



4-H'ers meet Gov. Scott  
COMMUNITY 7A



Seminole brothers graduate from  
Air Force Academy, VMI  
EDUCATION 1B



Seminole team wins NABI  
championship in Phoenix  
SPORTS 1C

# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Volume XLII • Number 7

July 31, 2018

## PECS' Joy Prescott wins FL Teacher of the Year

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The honors keep piling up for Pemaayev Emahaky Charter School teacher Joy Prescott.

Already recognized this year with awards from her school and Glades County, Prescott earned another accolade July 13 when the fourth-grade math teacher was named the 2019 Florida Department of Education Teacher of the Year.

First Lady Ann Scott and Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart made the announcement and presented Prescott with the award and a \$20,000 check at an awards gala in Orlando.



Florida Teacher of the Year  
Joy Prescott

Prescott was chosen from more than 198,700 public school teachers in the state.

"Pemaayev Emahaky Charter School is extremely proud of Joy. She is an amazing teacher," PECS Principal Brian Greseth wrote in an email to the Tribune. "Joy will be an asset to the state as she travels next year and shares her incredible teaching skills with others."

Prescott has been teaching for 17 years, the last four at PECS on the Seminole Tribe's Brighton Reservation. When she found out she was one of five finalists for Teacher of the Year in May, Prescott thought why her?

When she was asked to write a blog for the Department of Education website, Prescott was surprised that so many people responded to it positively and reached out to her.

"Then my thoughts turned to why not me?" Prescott said. "I have a lot I can offer

♦ See TEACHER OF YEAR on page 1B

## Princesses crowned at 61st pageant



Kevin Johnson

Newly crowned Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess Allegra Billie, left, and Miss Florida Seminole Princess Cheyenne Kippenberger are joined by Seminole Tribe leaders at the 61st annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant on July 14 at Tribal headquarters auditorium in Hollywood. With the princesses from left are Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon Wareham, President Mitchell Cypress, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank.



Kevin Johnson

Miss Florida Seminole Princess Cheyenne Kippenberger is crowned by outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola at the 61st annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.

### Cheyenne Kippenberger, Allegra Billie ready to represent Seminole Tribe

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe of Florida ushered in new royalty at the 61st annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.

In front of hundreds of spectators at Tribal headquarters auditorium, Cheyenne Kippenberger, 22, was crowned the 2018 Miss Florida Seminole Princess on July 14 while Allegra Billie, 17, won the Jr. Miss



Florida Seminole Princess title. They will represent the Tribe for the next 12 months at a variety of events and functions on the Seminole reservations, throughout Indian Country and beyond.

The pageant, which drew six contestants, was emceed by 1986 Miss Florida Seminole Tina Osceola. For the title of Miss Florida Seminole, former Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess Thomlynn Billie, 18, of Big Cypress, finished runner-up to Kippenberger. Alycia Mora, 19, of Immokalee, was third.

In the Jr. Miss pageant, Clarice DeMayo, 14, of Hollywood, was runner-up followed by Luxie Billie, 15, of Brighton, in third place.

Judges were Kansas state representative Ponka-We Victors, reigning Miss Indian World Taylor Susan and BNSF Railway Tribal Relations Director Chris Howell. Contestants were judged on their essays,

Kevin Johnson

Allegra Billie is crowned the new Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess by outgoing Jr. Miss Kailani Osceola.

personal interviews, stage presentation, traditional outfit, poise and appearance, talent and responses to an impromptu question.

The pageant serves as the pinnacle to several months of work by the Pageant Committee, led by Chairwoman Wanda Bowers and committee members Alice Billie, Charlotte Burgess, Carla Gopher, Connie Gowen, Cassandra Jimmie, Christine McCall, Tina Osceola, Naomi Wilson and Brittany Yescas. All are former Miss Florida Seminoles, including Gowen, who is the pageant's first official princess from 1957 and now is affectionately known as "Backstage Grandma" for the help she provides contestants backstage throughout the evening.

"I'd like to give a big round of applause to Wanda and all her staff for everything they've done to keep [the pageant] alive and going for many, many years and all the hard work you and your staff have put in," Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. told the

♦ See PAGEANT on page 6B

## Tribe rocks the Boardwalk as Hard Rock opens in Atlantic City

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.** — The smashing of 26 guitars amplified the grand opening ceremony of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City on June 28. About 800 Seminole Tribe of Florida members joined the celebration as they welcomed the newest property to the Tribal-owned Hard Rock brand.

"This is great for all of us," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. "Back when our ancestors saved us from annihilation and pushed us into Florida, who would have thought we would be standing here today. This is a true testament to the unconquered spirit."

Atlantic City is the second largest gaming market in the U.S. and about 30 million people live within a three-hour drive.

"I believe the Hard Rock Atlantic City will help the city go back to being one of the premier entertainment destinations in the country," said Jim Allen, CEO of Hard Rock International and Chairman of Seminole Gaming. "One of the keys to our success is the strength of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Hard Rock brand."

The Tribe invested \$500 million, renovated 4-million square feet of space and created 3,900 permanent jobs in less than a year. It is no wonder Atlantic City is so pleased to welcome the Hard Rock.

"This is an exciting time for Atlantic City," said Atlantic City Mayor Frank Gilliam. "There is a spirit of working together and an energy in this town we can thank the Hard Rock and the Seminole Tribe for. Atlantic City is a sure bet."

"The Tribe has come a long way. In



Beverly Bidney

Seminole Tribe and Hard Rock leaders and dignitaries perform the traditional guitar smash at the grand opening of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City on June 28.

the 1960s we had about \$100 in the bank," said President Mitchell Cypress. "Look where we are today; that's a tremendous accomplishment."

Nearly 6,000 attended the guitar smash at the Hard Rock Live at Etes Arena. E-Street Band drummer Max Weinberg counted

down to the big event on his drums. In addition to Chairman Osceola and President Cypress, the Tribal Council was represented by Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Council liaisons Brian Zepeda and Norman

Huggins on stage. They were joined by medicine man Bobby Henry, Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola, HRAC partners Jack Morris, Joe Jingoli and Michael Jingoli along with other dignitaries for the smashing of guitars, which also included Black Panther star Michael B. Jordan, singer/songwriter of

"Gold" Kiiara, and Miss America 2018 Cara Mund.

"This is another milestone in the Seminole Tribe of Florida's rich history," said Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.

♦ See ATLANTIC CITY on page 4A

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# Editorial

## The country's diminishing civility, compassion and decency

• **Kirk E. Francis, Sr.,**  
**Penobscot Indian Nation**  
**Chief and United South**  
**and Eastern Tribes**  
**President**

A crisis is unfolding in this country and it is one that jeopardizes the principles on which the United States was founded. In our founding documents, we profess our truths to be self-evident, and that "all men are created equal,



that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." However, the constant deluge of disheartening news headlines should cause a reasonable person to question whether we, as a nation, are holding ourselves accountable to these truths.

The recent separation of children from their parents resulting from a change in immigration policy, a federal action that Indian Country is far too familiar with, is particularly troubling. It is hard to imagine that anyone would lack the empathy and compassion to understand the pain and anguish that both the children and parents must be experiencing. I recognize that there are varying opinions on how to address our current immigration situation, but it is unacceptable to allow people to suffer

needlessly and to be used for political gain. The resulting pain and suffering, and likely long-term trauma, should have been anticipated and understood, which makes this deliberate and intentional act even more appalling.

Indian Country is particularly sensitive to headlines such as these. Indian Country has a long, complicated, and often conflicted relationship with the United States. We are viewing today's headlines through different lenses, including genocide and intergenerational trauma. We are saddened as we are reminded of the many injustices that we experienced, together with this nation's lack of accountability for its moral failings. As the indigenous peoples and sovereign nations that pre-date the United States, we know far too well the limits of these founding self-evident truths.

In fact, the challenges that we had to overcome, and still work to overcome, are the direct result of numerous federal policies and laws that sought to assimilate and terminate -- to destroy not only our cultures and traditions, but our existence. While one might assume that these policies and laws are from a bygone era, the truth is that we are only one generation removed from the horrors and atrocities that were committed.

Disrespect and disregard towards Indian Country continues today. Within the past several weeks, during a commencement speech to the 2018 graduating class of the U.S. Naval Academy, President Trump stated, "Together there is nothing Americans can't do, absolutely nothing. In recent years, and even decades, too many people have forgotten that truth. They've forgotten that our ancestors trounced an empire, tamed a continent, and triumphed over the worst evils in history...America is the greatest fighting force for peace, justice and freedom in the history of the world...We are not going to apologize for America."

These words reveal a dismissal and avoidance of the truth and facts about Tribal Nation-U.S. history which run counter to many of these words and for which America should be ashamed. More recently, despite repeated requests from Indian Country to stop his derogatory use of the name Pocahontas, President Trump once again used the name as an intentional slur during a June 2018 campaign stop in Nevada (Read President Francis' November 28th Statement here). These two recent examples serve as present-day reminders that there continues to be a need for greater understanding, education, awareness, truth, and respect.

So when is enough, enough? I fear that too many are becoming desensitized and are normalizing these events and actions that we know in our hearts run counter to our childhood teachings of right versus wrong. The political discourse in this country has moved beyond political differences of opinion and is unlike any we have seen in recent history. It has exposed a truth about who we are; that there are fundamentally different views across this country about human dignity and respect, morals, values, ethics, and justice which serve to weaken us as a society. The sad truth is that America is suffering, and she has lost her way. If we continue down the current path, the damage caused by the deconstruction of our founding principles, and the values that we profess to be the basis of our exceptionalism, may be too insurmountable to overcome.

However, we have the power to do better as a collective society should we choose not to normalize discord; should we choose common decency over politics; should we find the courage to lead with empathy, compassion, and love; should we find the strength to exemplify our convictions in our daily lives; should we recognize the greater law of universal justice and righteousness; and should we decide to recognize that we are all children of the Creator and that we are all related.

As the United States prepares to celebrate its establishment and its declaration of independence, let us remember our indigenous relations who suffered in the name of progress and manifest destiny. Let us remember the many who made the ultimate sacrifice as a reflection of their deep regard for the aspirational principles set forth in this country's founding documents. Let us reawaken to the truth that we share a common responsibility to one another, that division is diametrically opposite to the vision of America's founding ideals and aspirations, and that there is exponentially more good that comes from unity.

Let us use this time to remind ourselves of our common bonds, to reverse the current crisis that we are experiencing, and to begin the process of healing and reconciliation. Should we choose to do so, America will be stronger, its actions will once again reflect its professed self-evident truths, it will lead by example, and it will once again be the beacon of light, possibilities, and opportunities that the world aspires to emulate.

## Sacred Native American sites are not your playgrounds

• **Krista Langlois,**  
**Outside Online**

**Recognize the limits of modern boundaries**

Deep in the Grand Canyon, on land that Havasupai Native Americans have called home for generations, is a place known as Beaver Falls. It's an unimaginative name for an otherworldly landscape, where turquoise water tumbles over a series of terraces gouged into red desert walls. To legally reach the falls, you have to pay the Havasupai \$140, hike ten miles to the tribe's campground, then hike an additional four miles to the waterfall. The camping and hiking permits are one of the tribe's few sources of revenue, and help ensure that Beaver Falls stays protected.

Some Grand Canyon river runners, however, circumvent the permit system by hiking upstream from the river, without paying the Havasupai. In response, the Havasupai now station a ranger where their land meets National Park Service land, asking river runners to fork over \$44 or else return to their rafts.

It's a fairly simple request, but some river runners are so upset they've begun circulating an obscure document disputing the park's boundary, suggesting that rafters can freely hike to the falls despite the Havasupai's wishes.

The dispute illustrates a growing issue: some of the places most sought after by recreationists are also culturally, spiritually, and/or economically vital to Native American tribes. As more people take to these lands to hike, bike, climb, ski, paddle, or camp, respect for indigenous values sometimes fades. In Wyoming's Devils Tower National Monument, for instance, an increasing number of climbers are choosing to ignore a voluntary June climbing ban that's been in place for more than 20 years to allow local tribes to hold ceremonies at the site. Roughly 373 climbers scaled Devils Tower in June 2017, compared to 167 in 1995.

Some sacred places are strictly off-limits to non-indigenous folks. But more often, Native Americans are happy to share their traditional homelands if recreationists respect the cultural heritage of the places we play. Here's how.

### Check your entitlement

Every year, Waylon Black Crow Sr., a member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe, helps lead a 500-mile Sacred Hoop run around the Black Hills. Runners fast during the day and spend each night eating, praying, and sleeping at a different landmark, including Devils Tower. "Every place we stop is a rock," Black Crow says. "Those rocks represent grandfathers. So when people climb Devils Tower it's like they're climbing one of our grandfathers and it's disrespectful... It would be like climbing a big old cross. They wouldn't climb that."

Black Crow would prefer that climbers avoid Devils Tower at all times, but given that tribal leaders agreed to a ban only during the month of June, he knows that's unrealistic. Still, Black Crow points out that the Oglala Lakota were granted Devils Tower through an 1851 treaty, and the U.S. later violated that treaty, forcing the tribe onto a reservation. Honoring the June ban and other tribal requests is a small way to acknowledge Native people's past, Black Crow says—and honor their modern rights.

### Hire a Native guide

Lyle Balenquah is a Hopi archeologist and river guide who spends a lot of time in Utah's Bears Ears National Monument. Compared to many other national parks and monuments, Bears Ears is relatively unregulated, with few rangers to protect its diverse archaeological sites. That's why Balenquah thinks "there has to be increased public education about why this area matters to so many people. It's incumbent on visitors to learn about the place." The best way to do that is to hire a Native guide, Balenquah says. If that isn't feasible, at least visit a local museum or read up on the region's cultural heritage before canyoneering, rafting, or climbing there.

Earlier this year, the Trump Administration shrunk Bears Ears by 85 percent. That means large swaths of land rich with cultural resources are no longer protected as a national monument. Yet Balenquah says that doesn't make them any less worthy of respect. Modern boundaries often don't reflect a place's full cultural history. "To say that there's only a handful of areas that deserve special attention does a disservice to the cultural history of this whole landscape," he says. "There's no specific area... it's all important."

### Know whose house you're in

To Evon Peter, a Neetsaii Gwich'in and Koyukon from Arctic Village and vice chancellor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the outdoors is home. "We have thousands of years of relationship with the land," he says. "Our ancestors are literally in the land itself. You wouldn't show up at somebody's house, open the fridge, grab a beer, sit on their couch, and turn on the TV." Yet a surprising number of people who visit the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other remote Alaskan landscapes fail to engage with a single Native person, Peter says. "If you really want to be a trailblazer, reach out to local tribal offices and let people know where you're going."

### Be reverential

Modern outdoor culture often regards climbing mountains or notching first ascents as a kind of conquering, while Native people are more likely to "go out onto the land with this reverence," Peter explains. "It's where we go to pray." Bringing that reverence into your own outdoor pursuits is a small way to show respect to the people who were there first.

### Use the right name

"It's kind of ludicrous," says Peter, "when a place already has a name and a person comes in and tells you it should have a different name." So when indigenous people say that the mountain you're climbing is Denali, for example, not McKinley, Peter has one piece of advice: listen to them.

### Support Indigenous activism

Renaee Yellowhorse's connection to the Grand Canyon runs deep. Her ancestors hid out there when other Diné (Navajo) people were forced into internment, and many of the songs and healing chants of her people come directly from the canyon. Plus, she says, "our oral history states that life begins where the waters of the Colorado River and the Little Colorado River come together."

For years, those life-giving waters were threatened by the massive Grand Canyon Escalade development, which would have brought tens of thousands of tourists a day to the sacred site. As an activist with the group Save the Confluence, Yellowhorse spent years convincing Navajo leaders to reject the development. In late 2017, she finally succeeded—thanks in part to people from around the world who sent 60,000 emails opposing the project in a five-day period.

Still, many sites in the Grand Canyon and elsewhere are still threatened. The best way to protect them, says Yellowhorse, is to support indigenous-led action. "We just ask people to stick with us. We need to work to preserve those areas so that threat will never happen again."

### Be joyful

Respecting a place's cultural heritage doesn't mean being somber all the time. On a recent Grand Canyon rafting trip with Native American youth, Yellowhorse realized that respect and joy can go hand in hand. "I remembered that it's ok to be joyful, to be funny, to laugh and have a good time," she says. "Because that's life."

## New Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs to champion Native issues at federal level

• **Cherokee Nation**  
**Principal Chief**  
**Bill John Baker,**  
**Skiatook Journal**

The U.S. Senate's recent confirmation of Tara Sweeney as the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior is a positive move, and Cherokee Nation looks forward to working with her on issues important to Indian Country. She is the first Alaska Native to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and the first woman in the post since Ada Deer served in that capacity for President Bill Clinton.

Throughout her many years of work on behalf of the Native people in her home state of Alaska, Sweeney is a strong voice

on a multitude of issues, from tribal self-determination to the promotion of economic development opportunities. She has also championed increased access to capital for underserved Native American populations. That depth of knowledge and passion will be a benefit for all Native people in the United States, especially since the role of Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs plays a critical role in the government-to-government relationship the federal government has with tribal nations.

Closer to home, Sweeney provided her expertise to Cherokee Nation Businesses by serving on its Economic Development New Market Tax Credit Advisory Board. She is aware of our efforts and successes in economic development that is reshaping northeast Oklahoma, where we employ over 11,000 people and have a \$2.03 billion impact on the state. We utilize the dollars generated by our business success and federal funding to make a positive impact on more than 360,000 Cherokees we serve through the development

of affordable housing, health care facilities, education and job creation.

For us at the Cherokee Nation, it is important to have a knowledgeable and skilled person in this role, especially as we continue to advocate for issues affecting our service programs, land and other resources. Other priorities Cherokee Nation is pursuing on Capitol Hill include funding for staffing and operations for our expansion at W.W. Hastings Hospital, a joint venture project with the Bureau of Indian Education at Sequoyah High School, amendments to the federal "47 Act," or Stigler Act, to protect certain land ownership rights for citizens of the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma, and continued funding for federal programs important to tribal governments.

These priorities would not be possible without a solid working relationship and partnership with the federal government and the Department of the Interior.

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

Letters/emails to the editor must be signed and may be edited for publication.

Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make checks payable to: The Seminole Tribune 3560 N. State Road 7 Hollywood, FL 33021 Phone: 954-985-5700 Fax: 954-965-2937

The following deadlines apply to all submissions to The Seminole Tribune:

Issue: August 31, 2018  
Deadline: August 15, 2018

Issue: September 28, 2018  
Deadline: September 12, 2018

Issue: October 31, 2018  
Deadline: October 17, 2018

Please note: Submissions that come past deadline will be published in the following issue.

