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Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger wins Miss Indian World

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — There were nerves and anticipation for days. And in the end, the final result reverberated across Indian Country.

For the first time in history, Miss Indian World is a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida — Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger.

Kippenberger earned the prestigious title after months and months of preparation and four days of intense (and friendly) competition among 17 contestants.

The 23-year-old was crowned Miss Indian World April 27 at the Gathering of Nations Powwow at Tingley Coliseum in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The announcement came in front of a sellout crowd of more than 10,000 people and 3,600 registered dancers from hundreds of Tribal Nations.

Kippenberger had plenty of Seminole supporters in Albuquerque, too, including members of Tribal Council and a group of seniors from the Big Cypress Reservation, among others.

"I'm feeling extremely overwhelmed with happiness and love," Kippenberger said. "I'm so proud to be Seminole and to have my community behind me in support. I promise to hold this title proudly and

represent my people and all Indigenous People honorably."

Family members and friends were in the audience as was Wanda Bowers, who oversees the Tribe's princess program and has been alongside Kippenberger every step of the way.

"After all these years that I've been bringing my Tribal princess to compete in the Miss Indian World, it was all worth the wait," Bowers said. "She is an awesome Miss Florida Seminole and now she will be a phenomenal Miss Indian World who will represent her people near and far with a big heart and tremendous pride."

Kippenberger, from the Hollywood Reservation, is now the 36th Miss Indian World. She is the daughter of Joe and Susan Kippenberger and a graduate of Keiser University in Fort Lauderdale.

The Miss Indian World pageant — held since 1984 — takes place each year at the Gathering of Nations, the world's largest Native American powwow.

From its beginnings, young Native American women between the ages of 18 and 25 travel from around the U.S. and Canada to represent their tribes and compete for the coveted crown.

The purpose of the journey to the title is to give the young women a chance to showcase the culture and traditions of their tribes. The contestants serve as cultural ambassadors of their respective tribes and

of Native Americans in general. They are expected to show poise, pride and positivity, and work to keep the diverse cultures of Native Peoples alive and thriving.

To qualify in the first place, contestants must be of Native or Indigenous American descent, be single with no kids, and have never been married.

The Miss Indian World pageant has a reputation for crowning winners who have a deep understanding of their tribe's traditions, history, ancestors and culture.

Kippenberger did not disappoint in any of those expectations.

Throughout the four-day competition, contestants accumulate points based on how they do in the categories of public speaking, traditional talent, personal interview, written essay and dance. Kippenberger garnered the most cumulative points of all the contestants.

In addition to the title, contestants qualify for individual awards based on their scores. Kippenberger not only won the overall title, but also took the top award for best personal interview and traditional talent — a demonstration of a traditional Seminole hairstyling.

The first runner-up was Cordelia Falls Down of the Crow and United Keetowah Band Tribes, Crow Agency, Montana. Other contestants hailed from across the country and Canada.



Gathering of Nations
Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger has plenty of reasons to smile after being named Miss Indian World on April 27 at Gathering of Nations in New Mexico.

♦ See MISS INDIAN WORLD on page 11A

Hard Rock remains in Ohio gaming scene with Cincinnati casino partnership

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Hard Rock International has recently added to its gaming presence — this time in Ohio.

HRI has purchased JACK Cincinnati Casino with New York City-based VICI Properties Inc., a real estate investment trust (REIT).

Media reports said the property was sold to HRI and VICI for \$745 million — with VICI acquiring the land and real estate for \$558 million, while HRI bought the operating assets of the casino for \$187 million. JACK Entertainment officials said in a statement that the purchase price was \$780 million.

HRI is expected to lease the casino from VICI for \$43 million a year — eventually rebranding it as the Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati. JACK Entertainment officials said Hard Rock also agreed to purchase the operations and real estate of Turfway Park, located near Cincinnati in Florence, Kentucky.

HRI previously operated the Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park near Cleveland, but it has since been rebranded as an MGM property, now making JACK Cincinnati Casino the sole HRI presence in Ohio.

"Hard Rock has been the No. 1 operator in Ohio since opening in the greater Cleveland market in 2013," Jim Allen, chairman and CEO of HRI said in a statement. "And now, we look forward to introducing our unique brand of casino entertainment to Cincinnati."

Allen said JACK Cincinnati Casino, which first opened in 2013, employs about 1,000. There are about 40,000 Hard Rock employees worldwide.

The facility is located on 22 acres in

Big Cypress celebrates Mabel T. Frank residential community groundbreaking

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal Council and Board members joined members of the Big Cypress community April 11 for the long-awaited groundbreaking of the Mabel T. Frank residential project, the first large development on the reservation.

The 71-acre community will be comprised of 33 rental homes on quarter-acre lots and 17 1.5 acre home sites. Each of the two neighborhoods will have its own entrance off Josie Billie Highway across from the old bingo hall.

The development is named for Mabel T. Frank since it will be built on the site of her former cattle pasture. Her great-grandson Sunny Frank remembers playing in those pastures as a young child.

"I remember riding on horses and watching the cowboys," Frank said. "It brings back a lot of good memories."

Former cattle foreman Jonah Cypress remembers the pasture well.

"It was Mabel and her husband Sam



Tribal officials, Tribal members and other dignitaries turn the dirt April 11 at the groundbreaking for the largest residential development in Big Cypress.



The Mabel T. Frank neighborhood will be easy to find on the Josie Billie Highway.

Frank's," he said. "I worked her cows. Even Mondo [Tiger] was there to help us chase those cows."

Like other reservations, BC has a housing shortage. This will help to alleviate it by allowing 50 families to relocate.

"It only took 20 years, but we're here," said Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger. "We have a dire need for housing on this reservation."

BC Board Rep. Joe Frank concurred. "The Tribe is suffering from growing pains," Rep. Frank said. "It's definitely needed and I commend Council for prioritizing this. A lot of young people are coming up and will need housing over the

next 15 years or so."

Infrastructure construction will start first on the rental home sites. Once the pads are ready, homes will be built.

"It will take about a year to get the infrastructure finished," said Tribal Community Development Director of Operations Derrick Smith. "I'd like to complete the first homes by the time the infrastructure is completed. We try to work efficiently."

BC set aside about 900 acres for development that could include residential, commercial, health and education. The Tribe has a list of approximately 400 Tribal members waiting for homes on reservations.

"We want them to be able to come back home," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. "This site has room for plenty of development over the next 30 years."

A video of what the Mabel T. Frank community will look like was shown on large screens during the ceremony.

"We had a plan for the community and it's happening now," said President Mitchell Cypress. "It's good to be able to take care of some people on the list."

