



# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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## National recognition rolls in for Hard Rock, Seminole Gaming

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The honors have continued to come in this summer for Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming.

For the third-consecutive year, HRI was recognized by Forbes Magazine as one of America's "best employers for women."

Forbes compiles the annual list in the travel and leisure category from a survey of more than 75,000 U.S. employees that are working for companies of at least 1,000 people.

One of the reasons HRI was recognized in the category is due to the success of its "Women in Leadership" program.

"Providing women with the proper tools, training and leadership opportunities is crucial to the success of any organization and Hard Rock does an exemplary job of representing female leaders at all levels," Tracy Bradford, EVP of administration and founder of the Seminole and Hard Rock WIL program, said in a statement. "Being honored for the third consecutive year is a testament to Hard Rock's ongoing commitment to empowering women within the workplace and will continue to be a focal point to ensure we have a diverse team throughout all areas of our organization."

♦ See **HARD ROCK HONORS** on page 6A

## Hollywood housing opportunities open up thanks to major construction project

*Development being built on east side of State Road 7*

BY SALLIE JAMES  
Special to the Tribune

**HOLLYWOOD** — Tomie Motlow longed to own a home on the Hollywood Reservation, but there were no available houses. She put her name on a waiting list and dreamed.

It was a very long wait. Now, more than 23 years later, the Seminole Tribe member and mother of two is making plans to move into what will be the first new major housing development built there since the 1990s. Lennar Homes has begun construction of 103 rental townhomes and 74 single-family homes. The estimated completion date is sometime in 2021. The development is called "Seminole Park."

"It's hard to make it seem real because I have been waiting so long," Motlow said. "It's hard to fathom until I know my foundation is in the ground and the walls are coming up."

The development is located in an area of the reservation that previously was home to the Seminole Park mobile home site, whose residences were available to the public. Those homes have been demolished.

The new development is for Seminoles. It will include a combination of three-, four-



Carlos Fuentes

Construction of new townhomes and single-family homes, shown here in July, continues in the Seminole Park section of the Hollywood Reservation.

and five-bedroom single-family homes, half of them one-story and half two-stories. Most of the townhomes will be three bedrooms, but 28 will feature four bedrooms.

The development is spread across a 44-acre stretch on the east side of State Road 7. It is close to the Trading Post, Seminole

Police Department, Seminole Fire Rescue, Seminole Gaming warehouses, Seminole Wholesale Distributors and Oaklee Village.

"It shows how far we've come and it just gives everybody an idea of how we want to do things moving forward," Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola said about the

project. "There hasn't been any significant growth on this reservation since the '90s. This is the first housing development we've seen."

♦ See **HOUSING** on page 4A

## Betty Mae Jumper named on 'Florida Women of the Century' list

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Betty Mae Jumper's vast legacy was just expanded; she was named one of USA Today's "Florida Women of the Century," a list of notable women with a wealth of accomplishments and achievements. It was compiled along with a national list to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

The state-by-state list includes 500 women from all 50 states and some U.S. territories. Florida's list includes 10 women who all lived during 20th century. The women were educators, environmentalists, writers and trailblazers in a variety of fields.

Jumper, the only Native American on the list, is noted for being the first woman to lead the Seminole Tribe and first female elected leader of any tribe in North America. She led Tribal Council as Chairwoman from 1967 to 1971. She was also an advocate for education, a founder of the United South and

Eastern Tribes (USET), editor and founder of the Tribe's newspaper, the Tribe's first health director, a cattle rancher, an author and a member of the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. She died in 2011.

A nurse, Jumper spent 40 years working to improve health care for the Tribe, so it is apt that the Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center was built in Hollywood.

The other Florida women on the list are Mary McLeod Bethune, a trailblazer for African American education and civil rights; Marjory Stoneman Douglas, a journalist, author, civil rights advocate and conservationist; Zora Neale Hurston, a novelist, filmmaker and author; Nancy Brinker founder of the Susan G. Komen (formerly known as the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation); Loretta Ford, an internationally renowned nursing leader; Rosemary Barkett, the first woman to serve on the Florida Supreme Court and the state's first female chief justice; Cristina Saralegui, a Cuban American media personality; Roxey O'Neal Bolton, a feminist and civil rights activist and Janet Reno, the first female attorney general of the United States.



File photo

Betty Mae Jumper

## Veterans Memorial to mark completion online

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Organizers of the newly completed National Native American Veterans Memorial were putting together the final touches for a grand procession and dedication ceremony to take place on Veterans Day when Covid-19 became a global pandemic in March.

Those plans came to an abrupt halt when museums and venues across the country began to close their doors to the public. Many, like the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., are still temporarily closed.

The memorial's home is located on the grounds adjacent to the museum.

But even though the events at the memorial have been derailed or postponed, there will be an online dedication to mark the memorial's completion on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Hosted by the museum, the virtual event will also acknowledge the service and sacrifice of Native veterans and their families.

It's been a long and winding road to the memorial's completion. After a



series of fits and starts, the U.S. Congress eventually commissioned it and its design and construction moved forward.

It is the first national landmark in the nation's capital to focus on the contributions of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians who served in the U.S. military.

Historians say Native Americans have served in every branch of the U.S. military since the American Revolution and in larger numbers per capita than any other ethnic group.

The interactive memorial was designed by Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma) — a multimedia artist, retired forensic artist and Marine Corps Vietnam veteran.

It consists of a large elevated stainless steel circle balanced on a carved stone drum. The structure incorporates water for sacred ceremonies and benches for public gathering and individual reflection.

The final details for the Nov. 11 online ceremony had not been released at press time. To stay up-to-date, visit americanindian.si.edu, email navmddedication@si.edu, or call (202) 633-7020.

Organizers said they are also planning to reschedule the original in-person procession and dedication for a future date.

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# Editorial

## Rushed Census will harm Native communities

• Fawn Sharp and Cheryl Crazy Bull

The disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIANs) illustrates why Native people must be counted in the U.S. Census. An accurate Census count can make a world of difference when it comes to critical funding for AIAN people in the areas of healthcare, education, housing, roads, law enforcement, and more, while at the same time ensuring that our growing population has proportional Congressional representation.

The pandemic disrupted the Census Bureau's operations in April. Tribal nations were hopeful when the current Administration asked Congress to extend deadlines for Census data collection, and the U.S. Census Bureau announced that it would conclude field operations on October 31 rather than the original end date in late July.

However, the optimism slowly faded when the House agreed to the extension in the coronavirus relief legislation, but the Senate did not. Now, the Administration appears determined to cut short the enumeration door-knocking campaign, putting the count at even greater risk for all undercounted communities, since the purpose of these household visits are to capture responses from households that have not yet responded by mail, phone, or online.

Whatever the reason behind the current Administration's sudden desire to speed up the count, Census Bureau officials stated in early July that the October extension date was needed for accurate numbers. If Congress is truly committed to a complete and accurate count, it must listen to the experts and pass legislation that allows for an extension of field operations.

Speeding up the Census count will devastate tribal communities. To date, almost 90 percent of tribal communities are below the national response rate, leaving millions of Native people currently uncounted in the 2020 Census. This means tribal communities nationwide would receive only 30 cents on the dollar of the federal funds that they deserve, funds that will make an enormous impact on our families and communities – right when they are needed most. By undercounting American Indians and Alaska Natives, we risk underfunding tribal communities for the next 10 years – as they struggle in the wake of a pandemic.

It's no secret that harmful government policies have had lasting effects on our families and communities. AIAN people nationwide suffer from a poverty rate that is nearly double that of other groups – 25.8 percent compared to 14.1 percent of the overall population according to the U.S. Census. Poverty impacts all facets of life in tribal communities. The coronavirus has underscored the importance of federal funding for healthcare, technology

infrastructure, education opportunities, food benefits, housing, job opportunities, roads, sanitation, and more.

The coronavirus pandemic has exposed healthcare funding inequities for AIAN peoples. Lack of access to medical care and poor nutrition due to poverty have led to diabetes rates that are three times higher amongst AIAN people than other groups, according to the Indian Health Service.

Education is a way out of poverty, yet Native people 25 and older have earned a college degree at less than half of the rate of the overall population, at 14.5 percent compared to 31.5 percent, according to U.S. Census data.

COVID-19 has required students and workers to continue remotely, yet the digital divide has made this more difficult for Native people. In 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) estimated that 35% of people living on tribal lands lack broadband service – more than four times the national average.

While Congress must do its part, we too have the power now to change things. The answer is simple. Native people nationwide – no matter our age or location – must ensure that we count ourselves: either online, by phone, or by mail.

Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-New Mexico), a citizen of the Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico, said, "The Census is about more than being counted. It's about our families. It's about our communities. It's

about ensuring we have our fair share of the resources for roads, schools, and hospitals."

We join Congresswoman Haaland in urging AIAN people nationwide to close the equity gap by participating in the 2020 Census.

When people are fully counted, they are both funded and represented. The Census determines legislative districts and the number of people who will have a seat in the House of Representatives – people like Congresswoman Deb Haaland – who serve as our voices in Washington. Representation is especially vital because without it we are taxed but not represented, which is devastating to democracy. And the invisibility of and toxic misconceptions about Native peoples creates serious biases in our government, institutions, and popular culture.

The situation is urgent. If we do not participate, there is no opportunity to correct the count. We must wait until the next Census.

There are three easy ways you can ensure funding and visibility for AIAN peoples through the U.S. Census. Designate one representative in your household to complete the Census in one of the following ways:

1. Mail the 2020 Census survey form you received in April;
2. Complete the 2020 Census survey online at <https://2020census.gov> (Navajo language pages are available at

<https://2020census.gov/nv.html>); or

3. Make a phone call. Customer service representatives are available every day from 7 a.m. to 2 a.m. Eastern Time in English (for all 50 states and Washington, D.C.): 844-330-2020 and Spanish (for 50 states and Washington, D.C.): 844-468-2020.

Once you complete your own 2020 Census survey, volunteer to help other Native people complete the Census, especially elders or those who need help in English. And finally, share the importance of getting counted on social media along with your reason for getting counted, such as school funding or better health care for your community.

We urge you to act now! Native people count! Stand up and be counted! Your families, friends, and communities are counting on you.

Fawn R. Sharp serves as the 23rd President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native tribal government organization in the country. For more information, please visit [www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org).

*Cheryl Crazy Bull is the President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, the nation's largest charity supporting Native higher education for 31 years. This editorial is from Indian Country Today, where it was posted on Aug. 13.*

## 'Sad day' for Navajo Nation as death sentence is carried out

• Jonathan Nez and Myron Lizer

This is a sad day (Aug. 26) for family members, relatives, and friends of two Navajo families and for the Navajo Nation as a whole. This evening, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons in Terre Haute, Indiana, carried out the death penalty sentence for Lezmond Charles Mitchell. We offer a prayer for strength and comfort for the Slim family for the loss of two precious lives, their grandmother and granddaughter. To carry this loss for the past

19 years is difficult and we trust they can now turn to healing their family. A prayer also for the Mitchell family who endured the consequences of their son's actions and now have lost their son. We wish there could have been a time for restoring peace and harmony for all involved in this tragic event, but we will not get that chance.

The Navajo Nation's position, from the beginning, was to advocate for the sovereign status of the Nation. Our decision not to accept the death penalty in federal cases remains a Navajo decision, but in this instance the federal government ignored the Navajo Nation. This is an affront to our Nation because we should be the

ones to decide these matters. The federal government charged a crime that was added in 1994 to the Federal Death Penalty Act and blindsided the Navajo Nation by using this to sidestep the Navajo Nation's position. We have a court system that is fair and just for all persons. We have laws that protect our People. We have brave men and women on our police force to watch over us. Crimes committed on the Navajo Nation are for us to decide. Our judicial and public safety system considers restorative justice in court cases as based on our custom and traditions of hozho' and k'e. Federal officials may not understand our family connections and our strength in keeping harmony. So, we invite

them to meet with us and find an answer to address this important death penalty matter.

The Navajo Nation asked for clemency in Mr. Mitchell's case in changing his sentence to life in prison without possibility of release. This is the same request supported by U.S. Senators, U.S. House Representatives, Tribal Nations, and tribal organization. But our collective voice was ignored. We don't expect federal officials to understand our strongly held traditions of clan relationship, keeping harmony in our communities, and holding life sacred. What we do expect, no, what we demand, is respect for our People, for our Tribal Nation, and we will not be pushed aside any longer.

We thank the many Tribal Nations who supported the Navajo Nation's stand on sovereignty, and we appreciate the Tribal organization's letters advocating for tribal sovereignty. We now call on all Tribal Nations and Tribal organizations to begin a dialogue on a respect for tribal sovereignty, respect for all Tribal Nation, and respect for Native Americans. We are moving forward in this fight and we ask all to join us.

*Jonathan Nez is president of the Navajo Nation. Myron Lizer is vice-president of the Navajo Nation.*

## How Native Americans won some of the vote

• The Durango (Colorado) Herald

Miguel Trujillo was a child of Isleta Pueblo, in New Mexico, just south of Albuquerque, which was inhabited by his ancestors since before Spanish soldiers thought they discovered the country at the end of the 15th century.

Trujillo attended the Albuquerque Indian School, then leaped to Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, a boarding school created to teach American Indigenous children to be tailors, farmers and blacksmiths. Trujillo went on to the University of New Mexico, where he earned a bachelor's degree not

long before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. He enlisted in the Marines, rose to the rank of sergeant and was a Marine recruiter. After the war, he and his wife got jobs as teachers at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Day School at Laguna Pueblo, New Mexico, and he studied for a master's degree. He was a success story with a belief in education but he still was not a citizen in New Mexico.

As the U.S. took and absorbed territory in the 19th century, creating federal and settler lands west of the Mississippi, most Native Americans were not eligible for U.S. citizenship. They were in a juridical limbo. Even naturalization for foreigners was closed to them. The 14th Amendment, in 1868, granted birthright citizenship to all Americans "born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction

thereof" – including, in theory, at least, Black Americans. But many, if not most, Native Americans were still excluded on the grounds they were not taxed and therefore not in American jurisdiction.

In 1924, the U.S. Indian Citizenship Act said "all non-citizen Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States" from that date were citizens. Yet in Colorado, for example, in 1937, the state attorney general told the U.S. solicitor general it was "our opinion" that Native Americans in Colorado still did not have the right to vote.

The rest of the Indigenous people in the U.S. were recognized as citizens under the U.S. Nationality Act of 1940. And states still kept them from voting. The New Mexico Constitution said those prohibited included "idiots, insane persons ... and Indians not

taxed." In other words, any Native American, like Trujillo, who lived on a reservation (a pueblo is a reservation).

At the beginning of the summer of 1948, Trujillo went to the office of the clerk of Valencia County, New Mexico, which encompassed part of his natal Isleta Pueblo, and said he wanted to register to vote.

Can't do it, he was told. Trujillo found a sterling civil rights lawyer, the former New Dealer Felix Cohen, and they sued in U.S. District Court.

In the first week of August that year, a three-judge panel in Santa Fe ruled in their favor, saying Indigenous people such as Trujillo "have responded to the need of the country in time of war ... Why should they be deprived their rights to vote now because they are favored by the federal government

in exempting lands from taxation?"

It took another eight years before Indigenous people were allowed to serve on juries in Colorado. Only in 1957 did they obtain the right to vote in Utah. And tribal members were barred from voting in Colorado by literacy requirements until those tests were banned by law in the U.S. Voting Rights Act amendment of 1970.

Nevertheless, Miguel Trujillo won the right of Indigenous Americans to vote in New Mexico 72 years ago this summer. He took the country one more step down a road to inclusion that always seems longer than we thought it would be – but that is a story for another day.

## Entrepreneurs encouraged to 'make your dream a reality'

### STAFF REPORT

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe's Native Learning Center is offering a five-session webinar for Native American entrepreneurs interested in running a business.

"Learn how to make your dream a reality," takes place online Oct. 5 through Oct. 9.

Organizers said the objective is to take a business idea from conception to marketing.

"This training will provide both group and individual level guidance to help launch your business," the training description reads. "Bring an open mind, willingness to

learn and a real desire to form your business."

The instructor for the training is Dr. Ron Sheffield – a member of the Quechan Tribe of Arizona. Sheffield is an adjunct professor of leadership at Christopher Newport University, located in Newport News, Virginia.

He also serves on the board of the American Indigenous Business Leaders.

His doctoral research at George Washington University, located in Washington, D.C., was titled: "The Influence of Language on Culture and Identity: Resurgence of the Quechan Native American Tribal Language."

Sheffield's research focused on the influence that language restriction, and

later federal legitimization, had on Native American elders' perspectives of culture and identity, his biography reads.

Organizers said participants should register separately for each session they would like to attend. Registration is free for Native Americans and those working within Indian Country.

For more information, go to [nativelearningcenter.com](http://nativelearningcenter.com) or call (954) 985-2315.

Faithfinder.com

**Dr. Ron Sheffield (Quechan Tribe of Arizona) will serve as an instructor for an NLC program Oct. 5-9.**



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# Community



## Proposed Army Corps projects near Brighton enter new phase

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hit a benchmark Aug. 28 in its plans for a variety of water-related construction projects along Lake Okeechobee.

The Corps's Jacksonville District has published the final project report and environmental impact statement for its "Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project," also known as LOWRP.

The Corps' proposals and plans have long been closely tracked and monitored by the Seminole Tribe.

Paul Backhouse, senior director of the Tribe's Heritage and Environmental Resource Office (HERO), said the latest phase marks a "major milestone." He said the Tribe now has 30 days to review the documents, which were expected to be available on the Corps's website.

The review period is in place so the Tribe and other state and agency partners can then send final comments to the Corps on its LOWRP plans.

Lake Okeechobee issues of many kinds are important to the Tribe. But when it comes to LOWRP, the situation intensifies because the Brighton Reservation is close in proximity to many of the proposed projects that have thus far been in a study and comment phase.

The Corps held public meetings on the projects in the summer of 2018 and has been updating documents since.

Projects include aquifer, storage and recovery (ASR) wells and so-called "shallow storage" water projects. The water storage projects are essentially a type of reservoir, what the Corps calls a "wetland attenuation feature." During heavy precipitation, it would ostensibly help weaken water flows into Lake Okeechobee without storing it for long periods.

The Corps is tasked with managing Lake Okeechobee water and decides how and when to discharge and distribute water before it reaches dangerously high levels. Those decisions have effects on surrounding communities as well as those located along tributaries to the east and west coasts of the state, as discharges to the south are not always viable.

LOWRP project manager Tim Gysan said while the Covid-19 pandemic slowed some progress, no LOWRP timelines have been significantly altered.

Final plans would still need to be authorized by the U.S. Congress for approval and funding before any on-the-ground construction begins, Gysan said.

### Ongoing concerns

The Tribe's unease regarding water storage near the Brighton Reservation is due to the potential for life threatening flooding, property damage, negative environmental impacts, water supply and agricultural issues and encroachment on Tribal lands.

Gysan said the Corps has taken Tribal feedback into consideration throughout the process and is using a more phased approach as well as additional monitoring when it comes to the ASR wells.

He said the first storage site would essentially serve as a test system.

"Where we could run it through operational testing and collect monitoring data to specifically answer some of the remaining questions, and more site-specific questions, before we'd proceed with full scale implementation at the sites," Gysan said. "We'd check specific sites to make sure that they are performing before we'd implement a full ASR system."

An exact timeline for construction of dozens of ASR wells isn't known, but full implementation could take up to 15 years, Gysan said.

"There is some state funding that has come in to begin small scale implementation and address some of those scientific unknowns and the questions — many of the questions can't be addressed without constructing some wells," he said.

The first phase construction out of the state funding could begin as soon as late 2021.

Stacy D. Myers, a senior scientist/liaison



This map shows the areas of the proposed projects and their proximity to the Brighton Reservation.

for the Tribe, argues that a breach analysis already conducted by the Corps showed the proposed projects would potentially flood the Brighton Reservation.

"If there's a breach on the north side it will flood the Reservation, and that's acceptable to them," Myers said. "When they look at the whole scope and the risk analysis, there's an acceptable level of risk, a certain amount of destruction. To us, they should be using our risk standards, which are zero loss of life and property damage from a potential breach."

Myers likens it to the reservation being put into a guinea pig situation.

"Just to be sure, we're going to build part of this and we'll see," he said.

Myers, who has worked for more than 10 years for the Tribe and for 20 years as a South Florida Water Management District liaison and advocate for the Tribe, said Tribal leadership wants the projects to be moved further up the watershed and away from the Reservation.

"Historically there were no reservoirs in this particular location — all of it was further

up," he said. "We should be trying to return things back to the way they were as much as possible."

In the meantime, the Tribe continues to be in talks with Corps officials and reviews documents and plans.