Advertising: Advertising rates along with sizes and other information may be downloaded online at: <http://SeminoleTribune.org/Advertise>

Postmaster: Please send address changes to: The Seminole Tribune 3560 N. State Road 7 Hollywood, FL 33021

Publisher: The Seminole Tribe of Florida

Senior Editor: Kevin Johnson  
KevinJohnson@semtribe.com

Copy Editor: Li Cohen  
LiCohen@semtribe.com

Staff Reporter: Beverly Bidney  
BeverlyBidney@semtribe.com

Staff Reporter: Damon Scott  
DamonScott@semtribe.com

Contributors: Paul Isaacs, Bob Lamendola, Maury Neipris, Alonso Parra, Nicholas Persaud

If you would like to request a reporter or would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem, please contact Senior Editor Kevin Johnson at 954-985-5701 ext. 10715

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# Community



## Calf shipping plays big role in family bonding for Jumpers

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The cow pen in Big Cypress and the marsh pen in Brighton bustled with activity from July 9 to 20 as 3,672 calves were prepared for shipping to feedlots around the country. The harmonious sounds of the cattle filled the area as they were weighed, logged, sorted and shipped out.

The annual event gives cattle owners a way to sell their calves after raising and caring for them for nearly nine months. Sixty-two cattle owners shipped the animals, which weighed an average of 532 pounds each, in 39 truckloads headed to feedlots in Georgia, Mississippi, Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado.

Moses Jumper Jr., a third generation cattleman, has been raising cattle on the



Beverly Bidney

Naha Jumper moves calves in the Jumper cow pens to prepare them for shipping to feedlots nationwide.

same Big Cypress pasture since he was a boy of 10 or 11. Today, the fourth and fifth generations of Jumpers also raise cattle in those and nearby pastures. They all worked together to sort their calves for shipping July 16.

“This is a family deal,” Moses said. “Everyone in the family works; we don’t have any outside help. Even Blevyns’ girlfriend from Montana is helping.”

Moses’s grandfather Josie Jumper, his father Moses Jumper Sr. and his mother Betty Mae Jumper all raised cattle. His mother had 300 to 400 head of cattle in the 1920s in Indiantown, where she was raised.

“Cattle are part of our culture and tradition,” Moses said. “I can’t emphasize enough how important cattle are to us.”

All the Jumpers share Moses’ affection for the cowboy lifestyle and are part of the family business. For calf shipping, the Jumpers in the pasture and pens included Moses’ sons Naha and Josh, grandchildren Andre, Blevyns, Ahnie and Canaan and Josh’s father-in-law Jonah Cypress.

Moses believes that his 5-year-old grandson Caden could be the next generation of Jumper cowboys since he loves being on a horse and around the cattle.

“The best thing is the responsibility that comes with it [raising cattle],” Josh said. “I love the time I spend with my family out here.”

Josh’s son Andre Jumper has worked with the cows since he was old enough to walk.

“It’s not just the way I live, it’s what I do,” Andre said. “I learn something new every day. Today I learned to bring a can of wasp spray.”

While Andre and his brother Blevyns were moving calves at the family pen into the chute to be sorted by gender, they noticed a lot of wasp nests. Fortunately, someone had the foresight to bring a can of spray so they wouldn’t get stung.

Naha Jumper’s very first memory is being on a horse.

“Since I was old enough to be held on a horse, I’ve been out here,” Naha said. “I really don’t know nothing else. Ever since we were born, dad put a rope in our hands. These cows have been our family forever.”

Naha is glad there are enough cowboys in the family to take care of the cattle and

that they don’t need anyone else to help. His 3-year-old granddaughters are already on horses. Naha bought his grandmother’s herd and shares the pasture with his father Moses.

“I remember Grandma out here with some fence pliers in her hands tying up wire,” Naha recalled. “I saw her get cut so badly, we had to take her to the hospital once. Then she came right back out to finish the work. She was a tough woman; I guess that’s where we get it from, that don’t quit attitude.”

After all the calves were counted, sorted and taken down the road to the cow pens, there was still plenty of work to do. The remaining calves needed to be branded. The animals’ hides were marked with either the J-Cross or Naha brand.

Moses and Naha’s pasture is more than 300 acres; Josh’s pasture just across Josie Billie Highway is more than 400 acres. The pastures are well tended and dotted with plenty of trees, open space and ponds.

“Cattlemen are the original conservationists,” Moses said. “Without us, who would care for the land?”

At the cow pen, most of the workers began their day at 6:30 a.m. or earlier to keep the cows from overheating during shipping. By the early afternoon, the temperature rises to levels not suitable for moving the calves.



Beverly Bidney

Moses Jumper Jr. watches over his cattle as they are sorted for shipping in Big Cypress.

It’s important for them to rest before being

loaded onto the trucks. One calf overheated while being loaded and fell to the ground. Fortunately, there were plenty of cowboys around so a horse was enlisted to move the animal into the shade to recover.

During calf shipping weeks, a traditional lunch is prepared by the cattle owners’ families and served to the owners, the cowboy crew and other workers.

Before the meal was served, all the calves destined for the road were loaded up and driven out in bulky 18-wheelers bound for feedlots far away. A few cows remained in the pens until the next day’s shipping and they serenaded the diners with a cacophony of calls.

“At big roundups like this, there is always food,” Moses said. “It’s a family affair. We come together, we feast, have a great time and fellowship.”

Beverly Bidney

The sign at the Jumper ranch in Big Cypress says it all as Josh Jumper works to sort and ship the cattle July 16.



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◆ ATLANTIC CITY  
From page 1A

"I didn't think it was possible to do this, but Jim Allen proved us wrong again. It's great to have so many Tribal members together here."

In 2017 the Tribe purchased the former Trump Taj Mahal and gave it a complete renovation. Located on the famed Atlantic City Boardwalk, the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino features 2,000 guest rooms and suites, 20 restaurants and its 120,000-square-foot casino boasts 2,100 slot machines and 120 table games.

True to its name, the hotel and casino is awash in music. The 7,000-seat Hard Rock Live at Etess Arena will host about 200 concerts per year, which started with Carrie Underwood and Pit Bull on June 29 and 30, respectively.

The Hard Rock Atlantic City also launched 365 Live, live performances every day at one of the five stages throughout the hotel and casino. The venues include the Lobby Stage, Council Oak Lounge, Hard Rock Café, Boardwalk Stage and Beach Stage.

Additionally, the property has more than 150,000 square feet of meeting and convention space, the most in town.

Tribal members began arriving a few days before the grand opening and many remarked on the opportunity to experience the event.

"I've seen a lot since high stakes bingo led to slots," Danny Tommie said. "We've gone through a transition economically. The Seminoles are the ones who put Indian gaming on the map. Our population is growing and this [Hard Rock Atlantic City] will help us cover our new members."

Ronnie Billie arrived early for the celebration and spent time around the hotel.

"Workers tell me they are glad the Tribe bought the hotel," he said. "They said in the old days it was a mess and they are glad to be working for the Tribe."

On June 27, the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement issued the Hard Rock Atlantic City a gaming license a day early.

"New Jersey is the strictest gaming market in the U.S. and this validates the



The exterior of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City, which held its grand opening June 28.



Beverly Bidney

The Seminole Tribal Council gets ready for the start of the grand opening ceremony at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City on June 28. From left, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Board President/Council Vice-Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.



Beverly Bidney

Beverly Osceola shops at the Hard Rock Shop on June 28, opening day of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City.



Beverly Bidney

Spencer Battiest and his band performs to a full house at the HRAC lobby bar June 28.



Courtesy photo

The Osceola Brothers perform at the Hard Rock Atlantic City's Beach Bar on June 27.

Tribe as a global player," Allen said.

The morning of the grand opening was a busy one around the property as construction was finished up, details were attended to and the final touches were made. Dressed in a business suit and tie, Allen was seen running down the hotel's driveway to a seat in front of a television camera, just in time for a live interview on CNBC.

"The casino customer wants a quality experience with exceptional amenities," he said on camera. "Atlantic City is the second largest gaming market in the U.S. and people want to see it succeed. Other casinos and entertainment destinations have increased their entertainment because of what we've announced."

During a morning press conference with local and national media outlets, Allen, Chairman Osceola, Mayor Gilliam and the HRAC business partners talked about the property and the impact it will have in Atlantic City.

"This is a financially sound project," Allen said. "We have no outside debt."

Allen said Hard Rock's philosophy is that of an entertainment company, not a casino company, with revenue 60 to 65 percent from gaming and 40 to 45 percent from non-gaming.

"This is a step in history for us," said Chairman Osceola. "We are paving the way for other Tribes; no other Tribe has ever done anything like this."

Allen along with the HRAC partners Morris and the Jingoli brothers are all New Jersey natives.

"We're the Jersey Boys, that's the truth," Morris said. "No one on Wall Street wanted any part of Atlantic City. We're proud of what we've done here and of our relationship with the Tribe."

The excitement for the guitar smash was palpable as the Hard Rock Live filled up with locals, tourists and Tribal members. Music, giant dancing robots and other entertainers kept the anticipation level high.

"Oh man, this is awesome," Councilman Tiger said. "Atlantic City is so humble and grateful. People have walked up to me to say thank you. For a poor boy like me to see something like this is amazing. This is a celebration and a great day for the Tribe."

Ervina Capricien, who runs gaming's Tribal Career Development program, hopes the Hard Rock Atlantic City will spark additional interest in the training program.

"I hope some of the young people who are here will see this property and want to



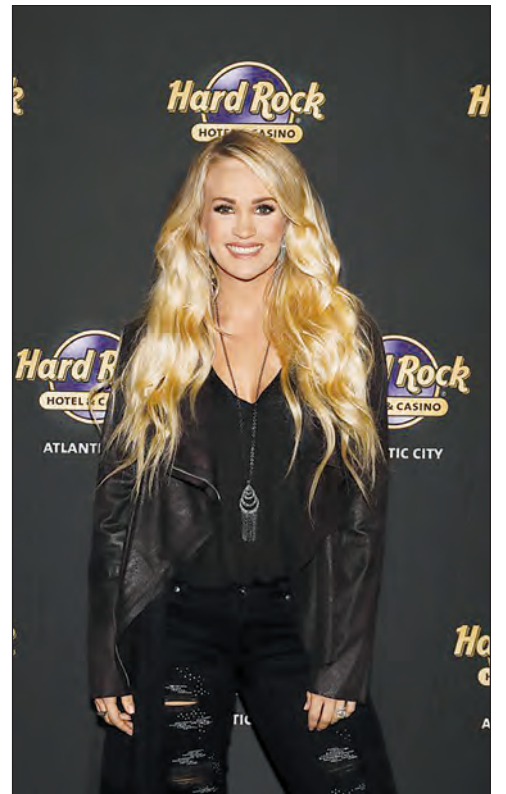
Hard Rock

Pitbull participates in the grand opening of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City.



Beverly Bidney

As confetti falls from the rafters at Hard Rock Live at Etess Arena, William Osceola captures the moment at the grand opening of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City on June 28.



Hard Rock

Music superstar Carrie Underwood poses at the new Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City.

join the program," Capricien said. "We hope to have a regular exchange with this property in the future. It's good to have interns move to different properties."

Hard Rock Café's very first employee Rita Gilligan, who was hired in London in 1971, was on hand for the festivities and made sure to pose for photos with plenty of people.

New Jersey native Weinberg, drummer of Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band, waited with Tribal members for the guitar smash. He has deep roots in Atlantic City and came to the beachside town often as a child.

"Nobody does it like the Hard Rock," he said. "Every time they open, it brings new energy and life to the area. That's what Atlantic City needs, I'm glad to see it coming back. To paraphrase Frank Sinatra, this will be the start of something big."

The lights of Hard Rock Live dimmed, spotlighted performers filled the room and the stage, music blared and the celebration began in earnest. Jim Allen took the stage.

"People thought this was crazy," Allen said. "We committed not to just put a coat of paint and a few guitars on the walls. How do you think we did?"

The arena erupted in cheers. "We wouldn't have gotten here if it wasn't for the Seminole Tribe," Allen continued. "At \$30 billion, Indian gaming makes more than traditional casinos. The Seminole Tribe started Indian gaming."

When Allen talked about the 3,900 jobs created, the crowd cheered some more. Then he mentioned the agreements Hard Rock Atlantic City made with the unions. The cheers were thunderous.

"Customers and employees have been coming up to me to say thank you," Chairman Osceola said to the crowd. "We love all and serve all and we mean that. Thank you to the employees and the patrons. Thank you to the Tribal members, we're 800 strong today. We are honored to be here."

"A year ago we found a building with a broken spirit, but with a pulse," Joe Jingoli said. "Today we give it a soul. To the Seminole Tribe of Florida, today you're

officially Jersey boys and Jersey girls and now you have a beach house."

Jingoli went on to say they will be judged by the numbers, but remembered by how they treat each other. To that point, he announced they have hired and will continue to hire people in recovery so they aren't judged only by their past.

"I'm glad you invited these Jersey boys to join the band," Michael Jingoli said. "Now let's rock Atlantic City."

Tribal members were impressed with the guitar smash and the property itself. Neil Baxley, who saw the hotel a couple of months ago, was impressed with the transformation and that it took such a short time to complete. Demi Garza was glad to see so many families in attendance and plans to bring her children to Atlantic City another time. Immokalee Council project manager Ray Garza was glad the Tribe is branching out.

"Hard Rock is so much more than a hotel and casino, its entertainment amplified," Sally Tommie said. "I'm passionate about what the brand represents and how it is

aligned with us as Native people. It is a brand that has soul."

Joe Dan Osceola believes the Hard Rock Atlantic City will be one of the Tribe's greatest casinos.

"It's exciting and it shows our young people of the great determination of our forefathers," added Virginia Osceola. "Greatness can be achieved and that spirit can continue in our younger generation."

After the excitement of the grand opening quieted down, Chairman Osceola reflected on the significance of the moment.

"It was a nice touch to have so many Tribal members here," he said. "I'm sure it [Hard Rock Atlantic City] will be successful in the years to come. It isn't normal to have the support of local government, but they wanted someone to come in and revitalize and energize the city. It's significant for us because of all the naysayers. We did it on our own and we thought it was a worthwhile venture. The best is yet to come."



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, in one of her final functions as Miss Florida Seminole before the end of her reign, Rande Osceola attends the grand opening of Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City. She is joined by Christine McCall, a former Miss Florida Seminole. At right, brothers Jonathon Frank and Justin Frank pose at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City grand opening luncheon June 28.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City's grand opening draws a huge crowd June 28. Below, Alice Billie, Thomlynn Billie, Tahniah Billie, Mohayia Billie and Allekeao Billie pose for a photo in the lobby of the HRAC.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, medicine man Bobby Henry takes in the sights and sounds of the grand opening. At right, Jim Allen, Hard Rock International chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO, and HRAC partner Jack Morris are interviewed on CNBC on June 28 just hours before the grand opening of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City.



Beverly Bidney

New Jersey native Max Weinberg, who is the drummer Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band, acknowledges the crowd of 6,000 who were ready for the drumroll countdown to the epic guitar smash that signaled the opening of the Hard Rock Atlantic City.



Facebook

A floating billboard company wishes the new Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City good luck.

# Fourth of July



Courtesy Crystal L. Sneed  
Remus Griffin, left, and Joshua Sneed enjoy the Fourth of July celebration at Chupco's Landing in Fort Pierce.



Beverly Bidney  
Members of We Do Recover enjoy a break from cooking hot dogs and hamburgers during the BC Fourth of July celebration.



Beverly Bidney  
The Big Cypress Fourth of July celebration included competitions of all types; horseshoes, obstacle course, watermelon seed spitting, rib and chili cook-offs. Here, Darla Cypress runs the watermelon obstacle course and had the fastest time in the women's category.



Damon Scott  
Allen Pettigrew, Tampa Recreation coordinator, plays an oversized game of "Jenga" with kids at the Tampa's Fourth of July celebration in Lakeland.



Damon Scott  
Trenton Timothy is happy with the results of his face painting and the sunny Fourth of July celebration in Fort Pierce.



Kevin Johnson  
Leon Wilcox tosses a horseshoe during a match against Mahokin Tiger at Hollywood's Fourth of July Celebration at Seminole Estates.



Beverly Bidney  
Alycia Mora tosses a beanbag during Immokalee's Fourth of July corn hole competition as Bonnie Callins awaits her turn.



Kevin Johnson  
Javon Motlow Hubbard enjoys snacks at Hollywood's Fourth of July celebration at Seminole Estates.



Damon Scott  
The kids loved the tug of war area near the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton on July 4.



Beverly Bidney  
Canaan Jumper, with a watermelon seed on her tongue, laughs at the thought of having to spit it out during the watermelon seed spitting contest at the Big Cypress Fourth.



Damon Scott  
A group of students from the Tampa Reservation attend the Fourth of July celebration in Lakeland. Although the weather was cloudy and rainy, this group gathered under a tent to do arts and crafts activities and create "slime" from glue and other ingredients.



Damon Scott  
Samuel Slocum and Joyce Jumper and enjoyed the cornhole games at Brighton's Fourth of July celebration.

# Seminole 4-H members meet Gov. Rick Scott

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**LABELLE** — A few members of the Seminole 4-H Club met with Gov. Rick Scott on a campaign stop in Labelle on July 24. 4-H program assistant Kimberly Clement received an email invitation to the breakfast event the night before and scrambled to assemble a small group of 4-H'ers.

"These guys put in a lot of effort this year and are in leadership roles," Clement said. "When you put in the work, you deserve the recognition."

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Allegra Billie, Kaleb Thomas, Camryn Thomas and 4-H photography and patchwork club leader Tammy Billie met at the Log Cabin Restaurant where the Governor spoke with every patron in the restaurant.

Gov. Scott, who is in his final term as governor and is running for U.S. Senate, spent a good deal of time with the students and asked them what grades they are in and what they want to be when they grow up.

Allegra, 17, told him she wants to be a veterinarian, at which point Gov. Scott told her to contact U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho, who represents the 3rd District in the Gainesville area. The congressman graduated from University of Florida Veterinary School, which is the only one in the state.

"Tell him I told you to call," Gov. Scott said, as he wrote Yoho's phone number on his campaign business card.

Tammy Billie, Allegra's mother, told the Governor that her daughter was recently crowned Jr. Miss Florida Seminole. He asked what that meant. Allegra told him about the talent competition - hers was sewing - and that it was based on culture.

When told about the Seminole 4-H



Seminole 4-H Club members Kaleb Thomas and Camryn Thomas and 4-H program assistant Kimberly Clement share a laugh with Gov. Rick Scott on July 24 at the Log Cabin restaurant in LaBelle. Gov. Scott met with a few members of the club during his U.S. Senate campaign stop.

Club, Gov. Scott said agriculture is the state's second largest industry after tourism.

"Whatever their interests, I try to get all kids to follow their dreams," Gov. Scott said. "I grew up in public housing, so with hard work anything is possible."

"I never thought I'd have the opportunity to meet the Governor," Allegra said. "He took a lot of time with us."

Camryn said it was interesting to see

him up close.

"That was cool," Kaleb said. "My mother always told me not to take things like this for granted."

Clement was pleased they got this experience and told the group she would always make events available to them.

"Next time it will be different kids," she said. "But today you were the lucky ones."



Members of the Seminole 4-H Club met Gov. Rick Scott on the campaign trail at the Log Cabin restaurant in LaBelle on July 24. From left are Tammy Billie, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Allegra Billie, Governor Rick Scott, Kaleb Thomas, Camryn Thomas and 4-H program assistant Kimberly Clement.

