



# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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## Tribe creates sovereign wealth fund

BY ARI RIOSECO  
Special to the Tribune

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has created a sovereign wealth fund for the financial benefit of generations to come. It is known as the Seminole Real Estate Fund (SEMREF), a holding company of the tribe. SEMREF recently acquired its first real estate investment asset. Welcome to McKinney Uptown Apartments: a 144-unit, midrise, residential complex located in lively uptown Dallas, Texas.

The fund was created to bring generational wealth to the lives of tribal members. Sovereign wealth funds are owned by a sovereign nation, such as the Seminole Tribe, and aim to diversify sources of revenue to better prepare for the volatility of markets. Sovereign wealth funds have been successful all over the world. The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) was formed to expand into other markets in an effort to balance its sources of revenue and acquire more investments with long-term growth.

♦ See SOVEREIGN FUND on page 6A

## Tribal members prepare to move into first Lakeland Reservation homes

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Building a new housing development takes time – something that hasn't been lost on Seminoles in the Tampa area. They've been long anticipating the completion of homes on the new Lakeland Reservation site. The wait is almost over for some.

Seventeen new homes have been completed as part of phase one of the community. Phase one will see 47 new homes in total.

When all is said and done of four phases of homebuilding, there will be 147 single-family homes, each on 1-acre lots. Some of the homes are for purchase and others will be set aside as rentals.

The Lakeland Reservation – located about 37 miles east of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa – will serve as the new reservation for the Tampa tribal community. Some tribal members lived on the Tampa Reservation until the Hard Rock opened in 2004.

The Lakeland property is massive – approximately 900 acres within unincorporated Polk County. The acreage was purchased in 2007 and put into trust in 2016. It has a country feel with many water features, trees and other vegetation.

Amenities are being built as well, including construction of a gatehouse, which provides security and controlled access to the development similar to Seminole communities in Fort Pierce and Hollywood.

"It will be a gated community that preserves most of the land on the trust



Rick Morales/Jacob Cos.

When fully completed, phase one of the new Lakeland Reservation will have 47 homes; 17 had been completed by the end of October.

parcel untouched," Fabian Lefler, Tribal Community Development director of planning and development, said. "We only developed 180 acres out of 900. All the wetlands, all of the natural features and essence of the property is still in place. Even though this is a housing development, we've maintained the beauty of the land."

Lefler said he's hopeful that tribal

members could move into the phase one homes by January 2021. He said phase two (26 homes) would begin by the end of the year and would take about a year to complete, followed by phase three (26 homes) and phase four (48 homes).

A community center is expected to be completed in the next two years, Lefler said. There will eventually be new government

buildings, too. In addition, the Seminole Police Department and Seminole Fire Rescue have forged arrangements with Polk County officials.

Lefler said the pandemic hasn't hindered the construction timeline.

♦ See LAKELAND on page 6A

## Chairman Osceola named NAFOA Tribal Leader of the Year

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) named Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola its Tribal Leader of the Year during its virtual fall conference.

The award is in recognition of Chairman Osceola's "outstanding work and dedication to your tribe as Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida," Cristina Danforth, NAFOA president, wrote in a letter.

The organization's 38th annual conference was supposed to be held in Nashville in April, but the Covid-19 pandemic derailed those plans. Instead, the event was held online from Oct. 5-9.

Chairman Osceola accepted the award in a video played during the first day of the conference.



Damon Scott

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola speaks at a pre-Super Bowl event in January at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

"On behalf of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and its members, I humbly accept the award as Tribal Leader of the Year," Chairman Osceola said. "It is my distinct pleasure and honor to humbly accept and to let everybody know that I did not know I was up for the award. The things we are doing are not only for our people and our tribe but for all Native Americans and Indigenous People across the world. Making a difference starts with you as a leader. Having the right team around you to help facilitate that dream is most important. So again, thank you."

NAFOA has bestowed the honor since 2008. Nomination forms are sent to member tribes of the organization and others in the community. The selection is made by the five-member board of directors, who are elected by the membership. The criteria include effectively leading a tribal nation, making major financial decisions and demonstrating significant foresight and resolve in the advancement of his or her tribal nation. Nominees must be the primary leader of the tribe and have been in office for at least one year.

"The award is all encompassing of what they have done for their tribe as a whole," said VaRene Martin, a member of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, NAFOA director of tribal and corporate relations and first vice president. "He is a young leader and to lead the Seminole Tribe of Florida with everything they have going on is a huge task. People look to the tribe as an example of success in economic development. It was very impressive to buy the Hard Rock and build on it."

Terence E. O'Farrell, senior vice president of KeyBank, nominated the Chairman because of his sound direction of the tribe and its significant accomplishments in 2019.

"The Tribe is the owner of the Hard Rock brand and operates one of the most successful gaming enterprises in the world," O'Farrell wrote on the nomination form. "In October 2019, Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood celebrated that grand opening of the iconic Guitar Hotel. The \$1.5 billion project is a world class dining and entertainment destination that demonstrates the economic strength and vision of the Tribe. Moreover, in 2019 the Tribe exercised its sovereignty when Chairman Osceola notified the State of Florida that it would end its revenue sharing payments after the State violated terms of the Compact. Chairman has a vision for



Courtesy image

Seminole Tribe Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. accepts the NAFOA's Tribal Leader of the Year award.

the Tribe that includes continued economic growth and providing for the health and opportunity of its citizens."

NAFOA was established in 1982 and is an independent national non-profit organization providing leadership for the advancement of culturally-vibrant American Indian and Alaska Native communities by: promoting excellence in financial management, advocating sound economic

and fiscal policy, developing innovative education initiatives, and providing essential information, resources, and support to meet the challenges of economic growth and change. The organization is governed by an all Native American board of directors and all proceeds to the organization are channeled back to Indian Country for the benefit and advancement of Native people.

## High stakes, short-lived BC bingo hall is demolished

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Big Cypress bingo facility – once touted as the largest in the world, but reduced to a vacant skeleton for the past several years – was recently demolished to make way for future development.

The 5,600-seat bingo hall, said to be the size of two football fields, opened with great fanfare in March 1987, even garnering a story in The New York Times. Most players were bussed to BC from cities around the U.S. But the bingo hall didn't always hit the jackpot; it closed and re-opened numerous times before finally shutting its doors in the 1990s.

Players were drawn to the bingo hall's generous cash prizes, up to \$250,000, along with plenty of new cars to be won. Additionally, the lure of non-bingo activities, such as Dixieland bands, closed circuit TV and TV gameshow-type giveaways, proved to be popular. The idea was to change the image of bingo from a staid grandmother's game to something as exciting as the Super Bowl to perk and retain guests' interest.

The Seminole Tribe partnered with developers Richard Knowlton and William Van Horn, who invested \$4 million to build the bingo hall. At the time the BC facility opened, the tribe already had three successful bingo halls in Hollywood, Tampa and Brighton. The Hollywood and Tampa halls were the most profitable in the country.

The tribe wasn't concerned the BC bingo hall would take business away from Hollywood; the belief was if Big Cypress took business from Hollywood, it wouldn't make a difference to the tribe's overall bottom line.

The good times didn't last long as financial issues plagued the outside entity that managed the hall. By April 1988 – barely a year after opening – the hall was deeply in debt and closed. When it reopened in September 1988 under new management, the raucous atmosphere and many of the extra-curricular enticements were gone. It closed again in February 1989 for renovations and reopened in April 1990 to coincide with the filming of a movie at the bingo hall titled "Arrive Alive," which was never completed.

♦ See BINGO on page 6A

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# Editorial

## Celebration of Indigenous People's Day...and more

### • Ernie Stevens

The National Indian Gaming Association joins the rest of Indian country, many States, cities, and counties, in celebrating this year's "Indigenous People's Day."

At its core, Indigenous People's Day is an opportunity to educate American citizens about the First peoples of this continent, and tell the story of our traditions, culture and contributions to world history. It is an opportunity to tell the history of North America, not from the European settler perspective, but from the perspective of the indigenous people living here since time immemorial. Even in the year 2020, we are still educating our citizens that Christopher Columbus did not "discover" America in 1492, but instead found a vibrant, diverse, and culturally sophisticated Native America with over 100 million inhabitants.

We stand with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and our other sister organizations, in our commitment to educating the public about the history

and contributions of Indian country to the founding of this Republic. Indian Country, along with our friends and neighbors, will continue to take the Indigenous People's Day message of celebration, unity, and education, in reclaiming our history and our rightful place in the founding of this Country.

Indigenous People's day is now being exclusively observed by more than 130 metropolitan cities, including Los Angeles and towns and states, such as Minnesota, Alaska, Maine, Louisiana, Oregon, New Mexico, Nevada, Vermont, South Dakota, and as of last week in my home State of Wisconsin.

Native Americans have always had the most diverse and productive traditions of Agriculture in the World. The Three Sisters, Corn, Beans and Squash, gave sustainable food to our People. Potatoes, Peppers, and Tomatoes are Native American crops and have successfully given European and Asian nations their national dishes from pizza and spaghetti with tomatoes to Irish stew based on potatoes and Thai curry made with chili peppers. Today, 60% of the crops grown worldwide are the original products of



Ernie Stevens Jr.

Native American farmers.

Our traditions and cultures emphasized our Native Peoples' connection to the natural world. We venerated the Eagle, the Wolf, the Bear, and the Turtle in our Six Nations Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The Salmon and Killer Whales are the sacred totems of the Northwest Native Peoples. In the Great Plains, the Buffalo was sacred because it gave life to the People.

Now, more than ever, America needs the leadership of our Native People. To help restore the Environment and fight Climate Change, Native traditions emphasize respect for the land, the water, and the sky because the Creator gave us a duty to protect Mother Earth.

As each of us observes Indigenous People's Day in our own manner, I want ask each of us to think about how Native Americans truly influenced this country. Our Native Nations welcomed the first European settlers and Columbus with a gratitude and respect for these immigrant visitors. While the sentiment was not always returned in kind, Native Americans never stopped loving their country and continued to treat their neighbors with respect throughout the centuries to come.

Through recognition such as Indigenous People's Day and the upcoming Native American Heritage Month, we can reflect on today's Native Americans who still stand proud and ready to offer a helping hand as partners in this Republic.

Soon, all of us will have an opportunity exercise our civic duties and participate in America's time honored democratic

tradition of voting. As partners in this great democracy, it is the responsibility of Native Americans to remain active and visible as parts of the political landscape undergo a major cultural change in America.

Indian Country has been here and preserved through much tougher times, only this time, all of Native America must participate and engage in the electoral process. Only through our political engagement can our voices be heard, our treaties be respected, and our Tribal Governments can survive for the next seven generations.

On this Indigenous People's Day, I urge you to take the steps necessary to register to vote, and please make Indian Country's voice be heard on November 3, 2020.

*Ernie Stevens Jr. is the chairman and national spokesperson for the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) in Washington, D.C. This article was posted on the NIGA website Oct. 12, Indigenous People's Day.*

## Growing up Cherokee and why Indigenous People's Day means so much

### • Jenna Najera

For the first year in its history, the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) is celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day in place of Columbus Day. This means a lot to me as a student at the college studying radiation therapy and a woman of Cherokee heritage who has often felt my history has not been recognized.

My father, John, also attended CCBC in the '80s and has been a huge influence on me. He is a great teacher and storyteller and has spent my entire life educating me about the history of our people — the true history, not the G-rated version that is most often presented in history books and to the public. The stories of my father's childhood and the obstacles he has overcome haunt me to this day. My own experiences with racism have been more subtle than his, but they have shaped me into who I am today, someone who is proud of her heritage and

rather excited to participate in CCBC's first celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day.

Growing up in Baltimore City in the 1960s, my father lived through the riots that engulfed the streets after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. He and his siblings were often targeted because of their Indigenous background in senseless attacks by neighbors and people he thought were his friends, both Black and white. The violence got so bad that he and my uncle had to protect themselves with metal trash can lids and sticks.

My father and his siblings didn't look like anyone else around them, and if they weren't being brutally attacked, they were subjected to a myriad of racial slurs and threats. Even after moving into a different neighborhood, things didn't change. Throughout his life every document my father filled out, from his library card to his driver's license, excluded who he was. The choices were always, Black, white or other. It wasn't until he got older that the option for "American Indian/Alaskan Native" appeared, and even that isn't totally

accurate. He felt marginalized because at every turn it was clear that there was no place for a Cherokee man. His people were not significant enough to merit their own identity, as if their place in history was no more than an obscure footnote.

My father met my mother, who was white, in the '90s through mutual friends. At the time she already had three children, and before long, they welcomed me into the world. Typically, a family consists of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, but my father and I weren't permitted to meet my maternal grandparents until I was around 6 years old because of our race.

Every holiday, my mother would dress up my three older sisters and take them to her parents' house and celebrate while my father and I stayed home because we weren't welcome there. We didn't have the cocktail of European blood. I have memories of my sisters coming home with so many presents that they would have to make multiple trips to the car just to bring them all in. At my young age I didn't understand why I was treated differently.

It took many years before it became clear to me why we hadn't been allowed in their home and why they doted on my other sisters while barely acknowledging my presence. I also came to understand that I had something better than anything they brought home with them — I had my dad.

Looking back on everything that my father and I went through, I'd like to say that I wish none of it had happened, but I can't change the past. My father is an incredible man. He's raised me to be just like him, to accept everyone for who they are, regardless of what they look like, who they love or what higher power they believe in. It's my fervent hope that with this new dawn of the acknowledgment of the histories, cultures and traditions of Indigenous people that the sun will set on the chapter in which we were depicted as nothing more than Halloween costumes, villains in Western-themed movies and ignorant savages. I also hope that when I speak about my heritage, I won't be interrupted by yet another white woman telling me that their great, great, great grandmother was a Cherokee princess. Yes,

this happens ALL THE TIME. But let's face the fact that we didn't have princesses and, frankly, no one is entitled to make up their genealogy for more likes on social media.

There are hundreds of tribes and nations in the United States that receive federal recognition, and many more that don't. Each has its own unique history and culture; we are not all the same. But we share one commonality — we endure. Anyone that has the day off for Columbus Day, or as we prefer to call it, Indigenous Peoples Day, should take a few minutes to learn something new about the rich cultural heritage of the Indigenous people that have lived on this continent for millennia, and still do.

*Jenna Najera (naj747337@email.ccbcmd.edu) is a student of Cherokee heritage who attends Community College of Baltimore County. This article is from the Baltimore Sun and was posted Oct. 12, Indigenous People's Day.*

## Starting a publication in times like these

### • Levi Rickert

Today (Oct. 1), we are launching a new digital media site called Tribal Business News. In the middle of a pandemic. In a year when media companies are struggling and, in some cases, going belly up.

Some might say, "What are you thinking?" But my Native relatives and friends get it. Oftentimes, this is how it goes in Indian Country.

As founder and editor of the general news publication Native News Online, I've witnessed the resilience of tribes and learned many lessons over the past 10 years. When it comes to tribal enterprises, there is often a recurring theme: Doing business anywhere is a challenge, but it's even more challenging in Indian Country.

Tribal leaders and advisers know the

obstacles tribes and their members face when building tribal enterprises: the patchwork of federal laws, bureaucratic red tape, limited access to capital and the fact that most people are unfamiliar with what's involved in operating a business in Indian Country. And that was before COVID-19.

We believe Tribal Business News can help remove some of those hurdles. An online publication (for now), TBN will highlight what tribes are doing to build their economies as well as the strategies and innovations they're using to overcome challenges. We'll bring you thoughtfully reported and well-crafted stories about Native entrepreneurs, M&A, expansions, best practices, economic data, government policy and other relevant business news.

Our goal is to make Tribal Business News required reading for tribal council members and the leaders of tribal enterprises. But we also want to make it a first stop for state and federal legislators, policymakers, economic developers, entrepreneurs, bankers, lawyers



Levi Rickert

and anyone interested in doing business in Indian Country. We want to educate and connect Natives and non-Natives in the

interest of building opportunities for tribal self-reliance. And we want to give tribes a voice when decisions are being made that affect American Indian and Alaska Native businesses.

Above all, we want to change the narrative about Indian Country. For many, tribal gaming is the first thing that comes to mind when economic development in Indian Country is mentioned. But the \$130 billion tribal economy is more than casinos. It's agriculture and energy, manufacturing and real estate, technology and tourism, and much more. And it's happening across the country — from southeast Florida where you'll find the Seminole Nation, owners of the globally famous Hard Rock brand, all the way up to northern Alaska, home of the \$3.4 billion Native-owned Arctic Slope Corporation.

Like the majority of businesses around the country, tribal enterprises and Native owned businesses have been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the coming weeks

and months, we'll be writing about how they're coping and pivoting and re-imagining themselves to survive and, eventually, thrive. We'll cover the news, but also dig into the strategies and best practices that tribes are employing to bounce back as the economy recovers. Most of all, we'll share stories and research to help you navigate these trying times and difficult conditions.

As we get started, we need your support. Send your news, comments, suggestions and story ideas. Consider a paid subscription. Talk to us.

You can reach me directly at publisher@tribalbusinessnews.com or send news to editor@tribalbusinessnews.com.

Megwetch.

*Levi Rickert (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation) is the editor and publisher of Tribal Business News, as well as the founder, publisher and editor of Native News Online. To view the Tribal Business News website, go to tribalbusinessnews.com.*

## Hard Rock Hotels earn high ranking

### PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — For the second consecutive year, Hard Rock Hotels has been honored by leading data and analytics company J.D. Power as one of the top-performing hotel brands in the firm's 2020

North America Hotel Guest Satisfaction Study. In addition to being honored for outstanding guest satisfaction among upper upscale hotel chains, the brand has been included amongst the top 10 overall hotels in guest satisfaction of the 102 hotel brands ranked in J.D. Power's list. The study analyzes guest responses to more than 150

questions and ranks 102 hospitality brands across six market segments to measure guest satisfaction, advocacy and loyalty.

Hard Rock Hotels has been ranked as the No. 1 upper upscale guest room. Each Hard Rock Hotel property features an array of signature brand offerings.

"Guests are immersed in an unparalleled

music and entertainment vibe that sets Hard Rock apart," said Dale Hipsh, senior vice president of Hard Rock Hotels. "Our team members curate a playlist perfect for fans of all ages and we are honored to be recognized by J.D. Power once again for our enduring dedication to hospitality."

Earlier this year, Hard Rock

International was honored as one of Forbes magazine's best employers for diversity and top employers for women.

HRI's parent entity is the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

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

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# Community



## 'Historic victory for Indigenous rights'

### NMNH revises repatriation policy

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

It appears the resolve, advocacy and pressure has yielded results.

The Seminole Tribe's repatriation committee announced Oct. 21 that the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) revised its repatriation policy regarding human remains and other items.

