



Crafters return to museum  
COMMUNITY ♦ 8A



'Day for Kids' celebrated at B&G Clubs  
EDUCATION ♦ 1B



Seminole star for Moore Haven volleyball  
SPORTS ♦ 5B

# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

www.seminoletribune.org • Free

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September 30, 2021

## Forbes: Hard Rock garners top rankings in Florida, NJ

STAFF REPORT

Forbes has named Hard Rock International (HRI) a "best" in-state employer in Florida and New Jersey.

HRI, which has 45,000 employees worldwide, was ranked No. 1 out of 90 companies in New Jersey and No. 2 among 100 companies in Florida. Costco was ranked first on the Florida list.

The annual list is compiled by surveying 80,000 employees across the country who work for businesses with at least 500 employees.

"It is a tremendous honor to receive this prestigious ranking from Forbes, especially as the results were driven by our valued team members," David Carroll, senior vice president of human resources for HRI, said in a statement. "Hard Rock International is committed to fostering a work environment where people feel appreciated, and we strive to provide an energizing and supportive culture that in turn allows our team members to create memorable experiences for our guests."

The Seminole Tribe, HRI's parent entity, has its two flagship properties in Florida – the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood and the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa. HRI operates the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City in New Jersey.

Forbes also recently named HRI as one of the "best" employers for new graduates and was recognized as one of "America's Best Large Employers," earning the highest ranking among companies in the travel and leisure industry.

## Tribe, Fort King relationship strengthens with building of chickee

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe built a large, 20 foot by 40 foot, chickee at the Fort King National Historic Landmark in Ocala on Sept. 15. The chickee was donated by the tribe and will be used for educational purposes and other historical programming events.

"We've been building our relationship with the park since 2015," said Quenton Cypress, Heritage And Environmental Resources Office (HERO) community engagement manager. "We did weapons demonstrations and helped with their reenactments. They plan to build a museum and they want our faces to be the faces of the museum, not the reenactors who are currently there."

Fort King is dedicated to the interpretation and preservation of the history of the Seminole Wars and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2004. Its master plan includes building a 21,000 square foot, \$14.7 million museum and educational center on the 42-acre site.

The fort was important to the U.S. Army during the first half of the 19th century because of its location in the center of the state adjacent to tribal land. Fort King sat at the edge of land designated for the Seminoles and land settlers wanted to possess, which made it fraught with tension; battles ensued as the boundary was redrawn. Ultimately, Chief Osceola and the Seminoles burned down the fort, which led to the second Seminole War.

♦ See CHICKEE on page 4A



Courtesy Bill Rodriguez

Tribal members built this chickee in September at Fort King National Historic Landmark in Ocala. The chickee will be used for educational purposes and other programs.

## Jim Shore to be inducted into gaming hall of fame

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The American Gaming Association (AGA) named the Seminole Tribe's Jim Shore to its gaming hall of fame Sept. 14. Shore is one of six inductees to receive the honor this year.

"Each of these pioneers has left a unique, indelible mark on our industry," AGA president and CEO Bill Miller said in a statement. "Under their leadership, tribal gaming has boomed, professional sports leagues have embraced sports betting, and the gaming industry is thriving despite the challenges we've faced over the past year and a half."

Shore, the Tribal Council's general counsel, helped lead the negotiations of a historic gaming compact between the tribe and the state of Florida earlier this year. The tribe can now facilitate sports betting in Florida as early as Oct. 15. The compact also allows the tribe to add craps and roulette to its Florida casinos.

Shore grew up on the Brighton Reservation and earned his law degree from the Stetson University College of Law. He was the first tribal member to practice law, becoming deputy general counsel in 1981 and general counsel in 1982.

An independent panel of gaming executives selected the hall of fame honorees. The AGA will hold an invitation-only event for Shore and the other inductees at its Global Gaming Expo Oct. 4-7 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Joining Shore are Knute Knudson Jr., VP of global business development and tribal ambassador, IGT; Jeremy M. Jacobs, chairman, Delaware North; James R. Maida, president and CEO, Gaming Laboratories International; Jeffrey A. Silver, of counsel, Dickinson Wright PLLC; and Dr. Mark Yoseloff, retired chairman/CEO, Shuffle Master Inc. and founder, UNLV Center for Gaming Innovation.

The AGA is the casino industry's national trade group. It has held hall of fame inductions since 1989. More is at americangaming.org.



Jim Shore



Courtesy History Fort Lauderdale

Charlie Cypress poles a dugout canoe in the Everglades in 1937.

## Seminole featured in Fort Lauderdale museum exhibitions

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — Two new exhibits by History Fort Lauderdale focus on the history and importance of boating in the area and the role the Seminoles played in it. In addition, a forthcoming third exhibit in November will feature the work of several Seminole artists.

"From Dugouts to Dream Yachts" is the museum's new permanent maritime installation. It's open now and was designed to be up and running before the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show that takes place Oct. 27-31. The exhibit chronicles the early contributions of the Seminoles, and also the marine pioneers and companies that later led to the city's rise to yachting fame.

"Fort Lauderdale's waterways are and always have been elemental to the success of our great city," Patricia Zeiler, executive director of History Fort Lauderdale, said in a statement.

Daniel Tommie loaned the museum a small dugout canoe for the exhibit – about 5 feet long by 8 inches wide – a way to trace the line from the Seminoles through an ever-changing use of Fort Lauderdale's waterways for travel, commerce and tourism.

Ellery Andrews, deputy director of the museum, said the installation also coincides with an auxiliary exhibit at the Galleria mall that runs from Oct. 11 to Nov. 1. The

"Making Waves" exhibit will feature 40 never-before-displayed, hand-tinted, black and white and color photos and illustrations of the marine industry from the 1890s to the present. Included are images of Seminoles navigating waterways – including one of Charlie Cypress poling a dugout canoe in the Everglades in 1937. There are also aerial views of the Bahia Mar and Fort Lauderdale marinas, as well as images of the pre-construction of Pier 66 and of Broward marine and boat craftsmen.

### 'Return to Self'

Further, several Seminoles are involved in a winter exhibition at the museum to correspond with National Native American Heritage Month in November. The museum will feature new contemporary works by Seminole artists in "A Return to Self: The Art of Healing – A Seminole reflection on healing through art and self-expression."

"Reflecting on our realities in the midst of an ongoing global pandemic reveals a path to self expression, appreciation of the mundane daily tasks and a determination to provide the best possible care for self, family and community," the exhibit description reads.

♦ See EXHIBITS on page 4A

## Seminole Hard Rock Tampa doles out \$500,000 to local charities

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

As a way to celebrate recent milestones, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa decided to help organizations that help others.

Fifty Tampa organizations – including those who assist in areas and groups such as children and families, education, health, veterans, animals and the environment – each received \$10,000 checks from Seminole Hard Rock Tampa during a check unveiling celebration Sept. 8 at the Tampa property.

The donations came as the venue marked its second anniversary of a \$700 million expansion and recently reached \$1 billion in jackpots awarded for this year by giving away a free BMW to a lucky slots player whose jackpot pushed the casino past the mark. Another reason to celebrate: the Hard Rock brand, which started with a small café in London in 1971 and is now a global force in entertainment, gaming, restaurants and hospitality, turned 50 this year.

"We said 'Let's get 50 of our local organizations to celebrate the 50 years,'" Steve Bonner, Seminole Hard Rock Tampa president, told the audience.

The result was a stage packed with

representatives who gleefully unveiled their poster-size checks that totaled \$500,000. Bonner said Seminole Hard Rock Tampa has worked with many of the organizations for years, but new organizations were also among the recipients.

"That way everyone in Tampa Bay is a winner," Bonner said.

"The Hard Rock has always been so supportive of charities here in Tampa Bay. We couldn't fulfill our missions without supporters like [Hard Rock]," Allison Gorrell, who represented two organizations, told Seminole Media Productions. Gorrell is from the Gramatica Family Foundation, which supports disabled military veterans and others through energy efficient housing initiatives and development, and the Ryan Nece Foundation, which focuses on creating opportunities to help teenagers become leaders through volunteering and giving. The Gramatica Family Foundation was founded by brothers Bill, Martin and Santiago Gramatica, all of whom were football standouts at LaBelle High School and in college. Bill and Martin played in the NFL.

♦ See CHARITIES on page 7A



Courtesy photo

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa President Steve Bonner, left, with Bullard Family Foundation founder Thaddeus Bullard, aka WWE wrestler Titus O'Neil, at Seminole Hard Rock Tampa's donation event Sept. 8. Fifty local charities, including Bullard's, each received \$10,000.

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# Editorial

## Native American Voting Rights Act needed to protect our sacred right to vote

• **Chuck Hoskin Jr.**

The cornerstone of our democracy is the right to vote. However, for most of our country's history, Native Americans were denied that right. The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 finally granted citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S., but even after that law, states could restrict Native voting rights. It was not until 1962 that Utah became the final state to allow Natives the right to vote. For much of the 20th century, until federal Indian law reforms of the 1970s, Cherokees were not allowed to elect leaders of our own tribe.

To this day, barriers prevent Indian Country from fully making our voices heard and our votes count. Many Native Americans live in remote, rural locations with poor road conditions and no easy way to reach distantly placed polling locations. Many tribal lands have limited access to post offices and nontraditional mailing addresses, which makes it extremely difficult to register to vote or mail in a ballot. In some cases, the lack of Native language translation during the voting process prevents our Native language-speaking citizens from voting and

further endangers our languages.

Fortunately, new legislation recently introduced in Congress can fix many of these issues. The Native American Voting Rights Act (NAVRA), co-sponsored in the House by Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) and Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS), would go a long way to ensuring equal voting access throughout Indian Country.

This bipartisan legislation gives tribes a say in where and how many polling places are located on tribal lands, as well as requiring tribal consent before a state or precinct reduces our access to voting. It would ensure that tribal ID cards are allowed as identification for voting, which is already the case in Oklahoma. Additionally, it establishes a Native American voting task force to address the unique issues faced by voters on tribal lands.

For far too long, these decisions have been made by people who do not understand the history and challenges faced by tribal communities. At its core, NAVRA strengthens tribal sovereignty and self-determination over how to ensure everyone on tribal lands has access to the sacred right to vote.

As Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, I am urging Congress to swiftly pass this legislation. Our government relations team, led by Cherokee Nation Delegate

to Congress Kim Teehee, is working with members of Congress to get this legislation passed and ensure that Native voices are heard in every election.

At Cherokee Nation, we work diligently to ensure that Cherokee citizens are registered to vote in elections at all levels and provide education about the candidates and issues. The Cherokee Vote program has registered nearly 14,000 voters since 2013.

We are also proud of our efforts to make voting easy within our own electoral system. No excuse absentee voting by mail is universally available for Cherokee voters. Last year I signed legislation removing notary requirements for absentee voting. Unlike many states, we do not disenfranchise voters who commit crimes and fulfill their criminal sentences. So, as we urge Congress and states to make voting easier, we already set a high standard.

We do not have a true democracy until every adult citizen has universal, easy access to voting. Throughout history, our votes have been denied or suppressed, but we would not be silenced. Today we continue the fight for our rights, until everyone in Indian Country can freely cast their ballot.

*Chuck Hoskin Jr. is principal chief of the Cherokee Nation.*

## New museum a tribute to Native American resilience

• **Joplin (Mo.) Globe Editorial**

The First Americans Museum that opened [in late September] in Oklahoma City is an overdue tribute to Native American resilience.

It was decades in the making, having overcome funding and other challenges to honor the 39 federally recognized tribes in Okla Homma — two Choctaw words meaning “red people.”

Today, tribes from as far west as northern California (Modoc) and Arizona (Apache) and from as far east as Florida (Seminole) and New York (Seneca-Cayuga) call Oklahoma home, having been removed from the ancestral lands and forcibly relocated.

Theirs is a tragic yet resilient story, and one all Americans need to understand. The \$175 million museum is a giant step toward deeper understanding.

Stories and artifacts represent every tribe, including the 10 that are now based in Northeast Oklahoma: the Miami Nation, the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, the Modoc Nation, the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, the Quapaw Nation, the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, the Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, the Wyandotte Nation and the Cherokee Nation.

Native American treatment is a difficult and shameful part of our past, and the museum will not shy away from that, recalling the history of forced removal, of massacres, and of boarding schools and sometimes brutal assimilation. Yet it is also the story of Native

accomplishment in the face of adversity, and the museum will eventually also serve as the home for the National Native American Hall of Fame.

Leslie Halfmoon, a curator and Caddo Nation citizen, said of the museum: “These are still living cultures, and even though it is a museum, we envision this place to continue to be a living cultural center.”

Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt, an Osage citizen who is also that city's first Native American mayor, said those who visit the museum will be “blown away.”

This sounds like a fantastic opportunity for Oklahoma's tribes to tell their story, and for the rest of us to listen and learn.

*This editorial was posted Sept. 21 on joplinglobe.com.*

## Honoring America's promise by keeping its doors open

• **Anchorage Daily News Editorial**

Catholic Social Services of Alaska announced recently that within the next several months, 50-100 Afghan refugees will be settling in Alaska. As is common when significant numbers of immigrants arrive from outside the U.S., this news has sparked debate about immigration and refugees in general, as well as these refugees specifically. As Alaskans, we ought to welcome them with open arms.

For a country that was itself founded by immigrants seeking to better their circumstances, the United States' relationship with immigrants has nearly always been fraught with suspicion and misgivings. That's unfortunate, because it's no exaggeration to say that America's prosperity has depended on the work, culture and drive of immigrants since before the colonies declared independence from the British empire.

It was in that Declaration of Independence's preamble that the founding principles of the U.S. were first articulated: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

It was a powerful, sweeping statement in 1776, and it still reverberates today: the idea that all people have equal inherent worth and dignity, and are by extension entitled to the same rights, freedoms and protections. America was not without its original sins —

the land on which colonists started their new lives and their new nation was forcibly taken from the Native people who had lived on it for thousands of years (and to whom the rest of us are all relatively recent immigrants), and the principles of the Declaration overlooked the hundreds of thousands of slaves to whom such rights were not extended. But over the course of the past 245 years, we have worked to make this a more perfect union — one in which America's promise is more equally accessible to all of its people. That work continues today, and it continues with the settlement of about 31,000 Afghan refugees — so far — across the country, of which those coming to Alaska are a small slice.

These are not just a random sampling of “huddled masses yearning to breathe free,” as Emma Lazarus' poem at the base of the Statue of Liberty reads. At the very least, they are families that have reason to fear the ascendance of the Taliban in Afghanistan because of who they are or what they believe. In many cases, this is because they gave aid to our troops that spent the past 20 years in harm's way in Afghanistan. They worked as translators, as interpreters, as conduits to local communities in the war zone. It was a big risk to take while the war was ongoing, and the danger for them and their families if they remained in Afghanistan was immense. To resettle them in the U.S., where they will have a shot at building peaceful and prosperous lives for themselves, is the least our country can do to repay them for the risks they took and the help they extended to our fighting forces. Fears that they will be improperly or inadequately vetted have been overblown; the refugees are in military custody now, getting their affairs

straightened out before they're settled across the country. Those deemed to present any kind of a risk will not be allowed to proceed. Those who are settled in communities will pose no more risk to U.S. security than your next-door neighbor.

As America has grown and matured, there has been a chorus all along the way that the latest batch of immigrants and refugees don't deserve the same chance our forefathers got when they first arrived here. This is exclusionary bunk, born of fear and laziness. Far from taking jobs that would otherwise go to American citizens, the newest arrivals have consistently done jobs that others in the country wouldn't, whether because of low wages, hard labor or dangerous conditions. Far from being a burden on our welfare rolls, immigrants and refugees contribute tremendously, understanding that the only way to get ahead in a country where everyone else has a head start is to work hard and keep working to improve the lot of their future generations. And in doing so, they push the rest of us who have been here longer, keeping us from getting complacent and resting on our laurels.

Alaska has been no different: Its Native people have been working hard here for thousands of years, not only surviving but preserving and enriching their culture and traditions. Its first American settlers were often first-generation immigrants to the country, many from Eastern Europe and Scandinavia, looking for a chance to strike it rich by the sweat of their own brows. As Alaska's commercial fishing economy

◆ See PROMISE on page 3A

## White House to host virtual tribal nations summit

STAFF REPORT

Leaders of tribal governments and the federal government are slated to meet for a virtual discussion in November.

The 2021 White House Tribal Nations Summit will occur the week of Nov. 8. The White House said specific dates and times will be forthcoming.

“President Biden and the Administration look forward to hosting a robust and meaningful dialogue with tribal leaders on key issues, policy initiatives, and goals for

Indian Country,” an email from the White House stated.

The name of the event has changed from a conference to a summit, which, according to the White House, was done to reflect its nation-to-nation relationship with tribal nations.

According to a White House press release this spring, the purpose of the summit “is to provide an opportunity for the leaders from the 574 federally recognized Tribal Nations to have an opportunity to interact directly with the President and representatives from the highest levels of the Administration.”

## \$500,000 in grants awarded to 10 tribes

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — Indian Affairs' Office of Indian Economic Development (OIED) announced Sept. 16 that its Native American Business Development Institute (NABDI) program has awarded business development grants totaling \$500,000 to 10 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. The funding will enable the Tribes' leaders to better evaluate and identify viable economic opportunities for their communities.

“Native American Business Development Institute grants empower Tribes to make informed decisions about their economic futures,” said Assistant Secretary — Indian Affairs Bryan Newland said in a statement. “Tribes will use these grants to explore opportunities to further economic self-sufficiency and Tribal self-determination. Indian Affairs and the Department use these grants to support them in achieving these goals.”

NABDI awards fund feasibility studies that weigh the viability and risks of an economic development project, opportunity, enterprise or business or the practicality of a technology a tribe may choose to pursue. The studies may be used to determine the likelihood of success for businesses in specific American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Grants are awarded on the basis of a proposal's potential to create jobs for tribal members and stimulate economies in Native American communities.

## Standing Rock's Patrice Kunesh tabbed for advisory board

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — Patrice Kunesh, of Standing Rock Lakota descent, was one of nine individuals named by President Joe Biden on Sept. 15 as appointments to serve on the Community Development Advisory Board.