"We're trying to convince the headquarters that these attenuation features in particular are a really bad idea," Myers said. "It's not good for the Tribe and doesn't provide the benefits that the Corps is seeking."

## Seminole Hard Rock 'Winterfest Boat Parade' cancelled

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — The 2020 installment of the popular "Winterfest" holiday event — scheduled for Dec. 12 — has officially been cancelled.

Winterfest hosts a varied lineup of events, but is best known for the unique "Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade," which brings together scores of participants and spectators from across the globe.

Not surprisingly, the reason for the cancellation of the parade and other live events is due to the ongoing pandemic and the concerns organizers have for participants and spectators.

"Our team, partners and community supporters were very hopeful for the traditional holiday boat parade to continue in December," Lisa Scott-Found, president and CEO of Winterfest, said in a statement. "This was a very difficult decision, but we are being proactive and socially responsible for the health and safety of our community. That is our top priority."

The parade — recognized as one of the top in the world — traditionally winds for 12-miles along Fort Lauderdale's New River and travels east to the Intracoastal Waterway and north to Lake Santa Barbara in Pompano Beach.

It is a boon to Broward County — an economic impact of more than \$50 million each year, according to organizers.

Organizers are now planning for 2021, when Winterfest will mark its 50th anniversary. The first boat parade took place in December 1971.

### TV special planned

Organizers have still devised ways that fans can still get a little taste of the boat parade this year.

There will be a TV special airing Dec. 12 that is focused on the best of past parades with a "Home for the Holidays" theme.

The special, produced by WSVN (channel 7), will "blend the retrospect and a combination of special surprises," according to officials. The special will air again on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

"We are bringing a hometown feel of family, friends and parade partners to this year's special," Scott-Found said. "Winterfest 2020 is a reflection of our community's heart and hope."

Other new simulated experiences to expect include choosing the "Jr. Captain," a coloring competition, "Cookies with Santa," video greetings, flashbacks of fan favorite entries, celebrity grand marshals and local sightings of the parade's mascot "Skippy" and Santa's elves.

Organizers will also host an online auction with more than 250 items, including jewelry, vacations and dinners.

For more information, go to winterfestparade.com.

## 'National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference' goes virtual

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The first biennial "National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference" (NTICC) will delve into climate change issues facing the world.

Originally scheduled as an in-person event, the NTICC will be held online from Sept. 14-17. The conference will be hosted by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals along with support from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Resilience Program.

The NTICC is open to all U.S. Tribal Nations and Indigenous People from around the world, with an emphasis on elders and youth. The conference will include experts on climate change and balance traditional Indigenous knowledge with western science. Participants will have the opportunity to share information and support each other during the conference. Conference topics will include climate impacts, assessments, adaptation, mitigation, implementation and solutions.

Keynote speaker, Winona LaDuke, Anishinaabekwe (Ojibwe) enrolled member of the Mississippi band of Ashinaabeg, lives and works on the White Earth Indian Reservation in Minnesota. In 1989 she founded the

White Earth Land Recovery Project, whose mission is to facilitate the recovery of the reservation while preserving and restoring traditional practices of sound land stewardship, language fluency, community development and strengthening of spiritual and cultural heritage.

Fifteen other experts from around the world will speak during the conference including Xiutezcatl Martinez, Earth Guardians, Colorado; Princess Daazhray Johnson, Neets'aaii Gwich'in, Alaska; Nicki Douglas, Te Awara Lakes Trust, New Zealand; Dr. Donald Warne, University of North Dakota; Mike Durglo Jr., Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes, Montana; Melanie Goodchild, Turtle Island Institute, Canada; Naniecz Peter, Diné /Neets'aaii Gwich'in, Alaska; Dr. Kyle Powys Whyte, University of Michigan; Janene Yazzie, International Indian Treaty Council, New Mexico; Dr. Gary Morishima, Quinault Indian Nation Washington; Ella Ruth Ahrens, Diné/German/Bohemian Arizona; Shasta Gaughen, Pala Band of Mission Indians, California; Ken Norton, Hoopa Valley Tribe, California; Mali Ole Kaunga, IMPACT Trust, Kenya; and Dr. Lun Yin, Kunming, Yunnan, China.

End of

# SUMMER SAVINGS

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**HOUSING**  
From page 1A

Motlow said she received a phone call in 2019 asking if she was still interested in a home on the reservation. She currently owns a house off reservation where she raised her daughter, now 23. But her 13-year-old son, who spends much of his free time at the Boys & Girls Club on the reservation, still has a chance to grow up closer to his cultural roots. It was an opportunity she could not forego.

Motlow was born and raised on the Hollywood Reservation, spent four years on the Brighton Reservation and then moved back to Hollywood. She could have lived in a rental there but she wanted to own. Soon she'll be moving back.

"It feels like it's not going to happen. I'm used to not having the opportunity to finally live on the reservation," she added. "I work here every day, but I don't go home to it every day. I'm excited."

Tribal member Blake Osceola figures he has been on the waiting list about 15 years, putting his name there years before he was a parent raising his own kids. Now, for the father of an 11-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl, owning a home on the reservation is more important than ever.

"You heard a lot of talk about it from the Council for the past 10 years, but it seemed like it would never happen," he said. "To me, now is the time. My dad lives here on the reservation. All my aunts and uncles live on the reservation. I grew up with a lot of friends on the reservation and it will give my kids a chance to do the same. I'm excited it's finally happening."

Councilman Osceola said the project took time to plan out, but watching homes rise for Tribal members in the shadow of the landmark Guitar Hotel is nothing short of amazing.

"It took a long time to get all the pieces together," Councilman Osceola said. "We



Carlos Fuentes

Construction of the Seminole Park homes in July.

had to have the right stuff in place."

Derek Koger, executive director of Tribal Community Development, said the housing development project is momentous for the Seminole community. It's also

already sold out.

"You have people who live on the reservation now but this is the first time you have bulk of this amount of lots that are being opened up in the community," Koger

said. "We sold out in three or four weeks. It's an historic initiative."

Homes will feature metal roofs, hurricane impact windows, ceramic tile, granite countertops, high-efficiency air

conditioning, garages and a playground area with pavilions and restroom facilities, he said.



Artist renderings

Among the variety of home renderings for Seminole Park are a 1-story, 3-bedroom, 3-bath (above), and 2-story, 4-bedroom, 3.5 bath (below).



PRELIMINARY ARTIST'S CONCEPT



Carlos Fuentes

Standing on the construction site of the Seminole Park housing development in July are, from left, Thomasine Motlow, Blake Osceola, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Tribal Community Development Executive Director Derek Koger.



The site plan includes single-family homes in the center and northern part of the property and townhomes on the southern side.

Artis rendering

# Covid-19 funding in Indian Country hasn't come easy

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Senior Editor

Native Americans have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19 — a situation that has continued throughout the pandemic.

Securing adequate funding was the first hurdle. But there has been only about \$8 billion earmarked for Tribal governments — which is seen by many in Indian Country as a relative drop in the bucket compared to a total \$2.2 trillion in the first federal stimulus package — the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.”

Then came a struggle for quick and fair distribution of the funds. All of it came as Tribes are already underfunded in a variety of health and economic programs.

In other words, nothing has come easy and it's been an all-hands-on-deck approach by Tribal leaders and organizations to make sure Indian Country isn't further left behind.

## What did happen

The CARES Act provided \$453 million

for essential services for Indian Country to prepare for and respond to the pandemic — and keep Tribal government operations in tact.

Monies were also set aside to aid individual Native Americans who faced loss of income and for businesses that saw revenues plummet.

There were specific set asides for health, housing and nutrition assistance programs, as well as education-related needs.

More has been needed, and a second stimulus package has been stalled in the U.S. Congress for months.

Meanwhile, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released its assessment of funds it has distributed in Indian Country and programs it has supported.

As of August, the CDC reported it had provided more than \$200 million to Tribal nations for its Covid-19 response. The CDC said the amount exceeds the minimum of \$165 million directed by Congress through the CARES Act and a supplemental bill.

Here are some of the specific allocations the CDC reported:

- \$142 million to Tribal nations

through a noncompetitive grant to support surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communication, and other Covid-19 preparedness and response activities.

- \$50.8 million through supplements to an existing CDC agreement, including \$38.8 million to prevent, prepare for and respond to Covid-19.

- \$12 million to build public health capacity during the Covid-19 response and recovery to prevent injuries and violence, focus on suicide, adverse childhood experiences and intimate partner violence.

- \$12.9 million through supplements to an existing agreement, including \$9.9 million to address Covid-19 among Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

- \$3 million for the National Indian Health Board to conduct national Covid-19 communication activities for Tribes and supporting training for Tribal health care personnel.

More information is at nihb.org and cdc.gov.

# 50 years after capture: Lummi Nation, others continue push for release of orca from Miami Seaquarium

BY LYNDA V. MAPES  
Seattle Times

Fifty years ago on Aug. 8, Lolita was a baby orca, without a stage name. That changed forever that day in Penn Cove, when she was rounded up and captured for sale to the Miami Seaquarium, where she still lives today.

Lolita is the sole survivor of the southern resident orcas captured for the aquarium trade, which took a third of the J, K, and L pods beginning in the late 1960s until Washington leaders worked to outlaw the hunts in 1976.

The southern residents rebuilt in population, but are now at the lowest number since the capture era because of a triple threat to their survival of decreasing chinook salmon runs, vessel noise and disturbance, and pollution. There are only 72 left in the wild, plus Lolita.

Lolita has a quiet life these days at the Miami Seaquarium, which has been closed almost continuously since March 13,

because of the emergency order issued by Miami Dade County shuttering businesses due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Her exhibit also was closed last fall during the park's slow season for maintenance, reopening Dec. 27 for daily shows, said Robert Rose, curator emeritus at the Seaquarium, in an email to The Seattle Times.

There have been repeated efforts to free Lolita, also called Tokitae, and return her for retirement in a netted cove in her home waters. A former governor (the late Mike Lowry) and generation of activists have not succeeded in bringing her home. Now a new team from the Lummi Nation says they are convinced she will come home, and by the end of the year.

Lummi tribal members have filed a notice of intent to sue the Seaquarium for the return of Lolita, whom they regard as a member of their family. Because she is their relative, they will never give up on her, or be discouraged, said Lummi Tribal member and elder Raynell Morris, who is working on the quest to bring her home.

“We have full faith that she will be home,” Morris said. “Whether it is the legal avenue, or the public will, that the Miami Seaquarium owners see it is time to retire her, and time to set her free, as being the right thing.”

The Miami Seaquarium maintains she is better off where she is.

“We have provided and cared for Lolita for five decades,” Rose wrote in the email. “She is a remarkable animal and we are devoted to her. Her longevity is a testament to the excellent care she receives daily from our animal and veterinary care staff.”

Moving Lolita, 54, could endanger her life, Rose wrote. “Attention of those concerned should be on the plight of the critically endangered orcas currently residing in Puget Sound.”

The average life span for a female orca is 50 years, with some individuals persisting into great age, even 80 to 100 years, according to the nonprofit Center for Whale Research.



Supporters of the Free Lolita movement gather in the Brickell section of downtown Miami on Aug. 8, 2020, the 50th anniversary date of the orca's capture off the U.S. northwest coast of the Pacific Ocean. Lolita has been at the Miami Seaquarium ever since. The Lummi Nation is among those pushing for Lolita's release.

# More than 3,600 calves sold

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

If the pastures in Big Cypress and Brighton seem a little less crowded lately, it isn't because the cattle are staying socially distant from one another.

It's because annual calf shipping took place in July and 60 cattle owners sold 3,665 calves. The animals were sent to feedlots around the country, where they will spend nine or 10 months eating. When they reach about 1,350 pounds, they will be sent to market.

It took 36 truckloads to move all the

animals. The multilevel cattle trucks can hold between 80 to 100 animals, depending on their weight. The average weights of the calves ranged from 487 to 529 pounds each.

The annual two-week shipping event marks the end of a year in which the calves were raised, cared for and sold. Owners in Brighton gathered at the marsh pens from July 6-11 where the calves were sorted according to weight. Big Cypress owners shipped their cattle from the cow pen from July 13-16. On each reservation, some replacement heifers were kept to build up the herds.



Thousands of calves, like these from 2016, are sold each year in Big Cypress and Brighton.

# Native American Lezmond Mitchell executed in Indiana

BY JOSHUA RHETT MILLER  
New York Post

The country's lone Native American on federal death row — convicted of killing a woman and her 9-year-old granddaughter — was executed in Indiana as the girl's father watched him take his final breaths.

Lezmond Mitchell, a 38-year-old Navajo man convicted in the 2001 slayings of 63-year-old Alyce Slim and 9-year-old Tiffany Lee during a carjacking in Arizona, was pronounced dead at 6:29 p.m. Aug. 26 after receiving a lethal injection at a federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana.

“No, I'm good,” Mitchell said when asked if he had any last words, according to an Indianapolis Star reporter who witnessed the execution, which took place despite the “steadfast objection” of the Navajo Nation and pleas for clemency from Navajo leaders, Mitchell's attorneys said.

Lee's father, Daniel Lee, was among the witnesses who saw the execution and prepared a statement that was read by an attorney, thanking the Navajo Nation Police Department as well as US Attorney General William Barr and President Trump for their help in the case.

“I have waited 19 years to get justice for my daughter, Tiffany,” an attorney for Lee said on his behalf. “I will never get Tiffany back, but I hope that this will bring some closure.”

Lee's statement continued: “If it had not been for the Trump administration, I do not think I would have ever received justice or a sense of finality.”

Mitchell's attorneys, meanwhile, said the execution marked “another chapter” in a long history of injustices against Native Americans, claiming it represented a “gross insult” to the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation, whose leaders called on Trump to commute Mitchell's sentence to life with the possibility of release.

“The very fact that he faced execution despite the tribe's opposition to a death

sentence for him reflected the government's disdain for tribal sovereignty,” Mitchell's attorneys, Jonathan Aminoff and Celeste Bacchi, said in a statement.

Mitchell was put to death after the Supreme Court refused to allow them to interview his jurors of 11 white people and a single Navajo about whether racial bias impacted their decision to recommend the death penalty, Aminoff and Bacchi said.

“Yet we have little doubt that it did, because in their zealous pursuit of a death sentence for Mr. Mitchell, the federal prosecutors made arguments laced with anti-Indian stereotypes,” the attorneys said.

Mitchell and an accomplice stabbed Slim 33 times and tossed her body into the backseat of her car beside her granddaughter after getting a ride from Slim in her pickup truck, federal prosecutors said.

He then drove the truck up to 40 miles away and ordered the girl to “lay down and die” before slitting her throat and crushing her head with rocks. Mitchell and his accomplice then cut the heads and hands off the victims' bodies and burned their clothes, according to the US government.

Mitchell has said his accomplice, Johnny Orsinger, took the lead in the killings. A minor at the time, Orsinger later pleaded guilty in the slayings and was sentenced to life in prison.

“Nearly 19 years after Lezmond Mitchell brutally ended the lives of two people, destroying the lives of many others, justice finally has been served,” Department of Justice spokesperson Kerri Kupec said in a statement.

“In attendance at the execution this evening were representatives of the victims' families as well as the father of the nine-year-old girl that Mitchell murdered. Those family members, who are members of the Navajo Nation, have stated on the record that they supported implementation of the sentence returned by the jury and imposed by the court for Mitchell's horrific federal crimes.”



## Wear a mask: Save a life

Learn more:



https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html

Contact your local Indian health care provider for more information, visit [Healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov), or call 1-800-318-2596.



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# Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee reopens

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**IMMOKALEE** — Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee is scheduled to reopen at 11 a.m. on Aug. 31, more than five months after it closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A workforce of 540 employees is part of the reopening plans, which will also include Seminole Gaming's "Safe + Sound" program that is in place at other Seminole Gaming facilities. "Seminole Gaming has made a tremendous commitment to 'Safe + Sound' protocols and a safety-first mentality for both guests and team members," Jim Allen, chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming, said in a statement. "Feedback from guests and team members has been overwhelmingly supportive and comments focus on their positive peace of mind when they visit the casino complexes." Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee features a 51,000 square-foot casino with 1,400 slots and 38 live table games. Its EE-TO-LEET-KE Grill and Cappuccino's Coffee & Pastry Bar will be open for dine-in or

to-go orders. The grill will be open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Cappuccino's will be open 24 hours. Social distancing requirements will be in place with limited seating. Hotel reservations will be accepted for stays beginning Sept. 1. The Immokalee venue rejoins the other Seminole Gaming properties that are all open for business. Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa reopened in mid-May and Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, Seminole Casino Coconut Creek, Seminole Classic Casino and Seminole Casino Brighton reopened in early June. The Safe + Sound program includes enforcement specialists who focus on managing guest compliance with all program elements: proper use of required masks or face coverings, social distancing, crowd control, and remaining stationary while eating, drinking or smoking. Guests must adhere to "Safe + Sound" program requirements or be asked to leave the property. Safe + Sound guidelines are: - Temperature checks for all guests and team members prior to entry. Any guest or

team member with a temperature above CDC guidelines of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit will not be allowed entry. - A requirement that all guests wear masks or cloth face coverings that meet CDC guidelines, without exception. Masks will be provided to guests as needed. - Alternating slot machines will be turned off to help ensure social distancing on the casino floor. - New Plexiglas barriers will divide players at table games and customer service areas. - Signs will be posted throughout the casino complex to encourage social distancing and help ensure adherence to "Safe + Sound" program guidelines. - A new "Safe + Sound Clean Team" focused on cleaning and disinfecting surfaces throughout the casino complex, with special emphasis on high-touch surfaces and common areas. - Hand-sanitizing stations will be available on the casino floor, at the entrances and throughout the casino complex. - An overall 50 percent reduction in guest capacity throughout the casino complex.



Beverly Bidney

A reopening date of Aug. 31 was set for Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee.

# Hard Rock opens second hotel in China

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**DALIAN, China** — Hard Rock International announced the opening of Hard Rock Hotel Dalian, jointly presented with Luneng Group, at Dalian Golden Pebble Beach Tourist Resort, Liaoning, China, on July 1. Located in northeast China, Dalian is a coastal city about 500 miles east of Beijing. "Rooted in our musically-inspired culture, Hard Rock Hotel Dalian provides signature hospitality, luxury accommodations, and unforgettable dining and entertainment, against the backdrop of scenic Golden Pebble Beach." Dale Hipsh, senior vice president — hotels, said. "We could not accomplish this remarkable experience without the tremendous support of Luneng Group, and the Hard Rock Hotel Dalian team led by General Manager David Cuddon, that worked tirelessly to achieve this opening during an unprecedented time in history." The hotel opened its doors with the unveiling of the iconic guitar sculpture on Golden Pebble Beach. Guests from Hard Rock International, Luneng Group, Dalian Golden Pebble Beach Administrative Committee and media were in attendance. In regard to health and safety, is

operating in compliance with all local regulations, government guidelines and Hard Rock's Safe + Sound. Developed by a team of hospitality experts in collaboration with worldwide health and sanitization specialists, the program is a series of protocols ensuring the highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness. These practices are being implemented across the brand's portfolio and includes a 272-point inspection upon opening. Hard Rock Hotel Dalian is the brand's second hotel in China; Hard Rock Hotel Shenzhen opened in 2017. The Dalian hotel is located in the Golden Pebble Beach Tourist Resort within walking distance to Discoveryland Theme Park and Luneng Meiluhui Commercial Complex. The hotel features 210 rooms and suites and offers views of the Yellow Sea. Hard Rock Hotel Dalian features Sessions, the signature all-day dining restaurant, featuring contemporary and around-the-world flavors. The lobby bar GMT +8, inspired by time zones from Hard Rock Hotel locations around the world, provides an energetic vibe all-day and is amplified with live music performances in the evenings. The hotel also features banquet halls and multi-functional conference rooms.

The hotel boasts Hard Rock's brand-signature amenities, including The Sound of Your Stay, where guests can reserve their choice of Fender guitar, complete with amp and headphones, or vinyl record player for an impromptu in-room jam session. Also offered is Rock Om, fusing the art of yoga with the beat of music, to deliver three melodic in-room yoga sessions. Hard Rock Hotel Dalian will feature Hard Rock's Rock Royalty service, offering use of a private Rock Royalty lounge and exclusive amenities. The hotel is home to a Body Rock fitness center, on-site Rock Shop and a Roxity Kids Club. A full-service Rock Spa features Rhythm & Motion — the world's first fully immersive music-centric spa menu taking guests on a rhythmic massage journey. Music memorabilia curation adorns the public spaces, including costumes and instruments from Tina Turner, Taylor Swift, Van Halen and the Chinese Pop icon — Sammi Cheng. For more information or to book a stay at Hard Rock Hotel Dalian or any of the Hard Rock Hotels & Casinos, visit [hardrockhotels.com](http://hardrockhotels.com).



