful contributions of the Indians, of the Native indigenous people that were here."

Bethel School District also has been working on incorporating tribal history since last year ahead of the state's rollout.

Rachel Hsieh teaches fourth grade at Malabon Elementary School. A teacher for 10 years, she has taught at Malabon for six, and worked this year to integrate conversations about tribal history with the direction of curriculum developed by Oregon's Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

"A lot of times, students still come in with pictures of braids and feathers and not a lot of clothing, so we do a lot of 'What do Native Americans look like?'" Hsieh said, about dispelling stereotypes.

She has introduced new reading materials, territory map projects and information about Oregon's nine tribes.

"Kids just come in and are naturally so open-minded," Hsieh said. "I think it's our grown ups who have a harder time. ... Kids see the injustices faster."

Incorporating accurate Native American history and curriculum has helped students understand and recognize those injustices and struggles, she said.

- Register-Guard (Eugene, Ore.)

## First Nations in northern Alberta launch Cree language app

Imagine beginning to learn a new language through an app — but instead of an automated voice, it's your grandparents sharing their first language through your phone.

A new Cree language app aims to help First Nations students build their Cree knowledge and enrich their land-based learning with the voices of Elders from across five First Nations in northern Alberta.

"The students will hear the voices of their mushams and kookums, their grandparents, and that will instill pride in them," said Audrey Anderson, land-based curriculum co-ordinator at the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA). "And they will be proud of their language."

It took three years to develop KTCEA Elders Speak — which was finished in 2019, the UN-declared International Year of Indigenous Languages — from connecting with fluent Elders to developing the games and activities on the app.

It features more than 900 words across 50 categories for beginner, intermediate and advanced levels, and has already been viewed more than 30,000 times around the world.

The team at KTCEA focused the app on cultural traditions and activities by asking more than 150 Elders what they would like their children to know about their way of life, and what they would like the world to know about their nation.

"The communities we serve are still very entrenched in land-based learning, they still hunt, they still fish and trap as part of their way of life," said Daphne Mai' Stoina, KTCEA superintendent. "So this was a natural progression, to have land-based learning embedded into the app."

Anderson noted that there are a number of fluent speakers across the five nations the KTCEA serves, but that it remains a challenge for students to retain Cree due to the pressures of social media platforms and the majority-English entertainment they consume.

A number of community members are also survivors of the Indian Residential School System, which stole the language from many of them by forcing their removal from their communities and forbidding Cree to be spoken while at these schools.

"Retention is where we want to ensure that there are the speakers under 25, because the language carries all the knowledge," said Anderson.

- Edmonton (Alberta, Canada) Journal

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# Education

B

## CSSS director brings expansive experience to Tribe

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Michael Giacchino recognized an artistic side early in life and spent many years developing it. He said he was following his passion.

Now an education administrator for the Tribe, it might seem like a bit of a departure from artistic pursuits. But at second glance it makes more sense than one might think.

Giacchino is the new director of the Tribe's Center for Student Success and Services in Hollywood. His first day on the job was Nov. 12, 2019.

CSSS oversees five initiatives: K-12 education, higher education, the library program, tutoring and Tribal Professional Development (TPD). Three work experience programs fall under TPD: summer work experience, work experience and advanced career development.

The CSSS offices are in Hollywood and there are about 60 staff members in the department tribalwide.

### Art, education

Born in Philadelphia, Giacchino, 56, spent much of his youth in Germany where his father was a teacher, athletic director and coach for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Giacchino was a budding high schooler when he started doing television work for his teachers. He followed that by working for nine years in radio during his college years. (He's got the radio voice to prove it).

He earned a degree in speech communication at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro — his academic focus was film and video production.

Giacchino later added a master of fine arts in drama, broadcasting and cinema to his resume at the school.

Giacchino came to Florida in 1989 with hopes of landing a job on the production team of the Miami Vice TV series. As luck would have it, however, that year marked the show's final season.

So, he worked as a photographer and videographer in Aventura at made-for-parapazzi events taking pictures of celebrities

and athletes. He did weddings, too.

Wedding photography can be an admittedly high burnout gig, so Giacchino returned to education and worked for Southeastern University (before it added Nova to the name) as a communications specialist.

He was later a specialist in theater, too — landing a job at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center in Miami teaching public speaking, drama and stand-up comedy.

You read that right: Giacchino has taught stand-up comedy. He's performed it, too.

"I did some in college and for [Miami-Dade County] as part of the arts and cultural affairs division for events," Giacchino said. "I'd sometimes get on stage and perform in the 300-seat Black Box Theater or at the [Joseph] Caleb Auditorium in front of 1,100 people."

But he hit a glass ceiling working for the county and decided to go to paralegal school at Florida International University.

"They said: 'Why don't you become a lawyer?'" Giacchino recalled.

So, he went to NSU's Shepard Broad College of Law.

He started in a business concentration, but earned his law degree with honors in mediation. He worked in the criminal court division on pretrial intervention cases for juveniles.

Giacchino enjoyed the experience but ultimately decided practicing law wasn't for him.

Back to post-secondary education, he taught at Barry University, the University of Phoenix, the (former) Corinthian Colleges and at Concorde Career College.

He's been a program chair, director of student services and an academic dean.

### Road to Tribe

His most recent role was at the School of Audio Engineering (SAE) as the director of education at its Miami location.

SAE is a boutique school based in Australia with locations in dozens of countries. The school teaches professional audio recording.

But SAE's parent company decided

the regulatory structure in the U.S. was too complex, so it divested its American holdings in 2018 and shut down its Miami campus.

Giacchino said he then only applied for two jobs: a position at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and for the CSSS director position at the Tribe.

He thinks he got the better of the two.

"It's a nice family structure and the CSSS team is good," Giacchino said. "We're hoping to change the name back to 'Education' one day soon so everyone will know who we are."

He said his immediate focus since being hired has been outreach.

"We can't just hang up a sign and say that we're here, come and visit us," Giacchino said. "Outreach creates engagement, and from there we get participation and then we can reassess. So that's the cycle that we're working on."

CSSS tracks about 1,050 students in its kindergarten through 12th grade program. There are another 250 higher education students. Some overlap exists in the tutoring program as well, so Giacchino estimates the department serves somewhere between 1,500 and 1,700 Tribal students.

Giacchino's been to Brighton, Immokalee and Big Cypress so far.

Giacchino lives in Hollywood with his wife of 10 years, Shu Chen Wang. Wang is from Taiwan and teaches Mandarin Chinese at Pine Crest School in Boca Raton.

The couple doesn't have kids, unless you count their two cats.

As far as hobbies go, Giacchino said: "I enjoy playing many musical instruments badly." Guitar and harmonica are two of his favorites.

He also toys with 3D animation art.

"For years, computer art has tried to emulate reality. Now that we have emulated reality, I try to take where we are and make it more to look like graphic art," he said.

In case you were wondering, the theater aficionado's favorite stage show is "School of Rock" and his favorite movie is "The Godfather."

More information is at [csss.semtribe.com](http://csss.semtribe.com).



Damon Scott

Michael Giacchino was named the new director of CSSS on Nov. 12, 2019.

## Florida Southern College's Wyatt Youngman named ag fraternity pres

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**LAKE PLACID** — Wyatt Youngman admits he isn't much of a people person. He likes working by himself in his family's sprawling orange grove in Lake Placid.

So how did this accomplished young man, a junior at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, become the president of the school's chapter of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity?

"I run a fraternity; I know it's an oxymoron," said Youngman, 22, who was elected in December 2019. "When I first got to college it was kind of boring and I didn't have a lot of friends. When you join a frat you meet people with similar interests."

Those interests are agriculture in general;

citrus farming in particular. Youngman is a citrus major, as are most of the FSC members of AGR, the national professional and social fraternity of agriculture. The only other chapter in the state is at the University of Florida.

"The focus of the frat is to bring agriculture people together and build connections," Youngman said. "Betterment of agriculture is the motto."

Youngman is the first Seminole and likely the first Native American to serve as president or, as the frat brothers prefer, "noble ruler." AGR has a group of vice "noble rulers" who perform tasks including finances, recruitment, house manager and secretary.

According to AGR faculty advisor professor Malcolm Manners, Ph.D., the fraternity is unique in that its scope is



Beverly Bidney

Wyatt Youngman, president of the Alpha Gamma Rho agriculture fraternity at Florida Southern College, checks out Valencia oranges on the Youngman family's orange grove.



Beverly Bidney

Wyatt Youngman stands in his family's 500 acre orange grove in Lake Placid on Jan. 21.

both social and professional. Manners, professor of citrus science and coordinator of the program, has taught Youngman in horticultural science, citrus science and plant nutrition classes.

"I am finding Wyatt to have a good work ethic, a strong sense of responsibility and a desire to move the fraternity forward to success," Manners wrote in an email. "I think all of the brothers like and respect him."

Youngman plans to take over the family business when he graduates. The grove consists of 500 acres of Hamlin and

Valencia oranges. Like all orange trees in the state, these suffer from citrus greening disease which will ultimately kill the trees in about 10 years. Prior to the disease afflicting Florida's groves, Youngman said trees used to live about 50 years.

"I like to look at the trees and see what they need," he said. "Whether they have a nitrogen deficiency, PH problem or just need water."

Rita Youngman has seen her son thrive in the grove; he does hedging, topping, irrigation, planting and more.

"His teacher told him he could probably

teach the class since he knows so much," she said. "He is smart, quiet and respectful; everything you want in a son and he is Seminole. I'm very proud."

Youngman doesn't see his role as the leader of his fraternity as an extra responsibility; he sees it as a benefit for him, his AGR brothers and all citrus majors at FSC.

"In AGR we get job offers," he said. "Companies come in looking for citrus majors and offer jobs or internships. We are not really a party fraternity."

## CNAY's Champions for Change ready to convene

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**WASHINGTON** — The Aspen Institute's Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) will welcome its eighth cohort of CNAY Champions for Change (Champions) to Washington, DC, in February. This marks the first convening of the year-long leadership program. The 2020 Champions include Owen L. Oliver (Quinault (Chinook) Indian Nation & Isleta Pueblo), Jazmine Wildcat (Northern Arapaho), Warren

Davis (Navajo Nation), Isabella Madrigal (Cahuilla Band of Indians & Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians) and Shavaughna Underwood (Quinault Indian Nation).

Each year, CNAY selects five inspirational Native youth ages 14-24 from across the United States to be Champions for Change. Champions are up-and-coming leaders with a desire to better their communities. The Champions program is a Native youth leadership initiative designed to highlight positive stories impacting Indian Country through experience-based learning and tailored advocacy training.

As a group, the 2020 Champions are working to revitalize language and culture, advocate for gun control, destigmatize mental illness, implement traditional coping mechanisms for intergenerational trauma, increase visibility and Native storytelling, among other important initiatives.

"These inspiring young leaders are joining a community and national network of other leaders from across the country," said Erik Stegman, executive director for CNAY.

The Champions will participate in a panel discussion Feb. 11 at The Aspen Institute.



Aspen Institute/Facebook

The Aspen Institute's Center for Native American Youth's 2020 Champions for Change.

# Believe the HYPE

## TPD launches new WEP training

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

You're going to have to juggle some acronyms with this one.

The Tribe's first professional development training for those in its Work Experience Program (WEP) took place Jan. 15. It was the first, but not the last.

WEP is a branch of Tribal Professional Development (TPD) and generally consists of those who are just out of high school and contemplating the next steps of their education and career.

The new training is based on the HYPE program, which stands for "Helping Young People Excel."

HYPE is described as an immersion curriculum with several parts. It was presented to the WEP group by James Randolph. The approximately five-hour training took place at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood.

Randolph was first contracted to work with the Tribe in 2004. He uses the HYPE program to help people "tell their story," he said.

"In-between you have some opportunities to work together and individually," Randolph said.

