

The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Seminole celebrates Hard Rock expansions



Beverly Bidney

The traditional Hard Rock guitar smash signifies the grand opening of a \$700 million expansion at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa on Oct. 3. Tribal Council, dignitaries and celebrities Nicole Kidman and Christie Brinkley lent a hand to the festivities.



Beverly Bidney

The Guitar Hotel at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood towers into the sky Oct. 24, the day of its grand opening. The hotel, no doubt destined to be one of the most photographed buildings in Florida and beyond, is part of a \$1.5 billion expansion on the property.

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

After years of plans and on-the-ground work, the Tribe has completed two major expansions on what is now unquestionably its two flagship Hard Rock integrated casino-resorts, both in Florida.

The centerpiece of Hollywood's \$1.5 billion project is the now open 638-room Guitar Hotel – a 450-foot high one-of-a-kind

architectural marvel. The adjacent Oasis hotel adds another 168 rooms with swim-up suites.

When added to the original Hard Rock Hotel Hollywood, there are now 1,271 rooms on site.

The \$100 million Hard Rock Live welcomed its first show Oct. 25 – Maroon 5 – in a 225,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility that accommodates 7,000 people.

There's a new nightclub, day club,

13.5-acre pool and lagoon area, meeting and convention spaces, and retail promenade. Patrons now have 19 restaurants and 20 bars and lounges to choose from.

The team behind the iconic fountains at the Bellagio in Las Vegas designed the new entrance to the new hotel lobby – the Oculus.

There's all of that and more without even mentioning the casino. The casino was expanded by 195,000 square feet, 200 table

games, 1,300 slot machines and a 45-table poker room.

Meanwhile, Hard Rock Tampa completed a more than \$700 million expansion that includes a new 14-story hotel tower adding 562 guest rooms and suites to the existing 237 rooms.

Tampa has a new 1,500-seat events center, multiple pools, eateries, a spa and, yes, there's an expanded casino there as well.

The Tampa casino encompasses 245,000 square feet with an additional 1,000 slots and 41 table games. There are now 5,000 slots, 179 table games and 46 poker tables.

Hard Rock Tampa was already one of the largest and most profitable casinos in the U.S. before the expansion efforts. It is the sixth largest casino in the world.

♦ See SECTION D for Hard Rock coverage

Tribe's princesses shine at FSU homecoming

Durante Blais-Billie, Aubee Billie crown king and queen to wrap up busy week

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

TALLAHASSEE — During a few whirlwind days in late October, the Seminole Tribe princesses extended their charm, grace and smiles from one end of the state to the other. They smashed guitars to christen The Guitar Hotel, crowned Florida State University's homecoming winners in front of 50,000 people and met Hollywood (California) movie stars one day, a university president the next and even the governor.

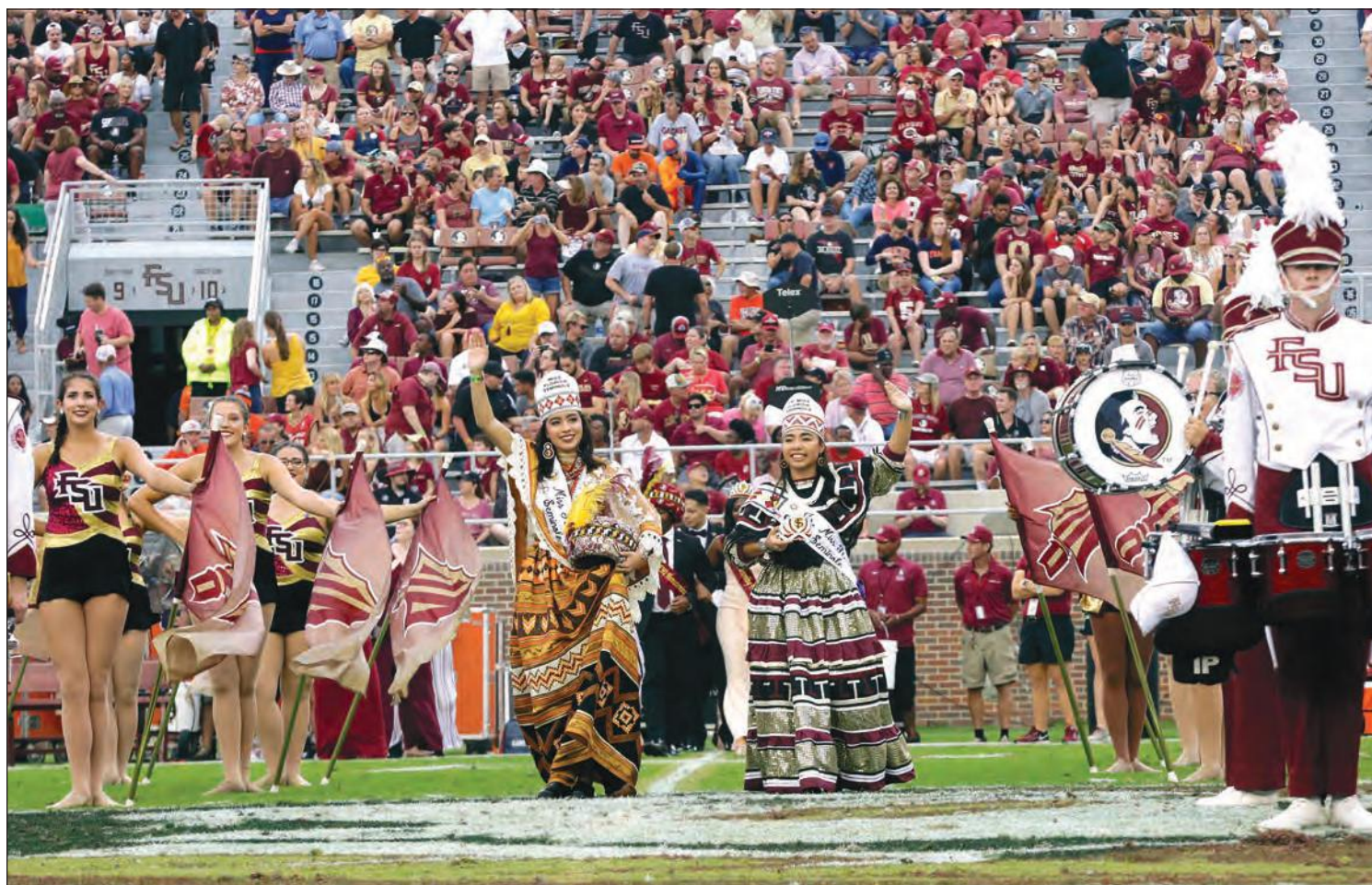
After they flawlessly completed the homecoming crowning Oct. 26 – their final official duty of the week – Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie, 22, and Junior Miss Florida Seminole Aubee Billie, 16, showed no signs of being drained or exhausted. They returned upstairs at Doak Campbell Stadium to a suite and watched the third quarter, joking with each other while munching on popcorn and cheering the 'Noles to victory against Syracuse before heading home.

They are not related, but the princesses get along together as if they were sisters or best friends, seemingly in perpetual good moods that are accompanied by bright smiles and natural affability that light up rooms as soon as they enter.

"What amazes me is the connection they have with each other," said Cassandra Jimmie, who accompanied the princesses in Tallahassee along with Naomi Wilson. Both are former Miss Florida Seminoles who are part of the Tribe's Princess Program. The current princesses said they're grateful for those who handle everything behind the scenes.

"It's been non-stop, but thank God for our [Program]," Durante said. "They made everything run smoothly. Without them this wouldn't have been possible."

"I want to make sure that they get to have fun and experience it," Wilson said. "That's what I told them before the Guitar opening. I said to them 'It's your night. This is history making. I want you to enjoy everything.' I told their mothers don't worry



Kevin Johnson

Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie, left, and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Aubee Billie wave to the 50,517 spectators at the Florida State University homecoming football game Oct. 26 at Doak Campbell Stadium. The Seminole Tribe's princesses participated in several homecoming activities, including the crowning of FSU's king and queen at halftime. The FSU Seminoles defeated Syracuse, 35-17.

about anything; enjoy your time with your daughters as well. We handle everything."

Before they arrived at FSU on Oct. 25, the princesses spent the previous night in Hollywood amid a star-studded celebration to open The Guitar Hotel. The princesses, who met several dignitaries and celebs, said one of the evening's highlights was the way they were treated by actor Johnny Depp.

"Johnny Depp was so nice," Durante said. "While we were waiting in line to meet him, he made sure that we knew he saw us. He was like, 'hi guys.' Throughout the night he made sure that we knew that he would recognize us."

"I was talking to Morgan Freeman and Sophia Vergara's husband (actor Joe Manganiello), and Johnny Depp tapped me on the shoulder and then shook my hand. He was like, 'You are so beautiful.' He was so

nice," Aubee said.

Aside from opening night's glitz and glamour, the princesses realize what an important step the Tribe is taking with the \$1.5 billion expansion in Hollywood. Durante fondly recalled spending time on the property as a kid back when it hosted outdoor pow wows. She remembers the enormous tent and vendors from years ago.

"I miss the nostalgia for it, but this is the right step forward for us," she said.

After flying with their mothers and Wilson to Tallahassee on the Tribe's jet early Friday morning, the princesses had lunch with FSU's homecoming court and then were bused to the homecoming parade.

While waiting to get into convertibles for the parade, the princesses met Jean Thrasher, who soon insisted that they meet her husband, FSU president John Thrasher.

"We met the president and the first lady. They were so nice to us. They came and sought us out. They made sure we knew that they were happy we were there. It was amazing," Durante said.

The Thrashers traveled the parade route a few vehicles in front of the princesses. Durante waved to the crowd atop the backseat of a 2018 Buick Cascada while Aubee did the same in a 2018 Fiat 124 Spider Abarth.

The spirit of homecoming, clearly evident on the parade route that wound its way through campus streets lined with FSU students, alums and families, made a lasting impression on the princesses. From being in the parade, to watching comedian Pete Davidson at the so-called "pow wow" as spectators later that night, and making the

♦ See HOMECOMING on page 6A

Tribe's first 'Healing' symposium a 'step in right direction'

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — About 100 people from 16 states took part in the Tribe's first ever symposium focused on Native trauma and healing.

The Oct. 15 to Oct. 17 event – "Healing the Circle in our Tribal Communities" – took place at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood.

Cheyenne Kippenberger was the chairwoman of the event, along with co-chair Tomasina Chupco-Gilliam.

The three-day symposium also included the Tribe's second-annual "Domestic Violence Awareness Walk," and a "Healing Circle/Smudge Ceremony," both on the Hollywood Reservation.

Kippenberger, the former Miss Florida Seminole who is now Miss Indian World, set the tone in her opening remarks on the first day. She said that all Native American traumas stem from colonization, and that the goal of the symposium was to initiate a healing process.

Kippenberger and Chupco-Gilliam brought together not only the attendees, but also a lineup of experts from Indian Country who have dealt with a number of trauma-related issues in their personal and professional lives.

No subject was off limits, whether it was about domestic violence, elder abuse, missing and murdered Indigenous women, legal systems and protections, tools for healing or women's empowerment.

Throughout the symposium, one thing was clear: trauma and healing subjects are often complex and don't come with simple solutions. Attendees and panelists also agreed that more has to be done about each issue.

On day two there was also extensive discussion about what role Native men play in it all. At the "Hidden Voice" session, a panel of Native men talked about toxic

♦ See HEALING on page 7A

Editorial

Why more places are abandoning Columbus Day in favor of Indigenous Peoples Day

• Malinda Maynor Lowery

Increasingly, Columbus Day is giving people pause.

More and more towns and cities across the country are electing to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day as an alternative to – or in addition to – the day intended to honor Columbus' voyages.

Critics of the change see it as just another example of political correctness run amok – another flash point of the culture wars.

As a scholar of Native American history – and a member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina – I know the story is more complex than that.

The growing recognition and celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day actually represents the fruits of a concerted, decades-long effort to recognize the role of indigenous people in the nation's history.

Why Columbus?

Columbus Day is a relatively new federal holiday.

In 1892, a joint congressional resolution prompted President Benjamin Harrison to mark the “discovery of America by Columbus,” in part because of “the devout faith of the discoverer and for the divine care and guidance which has directed our history

and so abundantly blessed our people.”

Europeans invoked God's will to impose their will on indigenous people. So it seemed logical to call on God when establishing a holiday celebrating that conquest, too.

Of course, not all Americans considered themselves blessed in 1892. That same year, a lynching forced black journalist Ida B. Wells to flee her home town of Memphis. And while Ellis Island had opened in January of that year, welcoming European immigrants, Congress had already banned Chinese immigration a decade prior, subjecting Chinese people living in the U.S. to widespread persecution.

And then there was the government's philosophy towards the country's Native Americans, which Army Colonel Richard Henry Pratt so unforgettably articulated in 1892: “All the Indian there is in the race should be dead. Kill the Indian in him, and save the man.”

It took another 42 years for Columbus Day to formally become a federal holiday, thanks to a 1934 decree by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

He was responding, in part, to a campaign by the Knights of Columbus, a national Catholic charity founded to provide services to Catholic immigrants. Over time, its agenda expanded to include advocacy for Catholic social values and education.

When Italians first arrived in the United States, they were targets of marginalization

and discrimination. Officially celebrating Christopher Columbus – an Italian Catholic – became one way to affirm the new racial order that would emerge in the U.S. in the 20th century, one in which the descendants of diverse ethnic European immigrants became “white” Americans.

Indigenous people power

But some Americans started to question why Indigenous people – who'd been in the country all along – didn't have their own holiday.

In the 1980s, Colorado's American Indian Movement chapter began protesting the celebration of Columbus Day. In 1989, activists in South Dakota persuaded the state to replace Columbus Day with Native American Day. Both states have large Native populations that played active roles in the Red Power Movement in the 1960s and 1970s, which sought to make American Indian people more politically visible.

Then, in 1992, at the 500th anniversary of Columbus' first voyage, American Indians in Berkeley, California, organized the first “Indigenous Peoples' Day,” a holiday the city council soon formally adopted. Berkeley has since replaced its commemoration of Columbus with a celebration of indigenous people.

The holiday can also trace its origins to the United Nations. In 1977, indigenous

leaders from around the world organized a United Nations conference in Geneva to promote indigenous sovereignty and self-determination. Their first recommendation was “to observe October 12, the day of so-called ‘discovery’ of America, as an International Day of Solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas.” It took another 30 years for their work to be formally recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted in September 2007.

Unexpected allies

Today, cities with significant native populations, like Seattle, Portland and Los Angeles, now celebrate either Native American Day or Indigenous Peoples Day. And states like Hawaii, Nevada, Minnesota, Alaska and Maine have also formally recognized their Native populations with similar holidays. Many Native governments, like the Cherokee and Osage in Oklahoma, either don't observe Columbus Day or have replaced it with their own holiday.

But you'll also find commemorations in less likely places. Alabama celebrates Native American Day alongside Columbus Day, as does North Carolina, which, with a population of over 120,000 Native Americans, has the largest number of Native Americans of any state east of the

Mississippi River.

Just last year, the town of Carrboro, North Carolina, issued a resolution to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day. The resolution noted the fact that the town of 21,000 had been built on indigenous land and that it was committed to “protect, respect and fulfill the full range of inherent human rights,” including those of indigenous people.

While Columbus Day affirms the story of a nation created by Europeans for Europeans, Indigenous Peoples Day emphasizes Native histories and Native people – an important addition to the country's ever-evolving understanding of what it means to be American.

Malinda Maynor Lowery is a historian and documentary film producer who is a member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. She is an Associate Professor of History at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Director of the Center for the Study of the American South. She writes on topics including American Indian history, Southern history, religion, music, and foodways. Her second book, The Lumbee Indians: An American Struggle, was published by University of North Carolina Press in September.

This article was originally published on theconversation.com.

Need to protect tribes under National Historic Preservation Act

• Ladd Edmo

As Americans, we have great pride in our National Parks, National Forests, and other public lands and are inspired by their beauty and our experiences on these lands. To the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Idaho and tribes across the country, these public lands are much more than that. These lands are our ancestral homelands.

Our ancestral lands include awe-inspiring places such as Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Salmon-Challis National Forest, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Boise National Forest, and Sawtooth National Forest. These lands contain our residences, trails, burial sites, spiritual areas, petroglyphs, healing places, battlegrounds and hunting, fishing and gathering locations. Even after President Andrew Johnson designated the Fort Hall Reservation by Executive Order in 1867 to force the Shoshone and Bannock people, who moved seasonally to hunting and gathering areas throughout the Great Basin, to one fixed location and after the 1869 U.S. Senate-ratified Second Treaty of Fort Bridger between the United States and Shoshones and Bannocks, which contained provisions that recognize and preserve our close connections to public lands and our reserved off-reservation treaty rights, our deep relationships to our ancestral lands remain strong. Our people know these lands intimately, and they know where and when subsistence resources are available.

Because our traditional and cultural ways of life are intertwined with these lands, we sound the alarm to all Americans on the National Park Service's March 1, 2019, proposed rule that would eliminate the ability of tribes to preserve and protect historical and cultural areas on public lands. Without the ability to protect these areas of unique significance, places that are a part of the fabric of this Country's heritage and history will be harmed or destroyed – it is a matter of when this will happen and not a question of if it will happen.

The National Park Service, through its proposed rule that it cloaked in circular, bureaucratic doublespeak, would essentially assume the role of the U.S. Congress and amend the National Historic Preservation Act to bar tribes (and everyone else) from initiating a nomination or an eligibility determination to list a property on public lands on the National Register of Historic

Places (National Register) and alter the law so that only federal agencies could initiate a nomination or eligibility determination to the National Register. Further, the proposed rule would eliminate the ability of tribes and other parties to appeal a federal agency's failure to nominate.

The National Park Service issued this proposed rule without government-to-government consultations with tribes in contradiction to Executive Orders and its own policies and is now rushing to finalize this rule as quickly as possible for industry purposes. To rub salt in the wound, the National Park Service implausibly determined that the proposed rule would have no “substantial direct effect” on tribes and, therefore, no consultation was required prior to issuing the rule. Only after numerous tribes and organizations spoke out about the lack of consultation and the serious implications for tribes did the Park Service hold one meeting and one phone call in the course of a week. However, by any stretch of the imagination, this does not constitute government-to-government consultations — a cornerstone of the federal trust relationship with tribal governments.

Through the U.S. Constitution, U.S. Supreme Court decisions, numerous treaties, federal laws, and executive orders, the federal government has treaty and trust responsibilities to tribal governments, including the protection of tribal cultural resources. With the federal government managing approximately 640 million acres of land that was once the sole domain of our ancestors, the various federal agencies tasked with overseeing America's public lands have obligations to protect and preserve historical and cultural resources and responsibilities to ensure that tribes are included in any decision-making process that could impact our traditional homelands.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes ask for your help in engaging the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the National Park Service to make sure it does not stifle the voices of Americans across the country, including the voices of the first Americans, to ensure that we can all fully participate in the process to protect historic places on public lands under the National Historic Preservation Act.

Ladd Edmo is tribal chairman of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in Idaho. This article appeared on nativenewsonline.net.

Revisiting the Buffalo Roundup

• Tim Giago

The September Buffalo Roundup at Custer State Park has come and gone. And as usual my call to (South Dakota) Governor Kristi Noem and to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks has fallen on deaf ears.

The request I made was not that complicated and the solution to that request should not be that complicated either. I simply asked that the State allow Lakota riders to participate in the Annual Roundup for a couple of reasons.

First of all it would help to promote racial harmony in a State where that harmony has often been lacking. Secondly, in a State where one of the chief economic growth factors is tourism, including Lakota riders in the Roundup would increase foreign visitor participation by at least 50 percent. Now the last reason would put tourism dollars into the pockets of South Dakota businesses and into the State coffers.

As a man who has published a newspaper in South Dakota for nearly 40 years I have become all too familiar with the extreme interest in American Indians by folks from Germany, Italy, France, and Scandinavia and from many countries of the Far East. There is nothing more they would love to

see than Indian warriors riding in their full regalia while rounding up the buffalo their ancestors have hunted for generations and long before there was a Custer County or a State sponsored Buffalo Roundup.

There have been a few far-sighted, non-Indian South Dakotans who clearly see the wisdom in this idea and have stepped forward to help make it happen. But there has also been an ugliness creeping into the discussion that has racist overtones.

Said one objector, “The Indians would never show up for it because it's too early.” Another, “If the Indians wore their regalia it would frighten the buffalo into a stampede.” Said another, “This is a cowboy thing, not an Indian thing.” This last comment was made by a Lakota man. Perhaps this Lakota has never been to a rodeo where great Lakota bronc riders like Howard Hunter from Kyle won many a trophy buckle. And some of the top bull riders in the Nation have been Navajo and Lakota. There are plenty of ranches on the Indian reservations where Lakota families raise cattle, rope calves and brand them every year. Being Lakota and a cowboy in not an unusual thing.

In less than three hundred years some American Indian Tribes became some of the best horseman and light cavalry the world has known. The U.S. Cavalry started using mustangs in order to keep up with the

Indians. For more see History 1880-Present Today's Indian Horse.

My point is that there are still great horsemen among the Lakota and for them to be allowed to participate in the Annual Buffalo Roundup will open many doors to peace and reconciliation. South Dakota's tourism would be the ultimate victor in this endeavor. Long before the first white settler ever set foot in the Northern Plains the Native Americans were sharing the land with their ancestral friend, the buffalo.

The songs by the great Lakota singer and song writer Buddy Red Bow about the buffalo will attest to that.