Hard Rock International

A celebration takes place for the opening of Hard Rock Hotel Dalian in China.

# Hard Rock Cincinnati president selected to leadership program

STAFF REPORT

**CINCINNATI** — George Goldhoff, president of Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati, has been selected to participate in Class 44 of Leadership Cincinnati, a leadership development program from the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber. The immersive civic learning program is experience based and designed to help participants understand the assets and challenges of the region, elevate their leadership and further engage in the community. Goldhoff is one of 54 leaders selected to the program. Currently known as Jack Cincinnati Casino, the facility is in the process of being rebranded as Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati. In 2019, Hard Rock International purchased Jack Cincinnati Casino with New York City-based VICI Properties Inc.



Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati President George Goldhoff

# NIGA stresses importance of voting to youth

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**WASHINGTON** — In October, Ernie Stevens, Jr., chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association, announced the creation of the gaming organization's Get Out the Vote campaign — "My Vote Will Count," leading up to the general elections in November of 2020. The association developed this grassroots effort with partners, including member tribes, sister tribal organizations, and prominent events throughout Indian Country to educate, empower, and encourage all Native Americans to register to vote and commit to getting to the polls.

The grassroots efforts were forced to take a different path, with the impacts of COVID-19. Because many of our Indian country events and confabs were canceled, the "My Vote Will Count" initiative will look to all aspects of social media platforms to encourage our young voters to vote. To help target the young vote, through these efforts, Stevens appointed Faith Holyan, a citizen of the Navajo Nation as the "My Vote Will Count" youth ambassador to help lead this critical effort.

Holyan, who has a prominent social media presence in Indian country, is a 3-time Indian National Finals Rodeo world champion, to help lead this important effort.

Holyan is no stranger to being a leading voice for Indian youth. Over the past few years, Faith has been an advocate for #CodePurple, the social media Suicide Awareness campaign that the NIGA has been a sponsor of since its inception. "The Native American vote is so important," Stevens said. "Our power at the polls can determine our voice among the halls of Congress, at the White House, in local, city, county, and state governments." Faith will continue to serve an important role in our get out the vote campaign, sharing



Facebook

Faith Holyan (Navajo Nation), a world champion in rodeo and a student at Arizona State University, has been appointed youth ambassador to the "My Vote Will Count" campaign.

her powerful message, calling on our young leaders to champion Native America's get out the vote initiative."

Holyan added, "Our youth vote has the potential to be extremely influential in this country; the young vote accounts for half of the voting population, so we are a political force that can make a difference in 2020. I am excited to serve as the Indian Gaming ambassador to help bring awareness to the importance of getting to the polls."

Besides being a three-time rodeo World Champion, Holyan graduated cum laude with two associate degrees from Weatherford College in Weatherford, Texas. She is currently a junior at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, studying marketing and communications on academic scholarships.

# Covid-19 causes steep drop in Q2 commercial casino gaming revenue

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**WASHINGTON** — U.S. commercial gaming revenue for the second quarter of 2020 totaled \$2.30 billion, a steep 78.8 percent year-over-year contraction, according to the American Gaming Association's (AGA) new Commercial Gaming Revenue Tracker.

Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the U.S. gaming industry saw revenue decline in nearly every reported vertical compared to Q2 2019.

"Covid-19 has undoubtedly posed the most difficult economic challenge the gaming industry has ever faced," said AGA President and CEO Bill Miller. "Yet, gaming's record popularity prior to COVID-19, as well our resilience in the

midst of such adversity, is evidence of the industry's foundation for continued success as we emerge from the pandemic."

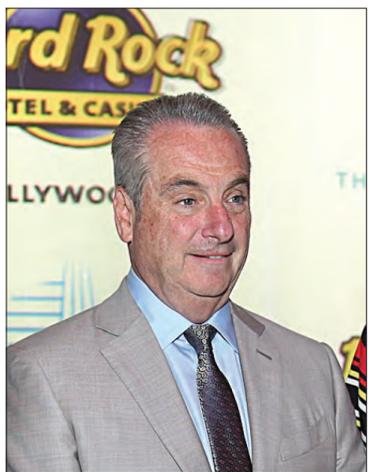
Contrary to recent revenue declines, commercial casinos demonstrated strong consumer demand in 2020 when open for business. Before all 989 U.S. brick-and-mortar casinos closed their doors in March, combined commercial gaming revenue for January and February was up 10.4 percent year-over-year. Following the return of casino gaming in Q2, several states have reported a year-over-year uptick in average daily GGR per open casino despite operating with limited capacity, game availability, and amenities. This includes South Dakota (+42.5%), Ohio (+19.3%), and Indiana (+7.4%).

## HARD ROCK HONORS

From page 1A  
The WIL program launched in 2017. Since then, HRI has recognized "emerging women leaders" and has increased their promotion. The program offers a mix of education, mentorship and networking. The full list of Forbes' "Best Employers for Women," can be found online at [forbes.com](http://forbes.com). For more information on the WIL program, email [shrwomeninleadership@shrss.com](mailto:shrwomeninleadership@shrss.com).

### 'PlayersEdge' gets national nod

HRI and Seminole Gaming have also been recognized for its "PlayersEdge" employee training program. The "Corporate Social Responsibility Award" was given by the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) for the program that was implemented in late 2019. PlayersEdge is known as the first comprehensive gambling literacy and education program designed by a U.S.-based gaming operator. It applies a segmented education strategy for new, casual and seasoned casino players — and anyone at risk of problem gambling. Most gambling programs focus extensively on problem gamblers only, officials said. PlayersEdge also helps players understand their own behavior, identify risks of gambling, and develop positive



Hard Rock International Chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen

play habits. For those who consider their gambling activity to have gone too far, PlayersEdge offers the assistance of voluntary self-exclusion and referrals to professional help and counseling services. HRI chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen marked the occasion to thank the NCPG for the award and also recognize several partners in the endeavor, including creative agency Redline Media

Group; HRI vice president of global social responsibility, Paul Pellizzari; and Dr. Rory Reid of the University of California, Los Angeles. The Washington, D.C.-based NCPG is the national advocacy organization for those affected by problem gambling. More information is available at [ncpgambling.org](http://ncpgambling.org).

### More awards on tap?

Meanwhile, USA Today is looking for its "best of the best" across several categories as part of its next "10Best Readers' Choice Awards."

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood has been nominated in four categories in the "casinos" section.

- The categories are:
- Best casino hotel: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
  - Best casino outside of Las Vegas: Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood
  - Best casino restaurant: Council Oak Steaks & Seafood
  - Best players club: Seminole Wild Card

Those interested in casting their vote can go to [10best.com/awards/travel](http://10best.com/awards/travel). Organizers said participants can vote once a day in each category until Sept. 7.

The winners are expected to be announced Sept. 18.

# Indian Country: Correct Jim Thorpe's Olympic record

*'Bright Path' movie about athlete's life in progress*

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

It's been 108 years since the legendary Native American athlete Jim Thorpe competed in the 1912 summer Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden. But the official record of his Olympic excellence remains controversial to this day.

However, the organization behind a new initiative and forthcoming movie is working to finally put the issue to rest.

Thorpe, born Wa-Tho-Huk (translated Brightpath), was of the Thunder Clan of the Sac and Fox Tribe. He competed for the U.S. at a time when Native Americans weren't even recognized as American citizens.

Thorpe broke barriers as the first Native American to win an Olympic gold medal — he'd win two — one each in the pentathlon and decathlon.

During the medal ceremony, King Gustav V of Sweden famously proclaimed him the "World's Greatest Athlete." He is considered by many to be, perhaps, the greatest all-around athlete in the history of modern sports.

Thorpe excelled in many sports and won scores of awards during his playing years.

Professionally, he played baseball for the New York Giants and football for the Canton Bulldogs where he won three championships. In 1920, he became a founding member and the first president of the National Football League.

But six months after his historic Olympic run, reports surfaced that Thorpe had been paid room and board while playing in a minor league baseball division years before. It was considered a violation of the rules of amateurism that were in force at the time.

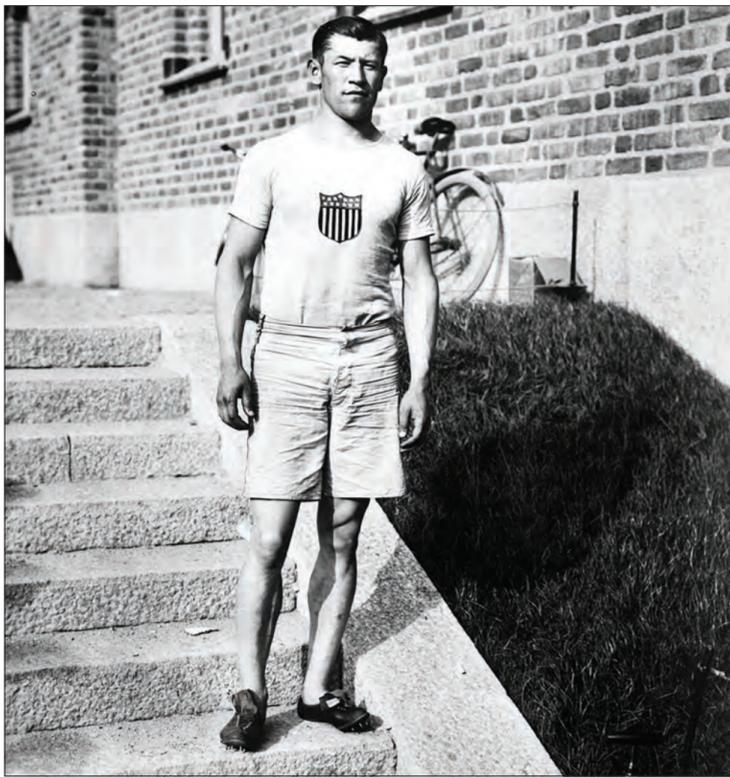
The International Olympic Committee (IOC) stripped him of his medals, removed his name from the official record and never gave Thorpe due process.

The IOC awarded the gold medals to the respective silver medalists, despite the fact that both of those athletes refused official recognition.

Thorpe died in 1953 at 64.

It wasn't until 1983 that the IOC reinstated Thorpe to the Olympic record and presented his family with duplicate medals. The event came after decades of effort by supporters and after the Swedish Olympic rules for the 1912 Games were uncovered and legal action threatened.

But supporters still have a point of contention — that the official Olympic record still lists Thorpe as a co-champion in his events, instead of champion.



A movement is gaining momentum to have the International Olympic Committee recognize Jim Thorpe (Sac and Fox Tribe) as the sole gold medal in his events at the 1912 Olympics, not as a co-champion.

## 'Take Back What Was Stolen'

The group Bright Path Strong has recently launched an initiative to have that record corrected — called "Take Back What Was Stolen."

The initiative consists of an online petition calling on the IOC to restore the record of Thorpe as the sole champion in the pentathlon and decathlon events of 1912.

As of press time, more than 56,000 people had signed it. The organization has a goal of 100,000 signatures.

The IOC has previously issued a statement about the Thorpe controversy.

"The story of the personal achievements and the difficulties faced by Thorpe during his life is a source of unquestionable inspiration in itself for current and future generations, which cannot be increased by retroactively adjusting the ranking of the other athletes," the statement read in part.

Bright Path organizers said the reason for the most current push is to remind people that Native Americans have been "invariably impacted by the ever-climbing barriers and setbacks of racism in the U.S., and the world of sports is no different."

"From more than a decade in government run boarding schools where every vestige of his identity and culture were attempted to be taken from him, to travel accommodations far inferior to his white Olympic teammates, to having his track shoes stolen minutes before the decathlon's final race, to racist depictions in media downplaying his athletic achievements, Jim Thorpe had to overcome one racially motivated trial after another — and still managed to break world records," the organizers said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Bright Path Strong has also teamed up with Pictureworks Entertainment and an alliance of Native American tribes to produce a motion picture about Thorpe's life called "Bright Path." It is expected to be in production by mid-2021.

Thorpe is expected to be played by Martin Sensmeier of the Tlingit & Koyukon-Athabaskan Tribes. It would mark the first time Thorpe would be portrayed by a Native American in a feature film.

Of the many Native Americans working on the movie is Sterlin Harjo of the

Seminole Tribe of Oklahoma, who is one of the movie's scriptwriters.

In addition, there are some powerful voices behind the initiative to have Thorpe's record corrected. It includes the National Congress of American Indians and Rep. Deb Haaland, D-NM, who is co-chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus.

Last November, during Native American Heritage Month, Haaland introduced a House resolution recognizing Thorpe's achievements and requesting the record be corrected. The resolution was supported by 20 other original cosponsors in the House.

"Anyone who represented our country in the Olympics is an American hero, especially those that delivered two gold medals to the United States," Haaland said in a statement. "These heroic individuals should be recognized and honored, but inherent biases stole that from Jim Thorpe because he was Native American."

NCAI president Fawn Sharp said in a statement that to keep Thorpe's record uncorrected is to "continue the erasure of Native people."

For more information on the initiative and to sign the petition, go to [brightpathstrong.com](http://brightpathstrong.com).



Courtesy photo

The "World's Greatest Athlete" Bright Path Strong T-shirts were designed by Native American artists Steven Paul Judd and Aaron Silva.

# Covid-19 forces cancellation of Native American Music Awards

STAFF REPORT

The Native American Music Awards was scheduled to celebrate its 20th anniversary show in November, but the event has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"As almost all entertainment events have been cancelled or postponed for the remainder of 2020, the same applies to us," the Native American Music Awards & Association explained to members in an Aug. 6 e-mail and on social media postings. "Given the amount of time, preparation, travel and pre-production work that is required to present our annual awards program, coupled by our industry's uncertainty, we unfortunately must cancel our 20th Annual Awards Show which was originally planned for November 2020. Our host, Seneca Niagara Casino Entertainment, has also informed us that they are not rescheduling their events for the remainder of 2020. Despite our best efforts to reopen here in New York, we must also suspend our Music Awards Submission process until further notice."



The association stated it is a volunteer organization and does not qualify for emergency funding, such as the Paycheck Protection Program.

"However, we will continue to rely on the support of our members and sponsors for our upcoming programs. We thank Facebook for their recent grant to ensure our efforts on their platform," the association said.

# Virtual Indigenous tourism forum to be held In October

STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON — The first-ever Indigenous Tourism Forum of the Americas, postponed in March due to Covid-19, will relaunch Oct. 12-16 with a virtual networking program.

The forum will address how tourism can support the economic and social well-being of Indigenous peoples—both now and in the future. Indigenous, business, and government leaders will explore the ways in which tourism can drive economic recovery and sustainable development. Participants will meet via Zoom webinar to exchange experiences, share knowledge, retrace ancient trade networks and reestablish connections.

The event will feature virtual destination tours, keynotes, workshops and roundtable talks centered on recovery and

sustainable development with speakers and moderators discussing pressing current issues such as "How Can Tourism Drive Economic Recovery Post-Covid-19?" "How Can Indigenous Communities Create Partnerships and Access Financing?" and "Protection of Intellectual and Cultural Property."

"It's our hope that the forum will be a starting point for post-pandemic empowerment and ownership so that Indigenous communities in the U.S., Canada and Central and South America can use tourism to create cultural connections, educate the world about their traditions and challenges, and determine their own narratives for the future," said Seleni Matus, director of the International Institute of Tourism Studies.

For more information about the forum of the Americas, visit [indigenoustourismforum.org](http://indigenoustourismforum.org).

## ◆ Q2 From page 6A

While April and May both experienced year-over-year GGR declines north of 90 percent, June saw nearly 300 commercial casinos reopen throughout the month and, as a result, revenue was nearly four times greater than the previous two months combined. More than 85 percent of U.S. casinos are now open, including nearly 9 in 10 commercial casinos, all of which have implemented stringent, regulator-approved health and safety plans.

"The gaming industry has been a leader in implementing rigorous, innovative protocols that have allowed the vast majority of our properties to reopen and stay open," Miller said. "With business returning to casino floors and sportsbooks seeing increased action, the gaming industry is steadily charting a responsible path to recovery that prioritizes health and safety, supports the communities where we operate, and offers first-class entertainment."

Sports betting experienced a sharp decline in GGR in the second quarter due to the shutdown of sports activity, but is still up slightly (4.1%) in the first half of 2020

as a result of a record start to the year and increased legal options.

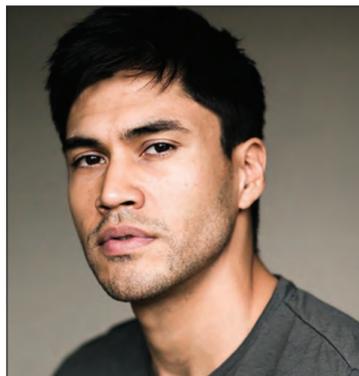
iGaming, the only gaming vertical to experience year-over-year growth in Q2 2020, marked the first full quarter generating more revenue than sports betting in the post-PASPA era. Online casino gaming is only legal in six states: Delaware, Pennsylvania, Nevada (poker only), New Jersey, Michigan (not live), and West Virginia.

AGA's reporting on the financial performance of the U.S. commercial casino industry will continue on a quarterly basis as the association tracks the industry's economic recovery. Monthly updates will be available on [AmericanGaming.org](http://AmericanGaming.org).

## Background

The AGA's State of the States 2020 report found that the U.S. commercial gaming industry generated record revenue in 2019. The companion AGA State of Play map houses economic impact and regulatory data for each of the 44 gaming states.

As of Aug. 13, 851 of 990 U.S. casinos properties across 40 states have partially reopened. This includes 417 commercial casinos (89.7% of total) and 434 tribal properties (82.8% of total). The AGA's COVID-19 casino tracker lists the reopening status of every U.S. casino.



Pictureworks

Martin Sensmeier (Tlingit & Koyukon-Athabaskan Tribes) is the lead actor in a movie about Jim Thorpe that is in the works.

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# SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

# AH-TAH-THI-KI

## M U S E U M

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

## From paper bag to exhibition: Conservation of historic beadwork

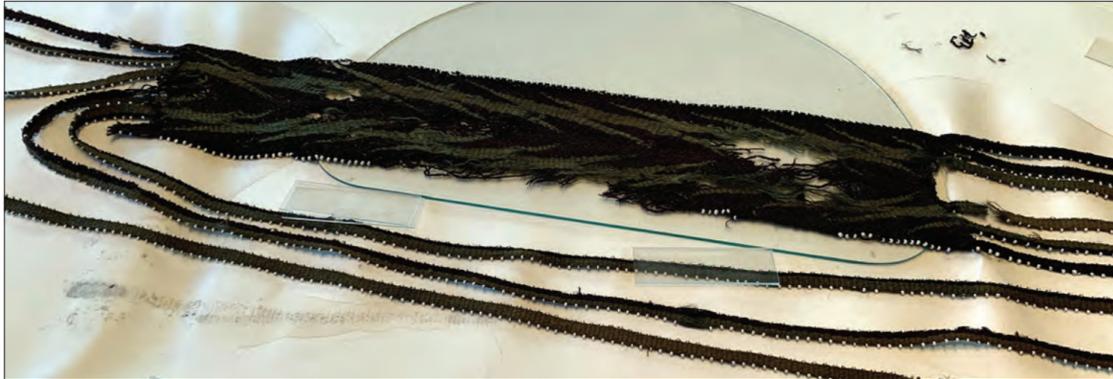
BY ROBIN CROSKERY HOWARD  
Objects Conservator

**BIG CYPRESS** — In 2018, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum was fortunate enough

to welcome home a 19th century finger-woven sash that is believed to be one of the articles of clothing removed from Osceola around the time of his imprisonment in the late 1830s. When it arrived at the museum, the sash had been shoved into a brown paper

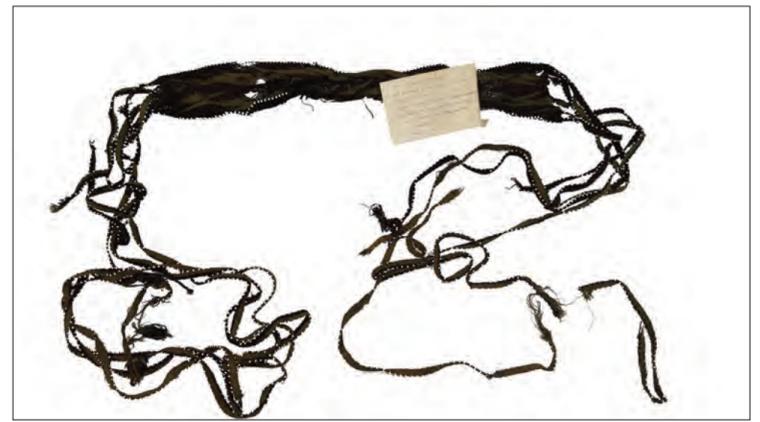
envelope around the beginning of the 20th century. Nearly a hundred years of acidic paper interacting with acidic dyed wool created a tangle of fibers almost too brittle to move.