Kunesh is the founder and director of Peñih Haha Consulting, a social enterprise committed to fostering self-determined Native nations by expanding their access to economic opportunities and fostering social and economic capital. Previously, she established and led the Center for Indian Country Development at the Federal Reserve

Bank of Minneapolis, a national initiative focused on activating financial, human, and social capital to facilitate economic growth and prosperity in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Kunesh began her legal career at the Native American Rights Fund, where her work centered on jurisdiction and natural resources, nation building, and Indian child welfare matters. Ms. Kunesh previously served in various federal government roles including as the Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and as the Deputy Solicitor for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

## Indian Law Resource Center named finalist in racial equity challenge

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Indian Law Resource Center was named a finalist in September in the Racial Equity 2030 Challenge by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The center and the nine other finalists were each awarded a grant of \$1 million to further develop their proposals as they compete for three grants of \$20 million and two grants of \$10 million to be awarded next year.

The center will work with two major Indian organizations in South America to design and build an Indigenous-led institution that provides essential technical and legal assistance to help Indigenous peoples secure ownership of their lands and speed up and improve Indigenous land titling processes in Mexico and Central and South America.

The center is an American Indian non-profit organization that has provided free legal assistance to Indian peoples in North, Central and South America since 1978. The Center will carry out its proposed project with its partners, the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon and the Interethnic Association of Development of the Peruvian Amazon.

“The opportunity to be a part of the Racial Equity 2030 Challenge is a major

step in assisting Indigenous communities in Mexico, Central, and South America to secure their lands and their futures,” Robert T. Coulter, the center's executive director and project lead, said in a statement.

In their proposed project, the Center and its partner organizations will address inequality by securing land ownership for Indigenous communities on a large scale in Mexico, and in Central and South American countries. This project will create an independent agency that will provide expert technical and legal assistance without charge to Indigenous communities seeking to gain legal control and ownership of their lands and resources. Helping Indigenous communities to protect their lands is now recognized as one of the most effective means to protect the environment, reduce deforestation, and mitigate climate change. The project will make available a network of experts from many fields to assist Indigenous communities in overcoming the pervasive impediments to gaining ownership and protecting their lands.

The announcement is the final step by the Racial Equity 2030 Challenge prior to its selection of grant awardees that will receive a total of \$90 million in funding for projects as part of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's celebration of its 90th anniversary.

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

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## Correction

A photo caption in the story “PECS students delve into tasty experiment” on page 2B in the print edition of the Aug. 31 Tribune misidentified the student in the center photo of the bottom row. The student is Serenity Bishop. The error has been corrected in the online Tribune at [seminoletribune.org](http://seminoletribune.org).

# Community



## Tallahassee mural honors Betty Mae Jumper

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Betty Mae Jumper, author Zora Neale Hurston and environmentalist Marjorie Harris Carr, all inductees in the Florida Women's Hall of Fame, have been honored with a large mural in Tallahassee titled "Project Daring."

The Junior League of Tallahassee wanted to celebrate its 60th anniversary by celebrating female trailblazers, so it commissioned the mural and unveiled it Aug. 27. Artists Savannah Salinas and Olivia Barattini created the larger-than-life artwork on the side of a formerly graffiti-covered downtown building.



File photo  
Betty Mae Jumper

"I'm glad she has the honor of being in that mural," said Betty Mae Jumper's son Moses Jumper Jr. "I'm pretty proud that she is still getting awards and people are still remembering her."

Betty Mae Jumper's life was filled with accomplishments. She was the first chairwoman of the Seminole Tribe, started the tribe's first newspaper, was a founder of United South and Eastern Tribes, became a nurse and brought modern medicine to the tribe, was appointed to the National Congress of Indian Opportunity by President Richard Nixon, earned a lifetime achievement award from the Native American Journalists Association,

received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Florida State University and was named one of USA Today's "100 Florida Women of the Century." After working for 40 years to improve health care for the tribe, it is a fitting tribute that the medical center in Hollywood is named for her.

She died in 2011. Hurston wrote folk fiction novels about the Black South and Carr was an environmentalist and founder of the Florida Defenders of the Environment.

"This mural is a visual celebration of three trailblazing women who made a tremendous impact on our state," said Tallahassee Mayor John Dailey during the unveiling ceremony.

The theme of "Project Daring" was women in Florida's history. The artists chose the three notable and accomplished women.

"The Junior League of Tallahassee is proud to be a part of the Project Daring Mural in Florida's capital city. The mural celebrates female trailblazers we admire and respect while invoking a call to make the world a better place," said Katie Britt Williams, president of the Junior League of Tallahassee. "Our hope is for the citizens of Florida and Tallahassee to enjoy this mural for years to come."

The mural spans 45 feet by 60 feet across the side of a building built in 1938 that is now the Century Link building, located at the intersection of Calhoun Street and Park Avenue.



Courtesy Amanda Leighty  
The "Project Daring" mural in Tallahassee depicts, from left, author Zora Neale Hurston, Betty Mae Jumper – the Seminole Tribe's first chairwoman – and environmentalist Marjorie Harris Carr.



Junior League of Tallahassee/Facebook  
The Junior League of Tallahassee held a ceremony Aug. 27 to celebrate the mural.

## Music festival fundraiser to be held in Everglades City

STAFF REPORT

EVERGLADES CITY — A music festival featuring Raiford Starke, J. Robert, Val Wisecracker, The Florida Boys and others will be held Nov. 6 at the Rod & Gun Club, 200 W. Broadway, in Everglades City. The event is a fundraiser to renovate the

historic Bank of Everglades building. The music will start at 12 p.m. Arts and crafts booths will have auction items.

Admission is \$50 for a reserved seat, \$40 for a car full of people, or \$20 for a bike/pedestrian. For more information go to [www.SaveBOE.com](http://www.SaveBOE.com) or call Marya at (239) 695-2905.



Courtesy photo  
The Bank of Everglades building.

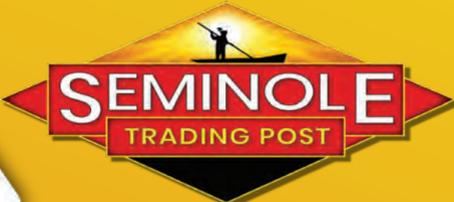
### ◆ PROMISE From page 2A

developed, it depended on a workforce of Filipinos, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to help process fish and run the canneries — a tradition that continues even today. The broad coalition of communities that make up Anchorage are reflected in its schools; according to Niche.com, East, Bartlett and West High are the three most diverse high schools in the entirety of the

U.S.

Into that mix, several dozen Afghan refugees will be added over the next half-year. As they build their lives in a new home far from the one they've left behind, they will help us live up to the values espoused in the Declaration of Independence — values that, by Alaska's unique nature, live-and-let-live mindset and wide-open spirit, hold more promise here than anywhere else in the U.S. We're lucky to have these new arrivals, and we hope the welcome they get makes them feel lucky to be here, too.

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# Tribal Fair and Pow Wow to return in February

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe will host its annual celebration of Native culture and arts — the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow — on Feb. 25-27, 2022, at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

The 2022 event will mark the 50th anniversary for the Seminole Tribal Fair and

Pow Wow.

The event is free to the public as the cultural festival will feature alligator wrestling shows, Native American drum competition and dance troupes, live Native American musical performances and film festival, as well as Native arts, crafts, and foods.



Beverly Bidney

Pow Wow participants gather in February 2020, the last time the event was held in-person.

## EXHIBITS From page 1A

“Return to Self” runs from Nov. 21 to Jan. 9 with tours, an artist meet and greet and an artist panel discussion. Seminole artists involved in the exhibit include Erica Deitz, Brian Zepeda, Iretta Tiger, Corinne Zepeda, Tia Blais-Billie, Wilson Bowers, Jessica

Osceola and Stephanie Hall.

The museum offers in person and online options for exhibits and related events. For more information, go to [historyfortlauderdale.org](http://historyfortlauderdale.org) or call (954) 463-4431. History Fort Lauderdale is located at 231 SW 2nd Ave. The Galleria mall is located at 2414 E Sunrise Blvd.



Damon Scott

Daniel Tommie loaned the museum a dugout canoe for the exhibit.

## CHICKEE From page 1A

“The tribe has been instrumental working with us in the way their story is told; it shouldn’t be our interpretation but their interpretation of their history,” said Bill Rodriguez, head of Ocala’s parks division. “We have a very strong relationship with the tribe. We are the first group to come to them before anything was actually done to get their input and participation in the project. It’s extremely important to have all parties involved in the telling of the story.”

The tribe and the city of Ocala created the master plan for the site together, down to the signage that tells the history. The location of the chickee was chosen for its prominence in clear view of the fort.

“We didn’t want it to be hidden,” Rodriguez said. “It has equal real estate value as the fort does in terms of its significance to the site. We wanted it to be front and center with the fort.”

Gil Yzaguirre and his team from Immokalee built the chickee, which was expected to require 5,000 to 6,000 palm fronds to cover its massive roof. After a weather delay of a few days, the chickee was completed Sept. 23.

Since its completion, Fort King’s Facebook page has filled with positive comments about the chickee. Pedro Zepeda commented that he loves the smell of a fresh roof. Other comments cite its beauty, size and that it is a great addition to the park.

In an interview with a Gainesville TV station Sept. 15, Cypress explained the different types of chickees, such as for sleeping, gathering, meeting, storage and cooking.

“A chickee was always a house for us,” Cypress explained. “We have chickees for our every aspect of life.”

Cypress said he was honored to be able to show visitors Native American culture.



WCJB

Gil Yzaguirre, of the Immokalee Reservation, helps build a new chickee at the Fort King historic site Sept. 15.



Courtesy Bill Rodriguez

The interior of the chickee.



Courtesy Bill Rodriguez

The new chickee built and donated by the Seminole Tribe is close to the fort.

# FSU water rights art exhibit features Native influences

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY Staff Reporter

An art exhibit focused on water rights and access inspired the new exhibition at the Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts.

“A Shared Body,” which runs through Dec. 11, was curated by Meredith Lynn, assistant curator and director of galleries at MoFA, and Annie Booth, museum director of programs. It is the museum’s latest exhibition dealing with environmental issues.

“Water protection and management is one of the most pressing issues for the future of Florida, and the current students of FSU are going to be leaders of the environmental, social and political movements that will ensure our state is still here in 100 years,” Lynn said in a statement. “At MoFA, we have seen first-hand that art can inspire an open, nuanced conversation.”

In the exhibition, artists consider water access as both a human and civil right. With subject matter ranging from the Middle Passage to Flint, Michigan, and the Dakota Access Pipeline, the exhibition specifically focuses on the impact of water access to Black and Indigenous communities.

The exhibition features seven contemporary artists, including William

Pope, L. Calida Garcia Rawles and Courtney M. Leonard. Leonard, an interdisciplinary artist, designs site-specific installations to create a sensory experience built on memory.

“Exploring themes of water access, rights and preservation, she brings Native knowledge of water filtration and transportation systems into the forefront with red clay pipes, oyster shells, video projection and color, asking the visitor to consider her perspective as a Shinnecock woman,” Booth said in a statement.

The museum commissioned a poem by Turtle Mountain Ojibwe writer and poet Heid E. Erdrich, “Ways of Water/Wash Over,” which serves as a guiding text for the exhibition.

“A Shared Body,” a shared responsibility, a shared experience, a shared need. As humans, we can impose ourselves onto our waterways through commodification, pollution, and control. The projects in ‘A Shared Body’ push back against the violence and imposition of the historic and ongoing impacts of colonialism and racism as they reclaim, protect, defend, and dream of a future of equity and access. The artists in this exhibition invite viewers to consider the spiritual, physical, and ever present connections we feel to water and what it means to the human condition when those connections become strained,” reads a



Courtesy photo

“Mirror Shield Project” Oceti Sakowin camp, Standing Rock, North Dakota, December 2016, created by artist Cannupa Hanska Luger.

statement on the museum’s website.

The FSU Museum of Fine Arts, located at 530 West Call Street in Tallahassee,

is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m.

to 5 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

# Horse girl Braudie Blais-Billie earns glowing reviews for essay

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

After a childhood spent riding horses, Braudie Blais-Billie identifies as a horse girl. When she found a call for submissions of essays for a book written by and about horse girls, Blais-Billie jumped at the chance.

Her essay "Unconquered" was accepted. It is now part of a 14-essay anthology edited by Halimah Marcus titled "Horse Girls."

Marcus wanted to include as many diverse perspectives as possible in the anthology and reached out to Native American and First Nations women who identify as horse girls.

"I am a horse girl," said Blais-Billie, who lives in Brooklyn, New York. "They are such a big part of my life and have been forever, but I never thought about it that way. I started an internal monologue about gender, class, ethnicity. It was a great medium to explore those ideas about myself."

Blais-Billie has been a journalist and editor since she graduated from Columbia University in 2016, but this is the first time her creative writing has been published. She is currently working toward a master of fine arts in fiction at Columbia, so she is taking a hiatus from most of her journalism assignments.

"I've always loved writing, but was

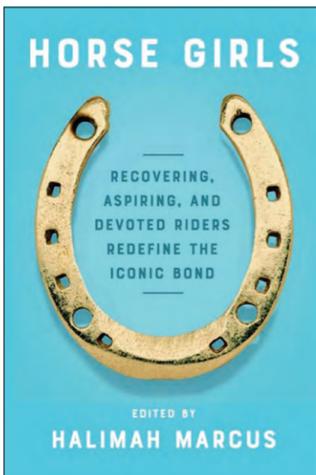
influenced that pursuing a creative endeavor or being an artist wasn't the smartest thing," she said. "I took the leap into what I've always wanted to do; fiction and short stories. That's the life goal."

Writers with an array of styles and genres influenced Blais-Billie. They include Carmen Maria Machado, who also contributed to the book, Sheila Heti, Leslie Marmon Silko (L a g u n a Pueblo) and Tommy Orange (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma).

"As an urban Native, I related to [Orange's novel 'There There'] so hard," Blais-Billie said. "It's an amazing book, really smart, funny and shocking."

Living in New York City has been eye-opening for Blais-Billie. It's the first place she lived away from the Hollywood Reservation.

"I was exposed to a different culture and became aware of how different my life growing up was from most people in America," she said. "People here are inspired to reach their dreams and work really hard. Surprisingly, there are a lot of Natives here from all over the country; some are people I



Braudie Blais-Billie, shown here at the Dave Moore Reining Sheridan Oaks Stables when she was in middle school, has had a lifelong affection for horses.

met at Columbia who stayed here. It's very multicultural and it's cool how everyone really meshes here."

## Reviews

"Horse Girls" has received numerous positive reviews in outlets including the Los Angeles Times, Washington Post and Publishers Weekly.

The Los Angeles Times' review read in part, "In 'Unconquered,' ... Braudie Blais-Billie, born to a Seminole father and a mother from Quebec, thinks back to the love of horses she shared with her white grandparents. Their family rides were a balm for 'the wound that their casual othering left behind.' In adulthood she learns that she descends from a horse-riding Seminole dynasty, building a bridge back to her late father, who painfully self-destructed on the Rez."

Publishers Weekly wrote: "Unconquered" sees Braudie Blais-Billie musing on horses as a symbol of indigenous resilience and survival."

An Amazon review noted: "... it showcases powerful emerging voices like Braudie Blais-Billie, on the connection between her Seminole and Quebecois heritage."

The Washington Post review read: "This is no collection of cliché musings about the bond between horse and human. These are essays — cerebral, emotional and deeply intimate — by writers including Jane Smiley, T Kira Madden, Maggie Shipstead and Carmen Maria Machado, all of whom have

had a formative relationship with horses. ... They represent such a refreshing diversity of voices, there's a story here for just about everyone."

## 'Unconquered'

This is the opening paragraph of Blais-Billie's essay "Unconquered."

"Growing up on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Hollywood Reservation, everyone called us 'the Frenchies.' This was because, since I was around eight years old, my mother — a French-Canadian woman conspicuously named France — raised me and my two younger siblings as a single parent on the Rez. Blond-haired and blue-eyed, she stood out at every basketball game and community holiday dinner. "That's your mom?" my neighbor asked when she picked me up from an after-school playdate down the street. "I look more like my dad," I offered. It was true. My father and I had the same almond-shaped eyes and sleek brunette ponytail hanging down our backs. Reserved yet mischievous, he oscillated between cracking jokes and reading World War II books in his room; from him, I inherited my quiet, curious nature."

"Horse Girls," published by Harper Perennial, is available for purchase online through several outlets, including Harper Collins, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target and Walmart.



Braudie Blais-Billie at a family member's property in Quebec, Canada.

## Tribe partners on new program for problem gamblers

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — For those who have a gambling problem or addiction, seeking face-to-face help can be intimidating. Experts cite barriers to in-person support like cost, travel, childcare challenges, stigmatization and fears about confidentiality.

To help people bypass those barriers, the Seminole Tribe has partnered with the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) on a new support program that is online. The free online program is now available to Floridians.

"One of the big questions globally in the gambling field is: 'Why don't more people who experience problems seek gambling help services?' The Florida Council's [new program] tackles this challenge head on,"

Paul Pellizzari, vice president of global social responsibility for Seminole Gaming and Hard Rock International, said in a statement.

The program consists of an eight-week online course that is accessed through the FCCG's 24-hour helpline at (888) ADMIT-IT. It allows users to go through exercises, videos, and readings at their own pace. Throughout the process there are interactive questionnaires that provide individualized feedback from licensed mental health professionals.

Organizers said the free program is informed by research in psychology, psychiatry, mental health and problem gambling. Leading experts developed the program's core content by incorporating interventions that are shown to help problem gamblers get on a path to recovery. The American Psychiatric Association classifies

compulsive or problem gambling as a behavioral addiction and research shows the disorder is similar to substance-related disorders.

Organizers said the helpline provides other resources, too — including referrals to professional treatment services, self-help support groups, self-exclusion programs for land-based and online forms of gambling, and resources for limiting access to cash and



Paul Pellizzari, HRI and Seminole Gaming VP of global social responsibility

permissions. FCCG officials are expected to travel to all six of the tribe's Florida casinos to promote the program. It's also part of Seminole Gaming and Hard Rock International's "PlayersEdge" program that began in 2019 — an ongoing effort to educate casino employees who interact with gamblers.

To access the new program and for other resources, contact the FCCG's helpline by phone at (888) ADMIT-IT (888-236-4848), by text at (321) 978-0555, or via email at fccg@gamblinghelp.org. A mobile app is also available by searching "888-ADMIT-IT" on Android or Apple devices.

The tribe has had a 30-year relationship with the FCCG. More information is at gamblinghelp.org.

## Chuck Herlihy ran Brighton radio station for many years

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Longtime Brighton radio station manager Charles "Chuck" Herlihy died Aug. 30 after a short illness. He was 67. Herlihy operated the WTR-FM 91.9 radio station for the Seminole Tribe for more than eight years, located in the Florida Seminole Veterans Building.