WEP participants went through a lineup of topics throughout the day – mastering first and last impressions; working with others and handling conflicts.

There were role playing exercises to improve communication skills and learn job interview techniques.

### 'We're the next up'

Before Randolph began the training, Tribal member Rollie Gilliam gave some opening remarks.

Gilliam is enrolled in the Advanced Career Development (ACD) program and works at the Center for Student Services and Success (CSSS).

He spoke about his first job at about age 10. He was raised in Fort Pierce, but would later live on the Brighton Reservation and his family had him working with pigs for

about \$8 an hour.

"The worst thing you want to say to a parent is: 'I don't have anything to do,'" Gilliam said with a smile.

He'd leave home at 5 a.m. or 6 a.m. The day consisted of cleaning pens, dealing with pig slop and so on. It was dirty, but he said it built a work ethic that he still carries with him today.

After graduating high school, Gilliam entered WEP, too. (CSSS also offers a Summer Work Experience Program – SWEPE – for those still in high school).

Gilliam, 32, went on to earn a master's degree in business administration and entered the ACD program in 2017.

"We come in all shapes and sizes. Through being a part of [ACD], it's good for community, it's custom made and belongs to us," Gilliam said. "This is our home. You're here for a reason."

Gilliam is currently the only Tribal member in Hollywood who is working in the CSSS department.

"[Working for the Tribe is] a family business at the end of the day. We're the next up at bat. We have a lot of opportunity in front of us," he said. "Make sure you all have what you need. Be encouraged. People are watching. Our goal is to be an example."

Gilliam's sister, Tomasina Chupco-Gilliam, is a project specialist at the Native Learning Center and is also enrolled in ACD. The Gilliam's cousin, Aaron Tommie, works in the executive director of operations office as part of ACD as well.

### Tribal support

Sitting in the training room at the NLC were those not only enrolled in WEP, but others who were there to support them.

Ervina Capricien, the head of Tribal Career Development (TCD), was on hand as was Jim Osceola, the director of hospitality for the Seminole Gaming Administration (SGA).

There were plenty of CSSS staff, too, including director Michael Giacchino, assistant director Alvaro Perez, student success coach Kajir Harriott and TPD senior specialist Hurvens Monestime.

Hurvens was the lead organizer of the new training. He's been with the Tribe for about six months.

"The reason why we brought you together was to give you the opportunity to meet as a group," Hurvens said. "There aren't many chances for us to work with each other – we're spread out in different departments, reservations ... there's not a lot of interactions."

Hurvens said the day was designed not only to socialize, but to learn and to appreciate the opportunities offered in WEP.

"It's not just [about] punching in and out every day," Hurvens said. "We are hoping you all become the future leaders of the Tribe, future managers and supervisors. That's the objective and goal. This is for you – all of these various departments and resources. So take advantage of it."

The tentative dates for future HYPE trainings are Feb. 19, March 18, April 22 and May 20.

Contact Hurvens at 954-989-6840 ext. 10537 or via email at hurvensmonestime@semtribe.com.



Damon Scott

Advanced Career Development participant Rollie Gilliam speaks to students in the WEP program Jan. 15.

## NLC to host accounting fundamentals for Native CDFIs

TRIBUNE STAFF

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe's Native Learning Center in Hollywood is hosting a course for those interested in working with Native CDFI's – Community Development Financial Institutions.

Native CDFI's are designed to help tribal communities grow and thrive by leveraging access to credit, capital and other financial services.

CDFI's typically offer a variety of

financial and technical assistance, along with specialized training.

"Accounting Fundamentals for Native CDFI's" takes place March 24-26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Organizers said the topics covered are geared toward those who work in finance or accounting or for board members, executive directors and others in management positions.

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

## AHFACHKEE

From page 1A

Harrison operated a single reflex digital camera, a Faro Focus laser scanner and four spheres – used as landmarks to orient the scene properly – to create the final interactive 3D images.

The process is a combination of laser scans and photogrammetry, which extracts 3D measurements from 2D data such as photos and merges hundreds of those images together to create the 3D model. The photos Harrison made of the murals overlap 70 to 80 percent of the image to create the 3D visualizations.

"The laser scanner is creating a visualization but it also captures the context of the entire architectural environment," Harrison explained. "It will create more details than the camera."

The final images will be 3D models that the viewer can manipulate in space and zoom in or out. The option of a "fly through", or a video of each image from various angles, will also be available.

THPO also worked with Harrison and USF to create a 3D visualization of Egmont Key, in which the site appears to have been photographed from above by a drone flying over and through the site. The visualization included images of the inside and outside of the lighthouse. However, it was actually



Beverly Bidney

Laura Harrison, of the University of South Florida, photographs the Seminole sun legend mural in the hallway of the Ahfachkee School.

created the same way as the Ahfachkee murals.

"The 3D visualization of the fly through shows one viewpoint of the data, which can be viewed from any angle," Harrison said.

Harrison photographed every mural from a few perspectives – eye level,

higher and lower – that, combined with the laser scans, will create that fly-through environment.

Although details are not yet available, the digital collection of the murals will be available online.



Beverly Bidney (3)

Above, painted by Mary Gay Osceola in 1993, this large mural portrays all the clans in the Seminole Tribe of Florida and was on the wall in the Ahfachkee School's library. Below left, the Seminole sun legend is depicted in this mural painted by Osceola in 1994. Below right, this series of poster sized murals graced the walls of the cafeteria and were painted in 1994.



# PECS Students of the Month - December

**BRIGHTON** — The following Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School students earned Student of the Month honors for December 2019:

**Elementary**  
Malayah Pueney  
Nohea Collins  
Kreed Snow  
Charles Julian  
Zechariah Summeralls  
Aaliyanice Castro

Kaliyanita Hodge  
Neveah Johns  
Jeremy Smith  
Russell Osceola  
Levi Peacock  
Zayden Pewo  
Kowi Osceola

Karter Puente  
Augustana Banda  
Case Prescott  
Braylen Thomas  
Odyssie Sheets  
Jace Johns  
Harmany Urbina

Eriyana McQueen  
Troy Billie  
**Middle School**  
Keanu Bert  
Maylan Foster  
Cece Thomas



Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School students of the month for December 2019 (elementary left, middle right) are joined by principal Tracy Downing.

# ‘Code Talkers’ tells uniquely Native story to young readers

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

When people think of code talkers they likely think of the Navajo in World War II. And that’s for good reason.

The U.S. Marine Corps recruited more than 400 Navajo to be code talkers in 1941 and 1942 during the war—the original group numbered about 30. Their skill would also be used in the Korean and Vietnam Wars as well.

But the Navajo weren’t the only ones and they weren’t the first.

There were code talkers from at least 16 tribes who served in the Marines, Army and Navy. In addition to the Navajo, the list includes Seminole, Assiniboine, Cherokee, Choctaw, Comanche, Hopi, Lakota and Meskwaki.

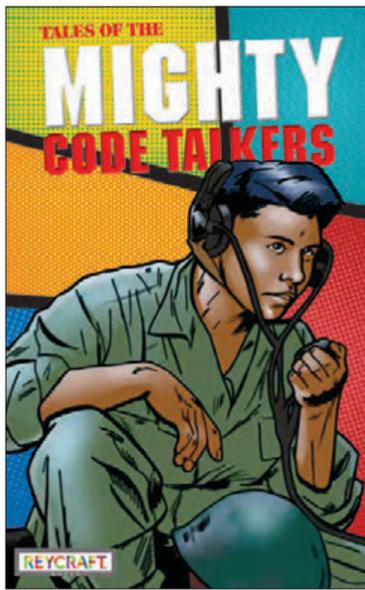
The Cherokee were the first code talkers in World War I and they paved the way for those who came after, like the Choctaw (WWI) and Navajo (WWII).

Their stories are a central focus of the recently published book “Tales of the Mighty Code Talker.” The publication, by Reycraft Books, came out last year and is designed for younger readers and students.

## To the rescue

U.S. military codes on troop movement and the like were being breached by the Germans in WWI and by the Japanese in WWII, causing casualties and chaos.

Code talkers developed an unbreakable code language used to send information on tactics, movements and orders over the radio and telephone that was indecipherable



Courtesy image

All the writers and illustrators of the book are Native American.

to the enemy.

It was considered a key factor in many American military victories, including at Iwo Jima and Saipan.

According to a congressional law honoring the program, at Iwo Jima,

code talkers transmitted more than 800 indecipherable messages in 48 hours.

One of the reasons it worked so well is that Native languages were not written down; therefore, no one could steal or study it. And the languages were complex – Choctaw alone has 26 dialects.

To overcome nonexistent counterparts for certain English words, the code talkers got creative. They would substitute “corn” for “battalion” and “stone” for “grenade,” for example.

Ironically, while it was the code talkers that helped to end WWI and WWII, many Native Americans were historically punished, especially in the late 19th century, for speaking their native tongue.

As code talkers they’d become heroes for using it.

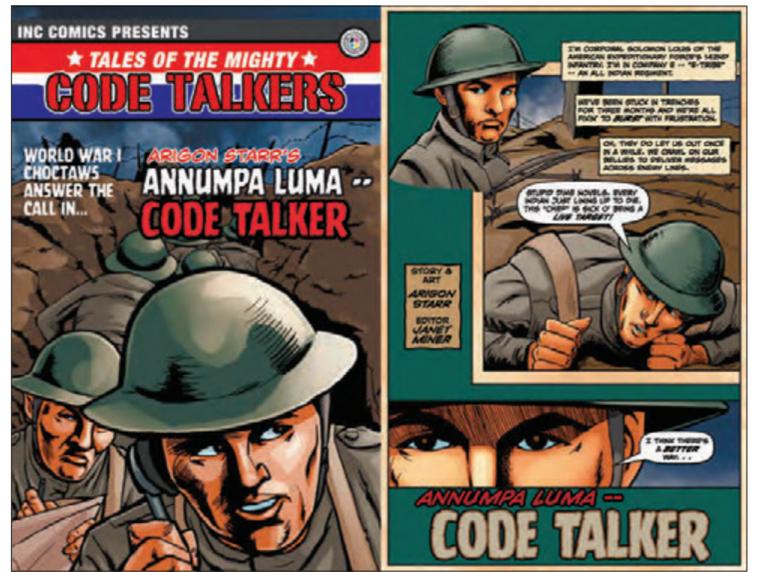
“Tales of the Mighty Code Talker” takes the reader along with different Native American characters who are going through varied scenarios during the wars.

The book is presented in a sleek, comic book-style that appeals to the younger set, although adults would enjoy it as well.

Two of the main characters are Annumpa Luma, of the Choctaw code talkers, and PFC Joe, who is Navajo. The first part of the book also tells about the Cherokee code talker’s contribution to ending WWI.

## For more

Wiley Blevins, the editorial director of Reycraft Books, said all of the writers and illustrators of “Tales of the Mighty Code Talkers” are Native American. Contributors are Lee Francis IV, Roy Boney Jr. (Cherokee), Arigon Starr (Kickapoo), Jonathan Nelson



Courtesy image

One section of the book tells the story of Annumpa Luma – the Choctaw code talkers.

(Navajo), Renee Nejo (Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians), and Weshoyot Alvitre (Tongva).

Stephanie Seemann, the Florida account manager of Reycraft developer Benchmark Education, said she is interested in growing its collection of books by Native American authors.

“It is our goal to have authentic stories and illustrations [that] reflect the voices of children from underrepresented communities,” Seemann said. “My personal goal is to have students everywhere be introduced to stories from authentic voices.”

There is also a version of “Tales of the Mighty Code Talkers” by Native Realities Press that has additional content and comics that are intended for older readers.

Other Reycraft titles geared toward a younger reader that also feature Native American writers and illustrators include “Spotted Tail” and “PowWow Mystery Series 1.”

For more information, go to reycraftbooks.com. “Tales of the Mighty Code Talkers” can be purchased on Amazon.