Once carefully removed from the paper



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

During the treatment of the sash, Mr. Sutcliffe employed several methods to both clean and reduce the acidity of the textile.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The sash as it appeared immediately after removal from the brown paper bag. It was very brittle and extremely fragile.

bag, the delicate sash was laid out in the attempt to relax the fibers of the textile. This process was slightly accelerated by sandwiching the object between a piece of archival foam and a large sheet of acrylic and strategically laying weights to achieve a dry flattening. This process allowed the conservator to determine the extent of the damage.

It was determined that the necessary stabilizing treatment of this sash was beyond the capability of the in-house objects conservator, as highly specialized training in the specific field of textile conservation was required to stabilize the high amount of damage that occurred during the previous years of storage in a brown paper bag in a private house or office.

After a search, the museum began working with conservator Howard Sutcliffe, a textile specialist working out of Alabama. Through collaboration, a strategy to treat the sash was devised. The compounded acidity of the wool would be reduced through a series of controlled baths; damaged and broken areas would be stabilized using special preservation-level threads and textiles; and for storage, stabilization, and exhibition purposes, the sash would be mounted to a preservation-approved exhibition textile (such as linen) so that handling of the

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Part of the stabilization of the sash included mounting it to a preservation approved board covered in a special fabric. Here, it is completely conserved and mounted to the board; this will be used for both display and storage purposes.

fragile sash would be kept to a minimum.

Throughout the process, Mr. Sutcliffe communicated with the museum's conservator, providing updates and photos of the object undergoing treatment. This allowed the staff to have a better understanding of the precise processes Mr. Sutcliffe ended up using. It is not unusual to have to try multiple approaches for the conservation treatments of historic objects before finding the exact combination of chemicals, techniques, etc., that will work for a particular object. Just because there are standard treatments, it does not mean that each object will be able to follow the standard formula. Fortunately for the sash, no large deviations from the proposal were required for stabilization.

The sash returned to the museum in May of this year, where it was welcomed with minimal fanfare. Unfortunately, due to the current pandemic, very few people have yet to see the completed conservation and stabilization of the sash in person. However, it is our hope that once the museum is able to reopen, a special exhibition can be planned to show the sash off to the community and visitors alike. It is good to have this object back home. In the meantime, these pictures show the sash before, during and after treatment. We hope you'll be as excited as we are to see this beautiful beaded object on display when it is determined to be safe to reopen the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

## Museum's meditation, mindfulness video seeks to combat stress

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Birds, bugs and the boardwalk may not seem to be the key to relaxation, but folks at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum believe it is the perfect antidote to stress.

It's also a way to engage museum members while the museum remains closed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The video is close to five minutes and focuses on the beauty of the environment traversed by the museum's boardwalk. Soothing spa-type music plays softly under the sounds of the cicadas and birds. In addition to beautiful views of the forest, there are some standout images including a bug's eye view of the boardwalk, a close up of cypress needles covered with morning dew, an air plant on the trunk of a cypress tree and the forest floor filled with ferns.

Museum director Kate Macuen created the video in June as a benefit for museum members. The video was sent to them via email and is also available through the museum's online portal for members. Since the museum closed in March, the staff has been trying to create additional content to keep Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki top-of-mind.

"I thought about the beauty of the museum campus and wanted a way for people to connect with it virtually," Macuen said. "Mindfulness and meditation are pretty big right now and a lot of people are using those tools during the pandemic. This is something we can offer people to remind them that the museum is still here and keep them excited to come back when we reopen."

Macuen filmed the video over a few hours in June. It was the height of cicada season, which gave the video its soundtrack. Sabal palmettos, cypress trees and wild bananas are some of the plants found just on the other side of the boardwalk's handrail.

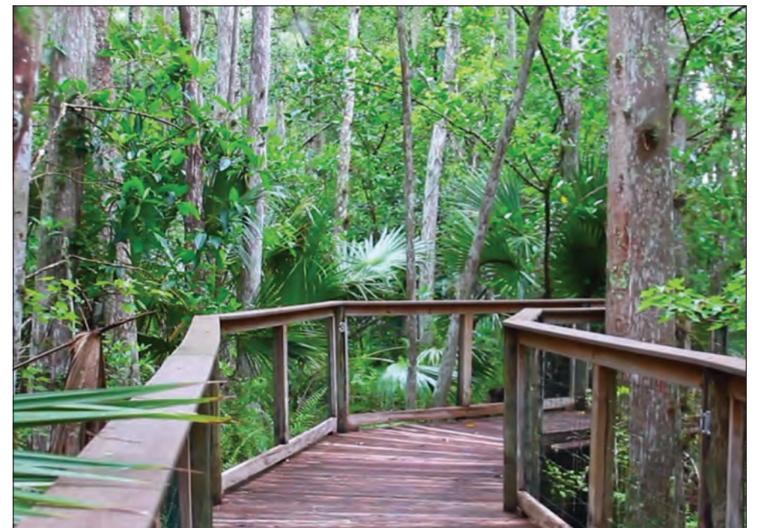
The video was also shared with the Center for Behavioral Health as a tool to help clients cope with the anxiety and stress of Covid-19. Alison Nemes, assistant director of CBH, was delighted to get the video link from the museum.

"It is a brief meditation, which is perfect for beginners and experienced individuals as well," Nemes said. "Our staff believes it is extremely helpful; the video brings a bit of relaxation and peace. It's a nice tool for them to use to increase relaxation and grounding."

Macuen is pleased to know it is being used within the Tribe.

"It's been a hard time for so many people," Macuen said. "I hope having this short little meditation video can help create some calm and peace, while keeping the museum in mind."

The video is available on YouTube.



screenshot courtesy Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's boardwalk and the surrounding nature are part of a video designed to ease stress.

## Study reveals contact between Native Americans and Polynesians occurred 800 years ago

BY IO GILMAN  
The Stanford Daily

New research involving genetic analysis of DNA samples shows that Native American and Polynesian populations made contact and interbred around 1200 CE. The study, led by Stanford Medical School postdoctoral research fellow Alexander Ioannidis, was published recently in Nature.

Despite being separated by over 2,000 miles of open ocean, the populations reached each other. "It's some incredible voyaging," Ioannidis said.

Ancient Native American ancestry was found on the Polynesian Islands of Palleris, Marquesas, Mangareva and Rapa Nui. According to Ioannidis, though people suspected contact between the Rapa Nui people and the Americas, finding native American ancestry on the other islands was unexpected.

"Nobody had really been looking much at these other islands," Ioannidis said. "The idea was maybe [contact occurred with] Easter Island because it's the closest [to the Americas]."

According to Ioannidis, the ancient Native American DNA they found in Polynesian people likely all comes from a single ancestor, suggesting that the contact between the populations was brief.

"It looks like a single contact event on some island or by some group and then it spread out to the other islands that have this ancestry," Ioannidis said.

To get the data for the study, 807 DNA

samples were taken from many different populations. According to Ioannidis, collecting the samples required a large team of people familiar with the populations.

"If you want to understand what the issues are locally, you need people who've worked with them for a while," he said.

Senior author Andrés Moreno-Estrada — who used to be a postdoctoral researcher and research associate in the Stanford Department of Genetics, and now leads the Genomics Core Facility, LANGEBIO (Mexico) — also emphasized that the researchers are "committed to community engagement with the population." According to Moreno-Estrada, the Rapa Nui were interested in learning about their genetic profiles, but previous experiences with researchers made them hesitate to participate in the study.

"They said, 'Are you going to be just yet another expedition that takes samples and we never hear back of what happened?'" Moreno-Estrada said.

Moreno-Estrada's group did return a year later, though, with the personal results of each participant, which Moreno-Estrada says surprised the Rapa Nui.

"I think it was a good precedent to really keep the population informed and make them participants in the whole process," Moreno-Estrada said. The team planned to return to Rapa Nui again this summer, but their trip was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic; instead, they held a Zoom meeting with community members the day the paper was published to deliver the results and answer questions.

According to Moreno-Estrada, working with populations like Polynesian people, who are underrepresented in DNA databases, is also important for medical reasons.

"The predisposition or the risk to diseases can be very different from one place to the other — and if we don't know the map of that genetic profile, we will be applying medicine blindly to populations that we don't know how they're going to respond to treatments or the risk of different diseases," Moreno-Estrada said.

Once they had the samples, though, figuring out whether there was ancient Native American DNA in the Rapa Nui's genomes was difficult.

"The question was whether we could disentangle the facts that the Native American ancestry is only the result of the recent annexation of the island [by Chile], or if the signal that we could observe of Native American ancestry could also be the result of more ancient contacts between the Pacific or Polynesian populations and Native Americans," said Moreno-Estrada.

The research team likewise encountered difficulties in trying to determine where the Native DNA came from.

"The amount of Native American ancestry on some of these Eastern Polynesian islands is very small," Ioannidis said. "So it's enough to say that it's there, but ... to be able to characterize what kind of Native American it is out of all the different groups along the Pacific is not easy."

They developed a new method where they could "combine together all the different Native American pieces of DNA from the

same island, and then, with this still very small amount of DNA, identify where it came from," Ioannidis said. They ultimately determined that the Zenu in Colombia are the most closely related Native American population to the Polynesian people.

They also dated the contact, using a method that relies on the length of the ancient Native DNA segments in the Polynesian genome. During reproduction, chromosomes exchange genetic material, creating chromosomes with mixes of the parents' DNA. Thus sections of ancestral DNA get shorter each generation by a predictable amount — allowing researchers to determine that contact occurred approximately 800 to 850 years ago. That date is around two centuries earlier than previous estimates in other genetics studies.

People have long theorized contact between Polynesians and Native Americans. Those who support contact theories have long pointed out that the sweet potato, which was first domesticated in South or Central America, was already in Polynesia by the time Europeans arrived. In addition, the word that the Rapa Nui used for the sweet potato, kumara, is very similar to cumar and cumal, words used for sweet potato in some South American regions.

"I think a contact is the easiest way to explain [how the sweet potato got to Polynesia], and now that we find the contact coming from a region where that word was used, it really suggests that that's what happened," Ioannidis said.

As of now, it is unclear if Polynesian DNA is present in Native American communities.

According to Ioannidis, because the Native American populations were large, "over the centuries with continued interaction between [Native] populations, that small amount of [Polynesian] ancestry would rapidly be spread in the population and become ... very hard to detect — I would say impossible."

"The only way that we would really be able to see [Polynesian DNA] is with ancient DNA, and you would have to find the bones of a person from this exact specific community near to the time of contact, which would be a really fortunate thing to find," he added.

Ioannidis appreciates that genetics can reveal untold stories, adding that it is "just fascinating to be able to tell these stories and add genetics to the mix. There's a lot we know from archaeology, but I think that this is a new tool we can use."

Ioannidis said he is interested in using these methods to reveal other stories, "especially unwritten things things we couldn't otherwise tell the story of."

"So groups that were enslaved or had their culture and history taken away from them — they still carry that history in their own DNA," Ioannidis said. "Those stories aren't lost, and we can use techniques like this to trace them back."

*This article is from the Stanford Daily, an independent, student-run newspaper of Stanford University in California.*

# Health



## Bill grants Tribal health authorities access to essential data

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

New legislation was introduced in August in Congress that would break down barriers Tribal authorities have faced in gaining access to critical public health data.

The "Tribal Health Data Improvement Act" came together after news reports earlier in the summer that the federal government was withholding potentially life-saving information from Tribal health authorities.

Passage of the bill would ensure that Tribes and Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs) have direct access to federal health care and public health surveillance systems. It would also require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to work directly with Tribes to address widespread misclassification and under sampling of American Indians and Alaska Natives on birth and death records.

The legislation has bipartisan support. Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, D-NM, joined other members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, including bill sponsor, Rep. Greg Gianforte, R-MT, and cosponsors, Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-WA, Markwayne Mullin, R-OK, Tom O'Halleran, D-AZ, and Raul Ruiz, D-CA.

"Native American Tribes face structural challenges accessing federal public health data that state and local governments can access — data they are entitled to by law," the lawmakers said in a statement. "This needs to change. Our bipartisan bill tears down this information barrier so Tribal communities can utilize federal data to help

guide their public health decision-making, something that is critically important during the Covid-19 pandemic."

Native Americans have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, the lawmakers said.

"As we continue our work to reduce disparities in health outcomes, access to public health data will help close the gap," the statement said.

### Background

Rep. Lujan had criticized the Trump administration during a hearing of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on June 17 for its "disparate treatment of Tribal Epidemiology Centers."

In response, during a June 23 hearing, CDC director Robert Redfield made a commitment to share Covid-19 data with all 12 TECs.

Then on July 1, Rep. Lujan signed a bipartisan letter that was sent to Redfield and Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar requesting information on the CDC's policies and practices to ensure TECs have access to all public health surveillance data as required by law.

Meanwhile, the National Indian Health Board is throwing its support behind the bill.

"Tribal Nations, as sovereign governments, are inherent public health authorities providing vital public health programs and services to their citizens and communities," NIHB CEO Stacy A. Bohlen said in a statement. "Yet for years, both Tribes and TECs have faced immense challenges in accessing federal and state



Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.)

health data systems necessary to engage in foundational public health work."

Such health work, Bohlen said, includes the reporting of a disease or injury; reporting vital events such as births or deaths; and conducting public health surveillance, investigations or interventions.

The NIHB wants the legislation attached to the next Covid-19 relief package.

For more information, contact NIHB director of congressional relations, Shervin Aazami, at saazami@nihb.org.

## Data shows disproportionate impact of COVID-19 among Native Americans

BY ACEE AGOYO  
Indianz.com

A new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirms that COVID-19 is taking a disproportionate toll on American Indians and Alaska Natives across the nation.

Based on five months of data going back to the earliest stages of the pandemic, researchers found extremely high rates of coronavirus infections among Native Americans. The number of COVID-19 cases in 23 states was 3.5 times that of Whites of non-Hispanic origin, according to the study.

"American Indian and Alaska Native people have suffered a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 illness during the pandemic," CDC Director Robert R. Redfield said Aug. 19.

Native Americans who have contracted COVID-19 between Jan. 31 and July 3 were also younger, the study shows. The median age was 40, compared to 51 among the White population.

Further, researchers weren't able to obtain an accurate view of the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives, to whom the federal government owes a trust and treaty responsibility. In fact, less information was collected about coronavirus symptoms, underlying conditions and hospitalization among Native Americans than of White patients.

"Because of the high prevalence of these missing data elements among AI/AN patients, analysis to identify overall prevalence, possible risk factors for COVID-19, and patient outcomes was not possible," researchers wrote in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on Aug. 19.

Amid the limited information, the Trump administration is touting funding investments in Indian Country. The CDC, whose relationship with tribes has been rocky, has spent \$165 million since late March to help tribes and urban Indian communities

address the impacts of the coronavirus.

"Funding is only one step in addressing the impact of COVID-19 on tribal communities," said José T. Montero, Director of CDC's Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support. "CDC is continuing to work on coordinated outreach to tribal nations through our Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances and new Tribal Support Section to provide remote- and field-based support to our hardest hit tribal communities."

The Indian Health Service, the primary agency for delivering care in tribal and urban communities, also has received an influx of more than \$1 billion following the passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act. But advocates say the money isn't enough for the U.S. government to meet its trust and treaty obligations.

"The IHS is the most chronically underfunded federal healthcare delivery system, with per capita expenditures at only 40% of national health spending in 2018 (\$3,779 vs \$9,409)," the National Indian Health Board wrote in a letter to President Donald Trump on Aug. 6.

According to the NIHB, a "minimum" of \$1 billion is needed for services and facilities at the IHS. Another \$1 billion will cover shortfalls for American Indians and Alaska Natives who need care from outside providers, the letter stated.

"These are critical investments in furtherance of federal treaty obligations to Tribal Nations for healthcare that must be honored during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond," NIHB Acting Chairman William Smith, from the Valdez Native Tribe, told the president.

With no end in sight to the pandemic, Democrats are focusing on Trump's handling of COVID-19 during their nominating convention this week.

♦ See COVID-19 on page B6

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# SEMINOLE SCENES



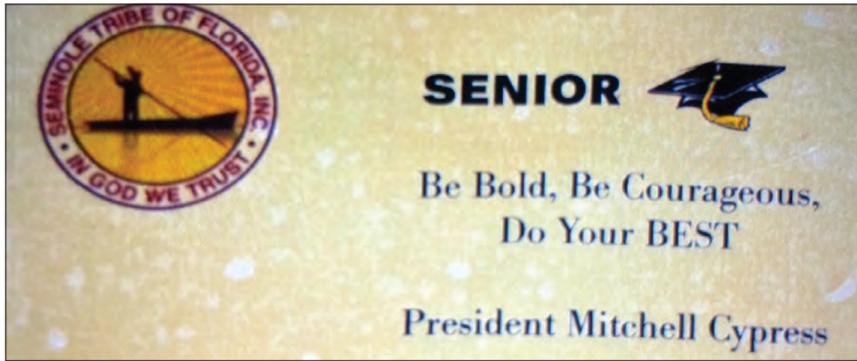
**SIGNS OF THE TIMES:** Signs on the Hollywood Reservation, and elsewhere throughout the Tribe, encourage people to help in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic by following guidelines such as social distancing, wearing masks and washing hands often. Kevin Johnson (2)



**FOND MEMORIES:** Ollie Balentine recently shared with the Tribune this family photo from many years ago of her and her grandkids, who are all now grown. The grandkids are, from left, L.T. Balentine, Jessie Cody Balentine and Donna Cypress. Courtesy photo



**BEST WISHES:** Notes from President Mitchell Cypress (above and below) were attached to back-to-school bags for Seminole students as the 2020-21 academic year started in August. Kevin Johnson (2)



**COOL CANINE:** In honor of International Dog Day on Aug. 26, Hard Rock posted some photos on social media of furry friends dressed in Hard Rock attire. Hard Rock/Facebook

## *Seminole Scenes Rewind: Tribune photos from the past - Billie Swamp Safari*



# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## Native American protesters block border fence material delivery

**COOLIDGE, Ariz.** — Just 13 protesters were able to hold up delivery of materials for President Trump's controversial border fence for three hours Aug. 26.

They showed up at 5:30 in the morning, and stood at the entrance to Stinger Bridge and Iron, blocking semi trucks from leaving the facility with steel poles destined for the border.

Stinger is a subsidiary of Fisher Industries, which was awarded contracts for building at least two sections of border fencing the Arizona Mexico border.

"We are standing in solidarity, protesting the assembling and construction of the wall," said one protester, who identified herself as O'Odham. The Tohono O'Odham Indian nation straddles the border in southern Arizona, with sections in both the United States and Mexico.

The protesters said they were protesting the desecration of sacred tribal land and the impact of construction on native species and wildlife.

The Tohono O'Odham have opposed wall construction for several reasons. One of the main objections has to do with the fact that tribal members have family on both sides of the border and are used to crossing with ease.

"We have offered some alternatives with respect to our sacred sites with respect to our religious sites, which are being desecrated as we speak today," said Tribal Chairman Ned Norris to members of Congress in February.

According to a spokesperson for the city of Coolidge, the Aug. 26 protest was peaceful and resulted in no arrests.

A team from CBS 5 Investigates was on scene and said the protest lasted roughly three hours.

- AZfamily.com

## N.C. county seeks to stop Kings Mountain casino

A North Carolina county has passed a resolution opposing the construction of a casino planned by the Catawba Indian Nation in Kings Mountain.

The Buncombe County Board of Commissioners voted 6-1 on Aug. 17 against the \$273 million casino project underway by the South Carolina Catawba tribe, according to The Associated Press.

A groundbreaking for the project was held in mid-July after seven years of waiting, planning and preparing.

Buncombe County commissioners are worried the plans would hurt investment and jobs provided by the Eastern Band of Cherokee's two casinos in Western North Carolina, according to The Associated Press.

"It's completely unprecedented and completely politicized," Cherokee Chief Albert Sneed told commissioners Aug. 17. "There have been unscrupulous developers who will essentially reservation shop to find a tribe that would like to get gaming."

Action by the Buncombe commissioners is not expected to delay the project.

The Catawba casino site is located on 17 acres of land off Dixon School Road and I-85, near the Gaston County line, but nearly 100 miles away from Buncombe's county seat in Asheville.

The Catawba Nation has said it has a historical claim to the North Carolina land. South Carolina does not allow gambling.

The project has faced push-back from various groups, including other tribes.