Tribal Community Development Executive Director Derek Koger oversees this and other projects tribalwide.

♦ See DEVELOPMENT on page 4A

♦ See HARD ROCK on page 4A

INSIDE:

Editorial.....	2A	Health.....	9A	Sports.....	1C
Community.....	3A	Education.....	1B		



Editorial



Native students can show their cultural pride at graduation

• **Bill John Baker**

High school graduation ceremonies across Oklahoma will soon take place. Graduation from high school is an especially significant occasion for Cherokee students and families.

We are thankful that Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter weighed in last year and laid out the state's protection of Native American students' right to display eagle feathers in their graduation ceremonies. In a letter, he wrote: "It is my duty both to protect the rights of Oklahoma citizens as provided for by law and to advise that the Oklahoma Religious Freedom Act generally requires public schools to permit Cherokee students to engage in the spiritual practice of wearing eagle feathers to important events, such as graduations, even if this requires a religious exemption to an otherwise generally applicable rule. Accordingly, I urge the board to adopt or revise its policies to permit these religious practices at graduation."

It hasn't always been this way, of Indian Country, the quixotic and often inconsistent political drivers that operate at the expense of Native communities and impede economic development.

The precedent was established last fall for a Cherokee family within the Vian School District in northeast Oklahoma. We hope this sets the standard for all other school districts in Oklahoma to follow.

Tribal nations in Oklahoma and across the country have long viewed eagles and eagle feathers as sacred elements to religious and cultural

traditions, and federal law and policy has recognized the religious significance of eagle feathers to Native peoples.

Feathers are gifted to mark significant personal achievement, for leadership or academic accomplishment, as a sign of maturity and to signify an important achievement in an educational journey. It is done to honor the graduate and his or her family, the community and the tribe. Culturally, receiving an eagle feather in recognition of high school graduation can be just as significant as earning the diploma itself.

Cherokees graduating high school can now enjoy the spiritual freedom to show who they are at this critical juncture in their life, a time appropriately marked with pride. The eagle feather is a powerful symbol that represents trust, honor, strength, wisdom, power and freedom. It is an object that is deeply revered and a sign of the highest honor.

We value General Hunter's partnership and support. A cooperative relationship between Cherokee Nation's attorney general's office and the Oklahoma office of the attorney general ensures we are creating a better future for all Oklahomans. It is our hope that we continue to collaborate on our common goal of improving the lives of all citizens, Cherokee and non-Cherokee alike.

Today, through General Hunter's support, we also have established the state of Oklahoma's support. No Native student should ever be barred from wearing eagle feathers or displaying their cultural pride at graduation.

Bill John Baker currently serves as the 17th elected chief of the Cherokee Nation, the largest Indian tribe in the United States.

Can museums heal history's wounds?

• **Chip Colwell**

In the early 1920s, the director of the Bristol Museum in Britain received a package containing two human skulls. The donation came from Alfred Hutchins. He had left England seeking brighter horizons and by the late 1800s was living in Southern California. There he became an amateur archaeologist, excavating Native American graves on the Channel Islands. He offered the museum this collection, apparently in honor of his son, who perished during the First World War.

Last week in a ceremony, Bristol Museum officials returned the remains to representatives of the Tlat Society, a maritime organization of the Tongva, whose forebears lived on the four southern Channel Islands and across the Los Angeles basin for thousands of years. In recent years, the Tongva and their allies, including the Fowler Museum at U.C.L.A., have been working to track down the fate of looted Tongva bodies so that they may be reburied. This effort led the tribe across the Atlantic and to its first international repatriation.

"As Native Americans, we are in a constant state of mourning," Desiree Martinez, a Tongva member and professional archaeologist, said in an article in *The Bristol News*, "knowing that our ancestors' graves have been disturbed and their remains and burial goods removed to sit on museum shelves, all over the world."

The return of these two Tongva ancestors could easily pass almost unnoticed. However, the repatriation is emblematic of a much larger movement of historical reckoning sweeping across the globe. Museums are reconsidering who is the rightful owner of the objects that fill displays and storerooms. For example, the Netherlands' national museums have established guidelines for returning objects obtained without consent. In Germany, 16 states agreed in a joint resolution to repatriate items taken during the country's colonial era. Scotland said it will soon deliver to Canada the stolen

skulls of two Beothuk Indians. England's Natural History Museum recently sent home 37 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestral remains to Australia. And that's just in the first few months of 2019.

As a museum curator and scholar of the repatriation movement, I am stunned by the pace of these unfolding events, which seemed unlikely not long ago. I now understand that the repatriation battles are not isolated to a few museums wrestling with their colonial legacies. These clashes are fueling a war over the rights of former colonial subjects and the future of museums.

Some art dealers and curators have recently warned that this rapidly shifting landscape may, as the German broadcaster *Deutsche Welle*, put it, "eventually empty museums and galleries in Western countries." But such dire predictions portray repatriation as a zero sum game. Museums should not see repatriation only for what is lost. They should also see what is gained.

In the wake of European colonial explorations from the 1500s onward, museums were filled with curious, beautiful, mundane and wondrous objects. Many of these things were purchased or traded, obtained with the permission of the individual maker or community. Yet, many were also procured with the threat of violence, without consent and in ways that violated cultural traditions. Many were simply stolen. When archaeological science took off in the late 1800s, unknown thousands of graves were excavated.

When the Western art world fell in love with "primitive" art, collectors and dealers often resorted to extremes to obtain ancient treasures. Indigenous peoples often tried their best to preserve their sacred objects and to protect the graves of their ancestors. But most communities were unable to stop the plunder.

On the heels of the civil rights movement, Native Americans began to more publicly renounce museums for stealing their heritage. As a result, in 1990 Congress passed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which provides a process for lineal descendants and tribes to reclaim ancestral remains

and certain kinds of cultural items from American museums and federal agencies. This law, although imperfect, has facilitated the return of some 1.7 million grave goods, 57,000 skeletons and 15,000 sacred and communally owned objects.

As that law approached passage, we heard many of the same arguments we hear now, especially that repatriation will put museums out of business. Instead, in the years since, museums in the United States have thrived. Repatriation forced museum administrators and tribal leaders to sit down and talk, and the two sides realized how much they have in common. As a result, museums and tribes have worked to build new relationships based on mutual respect. Thirty years ago, few museums in the United States produced exhibitions in collaboration with Indigenous communities; today, few would design an exhibition without it. Repatriation will not end museums.