"Chuck was very passionate about the radio industry and possessed an impressive wealth of knowledge of all things related to radio broadcasting," Jordan Reichler, interim executive director of operations for the tribe, said. "I know that I speak for many of us in saying that Chuck was a pleasure to work with and will truly be missed."

Donna Kahn, who has been the receptionist at the Veterans Building for many years, said she has fond memories of Herlihy, who she and others referred to as the "radio man."

"This was the kindest man I knew and I will truly miss him," Kahn said. "He was a heck of a coworker but a friend also. I don't think there was a mean bone in his body, he never had anything bad to say about anyone."

Kahn recalled when Herlihy had students from the Pemaquid Emahak Charter School (PECS) record their Christmas memories to be broadcast on the airwaves.

"He loved what he did and would always be there for rodeo events, Fourth of July and Veterans Day celebrations. There were many times he would allow visitors to come into the station to get a photo or two," Kahn said.

Herlihy was born and raised in Holyoke, Massachusetts. He worked for many radio stations throughout his career in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Florida. He held positions as on-air talent, engineer, promoter, program director and general manager, among others.

Tracy Carman said he was Herlihy's best friend for decades and has known him since 1973. Carman said Herlihy worked in radio in West Palm Beach for a decade and had been involved in "easily a dozen" radio stations in his career.

"He was a very good person, loved by everybody and respected by everybody," Carman said.

Carman said that while no official cause of death was issued, it was thought to be from a cardiac event at Herlihy's home. He added that a memorial service was being planned, but that details had not yet been finalized.



Courtesy Tracy Carman  
Charles "Chuck" Herlihy

## Concert to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day

The American Indian College Fund will present a virtual concert to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day on Oct. 10 at 8:30 p.m. (ET). The free event will feature performances by Native entertainers and artists allied with Native causes.

Performances and stories from students and performing artists will include Pink Martini, Portugal. The Man, Martha Redbone, Brooke Simpson, Indigo Girls, Sarah McLachlan, Frank Wain, The Ghost of Paul Revere, Jewel, and Nathaniel Rateliff. Special guests will include Robbie Robertson, Tea Leoni, Mandy Patinkin/Kathryn Grody, and Ziggy Marley.

Go to [collegefund.org/events/indigebration/](http://collegefund.org/events/indigebration/) to register.

## Intertribal Timber Council to collaborate with Department of Interior

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The Intertribal Timber Council, which includes the Seminole Tribe, and the Department of the Interior signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to work together while fighting wildfires on tribal and federal lands.

As climate change creates larger, costlier and more complex wildfires, the agreement emphasizes the importance of collaborating on wildland fire management. The MOU was announced Sept. 15 during the Intertribal Timber Council board of directors quarterly meeting.

About 6.5 million acres managed by the Interior Department are in close proximity to tribal land, within 50 miles or less. That proximity and interconnectedness necessitates close communication and collaboration on wildland fire management.

"By making smart investments in critical infrastructure, wildland fire response and key partnerships,

the Department of the Interior is helping lead the Biden-Harris administration's response to the increasingly complex fire environment, including on tribal lands," said U. S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. "By strengthening our ties and improving collaboration with stakeholders like the Intertribal Timber Council, we will improve our efforts to more effectively reduce wildfire risk, rehabilitate burned landscapes, promote a better understanding of wildfire and support our firefighters."

The Intertribal Timber Council and Interior's Office of Wildland Fire will undertake mutually beneficial actions and work collaboratively to reduce wildland fire risk and mitigate post-wildfire impacts.

Both organizations agree to identify shared values, use information technology to improve decision making among partners, coordinate workforce development efforts and exchange perspectives and information to increase

awareness, understanding and engagement.

"There is no single entity across wildland fire management that will be able to successfully manage the landscape before, during and after a wildfire without help," said Cody Desautel, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, president of the Intertribal Timber Council. "The Intertribal Timber Council looks forward to the continued effort to pursue and promote stewardship of our lands for the benefit of our communities."

The Biden administration is working with Congress on improvements for federal firefighters and wildland fire preparedness. It's Build Back Better agenda would help to better prepare communities and ecosystems against the threat of wildland fire with investments of \$600 million through the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

A statement from the Interior Department affirmed it is committed to honoring and fulfilling its trust responsibilities to tribal nations.



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

# Hollywood hosts drive-thru version of Indian Day



Damon Scott

For the second year in a row, the pandemic halted normal Indian Day activities throughout the Seminole Tribe. In Hollywood, a drive-thru event was held Sept. 23. It was designed so drivers could stay in their vehicles as they drove through to receive food, drinks and gifts from the Hollywood Council office.



Damon Scott

Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall helps out at the Indian Day drive-thru event.



Damon Scott

Junior Battiest hands out beverages while his son Zachary pours them during the Indian Day drive-thru.



Damon Scott

Vehicles line up for the drive-thru event.

## CSSS recognizes latest ACD, WEP graduates

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Two tribal members have graduated from the work experience programs at the Center for Student Success and Services (CSSS). The tribe's work experience programs fall under the Tribal Professional Development (TPD) umbrella.

Taylor Holata is the latest graduate in the Advanced Career Development (ACD) program.

"I had a great experience. From the initial application process, throughout my time in the program, and even now that I've graduated, the TPD team was and continues to be a vital resource for me," Holata said. "Anytime that I had questions, or was unsure of certain protocols, I knew I could turn to TPD for support and guidance."

ACD is a leadership development program for those who seek full time employment with the tribe. It is comprised of no more than five participants at any one time. To qualify you need an associate degree.

Holata is now the loan administrator and special projects coordinator in the tribe's Executive Operations Office at tribal headquarters in Hollywood.

"If I could give one piece of advice to my fellow tribal members, it would be to take advantage of the opportunities that you are afforded," Holata said. "We are so privileged to be a part of this community, and I encourage everyone to make the most of it and get involved where they can."

Meanwhile, Cody Motlow has graduated the Work Experience Program (WEP) and is now the tribalwide sustainability coordinator under the Heritage and Environmental Resources Office (HERO) on the Big Cypress Reservation. She also volunteers on the tribe's food sovereignty committee, which is part of the climate action planning committee.

WEP is for those who are starting to think more long term about their job interests. Participants need to be at least 18, have a high school diploma, and go through an application and interview process. The program runs for up to two years.

Motlow progressed to WEP from SWEP, the third work experience program. Students enter SWEP, the Student Work Experience Program, while still enrolled in high school; the minimum age is 14. It is designed for younger students wanting to get their feet wet and try something new.

Both Holata and Motlow worked with TPD supervisor Kerlande Patterson, student



Cody Motlow

Courtesy photo



Taylor Holata

Courtesy photo

and professional development success coach Kajir Harriott, and senior specialist Hurvens Monestime on their respective paths. For more information on the tribe's work

experience programs, contact Patterson at kerlandepatterson@semtribe.com.

## Native Cinema Showcase to be held in November

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The National Museum of the American Indian's annual Native Cinema Showcase will be held Nov. 12-18. This year's showcase focuses on Native people boldly asserting themselves through language, healing, building community and a continued relationship with the land.

Features, short programs and filmmaker panels are part of the showcase. For more information go to [americanindian.si.edu/](http://americanindian.si.edu/).

Features schedule (all times ET):

**Waikiki:** On demand from 12:01 a.m. Nov. 12 to 11:59 p.m. Nov. 12 Director: Christopher Kahunahana (Kanaka Maoli)

**Beans:** On demand from 1:01 a.m. Nov. 13 to 11:59 p.m. Nov. 14. Director: Tracey Deer (Mohawk)

**Run Woman Run:** On demand from 1:01 a.m. Nov. 17 to 11:59 p.m. Nov. 18. Director: Zoe Hopkins (Heiltsuk/Mohawk)

**What Happened to the Bees?:** On demand from 12:01 a.m. Nov. 13 to 11:59 p.m. Nov. 14. Directors: Adriana Otero and Robin Canul (Mayan)

**Inhabitants: An Indigenous Perspective:** On demand from 12:01 a.m. Nov. 12 to 11:59 p.m. Nov. 18. Directors: Costa Boutsikaris and Anna Palmer. Producer: Ben-Alex Dupris (Colville)

**Rez Metal:** On demand from 12:01 a.m. Nov. 12 to 11:59 p.m. Nov. 18. Director: Ashkan Soltani Stone. Assistant Director: Veronica Quam (Zuni).

## Haaland embraces 'Indigenous knowledge' in confronting historic climate change

BY ABC NEWS

A relentless drought and wildfire season in America's West and a tense standoff over federal leases for oil and gas drilling have been early tests for the Biden administration's climate policy and Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, the first Native American to hold the job and first indigenous member of a White House Cabinet.

"I can't speak for every tribe or even my tribe, but I can make sure that tribal leaders have a seat at the table," Haaland said in an interview with ABC News Live Prime. "Certainly, in this time of climate change bearing down upon us, that indigenous knowledge about our natural world will be extremely valuable and important to all of us."

"Indian tribes have been on this continent for millennia, for tens of thousands of years," she added. "They know how to take care of the land ... that's knowledge that's been passed down for generations and generations."

Haaland, a former U.S. representative from New Mexico and one of the first two native women to serve in Congress, is leaning in on her experience as a member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe to confront the historic impacts of climate change on communities nationwide.

She leads the agency which manages more than 480 million acres of public lands and a government leasing program that has allowed private energy businesses to tap into valuable natural resources situated on

federal property.

Early in his term, President Joe Biden ordered a moratorium of new leases -- with an eye toward discontinuing the program altogether -- in an effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels. The move has made Haaland, who's now conducting a formal review of the program, a target of criticism from the energy industry and Republican lawmakers from states dependent on oil and gas production.

"You said that if you had it your way, and I quote, you'd stop oil and gas leasing on public lands. As secretary, you will get to have it your way," Sen. Steve Daines of Montana charged during Haaland's confirmation hearing earlier this year. The Republican later voted against her nomination.

"It's a pause on just new leases, not existing, valid leases," Haaland responded, explaining the moratorium. Last month, a federal court ordered the Interior Department to resume the leasing program while legal challenges continue.

"It has the potential to cost jobs here in the United States, good-paying energy jobs," Frank Macchiarola, an energy industry lobbyist at the American Petroleum Institute told ABC News. "It has the potential to increase costs for consumers."

Most U.S. oil and gas production occurs on private land, according to the Congressional Research Service. Roughly 9% of American output came from federal lands in 2019, the agency said.

Haaland is also helping to lead the

federal government's response to historic drought and wildfires fueled by climate change.

Ninety percent of the American West is experiencing "severe" or "exceptional" drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The conditions have ravaged the agricultural industry in nearly a dozen states and forced several to enact mandatory water cutbacks for residents. California, Arizona and New Mexico have also been battling some of the largest and most destructive wildfires in years.

"Drought doesn't just impact one community. It affects all of us, from farmers and ranchers to city dwellers and Indian tribes," Haaland said on a visit to Denver in July. "We all have a role to use water wisely, manage our resources with every community in mind, work collaboratively and respect each other during this challenging time."

The Interior Department has deployed millions of dollars in federal relief funds and sped recruitment of government firefighters. Last month, Haaland announced a pay raise for those on the front lines.

"We need to think about, you know, does that come down to management? Is that something that we need to reinvestigate how some of these forested lands are being managed? And is there a better way to prepare those forested lands for the next fire season?" said Brian Fuchs, a climatologist at the National Drought Mitigation Center, who hopes the worsening drought will lead to a greater review of how federal lands are managed and can best combat drought.

Haaland is also overseeing a multi-billion dollar renovation plan for the National Park System; a renewed campaign to improve access to the parks for communities of color; and steps to address longstanding protests by some tribal groups demanding greater control over federal parklands.

"You have to understand that for there to be any justice or repair on these lands, it has to go back to the roots. And for indigenous peoples on these lands -- it goes back to land theft," said Krystal Two Bulls, director of the Landback movement, which calls for all federal lands to be returned to their original tribes. "This entire so-called country was built on top of -- stolen land by stolen people."

Two Bulls and other Landback organizers argue that tribes are best suited to care for these lands given their deep history and knowledge of the natural world.

"Whoever's currently in charge is not protecting these lands, indigenous peoples, that's not what we're about, we're about that relationship to the land," Two Bulls told ABC News. "Native peoples knew how to manage and work with the fire, as a natural element, we knew how to do that."

Haaland has said she wants to use that knowledge in her tenure at the Interior Department and to make clear that "those voices are heard."

"Well, we absolutely are listening," she said. During official travel, she regularly pays homage to her roots; she was known to wear traditional moccasins in the House

and donned ceremonial tribal garb for her swearing in with Vice President Kamala Harris. She even addressed senators in the native language of the Laguna Pueblo during her confirmation hearing in the spring.

She also brings a legacy of service to her country; her father served as a Marine for three decades and her mother served in the Navy. Haaland said that she has always had a connection with the outdoors, and recalls spending time outside often with her father, who was an avid fisherman.

"I worked hard, and you know I followed a path, but I also stand on the shoulders of ... so many tribal leaders who have come before me," Haaland said. "And so I feel very confident that if it weren't for those people that I wouldn't have had that path to follow."

Haaland was confirmed as secretary of the interior by a 51-40 vote in the Senate in March. Once sworn in, she took over the reins at an agency that less than two centuries earlier had a mission to "civilize or exterminate" indigenous people and led the oppressive relocation of Native Americans.

She says that history gave her no hesitation.

"This is our ancestral homeland, this is Native Americans', this is our ancestral homeland. We're not going anywhere," Haaland said. "This is land we love and care about."

**CHARITIES**  
From page 1A

Former Florida State football player and NFL Hall of Famer Derrick Brooks, who played his entire 14-year career with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, thanked Seminole Hard Rock while addressing the audience.

"I am so extremely blessed to have you guys as our partner as we continue to bring aspirations and dreams come true to the youth here in Tampa Bay through youth education and Derrick Brooks Charities," said Brooks, whose organization is geared toward helping socio economically challenged youth.

Similarly, the Bullard Family Foundation assists communities and people in need. The foundation's founder – former University of Florida football player Thaddeus Bullard, aka WWE superstar wrestler Titus O'Neil – attended the event and praised Seminole Hard Rock for the donation.

"What a way to give back to our community," the foundation posted on social media with photos of the check presentation.

Several of the recipients included hospitals and other health-related organizations. Fire and police foundations, food banks and museums were among others on the list as well as the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, which provides support to families of special operations personnel who lost their lives in the line-of-duty and to those who were severely wounded in

combat. "Thank you for your generosity and support of the families that we serve," Special Operations Warrior Foundation posted on social media accompanied by photos of its representatives receiving the check.

The organizations were not told ahead of time what to expect at the ceremony, including the donations.

"We are thrilled. What a lovely surprise this was for us today," Sherry Silk, CEO of the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, said to SMP. "This is going to buy a lot of Puppy Chow for our animals at the Humane Society Tampa Bay."

The 50 charities are:

- 13 Ugly Men
- American Cancer Society
- Armed Forces Family Foundation
- Best Buddies Tampa Bay
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Tampa Bay
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Bullard Family Foundation
- Children's Cancer Center
- Children's Dream Fund
- Copperhead's Charities
- David A. Straz Center
- Derrick Brooks Charities
- Feeding Tampa Bay
- Florida Aquarium
- Glazer Children's Museum
- Gramatica Family Foundation
- Habitat for Humanity

- HCSO Charities, Inc.
- Hillsborough Cnty. Fire Rescue Found.
- Humane Society of Tampa Bay
- JDRF
- John Hopkins All Children's Hospital
- Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- MADD
- Make-A-Wish Southern Florida
- Meals On Wheels
- Mike Alstott Family Foundation
- Moffitt Cancer Center
- National Pediatric Cancer Foundation
- Onbikes
- Paint Your Heart Out
- Pier 60 Daily Sunsets
- Redefining Refuge
- RISE Tampa Our Police Foundation
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Ryan Nece Foundation
- Skyway 10k
- Special Operations Warrior Foundation
- St. Joseph's Hospitals Foundation
- St. Pete Pride
- Tampa Bay Buccaneers Foundation
- Tampa Bay History Center
- Tampa Bay Sports Commission
- Forever 55
- Tampa General Hospital Foundation
- Tampa Museum of Art
- Tampa Pride
- The Lightning Foundation
- The Spring of Tampa Bay
- ZooTampa



David Galindo/Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

Dozens of Tampa charity organizations celebrate after each received a \$10,000 check from Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa on Sept. 8.



David Galindo/Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

Representatives from the Children's Cancer Center with the \$10,000 check from Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa on Sept. 8.



David Galindo/Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

The Tampa Bay History Center received a \$10,000 check from Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.



David Galindo/Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

Boys and Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay with its \$10,000 check from Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

# Hard Rock International to present Artist Den's 'Live from My Den'

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Partnering with Artists Den, Hard Rock International will bring back "Live from My Den" digital concert series for a second season. The series showcases artists performing live in creative spaces at their homes, studios, favorite cities and select Hard Rock locations.

The seven-episode series, presented by HRI, can be viewed on Variety.com and nationwide at viewing party events at select Hard Rock locations.

"From our live music stages to our renowned memorabilia collection, for over 50 years Hard Rock has been committed to giving artists a platform to showcase their talents and tell their stories," Keith Sheldon, president of entertainment for HRI, said in a statement. "We are proud to partner with Artists Den to amplify these talented musicians' voices and reinforce that music is core to Hard Rock's DNA."

Hard Rock lent memorabilia items from its collection to be used in the filming of episodes shot at Hard Rock Café locations. A customized Fender Rhodes piano, played by jazz great Chick Corea on the first Chick Corea Electric Band record and during his Return to Forever album world tour, is spotlighted in a special segment surrounding Cautious Clay's episode filmed at Hard Rock Café in New York. A Dolly Parton dress, custom made by designer Trang Phung which she wore during interviews for her Blue Smoke Tour, is featured as a point of inspiration in a segment for Mickey Guyton's episode, shot in the Reverb Room at Hard Rock Café in Nashville.

"Each show is a unique story and we've created a diverse and brilliant line-up to celebrate with Variety's tastemaker audience. We are thrilled to have Hard Rock as our series partner, one of the most iconic brands in music entertainment," Artists Den CEO/founder Mark Lieberman said in a statement.

Every episode of "Live from My Den" highlights a local charity organization important to the performing artist, to be promoted via donation links and targeted messaging. Hard Rock and Artists Den will give back to the community by working alongside Delivering Good, a non-profit uniting retailers, manufacturers, foundations and individuals to support people affected by poverty and tragedy. Through Delivering Good and in partnership with Grubhub, Hard Rock and Grubhub, will collectively donate gift cards and meals to agencies in need throughout the season.