# Tribe well represented at South Florida Fair

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**WEST PALM BEACH** — Even though he’s only a junior in high school, Braydn Daum already has a pretty good idea about his future career.

He wants to join the Navy after he graduates and perhaps serve as a hospital corpsman.

For now, the junior at Lake Placid High School is laying the foundation for his future by being a member of ROTC and the weightlifting team at school and the Seminole Indian 4-H Club outside of school. The discipline and hard work necessary to succeed in those programs will no doubt pay off when he enters the service. The 4-H program, for example, has benefits that Daum can carry with him whether he’s on land or sea.

“It’s taught me that you need to work for what you have and nothing is going to be handed to you, so you need to work hard and work towards it,” Daum said Jan. 17 moments after he showed “Smalls” at the

South Florida Fair’s hog show in West Palm Beach.

“Smalls” is anything but that; he is a 236-pound hog that Daum has cared for since acquiring him in August, back when “Smalls” was only about 60 pounds.

“Normally we get them at 75-pound range, but he looked good to me so I picked him,” Daum said.

The judge didn’t pick “Smalls” as high as Daum would have liked; he finished in seventh place in the 236-238-pound class that featured nine other competitors.

“It went all right, but I didn’t place as high as I wanted to, but nobody ever does. I’m happy I wasn’t last,” Daum said.

Daum was part of the Seminole 4-H contingent at the show that included volunteers, staff and other fellow 4-H’ers. Daum’s mother Linda Spurlock and stepfather John Spurlock helped guide the hogs in proper directions in the back pens. Aaron Stam kept things running smoothly and on schedule behind the scenes, making sure kids and their hogs were in the ring with their classes at the right time. Kimberly Clement helped keep the peace amid snout-



Kevin Johnson (2)

Members of the Seminole Indian 4-H Program participate in the South Florida Fair’s swine show Jan. 17 at the South Florida Fairgrounds in West Palm Beach. Above, Braydn Daum, and, at left, Atley Driggers, get ready to show their hogs.

to-snout rush hour traffic in the waiting pen just before the kids and hogs entered the ring. Daum’s “Smalls” and Oreste Perez’s “Porky Pig” got a little too rough as they waited to enter the ring and had to be briefly separated by a board before it was showtime.

Perez, 10, is in his third year with Seminole Indian 4-H and has become accustomed to all the caretaking involved in raising a hog.

“I feed him, wash him and put wormer around him to get any worms out,” he said.

Perez’s pig finished fifth in the same class as “Smalls.”

Atley Driggers, 12, had the heaviest hog among the three Seminole 4-H’ers at the show. “Shakira,” a female, weighed in at 265 pounds. Already in her fifth year of 4-H, Driggers previously raised a hog that weighed 270. She’s had about five pigs and

doesn’t become emotionally attached to them, knowing that they move on to new owners during the fair.

“I just like showing them,” she said.

The following day was the sale when the hogs were put up for purchase. “Shakira” was bought by Brighton Board Rep. Helene Buster. “Smalls” was purchased by Brighton Councilman Larry Howard. Seminole Gaming snatched up “Porky Pig.”



Kevin Johnson

Oreste Perez, 10, from the Seminole Indian 4-H Program, directs his hog while in the ring during the South Florida Fair.

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# National Native American Veterans Memorial to be dedicated Nov. 11

**BEVERLY BIDNEY**  
Staff Reporter

The dedication of the National Native American Veterans Memorial has been set for Nov. 11 at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. The ceremony will take place on the grounds of the museum on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Organizers said the dedication will begin with a procession of Native veterans on the National Mall, followed by a dedication

ceremony, concert and five days of musical performances and programs.

Native American veterans who want to participate in the opening procession can register online. Those who want to perform during the five-day event may apply at the performance link on the webpage.

Native Americans have served in every branch of the U.S. Armed Forces since the American Revolution and in larger numbers per capita than any other ethnic group. The memorial, which was commissioned by Congress, honors American Indian, Alaska

Native and Native Hawaiian veterans.

The interactive memorial was designed by artist Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne and Arapaho) of Oklahoma. The memorial consists of a large elevated stainless steel circle balanced on a carved stone drum. It incorporates water for sacred ceremonies and benches for gathering and reflection.

For more information, visit [americanindian.si.edu/nnavm/](http://americanindian.si.edu/nnavm/) or contact the museum by email at [NNAVMDedication@si.edu](mailto:NNAVMDedication@si.edu) or by phone at (202) 633-7020.



A rendering of the National Native American Veterans Memorial. The design is by Harvey Pratt/Butzer Architects and Urbanism. The illustration is by Skyline Ink.

# Pipeline projects still attract wary Native American eyes

**BY DAMON SCOTT**  
Staff Reporter

Four years after protests began at the site of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), oil drilling and pipeline projects continue to threaten Native American communities and the environment.

DAPL is one of the most well-known, along with the Keystone Pipeline System.

DAPL's underground oil pipeline is 1,172 miles long and begins in northwest North Dakota, winding through South Dakota and Iowa to its end in Patoka, Illinois.

The DAPL protests, which are widely known by the hashtag #NoDAPL, were grassroots movements that began in early 2016 at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Almost 500 protesters have been arrested since.

Oil has been flowing through DAPL since the summer of 2017.

Opposition to its continued construction and proposed expansion still attract considerable protest and public outcry.

In November 2019, Indigenous People and environmentalists attended a public meeting in North Dakota on proposed DAPL expansion that lasted more than 15 hours.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe continues to intervene in plans for the pipeline's expansion and use near its lands and water sources.

The owners of DAPL want to double the volume; even though critics worry it will further increase the risk of leaks or spills.

The Chicago Tribune reports that each day an average of 560,000 barrels of oil flows through the pipeline. The proposed increase would be 1.1 million barrels a day.

Native American leaders and activists want more information on why the increased oil flow is needed. Oil companies say the project has economic benefits and is safe.

Stakeholders on both sides of the issue expect legal wrangling to continue indefinitely.

Meanwhile, the Keystone Pipeline is located in both Canada and the U.S. It runs from Alberta to refineries in Illinois and Texas and also to oil tank farms and a distribution center in Cushing, Oklahoma.

Its fourth phase is commonly known as Keystone XL (KXL) – which garnered fierce opposition from environmentalists and tribal members for its potential to wreak havoc on the environment.

In 2015, the original project was vetoed

by President Barack Obama, but in 2017 President Donald Trump signed an executive order to not only allow for its completion, but also a long sought after cross-border permit.

While the KXL construction doesn't currently go directly through Native American reservations, it has the potential to pollute water supplies, part of the reason for a slew of lawsuits against it.

Keystone owner TC Energy is applying for permits to tap the Cheyenne River, White River, and Bad River, all of which run through South Dakota.

Native Americans and Indigenous Canadians are opposed to KXL for other reasons as well, including possible damage to sacred sites and contamination of locally caught fish.

## Florida, too

While those particular projects might seem a world away from Florida, there are also developments closer to home that tribes, environmentalists and activists are keeping a close eye on – particularly in or near the Everglades.

On Jan. 15, Gov. Ron DeSantis said the state would buy land to stop an Everglades oil drilling plan on 20,000 acres in western Broward County.

Environmentalists and others are asking the governor to stop another, likely bigger, drilling plan about 25 miles west of that site at the Big Cypress National Preserve on the northwest border of Everglades National Park.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel recently reported that the entity – Burnett Oil Co. – holds state and federal permits to look for oil on 110 square miles of the preserve using heavy trucks that vibrate metal plates against the ground.

It wasn't immediately clear if DeSantis will act on the request.

In Washington, D.C., the House of Representatives passed a bill in September 2019 to permanently ban offshore drilling off Florida's Gulf Coast. It was a move Florida lawmakers pressed for to help the keep the state's tourism industry and military installations healthy.

The Senate has a similar bill, but it's not known what the Trump administration would support or sign into law.

More information on DAPL is at [standingrock.org](http://standingrock.org). The National Resources Defense Council is involved in litigation concerning the Keystone Pipeline.

# AIANTA to highlight tribes along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** — The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) has partnered with the National Park Service (NPS) to find and share the stories of Native American Tribes that intersect with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

The 4,900-mile national historic trail, which stretches from the Ohio River in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Astoria, Oregon, crosses 16 states, as well as nearly two dozen Indian reservations.

Over a three-year period, AIANTA will conduct interviews with and make site visits to Tribes in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South

Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas, to develop content and create regional itineraries that include Native and Tribally owned destinations and experiences along the route. Completed content will be showcased at [LewisAndClark.travel](http://LewisAndClark.travel) and [NativeAmerica.travel](http://NativeAmerica.travel).

"We are excited to work with the National Park Service to help Tribes along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail share their stories," said Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director of AIANTA. "Native Americans are often left out of the historical narrative, so we are thrilled that NPS is looking to deliver a comprehensive inventory of tribal activities and cultural tourism experiences for visitors interested in traveling all or parts of the famed route."

More than 215 years after Lewis and Clark and their Corps of Discovery

commenced their two-year journey, this program expands on the groundwork, contributions and learnings from the Circle of Tribal Advisors of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration (2003-2006) and offers new opportunities for Tribes to share their stories to visitors from around the globe through cultural tourism.

The Lewis & Clark Expedition commenced in 1803, after the completion of the Louisiana Purchase, to help the U.S. Government map the uncharted west. Led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the expedition lasted two years and encompassed nearly 8,000 miles, round trip. Along the way, the expedition team met nearly 50 Native American tribes, who were integral in helping the expedition chart the unknown territory.

# Fender Telecaster signed by 16 Navajo Code Talkers

BY WIKI EAGLE

Richard Anderson, Jr. took out his original USA 1971 Fender Butterscotch Telecaster guitar at a coffee shop in Gallup, New Mexico, and began to identify the 16 signatures of The Navajo Code Talkers who had signed his guitar over the years.

One by one Anderson started to spell out the letters and match the names to the list of the 300 Navajo Code Talkers. Most of them were signed from the 5th Division Marine Corps veterans that served at the Battle of Iwo Jima. 13 of the signatures could be identified on the guitar and the other 3 names were lost in the wear and tear of performing over the years.

The first Fender Telecaster Guitar was made in 1950. Anderson says he asked for the signatures of the Code Talkers on a telecaster guitar was to bridge the understanding of music history and the freedom of expression after the war had ended. But to also connect Native heritage to the beauty and artist expressions through music.

"The Code Talkers protected the freedom for every artist and band in this country to express music the way they want to sing it; with no limits. Every band and every artist owes a "thank you" to the Code Talkers for that very freedom and for protecting our music. No one thinks of music history in this way. That is why this Code Talker guitar is such a sentimental instrument. Especially with very few code talkers left."

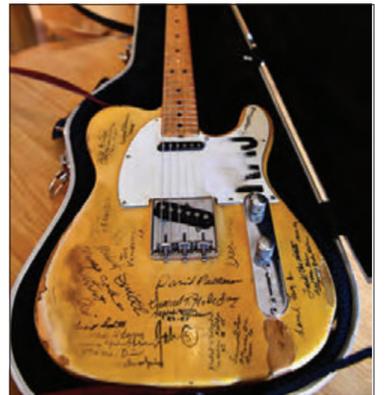
"I thought a lot about music history. The greatest musicians played the Telecaster like Muddy Waters, Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Keith Richards and Jimmy Page," said Anderson.

Anderson was only five years old when he met his first Code Talker. His father served in the Vietnam War and was friends with many of the Code Talkers. Growing up there was a lot of pride in the community for veterans. His parents spoke highly of what they did for this country and because of what they did; the US was able to win the war.