Such gains are extended even further when the return of ancestors and artifacts becomes a form of restorative justice. Like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission following the abolishment of South Africa's apartheid system, repatriation involves, as Desmond Tutu wrote, "the healing of breaches, the redressing of imbalances, the restoration of broken relationships."

Repatriation can turn museums from places of colonialism into mediating spaces that confront and then move beyond their own pasts. If my grandfather took something from your poor and powerless grandfather — and your community continues to suffer because of it — then I am presented with the chance to make things right.

By my estimate, in the United States alone, it will take more than 200 years to consult with descendants on all of the Native American human remains in museums. Addressing the centuries of colonialism will take centuries of work. The recent months have illustrated that the repatriation wars are not ending anytime soon. We should welcome the fact that they are here.

Chip Colwell (@drchipcolwell) is an anthropologist and museum curator in Denver.

Focusing on missing and murdered Indigenous women

• **From press release**

Congresswoman Deb Haaland (NM-01), Miss Indian World, and Gathering of Nations announced (April 19) a focus on missing and murdered indigenous women awareness at the nation's largest pow wow. The Miss Indian World Competition at Gathering of Nations brings attention to missing and murdered indigenous women as a call to action.

"As one of the world's most recognized celebrations of Indigenous culture, this event plays an important role of making our history and our traditions visible for the world to see," said Congresswoman Deb Haaland. "As we raise awareness about missing and murdered indigenous women across the country, there will be a focus on this silent crisis at this year's Pow Wow. I'm incredibly grateful for Miss Indian World for making this a priority and to the Gathering of Nations for their leadership."

"The Gathering of Nations brings together tribes and Indigenous Nations from across North America and around the world to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Native Americans; from the traditional singing and dancing, contemporary music on Stage 49, Teepee Village, Trader's Market to the best in Native American and World Cuisine; the Gathering of Nations offers everyone an opportunity to experience a very special and entrancing cultural event," Derek Mathews, Director of Gathering of Nations.

"This year the Miss Indian World Pageant is dedicating this year to recognizing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. The Miss Indian World Pageant is the largest and most prestigious cultural pageant for

young Native American Women. With its popularity and attention, the program hopes to bring a call to action regarding the epidemic issue plaguing Native women. Our efforts of bringing focus to this issue will be carried on after the event back to the communities most affected by this issue, with hope that change and greater community involvement will ensue," Melonie Mathews, Program Coordinator of Miss Indian World Pageant.

"As the senior development director and government liaison, I am amazed and honored that this specific issue is being led by our very own Native American Congresswoman. The collaboration with Gathering of Nations is going to make an international impact and provide major support for Congresswoman Haaland's work. I'm proud to stand with our Congresswoman," David Bearshield, Gathering of Nations Senior Development Director and Government Liaison.

Haaland is a leader working to address the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women and hit the ground running raising awareness and championing tangible solutions on day one. After being elected in November, she attended U.S. Senate Hearings on the 2018 Savanna's Act, she raised the issue in the media and called for solutions at the New Mexico legislature. Under her leadership as Vice Chair of the

U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, the Subcommittee for Indigenous People of the United States held the first hearing on the issue in the history of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Miss Indian World Competition gives young Native American women an opportunity to showcase their tribes and cultures; while serving as a cultural Ambassador of Native Americans by demonstrating the pride and continuance of the diverse cultures of Native people.



Indian Country can help solve rural America's decline

• **Patrice H. Kunesh**

Fueled in large part by tribal government gaming, incomes of American Indians on reservations are increasing. Indeed, they realized a 48% increase in real per capita income from 1990 to 2018 (from \$9,650 to \$14,355) compared to a 9% increase for all Americans. During this time, casino revenue showed a marked increase from barely a billion in 1990 to \$32.5 billion in 2018. Most of the revenue is spent away from the casino, demonstrating the significant spillover effect of reservation economies in supporting the local workforce and generating tax revenue.

Importantly, for households previously in poverty, per capita payments from casino revenues have had significant positive impacts. For example, there's some evidence that these payments have increased high school graduation rates by almost 40%, years of education by age 21 by over a year, decreased arrest rates, and children are more likely to vote as adults. In addition, people living in counties with tribal government casinos have decreased rates of smoking, heavy drinking and obesity.

Indian Country as a whole is growing. According to the U.S. Census, there are more than five million American Indians and Alaska Natives, making up almost 2% of the population (2.9 million identify as solely American Indian or Alaska Native, and another 2.3 million identified as multiracial). The Native population rose by 1.1 million, or 26.7%, between the 2000 and 2010 census. That's much faster than the general population growth of 9.7%. While an important part of this population trends toward urban centers, Native people move freely and frequently from homelands to urban areas and back

again; so do their ideas. Urban centers like Minneapolis-Saint Paul serve as cross-tribal hubs of innovation, creativity and connection for all of Indian Country and the Native population.

To be sure, Native Americans and Alaska Natives on reservations and villages continue to face some of the most severe socio-economic statistics of any race or ethnicity. About 25% of Native Americans on reservations lived in households with incomes below the federal poverty level, compared with 16.4% of Americans living in non-metropolitan areas overall.

Aside from the severe underfunding of federal trust obligations and the gap-filling casino revenue, most tribes lack an adequate independent revenue source to support their communities. The curtailed uptake on economic development is due in large part to the land, which is tied up in bureaucratic oversight and its potential not readily accessible. Casinos, by the way, were an innovative solution to impediments to using trust land productively; tribes seized upon a terrific economic opportunity to exercise self-governance and generate revenue.

While economies are growing in Indian Country, there is an obvious need for more substantial growth to catch up to even the rural average and to diversify firms and industries. The trick will be once again thwarting the long arm of history of Indian Country, the quixotic and often inconsistent political drivers that operate at the expense of Native communities and impede economic development.

Here is where Indian Country potential becomes part of the rural coalition — Indian Country can be a positive part of the solution (or at least mitigation) for rural America. Why? First, reservations are inherent homelands for American Indians, creating intergenerational ties to the land and thus a rooted population that can help

temper the general depopulation trend. Second, reservations have important economic strengths to offer rural America, including the ability to attract tourist dollars (from casinos but also amenities and culture), agriculture and natural resources (minerals, forests, water), and unique access to federal funding sources (e.g., Indian Health Service facilities, which could become rural health anchor institutions, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development housing loans, and a slew of United States Department of Agriculture rural utility and community facilities programs).

Many tribes from east to west are making a difference in their rural communities. For example, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation in northwest Montana, governing over one million acres, have established a community bank, created several successful tech-related businesses, and have assumed ownership of Séliš Ksanka Ql'ispé Dam (formerly known as Kerr Dam), the regional hydroelectric power plant. The White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Reservation in Arizona, with a land area of 2,627 square miles and a population of 12,429 people, operates a world-class wildlife program and professionally manages a vast forest system.