Fans of the show will have an opportunity to have access to a limited promotion specifically focused on the Artists Den's series during episode premieres.

Artists Den, founded in San Francisco as a non-traditional living room concert series, has evolved over the past decade into an internationally acclaimed showcase for premium concerts on TV and digital channels. Featured artists have included John Legend, Alabama Shakes, Ed Sheeran, Imagine Dragon, Lady Antebellum and others.

For information or to make a donation, visit [delivering-good.org](http://delivering-good.org).

For information about the "Live from My Den" series and upcoming episodes, visit [variety.com/t/live-from-my-den/](http://variety.com/t/live-from-my-den/).

# Indian gaming revenue took big pandemic hit

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Florida casinos have been operating at a more normal pace this year, so it may already be easy to forget the unprecedented impacts that the pandemic brought on the industry in 2020.

The first glimpses came in February 2021 when the American Gaming Association (AGA) reported that commercial gaming revenue dropped 31% in 2020 to \$30 billion. It represented the first market contraction for the U.S. gaming industry since 2014 and the lowest gaming revenue total since 2003 – 18 years ago.

This summer revealed more revenue data – this time focused specifically on Indian gaming. The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) released its fiscal year gaming revenue figures for 2020 – \$27.8 billion – a decrease of 19.5% over 2019. The Rapid City region (Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming) experienced the largest decrease at 36.6%. Florida is one of seven states in the Washington, D.C., region where revenues were down 21%.

The revenue figures represent an aggregate from the financial statements of 248 federally recognized tribes across 29 states.

"Despite the limits and uncertainty of the last year, it is important to focus on the sacrifices of and economic refuge provided by tribes and the community impacts," NIGC vice chair Jeannie Hovland said in

a statement. "Tribal gaming has shown resilience and commitment, and continues to develop new roads to economic stability. I look forward to seeing Indian gaming continue to lead the way in efforts to reduce the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic."

### Smoother seas?

Many casino properties started reopening in mid-2020 and there were positive signs for the industry at the end of the year. The AGA reported some momentum with a 1.7% increase in revenues from the third to fourth quarters, although it still represented a 17% decrease year-over-year.

Nevertheless, the AGA's research also showed that 1-in-3 American adults planned to visit a casino in 2021 – one of its highest reported rates. In addition, about 80% of future casino visitors agreed that the industry had done a good job at safely reopening.

Gaming's performance has also been buoyed by the growth of sports betting, which has been big news in Florida this year. After going through a series of approvals, the Seminole Tribe can facilitate sports betting in Florida as early as Oct. 15. It also allows the tribe to add craps and roulette to its Florida casinos.

Legal sports betting had an all-time high of \$1.5 billion in revenue in 2020, up 69 percent from 2019. iGaming revenue (poker, sports betting, online casinos) nearly tripled to almost \$1.6 billion, according to the AGA.

# Classic Casino slot machine hit for six-figure jackpots on consecutive days

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Two lucky winners hit jackpots of over \$100,000 on the same slot machine at Seminole Classic Casino in Hollywood Fla. Both guests were playing the Royal Reels slot machine, the first

jackpot of \$236,259.05 was on Tuesday, September 21, and the other jackpot of \$104,233 on Wednesday, September 22. Both progressives were reset to \$100,000 respectively. A progressive slot machine has a base jackpot amount that increases as guests play that machine.

# Hospital nurse wins 2022 BMW X7 as Seminole Hard Rock Tampa hits milestone

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**TAMPA** — Duane Kelloway, a Spring Hill resident and hospital nurse who treats Covid patients, won a \$112,245 2022 BMW X7 M50i as part of a celebration of \$1 billion in jackpots paid out so far in 2021 by the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

Kelloway, 50, was playing a Double Hit progressive slot machine by Ainsworth Gaming with a \$3 bet. He won \$2,450 on the machine, which pushed the casino's total slots payout for 2021 to over \$1 billion. The win earned Kelloway the new BMW in recognition of surpassing the slot payout milestone.

"I thought I was going to pass out," said Kelloway. "To be so lucky to be here at the right time and the right place and at the right machine."

Kelloway is an Operating Room nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Lutz and said he has been treating COVID patients for weeks.

He and his wife, Kelley, who is also a nurse, visited the Seminole Hard Rock Casino on Aug. 28 for a brief escape. They drove to the casino in a 2013 Ford Taurus with nearly 200,000 miles.

"I was going to come down Friday," said Kelloway, who added that his wife talked him into visiting the casino on Saturday instead.

In celebration of the milestone, NFL Hall of Fame Linebacker Derrick Brooks surprised the lucky guest. Seminole Hard Rock Tampa has awarded 360,000 jackpots to more than 43,000 individuals thus far in 2021, which equates to nearly a jackpot paid per minute.

"Clearly, it's an exciting time for this property and Seminole Gaming," said Steve Bonner, president of Seminole Hard Rock Tampa. "We are fortunate to be in the position to create so many jackpot winners and look forward to celebrating this milestone with another major announcement later this year."

# Sweetgrass basket gets dramatic makeover at museum

**BY TARA BACKHOUSE**  
Collections Manager  
and  
**ROBIN CROSKERY HOWARD**  
Conservator

**BIG CYPRESS** — Earlier this year a thoughtful donor in Naples gifted the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum with a historic sweetgrass basket that was in need of much love and care. The donor's mother, Katie Johnson, bought the large basket from the Deaconess Harriet Bedell in Everglades City during the 1950s. The Deaconess was a famous local missionary who spent most of her career working to get Seminole and Miccosukee artwork the recognition it deserved. Johnson and the Deaconess were friends when she purchased the basket, and it remained with the Johnson family until it was donated to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki. An Associated Press newspaper article from 1969 shows the basket next to the Deaconess, as she displays a piece of patchwork.

The basket brought with it much history. The Deaconess did not make it herself, but she helped to sell it for the Seminole or Miccosukee artisans she represented. Unfortunately, by 2021, age had taken its toll and resulted in a basket that was structurally unstable. The neck and lip of the basket, comprising the top third, was completely separated for more than three-quarters of the circumference; the area was collapsing into itself. This meant that as soon as the basket was examined at the museum, it was immediately treated so that the rest of the basket wouldn't have any further issues.

A two-prong approach seemed best, and



can be easily thought of like a double row of surgeon's stitches, but in reverse. First, the exterior of the separation was treated using more traditional basketry techniques that employ high tensile thread. Second, the interior was stabilized with a high-fiber, low-pulp paper and organic adhesive that would act as structural reinforcement for the separated area. This also spread the physical integrity to areas immediately surrounding the separation, decreasing the likelihood of further structural issues in that area.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum  
The damage to the basket was extreme but was caused merely by the weight of the layers of sweetgrass.

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

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

A museum conservator performs delicate operations such as this one as part of a daily routine, but this should not make us dismiss such work as easy or straightforward. Conservation is an experimental science and every "patient" needs a different type of operation. But the miracles performed are no accident, they are the result of years of specialized training and

hands on experience. The priceless pieces of art that the museum cares for can only be preserved for the future with the attention of a conservator. If you would like to see how a conservator helps slow the effect of time on historic objects like this basket, stop by the museum or contact Robin Croskery Howard at (863) 902-1113, ext. 12220.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum  
Once treated, the basket can again stand on its own, despite having a slight tilt because of its size.

# Crafters return to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum village

**BY BEVERLY BIDNEY**  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Seminole artisans have returned to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum village, where they bring history to life through their arts and crafts.

For 18 months, the village's chickees remained empty as the community and the world dealt with the Covid-19 pandemic. The museum reopened Aug. 21.

The artists, who each have their own chickee in which to work, create beadwork, sweetgrass baskets, patchwork and carved objects while they are there.

Crafter Judy Jim has created beaded jewelry for two years in the village. Before that, she worked in the Big Cypress culture department.

"It's quiet out here and I enjoy the fresh air," Jim said.

Woodcarver and canoe maker Pedro Zepeda has been working in the village for



Pedro Zepeda teaches his son Kyle the finer points of carving a bow from a piece of guava wood.



Beverly Bidney  
Kyle Zepeda shows his handmade, child-sized hatchet in his father, Pedro Zepeda's, chickee at the crafters village.



Beverly Bidney  
A sofkee ladle carved by Pedro Zepeda is displayed along with a small model of a canoe and some stickball sticks.

a few years and was glad to be back after the long hiatus. On Sept. 15, he brought his son Kyle, 10, to work on a bow made from freshly cut wood from a guava tree.

"It's best to carve while the wood is green," Zepeda said. "I enjoy taking something from the woods and making a usable object or some sort of art from it."

Kyle may not be a seasoned carver, but he is well on his way. He started carving at age 3 and over the years has learned to safely use the tools one at a time.

"It's fun," Kyle said. "It's like playing an instrument or anything else. You don't know why you like it; you just like it."

Kyle has some child sized tools with edges as sharp as adult tools. He has a drawknife, hatchet, adz, bottom gouge and a pocket knife all handmade by a North Carolina blacksmith. He said he feels happy

and proud when he finishes a project.

"After I learn a tool, it kind of comes naturally once you learn to use it well," Kyle said. "But you do cut yourself sometimes."

The cuts didn't seem to deter Kyle, who enthusiastically worked on the bow with guidance from his father.

"Keep the tool level," Zepeda said as he showed his son how to smooth the wood evenly.

Zepeda appreciates the freedom to create whatever he wants and enjoys interacting with museum visitors.

"When I'm working on a canoe, people are surprised to see such a big statement piece," he said. "It's rare to see someone make a canoe by hand."

It's common for museum guests to share their experiences about other places they've traveled to, so Zepeda can usually find a way

to relate to them.

"We're not the only ones to make dugout canoes, it's been done all over the world," he said.

Canoe making is a passion for Zepeda and he started a private Facebook page for other canoe makers, where they share knowledge and historic photos. There are a few older canoes on display in the village, including one made about 20 years ago by Henry John Billie and two unfinished ones by Victor Billie.

Zepeda also displays other carvings in his village chickee including sofkee ladders, small models of dugout canoes and stickball sticks. He also has a large model of a dugout canoe with a sprit sail on it.

"Using a sail on a canoe was done into the 1940s," Zepeda explained. "The paddle was used as a rudder. I'd like to revive it."



Beverly Bidney  
Judy Jim shows some of her beadwork at the village.



Beverly Bidney  
The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's crafters village includes a cooking chickee, among others.

# Health



## Hard Rock's Pinktober returns to support breast cancer awareness, research

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Hard Rock International (HRI) will show its continued support for breast cancer awareness and research throughout October with its 22nd annual Pinktober events.

Through the Hard Rock Heals Foundation, Hard Rock Cafés, hotels and casinos worldwide will participate in the campaign with limited edition merchandise, food and beverage menu items, local events and more. Hard Rock's mottos, including "Love All – Serve All" and "Take Time To Be Kind," tie in with its support throughout Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the goal of lending a hand to those who need it most.

HRI will offer uniquely designed merchandise including a Pinktober-themed T-shirt and pin. A percentage of all proceeds will go to charities that help raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research.

To celebrate the unwavering strength of women battling breast cancer and breast cancer survivors, Hard Rock Hotels will introduce the mantra "Stay Strong with Hard Rock Hotels" and will donate 50 special stays of four nights each at Hard Rock all-inclusive resorts.

Players on Hard Rock Digital's free "Hard Rock Social Casino" game will determine how much money is donated to

the Hard Rock Heals Foundation. The more players spin, the more the donation amount increases starting at \$1,000 for 25 million community spins and increasing at regular intervals up to a top donation of \$10,000.

A line-up of community events and activities round out the Pinktober programs. At several Hard Rocks around the world, pink Fender guitars will be added to the Sound of Your Stay music program, allowing guests the opportunity to check out a complimentary guitar on site.

Guests at the Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach can see pink in rooms which include pink sheets, towels, flowers, a pink welcome amenity and a custom pink Fender guitar available for jam sessions. Ten percent of revenue received from these rooms will go to breast cancer awareness.

Seminole Hard Rock Hotels & Casinos in Florida and New Jersey are joining together to sponsor their local American Cancer Society – Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa will sponsor the walk Oct. 2 at Raymond James Stadium. Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood will sponsor the walk Oct. 23 at Huizenga Plaza in Fort Lauderdale.

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City is the flagship sponsor for the walk Oct. 10 at Ocean City High School in Ocean City, New Jersey. The Atlantic City casino will have a mammogram van onsite to provide free screenings every Wednesday in October

and will turn the table games felts pink. Pops of pink lighting and other displays will be found throughout the property.

The Guitar Hotel will be lit in a Pinktober theme nightly from 8 p.m. to midnight. Additionally, a special Bora Bora cabana will be decked out in pink with proceeds from rentals going to the cause and a social wall in the lobby will serve as an apropos backdrop for guests to show support for the fight against breast cancer.

Hard Rock Hotel Madrid will host a live benefit concert Oct. 19 at its onsite venue RT60. All ticket sales will be donated to Asociacion Española Contra el Cancer.

Throughout October, participating Hard Rock Cafés in North America and Europe will offer a special menu consisting of three burgers and a cocktail. A portion from every burger sold will go to the Hard Rock Heals Foundation, the American Cancer Society and the Caron Keating Foundation.

Guests at the Hard Rock Hotel San Diego can drink pink milk shakes and cocktails to support breast cancer research. Pink cocktails will be poured at the Hard Rock Hotel at Universal Orlando's Velvet Lounge and Beach Club, with a portion of the proceeds going to breast cancer awareness.

Hard Rock Hotel Amsterdam and Hard Rock's all-inclusive properties in Mexico and the Dominican Republic will serve pink cocktails with proceeds benefitting local breast cancer charities.

"As we enter our 22nd year of this campaign, we do not underestimate the



Courtesy photo

A Hard Rock shirt recognizes Pinktober.

importance of the continued promotion of breast cancer awareness and research," Jon Lucas, chief operating officer of Hard Rock International, said in a statement. "Hard Rock International is proud to lend steadfast support toward this global issue and will continue to spread the message of courage and hope among fighters, survivors and their loved ones on a local and global scale."

## Vaccine booster shots on horizon

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe is preparing to offer Covid-19 booster shots to those who meet eligibility requirements.

The tribe's Health and Human Services (HHS) executive director, Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley, said Sept. 30 that the boosters would first be administered only to those who have previously received the Pfizer vaccine. She said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved an emergency use authorization for a Pfizer booster shot for those who are 65 and older or are frontline workers. It can be administered six months after the second dose. Booster shots for those who received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine are not yet available, she said.

Kiswani-Barley said the virus continues to have a big impact on tribal members. She said the number of positive cases over the summer were the highest the tribe has seen since the early days of the pandemic. She cited one recent death and two critical hospitalizations, but also said there's cause for some optimism.

"The tribe's virus cases are starting to decrease slightly," she said. "There's a downward trend that mirrors what is being seen in other areas of the state."

Kiswani-Barley said the tribe had a positivity rate of 11% for most of August and September. The highest rate during the pandemic was 14%. However, during a recent two-week period in September, the positivity rate declined to 8.4%.

If the rate continues to decline, she said, then it's possible the tribe could lift certain pandemic restrictions it still has in place.

From Aug. 4 to Sept. 30 the tribe went from 800 tribal members vaccinated to 1,300 – a positive trend but still short of the vaccination goals that have been set by tribal leadership. There are about 3,000 tribal members who are eligible for the vaccine and the goal is to have at least 70% vaccinated, or about 2,100.

Meanwhile, tribal clinics have been administering a Covid-19 antibody treatment through Regeneron Pharmaceuticals for those who are eligible. Kiswani-Barley said there have been 10 tribal members who have received the treatment so far and that all have experienced good results.

Tribal members can call their local clinic or the HHS hotline at (833) 786-3458 for more information about the vaccine, booster shot and antibody treatment. Tribal employees can call the hotline for vaccine information as well.

## Talk on mental health among Native Americans

On Oct. 12 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (ET), Dr. Glorinda Segay will be the guest speaker for the National Institute of Mental Health Director's Innovation Speaker Series. Segay is the director of the Division of Behavioral Health at the Indian Health Service and an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation in the Southwest. She will share her journey, her work at the IHS, and what the agency does to promote mental health among Native Americans. Registration for this free online event is required. Visit [nimh.nih.gov](http://nimh.nih.gov) for more information.

## Supreme Court asked to rule on ICWA

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) has provided federal protections for Native American adoptees and foster children in Indian Country for more than 40 years. The law has been upheld in dozens of court decisions. But legal pressures have increased in recent years and it is now facing its most significant court challenge thus far.

Research shows that before ICWA was enacted in 1978, up to one-third of Native American children were being taken from their homes by private and state agencies, including church-run programs, and placed with mostly white families or in boarding schools that attempted to assimilate them. The law has wide support in Indian Country, as well as among many non-Natives.

But the U.S. Supreme Court has been asked to review a recent case that centers on whether Native Americans should receive preference in foster care and adoption proceedings involving Native children, and

whether states should be required to follow certain ICWA guidelines.

The petition of the Supreme Court stems from a previous decision from a U.S. District Court in Texas that sided with the states of Texas, Louisiana, Indiana and seven individuals who argued that ICWA was unconstitutional because it was racially motivated and violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution. The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed with the ruling, but then an en banc ruling by the same court resulted in a sharply divided and complex decision on the law.

Even though the law and Congress' authority to enact it was upheld, the latest decision invalidated some of ICWA's placement preferences. The court also ruled that some of the law's provisions unconstitutionally control the duties of state officials in adoption matters.

Multiple petitions were filed Sept. 3 for the Supreme Court to review the latest case. The federal government – specifically the Interior Department – and tribal defendants, including the Quinault Nation, Morongo

Band of Mission Indians, Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and Cherokee Nation, have asked the Supreme Court to determine whether the plaintiffs had standing to challenge the law's placement preferences.

The state of Texas and private parties to the case (foster and adoptive families) also filed petitions requesting a review.

The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) has been taking steps to file amicus briefs by supporters of the law, which are due in early October. Amicus briefs allow entities that have a stake in the litigation to provide information to the court on particular issues they believe are important to the case.

NICWA's executive director Sarah Kastelic said the ultimate goal of the state of Texas and the private parties in the case – non-Native foster parents who want to adopt Native children – is to dismantle ICWA.

NICWA said the Supreme Court is expected to render a decision about whether they will take the case under review sometime near the end of October.

"We think it's very likely the Supreme



Courtesy NICWA

NICWA Executive Director Sarah Kastelic.

Court will take the case," Kastelic said. She said if a review is granted a ruling could come as early 2022. More is at [nicwa.org](http://nicwa.org).