## Council Oak Steaks & Seafood, The Rez Grill earn Wine Spectator magazine honors

**TAMPA** — Council Oak Steaks & Seafood and The Rez Grill, both fine dining venues in Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, have been awarded the Award of Excellence by Wine Spectator magazine.

Council Oak Steaks & Seafood features a menu of over 300 wines from more than 13 countries, while The Rez Grill has its own 100-bottle wine list. Each restaurant has staff trained in all of the exacting nuances of proper wine service.

This is the 11th straight year Council

Oak Steaks & Seafood has been honored by the magazine, while it's the first year The Rez Grill has received the Award of Excellence.

"We're proud that both Council Oak and The Rez Grill were recognized by Wine Spectator for their world-class selection of wines," said Dawn Lazo, Vice President of Food & Beverage at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa. "Team members at both restaurants continually strive to deliver an unparalleled guest experience."

Both restaurants provide staff with

an intensive six-week training program with wine training as a key component. In addition, regularly scheduled informational meetings on the topic are held, including visiting wine experts who share their expertise during special staff seminars.

The Award of Excellence recognizes wine lists that offer interesting selections and are appropriate to their cuisine and appeal to a wide range of wine lovers.



David Galindo/Hard Rock

John Fontana, second from right, is joined at his retirement event July 12 by, from left, Sally Tommie, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.

# John Fontana retires after nearly 40 years with Seminole Tribe

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

**TAMPA** — More than 300 guests joined John Fontana at his retirement celebration July 12 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa. Fontana recently retired from the Seminole Tribe of Florida after 38 years.

In honor of his service, Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn proclaimed July 12 as "John Fontana Day" in Tampa. The city's proclamation highlighted Fontana's career, including his devotion to several charitable causes. A section reads:

*WHEREAS, believing in investing in the Tampa community and impacting the quality of life for its residents, Mr. Fontana established numerous charitable and philanthropic initiatives and partnerships resulting in millions of dollars benefitting over 100 local charities including The Angelus Group Home, the De Bartolo Family Foundation, Julie Weintraub's Hands Across the Bay, the Bill Edwards Foundation, Metropolitan Ministries, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tampa is a title sponsor of both the annual Pinktober benefiting Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and*

*the Gasparilla Parade of the Pirates...*

The Fontana family connection to the Tribe stretches back to the early 1970s when John's mother Jean Fontana became a Tribal government employee. Similar to John, Jean enjoyed a lengthy career with the Tribe which lasted for more than 40 years.

After graduating from Florida State University with a degree in finance in 1980, John Fontana embarked on his career with the Tribe. He started as a staff accountant and bingo master.

In 1981, he transferred to Seminole Casino Tampa as assistant to the managing partners. In 1987, he was promoted to general manager and later became president of Seminole Hard Rock Support Services.

Fontana's leadership helped the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa blossom into one of the largest and most profitable casinos in the United States. It is in the midst of a \$700 million site expansion and enhancement.

Fontana has served on boards of various organizations such as the Florida Council for Compulsive Gambling, the Tampa Bay Partnership, the Brandon Foundation, Visit Tampa Bay and Derek Jeter's Turn 2 Foundation.



David Galindo/Hard Rock

Longtime Seminole employee John Fontana speaks at his retirement celebration July 12 in Tampa.

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# SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

# AH-TAH-THI-KI

## M U S E U M

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

## Photographs show historic Fort Marion woven into Florida's Native history

BY TARA BACKHOUSE  
Collections Manager, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The Museum's historic collection consists of many types of things, from 19th century newspapers to patchwork clothing, to sculpture and paintings. However, the majority of the objects we care for are photographs. We estimate we have 150,000 photographs that range from the early 20th century to the present day. You've no doubt seen some of our photographs in other articles, at community events, or at the Museum. We often publish articles to ask for help in gathering information about them. We'll echo that request here, but we also want to share a stunning comparison.

Some of the most interesting things we discover in the collection involve comparisons of objects separated by decades of time. For example, by comparing an early 20th century wooden doll to a brightly colored palmetto doll from the late 20th century, one can see how styles and materials changed, as well as how Seminole artistry developed over 100 years. Another type of comparison often happens in our library. Our 19th century newspapers usually tell a deplorable and terribly sad story of an expansionist war, genocide and racist propaganda. However a 20th century newspaper such as this one tells stories of success and highlights happy occasions.

We recently ran across one such pair of photographs. Both show Native American people at the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, AKA Fort Marion. The fort has a long history, as it was completed in 1695, and used by Spanish, British and United States forces throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, as each tried to wrestle control of Florida away from each other and the native populations who lived here. During the 19th century, many groups of Native people, including Apache, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Comanche, Kiowa and Seminole

and many did not survive. Others were taken and forcibly removed even further away from their homeland. The heartbreaking photograph on the right, which is a copy obtained from the Florida State Photographic Archives, shows one such group at the fort in 1875. This strong and resolute group of people look determined to survive this unjust imprisonment, so far from their western homes.

In contrast, the picture below shows a very different group of visitors to the fort. No longer are the Seminole people



A group of modern-day visitors to the Castillo de San Marcos find a park ranger and historical interpreter dressed as a Spanish soldier happy to pose with them within the walls that once imprisoned their ancestors.

found themselves imprisoned in the fort during various conflicts with the presiding government. The years from 1886 to 1887 saw nearly 500 Apache prisoners living there. The living conditions were not good,

or any other tribal groups subject to abuse and imprisonment there, and war no longer darkens its walls. As part of the National Park System, Castillo de San Marcos welcomes thousands of people every year to



A large group of Kiowa, Cheyenne, Comanche, and Arapaho chiefs and warriors were detained by the United States Army as prisoners of war at Fort Marion from 1875 to 1878.

learn about its history, including the part it played in the Indian conflicts. The Seminole Tribe took a trip to Fort Marion on January 31, 1998 in order to trace the path of Osceola, one of the great heroes of the Seminole War. He was first imprisoned there before being moved to another prison in Charleston,

there may have been other organized trips to St. Augustine. Do any of our readers know about this or any other trip? Were you perhaps there?

This group of Seminole visitors probably found it hard to learn about the darker days of the fort. Nonetheless such a

visit illustrates how much has changed since the conflicts of the 19th century. **E n d u r a n c e**, adaptability and acumen have formed the 20th century Seminole story. It's a good thing to see the smiles and prosperity in the modern photo, but many people think it's also good to remember the injustices and suffering of the past so they are not repeated.

These two photographs share the same stone wall backgrounds, and that presents both a haunting memory of the past and an optimistic view of the future. Part of the Museum's purpose is to find these stories and share them with the community. We welcome questions, conversation and information. If you would like to help shine a light on history, come and work with us, there are volunteer

and employment options here for you. Just contact the Museum at 863-902-1113, or stop by and see us anytime!

SC where he died. In 1998, the STOF trip continued to Charleston to experience and honor Osceola's journey. It's possible that this picture was taken on that trip. However

## Project seeks to counter Native myths, misconceptions 'Reclaiming Native Truth' enters action phase

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — It's no secret in Indian Country that many Americans hold certain misconceptions and stereotypes about Native Americans. Those assumptions and myths can have negative consequences, not the least of which is increased discrimination and racist attitudes toward Native populations.

A fledgling project — about two years old — being spearheaded by First Nations Development Institute in Longmont, Colorado, designed a program to be a counterforce to many of the misconceptions. "Reclaiming Native Truth" decided in its first 18 months to compile data from extensive research to see what the key issues and perceptions of Native Americans are in the U.S.

The organizers used focus groups, social media postings, talked to academics, tribal leaders, college presidents, faculty and others to help shape the report.

The project was discussed during the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) conference in Miami at a July 19 session.

Project organizers say the initial research results affirmed what many Native Americans already knew: that there are "deep-rooted biases and toxic assumptions that many Americans across the United States hold."

Some specific discoveries were:

- Many think Native Americans are growing rich from welfare and casino dollars.
- Only 36 percent polled believe Native Americans face discrimination.
- A whopping 40 percent still believe Native Americans don't exist.

- Modern culture promotes a romanticized past and invisible present.
- Non-Natives create the narrative of Natives.
- Sovereignty is misunderstood.

The findings reinforced that Native Americans are largely invisible in many institutions and that the majority of Americans know very little about Native Americans or know nothing at all.

### Some positives

Not all the research results were gloomy. Organizers found that 76 percent of Americans believe significant changes need to be made to school curriculum on Native American history and culture, and 64 percent support increased resources to reduce poverty, and bolster health care and education in Native populations.

Mark Trahan, editor of Indian Country Today and member of the Shoshone Bannock Tribes, said an ongoing positive is that Indian education in Montana schools was instituted in the late 1970s and continues today.

"Every citizen would have an understanding of Indian history from [kindergarten] through the university level," said Trahan, who led the NAJA session. "It's been so successful it's been replicated in other states."

Oregon, for example, recently passed a law that will require Native curriculum in its schools.

It's part of an ongoing effort by Native stakeholders to ensure "respectful inclusion and accuracy of Native American history and cultures in educational curricula."

Attendees at the session brought up other positives. One that was mentioned is that many cities and towns are transitioning from

celebrating Columbus Day to recognition of "Indigenous Peoples Day."

However, some in the audience said they had also experienced pushback on the idea. They called it the "just get over it" narrative.

"How the country thinks and operates is like changing the software on a huge computer system," said Trahan. "It takes a lot of time."

### Next steps

While the first phase of the project was focused on defining issues and generating research, the next phase will be all about action.

With the research results now in hand, the project has a list of main goals to accomplish. One is to improve the portrayal of Native Americans in the news and entertainment media. Other goals include greater inclusion in public policy and philanthropy: Any solution that will propel Native American communities forward, organizers said.

The phase two step is about taking action in those areas where organizers think change can happen. They say many issues can be countered with education, presenting accurate history and more research and forging more support for policy.

In short, organizers want the values, history and accomplishments of Native Americans to be more readily recognized.

More information is at [reclaimingnativetruth.com](http://reclaimingnativetruth.com), including a free download of the report's full findings. In addition, the group produced a video that can be accessed on YouTube: "Reclaiming Native Truth: Call to Action."

The NAJA conference was held at the Intercontinental Hotel.

## 2017 Indian gaming revenues hit \$32.4 billion

BY LI COHEN  
Copy Editor

Indian gaming had another spike of success in fiscal year 2017, as gross gaming revenue increased by 3.9 percent, hitting \$32.4 billion, according to the National Indian Gaming Commission.

This is the highest recording gross gaming revenue yet for Indian gaming. After a relatively stagnant revenue growth from fiscal years 2009 to 2014, revenues started seeing a spike in fiscal year 2015. That year, gross gaming revenues increased by 5 percent.

The Sacramento region, which includes California and northern Nevada, saw the greatest increase in revenue for 2017 at 7.3 percent. The Washington, D.C., region, which includes Florida, Alabama, Connecticut, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and New York, had a 1 percent increase. Six Seminole casinos are included in the Washington region.

NIGC Chief of Staff Christina Thomas explained that the overall growth is due to Indian Country's innovative approaches and technological advancements within the gaming industry.

"Using our cornerstone initiatives and principles along with our new strategic plan as a guide, we have created stability in our agency and strengthened our partnerships with tribes," Thomas said. "This approach has proven to be beneficial to the Indian gaming industry and has supported its continued flourishing."

Figures were released June 26 at an NIGC press conference in Washington.

As per NIGC, gross gaming revenues are found by looking at the financial statement of 494 gaming operations that are owned by 242 federally recognized tribes. Gross gaming revenue is the total money wagered minus the winnings returned to players. The earnings before salaries, compacts and operating expenses are included in the number. Tribes are required to submit audited financial statements to NIGC every year.

Specific data pertaining to Seminole Tribe of Florida casinos is not available to the public, but Seminole Tribe spokesman Gary Bitner said that revenue and overall growth is expected to increase over the next few years.

"The Seminole casinos continue to do amazingly well," Bitner said. "The Hard Rock in Hollywood and the Hard Rock in Tampa are both undergoing major expansion projects now and those are due to open in 2019. You can expect to see significant revenue increases for both of those casinos."

The Seminoles aren't the only ones expecting to see a significant growth either. Thomas said that NIGC's strategic plan for 2018 to 2022 entails details that will foster Indian Country's gaming growth.

"Our goals have been to partner with tribes and tribal regulators to strengthen Indian gaming," she said. "We are proud of this partnership and the role that the NIGC has played to help build the regulatory foundation that has helped Indian gaming become the important economic engine that it is today."

A full report of 2017's revenue growth is available at [nigc.gov/news](http://nigc.gov/news).



# Health



## Learning healthy cooking on kids' summer menu

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Chef Asif Syed wants Tribal kids to learn to love cooking so they will eat more healthily. Together with the Allied Health Department, he has been leading cooking classes this summer on every reservation to achieve that goal.

"We want to get them interested in cooking because that will give them healthy habits and keep them away from junk food," Syed said. "They cook, they eat and they carry it forward."

On July 10, the Seminole Youth Chef Summer Program at the Big Cypress clinic's kitchen was standing room only. Fourteen eager 10-to-14-year-old Boys & Girls Club kids wielded knives, mixing spoons and a host of ingredients to make shredded chicken tacos.

Syed chooses kid-friendly menus and keeps the classes fun to spark the young chefs' interest in cooking. Sometimes it's a

challenge to know what they will want to cook, but tacos filled the bill nicely.

"If we keep doing these classes on a regular basis, they will learn to like cooking the things they like to eat," Syed said.

The cooking tables were laden with all the ingredients and tools needed to create the perfect chicken tacos, including chicken thighs, onion, garlic, spices, canned tomatoes, chipotle chili in adobo, avocado, limes and chicken stock. The young cooks worked cooperatively under the supervision of Syed and ultimately devoured the tacos they made.

Allied Health Program Manager Suzanne Davis was hosting United South & Eastern Tribes area diabetes consultant Dietrich Taylor that day and brought him to observe the class.

"I want to get an idea of what the Tribe is doing to help people prevent or live with diabetes," Taylor said. "What they are doing here is cutting edge."

He cited the Health Department's use

of Tribal members' photos in their fliers and marketing materials to promote the program, the frequent walks and other activities.

Meanwhile, the aroma of chicken, spices, herbs and vegetables filled the room, along with the banter of the kids at the tables. Syed bounced from table to table where he shared techniques, lent a hand and answered questions.

When she heard a complaint about having to clean up as they cooked, Health Nutritionist/Dietician Marianna Nikiforov told the group that cleaning and going back and forth to the sink is all part of cooking.

As the chicken thighs simmered in pots, Syed asked the group what are their favorite dishes. Spaghetti topped the list followed by shrimp Alfredo, macaroni and cheese, beef fajitas, lasagna and steamed lobster. Xavier Quintanilla, 11, said he likes tabbouleh, which Nikiforov taught them to make in a previous class.

Xavier seemed very much at home in the kitchen and looked for more ways to



Beverly Bidney

**Chef Asif Syed measures oil in which to cook chicken for tacos as Xavier Quintanilla observes during the Seminole Youth Chef Summer Program at the Big Cypress clinic kitchen July 10.**



Beverly Bidney

**Chef Asif Syed demonstrates to Aujua Williams, center, and Harmony Jimenez how to cut an onion that will be used for shredded chicken tacos the Boys & Girls Club kids were making.**

help out and learn. He voluntarily went to the sink to rinse utensils and load them in the dishwasher. He likes to cook and often cooks eggs, grits and sausage at home.

Syed allowed Xavier to watch him finish and shred the chicken at the kitchen's industrial stovetop. The youth cooking class is just one more thing for Syed, who has

worked with the Tribe for about five years. He also owns an Indian restaurant in Naples named 21 Spices, and is a featured chef at the South Beach and New York Wine and Food Festivals. Additionally, Syed has been featured on the Food Network a few times; he's appeared on Guy's Grocery Games, Cutthroat Kitchen and Beat Bobby Flay.

### Get a head start with school year immunizations

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA  
Florida Department of Health Broward County

Under Florida law, children cannot start school unless they receive all vaccines against nine contagious and potentially fatal childhood diseases. School shots are especially important for children entering kindergarten and seventh grade, because different requirements begin at those grade levels.

Seminole tribal clinics give required back-to-school immunizations. Parents can make an appointment for their children and be ready for school in advance. For details, phone numbers and locations, visit [semitrbe.com/Services/Health.aspx](http://semitrbe.com/Services/Health.aspx).

DOH and some doctors give free shots provided by the federal Vaccines for Children program:

**DOH-Broward**

Free school shots are given at two health centers. Call 954-467-4705 for appointments. An immunization and family fun fair is set for Aug. 11 at Lauderhill Mall where free vaccines for HPV and meningitis will be available.

**DOH-Hendry**  
Free school shots at health centers (appointments 863-674-4041).

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Free school shots at health centers (appointments 239-252-7300 or 8207).

**DOH-Hillsborough**  
Free school shots at certain locations (appointments not needed but can be made at 813-307-8000).

**DOH-St. Lucie**  
Free school shots at health center (appointments 772-462-3800).

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Many families have pets and they are considered part of the family. It is very important to have a plan for your pet if a disaster occurs. Not all shelters are pet friendly. It is important to find out which ones are or make other accommodations for your pets in case they cannot go with you. It is also very important to make an emergency kit for them as well. Also don't forget livestock. Some of the important things to consider are:

### Pets

- Stock up on Food and water (at least 3 days)
- Medicine, medical records and any other important documents should be on hand
- Have a crate or pet carrier
- Familiar items such as toys, blankets or anything that make them comfortable
- Have plastic bags for cleaning up after

them  
- Collar with ID tag and a current picture of them in case you lose or are separated from your pet

### Livestock

- If large livestock can't be evacuated, turn them loose in larger pastures or pens on high ground with solid shelter or tall brush and large trees for cover. Livestock should never remain in a closed barn. If the barn is damaged by wind, the animals could be injured or killed.
- Keep livestock feed, hay, horse tack, animal medicine, and other livestock supplies stored in locations that will withstand rising water and high wind.
- Keep a one-month supply on hand of medications and livestock supplements. Label them clearly with feeding instructions in case you cannot be there to administer.
- Keep a written inventory of all livestock, including breeding and

expense records, with your important financial papers. If you lose livestock, you may need this kind of paperwork for insurance purposes.

- Have enough livestock feed on hand for at least a week, and the same amount of water – up to 150 gallons per horse or bovine.

For more information, refer to the 2018 STOF Hurricane Safety Guide or visit our website at [EM.semitrbe.com](http://EM.semitrbe.com). If you have any further questions regarding pet sheltering or issues with animals, contact animal control at 954-965-1321.

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# SEMINOLE SCENES



Damon Scott

**SCENIC SCENE:** With Biscayne Bay behind him in downtown Miami, Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon "Ollie" Wareham speaks at the Native American Journalists Association conference on July 21 at the InterContinental Hotel.



Beverly Bidney

**COWBOY GENERATIONS:** Josh Jumper carries his nephew Caden Jumper, 5, into the Big Cypress cow pens during calf shipping on July 16.

Courtesy Rebecca Bryant (2)  
**SEAS THE SUMMER:** The kids of Hollywood Boys & Girls Club are spending their summer vacation traveling around South Florida. The group above went to the Miami Seaquarium on July 22 while the group pictured at right spent July 15 sliding down through the Funderdome Indoor Playground in Fort Lauderdale.