The committee, part of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), has been working for years to influence the NMNH to change its dated policy.

On Oct. 21 the committee announced that the NMNH had done just that.

THPO officials have received a revised repatriation policy that includes provisions to repatriate human remains and funerary objects back to affiliated tribes that the NMNH has previously identified as "culturally unidentifiable."

Officials said the objects, which the NMNH obtained through decades

of donations and acquisitions, include approximately 1,500 Seminole ancestors exhumed from dozens of burial sites across Florida, as well as tens of thousands of archaeological artifacts like potsherds, arrowheads, bone tools and wooden effigies.

"Until now, there has been no legal mechanism to return those ancestors to their homelands. That transition can now begin," Domonique deBeaubien, collections manager and chair of the committee, said in the announcement.

deBeaubien said the goal for the tribe and the committee has always been to push NMNH to revise its policy to include all Native ancestral remains in its collection, and not just those that have been identified by the museum.

Two successful resolutions spearheaded by THPO and sponsored by the United South & Eastern Tribes (USET) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) encouraged the NMNH to adopt a repatriation policy that gives equal weight to tribal knowledge and oral histories, and create a process that would allow all ancestors to be repatriated.

"The eventual enactment of this policy is a historic victory for Indigenous rights and an encouraging sign that the National Museum of Natural History recognizes the importance of returning ancestors to finally

rest," Paul Backhouse, senior director of the Tribe's Heritage and Environment Resources Office (HERO), said in a statement.

Committee member Tina Osceola, who is also a Seminole Tribal Court associate justice, said she was pleased with the NMNH's decision, but that there's still more to accomplish.

"The revised policy has been a long time coming and I feel generations overdue," Osceola said in a statement. "As our tribe continues to seek the return of our stolen ancestors, we will continue to work on behalf of Indian Country to pass better laws that can help to return more ancestors, funerary, sacred and objects of cultural patrimony."

Osceola said her hope was that many in the U.S. and around the world would begin to shift from the belief that Native culture and people are only valuable when owned, displayed or studied.

"There is still much work left to do," she said.

For more information, go to [stofthpo.com](http://stofthpo.com) and follow #NoMoreStolenAncestors on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Courtesy photo

Seminole Tribe repatriation committee members Tina Osceola, left, and Domonique deBeaubien, went to Washington, D.C. in February to push for changes in the National Museum of Natural History's repatriation policy.

## 'Culturally unidentifiable' no more

### A closer look at repatriation policy change

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe announced Oct. 21 that the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) revised its repatriation policy regarding human remains and funerary objects.

The change is a big deal and an effort that took many years and countless hours of work by tribal members and Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) employees — which includes the repatriation committee.

The committee consists of Domonique deBeaubien, Tina Osceola, Paul Backhouse, Anne Mullins, Bradley Mueller, Kate Macuen, Willie Johns, Erica Ashton and Juan Cancel. deBeaubien is committee chair. Mr. Johns, who devoted years of service to repatriation, passed away Oct. 27, 2020.

The Seminole Tribune asked deBeaubien, collections manager and chair of the committee, to explain some of the terms and aspects of the new policy. The following has been edited for length and clarity.

**In addition to human remains, funerary objects and objects of cultural patrimony are part of the new policy. What are those exactly?**

**deBeaubien:** Funerary objects are objects that were intentionally left or made for people when they died, and they were placed with that person during burial.

Objects of cultural patrimony are essentially objects so important to a tribe, that it isn't owned by an individual, but by the tribe as a whole. Sometimes these objects were taken by treasure hunters or sold by someone who didn't have the authority to sell them. They are included as objects that may be repatriated since they are often considered very sacred.

**A big part of the controversy was the Smithsonian's "culturally unidentifiable" designation — especially as it applied to the ancient people of Florida. Can you explain?**

**deBeaubien:** Most repatriation laws (National Museum of the American Indian Act/NMAI and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act/NAGPRA) rely on what is called 'cultural affiliation' in order to designate to whom remains are repatriated. This term means that there is a clear connection between the human remains and a modern, federally recognized Native American tribe.

Legally, this connection can be made by providing certain lines of evidence including geographical, kinship, biological, archaeological, anthropological, linguistic, oral-traditional and historical.

'Culturally unidentifiable' is where things get complicated. This is when an institution has human remains, but they cannot, or sometimes will not, make a connection between the remains and a modern day Native American tribe. Sometimes a museum will list remains as culturally unidentifiable if they've lost all provenience information from the remains and don't know where they came from.

It sounds nightmarish that you could have the possession of someone's remains and not have kept track of where you took them from, but this is so common that's partially why the law is written the way it is. It was normal practice in the 19th and early 20th centuries for major museums to send treasure hunters to loot mounds. All they cared about was collecting treasure and remains and they took very few notes.

**This was particularly bothersome for the Seminole Tribe?**

**deBeaubien:** It has become even more loaded over the past few years as museums have been able to dictate to tribes who they can and cannot identify. In this case, there was a major disagreement between the

Seminole Tribe and NMNH over whether or not the remains were actually unidentifiable.

The NMNH has a significant amount of information about where the remains in question were taken from, and all of the remains we have been pursuing came from the state of Florida. The Seminole Tribe feel that all of the ancient tribes of Florida are their ancestors, and the modern day tribe is a mixture of Creek descendant peoples as well as ancient tribes like Calusa and Tequesta that were absorbed in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The NMNH argued that all of the ancient tribes had been wiped out before the 'Seminoles' came into existence, and were therefore not related to the remains in question. This point of view has been proven archaeologically, historically and through oral tradition to be completely false.

Despite our best efforts, nearly all of the Florida remains had been labeled as culturally unidentifiable, and up until [Oct. 21], the NMNH did not repatriate remains with this identification. They would only return remains they believed to be 'culturally affiliated,' and anything with an 'unidentifiable' designation had to be retained by the museum.

**What happens now?**

**deBeaubien:** The new policy put out by the NMNH now allows tribes to claim remains that have been labeled 'culturally unidentifiable.' It allows tribes to use aboriginal land claims to establish

a reasonable connection to 'unidentifiable' remains.

In the 1960s the Indian Claims Commission determined the scope of each tribe's aboriginal lands before the process of Indian Removal forced tribes off their homelands. The ICC determined that the Seminole Tribe of Florida had aboriginal land claims to the entire state of Florida. Under the new NMNH policy, the S.T.O.F. will be able to claim any remains that were taken from the state of Florida.

**What would a return entail?**

**deBeaubien:** We do not house or accept human remains at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum or THPO. This would involve a coordinated effort with tribal leadership and elders to choose an appropriate location for reburial. All of the details would be worked out in advance, and the remains would be directly transferred to that location for a respectful burial.

For more information, go to [stofthpo.com](http://stofthpo.com) and follow #NoMoreStolenAncestors on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

## Native American entrepreneurs get businesses incubator boost

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Two congressional powerhouses who champion Native American issues have seen a new bill they supported signed into law.

The law sets up business incubators for Native American businesses and entrepreneurs. It requires the Department of the Interior to establish a grant program in the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development for "establishing and operating business incubators that serve Native American communities."

On Sept. 21, the House of Representatives passed the "Native American Business Incubators Program Act," after Rep. Deb Haaland, D-NM, introduced it in 2019.

A companion bill was championed in the Senate by Sen. Tom Udall, D-NM — and ultimately passed. (Udall had introduced the legislation in the Senate years ago).

President Donald Trump signed

the bill into law Oct. 20.

In essence, a business incubator is a way to help startup businesses grow and thrive through free or low-cost workspace, mentorship and expertise, access to investors, and in some cases, working capital in the form of a loan.

According to the national nonprofit lending network Accion, those involved in incubators typically work around other entrepreneurial businesses that have a similar focus.

"Joining an incubator is almost like joining a college program: You have to apply, be accepted, and then follow a schedule in order to meet benchmarks set by the incubator. You'll also need to commit to a length of time to be a part of the incubator," Accion states.

The new law states that grant applicants may be from institutions of higher education, private nonprofits, Native American tribes or tribal nonprofits. The Department of Interior must issue a grant for a three-year term and may renew a grant for up to three more years.

There are other requirements and

guidelines that recipients must follow.

"These business incubators will provide Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs with tailored technical assistance, financing, skills training, and access to a network of similar professionals and potential investors, the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) said in a statement. "The goal is to give participants the skills and tools they need to be innovative and to grow their businesses to better serve Native communities."

NAFOA has been supportive of the bill since it was initially introduced years ago.

"We congratulate Congresswoman Haaland and Senator Udall for all the hard work they have put in to push this bill across the finish line," the statement read. "NAFOA will continue to work with Congress, the Department of Interior, and tribes to help ensure the program's success once the implementation process begins."

More can be found at [nafoa.org](http://nafoa.org).

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# Max Osceola Jr., 'a true legend'

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** —Max Osceola Jr., who passed away Oct. 8 at age 70, leaves a lasting legacy for the Seminole Tribe, South Florida and beyond.

He passed away at the Cleveland Clinic in Weston due to complications from Covid-19, according to the tribe.

A leader, athlete and educated man with an easy smile and infectious laugh, Osceola served as Hollywood Councilman from 1985 to 2010.

Current Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, who is not related to Max, described him as “a modern-day warrior and a true legend among his people and many others around the world.”

“He will forever be embedded in our hearts and the history of the Seminole Tribe,” Councilman Osceola said. “He was my friend and mentor and I will miss him dearly. It has been an honor to call him my friend. My sincere heartfelt condolences to his family and my sincere gratitude for sharing him with us.”

During Max Osceola Jr.'s tenure on Tribal Council, Seminole Gaming expanded and flourished as a major presence in Florida's gaming industry; scholarships for tribal students were established for K-12, trade schools and higher education; and Florida State University was given the tribe's blessings to use the Seminole name for its athletics teams.

“We don't look at it as a mascot, we look at it as a representation of the Seminole Tribe,” he said in an Orlando Sentinel article in 2003. “They work with us in representing our heritage. This is our tribe, and the tribe that is represented needs to have final say, and they need to respect that.”

His platform for re-election to the Tribal Council in 2007 outlined his perspective on life as he emphasized preserving tribal culture; the importance of education so tribal members could learn to manage tribal affairs; housing; health and recreation for exercise; employment training programs; dividends; trust funds and tribal economics.



Max Osceola Jr.

Tribune file photo



Tribune file photo

Two Florida legends: Florida State University football coach Bobby Bowden and Max Osceola Jr., shown here at a golf tournament.

“The future is bright and the strength of the Seminoles is not measured in money but by our character of ourselves which is taught to us by our Elders who saved this tribe from termination 50 years ago,” he wrote in his candidate statement in the April 27, 2007 edition of The Seminole Tribune.

Osceola's effort, dedication and time devoted to the community extended beyond the tribe. He was active in the tourism industry and organizations including the Boys & Girls Clubs, Ann Storck Center, Winterfest Boat Parade, Stranahan House and the Pine Crest School. He supported Victory Junction Camp, a North Carolina nonprofit for children with serious medical conditions. He was an enthusiastic motorcyclist and participated in benefit rides, such as the Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America.

He was a key figure in brokering the tribe's purchase of Hard Rock International, which was completed in 2007. He often referred to the time before casinos as “BC.” During a 2006 press conference at Hard Rock Cafe in Times Square to announce the tribe's purchase of HRI, he served up some memorable words for posterity.

“Our ancestors sold Manhattan for trinkets. Today, with the acquisition of the Hard Rock Cafes, we're going to buy it back one hamburger at a time,” he said.

“Max was a great mentor, friend, brother and tribal leader,” said Ernie Stevens Jr., chairman of National Indian Gaming Association. “He had a tremendous passion dedicated to advancing not only his Seminole people but all of Indian Country. His passing is a tremendous loss for us all.”

In his memory, the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) has established the Max Osceola Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor his dedication to advancing educational opportunities for Native American youth.

“He was a true gentleman with high standards who believed in working hard for our Native American communities, especially our youth,” said Stevens, who

is also a board member of AIGC. “He not only worked towards the betterment of their livelihood, but the importance of their education was always his top priority.”

Education was an important part of Osceola's life. He attended the University of Tampa, where he played football. He transferred to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College where his team won a national college football championship. He earned degrees from Broward Community College and the University of Miami, and was an avid Hurricanes fan.

His service to the tribe dates back to the 1970s when he served as the tribe's education director. He was proud of the impact he had on the education of tribal members.

In 2017, Osceola was inducted into the Broward Education Foundation Hall of Fame. A star with his name on it is in the plaza in front of the county's public



Tribune file photo

Max Osceola Jr. listens to the marching band from McArthur High School, his alma mater, during the Broward Education Foundation Hall of Fame ceremony in 2017.

schools office building in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

He said the most satisfying aspect of his education is that he followed the Elders' wishes of more than 50 years ago by getting an education and returning to help the tribe thrive.

As an athlete at Hollywood's McArthur High School in the 1960s, Osceola excelled on the football field. He was part of the team's talented group of Seminoles. In 1967, Osceola (defensive end), Moses Jumper Jr. (linebacker), Moses Osceola (defensive tackle) and Mike Tiger (safety) earned All County First Team Defense honors. For four kids from the Hollywood Reservation to make County First Team was no doubt one of the most remarkable accomplishments in the tribe's history with athletics. On Feb. 5, 2002, all four were inducted into the Seminole Sports Hall of Fame. Their plaques are displayed in the lobby at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center on the Hollywood Reservation.

Max Osceola Jr. is also in the Broward County Sports Hall of Fame, alongside professional athletes such as Rocky Marciano, Dan Marino, Jeff Conine and Jason Taylor.

After he got word of Osceola's passing, musician Stevie VanZandt, of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, tweeted “RIP Max Osceola Jr. Former representative of the Seminole Tribal Council. One of the great visionaries that has helped make The Hard Rock a huge success, and believed in and supported Little Steven's Underground Garage from the beginning. Our love and condolences to his family.”

Condolences on Twitter also came from FSU President John Thrasher who stated: “Max Osceola Jr. was a great friend to FSU and always supportive of our relationship with the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Jean and I are deeply saddened to hear of his passing.”

Former Florida governor and current U.S. Senator Rick Scott tweeted: “Ann and I send our thoughts and prayers to former Seminole Tribe leader Max Osceola Jr.'s family and friends. We are thankful for his leadership and his legacy will live on for generations to come.”

Osceola is survived by wife Marge, his son Max Osceola III, daughter Melissa Osceola DeMayo, daughter Meaghan Osceola, son Jeff Pelage, as well as several sisters and brothers, grandchildren and extended family.

The family suggests donations be made to the Max Osceola Memorial Scholarship Fund at the AIGC, the Center for Native Scholarships, at aigcs.org.

# Congressional speakers focus on pandemic, technology, economy during NAFOA conference

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The 38th annual fall conference of the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA), held online from Oct. 5-9, featured a pair of Congressional decision-makers who shared their perspectives and experience of working with Indian Country. New Mexico Rep. Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) and Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski spoke about the harsh health and economic effects the pandemic has had on Indian Country as well as the struggles endured with limited technology.

Haaland is in her first term in Congress. She described meeting a Native American constituent as she was walked through the Capitol's statuary hall after being elected in 2018.

“We stood crying and hugging each other and it made me realize how important it is for us to have representation in Congress and in every office,” said Haaland, a Democrat who is seeking re-election. “Our work in Congress might have inspired others to run and be a voice for our people. I'm pleased for what we have been able to accomplish, but there is so much more to do.”

Haaland serves as co-chair of the bipartisan Native American Caucus with Oklahoma Republican Rep. Tom Cole (Chickasaw), who she calls a mentor.

“When we get together, we bring up all the issues that are important,” she said. “We work together across the aisle. We got several bills signed into law and are working hard to get broadband to our rural communities.”

The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the disparities communities of color face, including in Indian Country. Haaland said Native Americans are about 11% of the population in New Mexico and at one point had more than 50% of the state's positive cases of Covid-19.

“The White House didn't want to give Indian Country a dime from the CARES Act,” Haaland said. “With colleagues from the other side of the aisle we were able to get \$8 billion for Indian Country. We passed the HEROES Act several months ago and it is still sitting on [Senate majority leader] Mitch McConnell's desk. We will keep fighting for broadband service, Indian Health Service and everything else that will make life better for us.”

Limited access to technology is a problem for about 1.5 million Native Americans. Haaland said the digital divide is harming tribes and, with Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-MA, introduced the DIGITAL Reservations Act which will give tribes permanent spectrum rights and licenses over their own land and enable them to deploy wireless internet services. If passed, the act will fulfill self-governance and self-management of natural resources on native lands.

“It lays the groundwork for more permanent solutions,” Haaland said. “I have spoken to tribes who are operating their governments on dial up. Communication is a right in this era. I also introduced a broadband for all bill, which recognizes it as a civil and human right.”

A lack of broadband has hindered some tribal communities in areas such as education and telehealth.

Haaland and Warren also introduced the Honoring Promises to Native Nations Act, which would address chronic underfunding, barriers to sovereignty and holding the federal government accountable for honoring the country's legal promises to tribes.

“The bill works to resolve federal funding barriers,” Haaland said. “The U.S. government hasn't lived up to its trust responsibilities; everything they failed to do has an effect on everything else. That failure affects education, housing, healthcare, law



Rep. Deb Haaland



Sen. Lisa Murkowski

enforcement and economic development. If we are able to tackle those pillars, I think things will be so much better. Those things work together to ensure tribes have what they need to become successful.”

Alaska contains about 40% of the country's tribes and Sen. Murkowski has been negotiating with and for them during her 18 years in the Senate. She talked about the skills used to negotiate successfully.

“I would say patience, particularly at this time when our world has become so partisan,” said Murkowski, a Republican. “It's difficult to get to the merits of the issue because politics complicates things. The shared interest is to bring about change and good policy. You have to have a level of patience and stay focused on the purpose. That's easier said than done, but I feel it is about treating both sides with respect for the views they have to offer. If you start the conversation off respectfully there is greater willingness to negotiate in good faith.”

She has been a member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs since being elected in 2002 and says her time on the committee has been rewarding. During the next session, she said the committee will be focused on what needs to be done in a post-Covid world.

“We are seeing a devastating impact on our economy and healthcare systems,” Murkowski said. “We are a state that isn't connected by roads, over 80% of it isn't connected. Think of what that means if you have to get to a clinic a distance away. Many villages are shut in and don't have the capability to respond if someone contracts the virus. They told air carriers not to come and they can't seek help from other villages because of lockdowns. It means isolation.”

The impact on Alaska's Native villages includes a halt to the ferry system and villages on islands being shut off from supplies. The state's largest regional airline, Ravn Alaska, filed for bankruptcy in April.