## Cherokee Nation agrees to \$75M opioid settlement

STAFF REPORT

An agreement between the Cherokee Nation and drug distributors AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson was announced Sept. 28 in regard to opioid-related claims. The agreement calls for the companies to pay \$75 million over six and a-half years to resolve the claims.

"Today's settlement will make an important contribution to addressing

the opioid crisis in the Cherokee Nation Reservation; a crisis that has disproportionately and negatively affected many of our citizens. This settlement will enable us to increase our investments in mental health treatment facilities and other programs to help our people recover," Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said in a statement.

The Cherokee Nation claimed that more than 800 million milligrams of opioids were distributed annually in the 14 counties

of the Cherokee Nation as opioid-related overdoses more than doubled within the Cherokee Nation between 2003 and 2014.

According to the Cherokee Nation, the opioid oversupply has caused "significant economic and social harms to the health, safety, and welfare of the Cherokee Nation."

The settlement was negotiated in connection with ongoing negotiations toward a broader resolution of opioid-related claims brought by Native American tribes that are not covered by an ongoing

settlement process involving state and local governmental entities.

The Cherokee Nation is one of the largest tribes in the country. It recently announced that its population had reached 400,000 citizens.

The three companies in the settlement are among several drug manufacturers named in a 2019 federal lawsuit filed by the Seminole Tribe over the opioid crisis.

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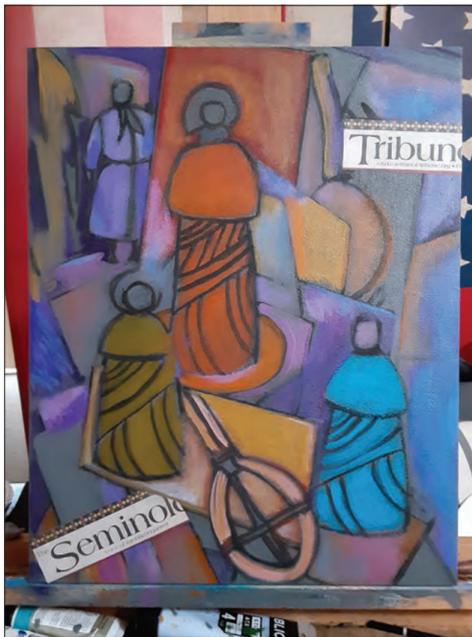
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# SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney (3)

**SEMINOLES THROUGH HISTORY:** The entrance to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum was reimagined in July with the addition of these historic photos. "The images span from the 1920s/30s to the 1970s," said assistant director Dante Blais-Billie. "Each was chosen for its representation of happiness, fun, laughter and unity. The purpose of the images is to show that Seminole history is not only about overcoming adversity, but also about joy and togetherness. We hope to leave our guests with the impression that celebration and happiness have always been a part of Seminole life, too."



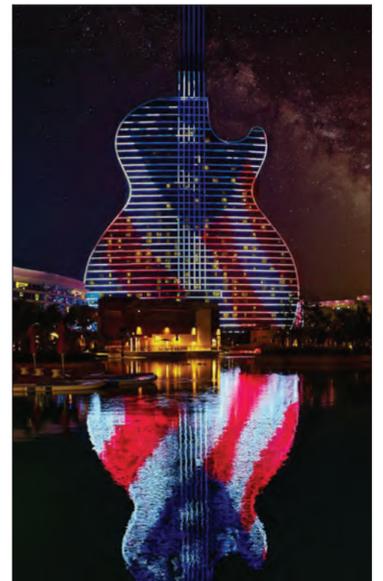
Courtesy photo

**ELGIN'S CUBISM:** Elgin Jumper's "Composition with Seminole Objects and The Seminole Tribune" is an example of Cubism art. "It's about multiple views, multiple perspectives, and striving to keep it two-dimensional, among other factors. It is something that has not been seen on the Seminole art scene," Jumper said. "The Seminole dress, and the way it looks is because you're looking at two viewpoints of the dress. Collage has been a part of Cubism since its inception as well. The artist would usually have a collage from a newspaper of the time called Le Journal, so I figured it was the perfect time to incorporate The Seminole Tribune into the piece." Jumper plans to showcase Cubism at upcoming exhibitions.



Beverly Bidney

**GRAFFITI FRESCO:** This mural was painted on the side of the old bingo hall in Big Cypress by Alyssa Osceola in March 2020. Upon seeing hall's demolition, she salvaged it before it could be destroyed. The impressively sized work was painted on corrugated metal and is currently on display at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, along with works by artist Wilson Bowers which are seen on the left and right of the larger mural.



Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

**TOUCHING TRIBUTE:** The Guitar Hotel was lit up to resemble the U.S. flag during the evenings of Sept. 10 and Sept. 11 as a tribute to the victims of the 9/11 tragedy 20 years ago.



Courtesy photo

**CLASSIC ADDITION:** General manager Edward Aguilar (far right) welcomed the first craps table at the Seminole Classic Casino in Hollywood on Sept. 7. Craps and roulette were approved under the terms of the new gaming compact between the tribe and the state earlier this year.



David Galindo/Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

**QUITE A PERFORMANCE:** Performance painter David Garibaldi finishes up the painting he created using only his hands during the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa's charity donation celebration Sept. 8.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## California to replace toppled statue in Sacramento with memorial to Native American tribes

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** — More than a year after protesters toppled a statue of a Spanish missionary on the grounds of the California Capitol, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law Sept. 24 to replace it with a memorial for the state's Native Americans.

A statue of Father Junipero Serra had stood in Capitol Park since 1967. He was a Roman Catholic priest who established a string of missions from San Diego to San Francisco in the late 1700s and used them as centers to convert members of nearby tribes to Christianity.

But many Natives were forced to live and work at the missions and subjected to beatings and other abuse. Thousands died.

Serra was given sainthood by Pope Francis in 2015, a controversial decision that brought sharp criticism from those who see Serra as a colonialist who destroyed Native American tribes and their cultures.

Last summer, the murder of George Floyd by a Minnesota police officer prompted nationwide protests over racial injustice. On July 4, 2020, protesters tore down the Serra statue on the Capitol grounds. Protesters also tore down Serra statues in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Assemblyman James Ramos, a Democrat from Highland and a member of the Serrano/Cahuilla tribe, authored a bill to replace the statue on the Capitol grounds with a memorial for Native Americans in the Sacramento area. It's one of several laws Newsom signed Sept. 24 dealing with Native American issues.

"Today's action sends a powerful message from the grounds of Capitol Park across California underscoring the state's commitment to reckoning with our past and working to advance a California for All built on our values of inclusion and equity," Newsom said in a news release announcing the signing.

Last year, Bishop Jaime Soto of the Diocese of Sacramento called the statue's removal an "act of vandalism that does little to build the future." He wrote there is "no question" California's Indigenous people suffered during the colonial period but said Serra denounced the system's evils and worked "to protect the dignity of native peoples."

"His holiness as a missionary should not be measured by his own failures to stop the exploitation or even his own personal faults," Soto wrote.

The law allows tribal nations to plan, construct and maintain the monument. But it could be awhile before the monument is built.

The law says the tribes need permission from the Joint Rules Committee before they can begin construction. The committee has imposed an unofficial moratorium on new memorials until the Department of General Services develops a master plan for the Capitol Park grounds, according to a legislative analysis of the law.

- *KCRA Channel 3 (Sacramento, Calif.)*

## Catholic Bishops of Canada apologize to Indigenous peoples over residential schools

A prominent branch of the Catholic Church in Canada has apologized "unequivocally" to Indigenous Peoples for the Church's role in abuses committed at the country's residential schools.

In a statement issued Sept. 24, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) acknowledged "the grave abuses" committed at the schools "by some members of our Catholic community," abuses it said were "physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual, cultural, and sexual."

While asserting that other Catholic groups involved in operating the schools had "already offered their own heartfelt apologies," the statement said "we, the Catholic Bishops of Canada, express our profound remorse and apologize unequivocally."

Assembly of First Nations National Chief RoseAnne Archibald said she felt "conflicted" reading the statement.

"On one hand, their unequivocal apology is welcomed," she said in a statement, describing the schools as "institutions of assimilation and genocide."

"This was a crime against humanity and a crime against our children," she said.

But Archibald expressed disappointment the bishops hadn't formally requested the Pope visit Canada to make an apology in person, which was one of the calls to action of the landmark Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

"The words of the apology speak to a commitment by the Catholic Church to the healing path forward with First Nations and Indigenous peoples. Only time will tell if concrete actions will follow," she said.

The bishops' statement follows years of pressure from First Nations leaders, residential school survivors, and politicians who urged the Church to accept greater responsibility for its role in the mistreatment of children at the schools, which operated in Canada from the 1870s to the 1990s. Various church groups ran the institutions on behalf of the Canadian government, but one Catholic order oversaw nearly half of them.

Pressure on the Church intensified this summer after First Nations uncovered evidence of hundreds of unmarked graves at former residential school sites.

Asked for his response to the apology, Chief Cadmus Delorme of Cowessess First Nation said he would need to consult with school survivors. In June, his First Nation in Saskatchewan reported evidence of as many as 751 unmarked graves at the former site of

Marieval Indian Residential School, which operated in the area from 1898 until 1997, most of that time under the Catholic Church.

"I will be following up with survivors as to their action plans moving forward, to assure survivors are (included) to bring truth and get stronger one day at a time," Delorme said in a statement.

According to the CCCB, its apology followed months of conversations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit leaders and communities.

The statement from the organization, which is a national assembly of bishops founded in 1943, said the school system that Catholic communities and dioceses participated in "led to the suppression of Indigenous languages, culture and spirituality," and inflicted "historical and ongoing trauma" that causes suffering among Indigenous people "to this day."

- *The Toronto Star*

## Tribe wins major step toward resuming whaling off Washington

**NEAH BAY, Wash.** — A Seattle judge has recommended the Makah Indian Tribe be allowed to resume their traditional hunt of gray whales after a decades-long legal battle with environmental groups.

The tribe last hunted a whale in May 1999, when whalers fired the "shot heard 'round the world'" as viewers across the globe watched Makah tribesmen take their first gray whale in 70 years on live TV.

Before that, the tribe had not exercised its treaty rights to hunt whales for decades because their populations were declining.

Vice-Chairman of the Makah Tribal Council Patrick DePoe was 16-years-old when he celebrated the whale's arrival on the beaches of Neah Bay.

He says it is a lost but sacred tradition that is part of the soul of every Makah tribe member.

"It was something missing that I didn't even know was missing until I was out there with it."

Soon after the hunt, environmental groups took the tribe to court to prevent future whale hunting. After two decades of legal wrangling, hearings were held in Seattle in November 2019 to help decide the matter.

Now, nearly two years after that, and with the whale population rebounding to healthy levels, a judge has recommended the tribe be allowed to kill up to three gray whales a year.

Despite the victory, however, DePoe said this is a bittersweet day.

"I can't help but reflect on the people we've lost over the years trying to get to this point. There are people who have passed on. There are people who have aged to the point where they might not be able to jump into a canoe and take part in something so dangerous," he said.

The Sea Shepherd Society, which fought the tribe in the waters and the courtroom, had no comment on the decision.

During the hearings two years ago, Catherine Pruett with Sea Shepherd Legal argued no whaling should ever be allowed.

"These are highly social and sensitive creatures. We should be protecting them. They're so important for ecosystems. As a culture, we need to know not to do this."

While a key victory for the tribe, the judge's decision is only a recommendation. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will have the final say.

Three weeks of public hearings are expected to begin in Seattle (in late September).

Members of the Sea Shepherd Society have previously told KING 5 News they expected defeats both in court and with NOAA and have been preparing to sue NOAA to tie the case up in court as long as possible.

For now, though, the Makah are one major step closer to putting their whaling canoe into the water once again.

"We have to finish this," said DePoe. "We have to follow this process through. There is a finish line and there is a group that is ready to jump in and start training as soon as we give that green light."

- *KING 5 (Seattle, Wash.)*

## Native American tribes sue Wisconsin to stop planned gray wolf hunt

Six Native American tribes are suing the state of Wisconsin, claiming that the state's planned wolf hunts go against their treaty-protected rights.

The lawsuit, filed Sept. 21 by six Ojibwe tribes, comes months after the state's first legal wolf hunt in decades in February, considered a disaster by critics. That hunt occurred following the removal of wolves from the federal list of endangered species in January, with a hunting quota of 200 wolves. Because of treaty rights assigned to the Ojibwe tribes, the quota was divided between the state and the tribes, with 119 wolves allocated to Wisconsin for hunting, and 81 wolves to the tribes.

But those numbers were quickly abandoned, after hunters who weren't affiliated with the tribes killed 218 wolves over the course of three days -- almost 100 more than allowed. The hunt was initially supposed to last a full week.

Now, the state is gearing up for its second wolf hunt of the year in November. And though the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recommended a quota of just 130 wolves, the state's Natural Resources Board approved a hunt of 300 wolves, a representative for the department

confirmed to CNN.

The Department of National Resources said it was currently reviewing the lawsuit and did not have further comment at this time.

"In our treaty rights, we're supposed to share with the state 50-50 in our resources and we're feeling that we're not getting our due diligence because of the slaughter of wolves in February," said John Johnson, Sr., the president of Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, in a statement. "The out of state hunters are petitioning the courts just so they can hunt, not to protect the resources."

CNN emailed the state's Department of Justice office for comment on the lawsuit, but did not immediately receive a response.

Though the wolves are no longer an endangered species, as of April 2020 there were only as many as 1,057 in the state, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

In Ojibwe traditions, though, humans and wolves are sacred companions -- created to be a partner to man similar to how women were created in Christian traditions.

"To the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe), the Ma'iingan are our brothers," said Marvin Defoe, Red Cliff Tribe's representative on the Voigt Inter-Tribal Task Force, in a statement. "The legends and stories tell us as brothers we walk hand in hand together. What happens to the Ma'iingan happens to humanity."

Michael Isham, an executive administrator for the intertribal agency Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, called the February wolf hunt, along with the planned November hunt, "reckless."

"The DNR Natural Resources Board made clear that its decision to set the wolf quota at 300 has nothing to do with science or stewardship," he said in a statement last month.

The situation in Wisconsin mirrors one happening across the country, as other tribes push for the protection of wolves and restoring them to the Endangered Species list once more.

Earlier this month, multiple tribes from around the country wrote a letter to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland calling for gray wolves to be protected again, citing President Joe Biden's executive order signed in January, recommitting the Federal government to the Tribal Nations.

"This would allow for the Biden Administration to not only show its commitment to Indian Country, but the proper time to correct a wrong birthed by the previous administration," the letter read. "The delisting of the gray wolf without tribal consultation is a stain that we are certain you don't want to preserve under your leadership."

- *CNN*

## Koi Indian tribe unveils plans for \$600 million casino resort in Sonoma County

The Koi Nation, a federally recognized tribe based in Sonoma County, unveiled plans Sept. 15 to turn a 68-acre vineyard southeast of Windsor into a \$600 million casino resort, one of the largest of its kind in Northern California.

The 90-member Pomo tribe intends to turn the land about a half-mile from Shiloh Ranch Regional Park into the Shiloh Resort & Casino. Pending necessary state and federal approvals, it's likely to take four years before the resort would be built and opened, tribal representatives said.

The tribe acquired the property at 222 East Shiloh Road from private owners this month for \$12.3 million. Until then, most of its members lived in Sonoma County but didn't have land of their own.

Although local officials expressed surprise and opposition to the massive casino development plan, they acknowledged that the tribe likely would have broad authority over how to develop its newly acquired property if the federal government grants the property sovereign status.

Koi Nation leaders, who went from being private citizens in Sonoma County to a force to be reckoned with in just a day, said they will seek input from community members and local elected leaders about their project.

The expected economic and community benefits of the resort would buoy the tribe's members — many of whom struggle to afford living in the North Bay — but also provide a boost for county residents, they said.

"This day is a long time coming," Koi Nation Chairman Darin Beltran said in an interview. "Our main objective is to become economically independent."

If built, the Shiloh Resort & Casino would be the third Las Vegas-style gambling venue in Sonoma County, rivaling the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria casino outside Rohnert Park, which has the largest gaming floor in the Bay Area plus a 200-room hotel. It opened in 2013.

The Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians owns and operates the smaller River Rock Casino near Geyserville. It opened in 2002.

The Koi Nation's planned development would include 2,500 slot and other gaming machines, a 200-room hotel, six restaurant and food service areas, a meeting center and a spa. The intent is an energy-efficient resort blended with the natural landscape. The entire development would stretch across 1.2 million square feet.

Approval of the casino resort ultimately rests with state and federal officials. Still, Koi Nation leaders said they already have reached out to Sonoma County supervisors to discuss their plans. Board Chair Lynda Hopkins recognized county officials may have little say over land-use decisions for

the project under federal rules.

"Counties are pretty much cut out of the process," Hopkins said.

- *The Press Democrat (Santa Rosa, Calif.)*

## Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe 1st in New York to accept cannabis retailer applications

Applications are now being accepted in Akwesasne for tribal cannabis retail licenses. As of Sept. 13, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is taking applications, the latest step to establish a legal cannabis industry under the tribe's jurisdiction.

Because the tribe is reportedly the first in the state to launch an application process, odds are that the first cannabis retailers in the state will be located within its territory.

"Unlike other tribal territories, the Tribe's Adult Use Cannabis Ordinance provides eligible tribal members with the opportunity to help develop this new industry for the benefit of the community," Tribal Chief Michael Connors said in a press release. "Tribal licensing builds upon our business community's history of keeping revenue in Akwesasne to support community programs and services."

This process is detailed in the Tribe's Adult Use Cannabis Ordinance which was approved by a community referendum in December 2019. The process began after New York State legalized personal use and possession of adult cannabis on March 31.

To be eligible to submit a tribal cannabis retail license application, individuals must have submitted an adult-use cannabis business preclearance form. Those who complete and return the retail license applications can expect a status update within two weeks.

- *NEWS 10 ABC (Albany, N.Y.)*

## Federal judge rules Alabama-Coushatta tribe can offer e-bingo gaming

**POLK COUNTY, Texas** — The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas won a major victory Aug. 31 for its electronic bingo facility west of Woodville.

In a ruling dated August 31, 2021, U.S. Magistrate Judge Keith Giblin ruled that under the tribe's restoration act from 1987 it can legally operate its Naskila Gaming electronic bingo center.

The tribe has spent the last five years in litigation fighting for the right to keep the gaming center open.

The tribe says that it employs hundreds of people in connection with the center that the state of Texas has sought to close for some time now.

The National Indian Gaming Commission found in 2015 that the tribe was eligible the under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to be approved for Class II Bingo Gaming.