From Traverse City, Michigan to Kinder, Louisiana, Kyle, South Dakota and Neah Bay, Washington, tribes are a significant part of the economic geography of rural America, and they have opportunities to become even more important force going forward.

Patrice H. Kunesh is the director of the Center for Indian Country Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and is of Standing Rock Lakota descent.

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Community



Adoption ceremony marks a first at Tribal Court

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — “I deem this adoption official.”

With those words, Chief Justice Willie Johns closed out a historic ceremony April 18 at Seminole Tribal Court on the Hollywood Reservation.

The ceremony was historic because it was the first time a Tribal family adoption was finalized on a Seminole Reservation — this one taking place in the Tribal headquarters auditorium.

The adoption was made possible through a collaborative effort involving Tribal Court officials, Circuit Court Judge Jose Izquierdo of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida and other state agencies.

It was also a day of celebration for parents Andrea and Joshua Jumper, their family and friends. The couple has now officially adopted 2-year-old Loraine Marie Stewart Jumper.

Moses “Big Shot” Jumper Jr., who is an Associate Justice on the Tribal Court, is also the new grandfather. He is the father of Joshua Jumper.

Chief Justice Johns and Chief Judge Moses B. Osceola were in attendance, and along with Associate Justice Jumper, they wore their judicial robes for the occasion.

“I’ve had the pleasure and privilege of being able to work with [the judges of Seminole Tribal Court] in this collaborative effort,” Izquierdo said at the ceremony.

He worked with the Florida Attorney General’s office and state child advocates as part of the adoption collaboration.

Izquierdo, who works out of the Broward County Judicial Complex in Fort Lauderdale, has previously worked with the Tribe on other adoption cases. He was appointed by then Gov. Rick Scott in 2016 and was automatically reelected by voters in 2018 when no one qualified to run against him.

Izquierdo, of Miramar, received his bachelor’s degree from Florida International University and his law degree from the University of Florida.

A special swearing in of the parents took place in front of the Tribal Court and



Damon Scott

Participating in the Seminole Tribe’s first family adoption finalized on a Seminole reservation are, from left, Chief Justice Willie Johns, Associate Justice Moses “Big Shot” Jumper Jr., Loraine Marie Stewart Jumper, Joshua Jumper, Andrea Jumper, Circuit Court Judge Jose Izquierdo and Chief Judge Moses B. Osceola. The ceremony was held April 18 in the auditorium at Tribal headquarters in Hollywood.

Izquierdo.

An attorney asked Joshua Jumper the following questions, all to which he replied, “Yes.”

- Are you aware that if the judge were to grant this petition of adoption that Loraine would be as if she was from your biology?
- And you would have the same legal requirements as if she were?

- Do you wish to adopt Loraine?
- When you adopt her, do you wish for her name to be changed?
- Are you wishing to adopt her because you love her as if she were your own?
- And do you have the ability to care for her needs, love her, support her and care for her?

The attorney then asked Jumper what he

would like the child’s name to be.

“Loraine Marie Stewart Jumper,” he said.

The last question to Jumper was: “Has anyone threatened you or promised you anything to get you to adopt Loraine?” Answer: “No.”

Andrea Jumper was then asked: “You do understand that if the judge grants this order there is no going back?” Answer: “Yes.”

The final order of adoption was then granted.

“This is a rare moment and occasion that we’ve been working for for almost 10 years,” Chief Justice Johns said. “That we would come collaboratively with the state and the Tribe to do the adoptions and to work with families and children through the [Florida Department of Children and Families]. This is our very first. It’s a moment that we’re going to all treasure.”

Chief Justice Johns congratulated the Jumpers on their latest addition to the family.

Chief Judge Osceola then began by thanking Izquierdo and staff members of the state, including the Broward Sheriff’s Office, who were on the Reservation to help with the day’s court docket.

“We thank the judge and the state courts for coming to our location to adjudicate these cases,” Chief Judge Osceola said. “I think it makes it a whole lot easier for our families to come, and I think it removes a lot of the stress from the families from having to go to downtown Broward County.”

Chief Judge Osceola also underscored the historic nature of the adoption being done on Tribal land.

“We’re very thankful that this child can remain with an Indian family. That’s the most important thing that has been accomplished today,” he said. “We want to congratulate Josh and the family and wish you the best of luck. Those of you that pray — pray for the family that they’ll have a great life together.”

Jumper Jr. spoke in his role as Associate Justice and grandfather.

“I think it’s a good thing that the Seminoles are able to keep the kids that they have for adoption. That’s a great thing for the Tribe to do,” he said.

Associate Justice Jumper Jr. calls his granddaughter “Lo Lo.”

“We always have a good time with her and it’s good that she’s part of the family now — officially,” he said. “We’re looking forward to her growing up. I’m thankful and my prayers are with the family.”

Izquierdo held 10 other dependency hearings involving Tribal members in a room adjacent to the auditorium stage throughout the day.

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GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA & SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC. MAY 13, 2019

In accordance with the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Amended Corporate Charter of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. a General Election is scheduled on Monday, May 13, 2019 for the following offices:

<p>SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA TRIBAL COUNCIL</p> <p>CHAIRMAN At-LARGE James E. Billie Marcellus W. Osceola, Jr.</p> <p>BIG CYPRESS RESERVATION David Cypress Manuel Tiger Alfonso Tigertail</p> <p>BRIGHTON RESERVATION Andrew J. Bowers, Jr. Larry L. Howard</p> <p>HOLLYWOOD RESERVATION Sunny Frank Virginia C. Garcia-Sanders Christopher S. Osceola</p>	<p>SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p> <p>PRESIDENT At-LARGE Mitchell Cypress James Holt II</p> <p>BIG CYPRESS RESERVATION Nadine Bowers Paul Bowers, Sr. Joe Frank</p> <p>BRIGHTON RESERVATION Marvin P. Bowers Helene Buster Johnnie Jones, Sr. Theresa Nunez Reno Osceola</p> <p>HOLLYWOOD RESERVATION Christine E. McCall Larry J. Tiger Gordon Oliver Wareham</p>
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Enrolled Tribal Members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida who have reached their 18th birthday on or before April 13, 2019 and who have registered to vote by March 1, 2019 are eligible to vote for the positions above.

The Chairman at-Large and President at-Large are voted in by all Registered Voters. Representatives are voted in by the Registered Voters of their respective Reservations.

Absentee registered voters are urged to contact the Tribal Secretary’s Office for an absentee ballot request form at 954-966-6300 ext. 11461.