Anderson said the first signature was the hardest one to get. "I asked Keith Little to sign my guitar three times and he said no. During the movie premiere of the Windtalkers at the Gallup train station, the event planned to unveil the memorial statue dedicated to the Navajo Code Talker. I decided to ask again. I remember walking towards Keith Little to sign my guitar at the seats and there were two other Navajo Code talkers sitting next to him. Keith Little finally agreed to sign my guitar but under two conditions. He told me, "You can never sell this guitar and you have to teach the kids how to play the guitar." The other two code talkers sitting next to him saw him sign it and they also agreed to sign it.

After getting the first signature from Keith, it made it easier asking the other Code Talkers to sign the guitar.

"Throughout the years since 2002, I went to different places and events where the Code Talkers would be at to ask them to sign it. I would explain the conditions and tell them that I would never sell it and I use this guitar to teach the kids how to play."



Courtesy Indian Country Today  
A Fender Butterscotch Telecaster guitar with signatures from 16 Navajo Code Talkers.

Prior to the Code Talker Guitar project, Anderson lived his young adult life in southern California where he attended the Musicians Institute in Los Angeles and experienced the life of a musician in the era of 80s hard rock and Heavy Metal.

Anderson remembers being the only Navajo student attending the school. After his tech training, with his group, 'The Chucki Begay Family Band,' he took the Code Talker guitar to every state in the United States and to a lot of reservations and music festivals to represent the Navajo Nation.

When he came back home from performing, his band started a music camp on Navajo Nation to teach the youth to play instruments.

"At one point we had 175 youths sign up for our music camp. The students start by learning the history and lessons from the Code Talker guitar. Then they learn how to play their instruments from guitar, bass, keyboard or drums. I hope the future of this guitar will stay in Navajo Nation amongst the Four Sacred Mountains. Where it can be displayed in a museum to make sure it will never be sold and the lessons learned from this history will carry out to the next generation."

"I will never sell it," said Anderson. "I was offered \$50,000 dollars for it and I said no."

The identified Code Talker signatures: Don Akee, Samuel H. Begay, Roy Hawthorne, Samuel T. Holiday, Keith M. Little, George Alfred Moss, Alfred James Peaches, Richard Plummer (Korean War Code Talker), Albert Smith, Samuel Tso, Samuel Sr. Tsosie, Joe Sr. Vandever, Robert Walley, (two unknown due to wear and tear).

Wiki Eagle is from the Sicangu Lakota Nation from Denver, Colorado. She is biracial Japanese/Lakota. She is currently a Ph.D. student on Tongva land at UCLA in Sociocultural Anthropology. Follow her on social media @RealLifeIndian. This article appeared on Indian Country Today.

# Everglades area visitor center opens

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**EVERGLADES CITY** — The new Everglades Visitor Center has opened at 207 West Broadway in Everglades City.

The center is also the Trail Town headquarters for the city which was recognized in 2019 by the Florida's Office of Greenways & Trails as an important hub for recreational activities, such as paddling, hiking and biking.

The center is operated by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation. For more information visit [visitevergladescity.com](http://visitevergladescity.com) or stop in at the center any day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the winter season.



# Seminole Casino Hotel to host hiring event Feb. 11

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**IMMOKALEE** — Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee will host a hiring event Feb. 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. in the Seminole Center.

Positions available include:

- cash operations
- facilities
- food & beverage
- hotel operations
- players club
- public space
- security
- slot operations
- table games

Candidates must submit an application before the hiring event at [www.gettoworkhappy.com](http://www.gettoworkhappy.com). Candidates should also bring their resumes and employment authorization documents, and dress for success.

Seminole Casino Hotel is located at 506

South 1st Street, Immokalee, Fla. 34142.

The 51,000-square-foot plus casino offers 1,400 slots and 38 live table games

Seminole Casino Hotel's nightlife is highlighted by the Zig Zag lounge, home of the Zig Zag Girlz, "where the party never ends" featuring nightly live entertainment and no last call, as well as the new Corner Bar. Additional entertainment and events are held at the Seminole Center, an indoor/outdoor special event center featuring state-of-the-art sound and lighting system. The new Seminole Casino Hotel is the first upscale hotel to open in or near Immokalee and offers suites and deluxe guestrooms with modern décor and features, plus amenities including a swimming pool with private cabanas, 24-hour fitness studio and free Wi-Fi.

For more information, call 800-218-0007 or visit [moreinparadise.com](http://moreinparadise.com) or [facebook.com/SeminoleCasinoHotel/](http://facebook.com/SeminoleCasinoHotel/).

# Native youth agriculture summit to be held in July

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The 2020 Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Leadership Summit is open to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian youth, ages 18-24 (including recently graduated high school seniors), and will be held July 7-14 in Fayetteville, Arkansas, at the University of Arkansas.

For more information regarding the summit application, contact Josiah Griffin at [jwg012@uark.edu](mailto:jwg012@uark.edu) or visit [indigenousfoodandag.com](http://indigenousfoodandag.com).



Hard Rock Atlantic City team members who won cash and prizes during a town hall meeting Jan. 16 are joined by leadership including Seminole Tribe Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen.

## Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City announces employee bonuses during town hall gathering

FROM PRESS RELEASE

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City announced Jan. 16 that 2,872 of its full-time team members will receive a bonus following the company's successful first year in operation, ranking No. 2 in the market for casino revenue.

Chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming Jim Allen addressed team members inside Hard Rock Live at Etess Arena for the property's first "All is One" themed team member town hall meeting since opening June 28, 2018.

To reinforce the company core-motto "All Is One," Allen emphasized the leadership's commitment to property reinvestment, Atlantic City and team members, announcing over \$2 million in bonuses, starting at \$250 per person, which

will be awarded to all union and non-union full-time team members.

Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Hard Rock Atlantic City Partners Joe and Michael Jingoli and Hard Rock Atlantic City President Joe Lupo stood alongside of Allen addressing more than 2,000 team members and union representatives from Unite Here Local 54, Local 68 Operating Engineers, Carpenters Union and Painters District Council 711 during two town hall events.

This is the first time in more than a decade that any casino in Atlantic City has allocated bonuses to all full-time team members, union included. In addition to the bonus announcement, leadership presented \$40,000 in cash along with six all-expenses paid travel experiences to the new Guitar Hotel at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

"We could not be more proud of our

team members and their hard work during the last 18 months Hard Rock Atlantic City has been open," Allen said. "Today is about you. We are committed to the future of this property and we hope that together we can continue to work hard in providing the best possible service for guests visiting our resort destination."

After an initial investment of more than half a billion dollars prior to opening, Hard Rock Atlantic City plans to reinvest over \$15 million in additional capital for 2020 to renovate meeting and convention spaces to further elevate the guest experience.

Additional town hall highlights included a snapshot of Hard Rock Atlantic City's community efforts, market positioning and an overall brand update highlighting the domestic and global hotel, casino and restaurant pipeline.

## Professor, researcher honored for work to improve health of Native Americans

FROM NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY NEWS

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Naomi Lee, an assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Northern Arizona University, received the email the night before she gave a lecture to the Maximizing Access to Research Careers students at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. It was perfect timing—giving her a new sense of purpose to motivate the students she met the following day.

For the past 18 years, Diverse: Issues In Higher Education has recognized an interdisciplinary group of minority scholars who represent the best of the U.S. academy. This year is no exception.

"On a daily basis, Dr. Lee is breaking down biases and stereotypes, transforming the views and potential of students," Provost Diane Stearns writes in her nomination letter — the nomination that would earn Lee the much-deserved honor of the 2020 Emerging Scholars Award.

Selected based on research, educational background, publishing record, teaching record, competitiveness of field of study and uniqueness of field of study, Lee is one of 15, hand-picked from hundreds of nominations, joining the 2020 cohort of Emerging Scholars. These professors have distinguished themselves in their various academic disciplines and have had broad impact in their universities and beyond.

"I didn't even know I was nominated," Lee said. "In fact, I almost ignored the email since I thought it might be spam. However, once I read it, I was completely shocked and honored."

Gabe Montaña, professor and department chair in the Applied Physics and Materials Science department, spearheaded Lee's nomination, and Stearns submitted the letter, highlighting her accomplishments and the impact she has on the university, NAU students, fellow faculty and surrounding communities.

Of Native American descent, Lee, who was highly recruited by several prestigious institutions in 2018, chose NAU because of its diversity and the opportunity the university provided to have the greatest impact on Native American students. One of the NAU's five strategic goals is to become the nation's leading university serving Native Americans; currently, more than 1,500 Indigenous students from more than 115 tribal nations throughout the country attend. Lee's dedication to Native Americans—both in research and mentoring—will only help the university further that mission.

"I once heard someone say, 'Research is supposed to be culturally neutral, but someone's culture is always influencing it,'" Lee said. "As a Native researcher, it is my duty to serve my community in order to ensure ethical and relevant research is conducted."

Trained in chemistry, biochemistry, virology, molecular biology, ethics, epidemiology and public health, her laboratory is student-focused with students coming from all disciplines and representing diverse backgrounds, ethnicity and gender. She also is designing culturally relevant chemistry curriculum to engage early Native American and other underrepresented scholars in addition to developing research training programs aimed at reducing the attrition rates in high school and college.

Lee's research focuses on novel vaccine development. She also focuses her work on improving the health care of Indigenous populations through health disparities research and STEM education.

"Scientifically, I aim to be the first Native researcher that designs a vaccine specifically for Native communities," she said. "While my work may be beneficial to the general population, I strive to look at research questions through an Indigenous lens. For example, I am collaborating with colleagues at the University of New Mexico on a vaccine against opioids. We see the impact the opioid epidemic is having on a national level. However, my interest in the project was because of the impact opioids are having across our Native American communities. I want to use my skills to make healthier and happier communities."

Throughout her career, Lee has been published multiple times, including a study in the Journal of Infectious Diseases of the Oxford University Press that found American Indian and Alaska Native women are at greater risk of HPV and cervical cancer than their white counterparts; given nearly two dozen talks and presentations; and has received more than \$800,000 in research funding. She also is active duty in the National Guard with multiple awards to her name, including the Army Achievement Medal.

"As a Native American female scientist and a highly decorated Army captain who devotes her time to advancing opportunities for all students, particularly underrepresented minorities in STEM, Dr. Lee is outstanding and truly deserving of this award," Stearns said.

Lee was recognized in the Jan. 23 Emerging Scholars edition of Diverse: Issues In Higher Education.

## Food that has 'sustained for generations'

BY VINCENT SCHILLING  
Indian Country Today

Award-winning documentary filmmaker Billy Luther (Diné) has recently released the latest in his alter-Native YouTube docuseries titled "alter-Native: Kitchen." It features three Indigenous chefs "all preparing foods from their Native cultures that have sustained their communities for generations."

The three Indigenous chefs featured in the series are Brian Yazzie, a Diné chef from Arizona who now resides in Minnesota, Hawaiian culinary student Kalā Domingo, and the chef and caterer Hillel Echo-Hawk, Pawnee-

Athabaskan, who hails from Seattle.

Luther received acclaim for his 2007 documentary "Miss Navajo," based on Navajo contestants vying for the Miss Navajo Nation pageant crown. The first part of his "alter-Native" series in 2018 featured designer Bethany Yellowtail, Crow. Luther expressed to Indian Country Today in an email his thoughts on "alter-Native: Kitchen."

"Making this series was one of the best experiences I've had. Traveling with each of the chefs really helped me understand where they were coming from," wrote Luther. "I loved watching them tell their stories about choices on ingredients and connections to their communities."

Luther also wrote, "I know there is youth out there in Native country that will see this and look at Brian, Hillel, and Kala as inspiration."

Here are the "alter-NATIVE: Kitchen" episodes:

- How This Navajo Chef Brings His Native Food Traditions Back
- What Native Elders Think About Indigenous Cooking
- Why This Young Hawaiian Chef Still Cooks Underground
- Are There Too Many Cooks In This Hawaiian Kitchen?
- What Is "Pre-Colonial" Cooking?
- What a Six Course, Gourmet Native American Meal Looks Like.