Beverly Bidney

**GETTING READY:** Although Immokalee children are still busy with recreation camp and Boys & Girls Club activities, they couldn't avoid the fact that the new school year is right around the corner. Tribal departments coordinated to help the kids get off to a good start by giving them one of 170 backpacks and an abundance of notebooks, pencils, erasers, sticker, highlighters, folders, pencil holders and other essentials to fill those colorful packs on July 26. These kids, including Jazmine Garcia, 9, Remy Rodriguez, 9, Madison Martinez, 13 and Antonio Billie, 13, organized their backpacks together



Beverly Bidney

**SWEET SUCCESS-** 4-H program assistant Kimberly Clement is on a mission to inform Tribal youth about 4-H activities other than raising livestock. Each week she conducts hands-on classes making practical items they can use including butter, mayonnaise, sugar scrub, ice cream and stomp rockets. They also learned how to germinate seeds in tiny greenhouses. These Immokalee kids (at left and right) took turns measuring and mixing to create sugar scrub, a spa treatment that exfoliates the skin. Ingredients included solid and liquid coconut oil, sugar, flavored extract for fragrance and food coloring. At the end of the class, everyone had a container of their product to take home and use.



Kevin Johnson

**ROYAL VISIT:** Seminole Nation of Oklahoma royalty visits Seminole Media Productions on July 13 in Hollywood. From left, Miss Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Summer Foster, Jr. Miss Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Kaniyah Tiger and Little Miss Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Malena Whitekiller. They were in town to attend the Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.



Beverly Bidney

**AC BLAST:** Patchwork is prevalent in Atlantic City as a fireworks show stamps a colorful exclamation point on the grand opening of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in June.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## Interior Department says no plans to remove Mashpee Wampanoag land from federal trust

A US Interior Department official told a congressional committee in July that the federal agency has no plans to remove land owned by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in Massachusetts from its federal trust.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Acting Director Darryl LaCounte testified before the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs. He said the 321 acres taken into trust in 2015 by the Department of the Interior (DOI) remains there. The Bureau of Indian Affairs falls within the Interior Department.

Asked whether the DOI might be considering removing the land from the trust due to a federal judge's 2016 decision that concluded the agency erred in recognizing the acreage as sovereign grounds, LaCounte replied, "Not to my knowledge. It is in trust right now."

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is trying to build a \$1 billion casino resort in Taunton known as First Light. The Native American group has partnered with Genting Group, a casino conglomerate headquartered in Malaysia with properties around the world including the US.

The Mashpee Wampanoag land case is being watched closely by Native American groups across the country. Its outcome has the potential to greatly alter the future of how land sovereignty is determined.

The DOI accepted the newly acquired land into trust despite the Mashpee Tribe only receiving federal recognition in 2007. Under the Indian Reorganization Act, only tribes recognized prior to 1934 are to qualify to have new property placed into federal trust.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Chairman Cedric Cromwell told the congressional committee that it's simply "a technical issue" that the tribe was "mysteriously" removed from being listed under federal recognition many decades ago. He maintains that the tribe has ties to Massachusetts that go back more than a century.

Taunton property owners sued after the DOI took in the land. US District Court Judge William Young ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in 2016, essentially suspending construction on the Taunton casino.

LaCounte said the DOI and Bureau of Indian Affairs is still reviewing the court decision despite it coming two years ago.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) is waiting to find out the final outcome of the long-drawn Mashpee case. It's held off on issuing the third and final commercial casino license under the state's Expanded Gaming Act on concerns that the southeastern region would become oversaturated if First Light is allowed to proceed.

Rush Street Gaming, the sole bidder in 2015 for the Region C license in 2015, has asked the MGC to reconsider its proposal. The gaming agency voted 4-1 against the plan in 2016.

Rush Street wants to build a \$667 million casino at the Brockton Fairgrounds, which is just 10 miles from the Mashpee's land in Taunton.

- *Casino.org*

## Bellegarde re-elected as national chief of Assembly of First Nations

**VANCOUVER, B.C., Canada** – Perry Bellegarde was re-elected as national chief of the Assembly of First Nation in Vancouver on July 25 in a vote that was marred by allegations that federal Indigenous relations minister Carolyn Bennet interfered in the electoral process.

On a second ballot, Bellegarde finished with 63 per cent of the 522 votes from chiefs and their proxies, while Sheila North from Manitoba received 24 per cent. Miles

Richardson, a former Haida Nation president from B.C., received 11 per cent. Mohawk analyst Russ Diabo finished well back. Katherine Whitecloud, a former Manitoba regional chief of the AFN, was eliminated on the first ballot.

Bellegarde had received 53 per cent on the first ballot, under the 60-per-cent threshold required for election. Richardson lost some of his support on the second ballot.

Despite the concerns expressed by challengers over the federal Indigenous relations minister's presence in First Nation regional caucus rooms at the Vancouver Convention Centre during the voting process, in a concession speech after Bellegarde's victory, Richardson committed to work with the re-elected chief.

"I want to say, in the course of the campaign, I might not agree with everything about the way the Assembly of First Nations is organized or how different participants or institutions function, but I do accept it is the process we have established amongst ourselves as First Nations," said Richardson.

"And I say with absolute sincerity — because I have been through many elections in my time — that those who are casting the votes, in this case the chiefs of this country, are never wrong."

"Our greatest strength is our unity," added Richardson.

Some rivals and critics said Bellegarde has been too cozy with Justin Trudeau's government and was letting Ottawa set the agenda on First Nation issues, simply maintaining the status quo and not advancing rights for First Nations.

Bellegarde said his work has gained momentum and it is not done yet.

During candidate speeches in Vancouver, Bellegarde said the AFN had opened doors to chiefs to give access to Trudeau and cabinet ministers. "That's how we made our organization, the AFN, more effective," he said.

Bellegarde pointed to \$17 billion in federal government funding for First Nations under the federal government since 2016.

Support for Richardson from former AFN chiefs Ovide Mercredi, Matthew Coon Come and George Erasmus did not translate into votes.

Richardson had said it was time to take a more forceful tone with the federal government and push the Indian Act aside.

He noted the Haida had just done that and now decisions on the land do not take place without their consent.

Said Richardson during his candidate speech: "We can choose to try to fix, to try to make incremental improvements, to the colonial Indian Act system that has guided our lives for too long. I'm here to tell you that is a dead-end street."

Richardson was among those, following the first vote, who were angry that Bennett, the Indigenous relations minister, was on site during the vote.

In addressing reporters, candidate North said she did not know what Bennett said to delegates, but her understanding was the underlying message was to stay the course with the federal government.

"It's disgusting, and the chiefs need to know and understand what has happened here. This is a clear display of what we are talking about as candidates — that we need a change, that we need an organization and a national chief that's not in bed with the government," North said before Bellegarde's victory on the second ballot.

A chief from B.C. who supported Bellegarde, Skeetchestn First Nation chief Ron Ignace, downplayed the controversy, saying it was clear that Bellegarde was well ahead on the first vote.

Indigenous relations ministry spokesman James Fitz-Morris said Bennett was invited by the Alberta regional chief to speak at its regional caucus. "The topic of the election wasn't discussed directly or indirectly," Morris said in a written statement.

- *Vancouver Sun*

## Gonzaga professor contributes to business book for Native Americans

**SPOKANE, Wash.** – Gonzaga professor Daniel Stewart, Ph.D., who teaches entrepreneurship and directs the Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program in the Gonzaga University School of Business Administration, has contributed to the textbook "American Indian Business: Principles and Practices."

Stewart, a member of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, said the book was written for Native Americans by Native Americans. He co-authored the chapter titled "American Indian Entrepreneurship" with Charles F. Harrington and Carolyn Birmingham, and authored the chapter "Business Strategy: Building Competitive Advantage in American Indian Firms."

Published by University of Washington Press (2017), the book is designed for colleges on and off reservations to teach individual business owners, Stewart said.

"There's only a handful of American Indian professors in business schools and we're the core group, at least in management," Stewart said. "We've always wanted to do something like this and now that four of us are tenured we thought that the time was right to finally put together a book that focuses on economic development at the level of the businesses themselves."

Unlike other books that tend to address Native American economic development from a broad perspective, this text focuses more on individuals rather than tribal government, Stewart said. The book involves modern business management but also references historical practices because they remain relevant.

"There's a collection of smaller colleges, called tribal colleges, a lot of them focus on associate degrees," Stewart said. "And tribal colleges tend to be located either on reservations or really close to reservations."

Besides tribal colleges, schools including Gonzaga, the University of Washington and several others are using or planning to use the text, he said, adding the book also acts as a contribution to recovering the economies of the reservations and maintaining the sovereignty of the tribes.

"One path for tribes and tribal members to actually achieve sovereignty is to understand and manage their own businesses," Stewart said. "The more you understand about business and increase your odds of having successful businesses, the less dependent you stay on government resources, which allows you to step up and exercise sovereignty and self-determination."

Other subjects covered in the book include history of Native American business, business law on reservations, legal forms of organization, tribal finance and economic development, Indian gaming, leadership practices, business ethics and values, health, human resources, service management for customers, and marketing.

Stewart said the textbook tries to incorporate discussions of culture throughout.

"In my chapters, I focused on 'You have culture, is it a resource? If it's a resource, how can you use it?'" Stewart said. "And other authors talk about maintaining the culture, or how to do you organize differently as Native American firms compared to mainstream firms."

- *KXLY Spokane*

## University group launches water purification project for Native American community

The University of Arizona chapter of Engineers Without Borders is working to create a safe, clean water supply for people living on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation.

The group is designing a water

purification project as part of an effort to revitalize 80 acres of reservation land in Southeastern Arizona.

Researchers detected high levels of arsenic in the community's groundwater. The Engineers' project filters water from two wells on the reservation and uses it for agriculture. UA Chemical and Environmental Engineering professor Vicki Karanikola notes students are also learning about the disparity of living conditions that exists across the region.

"It's really hard to envision how just three hours away from main cities, we have communities that don't have what we consider quality of life, no access to clean water, no access to electricity," she said.

UA environmental engineering students developed a clean water project on the Navajo Nation last year. Karanikola's research group helped design and build a solar-powered filtration system mounted on an old school bus.

- *Arizona Public Media*

## Native Americans call for Yellowstone to rename locations

Native Americans are looking to rename parts of Yellowstone National Park that are associated with hate, prejudice, and genocide.

Mt. Doane is named after Gustavus C. Doane, a U.S. Cavalry captain and explorer who is responsible for the massacre of 175 Blackfeet people. The other is Hayden Valley, named after Dr. Ferdinand V. Hayden who called for the extermination of Native people who refused to obey federal laws.

A group of tribal leaders is pursuing an application to change the current names to ones that instead honor the region's Native people — but the proposition is already facing opposition. Local officials voted against it in May and one legislator said it "is like trying to change history."

This wouldn't be the first time an insensitive landmark name has been contested. In 2013, Squaw Peak in Phoenix, Arizona was changed to Piestewa Peak to honor the first Native American woman killed in combat for the U.S.

"We're not for names where individuals have been involved with genocide, where elders and children have been killed and there have been some traumatic events in our history that don't meet standards of honor," stated William Snell of the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council.

- *Now This*

## Missing Native American artifact returned to State Museum

**ALBANY, N.Y.** – An engraved pipe tomahawk, gifted in 1792 from President George Washington to a Seneca chief with ties to Canandaigua, is back at the New York State Museum in Albany.

The treasure, given to Seneca Chief Cornplanter — who two years later signed the Treaty of Canandaigua with Washington and others — was stolen from the museum nearly 70 years ago, said Gwen Saul, curator of ethnography.

She said she suspects the gift was made in Philadelphia, the nation's capital at the time.

"In the 1790s, there was something like seven meetings between George Washington and this group of Six Nation leaders that included Red Jacket and Farmer's Brother," said Saul, noting she is doing more research. "The American Revolution threw chaos into the various indigenous peoples of New York. Part of the reason to have meetings with Washington in the 1790s was to assert sovereignty and try to protect the sovereign land and make sure there was an agreement with the Americans."

The talks led to the signing of the Treaty of Canandaigua in 1794 in Canandaigua,

establishing peace between the sovereign nations of the U.S. and the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy.

Also among the signers was Red Jacket, another Seneca chief for whom many buildings in western New York are named, including schools in the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District.

Around 1810, Cornplanter had a dream in which it was later revealed he needed to get rid of his possessions, Saul said Ely Parker told the Board of Regents in 1850 when he gave the tomahawk to the New York State Museum, founded in 1836.

She described to Parker how the original handle had been beautiful with silver inlays, so he replaced the plain wooden haft on the tomahawk he bought that included Cornplanter's name — Gy-ant-waka — on one side of the blade and "John Andrus" — possibly the manufacturer — on the other.

Parker had a new handle made of curly maple and silver inlays to reflect what the original tomahawk may have looked like and added a brass plate with his name on the bore end.

Pipe tomahawks were significant objects of intercultural exchange in the 18th century and could be used as smoking pipes, according to a release from the New York State Education Department, which runs the museum program through its Office of Cultural Education.

Smoking was a common ceremonial practice between parties after reaching an agreement.

The tomahawk is on exhibit through Dec. 30.

"We're pleased to put this historic artifact on public display so children and families can learn about Cornplanter and his role as a diplomat helping to establish peace between sovereign nations, an important part of New York history," Board of Regents Chancellor Betty A. Rosa stated in a release.

"The tomahawk is a key artifact in our Native American ethnography collection and we're pleased it has been returned to the State Museum," stated NYSED Commissioner MaryEllen Elia.

- *Mpnow.com*

## Imprisoned financier convicted for Native American bond scam

John "Yanni" Galanis, the disgraced California financier already in prison for white-collar crime, was convicted of helping his son dupe one of the poorest American Indian tribes into issuing more than \$60 million in worthless bonds, the U.S. said.

A federal jury in Manhattan found the 74-year-old Galanis guilty of conspiring to make the Wakpamni Lake Community Corp., a South Dakota Sioux tribal entity, issue a series of bonds under false pretenses from 2014 to 2016, the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York said June 28 in a statement. The Ponzi-like fraud ripped off pension funds from Illinois to Alabama, the U.S. said.

"As a unanimous jury swiftly found, these defendants orchestrated a highly complex scheme to defraud a Native American community and multiple pension funds, all to corruptly bankroll their own personal and business interests," Deputy U.S. Attorney Robert Khuzami said in the statement.

Galanis, referred to in court papers as "one of the 10 biggest white-collar criminals in America," is already serving a 6-year term for his role in a separate fraud that swindled investors in a Bermuda-based financial-services firm, Gerova Financial Group Ltd., out of \$20 million.

His son, Jason Galanis, pleaded guilty in January 2017 to his role in the tribal scheme and was sentenced to 14 years. At the time, the younger Galanis was already serving 11 years for his role in the Gerova scam. Another son, Derek Galanis, was also sentenced to six years for his role in that fraud.

- *Bloomberg*

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

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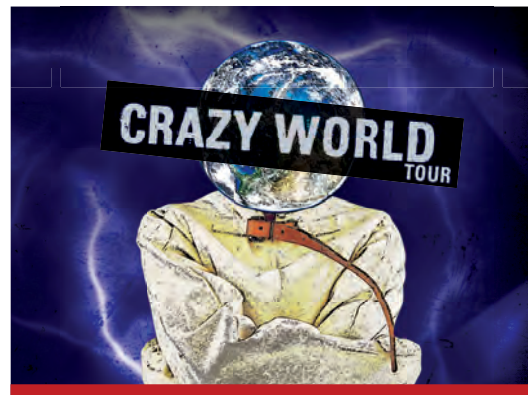
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# Education

B

## Harmon brothers continue family's military legacy

*Eli graduates from U.S. Air Force Academy; Levi graduates from VMI*

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

While most of their still young lives have been spent away from South Florida, the Harmon brothers say visiting Seminole lands still feels like "coming home."

Eli and Levi Harmon, 22-year-old twins, came "home" in July to take care of some business at Tribal Headquarters in Hollywood and to visit family in Brighton. Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. is their great uncle. Gladys Jean Bratcher (Councilman Bowers' sister) is their grandmother.

Gladys' daughter, Donna Harmon, is their mother who accompanied her sons on the recent trip. She is married to Edward Harmon and the couple also has two daughters, Jessi, 18, and Anna, 16.

Edward is a first class petty officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He has most recently been stationed in Gulfport, Mississippi.

The Harmon family has called Flagstaff, Ariz., home for the past 23 years. Although there are family members in Brighton, Donna previously lived in Hollywood for about seven years and Gladys has been living in Nashville, Tennessee. Gladys, however, is in the process of moving back to Brighton to be near family.

Military service runs on both sides of the family, and the Harmon brothers are continuing the tradition. Councilman Bowers was a U.S. Marine, as was Donna's father, who is now deceased.

### High school

The Harmon brothers attended St. John's Military School in Salina, Kansas — a private boarding military school for males from grades 6 to 12.

The two were the highest ranking cadets at the four-year high school.

"Being in that position allowed us to get to know the president really well, and he's still one of my closest friends," Levi said. "I talk to him pretty regularly and he convinced me to go to VMI (Virginia Military Institute). It's the only school I applied to."

Andy England was a VMI graduate himself in 1990, and served as the school's president while the Harmon brothers attended.

### Next steps

The Harmon brothers have now both graduated from their respective military academies.

Eli graduated in May after four years at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, earning a degree in physics.

His plans are to work for one year in the Academy's admissions department as a recruiting officer. He is on active duty as a second lieutenant.

"It's a special assignment I did an interview for. I'll be a space operations officer after that. The Air Force does a lot of work with satellites and missile detection. A [space operations officer] oversees those,"



Eli Harmon holds up his diploma during his graduation ceremony from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado in May.

Eli said.

He said he's not sure where he'll be stationed for the space operations officer assignment yet. Eli's initial commitment to the Air Force is five years of active duty.

Levi also graduated in May, but far away from his brother at VMI in Lexington, Virginia.

One of Levi's top-of-mind memories of his time at VMI took place during his freshman year.

"It's called your 'Rat' year. It's six or seven months and you can't really do anything — there's all sorts of rules involved.

You can't have your cell phone, can't leave on the weekends, can't go to sleep until 11:15 at night — you can't even take a nap unless it's under your desk. You have to walk in a specific line in the barracks, can't talk outside, can't do anything," he said.

Levi is in a civilian status until January 2019 when he'll attend Marine Corps Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Virginia. Once he completes OCS, he will also be a second lieutenant in the Marines. "Until then I'm going to watch over my sister (Anna) and get fit," he said.

Meanwhile, his other sister, Jessi, is

following her brother's footsteps: she'll be a freshman at VMI this fall.

### Upbringing

Donna said she and Edward homeschooled the boys up until high school when they found St. John's.

"We really liked it, it's an excellent school, very good structure," Donna said. "And the people there were really nice. It's in the Midwest in Kansas, so it was a good environment for them. And there were no distractions."



Levi Harmon smiles during his graduation ceremony at Virginia Military Institute in May.