Voting Locations are:
 Big Cypress Reservation Senior Center
 Brighton Reservation Veterans Building
 Hollywood Reservation Headquarters Auditorium Lobby

POLLS ARE OPEN 8 AM – 7:30 PM ON ELECTION DAY
ALL REGISTERED TRIBAL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO VOTE

Seminoles speak out at FIU 'State of Affairs' event

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — The organizers of Florida International University's Global Indigenous Group continue to collaborate with Seminole Tribal members as part of its initiatives.

The latest example took place April 13, when the school hosted an "Indigenous State of Affairs" panel. It took place in the Graham Center ballrooms on FIU's Modesto Maidique Campus in Miami.

The event was supported by the Seminole Tribe's Center for Student Success and Services. CSSS assistant director Alvaro Perez and members of his staff were at the event with an informational outreach table.

The panel featured four Seminoles — Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger, Rollie Gilliam III, Eden Jumper and Samuel Tommie. The four were joined by Bina Sengar, Fulbright Scholar-in-residence at FIU and Masako Kubota, an instructor in the school's Asian studies program and department of modern languages.

Topics ranged from sovereignty, to the importance of preserving Native languages. Audience members also asked questions about reparations and the controversial blood quantum measurement.

"The Global Indigenous Forum and [its student] club are initiatives to bring the Indigenous voice here to FIU and to South Florida and to the world," Dennis Wiedman said to the audience of a few dozen people. "Where is the Indigenous voice? What are the Indigenous issues?"

Wiedman is the founder and director of the GIF, which has been in existence for about six years. He is also an anthropologist and associate professor in the department of global and sociocultural studies at FIU.

Meet the Seminole panelists

In her role as Miss Florida Seminole, Kippenberger serves as an ambassador to the public for the Tribe. She is from the Hollywood Reservation and is of the Panther Clan. Kippenberger graduated from Keiser University in Fort Lauderdale with a degree in accounting. She's in the process of organizing a women's empowerment symposium to be hosted by the Tribe.

Gilliam works in the advanced career development program at CSSS. He earned his master's degree 2017 in criminology and criminal justice from Florida Atlantic University.

Jumper, also from the Hollywood Reservation and in the Panther Clan, is an activist on Native issues. He has a passion for land rights, water rights, sovereignty issues and the environment.

Tommie is from the Big Cypress Reservation. He is also an activist who has



Damon Scott

Florida International University's Global Indigenous Group hosts a panel discussion April 13 at FIU in Miami. The panel consisted of, from left, Samuel Tommie, Bina Sengar, Masako Kubota, Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger, Eden Jumper and Rollie Gilliam III.

studied the interaction between tribes and corporations. Tommie argues that much of the interaction isn't grounded in the traditional core values that best serve Tribal members.

Sovereignty issues

Gilliam, whose career focus is Indigenous college success, started by equating his educational experience and support from the Tribe as intrinsically tied to sovereignty.

Kippenberger agreed with Gilliam's sentiments and said she credited much of her success in education to the CSSS department.

"I wouldn't have made it through a lot of the things I had to go through to get my college degree and graduate high school and do so successfully without sovereignty, without recognition of how successful our Tribe has been to create all these departments to help," she said.

Said Jumper: "We talk about sovereignty in terms of water, land, and of Indigenous

People. We are under attack from corporations trying to privatize the resources. Indigenous People live on or near the resources that these corporations want and so it's a direct threat to sovereignty. Governments and corporations seek to disenfranchise and upheave those communities."

Native languages

The Seminole Tribe's Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School on the Brighton Reservation is well-known for its innovative language immersion program — a feature many tribal schools do not have.

"And through the [Tribal] culture department they are doing an excellent job at building community and preserving culture and language," said Gilliam.

Added Kippenberger: "There's a big misconception that every tribe is the same — speaks in the same way, has the same clothing — and so it's important to preserve language to show that those differences exist."

Kippenberger's mother is Chilean and

her father is Seminole. She said she grew up in a household where Spanish, English and Mikasuki was spoken.

On reparations

Reparations for African Americans sometimes make news depending on the prevailing political winds. The idea of Native American reparations is one that has emerged recently in the run up to the 2020 presidential election.

An audience member asked the panel what kind of reparations they thought would be appropriate.

"What would be appropriate? You can't put a dollar sign on it," Kippenberger said. "There are people that were living here before the Europeans came here or the Spanish, there were people, there were lives, there was culture, there was language and you can't put a dollar sign on top of that."

Kippenberger said, however, that recognition would be a good start.

"When we go to Washington, when we

go to Idaho, when we go to all these places, recognize that we're on occupied territory. Ask questions about the people that are from there. Be curious. There's no amount of money, there's nothing physical that you can give us except your time, your curiosity, and just to learn about the people and the history — and not from a textbook that you get from a predominately Caucasian institute," she said.

Added Jumper: "Reparations are a step in the right direction, but also money can never take away the trauma, the strife and the violence [that occurred]. Give us true sovereignty."

For more

FIU's Global Indigenous Group will host several events in October, including Indigenous People's Day (Oct. 8) and "Not a Statistic: Indigenous Women, Global Challenges" (Oct. 11).

To connect with the group and learn about other events, go to indigenous.fiu.edu.

DEVELOPMENT

From page 1A

"We need homes across the board," said Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.



Beverly Bidney

The stage is set for the groundbreaking ceremony for the Mabel T. Frank project just on the other side of the Josie Billie Highway in Big Cypress.

"I commend Derek Koger; we are going to keep him busy for a while."



Beverly Bidney

A rendering of the Mabel T. Frank community's rental homes is shown during the groundbreaking ceremony in Big Cypress on April 11.

HARD ROCK

From page 1A

the Broadway Commons area in the city's downtown district. It features 100,000 square feet of gaming space with about 1,800 gaming machines and 100 table games. Additionally, the property has 33,000 square feet of meeting space, six restaurants and two bars.

HRI officials said new property improvements will be announced later this year.

"We are confident that Hard Rock and its world-renowned brand will be a great addition to the Queen City and the right choice to take JACK Cincinnati Casino and Turfway Park to the next level of growth," Matt Cullen, CEO of JACK Entertainment said in a statement. "We chose to sell to Hard Rock, in large part due to its great culture and quality of its leadership. They are an outstanding operator that JACK Cincinnati Casino and Turfway Park team members will enjoy working with as they continue to deliver excellent service to our guests."

JACK Entertainment said it will

continue to operate its JACK Cleveland Casino and JACK Thistledown Racino, near Cleveland.