## Dugout canoes part of Ocala exhibit

FROM PRESS RELEASE

OCALA — The 10th annual Silver River Knap-In and Prehistoric Arts festival will be held Feb. 15-16 at the Silver River Museum in Ocala.

This unique event features artists from across the United States who demonstrate prehistoric arts

such as stone tool making, pottery and ceramic arts, dugout canoe carving, bone and shell carving, bow and arrow making, traditional hide tanning and more. Other vendors bring crafts and food for sale. There are ongoing museum programs, presentations by professional archaeologists, prehistoric artifact displays and tram rides through the Silver Springs State Park.

On the same weekend, the museum will open a new display hall featuring the exhibit Dugout Canoes: Paddling Through the Americas for the first time. The exhibit highlights Native American canoes from North and South America (with an emphasis on Florida). The exhibit was produced by the Florida Museum at the University of Florida.



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## Comedian Terry Fator scheduled for Seminole Casino Coconut Creek in April

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**COCONUT CREEK** — Comedian Terry Fator will perform in The Pavilion at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek on April 11 at 8 p.m.

Tickets priced at \$40/\$50/\$60 per person can be purchased via Ticketmaster locations, online at Ticketmaster.com, or by calling 800-653-8000.

Fator became a household name in 2007 when he won Season 2 of "America's Got Talent".

After 25 years of honing his skills he made it on Forbes' list of the top-earning.

His award-winning show, "Terry Fator: The Voice of Entertainment," has been running since 2009 at The Mirage Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

In 2019, he launched the Terry Fator Foundation, which supports various charities throughout the year.

## Shawn Wayans headlines February's star-studded line up at The Comedy Club

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Actor, writer, producer and comedian Shawn Wayans will perform live on Feb. 21 to Feb. 23. Joining Wayans is Steve Rannazzisi who will be headlining the Big Game weekend Jan. 30 to Feb. 1, Harland Williams Feb. 5 to Feb. 8, Carlos Mencia Feb. 13 to Feb. 16 and Steve Treviño Feb. 27 to March 1.

Tickets are on sale now. Guests at The Comedy Club must be at least 18 years of age. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit [www.hrcomedyclub.com](http://www.hrcomedyclub.com).

Shawn Wayans made his acting debut in Keenen Ivory Wayans' film, "I'm Gonna Get You Sucka" in 1988. Following Wayans' debut, he joined the cast of "In Living Color" and later began co-writing a string of movies including the horror spoofs, "Scary Movie" and "Scary Movie 2."

Steve Rannazzisi is known for starring and writing for the critically acclaimed FX Network comedy series, "The League." His standup has appeared on Comedy Central's "Premium Blend" and the standup special "Pauly Shore & Friends."

Comedian and actor Harland Williams is known for his movie roles, stand up and sketch comedy routines. Williams has starred in roles in films such as "Dumb and Dumber," "Something about Mary" and more.

Carlos Mencia found success on the L.A. comedy circuit and was named "International Comedy Grand Champion" from Buscando Estrellas (the Latino version of Star Search). Mencia starred in his own show "Mind of Mencia" on Comedy Central and has featured in the films "The Heartbreak Kid" and "Our Family Wedding."

Steve Treviño has made appearances on "The Late Late Show," "Comics Unleashed" and "BET Comic View." He also wrote on "Mind of Mencia," and produced and wrote on rapper Pitbull's "La Esquina." Treviño's standup specials include "Grandpa Joe's Son," "Relatable" and "Til Death, Treviño."

## Seminole Hard Rock announces partnership with distinguished Nederlander Worldwide Entertainment

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood announced Jan. 14 a partnership with Nederlander Worldwide Entertainment to bring Broadway theater to Hollywood and the new Hard Rock Live entertainment venue.

The first production, slated for an April 7-19 run, is Jim Steinman's "Bat Out of Hell – The Musical," which includes the anthems of Jim Steinman and Meat Loaf from the best-selling "Bat Out of Hell" albums, including the songs "You Took The Words Right Out Of My Mouth," "Bat Out Of Hell," "I Would Do Anything For Love (But I Won't Do That)" and "Two Out Of Three Ain't Bad," as well as two previously unreleased songs, "What Part of My Body Hurts the Most" and "Not Allowed to Love."

Ticket prices range from \$39-\$109 Monday through Thursday and \$49-\$129 Friday through Sunday. Tickets are available at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com). Doors open one hour prior to show time.

"Bat Out of Hell – The Musical" won the Radio 2 Audience Award for Best Musical at the Evening Standard Awards and was nominated for eight WhatsOnStage Awards, including Best New Musical.

The tour of "Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical" is produced by David Sosenberg, Michael Cohl and Tony Smith, with executive producer Julian Stoneman.

"Music is center stage to the Hard Rock brand and we are honored to collaborate with Nederlander Worldwide Entertainment Group to bring Broadway to Hollywood," said Chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming Jim Allen. "Each selected production pays tribute to music and legends, and we can't wait to see these stellar casts light up the new Hard Rock Live stage."

"We are proud to partner with such a global entertainment brand, Hard Rock International, and Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood," said Robert Nederlander Jr., Nederlander Worldwide Entertainment President and CEO. "Nederlander Worldwide Entertainment looks forward to bringing these fan-favorite shows to this impressive performance space in 2020 and beyond."

# Mike Tyson's one-man show coming to Hard Rock Tampa

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**TAMPA** – Former world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson will bring his Broadway one-man show "Mike Tyson Undisputed Truth - Round 2" to the Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa on April 3 at 8 p.m. Picking up where "Undisputed Truth" left off, "Round 2" will be an unapologetic look at the ups and down of his post-boxing life and career.

"Undisputed Truth" is the raw, no-holds barred life story of Tyson. In the show, he unveils never-before-told stories, peeling back layers of tragedy and public turmoil while unfolding his tale of triumph and survival. In an up-close-and-personal setting featuring images, music and video, Tyson shares the stories of his life and experiences as a professional athlete and controversies in and out of the ring.

During the past few years, Tyson has been touring nationally and internationally with "Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth,"

which also aired as an HBO special. After a successful run at the MGM Grand's Hollywood Theater, the show debuted on Broadway under director Spike Lee in 2012.

Tyson's career in entertainment spans everything from blockbuster movies "The Hangover" and "The Hangover 2", to documentaries. In 2015, Tyson worked with director Bert Marcus on a star-studded documentary "Champs" that examines lives in and out of the ring of the boxing greats. In recent years Tyson has starred alongside Donnie Yen in "Ip Man 3" and he appeared in the "Meet The Blacks," "A Madea Family Funeral," "Kickboxer Retaliation" and more.

Tyson is also making a major name for himself in television. He not only starred in his own docu-series on FOX Sports 1, "Being Mike Tyson" in the Fall of 2013—his most recent project, a Warner Brothers animated series, "Mike Tyson Mysteries" which airs on Adult Swim, recently completed its four-year run.

Tickets are on sale at Ticketmaster.com and at Seminole Hard Rock Tampa's Rock Shop store.



Tribune file photo

Mike Tyson, seated second from right, sits with other boxing greats at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood in 2015.

## Mike DelGuidice & Big Shot to perform the music of Billy Joel in Coconut Creek

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**COCONUT CREEK** — Mike DelGuidice & Big Shot will celebrate the music of Billy Joel in The Pavilion at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek on March 11 at 8 p.m.

Tickets priced at \$20/\$25/\$30 per person can be purchased via Ticketmaster locations, online at Ticketmaster.com, or by calling 800-653-8000. DelGuidice, best known as rhythm guitarist and vocalist in Joel's band, will be taking the stage with Big Shot, which has been playing Joel's music for almost two decades.

In October of 2013, Joel hired him to join his band.

Big Shot also performs renditions of songs by Elton John, Paul McCartney, the Beatles, Led Zeppelin, Chicago and others.

DelGuidice, who hails from Long Island, New York, is the author of two albums – "My Street" and "Miller Place."

For more information about DelGuidice, please visit his social media pages (Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/billyjoeltribute/>; Twitter: @MikeDelGuidice1; and Instagram: @billyjoelbandmembermikedel) or his website at [www.michaeldelguidice.com](http://www.michaeldelguidice.com).



Courtesy photo

Mike DelGuidice & Big Shot

## Seminole Casino Hotel to host free Immokalee Bluegrass Festival in March

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**IMMOKALEE** — Gator Country 101.9 FM will present the first Immokalee Bluegrass Festival at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee on March 14 starting at 11 a.m. The free festival will feature six outdoor concerts with two concerts in the Zig Zag Lounge after the festival concludes, as well as a vendor section and a variety of arts and food trucks. Admission is free, and attendees should bring their own chairs for concert viewing. For more information, visit [www.immokaleebluegrass.com](http://www.immokaleebluegrass.com).

The lineup for the Immokalee Bluegrass Festival includes:

- Nitty Gritty Dirt Band: The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band remains one of the most accomplished bands in American roots music. The band played their first gig in 1966 in Southern California and by 1969 had become a cornerstone of the country-rock community. Their career breakthrough came with the 1970 release of the record "Uncle Charlie & His Dog Teddy" and the single "Mr. Bojangles," a folksy Top 10 pop hit that remains a staple of their live show. The three-disc album "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" brought Nitty Gritty Dirt Band together with a number of country, folk, and bluegrass legends. Heroes like Roy Acuff, Mother Maybelle Carter, Jimmy Martin, Merle Travis, and Doc Watson joined the band to record country music standards such as "I Saw the Light" and "Keep on the Sunnyside." The project is considered a landmark recording in American music. The band's hits also include "An American Dream," "Long Hard Road (The Sharecropper's Dream)," "Modern Day Romance," and "Fishin' in the Dark."
- Yonder Mountain String Band: Yonder Mountain String Band's first album in two years, "Love, Ain't Love" is undeniably the Colorado-based progressive bluegrass outfit's most surprising, creative, and energetic studio excursion to date. Songs like "Chasing My Tail" and "Alison" are rooted in tradition has made Yonder one of the most popular live bands of their generation.
- Del McCoury and David Grisman: Del + Dawg: Del McCoury and David Grisman met at the first show Del ever played (on banjo) with Bill Monroe in the spring of 1963 at New York University in Greenwich Village. In 2012 they released "Hardcore Bluegrass," a unique collection of bluegrass classics.
- Balsam Range: The 2018 International Bluegrass Music Association's Entertainer of the Year, Balsam Range has become one of the genre's most award-winning acts. The group has garnered 13 IBMA awards and made multiple appearances at the Grand Ole Opry. The band collaborated with the Atlanta Pops Orchestra Ensemble to record 2 albums. Three singles from the album reached #1 on the Bluegrass Today Chart, including "Blue Collar Dreams." The band most recently claimed the #1 radio chart spot with the single "The Girl Who Invented The Wheel."



Courtesy Photo

Del McCoury & David Grisman



Courtesy Photo

Del McCoury & David Grisman

- The Barefoot Movement: Heralded by CMT Edge as "one of the most promising bands on the bluegrass scene. With two full-length albums, an EP of traditional music, several cross-country tours, and appearances at some of the top bluegrass festivals in the United States, the group received a Momentum Award in 2014, naming them "Band of the Year" by the International Bluegrass Music Association.
- The South Carolina Broadcasters: David and Ivy Sheppard and Sarah Osborne both North Carolina natives, were living in Charleston when they started the project about five years ago. They met Osborne, who grew up between Saxapahaw and Graham, at a show in Kernersville in 2012, and she quickly joined. The group alternates between mountain gospel barnstormers and tradition-tinged ballads of their own construction.

## Havasi announces first American symphonic concert show in March

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Havasi Symphonic Concert Show will make its North American debut at Hard Rock Live, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, on March 21 at 8 p.m.