But Donna said she wasn't really that worried about the boys being distracted from their schoolwork.

"They were really good kids. I'd be trying to teach and they'd be reading — they were avid readers and they still read a lot. We traveled a lot. We were fortunate enough with the Tribe that they could come down here for any sort of cultural programs that they had and we tried to get them involved in all sorts of things," she said.

### Military milestones

While there are many Natives who have attended and who have graduated from military academies across the country, the family believes it is likely the twins are the first from the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Levi was also a "distinguished graduate," a title reserved for those who achieved an overall (and within their major) grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or above. Eli was a member of Sigma Pi Sigma at the Air Force Academy, an honors society for those majoring in physics.

The family also believes the two would be the first military officers from the Tribe as well. (Many Seminoles have served as enlisted members.)

[Councilman Bowers] is why I want to be a Marine," Levi said.

### Seminole roots

Eli said he'd eventually like to own property in Brighton. "So I can come and see my family more," he said. "We see them every so often, but I'd love to be able to come down and stay in my own house and see them all the time."

The twins are both self-described outdoor types who enjoy fishing, and say Brighton is the perfect environment.

"Even though we've never lived here, it always feels like we're kind of coming home," Levi said. "It's pretty cool."



From left, U.S. Air Force Academy graduate Eli Harmon, sister Anna Harmon, mother Donna Harmon, grandmother Gladys Jean Bratcher and Virginia Military Institute graduate Levi Harmon gather for a photo in July outside Tribal headquarters in Hollywood.

## ◆ TEACHER OF YEAR

From page 1A

and a lot to say. It's time for me to have a voice in education for teachers and for students. This [Teacher of the Year] means it's time for me to find my voice and I'm ready to do that."

When they announced her as the winner at the gala, Prescott said she didn't hear anything else.

"I closed my eyes and was in disbelief," Prescott said. "It was the most breathtaking moment."

The four remaining finalists and 69 district winners from around the state were also recognized for their achievements and excellence in teaching.

"Educators have an incredible impact on the lives of the students in our state. On behalf of all Floridians, we are glad to show our appreciation for Florida's outstanding teachers," said the First Lady.

"Congratulations to Joy Prescott on being named the 2019 Teacher of the Year," Gov. Rick Scott said. "Every day, Florida's teachers and educators are ensuring that

our students are developing the knowledge and skills they need to be successful and live the American Dream."

Commissioner Stewart acknowledged Prescott's passion for education and looks forward to working with her during her term as the Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education.

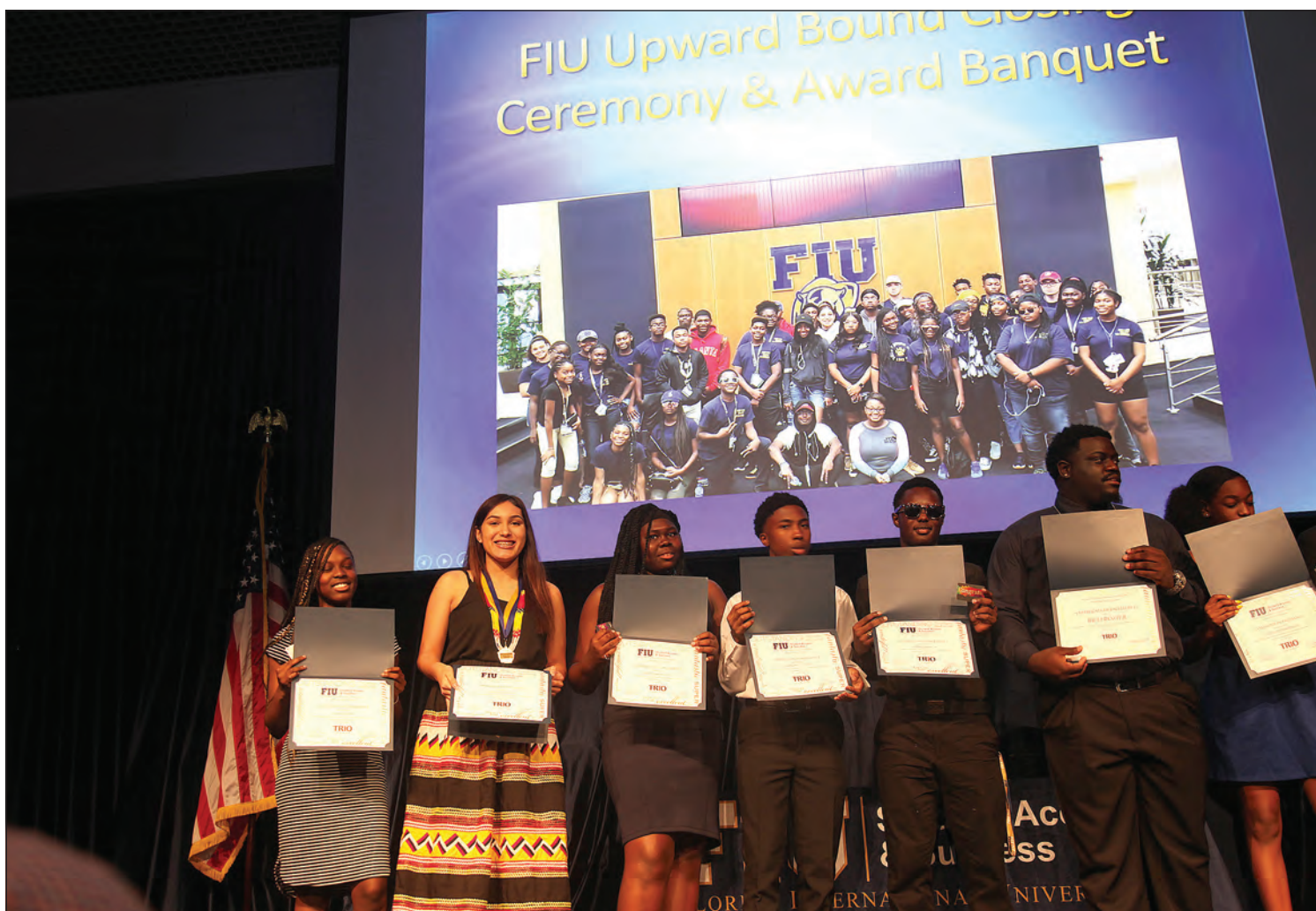
Prescott's duties as Teacher of the Year means she will take a year off from the classroom and travel the state. She will give keynote addresses, develop professional development programs for teachers, work on team building and participate in roundtable discussions about education at the Governor's Summit.

"I hope this year brings recognition to our small rural county and put Pemaayty Emahaky on the map," Prescott said. "I want people to see the amazing things and the amazing teachers at our school. I want the students to be proud of where they go to school."



From left, Patrick Farley, Samantha Neff, Molly Winters Diallo, 2019 Florida Teacher of the Year Joy Prescott, Madeline Pumariega, First Lady Ann Scott, Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart, and Kyle Dencker.

Photo courtesy Florida Department of Education



Kevin Johnson (2)

At left, Jada Holdiness, second from left, joins her summer classmates from Florida International University's Upward Bound program during an awards banquet July 19 at the FIU campus in Miami. Above, Deven Osceola receives a medal during the program. Both students are entering their senior year of high school. They spent seven weeks at FIU taking classes and living in dorms in a dual enrollment program offered through the Tribe's Center for Student Success and Services.

## FIU program provides 'upward' boost for Seminole students

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

MIAMI — Jada Holdiness and Deven Osceola know what they want to do for careers.

Holdiness has her sights set on hospitality management and perhaps working for Hard Rock; Osceola wants to follow his passion for music into audio engineering and producing.

Both are high school seniors, but they are proving that even at age 17, it's not too early to get a head start on their college and career paths.

Thanks to a partnership between the Tribe's Center for Student Success and Services and Florida International University, Holdiness and Osceola spent seven weeks this summer in a dual enrollment program on the Miami campus. They earned six credits each by participating in the Upward Bound program with fellow high school students, most of whom are from Miami. Holdiness, from Immokalee, and Osceola, from Mount Dora, about 30 miles north of Orlando, are from small towns, but they quickly became acclimated and comfortable attending classes in a big city and on a sprawling campus.

"Coming in here I didn't expect to make so many friends and meet so many people," Holdiness said. "I'm not from this area, so I thought everyone was just going to stay to themselves, but I met a lot of great people here."

Proof of their popularity with their

summer classmates was evident during the program's awards banquet. Already sporting a lively, upbeat atmosphere, the banquet became even more boisterous when students were introduced and brought up on stage. Yells and cheers came from the audience when Holdiness and Osceola were called up.

After spending nearly two months essentially simulating college life by living in dorms with roommates they had never previously met, attending classes titled Strategies for Success and Music Literature and Appreciation, and participating in off-campus community service work, the Tribal students emerged with plenty of positive experiences that will accompany them as they head toward the transition from high school student to college student.

"Coming in and meeting your roommates, that's what I was most anxious about because these are new people and you don't know who they are and you're new to the area," said Osceola, whose hesitations soon evaporated as he made friends and delved into the program. "My expectations were definitely exceeded for this program. I loved the amount of involvement that they wanted to be within your academic success."

Holdiness wasn't shy about applying to get into the program through CSSS. She saw it as an opportunity to spend a summer getting a taste of college life while earning credit before she embarks on her senior year of high school, which she will spend attending classes at Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers.

"I feel like so many people in the Tribe

need a good example, especially the younger generation ... There are so many careers out there and so many better things you can do with yourself," she said.

Holdiness earned honors at the banquet for being part of a team that won a group project award on the dangers of texting while driving. While she appreciated the award, it was the experience of working on a project with classmates that she will remember.

"I prefer working individually, but it really got me to open up with others and work as a team," she said.

The program ran Mondays through Fridays. Students returned home for the weekends. Holdiness and Osceola said the life lessons they learned through the program will greatly benefit them.

"Some of the lessons they taught us are wake up calls. It's going to be hard out there once you are out there and on your own, but I'm glad they prepared us," said Osceola, who attends Mount Dora Christian Academy. "At my school, we don't have like a financial class, so I never really knew how to write a check or apply for a card, but I'm glad they taught us how to do that here so I'm able to see how to do that."

As for academics, Osceola plans to pursue audio engineering in college.

"I want to be an audio engineer so I don't have to take the time to go to an audio engineer to make my music," he said. "Right now I produce music and I'm very passionate about it and I feel I'm very good at it."

Students from the Tribe have participated in other FIU programs, but this



Kevin Johnson

Jada Holdiness, center, and Deven Osceola, right, are joined by CSSS student success coach Kajir "Kai" Harriott at FIU's Upward Bound awards banquet.

was the first time Tribal students enrolled in Upward Bound. Holdiness encourages more Tribal students to follow in the footsteps of herself and Osceola by taking the program.

"Two is not enough," Holdiness said. "With all the kids in the Tribe, there should be more here."

With glowing reviews from its two

participants, CSSS plans to continue the program next year.

"We're going to try to duplicate this next year and try to expand it and recruit a little bit earlier," said Kajir "Kai" Harriott, CSSS student success coach.

## Hollywood Reservation celebrates its graduates



Damon Scott

Miami Heat 6-foot-8 forward Udonis Haslem speaks to recent high school graduates from Hollywood during a dinner July 3 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. The dinner was hosted by Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.



Damon Scott

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Miami Heat forward Udonis Haslem join recent Hollywood high school graduates during a dinner for the grads July 3 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.



Damon Scott

Janine Vasquez, left, with her daughter and graduate Amya Baxley at the dinner.



Damon Scott

At right, 2018 graduate Trinity Bowers, center standing, joins her family at the table, from left, her mother Holly Bowers, father Elrod Bowers, Sophia Billie, sister Katelyn Young and friend Cheyenne Kippenberger.



Damon Scott

Joining graduate Kaitlynn Gorney, far right, is, from left, her grandmother Terry Barnes, brother Kenny Kittle III and mother Amanda Gorney.

# Students experience environmental conservation at ERMD internship program

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Reporter

The Environmental Resource Management Department spent the summer teaching a group of 31 interns about the environment and conservation management through 10 weeks of hands-on experience.

The Restore Student Internship program is funded by a grant from the Restore Council, created in 2012 after the 2010 explosion the BP Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. The Tribe obtained access to the grant with the help of the BIA.

"The Seminole Tribe chose to use the grant to plant a seed that will get youth interested and involved in conservation," said ERMD Director Cherise Maples. "It gives us a chance to give them exposure to things they might not have had. Even if it doesn't lead to a career in ERMD, they will be better stewards of the environment."

Although the grant ends this summer, Maples said the experience of running the program for two years gives ERMD the ability to create one of its own, should the department choose.

The program is for youth ages 14 to 24. Most interns this summer came from outside of the Tribe, but 12 Seminole descendants participated.

During the program, the interns went on educational field trips to places such as the Nova Southeastern University's Oceanographic Center in Dania Beach. They also rotated between the seven ERMD divisions, which include administration, operations and maintenance, forestry, water quality, watershed management, environmental science and environmental compliance, where they learned about careers in conservation.

ERMD manages the land and water tribal-wide and follows the same guidelines as the National Resources Conservation



Beverly Bidney

After attending a meeting of the Seminole Water Commission, the ERMD Restore Interns tour the Brighton water treatment plant July 11.

material, salt and iron, which are stripped away during the process. Nutrients are then added to make the water palatable and safe to drink.

"I wanted a better understanding of the environment and how the ERMD department works," said intern Elizabeth Martinez, 18, of Miami.

Tomas Perez, originally from Argentina and now from Miami, studied environmental engineering at Florida International



Beverly Bidney

At right, Mikiyela Cypress logs the details about the water collected in the Native area of Big Cypress. ERMD water quality technicians Tasanee Craig and Keith Morton, ERMD Restore interns Arriana Torres, Gracie Lorber and Andra Danu are all part of the team that collected water samples.

Service. The Tribe has its own federally recognized water standards and samples its water twice monthly.

On July 11, the interns attended the Seminole Water Commission meeting to see the government process in action and toured the Brighton water treatment plant. The interns were shown how the plant turns raw water into clean, clear water through reverse osmosis. Raw water has a lot of organic

University and joined the Restore program to learn about the process and hopefully get a job with the Tribe.

A group of interns ventured on foot into Big Cypress's flooded native area July 12 to take water samples and coordinates. The group included Andra Danu, Arriana Torres and Gracie Lorber, who all attend Pompano Beach High School, and Mikiyela Cypress, who attends the Ahfachkee School.

The group began by trudging into the



Beverly Bidney

ERMD Restore interns Arriana Torres, Gracie Lorber and Mikiyela Cypress prepare bottles for water they will test in the Native area of Big Cypress on July 12. Tasanee Craig, ERMD water quality technician, teaches the interns how to affix the labels properly.

# Experts tout importance of data collection in Native education

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — Data collection is a tedious process that is often reserved for academics and researchers. But while it might be seen as a tiresome process, it can have profound implications on Native communities.

In the domain of Native education, accurate data collection has an effect on many things, including what resources a school will receive and what type of programs it offers.

The subject of data was front and center at one of the Native American Journalists Association sessions — Data & Accountability: Education in Indian Country — during its conference July 19-21 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Miami. Brian Greseth, principal of Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School (PECS) in Brighton, was invited to be one of four panelists.

## Data matters

Panelists said a critical way to collect data in order to measure student success is through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The act falls under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Education and is essentially President Barack Obama's version of the former "No Child Left Behind Act" of 2001.

The reason the ESSA is critical, said panel moderator Ahniwake Rose, executive director of the National Indian Education Association, is because through its assessments it helps educators identify the opportunities and challenges at their respective schools.

For example, the high school graduation rate in Indian Country is 65 percent, while the national average is 75.2 percent. Rose said there are huge gaps in how Native students are performing that are identified through data collection.

"How do you really take the information from data systems, that we've gotten through law, and provide more sovereignty and success in education?" Rose said.

Rose said data is important not only to measure student success, but particularly in Native communities, to see if the education being provided is culturally relevant for the unique population.

## PECS model

PECS was held up as a success story as a Native school that performs well and provides its students with an education that keeps them connected to their ancestral home.

Part of the reason for PECS'

success, Greseth said, is an emphasis on speaking the Muscogee (Creek) Nation language on a daily basis.

"We wanted to create a place to save the Seminole culture, where students could learn the language, culture and history," he said. Greseth is in his eighth year as principal.

PECS began 11 years ago as a kindergarten through fifth-grade charter school with about 120 students, but quickly grew. It is now K-8 and has more than 300 students. The idea for the school began after a group of parents and elders got together to discuss building a school on the reservation.

"We have a very unique immersion program," Greseth said. "Students are immersed in the Creek language all day long from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's all they hear. It's unique also because the parents have to be involved and take a class to learn Creek."

How has the program and curriculum worked at PECS? Greseth said PECS ranks in the top 10 of 29 schools in the area and the middle school is ranked No. 1 out of 11. In addition, the school's third grade reading levels are well above the average in Florida.

## Educational sovereignty

Phil Gover, founder of the Sovereign Schools Project at the Tribal Education Department National Assembly in Oklahoma lauded the PECS model and its achievements. He said using data to shape Native education is of utmost importance.

"Indians are only discussed in history class, but our influence is all around us," Gover said. "Tribes need to think about what role they want to play in education: is it charter, private, public ... it's part of maintaining sovereignty."

Education issues currently facing Indian Country, according to the panelists, include student assessments that are not written to Native experiences, and a shortage of not only Native teachers, but non-Native teachers who don't have any relevant experience.

"The big idea is that data helps make connections that lead to better insights," Rose said.

The fourth panelist was Nadine Groenig, director of Indian education at the Arizona Department of Education.



Damon Scott

Panelists at the NAJA session in Miami are, from left, Ahniwake Rose, Brian Greseth, Nadine Groenig and Phil Gover.

# The Vanguard School of Lake Wales



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# Summer Work Experience Program features most participants ever

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

More than 100 teens from every reservation participated in the Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP), where they gained valuable experience from working every day and earning a paycheck every week.

The program, sponsored by the Center for Student Success and Services, placed students in a variety of tribal departments including Culture, Recreation, Boys & Girls Club, Preschool, Seminole Police Department, Fire Rescue, Housing, Cattle and Range, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Billie Swamp Safari, Native Learning Center, Elders and the library.

"We never had so many kids apply," said Kajir Harriot, CSSS student success coach. "We have a lot of motivated individuals who want to make a difference in the Tribe."

The learning and experience went beyond the departments. Harriot advised all the participants to open a bank account and learn to manage their money.

Based on their interests, SWEP students chose the departments in which they wanted to work. Andrew Bowers Jr. has always been interested in history and culture, so he chose Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki where he helped coordinate and archive audio and video oral histories.

"The new generation needs to know our history so we can tell it to later generations," said Andrew, 14. "I'm spending my time wisely here."

Working closely with the museum's oral history coordinator Justin Giles, Andrew learned a lot about the Tribe's history and traveled to Brighton to show seniors historic photographs in hopes they could identify individuals in the pictures.

"He's helped me out big time," Giles said. "We organized and labeled 350 CDs in the oral history collection. It was tedious work and took a week to complete; that was a huge help."