Last month's groundbreaking took place despite a lawsuit from the Eastern Band of the Cherokees seeking to stop them.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has opposed the building for years, and filed a lawsuit to stop the construction. The original suit included an injunction to stop the Catawba Nation from moving forward, which was denied by a federal judge.

- Gaston (S.C.) Gazette

## Interior Department appeals ruling over Wampanoag land

**WASHINGTON** — The Department of the Interior is appealing a federal judge's ruling that the department incorrectly found that the tribe did not qualify for land-in-trust status.

"This action by the Secretary of the Interior shows contempt for the June 5th ruling in the District Court of D.C.," Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell wrote in a statement.

The appeal was filed July 31 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

"Without providing the Tribe with any warning, and without providing justification or reasoning, the Secretary's action, unfortunately, is consistent with this Administration's constant failure to acknowledge or address the history of injustice against our Tribe and all Native Americans, and its utter lack of interest in protecting tribal lands," Cromwell wrote.

The appeal is even more "brazen" given the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has had on the community and the toll it has taken on the tribe's resources, Cromwell said.

In early June, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe celebrated a victory in its years-long battle for sovereignty when a federal judge ruled the Interior Department incorrectly applied its own guidelines in finding the tribe did not qualify for land-in-trust status.

U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman, at the time, said that the department's 2018 decision that the tribe was not under federal jurisdiction in 1934 was "arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion and contrary to law." He sent the case back to the department for "thorough reconsideration and reevaluation of the evidence."

The judge also said the department could

take no further action on disestablishing the tribe's reservation until it correctly applied its guidelines on reconsideration.

The Interior Department issued a statement in early June saying it was reviewing the decision and its options to proceed.

The department had taken 321 acres in Mashpee and Taunton into trust for the tribe in 2015.

- Cape Cod (Mass.) Times

## Nova Scotia fishermen say a First Nation lobster harvest is being abused

**NOVA SCOTIA, Canada** — Several hundred fishermen protested Aug. 27 in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, Canada, outside the constituency office of Fisheries and Oceans Minister Bernadette Jordan, demanding her department stop out-of-season commercial lobster harvesting and sales by First Nations in Nova Scotia.

"We are tired of being ignored over and over again," organizer Colin Sproul of the Bay of Fundy Inshore Fishermen's Association told the crowd through a bullhorn from the back of a pickup truck.

"The Trudeau government has shown zero respect for the fishery laws that protect your families' futures. That cannot go on any longer."

The protest is over what fishermen say is a blatant abuse of a First Nations communal lobster fishery underway in St. Marys Bay.

"It's not fair"

The summer season is closed to commercial fishing but open to an Indigenous food, social and ceremonial fishery, which does not allow the catch to be sold.

The fishermen say thousands of kilograms of lobster are being landed every day by Indigenous fishermen and resold.

Under federal fishery regulations, no sales are allowed in an area when the commercial season is closed.

"It's not fair to licence holders," says fisherman Leonard Connors, who travelled from Sheet Harbour.

"I'm here to support making regulations fair for everybody in Nova Scotia, and for the country really," he said.

Mi'kmaq negotiator Viola Robinson rejected the fishermen's objections Thursday, saying First Nations "constitutionally affirmed rights can be exercised outside of government-imposed fishing seasons."

In the 1999 Marshall decision, the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed the right of First Nations to fish for a moderate livelihood. It later clarified the ruling, saying the fishery must be regulated for conservation.

Twenty-one years later, only three bands — two in New Brunswick and one in Quebec — have agreed on terms with DFO on the rules for a moderate livelihood fishery.

"We are creating a Mi'kmaq Netukulimk Livelihood fishery, distinctive on its own, to support as many of individual Mi'kmaq harvesters and those wanting to be involved with this fishery, as possible," Robinson said in a statement. "It's been over 20 years since the Marshall decision, and it is beyond time for our people to be able to create sustainable livelihoods, all the while maintaining a sustainable resource for future generations."

Less than 20 hours before the protest, the owner of a lobster pound in St. Marys Bay was convicted in Digby provincial court of illegally selling lobster harvested by fishermen from the Sipekne'katik band in 2017, under their food, social and ceremonial licence.

The case involved thousands of kilograms of lobster intercepted before loading onto a fight for China.

The protesting fishermen said nothing has changed since then and illegal sales continue to this day.

West Nova Conservative MP Chris d'Entremont represents the St Marys Bay area in the House of Commons.

"I'm hearing stories that are straight out of a TV show of drugs, money laundering and intimidation that's going on. And that that cannot be acceptable in any world," d'Entremont told CBC News.

"I just think DFO should be doing a better job of the investigation. They should be allowed to investigate because it really sounds [like] the political masters in Ottawa are not allowing the investigation to go forward. And I really don't know why."

Later on Aug. 27, in Meteghan, trucks owned by some local buyers surrounded and blocked the local offices of DFO.

The protest outside the constituency office was peaceful and respectful. The minister did not make an appearance.

She did release a statement later saying she takes all allegations of illegal fishing very seriously.

"The DFO Fisheries Management and Conservation & Protection (C&P) teams have been alerted to reports of illegal fishing in certain areas of Nova Scotia," she said.

"As a reminder, we cannot comment on active investigations. However, when an investigation concludes that there are reasonable, probable grounds to pursue charges, C&P works with the Public Prosecution Services of Canada to bring cases to trial. This year, actions have been taken to remove illegal fishing gear and investigations are ongoing."

The department later provided further information to CBC News about the situation in St. Marys Bay.

"This alleged unauthorized fishing activity may involve both Indigenous and non-Indigenous harvesters," spokesperson Magalie Ratnayake said in a response statement.

"DFO is aware of increases in alleged unauthorized fishing activity and has aligned enforcement capacity with the scope and

scale of alleged unauthorized activity. A focus of ongoing enforcement activities has been on detecting large-scale operations and violations."

- CBC News

## Non-profit helping bridge digital divide in Native American tribal lands

**OAKLAND, Calif.** — It's estimated almost half of Americans living in rural areas don't have access to broadband. The numbers are even worse for those living on Native American tribal lands.

To reach 450 members of the Havasupai village at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, Dr. Chad S. Hamill needs to take a helicopter.

"Another is an eight-mile hike by foot or pack mule. There is no driving," said Dr. Hamill.

He said the Havasupai were so isolated, there's no high school, so students went to boarding school out-of-state. Online learning was not an option until the village got high-speed internet.

"This is a game-changer," said Hamill, a Spokane tribe descendant who is Vice President of the Native American Initiatives Office at Northern Arizona University.

Dr. Hamill credits Oakland-based MuralNet, where he's a board member.

"Less than 70 percent of some rural areas on tribal countries have connectivity," said Martin Casado who co-founded the nonprofit in 2017. "We wanted to chew off a piece of the problem."

Both Casado and MuralNet CEO Mariel Triggs help tribal nations build and operate their own reliable broadband networks.

"Almost all of our builds use existing infrastructure. I don't have to build a tower," said Triggs. "I just have to get something high enough, so I'm talking about rooftops, existing towers."

Triggs herself climbs the towers to install the hardware; the work takes half a day. The \$10,000 to \$15,000 cost is far cheaper than putting up a cell tower which can cost half a million dollars.

With donated funds, MuralNet has built a dozen networks, like one for New Mexico's Zuni tribe.

College and career center director Hayes Lewis says thousands of students can now do homework at home without struggling to find Wi-Fi.

"Many of our students were just carrying the handheld phones trying to find a place where they could get the signal," Lewis said. "Now they don't have to do that."

MuralNet is working with about two dozen other communities like the Makah tribe in the rainforest in the farthest part of northwest Washington.

Grant writer Crystal Hottowe says residents will have the option of virtual doctor visits, saving hours driving to the nearest city.

"MuralNet's impact on Indian country is going to be felt for many years to come," Hottowe said.

In fact, MuralNet led the way in changing FCC policy to give tribal lands priority to claim free bandwidth that's reserved for education. Nearly 300 tribal lands have applied so they can build their own high-speed internet networks.

Casado's expertise is as a venture capitalist; Triggs was an educational researcher with engineering degrees. They met while interns at Lawrence Livermore Lab in 1999. Together, they have gained the trust of tribal leaders and worked with tenacity and heart.

Dr. Hamill credits Triggs and Casado's dedication. "It's not just their talent, their intelligence. It's the fact that they're committed to native communities," Dr. Hamill said.

And the tribal nations are grateful. "There's never anything like, 'We can't do this, we can't do that.' It's, 'Let's find a way to make it work,'" said Lewis.

Casado and Triggs say their work has only begun.

"As far as the sheer number that's been connected, it's still relatively small relative to the problem space. So we continue to do this," said Casado.

"The next one is sustainability," Triggs added. "That's the next boulder we're going to take a jackhammer to."

- KP1X-CBS (San Francisco)

## Nebraska secretary of state blocks gambling initiatives from November ballot

An initiative proposal to authorize casino gambling at Nebraska horse racetracks was blocked Aug. 25 from inclusion on the general election ballot by Secretary of State Bob Evnen.

Evnen ruled that a trio of proposed gambling initiatives, headlined by the casino proposal, failed to comply with a single-subject rule contained in the state constitution even though they garnered sufficient signatures to be placed on the November ballot.

The proposals include a constitutional amendment to legalize casino gambling at racetracks, along with proposed laws that would regulate and tax casino gambling.

Evnen said he anticipates a legal challenge of his ruling, suggesting that "appears likely."

The secretary of state is required to certify the November general election ballot by Sept. 11.

Lance Morgan, president and CEO of Ho-Chunk Inc., the Winnebago Tribe economic development corporation that sponsored the petition drive, said later Tuesday that his organization will go to court to gain entry to the November ballot.

"It seems to me that political considerations" were at play in driving the decision to deny access to the ballot, Morgan said.

Questions were raised with Evnen "on the exact day that Gov. (Pete) Ricketts wrote a column opposing expanded gambling," he said.

Petitions to place the gambling issue on the ballot were signed by 475,000 Nebraskans, Morgan said.

"More than voted for Evnen" in 2018 when the secretary of state was elected with 406,000 votes, he said. "I looked it up."

Casino gambling revenue had been eyed as a source of additional property tax relief, with estimates of an initial \$45 million allocation from an estimated state revenue base of \$65 million.

"The constitutional right to bring forward initiative petitions for a vote of the people is fundamental to our state governance and is to be zealously protected," Evnen said.

But, he said, "part of the protection of the right of initiative is to assure such petitions are neither misleading nor manipulative."

A similar petition effort launched by Ho-Chunk Inc. failed to attract sufficient valid signatures in 2016.

Ho-Chunk partnered with the Nebraska Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, along with Omaha Exposition and Racing, in conducting this year's Keep the Money in Nebraska petition drive.

Racetracks in or near Omaha, Lincoln, South Sioux City, Grand Island, Hastings and Columbus would be able to conduct casino gambling under the proposal.

Casino gambling is viewed as a lifeline for the state's declining horse racing industry, as well as a new source for property tax relief.

Evnen said he received letters from attorneys for three citizens who had written him objecting to the gambling initiatives, as well as letters from attorneys for the sponsors of the petition, before making his decision.

If the secretary of state's decision remains unchanged after the expected court review, casino gambling would be the third major issue that was tripped up en route to the November general election ballot.

A petition drive to seek voter approval of a billion-dollar property tax reduction proposal was abandoned in the midst of challenges posed in collecting signatures during the coronavirus pandemic, and a proposed constitutional amendment to reform Nebraska's redistricting process was shelved for similar reasons.

A proposal to restrict payday lending interest rates has qualified for inclusion on the ballot. Signatures are still being validated for a ballot measure that would legalize medical marijuana.

- Lincoln (Neb.) Journal Star

## Tribal casino's relocation plan approved by governor

**PORTERVILLE, Calif.** — The Tule Indian Tribe's casino is coming down the mountain.

On Aug. 4, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a tribal-state gaming compact with the tribe east of Porterville which also included his concurrence with the Department of the Interior's decision to allow land in Porterville to be placed in trust allowing the Tribe to relocate Eagle Mountain Casino. The governor's concurrence and compact (along with the State Legislature's ratification) are the final approvals needed to authorize the relocation of the casino from the Tule Indian Reservation above Springville to the 40-acre plot near the Porterville airport, 15 miles off reservation land.

"These recent approvals represent the culmination of decades of hard work and perseverance and we are pleased that the governor recognized the substantial benefits of the project for the community," Tule River Council Chairman Neil Peyron said.

The governor's signature marks the end of a 20-year journey to bring the Relocation Project Site into trust, which has been widely supported by the community and local governments alike.

"We appreciate all of the support we have received and are proud of our rewarding partnerships with the city of Porterville, Tule County and the State of California — each of whom were critical in making the relocation project a reality," Peyron said.

The Tribe will now move forward with obtaining financing to construct the \$180 million casino-resort which includes 1,750 gaming machines and double the number of table games and poker tables. The 20,000-square foot complex would include a 250-room hotel and a convention center/entertainment venue and is estimated to create 400 construction jobs and 300 or more full time and part time casino operation jobs. The Tribe has also entered into intergovernmental agreements with Porterville and Tule County to address any impacts of the Relocation Project and to provide funding for various governmental services. The new casino is projected for completion in 2021.

"We look forward to what the future holds for our tribe and the surrounding communities," Peyron shared.

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) generally prohibits gaming activities on lands acquired on behalf of a tribe after Oct. 17, 1988. One exception, known as the "Secretarial Determination" or "two-part determination" permits a tribe to conduct gaming off reservation land if it is in the best interest of the tribe and its members and if it is not detrimental to the surrounding community. The first of the two-part determination happened on Oct. 7, 2019 when the assistant secretary for

the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), a part of the Department of Interior, signed a record of decision (ROD) and issued a secretarial determination giving the Tule Tribe its blessing for the relocation.

"The record demonstrates the proposed project will be in the best interest of the Tribe and its members," wrote Tara Sweeney, assistant secretary of Indian Affairs. "It will increase the available on-reservation water supply, strengthen the tribal government, and create jobs."

In January, Peyron told the Tule County Board of Supervisors that moving the casino off the reservation will mean more water for new homes. Currently the Tribe has a moratorium on new housing due to water restrictions, which has caused 300 families to be put on a waiting list for a home. Charles Farmer, director of HR for Eagle Mt. Casino since 2001, said if the casino wasn't allowed to move, Eagle Mt. would have had to drastically reduce its workforce by one third.

The Economic Impact Analysis estimates the proposed project would generate \$103.6 million in new annual revenue, create 1,200 temporary construction jobs, approximately 978 permanent jobs.

The 20,000-square foot convention space, 9,000-square foot divisible ballroom, and other breakout rooms, will make the proposed project ideal for conferences, conventions, and other business events. In addition, the proposed project will have a 1,700-seat entertainment venue that would host shows, as well as cultural and other events for the Tribe. The addition of the hotel, conference space, and event center to the casino will encourage increased tourism in and around Porterville.

On Jan. 7, the Tule County Board of Supervisors approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and intergovernmental agreement with the Tule River Indian Tribe to address local impacts related to the proposed relocation of the Eagle Mountain Casino to land adjacent to the Porterville Airport. Tule River Tribal Council adopted the MOU at their meeting on Dec. 30, 2019 meeting.

Under the agreement, the tribe agrees to pay \$3.5 million for Sheriff's law enforcement services, with \$1 million due within 30 days of opening and the rest paid in 12 quarterly payments beginning on the second anniversary of opening day. The tribe also agrees to a one-time payment of \$196,000 towards a fire engine and related equipment to be housed at Tule County Fire Station 19 in Porterville. The proposed relocation project will also include a new tertiary water treatment facility and a fire station at the casino site with the capability to assist the City and County on emergency calls. If a fire station is not constructed, the tribe will make annual payments of \$48,667 for fire service. The tribe will also pay an additional \$550,000 per year for ongoing public safety equipment and maintenance, road maintenance and traffic control costs, and mental health services costs.

The agreement will also include fair share contributions toward road projects including intersection improvements, traffic signals and roundabouts. The tribe will be asked to fund 7% of the cost to signalize the intersections of Avenue 256 and Spruce and Rockford Road and Highway 190, as well as 59.5% of the cost to rehabilitate Teapot Dome Avenue.

The Tule River reservation was established in 1873 in Porterville. Tribal enrollment is just over 1900 and the reservation spans approximately 55,356 acres.

- The Foothills Sun-Gazette (Calif.)

## New Mexico sellers sentenced to \$300K fine for fake Native American jewelry

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** — Dealers selling fake Native American jewelry and goods were charged in federal court Aug. 26. The U.S. Attorney's Office in New Mexico says Jawad Khalaf, 72, of Albuquerque, Nashat Khalaf, 73, of Gallup, Sterling Islands, Inc., a wholesale jewelry business in Albuquerque, and Al-Zuni Global Jewelry, Inc., a wholesale jewelry business in Gallup were sentenced in federal court Aug. 26.

"The Land of Enchantment's identity and economy relies heavily on Indian art and culture," said Meridith Stanton in a news release from the Attorney's Office, Director of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board (IACB), U.S. Department of the Interior.

According to the same news release, Jawad and Nashat were sentenced to two years' supervised release and Jawad must also perform 100 hours of community service. Sterling Islands Inc. was sentenced to five years' probation and 50 hours community service, while Al-Zuni Global Jewelers, Inc. was sentenced to five years' probation and 20 hours community service. Collectively, the defendants will pay \$300,000 to the Indian Arts and Crafts Board and forfeit their interests in \$288,738.94 seized by investigators in the case.

In April, the defendants pled guilty to misrepresentation of Indian-produced goods and services as part of a scheme to import Native American-style jewelry from the Philippines and sell it to customers in the U.S. as authentic.

- KRQE-TV (Albuquerque, N.M.)

# THE SHOPPES AT THE GUITAR HOTEL.

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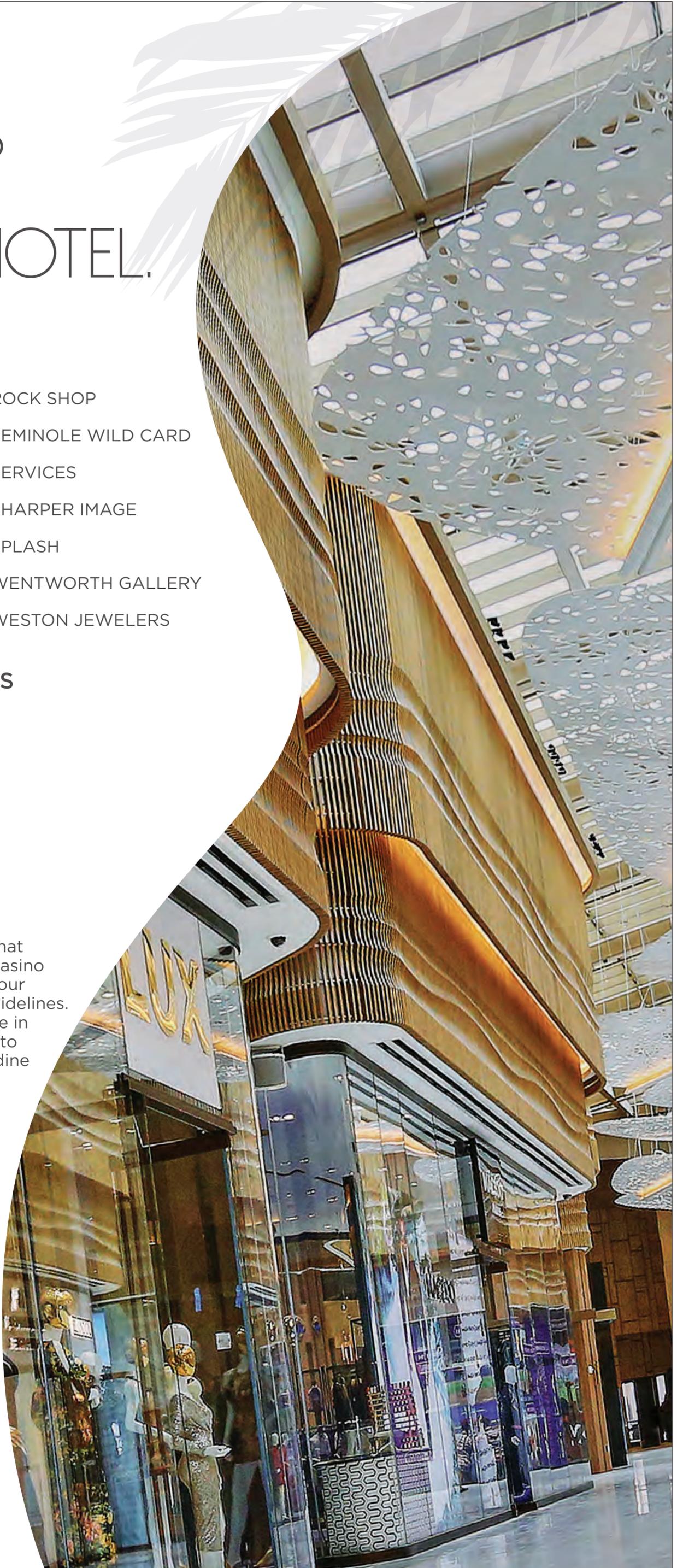
We are pleased to announce that Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood is open and under our new Safe + Sound program guidelines. Rigorous sanitary protocols are in place, and there's more space to win. So, come shop, play and dine with peace of mind. For more information about our Safe + Sound program guidelines, visit [HardRockHolly.com/good-clean-fun](https://www.hardrockholly.com/good-clean-fun).