Meanwhile, VICI's portfolio includes gaming, hospitality and entertainment destinations, including Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

"We are proud to partner with Hard Rock, further diversifying our tenant roster with an international leader in gaming, entertainment and hospitality experiences and a renowned global platform of 245 hospitality venues across 75 countries," John Payne, president and chief operating officer of VICI said in a statement.

While the transaction is subject to regulatory approvals and closing conditions, HRI officials expect it to be finalized later this year.

HRI operates 185 cafes, 27 hotels and 11 casinos. The company's two most successful hotel and casino properties are in Hollywood (Florida) and Tampa. The Seminole Tribe of Florida is the parent entity of HRI.

More information is available at hardrock.com.



Beverly Bidney

Tribal officials attend the festivities in the tent at the Mabel T. Frank groundbreaking. From left are Council Executive Assistant Thomasine Motlow, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, President Mitchell Cypress, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and Tribal Community Development Executive Director Derek Koger.

Naples community celebrates Earth Day

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

NAPLES — The Seminole Tribe's Naples community joined about 1 billion other people in 192 countries worldwide April 22 to celebrate Earth Day.

To mark the day, the community planted three cypress trees next to the Juanita Osceola Center and celebrated Seminole heritage with a gar fish demonstration, pumpkin fry bread and storytelling. Even before the trees were planted, birds perched on its branches indicating the trees will be a welcome addition to the ecosystem.

"We take a lot of trees out of the woods for chickees; it's important to plant trees, too," said Billy Walker as the trees were being set in the ground. "The birds represent everything to us; they see what God sees and know who did what during each season. The breath maker gave us this Earth; we have a connection to Mother Earth and nature so it's good for us to plant more trees."

The theme of the day centered on preserving the Earth and a few avid gardeners shared tips about the vegetables and plants in their gardens. Sweet potatoes will take over the garden if the plant isn't contained in a barrel. After Romaine lettuce is trimmed for salad greens, if the roots are left in the ground another head of lettuce will grow.

"Earth Day is about saving the Earth for our children," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. "We see all the pictures of sea life and animals in the wilderness eating plastic; we need to take care of the environment so it will take care of us. Planting trees is a symbol of that."

President Mitchell Cypress pondered the state of the planet, including rising seas and melting glaciers, and the urgency to save it.

"Our rain forests are being destroyed and they are the filter for us to breathe," he said. "This is a wakeup call and I hope it isn't too late. Native Americans say if you take care of the Earth, it will take care of you. If you destroy it, it will destroy you."

Tribal members, children and the community gathered around Walker as he demonstrated how to clean and roast gar fish. He caught about 14 fish over two nights. He said the fat ones are his personal favorites.

"Gar fish was like fast food for Seminoles," Walker said. "They will be cooked in only 45 minutes. We used to use citrus from the trees brought here from China and put it on top of the fish as it cooked."

Although Walker used popsicle sticks to keep the fish open on the grill, in the old days sticks from trees were used. Jessica Osceola

cleaned a few fish, as did Walker's daughter Shylah, 10.

As the traditional Seminole fare roasted on the fire, a chef was busy cooking an elaborate lunch of rice, vegetables, chicken and beef on a hibachi table nearby.

"We always try to do something different in Naples," said Naples Liaison Brian Zepeda. "It's our first Earth Day and we wanted an event where the community could come out and enjoy the day together."

After lunch, guest speaker Krystle Young spoke about her work to restore the Everglades and the environment. Young recently earned her Master of Science in Biology from the University of Miami and is pursuing a PhD in Biology at Florida International University in Miami.

She has been monitoring water in Miami Dade and Monroe County canals, looking for levels of phosphorus, nitrogen and other pollutants that feed algae. Young has also studied the diversity of the water in Miami Dade's Biscayne Bay.

The difference between the water of Card Sound in the upper Keys by Key Largo and Black Point in Biscayne National Park across the bay from Elliott Key is profound. The largely untouched Card Sound has significantly more biodiversity because of the minimal human contact. Black Point's marina and park are popular with boaters and others.

"It's important to have high diversity, it's an indicator of the health of an ecosystem," Young said. "Everything is connected; water, animals and plants. You can't interact with one without affecting something else."

Young urged people to consider biodiversity in their own gardens and yards. She said grass is bad for diversity, trees and bushes support more species. She also outlined an important action everyone can take to improve the environment; reduce, reuse and recycle.

"Reduce usage of one time use items, repurpose things and recycle," Young said. "Composting at home will give you soil you can grow things in. We all love our natural resources; do what you can to protect the Earth."

Founded in 1970, Earth Day is credited with launching the environmental movement, which led Congress to pass the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act and other environmental laws.

"Science is important and we need to support it," Young said. "We need to get Tribal members involved more. Earth Day is all about educating people on the importance of preserving our natural resources."



Beverly Bidney

The Naples community celebrates Earth Day and watches as Liaison Brian Zepeda helps plant three cypress trees on the property at the Juanita Osceola Center on April 22.



Beverly Bidney

The Naples community poses for an Earth Day photo in front of two of the three newly planted cypress trees.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above left, Billy Walker helps his daughter Shylah Walker learn to cut open and clean a gar fish at the Naples Earth Day celebration. Above right, JoJo Frank Jr. tosses a beanbag as Raymond Mora waits his turn during a game of corn hole at the celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Jonah Walker gives Leland Billie a close-up view of the toothy snout of a gar fish at the Earth Day celebration. Jonah's father, Billy Walker, caught about 14 fish and demonstrated how to prepare and roast them over an open flame.

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Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress cattle foreman Andre Jumper chooses to round up cattle on his horse and with his dogs while his grandfather Moses Jumper Jr. prefers his ATV. On April 15, cattle foreman Jumper gave Moses's calves booster shots.

Big Cypress cattle foreman Andre Jumper: right at home on the range

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Andre Jumper is the embodiment of his family's legacy. Like his grandfather Jonah Cypress before him, Jumper was named Big Cypress cattle foreman in January.

"I'm a cowboy so I like to do what a cowboy does," said Jumper, 23. "I come from a long line of cowboys; I was born into it."

Jumper was raised around cattle in the pastures of BC and always wanted to be a cowboy. His grandfather, Moses Jumper Jr., his father Josh and uncle Naha Jumper have herds in BC. His great grandfather Junior Cypress was also a BC cattleman.

"I think it's great," said Moses Jumper. "His grandfather used to do this many years ago and Andre's been around it all his life. He knows it pretty good."

The life of a cowboy isn't always a walk in the park; sometimes it's a long hard ride in the saddle.