“It's tough to run a business when you are cut off,” Murkowski said.

# Summit offers lineup of business topics for Indian Country

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

A Native American-owned and operated media company is hosting its second summit focused on business issues significant to Indian Country Nov. 17 through Nov. 20.

The Native Business Summit is organized by Native Business, which in addition to the event, operates a magazine, business app and podcast.

Native Business was founded in 2018 by Gary Davis (Cherokee Nation) and Carmen Davis (Makah Tribe/Yakama and Chippewa-Cree).

The first summit took place in 2019 and brought hundreds of tribal stakeholders and Native entrepreneurs from across Indian Country to the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa, organizers said.

Because of the pandemic and safety concerns for in-person events, this year's summit will be held in a virtual format.

Speakers that are scheduled to present include leadership from many tribes, including the Cherokee Nation, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Otoe-Missouria Tribe and the Shinnecock Indian Nation.

Leaders from organizations with an interest in Indian Country are also scheduled to present. The organizations include the National Indian Gaming Association,



Carmen Davis

National Congress of American Indians, U.S. Department of Energy, Indian Energy LLC, Strongbow Strategies, Six Nations Manufacturing, Tallchief Hemp, Tribal Tech LLC, Arctic IT and more.

The summit agenda includes keynote speakers, business spotlights, roundtables, one-on-one interviews and panels.

The final day of the summit features the “Native Business Award” presentations. Award categories include “Tribal Sovereignty Champion of the Year,” Tribal Enterprise, Entrepreneur, Business and Native Disruptor.

There are several options for tickets to the event. For more information, go to nativebusinesssummit.com.

# BC community, environmental issues drive Quenton Cypress

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Quenton Cypress already has an extensive resume for someone 25-years-old. And there are no signs that he's slowing down.

To start, the Big Cypress resident has worked for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in various capacities for almost a decade. He started at age 16 when he enrolled in the Tribe's Summer Work Experience Program (SWEPE) — designed for those who are still in high school.

He continued to work for the museum after graduation through the Work Experience Program (WEP), a branch of Tribal Professional Development (TPD), which generally consists of those who are just out of high school and figuring out the next steps of their education and career.

Cypress has also organized trips to Egmont Key — helping to educate Tribal members, on its Seminole history and the environmental challenges it faces today.

He's long been a part of the Osceola Warrior Legacy that participates in historical reenactments, including at Fort King in northeast Ocala. Cypress was also consulted on a recently approved Fort King master plan, too — one that includes the development and construction of a museum and education center.

He said he does his best to learn from the tribe's elders. He previously organized a trip to the Orlando Museum of Art so a group of elders could see a collection of Seminole patchwork on display.

"This was patchwork some of the elders had made themselves in the early 1980s," Cypress said.

There's much more. Cypress is currently the community engagement manager for the tribe's Heritage and Environment Resources Office (HERO) and he works with the tribe-owned business — Seminole Heritage Services — that brings an Indigenous perspective to the environmental and cultural review of various projects.

His experience has also placed him in a unique view regarding the tribe's work in climate resiliency, which includes Everglades restoration and projects that involve the Army Corps of Engineers, like the Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP).

The Corps has plans for a variety of water-related construction projects along Lake Okeechobee that have an effect on Seminole land and the Everglades to the south.

"They keep saying the Everglades is a big filter and think they can send their dirty water south," Cypress said. "They think it's going to clean it up."

Cypress thinks much of the reason water is often diverted south instead of through east and west tributaries is because many of the east-west communities consist of wealthy Florida constituents and tourists.

However not all 'restoration' is bad, he said.

"But mistakes are repeated and then a Band-Aid is slapped on it and they do something to compensate," Cypress said. "There are no putting things back to how it was. Restoration means how it was. All we can hope for now is Everglades preservation."

Cypress said because Florida is now checker-boarded with manmade canals, there's no way to ever return the Everglades to its natural state. Big Cypress, for example, used to be wetter. He's heard from elders who built homes on stilts and used to walk in knee-high water to get to school.

"Big Cypress is named Big Cypress because there used to be big cypress trees, some as big as [California] redwoods," he said.

Cypress said the trees stopped getting the amount of water that was needed due to the draining of the Everglades and increased logging operations.

"[The Everglades are] like a crumpled up piece of paper. You can't take that paper back to what it looked like, but you can at least flatten it out," he said.

Meanwhile, Cypress has political



Beverly Bidney

Quenton Cypress

aspirations. He said he's going to run for Tribal Council in April 2021 to represent Big Cypress.

"It's been a long time in the making," Cypress said. "I've learned so much about how the tribe operates by attending council briefings."

He said he's been encouraged to run for council by friends and family.

"My whole thing is community," he said.

Cypress is married to Maria Cypress. The couple has one daughter, Willow.

# Hard Rock Premium Hard Seltzer to be launched later this year

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Hard Rock International (HRI) and Stewart's Enterprises announced Sept. 30 a partnership to bring Hard Rock Premium Hard Seltzer to market later this year.

Crafted for music fans nationwide, Hard Rock Premium Seltzer will be available in a variety of options which highlight the Hard Rock Cafe's most prominent cocktails and fan favorite flavors. Cans are emblazoned with the iconic Hard Rock logo and an image of an electric guitar. The alcoholic beverage will be available at beverage retailers and grocery stores during the upcoming holiday season.

Stewart's Enterprises, Inc. is the exclusive licensee of the original Stewart's Root Beer brand. The licensing partnership

between HRI and Stewart's Enterprises was negotiated by Broad Street Licensing Group (BSLG).

In February 2020, HRI announced its partnership with BSLG to further extend the brand's consumer reach through targeted products that emphasize the brand's core DNA, which is deeply rooted in music. In addition to Hard Rock Premium Hard Seltzer, HRI and BSLG will continue to introduce a variety of new products to fans around the world throughout 2020 and beyond.

"Through our partnership with Stewart's, we have created truly unique flavor profiles and music-inspired package designs that fans will love," said Mark Linduski, director of licensing for HRI, said in a statement. "As we continue our efforts to grow Hard Rock's licensing platform globally, this collaboration positions us as a premium brand within a surging category."



Hard Rock

Hard Rock Premium Hard Seltzer is scheduled to hit markets later this year.

# Home for sale on Hollywood Reservation

**6311 N. 36th St. Hollywood**  
**\$425,000**

A 3-bedroom, 2-bath single-family residence is for sale on the Hollywood Reservation. The house is approximately 2,548 square feet on a 1/4 acre lot. The property includes a back patio (brick pavers), chickee hut and storage shed in back yard, small screen enclosure at front door, and wooden fence along both sides and rear of property.

Please note that all appliances including dishwasher, range, refrigerator, washer and dryer have been removed.

*Property Features*

- Year Built:** 2006
- Parcel Number:** 1
- Square Footage:** 2,548
- Size of Lot:** > 1/4
- Bedrooms:** 3
- Bathrooms:** 2
- Pool:** no
- Garage:** none
- Type of Property:** Single Family
- Roof:** Shingle
- Flooring:** Mixed
- Carpport:** Attached
- Furnished:** No

For more information contact Jennifer Kolakowski, assistant director Real Estate Services (954) 931-0003, or Stephanie Bowers Hiatt (605) 359-1622



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◆ **SOVEREIGN WEALTH**  
From page 1A

The China Investment Corporation (CIC) is another example of a well-balanced sovereign wealth fund that protects itself from volatility by investing in multiple markets. What these sovereign wealth funds have in common is the procurement of real estate investments.

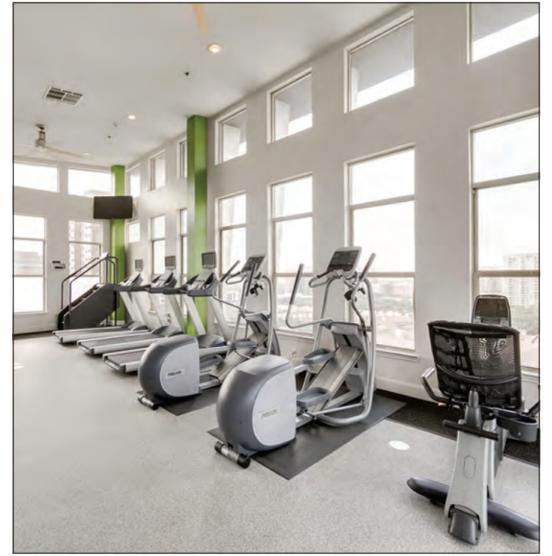
The demand for multifamily apartment rentals has increased since April. This demand is a reaction to the similar needs of competing communities. Renting is becoming increasingly more affordable. Millennials are waiting longer than previous generations to purchase single-family homes, while empty nesters are downsizing to apartments after experiencing an increase in their property values. As a result, the real estate market is experiencing a high demand for apartment units and has become a global investment opportunity. Upscale communities, like McKinney Uptown Apartments, have the characteristics needed to be a reliable asset for the tribe. The product is not just a building, but a lifestyle with existing customer-loyalty.

During the global market shifts of 2020, McKinney Uptown Apartments has remained a desirable and competitive community to join. Even through the struggles of the Covid-19 pandemic, 100% of its tenants are paying their rent on time and in full. Residents are surrounded by dining, retail, offices, and entertainment in the local area, providing the experience of a “live, work,

play” environment just outside their home. From their newly renovated units, McKinney residents can take in the inspirational view of the Dallas skyline. The property also offers exclusive amenities to its residents, such as access to a salon on the ground floor, a coffee bar, Wi-Fi, parking garage, a third-floor pool and a rooftop gym. The tribe procured the complex, strategically maximizing return on investment by utilizing a balance of cash and credit.

Until now, the tribe’s sovereign wealth fund has received most of its revenue from casino properties, but after extensive research and deliberation, it was concluded that commercial real estate is the next advantageous, conservative opportunity for tribal investment. By investing in apartments, such as the McKinney property, the tribe is taking its first steps in diversifying its sources of revenue. McKinney Uptown Apartments stands out from the opportunities that surround the tribe. The consideration process was thorough, including a financial analysis, due diligence, business plan, evaluation of economic conditions, analysis of return on investment, and effect of inflation or deflation. In fact, SEMREF continues to review an ever-changing long list of opportunities to further contribute to the tribe’s sovereign wealth fund. The generational wealth does not stop here. Each day brings continued development to grow the future wealth of tribal members.

*Ari Rioseco is a freelance writer and a Seminole Tribe employee.*



McKinney Uptown Apartments (3)

The Seminole Tribe’s sovereign wealth fund, known as the Seminole Real Estate Fund (SEMREF), recently purchased McKinney Uptown Apartments in Dallas, Texas. The 10-story building features 144 units. Among the amenities are a rooftop fitness center and an outdoor pool.



McKinney Uptown Apartments

The interior of an apartment at McKinney Uptown Apartments.



◆ **BINGO**  
From page 1A

In 2005, Hurricane Wilma wreaked havoc throughout South Florida and tore the facility apart. It was repaired, but never used for bingo again.

Instead, the Seminole Police Department

occasionally used the deteriorating, empty shell of the building for training exercises. In August 2014, SPD filled the building with a group of officers and police vehicles as they completed required Florida Department of Law Enforcement handgun training. The cavernous space of the bingo hall allowed plenty of space to hold different simulations at the same time.

Once demolition is complete by the end of November, the bingo hall will be replaced with a new preschool, senior center and an auditorium for special events. All facilities will have independent parking areas and access from both Josie Billie Highway and West Boundary Road. Construction is slated to begin in late 2022.



Courtesy photo (above), Tribune file photo (below)

Above, the Big Cypress bingo hall just before it was torn down in October. Below, when the hall opened in 1987, thousands of people came to try their luck at high-stakes bingo.



◆ **LAKELAND**  
From page 1A

“We kept working. The pandemic was tough going, but didn’t slow us down,” he said.

The effort required dozens of meetings and years of planning and strategy. The TCD office and its executive director Derek Koger, as well as senior director of operations Derrick Smith, oversaw much of the work between the tribe and city and county officials.

An official groundbreaking took place Jan. 23, 2019, when Tribal Council joined tribal members and employees, as well as dignitaries from the city of Lakeland and Polk County to mark the occasion.

Herbert Jim, the Tampa culture

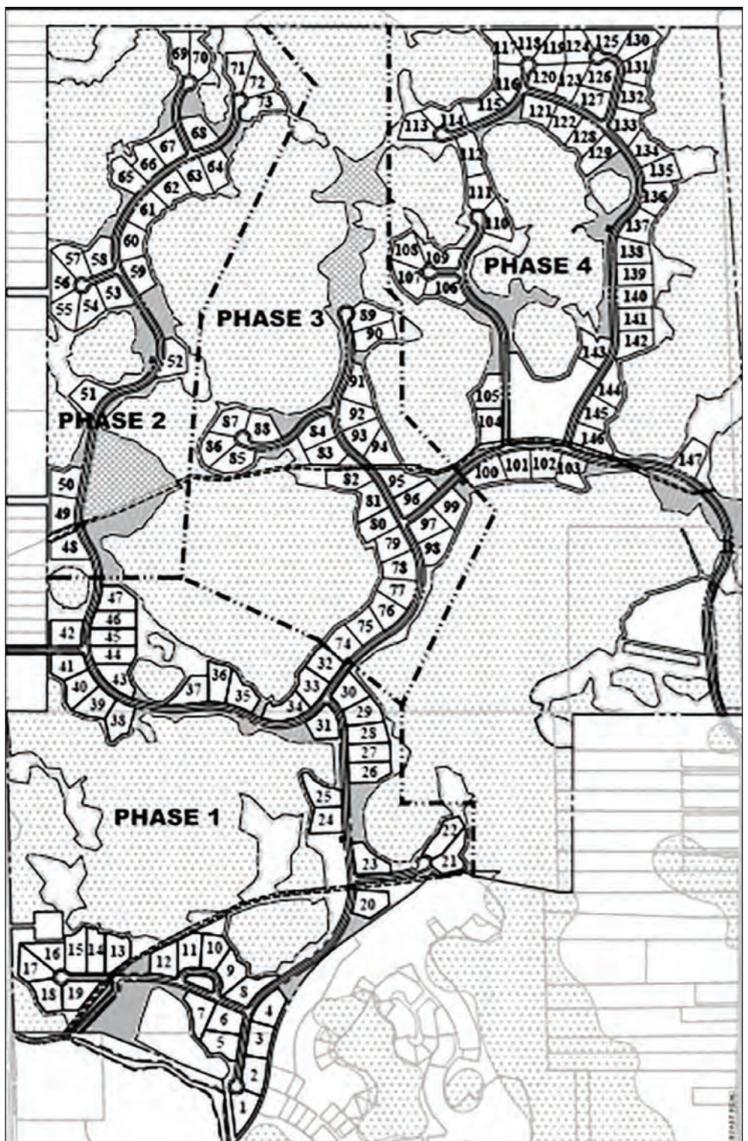
language director, and Tampa Reservation administrator Richard Henry brought tribal members to the land in Lakeland for years to show them the potential it held.

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

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

The Tampa community now numbers about 250. About 100 were moved to make way for the casino. Those originally displaced tribal members are granted first in line status to apply for the new homes.

The gatehouse will be located at 9610 Bryant Road. The main Lakeland property address is 9523 Moore Road.



Rick Morales/Jacob Cos.

The four phases of home construction on the Lakeland Reservation.

# Artist tackles Osceola story with help from Seminole Tribe

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Native Americans know well that much of the history of Indigenous Peoples is one-sided, incomplete or fabricated, depending on the source.

It's one of the reasons the Seminole Tribe has spent considerable time and resources to keep recordings of oral histories passed down by its elders.

One of those elders is medicine man Bobby Henry. He has had stories recorded about several subjects, like influential Seminole leader Osceola.

Working with Henry's story as one starting point, Pensacola-based artist and historian – Sean Linezo – has recently taken a closer look at varying versions of Osceola's death and says there's more to the story. Through the journey of his research he met Henry and forged other connections with the Seminole Tribe.

Linezo, who said he is of Indigenous ancestry, but not federally recognized, is the artist-in-residence at the nonprofit School House 4 Reimagining Education (SH4RE) – part of the Pensacola Private School of Liberal Arts. He wants to create a bronze statue of Osceola in downtown Pensacola's Plaza Ferdinand.

The Seminole Tribune recently asked Linezo about the statue and his work with the Seminole Tribe. The following has been edited for length and clarity.

**What did you discover about Osceola?**

**Linezo:** In my research I found an article from The Seminole Tribune published in 2015: "Bobby Henry's story: U.S. soldier murdered Osceola." I had read so many stories of Osceola's life and death. Most of the popular history described an over-dramatic and honorable death scene. All of the stories were almost identical – captured under a flag of truce, imprisoned, and in his last moments he dressed himself, painted his face red, said goodbyes to everyone and clutched his knife to his chest as he breathed his last breath.

However, all of these stories seem to be copied from a single source – a single diary entry that can be found in the official archives from Osceola's last attending physician, Dr. Frederick Weedon.

**Not the whole story.**

**Linezo:** The diary entry leaves out the details that followed, which includes the well-known fact that this same doctor decapitated and stole the head of Osceola. Not to mention he also allowed Osceola to be stripped of all regalia, which was sent to an officer in the U.S. military with a Native

American collection. It's interesting that they promoted the honorable death scene so much.

They also made a death mask for some reason. This was not a common practice at the time and you will not find many other Native American death masks like this. So it always seemed suspicious, like something was missing or maybe they were covering something up.

**How did Bobby Henry help clarify the story?**

**Linezo:** He describes a different series of events that is still honorable but also more realistic than the over-dramatic scene as described by Weedon in his diary. He describes the negotiations, the refusal to sign a treaty and two gunshots at point blank range.

So when I found the Bobby Henry story, I made plans with my little sister to go to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and request to listen to the oral history that is recorded and stored in the archive.

Justin Giles mentioned that Tina Osceola knows a lot of things about a lot of things and she was selling jewelry in a booth with her daughter, Dakota, at an event. Tina was not only friendly; she seemed supportive and

genuinely interested in our conversation. When she realized I had travelled to listen to the oral history on DVD in the archive, she pointed across the way and mentioned I was lucky because Bobby Henry was there also selling jewelry with his family.