The IGRA is the federal law governing tribal gaming throughout the U.S.

In May 2016 the tribe opened the Naskila Gaming center only to have the State of Texas file a lawsuit a month later to have it shut down.

The tribe launched a defense saying that the approval by the Indian gaming commission was entitled to deference and superseded a 1994 Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals decision saying the tribe's gaming rights were not covered by the IGRA but by the tribe's restoration act.

They also countered that if the gaming was not covered under IGRA that their bingo games were permitted by restoration act.

By 2019 the Fifth Circuit court agreed with the lower court's ruling that the tribe's approval from the NIGC was not entitled to deference saying that the tribe's gaming was regulated by the restoration act.

Judge Giblin heard testimony and arguments in May 2021 claiming the tribe's electronic bingo was allowed by the restoration act.

This week he ruled that the restoration act does in fact allow the tribe to offer gaming not already prohibited by state law.

Bingo is legal in Texas in that it is regulated but not prohibited and therefore the tribe's electronic bingo is allowed under the restoration act.

- *12 News (Texas)*

## Native American Runners Honor A Kansas City Murder Victim On Their Months-Long Journey To D.C.

A group of Native American advocates, running and biking across the country to raise awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous women, made their way through Kansas City on Sept. 22.

After following 39th Street and Stadium Drive east, the group of eight sang and prayed at the site in Independence, Missouri, where 22-year-old Lakota Renville was found dead in October 2005.

This is the second year Duane Garvais Lawrence has made this journey for justice. Garvais Lawrence said last year's passage of "Savanna's Act," a federal law to help track, solve, and prevent crimes against Native Americans, compelled him to honor victims somehow.

"I've always been an athlete, and I'm very blessed to be able to still run and bike and everything at my age," said Garvais Lawrence, 55.

Garvais Lawrence remembered telling his wife, "I think what I want to do is I want to run and bike across America on the sovereign Indian reservations."

The group started their cross-country journey at the state capitol in Olympia,

Washington, on July 17, and are making their way to Washington, D.C. There, Garvais Lawrence said they will meet with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland — the first Native American to hold a Cabinet position in U.S. history.

Runners plan to arrive in D.C. on Oct. 17. Along the way, they are winding through tribal and non-tribal lands, honoring local missing or murdered indigenous people by painting the victim's names on a runner's arm, and then on the side of their RV.

So far, the RV has 317 names on it. Among the runners is Mary Weasel Bear, who first met Lakota Renville as a 14-year-old at Crow Creek Tribal Schools, on the Crow Creek Reservation in South Dakota.

"Lakota moved down here in 2002, 2003, met a man whose intentions weren't so good and, you know how that goes," said Weasel Bear, who now lives in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. "The next time we heard anything on Lakota was when she was dumped here."

When she was found, Renville had been badly beaten and stabbed. Her body was wrapped in a Southwestern-style blanket and left on an empty lot on the 9200 block of Pitcher Road. Her murder has not been solved.

Weasel Bear didn't hesitate to say she thinks more resources would have been devoted to solving Renville's murder had she been white.

"It is because she's Native," Weasel Bear said. "(But) it doesn't make her any less. She's still my friend, she's still a daughter, an auntie and a sister. She's a warrior."

The cross-country journey is happening during a flood of media coverage of the disappearance and death of Gabby Petito, a white woman whose body was found on Sunday in Wyoming. But Garvais Lawrence called the timing a coincidence.

"There's 716 other cases in Wyoming that didn't receive any attention at all," Garvais Lawrence said. "That is blood — blood on America's conscience and society. It's got to end, and it will not end unless we have cooperation from our non-tribal brothers and sisters."

According to reporting by the Kansas City Star, police at one point thought Renville may have been picked up by her killer near Independence and Myrtle Avenues. A witness reported seeing a brown, early-1990s model Ford Explorer with Missouri tags in the area where Renville's body was discovered.

"To me, it really hits home because I have relatives who were missing or murdered as well," said Raymond Cavanaugh, a Spirit Lake Nation member who lives in Fort Totten, North Dakota. "Especially to be going through North Carolina, where my niece was found... it means a lot."

Most of the people gathered in the empty lot have friends or family who were murdered or went missing.

A 2020 report by the Sovereign Bodies Institute found that the majority of the 2,306 cases of missing Native American women and girls in the U.S. remain unsolved.

Each of them serve as inspiration for the group as they continue their journey.

"(As a runner) you have good days and you have bad days," Garvais Lawrence said, "but we believe every step is a prayer, every cycle of that bike is a prayer."

- *KCUR (Kansas City, Mo.)*

## Professor Gwen Nell Westerman named Minnesota's 1st Native Poet Laureate

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** — Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan appointed the state's new Poet Laureate on Sept. 9 making Dr. Gwen Nell Westerman the first Native American to receive the honor in Minnesota.

"The Poet Laureate serves as a beacon for the best of Minnesota and the people who live here, inspiring generations of poets and readers and advocating for young people to use their voices," Walz said in a statement. "Dr. Westerman brings a wealth and depth of experience that is representative of Minnesota's vibrant poetry community. I am grateful she has chosen to bring her talents and knowledge to this new role as Minnesota's Poet Laureate."

Westerman, an English professor at Minnesota State University, Mankato since 1992, is a citizen of her father's people, the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate in South Dakota, and of her mother's people from the Flint District of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma.

Throughout her career, Westerman has written about Dakota language and history, winning two Minnesota Book Awards for "Mni Sota Makoce: The Land of the Dakota." Her first poetry collection, "Follow the Blackbirds," was written in both Dakota and English.

"It is an honor to serve as the Poet Laureate and help elevate poetry across the state," Westerman said. "I am excited for the opportunity to share the beauty of poetry and to engage and celebrate the voices of Minnesota."

Minnesota Poet Laureates are selected by the governor after receiving recommendations from the Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC). Among other roles, the Poet Laureate is expected to engage marginalized voices in poetry, celebrate the state's cultural heritage and inspire all generations of poets and readers.

- *KARE 11 (Minneapolis, Minn.)*

# SOUTH FLORIDA'S ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION



**OCT 15**  
**MAJAH HYPE**



**OCT 16**  
**VIVA LA BACHATA**



**OCT 22**  
**TREVOR NOAH**



**OCT 23**  
**HAVASI**



**OCT 24**  
**LITTLE BIG TOWN**  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST ALEX HALL



**OCT 27**  
**PFL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**



**OCT 29**  
**BERT KREISCHER**



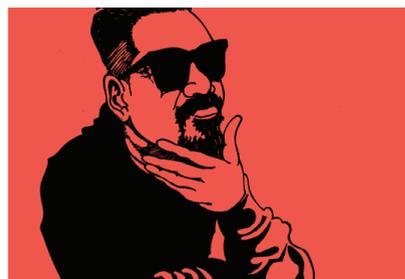
**NOV 3**  
**DAN + SHAY**



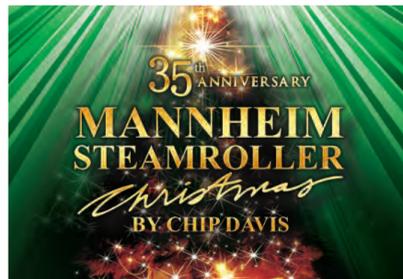
**NOV 5**  
**A DAY TO REMEMBER**



**NOV 7**  
**ZZ TOP**



**NOV 19**  
**GEORGE LOPEZ**



**NOV 24**  
**MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER CHRISTMAS**



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# Education



B

## Meet Tracy Sills, PECS' new dean, mental health and behavioral support specialist

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — After 22 years as a counselor, teacher and coach at Okeechobee High School (OHS), Tracy Sills was ready for a change. She joined the Pemyetv Emahakv Charter School staff as dean and mental health and behavioral support specialist at the start of the school year.

One of her duties is to oversee the implementation of Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness And Resiliency Through Education), which focuses on prevention and early detection of mental health issues. During the program, students learn resiliency as well as social and emotional skills during weekly activities.

The program for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students is designed to be developmentally appropriate for their age. The program for grades one through eight focuses on social emotional learning. Through activities, the students get to know themselves, show feelings and emotions, set goals, increase self-esteem and become aware of mental health.

Sills has been working with the Project AWARE project managers and facilitators to get the program going in school this year. Last year the program was held virtually, as was the rest of the PECS curriculum.

"Being out of school for a year and a half, it's hard for adults and is taking a toll on young people," Sills said. "Through the program we will address the feelings of coming back to school again. A lot of them have been at home not doing the things they would have been doing if they came to



Courtesy photo

Tracy Sills

school every day."

Sills sits in on Project AWARE meetings and some of the classes. If behavior issues are seen that can be helped through new programs, Sills is prepared to implement them. Examples may include small group and individual counseling for targeted areas. Grief issues may also be addressed for those who might need that support.

"If we see behavior issues, we can troubleshoot anything that comes up," Sills said.

Sills and the school's new counselor, Dreama Brewer, will take recommendations from teachers and decide what kind of counseling groups would be beneficial to the

students. For now, Sills has been getting to know the students as well as their names.

"Once you have a rapport with them, it's easier for them to open up to you," Sills said. "It makes all the difference if you can address a child by their name; they know they are important."

The new job isn't too different from some of Sills' previous experience. As a high school counselor, she dealt with mental health and behavioral issues in small groups and individual sessions to help students learn to change their behavior.

Since many Seminole students attend and have attended OHS, Sills has experience working with tribal members. Indeed, some of her former students now have children of their own at PECS.

Aside from its size, some of the differences between PECS and OHS include the amount of support and resources.

"There is a sense of community and extended support that you get," Sills said. "As part of the tribe, there are a lot of stakeholders who are closely involved. The Brighton community is a small group and such a close knit community. Since we are a small school and part of the tribal community, we have resources and support. In the public school system, their hands are tied a little more. It's harder to get the support you need."

Sills is also happy with the change from older students to younger ones.

"I'm loving it here," she said. "It was a big change from working at the high school level, but I'm enjoying the opportunity to see the elementary and middle school kids. It's been a real plus."



Courtesy photo

Immokalee Boys & Girls Clubs kids Jadayah Gustav and Micahel Cantu learn to create a tie-dye shirt Sept. 15.

## 'Day for Kids' recognized at tribalwide B&G Clubs

STAFF REPORT

Boys & Girls Clubs tribalwide commemorated a "Day for Kids" from Sept. 15-17. The nationally recognized initiative focuses on the importance of adults spending meaningful time with children as a reminder that one day can change a child's future.

"A Day for Kids" is a celebration of the life-changing work taking place at Boys

& Girls Clubs across the nation," wrote Valentina Arce, Boys & Girls Club tribalwide youth events and program specialist, in an email. "Our annual Day for Kids looked a little different this year as we followed phase 2 guidelines in order to keep youth safe and the members had a wonderful day."

Activities included tie-dying T-shirts, jewelry and bead making and black light golf and bingo.

## Pemyetv Emahakv celebrates Native American Day

**BRIGHTON** — Students at Pemyetv Emahakv Charter School celebrated Native American Day on Sept. 23 by coming to school in traditional Seminole clothing. Teachers documented the day with photos they shared on the PECS Facebook page.



Courtesy photos

Pemyetv Emahakv Charter School students wear traditional Seminole clothing in recognition of Native American Day. Above are students from Anita Solis's class and below are students from Andrea Whitlock's class.



Courtesy photo

Jamyiah Wilson, Geona Jackson and Leniyah Wilson choose patches they will use to decorate tote bags at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Clubs on Sept. 17.



Courtesy photo

Blayne Osceola squeezes as he creates a tie-dyed T-shirt during Brighton's 'Day for Kids' on Sept. 17.



Courtesy photo

Immokalee Boys & Girls Club counselors help kids with an activity.



Courtesy photo

Jamyiah's decorated tote bags in Hollywood.

## LaShae King graduates from Camp E Nini Hassee with plenty of praise from tribal community

COMPILED BY GALE E. WIRE, M.ED.  
Education Coordinator for Camp E-Nini-Hassee

Having completed all requirements for the State of Florida's 24-credit standard diploma, LaShae King graduated high school at Camp E Nini Hassee this spring. Equipped with her two consecutive credits in Creek as her foreign language, LaShae was accepted to St. Leo University. She earned more than \$8,000 in scholarships and grants.

Camp E Nini Hassee is located between Tampa and Ocala.

Here are comments from other Seminole and Miccosukee tribal members and staff who witnessed and spoke at the graduation.

### Michele Thomas and Connie Whidden (Brighton Reservation)

"You have so many tools in your toolbox – carry your toolbox every day and use your tools every day. For every kind of situation that will arise, you have a tool for it, and you have the resources of so many people who are your support network. Be in contact, stay in contact, use your tools. We love you."

### Elyse Alvarado (Hollywood Reservation):

– Today at Camp E Nini Hassee, I attended the high school graduation of LaShae King. The students and staff gathered to congratulate her successes. From the audience, I observed her peers and the staff stand up one at a time to talk to her about the different ways she had an impact on each of them. What I noticed was how she had an impact on herself. Hearing the stories and the perspectives of others, she went through a long journey to attain a position of leadership among her peers. At this school, her peers look up to her and the staff respect her. Personally, seeing her standing up at the podium, wearing a beautiful modern native skirt and a light blue graduate cap and gown she looked confident and powerful. Her readiness to move forward and become an adult was inspirational and motivating. At the graduation many people congratulated her on her decision to attend St. Leo University. Although it is a drastic decision to transition from somewhere familiar and comfortable to somewhere full of challenges and difficulties, it really shows the growth she has made to want better for herself and face the challenges to get there.

### Caidence Billie (Big Cypress Reservation):

My experience at LaShae's graduation was very inspiring. It is inspiring how she got the chance to experience camp twice and role model that it is okay to get the help she needed. She has become a strong leader with skills and knowledge she will continue to apply in her life moving forward. LaShae has become a strong leader with skills and knowledge she will continue to apply in her life moving forward. Being in a group with LaShae I got to see the wholehearted, authentic, resilient young woman she is. She has taught me many skills and left a big impact not just on me but our group, her family, and mostly herself. Now she is attending college at St. Leo and moving to the next chapter in her life.

### Winnie (Brighton Reservation):

Watching LaShae graduate and move on from E-Nini-Hassee was a powerful time. Watching someone who I grew up with become a widely better person as well as successful is a powerful thing. You watch the people you grew up with change and at first it is not for the better, but something clicked for LaShae and she found her will to be better not worse. She found her drive for college, for a life beyond bad habits. We are all extremely proud of LaShae.

### Emily Lopez (Miccosukee Reservation):

At LaShae's graduation, I listened to all the things said to her by her



Courtesy photo

LaShae King on graduation day at Camp E Nini Hassee.

peers and family. They all had wonderful things to say. The love and support her family gave to her made me think "I want that, too." It is given that my family does love me, and it was hard for them to support me while I was making unhealthy decisions. When I graduate camp, I want to finish high school and go to college. LaShae was a member in my group. Watching her finish high school and sign up for college help me realize I can be something. Not too many people on the Rez go to college. Growing up I thought it would not make sense to. LaShae and I would talk about doing support groups for Native Americans. I think we need people in our lives to show us there is better in the world. When I grow up, I want to show people my age they can have a better life, they can want something for themselves.

### Tina Ogden (LMHC Camp E Nini Hassee):

A lion symbolizes many admirable traits, including courage, strength, and wisdom. St. Leo University's mascot is the lion. As you embark on your journey as a student at St. Leo, you are now a lion. As you complete your time here at Camp E-Nini-Hassee, you have illustrated that you do indeed embody these noble characteristics.

This did not happen overnight, but rather over the course of two camp stays. I believe that is something to embrace with pride. Her Sunny Road is a part of you, a part that has shaped the confident, intelligent young woman you are today. Your dedicated and caring family also comprise the team that has led you to this wonderful occasion – your high school graduation! Education is an amazing thing, but beyond the "book learning" is the most important learning of all – how to be an authentic person who continues to seek knowledge. Learning never stops; life is a constant state of learning, growing and giving.

LaShae, you have a beautiful heart and I know you strive to help others and to be a kind light in this often dark, negative world. It is my fervent hope that you will always be kind to yourself and allow yourself the grace that you give others. Please enjoy your college years and be present in the moment. Often there is too much emphasis on the future, and we all know that leaving the past in the past is a difficult, but necessary task. My greatest advice is to be present and take things day by day.



Courtesy photo

LaShae King with Connie Whidden, left, and Michele Thomas.

## University of Arizona program for Indigenous teachers to expand

FROM UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA NEWS

TUCSON, Ariz. — Sara Mae Williams almost didn't pursue a teaching degree.

In the fall of 2020 – as a first-semester transfer student at the University of Arizona, with credits from Tohono O'odham and Pima community colleges – Williams was leaning toward political science.

But then Williams saw a flyer for the Indigenous Teacher Education Program. The program, based in the College of Education, helps students studying elementary education tailor their curriculum to the unique needs of Native elementary students.

The flyer was a reminder, not an introduction. Williams had served from 2011 to 2019 on the board of the Baboquivari Unified School District in Sells on the Tohono O'odham Nation.

The program's founding co-directors, Valerie Shirley and Jeremy Garcia, both associate professors of teaching, learning and sociocultural studies, had presented the program before the board during Williams' term. After seeing the flyer, Williams still wasn't sure the program was a fit, but enrolled to see what it was like.

It only took one class.

"The first class that I ever took with both Dr. Garcia and Dr. Shirley changed my mind," Williams said. "I knew for sure this was where I needed to be. Their approach to education, going about it by indigenizing education, was amazing to me. I finally felt like I was at home."

The Indigenous Teacher Education Program, or ITEP, will now be able to provide an academic home to many more Indigenous teacher candidates thanks to \$2.4 million in new funding to recruit and prepare Indigenous future teachers around Arizona. The program has received \$1 million from the Arizona Department of Education and \$1.4 million from the U.S. Department of Education's Indian Education Professional Development program.

"The Indigenous Teacher Education Program is one of many ways the University of Arizona has committed to serving Native American students and communities throughout our state and region," said University of Arizona President Robert C. Robbins. "This latest round of funding

proves that the work that Dr. Shirley, Dr. Garcia and their ITEP colleagues are doing is having a real impact, and I look forward to seeing how this important program carries that work even further."

### Teaching as a form of Native nation-building

ITEP began in 2016 with an initial grant from the Indian Education Professional Development program with the mission of increasing the number of Native American teachers in schools that serve Native American students. ITEP has worked with Native American teacher candidates from the Tohono O'odham Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Hopi Tribe, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Navajo Nation and the Tewa community. A critical component of ITEP is building partnerships with various schools and Native nations.