On days when the cows need vaccinations, pregnancy checks, booster shots, need to be moved for shipping or pasture maintenance, Jumper starts work at around 5 a.m. First he gets his dogs and horses ready and fills the coolers with ice. Then he meets his crew of six or seven cowboys and gets to work.

On days when there is just the normal workload, such as delivering feed and molasses supplements, making sure pastures are mowed and fertilized, Jumper gets to sleep late. Those days, he doesn't start until 7 a.m.

"Ever since I was little, I always wanted to be a cowboy," Jumper said. "The best part of the job is that I get to work with my grandfather [Jonah Cypress]."

Cypress served as cattle foreman for

27 years until 2000 and has served as BC Natural Resources Manager since 2008. He is Jumper's boss and helps him learn the ropes of being foreman.

"He'll do alright," Cypress said. "There will be tough times, but he'll get through it. He's got about 20 bosses now and I tell him it's good to keep on their good side."

Jumper's goal is to keep the 23 BC cattle owners happy. To do that, he is a fixture in the pastures as he tends to the animals and makes sure the owners' needs are met.

"Even though I don't have my own, I know their herds," he said. "I'm very

familiar with them."

Jumper also knows the landscape, including its predators. He says panthers and buzzards do the most damage to the herds. Panthers will take a calf, eat some, bury it and come back again to eat more. Although known for eating dead animals, buzzards will also kill and eat newly born calves in the pastures. They do about as much damage to herds as the panthers. Both are protected species and cannot be killed.

For two weeks in April, Jumper and his crew gave booster shots to calves in the BC herds. On April 15 he gave the shots to



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress Cattle Foreman Andre Jumper works with his grandfather Jonah Cypress, BC natural resources manager, as they give 91 calves booster shots.



Beverly Bidney

Andre Jumper separates calves from full-grown cows to prepare them for booster shots.

his father's 98 calves and his grandfather Moses' 91 calves.

Jumper's crew of seven was comprised of five Tribal members; Chris Green, Cat Tommie, Naha Jumper, Josh Jumper and Pauletta Bowers. Longtime cowboys Randy Rueda and Donnie Crawford completed the crew. Jonah Cypress monitored the process and kept a log of how many calves were vaccinated.

The process is straight forward, but isn't simple. The entire herd, calves, cows and bulls, are gathered from the pastures and herded into holding pens. Then the work really begins; the calves must be sorted from the cows and the bulls separated from them all.

Groups of animals are led down a chute, where they are guided individually into the proper holding pen. A crew member, in this case Naha Jumper, moves the gate to direct each animal into the proper pen. It's fast and dirty work; the animals don't know what is going on so they resist and complain loudly.

It's the job of Jumper and his crew to get the animals where they need to be safely. Only then do they lead the calves from the holding pen through the chute a second time so they can be vaccinated. On this day, the deed was done successfully and the crew loaded the bulls onto a trailer and took them

to the bull pasture.

But the day wasn't finished yet; Martha Jones' herd had to be moved and readied for booster shots the following day. The site of eight people on horseback heading for the large herd at the far side of the pasture was reminiscent of a western cowboy movie without the mountainous desert locale.

Jumper was always destined to be a cowboy, whether on the ranch or in the rodeo arena. He used to do team roping- he was a heeler- but he loved watching the pick-up men during the rodeos. They are the ones on horseback who help cowboys get off the broncs if they aren't thrown off.

Jumper admires his brother Blevyns, who is also a cowboy.

"Nothing gets under his skin," he said. "He's just a laid back cowboy who does what you ask. I'm the same way, but I like to laugh and have a good time."

He said the job of cattle foreman is being a cowboy, but with a lot more responsibility.

"I have a lot more on my plate to deal with and I'm still learning," Jumper said. "My Grandpa Jonah guides me, tells me what to do and what not to do. My dad's in the field a lot, too."

Jumper said he never had to clock in or out before, but that doesn't keep him from being the cowboy he was born to be.

NIGC announces departure of Chairman Chaudhuri

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) today announced the resignation of Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri as the Chairman of National Indian Gaming Commission, effective Wednesday, May 15, 2019. Vice Chair Isom-Clouse will take over day-to-day operation of the Agency.

"It has been the honor of my lifetime to serve Indian country and the general public in my capacity as Chairman, a role I have had the pleasure of fulfilling since 2013. During my time as Chairman, the Commission

worked hard at every turn to stress strong partnerships and consistent communication with tribal gaming operations to achieve compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. The Commission works with tribes to ensure they have the tools necessary to effectively regulate their operations and meet IGRA's requirements," Chaudhuri said in a statement. "As I reflect on the initiatives of NIGC during my time at NIGC, we have been able to protect the integrity of Indian gaming, expand outreach, and develop new services that support gaming operations and its staff."

During his tenure, Chaudhuri's laid

out his initiatives in the NIGC's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.

One of initiative – protecting against gamesmanship on the backs of tribes – emphasizes uncovering non-tribal entities' manipulation of business, professional, and employment relationships with Indian gaming operations to further their own interests at the expense of the tribal gaming operation, the tribe, and tribal members.

Another initiative focuses on developing effective outreach for tribes with small and rural gaming operations. In 2015, NIGC hired a rural outreach coordinator to help address this concern. NIGC has also implemented

virtual training sessions at NIGC regional training courses and promotes site-specific training by tribal request.

Also under Chaudhuri's leadership, NIGC created a technology division which oversees the agency's information technology, records management, technology related training and assessments, including its regulating technology course and IT vulnerability assessments.

Finally, an initiative to maintain a strong workforce within NIGC and with its tribal regulatory partners has generated a collaborative workforce that serves IGRA's fundamental purposes of promoting

tribal self-determination and economic development. As of 2019, the agency now trains more regulators than ever before.

"I sincerely appreciate having had the opportunity to work at NIGC. I would like to thank my fellow Commissioners, the hard working NIGC staff, and Indian country for the support, guidance, and encouragement provided to me during my time at NIGC. Even though I will deeply miss my colleagues and time serving as the Chairman, I am looking forward to starting a new phase of my career," Chaudhuri said.



SEMINOLE TRIBE
OF FLORIDA
TRIBAL MEMBER
VENDOR
WORKSHOP

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Purchasing Department is inviting Tribal Member Vendors to a workshop that will serve as a guide for doing business with Tribal Government.