Classically trained virtuoso pianist Havasi has performed in the Wiener Stadthalle in Vienna, the Sydney Opera House, the Wembley Arena in London and the Mercedes-Benz arena in Berlin, among others.

Havasi has been documented by Guinness World Records as the Fastest Pianist in the World.

"I was most definitely a student of the classical realm of music," said Havasi, "But I wanted to bring new audiences to the concert halls and bring classical instruments into mainstream entertainment. We wanted a spectacle for the ears, the eyes, and the mind to transport audiences through a musical journey. That's why the collaboration with Brian and Gilles was so important."

Creative director Brian Burke, has worked with artists such as Céline Dion, IL Divo, and on America's Got Talent, and

to Gilles Papain, video light designer & production manager of Cirque du Soleil, the Marseilles Opera, and Ballet de Monte Carlo. The collaboration has resulted in the Havasi Symphonic Concert Show.

"The show is intended to provide different moods for the audience in a memorably intense experience, like a thrilling ride on a rollercoaster," said Havasi, "And the all new Hard Rock Live, with its great sightlines and state-of-the-art acoustics, is the ideal venue for both our performers and for the audience. I'm really looking forward."

The program will feature 100% original composed works by Havasi.

"We were inspired by this extraordinary talent," says S. R. Tommie, Founder and President of Redline Media Group. "Through this collaboration with Havasi and Redline Media Group, our goal remains delivering an unrivaled musical experience across North America with the Symphonic Concert Show for many years to come."

Tickets cost \$229, \$189, \$159, \$129 and \$89. All seats are reserved. Tickets are available at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com). Doors open one hour prior to show time. Additional fees may apply.

## Southside Johnny and The Asbury Jukes to perform at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek in March

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**COCONUT CREEK** — Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes will take the stage in The Pavilion at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek on March 15 at 7 p.m.

Tickets priced at \$25/\$35/\$45 can be purchased via Ticketmaster locations, online at Ticketmaster.com, or by calling 800-653-8000.

Led by Southside Johnny, the group has long been associated with the Jersey Shore sound, along with Bruce Springsteen.

The Asbury Jukes have more than 30 albums on their resume, thousands of live performances and a legacy of classic songs.

Among their many hits include "I Don't Want To Go Home," "Love On The Wrong Side of Town," "The Fever," "This Time It's For Real," "Talk To Me," and the cover of "We're Having A Party."

In 2015, the group released its first album in five years called Soultime. The album celebrated the transformative power of 1970s soul music and garnered positive reviews.

Last October, Southside Johnny was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame by rocker Jon Bon Jovi, who toured with The Asbury Jukes as a special guest in 1990.



Courtesy Photo

Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes

## An intimate evening with Charlie Sheen at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek Feb. 15

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**COCONUT CREEK** — Actor Charlie Sheen will hold a questions and answers event Feb. 15 at The Pavilion at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek on Feb. 15 at 8 p.m.

The moderator for the evening will be Lynn Martinez from Deco Drive, WSVN 7.

Guests must be invited or may enter to win two tickets plus a signed bottle of Don Suenos Tequila and a "Meet & Greet" with Charlie Sheen by submitting a completed entry form at [CasinoCoco.com](http://CasinoCoco.com) through Feb. 9.

Sheen will make appearances throughout the casino's Don Suenos Tequila Giveaway taking place that day at the Player's Club Experience from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Sheen is the co-owner of Don Suenos Tequila along with Kumiko Zimmerman.

"While I am proud of my sobriety for over two years now and am firmly committed to living a clean and sober lifestyle, I chose

to become a part owner of Don Suenos because I know their tequila is of the highest quality," Sheen said. "I'm excited to be able to work with Kumiko and the team to help Don Suenos continue to grow and to bring awareness, both to its outstanding products and to the charitable organizations it supports."

Sheen has appeared in a number of films including "Platoon" (1986), "Wall Street" (1987), "Young Guns" (1988), "Major League" (1989), "Hot Shots!" (1991), and "The Three Musketeers" (1993).

He starred in "Two and a Half Men" which earned him several Golden Globe and

Emmy Award nominations.

He most recently starred in the FX comedy series "Anger Management," which concluded its 100-episode run in 2014.



Courtesy Photo

Charlie Sheen

# Sports



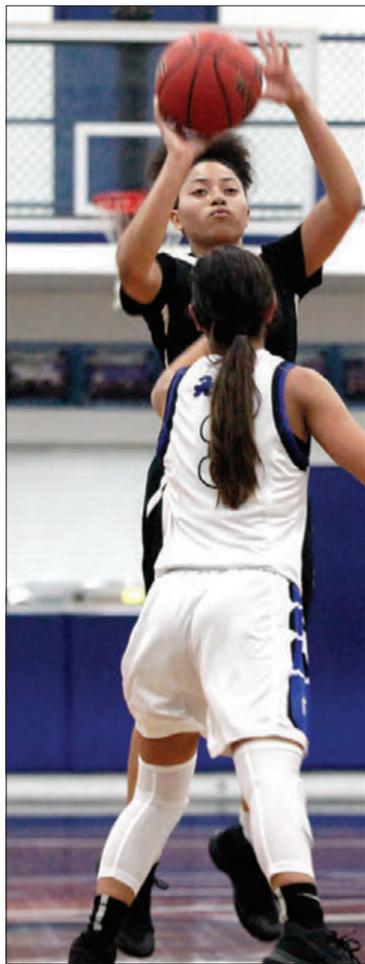
## Ahfachkee girls enjoying successful season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** — With four wins in its first six games, the Ahfachkee School girls basketball team has had plenty of reasons to celebrate this season.

But Ahfachkee's upbeat attitude goes beyond just the scores. First-year head coach Jarvis Jones said the team brings an energetic and unselfish approach that he loves.

"I like that everybody supports each



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee senior Alena Stockton lines up a 3-pointer against Highlands Christian on Jan. 14 in West Palm Beach.



Kevin Johnson

The Ahfachkee School girls basketball team, with new head coach Jarvis Jones at right, gets fired up before facing Moore Haven High School on Jan. 23 in Big Cypress.

other whether they get a lot of playing time or they barely get any playing time, everybody is supportive," Jones said. "If you look at the bench when a shot goes in everyone is cheering. When a stop is made, everybody is cheering. There's not one selfish player on this team. For me, being around basketball for a long time, that's a first for me."

The players were especially thrilled to cap senior night for Destiny Cypress, Leilani Gopher and Alena Stockton with a win against a young Moore Haven High School

squad on Jan. 23 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

"Everybody came out for senior night. There's a lot of support, not just from the basketball team, but from the whole community," Jones said.

The seniors did their part in the 51-25 victory. Stockton poured in a game-high 15 points, which included three 3-pointers. Gopher had six points on a pair of 3-pointers and Cypress scored two points. The biggest cheers of the night from the Ahfachkee bench and the crowd came on three baskets

made by Tahnia Billie, who is one of three sixth-graders on the squad.

Stockton is the team's leading scorer this season. She has been a powerful force at both ends of the court this with her rebounding and scoring touch from inside and outside and demonstrated plenty of skill in passing. She's attracted interest from colleges, including Florida SouthWestern State University in Fort Myers.

"Florida Southwestern came to the game today. I think they liked what they saw," Jones said. "She's a really solid player. One

of the best players I've ever worked with. She works hard. She's a straight-A student which is the best thing I like about her. She's a student first, great in the classroom, great with her siblings, great with her teammates. She's awesome."

But Ahfachkee has depth this year, something the team has lacked in recent seasons. Sophomore Carlise Bermudez and freshman Makayla Torres carry a lot of ball-

◆ See AHFACHKEE on page 6C

## Mr. 300: Arek Jumper bowls perfect game

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — Arek Jumper has been bowling for nearly as long as he has been walking.

The 20-year old, who grew up on the Hollywood Reservation, bowls in area

leagues at least four nights a week.

Until Nov. 19, 2019, he had never reached the pinnacle of every bowler's desire: a 300 game. The closest he came was 299. But everything changed on that November night at Sparez in Davie.

Bowling in the Cosmopolitan Mixed League, Jumper rolled a perfect 300. As he drew closer to that magical number, more

people started watching him.

"Everybody was cheering for me," said Jumper, who used a Storm ball.

He remained focused with each passing frame.

"I had all strikes. I was like, 'You just got to finish it out and get your 300.'"

His final strike was clean as he showed he could handle the pressure.

"It was a good shot. I threw it all the way out, it came back and struck," he said.

Jumper said the evening was made even more special because he hit the magical mark while playing on a team with his grandfather David Jumper and his uncle Randy Jackson.

The 300-game came after Arek Jumper started the night with a 168 followed by a 227.

To honor the perfect game, Hollywood Recreation site manager Joe Collins put up a display in a glass trophy case in the lobby of the Howard Tiger Recreation Center. The display features the scoresheet from the 300 game, a '300 Game Award' bowling pin and a photo of Jumper with the pin.



Kevin Johnson

Arek Jumper, 20, stands next to the display that honors his perfect 300 game that he bowled on Nov. 19, 2019. The display is in the lobby of the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood.

COSMOPOLITAN MIXED LEAGUE						
Secretary: ROSE WEEKS is on 25						
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Approved: _____ CAPTAINS, MAKE SURE ALL SCORES						

Kevin Johnson

This is the scoresheet from Arek Jumper's 300 game.



Courtesy photo

The Chobee Volleyball Academy (CVA) 12U travel team at Volleyfest 1 in Deerfield Beach. Top row, from left: Coach Monica Koger, Yani Smith, Kamryn Hackett, Alyssa Madrigal and Kashyra Urbina. Bottom row, from left: Dally Exposito, Adleigh Schwier, Jenessa Arana, Savannah McCoy and Tatiana Flores.



Courtesy photo

The Chobee Volleyball Academy (CVA) 12U travel team at the AAU Chill Blast Super Regional in Orlando, where they finished in first place in Gold. Top row, from left: Coach Nessie Koger, Kashyra Urbina, Kamryn Hackett, Yani Smith, Alyssa Madrigal, Tatiana Flores and Coach Monica Koger. Bottom row, from left: Dally Exposito, Adleigh Schwier, Jenessa Arana, Savannah McCoy and Lindy Harwas.

## Impressive start for Chobee Volleyball Academy 12U team

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

The Chobee Volleyball Academy (CVA) 12U travel team, which includes Brighton Seminoles Yani Smith, Alyssa Madrigal and Kashyra Urbina, is off to a good start in the

tournament season in 2020.

CVA won five of six games and took second place at Volleyfest 1 held Jan. 18-19 at DS Sports Plex in Deerfield Beach.

On Jan. 25-26, CVA went undefeated with five wins and took first place in Gold

at the AAU Chill Blast Super Regional in Orlando. They secured their free entry to the 2020 47th AAU Girls Junior National Volleyball Championships that will be held this summer at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World

Resort and the Orange County Convention Center.

Most of the players, including Yani, Alyssa and Kashyra, played in the 2019 AAU Girls' Junior National Volleyball Championships in the 11U division where

they finished 21st out of 40 teams from around the country and Puerto Rico. This was held at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at the Walt Disney World Resort and the Orange County Convention Center.

## South Dakota track & field standout Tyler Hiatt signs with North Dakota State University

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

(Editor's note: Tyler Hiatt is the son of Stephanie and Jon Hiatt. Tyler Hiatt is the grandson of Stephen D. Bowers, Director of Office of Veteran Affairs for the Seminole Tribe).

2019 turned out to be a pretty good year for Tyler Hiatt.

In the spring, he helped lead the track and field team at Lincoln High School to a state championship while winning individual state titles in shot put and discus.

In the summer, he was named South Dakota's Gatorade Track and Field Athlete of the Year.

In the fall, he was a part of a huge turnaround for the football team as it went 8-2 a year after being 2-8.

In the winter, Hiatt capped off the memorable year by signing a letter of intent with North Dakota State University, where he'll join the track and field team later this

year.