"Such partnerships allow us to not only be accountable to them, but it opens opportunities to co-create innovative ways to engage Indigenous teacher education," Garcia said.

To that end, ITEP teacher candidates are taught to incorporate Native cultures, languages and values into their curricula and teaching.

"Historically, when we think about educating Native students, it's been an assimilative process where students were taken from their families and homes and placed into boarding schools," Shirley said. "Through ITEP, we're working to revitalize and sustain Indigenous knowledge systems – the histories, cultures, philosophies and languages. The process is about reconnecting because, historically, it's been about disconnecting."

The ITEP program is available to Native students completing the last two years of a bachelor's degree in elementary education. The program helps teacher candidates get the final certification they need to be elementary educators. Many candidates come as transfer students from community colleges, while others are university students in their first or second year.

"ITEP at the University of Arizona has opened pathways for modifying an existing program to support the unique preparation

of Native teachers," Shirley said. "The program is guided by a framework that elevates Indigenous teacher candidates to see themselves as teachers and Native nation-builders working to sustain the identity of Native youth and the goals of their respective sovereign Native nations."

ITEP programming includes talks by invited Indigenous knowledge-holders who support the sustainability of respective Native cultures and values, Indigenous language revitalization efforts, and tribal sovereignty.

### Funding recruitment, retention and expansion

The federal funding – \$1.4 million over the next five years – will provide support for tuition and academic fees and expenses, such as books and technology, as well as living expenses, mileage to elementary school sites and certification fees for up to 15 teacher candidates.

The \$1 million in state funding will provide support for up to 17 community college students who plan to transfer to UArizona and participate in ITEP.

"With Covid-19, financial constraints impacted those trying to complete associate degrees," Shirley said. "This funding will help support them."

The state funding also will help the program expand to allow certification for early childhood education, which includes pre-kindergarten to third grade. ITEP currently provides certification only for elementary education.

"The demand to increase the number of Native teachers and educational leaders serving Native students and schools has been evident across varying national and state reports on American Indian and Alaska Native education," Garcia said. "Considering national and state data regarding the low numbers of Native teachers in the past two decades, ITEP is contributing to meeting the goals of increasing the number of Native teachers serving Native students. However, we also recognize there is a unique process in preparation that honors the sustainability of our Indigenous identities while braiding opportunities for academic achievement."

## After-school program captures Native American students' interest in STEM

FROM OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY NEWS

STILLWATER, Okla. — Hallmarks of the future such as virtual reality, augmented reality and 3D printing are set to help connect Native American students with their cultural past through an innovative \$1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

Students from Chickasaw, Pawnee and Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribes will learn how to apply spatial design concepts through an after-school program led by Oklahoma State University professors, then craft building designs representing stories from their tribe's culture. Students will be able to "walk through" and experience their completed buildings using virtual and augmented reality.

"We hope to take what students already know naturally from their culture and use

it to expand their understanding of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) concepts," said Dr. Tilanka Chandrasekera, an associate professor in the Department of Design, Housing and Merchandising.

Inspiration for the project comes from a concept known as *genus loci*, which Chandrasekera defines as "the spirit of place." Native American structures, such as round houses, demonstrate unique *genus loci*.

"We're looking at architectural and design-related problems and approaching it through an indigenous way of knowing," Chandrasekera said. "We will discuss Native American stories related to people and history, then challenge students to bring those stories to life with their designs."

Dr. Tataleni Asino, an OSU associate professor of educational technology, is

leading the project with Chandrasekera. He hopes that as students design buildings representing their tribe's heritage, they will develop a passion for STEM-related careers. According to the Pew Research Institute, fewer than 3% of STEM workers are Native American.

"In the next five to 10 years, technologies like virtual reality and 3D printing will be ubiquitous in many professions, from doctors to engineers," Asino said. "Being exposed to this at a young age can capture students' interest in STEM."

The three-year grant will enable Chandrasekera and Asino to work with each tribe for one year, conducting professional development workshops for teachers and hosting after-school programs for students.

## UNITY alumna named to Council of Trustees

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Elke Chenevey (Omaha), who participated in a United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. conference more than 40 years ago, was recently named to the UNITY Council of Trustees.

Chenevey is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Columbia University. She is recognized as a leading financial advisor in the Native American community.

She attended UNITY's conference in 1980 in Washington, D.C.

She began her career more than 30 years ago with Merrill Lynch where she first rose to the director level in the public finance group structuring over \$7 billion in tax-exempt and taxable financing for a diverse client group. In 2003, she moved to the investment consulting arm of Merrill Lynch where she focused on providing investment management services to Native American tribes and their enterprises.

Elke recently joined FS Advisors LLC and is continuing to provide investment management and tribal member benefit

program services to the Native American community.

Elke is also a member of the San Diego American Indian Health Center Board of Directors and serves on the advisory boards of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of California, the Native American Visiting Committee which advises the President of Dartmouth College, and the Native Financial Education Coalition.



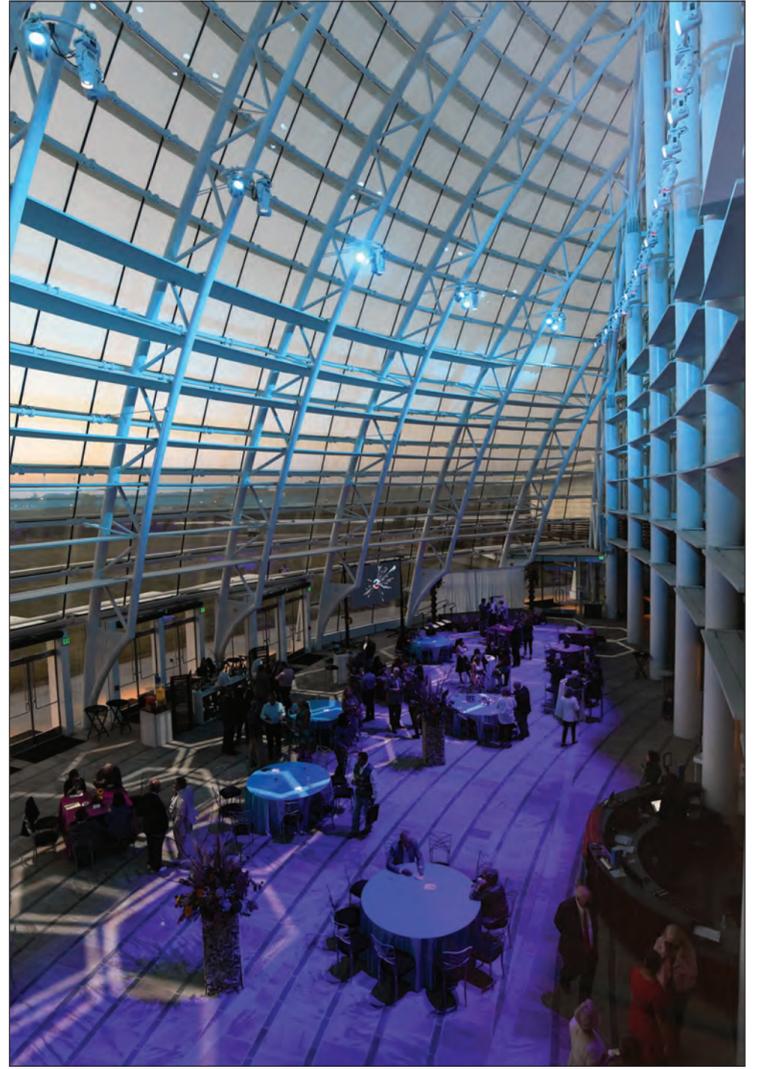
Chad Nodland/UTTC/Facebook

The United Tribes Technical College powwow was held in Bismarck, North Dakota from Sept. 10-12. The event attracted hundreds of participants.



An aerial view of the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City.

Courtesy photo



The interior of the museum's glass half-dome.

Courtesy photo

# First Americans Museum opens in Oklahoma

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The First Americans Museum (FAM) opened Sept. 18 with the mission to serve as a dynamic center to promote awareness and educate the public about the unique cultures, diversity, history, contributions and resilience of the 39 Native American tribes in Oklahoma.

It took nearly three decades of planning and overcoming delays to finally open the Oklahoma City museum. The debut featured speeches, dance exhibitions, fashion shows and hundreds of visitors. Representatives from every tribe in the state were present for the ceremonies.

"The Tribal Nations honored in the First Americans Museum come from all parts of the United States," said the governor of the Chickasaw Nation, Bill Anoatubby, during the grand opening ceremony. "Our stories, of our people, are embedded in the fabric of this continent and our state. This world-class museum showcases to the world tribal history, culture and progress respectfully."

Only a few tribal nations were Indigenous to what is now Oklahoma. All



Courtesy photo

A guest views an exhibit at the First Americans Museum during opening weekend Sept 18-19.

others are descendants of tribes who were forced to move from their homelands to Indian Territory in the early 1800s. In 1907, Oklahoma became the 46th state to enter the union. Its name comes from two Choctaw words: "Okla" and "Homma" meaning "red people."

The concept for the 175,000-square foot museum originated in 1994 and ground was broken in 2005. But funding evaporated in 2012, further delaying construction until more was secured from the state, private donations and the city. Construction resumed in 2019.

Museum staffers, including the all-Native curatorial team, consulted with each of the 39 tribes about the design, exhibits and programming for the museum. FAM CEO and director Pepper Henry (Kaw Nation)

said the museum is committed to telling the truth from the Indigenous perspective.

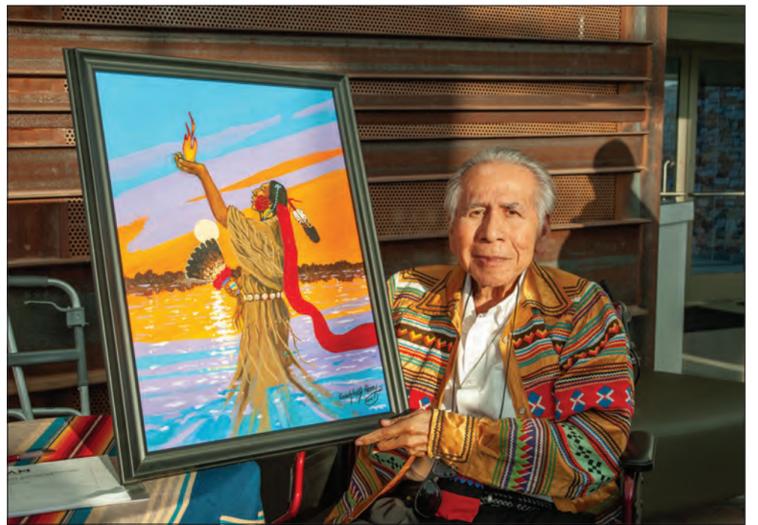
"Many museums were and still are extensions of colonization, serving as repositories for the spoils of war and conquest by European nations over indigenous peoples throughout the world," Henry said in an interview with The Oklahoman. "For many Native peoples, museums are reminders of what has been taken and what has been lost. As First Americans people, we are reimagining the colonial museum and making it our own here."

The museum, located at 659 First Americans Blvd., is comprised of several exhibits, two theaters and the 39 Restaurant with "from rez to table" cuisine.



Courtesy photo

Guests view a presentation in a theater at the museum.



Courtesy photo

Former Seminole Nation of Oklahoma chief and state legislator Enoch Kelly Haney with a painting.

## Popular lunch for Immokalee employees



Beverly Bidney (2)

Employees on the Immokalee Reservation were treated to a welcome back lunch Sept. 3. The drive-thru event featured food from La Nostra, Monster Burger and Cold Stone Creamery.





## Star of the Met Gala

Gucci Westman/Instagram

Model and activist Quannah Chasinghorse (Han Gwich'in and Oglala Lakota) participates in The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala Sept. 13 in New York City. Chasinghorse received plenty of attention with media headlines declaring she was the "breakout star" and "rocked the Met Gala" and "stole (the) show." Chasinghorse wore Navajo turquoise jewelry. The star-studded event, known as the fashion industry's biggest night of the year, included dozens of celebrities such as Jennifer Lopez, Rihanna, Kate Hudson, Serena Williams, Kendall Jenner, Kim Kardashian and Simone Biles.

## Push for Indigenous People's Day in Massachusetts gets support from Italian-American groups

BY KATIE LANNAN  
State House News Service

Indigenous people and other activists calling for the state to rename Columbus Day got support in their push Tuesday from some Italian-Americans who said they, too, think Massachusetts should make the change.

State law calls for the governor to annually proclaim the second Monday in October as Columbus Day, "to the end that the memory of the courage, perseverance and spiritual fervor of Christopher Columbus, discoverer of America, may be perpetuated."

Less than two weeks before that holiday arrives, the Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight heard testimony on a pair of bills (H 3191, S 2027) that would instead have the governor proclaim that day Indigenous People's Day "to acknowledge the history of genocide and discrimination against Indigenous peoples, and to recognize and celebrate the thriving cultures and continued resistance and resilience of Indigenous peoples and their tribal nations."

Supporters of the bills pushed back against the notion that the Italian navigator Columbus truly discovered the Americas, lands that were already populated, and said the switch would recognize the resilience of Indigenous people who endured colonization.

Mahtowin Munro, who is Lakota and spoke on behalf of United American Indians of New England and the statewide Indigenous Peoples Day campaign, said Indigenous people have been asking for the replacement of Columbus Day since the 1970s.

"Nearly all of us were falsely taught as young children that Columbus discovered America," she said. "Indigenous people were not discovered by anybody since we were already here and were certainly not lost. We did not need to have civilization or

spirituality brought to us since we already had many civilizations and beliefs."

Faries Gray, sagamore of the Massachusetts Tribe of Ponkapoag, said Indigenous people throughout the Americas view Columbus as "a terrorist" and celebrating him with a holiday teaches children "that it's acceptable to do this to Indigenous people."

Alex DeFronzo, an Italian-American East Boston resident, said Columbus documented in his writings "his legacy of genocide against the Taino and Carib peoples, sex trafficking of Indigenous women and girls and enslavement of hundreds of Indigenous people."

"The Massachusetts and Wampanoag people for over 8,000 years before the arrival of European colonizers took care of this land in a sustainable way," DeFronzo said. "I think if we're going to honor and celebrate one or the other on the second Monday of October, it's obvious which is worthy and which is not."

The only person who testified against the bills during the hearing, Christopher Spagnuolo, described Columbus as a "complicated historical figure" and said there can be different interpretations of his diaries.

Spagnuolo said the first national observance of Columbus Day, in 1892, was "to atone for a racist crime" — the lynching of a group of Italian men in New Orleans, one of a series of acts of violence and discrimination in the country's history against Italian immigrants and Italian-Americans.

"Removing Columbus Day sets a bad precedent," he said. "It elevates one culture while marginalizing another. It is hurtful to all immigrants that view the day as a celebration of being accepted in America after decades of experiencing racism, prejudice and violence. Columbus Day symbolizes the immigrant

experience in the U.S. and the struggle for acceptance, human rights and dignity."

He suggested a compromise that honors Italian-Americans in October and Indigenous people in November, which is recognized as national Native American Heritage Month.

Heather Leavell, who co-founded Italian Americans for Indigenous People's Day, said her group empathizes with the feelings of Italian-Americans who view the day as a symbol of their ancestors overcoming adversity.

"But things are much different for us today," said Leavell, a Bedford resident. "Our culture is celebrated, especially throughout October, which is officially recognized as Italian-American Heritage Month in the commonwealth. We enjoy a level of status and recognition in society that native people do not, and we have a responsibility to use that platform we now have to ensure we are not repeating the same patterns of abuse that our ancestors endured."

The timing of the hearing makes it unlikely that the bill — which would still need a committee vote, multiple votes in both branches of the Legislature and approval from Gov. Charlie Baker — could become law before this year's holiday, on Oct. 11.

Last session, the committee killed the bill by including it in an order for further study.

Several Massachusetts communities have already taken action to locally observe or declare an Indigenous Peoples Day. Sen. Jo Comerford, who filed the Senate version of the bill, said six cities and towns in her district have done so, and Somerville Rep. Christine Barber, a committee member who said she hopes the bill advances, said that the change to Indigenous Peoples Day in her city has been an "incredibly helpful way to educate people and to raise awareness about Indigenous people who continue to live in our community and whose land we're on."

## AC, Sacramento Hard Rocks step up for emergency-related organizations

### STAFF REPORT

Different coasts, but similar missions.

Hard Rocks in Sacramento, California, and Atlantic City, New Jersey, helped out front line organizations with donations in September.

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain, which opened in 2019

through a partnership between the Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria and the Seminole Tribe, donated \$25,000 each to the Salvation Army of Northern California and the American Red Cross California Gold Country Region. The donations were made to help fire relief efforts in the region.

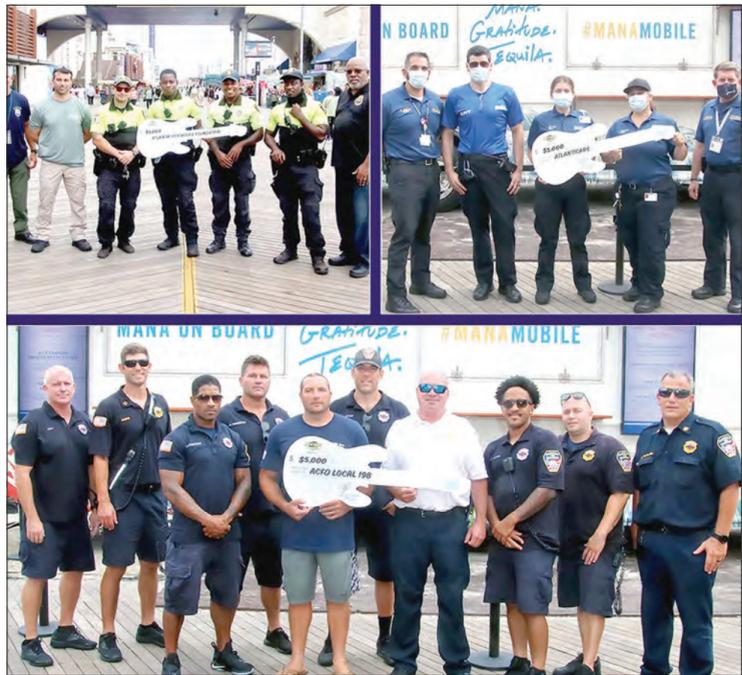
"Hard Rock Sacramento has been a

big supporter of the American Red Cross here in Northern California over the years," Nuriddin Ziyadinov, executive director of the American Red Cross Northern California Chapter, said in a statement. "Thanks to this generous donation, we are able to provide a safe shelter, warm meal, and deliver hope to many who have been displaced due to devastating wildfires across our

communities."