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# Education

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## Ahfachkee starts school year with improvements in virtual learning

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

2020 has been a challenging year academically. At the Ahfachkee School, students and teachers left the campus in early spring and have yet to return. The school's industrious educators quickly and successfully switched from in-person classes to online learning.

With the start of the 2020-2021 school year Aug. 31, virtual learning will be the norm but it will be greatly improved. Ahfachkee is using a new learning management tool, Google Classroom and G-Suite. The platform is easier to use and more secure than the school's website, used in the spring, where students had to navigate through a few locations to get the lessons.

"Now everything is in one location and is much easier," said Principal Dorothy Cain. "Google classroom is much more secure and easier for teachers to use. It's easy to navigate and for parents to learn. It's a dynamic environment for the student, they will understand it right away. It was the best match for us and the students."

Parents have been trained and teachers have been using the platform since they went back to school remotely on Aug. 12. Teachers will have a lot of video face to face time with the students through Google Meet or WebEx.

Teachers create their pages, where everything happens from daily lessons to videos of those lessons so students who were absent can view them if they missed a day of school. Younger students may need some initial help from parents, but Cain is confident once they learn how to use it they will be fine.

"A lot of teachers are using bitmojis, avatars of themselves on their pages instead of photos," Cain explained. "It is a way to make the website look cute for the elementary students. But the students will see their teachers live during class lessons."

High school students have personalized pages with their schedules on it. Each has a homeroom and six classes from 8 am to 2:40 pm.

The elementary school schedule is based on the age of the students. Kindergarten classes are from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., first grade is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and so on. Cain said the state requirements for instructional hours will be met.

Ahfachkee, which expects 215 students this year, is following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for safety. Cain hopes later in the school year they will be able to offer a blended version combining virtual with in school classes, depending on the number of coronavirus cases.

"Elementary school students need face to face time for socialization with other kids and teachers," Cain said. "Now we have to be virtual, but maybe next year we can be all face to face. Socialization during high school is also important, but some students do very well in virtual school. This is the new norm and we will have to get used to working like this for a while. Time will tell."

Cain envisions the school possibly offering virtual high school for students from anywhere, not just Big Cypress. She believes it may be a way of the future given the circumstances of Covid-19.

"I feel good about starting the school year off with this learning management tool," Cain said. "I think students will thrive

if we can get everyone connected. We will have to deal with it one household at a time." Connectivity to the internet has been a challenge in Big Cypress since they started online learning, but Cain said the Tribe is working on it. Some families rely on cellular cards to get online.

All teachers and assistants are working from home. Students still receive enrichment classes and remediation through Google Meet. Afterschool care, including homework help, remediation and acceleration, will begin during the third week of September, Monday through Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Teachers have office hours for conferences with parents. Cain believes there will be a lot more collaboration with parents which will help students stay on track.

"We want to make this motivating so students can't wait to log-in every day," Cain said. "This is not going to be a boring environment."



Ahfachkee Principal Dorothy Cain

Virtual field trips will be conducted, including one with the Federal Reserve in Miami, which has a program that teaches life skills on how to manage money using math, economics and social studies.

The Ahfachkee virtual learning program in the spring was held on the school's website, a public site. The Bureau of Indian Education was so impressed with it they asked the school to share the plan with other BIE schools around the country.

"They applauded the fact that we were able to move forward so quickly," Cain said. "We made three presentations, in the East, Central and West. The presentations helped other schools that were floundering out there."

One difference between the spring program and the current one is testing. The school had completed its testing schedule by the time they went virtual in the spring; the rest of the year was a review of skills and knowledge learned during the year. This year educators are teaching the state standards for each grade level from the start. Cain sees it as a real test, since they are deploying all new lessons.

"We have the ability to keep our students virtual as long as we need because we have everything in place," she said. "There is nothing like face to face learning, but some students thrive in a virtual environment. They can still make connections with each other; every student can see each other and collaborate in the classroom."

## Virtual preschools open tribalwide

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

A typical preschool classroom is usually an environment of bustling activity, curious minds exploring new things and teachers there to guide the way.

Due to the pandemic, today's tribalwide preschool classroom looks very different; it takes place on a digital screen. There are still activities, those young minds are still curious, the teachers are virtually there to help guide the way, but parents are more hands-on than ever.

Preschools tribalwide are in session through the WebEx platform. Registration was open until Aug. 31 and about 100 children were expected to enroll. During a typical year about 240 students attend the schools in Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee. The children who enrolled in the virtual preschool, which began in the spring, are ages 2 and up; infants and one year olds haven't been signing up, according to preschool director Thommy Doud. Since the schools are virtual, non-residents have also been joining.

"I think they all enjoy it," said Doud. "They can see that their classmates and teachers are healthy and OK. It gives them a sense of being in a group during this time when it isn't possible to go out and see people. One of our main focuses is for them to see their friends and teachers and know we will get through this."

Using the technology to its best advantage, the preschools have taken virtual field trips around the world using YouTube and different websites. No permission slips were needed as they "went" to Sea World, the Disneyland Fourth of July fireworks celebration, rode the rides on the Disney 360 experience as well as various zoos and museums.

Parents help with all the arts and crafts projects; they are told what materials they will need in advance. Doud said the preschool plans to send packets of materials to parents monthly.

"Our parents have been great, amazing and wonderful," Doud said. "They are a part of it and we thank them so much."

Doud used the summer as a training ground to improve the program for fall. A lot of partners are part of the plan now, including the Health Department, which does a yoga program; the library has Friday specials and reads to the children; Language and Culture teaches language classes, which is part of the preschool's core mission; Boys



Screenshot

One example of the creativity in virtual preschool is shown here as Big Cypress Preschool teacher Paige Gordon, upper left, reads "Little Red Riding Hood" while teacher aide Kelsey Mata plays the wolf much to the amazement of students Loraine Jumper and Justice Trujillo.

& Girls Club will be providing activities and Behavioral Health conducts Project Aware activities.

"We are trying to make the most robust program as possible," Doud said. "We include some one on one time in the afternoons with teachers on request. It isn't just class time."

School starts at 9:45 a.m. and ends at noon, well before naptime. There is no proven data that says what is the best way for a virtual preschool to function, so Doud is trying to do what is best for the families. Tools include videos and other activities parents can use at their convenience.

"Some teachers record videos of activities the children can follow along with at home," Doud said. "It gives the parents and children more to do during the day. The parents are taking on this role, so it is our goal to give them more."

Virtual teaching is very different than classroom teaching. Teachers are getting creative and finding interesting ways to engage the children from afar. A reader's

theater is a popular example. A teacher and an aide appear on a split screen. The teacher reads a book such as "Little Red Riding Hood," while the aide acts it out with a mask and sound effects.

"We find we are more like Mr. Rogers," Doud said. "It's kind of like producing a kids show. The teachers and aides plan them. It works and it's amazing."

There are certainly challenges to a virtual preschool. Connectivity to the internet is difficult in some areas, preparing the children for this type of environment is something new and parents must navigate the challenges while parenting and even teaching other children in the household. Screens in some homes may need to be shared; preschools have no state requirements for teaching time, so older children who must attend class at a certain time, often take priority on shared devices.

"I'm excited about it, what we are doing is cutting edge," Doud said. "We are trying to put our best foot forward. It isn't easy, but this is the new norm right now."



Kevin Johnson (3)

Just before the start of the new academic year, Seminole students in Hollywood and elsewhere in Broward County received back-to-school items to help get their school year started in the right direction. Personnel from the President's Office, Chairman's Office, Hollywood Council, Hollywood Board, Integrative Health, Center for Student Success and Services, Center for Behavioral Health, Seminole Police and Seminole Fire Rescue and others were among those who provided and distributed the items in a drive-thru manner in front of the Hollywood Preschool on Aug. 11. The event was organized by the Hollywood Council Office.

## Drive-thru back-to-school bash in Hollywood



## New academic year begins at PECS

BY TRACY DOWNING  
Principal, Pematyvtv Emahakv Charter School

Pematyvtv Emahakv Charter School opened on August 10th, and we are providing a full array of services to our students. These services include synchronous and asynchronous instruction and specialized instruction for students with individual plans.

The students are formally enrolled in the school, in their grade level, and in a teacher's classroom. Students receive daily, live instruction, attendance is recorded and monitored, and assignments are accessed and submitted via Google Classroom using the Clever Learning Management System.

Robust progress monitoring is provided and the students are receiving instruction through innovative teaching methods. The teachers are following a student-centered approach with a commitment to ensure that the individual needs of each child are met.

The home to school connection is strong, and our parents are committed to partnering with our teachers to support the educational process at home.

Pematyvtv Emahakv Charter School exists to provide students, parents, and the Brighton Community with an instructional program that meets high standards of student academic achievement by providing a rigorous student oriented curriculum infused with the Seminole Language and Seminole Culture in an environment that is safe, nurturing, conducive to learning, and designed to preserve Seminole Tribe of Florida history and traditions. Our students have a long standing history of performing well as evidenced by our school grades issued by the Florida Department of Education. In 2019, when we were two separate schools, our middle school earned a grade of an 'A' and our elementary school earned a 'B'. We are currently operating as a Pre-K through 8th grade school.

It is our intent to continue this long standing history of top performance by providing our students with a learning model that is supported by our wonderful community of stakeholders that includes the parents, the tribe, and the Brighton Community.

# NSU University School virtual graduation celebrates class of 2020

**BY BEVERLY BIDNEY**  
Staff Reporter

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, high schools around the country celebrated their seniors with graduations online. NSU University School high school in Davie held its virtual graduation Aug. 10.

Seven Tribal members graduated with the school's class of 2020: Chandler DeMayo, Destiny Diaz, Kaiya Drake, Cachalani Frank, Krishawn Henry, Brendan Latchford and Xiora Osceola.

The program was emceed by William J. Kopas, the head of school. The graduation resembled a PowerPoint presentation; each student had a page with their official senior photo, another more candid or less official photo - often with a pet- and the name and logo of the college they will attend. While each student's page was displayed, Kopas read a brief description of the student, which appeared to have been submitted by each one. The student's diploma was displayed in a separate frame.

In his remarks, Kopas said Chandler DeMayo, a member of the track and field team, will miss his upper school English teachers who were able to bring out the creativity in the students. DeMayo will attend Wells College in New York and major in museum studies with aspirations of becoming a museum curator.

Destiny Diaz is proud of her Native American heritage and that she was able to meet with the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs while on a trip to Washington, D.C. She volunteers at church, where she is a videographer in the children's ministry. Diaz will attend Southeastern University in Lakeland and study TV and film production. She wants to become the first Native American woman to win an Academy Award.

Kaiya Drake enjoyed her anatomy, English and math classes and still remembers the quadratic formula. She will attend Nova Southeastern University in Davie.

Cachalani Frank was the captain of the competitive cheer team and won an athletic award as a member of the squad. She will miss her friends and all the memories she made at football games. Frank plans to study health science at Colorado State University.

Krishawn Henry appreciated the diversity the University School had to offer and is grateful to his family for supporting him, even in times of adversity. He is proud of succeeding in all of his honors classes and looks forward to attending Florida State University, where he will study hospitality management. He plans to become "the CEO of a successful conglomerate to inspire hope into the next generation of his community," Kopas said.

Brendan Latchford is passionate about basketball and was proud to play on the

school team, the Sharks. He is grateful to his mentor and teacher Daniel McGraw and will attend Florida State University.

Xiora Osceola, a theater buff, spent countless hours behind the scenes as an integral part of the theater department's technical crew. She was a hair, makeup and costume designer for the upper school production of Peter Pan and designed handmade costumes and accessories. Osceola received two honorable mentions from the Critics' Choice awards and a superior at the District 13 state level competitions. She plans to major in veterinary medicine and theater at Broward College.

Co-valedictorians Melanie Stone and Sovan Ben-David delivered a shared address during the ceremony. Stone went first and said they both thought about the futility of writing a speech that would never be heard due to the serious turn the pandemic had taken. But they persevered and spoke about the lack of closure for the class of 2020 due to circumstances.

"I imagined stressing over tests, joking in the hallways and having to wake up on another Monday. I imagined dancing at prom or having my parents see me graduate at the top of the class. As an adult, what will I say to my child about my experience at prom? I'm sure many of us had similar dreams. I'm sure we all feel as though our accomplishments have been overshadowed by this tragedy. Instead of wallowing in self-pity, we should

reflect on how this pandemic has affected us and how it will change our future. We didn't write this speech to be depressing; we wrote it as proof of our resilience. Prom, grad bash and graduation are all different, but we are all different. Even though we feel deprived of all these milestones, none of this takes away from our accomplishments of four years of high school," Stone said.

Ben-David said their class didn't get a chance for goodbyes because their last day of school came unexpectedly.

"The pandemic taught us to appreciate every moment. 2020 allowed us to truly see what is important. We were the class who spent the last of our formative years locked inside, who made the most of a terrifying situation, who turned quarantine into a time of growth and reflection. We are a class that will never again waste time. We will enjoy every moment, take in every detail, celebrate every small triumph because we have had things taken away from us, things we took for granted. It is what makes us the next generation of leaders, go getters and risk takers. It is what has bonded us for life, whether we like it or not," Ben-David said. "We are the class of 2020; infamous, notorious. As you embark on your next adventures in life, do not forget the sense of loss you feel today. Turn it into urgency, into success, into hunger to achieve everything you can while you can."

The final speaker of the program was

a famous University School alumnus, Josh Gad, class of 1999. The actor is best known for his roles in the Broadway musical "The Book of Mormon," as Olaf in the "Frozen" franchise, in the live action film version of "Beauty and the Beast" and HBO's "Avenue 5" among other theater, film and television productions.

Gad addressed the class of 2020 and welcomed them into the distinguished group of University School alumni. He noted that the situation caused by the pandemic "sucks" and being deprived of the normalcy of going to a college campus and walking among friends is unfortunate.

"But there is an opportunity, an amazing opportunity," Gad said. "Use this time, it's probably the only time for the foreseeable future that you can just think, to do, to create, to be. Use it. Each of you is industrious, each of you has the capability to do something wonderful, something potentially game changing. Do that. Celebrate this moment. I promise you the rest of your lives will be a nonstop, super-fast train. Take the opportunity, because each of you is capable of incredible greatness. This moment that we find ourselves in right now is really hard, but it's also an opportunity for critical thinking, to do something you otherwise would never have done. So as hard as it is, enjoy it, because pretty soon you will all be back to the frantic nonstop motion called life."

**BRENDAN LATCHFORD**





**CACHALANI FRANK**



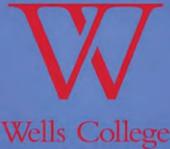


**XIORA OSCEOLA**





**CHANDLER DEMAYO**

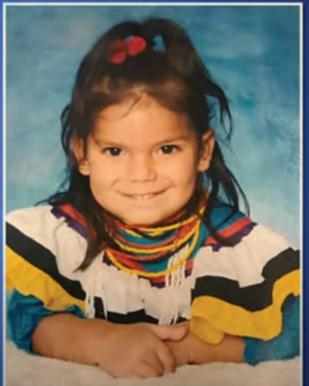

**KAIYA DRAKE**





**DESTINY DIAZ**





**KRISHAWN HENRY**



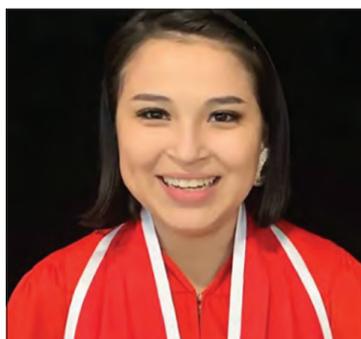


# Seminole Higher Education Graduates

Student	School	Degree	Major
Ethan Aguilar	GED	GED	
Christopher Alexander	Hallmark University	Associate	Airframe and Power Plant
Breanna Billie	Penn Foster	High School Diploma	
Jazmine Billie	GED	GED	
Briana Bilodeau	Univ. of Mississippi	Bachelor of Science	Hospitality and Tourism
Durante Blais-Billie	Univ. of Scotland	Master of Arts	Art History and Management
Stevie Brantley	Colorado Tech. University	Associate	Business Administration
Stanley Cypress	GED	GED	
Carissa Colon	Aveda Institute	Certificate	Esthiology
Mshquazed Davis	Fanshawe College	Associate	General Arts and Science
Angela Garcia	GED	GED	
Anthony Gentry	GED	GED	
Rollie Gilliam	Florida State University	Certificate	Trauma and Resilience Professional
Alexis Gore	GED	GED	
Stephanie Bowers Hiatt	Hamline University	Doctoral	Education
Michael Harvey	Penn Foster	High School Diploma	
Charles Hiers Jr.	Broward College	Associate	Arts
Taylor Holata	Florida State University	Bachelor of Science	Management
Hudson Jumper	GED	GED	
Thalia Pacheco	Pueblo Comm. College	Associate	Psychology
Raymond Philpott	Indian Capital Tech. Center	Certificate	Automotive Service Technician
Raina Robinson	Tallahassee Comm. College	Associate	Arts
Sean Osceola	Pasco-Hernando State College	Associate	Arts
Jarrid Smith	Nova Southeastern Univ.	Master of Science	AP Educational Leadership
Meagan Smith	Penn Foster	Certificate	Pet Grooming
Keishawn Stewart	GED	GED	
Conner Thomas	Tulsa Welding School		
Hunter Tiger	Miami Dade College		
Julian Yescas	Lynn University		
Cory Wilcox	University of Miami	MBA	Business Administration
Nicholas Zepeda	Southeastern University	Bachelor of Arts	Organizational Leadership



Taylor Holata - Florida State University



Mshquazed Davis - Fanshawe College



Durante Blais-Billie - University of Scotland



Rollie Gilliam - Florida State University

## Bay Mills tribal member named college president

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**BRIMLEY, Mich.** — Bay Mills tribal member Duane Bedell has been selected to serve as the new president of Bay Mills Community College in Brimley, Michigan. The BMCC Board of Regents formally announced their decision July 31 at a special meeting.

“We had a lot of qualified applicants apply for the position,” BOR President Bryan Newland said. “Duane was chosen based on his vision, leadership, and experience in education.”

Bedell currently works as the tribal manager for Bay Mills Indian Community, a position he has held for two years. Prior to his work at BMCC, Bedell was the computer information systems department chair at BMCC for 10 years. He began his teaching career at BMCC in 2002, working as an adjunct instructor. He has also worked at various other institutions teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses.

Bedell earned his associate’s degree from BMCC in computer information systems and moved on to get his bachelor’s degree in computer science from Baker College. His graduate education includes a master’s degree in educational technology and education specialist degree from the University of Michigan. He is currently a doctoral candidate in education leadership at U of M as well.

Bedell will work alongside current BMCC President Michael Parish throughout the fall semester, learning the ropes as the presidential designee. Parish will retire in December and Bedell will assume the role of president on Jan 1.

BMCC is one of three tribally controlled colleges in the state of Michigan and the only community college in Michigan’s Eastern Upper Peninsula.

## USC freshman wants to inspire more Native American students to attend college

BY ROB MACKOVICH  
USC News

**LOS ANGELES** — Natalie Battiest is no stranger to the University of Southern California. As a Bovard Scholar, she lived on campus during summer 2019. And earlier this year, she helped lead the Native American Student Union’s biggest College Exploration Day to date.

“Native American students don’t pursue higher ed or graduate school because they don’t think that’s an option,” she said. “I never saw myself going to a prestigious school. You can see that on reservations — just a lack of opportunity and guidance.”

College attendance and six-year graduation rates for American Indian and Alaska Native students ages 18 to 24 is lower than any other racial or ethnic group. Cultural unfamiliarity and a sense of isolation have been cited as factors.

“Growing up, I never met another Native student,” Battiest said. “I did feel alone at times, and I didn’t see my culture represented. I was able to develop friends over time despite the differences.”

A descendent of the Choctaw tribe, Battiest was raised by a relative who moved to Downey, Calif., from Oklahoma.



Stella Kalinina

Natalie Battiest is of Choctaw descent and comes to USC from Oklahoma by way of Downey, California.