Hiatt, a 6-foot-3, 270-pound senior with a 3.60 grade point average at Lincoln, comes from an athletic family. His mom – Stephanie Bowers Hiatt – starred on the volleyball court at the University of Sioux Falls, where she is in the Hall of Fame. Tyler's dad Jon Hiatt played soccer in college, and younger siblings Caleb (basketball and tennis) and Lucas (golf and tennis) are active on courts and courses.

"I've got a pretty good athletic background," Tyler Hiatt said about his family, which was by his side when he put pen to paper during a signing ceremony at Lincoln. He also has proud grandparents back east, Stephen and Elizabeth Bowers from the Hollywood Reservation.

"They're super happy for me," Hiatt said.

Hiatt had plenty of college offers. In addition to NDSU, schools that were interested in him included Baylor, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota. He narrowed his choices to NDSU, Iowa and Nebraska before making the final



Courtesy photo

December 18 was a big day in the Hiatt family as Tyler Hiatt, center, signed with North Dakota State University. Hiatt won state titles in discus throw and shot put last year as a junior at Lincoln High School in South Dakota. Joining him at the table are, in the back row, Lucas Hiatt, Caleb Hiatt, Chuck Hiatt, Janelle Hiatt and Melissa Hiatt, and, in the front row: Tyler's dad Jon Hiatt and mother Stephanie Bowers Hiatt.



Courtesy photo

Tyler Hiatt and his parents, Jon and Stephanie, show their support for North Dakota State University after Tyler signed with the school located in Fargo where he'll join the track and field team.

decision to head to Fargo.

Hiatt had good vibes about NDSU as far back as the summer when he attended a throws camp at the college. Both he and his dad were impressed by NDSU coach Justin St. Clair, so they decided to return for an official visit.

"I fell in love with it. It's a tight-knit community," Hiatt said.

Hiatt will do the weight throw (indoor) and hammer throw (outdoor) in college. He said it's not unusual for throwers to redshirt their first season as they become acclimated to heavier weights used in college compared to high school.

Back when he was starting his high school life as a freshman at Lincoln, Hiatt never figured track and field would be his sport. He played on an undefeated freshman football team. The team's coach – who is also the track and field coach – suggested Hiatt join the track and field team. Since then, progress and longer throws have come each step of the way. As a freshman, he qualified for states in discus. As a sophomore, he finished fifth in discus and sixth in shot put. As a junior, he won both events at states with personal bests on the same day. According



Michael Brown Photography

Tyler Hiatt was named South Dakota Gatorade Track & Field Athlete of the Year last year.

to Gatorade, his discus throw of 182 feet, 11 inches placed him 59th in the nation among high schoolers and his 59-1 shot put ranked 94th.

He showed vast improvement by the end of last season compared to the start of the season.

"I started the year throwing at 52 [feet] and ended at 59," he said. "Discus went from 150-ish to 182."

Hiatt has continued to hone his skills during the offseason. He has a practice area set up in his basement that allows him to practice year round.

When he reaches college, he plans to major in business and accounting. NDSU's track and field team faces some of the biggest schools in the country. This year's schedule includes meets hosted by Arizona State, LSU, Nebraska, Stanford and Washington.

"I want to be able to compete against the big FBS schools," Hiatt said.

For now, he said he's focused on his senior year and a strong finish to what has become a memorable high school track and field career.

# Julia Smith, Adryauna Baker lead OHS girls as postseason nears

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BELLE GLADE** — Just how good was the start for the Okeechobee High School girls basketball team in its game at Glades Day on Jan. 24?

Through three minutes, the score was Julia Smith 9, Glades Day 2.

Smith, a starting guard and one of three Seminoles who saw action against Glades Day, scored her team's first nine points. The scoring outburst came as a bit of a surprise to Smith and just about everyone else. She's been relied upon this season to provide tenacious defense, which her coach said she's excelled at, but she hasn't been a huge factor in the scoring department, until the trip to Belle Glade.

Smith led the Brahms to a comfortable 58-9 win.

"It felt good to score. Everyone was proud of me because it was kind of a shock you could say," Smith said.

"This is her season high," said Okeechobee coach Jovanny Torres. "She's been more of a defensive player for us. When we go man-to-man, I put her on the best player and she usually locks 'em up pretty good."

Nobody locked up Smith as she finished with 12 points in abbreviated playing time.

With the game being one-sided, Okeechobee's starters such as Smith and fellow Seminole Adryauna Baker only played about 10 minutes as players called up from the JV team, including the Tribe's Caylie Huff, picked up varsity playing minutes.

Okeechobee's defense held Glades day without a point for all of the second and third



Okeechobee High senior guard Julia Smith forces a turnover with tough defense against Glades Day on Jan. 24 in Belle Glade. Smith scored 12 points to lead the Brahms to victory.

Kevin Johnson

earlier in the year she would catch the ball and look for someone to pass to. I moved her [to JV] to get her confidence up and now she's actually dribbling and looking for her shooters and taking shots. She's leading scorer on JV team," he said.

A fourth Seminole — Shaela French — is also on the JV team.

As for the varsity squad, the Brahms will soon be focused on the district playoffs. They'll likely be the No. 2 seed behind top-seed Jensen Beach.

Regardless of the outcome in the postseason, Torres has guided the team to a huge improvement. The win at Glades Day coupled with proceeding wins against South Fork and Moore Haven upped the team's record to 18-5, a long ways from a year ago when the squad was 6-15.

"We've come a long way," Torres said. "I'm definitely proud



Kevin Johnson

Sophomore guard Adryauna Baker leads a break for the Brahms against Glades Day. Baker scored 22 points in the team's game the previous night.

of them. We've been playing really hard."



Kevin Johnson (2)

Above, Caylie Huff fires a pass to a teammate during the Brahms win at Glades Day. Below, Julia Smith and Adryauna Baker wait for a whistle to get back into the game as coach Jovanny Torres looks on.

quarters and nearly the entire fourth quarter. Offensively, Baker has put up impressive all-around numbers throughout the season. She poured in 22 points the previous night as the Brahms racked up a season-high 77 points in a win at DeSoto County.

"Adryauna is doing everything. She almost had a double-double [vs DeSoto]," Torres said. "She had eight rebounds and six steals. She's a work horse. She works her butt off. She's not always the points person, but, like [vs Glades Day] when she gets the ball she pushes it up the court and she finds her shooters."

Baker's numbers have skyrocketed compared to a year ago; so, too, has the team.

"We have a lot more team chemistry since we did summer camps," said Baker, who is averaging nearly 10 points and a team-high seven rebounds per game. "Us three [Seminoles] knowing each other and being from the same community helps a lot, too, because we've played together before."

Huff, a junior, hit a 3-pointer against Glades Day. Torres said he continues to see improvement from her since the start of the season.

"She's not hitting all her shots, but



## 'Brawl at The Rock' comes to Seminole Hard Rock

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, BYB Extreme Fighting Series and Unconquered Promotions are proud to announce their partnership bringing "Brawl III: Brawl at The Rock," a bare knuckle boxing event, to South Florida fight fans in 2020.

"Brawl III: Brawl at The Rock," a bare knuckle boxing event, will be held March 7 at 8 p.m. at the new Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. The event will feature BYB Extreme's patented triangle ring, the smallest in all combat sports. Known by fans as the "trigon," its three equal sides create a tight fighting space.

Tickets cost \$305, \$255, \$205, \$155, \$105, \$80, \$65 and \$45. All seats are reserved. Tickets are available at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com). Doors open one hour prior to show time. Additional fees may apply.

The event is made possible through a partnership between Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, BYB Extreme Fighting Series and Unconquered Promotions.

"Partnering with Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood has been a goal of ours from our inception," said Mike Vazquez, president of BYB Extreme. "We have been a South Florida fighting series looking for a South Florida home, and where better than Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood, a leader in entertainment."

"When we first envisioned the

new Hard Rock Live, we imagined a multipurpose venue that could accommodate a wide variety of events," said Bo Guidry, president of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. "With the addition of Brawl at The Rock, in tandem with BYB Extreme and Unconquered Promotions, Hard Rock Live has become the epicenter of entertainment in South Florida and a standout option for fight fans."

"My team and I worked very hard to open the doors for bare knuckle boxing, and I want to thank the Seminole Tribe and Hard Rock, the State of Florida, and our friends from D.C.," said Elliot Alvarado, Chairman of Unconquered.



Courtesy photo

Julius Aquino celebrates with his family after Vian High School's victory in an Oklahoma state semifinal football game in December. With Julius, from left, are his mom Alexandra Sanchez, grandpa Frank Cabal, uncle Cliff Sanchez and memaw Alicia Cabal.

## Julius Aquino helps Vian High football reach Oklahoma state final

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Julius Aquino returned to high school football in Oklahoma this fall and immediately made an impact on a team that went all the way to the state final.

Aquino, a junior, played safety and tailback for Vian High School, which appropriately enough is located on Victory Lane in Vian. The team compiled plenty of victories this season with a 13-2 record and finished runner-up in Class 2A after a 42-34 loss to Metro Christian in the Class 2A state championship Dec. 14.

Aquino, son of Alexandra Sanchez, started a few games on a solid defense that held opponents to fewer than 20 points in all but two games. He was also a regular on all special teams and saw some action on offense in the backfield. He scored a few times.

"He did really well," said Vian assistant coach Kenyatta Wright, who handles linebackers and safeties. "He made the transition from Florida back to Oklahoma and getting back in the mode of football. It

was tough on him. He didn't play much last year in Florida.

After starting his high school career in Oklahoma for Fort Gibson, where his uncles Jesse and Sammy Sanchez starred in previous seasons, Aquino played his sophomore season in Florida for American Heritage School's junior varsity team. He returned west this season and fit right in at Vian.

"He's a good athlete and the biggest asset he has that a lot of kids don't have is speed," said Wright, who played at Oklahoma State University and in the NFL.

Wright also praised Aquino's work ethic.

"He worked his tail off all year and contributed to this team," Wright said.

Vian notched four consecutive wins in the playoffs to reach its first state championship in a dozen years. Next season's squad is expected to be strong, too.

"We have a lot of kids coming back next year and Julius will be a huge part of that," Wright said.

## Ethan Bear, Edmonton Oilers to visit Panthers

TRIBUNE STAFF

The Edmonton Oilers, which feature defenseman Ethan Bear, will visit the Florida Panthers for a 4 p.m. game on Feb. 15 at the BB&T Center in Sunrise.

Bear, an Indigenous player who grew up in the Ochapowace Cree Nation in Saskatchewan, Canada, is in his first full NHL season. He's been one of the Edmonton's

biggest surprises, posting 4 goals and 12 assists in 49 games while averaging more than 20 minutes of ice time per game.

Both teams are in battles for playoff spots in their respective conferences.

The Panthers also have an Indigenous player in their system. Defenseman Brady Keeper, from the Cross Lake Nation in Manitoba, has played this season for Florida's minor league team in Springfield, Massachusetts.

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Courtesy photo

After helping Anadarko High School win an Oklahoma state championship last season, Lexi Foreman and the Warriors are eying a repeat this season.

## Lexi Foreman leading top state-ranked Anadarko Lady Warriors basketball

BY DAN NINHAM (ONEIDA)

The Class 4A Anadarko Lady Warriors recently won their hosted Warrior Classic. There are several team members who are playing outstanding together. One of them is Lexi Foreman.

Foreman is a 5'8", junior, guard for the 10-1 Lady Warriors in Anadarko, Oklahoma. "My tribes are Florida Seminole, Kiowa, and Sac and Fox," said Lexi. "My mother is Florida Seminole and Kiowa, and my father is Kiowa and Sac and Fox. We've been living in Anadarko pretty much all my life."