As a writer all I can do is make a suggestion from my heart and it is up to others and the powers-that-be to down trod or uphold that suggestion. My suggestion of reconciliation and Native American Day did not fall on deaf ears with Gov. George Mickelson. All it takes is an open heart and an open mind such as his.

Tim Giago, founder of the Native American Journalists Association, is a member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe. He can be reached at najournalist@gmail.com. This article appeared on Indianz.com.

‘Stumptown’ actress Tantoo Cardinal’s Indigenous Peoples Day message

• Tantoo Cardinal

Happy Indigenous Peoples Day everyone. Remember where you came from. That is the message of today.

Have you talked to your mother today? Have you ever listened to her? She is more than a sunset and she is more than maternal.

We are the First Nations of the Americas. With over 600 Native Nations in North America, we are on the rise. Witness Native women in national leadership. While women have always been the leaders in our communities ... we are connected to the Fire of our Mother (the Cree word for Fire is Iskotew — made up of two words — Iskwew [woman] Miteh [heart]).

The stories of Creation go on to tell about the fire at the core of Mother Earth. Indigenous World has never left those

foundational truths ... the great value of being shut out of “The American Dream”.

Today is our reminder to rekindle our relationship with Mother Earth. Our world. The Indigenous People know She is sustenance. She is breath. She knows joy and disappointment. She is not based on economy or status. She is based on balance, humility, joy, love, nurturance, equality ... and it is where the power is. Earth.

It is about time we take our breath back. Today, on Indigenous Peoples Day, remember those who were here on this Land before the ships of merchandise, disrespect, and stuff landed. And, remember Mother Earth. Her spirit is what will balance us, and Her spirit is necessary for all of us. If we are one with Her, we are in grace.

Remember your Mother today. Celebrate Indigenous Peoples' today and everyday.

Tantoo Cardinal, Metis/First Nations, is an award-winning actress of Métis/First Nations descent who can be seen on the ABC Television Network series Stumptown playing Sue Lynn Blackbird. A Canadian native, she has appeared in over 120 film and television projects over the course of her 30 year career. This article appeared in Indian Country Today.

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Community



BC community praises Marines-bound A.J. Tigertail

BY ANALICIA AUSTIN
Digital Content Coordinator

BIG CYPRESS — When A.J. Tigertail told his family he was joining the military, they were surprised.

"His mom told us, I was stunned that he was interested," Tigertail's grandfather Jonah Cypress said during a Big Cypress community meeting Oct. 8 when Tribal officials, family members and other community members recognized Tigertail for his decision to join the U.S. Marine Corps.

When asked what inspired him to join the Marines, Tigertail, 19, joked that he watched too many movies. He also stressed that it was

important to him to follow in the footsteps of previous Tribal members who served and represented the Tribe in the Armed Forces, like U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Herman L. Osceola, who died in a military helicopter accident in South Korea in 1984 at the age of 23. The gymnasium where the community meeting was held is filled with recognitions of Lance Cpl. Osceola, including a bronze sculpture outside the front door, portraits in the gym and the name of the facility: the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Tigertail, son of Sheli and Alfonso Tigertail, said his initial interest in the Marines started when he realized it was a way to learn new skills and travel the world. He said the Marines are "known as the best,

and are the first one to do stuff."

Tigertail received praise at the meeting from Tribal leaders.

"I like to see the young ones go and serve our country," said President Mitchell Cypress, who served in the U.S. Army for three years.

"He is doing the community good," added Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress. "I am proud of the young man and his family. He is going in the right direction."

Tigertail, who will start with bootcamp in November, said he's hopeful he'll learn a lot from his time in the Marines and bring his experiences back to the Tribe.



Analicia Austin

A.J. Tigertail talks to the audience at a Big Cypress community meeting Oct. 8 while President Mitchell Cypress listens. Tigertail, 19, has decided to join the U.S. Marine Corps; President Cypress previously served in the U.S. Army.



Analicia Austin

A.J. Tigertail is surrounded by his family, who showed their support to the future U.S. Marine at the Big Cypress community meeting.



Analicia Austin

A.J. Tigertail, center, is joined by his grandfather Jonah Cypress, left, and Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress.

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New THPO building opens in honor of Billy L. Cypress

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Tribal Historic Preservation Office finally has a home befitting its service to the Tribe.

The Major Billy L. Cypress Building opened to great fanfare Oct. 23. With about 10,000 square-feet of interior space, the building houses 20 THPO and 11 Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum employees. There is also plenty of room for Work Experience Program (WEP) and Student Work Experience Program (SWEP) participants.

The legacy of Billy L. Cypress, the original THPO and museum director from 2002-2004, is on display in the building and in the work THPO does every day. A large tent was filled to capacity and then some for the opening ceremony as dignitaries commented on the impressive structure.

"Everyone has a story about what Billy did and what he gave," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. "He dedicated himself to telling our story. His legacy lives on because we continue to tell our own story today."

THPO's mission is to support the Tribe's efforts to sustain its cultural and historic resources. It also investigates, interprets, preserves and manages the Tribe's cultural resources through community engagement. The new building took about 14 months to complete and is large enough to hold all the tools necessary for the department to succeed in its mission.

"I think Billy would have been proud of his little project here," said Big Cypress



Carol Cypress, Betty King, Jonah Cypress and Marie Phillips sing a hymn Oct. 23 at the opening reception of the Major Billy L. Cypress Building. Next to them are a portrait of Billy L. Cypress, the first THPO officer, and a flag donated by Tribal member Martha Tommie.

"It is because of his [Billy Cypress]' vision that we have this," Osceola wrote. "This building represents our sovereignty. Nothing shines brighter than investing in the protection and preservation of our ancestors. This is sovereignty in action."

Artifacts in the building include a Seminole flag donated at the opening ceremony by Martha Tommie, who brought it with her to North Dakota in 2016. She, Annette Jones and Theresa Frost traveled north to demonstrate against the Dakota Access Pipeline with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other tribes from throughout Indian Country. The Seminole flag flew with other Tribal flags above the massive campground. Tommie told the story of that flag at Standing Rock.

"I believe in these colors and wrapped this flag around me," she said. "They were coming to tear up the burial grounds, so we faced them down and pushed them back down the hill. I was standing for my grandchildren, my children, my elders. This flag has all my prayers in it for my people. We matter. We may not think that we matter, but we matter. Honor these colors."

Daniel Tommie, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum traditional interpretation coordinator, unveiled a canoe he carved for the new building. He started carving only two years ago and worked on this one since May.

"Elders and children are our valuable resources and our future," Tommie said. "Be thankful for our ancestors who gave their lives and sacrificed for us."

The museum also debuted a sculpture garden with nine life-sized bronze sculptures



The Major Billy L. Cypress Building, which houses the THPO department and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum employees, opened in Big Cypress Oct. 23.



These life-sized bronze sculptures created by Bradley Cooley Sr. and Bradley Cooley Jr., titled "American Royalty," represent 16th century Seminoles and can be seen in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's new sculpture garden on Josie Billie Highway.

Board Rep. Joe Frank. "Now it's a full-fledged museum and we are ready to move forward. There is still a lot of history out there."

Brighton Councilman Larry Howard



Andy Buster, Jonah Cypress and President Mitchell Cypress enjoy the opening reception of the Major Billy L. Cypress Building in BC.

noted the historic aspect of the day.

"This building will tell our story for years to come," Councilman Howard said. "We as a Tribe crawled before we walked and today we stand here proudly and see the fruits of our labor."

The building, located next to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, is decorated with large modern photographs of artifacts, Tribal members, landscapes and other details depicting the work done within its walls. Even the elevator gives a nod to the building's location; a mural of a native cypress swamp covers the walls from floor to ceiling.

"Sometimes we get caught up in the fast pace of 2019 and forget about who we are," said Quenton Cypress, THPO community engagement manager. "We fought to be here today and this is a great way to remind everyone. I encourage everyone to come by and bring your children."

Valerie Hauser, director of the office of Native American affairs at the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, came from Washington, D.C., for the opening ceremony. The ACHP is an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement and productive use of the nation's historic resources and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy.

"I knew Billy and he would be

proud of what the Tribe and THPO have accomplished," Hauser said. "This is one of 194 Tribes with a THPO office, but in my 20 years of experience this Tribe is a leader. It is leading the nation in how to do it well. Tribal preservation is at the heart of Tribal sovereignty. Your work has helped the Seminole Tribe thrive."

Former BC Councilmen Cicero Osceola and Mondo Tiger remarked about the impact Cypress had on the Tribe. BC Councilman David Cypress credited former Chairman James Billie and Cypress for dreaming of building a museum.

"I'm glad we got it done," said President Mitchell Cypress. "James [Billie] and Billy [Cypress] planted a seed that sprouted into what we have today."

Former Chairman Billie reminisced about Billy Cypress; the two grew up together.

"Billy was always thinking ahead," Billie said. "In the 80s we had a dream that we wanted a museum. It started with cypress

logs and I thought it would be simple, but it was a little more sophisticated than that. We always wanted a Seminole to be in charge and Billy was instrumental in making sure we had the proper people in place. It seems like anything he touched he learned from and excelled at. It's good for him to be remembered."

The building's sprawling ground floor houses the archeology department, a lab to process archeological artifacts and a large temperature and climate controlled vault to store them. The second floor contains a bright and airy conference room, huddle rooms for informal meetings, a geographical information system (GIS) plotter and printer and a temperature and climate controlled records room with ample space to house project files, maps and other papers collected over the years.

"This is the first time everything is in one place," said Anne Mullins, THPO director. "This is an amazing space."

Although Tina Osceola, former THPO officer and director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, couldn't be at the opening ceremony she sent a statement to Paul Backhouse, current THPO officer, who read it to the crowd.

by Bradley Cooley Sr. and Bradley Cooley Jr. The one-acre site, which is landscaped with native fauna, is on museum property that faces Josie Billie Highway so passersby can get a glimpse of the history of the Tribe cast in bronze.

The original set of the statues stand on the grounds of the Museum of Florida History at the R.A. Gray Building in Tallahassee. The second set was cast after 2007 and acquired by the Tribe.

The sculptures represent three different time periods in Seminole history. The first group, titled "American Royalty" is a king, a queen and servant and shows life in 1564 as depicted in a 16th century drawing by artist Jacques le Moyne.

The second set of sculptures, "Seminole Family," represents the Seminole War era in the 1830s. The third set of three statues is called "Movin' On" and shows a Miccosukee family in the 1930s.

"This institution represents the blessings given to us by our ancestors and elders," said Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie. "Thanks for all they've done for us."

After the speeches, attendees toured the building and the sculpture garden.



Martha Tommie holds the flag she donated to THPO. She brought the flag with her to protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline on the Standing Rock Reservation in 2016, where it flew with flags from other Tribal nations.



Daniel Tommie, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum traditional interpretation coordinator, addresses the audience and describes the process of carving a canoe for the new building.

Towering mural of Tribal member rises in Miami

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — Visitors to South Florida often travel to the Wynwood neighborhood in Miami to see the many colorful murals being painted in just about every corner of the booming arts district.

But a new Wynwood mural will be of particular interest to the Tribe, as an eight-story high depiction of a Tribal member is in its final stages.

Internationally renowned Los Angeles-based artist Miles MacGregor, also known as "El Mac," is in the process of completing a massive mural of Seminole Kyle James Grant, 17, on the northeast side of the Wynwood 25 apartment building in the heart of the district.

Grant's father is James Grant and his grandmother is Rosie Grant – all are from

the Hollywood Reservation.

James Grant has two other sons as well, ages 13 and 6. His cousin, Thomas "Breeze" Marcus, is a colleague of MacGregor who helped to jump start the project in Wynwood.

Marcus lives in Phoenix and was born and raised on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Reservation, just east of Scottsdale. He's been painting graffiti and (like MacGregor) publicly sanctioned murals for many years in the Phoenix area.

MacGregor was born in Los Angeles and was influenced from an early age by classic art and the Art Nouveau style. His Mexican culture is an element that can also often be found in his work.

For 20 years, MacGregor has been creating gigantic portraits using different techniques, including one called "spray paint twisty shading."



Kyle James Grant, right, is one of three youngsters being depicted on the massive mural.



A mural of Seminole Kyle James Grant is being painted on the side of an apartment building in the Wynwood neighborhood of Miami. Up close you can see the traditional Seminole Tribe colors starting to take form on the shirt.

His portraits are often of the faces of his friends, Mexican workers or anonymous people.

MacGregor's work can be found not only throughout the U.S., but also in Mexico, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, France, Singapore, Germany, Vietnam and Cuba.

MacGregor said that while there have been some weather delays with the Wynwood mural of Grant, the project is progressing well. He generally paints in the evening hours and has other crew members filling in details throughout the day.

To see the mural in progress, go to the south end of the popular Wynwood Walls outdoor museum – near NW 25th Street and NW 2nd Avenue – or walk to the east end of the Wynwood 25 development, located at 240 NW 25th St.



Okalee Village holds soft opening



Donna Frank poses in front of her table of handmade baskets, Seminole dolls and a Singer sewing machine during a soft opening of Okalee Village on Oct. 22 in Hollywood. Okalee will feature Seminole culture and history and hold shows, such as alligator wrestling. An opening date has not yet been announced.



Billy Walker wrestles an alligator at Okalee Village on Oct. 22.



Clinton Holt, Robert Osceola, Michael Gentry and Mahokin Tiger at the photo booth at Okalee Village.



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◆ **HOMECOMING**
From page 1A

memorable trek together across the 50-yard line for the crowning, the princesses soaked it all in.

"It was really amazing," Durante said. "You could really feel their love for their school and also for the relationship they have with our people."

Having served as Junior Miss six years ago, Durante said she wasn't nervous about doing the crowning in front of thousands of people; her biggest worry was that she would trip. She didn't stumble. The princesses walked and waved side-by-side amid the FSU Marching Band and the thousands of eyes watching them from the stands.

"I knew there was a bunch of people here, but then when you go down (on the field) you feel so small," Aubee said.

Since the homecoming king and queen were quite taller than the Seminole royalty, they had to either kneel, which King Caleb Dawkins did, or bend down, which Queen Olivia Hopkins did. Once the crownings were completed, the entire homecoming court and princesses had photos taken with FSU's Osceola and Renegade.

The princesses said they loved the outfits that were made especially for homecoming; Melissa Demayo, of Hollywood, made Durante's, and Diane Snow, of Brighton, made Aubee's.

"Usually I wear very traditional; this is like very out-of-the-box for me, just with the

sequence and the lace and the cape," Aubee said. "It's very crazy for me, especially with my father (James Billie); he's very picky with what I wear; him approving it was crazy. She did a beautiful job on this. I love it so much."

"I like to wear mine often and I really like to have them separate so that I can wear the skirts whenever. I can always find an excuse to wear skirts," Durante said.

The agenda will remain busy in the coming weeks with duties at the American Indian Arts Celebration in Big Cypress, Veterans Day ceremonies and a Native American program at Florida Gulf Coast University in which both princesses will be among the speakers. Also, Durante is scheduled to visit Japan in November in an official capacity.



Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie crowns FSU homecoming king Caleb Dawkins while Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Aubee Billie crowns FSU homecoming queen Olivia Hopkins at halftime of the Florida State University football game against Syracuse on Oct. 25 in Tallahassee.

FSU Photography Services



Kevin Johnson

Aubee Billie and Durante Blais-Billie meet Gov. Ron DeSantis at the FSU football game.



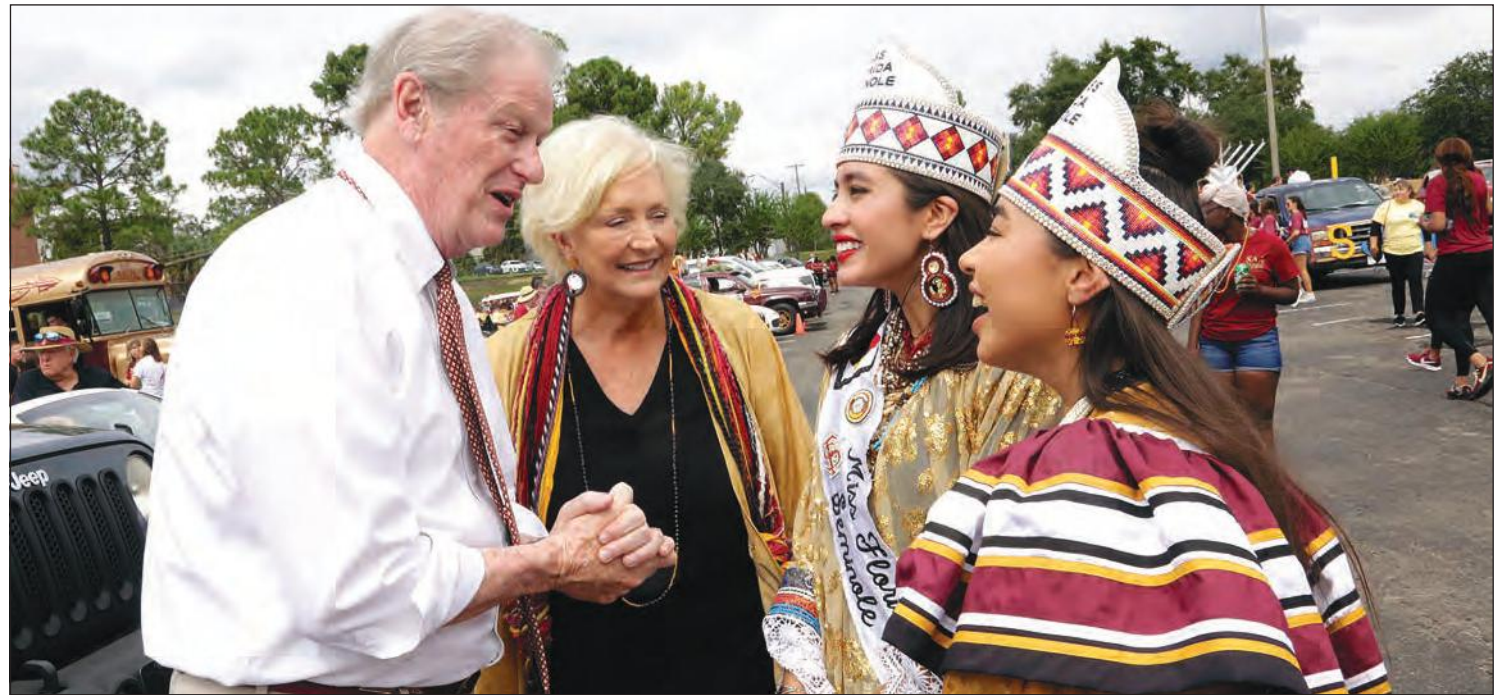
Kevin Johnson

Durante Blais-Billie is joined by her mom France, and Aubee Billie is joined by her mom Maria in the suite at the FSU football game along side Naomi Wilson, far left, and Cassandra Jimmie, far right, both from the Princess Program.



Kevin Johnson

Aubee Billie and Durante Blais-Billie are joined by FSU's homecoming court on the steps of the Pearl Tyner House on Oct. 25.



Kevin Johnson

The princesses meet FSU President John Thrasher and his wife, Jean, before the start of the FSU homecoming parade.



Kevin Johnson (2)

Aubee Billie, left, and Durante Blais-Billie participate in FSU's homecoming parade Oct. 25.

◆ **SYMPOSIUM**
From page 1A

masculinity and how fathers need to teach their sons how to be in healthy relationships from a young age.

The concept of toxic masculinity is typically used in psychology and media to refer to certain cultural norms of masculinity that are associated with harm to society, men, their families and friends.

Panelist Quenton Cypress of the Big Cypress Reservation relayed a story about how he was able to help his younger sister who was struggling to know whether to go to college or stay home.

Cypress said he explained to her that she needed to know it was OK for her to take care of herself and her needs and pursue an education, even though she was struggling with the thought that the decision was a selfish one.

Cypress is also looking at organizing a young men's group in Big Cypress to talk about many of the issues raised during the symposium.

Collaborative effort

Kippenberger said she was grateful to everyone that contributed to make the

symposium a reality – it's an event she's thought about organizing for many months.

She particularly thanked Natalie Gomes, the advocacy director in the Tribe's Advocacy & Guardianship department, and the staff at the Native Learning Center.

"Thank you for guiding, motivating, listening and inspiring my sister and I to take our conversations and put it into action," Kippenberger said about Gomes. "To the team at [the Native Learning Center]: without your help and organization, this event wouldn't have been possible," she said.

Kippenberger added that she never imagined that the inaugural year of the symposium would see so many attendees from so many Indian Country communities.

"We will absolutely be hosting this symposium again and plan to add even more to the experience," she said.

Chupco-Gilliam said the attendees seemed to be very receptive to the stories and topics at the symposium.

"I found that the balance of heartfelt stories along with knowing the laws that protect Native women, and women in general, was certainly needed," Chupco-Gilliam said.

"The men's panel brought a perspective that was needed and it was great to hear their take. It's a step in the right direction, sharing stories begins the healing process," she said.



Cheyenne Kippenberger, in her Miss Indian World regalia, takes part in the Smudge Ceremony on the final day of the symposium. Wilson Wewa, former councilman of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, led the ceremony.

Damon Scott



Damon Scott (5)

Starting from the right, clockwise, Tomasina Chupco-Gilliam (left) and Cheyenne Kippenberger were the main organizers of the symposium; small pieces of wood given to each participant are placed in a bucket by Wilson Wewa during the Smudge Ceremony; from left, Patina Park (Cheyenne River Sioux), Tina Swithin, Deb Gilg and Brandi Liberty (Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska) sit on an opening day panel of "Breaking the Silence on Domestic Violence"; a group from the symposium and the Hollywood Reservation community meet near the ball park prior to the Domestic Violence Awareness Walk; a panel for "The Hidden Voice: The Native Male Perspective" includes Stephen Tooshkenig (Council of Three Fires), Cortney Yarholer (Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma), Quenton Cypress (Seminole Tribe of Florida) and Lewis Gopher Jr. (Seminole Tribe of Florida).