**What was it like meeting Bobby Henry?**

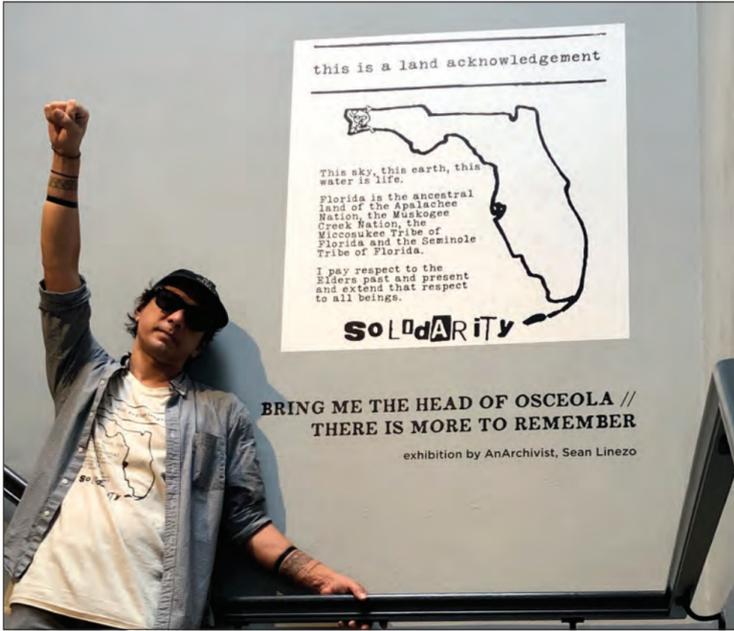
**Linezo:** I explained that I came to Big Cypress to listen to his oral history. I felt lucky to find him there and honored to meet him. He was a man of few words, but I told him the general idea of my project and asked if it would be OK to share his story. He said, yes that would be fine – he wants the story to be heard.

Tina also recommended that I talk with Paul Backhouse, who I eventually met, and he introduced me to Quenton Cypress, who invited me to Fort King where I met Charlie Osceola and his family and the weapons demonstration team and then eventually to Durante Blais-Billie. So now I feel like I have real relationships.

I have spent a lot of time with the three-hour oral history recording. I have listened to Bobby Henry talk about sitting around fires with his many teachers and how a lot of those stories are gone. His teachers are



Sean Linezo, left, and Pensacola Mayor Grover C. Robinson IV, raised the flags of the Five Civilized Tribes at city hall – which include the Seminole Tribe of Florida – as part of the city's first Indigenous People's Day on Oct. 12.



Sean Linezo is the creator of several works related to the Seminole Tribe and its iconic leader Osceola.

all gone, but he has the stories. He is the messenger. There is a lot to hear and a lot to learn from. It's been a pleasure to work with Paul and Quenton and Durante and everyone at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki. Everyone has been so supportive and I truly feel an honor to have worked with such culturally sensitive subjects and the support of this team.

**The experience gave you the idea for a statue.**

**Linezo:** Around November 5th, I will be launching a fundraising campaign for the production costs of the bronze statue. The only resistance to the idea was in featuring Osceola in opposition to Andrew Jackson. So rather than Osceola as an adult, I have suggested that we feature Peter McQueen (Osceola's great-uncle, a leader of the Red Stick Creeks) as the figure on the pedestal and at the base of the monument a full-size bronze statue of Osceola as a young boy looking up to him.

**There's still an element of Andrew Jackson?**

Linezo: McQueen relates to Pensacola and the local Battle of Burnt Corn Creek,

which led to the Fort Mims massacre and Battle of Horseshoe Bend. All of these local battles relate directly to Andrew Jackson, and to Osceola – as his great-uncle and as an elder who influenced his resistant spirit.

**Where can people connect with you?**

**Linezo:** The Pensacola Museum of Art will host a screening of "Statues Also Die," which is about my work, followed by a discussion on Zoom on Nov. 5 at 6 p.m.

*Editor's note: For more, go to pensacolamuseum.org. Search "Statues Also Die" at seminoletribune.com for more about the film. SH4RE's programming for the remainder of the year will feature Linezo's work through online workshops, panel discussions and screenings of "Statues Also Die." Go to schoolhouse4.org for more.*

## Sustaining Tribal Legacies

STOFHERO.COM

# SAFER AT HOME

## BUILDING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

By Bernard J. Howard



The effects of 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic can be felt the world over, and the impacts have dramatically changed the working environment for governments and businesses alike. The Seminole Tribe of Florida and its employees were no exception. The "Safer at Home," order established by Tribal Council on March of 2020, created new challenges for collaboration and communication between the various departments in the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Interdepartmental communication is the key point that ensures work is completed within a timely manner and meets the regulations of the Tribe. This is a given and an absolute that all departments strive for, specifically those within the Heritage and Environmental Resources Office (HERO) and the Tribal Community Development (TCD) departments. Since the establishment of the "Safer at Home," order the majority of staff members

have been working from their homes, causing HERO and TCD employees to find new ways to communicate such as online meetings and virtual presentations. The pandemic not only showed HERO and TCD new ways to communicate, but also the importance and dedication needed for a high level of collaboration.

Through this commitment to continuous communication and collaboration the HERO and TCD departments have been able to realize extraordinary accomplishments during such an unprecedented time. These endeavors include reviewing and permitting over 400 projects since the "Safer at Home," order went into effect in March, along with the completed construction of 47 new homes, and an additional 32 currently under construction, across the reservations. A commitment by the departments to overcoming the hardships that came from the pandemic also led to

1,176 permits issued by the Tribal Inspector's Office, 943 inspections by the ERMD staff, and a record-breaking 7,714 shovels test completed by THPO staff.

While adjusting to working remotely, these departments were able to remain fully operational during the pandemic, however this new work structure meant that everyone needed to be moving in the same direction and always on the same page. In order to accomplish this, a new fully digital permitting system was developed, along with new permitting guidelines. These new guidelines will not only help streamline the review process for large STOF developments, but also will help simplify the process for Tribal Members wanting to conduct projects that require permits on their own homesites. These guidelines are currently in the review stage, but more information will be available to communities in the following months.

**HOUSING PROJECTS ARE BEING BUILT DURING PANDEMIC**

**Hollywood**  
• Townhomes – 103 units / 14 buildings  
• Single Family Homes – 31

**Big Cypress**  
• Single Family Homes – 38

**Lakeland**  
• Single Family Homes – 17

**Immokalee**  
• Single Family Homes – 9

**TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED BY TRIBAL INSPECTOR'S OFFICE**

- Hollywood – 471
- Big Cypress – 294
- Brighton – 147
- Fort Pierce – 2
- Immokalee – 70
- Lakeland – 175
- Tampa – 17

Averaging 150 permit approvals a month.

**NUMBER OF CASE PLANS**

<p><b>Number of Case plans processed by TCD Departments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March – 61</li> <li>• April – 38</li> <li>• May – 75</li> <li>• June – 56</li> <li>• July – 58</li> <li>• August – 58</li> <li>• September – 40</li> <li>• October – 39</li> </ul>	<p><b>Number of Cases reviewed by ERMD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March – 58</li> <li>• April – 76</li> <li>• May – 81</li> <li>• June – 40</li> <li>• July – 43</li> <li>• August – 65</li> <li>• September – 55</li> <li>• October – 32</li> </ul>	<p><b>Number of Cases reviewed by THPO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March – 51</li> <li>• April – 30</li> <li>• May – 66</li> <li>• June – 53</li> <li>• July – 53</li> <li>• August – 62</li> <li>• September – 48</li> <li>• October – 29</li> </ul>
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**HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OFFICE SUMMARY**

**Prime Metric for 2020: 11.9 Days**

- Average Turn-Around for THPO 2020 projects: 8.5 Days
- Average Turn-Around for ERMD 2020 projects: 14.7 Days
- Average Turn-Around for TID 2020 projects: 12.4 Days



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

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

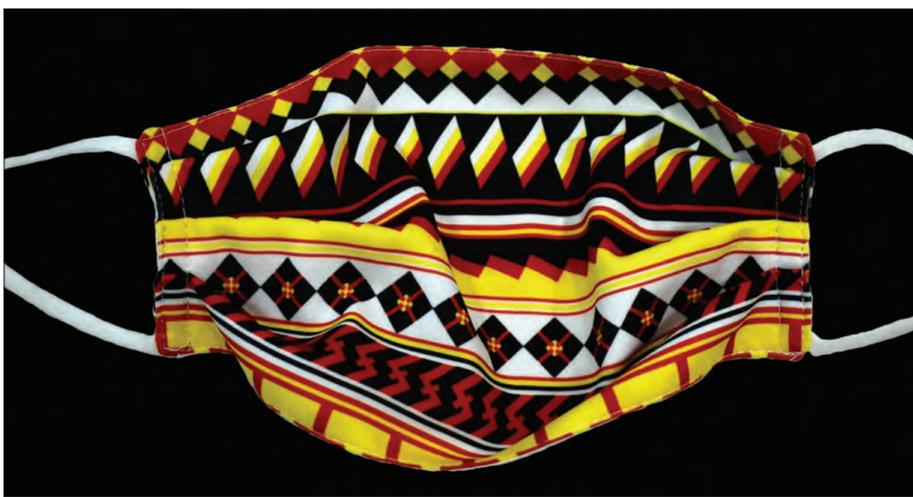
## What are we up to? Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum during the 2020 public safety closure – part 1

BY CARRIE DILLEY, REBECCA PETRIE AND TARA BACKHOUSE  
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, like most other departments within the Seminole Tribe and industry-wide, has adapted to changing operations and a greatly reduced staff over the past seven months. Although we closed to visitors on March 14, we have strived to fulfill our mission during this time: to celebrate, preserve and interpret Seminole culture and history. Some staff have continued to work diligently on the projects they planned before the pandemic while others have shifted gears to fulfill new needs. We are excited for the day when we can reopen our doors to the Seminole community and to visitors far and wide, but in the meantime we are fortunate for the unique opportunities we have right now to connect in ways that we may not have been able to do before.

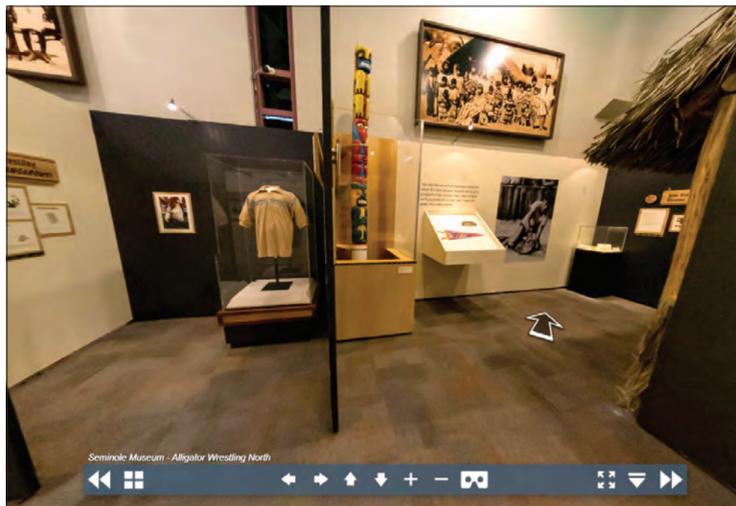
During the closure, “visitor services” has taken on a whole new meaning. Finding new ways to connect with our audience and remain relevant shapes our day-to-day tasks. Rather than viewing visitation as a tangible metric, counted by the number of people who tour the museum, we have begun to put more emphasis on views, impressions and engagements in the virtual world.

Although these opportunities existed prior to the pandemic, we have seen an increase in the number of people who connect with us remotely. Our doors have metaphorically opened through our new virtual tour, created in collaboration with Seminole Media Productions (SMP), where anyone worldwide can easily navigate through our galleries and boardwalk. This virtual tour is



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Find many unique Seminole inspired gifts and collectibles at [seminole-store.com](http://seminole-store.com).



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Immerse yourself in culture and history from your own device by visiting our virtual museum at [ahtahthiki.com/virtual-tour/](http://ahtahthiki.com/virtual-tour/)

not intended to replace visiting the museum in person, and it would be impossible to replicate the immersive experience you get while at the museum, but it still ignites a spark in viewers, and hopefully challenges them to want to learn more. Through our social media channels, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, blog and YouTube, we take that engagement further. With our new education coordinator on board, we have begun planning ways to expand our relationships with educators from as near as the Ahfachkee School to places across the globe by providing resources and building our capacity for remote outreach and other learning opportunities. The visitor services and development team is here to answer questions and provide thoughtful messaging that challenges the colonial narrative and breaks down the standards of traditional classroom education.

The online museum store was relaunched in August and the push was on to bring in our custom items and, as odd as it sounds, prepare for the holiday season. Face masks featuring Seminole patchwork designs were ordered and sold out as soon as the word hit the street that they were available (they were quickly reordered and were back

in stock by early October). Baby blankets, ornaments that celebrated the museum’s alligator wrestler exhibit, and new book titles are all available. Orders can be placed via the online store ([seminole-store.com](http://seminole-store.com)) or over the phone (863-227-3430). We are currently working on a virtual marketplace scheduled to “go live” in November. Available through the museum’s website ([ahtahthi.com](http://ahtahthi.com)), we will be providing a space for Seminole and other Native American artists, artisans and crafters from all over the country to show their wares by linking their websites to ours. This is something that wouldn’t have been considered in past years. Vendors from across the country have been letting us know that they are excited to have a new outlet to sell during these challenging times. The museum store may be “closed”, but we are open to providing the community with those items that, hopefully, bring comfort and joy into lives. That is a goal that everyone at the museum shares. Stay tuned for our next article where we’ll share updates about our upcoming exhibits, both virtual and in the gallery, as we prepare for our reopening to better serve the Seminole community.

## Native veterans memorial opens Nov. 11 with virtual honor

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Veterans Day – Nov. 11 – is always a busy one for the Seminole Tribe with tributes and gatherings to honor the contributions of those who have served in the U.S. military and their families.

This year the pandemic has altered what would be typical events, but the tribe’s veterans will still be recognized for their service on a local and national level.

The first memorial in Washington, D.C., to honor Native American veterans officially opens to the public on Veterans Day. The milestone will be marked with an online message and dedication.

Organizers had planned to open the National Native American Veterans Memorial with days of events and a procession of Native American veterans. While the public will be able to visit the site in person, the events and procession were postponed due to the pandemic. Museum officials said they would reschedule events when it is safe to do so.

The memorial, located on the grounds of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of

the American Indian, is many years in the making and is one that is close to the tribe’s leadership and members. The tribe is one of 85 tribes who have supported it financially.

In addition, Stephen Bowers, the former Veteran Affairs director for the tribe, and President Mitchell Cypress, campaigned for and gathered support for the memorial for a decade.

“The [memorial] will serve as a reminder to the nation and the world of the service and sacrifice of Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian veterans,” Kevin Gover, director of the museum, said in a statement. “Native Americans have always answered the call to serve, and this memorial is a fitting tribute to their patriotism and deep commitment to this country.”

The memorial was commissioned by Congress to recognize that Native Americans have served in every major U.S. military conflict since the Revolutionary War.

It was designed by Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma). He is a multimedia artist, retired forensic artist and Marine Corps Vietnam veteran.

Pratt’s design features an elevated

stainless steel circle resting on a carved stone drum. It also incorporates water for sacred ceremonies, benches for gatherings and four lances where veterans, family members, tribal leaders and others can tie cloths to signify prayers and healing.

### ‘Why We Serve’

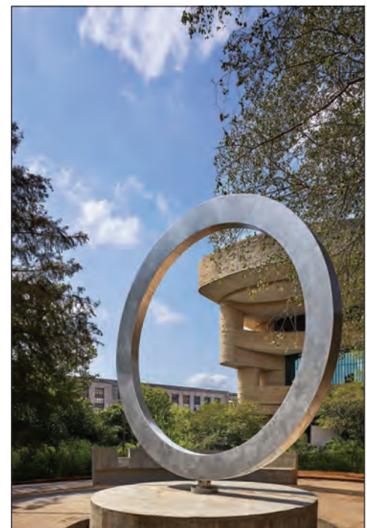
To coincide with the memorial’s opening, the museum has published “Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces,” a 240-page book that commemorates the history of Native American military service.

“Native Americans serve in the military at one of the highest rates of any ethnic group, and the book explores the many reasons why — from love of home to the expression of warrior traditions,” a statement read.

The museum is hosting a virtual discussion of the book on Zoom with senior editor Alexandra Harris on Nov. 12 at noon (EST). Details are at [AmericanIndian.si.edu](http://AmericanIndian.si.edu).

In addition, the museum has launched an exhibition titled “Why We Serve.”

The museum is located on the National Mall at Fourth Street and Independence



Alan Karchmer for NMAI

The National Native American Veterans Memorial will open Nov. 11 on the grounds of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.



Courtesy photo

The book “Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces” will be the focus of a discussion Nov. 12 on Zoom.

Avenue SW. To watch the Nov. 11 virtual message marking the opening of the memorial, go to [AmericanIndian.si.edu](http://AmericanIndian.si.edu) or access it on

YouTube by searching “SmithsonianNMAI” at YouTube.com.

## USET & USET Sovereignty Protection Fund welcomes 3 new tribal nations

PRESS RELEASE

On Oct. 20, three Tribal Nations were welcomed as new members during the virtual annual board of directors meeting of the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) and United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF).

The tribal nations are the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, the Nansemond Indian Nation, and the Monacan Indian Nation. The USET/USET SPF membership now includes 33 Tribal Nations, including the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe, whose homelands extend from the northeastern woodlands to the Everglades and across the Gulf of Mexico.

The Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe is centered in King William County, Virginia. The tribal nation has strong ties to Christianity and their community is centered around The Indian View Baptist Church, built in 1942. The Upper Mattaponi own 32 acres of land and are a proud and humble people of strong character and values, with much optimism and hope for the future. The tribal nation was officially recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia on March 25, 1983 and received Federal recognition in 2018. In 1608, Captain John Smith identified the village of Passaukack at the location of the present-day Upper Mattaponi. The oldest surviving King William County records dated 1885 list non-reserved Indians bearing the surname Adams living in a settlement known as Adamstown. The name most likely originated with James Adams who

served as an official interpreter between the British and Indians living in this area between 1702 to 1727. The Adamstown band became officially known as the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe in 1921.

The Nansemond are the Indigenous people of the Nansemond River, a 20-mile long tributary of the James River in Virginia. The tribal nation was part of the Tsenacomoco (or Powhatan paramount chiefdom) which was a coalition of approximately 30 Algonquian Indian tribal nations distributed throughout the northern, southern, and western lands surrounding the Chesapeake Bay. The Nansemond people lived in settlements on both sides of the Nansemond River where they fished (with the name “Nansemond” meaning “fishing point”), harvested oysters, hunted, and farmed in fertile soil. The Nansemond were formally organized with elected officers in 1984 and later applied for and received Virginia state recognition in 1985. After more than 30 years of effort as the Nansemond Indian Tribal Association, the Tribal Nation (along with five other Tribal Nations from the original Powhatan paramount chiefdom) was granted federal recognition. In honor of this turning point they have returned to the name used by their ancestors—the Nansemond Indian Nation. The tribal nation is dedicated to Nansemond historical and cultural preservation for the benefit of their tribal citizens and the community at large.