"One tribal core value I grew up with was to respect my elders, and I translate that onto the court by showing respect to my coaches and refs," said Lexi. "Another value would be the importance of my family. I love my teams (both H.S. and AAU) like they are my family. It's really more than just basketball. God has blessed me with the talents I have today. So the way I carry myself on the court is to honor God, my family, tribes, and school."

"My parents, coaches, teammates, & family have all influenced me to become a better basketball player," said Lexi. "Not only for myself, but for them as well. They've pushed me to limits that I never knew I needed to be pushed, taught me to be humble and become more confident in my game."

Dad and mom Matthew and Alicia Foreman addressed their daughter Lexi working on her basketball skills: "Lexi had started dribbling a basketball constantly, throughout the house, around the first grade. At that point, we decided to sign her up to play at the YMCA. Her first team was all boys, but she held her own. She has always been a competitor whether in sports, the classroom and with her siblings."

"In the second grade she started to practice with her older brother and his team. Her dad was the coach, so he included her in all the drills and scrimmages. By the fourth grade she had a great coach who recognized her ability. Her constant dribbling finally paid off as she started as point guard in the 4-6th grade league. That year she helped lead

her team to a championship and undefeated season. There were several games in which she was leading scorer and at least one game in which she scored two points for the opposing team. She managed to carry on that tradition through the 8th grade, mistakenly of course usually at the jump ball, she went the wrong way."

"In high school, the team plays great together and Coach Zinn is always encouraging her to do what he knows she can do. He has conditioned them in a way that helps build their endurance more than any other. Outside of high school, she really loves the high level of competition in AAU basketball. Her coach, Aso Pogi, has had a very positive impact in her development as a player. The team is very family-oriented and the other players have the same mindset as Lexi, which results in some great basketball."

Coach Aso Pogi reflected on getting to know Lexi Foreman: "I met her when she was in 5th grade. She was playing for her dad and we faced each other in a tournament. After watching her play I instantly knew she belonged with us. Although we beat Lexi's group, I chased down her dad after the game and began to tell him how much I thought she would fit us perfectly. Matt was so kind and really felt like Lexi would be a great addition to our group. I think the hesitation for Matt and Lexi, was more about her fitting in and feeling like she belonged. After her first tournament experience with the girls, it was a match made in heaven. These girls have been together ever since. By the time the girls were going into the 9th grade, they had established themselves as one of the Elite Teams in Oklahoma."

"In the summer of 2019, our group went 17-1 and we were fortunate to win three National Championships. Lexi is definitely one of our Captains and her leadership although is not loud, she is very efficient and effective. She leads with her play and is an all around player. Lexi can score outside and inside, she can defend 1 through 5, she leads us in steals and blocks, and she will sacrifice her body by taking charges. I can remember us being down to a good team in New Orleans, and it just seemed like we were not into it. No energy. I challenged the girls

and Lexi went out and took two charges, got two steals in a row, and knocked down a big three-pointer. After that, we blew that team out by 30 points and finished the tournament with another championship," added Coach Aso.

"But most of all, I love her embracing personality," said Coach Aso. "She accepts people for who they are but she's so loyal to her friends! She loves hard and she is always kind. I could go on all day about this great person and player. It has been an honor and privilege to get to coach Lexi. She is a coaches dream player to coach."

"My husband and I knew Lexi Foreman was special when she was an 8th grader in the fall of 2017," said Lila Osceola-Heard. "We were coaches with Next Level Natives and ended up playing against Lexi at a Youth Native tourney. We had a good team, and she was making plays for her team, keeping them in the game. Not just by scoring, but also from getting assists, setting screens, a little bit of everything. We came out on top and we took notice of her skills and how she carried herself. Lexi and my daughter Stailee Heard became friends soon after the tournament. Lexi began playing with our team Next Level Natives when she was available."

"Then summer of 2019, Lexi's AAU team, Oklahoma Swish played in Tulsa and needed a player, and called my daughter to play. And as they say the rest is history, Lexi and Stailee love playing together. Lexi has the qualities of a champion, humble demeanor off the court and shines on the court. She plays for her team, loves getting steals and dropping dimes. Takes pride in her defense and loves getting stops as much as she loves to score. Lexi keeps adding to her game with her pizzazz she is growing as a leader. Lexi is the type of kid all coaches love to coach, gives eye contact, stays calm under pressure, does what's asked if her, encourages her teammates, stays positive and loves the game," said Lila.

This article is from ndnsports.com.

## Defending champs Heritage gears up for postseason

TRIBUNE STAFF

The American Heritage School girls basketball team will try to continue its state championship reign in February.

The Patriots, who have the Stubbs sisters December and Tiana from the Hollywood Reservation, have won the past two Class 5A state championships. They are in the midst of yet another impressive season.

With two games left in its regular season, the Patriots had a 17-4 record. They encountered a brief hiccup in mid-January

with rare back-to-back losses against St. Thomas Aquinas and Blanche Ely, but rebounded to post consecutive wins against Winter Haven, Fort Myers and Somerset Prep.

The Stubbs are in their senior year. December is a starting guard; Tiana has been out with an injury, but hoped to play again before the end of the season.

The Class 5A-District 14 playoffs begin Feb. 3. The championship is slated for Feb. 7. Archbishop McCarthy is the host school.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage senior guard December Stubbs leads a break against St. Thomas Aquinas.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage senior Tiana Stubbs, battling back from an injury, leads the cheers from the bench.



Kevin Johnson

Sisters Tiana Stubbs and December Stubbs from the Hollywood Reservation have been a part of two state championships at American Heritage School in Plantation.

## Okeechobee High boys win holiday tournament

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

Silas Madrigal and the Okeechobee High School boys basketball team enjoyed a productive holiday break. The Brahms won the D5 Alive Holiday Tournament with an undefeated 3-0 record.

In their opener on Dec. 26, the Brahms cruised past Sports Leadership & Management High School, 74-29. The

following day Okeechobee topped St. Joseph Academy, 41-27, with 11 points from Madrigal. The team wrapped up its perfect weekend with a 62-30 win against Faith Christian.

The tournament was hosted by St. Edward's School in Vero Beach.

Okeechobee kept winning into the New Year. The Brahms won nine of 10 games in January as of the 29th to run their record to 18-2.

Okeechobee is garnering attention in state rankings. The team was ranked No. 4 in Class 5A as of Jan. 21 from the Florida Association of Basketball Coaches and Source Hoops.

Madrigal, a senior guard, is the only Seminole on the Brahms this season. He hit double figures in scoring four times in January (16 vs Vero Beach, 18 vs Port St. Lucie, 19 vs Somerset College Prep, 12 vs Centennial).



Courtesy photo

The Okeechobee High School boys basketball team, which includes Silas Madrigal, third from left, celebrate after winning the D5 Alive Holiday Tournament.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dummy Roping</li> <li>Mutton Busting</li> <li>Youth Pony Riding</li> <li>Pony Riding</li> <li>Jr. Bareback Riding</li> <li>Calf Riding</li> <li>Steer Riding</li> <li>Jr. Bull Riding</li> <li>Chute Doggin</li> <li>Jr. Breakaway Roping</li> <li>Barrel Racing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bareback Riding</li> <li>Saddle Bronc Riding</li> <li>Steer Wrestling</li> <li>Tie Down Roping</li> <li>Lady's Breakaway Roping</li> <li>Team Roping - Header</li> <li>Team Roping - Heeler</li> <li>Lady's Barrel Racing</li> <li>Bull Riding</li> <li>INFR Jr. Breakaway Roping</li> <li>INFR Jr. Barrel Racing</li> <li>INFR Jr. Bull Riding</li> <li>INFR Sr. Breakaway Roping</li> <li>INFR Sr. Team Roping - Header</li> <li>INFR Sr. Team Roping - Heeler</li> </ul>

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# PECS girls, boys teams conclude strong seasons

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BRIGHTON** — The Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School boys and girls varsity teams concluded outstanding seasons as they departed the court for the final time with wins against West Glades on eighth-grade parent night Jan. 23.

In a pregame ceremony, the girls team honored its eighth-graders — Anyiah Baker and Jana Johnson — and the boys did the same for Santana Alvarez, Aundre Baker, Bryce Baker and Jaryko Billie.

Those players are leaving their programs in good shape. Both teams swept Yearling, LaBelle, Clewiston and Moore Haven this season. If not for Osceola Middle School, the PECS squads would have had perfect seasons.

“We’re losing really good players,” said boys coach Jaryaca Baker.

The boys team notched a memorable 53-50 overtime win against Clewiston before

dropping a close game against Osceola Middle, 36-34.

Aundre Baker starred in the game against Osceola Middle as he scored a team-high 18 points. His steals and layups in the fourth quarter helped keep PECS’ hopes alive. Keenan Jones contributed six points.

Coach Baker said she enjoyed her first year as coach. She said the boys and her grew in respect for each other as the season went along.

“I wouldn’t rather have any other group of kids for my first year of coaching,” she said.

Similar to the boys, the PECS girls game against Osceola Middle wasn’t decided until the final seconds. Osceola Middle was up by four with 90 seconds left, but PECS wasn’t about to exit quietly. Lason Baker hit a long 3-pointer and Carlee Osceola came up with a steal and layup to keep PECS within striking distance. Truley Osceola drained a pair of 3-pointers in the waning seconds, but Osceola Middle managed to grab a key offensive rebound late and hung on for the

win. “[Osceola Middle] has some big girls. We just have to box them out and stay in there with them and rebound the ball,” said PECS coach Tim Thomas.

Despite the loss, Thomas was thrilled the way his team competed. In the teams’ first meeting, Osceola Middle won by 18; this time around the margin was a mere two points.

Carlee and Truley Osceola were the team’s leading scorers with 11 points each. Lason Baker scored 10 and Preslynn Baker had nine. The good news for PECS — and perhaps bad news for its opponents — is that all four of those players and many more on the roster will be back in 2021.

“I’m only losing two players this year, so next year is going to be very promising,” Thomas said.

The Around the Lakes postseason tournament, which PECS won twice in recent years, remains on hiatus. PECS coaches said the only schools interested in playing were Osceola and PECS.



Preslynn Baker drives toward the hoop as coach Tim Thomas and the bench watch against Osceola Middle on Jan. 21 in Brighton.

Kevin Johnson



Bryce Baker, left, provides tight defense against a Osceola Middle player.

Kevin Johnson



Carlee Osceola brings the ball up court against Osceola Middle.

Kevin Johnson



Aundre Baker goes sky high as he battles on the opening tip of PECS boys game against Osceola Middle on Jan. 21.

Kevin Johnson



Jana Johnson eyes the basket while defended by an Osceola Middle player.

Kevin Johnson



Jordan Johnson battles for position in the paint against Osceola Middle.

Kevin Johnson

◆ **AHFACHKEE**  
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handling duties along with Stockton and they've shown poise far beyond their grades, which bodes well for the future of the team which will have holes to fill next season with the loss of the trio of seniors. Torres set the tone against Moore Haven with two steals and layups in the first minute.

Win or lose, Ahfachkee has battled every step of the way this season.

"Every game we've competed hard. Every game we've had a chance to win," Jones said.

The team is scheduled to play in district playoffs at Sheridan Hills Christian School in Hollywood on Feb. 4.

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Former Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School coach Preston Baker is in his first year at the helm of the Moore Haven girls team. The Terriers are in rebuilding mode with a small, young squad that includes former PECS player Tafv Harris and four freshmen.

"It's going pretty good. Everybody is new," Baker said. "We don't have any seniors. It's a work in progress. I love coaching this team. I love working from the bottom up because that's how I started. Look where I am now. I never thought I'd be here."



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee guard Carlise Bermudez brings the ball up court against Immokalee on Jan. 21. Joining the rush on the left is Makayla Torres.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee's bench and crowd erupt as they cheer after a teammate made a basket against Moore Haven.



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee senior Leilani Gopher launches a 3-point shot against Immokalee.

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