Tribal Portal: You can now view all of your community shield insurance documents within the portal

FROM STOF RISK MANAGEMENT

Effective Nov. 1 "Community Shield" Homeowner Insurance Program documents can be viewed via the Tribal Portal.

This is a basic homeowner insurance program for homes built prior to October 2008.

What is the Tribal Portal? It is a Tribe wide intranet portal to improve our communications between departments and Tribal members. The Tribal Portal includes tax documents, Tribal announcements, employment opportunities, fixed assets, Native American Travel and now a section for your Community Shield insurance

documents.

How do I access the Tribal Portal? Go to mysemtribe.com and set up your user name and password. Once this is done you will now be able to access the portal and see your documents.

When you log into the portal on the left hand side you will see a tab at the bottom named Community Shield. When you click on it, it will open up to a section specifically for Community Shield members. You will then be able to view your insurance policy, your evidence of coverage, home appraisal (which details the value of your home) and your current invoice for payment advising you how much you owe on your policy.

There is also an "email link" which will

direct you to an AMERIND representative whom you can address a direct email to with any questions relating to payment options for your premium for your Community Shield insurance policy.

We hope that this new feature will assist you in streamlining the payment process as it concerns your insurance premiums.

If you have any questions related to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact your regional insurance coordinator; Jim Barnhart for Brighton and Fort Pierce, Anabel Miranda for Big Cypress and Immokalee, or Bethania Rodriguez for Hollywood. You can also contact Risk Management at 866-806-7835 or 954-981-7410 and press option #

Senior Thanksgiving luncheon to be held Nov. 14

BIG CYPRESS — The annual tribalwide senior Thanksgiving luncheon will be held Nov. 14 at 10 a.m. at the Big Cypress Senior Center. Limited vendors are welcome. For more information contact Angie at 863-902-3211.

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI
M U S E U M
 A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

Why we do what we do

BY REBECCA FELL-MAZEROSKI
 Manager of Interpretation
 Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

In this space, the staff at the museum frequently poses questions about objects in the collection: When made this? Why was it made? Who is in that photograph? The goal of these questions in the Tribune is to understand more about the collection that is in our care. It is also to connect more deeply with the community.

It is no secret most of us who work at the museum are not Seminole or even a member of other indigenous tribe. Some of the questions asked are because we do not always understand what is obvious to the Seminole community. It can you leave you feeling foolish when someone comes in with a look of incredulity and say "What do you mean you do not know why this thing was made?" Others question who we are and why we should know. Yeah, they get that we work at the museum. But, they want to know why should we know.

However, there is a bigger reason why we do ask. Although sometimes I get so wrapped up in our daily emails, tasks, and small details I forget why we do what we do. (I strongly suspect others do too.)

Recently, I was lucky enough to attend the ATALM conference in Temecula,

California on the Pechanga Reservation. Even in Indian Country many are not familiar with ATALM. It stands for the Association of Tribal Archives, Library, and Museums. It is a multi-day meeting of those who keep the history, written knowledge, and objects of native cultures of North America, usually for the sovereign tribes they represent. Sounds boring, huh?

It is not. When Joy Harjo (Muscogee Creek), first indigenous Poet Laureate of the United States brings you to tears with her readings, it is uplifting tears. When a tour of the Pechanga reservation includes a coastal oak, it feels inter-connected. This oak, like the Council Oak, has witnessed their Tribe's important history and provided support. When the staff at the Navajo Nation Museum details the long process of getting a copy of their own treaty to the museum and then tells the story of a young child, who has learned the language, reading the treaty to the elder, there is an overwhelming sense of awe. It also hints at the possibilities for all the tribes and nations of this country.

Finally, when the ambassadors of the Pechanga tribe share how their THPO worked with their archivist, to unearth a recording of their ancestor proclaiming clearly their ties to their creation mountain, and then use that record as evidence at the California State Lands Commission to prevent their creation mountain from being stripped mined for granite, it really hits: this is the reason why it all matters.



Pechanga's Coastal Oak in Temecula, Calif.

Courtesy photo

Here at the museum we do not just keep the stuff of the Seminole people and make little displays. Every act of collecting, of sharing, and connecting is a declaration of sovereignty. Every day, each of us who choose to work for the Tribe, whether a member of a Native American community or not, are affirming the Seminole Tribe of Florida's right to exist.

To see what we do every day, Tribal members are invited to have a personal behind-the-scenes tour given by an experienced staff member. Please call us at 863-902-1113, ext. 12252 (Mary Beth Rosebrough, Research Coordinator) to schedule yours.

Courtesy photo

Poet Laureate, Joy Harjo, speaking at ATALM's opening ceremony.



'Patchwork Mosaic: An Indigenous Gathering of Seminole Masterworks' exhibit to open Nov. 15

FROM PRESS RELEASE

FORT LAUDERDALE — History Fort Lauderdale will shine a spotlight on the significant contributions of local Native American artists during Native American Heritage Month in November. "Patchwork Mosaic: An Indigenous Gathering of Seminole Masterworks" featuring a retrospective of contemporary and traditional fine art from Elgin Jumper, Jessica Osceola, Gordon Oliver Wareham, Brian Zepeda, Pedro Zepeda, Erica Deitz, Samuel Tommie, Tia Blais-Billie, Jacqueline Osceola and Stephanie Hall (collaboratively curated by

the artists along with Tara Chadwick, Jimmy Osceola and Dante Blais-Billie) will run from Nov. 15, 2019 to Jan. 12, 2020, at the New River Inn building of History Fort Lauderdale, an Art Basel partner cultural institution.

"Like a rich tapestry, Fort Lauderdale is a city woven from the colorful traditions and cultures of the indigenous communities that preceded us. Much of our success and influences can be traced back our Seminole ancestors," said Patricia Zeiler, executive director of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. "It is an honor and a privilege to partner with the Seminole Tribe of Florida to showcase the fine art of 'Patchwork Mosaic: An Indigenous Gathering of Seminole



History Fort Lauderdale

'Seminole Village (Sunset till Midnight)' by Tia Blais-Billie will be one of the works on display during 'Patchwork Mosaic: An Indigenous Gathering of Seminole Masterworks' beginning Nov. 15 at History Fort Lauderdale.

Masterworks; during Native American Heritage Month."

Entry to "Patchwork Mosaic: An Indigenous Gathering of Seminole Masterworks" is free with History Fort

Lauderdale general admission. Cost is \$15 for adults; \$12 for seniors and \$7 for students (through age 22 with a valid student ID). Admission is always free for members, military and children ages six

and under. For tickets, visit <http://bit.ly/HistoryFortLauderdaleTickets>.

For more information about History Fort Lauderdale, call 954-463-4431 or visit historyfortlauderdale.org.



Navajo Marine code talkers on duty at Bougainville, Solomon Islands, in 1944.

NARA photo



Native American women reservists with the U.S. Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune in 1943.

NARA photo

Native Americans' service in U.S. military focus of 'The Warrior Tradition' documentary on PBS

FROM STAFF REPORT, PRESS RELEASE

Why would American Indian men and women put their lives on the line for the very government that took their homelands?

"The Warrior Tradition," a one-hour documentary that will air on Veterans Day (Nov. 11) on PBS, tells the stories of Native American warriors from their points of view about their service in the United States military.

The film shares the astonishing,

heartbreaking, inspiring and largely untold story of Native Americans serving in the U.S. military. Stories of service and pain, courage and fear, are shared in the film that was co-produced by WNED-TV (Buffalo/Toronto) and Florentine Films/Hott Productions, Inc.

"A lot of people ask, 'Why did you join a white man's war? They weren't nice to you.' That may be so, still, this is our land," Peter MacDonald, Dine', Navajo Nation, U.S. Marine Corps, said in the film.

During World War I, not all Native Americans were even citizens of the United States, and couldn't be drafted, yet more

than 12,000 Indian men volunteered. Even in Vietnam, an unpopular war, 90 percent of the 42,000 Native people who served were volunteers.

"That's the irony," said Patty Loew, member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe and professor of Journalism at Northwestern University. "Here's a government that has, at various times, tried to exterminate or assimilate Native Americans, destroy their culture, take their land, and yet here are Native Americans serving in the highest percentages of any race or ethnicity relative to their numbers in the US military."

The roll call of valor is endless. But there's more to the story than heroism. And there's more than one way to be a warrior.

More than a dozen Native American veterans appear in the film, having served in Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Army National Guard. They each have their own reasons for having served and for how the warrior tradition played a role in their lives. Among those who share their stories are veterans of wars and conflicts ranging from World War II to ongoing deployments in the Middle East. They are members of tribes from all over the United States,

including the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, the Mississippi Choctaw, Navajo Nation, and the Menominee, among many others.

"The Warrior Tradition" was directed produced by Lawrence Hott and features music from award-winning Native American musicians Dawn Avery, Steven Rushingwind, Kevin Locke and R. Carlos Nakai.

A community and educators discussion guide and other resources about the documentary are available at pbs.org/wned/warrior-tradition/resources/.

Health



Domestic violence awareness programs held in Big Cypress

SUBMITTED BY CERRAH GILES
Development Associate, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

BIG CYPRESS — October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Big Cypress Reservation hosted two awareness events at To-Pee-Kee-Ke Yak-Ne on Oct. 11 to commemorate the month. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum presented the first event to kick-off its 2020 Lecture Series. The day opened with a prayer from Tribal member Martha Tommie, and attendees were welcomed by Museum Director Kate Macuen, who communicated the vision for the lecture series and invited everyone to the next lecture to be held Feb. 21, 2020 with guest lecturer Tina Marie Osceola.

“Domestic Violence is Not Our Tradition” was the first lecture presented by Cherrah Giles, who is the development associate at the museum and also serves as chairwoman of the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center (NIWRC). NIWRC is a Native nonprofit organization created specifically to serve as the National Indian Resource Center (NIRC), addressing domestic violence and safety for Indian women. Under this grant project and in compliance with statutory requirements, the NIWRC seeks to enhance the capacity of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, Native Hawaiians, and Tribal and Native Hawaiian organizations to respond to domestic violence.

Cherrah (Muscoogee Creek/Cherokee) is originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, but now makes her home in Naples, Florida, with her husband Justin (Muscoogee Creek/Cherokee), who also works for the museum as the Oral History coordinator. Cherrah is Fuswvlke (Bird Clan) and from Rekacky (Broken Arrow Tribal Town). As a survivor

of childhood sexual abuse, teenage dating violence, and domestic violence, she shared her powerful story of resiliency and finding empowerment through her tribal community and the grassroots movements of indigenous women. Her work as a survivor-advocate has led her to provide testimony about the safety and sovereignty for indigenous women to the United States Congress, United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. As a former tribal council representative of the Muscoogee (Creek) Nation, she was able to share her experiences, cultural programming ideas, and visioning for ending domestic violence by starting with having open conversations

in safe spaces.

The second event, an awareness rally, was a collaboration between Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Big Cypress Council Office, and the Department of Health & Human Services. Attendees were treated to light refreshments, resource information, and guest speakers. Center for Behavioral Health staff and advocates from The Shelter for Abused Women and Children were on site to share service information and provide help for anyone in need during the events. An information table was also provided by NIWRC with information from their Native Love project and StrongHearts Native Helpline. Martha Tommie shared her moving survivor story of living in a domestic violence home for years but finding the strength to finally leave and heal by overcoming her addictions and working through her trauma.

Attendees were called to action to end domestic violence in their communities and to keep the conversation going. Anyone in need of assistance was encouraged to seek help and reach out to family, friends, community, local law enforcement, domestic violence advocates, and the StrongHearts Native Helpline at 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483), a safe domestic violence and dating violence helpline for American Indians and Alaska Natives that offers culturally-appropriate support and advocacy daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT. It is anonymous and confidential. Callers reaching out after hours may connect with the National Domestic Violence hotline by selecting option 1.

Domestic violence is never okay!

Shonabish/Mvto!



Courtesy photo

Norma Rodriguez, Immokalee outreach manager with The Shelter for Abused Women & Children, addresses a Domestic Violence Awareness Month program in Big Cypress.



Marlin Billie

Attendees gather at the To-Pee-Kee-Ke Yak-Ne Community Center in Big Cypress for programs related to Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

Grants available for efforts addressing Native nutrition and health

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Fertile Ground Policy Innovation Fund is now accepting grant proposals. Grantees will be awarded \$50,000 to \$80,000 each to support Native-led efforts aimed at advancing new policies and innovative policymaking approaches that benefit Native nutrition and health.

This fund is a part of the Fertile

Ground campaign, an initiative of Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community’s (SMSC) Seeds of Native Health campaign and the American Heart Association’s Voices for Healthy Kids initiative. The \$1.6 million Policy Innovation Fund is a continuation of the SMSC and AHA’s partnership to promote Native-led dietary health advocacy, which first began in 2015. Other elements of the campaign include leadership development, technical

assistance and movement-building activities to support the growing nutrition and health movement in Indian Country.

Grant applications will be administered through the First Nations Development Institute. The application deadline is Nov. 14.

For more information visit <https://seedsofnativehealth.org>.

Diabetes program funding for Native Americans finds some life

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Native American health care advocates are breathing a little easier now that a crucial federal diabetes program has been funded – at least for the short term.

Temporary funding was secured for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) after President Donald Trump signed a “continuing resolution” (CR) Sept. 27 that keeps the federal government operating while Congress works on appropriations issues for fiscal year 2020.

SDPI was set to lose funding on Sept. 30. The CR renewed not only SDPI, but several public health programs.

Congress now has until Nov. 21 to make the funding renewal a long term one.

The National Indian Health Board and other Native American advocacy groups have been pushing for SDPI funding and its long-term renewal for months.

The NIHIB recently coordinated a postcard mailing campaign aimed at members of Congress at its 2019 National Tribal Health Conference in California in September.

The Senate and House versions of funding levels are similar. The Senate’s proposed legislation renews SDPI for five years at \$150 million, the same level of funding as it’s seen each year since 2004. The House’s version would renew it at \$150 million for four years.

The program is designed to assist Native Americans who have diabetes or are at risk of it.

Stakeholders site SDPI as a successful public health program that supports 301 grantees throughout Indian Country in diabetes prevention and treatment.

Since the program’s creation in 1997, supporters say it has helped to reduce the rate of end stage renal disease among Native American and Alaskan Natives by 54 percent.

In addition, a 2019 report from the Department of Health and Human Services said that SDPI saved Medicare up to \$520 million over 10 years.

Diabetes programs are of particular importance to Native American communities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that Native Americans and Alaska Natives have a greater chance of getting diabetes than any other U.S. racial group.

With increased risk come greater health complications and higher health care costs.

The SDPI is one of two diabetes-related bills looking for long term funding in Congress. The other is the Special Diabetes Program or SDP. The fate of that bill’s extension was not known by press time.

SDP funds programs researching type-1 diabetes treatment. That bill would increase SDP funding to \$200 million.

More information is at nihb.org.

National Indian Health Board sends letters to Congress over funding concerns

FROM NIHIB PRESS RELEASE

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) sent two letters to Congress in October on funding for Indian health programs.

On Oct. 15, NIHB wrote to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) to prioritize funding for the Indian Health Service (IHS), which Congress has continually underfunded. In its draft appropriations legislation, the House generally maintained higher funding levels than the Senate did for IHS, and NIHB’s letter to Speaker Pelosi and Chairwoman Lowey call for the House to maintain those higher levels.

On Oct. 18, NIHB sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL), requesting that funding for the Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) program be restored. While the House has funded GHWIC at \$21 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, the Senate did not fund the program at all in its draft appropriations language. GHWIC currently supports 35 prevention and intervention programs in Indian Country to reduce death and disability from tobacco misuse, obesity, as well as diabetes, health diseases, and stroke.

NIHB has also created template support letters for Tribes to send to House and Senate leaders. For access to the templates and for more information visit nihb.org.

FREE EVENT

2020 SEMINOLE TRIBAL FAIR AND POW WOW

49th Annual Celebration of Native Arts and Culture

FEBRUARY 7-9, 2020
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO

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 Southern Emcee: Juakin Hamilton
 Northern Emcee: Howard Thomson
 Arena Director: Chaske LeBlanc
 Arena Director: Wendall Powless
 Drum Judge: Calvin “Beaver” Campbell

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 Friday Afternoon: 2:00pm - 5:00pm
 Friday Night: 7:00pm - 11:00pm
 Saturday Afternoon: 12:00pm - 5:00pm
 Saturday Night: 7:00pm - 11:00pm
 Sunday: TBA

Registration:
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SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney (above), courtesy photo (below)

PINK POWER IN BC: The Big Cypress community turned pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month as residents and employees came out for the annual Wear Pink Day that was held Oct. 10. Above, participants gather for a photo at the entrance of the Senior Center. The gathering was organized by the BC Wellness Center. Below, all decked out in pink, Ahfachkee School teachers and staff show their support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



Councilman Mitch O'Farrell Facebook

BATTIESTS IN LA: Seminole Tribe brothers "Doc" Battiest, left, and Spencer Battiest, right, sing in front of Los Angeles City Hall on the city's second annual Indigenous Peoples Day on Oct. 13. The official city holiday replaced Columbus Day. The event was hosted by city councilman Mitch O'Farrell and the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission.



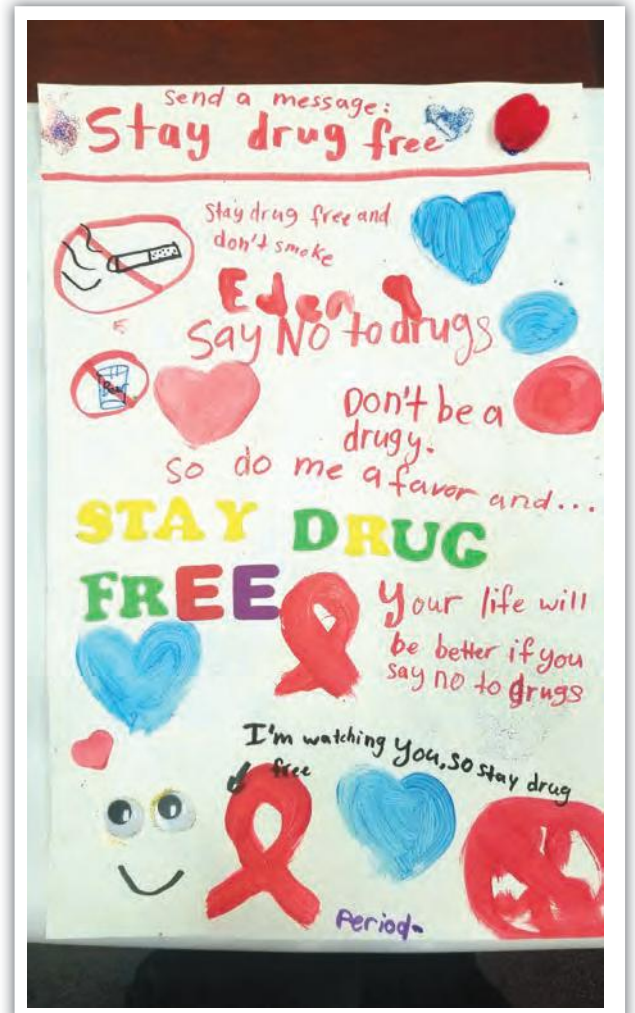
Kevin Johnson

TOUCHDOWN IN TALLY: Florida State's Osceola and Renegade celebrate a Seminole touchdown in FSU's homecoming victory against Syracuse on Oct. 26.



Jane Castor Facebook

GUITAR FOR A GOOD CAUSE: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa helped the City of Tampa celebrate "Pinktober" to raise awareness in the battle against breast cancer. "Thank you to the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Tampa for presenting me with a pink Hard Rock electric guitar as we proclaimed the month of October as #Pinktober! Let's keep fighting for a cure!" Tampa Mayor Jane Castor, at left in the photo, said on her Facebook page.



CBH (2)

RED RIBBON WINNERS: As part of the Red Ribbon Week activities throughout the Tribe, a variety of contests were held including poster contests. At left, the winning entry for Hollywood from Jaiden Turtle. At right, the Brighton Red Ribbon poster contest winner from Eden Johns, 9. Red Ribbon's theme this year is "Send a message: Stay drug free." See page 2B for more coverage.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Tribes call for removal of three dams along Columbia River

Two Washington tribes, the Yakama Nation and Lummi Nation, held a news conference Oct. 14 near The Dalles calling for the removal of three dams along the Columbia River.

The announcement was made on Columbus Day, which is also celebrated as the counter-narrative Indigenous Peoples Day.

The Columbia River, which cuts across much of Oregon's northern border, was not always so wide and slow. In some places, water once poured over rock faces and cliffs, roiling at the bottom in powerful pools and sprays of white mists. One such place was Celilo Falls, near what is present day The Dalles.

In ancient and historic times, Celilo Falls was a hub of northwest Native civilization, a place where salmon could be fished in abundance and tribes subsisted off of the river's resources.

But when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed the Bonneville Dam in 1933, it transformed the Columbia River, flooding historic Native village and fishing sites. By the time construction of The Dalles, Bonneville and John Day dams finished decades ago, a 9,000-year-old way of indigenous life was all but obliterated.

"We are salmon people," Lawrence Solomon, Secretary of Lummi Nation said in a news release. "Salmon connect our rivers and our waterways, salmon connect our peoples."