“My biological parents weren’t fit to raise me, so my aunt took over,” she said.

While attending Warren High School, Battiest earned the title of Miss Teen Downey and used it to create connections.

“I got immersed in my Downey community,” she said. “I did an event with firefighters and a Christmas tree lighting, and I sold food at festivals. With that crown and sash, I could be a mentor and a role model for younger girls.”

After becoming a Bovard Scholar as a rising high school senior, Battiest was accepted at Columbia University, Northwestern University, Emory University, Brown University and the University of California, Berkeley, where a Regents’ Scholarship was offered. She chose USC.

Now a Gates Scholar and a Presidential Scholar, she’ll pursue a degree in health promotion and disease prevention studies.

“We have a predominant presence of drug addiction, so I want to research in that field and help my reservation,” she said. “I don’t want Native youth to go through what I went through growing up. I want to see growth, and I think there will be change.”

## Native colleges take mixed approach to fall semester

BY EDDIE CHUCULATE  
Special to Indian Country Today

Much like the nation itself, Native American colleges and universities across the country have a mixed approach as they open the fall semester amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Some schools, such as Haskell Indian Nations University, decided in July to stay off campus with online instruction only.

Others, such as the Institute of American Indian Arts, will have a mixture of virtual learning and on-campus classes.

Meanwhile, Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma, is forging ahead with an on-campus semester, but giving students the option to stay at home, come to campus or a mixture of both.

Bacone, the oldest higher-learning institution in Oklahoma, anticipates a 15 percent drop in enrollment due to the pandemic, but plans to welcome between 235 and 250 students when the semester begins Wednesday. Bacone had 271 students enrolled at the start of fall 2019.

The start date is two weeks later than usual to provide a staggered move-in to the dorms, reducing overcrowding and the chance at spreading the virus, said Bacone Vice President of Student Affairs Kaila Harjo.

Fifty-five first-time freshmen will reside on campus and be given a care package including washable face mask, disposable masks and hand sanitizer.

“It’s my job to ensure our students remain as safe and healthy as possible. They are my family here on campus, and I’m dedicated to creating a safe, home-like atmosphere for them all,” Harjo, Creek and Seminole, said in an email.

Students will be required to wear masks

at all times, except when eating or when they’re in their dorm rooms. Faculty and staff have the same requirement, Harjo said.

Classroom attendance will be capped at 10 with social-distancing guidelines in place in common areas such as the library and dining halls.

The school still plans to compete in men’s and women’s basketball this fall in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, Harjo said.

The association, however, has moved its basketball and other fall and winter sports championships to the spring, letting the schools and conferences decide on their own whether to play their seasons this fall.

Bacone College was founded in 1880 and is now chartered by the Keetoowah Cherokee, Osage, Kiowa, Cheyenne and Arapaho and Otee-Missouria tribes.

It is a liberal arts college offering bachelor’s degrees and has renowned Indian art and radiography programs.

At the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the school has formed partnerships with Presbyterian Health Services and the Indian Health Service amid the pandemic.

Presbyterian will provide initial on-campus testing for all staff and students while IHS will conduct follow-up testing, said school President Dr. Robert Martin, Cherokee.

IAIA expects up to 550 total students from 90 tribes across all programs, which is an enrollment decline of 20 percent from last semester that was anticipated due to the coronavirus.

There are 57 new freshmen, down from 74 last year, and 43 MFA students, who work entirely online. Two-hundred students are continuing their education this semester, which began online last week. Seventy percent of classes will be conducted

virtually, with the remainder on campus with a six-student maximum per classroom.

“Obviously, as a fine arts college we cannot effectively transition all of our courses to an online format,” Martin wrote in an op-ed published in the Santa Fe New Mexican newspaper.

“A number of studio arts, cinematic arts and performing arts will be held in person on campus for the first eight weeks of the semester (for) access to studios and special equipment,” Martin wrote.

IAIA has reduced on-campus tuition by 10 percent and online tuition by 25 percent and is also providing laptops, paying for internet connections and data plans for cellphones, and providing emergency financial aid for rent, housing, gas and vehicle repairs, Martin wrote in the op-ed.

IAIA is the only four-year degree fine arts institution in the world devoted to contemporary Native American and Alaskan Native arts.

It is one of 37 tribal colleges in the United States accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, according to its website.

It has creative writing, sculpture, painting, drawing, photography and video programs in addition to museum studies and other classes such as Native Art history.

In Lawrence, Kansas, campus will be more or less vacant this semester as students at Haskell matriculate 100 percent online via the Blackboard system.

Haskell Indian Nations University recently completed interviews for a new president. Haskell Indian Nations University

The school, which averages about 1,000 students each academic year, is charging \$715 for the online fall 2020 semester, according to its website.

Normally some of those costs go toward

activity fees on campus, housing and food, but since students will be at home this fall, some are troubled that costs will remain the same, according to published reports.

Off-campus students last year previously paid \$240 per semester, according to online records.

Other schools, such as Bacone and IAIA, have reduced fees while others, such as Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute in Albuquerque, aren’t charging anything for the upcoming online-only fall semester.

Meanwhile, Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, is beginning the fall semester Monday on campus.

Fort Lewis historically offers free tuition for qualified Native Americans by Colorado’s state mandate and had about 1,100 Indian students last spring out of an overall enrollment of 3,300.

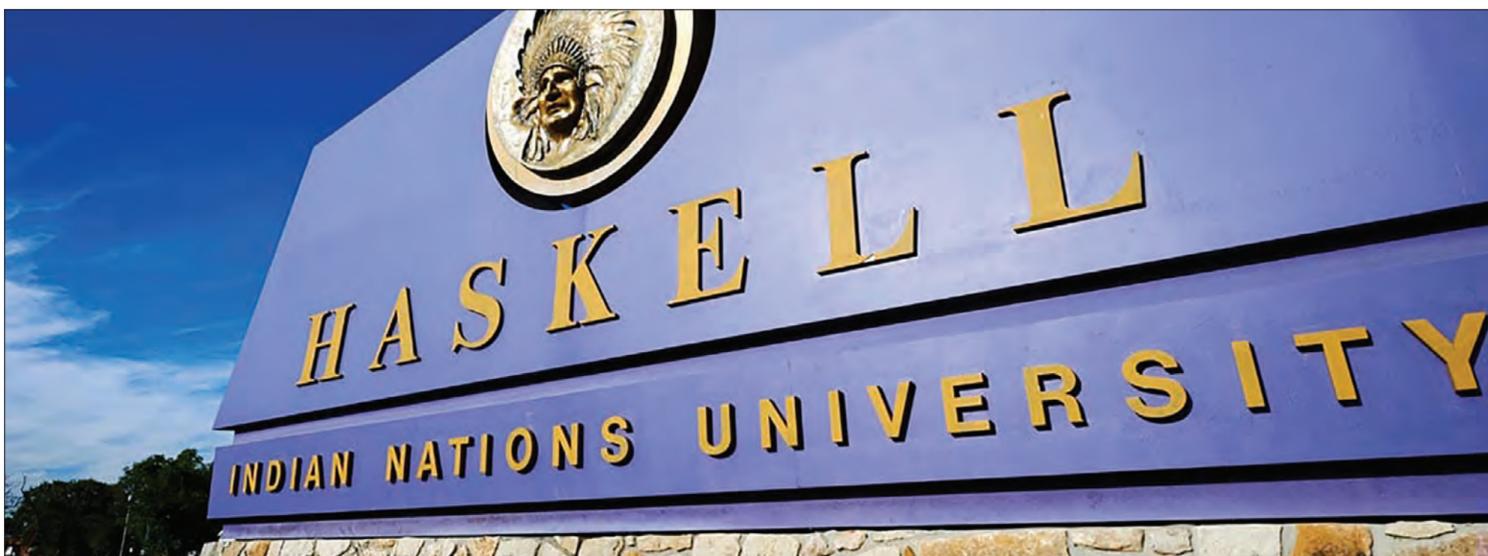
Fort Lewis College is considered a Native American-serving, nontribal school.

In Bismarck, North Dakota, United Tribes Technical College is starting on-campus classes Tuesday with social distancing and other safeguards in place.

UTTC is operated by the Three Affiliated Tribes of Fort Berthold, the Spirit Lake Tribe, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.

In its 50-year history it has served over 75 tribes across the United States. It had 64 graduates last spring/summer in associate, bachelor’s and certificate programs and 323 full-time and 23 part-time students during spring 2020.

Eddie Chuculate, Creek and Cherokee, is a writer based in Minneapolis. This article was posted Aug. 24 on Indian Country Today, a nonprofit news organization.



Haskell

Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, is conducting all of its courses online for the fall semester.

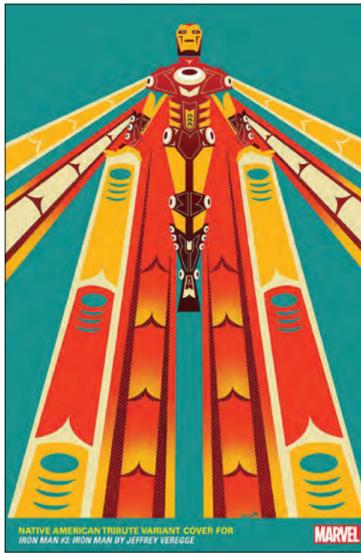
## Marvel honors Indigenous history with Native American tribute covers by Jeffrey Veregge

FROM PRESS RELEASE

On Aug. 19, Marvel announced the introduction of Marvel's Voices: Indigenous Voices #1, a special written and drawn by some of the industry's most renowned Indigenous talent including celebrated artist and writer Jeffrey Veregge. Veregge, who just wrapped up his exhibition "Jeffrey Veregge: Of Gods and Heroes" at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. He also lent his talents to produce a series of variant covers on sale in November, which is Native American Heritage Month. The covers will showcase Dani Moonstar, Black Panther, Spider-Man, Black Widow, Iron Man, Captain America, Hulk, and Thor depicted in Veregge's artistic Formline style.

"The story of the hero is an ancient one. Starting with the very first cave drawings, artists and writers from across the globe have both captured and shared the fateful acts of their people's heroes," Veregge said. "Being from the Pacific Northwest, my own people, the S'Klallam Tribe, have used the art style known as Formline to record and share the stories of our people since time immemorial. The art style I use in my own work today is an extension of the same shapes and forms used for hundreds of years by Native artists from and around the very same region.

"As a lifelong comic fan, artist and Native American, I am truly honored to work with Marvel Comics today. Not only to create pieces that represent a voice for Indigenous People in honor of Native American Heritage



Cover designs by Native American artist Jeffrey Veregge will be featured by Marvel during Native American Heritage Month in November.



Jeffrey Veregge's covers for Marvel, in tribute to Native American heritage, include Spider-Man, left, and Dani Moonstar.



Marvel (2)

## IMLS Invests \$5.2M in library services for Tribal communities, Native Hawaiians

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The Institute of Museum and Library Services today announced grants totaling \$5,263,000 through three programs designed to support and improve library services of Native American and Native Hawaiian organizations.

"IMLS remains committed to investing in tribal libraries and their services," said IMLS Director Crosby Kemper. "These grants empower Native American tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to preserve and revitalize their cultural traditions and histories, teach new generations their native languages, and offer critical services to their communities."

Native American Library Services Basic Grants support existing library operations and maintain core library services. These noncompetitive grants are distributed in equal amounts among eligible applicants. Grants totaling \$1,834,336 will be awarded to 172 Indian tribes, Alaska native villages, and regional and village corporations., Alaska native villages, and regional and village corporations.

Native American Library Services Enhancement Grants augment existing library services or implement new library services for Indian tribes. Enhancement Grants are only awarded to applicants that have applied for a Native American Library Services Basic Grant in the same fiscal year.

IMLS received 37 applications requesting \$4,894,378 and was able to award \$3,010,492 to 23 tribes in 12 states. This year's awarded grants will advance the preservation and revitalization of language and culture, as well as educational programming and digital services. This year's awarded grants will advance the preservation and revitalization of language and culture, as well as educational programming and digital services.

Native Hawaiian Library Services Grants are available to nonprofit organizations that primarily serve and represent Native Hawaiians so they can enhance existing or implement new library services. IMLS received eight applications requesting \$1,130,339 and awarded \$418,172 to three organizations serving Native Hawaiians.

Some examples of awarded projects include:

- The Huna Totem Corporation, in collaboration with partners including the Alaska State Libraries, Archives, and Museums, will process, arrange, and create a database for its archive collection. The project will also add 10 oral interviews with community elders to the collection. The goals are to preserve Tlingit elders' knowledge for current and future generations, provide a missing piece of Tlingit history, and document clan belongings that hold traditional and cultural stories.

- The Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut's "Story-Keeper, Seed Keeper" project will create a physical and digital Native seed library at the Mohegan Library and Archives and two sustainable indigenous plant gardens at Tantaquidgeon Museum. This project will facilitate tribal community education about indigenous herbs, Native food crops, ceremonial medicine, environmental, and sustainability practices, and plant stories and traditions passed on by historic Mohegan farmers, gardeners, gatherers, writers, and storytellers.

- The Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation's "Piikuni sahkoyii nitsinikin: Piikani Land, Our Stories" project will digitize and make local oral history materials accessible online. This project will fill in gaps in the reservation's history, specifically the land and places on the reservation—a project that has not been done by outside researchers or other oral history projects in the past. Students and community members can use Oral History Backpacks, which have all materials needed to complete oral history interviews, to contribute to the project.

- The Hawaiian Mission Children's Society will transcribe the manuscripts in the Hawai'ian Evangelical Association collection to English and make manuscripts accessible to the community, educators, and scholars via the Mission Houses Archives web portal. They will produce a best practices manual for transcribing archival documents written in 'olelo Hawai'i, providing a new and vital resource for transcribing within the archiving and transcription field. The society will also reach out to community and immersion schools for workshop opportunities to teach Hawai'ian language transcription in the archival setting.

## Digital talk series focuses on Indigenous artists

FROM PRESS RELEASE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Indigenous artists and their stories will be the focus of a digital artist talk series this fall with Travois First Fridays.

Travois is a Certified B Corporation focused exclusively on promoting affordable housing and economic development in Native communities. Since 2017, Travois has opened its Kansas City, Missouri, office to host Indigenous artists as part of the city's First Fridays art events. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Travois First Fridays will host the digital artist talks with three Indigenous artists. The digital format provides an opportunity for audience participation outside of Kansas City.

"As a Certified B Corporation, we believe in using business as a force for good," Travois CEO Elizabeth Glynn said in a statement. "The mission of Travois First Fridays is to support and promote Indigenous artists. We're happy to provide a digital opportunity for people to meet Indigenous artists, see their work and hear their stories."

Tune in for lunch time talks on the first Friday in September, October and November. The artist talks will be hosted on Zoom. Find registration information on the Travois website: [travois.com/news-events/first-fridays/](http://travois.com/news-events/first-fridays/).

Exhibition dates and artist info:

Sept. 4 at 2 p.m. (ET): "The Current State" by Thomas Breeze Marcus (Tohono O'odham Nation)

Tune in to hear from artist Thomas "Breeze" Marcus as he broadcasts from the Arizona Heritage Center. Breeze will showcase an ongoing and eye-opening art series created to foster a dialog about the border wall, desecration of sacred sites, and how the U.S.-Mexico border militarization is affecting a southern Arizona Native American community, the Tohono O'odham Nation. Breeze will also discuss his canvas and large-scale mural work, process and the inspiration behind his art. He will present pieces from an exhibition currently showing in Phoenix and other pieces on canvas that talk to the duality of everyday issues among the Tohono and Akimel O'odham tribes of Arizona.

Marcus, commonly referred to as "Breeze," is a full-time artist based in Phoenix. He is a painter with over two decades of large scale mural and public art experience. His personal work showcases a tightly interwoven and complex composition of patterns. Breeze developed the line work out of his experience as a graffiti writer and inspiration from his native cultures — most notable, the intricate woven basket patterns and cultures of the Tohono O'odham and Akimel O'odham Tribes.

Breeze pushes the boundaries with his compositions. He moves in a forward direction but maintains awareness of the surrounding environment, personal identity and experience, human behavior, social issues and all things beyond the human view.

Breeze is also an arts educator working with youth in the Salt River community, and has performed multiple artist presentations, projects and workshops on murals, street art and graffiti at museums such as the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Ariz.; the Field Museum of Chicago, Ill.; and several other institutions throughout the country.

Find more of Breeze's work on Instagram @breeze1phx.

**DIGITAL ARTIST TALK**

**OCTOBER 2**

**STARR HARDRIDGE (MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION)**  
"DISAPPEARING EARTH/INVISIBLE SKY"

**DIGITAL ARTIST TALK**

**NOVEMBER 6**

**MELISSA MELERO-MOOSE (NORTHERN PAIUTE, MODOC)**  
"THE GREAT BASIN NATIVE ARTISTS"

Oct. 2 at 2 p.m. (ET): "Disappearing Earth/Invisible Sky" by Starr Hardridge (Muscogee Creek Nation)

Join artist Starr Hardridge for a discussion about southeastern contemporary Native pointillism in the time of a pandemic.

Starr Hardridge is an enrolled member of the Muscogee Creek Nation. His works are an assemblage of pointillism and a Southeastern Woodlands beadwork aesthetic. Starr uses bold colors and geometric shapes to create modern works inspired by Muscogee patterns and designs. Through pattern, texture, and dream-like reverie, his work is a sensory journey of candy-coated hues and meticulously executed textures. Even serious contemplative themes are handled with a delicate mix of reverence and whimsy.

"I draw inspiration from all things in nature and I try to make connections from the past to the present with an assemblage of multicolor paint dots," Starr said. "I use pointillism as a means to express a "beaded surface" in which I narrate relationships and archetypes of the human condition."

Starr received a BFA in illustration and painting from Savannah College of Art and Design. He continued his studies at a one-year residency in Penne D'Agenais France at the Nadai Verdon Atelier of Decorative Arts.

Visit [starrhardridge.com](http://starrhardridge.com) for more artist information.

Nov. 6: "The Great Basin Native Artists" by Melissa Melero-Moose (Northern Paiute, Modoc)

Melissa Melero-Moose, a Great Basin Native artist, will discuss the origins and processes of her Great Basin mixed-media artwork. She will also explain the evolution of her career, which led her to founding

Great Basin Native Artists, a collective of Indigenous artists living in or from the region.

"I created these works to celebrate the art, design and culture of the Paiute people through color and texture on canvas," Melissa said. "I am honored to be a part of Travois First Fridays and very grateful to be sharing my paintings and stories in this part of the country."

Melissa Melero-Moose is a Northern Paiute enrolled with the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe with ties to Fort Bidwell Paiute, Calif. She is an accomplished artist with her own unique style. Her works consist of contemporary mixed media paintings inspired by the landscape and culture of the Numu (Northern Paiute) in Nevada, California, and Oregon — natural surroundings in the Great Basin (willow and pine nuts), and Paiute basketry and local petroglyphs. Melissa has also integrated her own green painting techniques and disciplines to her process that ensures a lighter environmental footprint.

Melissa holds a BFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts and a bachelor's degree in psychology and fine arts from Portland State University. Her works are included in permanent collections of the School for Advanced Research (IARC), Santa Fe, N.M.; Autry Museum in Los Angeles, Calif; Museum of Contemporary Native Arts in Santa Fe, N.M.; the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, Nev.; and the Lilley Museum, at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Visit [melissamelero.com](http://melissamelero.com) for additional artist info.

This is not a live artist talk. A recorded video of Melissa's talk will be published on the Travois website.

## Rumpl launches collection designed by Native American artists with The First Peoples Fund

FROM PRESS RELEASE

PORTLAND, Ore. — Rumpl, a Portland, Oregon, company that makes technical blankets, announced Aug. 18 the launch of a new collection designed by Native American artists in partnership with the First Peoples Fund, an organization whose mission is to support and empower Native communities and artists.

The collection is comprised of two original prints by Northern Cheyenne artist Jordan Craig and one original print by artist Darby Raymond-Overstreet, a member of the Navajo Nation. The prints are available across multiple Rumpl products, and a portion of each sale will benefit First Peoples Fund.

"Regrettably and naively, we have appropriated Indigenous design concepts in the past. Thankfully, our community let us know, helped us learn about the issues and create a program to do this the right way. In partnering with Jordan Craig, Darby Raymond-Overstreet and the First Peoples Fund, Rumpl is taking the first step in our commitment to represent Indigenous art correctly and respectfully," said

Wylie Robinson, CEO and founder of Rumpl. "We hope that Rumpl can be leaders in this arena and inspire other brands to do the right thing by supporting the communities from which this art was inspired. We owe a huge debt of gratitude not just to the Indigenous artist community for giving us this opportunity, but also to our community of customers who brought these issues to our attention, helped us to develop a correction plan, and continued to support us while we went through this learning curve. We are so proud of what this collection represents and hope it can inspire other brands to further

support marginalized and underrepresented communities of artists."