Chandler DeMayo worked in the museum's education department where he accompanied education coordinator Alyssa Boge as she gave tours and made presentations of his own.

During a tour on July 18, Chandler gave the Seminole perspective on the exhibits to a group of Florida International University summer students. He explained the tradition of hunting, corn dance, sofkee, lapalle, clans and even the role of uncles. He told them the art of patchwork began in earnest when the Tribe started using Singer sewing machines in the early 1900s.

"Patchwork is a big part of our culture," said Chandler, 16. "Everyone on every reservation makes it. Some people wear it all the time."

Culture is important to Chandler, who enjoys participating in cultural ceremonies. He chose the museum because he wanted to learn more about it and the Tribe's history.

"All of these documents matter, these photos matter," he said.



SWEP participant Chandler DeMayo gives a presentation to Florida International University students during a tour of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on July 18.



Above, SWEP participant Miah Davis, center, uses a glue gun to attach bottle caps to a clacker art project as Denise Gonzales waits for it to be finished. Miah works with library assistant Dolores Lopez to create and facilitate projects for kids. At right, SWEP participant Andrew Bowers Jr. shows some of the oral histories he labeled in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum archive.

Although the first few days of the program were a little nerve wracking for Chandler, he believes more of his peers should participate in SWEP.

"Do it even if you think it will be a

waste of time," he said. "It teaches you how to act in a work environment, gives you work exposure and how to manage a paycheck. I think it's important for kids to get out of their comfort zones and try it."



Richard Billie Jr. spent his summer at Billie Swamp Safari, where he helped with the animals and with maintenance on the swamp buggies. He arrived at work usually

by 8 a.m. and didn't mind waking up early. "I was surprised by how friendly people are here. It's like a family," said Richard, 16. "I am happy with the work I did here. It's fun and I'll have nice memories."

Like many other SWEP participants, Richard thinks more students should experience the program.

"You only get one chance to do some things," he said. "Don't think things will always be there for you. If there is an opportunity, seize it and don't let it get away."

Founded in 2005, the goal of the program is to prepare students for the workforce and expose them to opportunities within the Tribe. CSSS removed the GPA requirement to participate this year, which made the program available to many more students.

"It made more students interested in the program," said CSSS Tribal Professional Development Coordinator Kerlande Patterson. "It was a pretty great summer; we had more kids than ever. There was a significant increase from 37 last year."

Patterson said the department also did more outreach this year, including on Facebook, and she called a lot of parents to remind them about the program. It worked; 107 kids participated.

While preparing to compete in the Jr. Miss Florida Seminole competition, which she won, SWEP participant Allegra Billie worked in the Immokalee Culture Department. There she helped teach the Boys & Girls Club and Recreation kids how to bead, make patchwork and anything else she was asked to do.

A natural introvert, the hardest part of the program for Allegra was interacting with other Culture employees and the kids.

"It helped bring me out of my shell," said Allegra, 17. "Otherwise it's an easy and good environment."

She chose Culture because she wanted to get back into beading and sewing, which she hadn't done in a while.

"It's a good thing to come back to the Tribe and give back," Allegra said. "If you have the opportunity, why not take it?"

Miah Davis worked in the Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library in Immokalee, where she helped plan projects and activities for children. She said sometimes they didn't listen very well, which was a little frustrating.

"It's important to have a positive attitude and be open to everyone," said Miah, 16. "You have to be understanding; everybody goes through things and they could be going through stuff at home."

Marina Garcia, who worked with the young children at the Immokalee Boys & Girls Club, joined SWEP because she wanted some work experience. She enjoyed playing games, helping the kids and making them laugh during the day.

"The best part is when I'm tired, they help me get through the day by making me laugh," said Marina, 15.

## Naples SWEP students learn about Tribal departments

BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The Naples community is a small one with few of the departments common on other reservations. To allow Naples youth to participate in the Summer Work Experience Program, community outreach coordinator Sandra Osceola worked with Kerlande Patterson to develop a plan to introduce students to opportunities within the Tribe.

Students chose areas of interest and Osceola scheduled outings and tours of facilities to give them a better understanding of what the Tribe does on a daily basis.

"We tailored it to them," Osceola said. "The kids have been getting to know some of the Tribal employees, learned what jobs are available and what education is required for them. It's been a good learning tool."

Although it isn't an official Center for Student Success and Services program, Patterson deemed it a success.

"Physically, we decided to introduce the kids to departments in the Tribe," Patterson said. "It increased the number of SWEP participation. Last year we had two, this year we had four students."

Osceola dedicated herself to the SWEP program and made arrangements for the students to see operations on other

reservations. They visited Seminole Petroleum in Naples, had a behind-the-scenes tour and lunch at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, toured Council and Board offices, the Hollywood pharmacy, Big Cypress Seminole Police Department and Fire Rescue and the Big Cypress water treatment plant.

"I really liked learning a lot of stuff," said Serena Zepeda, 16. "I thought it would just be busy work, but it's been really fun."

While in Naples, Serena worked in the Culture Department, where she learned to sew and bead. Martin Slavik, 15, started a hydroponic farm where he is growing spinach, lettuce and kale.

The four SWEP participants, including Joseph and Dominic Osceola-Lugo, learned to use the Naples cooking chickee and prepared a traditional breakfast. Together they designed and built a storage unit for the chickee's pots and pans.

Serena and Martin toured the Big Cypress water treatment plant July 25 and learned how the employees clean the water from the Tamiami Aquifer to make it potable for BC residents. A tank onsite holds one million gallons of treated water, which is distributed to all residents.

The water plant uses 150,000 to 300,000 gallons per day. An elaborate computer system monitors the water pressure in the



Big Cypress water treatment plant operators Eddie Warren and Denis Ortega explain the reverse osmosis water treatment system to Naples SWEP students Serena Zepeda and Martin Slavik.

pipes and alerts the operators to any issues

in the system, which can be fixed either onsite or remotely.

"We never lose any water," said water treatment plant operator Eddie Warren. "It all cycles back."

BC Public Works water treatment plant operators Warren and Denis Ortega taught the kids about reverse osmosis, showed them the filter membranes and how they check to water for purity. They also told them what education they need to become certified so they can get a license.

After earning a high school diploma, certification is required to become a licensed operator. The process takes about two years and may be done while on the job. After a prospective licensee logs 2,080 hours at work, he or she is eligible to take the state licensing test. All the operators at the BC water treatment plant are licensed.

Beverly Bidney

Naples SWEP participants Serena Zepeda and Martin Slavik observe as a worker operates the claw of a trash vehicle at the BC Public Works Department.



"I started in the garbage department," Warren said. "But I wanted a career, not just a job. It's a good career."

"You can go as far as you want to," added Ortega.

Licenses must be renewed every two years. Since the job entails human consumption, it is regulated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the state's Department of Environmental Protection.

"People don't know about the public works industry," said Emran Rahaman, assistant director of operations. "Without water there is no life. It takes a lot of people to support it. It's essential to have qualified personnel to run it."

The water treatment and public works industry is going through a generational change, so career opportunities are available for young people interested in the field as older workers retire.

"I've always been told about the Tribe," Martin said. "But now having seen the departments, I have a better understanding of what the Tribe does."



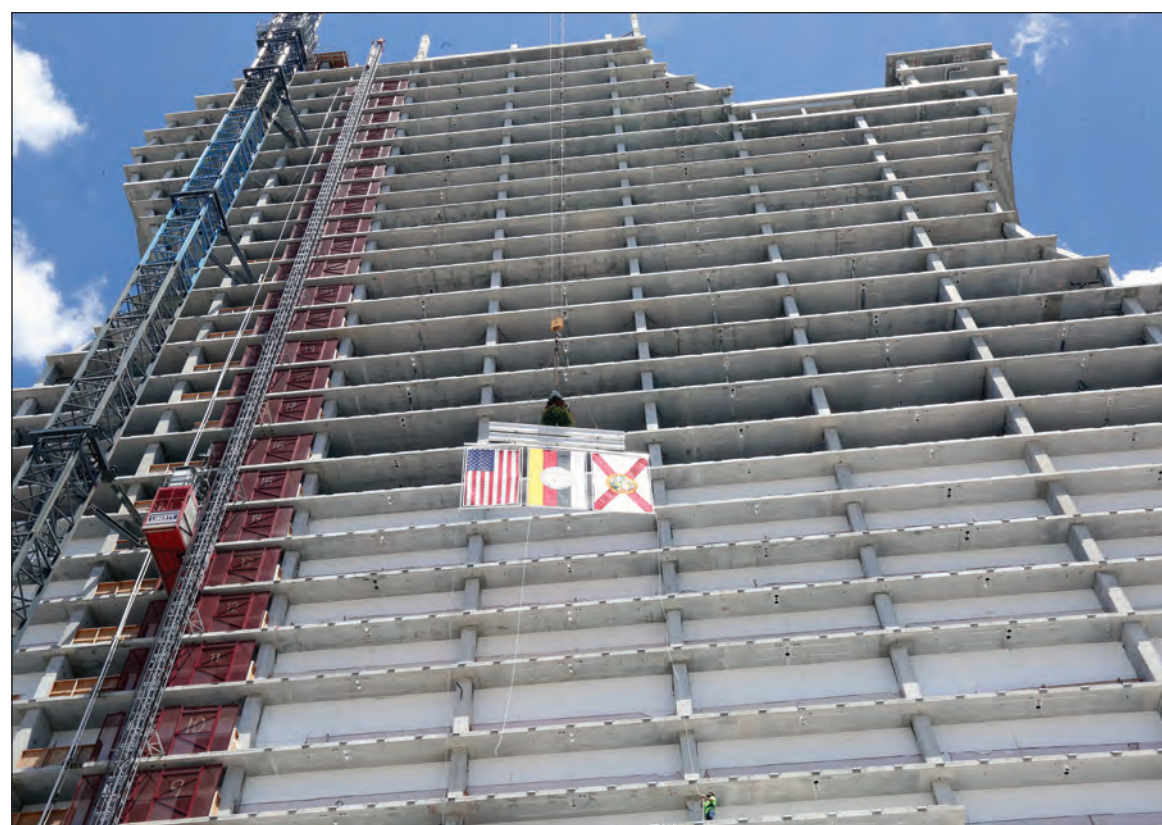
# Arts & Entertainment

## Final beam raised on Seminole Hard Rock guitar hotel amid big crowds, fanfare



Damon Scott

Above, Tribal members joined hundreds of other people to watch the topping off ceremony July 9 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood's guitar hotel that is under construction. At right, the final structural beam is raised.



BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The building is impossible to miss and the point of it is abundantly obvious. But that's by design.

The massive 450-foot tall guitar-shaped hotel at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood rises so high and is so big it can be seen from Florida's Turnpike and I-95. It's a new addition to the skyline from both Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

The unique architecture drives the point home: you have arrived at the Hard Rock.

There's no other structure like it in South Florida, and that's what Hard Rock International Chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen had in mind from the get-go. The idea to build it began germinating in 2006, he says.

So it wasn't a surprise when hundreds turned out July 9 for an event under a large white tent in the shadow of the building to see the last structural beam be raised to the top.

"We are overwhelmed with the warm reception we've received about how amazing this building is here in South

Florida," Allen said to the crowd. "We truly think this becomes a reason to come to South Florida, not just for the purpose of gaming but to see the world's only to-scale guitar-shaped hotel."

Top brass from the Hard Rock joined Allen at the ceremony, including the project's contractors and design crew.

The total number of rooms will cement the hotel as one of the largest in all of South Florida. The new property will also feature 141,000 square feet of meeting space, 3,267 slot machines and 178 table games. The new slots and games account for almost one-third of the expansion of the casino. Other amenities include a new 41,000-square-foot Rock Spa; the 10-acre lagoon-style pool with Bora Bora-style cabanas in the center; private villas with plunge-pool access and Butler service; water-sport activities like paddle-boarding; a day club; and a private pool area.

The expansion will offer many new restaurant and retail options as well. One of the most anticipated features of the new project will be the almost 7,000-seat Hard Rock Live concert venue, which will include its own television studio and broadcast center, so the property can host its own awards shows and special events.

### Economic boon

At the event, Allen and others touted the affect the project will have on the economy, and what it's done for it already — creating 2,000 construction jobs and eventually thousands of permanent part-time and full-time positions.

Allen said the \$1.5 billion dollar expansion project is just part of the overall economic impact on South Florida, which is "literally hundreds of millions of dollars," Allen told the media at the event.

### Building the brand

The Hard Rock empire has grown aggressively since the Seminole Tribe of Florida licensed the rights to the brand for its Hollywood and Tampa properties in 2004. The Tribe purchased the company in 2006 for \$965 million. The brand is now in 75 countries.

Just last month the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City opened after a \$500 million renovation of the former Trump Taj Mahal that closed in 2016. And the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa

### Amenities galore

The new hotel will have a bevy of amenities among its 638 rooms. The existing hotel, which was built in 2004, has 469 rooms and suites, bringing the total number of rooms to 1,107. A pool tower will feature 168 of those rooms, overlooking a private cabana area.



Damon Scott

The celebration to mark the final structural beam at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood's guitar hotel on July 9 will be followed by another celebration in fall 2019 when the hotel is scheduled to open.

is undergoing an impressive \$700 million expansion of its facilities. Hard Rock International recently moved its headquarters from Orlando to Hollywood.

"The first thought when you hear Hollywood is not going to be California anymore, it's going to be Hollywood, Florida, right here in our backyard," Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola told the crowd at the event. "It's going to put us on the map."

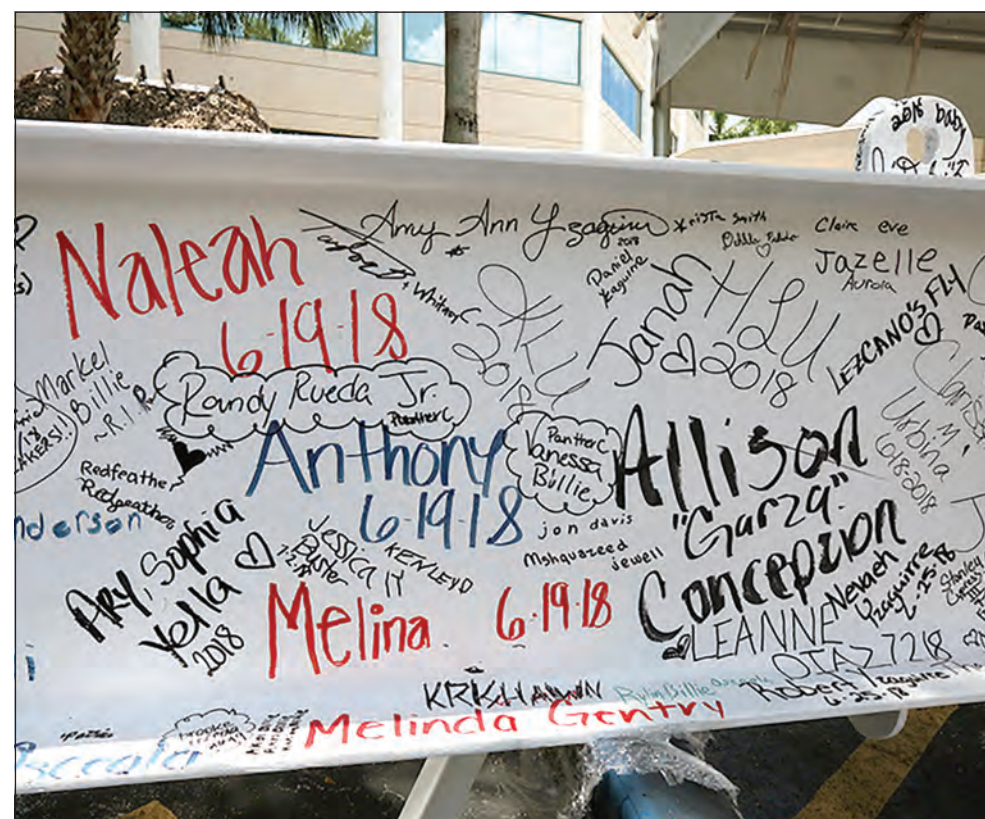
### Looking ahead

The guitar shape will be exclusive to Hollywood until at least 2020, when Hard Rock looks to open another hotel with the unique shape in Barcelona, Spain. Allen said two other guitar-shaped hotels are in the works as well. He offered a clue to the media about where one of them might be. "Brush up on your Japanese," he said.



Damon Scott (2)

Isaac Tigrett, co-founder of the Hard Rock Cafe, joins Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., above, and President Mitchell Cypress, below, at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood's topping off ceremony.



Damon Scott

Tribal members signatures fill the final structural beam to the guitar hotel. The beam made its way around the reservations in the weeks leading up to the ceremony.

◆ PAGEANT  
From page 1A

audience.  
After the winners were announced and crowns affixed, smiles never left the faces of the new princesses as they spent about a half-hour graciously posing for photos on stage with members of the Tribal Council and Board, including Chairman Osceola and President Mitchell Cypress, the judges, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma's princesses, former Miss Florida Seminoles, family members and friends.

Being named Miss Florida Seminole adds to the list of Kippenberger's accomplishments this year. In May, she graduated from Keiser University, where she earned an associate's degree in accounting. She plans to pursue a business degree at Johnson & Wales University.

"My main goal is to work in finance or accounting for the Tribe," she said.

No doubt with all the projects and events being undertaken by the Tribe, her term wearing the crown will be busy.

"We have the Hard Rock opening, we have all these projects on the reservations happening," she said. "It's great to see the Tribe grow not just as a business, but becoming more self-sustaining and being pretty much what our ancestors wanted for us."

This was the first Princess Pageant that Kippenberger entered and now she's eager to start her reign.

"This is the opportunity of a lifetime," she said. "I'm so excited to learn and grow and make connections with (other Native Americans). I'm excited to be an ambassador; I'm excited to have this platform and have a voice and be able to teach and be an example."

Kippenberger said she will cherish the days and activities surrounding the pageant, which included practice preparations, dinner and photography sessions. Before the pageant night finished, she and her fellow contestants had already made plans to go to Benihana the following day.

"I'm walking away with new sisters. It's like we've known each other forever," she said.

Kippenberger grew up in Hollywood. Her grandmother Lawanna Osceola-Niles, from the Panther Clan, was Miss Florida Seminole in 1960.

"I was rooting for her. I was super happy. She worked really hard to get this," said Cheyenne's father Joe Kippenberger.

Allegra Billie, daughter of Tammy Billie and Pedro Martinez, is from the Wind Clan. She grew up in a few different places, but mostly in Naples and now lives in Felda in Hendry County. She is headed into her senior year at LaBelle High School. As the reigning Eastern Indian Rodeo Association queen, Billie already has experience representing the Tribe.

"I've had the opportunity to go out and represent the Tribe in a smaller area, so to be the Jr. Miss Florida Seminole is a huge dream, a huge accomplishment," she said.

She's looking forward to her new duties and responsibilities as Jr. Miss.

"Meeting people and being able to be an ambassador for the Tribe, being able to speak for us, not only individually, but as a people," she said.

As for someday competing for the Miss Florida Seminole title, Billie said that's a likely possibility.

"Of course. Jr. Miss is just one step closer," she said.