At the news conference held at Celilo Falls Park, Yakama Nation Tribal Council Chairman JoDe Goudy spoke of a "colonial doctrine of Christian discovery" that has been used to "subjugate, dominate, occupy and possess" Native Americans, their lands and resources.

Goudy called for the immediate removal of the dams, saying that when the U.S. Congress authorized their construction, it did not have the Yakama Nation's "free, prior, and informed consent as required by the Treaty of 1855."

In the treaty, 14 groups gave up 11.5 million acres to the U.S., but the Yakama Tribe had the right to fish at their traditional sites. The dams destroyed those.

"The Columbia River dams were built on this false legal foundation, and decimated the Yakama Nation's fisheries, traditional foods, and cultural sites," Goudy said.

Salmon are a key species in the Pacific Northwest bioregion, and Chinook salmon are preyed on by endangered orcas. The Columbia pools behind the dams in deep reservoirs, slowing its flow and warming its waters, making it difficult for salmon to thrive. Fish that travel upriver to spawn meet barricades of concrete stretching across the riverbed.

The river, which once produced 10 to 16 million salmon each year, now produces around one million salmon annually. Orcas in the Pacific Northwest number just 73.

But the dams also transformed the economic infrastructure of the Pacific Northwest. In 2017, 76% of Oregon's net electricity generation came from conventional hydroelectric power plants and other renewable energy resources, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Together, Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day Dams produce about 40 percent of Oregon's electricity.

In 2013, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office in Portland publicly acknowledged that it never fulfilled its duty to find permanent housing for tribal fishing families displaced first by the dams.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wasn't immediately available to comment on the tribes' public demand for government action.

While the Army Corps of Engineers hasn't yet completed a study on the removal of the Columbia River dams, the agency conducted a 2002 Environmental Impact Study on removing the Lower Snake River dams. It concluded that removing those dams alone would not help endangered salmon populations recover – but that it is one in a series of steps that would help. A July 2019 report by a Portland-based economics firm indicates that removing dams on the Snake River in Eastern Washington would have huge financial benefits as well.

The Army Corps expects another environmental impact study of the 14 dams on the Lower Snake and Columbia rivers will be completed by 2021.

Goudy said future generations are depending upon the current generation to preserve the Columbia's natural resources and indigenous life.

"We are trying to come to an understanding of how our way of life of the Natives is fading and what we can collectively do about sustaining our way of life from now as far as we can see into the future," Goudy said at the conference. "Because if we do not, we will cease to be."

- Oregonianlive.com

Five SD tribes receive \$1 million in public safety funding

STOUX FALLS, SD. – The Department of Justice announced Oct. 18 that it has awarded more than \$273.4 million in grants to improve public safety, serve victims of crime, combat violence against women, and support youth programs in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Five tribes in South Dakota were awarded \$3,740,989 in funding for various programs.

"Violent crime and domestic abuse in American Indian and Alaska Native communities remain at unacceptably high levels, and they demand a response that is both clear and comprehensive," said

Attorney General William P. Barr in a news release. "We will continue to work closely with our tribal partners to guarantee they have the resources they need to curb violence and bring healing to the victims most profoundly affected by it."

In South Dakota, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe received \$450,000 in funding for the Violence Against Women Tribal Governments Program; the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe received \$716,968 for the Tribal Victim Services Program; the Oglala Sioux Tribe received \$738,871, of which \$449,318 is for the Violence Against Women Tribal Governments Program, and \$289,553 is for the Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities; the Rosebud Sioux Tribe received \$1,508,794, of which \$792,134 is for the Public Safety and Community Policing program, and \$716,660 is for the Justice Systems and Alcohol and Substance Abuse program; and the Yankton Sioux Tribe received \$326,356 for Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities.

- Rapid City (S.D.) Journal

Gun Lake Casino announces expansion

WAYLAND, Mich. — A \$100 million expansion project will bring new dining, entertainment and gaming space to Gun Lake Casino in Wayland Township.

The Gun Lake Tribe says preliminary site work is underway and the new space is expected to open in summer 2021. The project consists of a 76,000-square-foot addition being added to the casino.

"We have undergone a careful and detailed process to understand how to best serve the needs of our current guests – and enhanced dining, entertainment, and gaming amenities are a high priority," Sal Semola, president and chief operating officer for Gun Lake Casino, said in a statement.

"These great new amenities will provide new experiences for our guests as part of our continued effort to make Gun Lake Casino the premier entertainment destination in western Michigan."

The new gaming space will house an additional 450 slot machines, 12 table games and a larger non-smoking area.

The expansion, located on the south end of the building, will also double the size of an entertainment area known as Stage 131. Additions to that area include more seating, an outdoor patio and new dining service. Two "upscale" restaurants will be included in the expansion.

Built in 2011, Gun Lake Casino features over 2,000 slot machines, 47 game tables, a high-limit room, a 300-seat buffet, a 225-seat café, as well as lounges, bars and live entertainment.

The casino employs 1,100 people, and officials say they will hire an additional 125 residents as part of the expansion.

"We are proud of the effort of our team members that has driven the continued success of Gun Lake Casino and our Tribe's contributions to Michigan's economy in the last eight years," Tribal Chairman Bob Peters said in a statement. "These expansion plans allow us to build on these efforts and provide even more employment opportunities and increased economic impact in our local communities."

- Mlive.com

Plans for a new casino in Oklahoma are revealed

Oklahoma's legal battle against Native American Tribes continues. It doesn't appear to be stopping tribes from expressing interest in opening casinos here. The Choctaw Nation has revealed plans for a new casino in Oklahoma.

There are a staggering number of Native American casinos in this state. The gambling industry here is showing no signs of slowing down.

Oklahoma has the third-largest number of Native American tribes in the United States after Alaska and California. In 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, allowing all Native American tribes to operate casinos on sovereign land. Immediately, a huge number of tribes in this state decided to open their own casinos.

Over the past two decades, Oklahoma has developed one of the largest tribal casino markets in the country. Since the 90s, tribes have been required to pay between 4% and 10% of their revenue in taxes to the state. In 2018, tribal casinos brought in more than \$139 million in taxes.

Recently, however, Governor Kevin Stitt has asked for lawmakers in the state to reevaluate the current tax structure. He simply wants to ensure that the state is earning what it should from these gambling venues. Interestingly, Stitt voiced his opinion to the media, instead of lawmakers directly.

His new idea did not sit well with tribal leaders in the state. Many tribes immediately began pointing out the contribution that they make to the state. Increasing tax rates would go against an agreement that's been in place for decades, they argue.

Negotiations are continuing to take place between the tribes and state officials. It's unclear exactly how this situation will unfold.

Despite the unknown future tax rates for casino operators, many tribes are still looking to open a gambling venue in Oklahoma. In October, the Choctaw Nation revealed its plans for a new casino in Oklahoma. More specifically, a casino in Matteson, at Lincoln Highway and Harlem Avenue. Many are excited to hear what may be coming here.

The town of Matteson is currently fighting for its opportunity to host a casino.

Plans to construct a \$300 million gambling venue was presented to the Village Board. A vote on the new casino was scheduled to be made on Oct. 21.

Sheila Chalmers-Currin, Village President of Matteson, commented on the decision to open a casino in this city to the media.

"I believe this project will be an asset not just to Matteson, but to the entire Southland Region," she said. "After interviewing multiple casino operators, we felt the team led by the Choctaw Nation provided the best combination of experience, vision, community engagement and a financially feasible plan."

The plan, which the Choctaw Nation would be helping with, calls for 2,000 gaming positions, a high-end restaurant and food hall, a 200-room hotel and 36,000 square feet for small conventions, concerts or similar events. The proposed site covers 35 acres and could include another 15 to 20.

This tribe already operates 22 casinos around the state. Soon, it may have a 23rd.

- BestUScasinos.org

County to consider stronger Native American artifact protections

SALINAS, Calif. — Declaring every Oct. 12 Indigenous Peoples Day in Monterey County, the Board of Supervisors is poised to look at more effectively protecting Native American remains and artifacts in the wake of another Carmel Point project violation.

On Oct. 15, County Administrative Officer Charles McKee announced a formal referral from Supervisors Luis Alejo and Mary Adams calling for the county to amend the county's regulations regarding on-site archaeological monitoring for development projects to "better protect Native American and other cultural resources," especially in "sensitive areas and sites."

That would include increased daily fines of \$10,000 or more for violations of the county's requirement to have archaeological monitors on site during excavation, grading and similar work in areas that might have archaeological resources in order to "ensure compliance," according to the referral.

While Alejo declined to tie the call for tougher archaeological monitoring rules to the latest Carmel Point violation, citing it as a legal matter, the referral comes in the wake of Scenic Road property owners Dale Skeen and Jomei Chang of Atherton being fined and their project site red-tagged for grading in preparation for a three-story home construction project without a required archaeological monitor on the site earlier this year.

Resource Management Agency director Carl Holm said the property owners had already paid the \$4,300 fine associated with the violation and the red-tag had been "partially" lifted to allow the completion of a retaining wall and work to be done on securing the site as the rainy season begins.

According to attorney Molly Erickson, representing clients David Sabih and Save Carmel Point Cultural Resources, the property owners "disturbed" more than 700 cubic yards of earth on the site and transported most of it to a landfill from March until the county issued a stop work order in early June, violating conditions the county board placed on the project when it was approved in 2008.

Erickson has sued the county on behalf of Save Carmel Point Cultural Resources over the county board's approval earlier this year of three other Carmel Point homes each with large basements requiring extensive excavation. She said the \$4,300 fine was inadequate given the "unquantifiable" damage caused and the potential loss of Native American cultural resources such as remains and artifacts in "archaeologically sensitive" Carmel Point – the county's oldest known archaeological site. She noted it represented a fraction of the cost of an archaeological monitor.

In separate letters to the county board, Alliance of Monterey Area Preservationists representatives Mimi Sheridan and Nancy Runyon called for the county to rescind the project permit approval and fine the property owners at least twice what an archaeological monitor would have cost.

Earlier this year, Native American remains were uncovered at another construction project site nearby, and the county also red-tagged another Carmel Point construction site for unpermitted excavation without an archaeological monitor present.

- Monterey (Calif.) Herald

Remembering the time Native Americans created a village on Alcatraz

SAN FRANCISCO – The first ferry to Alcatraz usually leaves at 8:45 a.m. But when the earliest guests arrived at the island on Indigenous Peoples Day, they weren't visiting for a tour of the famed prison.

Groups of Native Americans and their allies visited one of the Bay's most iconic landmarks Oct. 14 for a sunrise ceremony honoring the island's 1969 occupation by a group called Indians of All Tribes. Some of them paddled in traditional canoes, circling the island in tribute to the occupiers.

Since 1989, Indigenous canoe-builders, navigators, and paddlers from tribes in the Pacific Northwest and beyond have converged on the coasts of Washington and British Columbia for an annual event called Tribal Canoe Journeys, part of a global "canoe movement" that's breathing new life into Indigenous modes of seafaring.

The event was held in San Francisco for the first time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the occupation of Alcatraz, a landmark activist stand credited with ending a dark period for Native American rights and inspiring a chain

reaction of Indigenous activism that continues to this day (you can flip through the incredible photos from the occupation in the slideshow above).

Kanyon Sayers-Roods, 31, a familiar face at Bay Area Native events, was instrumental in bringing Canoe Journeys home to California. As a Mutsun Ohlone, she belongs to a southern band of the Ohlone people who are indigenous to much of the land surrounding the Bay. In 2018, Sayers-Roods traveled to Tacoma, Wash. to extend a formal invitation for the event to happen near her traditional territory.

She planned the event with a committee including Eloy Martinez, 79, a Southern Ute veteran of the Alcatraz occupation, and Julian Brave NoiseCat, an Oakland-born writer and organizer of Secwepemc and St'at'imc descent. NoiseCat said the paddle was intended to "reclaim Alcatraz not as a symbol of incarceration, but as liberation."

"This gathering is the start of something beautiful," Sayers-Roods said. "It's a way to share with the community the cultural resilience of Indigenous peoples."

The Bay Area's first peoples were ravaged by disease and brutal violence during their initial colonization by the Spanish, who enslaved many Natives and worked some to death at nearby Catholic missions. Tribes didn't fare much better under the Americans, who punished Natives for speaking their languages and practicing their traditions.

On display at the Oct. 14 event was a freshly built Ohlone-style canoe, handmade from a buoyant local plant called tule—a living testament to the Indigenous lifeways that have endured against all odds.

Starting in the 1950s, federal relocation programs prompted a mass migration of Natives from reservations into cities. The Bay Area was one of the main destinations, and today is home to about 50,000 Native Americans from all across the continent.

During the '60s, an intertribal community emerged around the San Francisco Indian Center, in a time of cultural renaissance and political radicalization. When the center burned down in October 1969, it prompted a group of 89 activists, many of them students, to board boats on the Bay and sail to Alcatraz, where the federal prison had recently been decommissioned.

Thousands of Natives and their allies flocked to Alcatraz, creating a village that offered communal meals, childcare and schooling. The resulting media coverage raised the profile of Indigenous people and the hardships they were facing under federal "termination" policies, which targeted their political rights and social programs. Eight months into the occupation, President Nixon announced an end to the termination. Millions of acres were returned to tribes, and self-determination policies gradually took root.

Honoring that victory at the event were Natives ranging from children to elders, some who came from as far as Hawaii and Canada. Deborah Alexander, 59, came from the Nooksack Indian Reservation, just south of the Canadian border, to paddle in the Shxwhá'y Village canoe with relatives from British Columbia.

Alexander has been canoeing for about 40 years, but said the trip around Alcatraz was something special.

"I was in awe," she said. "You could almost feel the people who were once there, their energy. It was very spiritual for me."

The canoe journey was the first in a series of events centered on the occupation's 50th anniversary. The SF Public Library, the Presidio Trust, and the Exploratorium will co-host a speaker series called "Alcatraz: An Unfinished Occupation," and Julian Brave NoiseCat will work with Alcatraz veteran LaNada War Jack to edit a special issue of SFMOMA's Open Space magazine.

San Francisco lawmakers voted in 2018 to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day, following a nationwide trend that is re-framing the explorer's legacy as one of violence and colonization.

- SFGate.com

Climate activist Greta Thunberg meets with First Nations in Alberta

FORT MCMURRAY, Alberta, Canada – Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg met with members of the Mikisew Cree First Nation near Fort McMurray [in October].

The 16-year-old met with Mikisew Cree First Nation Chief Archie Waquan on Saturday as part of a BBC documentary.

According to a news release, Thunberg filmed along the shores of Gregoire Lake, near Fort McMurray, where she discussed environmental concerns regarding oilsands development and climate change.

"We are honoured to join forces with a dynamic young person leading the way in protecting our planet from the climate crisis," Waquan said in the release. "We can all learn from today's youth and their dedication to preserving our environment for future generations"

Mikisew is the largest First Nation in the area and has been a champion for environmental protection in the region. The nation helped create Kitaskino-Nuwanene Wildland Park, a conservation park that is preserved for the traditional activities of Indigenous people and protects the biodiversity and species at risk.

The nation also monitors environmental harm to its homelands through observing water quantity and quality, changes to ice and snow, and fish and wildlife health.

"Working with Miss Thunberg and the BBC is a major opportunity for the Mikisew Cree First Nation to share with the world how climate change is exacerbating environmental impacts in our region," Melody Lepine, director of government and industry relations, said in the release.

On Oct. 18, Thunberg met with Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam.

Adam said he told Thunberg that many European countries invest in the oilsands and she needs to encourage others to lobby them to invest in greener technologies to extract Alberta energy.

"Tell them to invest in better technologies to enhance how to produce oil from the oilsands," Adam said he told Thunberg. "That's what you call sustainable development."

- Edmonton Journal, The Canadian Press

Maine Celebrates Its First Indigenous Peoples Day

Mainers celebrated the state's first Indigenous Peoples Day (Oct. 14), on what had been Columbus Day.

Members of the Huntley Brook Singers performed at the Maine Historical Society in Portland as part the celebration to mark Maine's first Indigenous Peoples Day.

Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador Maulian Dana said the new holiday is a good step forward in addressing inequality.

"I think changes like Indigenous Peoples Day really bring us to a level of equality, and there's a certain new level of respect," said Dana. "And I think it sets the table for meaningful lasting change."

Last year, Gov. Janet Mills signed into law a bill that changed "Columbus Day" to "Indigenous Peoples Day." The move was intended to better acknowledge the history of Native American tribes. In calling for the change, supporters cited Columbus' mistreatment of native tribes.

Dana said it's no secret that the state of Maine and the tribal nations have not always seen eye-to-eye. She said the 1980 Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act has been used by lawmakers to establish policies that have been at the center of disagreements over tribal sovereignty.

Dana said there have been improvements due to a task force established to examine and diagram out how federal, state, and tribal law and jurisdictions should work.

"I think I have some hope that at least we're having a good discussion and that there's guidelines in place to turn over recommendations from this task force into the hands of the Legislature," said Dana.

The celebration continued with free admission to the Maine Historical Society's exhibition "Holding Up the Sky: Wabanaki People, Culture, History & Art."

Fiona Hopper, lead social studies teacher and Wabanaki Studies Coordinator for Portland Public Schools, was on hand for the morning celebration. Hopper has worked with the school system to better integrate Wabanaki and Native American history into school programming. She said shifting the narrative to focus on Indigenous Peoples, rather than on European explorers, is more historically accurate.

"The history here starts with contact, which a certain kind of history starts – a history of colonization, and the brutality of that, but that's not the actual history of this area," she said.

John Dennis, cultural director for the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, led a prayer to open the day's celebration. He said addressing that history, and marking it with an Indigenous Peoples Day, might start to repair some of the hurt visited upon native peoples by Columbus and the colonists that came to the Americas. "I guess what I want is for them to just look at us as humans again. As people," said Dennis.

- Mainepub ic.org

California tribe purchases brewing company

Northern California's Yurok Tribe announced a deal in October to purchase the Mad River Brewing company in Humboldt County. The sale of the 30-year-old brewery to the Yurok Agricultural Corporation was unexpected, according to Mad River Brewery CEO Richard Hanger.

"Frankly, we were looking for new investors so that we could modernize some of our plant and be more competitive and it just kind of evolved into a sale that wasn't anticipated," Hanger said.

As the craft beer industry has grown, competition caused Mad River to lose market share, but the new ownership will provide capital to expand in California, according to Hanger. The negotiations took just two months and no changes are planned for the brewery.

"Mad River was looking for a different marketing and sales strategy," said Linda Cooley, deputy director for the Yurok Economic Corporation, "They took note of the growth of the Yurok Tribe."

According to Cooley, despite the stigma associated with alcoholism in native communities, the brewery and taproom are not on the Yurok Reservation and the business won't be targeting any particular group.

"I know as a tribe we do a lot with healing and sobriety and we'll continue to do that and this will be completely separate," she said.

Cooley would not disclose the purchase amount of the brewery but said the change will allow the tribe to further diversify their business assets. It will be up to 90 days before the tribe takes ownership.

The Yurok's purchase is not the first Native American-owned brewery or distillery in the U.S. Others include Seven Clans Brewing in North Carolina, Bow and Arrow Brewing in New Mexico and Copper Crow Distillery in Wisconsin.

"It's an exciting time in Indian country and we're paving the way," Cooley said.

- Jefferson Pub ic Radio

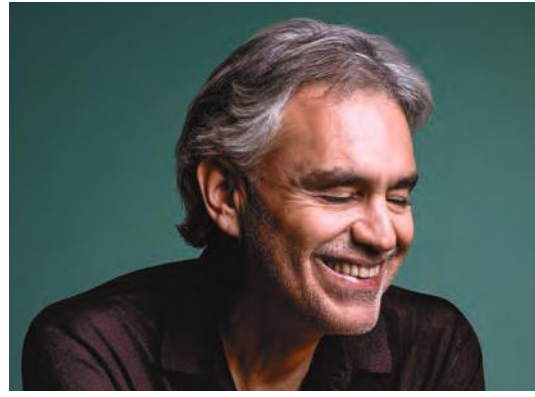
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HOLLYWOOD, FL

Education



Seminoles experience a day of college life at FGCU

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

FORT MYERS — More than 40 Seminole Tribe middle and high school students with a vision for their futures that include college made that dream a reality for a day at Florida Gulf Coast University.

FGCU invited the students to get a taste of the post-secondary academic world, attend a few classes, take a tour of the Fort Myers campus and root for the home team at the volleyball game versus Jacksonville University on Oct. 11.

"This is a day for our youth to see how they can progress in the future," said Brighton Councilman Larry Howard. "I hope they take this opportunity and reap the benefits of having an education. They are the future of our Tribe and we are behind them 100 percent. Knowledge is power."

Two students from Naples, 22 from the Ahfachkee School and 17 from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School attended Seminole Tribe Day at FGCU. The program included hands-on robotics and forensics classes as well as a presentation about succeeding at college.

"We have a great partnership with FGCU," said Lee Zepeda, executive director of administration. "I'm a huge believer in education and am part of the process. The Tribe helped me get an education and I came back to give back. FGCU is close to BC and Brighton and if you are interested in the environment, they are at the forefront."

FGCU junior Ahnie Jumper shared a few words of advice with the students in the hospitality suite at the school's Alico Arena.

"I go home about twice a week, it's that close to home," said Jumper, a social work major. "Take advantage of the resources the Tribe provides. They are there, so why not use them?"

Over the years Butch Perchan, FGCU's partnership coordinator with the Tribe, has hosted six or seven of these Seminole Days at the university as well as sports clinics and SAT and ACT test prep classes.

"I hope the Seminole students are starting to reap the benefits of college," he said. "I hope you'll consider FGCU. If not FGCU, then Florida SouthWestern State College or a vocational school. Education is important."