The Monacan Nation, headquartered in Amherst County, has survived almost four hundred years since the first settlers landed at Jamestown. Today the tribal nation numbers over 2,000 people, as

more descendants discover their heritage and return to Amherst to celebrate their Indian culture. The tribal nation operates numerous programs designed to assist tribal citizens and to educate the general public. It purchased 110 acres of land on Bear Mountain and acquired new parcels as well. The Monacan Nation, one of the few American Indian tribal nations that still remain in their ancestral homeland, has made significant contributions to Virginia’s history and development, and it continues to be a strong group, dedicated to the survival of Indian people in Virginia and throughout the hemisphere. The tribal nation became a state-registered corporation in 1988, and in 1989, it was recognized by the Virginia General Assembly as one of the eight Indigenous tribal nations of the state. In 1993, the tribal nation became a registered nonprofit organization, developed a museum steering committee, and held its first annual Powwow in Bedford County.

“We are so pleased to welcome three new members to our USET family. We believe they will enhance our collective efforts by bringing their own unique experiences, culture, and history to the conversation and our advocacy efforts. Their addition to our family will further build upon our principle and motto of Because there is Strength in Unity,” stated USET/USET SPF Secretary Lynn Malerba, Lifetime Chief of the Mohegan Tribe.

The three Tribal Nations were federally recognized on Jan. 29, 2018, through the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act.

## Police identify suspect in theft of guitars from Hard Rock Cafe in Niagara Falls

STAFF REPORT

**NIAGARA FALLS, Ontario** — Police in Ontario, Canada, said Oct. 23 that they have recovered the three guitars that were stolen from the Hard Rock Cafe in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

One guitar is from Pink Floyd, which had signatures of three of its band members. The other guitars are from Neil Young and Guns N’Roses.

Police said the guitars were taken in a

theft at the bar on Oct. 18 around 10:30 a.m.

Police said the suspect who is wanted is Daniel Patrick Rees, a 44-year-old man with significant ties to the Waterloo and Cambridge areas in Ontario.

Rees is facing charges of theft under \$5,000 and failure to comply with probation.

Anyone who may have information about this incident is asked to contact detectives at 905-688-4111, ext. 9584. Anyone who may know the location of Rees is asked to contact your local police.



Niagara Regional Police Service

Pink Floyd’s guitar, signed by three band members, was among three guitars stolen from the Niagara Falls Hard Rock Cafe in Ontario on Oct. 18.

# Health

## Immokalee, Tampa Seminoles celebrate Indigenous Pink Day

**STAFF REPORT**

Breast cancer awareness month in October included the American Indian Cancer Foundation's annual Indigenous Pink Day on the 15th. The national breast cancer awareness campaign for Native Americans was on a digital platform and participants, including those in Immokalee and Tampa, walked wherever they were. Walkers were encouraged to post photos on social media with the hashtag #IndigenousPink.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among American Indian women, according to the foundation. The Indigenous Pink Day virtual walk is meant to educate Native communities about the importance of early detection and remind individuals to talk to their doctors about breast cancer screening.



Courtesy photo (above), Beverly Bidney photo (left)

Above, Immokalee residents Amy Yzaguirre, Cecilia Garcia, America Ramirez and Juanita Martinez walked together on Oct. 15, Indigenous Pink Day. At left, Sheena Yzaguirre and Sally Rosales celebrate Indigenous Pink Day with a walk through the Immokalee Reservation.



Courtesy photo

Tampa resident Nancy Frank is happy to have survived cancer for 17 years. She and her family participated in the Indigenous Pink Day virtual walk in Tampa.



Courtesy photo

Members of the Frank family, including Nancy Frank, front and center in the photo, Lauri Billie, Connie Osceola, Aaron Frank, Kevin Fran, Dominic Osceola and Amari Osceola walk together on Indigenous Pink Day on Oct. 15, to celebrate Nancy's 17 years as a cancer survivor.



Courtesy photo

Ronnie and Tricia Doctor walk together in Tampa.

### Stranahan program to feature Seminole artists

**STAFF REPORT**

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — The Stranahan House Museum will host a virtual history happy hour that will focus on the history of music in the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The event will be held Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m. It will showcase the tribe's impact on music, including traditional folk, rock and hip-hop.

Seminole cultural ambassador Everett

Osceola will present the program. The tribe's Spencer Battiest, who has merged traditional Seminole music with the modern sounds of pop and hip-hop, will be featured.

Seminole history with the Stranahan family goes back to the late 1800s when tribal members paddled in from the Everglades to trade, learn English and set up camp nearby for days at a time.

Tickets may be purchased at [www.tinyurl.com/stranahanhappyhour](http://www.tinyurl.com/stranahanhappyhour).

### Webinar to focus on Native American leaders response to Covid

**STAFF REPORT**

Minority communities have been disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, and Native Americans are no exception. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Indian and Alaska Native people are 5.3 times more likely than white people to be hospitalized due to Covid-19. Yet the picture is not entirely bleak. Though it's often missing from the headlines, many

Native American communities across the country have been mobilizing to fight the virus, often with success.

A webinar on Nov. 9 from 1 to 2 p.m. (EST) will feature an in-depth understanding of why American Indians are particularly vulnerable to the pandemic and the strategies tribal leaders are implementing to protect their communities. Hear from Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez; Stacy A. Bohlen, chief executive officer of the National Indian Health Board and member of the Sault Ste.

Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; and Kevin DuPuis, chairman of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

The webinar is part of the Community Health Leadership Forum, a virtual event series from U.S. News & World Report. For more information visit: [www.usnews.com/news/live-events/webinar-covid-19-and-native-american-health-how-tribal-leaders-are-beating-back-the-virus#contact](http://www.usnews.com/news/live-events/webinar-covid-19-and-native-american-health-how-tribal-leaders-are-beating-back-the-virus#contact).



**Want to help keep your family and community safe this flu season?**  
Get your flu shot and encourage others to get theirs.

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



**RICHARD CASTILLO**  
**954.522.3500**

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**24 HOURS A DAY**

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

**RICHARD CASTILLO**  
FLORIDA CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY  
[WWW.CASTILLOLAWOFFICES.COM](http://WWW.CASTILLOLAWOFFICES.COM)

# SEMINOLE SCENES



News4Jax

**BENEFICIAL BOOK:** Seminole Tribe siblings Julius and Jy were featured in a Jacksonville TV news report about the paperback book they wrote to explain the importance of heritage, in particular natural hair. "We saw a lot of kids getting discriminated against because of their natural hair. We just felt like we should make a book about it to tell kids why their hair is so special," Jy told News4Jax in a segment that aired Oct. 21. Their book is titled "The Miseducation of Natural Hair" and is available on Amazon and Google Books. Julius and Jy used proceeds from the book to purchase diapers for the Miles of Diapers collection drive which helps families in need of diapers, formula and wipes.



Twitter

**ROCK LEGEND:** Eddie Van Halen, longtime lead guitarist and songwriter in the band Van Halen, died Oct. 6 at age 65. He is shown here in 2012 at the Hard Rock Cafe at Universal City Walk Hollywood in California, standing in front of a giant replica of his Frankenstrat guitar. Hard Rock Cafe permanently closed at the location in January 2020.



Beverly Bidney

**HALLOWEEN HOUSE:** This home on the Immokalee Reservation is in the Halloween mood with festive and scary decorations.



Beverly Bidney (above), Kevin Johnson (below)

**HOUSING BOOM:** New home construction continues on the Immokalee Reservation (above) and the Hollywood Reservation (below). These Hollywood units are located next door to the Seminole Fire Rescue station and behind Seminole Police headquarters. The Big Cypress, Brighton and Lakeland reservations are also seeing new housing developments.



Beverly Bidney

**MASK MARKER:** A sign on the Immokalee Reservation reminds people to always wear a mask as reservations and the entire world continue to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.



Tampa Bay Rowdies/Twitter

**SOCCER SUCCESS:** The Tampa Bay Rowdies won the USL's Eastern Conference on Oct. 24. The Rowdies, whose uniform jersey sponsor is the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, were scheduled to play in the league championship game Nov. 1 against Phoenix Rising FC. Seminole Hard Rock has been the team's jersey sponsor since 2014.



Hard Rock Atlantic City/Facebook

**FIRST RESPONDERS HONORED:** On Oct. 28, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City celebrated National First Responders Day by committing \$15,000 to AtlanticCare Foundation, Atlantic City Police Foundation and the Atlantic City Professional Firefighters Local 198.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## Comanche, Otoe-Missouria say they are observing new compacts

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — Claiming that the Oklahoma Supreme Court has intruded on federal and tribal jurisdiction, the Comanche Nation and Otoe-Missouria Tribe announced in September that they will continue observing the 2020 gaming compacts negotiated with Gov. Kevin Stitt's office.

Attorney Rob Rosette, representing both tribes, said the casinos will continue offering Class III gaming under the argument that the compacts, despite a ruling by the Oklahoma Supreme Court, are valid, and can only be invalidated by a federal court.

"That's our legal position," Rosette said.

Rosette also stated that neither tribe will observe language in the compacts allowing house-banked table and card games or sports book betting unless they are legalized by the Oklahoma Legislature.

The tribes will also observe the 4.5% exclusivity fee under the new compacts rather than the higher sliding rates paid by other tribes under the 2005 compact agreement, which those tribes — including the Cherokee Nation — say automatically renewed at the beginning of 2020. A federal judge ruled on July 28 that the compacts did automatically renew.

There have been no plans announced by Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter to challenge the Comanche Nation or Otoe-Missouria Tribe, and the state might be awaiting the decision in a federal lawsuit filed by four tribes.

The Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Citizen Potawatomi nations have filed suit against Stitt, U.S. Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt, the Comanche Nation and the Otoe-Missouria Tribe. The plaintiffs say those agreements initially allow lower fee percentages for the Comanche and Otoe-Missouria than other tribes pay under their compacts. All Oklahoma tribes agreed to the same exclusivity terms that went into effect in 2005.

Under the renewed compact, tribes pay the state 4% to 10% of revenue to exclusively offer Class III gaming, which includes slot machines, craps and roulette. The state collected \$150 million from the fees in 2019, but Stitt has said Oklahoma tribes pay too little for gaming in comparison to agreements in other states.

By a 5-1 vote, the Oklahoma Supreme Court denied on Sept. 15 a rehearing request by Stitt concerning the validity of gaming compacts he forged with the Comanche Nation and Otoe-Missouria Tribe.

A legal position similar to that of the Comanche Nation and Otoe-Missouria Tribe is being employed by the United Keweenaw Band, though the tribe does not currently operate a casino. The UKB announced on Sept. 11 that it considered its gaming compact, signed on July 1 with Stitt, is in effect, citing federal jurisdiction, approval of the Interior Department, and notice of the contract's publication in the Federal Register.

The validity of the UKB gaming compact, and another negotiated by Stitt with Kialegee Tribal Town, is awaiting review by the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Under its compact, the UKB could offer Class II and Class III gaming at a venue in Logan County, and would pay fees of up to 15% on adjusted net revenue above \$500 million.

The UKB did not announce the placing of land into trust in Logan County, and would need to submit a Section 20 application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to put land in trust for gaming. With approval, the tribe could construct and operate its facility. Such land must be within one mile of a highway or turnpike.

Stitt has also said he wants to negotiate a specific compact for each tribe. Under the 2005 compact, fees are the same for all Oklahoma tribes. A few tribal leaders indicated on July 28 they were still open to revision, though terms suggested by Stitt in previous months would require more than minor adjustments to the existing compacts.

- Cherokee Phoenix (Oklahoma)

## Northern Arapaho Tribe to introduce sports betting to Wyoming

The Northern Arapaho Tribe has plans to launch a sports betting operation on the Wind River Reservation in the coming months. Tribal leaders hope the addition will help the tribe's three casinos recover from months of closure and revenue loss amidst the pandemic.

Brian Van Enkenvoort, CEO of the tribe's flagship Wind River Hotel and Casino, said the tribe is poised to offer its casino patrons a unique experience.

"Well-regulated sports betting is an excellent way to make the gaming experience even better for our customers," Van Enkenvoort wrote in a statement. "This is truly an amenity that sports fans can't find anywhere else in Wyoming."

Sports betting remains illegal under Wyoming State Law, even after the creation of a statewide gaming commission to regulate "skill-based" games earlier this year. But unlike most gaming tribes, the Northern Arapaho Tribe does not operate its casinos under a compact with the state. Instead, the tribe answers to federal regulators with the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"The state has no regulatory authority over us when it comes to gaming," said Northern Arapaho Business Councilman Stephen Fasthorse.

Still, Fasthorse hopes the move doesn't damage relations between the state and tribal governments, and that the tribe's efforts can serve as a model should state leaders decide

to expand gaming in Wyoming.

"We extend an olive branch to the state of Wyoming, the Governor, and the legislators who are advocating for gaming. We're considered the [gaming] experts here. We would like to look at partnerships that could be beneficial to both the tribe and the state," Fasthorse said. "We would rather be partners than adversaries."

Fasthorse said the tribe has kept sports betting "in its back pocket" since a 2018 U.S. Supreme Court decision cleared the way, and decided to move forward this spring after state lawmakers created the Wyoming Gaming Commission. Then, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Fasthorse said the addition of sports betting will help the tribe's casinos maintain some "exclusivity" as state lawmakers appear poised to expand gaming, and that the extra revenue will help keep the tribe afloat.

"We don't have a tax base revenue on the reservation to support our programs or even the tribal government. We rely on the revenues from our casinos to keep us maintaining," Fasthorse said.

More than a dozen tribal nations have launched sports betting operations since 2018, including tribes in Montana, Colorado and New Mexico. According to Katherine Rand, a professor of law and co-director of the Institute for the Study of Tribal Gaming Law and Policy at the University of North Dakota, sports betting has been "generally positive" for those tribes. She said the revenue associated with launching a sports betting operation tends to come from "amenity spending" in casino restaurants, gift shops and hotels.

"There really isn't expected to be much direct gaming profit associated with a sportsbook. It's a way to bring people into the casino, to expand the customer base and so forth," said Rand.

Fasthorse said the tribe hopes to create a sportsbook atmosphere similar to what you might find on the Las Vegas strip at its three casinos on the Wind River Reservation. He said the tribe has some remaining regulatory requirements to satisfy with the National Indian Gaming Commission, but that sports betting could be available at the Wind River Hotel and Casino before the 2021 Superbowl.

- Wyoming Public Media

## Employee error caused government leak of tribal data, watchdog finds

Employees at the Treasury Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs were responsible for leaking a spreadsheet of proprietary data from the nation's tribes, according to a new report from a government watchdog.

A report from the Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General (OIG) found employees "did not look at the entire spreadsheet before forwarding [an] email and did not realize the spreadsheet contained potentially confidential information."

Employees told the OIG the emails containing the spreadsheet were sent as a way to remind tribes to apply for \$8 billion in CARES Act funding set aside for tribal governments, not realizing the sensitive data was attached. The data was then shared outside the government, including with other tribes.

"The spreadsheet included the names of the tribes that submitted the information; the tribes' authorized representatives' names, titles, and contact information (including phone number and email); and other self-reported amounts for the tribes' population, land base, employees, and expenditures. Several stakeholders later asserted that some of the details included in the spreadsheet were sensitive and proprietary," the OIG wrote, noting that this violates government policy requiring the protection of sensitive data.

The leak was revealed in April amid a lawsuit from tribes challenging a government decision to release CARES Act funding to so-called Alaska Native Corporations, which have vast land holdings and secure significant profits from timber and oil sales that are then shared with tribal members.

The lawsuits delayed the distribution of funding to tribes for months.

"The administration leaked tribes' confidential financial records to the public much faster than it sent them aid, and yet Republicans continue to be confused about why so many tribes have distrusted the federal government for so long," House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Raúl Grijalva, who requested the report, said in a statement.

"Public trust in the competence and integrity of the executive branch is never more important than in the midst of a global health crisis. ... This was a shameful failure of federal relations with Indian Country," he added.

- The Hill

## Neskantaga First Nation water crisis shows 'apartheid system' of clean water access, NDP MPP says

A week after the evacuation of a remote First Nation in northwestern Ontario, First Nations leaders say there is still no plan to restore running water to the community.

Neskantaga First Nation shut down its water plant on Oct. 19 after an oily substance was discovered in the reservoir. An evacuation began the following day and now, only a few essential workers remain in the fly-in community, located about 450 kilometres north of Thunder Bay, Ont.

First Nations leaders and technical advisors visited Neskantaga on Oct. 26 to

see the problems first-hand. NDP MPP Sol Mamakwa, whose Kiiwetinoong riding includes Neskantaga, told CBC News what he witnessed there was "the utter failure" of Canada and Ontario.

"We cannot treat people of Neskantaga differently compared to people who are in Mississauga, people in Toronto," Mamakwa said. "We cannot have this kind of apartheid system of access to clean drinking water."

While running water was available to homes in Neskantaga until last Monday, the tap water in the community has not been safe to drink since February 1995, and Mamakwa said he has seen little urgency from Ontario and Canada to change that.

"We have to have running water restored, as a first step," he said. "That's not happening. There is no plan."

Initial tests on the substance found in the reservoir show it is a hydro carbon, but more investigation is needed to determine where it came from and how it is getting in the water, said Alvin Fiddler.

The Grand Chief of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation was also among the visitors to Neskantaga on Oct. 26.

"First of all they need to diagnose the problem, or problems," Fiddler said. "Then, they need to look at the system as a whole."

The federal government's "scope" for lifting boil water advisories is too limited, focusing only on the water treatment plant and ignoring the pipes leading to homes and the waste water system, he said.

"The community, they want to look at the whole system from source to tap and the whole system needs to be assessed and to detect any problems and to fix them," Fiddler said.

Federal Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller said he is aware of the interconnected problems.

"It is complex," Miller told reporters in Ottawa on Oct. 26. "But we're committed to repairing it and I hope we're close."

A spokesperson for Indigenous Services Canada told CBC News that it is providing more than \$16 million for "all aspects" of the water treatment plant upgrade project and that more funding will be provided for immediate repairs "as necessary."

As for a plan, spokesperson Adrienne Vaupshas said experts with the department are working with Matawa, the First Nations management group that provides technical support to Neskantaga, to formulate one.

Fiddler said community members — both the evacuees in Thunder Bay and those remaining still in Neskantaga — are increasingly anxious to know what the plan is.

It's possible evacuees may not be able to return to Neskantaga this winter, Mamakwa said.

For his part, the MPP said he is taking two bottles of water from the Neskantaga water plant back to Queen's Park with him this week.