Kippenberger and Billie each won the talent portion of the pageant; Kippenberger demonstrated how to do traditional hairstyles that were worn by Tribal women in the 1930s and 40s; Billie's performance centered around how to make patchwork.

In the traditional dress segment, Billie wore a dress made by her mother; Kippenberger's dress was made by her older sister Kurya.

Before the winners were announced, outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola provided tearful farewell addresses as they explained to the audience how much of an impact representing the Tribe for the past year had on their lives.

"My biggest realization is that you should never give up on your dreams," Kailani said. "Chase it until it becomes a reality because that's exactly what happened to me. Being a Jr. Miss Florida Seminole has been the most amazing year of my life.



Contestants grace the stage at the Tribal headquarters auditorium in Hollywood for the 61st annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant on July 14. From left, Jr. Miss Seminole contestants Allegra Billie, Clarice DeMayo and Luxie Billie, and, Miss Florida Seminole contestants Alycia Mora, Cheyenne Kippenberger and Thomlynn Billie.

Kevin Johnson



Newly crowned Miss Florida Seminole Princess Cheyenne Kippenberger, center, is joined by 2017 winner Randee Osceola and Connie Gowen, who was the first Miss Florida Seminole Princess in 1957.

Allegra Billie reacts to being named Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess

Kevin Johnson

Kevin Johnson

I have learned and grown so much throughout this experience ... this title has brought me so much happiness and I so much learned how to be a young, confident Indigenous woman."

Randee recalled that she didn't have any competition last year for the title because she was the only contestant for Miss Florida Seminole, but she never took anything for granted.

"I knew at the time I didn't want to be known as the girl who won because she was the only one. I put my 110 percent in every category and I hope I made you all proud throughout my reign," she said.



The new princesses Allegra Billie and Cheyenne Kippenberger are joined on stage by the Princess Pageant Committee.

Kevin Johnson



Kevin Johnson

Miss Seminole contestant Thomlynn Billie, right, receives the Best Essay award from outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola.



Kevin Johnson

Cheyenne Kippenberger demonstrates the traditional women's hairstyle from the Tribe from many decades ago during the talent portion.



Kevin Johnson

Jr. Miss contestant Clarice DeMayo, right, receives the Best Essay award from outgoing Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola.

# Sports



## Seminoles' Savage Storm win NABI championship

*Lucas Osceola hits semifinal game-winning shot at buzzer*

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

When Matt Foreman glanced at the players on his bench during a nail-biting semifinal at the Native American Basketball Invitational, he had a hunch about one of them just by the way the player was sitting.

Foreman, coach of the Savage Storm, saw an eagerness to get into the game attached to guard Lucas Osceola.

"Lucas was sitting next to me on the bench. I said, 'Lucas, are you ready?' He said, 'I've been ready the whole game,'" Foreman said in a phone interview with The Tribune.

Putting Osceola into the game turned out to be the right call and it came with huge benefits.

As the final few seconds ticked down in a tied game, a long 3-point attempt by a Savage Storm player smacked off the rim. The ball bounced off a few hands in a scramble in the paint before it came to Osceola, who quickly and calmly hit a fadeaway jump shot from about 10 feet as the buzzer sounded.

"That was the biggest shot I've ever hit," said Osceola, who added that he knew the ball was going in as soon as it left his hands.

The clutch game-winner gave Savage Storm a 74-72 win against powerful Cheyenne Arapaho (Okla.) on July 13 and sent the Storm into the NABI Division 1 boys championship the following day.

Even after such a physical and emotionally-draining semifinal, Savage Storm, which had only first been assembled as a team at the start of the tournament, had enough energy left to win the championship with a 69-65 win against FMD, of Fort McDowell, Ariz., at the 18,000-seat Talking Stick Resort Arena, home of the Phoenix Suns.

Sponsored and organized by Seminole Tribal member Theresa Frost and her husband, Steve, the team featured three players from Brighton—Osceola and brothers Donovan and Richard Harris—and players from outside Florida. Foreman's wife, Alicia Josh Foreman, a Seminole, sponsored the trips of three players (Christian Braveheart, Lyndon Limon and Damien Tsoodle) from their hometown of Anadarko, Oklahoma.

A few players initially thought they would be playing for a different team, but when that didn't work out, they joined the Storm. Despite the all the newness among players, things clicked to the tune of a perfect 8-0 record in a field of 36 teams.

"We've never played together, but we had chemistry," Osceola said.

"It's amazing we won it," Matt Foreman

said. During the championship celebration at midcourt the Seminole Tribe of Florida flag was brought out for the team photo. Foreman said a big chunk of the team's success had to do with what it did away from the court.

"They bonded so good. Theresa had a big part of that with food and taking them to the movies. She and her husband are wonderful people," said Foreman, who was assisted on the bench by Steve Frost.

Savage Storm excelled at winning close games. Five of their wins came by six-point margins or less, including a 51-46 triumph against the only other Florida team, Native Soldiers, in the quarterfinals. Native Soldiers was coached by Marl Osceola.

"They were beating us most of the game. We pulled it out at the end. They had a nice team," Foreman said.

During his days as a standout player for Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School and now doing the same for Moore Haven High School, Donovan Harris has proven he's a threat to score inside and outside. He took his talents to Arizona, where he thrived in the desert, including in the semifinal.

"It was a packed gym. He had a good game. He had a lot of 3-pointers from the corners and he lit the crowd up," Foreman said. "He has some hang time and some double pumps. He surprised me."

Foreman said Richard Harris contributed coming off the bench. The team also relied heavily on both D'von LaPointe of Winnebago, Nebraska, who won the tournament MVP, and Braveheart.

Foreman said Theresa Frost will sponsor the team again next season. For the next 12 months, the players can enjoy the fruits of victory as reigning NABI champions.

"My first year going, and my first year winning," Lucas Osceola said.

### SavageStorm's Road to the NABI Championship

- July 9: Savage Storm 65, Northern Thunder (N.D.) 41
- July 10: Savage Storm 68, Northern Elite (Ariz.) 62
- July 11: Savage Storm 68, Lake County Ice (Calif.) 55
- July 12: Savage Storm 76, Bluebird Ballerz (Utah) 56
- July 13: Savage Storm 69, Tribal Boyz (Wash.) 66
- July 13: Savage Storm 51, Native Soldiers (Fla.) 46
- July 13: Savage Storm 74, Cheyenne Arapaho (Okla.) 72
- July 14: Savage Storm 69, FMD (Ariz.) 65 (championship)



The Savage Storm, with Brighton's Richard Harris and Lucas Osceola holding up the Seminole Tribe of Florida flag, celebrate after winning the Native American Basketball Invitational Division 1 boys championship July 14 at Talking Stick Resort Arena in Phoenix.



Alonso Parra

NABI MVP D'von LaPointe, of Winnebago, Neb., makes a layup for Savage Storm at NABI.



Alonso Parra

Brothers Richard Harris, left, and Donovan Harris, center, get back on defense for Savage Storm at during a NABI game in Arizona.



Alonso Parra

Savage Storm gathers for a team photo after their first game of the NABI in Arizona.



Alonso Parra

Action from a Savage Storm game with Lucas Osceola, at the foul line, and Donovan Harris (45) eying a rebound.



Alonso Parra

Donovan Harris drives the baseline for Savage Storm in a NABI game in Arizona.



Kevin Johnson (2)

Above, Clayson Osceola takes a mighty swing for the Seminoles team during a NAYO 8U baseball game July 19 at Brian Piccolo Sports Park in Cooper City. At right, Seminoles' Summer Gopher sprints to second base with a double during the Seminoles 12U softball game against Bad Medicine (Cherokee). Nearly 60 teams from the five tribes that comprise NAYO participated in the three-day tournament in Cooper City and Hollywood.



# Baseball, softball fill the fields at NAYO

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**COOPER CITY** — No matter the sport or the tournament, trying to win championships coming out of the losers' bracket is not easy.

That's what three Seminole teams learned the hard way at the Native American Youth Organization baseball and softball tournament.

The Seminole 8U, 15U and 17U softball teams advanced the furthest of any team from the Tribe by reaching the championship phase in their divisions. Each emerged from the losers' side, but championships eluded them at the tournament held July 19-21 in Cooper City and Hollywood.

Hosted by the Seminole Tribe's Recreation Department, the double-elimination tournament drew nearly 60 teams from the five tribes that comprise NAYO: the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (N.C.), Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Poarch Creek Indians (Ala.) and Seneca Nation of Indians (N.Y.). Most of the games were played at Brian Piccolo Sports Complex; the younger softball divisions played at Osceola Park on the Hollywood Reservation.

The 8U Seminoles softball team, coached by Dallas Nunez, won three games in the tournament, including a 14-13 thriller against Dirt Divas to get into the championship in Hollywood. Joleyne Nunez blasted an inside-the-park home run



Kevin Johnson

It's time to celebrate for the Seminoles 15U softball team as players mob Ava Nunez (5) after she hit a home run against Poarch Creek in a NAYO tournament game July 21 at Brian Piccolo Sports Park in Cooper City.



Kevin Johnson

Adriana Sigurani delivers a pitch for the Seminoles Squad in a 15U softball game at NAYO.

◆ See NAYO on page 3C



Kevin Johnson

After hitting a home run, Joleyne Nunez, right, is congratulated by her teammate and sister Daliyah Nunez in an 8U softball game at the NAYO tournament July 21 at Osceola Park on the Hollywood Reservation.



Kevin Johnson

Seminole 17U's Ozzy Osceola is congratulated by teammate Kaleb Thomas after scoring a run in a NAYO tournament game July 19 at Brian Piccolo Sports Park in Cooper City.



Kevin Johnson

Seminole outfielder Ross Jones keeps his eyes on the ball during an 8U game during the NAYO tournament July 19 at Brian Piccolo Sports Park in Cooper City.



Kevin Johnson

Seminole 8U batter Amalia Estrada gets ready to make contact in a NAYO tournament game July 21 at Osceola Park on the Hollywood Reservation.



Kevin Johnson

Seminole Lightning batter Tahniah Billie makes contact during a NAYO 12U softball game

◆ **NAYO**  
From page 2C

for the Seminoles. The Mississippi Sparks, who handed the Seminoles their first loss in the morning, captured the title with an 11-7 win in the championship.

The 15U Seminoles, coached by Kelly Smiley, played some games that were chock full of intensity, including a Friday night thriller when they edged Xtreme by one run. Xtreme had the tying run on third base in its final at-bat when catcher Elle Thomas saved the day for the Seminoles. An Xtreme batter hit a short squibbler in front of the plate and Thomas picked it up and made a tough throw to first to notch the clinching out.

The following day the Seminoles made sure the "if needed" game was needed with an impressive win against Poarch Creek in the morning. Winning pitcher Ava Nunez was solid in the circle and helped her own cause by blasting a two-run home run. Mallorie Thomas had a two-run single.

In the afternoon winner-take-all final, Poarch Creek rallied from a late 5-2 deficit to win 6-5. A two-run walk-off double by Hannah Newsome brought home the winning run. Before Newsome's hit, a controversial obstruction call on the third base line went against the Seminoles and brought home a run. The Seminoles were led by shortstop Julia Smith who had a single, two walks and scored the game's first run. Keira French had an RBI groundout.

"My girls did awesome. They fought hard all day. I couldn't ask for a better team," Smiley said. "Everyone worked hard. Everyone played their position. They came and did their job."

The Seminoles' 15U should be strong again next year since only a few players have to move up to 17U.

J-Cross, a 17U team featuring some of the Seminoles' top high school players, was organized and coached by Moses Jumper Jr. J-Cross, named after Moses' cattle brand, lost its tournament opener to Mississippi Sparks, but then reeled off two wins in the losers' bracket to earn a rematch with the Sparks in the final. J-Cross struggled on offense as the Sparks emerged with a 7-2 win to claim the championship.

"I thought we did great," Jumper said. "We were in the losers' bracket. They just have an overpowering pitcher, probably one of the best pitchers in that part of Mississippi. We sure didn't hit her."

J-Cross had plenty of talent on its roster, including state champions Budha Jumper (American Heritage) and Amya Baxley (John Carroll) and Sunni Bearden, who led Moore Haven to district and regional championships in her career with the Terriers.

"I wanted to make a good impression in Florida for the Seminoles, which I think we did," said Jumper, whose family had plenty of representation on the squad with granddaughters Budha, Canaan and Jacee playing, and sons Josh and Naha and granddaughter Ahnie, who plays for Florida Gulf Coast University, serving as assistant coaches.

The Seminoles Squad 15U girls, from Immokalee, didn't win the championship, but they still stood out thanks to their colorful teal and pink uniforms. The Squad had perhaps the youngest squad in the division with some 12 year olds playing up, including their pitcher, catcher and shortstop. The experience playing up a level should pay off at future NAYOs.

"We have a lot of them will be coming back," said coach Eric Grimaldo. "We'll be better next year. It was a good experience for them. They know what to expect."

In baseball, the Seminoles 12U squad had the best showing for the Tribe. The Seminoles won their first two games against Prodigy and Diamond Daws before dropping consecutive games against Poarch Creek and Prodigy in a rematch.

The Seminoles 17U squad played two outstanding games, but came up on the short end both times with one-run losses, including a 4-3 setback in nine innings against Poarch Creek in a weather-delayed marathon that started at 3 p.m. and ended at 9 p.m. It wouldn't be a NAYO tournament without an interruption from Mother Nature.

The Seminoles started strong in the first inning when Ozy Osceola drilled an RBI double that scored Lucas Osceola. Later, Silas Madrigal ripped an RBI single to left.

Poarch Creek scored a late run to knot the game at 3-3 and had the bases loaded, but Seminoles pitcher Kaden Grimaldo came back from a 3-1 count to notch a strikeout that ended the tension-filled inning.

Another lengthy delay followed as the sides debated whether to play extra innings as a Kansas City tie-breaker by placing a runner at second base to start innings, but eventually the decision was to keep playing as normal.

In the ninth, the Seminoles had two runners on as Madrigal and Ives Baker drew walks, but couldn't get them home. Poarch Creek pushed across a run in the bottom of the inning to advance.

The opener for the Seminoles' 8U coach-pitch team featured plenty of offense as Ross Jones hit a home run.

Overall, the home



Kevin Johnson

Ina Robbins winds up and delivers a pitch for the Seminole Lightning 8U girls at NAYO.



Kevin Johnson

Javaris Johnson Jr. eyes the ball during an at-bat for the Seminole 12U baseball team.

field advantage for Seminole teams didn't translate to winning championships. The Seminoles, who had teams in all divisions except 15U baseball, were shut out as the Choctaws won six championships, Poarch Creek won three and Cherokee won one.

**2018 NAYO baseball and softball tournament**

- Softball champions  
8U – Mississippi Sparks (Choctaw)  
10U – BC Impact (Choctaw)  
12U – NC Elite (Choctaw)  
15U – Poarch Creek  
17U – Mississippi Sparks (Choctaw)

- Baseball champions  
8U – Code Red (Choctaw)  
10U – Poarch Creek  
12U – Poarch Creek  
15U – 7 Clans (Cherokee)  
17U – MBCI (Choctaw)



Kevin Johnson

Seminole 17U infielders, from left, Ives Baker, Ozy Osceola, Kaden Grimaldo, Dakoya Nunez and Silas Madrigal meet on the mound during a break.



Kevin Johnson

J-Cross catcher Jacee Jumper fires a throw to first base in the NAYO 17U softball championship against Mississippi Sparks on July 21 at Brian Piccolo Sports Park in Cooper City.



Kevin Johnson

The Seminoles Squad U15 softball team, which is comprised of players from and near the Immokalee Reservation, pose with recently crowned Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Allegra Billie following a NAYO game July 12.



Kevin Johnson

With head coach Marvin Newkirk and assistant coaches Richard Osceola and Darryn Conrad, the Seminoles 8U team gathers for a photo before playing in its first game of the NAYO tournament.



Kevin Johnson

The 17U J-Cross softball team gathers for a photo before the NAYO championship July 21 at Brian Piccolo Sports Park in Cooper City. The team is coached by Moses Jumper Jr. with his sons Josh Jumper and Naha Jumper and granddaughter Ahnie Jumper as assistants.



Kevin Johnson

The Seminoles 8U softball team pours out of the dugout to celebrate a home run by Joleyne Nunez (5) at the NAYO tournament July 21 at Osceola Park on the Hollywood Reservation.

# Seminoles battle at NABI

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

While the Savage Storm stormed their way to the Division 1 boys title at the Native American Basketball Invitational in Arizona (see page C1), other local teams and Seminoles generated strong tournaments.

Native Swoopz, coached by Charles Frye and Theresa Frost, went 2-1 in pool play with wins against Rockhaws and MHA Eagles. Swoopz advanced to the playoff round and defeated 24/7 Hoops, 48-37, before being ousted with a 66-44 loss to Yakima Nation. NN Elite edged Yakima Nation, 49-44, to win the Division 1 championship.

Native Swoopz's team included December and Tiana Stubbs, who won a state championship with American Heritage last winter. Other local players included Charli Frye, Julia Smith and Caroline Sweat.

On the boys side, Native Soldiers, coached by Marl Osceola and assisted on the bench by Nova Southeastern University point guard Skyla Osceola, had an eventful tournament. The team dropped its first two

games, but then reeled off three straight wins against Alaska, U-Nation and Team Wambdi.

Their momentum was halted in a Florida showdown against champion Savage Storm, which emerged with a 51-46 win in the quarterfinals.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida was represented on the Division 2 girls champions. Lexi Foreman, a Tribal member from Anadarko, Oklahoma, played for SW Heat-Ktysp, which had no problems dominating the division. The Oklahoma team won all seven of its games by wide margins, including the title match, 58-29, against Wakolim U'Uwi at Talking Stick Resort Arena. The closest margin of victory for SW Heat-Ktysp was 16 points.

"Four of the girls are on my school team (at Anadarko High School). We've been playing together in little tournaments, so we know how to play together," said Foreman, who was among the team's top scorers.

It was a championship week for the Foreman family. Lexi's father Matt coached Savage Storm to the D1 boys championship.



Alonso Parra

Native Swoopz players and coaches Theresa Frost and Charles Frye gather for a team photo after a pool play game at NABI in Arizona.



Alonso Parra

Tiana Stubbs launches a 3-point shot for Native Swoopz at NABI in Arizona.



Alonso Parra

Native Soldiers, with coaches Marl Osceola and Skyla Osceola, pose for a team photo after a pool round game at NABI.



Alonso Parra

December Stubbs controls the ball for Native Swoopz in a NABI Division 1 girls game.



Alonso Parra

Native Soldiers in action at NABI in Arizona.



Courtesy photo

Lexi Foreman, back row, fourth from left, celebrates winning the NABI Division 2 girls championship with her teammates on SW Heat-Ktysp July 14 in Phoenix.



Alonso Parra

Native Swoopz's Caroline Sweat grabs a loose ball away from a defender during a NABI game.



Makari Tommie is planning to play football for Minnesota West Community & Technical College.

## Makari Tommie ready to tackle college football in Minnesota

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Makari Tommie's football career is about to move up another level ... and get a lot colder.