Monique McKay, director of indigenous initiatives, told the students FGCU is committed to advancing the needs and interests of Native Americans.

"Education is an important value in our communities," said McKay, who is a member of the Metis Nation in Canada. "For self-determination you need your own teachers, doctors, lawyers, business leaders. School is a great life; you get to choose what to study, you are around people who are excited about learning and you can choose a lot of different pathways."

After hearing what the speakers had to say about FGCU, the kids went to experience it for themselves.

On the busses, the advice kept flowing. FGCU student ambassadors served as tour guides and shared their experiences with the middle and high schoolers. One message was repeated often; be as involved in college life as possible. The ambassador on one bus told the students to join clubs and get involved; it will change their college experience for the better.

In the robotics class, students learned how to program small, mobile robots on a computer. The students followed along on the computers in the lab as Dr. Menaka Navaratna, chair of the FGCU math department, walked them through the process. To test whether or not they had programmed the robots correctly, students took them to a cardboard maze in the front of the



Beverly Bidney

During a Florida Gulf Coast University forensic studies class on Oct. 11, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students learn how to dust for fingerprints and find them with a flashlight. From left are Saniya Rodrigues, FGCU graduate student Savanna Dungan and Nena Youngblood. The activity was part of Seminole Tribe Day at FGCU.

classroom and tried to get them to navigate it successfully.

As like much in science, the first time wasn't the charm. Students went back to the computers, tried again and again until they understood the process and succeeded.

"I like it, it's fun," said Carlos Bermudez, an 11th grader at Immokalee High School, who plans to go to college when he graduates.

The class was less than an hour long, but in that time the students became engaged with the process of solving the problem.

"It went really fast," said Patsy Veliz, a senior at Ahfachkee. "I want to keep doing it."

The forensic studies class taught real-life crime scene investigation techniques and the reasons for doing them. They also learned the importance of finding and evaluating evidence. Graduate students studying forensic anthropology helped Dr. Heather Walsh Haney, chair of the FGCU criminal justice department take the students through a variety of evidence gathering exercises from finding fingerprints to mapping a crime scene's exact location.

"It was fun learning about crime scenes because I watch TV shows about that," said Jaylee Jimmie, an eighth grader at Ahfachkee. "It's quite fascinating how they do the investigation and find out how long a body has been there. I will go to college, but I don't know where yet."

In the student success class, FGCU students and staff explained the non-academic aspects of college life such as clubs, interest groups and student organizations. They emphasized the importance of making connections with students and staff members and, of course, getting involved. One student ambassador told the Tribal kids that they will get out of college as much as they put into it.

Another student speaker touted the smaller sizes of FGCU classes as compared to a much larger university. She transferred from the University of Central Florida because she realized

it would be easier for her to learn in smaller classes. She told the Tribal students they will find a community at FGCU and the school has all the resources necessary for them to succeed.

The group participated in a team work activity highlighting the importance of working together, something they will have to do in school



Beverly Bidney

During a robotics class, FGCU math department chair Dr. Menaka Navaratna, Ahfachkee teacher Dr. Rona Olukolu and Ahfachkee students Patsy Veliz and Alena Stockton follow as Dr. Navaratna shows how to program the robot.

and in life.

"I may want to go here," said Dominic Osceola, a senior at Palmetto Ridge High School in Naples. "It's close to family and it feels like a safe environment to learn and make friends."

Before loading the busses for the rest of the tour, which included housing and the bookstore,

students reflected on the experience.

"This is a great college and is close to home," said Carlise Bermudez, a 10th grader at Ahfachkee. "I may apply, but I don't think it will be my first choice. I want to go into law. My mom tells me I should go away to college, but I will definitely take this into consideration."



Beverly Bidney

A large group of Seminole students, teachers, Brighton Councilman Larry Howard and executive director of administration Lee Zepeda gather in front of the FGCU Alico Arena to commemorate Seminole Day at the university Oct. 11.

PECS Students of the Month - September 2019

Elementary School

Alijah Osceola
Janaleigh Bert
Maycen Buck
Tommie Jackson
Claire Randolph
Kalliope Puente
Tate Matthews

Kade Johns

Micah Jimmie
Kyro Cochran
Okalani Collins
Hayden Nunez
Aurelius Lara
Jenna Huff
Mattie Platt

Dalayah Nunez

Khoal Cochran
Meleah Billie
Joleyne Nunez
Gemindia Fudge
Etanis Torres
Ringo Billie
Jaelle Weimann

Middle School

Ava Taylor
Madison Taylor
Keiyana Osceola



Courtesy photos

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Students of the Month for September 2019 are joined by principal Tracy Downing (elementary school students at left, middle school above).

Communities take a stand during Red Ribbon Week

BY STAFF REPORTS

Finding a way to live a drug free life was the resounding theme of Red Ribbon events across the Tribe throughout October. The annual Red Ribbon Week, which spans weeks, is organized by the Tribe's Center for Behavioral Health.

In Brighton, preschoolers, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students, teachers and staff – including Principal Tracy Downing – joined community members and others from CBH, the Boys & Girls Club and Recreation department for the Red Ribbon march.

Scores of participants wearing red t-shirts, provided by Tribal Council, gathered just east of PECS at the CBH parking lot at 9 a.m. to begin the march through one of Brighton's residential neighborhoods.

Students stopped along the walk to tie red ribbons on street signs, fences and mailboxes to mark the message of the walk. Other students carried plastic bags to pick up trash along the way, too.

A spaghetti dinner, poster contest and door decorating contest were also part of the week's festivities – as well as a Red Ribbon

co-ed volleyball tournament at the Brighton gymnasium.

The national Red Ribbon Campaign is sponsored by the National Family Partnership and is observed across the country each year in October. The theme this year was "Send a message: Stay drug free."

Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco, drug and violence prevention awareness campaign. It began in 1985 as a tribute to fallen Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) special agent Enrique Camerena.

Elsewhere in the Tribe, other reservations and communities also celebrated Red Ribbon with events in Fort Pierce, Hollywood, Immokalee and Tampa.

Preschoolers proudly led the way in a community march around the block in Hollywood where they kicked off the reservation's week-long events and continued the "Send a message: Stay drug free" theme. Just about everyone wore red in the march, including Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie. Other events included a healthcare screening sponsored by the Seminole Fire Rescue, a youth basketball tournament hosted by Seminole Recreation and a game night and dinner, both hosted by the Boys & Girls Club.

The "Send a message: Stay drug free" theme was displayed during the Red Ribbon parade in Immokalee, which kicked off a week of events for kids and families.

"There are a lot of bad things out there than can get in your way," said Immokalee Council liaison Ray Garza after the parade. "They are called drugs. There is a good road and a bad road; hopefully you guys will take the good road."

"Substance abuse will keep you from achieving what you want in life," added Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank. "Stay away from drugs. Stay in touch with your family; they will help you with everything."

Fort Pierce hosted a community march at Chupco's Landing and activities for kids and a dinner in the gymnasium.

Poor weather conditions forced Tampa's activities, originally scheduled to be held outdoors, to move inside.

Several art contests were also part of Red Ribbon Week, including door decorating, posters and T-shirt designs.

Red Ribbon activities in Big Cypress were scheduled to be held in early November. Check out the Nov. 29 Tribune for coverage.



Damon Scott

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School student council members met as a group to start off Brighton's Red Ribbon march together Oct. 8. From left are Lason Baker, Marley Jimmie, Santana Alvarez, Josiah Johns, Ila Trueblood, Preslynn Baker, Serenity Bishop, Silas Snow, Jenna Huff and Makai Newkirk.



Analia Austin

Hollywood's Red Ribbon march gets underway with a group photo in front of the preschool.



CBH (2)

Above and below, Tampa's Red Ribbon participants show plenty of enthusiasm during their activities.



Matheus Goes

Youth activities in the Fort Pierce Red Ribbon included art work.



Beverly Bidney

Senior Timesia Jimmie and Zakir Esparza, elder services activity coordinator, get some exercise as they participate in the Immokalee Red Ribbon parade.



Damon Scott

Student Tio Estrada stops to tie a red ribbon on a flag pole during the Brighton march.



Beverly Bidney

One of the decorated vehicles with the theme "Send a message: Stay drug free" in the Immokalee Red Ribbon parade.



Matheus Goes

Youngsters in Fort Pierce gather for Red Ribbon activities in the gymnasium at Chupco's Landing.



Beverly Bidney

Sharrod Wilder and Derek Pray throw candy out for the kids during the Immokalee Red Ribbon parade.



Analia Austin

These Hollywood preschoolers carry a banner to show their support during the Red Ribbon march.



Damon Scott

PECS teacher Donna Dennison and her class were up bright and early for the march. Front row, from left, Kovi Osceola, Elaine Fonseca, Peyton Thronton, Stellar King, Zoie Foster-Snow and Ciani Smith. Middle row, from left, Augustine Jumper and Aurelius Lara. Back row, from left, Grace Youngblood, Waylon Yates, Jeannine Gran and Dennison.

Native children's book a call to protect earth's water

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

A new illustrated children's book tells a story that serves as a rallying cry for safeguarding the earth's water from threats like the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The main character in "We Are Water Protectors" is a young Native American girl who comes face to face with the "black snake," a metaphor for an unnamed menacing oil pipeline.

It was the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) and the response to its proposed construction by Indigenous communities that inspired author Carole Lindstrom to write the book.

DAPL is a 1,772-mile-long underground oil pipeline that begins in northwest North Dakota and continues through South Dakota and Iowa to an oil terminal near Patoka, Illinois.

In early 2016, youth from the Standing Rock Indian Reservation and surrounding Native American communities began to organize and protest its impending construction because of its threats to the environment and water sources located on Native lands.

Despite a worldwide outcry from Indigenous communities and allies, the pipeline was completed in 2017 and oil is now flowing through it.

Leading up to the Standing Rock protests, Lindstrom had been living in South Africa. At the time, she said she'd felt a bit disconnected from what was going on back in the states, but she moved to her current home in Maryland in 2016.

"That was when Standing Rock happened. I felt so connected to my people," Lindstrom said.

Lindstrom is of Anishinaabe/Métis descent and is tribally enrolled with the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe in North Dakota.

She said the protests moved her toward a reconnection with her Indigenousness and also was the spark for the book.

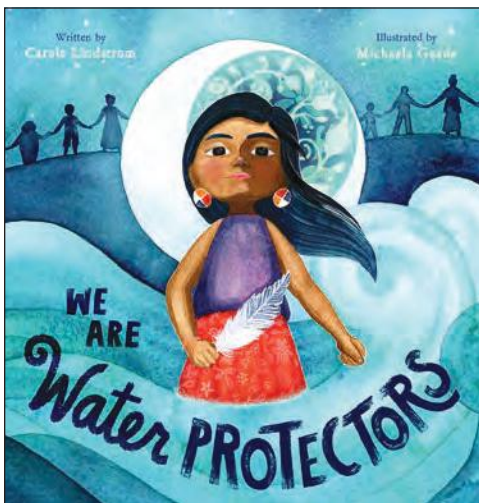
"We all feel the same way about the world, the environment, the animals, the land. I came out of my shell," Lindstrom said. "I have a lot of friends that are still [at Standing Rock]. I see what's happening. So many water protectors are still imprisoned. It boggles my mind and hurts my heart that they are put in prison for trying to protect water peacefully."

Lindstrom's first illustrated children's book was "Girls Dance, Boys Fiddle," inspired by the fiddle and its importance to the Metis culture. It was published in 2013.

For "Water Protectors" her publisher



The main character in "We Are Water Protectors" is a young Native American girl. The "black snake" is a metaphor for an oil pipeline.



The cover of 'We Are Water Protectors'



Author Carole Lindstrom

would connect her with illustrator Michaela Goade.

Goade, who has richly illustrated each page of the book, is an artist and graphic designer from Juneau, Alaska, where she was also raised. She is of Tlingit descent and is tribally enrolled with the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

Goade said her childhood was spent in the forests and on the beaches of southeast Alaska. She said her artistic style is rooted in the depth and beauty of those landscapes.

Lindstrom said the "Water Protectors" resonates well with children in the fourth-to-eighth grades.

She said the book is great for parents or teachers who are looking for a way to start

a conversation with youngsters about more socially and environmentally oriented issues that tend to be complex.

Lindstrom said while she hopes the "Water Protectors" provokes a positive message, it's hard for her to understand why people don't share the same philosophy Native Peoples do about the importance of taking care of the planet.

"It's part of who we are, being stewards of the land. It's inside of us," she said.

"We Are Water Protectors" goes on sale March 7. The book includes an "Earth Steward and Water Protector Pledge" that readers can sign and date. For preordering information, go to carolelindstrom.com.

Miss Florida Seminole to build bond with Ainu people

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Durante Blais-Billie hit the ground running after she was crowned Miss Florida Seminole July 27.

She's already appeared at many Tribal events, programs, a symposium and the grand opening of the Guitar Hotel. She recently appeared at Florida State University's Homecoming, too. That's just a taste.

As part of her one-year reign, she intends to showcase Seminole culture, and educate people on its history and global impact. It means a lot of public speaking, advocacy work and appearances throughout Florida and at national events.

Blais-Billie also wants her work to help bring attention to education access for Indigenous youth and the importance of Indigenous knowledge systems.

It's Indigenous knowledge systems that is motivating one of her most recent endeavors — a trip to Japan in November for a cultural exchange with the country's Ainu people.

The Ainu and Okinawans are known as the only two remaining Indigenous Peoples on the island country.

The Ainu live on the northernmost islands of Japan and the Okinawans live on the southernmost islands.

The Japanese government puts the Ainu population at about 25,000, but unofficial numbers are closer to 200,000. The reason for the disparity is because many Ainu have been completely assimilated into Japanese society and as a result have little to no knowledge of their ancestry.

It's with that backdrop that Blais-Billie will visit Rie Kayano, an Ainu who lives in

Nibutani, Hokkaido.

Kayano is the granddaughter-in-law of a legendary modern Ainu leader — Shigeru Kayano. She is married to Kayano's grandson and is a new mother. Kayano owns and operates an Ainu bed and breakfast and performs Ainu mythology through song and dance.

With Kayano, Blais-Billie hopes to visit a cultural center, see demonstrations of cultural practices, visit Indigenous land and speak with cultural leaders and Ainu community members. She has many other goals for the trip.

At a later date, Kayano will then travel to Florida to learn more about the Seminole Tribe. Blais-Billie will be her host on visits to many different sites around the reservations and South Florida.

In addition, a Tokyo-based media group — 3Minute Inc. — will produce a short documentary-style story about women empowerment that will feature both Blais-Billie and Kayano. Hard Rock International has contracted 3Minute on the project.

Some of the details of the cultural exchange and the documentary were hashed out at a meeting at Tribal Headquarters in Hollywood on Oct. 22.

At the meeting were Blais-Billie, Andrew Bowers, executive director of operations; Naomi Wilson, supervisor of elections; LaVon Rose, Tribal secretary/Princess Program director and members of the 3Minute production team.

The documentary will be filmed at sites in Japan and at Seminole sites in South Florida.

The company has already done three such projects for Hard Rock International.



Damon Scott

At the head of the table (from left to right) is LaVon Rose, Tribal secretary and director of the Princess Program; Andrew Bowers, Tribal executive director of operations; Chuk Beshar, executive producer of 3Minute Inc.; 3Minute producer Rusher Tsukamoto; and 3Minute production assistant Rina Taguchi. Tribal Secretary Supervisor of Elections, Naomi Wilson, is seated next to Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie.

Workshops provide students with array of college info

FROM CSSS

The Seminole Tribe's Center for Student Success and Services hosted "College Information Night" workshops facilitated by higher education academic and career advisors Cynthia Mills, Sandra Freeman, and Sarah-Joy Somarriba in September and October for Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood, Immokalee, Fort Pierce, and Naples.

The workshops provided an opportunity to discuss the Billy L. Cypress Scholarship, the Common and Coalition applications, important deadlines, provide admission essay tips and more. Several students and families walked away with helpful information to continue a successful educational journey onward and upward to higher education and beyond.



Students watch a presentation during a college information workshop in Hollywood.

NIEA's Hill Day to be held in February

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The National Indian Education Association's Head to the Hill will be held Feb. 4-6, 2020, in Washington D.C.

NIEA's Hill Day offers tribal members, Native educators and allies the opportunity to engage with members of Congress to advocate on behalf of NIEA's legislative priorities.

Hill Day features Native education advocacy sessions to engage, update, and inform attendees on key issues current to Native education. The event provides training for Native advocacy for the new national landscape.

For more information visit niea.org.

Endowment to help Natives with college costs

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Lannan Foundation, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, recently announced a \$3 million endowment it created with the American Indian College Fund. The endowment will

provide Native American students with scholarships to attend tribal colleges and universities.

The College Fund supports 35 accredited tribal colleges and universities.

Enrollment is open!

Open enrollment is here, and protecting your family has never been easier.

Medicare enrollment is open until **December 7**.

Marketplace enrollment is open until **December 15**.

Contact your local Indian Health Care Provider for more info.



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Indian Day



Fry bread being is cooked at the Fort Pierce Indian Day celebration Sept. 26 at Chupco's Landing. Analia Austin



It's ready, aim, fire at the Big Cypress Indian Day's archery competition Sept. 26. Beverly Bidney



Josh Sneed and Lance Tommie take part in the horseshoe toss competition in Fort Pierce. Analia Austin



Members of the Cypress family, Sydnee Cypress, Esther Buster, Eileen Cypress, Quenton Cypress, Dakotah Cypress, Terinna Cypress and Darlah Cypress, enjoy the Big Cypress Indian Day. Beverly Bidney



Resha Doctor and Ayeze Henry race against time in their canoe during the Big Cypress Indian Day celebration. Beverly Bidney



Antonio Timothy, left, and Remus Griffin participate in Fort Pierce's Indian Day horseshoe toss competition. Analia Austin



These girls try to corner the chickens so they can grab them during the chicken chase at Brighton's Indian Day celebration. Beverly Bidney



Ameliana Osceola, 6, drags the thatch to the finish line during the kids' competition in Brighton. Beverly Bidney



Adrian Baker and Carla Gopher Rodriguez pull away from the competition during a canoe race at the Brighton Indian Day celebration Sept. 27. Beverly Bidney



Brighton Councilman Larry Howard successfully carries three logs during the cypress race on Indian Day. Beverly Bidney



Adrian Baker and Sandy Billie show their support for the University of Miami Hurricanes during Brighton's Indian Day at Tucker Ridge. Beverly Bidney



Salina Dorgan, Amber Craig and Jennie Eagle show off their fry bread at the Brighton Indian Day celebration Sept. 27. Beverly Bidney

Indian Day



Kevin Johnson
Tyler Harjochee and Joe Kippenberger paddle past The Guitar Hotel while competing in Hollywood's Indian Day canoe races on the pond across U.S. 441 from the iconic hotel Sept. 26.



Damon Scott
Cooking fry bread is hard work, especially in the heat under the chickee. Cornelia Osceola was part of the friendly competition in the senior category as part of Indian Day events on the Hollywood Reservation at the Community Culture Center Sept. 25.



Kevin Johnson
From left, Naha Jumper, Abelardo Garcia, Richard Osceola and Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola compete in the Hollywood Indian Day clothing contest in the



Kevin Johnson
Many of the participants in the Hollywood clothing contest gather at midcourt of the Howard Tiger Recreation Center basketball court for a photo.



Damon Scott
Daphney Osceola-Hahn, Elizabeth Martinez, Mike Cantu and Griffin Billie all enjoyed Indian Day in Hollywood.



Damon Scott
Blake Osceola is focused on the target during the axe throwing competition in Hollywood.



Damon Scott
Mingo Jones takes aim during the archery contest in Hollywood.



Joel Colon
Herbert Jim at the Tampa Indian Day celebration in Lakeland.



Damon Scott
Krishawn Henry goes to work in the log peeling contest in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson
Adrienne Bell, left, and Jessica Osceola paddle hard as they near the finish line in the Hollywood Indian Day canoe race.



Damon Scott
From left, Carla Cypress, Shannon Tiger and Rochelle Osceola cook fry bread at the Community Culture Center in Hollywood. The event took place as part of Indian Day activities Sept. 25.

Indian Day



Joel Colon

Members from the Tampa community enjoy their Indian Day celebration in Lakeland.



Joel Colon

Brian, Nigel, Dominic, Dorian and Amari Osceola at the Tampa Indian Day.



Beverly Bidney

Billy Walker tells traditional Seminole stories and legends at the Immokalee Indian Day culture day at the village Sept. 23.



Beverly Bidney

Noah Yzaguirre's arrow makes its way to the target as he skillfully lets it go during the Immokalee Indian Day on Sept. 26.



Beverly Bidney

Allison Concepcion concentrates on peeling the log quickly and cleanly as an audience cheers her on at the Immokalee Indian Day celebration.



Joel Colon

Bobby Henry at the Tampa Indian Day in Lakeland.



Beverly Bidney

Becky Martinez heaves a skillet during the Immokalee Indian Day skillet toss contest.



Beverly Bidney

Jimmy Wayne Holdiness takes aim at the target at the Immokalee Indian Day event.



Beverly Bidney

Jonathan Rodriguez, Ray Yzaguirre, Jordan Rodriguez and Jimmy Wayne Holdiness enjoy some family time at Indian Day in Immokalee.



Beverly Bidney

Michaela Shaffer gives her nephew Mordecai Yzaguirre a bird's eye view of the Immokalee Indian Day festivities.

Sports



Silas Madrigal, Kamani Smith among seniors honored by Okeechobee High School football

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

OKEECHOBEE — Five minutes remained in a first half that had already been an impressive senior night game for Silas Madrigal.