"Big thank you to our friends at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento for their generous support of the American Red Cross and our disaster response efforts! Now more than ever, especially in the midst of an ongoing fire season, our community partners make our mission possible. Thank you!," the Red Cross posted on social media.

Across the country, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City showed its support for first responders by making donations to Atlantic City Firefighters/Local 198, the regional health system AtlantiCare and the Atlantic City Police Foundation. Each was presented a check for \$5,000.



Hard Rock Atlantic City

Local fire, healthcare and police organizations receive \$5,000 checks from Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City in September.



Hard Rock Sacramento

Local American Red Cross and Salvation Army organizations hold \$25,000 checks they received Sept. 8 from Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain in California.

## Black-Indigenous youth program to be held Oct. 11

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

How are Black-Indigenous youth working to advance social justice? An Indigenous Peoples' Day program will highlight youth of blended Black and Native heritage who use art, activism, and policy to advance Black and Indigenous solidarity and affect positive change in their communities.

Moderated by Amber Starks (African American and Muscogee [Creek]), the free program from the National Museum of the American Indian will be held Oct. 11 at 1 p.m. Registration is required at [americanindian.si.edu/calendar](http://americanindian.si.edu/calendar).

Panelists include Joy SpearChief-Morris (African American and Kainai Blood Tribe), Kyle T. Mays (Black and Saginaw Chippewa), and Autumn Rose Williams (Black and Shinnecock).

The program is part of the "Youth in Action: Conversations about Our Future" series, which features young Native activists and changemakers from across the Western Hemisphere who are working towards equity and social justice for Indigenous peoples.

## Smokey Robinson to perform at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

**COCONUT CREEK** — Smokey Robinson will take the stage at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek's new outdoor entertainment venue, Live at Coco, on Nov. 17, at 8 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets priced at \$200 (VIP) and \$70 (general admission) are available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).

William "Smokey" Robinson, Jr. is a legendary singer-songwriter, record producer, record executive and co-founder of Motown Records.

Between 1960 and 1970, Robinson produced 26 Top 40 hits with The Miracles including several Top 10 hits such as "You've Really Got a Hold on Me," "I Second That Emotion," and the group's only number-one pop hit, "The Tears Of A Clown." Other notable hits include, "Ooo Baby Baby," and "The Tracks Of My Tears."

Robinson was awarded an individual star on The Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1983 and four years later, was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

## Las Vegas legend Wayne Newton to play in Immokalee

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

**IMMOKALEE** — Las Vegas icon Wayne Newton will perform his show "Wayne Newton: Up Close and Personal" live in concert at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee on March 21, 2022 at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale now \$125 and are

available by phone at 1-800-514-ETIX or online at [moreinparadise.com](http://moreinparadise.com). Attendees must be 21 years of age.

"Wayne Newton: Up Close and Personal" features a compilation of all of his talents. Newton will sing crowd favorites including platinum record hit "Danke Schoen" as well as engage with the audience by answering questions.

## Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee to host free outdoor music festival

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

**IMMOKALEE** — The Southern Fried Swamp Jam Festival, a free event, will be held Jan. 8, 2022, at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee at 11 a.m. The festival will feature six full-length, outdoor concerts with additional entertainment in the Zig Zag Lounge, as well as a truck and bike show, a large vendor section and a variety of food trucks. For more event information including truck and bike show registration,

visit [moreinparadise.com](http://moreinparadise.com).

The lineup for the Swamp Jam Festival includes:

- 38 Special:
- Molly Hatchet
- The Fabulous Thunderbirds
- The Georgia Satellites
- Jack Michael Band
- Mike Imbasciani + His Bluezrockez.

## Tim Allen coming to Hard Rock Live in Hollywood

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Comedian and actor Tim Allen will perform at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Jan. 6, 2022, at 8 p.m.

Tickets cost \$125, \$95 and \$75 and are available at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com).

Honing his talents as a stand-up comic

throughout the '80s, Allen continues to perform stand-up shows to sold-out crowds across the country. Allen's role on "Home Improvement" earned him a Golden Globe Award, an Emmy nomination, and he was honored with the People's Choice Award for Favorite Male Performer in a Television Series for eight years in a row.

# Sports



Kevin Johnson

The 2021 Moore Haven High School varsity volleyball team includes the Seminole Tribe's Summer Gopher (1), Ayana Fonseca (3), Preslynn Baker (back row, far left) and Miley Jimmie (back row, third from left). The team is coached by Baker's mother Mona Baker (far right). Other players on the squad include Adore Thomas (kneeling), Jaiden Cox (16), Elissa Herrera (8), Toni Patrick (back row, second from left), Akeelah Ling (back row, third from right) and Mackenzie Cochran (back row, second from right).

## Strong start with Tennessee volleyball team for former PECS student

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Former Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School student Raeley Matthews is off to a fast start with the Tusculum University volleyball team in Greeneville, Tennessee.

As of Sept. 10, Matthews led the team in kills with 63 and was second in digs with 57.

She notched double-digit kills in the team's first four matches of the season, including a match-high 15 in an opening-night loss against Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Since then, Tusculum has won four straight, including a 3-0 win against the University of Virginia's College at Wise on Sept. 7. Matthews had eight kills and four digs.

Matthews is a 6-foot outside hitter who previously played for Florida Southern College. She is the daughter of PECS teacher and volleyball coach Pam Matthews.



Tusculum Athletics

Raeley Matthews

## Tribal players, coaches, community help Moore Haven volleyball soar

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**MOORE HAVEN** — The Seminole community has had a lot to do with the early season success of the Moore Haven High School volleyball team, both on and off the court.

Using a new net that was donated by the Seminole Tribal Council and wearing home jerseys donated by Seminole Sign Co. owner and Moore Haven alum Jason Thomas, the Terriers swept Clewiston in three games Sept. 13 at Moore Haven High School.

The victory upped the Terriers' record to a perfect 3-0 under first-year head coach Mona Baker of the Brighton Reservation. They won two of their next three matches and neared the end of September with a sizzling 5-1 mark.

Baker said the donation of the net couldn't have come at a better time.

"The nets we had here were horrible. They were probably 10 years old," Baker said.

Her daughter Jaryaca, who is the junior varsity head coach, echoed those sentiments.

"Thank God. The other one was falling apart. It was a hazard to play with honestly," she said.

Mona Baker said other companies in the area — such as Glades Electric — have also contributed to the program.

"I'm really proud of the community here and the tribal community," she said.

Every little bit helps as Baker tries to build up the program. The banners draped on the walls of the gym highlight the school's past championships won in sports such as football, softball and track. There are no banners for volleyball; Baker hopes to change that by forming a program that will vie for titles.

So far, so good, although the team's best days might be in the years to come. This year's squad is very young, comprised mostly of freshmen and sophomores with just two seniors (Jaiden Cox and Tori Patrick) and no juniors.

The four tribal members on varsity are all young. Summer Gopher is a sophomore; Ayana Fonseca and Baker's daughter Preslynn are freshmen and Miley Jimmie is an eighth-grader. No doubt they'll play huge roles in the future, but they're already



Kevin Johnson

Preslynn Baker, left, and Mackenzie Cochran are in good position for a service return in Moore Haven's varsity win against Clewiston on Sept. 13 at Moore Haven High School.

providing significant contributions.

Jimmie and Preslynn Baker are the team's hardest hitters, and Baker teams up with Fonseca as the main setters. Gopher did not play against Clewiston, but she is also a key player.

"Those four tribal members are going to help us build," Mona Baker said.

The setting department — with Fonseca and Preslynn Baker — should be strong for years to come.

"They work really well together and they communicate well together," Mona Baker said.

Jimmie, who only recently began playing volleyball, had an outstanding night serving against Clewiston. She delivered the most powerful serves and racked up several aces.

As a team, serving is an area that Baker has seen tremendous growth in since day one. She points to the fact that nobody is serving underhanded anymore as a sign of the team's growth that extends throughout the program. In fact, only the middle school

"B" team is allowed to serve underhand.

The varsity squad has also quickly adapted to Baker's coaching.

"All the girls have really stepped up and adjusted to learning a new rotation," Baker said.

Baker hopes to be at the helm of the program until at least the younger middle school players are seniors. Right now those players are being guided by the tribe's Dallas Nunez, who coaches the "B" team, and his daughter Brianna, who coaches the "A" team. Both middle school teams feature Seminole players.

The varsity squad originally had 12 games on its regular season schedule, however, quarantine issues have disrupted the schedules for practices and matches. Still, the 5-1 start is the kind of progress Baker hopes to see the rest of the season and beyond.

"I'm so proud of them," she said.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven junior varsity head coach Jaryaca Baker and her team had plenty of reasons to smile as they defeated Clewiston on Sept. 13.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Tehya Nunez delivers a serve in the junior varsity match.



Kevin Johnson

Ayana Fonseca (3) and Miley Jimmie (17) team up on defense at the net against Clewiston. The team's new net was donated by the Tribal Council.

## PFL World Championship to be held at Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Professional Fighters League (PFL) World Championship will take place Oct. 27 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

The matches will air on ESPN networks. Tickets through Ticketmaster range from \$30 to \$175, with a variety of VIP packages.

The evening will feature six world championship fights, including two-time Olympic gold medalist Claressa Shields. Shields is a three-division boxing world champion coming off a TKO victory in her MMA debut in June. She will face 21-year-old Abigail Montes. The Mexico native has a perfect record.

"The biggest night in MMA gets boosted by the return of Claressa Shields to the PFL SmartCage, and we can't wait to deliver an unforgettable night for the more than 550 million MMA fans around the world with our great partners at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino and ESPN," PFL CEO Peter Murray said in a statement.



Via Twitter

Claressa Shields

## Boston Marathon adds Native features in wake of criticism

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

After facing criticism for scheduling its race on the same day as Indigenous Peoples' Day, officials with the Boston Marathon are trying to make amends.

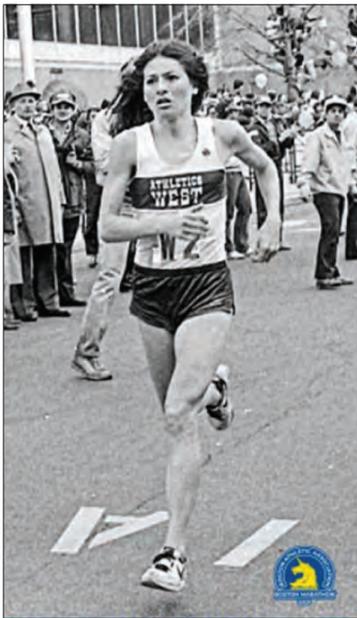
The marathon, which is usually held in April but was postponed due to the pandemic, will run Oct. 11. The Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.), which oversees the marathon, acknowledged that the day is recognized as Indigenous Peoples' Day in cities and towns along the race route and has incorporated a variety of Indigenous-related aspects to this year's marathon.

Patti Catalano Dillon (Mi'kmaq), a three-time Boston Marathon runner-up, will be interviewed at Fan Fest. She will discuss setting the American marathon record at Boston 40 years ago. Catalano Dillon is also featured in the 125th Boston Marathon Banner Program. She will serve as an official starter for the men's and women's open races.

"It's such an honor to be asked and I'm so humbled and excited to celebrate both aspects of my identity—as a Bostonian and an Indigenous person," Catalano Dillon said in a statement. "The Boston Marathon and the Native community both made me who I am today, and I am delighted to have an opportunity to celebrate them."

The B.A.A. will also make donations to Native-related endeavors. B.A.A. will contribute \$10,000 to Wings of America, a national organization with a mission of strengthening Native youth and their families through running. The donation will support youth programming. Dustin Martin, the organization's executive director, will be recognized in a race weekend event.

At Fan Fest, Yatika Starr Fields, a painter and muralist who will run the marathon in support of Wings, will create a piece that focuses on gratitude to past and present Indigenous runners in the marathon. From Oct. 8-10 in Copley Square, Fields will work with local artists, community



Patti Catalano Dillon (Mi'kmaq) set an American marathon record 40 years ago in the Boston Marathon.

members and Indigenous runners to develop a piece inspired by Ellison Brown, who won the marathon twice in the 1930s and was a member of the Narragansett Tribe in nearby Rhode Island.

In August, the B.A.A. apologized for holding the race on Indigenous Peoples' Day. Shortly after, it announced it would donate \$20,000 to fund the first-ever Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration in Newton.

The B.A.A. also said it will read a land acknowledgment prior to the race.

## Kaleb Thomas transfers to Trinity Baptist

FROM TRINITY BAPTIST ATHLETICS

JACKSONVILLE — The Trinity Baptist College baseball team in Jacksonville will begin its fall regimen just as the new semester begins, and coach Jon Copeland continues to add new talent to the roster.

Right-handed pitcher Kaleb Thomas, of the Brighton Reservation, adds depth to the pitching staff and brings college experience in NCAA Division 3 competition.

Thomas attended and played for Clarks Summit University (Clarks Summit, Penn.) as a freshman in 2021 under head coach Devin Raven and assistant coach Ryan McKeen.

Thomas played varsity baseball at Okeechobee High School under head coach Eric Kindell and assistants Cameron Tewksbury and Brian Morgan after attending Moore Haven High School for his first two years as a freshman and sophomore. He played third base, left field, and pitcher on junior varsity then remained steady in left field and on the mound. As a senior, he converted to a pitcher-only team member for the varsity Okeechobee Brahms.

Thomas is the son of Gene and Michele Thomas.

In limited action at Clarks Summit in 2021, Kaleb averaged 0.85 strikeouts per inning pitched in three total appearances, one of them a start. He continued to play throughout the summer for the Seminole Tribe of Florida for NAYO. He also played one season of travel ball for TSA in Fort Myers.

During this past summer, Kaleb played in Jacksonville's first season of Coastal Collegiate Summer League Baseball, which holds games at historic J.P. Small Memorial Park (Downtown) and Atlantic Coast High School (Southside). Kaleb is fine tuning his skills under pitching coach Steven Dogger of Calvin University and manager Kyle Houts of Iowa Lakes Community College. Former MLB pitching coach Chris Lein oversees the program. "I am playing with men from all over the United States and from all different levels such as D1, D2, D3, NAIA, and



Kaleb Thomas and his mother Michele Thomas.

JUCO," Kaleb explained.

Kaleb also ran cross country in high school and was a three-time all-regional cross country runner for the Florida High School Athletic Association. He is a member of Journey Church in Orange Park, Florida.

Kaleb excels in the classroom, too. He earned the Florida Medallion Scholarship for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program and was one of the very few students selected to win the Devon Venables Memorial Scholarship.

When asked why he decided to transfer to Trinity Baptist College, Kaleb cited the opportunity to return to Florida and to study and work his way into the ministry. "I chose Trinity not only to play baseball but because it was closer to home," he said. "I also

wanted to pursue my education in becoming a pastor in the pastoral theology Program here at TBC. I look forward to being more involved in the ministry program here at TBC and taking part in leadership."

Kaleb intends to use his pastoral degree to spread the Gospel wherever he feels led to do the Lord's work, all while advancing his education and ministry. "My career plans after TBC are to go and pastor wherever the Lord may lead me and to possibly get my master's degree at Clarks Summit University," he said.

His favorite Bible Verse is 1 Thessalonians 5:18, which says, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

## F1 Miami Grand Prix set for next spring at Hard Rock Stadium campus

FROM PRESS RELEASE

MIAMI GARDENS — The Formula 1 Miami Grand Prix announced Sept. 23 that its first event will be held from May 6-8, 2022.

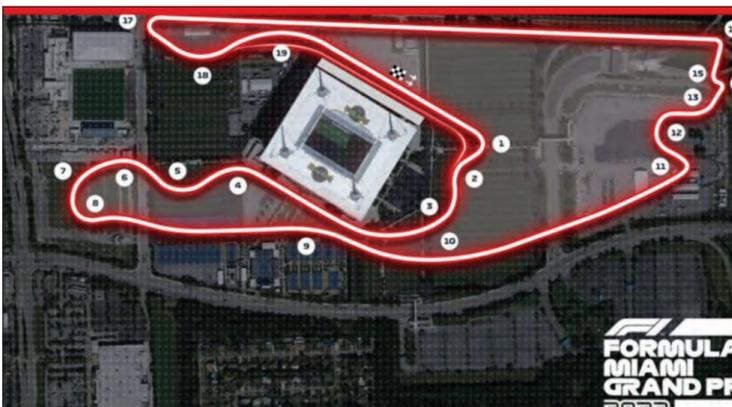
As with all rounds of the FIA Formula 1 World Championship, the action will be split across all three days, with practice on Friday, qualifying on Saturday and the Grand Prix on Sunday, together with a host of other action and entertainment throughout the weekend.

"We've worked hard to create a track with great racing and a venue with unparalleled fan experiences," Tom Garfinkel, Miami Grand Prix Managing Partner, said in a statement. "There has been tremendous enthusiasm and anticipation

for this event, and we're happy to be able to announce the date so that people can start planning for it."

Construction of the Miami International Autodrome within the Hard Rock Stadium campus has continued since the laying of super-smooth racing asphalt was completed. In the coming weeks, the innovative range of ticketing and hospitality options available to savor the occasion will be unveiled in what organizers believe will be another new landmark for F1® and Miami.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the Formula 1 community and the sport's fanbase worldwide are going to be amazed by what they see next May," Miami Grand Prix CEO, Richard Cregan, Miami Grand Prix CEO, said in a statement.



The Miami Grand Prix course will wind its way around Hard Rock Stadium.

## Fight night at Seminole Hard Rock



Vitor Belfort celebrates his first-round victory against Hall of Famer Evander Holyfield on Sept. 11 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Evander Holyfield failed to make a triumphant return in his first fight in more than a decade.

Holyfield, a former cruiserweight and heavyweight world champion who last fought in 2011, lost to Vitor Belfort on Sept. 11 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

Hollywood. The fight was scheduled for eight rounds, but Belfort, 44, needed just 1:49 to earn a TKO victory in the first round.

Holyfield, 58, had little time to prepare for the fight. He was an 11th-hour replacement for Oscar De La Hoya and looked far from his prime condition in the peak of his career decades ago. The Belfort-De La Hoya fight was slated to be held at the Staples Center

in Los Angeles, but De La Hoya withdrew after he said he tested positive for Covid-19. Belfort, an MMA champion, found a willing opponent in Holyfield and the fight shifted to Florida.

Former President Donald Trump was in attendance. He provided broadcast commentary on the fight along with his son Donald Jr.

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