Ontario is a signatory to Treaty 9, along with Neskantaga and Canada and has an obligation to help end the crisis, he said.

"Especially during a pandemic, to see the continued complacency of government, in 2020, in Ontario, in Canada, you can see how racism affects this community," Mamakwa said.

That racism costs lives, he added, noting that a 23-year-old woman died by suicide in Neskantaga last year, without ever having tasted clean water from the tap in her home.

- CBC

## Little River Band of Ottawa Indians' Muskegon casino project reaches milestone

**MUSKEGON COUNTY, Mich.** —

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians' Muskegon County casino project is taking a significant step forward in its approval process.

On Oct. 23, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) formally published a Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Little River Band's Fee-to-Trust and casino project at a former racetrack in Fruitport Township.

"This is an incredible step forward in our process to build the Muskegon County Casino Project," said Larry Romanelli, Ogema of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in a news release. "This project is about job creation for our community and I want to thank everyone — our steadfast community, our federal and state leaders, labor unions and tribal members for their support for this project."

In the FEIS, the BIA considered both the Little River Band's proposed casino project and a range of economic development alternatives, and concluded that the Little River Band's project as proposed is the preferred alternative of the federal government.

A public comment period will soon be instated after which the federal government will issue its final decision on the application. The process then moves to the State of Michigan for concurrence of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and action by the legislature. "The Muskegon County Casino Project is slated to bring approximately 3,000 jobs to the region; including 1,500 high paying full-time jobs and 1,500 construction and ancillary jobs," states a news release.

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is building this casino with internal financial resources and no taxpayer dollars but is expected to generate economic development of \$15 million in tax revenue for the State of Michigan and millions more for local governments, according to a news release.

The Little River Band has been working on the project for more than 10 years. The tribe filed an application in February 2015 requesting the BIA place 60 acres of land in trust for a \$180 million casino and economic development project. The BIA published

a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in November 2018 followed by a public hearing and comment period.

The tribe has extensive historical ties to traditional land in the Muskegon region with Muskegon County being home to the Little River Band's largest population base. Muskegon County is also one of the Little River Band's service areas and the tribe has long maintained governmental offices in Muskegon to serve its large number of local members.

"The tribe plans to develop a casino on our traditional land in Muskegon County so we can serve our largest population of tribal citizens in our service area," said Tribal Council Speaker Ron Pete in a news release. "A casino in Muskegon County will enable the tribe to provide jobs, housing, health care, education and other services to our elders and youth. It will also provide a very positive economic impact for the Muskegon community."

The Little River Band's proposed gaming and economic development would include:

- Approximately 69,000 square feet of gaming floor space;
- 1,700 slot machines;
- 35 table games;
- 220-room hotel;
- Event and meeting room space; and
- Dining and entertainment options.

As part of the EIS, the BIA reviewed potential environmental impacts of the casino project, including land use, geology and soils, water resources, agricultural resources, biological resources, cultural resources, traffic, air quality, noise, public health/environmental hazards, hazardous material and waste, public services and socio-economics.

- Manistee News (Michigan)

## In landmark approval, BIA grants Coquille Tribe autonomy over its forest lands

A Native American tribe in Oregon has become the first in the U.S. to receive full authority to manage its forests.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs approved the Coquille Tribe's Indian Trust Asset Management Plan on Oct. 20. This grants it autonomy over its roughly 10,000 acres of trust forest land and resources...a first for any of the country's 574 federally-recognized tribes.

Mark Johnston is executive director for the Coquille Indian Tribe.

"We're just excited about the opportunity to be first," he told KLCC. We respect the burden that that creates going first because you better do it right or you'll mess it up for those folks that come behind you.

"And we know that we're not going to be the only tribe that considers this, because of the value from a sovereignty perspective."

Sovereignty — or self-governance — is a longstanding goal for tribes. And timber is an important resource for the Coquille. Johnston said annual revenues support key programs, including tribal healthcare and education.

In a release, Darin Jarnaghan, the Coquille Tribe's natural resources director, says removing the need for federal review of projects gives his team greater flexibility and efficiency. The work towards self-determination was enabled by the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act of 2016. It created a new pathway towards increased self-determination for tribes willing to undertake the "rigorous process of creating the management plan."

Until now, no other tribe has succeeded in meeting that challenge. Johnston credits the hard work of tribal members and leadership, in developing "responsible, sustainable forestry." The tribe has also been certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

- KLCC (Oregon)

## Tribes again ask federal judge to shut down Dakota Access Pipeline

American Indian tribes who oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline have again asked a federal judge to stop the flow of oil while the battle over the line's future plays out in several venues.

The Standing Rock Sioux and other tribes in the Dakotas succeeded on their first attempt, only to have an appeals court overturn U.S. District Judge James Boasberg's shutdown order earlier this year. Now, they're asking the judge to clarify his earlier ruling to satisfy the appellate judges and then order the line to cease operations.

The tribes argue that potential harm to their water supply outweighs any economic impacts of shutting down the line that's been moving North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois for more than three years.

"The Tribes are irreparably harmed by the ongoing operation of the pipeline, through the exposure to catastrophic risk, through the ongoing trauma of the government's refusal to comply with the law, and through undermining the Tribes' sovereign governmental role to protect their members and respond to potential disasters," attorneys Jan Hasselman and Nicole Ducheneaux wrote.

The Oct. 16 filing in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., came as the federal agency that permitted the pipeline was wrapping up a two-day public meeting to help determine the scope of an environmental study U.S. District Judge James Boasberg ordered in March.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers launched the study about a month ago. It's expected to take more than a year to complete, and will help determine whether the Corps reissues an easement for the pipeline's Missouri River crossing in

the Lake Oahe reservoir just north of the Standing Rock Reservation.

Tribes fear a spill into the river would pollute their water supply. Pipeline operator Energy Transfer and the Corps both maintain the pipeline is safe. Prolonged protests in 2016 and 2017 drew thousands of people to camps near the river crossing and resulted in hundreds of arrests.

"From the beginning of this litigation, the Tribes have sought to reinforce the centrality of Lake Oahe to their ceremonies, their economy, and their identity," Hasselman and Ducheneaux wrote.

Boasberg, who is overseeing the four-year-old lawsuit filed by the tribes, ordered the extensive environmental study last spring because he felt previous, less-extensive environmental analysis by the Corps left lingering questions. Boasberg in July revoked the easement that allows for the river crossing and ordered the pipeline shut down until its environmental soundness was proven. A federal appeals court allowed oil to keep flowing, however, ruling that Boasberg hadn't justified a shutdown. That same appeals court is now determining whether to uphold his decision regarding the study.

Tribes are asking Boasberg to issue an injunction while the legal fight plays out. A court-ordered injunction would prohibit Energy Transfer from operating the pipeline.

"With the pipeline now operating illegally, and the Corps poised to take no action, the case for suspending pipeline operations is even stronger," the tribal attorneys wrote. "DAPL has operated for nearly four years, generating hundreds of millions of dollars for its owners, while exposing the Tribes to catastrophic risk and ongoing trauma that have never been subject to the scrutiny that (federal law) requires."

U.S. Department of Justice spokeswoman Danielle Nichols declined comment Oct. 19 on the tribes' filing. The Corps and Energy Transfer have until Nov. 20 to file a formal response in court.

The Corps also could shut down the pipeline — and even order it removed. The line is now considered an "encroachment" on federal property because Boasberg revoked the easement. The agency is still determining how to address that, but Boasberg has said previously that he believes it is "unlikely" that the Corps will order the line shut down.

- Bismarck (N.D.)Tribune

## New Mexico tribal operators denounce 'reckless' racetrack gambling expansion plans

A squabble between New Mexico tribal casino operators and the state's racetracks escalated Oct. 19 after the tribes pushed back against proposed gambling expansion.

At a legislative hearing in Santa Fe, Stuart Paisano, Governor of Sandia Pueblo, said the plan would violate the tribe's exclusivity on casino gaming and threaten revenue-sharing deals with the state. The racing industry-backed plan would allow the tracks to offer unlimited slots, table games, online gambling, and sports betting around the clock.

"This proposed legislation presents not only a renewed challenge to our economic security, but a reckless attempt to expand private wealth at the expense of our ability to provide essential government services," Paisano said, as reported by the Associated Press.

Currently, each racetrack, or 'racino,' is restricted to just 600 slots and can remain open for no more than 18 hours per day, or 122 hours per week.

Meanwhile, most of New Mexico's tribal operators signed fresh compacts with the state in 2015, which directs them to share between 2 and 10.5 percent of revenues, depending on the size of those revenues, in return for regional exclusivity.

The casinos are the economic lifeblood of the tribes, and many remain closed because of the coronavirus pandemic. But the tracks are also struggling financially, and were so even before the pandemic hit. They argue gambling expansion is necessary to save New Mexico's racing industry.

Under the tracks' proposal, the state would scrap tribal revenue-share payments and collect more money in taxes from the expanded commercial ventures.

A 2019 Union Gaming Analytics study claimed the state could generate an extra \$62 million in tax revenues from racinos, should they be permitted to offer full-blown casino gaming.

If online gaming revenue is added to the mix, that could jump to about \$75 million. Ethan Linder, director of marketing for Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino, told The Santa Fe New Mexican last month.

For now, the tribes do not want to give up their hard-won compacts, less so their exclusivity. But some lawmakers are clearly taken with the plan, especially as the state looks for ways to heal its post-Covid economy.

Democratic Rep. Antonio Maestas of Albuquerque, chair of the legislative economic and rural development committee, told the Associated Press it was a subject at least "deserving of conversation." He added that the pandemic would force the state to take difficult measures to protect the economy.

But while lawmakers acknowledged the potential tax benefits of the proposal, there were calls for more research to better understand its impact on the state budget and tribal communities.

- casino.org

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# Education

B

## Jim Allen inducted into business hall of fame at Nova Southeastern University

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Jim Allen received another accolade for his 40-year gaming industry career Oct. 26.

In a virtual event, the chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming was inducted into Nova Southeastern University's 2020 Entrepreneur and Business Hall of Fame, along with two other South Florida business leaders. The hall of fame is part of the school's H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship, named after the late owner of the Dolphins, Marlins and Panthers and founder of Waste Management and AutoNation.

"I'm the type of person who doesn't like a lot of recognition, but it truly is an honor to be nominated for this award," Allen said after being inducted. "I knew Mr. Huizenga; he was a neighbor. I always respected his career path, his success and what he has done for South Florida and NSU. His philanthropic efforts were truly amazing. I will always cherish being involved with something with his name on it."

Allen is responsible for all gaming, hospitality and entertainment operations of the Seminole Tribe. He joined the tribe in 2001, led its acquisition of Hard Rock International in 2007 and since then has expanded Hard Rock's global presence from 46 to 76 countries.

"He has done more to positively affect the tourist industry in Broward County, Florida and the world," said Charles L. Palmer, chairman of NSU's board of trustees and president and CEO of North American Co. LLC, who introduced a video about Allen. "With a steady hand and calm demeanor, he is steering the company through this pandemic."

The video highlighted Allen's life and career, from working in a pizza restaurant to leading Hard Rock International. He was determined to work his way up in the hospitality industry. He started in the Bally's management program in Atlantic City. He also worked at the Trump Organization, Hilton Hotels & Resorts, Hemmeter Companies, Park Place Entertainment and Sun International Resorts.

"My career path was driven by a belief that life doesn't come to you, you have to go to life," he said in the video.

In his acceptance speech, given via Zoom, he said when he went to work for the tribe he saw the contract with the Hard Rock was not favorable to the tribe. He told them they could renegotiate it or buy the company outright. The rest is history.

His style of working is to stay measured and not get too emotional.

"Never get too excited when things are good or when things aren't," Allen said. "Be a good listener and try not to react with emotions."

The pandemic has thrown a wrench into most businesses, Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming included. To help employees get through the closing of properties, the company distributed \$4.4 million in grocery store gift cards to about 22,000 team members in the U.S. and Canada.

"One of my proudest moments was in the pandemic, we stepped up for our employees," Allen said. "When they realized we were looking out for them, it hits you hard in a good way."

The other inductees in the Hall of Fame were Dan Doyle Jr., CEO of DEX Imaging Inc. and Kristin Johnson, CEO of Hotwire Communications.

Dr. George Hanbury, president and



Hard Rock International Chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen

CEO of NSU, talked about the university's core values, which are academic excellence, student centered, integrity, innovation, opportunity, scholarship/research, diversity and community.

"The people we honor tonight epitomize those core values," Hanbury said. "They are all business leaders, philanthropists, humanitarians and they all give back to the community. This award is one to be coveted."

Andrew Rosman, dean of the Huizenga College of Business, posed questions for the

inductees in a live panel discussion following the induction ceremony, which was attended by 384 people. The first question was about what the pandemic meant to the inductees' companies.

"The first thing was the significance of how we felt about our employees and their families," Allen said. "We knew this would cost millions of dollars and lost revenue, but we are proud of what we were able to do. It was also an opportunity to revisit our business and we came out a little leaner. We took a second look at the efficiency of the business for the long term."

What were the most important management and leadership skills prior to Covid and will they be the same in a post-Covid world?

As a global company, Allen said HRI had to close European locations months ago and were able to reopen them. Now they may need to close again.

"A crisis always brings out the best in great managers and we are proud of what it brought out in them," Allen said. "If you have to close down again, it affects morale. We have to wear a mask and do the right thing until a vaccine is available."

The inductees were asked about who inspired them in their careers. Allen mentioned both good and not-so-good leaders who inspired him.

"No doubt there were people who inspired me, but I also think you learn through leaders who don't do things the way you would," he said. "It is a combination of recognizing a person who is willing to be a mentor and tough it out when your boss doesn't do that. It's important to have someone who gives you a shot, but also to work for people who don't treat you the way you would do it. The most important thing is not to give up."

Allen stressed the importance of balance.

"I don't do a good job at this, but there needs to be a balance of community, family, spiritual connection, career and loved ones who matter most," he said. "If you don't have balance, you could wind up being in a situation where you question if it was worth it. Stop, smell the roses, pursue life and your dreams, but find the balance."

When asked about structural changes to the industry as a result of Covid, Allen said he doesn't expect live concert events until late 2021 or early 2022. Restaurants are a challenge; Hard Rock Cafes are in cities all around the world. Regional gaming markets are doing well, but Las Vegas, Macau and Singapore are challenged. Hotel business is down.

"It's a mixed bag," Allen said. "There are some benefits to employees working at home, but working as teams and in groups is not as good on WebEx or Skype. But we will take the next steps, be optimistic and move forward."

The hardest business decision Allen ever made can't be described in a single incident, but he adheres to certain principles.

"Be a good listener, never react in an overly negative or positive way, be humble and know life will throw curve balls at us on a daily or weekly basis," he said.

Allen's business ethic is simple and fits in well with HRI's motto: Love All-Serve All. Take Time to Be Kind, Save The Planet and All Is One.

"Always start with being humble, work hard, be patient, persistent and polite," he said. "Giving back to others brings as much reward as the material things and is more important than net worth. Never give up."

## FIU Global Indigenous Forum focuses on preserving Native identities; features Seminole, Miccosukee speakers

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Like so many other events in 2020, Indigenous People's Week was celebrated online instead of in person. Florida International University's Global Indigenous Forum held two virtual events that touched on what it takes to preserve Native identities.

In the first event, held Oct. 12 via Zoom, language was described as being the key to a culture's survival. The second, held Oct. 14, screened films about the Japanese Ainu people's culture and crafts, including a conversation with a woman who visited the Seminole Tribe.

**First event: Our Talk, Our Land: Indigenous Languages, Identities and Social Justice**

Rev. Houston Cypress, of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, was the event host. Cypress opened the session and noted the poetry, rhythm and rhyme of the Mikasuki, or Elaponce, language.

"It's important to maintain the sacred aspect of our language by keeping it to ourselves as much as possible," Cypress said. "We don't teach it to outsiders because they aren't prepared to take the responsibility involved in being Miccosukee."

During the program, speakers explained how their people connected language to identity and the consequences of trying to keep their cultures alive. Miccosukee tribal member Betty Osceola teaches language and identity to young people by using origin stories.

"The Elaponce language was given to us by the breath maker to communicate with him and all of his creations on earth," Osceola said. "In order for a language to survive, it has to be spoken. Language is a living thing and you must embody it in your everyday life. Language defines who we are and ties us to everything."

Ceremonies and stories that teach how to be a good caretaker of the earth are passed down from generation to generation in Elaponce.

"As an educator, it's important to teach it," Osceola said. "It isn't just learning letters and words; it's using our oral teaching to help them understand who they are. I'm proud to share that knowledge with my students."

Osceola doesn't limit her teaching to inside four walls; she often teaches outside in nature.

"The earth is my classroom," she said. "I find that helps students connect and learn the language and how we use the Everglades. Nature is your best teacher; you are more likely to remember what you learned during profound teaching moments in nature."

Osceola says she has one foot in each world. She went to an American school, but spoke only Elaponce at home after school. Home is a valid teaching setting as is the Miccosukee culture center, where tribal members speak the language while making patchwork and other crafts.

"As a woman, I can pass on my clan to my children," said Althea Frye, director of the Miccosukee Advertising and Promotions. "Clans are proof of who we are. I can talk about the history of the Miccosukee, but only if I know the language can I know the culture. Language is the only other thing I can pass along to my children."

Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie advocates for reclaiming Indigenous knowledge and hosts a two-spirit discussion group on Zoom.

"Before European contact, our people had distinct ideas of how we relate to each other," Blais-Billie said. "Colonial language perpetuates colonial ideas in our everyday lives. Matrilineal clans and the role of women are sacred in our society. There is no word in Elaponce or Creek for non-binary or two spirit individuals that describe gender variant people. But we have fully embraced the Indian term two-spirit."

Traditionally, two-spirit individuals weren't "others." Blais-Billie explained that the Creator sees them as valuable to the community and not as separate from it.

"They are valued on the basis of their contribution to the tribe," she said.

Shinako Oyakawa, from Okinawa, Japan, began her presentation by giving a brief history of her home in the Ryukyu Islands, which are located between Japan and Taiwan. The northern most island of the chain is Okinawa.

The Ryukyu kingdom lasted from 1429 to 1879 and played a central role in Asian trade. Japan annexed the islands in 1879. Okinawa was occupied by the U.S.

from the end of WWII until 1972, but U.S. military bases remain. Residents believe crime, noise and pollution are a direct result of the bases.

Some Okinawans are descendants of the original Ryukyuan people. An Indigenous movement in Okinawa is active, Oyakawa said.

"We have a history of being an independent nation," she said. "We the Indigenous Okinawan people have the right to our lands. Less than five percent of our young people speak our language. Everyone learns Japanese and English, they are mandatory. We never have a chance to learn our own language."