The senior safety broke up a couple passes and made a handful of tackles, including two touchdown-saving stops, one coming when he dragged a Westwood ball carrier to the ground by his shirt at the seven-yard line.

But Madrigal's highlight reel wasn't finished. With 4:54 left before halftime and moments after a would-be interception slithered out of his hands, Madrigal regrouped and picked off a bomb. This one didn't get away as No. 23 in the black and purple caught the ball at the Okeechobee 14-yard line and calmly eluded a few opponents on a runback that netted 33 yards.

Madrigal and the rest of Okeechobee's defense were a big reason why the underdog Brahman held a 7-6 lead at halftime. On Westwood's first possession, Madrigal made two tackles and the Brahman escaped with allowing only a field goal after the visitors had a first-and-goal. Ditto on Westwood's second possession as Madrigal made three tackles, including the shirt-grabbing takedown, and Westwood once again settled for three points despite a first-and-goal.

"It was by far his most productive game since our preseason game," Okeechobee coach Ty Smith said. "Hopefully he continues to grow in the next two games as the year comes to a close. I love having him around."

Westwood ended up spoiling the hosts' senior night by rallying for a 27-7 win. Okeechobee's only scoring came on its first possession of the game. The Brahman won the following week, 48-40, against Glades to improve to 2-7 with the season finale set for Nov. 1 at Clewiston.

Before the senior night game started, Okeechobee honored about 20 of its players from the class of 2020, including Seminoles Madrigal and starting offensive lineman Kamani Smith, who was unable to play due to a knee injury he suffered in practice earlier in the week.

They were joined by family members, including their parents. Smith walked with his mom Suraiya and dad, Chaka, who is an assistant coach. Madrigal walked with



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee High School football seniors Kamani Smith, left, and Silas Madrigal, the only Seminoles on the team, get ready for their senior night game against Westwood on Oct. 18 in Okeechobee. Smith did not play due to an injury he suffered in practice earlier in the week.

his mom, Letty, and dad, Howard. The PA announcer mentioned that Madrigal hopes to attend the University of Miami, the alma mater of his father.

Coach Smith, who was previously a longtime assistant coach in the program, praised the two Seminoles for their outstanding seasons and the improvements they've made.

The 6-foot-3, 370-pound Kamani Smith is in his fourth year of football at OHS, including the last three on the varsity squad. After working hard throughout the summer, Smith has been a starting tackle all season.

"He's had a drastic improvement," coach Smith said. "He put in his best summer in the last four years. His summer was fantastic. He's improved a lot since his freshman year. He's gotten bigger and stronger."

During the offseason, OHS coaches discussed who should go where in the lineup. They figured Smith would do well at tackle, and they were right.

"Kamani is not one of our faster linemen, but he is our biggest lineman. We said this position would fit him best for what we're doing, and it has worked out well," coach Smith said.

While Kamani Smith has been a part of Brahman football for the past four years, Madrigal only joined the squad a year ago as a junior. Coach Smith wished Madrigal would have started football earlier, but he said Madrigal has gotten the most out of his two seasons.

"Silas has been one of those who we've been excited about having the last two years," the coach said. "He's done multiple sports here, basketball, baseball and football. He's been a pleasure to have. He's one of those kids you love to have. He understands the game."

Madrigal and Smith have excelled in the classroom, too. Both take college-level courses. In fact, Smith will be ahead of the game when he starts college because



Kevin Johnson

After making an interception, Okeechobee High School safety Silas Madrigal (23) picks up yards on the return in the second quarter against Westwood High School on Oct. 18 in Okeechobee.

he expects to graduate this spring having already earned an associate degree from Indian River State College.

Smith said he won't pursue playing football in college.

"This will probably be it for me because I don't have a desire to play football in college, but I plan to further my education and hopefully I'll get into FSU," he said.

Smith used to play basketball, but says he's "retired" now from the sport. But Madrigal, a guard, will be on the court again this winter for the Brahman as they try to defend their district title.

Smith and Madrigal are the only

Seminoles on the OHS football team. They said there's nobody from the Tribe coming up through the program. They explained that some kids they grew up with in Brighton who play football are at Moore Haven High School while others haven't pursued the sport at Okeechobee.

"I don't think a lot of kids that we grew up with were into football, and if they were, they quit," Smith said.

But Smith and Madrigal are glad they are OHS football players; so is their coach.

"Both of them are special kids," coach Smith said.



Kevin Johnson

Silas Madrigal (23) and the rest of the Okeechobee Brahman take the field Oct. 18 for their final home game of the season.



Kevin Johnson (2)

Okeechobee High's Silas Madrigal makes a touchdown-saving tackle as he brings down a Westwood player at the 7-yard line.



Kevin Johnson

During Okeechobee High football's senior night ceremony, Kamani Smith is joined by family members, including his sister Chaka; mom, Suraiya; and dad, also named Chaka, who is an assistant coach for the team.



Kevin Johnson

Silas Madrigal is joined by mom, Letty; dad, Howard; and sister, Alyssa, during the senior night ceremony.

Brienna Brockman, Mallorie Thomas excel on OHS senior night and beyond

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

OKEECHOBEE — First, the tears flowed. Then came the hits and kills and passes, and, in the end, triumph. Those couple sentences summed up Okeechobee High School volleyball's senior night as the Brahman cruised past Lake Placid, 3-0, on Oct. 10, but this was more than just a successful senior night for the Brahman.

Before the game, the team's two seniors from the Tribe — Brienna Brockman and Mallorie Thomas — were honored during a ceremony along with senior captain Ashley Snyder.

Brockman was escorted by her mom, Stephanie Johns, and Mallorie was escorted by her mom, Amanda Julian. The seniors

made their way through an emotional line as they were greeted by their younger teammates with hugs, tears, flowers and other gifts in what was the final home match of their careers.

"I'll miss seeing all these people every day," said Thomas, who played three years on varsity.

Brockman said her fondest memory as a Brahman volleyball player is what she described as a team "pow wow" when the girls met in an office and sat in a circle with each taking turns in the middle saying what they like about each other.

"It brought us really close together and it made us all really tighter, not only on the court, but outside the court. We could trust each other more," said Brockman, who also played three years on varsity.

Okeechobee coach Taylor Padrick said Brockman and Thomas have been "great



Okeechobee's Brienna Brockman (7) goes up for a block attempt in the Brahman's senior night victory against Lake Placid on Oct. 10.

Kevin Johnson



Okeechobee High School senior Mallorie Thomas receives hugs from teammates as she makes her way through the senior night ceremony Oct. 10 in Okeechobee.

Kevin Johnson



Okeechobee High School senior Brienna Brockman hugs teammate Elle Thomas during the pregame senior night ceremony in which Brockman, Mallorie Thomas and Ashley Snyder were honored.

Kevin Johnson

teammates" with "fantastic attitudes."

"I've seem major improvements in confidence and leading on the court," said Padrick, now in her seventh year at the helm.

In regard to the confidence, Padrick said Brockman and Thomas have had tendencies to get down on themselves in matches, but this season she's witnessed both players blossom in that area.

"That's something we've really tried to work through," Padrick said. "Mallorie had a great game the other night because she didn't let that happen. She showed a real maturity and she played fantastically. Every ball she touched, everything she passed was fantastic; every hit was impressive. Bri, the same thing around the net; Bri can dominate the net. When she's on, she's on. She can put the ball down. She's gotten a lot better at being more consistent. She's a force to be reckoned with."

Thomas developed into a key member of the team, especially on defense and in serving. She had 17 service points and eight aces — both season highs — in the senior night win against Lake Placid. On Oct. 10, she generated a season-high 15 digs in a win against Sebastian River. She averaged about 5.5 digs per game and finished with more than 125 for the season.

At 5-foot-10, Brockman was one of the taller players on the team. She thrived at the net as one of top hitters and blockers. She said she won't forget her time as an Okeechobee player anytime soon.

"When I leave, I'm not leaving. I'm always going to be a Brahman. Once a Brahman, always a Brahman," Brockman said. "I'm going to come and support every single one of these girls on their senior nights."

Both players would like to continue playing volleyball in college.

Although the Okeechobee High volleyball careers of Brockman and Thomas have ended, the Tribe will still be well represented in the coming years thanks to Elle Thomas and Karey Gopher. Both sophomores have established themselves as key contributors and will have two years of varsity experience under their belts — plus plenty of club volleyball experience — come

next season.

"I have confidence in them," Brockman said.

Okeechobee reached the Class 5A-District 12 championship game, but fell to Jensen Beach in straight sets.

Brockman had six kills. For being runner-up, Okeechobee journeyed to Merritt Island for a 5A regional quarterfinal Oct. 23. The Brahman's season ended with a 3-0 loss. They finished with a 15-11 record.



Okeechobee seniors Mallorie Thomas, left, and Ashley Snyder work together to make sure the ball doesn't hit the ground during the senior night match against Lake Placid.

Kevin Johnson



The Okeechobee High School volleyball team gathers for a group photo in honor of their three seniors, who were joined by family members during a pregame ceremony. Posters of the seniors - Mallorie Thomas (4), Ashley Snyder (2) and Brienna Brockman (7) are in the background.

Kevin Johnson

Soccer makes popular debut at PECS

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

SEBASTIAN — Jovanny Torres wasn't sure what kind of response he would get from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students when he asked at the school's open house about starting a soccer team.

The response was overwhelming. Twenty kids — including four girls — signed up to be a part of the inaugural squad. Season one kicked off in September with a roster chock full of players who never played the sport, but were eager to learn. Fortunately, Torres, who is the PECS athletic director, played soccer while growing up and was glad to add soccer coach to his duties.

"I know the sport," he said. "So when they said we could have soccer, but we don't have a coach, I said if I start it I can coach it, too."

Torres said the addition of soccer hasn't hurt the school's only other fall sport, volleyball, which remains a popular option. He said several kids on the soccer team were using the sport as an opportunity to get into shape for basketball in the winter.

The first order of business was to order uniforms, shin guards and balls. On the field, practices were held with just cones on a field with no lines and no nets; the latter were on order. Plenty of instruction was required at practices, including explanations about the rules of soccer, which for those unfamiliar with the sport, can be confusing. Case in point: offsides.

"They didn't understand the concept," Torres said. "You can go as far as (an opponent's) last player. It really all depends on where (the opponent) is lined up; that's what they didn't understand."

Offsides, no doubt, can be as frustrating for new players to learn as it is for new fans to watch. PECS played a game against a team whose defense was high and then played a game against a team whose defense was low, leaving PECS players perplexed as to why they were called for offsides in one game if they were in the same location as the previous game when they weren't called for offsides.

"They're like, 'Coach, but I'm standing in the same spot as last time,'" Torres said.

Although the team lacked experience in its first year — Keenan Jones was the only player who had played on a soccer team — there were some highlights from the



Kevin Johnson

The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's soccer team concluded its inaugural season Oct. 10. The team traveled more than 90 minutes to Sebastian by bus only to have the game against Sebastian River Middle School canceled due to no referees. PECS is coached by Jovanny Torres. The players are (in alphabetical order) Santana Alvarez, Suriya Alvarez, Hinton Anderson, Aundre Baker, Bryce Baker, Lason Baker, Brandon Gabbard, Malakai Garland, Maylon Foster, Keenan Jones, Valentine Martinez, Keiyana Osceola, Deanthony Torres and Jovanny Junior Torres.

newbies.

"Aundre Baker really surprised me. He's probably the best player on the team and he's never played soccer before," Torres said.

Finding someone who wanted to be the goalkeeper wasn't difficult. Santana Alvarez did more than just volunteer to be the keeper; he also excelled in the position.

"He's a football player, so he's pretty aggressive and he wasn't scared to get hit with the ball," Torres said. "He asked to play

goalie and I said sure. If it wasn't for him, we'd lose a lot worse. He gets at least 10 or 12 saves a game. He's come up big with us."

When PECS played its first game, the lines on the field, including the goalie boxes, were all new to the players. They had practiced on a field without lines. Torres said it took some time for his players to adjust to proper position play.

PECS was scheduled to have a six-game season, but two games were cancelled, including the season finale at Sebastian River Middle School on Oct. 10. A 90-minute bus trip to Sebastian was essentially wasted when the game was cancelled due to no referees. PECS still wanted to play even without referees, but Sebastian River nixed that idea.

By season's end, the PECS team featured a roster of 14 players, including the four girls who initially signed up. The league is co-ed, but Torres said he didn't see any girls on other teams.

Torres has encouraged all his players to continue playing during the offseason in recreation leagues or elsewhere.

"I told them the more you play, the better you get," he said.

PECS didn't have any home matches this season because the team was formed so close to the start of the school year, but Torres hopes games will be played in Brighton next season.

"We're trying to set up a field behind the pool. It used to be a football field. We ordered soccer goals. They haven't come in yet. We just use cones for practice," he said.

As for a season one summary, Torres said the primary goal was for the players to enjoy their debut with soccer.

"We're just out there having fun. They're learning a new sport," he said.



Kevin Johnson

Bryce Baker dribbles the ball while Malakai Garland plays defense during warm ups in Sebastian.



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Deanthony Torres, left, and Keiyana Osceola battle for the ball during warm up drills before PECS was scheduled to face Sebastian River Middle School. The game ended up being canceled due to no referees.



Kevin Johnson

Eighth-graders on the first-ever Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School soccer team gather for a photo Oct. 10. They are, from left, Keiyana Osceola, Valentine Martinez, Bryce Baker, Aundre Baker and Santana Alvarez.



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Damon Scott

From left are Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola; LeAnn Freeland, Nova Southeastern University head women's basketball coach; Abbie Tepe-Murphy, NSU women's assistant coach; Abbie Lawson, NSU manager of marketing and promotions; and Francine Osceola.

Tribe, NSU basketball working together

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — As a small gesture of appreciation, representatives from the Nova Southeastern University women's basketball staff gave Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola an NSU pullover and hat on Sept. 26 in his office at Tribal Headquarters.

During the visit, the possibility was discussed to name the team's Nov. 18 home opener "Seminole Tribe of Florida Night." The game is at 5:30 p.m. against Bentley University.

The women's basketball program is also working with Skyla and her mother Francine Osceola to bring basketball camps to the Hollywood Reservation.

Skyla is a redshirt sophomore guard who did not play last season due to an injury. As a freshman in the 2017-18 season, Skyla led the squad with 90 assists and posted a 3.33 assist-turnover ratio, which not only led the Sunshine State Conference, but ranked her second in the nation.



NSU Athletics

The Seminole Tribe's Skyla Osceola (#11) is front and center in the 2019-20 Nova Southeastern University women's basketball team photo. The team starts its regular season Nov. 8 in Cleveland, Mississippi, against Tennessee's Union University.

Flag football MVP



Courtesy photo

Congratulations on receiving MVP for the Cooper City Flag Football All-Star game. Great job, Haash! You're awesome!

Mom, Dad, Gamy, and Logan

Seminole Hard Rock sponsored celebrity soccer match to be held Nov. 23

FROM PRESS RELEASE

MIAMI BEACH — The second annual Celebrity Soccer Match, presented by Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, will be held Nov. 23. The matches will take place beachside between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the North Beach Bandshell Sand-bowl at 7275 Collins Avenue in Miami Beach.

The fundraising event supports Best Buddies, an organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The event will feature seven-on-seven friendly matches with celebrities, athletes, models and buddies; meet and greets; children's clinics; soccer training classes; brand activations; a VIP lounge and more.

Confirmed attendance include: former soccer player Juan Pablo Galavis, Bachelor in Paradise cast member Connor Obrochta, former Premier League player Enoch Olusesan Showunmi, former NFL players Santana Moss and Rashad Jennings, Premier League soccer player Mario Borriello, former soccer player Nino DiMaggio, former NFL player Jeremy Shockey, NFL player Blake Bortles, professional wrestler Titus O'Neil, actor and producer (11:11 Films & TV) Manolo Cardona, former Miss Universe and Miss USA Olivia Culpo, actor Jason Lewis, actor and choreographer Beau "Casper" Smart, Irie Foundation and Irie Weekend founder DJ Irie, former Miss Universe Canada Sahar Biniaz and Riza Santos, Miss Florida USA Nicolette Jennings, former Miss Colombia Ariadna Gutierrez, and Miss Miami Heather Lee O'Keefe, as well as Sports Illustrated models.

The event has expanded to a four-day affair:

- Nov. 21 at 6:30 p.m. — sports panel discussion on social responsibility through sports followed by a cocktail reception.
- Nov. 22 at 11 a.m. — models photo shoot and promo video
- Nov. 23, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Soccer Match main event at the North Beach Bandshell Sand-bowl - 7251 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach
- Nov. 23, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. — after party.
- Nov. 24 at 11 a.m. — yoga experience and pool party.

For the Nov. 23 event, admission is free and open to the public. VIP Lounge tickets are available for \$150. Tickets can be purchased at www.celebritysoccermatch.com.

Ahfachkee volleyball shows promise as brief season ends

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BIG CYPRESS — If you blinked, you may have missed the home portion of the Ahfachkee School volleyball schedule.

The team played its only home match of the season Sept. 30 against the Moore Haven High School junior varsity squad.

With several middle schoolers on its roster and many players brand new to the sport, Ahfachkee played an abbreviated five-match schedule this year. Although they fell to Moore Haven in two sets at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, the Lady Warriors provided a glimpse of a brightening future with its strongest performance of the season. The scores were 25-14, 25-12, but the more important aspect was that Ahfachkee produced its most competitive match and showed plenty of improvement compared to early in the season.

"We did much better today. We've been improving significantly. We've been practicing a lot with serving and receiving the ball," said Ahfachkee coach Randy

Hernandez.

Ahfachkee wasted no time in showing where it has improved. Barbara Jimmie served three aces to start the match. In game two, Tahnia Billie delivered a pair of aces. Ahfachkee also won a few points on Lania Bert's serves.

"Usually they do better in the second and third sets. The first game they're usually not that comfortable," Hernandez said.

Hernandez is encouraged that the players want to keep playing and continue learning after the season. Forming a strong core for the future around players who are currently in middle school will no doubt take time. Hernandez said after-school options will be considered as part of the development process.

"You have to keep building through the year," he said. "Conditioning is something that we need to focus on. With more conditioning, they will move more."

With a young roster — Destiny Cypress was the only senior — that featured nine middle schoolers, Ahfachkee has the time to grow.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee coach Randy Hernandez guides the team in its only home match of the season Sept. 30 against Moore Haven High School's junior varsity at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee's Tahnia Billie controls the ball at the net in a match against Moore Haven High School junior varsity.



Kevin Johnson

Lania Bert delivers a serve for Ahfachkee during its match against Moore Haven JV.



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Fun with pumpkins at Hollywood Senior Center



Analia Austin (3)

In preparation for the fall festival and Halloween, the Hollywood Senior Center hosted a pumpkin carving event Oct. 25. Above, Joe Paul Billie works on his carving skills. Below left, Patrick Doctor Sr. gives a thumbs up as he carries a pumpkin. Below right, Nettie Stewart and Cornelia Osceola pick pumpkins.



Seminole Casino Hotel to host hiring event Nov. 19

FROM PRESS RELEASE

IMMOKALEE — Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee will host a hiring event Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. in the Seminole Center.

- Positions available include:
- Accounts Payable Clerk
 - Assistant Beverage Manager
 - Cash Operations
 - Cook
 - Cocktail Server
 - Players Club Representative
 - Restaurant Host/Hostess

- Restaurant Server
- Room Attendant
- Security Officer
- Slot Attendant
- Zig Zag Dealer

Candidates are encouraged to submit an application before the hiring event at www.gotoworkhappy.com or by texting the word CASINO to 97211. Candidates should also bring their resumes and employment authorization documents, and dress for success.

Seminole Casino Hotel is located at 506 South 1st Street, Immokalee.

Baccarat debuts at Seminole Hard Rock in Hollywood

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Casino guests now have a new way to play a classic game as Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood debuted IGT Dynasty Baccarat electronic table game earlier this month. Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood is the first casino property in Florida to have the electronic table game.

The game features:

- Enhanced player interface that accommodates faster betting responses and an intuitive drag-and-drop function
- Streamlined betting screen that includes 28 new straight-up bets
- Patented side bet screen that enables players to customize their betting options to their personal preference with multiple selections

Thanksgiving dining specials set at Seminole Casino Coconut

FROM PRESS RELEASE

COCONUT CREEK — Seminole Casino Coconut Creek will offer Thanksgiving (Nov. 28) dining specials at four of its restaurants.

NY Steak

The property's fine dining steakhouse will offer Thanksgiving dinner from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. A three-course menu for \$75 per person will be available, along with an a la carte menu.

Featured items will include roasted butternut squash bisque or autumn salad (first course); all-natural free-range turkey with traditional sides (main course) and a choice of pumpkin pie or bourbon pecan pie for dessert.

For reservations, call 954-935-6699 (6NYY).

Sorrisi

From 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., the property's fine dining Italian restaurant will offer Thanksgiving features such as roasted butternut squash soup, fall panzanella salad, a traditional turkey dinner, sweet

potato ravioli, as well as pink lady apple crostata or pumpkin cheesecake for dessert. For reservations, call 954-585-5379.

Fresh Harvest

The property's elevated variety dining experience will serve Thanksgiving dinner from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. for \$42 per person (\$17 for children 10 and under).

The chef-inspired holiday favorites will include whole turkey (white and dark meat), prime rib with au jus, grilled salmon with pineapple chutney, braised beef short rib, lamb pot roast, herbed pork loin, traditional cornbread stuffing, peel and eat shrimp, cheddar potato gratin and snow crab legs with drawn butter.

Dessert will include pastries, tarts, cakes and pies.