Craig is a Northern Cheyenne artist based in California and New Mexico. She received her B.A. from Dartmouth College and her work includes painting, prints, textile prints, and artist books. Jordan Craig's Rumpl prints Woven Daydream and Keep Me Warm feature neutral, natural colors and bold geometric shapes, available across the Original Puffy Blanket, the NanoLoft Puffy Blanket, the Down Puffy Blanket, and the Shabby Towel.

Raymond-Overstreet is an award-winning digital artist, printmaker and member of the Navajo Nation. She also received her B.A. from Dartmouth College and, through her work and studies, creates Navajo/Diné pattern designs that materialize through portraits, landscapes, and abstract forms. Darby Raymond-Overstreet's print Sundown features warm red tones and a banded, geometric design that is inspired and derived from traditional Navajo/Diné textiles, available across the NanoLoft Puffy Blanket, the Stash Mat, and the Shabby Clean-Up Kit.



Courtesy photo

Artist Jordan Craig (Northern Cheyenne)

# Sports

## Pandemic forces cancellation of INFR

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

The Indian National Finals Rodeo annually draws the top cowboys and cowgirls from throughout Indian Country for an intense and energetic week of competition, but the arena and grounds in Las Vegas will be quiet this year.

The INFR board of commissioners announced Aug. 5 that INFR has been cancelled "due to the continued growing concerns of the Covid-19 pandemic."

The 45th annual edition was slated to be held Oct. 20-24 at the South Point Hotel & Casino Equestrian Event Center in Las Vegas.

"This was a tough decision by the board, but the health and welfare is our priority," Donna Hoyt, INFR general manager, said in a statement. "It was necessary to keep our members, families, elders, fans, vendors,

sponsors, contractors, and any other person involved with holding a successful INFR safe."

INFR serves as the culmination of the season for members of the Florida-based Eastern Indian Rodeo Association, which features several Seminole cowboys and cowgirls who compete on the Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood reservations.

EIRA began its season in February with the Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo and the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo on Feb. 8, but the season came to a halt in March due to the pandemic.

Hoyt said she looks forward to seeing everyone in Las Vegas for the 2021 INFR.

"Our prayers go out to those who have been affected by this pandemic in our rodeo family and throughout Indian Country. Our hats off to all of those who have worked diligently in the front lines, working to help lessen the curve and save lives." Hoyt said.

## Jalee Wilcox competes at National High School Finals Rodeo

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Jalee Wilcox, who competes locally in Eastern Indian Rodeo Association events, participated in the National High School Finals Rodeo in Guthrie, Oklahoma, in July. She finished 75th out of 168 riders in barrel racing with a total time of 33.273. She opened with a time of 16.813. In Round 2 Go, she was 83 out of 164 with a time of 16.46.

Wilcox, who is also in the Seminole Indian 4-H program, was second among five Floridians in barrel racing. Ashley Henderson, of Pensacola, finished 60th (32.947). Kendall Kennedy, of Belle Glade, was 113th (37.547). Casey Oliver, of Belleview, was 123rd (38.069). Rylee Butler, of Arcadia, was 147th (42.082).

Jade Rindlisbacher, of Lakeshore, Utah, captured the national championship in barrel racing.

Other top performances from area riders included:

Breakaway Roping: Brighty Bauman, Okeechobee, 46th

Goat tying: Savannah Nelson, Arcadia, 20th

Kaydence Tindall, Felda, 52nd

Tie-Down Roping: Windall Tindall IV, LaBelle, 12th

Pole Bending: Kylie Perra, LaBelle, 46th

Steer Wrestling: Clayton Culligan, Okeechobee, 8th

Team Roping: Lacey Nail, Okeechobee, and Cole Clemons, Okeechobee, 8th

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The 2020-21 Florida High School Rodeo Association season is scheduled to start Sept. 12-13 at the Okeechobee Agri Civic Center. The schedule includes a stop on the Brighton Reservation on March 13-14, 2021, at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena. The season wraps up April 29-May 2, 2021, with the finals at the Civic Center.

The 2021 National High School Finals Rodeo will be held July 18-24, 2021, in Lincoln, Nebraska. The junior high school finals are slated for June 20-26, 2021, in Des Moines, Iowa.

2020-21 Florida High School Rodeo Association Schedule

**Sept. 12-13** at Okeechobee Agri Civic Center

**Oct. 3-4** at Okeechobee Agri Civic Center

**Nov. 14-15** at Southeastern Livestock Pavilion (Ocala)

**Jan. 9-10** at Southeastern Livestock Pavilion (Ocala)

**Feb. 13-14** at Okeechobee Agri Civic Center

**March 13-14** at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena (Brighton Reservation)

**April 10-11** at Okeechobee Agri Civic Center

**April 29-May 2** Finals at Okeechobee Agri Civic Center

## Strong return by Gabby Lemieux as Symetra Tour resumes

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

After being idle for more than four months due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Symetra Tour returned to action in July. Gabby Lemieux (Shoshone-Paiute Tribes) made the cut in the first two tournaments after the resumption of play and missed the cut by just one shot in the third.

The Symetra Tour is the top professional development tour for the LPGA.

Lemieux, 24, shot consecutive 1-over par 73s to make the cut in the FireKeepers Casino Hotel Championship July 24-26 in Battle Creek, Michigan. She ballooned to an 85 in the third round, which was also the final round, and finished 73rd.

Two weeks later at the Founders Tribute at Longbow Golf Club in Mesa, Arizona, she followed another opening round of 1-over par 73 with a 4-under 68 to make her second cut in a row. She shot an even-par 72 in the final round to finish 39th at 3-under.

The next week she shot 74-73 and missed the cut by one shot at the IOA Championship presented Morongo Casino Resort & Spa in Beaumont, California.

Lemieux is in the top 30 on tour in two categories. She is 21st in driving distance with an average drive of 272 yards. She's 28th in putting average at 30.10 per round.

Off the course, Lemieux was a guest on the ESPN Radio show "Spain and Company" with host Sarah Spain in June. As part of role model messages from throughout women's professional golf about personal experiences, determination and hard work – known as "Drive On" or #DriveOn – Lemieux discussed her background and how she hopes it could inspire others.

"It was really nice to share [my] Drive



Gabby Lemieux (Shoshone-Paiute Tribes)

On message because I feel like I have a different story to tell," Lemieux said on Symetratour.com. "To be from a different background, or different ethnicity, is really exciting because even for kids looking up to me who aren't Native American, or are from a different ethnicity [themselves], they can see me and say 'she persevered and she did a lot of things we probably will have to go through.'"

The Symetra Tour is scheduled to be in Florida for two tournaments this fall. The IOA Classic will be in Longwood, Florida, Sept. 25-27, and the Symetra Classic will be held Oct. 1-4 in Daytona Beach.

## Impressive showing from Around the Lake softball teams at World Series

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Described by coach and organizer Mona Baker as "an amazing adventure," the Around the Lake youth softball program returned to Brighton and Okeechobee with plenty to be proud about following its trip to Oxford, Alabama, for the Dixie World Series in July.

Around the Lake – or ATL as it's also known – brought four teams, which included 14 Seminole players and Seminole coaches Preston Baker and daughter Jaryaca. All ATL teams finished in the top three in their divisions. ATL's top finishers came in the Sweeties division (6U), Ponytails X-Play (12U) and the Debs division (19U), all of which finished as runners-up.

ATL's Ponytails X-Play team posted wins against teams from Alabama, Louisiana and Virginia before losing to champion Ward 10 from Louisiana.

ATL's Debs team beat teams from North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia before losing to Crawford County, Georgia, 4-1, in the championship round.

ATL's Sweeties, playing in the youngest division, made a good impression on and off the field as they earned a sportsmanship award.

ATL's Belles team (15U), coached by the Bakers, including Mona, notched wins against teams from Wahneta, Florida, and Crawford County, Georgia.

To help defray costs before the trip, ATL held a coed softball tournament as a fundraiser and received lodging money from the Children's Services Council of Okeechobee.

Mona Baker said the trip was well worth it and that the girls had a chance to enjoy time away from the softball field, too.

"It was super hot, pools were closed due to Covid, but that didn't stop the girls from finding a water fall," she said. "It was truly an amazing experience."

Around the Lake's Seminole players at Dixie World Series included:

### Sweeties (6U)

Javiah Jones  
Jaonna Jones  
Melanie Alvarez  
Malleia Alvarez  
Amaryiah Lavatta

### Ponytails X-Play (12U)

Serenity Billie  
Charisma Micco  
Hannah Platt  
Aaryn King

### Belles (15U)

Preslynn Baker  
Lexi Thomas  
Giselle Micco

### Debs (19U)

Jacee Jumper  
Elle Thomas



Courtesy photo

Around the Lake infielder Serenity Billie reaches high to make a play during the Dixie World Series in Oxford, Alabama.



Courtesy photo

Around the Lake pitcher Charisma Micco delivers a pitch in the Dixie World Series' Ponytails X-Play division.

## NB3 Foundation holds All-Native Youth Golf Tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

The debut of the NB3 Foundation All-Native National Youth Golf Tournament drew a field of more than 30 Native American golfers to Santa Ana Golf Club Aug. 3-4 in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico.

Navajo Nation golfers Skyler Woods, 14, Shandiin Harper, 17, and Zachary BlueEyes, 13, won their age groups and qualified for the Notah Begay III Junior Golf National Championship that will be held in Nov. 15-17 in Kinder, Louisiana, and will be broadcast on the Golf Channel.

"I'm definitely super excited and ready to go," Harper, of Farmington, New Mexico, said in a press release. She plays golf for Piedra Vista High School.

Harper captured the girls 14-18 division by shooting 79-79—158.

BlueEyes, from Kirtland, New Mexico, won the boys 13-and-under division with scores of 87-88—175.

"I played good. Some holes I did bad, but I shook it off and just played on and tried my best," he said.

Woods, who plays for Kirtland Central High School in New Mexico, won the boys 14-18 age division. His scores were 83-86—169.

Due to state travel restrictions with Covid-19, the event was only open to Native youth residing in New Mexico. The tournament hopes that by next year youth from throughout Indian Country will be able to travel to play in the tournament.

"I am proud of the youth, families and



NB3 Foundation

Native American youth golfers compete at the NB3 Foundation All-Native National Youth Golf Tournament Aug. 3-4 in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico. The tournament was a qualifier for the Notah Begay III Junior National Golf Championship that will be held in November in Louisiana.

coaches who participated in our inaugural event. Despite the set-back with COVID-19, we were honored to host a top-notch event for Native youth and to continue to provide them with opportunities for their future," said Justin Huenemann, president and CEO of NB3 Foundation.

Regional qualifying tournaments for the Notah Begay III Junior National Championship are being held throughout the country. Qualifying is open to all boys and girls ages 8-18 who compete in one of the four age categories: boys 14-18, boys 13-and-under, girls 14-18; and girls 13-and-under. The championship is expected to have a field of 140 players.

The final qualifier – and second of two in

Florida – is scheduled to be held Sept. 27-28 at Mission Inn Resort & Club in Howey-in-the-Hills, about 35 miles northwest of Orlando. The first qualifier in Florida was held in July, also at Mission Inn. Brendan Valdes (Orlando), Campbell Kennedy (Green Cove Springs), Caden Burr (Windemere) and Michael Mays (Winter Park) earned the four qualifying spots. Valdes led the field with a 6-under 168 total for two rounds.

In a video post from March, Notah Begay III (Navajo/Pueblo), a four-time PGA Tour winner and current Golf Channel analyst, described the championship as "...a great way to work your way into a little bit higher profile and get seen by many of the coaches across America..."

# Assistant Sec. of Indian Affairs: Tribes are “not alone” in combating violence against Native people

BY WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

Across Indian Country, federal cold case task force offices are opening to investigate cases of missing and murdered Indigenous people. They're part of a multi-agency effort established by the Trump administration last year, called Operation Lady Justice. Two Bureau of Indian Affairs special agents will work out of a Billings, Montana based cold case task force office starting in early August, serving tribal communities in our region.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney is part of the Operation Lady Justice task force. She joined Wyoming Public Radio's Savannah Maher to discuss the new cold case effort.

**Savannah Maher:** Assistant Secretary, I want to start by asking exactly what these cold case offices will do.

**Tara Sweeney:** I want to point out that under the Trump administration, tribal governments are not alone in fighting the epidemic of violence against American Indians and Alaska Native people. Some of the [cold case office] duties will involve

gathering intelligence on active missing and murdered cases, reviewing and prioritizing those cases for assignment to investigative teams, identifying any outside resources that can add value to the investigative efforts and coordinating those resources with the teams that are overseeing these cases.

**SM:** Right, and the office that's opening here in our region in Billings will serve tribal communities in Wyoming and Montana, two states that already have their own task forces on this issue. Are there plans for collaboration?

**TS:** I really like the question that you asked because this issue is about collaboration. This issue is about partnership. It's about breaking down silos, looking at the best practices, looking at the multi-jurisdictional challenges and understanding that across the country, there are local advocacy groups who are extremely involved and have ideas. We welcome that opportunity to collaborate.

**SM:** I'm glad you bring up those multi-jurisdictional challenges, because when I talk with local stakeholders here on Wind River, very few of them say that what we



Tara Sweeney - U.S. Asst. Secretary of Indian Affairs

Dept. of Interior

need to solve this crisis is more federal resources. What they'd like to see is more local control, for the tribal criminal justice systems to have the ability to prosecute non-Native perpetrators. And right now, they can't do that in the majority of cases.

**TS:** So the fix to that specific issue is really a Congressional fix, and engagement would have to take place which the

Congressional delegations. What you're raising is a concern that has been mirrored through many fora that we have engaged with throughout the life of this task force.

**SM:** Sure. I want to give you a chance to respond to some criticism of the task force. When the first cold case office was opened in Minnesota last month, the Lieutenant Governor of that state Peggy Flanagan, who's a citizen of the White Earth Ojibwe Nation, she called it a "photo op." And I can tell you that there are some local [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women] advocates here on Wind River that are also skeptical that this effort will change things.

**TS:** Well, I'm going to push back on that narrative. And it's important for folks to remember that action on this issue has not been taken before, and it was this administration that worked to create the Operation Lady Justice task force. We have been able to work to elevate this issue to the national stage where it rightfully belongs. So that people are talking about it, not just talking about it, but there is an avenue for our people to get engaged in this process. Because this is about empowerment, and

this is about forgotten Americans. And as an Alaska Native woman, who like many people, knows family members that have either fallen victim to murder or are missing, anyone who is criticizing this type of effort is, in my opinion, a new depth of deprivation. Because what we should be doing is coming together and unifying our communities for this cause.

**SM:** Well, another criticism that I've heard is just that the Trump administration has instituted other policies that advocates on this issue say contradict the goals of this task force. Policies like approving the construction of unwanted infrastructure projects through tribal land and near tribal land, like the Keystone XL pipeline. And policies like your office's recent effort to disestablish an entire reservation in Massachusetts. So, what would you say to those critics?

**TS:** I am here to raise awareness. I am here to advocate on behalf of missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. As Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, and as a member of this task force, that is my job.

## FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDMC) grant funding.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990, FEMA is required to consider alternatives to, and to provide a public notice of, any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Subrecipient: Seminole Tribe of Florida

Project Title: Hollywood Tribal Center Building Hardening Sub Ap 3 Building Envelope

### Location of Proposed Work:

Facility and Address	Latitude	Longitude
Hollywood Tribal Headquarters 6300 Stirling Rd. Hollywood, FL 33024	26.0454889	-80.21574

A map showing the location of all properties is available by contacting Kevin Cunniff, ERMD Director, 305-773-0841.

**Special Flood Hazard Area Zone:** This project is for retrofitting the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Administrative Building (Hollywood Tribal Headquarters). The project will improve the structure's ability to withstand hurricane impacts. The structure is in a mapped AE Zone. Confirmation of location in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) was made by reference to the latest Flood Insurance Rate Map, Panel #12011C0562H. The proposed work conforms to all applicable State of Florida and local floodplain regulations. The work will take place at the structure's site and there will be no adverse effects to the floodplain. Additionally, there will be no adverse effects to wetlands since the structure is not in a wetland. There is a potential for the facility to be impacted by similar flooding events due to its location within an AE Zone and previous hurricane damages from high sustained winds and flying debris.

### Proposed Work and Purpose:

The Seminole Tribe of Florida proposes to retrofit the Hollywood Tribal Headquarters to better withstand hurricane and wind threats by the installation of high impact windows and doors as well as structural modifications. Retrofitting the structure will minimize the impact of floods on human health, safety, or welfare, and increase the useful life of the structure. Hollywood Tribal Headquarters is the seat of government, and the primary Emergency Operations Center for the Tribe. As such, this is considered a critical facility and it is paramount that the facility maintains operations during disasters.

### Project Alternative(s):

**Alternative 1 (No action):** The risk of no action was too great given the severe and extreme hazard risk for this location and the critical nature of its functions. A large percentage of the structure is low-impact glass and wind resistance is not suited for the Emergency Operations Center to be occupied during a storm.

**Alternative 2 (New building):** Build a new building. The cost per square foot for new construction that meets 2019 Building Codes ranges from \$108 to \$130 per square foot. To rebuild a 100,000 square foot structure at a location outside of the SFHA would be cost prohibitive. This alternative does not provide a financially viable near-term solution to mitigate near term risk.

**Alternative 3 (Replace windows and doors only):** While replacing windows with high impact resistant glass provides a viable, feasible and cost-effective measure to reduce risk over the near term, it does not address the structural integrity of the building.

**Alternative 4 (Proposed Action):** This action proposes to address the whole structure including windows, doors, structural integrity, and to improve the wind load capacity (from a rating of Category 1 to a Category IV) so that the structure can continue to be occupied as an Emergency Operations Center during disasters. This alternative will allow Hollywood Tribal Headquarters to continue to perform critical facility operations during disasters.

### Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

Kevin Cunniff, ERMD Director  
KevinCunniff@semtribe.com  
305-773-0841

The Seminole Tribe of Florida will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed.

Alternatively, comments may be emailed to: [FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov). Please send comments with the subject line PDMC-PJ-04-FLIT001-2019-002 COMMENT.

All comments are due by no later than 15 days of the posted date of this notice.

POSTED ON: August 31, 2020

End of Notice

## COVID-19

From page 9A

Sen. Kamala Harris (D-California), who formally accepted the party's nod as vice president on Aug. 19, said racism is to blame for the disproportionate impacts of the disease.

"And while this virus touches us all, let's be honest, it is not an equal opportunity offender," Harris said in closing out the third day of the Democratic National Convention. "Black, Latino, and Indigenous people are suffering and dying disproportionately."

"This is not a coincidence. It is the effect of structural racism," she added. "Of inequities in education and technology, health care and housing, job security and transportation. The injustice in reproductive and maternal health care. In the excessive use of force by police. And in our broader criminal justice system."

The CDC study was based on data from 23 states: Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Nearly all of the

states are home to significant American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

But one important state was left out. Even though Arizona accounts for "at least one third of all Covid-19 cases" among Native Americans, more than 30 percent of the state's information was missing race and ethnicity data, researchers wrote.

When state data is more complete, it presents a shocking picture. New Mexico, for example, accounted for 68 percent of Covid-19 cases through July 3 even though the Native population there represents just 16 percent of the total American Indian and Alaska Native population in all 23 states.

"An economic collapse has decimated the livelihoods of millions and a moral vacuum has left our country reeling from the effects of systemic racism," Rep. Deb Haaland (D-New Mexico), a citizen of the Pueblo of Laguna, said during the DNC's Native American Caucus meeting on Tuesday.

"We in Indian Country have been among the hardest hit," said Haaland, who is one of the first two Native women to serve in the U.S. Congress.

This article is from [Indianz.com](http://Indianz.com), where it was posted Aug. 20.

## NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To the Tribal Community at large, the Draft Control Schedule for Tribal and BIA Roads is available for review/comments at the office of Tribal Community Development of the Seminole Tribe of Florida located at 5700 Griffin Rd Hollywood FL 33314. Comments must be received no later than September 11, 2020. For additional information, contact Emran Rahaman of the Public Works Department at (954) 894-1060 Ext. 10924.



## Theodore Nelson Sr.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, SW5813, Indian Child Welfare Consultant-Expert, Board Member National Indian Child Welfare Association, Licensed and Insured, Seminole Health Plan Provider

Are you unhappy with your current counseling/child welfare services? Now there are alternative services for you and your family. Philosophically, we all have difficulty balancing social life, culture, health, substance use/abuse, self-esteem, sense of belonging, emotions, our hopes and dreams.

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Office: (754) 215-3113

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