Oyakawa claims the Japanese government doesn't recognize them as Indigenous people and believes their language is a dialect of the Japanese language. She noted that in the last 20 years the Indigenous movement has grown.

"People want to express their feelings; it was taboo 20 years ago," Oyakawa said. "Now we speak more freely."

Maria-Luisa Veisaga, a professor at the FIU Global Indigenous Forum, is an Indigenous Quechua from Bolivia. There are many regional varieties of Quechua, the language of the Inca Empire. Quechuan speakers live in the Andes in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina.

"Through language we express our human interactions and thoughts, but there is discrimination of those speakers," Veisaga said. "With the establishment of the colonial order, we were never again Quechua. They called us Indians or Indigenous. We were forced to change our language."

The consequences of being denied access to their language was disastrous for the Quechua people and resulted in poverty, discrimination and the government taking their lands. Today there are some schools that teach the language.

"Children resisted learning the language of their families to avoid discrimination," Veisaga said. "We must fight for our rights."

Margaret Noodin (Ojibwe) is an associate professor of English and Indian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She teaches language and created a website to teach children Anishinaabemowin, the Ojibwe language.

"I learned the language when I was older, but I heard it as a child which made it easier to learn," she said. "I use poetry, stories and songs to teach it."

Noodin is a co-founder and a primary contributor to ojibwe.net, a site that promotes and teaches the language through lessons, songs, stories and projects.

**Second event: Ainu My Voice**

The Ainu are the other Indigenous people in Japan. They live in the northern islands of the country and like the Okinawans further south, have suffered discrimination. The documentary "Ainu My Voice" was shown during the virtual event.



Betty Osceola, left, and Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie were guest speakers at Florida International University's Global Indigenous Forum in October.



Courtesy photos

The film focuses on Rie Kayano, who loved to sing and dance in the Ainu tradition as a child, but was made fun of by classmates in elementary school. Like other Ainu children, she was forced by the government to assimilate. In the film, Kayano said the Ainu culture and language faced annihilation, but stories and songs rescued it.

She moved to Sapporo to attend university on an Ainu scholarship, joined a band that sang traditional folk songs and committed to re-learning her culture. But motherhood and marriage put her aspirations on the back burner. Then she had an opportunity to visit the Seminole Tribe, which changed everything for her.

Blais-Billie met Kayano during a cultural exchange in Sapporo a few weeks before the visit. Kayano wanted to see how the Seminoles lived and spent time with Blais-Billie in Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood. When she checked into the Guitars Hotel in Hollywood, she was greeted by a welcome sign in the lobby. She met with Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. at headquarters, who told her to stay vigilant and she will be able to achieve whatever she sets her mind to.

Kayano visited Pemayetv Emahkv Charter School in Brighton and was impressed with the immersion program. Emma Johns, PECS dean, told her the tribe is fighting to preserve the culture and language.

"It seems like a distant dream, but it can be done," Johns said in the film. "What you saw today was proof. But it takes people like you to know that and carry it forward."

At Billie Swamp Safari, Blais-Billie showed her the sites and told Kayano she admired her for persevering in her mission to save Ainu culture.

"Everything you do on this earth touches everyone more than you can imagine," Blais-Billie said.

Kayano said the visit with the Seminoles gave her the confidence to share her Ainu heritage, which she will do to honor her ancestors and help rebuild her society. When she returned home, Kayano wrote a song about her visit. Blais-Billie's words resonated with her and made their way into the song.

"All that you do is not only your will but the will of your ancestors. Your ancestors will surely be pleased if you make their



Courtesy photo

Shinako Oyakawa, from Japan, was part of the FIU Global Indigenous Forum discussion Oct. 12 on Zoom.

# Arizona State's law school starts Indian gaming and self-governance programs

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Indian gaming and self-governance – two areas that carry plenty of significance for tribes throughout Indian Country – are the focus of new programs launched by Arizona State University.

The programs — described by the school as the first of its kind — are offered by ASU's Indian Legal Program (ILP) at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

The programs offer a focused degree in the master of legal studies and master of laws. The programs are designed to provide students with a foundation to pursue careers in Indian gaming or tribal self-governance, such as executive positions with tribes and tribal entities, tribal elected officials and other leadership or management roles in government.

"Tribes and other employers are investing resources in on-the-job training

because these focused master's degree programs are not offered by any other law school in the country," said Lawrence Roberts, who is heading up the program with Ann Marie Bledsoe-Downes; both served in leadership roles in the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs in former President Barack Obama's administration. "Our graduates will be able to hit the ground running, saving both time and resources for a broad spectrum of employers – tribes, federal agencies, congressional staff and state agencies. We're building off of more than 30 years of excellence at the ILP and this is another step to further that excellence."

Roberts, the programs' full-time executive director and professor of practice, is a citizen of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin. In addition to his work in the Obama administration, he previously served as general counsel of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

Bledsoe-Downes, director of the

programs and professor of practice, is an enrolled member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. She is executive vice president of community impact and engagement at Ho-Chunk Inc. She previously served as deputy assistant secretary for policy and economic development in the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs and as the acting director of the Bureau of Indian Education.

Students will be part of ASU Law's broader ILP community that includes dozens of Native students from tribes across the country. In addition to Indian gaming and self-governance, the ILP offers focus areas of specialized study in Indian law, tribal policy law and government.

"ASU is a very fine institution that has spread a lot of good will, energy and education to Indian Country and received from Indian Country," said National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernest Stevens Jr. "Our tribal gaming industry houses a powerhouse of expertise and knowledge. It's an honor to work with ASU

Law to help develop a solid and successful degree program."

The Indian gaming aspect provides in-depth courses for students on the industry's regulation, compliance and implementation. With revenue of nearly \$34 billion in 2018 – according to the National Indian Gaming Commission – and providing employment to hundreds of thousands of workers, Indian gaming has a significant impact on economies, including at the local and state levels. In Florida, for example, a study released by the American Gaming Association in 2018 showed that tribal gaming added \$6.1 billion to the state's economy, supported nearly 46,000 jobs and generated more than \$1.1 billion in state, federal and local taxes and revenue share payments. The Seminole Tribe of Florida owns six casinos in Florida, including Hard Rock venues in Hollywood and Tampa.

The self-governance program is designed to educate students in understanding the legal framework of

the tribal-federal relationship, the federal programs and statutes associated with tribal self-governance and the implementation of that legal framework.

"Tribes are implementing a number of federal programs through self-governance," Roberts said. "Our focused degree programs are tailored for professionals who work in this area to really understand the fundamentals of tribal sovereignty and the federal statutes that promote tribal self-governance."

Students can attend classes full or part-time, in person or online and at ASU Law's campuses in Phoenix and Washington, D.C., and in the future, Los Angeles.

"We're excited about our existing partnerships with the National Indian Gaming Association and the Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium to provide our students with the insights they'll need to land their dream jobs," Roberts said.

## Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students of the month - September 2020



## Federal grants expand education options for Native American students

STAFF REPORT

The U.S. Department of Education announced 40 new federal grant awards totaling \$24 million to expand education options for American Indian and Alaska native students.

The grants, announced Oct. 1 by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, are geared toward helping Native American communities with a variety of education options and services including additional course options, apprenticeships, tutoring and other programs. The Accessing Choices in Education (ACE) grant funds are critical to both rural and urban tribal communities who are often faced with limited choices.

"All too often, Native American students do not have access to high quality education options tailored to meet their needs, culture, heritage and ambitions," DeVos said in a statement. "We developed the ACE grants to empower tribes to expand options for students, so they can then select the courses, services and on-the-job learning experiences that are the right fit for them. I am hopeful that by empowering tribes and the students they serve with more options for their education, we will see improved outcomes."

The ACE funding will support activities such as culturally relevant career exploration, skills development, on-the-job training, hands on learning with a focus on

STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math), counseling and mentorships, family engagement and test preparation.

An ACE proposal was required to include more than one education option from which parents and students may choose including; advanced, remedial or elective courses (including online); apprenticeships or training programs; concurrent or dual enrollment options; native language, history or culture courses; supplemental counseling services; tuition; summer or afterschool education programs and student transportation needed for those programs; and many other education related services the tribe determines are needed in its community.

Grantees were also required to set up a parent feedback process and respond to parent requests for specific services not offered throughout implementation of the project. ACE grants cover three years, with an additional two years of support available if the project is achieving success. Grantees may use up to the first year of the grant for planning, such as hiring personnel, securing service providers and developing a method to collect parent feedback.

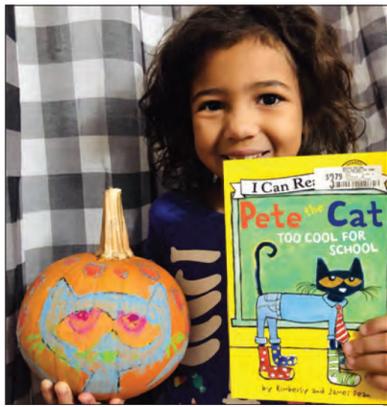
The full list of awards is scheduled to be available on this website: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-indian-education/demonstration-grants-for-indian-children/>.

## PECS' Pumpkins on Parade

Students at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School on the Brighton Reservation celebrated Halloween with the Pumpkins on Parade event. Students were asked to choose a favorite character from a book and decorate a pumpkin as that character. The students showed great enthusiasm for the project.



Courtesy photo  
Zayden Pewo- Pumpkin Book Character: Batman



Courtesy photo  
Arrow Johns (Herake is her Creek name) - Pumpkin Book Character: Pete the Cat



Courtesy photo  
Cassie Pearce- Pumpkin Book Character: The Teacher From the Black Lagoon



Courtesy photo  
Daniel Nunez- Pumpkin Book Character: Pete the Cat



Courtesy photo  
Dyani Kayda- Pumpkin Book Character: Harry Potter



Courtesy photo  
Isabella Virto- Pumpkin Book Character: Pete the Cat



Courtesy photo  
Madeline Solis- Pumpkin Book Character: Madeline



Courtesy photos  
Mahala Bishop- Pumpkin Book Character: My Little Pony.



Marley Jimmie- Pumpkin Book Character: The Unicorn in the Barn

# Seminole Trail community celebrates Indian Day



Raffles



Morgan Bert



Virginia Osceola



Sally Osceola



Sadrilynn Tiger

The Seminole Trail Community celebrated Indian Day in late September with arts and crafts contests, raffles, food and prizes. Among the contest winners were Morgan Bert, Sally Osceola, Virginia Osceola and Sadrilynn Tiger. Due to the pandemic, this year's celebration was greatly scaled back compared to previous years.

## National Book Award finalists include book about dispossession of Native Americans

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The finalists for the 2020 National Book Awards, one of the country's top literary contests, includes a book about the removal of Native Americans from their land in the Southeastern U.S. in the 1830s.

"Unworthy Republic: The Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to Indian Territory," written by University of Georgia professor of American history Claudio Saunt, chronicles how the U.S. launched a national policy – the Indian Removal Act – to expel Native Americans from their land east of the Mississippi River.

As described on Amazon.com, the book "reveals how expulsion became national policy and describes the chaotic and deadly results of the operation to deport 80,000 men, women, and children. The Indian Removal Act was a fiercely contested political act designed to secure new lands for the expansion of slavery and to consolidate the power of the southern states. Indigenous peoples fought relentlessly against the policy, while many U.S. citizens insisted that it was a betrayal of the nation's values. When Congress passed the act by a razor-thin margin, it authorized one of the first state-sponsored mass deportations in the modern era, marking a turning point for native peoples and for the United States."

The book is one of five finalists in the nonfiction category and was chosen from 609 other entries. Other finalists in the category are Karla Cornejo Villavicencio, "The Undocumented Americans;" Les Payne and Tamara Payne, "The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X;" Jenn Shapland, "My Autobiography of Carson McCullers;" and Jerald Walker, "How to Make a Slave and Other Essays."

More than 1,600 books competed for the awards in five categories including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, translated literature and young people's literature. One winner will be chosen from each category. Winners will be announced Nov. 18 at the 71st National Book Awards Ceremony, which will be streamed online on YouTube and at nationalbook.org.

The National Book Awards was founded in 1950 to honor books, champion the work of writers, promote discourse in American culture and celebrate literary excellence.

The mission of the National Book Foundation, which oversees the awards, is to celebrate the best literature in America, expand its audience and ensure that books have a prominent place in American culture.

## NCAI convention to be held online Nov. 8-13

STAFF REPORT

The National Congress of American Indians' 77th annual Convention and Marketplace will be held virtually Nov. 8-13.

Topics on the agenda include:

- large land base tribal nations
- addiction
- violence against women
- tribal border
- data management
- climate action
- post-election Native vote
- community reinvestment
- communications for tribal government
- census
- economic recovery
- tax and finance
- school mascots
- FEMA and Covid-19

NCAI President Fawn Sharp is scheduled to give the president's address on Nov. 9 at 10:15 a.m.

The convention was originally scheduled to be held in Portland, Oregon, but NCAI announced in August that it would be held virtually.

For more information and to register visit [ncai.org](http://ncai.org).

## Navajo Thaw project wins federal grant to support Navajo entrepreneurs

FROM PRESS RELEASE

TUBA CITY, Ariz. — A \$150,000 federal grant to provide business planning and entrepreneurship training for Navajo entrepreneurs has been granted to Navajo Thaw, an extensive economic development plan to address the long-term impacts of the "Bennett Freeze" and the forced relocation eras of Navajo history.

The funds, awarded through the USDA Rural Business Development Grant program, will support Navajo entrepreneurs and

existing businesses in the 10-chapter region. Moonshot at NACET, an entrepreneurial development program based in Flagstaff, will provide services under the grant.

"We are so pleased to be a part of the Navajo Thaw effort to bring business planning and entrepreneurial services to our neighbors, the Navajo people," said Moonshot President and CEO Scott Hathcock.

Navajo Thaw is a response to the Bennett Freeze, a 43-year development ban on 1.5 million acres of Navajo land imposed by the

federal government for the stated purpose of promoting negotiations to resolve a land dispute between the Navajo and Hopi. After decades of economic devastation, the freeze was lifted in 2009. When regional efforts to revitalize the area began last year, all participating chapters indicated an interest in entrepreneurial development.

Participants in the program will identify business development opportunities, conduct research to understand the marketplace and their potential niche, create financial spreadsheets and projections,

gather information on business development resources and, if desired, start business operations.

Navajo Thaw is supported by Native Builders LLC, a Priority 1 Navajo company; Building Communities, a national economic development strategic planning company; and was launched under the leadership of Navajo President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer. The Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office (NHLCO) is the lead organization for the overall Navajo Thaw project.

# Hollywood Indian Day contest results

**Beading (18-35)**

1st: Kenzie Motlow  
2nd: Renee Stivers  
3rd: Le'andra Mora

**Beading (36-59)**

1st: Mercedes Osceola  
2nd: Cassandra Jones

**Beading (60+)**

1st: Loretta Micco  
2nd: Donna Frank  
3rd: Virginia Osceola

**Patchwork (18-35)**

1st: Courtney Osceola  
2nd: Kurya Kippenberger  
3rd: Tasha Osceola

**Patchwork (36-59)**

1st: Mercedes Osceola  
2nd: Cassandra Jones  
3rd: Rachel Ann Billie

**Patchwork (60+)**

1st: Loretta Micco  
2nd: Virginia Osceola  
3rd: Wanda Lee Billie

**Seminole Clothing (18-35)**

1st: Tasha Osceola  
2nd: Courtney Osceola  
3rd: Kurya Kippenberger

**Seminole Clothing (36-59)**

1st: Melissa DeMayo  
2nd: Mercedes Osceola  
3rd: Allison Osceola

**Seminole Clothing (60+)**

1st: Virginia Osceola

**Woodcarving (18-35)**

1st: Francisco Rodriguez  
2nd: Anthony Gentry

**Woodcarving (36-59)**

1st: Robert B. Frank  
2nd: Kyle Doney

**Woodcarving (60+)**

1st: Jimmy Osceola

**Palmetto Doll (18-35)**

1st: Tatiana Herrera  
2nd: Courtney Osceola  
3rd: Tyra Baker

**Palmetto Doll (36-59)**

1st: Cassandra Jones  
2nd: Mercedes Osceola

**Palmetto Doll (60+)**

1st: Wanda Lee Billie  
2nd: Loretta Micco  
3rd: Agnes Billie-Motlow

**Baskets (18-35)**

1st: Kiana Bell  
2nd: Tianna Garcia  
3rd: Elena Jim

**Baskets (36-59)**

1st: Cassandra Jones  
2nd: Tina Devito  
3rd: Mercedes Osceola

**Baskets (60+)**

1st: Donna Frank  
2nd: Loretta Micco  
3rd: Virginia Osceola

**Clothing Old Style (female 18-35)**

1st: Dixie Tommie  
2nd: Tasha Osceola  
3rd: Talia Rodriguez

**Clothing Traditional (female 18-35)**

1st: Tasha Osceola  
2nd: Dixie Tommie  
3rd: Aria Osceola

**Clothing Modern (female 18-35)**

1st: Dixie Tommie  
2nd: Tasha Osceola  
3rd: Aria Osceola

**Clothing Contemporary (female 18-35)**

1st: Talia Rodriguez  
2nd: Tasha Osceola  
3rd: Aria Osceola

**Clothing Old Style (male 18-35)**

1st: Hunter Osceola

**Clothing Modern (male 18-35)**

1st: Hunter Osceola

**Clothing Contemporary (male 18-35)**

1st: Chief Charlie Jumper Osceola

**Clothing Old Style (female 36-59)**

1st: Virginia Garcia Sanders  
2nd: Thomasine Motlow  
3rd: Mercedes Osceola

**Clothing Traditional (female 36-59)**

1st: Alexandra Tommie  
2nd: Mercedes Osceola

**Clothing Modern (female 36-59)**

1st: Mercedes Osceola

**Clothing Contemporary (female 36-59)**

1st: Mercedes Osceola  
2nd: Thomasine Motlow

**Clothing Old Style (male 36-59)**

1st: Marl Osceola  
2nd: Kyle Doney

**Clothing Traditional (male 36-59)**

1st: Kyle Doney

**Clothing Contemporary (male 36-59)**

1st: Marl Osceola

**Clothing Old Style (female 60+)**

1st: Virginia Osceola  
2nd: Wanda Lee Billie  
3rd: Agnes Billie-Motlow

**Clothing Traditional (female 60+)**

1st: Wanda Lee Billie  
2nd: Virginia Osceola  
3rd: Agnes Billie-Motlow

**Clothing Contest Modern (female 60+)**

1st: Virginia Osceola  
2nd: Agnes Billie-Motlow

**Clothing Contest Contemporary (female 60+)**

1st: Virginia Osceola  
2nd: Wanda Lee Billie  
3rd: Agnes Billie-Motlow

**Clothing Traditional (male 60+)**

1st: Mingo Jones

**Clothing Modern (male 60+)**

1st: Mingo Jones

**Clothing Contemporary (male 60+)**

1st: Mingo Jones



Donna Frank - 1st place Baskets (60+)

SMP



Tasha Osceola - 1st place Seminole Clothing (18-35)

SMP



Courtney Osceola - 1st place Patchwork (18-35)

SMP



Loretta Micco - 1st place Beading (60+)

SMP



Loretta Micco - 1st place Patchwork (60+)

SMP



Kyle Doney - 1st place Clothing Traditional (male 35-59)

SMP



Dixie Tommie - 1st place Clothing Modern (female 18-35)

SMP



Tatiana Herrera - 1st place Palmetto Doll (18-35)

SMP



Wanda Lee Billie - 1st place Palmetto Doll (60+)

SMP



Jimmy Osceola - 1st place Woodcarving (60+)

SMP



Virginia Osceola - 1st place Clothing Old Style (60+)

SMP



Francisco Rodriguez - 1st place Woodcarving (18-35)

SMP



Kenzie Motlow - 1st place Beading (18-35)

SMP



Kiana Bell - 1st place Baskets (18-35)

SMP

Photos by Martin Ebenhack and Carlos Fuentes

# Sports



## Strong season ends for Okeechobee as Brahmans look toward promising future

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**SOUTHWEST RANCHES** — After one final team huddle and a last “one, two, three, ‘Chobee’” cheer, the Okeechobee High School volleyball team said goodbye to a season like no other.