4 t Street Deli

From 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Thanksgiving Day features will include roasted butternut squash soup, a fall salad, a turkey dinner burger, a traditional Thanksgiving dinner and pumpkin cheesecake bars for dessert.

\$11.2 million awarded to for Native communities

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families recently awarded 40 grant projects, totaling \$11,237,594 with a goal to help strengthen Native communities throughout the United States.

ANA promotes self-sufficiency for Native Americans by providing discretionary grant funding for community-based projects as well as training and technical assistance to eligible tribes and Native organizations. Funding through the Social and Economic Strategies (SEDS), Social and Economic Strategies for Alaska (SEDS-AK), and the Environmental Regulatory Enhancement (ERE) grants will assist Native governments and organizations with planning, developing and implementing projects that preserve Native culture and ceremonies, support economic development, utilize traditional practices to safeguard the land, water and air environments within and around Native communities, and strengthen inter-generational activities between elders and youth. These grant projects, which have a project period between one to three years, support ANA's mission to promote self-sufficiency and encourage communities to move toward social and economic well-being.

Each grant recipient proposed projects based on needs identified by their community. One such example is the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin. According to the State of Wisconsin, Menominee County has the highest three-year rate of drug overdose deaths involving opioids. Using ANA funds, the Tribe aims to establish three satellite mental health offices

across rural villages on the reservation, while supporting four students to become alcohol and other drug abuse counselors.

The following Native American governments and organizations are recipients of the Social and Economic Development Strategies for Alaska 2019 grant:

- Angoon Community Association (AK) - \$159,640
- Nanwalek IRA Council (AK) - \$124,458
- The following Native American governments and organizations are recipients of the Social and Economic Development Strategies 2019 grant:
- Alaska Native Justice Center, Inc. (AK) - \$400,000
- Knik Tribe (AK) - \$400,000
- Empowering Pacific Island Communities (AS) - \$400,000
- San Carlos Apache Tribe (AZ) - \$392,985
- Native American Connections (AZ) - \$100,000
- American Indian Recruitment Programs (CA) - \$128,354
- California Indian Manpower Consortium (CA) - \$128,914
- KA'EHU (HI) - \$399,484
- Partners in Development Foundation (HI) - \$400,000
- Sustain Hawaii (HI) - \$377,989
- Sustainable Molokai (HI) - \$335,612
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (MI) - \$400,000
- Michigan Indian Legal Services, Inc. (MI) - \$102,117
- American Indian Family Center (MN) - \$274,626
- Bote Learning Center (MN) - \$345,363
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (MN) - \$280,724

- Lower Sioux Community Council (MN) - \$255,109
- Prairie Island Indian Community (MN) - \$229,637
- Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians (MN) - \$381,847
- Comm. N. Mariana Islands Pub. Schools System (MP) - \$147,755
- Friends of Mariana Trench (MP) - \$250,720
- Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy Res. (MT) - \$129,345
- Amer. Indian Science and Engineering Society (NM) - \$310,023
- Dine Anai, Incorporated (NM) - \$389,962
- Native American Indian Center of Central Ohio (OH) - \$284,024
- National Indian Women's Health Resource Center (OK) - \$164,923
- The Klamath Tribes (OR) - \$245,298
- Pine Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce (SD) - \$400,000
- Lummi Indian Business Council (WA) - \$355,308
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (WI) - \$240,527
- Red Cliff Band Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (WI) - \$388,268
- The following Native American governments and organizations are recipients of the Environmental Regulatory Enhancement 2019 grant:
- Native Village of Ekwok (AK) - \$94,419
- Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (AK) - \$274,927
- Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (CA) - \$165,060
- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation (CA) - \$273,569
- Nez Perce Tribe (ID) - \$118,573
- Cherokee Nation (OK) - \$77,015
- Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma (OK) - \$133,070

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230256	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER SE POLICE (RWD)	88,550	Poor	\$1,506.00
226724	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER SE POLICE (RWD)	99,592	Poor	\$1,512.00
101856	2007	FORD SEDAN	CROWN VICTORIA POLICE (RWD)	94,507	Poor	\$1,524.00
286845	2007	CHEVROLET SEDAN	IMPALA POLICE (RWD)	77,562	Poor	\$1,920.00
230267	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER SE POLICE (RWD)	80,490	Poor	\$2,018.00
230262	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER SE POLICE (RWD)	106,622	Poor	\$2,240.00
706904	2013	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER SE POLICE (RWD)	37,794	Poor	\$2,414.00
226730	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER SE POLICE (RWD)	62,104	Poor	\$2,429.00
226737	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER SE POLICE (RWD)	50,853	Poor	\$2,831.00
226725	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER SE POLICE (RWD)	71,647	Poor	\$3,976.00
A82218	2007	FORD PICK UP TRUCK	F150 CREW CAB POLICE (4WD)	80,993	Poor	\$5,541.00
289066	2012	DODGE RAM PICKUP TRUCK	1500 ST CREW CAB SHORT BED POLICE (4WD)	106,622	Poor	\$7,088.00
289070	2012	DODGE RAM PICKUP TRUCK	1500 ST CREW CAB SHORT BED POLICE (4WD)	72,111	Poor	\$7,313.00
289067	2012	DODGE RAM PICKUP TRUCK	1500 CREW CAB SHORT BED POLICE (4WD)	120,765	Poor	\$8,411.00

Note - Previously advertised items are not reflected on this advertisement, only new listings. For more information contact Fixed Assets Dept. 954-966-6300 ext. 20034.

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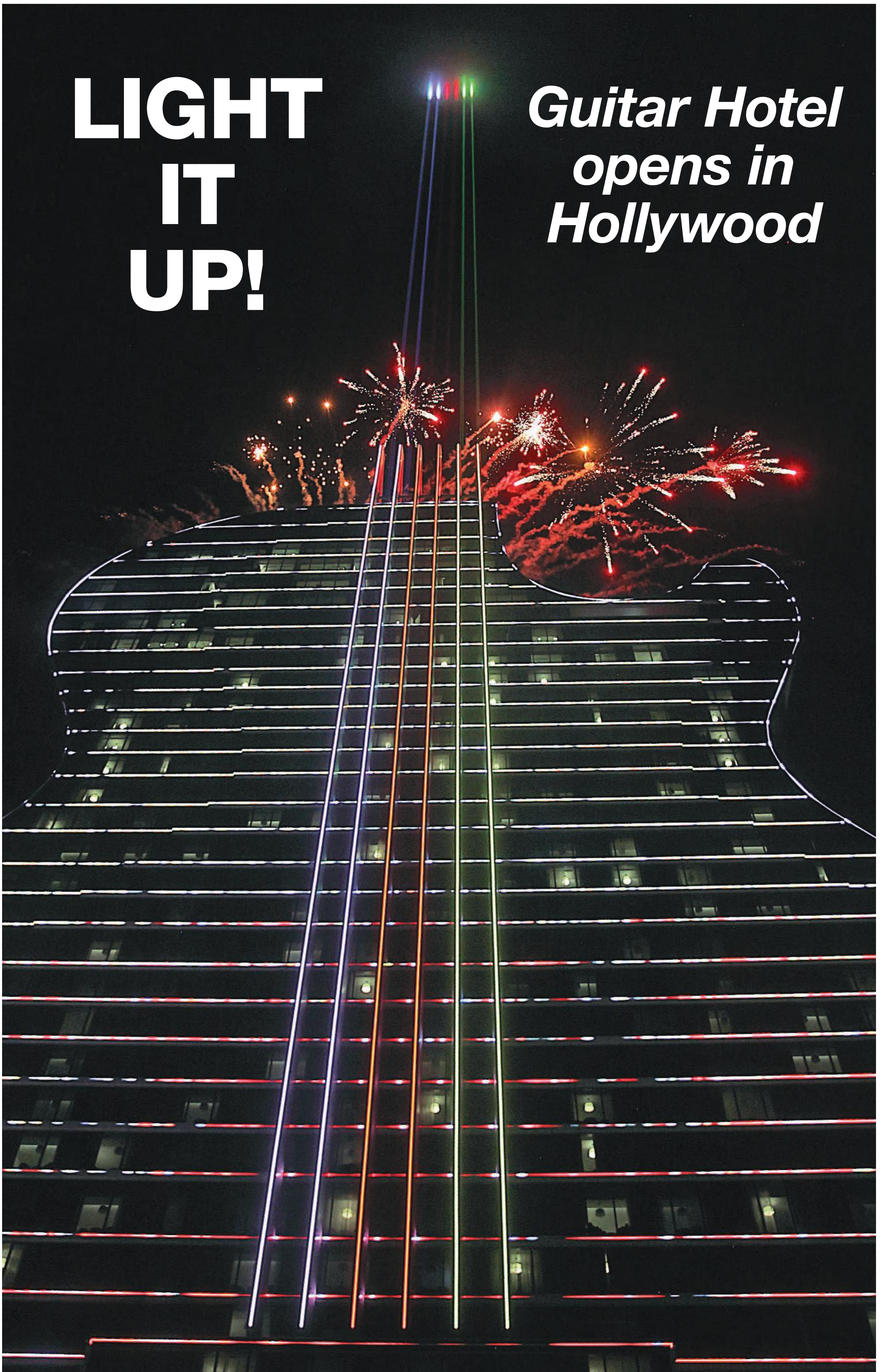
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*Guitar Hotel
opens in
Hollywood*



Seminole Hard Rock Expansion

“We’ve invested a lot in the state of Florida. We welcome you to our home. We built this for you on our homeland. We hope you enjoy what we’ve done.” - *Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.*

“I never thought I’d see this big guitar behind me, but it happened. We’re really proud of what we have today. I’m hoping that y’all bring your plastic; it works out there, so go out, enjoy and have a good time.” - *President Mitchell Cypress*



Edward Aguilar shows his support at the opening of the Guitar Hotel in Hollywood Oct. 24. Photo Beverly Bidney

“And, yes, I will tell you that this guy is crazy because who else in their right mind would build not only a hotel shaped like a guitar, but over 400 feet tall.” - *Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. on Hard Rock International chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen*

“I couldn’t be happier, couldn’t be more proud to be standing here tonight amongst you all.” - *Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola*



Party on the pool deck before the guitar smash at the opening of the Guitar Hotel in Hollywood Oct. 24. Photo Beverly Bidney

“To watch the Tribe, the Hard Rock, grow to what it’s become today it’s just truly amazing. It was always Jim Allen steering the ship. If you’re ever in a foxhole, that’s the guy you want sitting next to you.” - *Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola*

“I think it’s a great celebration and long awaited. They should be congratulated for what they are doing for Indian Country and around the world.” - *Lewis Johnson, assistant chief of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma*

“I don’t want this to sound racist or prejudicial, but Jim Allen, you’re one white man we can trust.” - *Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress*



Lawanna Osceola-Niles, Wanda Billie, Sheila Aguilar and Pete Aguilar join the party on the pool deck at the Guitar Hotel opening night Oct. 24. Photo Beverly Bidney



David Cypress, Jim Allen and Mitchell Cypress on the red carpet at the Guitar Hotel. Photo Beverly Bidney



Paul Buster provides the invocation prayer at the Guitar Hotel opening. Photo Hard Rock

“We literally slept in the swamp, but now we have this guitar [where] we can lay our head once and awhile along with you.” - *Paul Buster*



Max Osceola, Clarice Demayo and Chandler Demayo share a laugh on the red carpet during the opening celebration of the Guitar Hotel. Photo Beverly Bidney



Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie, right, Miss Indian World Cheyenne Kippenberger, center, and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Aubee Billie, left, gaze upwards at the opening of the Guitar Hotel Oct. 24. Photo Hard Rock



Virginia Osceola, left, and Mercedes Osceola enjoy their time at the opening of the Guitar Hotel. Photo Beverly Bidney

“This night means so much to me because my ancestors died, sacrificed themselves, so we can stand here today and join hands with others to make this a success.” - *Brighton Councilman Larry Howard.*

“I brought my father, Frank Billie, to the opening of the first Hard Rock in Hollywood in his wheelchair. Never in his wildest dreams did he think that they would ever have anything that nice. Now I keep thinking of him while I’m here tonight.” - *Wanda Billie*

“When we walked in we felt like a kid who has never been to Disney. I wish our ancestors can see what has been accomplished by their sacrifices. All Tribal members should remember how we got here and remember the babies who were sacrificed.” - *Pete Aguilar*

Seminole Hard Rock Expansion

World's first Guitar Hotel, conquered

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD— Big name celebrities — Johnny Depp, Morgan Freedman, Khloé Kardashian, Joe Manganiello, Bella Thorne, Jeremy Piven and more — strutted along the red carpet in their finest fashions and flashed their brightest smiles.

But there was no doubt who the real stars were at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Oct. 24 — the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the world's first guitar-shaped hotel.

The instantly iconic Guitar Hotel officially opened after two years of Hollywood residents and commuters watching it rise a little bit higher each day to eventually soar 450-feet into the sky and forever change the Broward County skyline.

The completion of a \$1.5 billion expansion not only establishes the integrated resort and casino as a flagship for the Tribe, but also as a destination unlike any other in Hard Rock's worldwide portfolio.

Opening night visitors also had a chance to look around the \$100 million Hard Rock Live performance space with a seating capacity of 7,000. About 24-hours later, Maroon 5 became the first band to perform in the unlike-anything-in-Florida venue.

On Maroon 5's heels will be Alicia Keys, Billy Joel, Andrea Bocelli, Sting, George Lopez, Bret Michaels, Gladys Knight, Kevin James and more.

The new venue is expected to host 200 events a year, double the number of the



From left, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Hard Rock International Chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen, Brighton Councilman Larry Howard and Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress execute the traditional Hard Rock guitar smash Oct. 24 at the grand opening of The Guitar Hotel at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.



From left, actors Morgan Freeman and Johnny Depp, Aerosmith founder and guitarist Joe Perry and actor Joe Manganiello grace the red carpet at the Guitar Hotel.



Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, who represents the reservation where the new Guitar Hotel sits, speaks to the crowd at the grand opening.

previous Hard Rock Live.

Meanwhile, Hard Rock Hollywood's casino expansion rivals any on the Las Vegas Strip or anywhere else, with nearly 200,000 square feet of gaming space.

Add in all the other amenities, like the 13.5-acre pool and lagoon with overwater cabanas, a luxury spa and fitness center of 42,000 square feet, the Daer nightclub and day club complex, more than two dozen dining, lounge and entertainment options, a collection of high-end retail stores and more than 150,000 square feet of meeting and convention space and one can understand why thousands were eager to book rooms and check it all out on grand opening night.

The Oct. 24 celebration began in earnest with a red carpet event at the Oculus, a unique feature through the Hard Rock's main entrance from a new grand portico. The Oculus — designed by the same team responsible for the fountains at the Bellagio in Las Vegas — has to be seen in

person to fully appreciate its draw.

'We came from the swamp'

An invited crowd of VIPs, media and celebrities joined Tribal leadership and Tribal members in the lagoon-pool area for a blowout private party and presentation in the shadow of the massive Guitar Hotel.

Carefully arranged on a stage near the base of the hotel were the traditional Hard Rock guitars, chairs for dignitaries and a podium for speakers who would address the crowd that gathered across one of the pools.

From the top of the hotel, six fixed high-powered beams of light — mimicking guitar strings — projected thousands of feet into the night sky, and on this night, the beams literally pierced through the South Florida clouds.

"This is a momentous occasion that will last for a lifetime and then some if God will let us," said Paul Buster before opening the festivities with a prayer and blessing.

"We Seminoles came from the swamp. We literally slept in the swamp, but now we have this guitar [where] we can lay our head once and awhile along with you," Buster said.

The 100-acre site where the development sits has, at different times over the years, been a rodeo arena, mobile home park and place to sell arts and crafts.

"This land here, we used to hunt this land long ago. My grandfather built his first house across the street where the Council Oak stands at the old Classic Casino," Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said.

"Today we stand on this land with this prized possession. We were born here, we live here and we'll die here. We're not going anywhere," he said.

Chairman Osceola thanked the 3,000 construction workers who toiled on the site for two years remaking Hard Rock Hollywood and building the Guitar Hotel. He noted that another 3,000 permanent jobs were created in the process.

"We've invested a lot in the state of Florida. We welcome you to our home. We built this for you on our homeland. We hope you enjoy what we've done," he said.

Chairman Osceola said the business venture means members of the Seminole Tribe can be provided for in education, health care and more.

"To provide a better way of life not only for our people, but our employees," he said.

One of the members of Tribal leadership who has been intimately involved with expansion efforts is Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola. He won the award for most energetic speaker of the night.

"I couldn't be happier, couldn't be more proud to be standing here tonight amongst you all," Councilman Osceola said.

"I'll never forget the night [former Hollywood Councilman] Max Osceola called me and said 'Hey Chris we just bought the Hard Rock can you keep it a secret?' I said 'Yeah Max.' And as soon as I hung up I leaned over to my friend Jeff and I said 'Hey bro,'" Osceola said to laughter in the crowd.

"To watch the Tribe, the Hard Rock, grow to what it's become today it's just truly amazing. It was always Jim Allen steering the ship. If you're ever in a foxhole, that's the guy you want sitting next to you," he said.

Hard Rock International Chairman and



Cabanas on the water are part of the massive lagoon-style pool at the Guitar Hotel.



Entertainers perform as dusk settles in behind The Guitar Hotel during its grand opening.

Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen took to the podium last. He made a point to thank the many different contractors, companies and Hard Rock employees who made the project a reality.

"We literally were here last night until 2 a.m. putting the final touches on the building, and that's the kind of commitment of all of our employees who love to work for the Tribe," Allen said.

"When it got tough, and believe me on a construction site it gets tough, they stepped up and got us to the finish line. It's the date we said we would do it, October 24, we made it by the skin of our teeth," he said.

While Hollywood's Guitar Hotel will always be the first, it won't be the last. Hard

Rock has others in the works for Mexico City, Barcelona and Japan.

The Tribe — the first to enter the gaming industry after opening a high-stakes bingo hall in the 1970s — bought Hard Rock International for \$965 million in 2006.

The company now does in excess of \$6 billion in revenue across 75 countries, according to Allen.

Another feather in the cap for the Tribe will be next year's Super Bowl, hosted at Hard Rock Stadium just 10 miles south of the Guitar Hotel. The Tribe bought the naming rights for the stadium in 2016.

Seminole Hard Rock Expansion

Guitar Hotel joins architecturally unique global structures

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Guitar Hotel — all 450 feet of it shaped like back-to-back guitars — is now open at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

As the first guitar-shaped hotel in the world, it is now part of the ranks of out of the ordinary structures the world over. At the grand opening celebration of the

hotel and expanded resort Oct. 24, Jim Allen said the task was a difficult one, and he noted how many people thought it was a crazy idea to begin with.

“We had the most talented design and construction team in the world,” Allen, chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming, said at the grand opening.

Steve Peck of Las Vegas’ Klai Juba Wald was the lead architect on the project. Dave Miller, Hard Rock VP, and Joe

Emanuele, SVP of design and construction for Hard Rock International, were key in bringing the Guitar Hotel to life as well, Allen said.

“It was an unbelievable commitment around the clock for three years,” Allen said. “It’s one thing when you build a resort, what we call a greenfield (previously undeveloped site) from the ground up, the bankers get a little nervous on that one.”

Allen recognized the Rockwell Group, Wilson Associates, EDSA, Cleo Design,

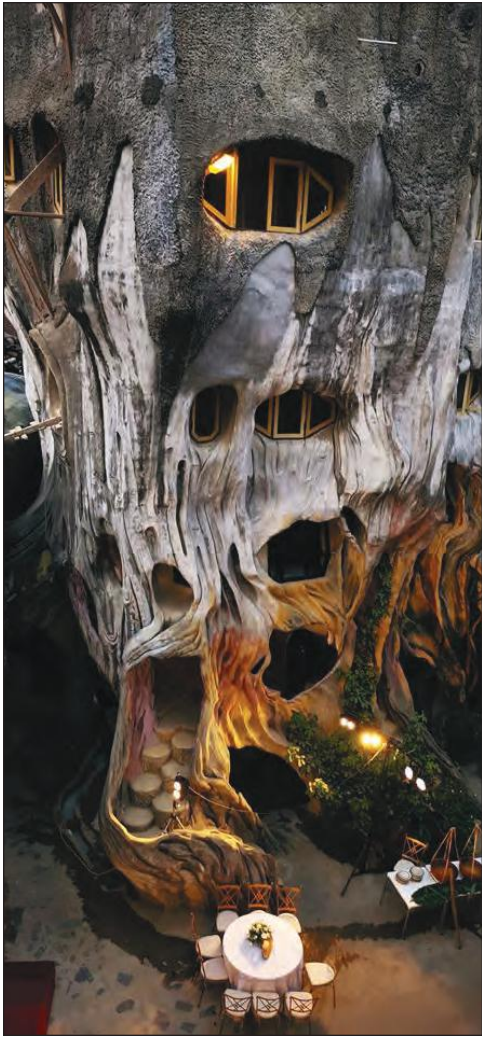
Lawrence Associates, Wimberly Interiors, Sceno Plus, Wet Design Group and others for contributing to not only the Guitar Hotel, but executing an elaborately designed casino-resort from top to bottom and a state-of-the-art Hard Rock Live entertainment venue.

“When we decided to create this building, we needed a structural engineer that was world renowned,” Allen said.

He said he found DeSimone Consulting Engineers with an office in Miami to fill the role.