Tommie, from Hollywood, will shift from the warmth of South Florida to the chilly air of the Midwest as he enters Minnesota West Community & Technical College this fall. The school is located about an hour's drive east of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Tommie, a 6-foot, 251-pound defensive end, will join the football team in August.

"I think it will be difficult at first," Tommie said about the climate change as he warmed-up to play in a basketball tournament at Chupco's Landing in Fort Pierce in June.

Tommie is eager to keep playing football. He'll have a chance to rejoin former

high school teammate Reggie Colson at Minnesota West. The two played together at the International School of Broward.

"He wanted me to come out there and play," Tommie said.

The coach is looking forward to Tommie playing, too.

"I talked to Reggie about him and I think he'll fit in real good with us," said Minnesota West coach Jeff Linder.

Tommie, the son of Lawana Tommie, played three years for International before finishing up at Hollywood Hills as a senior this year. He has never been to Minnesota. The furthest outside Florida he's ventured is Ohio with his high school team.

Linder said small class sizes are an attractive feature of Minnesota West.

As for football, the team's first game is Sept. 1 against Central Lakes College-Brainerd.

## Firecracker 5K gets Brighton in Fourth of July spirit

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BRIGHTON** — Before the fireworks, there was the Firecracker, as in the Brighton Reservation's annual 5K run and walk.

With the bright morning sun less than an hour old July 3, close to 50 participants ranging in ages from 8 to 82 set out for their exercise journeys in the Firecracker, hosted by the Health Department. Some participants opted for a brisk walk around the fields near Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, while others, such as Marc Macias, tackled the 5K running route, which was three laps.

As a participant in savage and Spartan races, Macias is accustomed to far more grueling challenges and obstacles, but he welcomed the more laid-back Brighton race. He finished first in the men's 18-35 division with a time of 26:42.

"This was a change of pace," he said. "It helps keep me motivated."

Savage and Spartan races include

challenges on the course such as jumping over fire, climbing walls, trudging through swamp conditions, scurrying under barbed wire or rope and they often involve a lot of mud and sweat. Macias has competed in those races all over the country and plans to do the Spartan race in November at Little Everglades Ranch in Dade City, where there will be 27 obstacles over five to seven miles.

The Brighton race served as a summer prep outing for Kaleb Thomas, who ran for the Moore Haven High School cross country team last fall. He said he plans to join the Okeechobee High team this fall.

Joe Osceola said he hadn't run the 5K distance in a long time. He hoped to finish under 25 minutes, but was satisfied despite just missing his mark.

"It's the best way to start the day," he said.

Osceola finished in second place behind Lalo Rodriguez in the 36-49 men's division.

The reservation celebrated the Fourth of July the following day.



Wesley Bishop nears the finish line in Brighton's 5K Firecracker walk and run on July 3.



From left, Marc Macias, Lalo Rodriguez and Joe Osceola enjoy a good early-morning workout as they competed in the Firecracker 5K run in Brighton.



Helene Buster strides to the finish line in the Firecracker 5K run.

## Barrels, roping events in Brighton

**BRIGHTON** — The Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton will be the site for two rodeo events in September.

The Chairman & President's Barrel Racing Event for Tribal member youth and adults will be held Sept. 21. Check-in is at 6 p.m. Racing will start at 7 p.m.

The following morning will feature the Chairman & President's Team Roping

Event with dummy roping for ages 5 to 7, breakaway divisions for ages 8 to 11 and 12, breakaway for women and senior men, team roping and bounty steer. Check in is at 9 a.m. Roping begins at 10 a.m.

Entry fee for each event is \$50. Call in by Sept. 17 at 4 p.m. For more information call the Chairman's office at 863-902-3200, ext. 13324 or 863-763-4128, ext. 15543.

## High-flying fun at iFly for Hollywood Rec kids

**DAVIE** — As part of the Hollywood Recreation Department's Summer Camp 2018, two dozen kids spent part of the day on June 28 at the iFly Fort Lauderdale Indoor Skydiving facility in Davie. Accompanied by Joe Collins, Kyle Denlinger and Patricia Stirrup of Recreation, the kids learned about the wind tunnel and the basics of the science behind skydiving before taking their turns in full gear.

Damon Scott

At right, Avynn Holata suits up with a protective helmet, goggles and ear plugs before her turn at skydiving at iFly on June 28 in Davie.



Amari Alex is airborne as he enjoys his whirl in the iFly wind tunnel June 28 in Davie. The trip was organized by the Hollywood Recreation Department.

## Colombia, Venezuela set to play at Hard Rock Stadium

**MIAMI GARDENS** — South American rivals Colombia and Venezuela will square off in an international soccer event Sept. 7 at Hard Rock Stadium in

Miami Gardens. Colombia earned a bid to the 2018 World Cup.

For tickets call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or go to ticketmaster.com.

## Triathlon to be held Aug. 11 in Big Cypress

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Chairman's Triathlon, featuring fishing, archery and billiards, will be held Aug. 11 on the Big Cypress Reservation. The event is for Tribal members only.

The day will start at 6 a.m. with fishing from boats or banks with a weigh-in at 12 p.m. Fish must be alive to be counted. At 1 p.m., archery will take center stage at Billie Johns Ballfield. The final event will be

billiards at 2 p.m. at BC Billiards.

Lunch will be provided at the ballfield. For more information call 863-902-3200, exts. 13324, 13336 or 863-651-4191.

# Announcements



## Record number converge for momentous national Native youth leadership conference

### PRESS RELEASE

**SAN DIEGO, Calif.** — For the fifth consecutive year, the United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc.'s (UNITY) conference participation records were surpassed at the 2018 National UNITY Conference, held in July in San Diego, California. More than 2,400 gathered for the annual event that combines culturally relevant messaging with leadership skill-building. For 42 years, UNITY has provided support to Native American and Alaska Native youth, ages 14-24, instilling a foundation for youth leaders and advocates to activate and build upon positive change in their communities.

"In the heels of such a successful conference, we are still in awe of the tremendous and unprecedented support and participation at this year's event," said Mary Kim Titla, UNITY's Executive Director. "Since 2014, we have seen our participation numbers grow each year, building upon the success of the previous conference, however, this year has shattered them all. I strongly believe it's because of the relevant and inspiring content of our conferences, but also because our youth look to UNITY as family and embrace the teaching and sharing opportunities provided each year. In addition, we can't thank our sponsors enough for such overwhelming support to help make this experience possible for our participants," Titla added.

With more than 250 tribal communities represented from across 36 states, participants experienced 5-days of activity including the first-ever pre-conference cultural welcome reception hosted by the San Diego local planning committee. Chaired by Elena Hood (Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma/Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians/Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) and Harold Arres (Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians), the reception featured a traditional feed to welcome guests, as well as cultural sharing from the region with bird songs and dances.

Keeping in UNITY tradition, the national conference began with the lighting of

the UNITY Fire, a sacred gathering and safe place for cultural sharing and healing which is held throughout the 5-days of the event, followed by the opening general session featuring the parade of nations where youth proudly represented their tribal nations in traditional regalia. With a conference theme of "Answering the call of our Ancestors", the packed agenda highlighted an impressive line-up of internationally renowned speakers who captivated participants with inspirational messages.

Conference general assembly keynote speakers included Brooke Simpson (Haliwa-Saponi), a finalist on NBC's singing competition *The Voice*, Native American dancer and singer Supaman (Apsaalooke), renowned photographer Matika Wilbur (Swinomish/Tulalip), and a special panel on youth entrepreneurship led by Nike N7's Sam McCracken (Sioux and Assiniboine), the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development CEO Chris James (Cherokee), and motivational speakers Dyami Thomas (Klamath/Leech Lake Ojibwe) and Becca Lynn (Klamath/Leech Lake Ojibwe).

The UNITY Wellness Warriors program, in partnership with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, hosted a physical fitness day with guest trainers Lyle Thompson (Onondaga) and Jeremy Thompson (Onondaga), both professional lacrosse athletes, Bellator MMA women's flyweight world champion Ilima-Lei Macfarlane (Hawaiian), American Ninja Warrior Abram Benally (Navajo), Polynesian cultural dancers Natia O Le Pasefika, and the Tribal Youth Ambassadors of the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center who presented on food sovereignty and their ACORN (Advancing Cultural Opportunities to Reclaim Nutrition) Energy Bars.

UNITY's key leadership training team included Chance Rush (Three Affiliated Tribes - Hidatsa/Arapaho), Juanita Toledo (Jemez Pueblo), Marcus "Emcee One" Guinn (Osage/Potawatomi), and Pearl Yellowman (Navajo) who conducted youth council advisor trainings.

## NIEA announces 2018 convention keynote speakers

### PRESS RELEASE

The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) will host its 49th annual Convention and Trade Show from Oct. 10 to 13 in Hartford, Connecticut. This year's theme, "Building education nations through culture, creativity and critical thought," focuses on educators and communities shaping Native education leaders. To promote this theme, guests will take part in workshops, research presentations, poster sessions and keynote addresses.

This year's opening keynote

speaker will be Secretary and Justice of the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut Beth Regan, who has more than 35 years of education experience. Along with being a teacher and creating curriculum about Mohegan history and culture for Connecticut teachers, she has also coached high school and collegiate athletics. Regan was a member of the Mohegan Board of Education and is currently on the Mohegan Tribe Language Committee and Council of Elders.

The closing keynote speaker will be award-winning director and filmmaker Sterlin Harjo of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

and a Muscogee Creek descendent. Harjo's work has been featured at the Sundance Film Festival multiple times, in 2005, 2007, 2014 and 2015. His '05 film "Goodnight, Irene" received a special jury award at the Aspen Shortfest after it premiered at Sundance. Currently, Harjo is a director of the Cherokee Nation's monthly news magazine and runs his co-founded Native American production company, Fire Thief Productions.

Registration runs from July 12 to Sept. 12. Registration costs and more information on the convention are available at [niea.org](http://niea.org).

## American Indian College Fund names five tribal college recipient grantees

### PRESS RELEASE

The American Indian College Fund announced July 10 it has chosen five tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) to help grow the numbers of Native teachers in American Indian communities through teacher education and training, and to create culturally based community partner programs with educators and parents through the grant. The announcement comes three months after the College Fund announced its launch of a new "For the Wisdom of the Children: Strengthening Teacher of the Color Pipeline" Early Childhood Education (ECE) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Initiative, funded by a two-year, \$1.5 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The five colleges are:

\* Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (FDLTC) in Cloquet, Minnesota will receive funding for its program titled *Minog'aawaso Maajigii* (Raise Children in a Good Way as They Grow) to develop an associate of science early childhood education degree program focused on its emergent bilingual program. The program will increase parent involvement, support faculty development, and work with partner programs.

\* Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College (KBOCC) in Baraga, Michigan will receive funding for its *Gimaadaadizimin* (We All Start a Journey) program to strengthen the teacher education pipeline of Native teachers and teachers of color. KBOCC's community learning model is the guiding framework for teacher development, outreach, and outcomes to place teachers in community programs. The program will implement a mentor and coach system to support development of teachers; create a community of learner's model focused on building relationships and partnerships; disseminate the program plan by conference to reach more than 100 teachers; and implement culturally based work in the subject matter areas of family science, math, and engineering to engage with students and families in STEM activities.

\* Northwest Indian College (NWIC) in Bellingham, Washington will receive funding for its program titled *Engaging Native Children in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM): What Our X'epy (Cedar People) and Scha'nexw (Salmon people) Can Teach Us about the World and Cosmology*. The program will develop math, science, and technology courses for all associate of arts degree-seeking students at the institution. In addition, the college will build

on the strength of its associate of science degree-transfer program and technology and will integrate outdoor learning spaces and Lummi culture/language connections by building upon its existing work.

\* Salish Kootenai College (SKC) in Pablo, Montana will receive funding for its *Our People's Timeline: Community STEM Education, Season by Season*. The program is based on the concept that Indigenous STEM education is seamless and includes connections to SKC's surroundings both in and outside of the classroom. The project timeline is guided by the seasons. SKC's work will shed light on each area of the STEM fields.

\* Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) in Albuquerque, New Mexico will receive funding for its *Strengthening Our Collective Capacity: A Community-Based Initiative Supporting Early Childhood STEM Opportunities and Teacher Development program*. The program will develop community-based projects that enable families to build cognitive thinking and skills necessary to engage in STEM fields in the future, with a goal of training teachers to support ECE STEM training and engaging preschool teachers to support quality ECE STEM education for children and families.

## Nominations sought for Florida Folk Heritage Awards

### PRESS RELEASE

**TALLAHASSEE** – The Florida Department of State is seeking nominations for the 2019 Florida Folk Heritage Awards. The annual awards recognize individuals who have made exemplary contributions to Florida's traditional culture.

Previous winners include Henry John Billie (1998), Susie Jim Billie (1985), Lorene Gopher (2015), Betty Mae Jumper (1994) and Guy LaBree (2014).

"Each year, the Florida Folk Heritage Awards seek to honor and recognize excellence in folk and traditional arts and the community impact of Florida's tradition bearers," said Secretary of State Ken Detzner. "The Florida Heritage Awards reaffirm our state's unique cultural heritage by acknowledging distinguished Floridians

for their skills and accomplishments in the traditional arts."

Folklife includes a wide range of creative forms such as art, crafts, dance, language, music and ritual. These cultural traditions are transmitted by word of mouth and demonstration, and are shared within community, ethnic, occupational, religious and regional groups. Nominees should be individuals whose art or advocacy has embodied the best of traditional culture in their communities.

Nominations should describe the accomplishments and background of the nominee, and explain why he or she deserves statewide recognition for preserving a significant facet of the state's cultural heritage. Supporting materials such as photographs, slides, audio-visual samples and letters will assist the state's Florida Folklife Council in evaluating nominees.

Each nomination also requires at least two letters of support from community members, colleagues, peers, cultural specialists or any other individuals who can confirm the details of the nomination and attest to the nominee's qualifications. Award recipients will be announced in January 2019.

Nominations must be postmarked no later than Oct. 1, 2018 and mailed to: Florida Folklife Program, Bureau of Historic Preservation, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250. Nominations can also be emailed to [folklife@dos.myflorida.com](mailto:folklife@dos.myflorida.com).

For more information about the Florida Folk Heritage Awards or the Florida Folklife Program, contact State Folklorist Amanda Hardeman at 850-245-6427. For guidelines, award policies and previous winners, visit [flheritage.com/preservation/florida-folklife-program/folk-heritage-awards/](http://flheritage.com/preservation/florida-folklife-program/folk-heritage-awards/).

## Upcoming shows at Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

### PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** – Here's a look at some upcoming shows at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

• Rock 'n' roll legend Sammy Hagar & The Circle return to Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood on Sept. 15 at 8 p.m. For almost 40 years, Sammy Hagar has been one of rock music's most dynamic and prolific artists from breaking into the industry with the seminal hard rock band Montrose, to his multiplatinum solo career to his ride as the front man of Van Halen. The "Red Rocker" has set the tone for some of the greatest rock anthems ever written with songs like "I Can't Drive 55," "Right Now," and "Why Can't This Be Love." Hagar has earned the highest respect of the music industry with a Grammy Award, as well as induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame alongside Van Halen.

Hagar first burst onto the scene in San Francisco as the lead singer of Montrose. Following a string of eight solo albums, culminating in several platinum efforts and hundreds of sold out concert appearances across the country, Hagar joined Van Halen in 1985 and took the band to unprecedented heights, including four consecutive No.1 albums before the band broke up in the mid-90s. He later returned to Van Halen to lead a triumphant 2004 reunion tour. In 2011, Hagar released his highly anticipated autobiography, "Red: My Uncensored Life

in Rock," which reached No. 1 on the New York Times Best Seller List.

Aside from making his mark as a hit songwriter and lead vocalist, Hagar has played with a succession of legendary guitarists including Ronnie Montrose, Neal Schon, Eddie Van Halen and Joe Satriani. Hagar's current group, The Circle, features former Van Halen bassist Michael Anthony, Jason Bonham and Vic Johnson.

Tickets cost \$90, \$70 and \$50. All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com), [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or charge by phone: 1-800-745-3000.

• Grammy Award-winning R&B icon Maxwell brings the "50 Intimate Nights Live" tour to Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood on Oct. 17 at 8 p.m. Maxwell has artfully managed to transfix music lovers for more than two decades. During his recently announced "50 Intimate Nights Live" tour, the multiple Grammy-winning soul singer will debut new material in an intimate setting alongside his many critically acclaimed hits.

Maxwell recently debuted "We Never Saw It Coming," his reflective new song and his first piece of new music since 2016. The song's music video, "The Glass House," is a chilling music short-film starring Maxwell and activist/actress/model Yomi Abiola. The film was written and directed by Jay Z collaborators Gerard Bush and Christopher

Renz.

Tickets cost \$106, \$81 and \$51. All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com), [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or charge by phone: 1-800-745-3000.

• Legendary rock band Alice In Chains returns to Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on Oct. 28 at 7 p.m.

Throughout their career, Alice In Chains has garnered multiple Grammy Award nominations and sold more than 30 million albums worldwide. The band recently released "The One You Know," their first new single in five years and the first track from their upcoming album. The album is the third straight Alice In Chains studio release recorded with producer Nick Raskulinecz and engineer Paul Figueroa. Their successful 2013 album, "The Devil Put Dinosaurs Here" entered Billboard's Top 200 chart at No. 2 and debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Alternative Albums chart, Top Rock Albums chart, Hard Rock Albums chart and iTunes Rock Album chart. The album's first two singles, "Stone" and "Hollow," both hit No. 1 on the rock charts.

Reserved seat tickets cost \$90, \$70 and \$50, and general admission standing floor tickets are available for \$70. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com), [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or charge by phone: 1-800-745-3000. Additional fees may apply.

### FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
C98638	2011	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F350 (4WD) CREW CAB Diesel	198,270	Poor	\$15,945.00
C12733	2012	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F250 (4WD) CREW CAB	217,747	Fair	\$8,041.00
B22151	2006	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F150 XL (4WD) SUPER CAB	157,118	Poor	\$2,887.00
A32263	2009	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	RANGER SPORT (RWD)	136,940	Poor	\$1,641.00
A32262	2009	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	RANGER SPORT (RWD)	163,605	Poor	\$1,275.00
A32261	2009	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	RANGER SPORT (RWD)	207,323	Poor	\$1,171.00
092329	N/A	HUSTLER RIDING MOWER	SUPER Z - 927038	N/A	Poor	\$960.00
020442	N/A	HUSTLER RIDING MOWER	MINI Z - 927491	N/A	Poor	\$860.00
062920	N/A	HUSTLER RIDING MOWER	MINI Z - 928192	N/A	Poor	\$860.00
C11504	2000	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F150 XL (RWD)	123,081	Poor	\$363.00

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.

NEW!! - Tribal Members only - access this information at the website: <http://semtribe.com/FixedAssets>. (Registration required)



## Theodore Nelson Sr.

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

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

I offer 20 years of professional experience as a qualified therapist working with children, teens and adults in a confidential, private setting in your home or my office. I am available for individual counseling, dependency/custody cases and tribal court; services are available for all reservations.

Office: (954) 965-4414; cell: (954) 317-8110; 6528 Osceola Circle, Hollywood, Florida 33024