The Brahmans were swept by host Archbishop McCarthy High School on Oct. 21 in a Class 5A regional quarterfinal in Broward County’s Southwest Ranches. The scores were 25-20, 25-12, 25-19.

Due to transportation issues, including poor weather and heavy traffic, Okeechobee’s bus arrived at the McCarthy gym just two minutes before the 7 p.m. scheduled start. The team was allowed to warm up and the match started 30 minutes late.

Regardless of the late arrival and the match’s outcome, Okeechobee was just grateful to have had a season to play and an FHSAA postseason to compete in, which came seven months after the high school spring sports season abruptly ceased as the Covid-19 pandemic began its grip on Florida and the rest of the U.S.

“I’m just happy we got to have a season,” said Okeechobee coach Taylor Padrick. “I’m glad people went out of their way to make sure it happened because I know that there was talk about it being shut down completely. Super thankful we got to have a season, even if it was brief.”

“It was good; it was just kind of off because of Covid. It kind of threw everything off, but it was all right,” said junior Elle Thomas, the only Seminole on this year’s varsity squad.

Despite the obstacles posed by the pandemic, the Brahmans made the most of their time on the court as they finished with a winning record (9-6), which included six shutouts, earned runner-up in their district and a spot in the regional quarterfinals. Most importantly, they made it through the season healthy while the pandemic continues its global presence.

“It was very weird,” said Padrick, who completed her eighth season at the helm of



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee's Elle Thomas delivers a serve in a Class 5A regional quarterfinal against Archbishop McCarthy on Oct. 21 in Southwest Ranches.

the squad. “I’m glad nobody got sick. I’m glad we did all the precautionary things. I think at the beginning nobody really knew what was going to happen, and as the season went on and we got used to what was happening it kind of became normalish.”

Camaraderie on the bench was far different compared to normal seasons. Usually players scrunch together as they loudly cheer for their teammates, but social distancing guidance meant chairs were lined up in two rows with no one sitting within touching distance of each other.

“We had to be so far away from everyone, so you can’t be as excited,” Thomas said.

Additionally, in the McCarthy match just about everyone in the gym, except the players, wore masks. Those who covered up included the approximately 40 spectators and all four officials.

On the court, Okeechobee endured a slow start losing the first four points in game

one before freshman Sydney Matthews, a former Pemaaytv Emahkv Charter School student and the younger sister of current Florida Southern College player Raley Matthews, settled the Brahmans down with a kill and three consecutive service points. McCarthy reeled off five straight points to take a 16-11 lead and went on to win by five.

Game two was the only one that wasn’t close. McCarthy built a 17-5 lead on its way to taking a 2-0 lead in games.

Faced with the 2-0 deficit, a two-hour bus ride back home and school the next day, Okeechobee could have easily let its season end quietly, but the Brahmans dug down and gamely fought to keep their season alive in game three. Seven times the Brahmans pulled to within a point of McCarthy, but each time McCarthy answered with a kill or ace to maintain its lead, eventually pulling away late to complete the sweep and up its record to 8-2 heading into the regional semifinals.

Okeechobee played from behind nearly all night and never got into an offensive rhythm of winning more than four consecutive points.

For health reasons, there were no traditional hand-slaps between the teams at the net before or after the match, only a few nods of the head in each other’s direction from afar.

Okeechobee can build on its learning experiences from the match and the season. The team loses three seniors (Mattie Garcia, Piper Hans and Jessie Lashley), but will return a strong core of eight players from the class of 2022, including Thomas.

“We’ll be senior-heavy next year, and they’re going to be solid,” Padrick said.

Thomas, a versatile player who can play up front or in the back, will be one of the senior leaders.

“Elle is great,” Padrick said. “She’s got a great attitude. She’s super determined. Recently, she’s not playing in the front row, but she nails that back line and does a great job defending. She has a fire that she gets excited and she gets the girls excited. She’s good. I’m glad she’ll be back next year.”



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee's Jaclyn Pearce sets the ball as Elle Thomas gets ready for a kill attempt in a Class 5A regional quarterfinal against Archbishop McCarthy on Oct. 21 in Southwest Ranches.



Courtesy photo

Silas Madrigal, a 2020 Okeechobee High School graduate, is continuing his academic and basketball career at North Park University in Chicago. He is shown here with North Park coach Tom Slyder.

## From Okeechobee to Chicago, Silas Madrigal adjusting to college basketball, big city

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

After an outstanding basketball career at Okeechobee High School, Silas Madrigal was determined to keep playing, even if it meant going far from home and to a place that isn’t exactly known for the kind of rural vibe he’s accustomed to.

Chicago and Okeechobee both border large bodies of water, but that’s about the only similarity they share.

Madrigal, son of Letty and Howard Madrigal, is a Seminole tribal member who grew up in Okeechobee and attended Pemaaytv Emahkv Charter School on the Brighton Reservation before going to OHS. Since August, he has been in the Windy City attending North Park University, a private Christian school with an enrollment of 3,200. The school is located on Chicago’s North Side, within five miles of Wrigley Field and the shores of Lake Michigan.

“It definitely is a lot to take in, but I got the hang of things quite fast and it has been fun,” Madrigal said in an email to The Seminole Tribune. “I have been able to visit parts of the city. I have been to Lake Michigan and I have even seen The Bean (a 100-ton stainless steel structure shaped like a bean and popular with tourists).”

The North Park basketball program has a rich history on the court that includes five national titles at the Division III level.

How did a kid who grew up in Okeechobee — population about 5,600 — land in the country’s third largest city with a population of 2.6 million?

“I ended up in Chicago basically by getting in contact with the men’s basketball coach and later after I researched a little about the school I wanted to go there,” Madrigal said.

So far, so good. Madrigal lives in a dorm on campus and has quickly settled into his new home thanks a warm welcome from the school.

“I really like how nice and helpful the staff and student body were during my first few days,” he said.

It’s no surprise that playing at the collegiate level includes high-octane practices, which suits Madrigal just fine.

“The practices here are definitely more intense than at OHS. We’re always yelling and communicating on the floor and push each other more when we’re running or learning new plays both on offense and defense,” he said.

Madrigal, who brought plenty of energy at both ends of the court while helping lead OHS to two straight district championships, said he hopes he can provide a spark to the team when needed.

“As a freshman I believe I will have a role of bringing that energy to the floor when it comes time to play,” he said.

In his senior year at OHS, Madrigal, a guard, led the Brahmans in scoring (10.8 ppg) and three-pointers (45). He was one of the main reasons the team compiled a sizzling 49-8 record the past two seasons.

The start of North Park’s season, which would normally be in early November, has been delayed due to the pandemic. The team plays most of its games in Illinois; last season it had a few games in Michigan and Wisconsin.

As for academics, Madrigal initially planned to be a sports management major but now is considering exercise science.

The Floridian has been warned about Chicago’s winter weather and he’s prepared. “I have been told about how cold the weather can get,” he said, “but it’s okay because I like the cold weather.”

## FGCU Athletics names Jeremy Boreland chief diversity and inclusion

STAFF REPORT

**FORT MYERS** — Jeremy Boreland, Florida Gulf Coast University’s assistant athletics director for business development, has an additional title. Boreland will also serve as the Eagles’ chief diversity and inclusion officer, the school announced Oct. 7.

“Jeremy has done a phenomenal job in taking a leadership role for us focusing on diversity and inclusion initiatives,” said Ken Kavanagh, FGCU director of athletics. “He has created strong relationships with student-athletes, coaches and staff which helps us understand and enhance what we do in terms of not only diversity and inclusion efforts but also social justice and equality projects that we hope will have long-lasting positive effects.”

Boreland will serve as the point person for coordination between the Athletics Diversity and Inclusion Committee (ADIC)

as well as the Minority Leadership Group and the student-athlete body.

“It is an honor to work with our student-athletes and these standing committees to help FGCU be a leader in each of these areas,” Boreland said. “Having worked with both the committee groups and then witnessing what our student-athletes want to accomplish to make the community better for all is inspiring and humbling.”

This marks the sixth year for Boreland at FGCU after joining the department in 2015. He was most recently elevated to Assistant AD for Business Development in July 2019.

Before joining the Eagles, the native of Miami worked for six years with the Georgia State Athletics Department (2010-2015) and for two years with the Florida State Seminole ISP Sports Network (2008-10).

He is a 2010 graduate of Florida State with a degree in sports management and a minor in business. He received his master’s degree in sports business administration from Georgia State in 2012.

## Pandemic forces further delay for North American Indigenous Games

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Seminole athletes will have to wait even longer before competing in another North American Indigenous Games.

The pandemic, which first forced the 2020 Games to be postponed until the summer of 2021, has now pushed the event back into even further uncertainty.

In September, NAIG officials decided to call off the Games for the summer of 2021, citing the ongoing Covid-19 global crisis.

“This is such an unprecedented time that we all have been navigating these last six months. There are no more disappointed individuals than those that I have the pleasure of calling good colleagues at the NAIG Council. This wonderful group of committed and dedicated individuals — from coast-to-coast have wrestled with this decision, but the safety for all our athletes,

participants, volunteers and their families and communities will always be at the forefront of our mind,” said Dale Plett, president of the NAIG Council.

The council said it will continue to work with the host committee in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to “determine the most appropriate date for delivering the NAIG...” as well as address age eligibility criteria and team selection processes.

If or when the Games take place in the Halifax area, including Millbrook First Nation, it is expected to be the largest multi-sport and cultural event ever held in Atlantic Canada.

“We understand this decision is difficult for our athletes and participants; however, we are thankful and inspired by the support of our funding partners and supporters, including local public health officials,” the NAIG 2020 Host Society said on Twitter. “We look forward to working with all of our partners to secure a future date soon.”

“We are truly excited to all come

together on beautiful Mi’kmaq lands and shores to experience the hospitality the East Coast has to offer, but deeply desire to do so with the whole family at the table. We want to thank everyone for their continued patience and support as we navigate these challenging waters, especially during this time where we have more questions than answers,” said Christine Abrams, vice president of the NAIG Council.

Usually held every three or four years, NAIG draws thousands of young Native American and First Nation athletes from throughout the U.S. and Canada to compete in Olympic-style competition that includes more than a dozen sports, such as archery, basketball, softball, swimming, track and field, and wrestling. The event is for athletes ages 13-19. In recent Games, about 25 to 35 Seminoles have represented the tribe on Team Florida.

## Trailblazers uniforms honor tribal nations

FROM NBA.COM

The Portland Trail Blazers are the latest team to reveal a new uniform design for the 2020-21 NBA season.

The Blazers unveiled Oct. 29 their Nike City Edition design, which pays homage to the team’s home state of Oregon. According to the team, “the uniform celebrates the unique beauty of Oregon’s landscape as well

as acknowledging and honoring the tribal nations throughout what is now considered Oregon who have called this land their home from the beginning.”

With “Oregon” stitched across the chest of the uniform in an iconic font, the earth tone colors were chosen to represent the “beautiful landscape of Oregon.”

In addition, the Blazers and their jersey-sponsor Biofreeze will, “donate a portion of the net proceeds from jersey sales to the

Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA), a Portland-area nonprofit working to enhance the diverse strengths of Native youth and families through cultural identity and education.”

More details about the uniform are available on Blazers.com.

## Following her milestone, Madison Hammond wants to inspire next generation of Native American athletes

BY STEVE HAMLIN  
NWSL.COM

*Editor's note: Madison Hammond became the first Native American to play in the National Women's Soccer League earlier this fall. This story is from the league's website.*

Ask Madison Hammond about the Fall Series, and there is an undeniable pride in her voice, an acknowledgement of her place in league history. But, there is also a sense of responsibility.

Hammond is a first – but wants to make sure she is not the last.

"Representation is just so important across the board," said Hammond. "Especially in this league – I think that we've done a lot of good work in the past year, but there's always room to keep growing. How many different ways can we get more Native American players to be inspired? I hope that I can just be a face for them to recognize, and they can see themselves in me."

Hammond, who is Navajo, San Felipe Pueblo, and African American, moved away from her native Albuquerque, New Mexico, at age nine and spent most of her formative years in Virginia. In a majority white community, connecting to a heritage that requires physical presence was difficult for Hammond – who took up learning the San Felipe language, Keres, with her mother.

"When Billie Jean King said 'you have to see it, to be it' – you can't put it better than that," said Hammond. "Growing up, I didn't. For me, it wasn't a barrier that I didn't see Native American representation – but I think that it would have been helpful to see that.

When you see people like you, with your similar story, doing what you want to do – you know it's an attainable goal."

A member of Hammond's family did, however, make waves as a professional athlete. Her uncle, Notah Begay III, was a four time PGA Tour Champion and NCAA Champion at Stanford, alongside Tiger Woods. However, it's Begay's time in Europe and the developmental tour that Hammond admires most.

"His story shows how patience and hard work pays off," said Hammond. "There are days when I come home from training frustrated and I'm reminded of his journey. He had to go to Europe before playing in the PGA – yet he was still so successful. He really is such a grounding presence who gets what it's like. Having that first-hand experience of what it's like to really be a true competitor is going to help me so much in my career."

After going undrafted and trialing in Spain, Hammond joined OL Reign in Montana for preseason ahead of the club's Challenge Cup run. While she ended the Fall Series with two consecutive starts, the Wake Forest alum made her debut on September 26th in Utah. While Hammond admits she probably had "one thousand thoughts" entering the field, she did recognize the weight of the moment.

"I did have a moment of 'wow, I am the first of me to step on this field.' It was brief, and I smiled to myself," said Hammond. "I thought of my Mom and sister, who were at the game. It was special for me because, with Covid, it was never guaranteed for them to see my debut. I should have only thought about the game, but I thought about them. It was very special."

Around her debut, Hammond has caught the attention of actress Gabrielle Union and tennis legend Billie Jean King – with both sending congratulatory messages to the young defender on social media.

"As an athlete, you're taught not to search for external validation – but to get validation from those two, it definitely feels good," said Hammond. "It's nice to see people with platforms that touch so many



Madison Hammond

Twitter

different types of people recognizing you. It's so important for those who get ahead to try and keep pulling along those that are behind them. It creates a chain reaction of women supporting women, and it's special."

However, it wasn't the attention of the stars that meant the most to Hammond – it was fellow Native Americans and residents of Albuquerque reacting to her appearance on Men in Blazers.

While she hadn't seen it as a child, the next generation of Native American girls had – even for a brief moment – seen someone like them do what they want to do.

"That was the most moving wave of attention," said Hammond. "People leaving comments saying 'we're Native American too' – from all these different tribes. For me, that's really meaningful because they might have young girls who play soccer, and for them to be able to say 'look, there's somebody like you doing what you want to do it' – that was just the best part of it."



Madison Hammond in action during a NWSL game this fall.

NWSL

## Clewiston Golf Course renamed in honor of former U.S. Sugar leader

STAFF REPORT

**CLEWISTON** — Clewiston Golf Course has added to its name.

During a ceremony Sept. 15, the public 18-hole venue was renamed and dedicated in honor of a former U.S. Sugar executive. The course is now known as the J. Nelson Fairbanks Clewiston Golf Course.

Company and city officials gathered at the course to make the announcement in Fairbanks' memory.

"From his involvement in his church, local charitable organizations, and the Clewiston Golf Course, Nelson Fairbanks fully embraced the Clewiston community," said Robert H. Buker, Jr., president and CEO

of U.S. Sugar. "He is missed, and it is good to see his life and legacy memorialized at his favorite golf course that now bears his name."

Fairbanks served as president and CEO of U.S. Sugar from 1987 until his retirement in 2000. He was known for his passion for sports and his love of the Clewiston community. An annual golf tournament in his name helped raise \$316,000 for the course and city recreation programs.

"Nelson was a man of faith and his love of his family and community shined through during his time in leadership at U.S. Sugar," said Mali Gardner, mayor of Clewiston. "The City of Clewiston appreciates the support he generated for our local golf course, which we are proud to dedicate in his honor."



U.S. Sugar

From left, Clewiston City Commissioners Julio Rodriguez and Melanie McGahee, U.S. Sugar President and CEO Robert H. Buker and Mayor Mali Gardner attend the re-naming ceremony Sept. 15 at Clewiston Golf Course.



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Broward County Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTABLISHMENT OF BROWARD COUNTY'S OVERALL TRIENNIAL ACDBE GOAL FOR OCTOBER 1, 2020 THRU SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 (FY 2021-2023)

Broward County is proposing a U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) Non-Car Rental Goal of 23.3% and a Car-Rental Goal of 2% for federally funded Aviation Department contracts and projects.

Due to the outbreak of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) the goal methodology may be requested for review until November 14<sup>th</sup>. Broward County will accept comments on the ACDBE goal for 45 days from October 1<sup>st</sup> (until November 14<sup>th</sup>).

Send all requests and comments to James Vose, Small Business Development Specialist, by e-mail [jvose@broward.org](mailto:jvose@broward.org), or by fax at 954-357-7776.

Office of Economic and Small Business Development

954-357-6400 | [Broward.org/EconDev](http://Broward.org/EconDev)

115 S Andrews Ave., Room A680 | Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

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- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
- Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE)

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