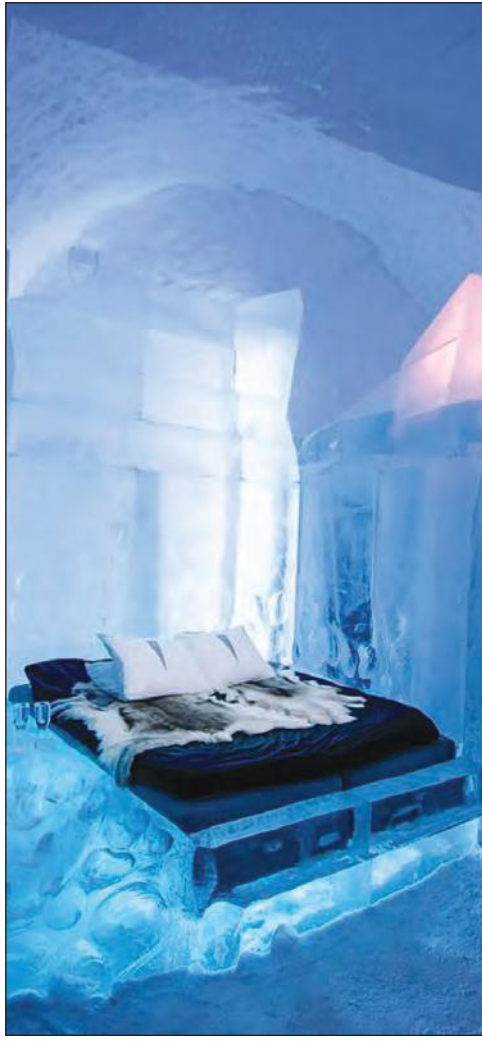
“The founder of that firm, Vince, unfortunately passed about a year and a half ago,” Allen said. “And I’ll never forget when he called me up and he used a few f-bombs and asked me if I was out of my you know what kind of mind trying to create a building that’s shaped like a guitar.”

The Seminole Tribune thought it would be fun to showcase some of the other unique hotels around the world that the Guitar Hotel now joins.



Hang Nga Guesthouse

The Hang Nga Guesthouse in Đà Lạt, Vietnam, is also known as the “Crazy House.” The unconventional structure was designed and built by Vietnamese architect Dang Viet Nga. Described as a “fairy tale house,” the building’s overall design resembles a giant tree, incorporating elements that represent natural forms like animals, mushrooms, spider webs and caves.



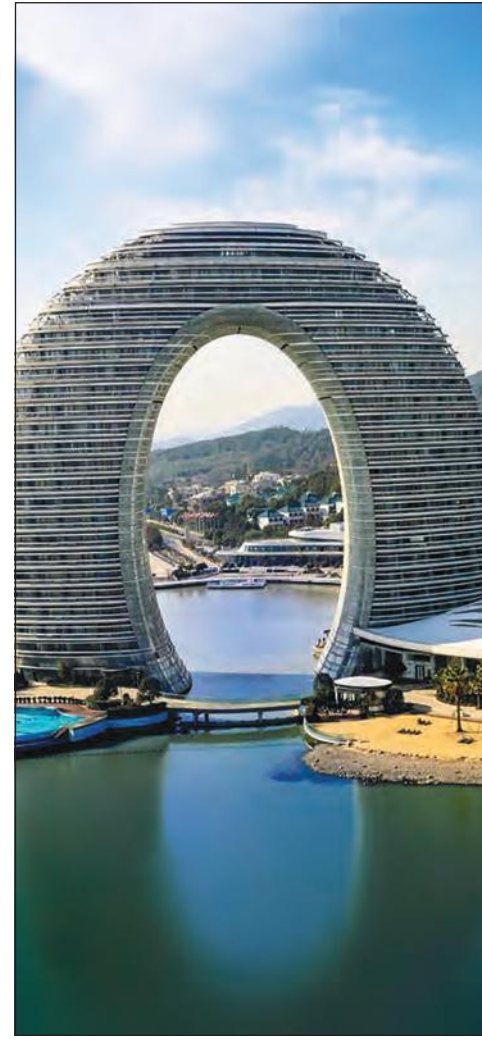
Icehotel Sweden

The Icehotel Sweden is comprised of a mix of permanent buildings and seasonal ice structures. Simple, temporary rooms made of ice come with platform beds, thermal sleeping bags and reindeer hides.



Beverly Bidney

The Guitar Hotel in Hollywood is 450 feet tall and its shape goes with the theme of Hard Rock International, which is owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The hotel features orchestrated outdoor music and light shows that capitalize on LED lights built into every side of the guitar. The lights are programmed to change color and intensity, with changes timed to music. Six fixed high-powered beams of light project at least 20,000 feet into the night sky.



Sheraton Huzhou Hot Spring Resort

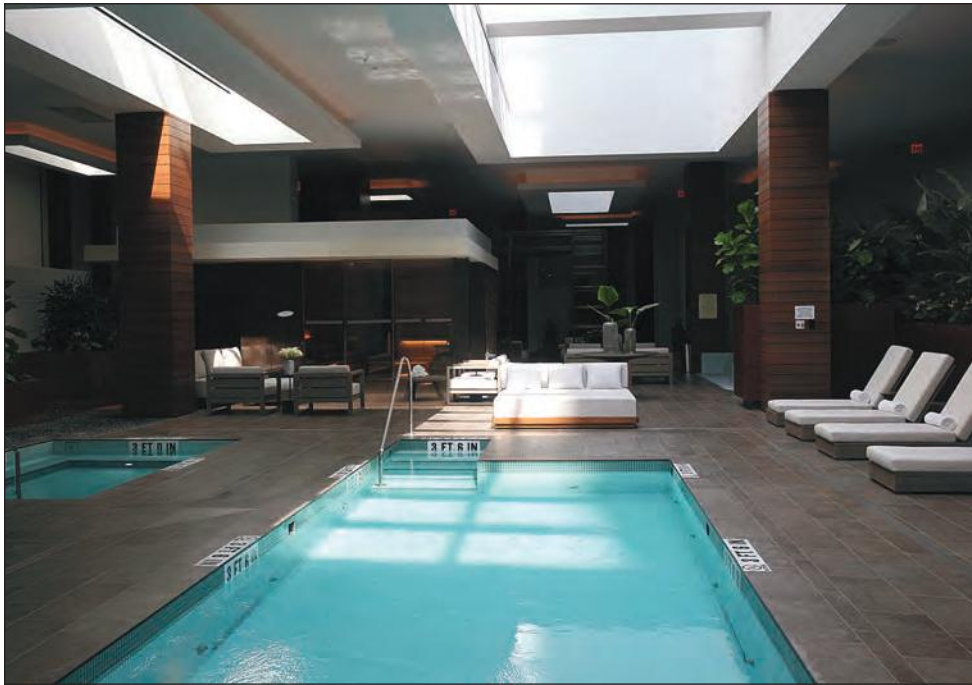
The Sheraton Huzhou Hot Spring Resort is a luxury hotel and resort located in Huzhou, China. Its nicknames include the “Horseshoe Hotel” and “Doughnut Hotel” due to its torus geometrical shape. The horseshoe-shaped, 27-story structure sits on Lake Tai between Nanjing and Shanghai.



Manta Resort

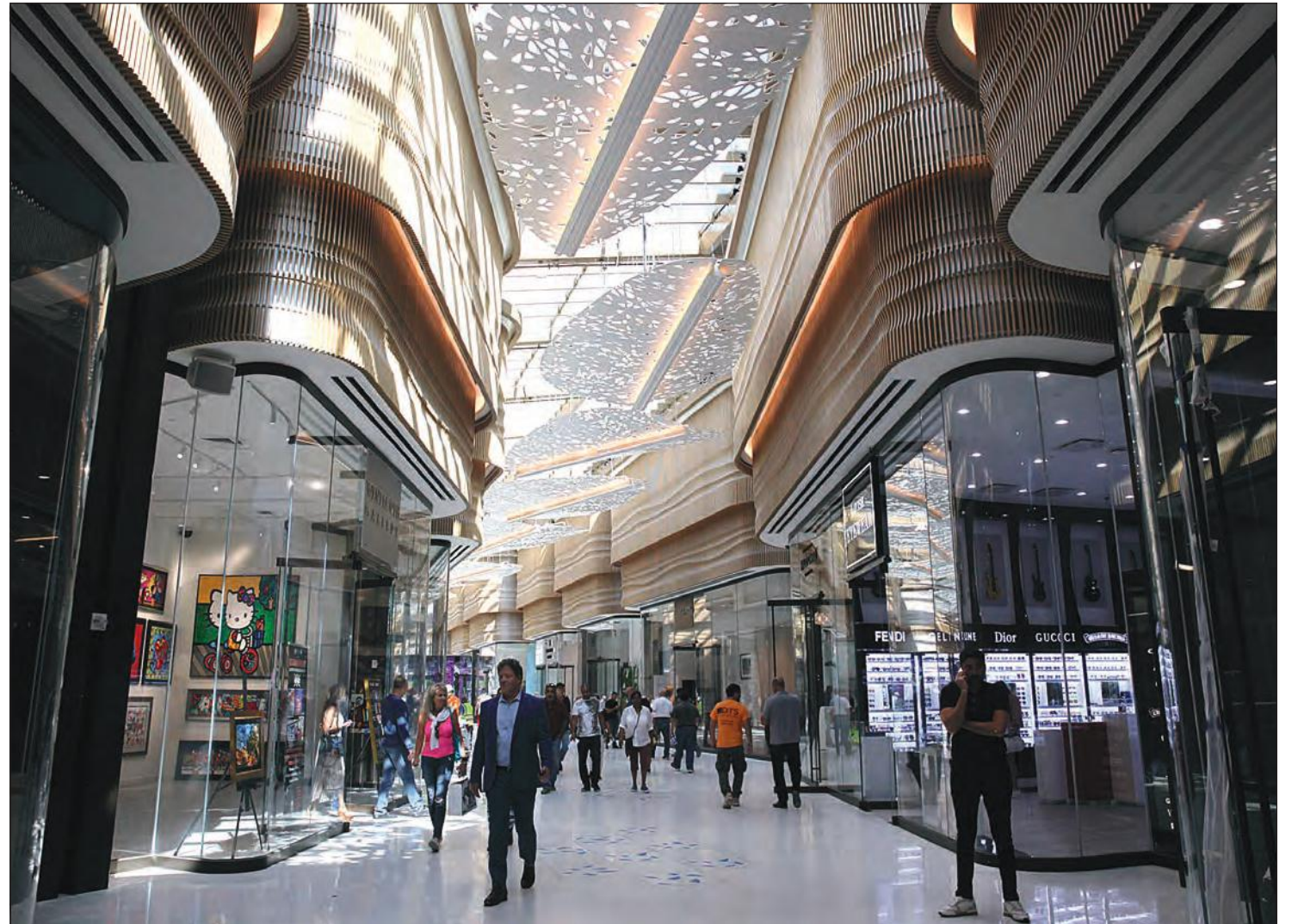
The Manta Resort at Pemba Island, Tanzania, is known for its underwater rooms. Anchored in an ocean floor anomaly, the floating underwater room is encapsulated within a turquoise blue bubble. The Swedish engineered floating structure has three levels.

A look at new venues at the new Hard Rock



Beverly Bidney (4)

Clockwise starting from top left, the pools at the Rock Spa & Salon, described by Hard Rock as a 42,000 square foot oasis; the promenade of boutique storefronts; the Oculus bar, centrally located in the hotel lobby, features an open layout where guests have prime sightlines to the resort’s showpiece attraction, the Oculus, a dazzling display which features sound, light and water, all choreographed to music in The Guitar Hotel lobby.



Seminole Hard Rock Expansion

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa debuts \$700M expansion

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — It wasn't just any grand opening; the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa went all out for the property's Grand Celebration.

The \$700 million expansion was celebrated Oct. 3 with a guitar smash, fireworks, celebrities and a thrilling high-wire act by Nik and Delilah Wallenda. The grand celebration continued Oct. 4 with a sold-out concert by country superstar Keith Urban and a pool party Oct. 6 hosted by celebrity DJ Brody Jenner.

Before the pyrotechnics and daredevil antics began, invited guests filled the Hard Rock Event Center for a performance by the hi-tech neon and LED dance group Light Balance. Tribal leaders and Hard Rock executives also lent their voices to the day.

The hotel and casino is on the former Tampa reservation, a site which once held more modest structures.

"We started with a chickee and one alligator in a pen," said President Mitchell Cypress.

Tampa residents moved from the Tampa reservation in the early 1980s to make room for what would become the most successful casino in North America.

"We started this \$700 million and two years ago," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. "This used to be a village; what it has become is monumental."

The Tampa casino is the leading earner of the Hard Rock brand with revenues of about \$1 billion annually, according to Jim Allen, CEO of Seminole Gaming and Chairman of Hard Rock International. The \$31 billion generated this year in Native American casinos surpasses all commercial gaming in the U.S.

The Tribe bought Hard Rock International in 2006. It was the first Native American tribe to purchase a major international corporation.

"It's important to see the legacy the Tribe created by purchasing Hard Rock International," Allen said. "That success happens because of the support of the Tribe and Tribal members. In 2000, Hard Rock International was a challenged company. Without the Tribe, I'm not sure we would be here today."

HRI is the highest rated casino company in the world and its debt is rated investment grade by the three leading credit rating agencies, Standard and Poor's, Moody's and Fitch Group.

"Our ancestors couldn't have imagined something like this," said Chairman Osceola. "They just hoped for education and good health. We are very blessed to be able to provide for our people."

Expansion Details

The Tampa expansion includes a 562 room 14-story hotel bringing the total guestrooms and suites to about 800, the 30,000 square foot Hard Rock Event Center, three pools on a deck the size of a football field, the 26,000 square foot Rock Spa and Salon, and the 245,000 square foot casino with nearly 5,000 slot machines, 179 table games and a state of the art poker room with 46 poker tables.

"This is a big thing for the community,"

"Thanks to Jim Allen and [general counsel] Jim Shore, the two Jims," said Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress. "Without those guys I don't think we'd be where we are now."

Brighton Councilman Larry Howard thanked the creator and the construction workers who "spent countless hours to make this happen."

"This means everything to the Tampa community," Councilman Howard said.

two hotel towers, 150 feet above the pool deck, as guests gaped upward at the feat. It was said to be Delilah's final performance and it went off without a hitch.

Corporate Leadership

John Fontana retired as president of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa in 2018 after 38 years of working with the Tribe. He moved to Tampa in 1981 as an

assistant to the managing partners. With his sharp business acumen, Fontana worked his way up over the years.

president of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa in Nov. 2018 after serving as president of Seminole Casino Coconut Creek.

Tampa Natives

"This is a fabulous day and it has been a whirlwind to get here," Bonner said. "Hard Rock has been part of community for a long time and is a corporate partner with the city of Tampa. Now we will take it to a new level and reestablish this as an entertainment destination, not just a casino."

The Tampa community was a large presence at the Grand Celebration.

"I feel my mom is still alive here," said Nancy Frank. "People come from far away to play here. Sometimes I talk to them when I'm playing next to them. They enjoy it here."

Frank has known Fontana since the beginning, appreciates everything he did and considers him part of the Tampa family.

Clarence Motlow was the first Seminole to live on the Tampa reservation. He moved from Immokalee in 1980 and helped build the smoke shop, museum and chickees.

"I never envisioned anything this big," Motlow said. "For 20 years we looked for a place to live. Because of its success we were able to buy the \$15 million property in Lakeland and are building a new reservation. It's a stunning turn of fortune."

Edward Aguilar, general manager at the Seminole Classic Casino Hollywood and a 2015 Tribal Career Development program graduate, joined a few Tampa TCD interns at the celebration.

"This will impact us in a positive way, there is more room to grow in the company" said Kristicia Tommie, who works in table games. "We are more than ittie-bittie Tampa; we're everything."

Ashley Santiago, a pit manager in table games, is glad to see the casino expanded.

"We are opening more tables, more dealers are coming on the floor," Santiago said. "We are bringing in more people and giving them the opportunity to be part of the family."

Tacey Tommie, who works in banquets, is excited about the new space including the Hard Rock Event Center, which can be used for banquets and other events.

"This is a long awaited exhale," Tommie said. "I've seen it through the construction with ever-changing walls. This will enhance the banquet program; we have the new venue now."

At the end of the first day of the Grand Celebration, folks relaxed over lunch and processed the morning's activities and the new Tampa landscape.

"It's impressive," said Immokalee Board Liaison Ralph Sanchez. "It's come a long way from what it was to what it is now. It's unbelievable."



The pool deck at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

Beverly Bidney

said Tampa resident Bobby Henry. "It's a good thing for everybody in the Seminole Tribe. People are happy about this; it makes us stronger and richer. I'm almost 84 years old and I'm still kicking."

The success of the property allows the Tampa community to be better educated, have services such as Seminole Police Department, Fire Rescue and medical staff, for which Henry is grateful.

"We lived on the reservation and had to move," said Henry's daughter Joanie Henry. "We gave up a lot. With the Lakeland property we will be a community again, instead of being scattered. We've been waiting for a home for a long time."

Tribal officials from every reservation attended the celebration.

"They've been waiting for a long time. To have all the Tribal members here today and see all the smiles on their faces; there is nothing better than that."

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola thanked Tribal members for giving Council the support to move forward with the project. "Now let's go smash some guitars," Councilman Osceola said.

Once all the Tribal leaders, Hard Rock executives and super model Christie Brinkley were in place on the pool deck, guitars in hand, actress Nicole Kidman counted down the iconic guitar smash. With the smash came fireworks, smiles and applause.

A few minutes after the smash, high-wire artists Nik Wallenda, 40, and his mother Delilah Wallenda, 66, walked between the

assistant to the managing partners. With his sharp business acumen, Fontana worked his way up over the years.

"It looked a little different back then," he said. "It was just a metal warehouse bingo building, a smoke shop and a culture center on eight acres, not 40. Now it's one of the most beautiful casinos on the planet."

Fontana and his team did a lot of work over the last four years preparing for opening day.

"To walk in and see it finished is more than I could have imagined," Fontana said. "Jim Allen said to me in the early days that 'Council supported us and built you a Ferrari. Don't be afraid to step on the gas.' Now it's the busiest casino in the country."

Steve Bonner replaced Fontana as



Beverly Bidney

President Mitchell Cypress is interviewed by Bay News 9 Tampa at the grand opening of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa expansion.



Beverly Bidney

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola chats with actress Nicole Kidman while Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. talks to supermodel Christie Brinkley during the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa grand opening Oct. 3.



Beverly Bidney

Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry, left, retired Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa President John Fontana, center, and the property's current president Steve Bonner watch the grand opening of the Tampa expansion.



Beverly Bidney

Delilah Wallenda, 67, watches her son Nik Wallenda, 40, from her perch on the half-inch diameter wire as they both walk from tower to tower at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa during the Grand Celebration Oct. 3. It was Delilah's final performance after a decades-long career.

Seminole Hard Rock Expansion

Battiest brothers, Osceola brothers first to play new Hard Rock Live

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Before Maroon 5, before Sting, and before Billy Joel, there were two Seminole brother music acts which christened the new 7,000-seat Hard Rock Live in Hollywood.

Seminole brothers and musicians Doc Battiest and Spencer Battiest became the first performers to play at the new Hard Rock Live on Oct. 16 in Hollywood. They went on stage at 8 p.m. and were followed at 9

p.m. by the Seminole rock 'n roll trio The Osceola Brothers, which consists of brothers Cameron, Tyson and Sheldon Osceola.

Spencer Battiest and Cameron Osceola both told the audience how much they love the new Hard Rock Live and that they were grateful to have the opportunity to play in it.

Hard Rock Live is part of the \$1.5 billion expansion on the Seminole Tribe's property that also includes The Guitar Hotel and Oasis Tower.

After the grand opening on Oct. 24, Maroon 5 played the following night.



Kevin Johnson

Brothers Tyson Osceola, left, and Cameron Osceola rock the new Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Oct. 16.



Kevin Johnson

Doc Battiest, left, and Spencer Battiest perform Oct. 16 in the new Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. The brothers performed for about 45 minutes.



Kevin Johnson

At left, Cameron Osceola gets the audience revved up. At right, Doc Battiest and Spencer Battiest perform "Stand Up / Stand N Rock #NoDAPL," which earned them and other Native American musicians an MTV Music Video Award in 2017 in the Best Fight Against the System category.



Kevin Johnson

Audience members enjoy the first performance at the new Hard Rock Live as they listen to and watch Doc Battiest and Spencer Battiest.

New Hard Rock Live lines up big stars

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Attracting giants in music and comedy, the new Hard Rock Live wasted no time in lining up star power.

Andrea Bocelli, Sting, Billy Joel and Jerry Seinfeld are among the performers that will play at the venue that can seat 7,000.

Maroon 5 was part of the grand opening festivities with a performance on Oct. 25.

The previous Hard Rock Live was demolished as part of the massive expansion project at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. Gone is the arena-type venue and in its place is a theatre-style environment filled with three levels of red seats, VIP sections and wider concourses.

Here's a look at some of the upcoming events at Hard Rock Live:

- Andrea Bocelli – Nov. 7
- Sting – Nov. 9
- Leningrad – Nov. 15
- Alicia Keys – Nov. 16
- Kevin James – Nov. 17
- Fantasia/Tank/Bonfire – Nov. 22

- Chris D'Elia – Nov. 23
- Lynyrd Skynyrd – Nov. 30
- George Lopez – Dec. 6
- Tony Bennett – Dec. 8
- Brett Michaels – Dec. 13
- Chris Angel – Dec. 14
- Billy Joel – Jan. 10
- Steve Martin/Martin Short – Jan. 25
- Jerry Seinfeld – Feb. 21, 22

- Dancing With Stars Live – Feb. 25
- Gladys Knight – Feb. 29



Kevin Johnson (2)

Here's a look at the new Hard Rock Live in Hollywood.