When:

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Where:

Big Cypress Public Safety Building - Fire Multipurpose Room

All Attendees Must Check in at the Front Desk

Note: Meeting Location Subject to Change Based on Fire Rescue Department Needs

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Groundbreaking held for nine homes at Brighton's Knots Landing

Seminole Hard Rock earns top 'Employer of Choice' in gaming industry for fourth year in a row



Beverly Bidney

Tribal officials and dignitaries turn the dirt as they break ground for nine new homes on the Knots Landing project in Brighton on April 23.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Surrounded by an abundance of love and love bugs, Tribal officials broke ground April 23 for nine new homes in the Knots Landing area of Brighton. Tribal Council and the Board joined forces and worked together on the project.

"This is the opportunity to bring more Tribal members back to the community," said Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard. "It's been a long time coming. It's always been our goal to bring people back and as long as we bring them back one at a time, eventually we can get everyone."

The three, four and five bedroom rental homes should be completed by the end of this year. Seminole Design-Build, Tribal member David Nunez's business, is the contractor on the job.

"This is another momentous occasion for the Tribe and its members," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. "We will be giving out keys in the next seven months to tribal members who will be here for many generations to come."

Chairman Osceola said this has been a big year for residential groundbreakings, starting with Lakeland, then Big Cypress, now Brighton and Hollywood will be next by the end of summer.

"We have the capital, the knowledge and the team to do it, so we are," Chairman Osceola said.

"Council decided to set aside land on the reservations to provide housing that is needed," said Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. "It is a step in the right direction to meet those needs and get people to move back to the reservation."

President Mitchell Cypress mentioned how the project came together.

"Board and Council came up with the idea and we had the funds to do it," he said. "With teamwork, this administration gets things done."

The Knots Landing project is just one of many being developed on about 2,500 acres of land around the reservations.

"There will be 500 acres altogether in Brighton," said Tribal Community Development Senior Director of Operations Derrick Smith. "We are laying a great foundation for the next 20 to 30 years. Another Tribe wrote a book after they



Beverly Bidney

A rendering of the nine homes was shown during the Knots Landing groundbreaking April 23 in Brighton.

developed 400 acres; after we get done with these 2,500 acres, we can write our own book."

Smith showed a video of the various projects on the books for Brighton, including the Flowing Well Grove development of single family owned and rental homes. The Knots Landing site already has townhomes and more are scheduled to be built in the future. The Tucker Ridge recreation area will include a chickee village, dock area, bathrooms and walking trails.

"This is our future and it will help preserve our culture and heritage," said Nunez. "It's a proud moment for me. We have a good team and I'm happy to be a part of it."

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger commended the Board and the Council for working together.

"We're building some great homes that will be a regular standard for the Tribe now," Councilman Tiger said. "We had some great ancestors who allowed this to happen for us; we should all thank them sometime."



Beverly Bidney

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and David Nunez shake hands at the groundbreaking.

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Results of the latest Casino Gaming Executive Satisfaction Survey have further cemented the top spot of Seminole Hard Rock as the clear "Employer of Choice" among the industry's 34 casino companies or standalone casinos.

According to the survey, which was conducted in 2018 from August through October and released this year, 24.83 percent of all respondents ranked Seminole Hard Rock as one of their top three employers of interest. The result was up five percent from the corresponding number in 2017.

In the latest survey, 1,363 unique participants responded to online questions, up from slightly more than 1,000 respondents in 2017. The survey is produced jointly by Bristol Associates, Inc., and Spectrum Gaming Group. This year marks the 18th annual Casino Gaming Executive Satisfaction Survey.

The four-year winning streak is evidence of a positive workplace reputation and quality work environment of both Seminole Gaming and Hard Rock International, which was acquired by the Seminole Tribe of Florida in 2007 and shares its Hollywood corporate offices with the headquarters for Seminole Gaming.

During that time, Hard Rock International was also named to Forbes' lists of "America's Best Employers" and "America's Best Employers for Women."

"It means a lot to be recognized by so many gaming industry executives as their Employer of Choice," said Jim Allen, CEO of Seminole Gaming and Chairman of Hard Rock International. "We are extremely pleased to receive this recognition for Seminole Hard Rock."

According to Michael Pollock, Managing Director of Spectrum Gaming Group, "To become a leader among such leaders requires an added focus on retaining and motivating talent. By definition, to become such a leader, you have to listen to your people, and respond to their needs and aspirations."

The annual survey is conducted online and represents a sampling of casino and gaming executives from across North America. According to Spectrum Gaming Group and Bristol Associates, survey respondents are diverse in terms of geography, executive responsibilities, years of experience and other meaningful criteria. The survey is designed to ensure that the respondents have worked in the casino and gaming industry and that no one is surveyed more than once.

Logan joins Native American Agriculture Fund leadership

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Institutional investment advisor and corporate lawyer Vince Logan has joined the Native American Agriculture Fund as chief financial officer and chief investment officer, NAAF announced in April. Logan, a member of the Osage Nation, is responsible for NAAF's \$266 million portfolio and charged with overseeing the finance department, implementing financial systems, and managing the investment program.

"He is a mentor to many professionals in Indian Country and beyond, and his work in financial and investment leadership will continue to have a lasting impact through NAAF," said Elsie Meeks (Oglala Lakota), NAAF Board chairperson.

Nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2014, Logan served as the Special Trustee for American Indians at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

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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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Justin Giles visits Paul Bowers in his Big Cypress woodshop.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum



Fourth day on the job as oral history coordinator at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Justin Giles holds an alligator subdued by Billy Walker.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Community Outreach: Hello Seminole

BY JUSTIN GILES

Oral History Coordinator, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Spring is in full bloom and the love bugs are beginning to connect with the windshield of my Jeep. This also means that the temperatures are rising and soon summer will be in full swing. Time flies on the Big Cypress Reservation and that is a good indication that I'm enjoying my time here in Seminole Country. The approaching summer also means that the beginning of ceremonial season is near. As the corn dance begins here in Florida, this Muscogee (Creek) boy will make a trip back to Oklahoma for the beginning of our stomp dance season. I'll have much to share and stories to tell of alligators, humidity, Tribal events, food, and new Seminole aunts teasing me just like my Muscogee Aunts back in Oklahoma. Being a part of a community is important and thankfully my position at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum as the oral history coordinator allows me to spend a lot of time

in the community.

Community Outreach is a term that I take to heart because I could not imagine being in a predominantly Native place without getting to know folks. I like to see where the good food is, who can cook well, and simply visit with people. While there are certainly some differences here in southern Florida from Oklahoma, the similarities far outweigh any sense of being away from home. Seminole Country is Indian Country and fortunately that is a real comforting feeling. Plus, there are beaches to visit and the Everglades to explore that have been inhabited by indigenous people for numerous millennia. This geography is certainly an important part of the Seminole story told at the museum. It is important to remember that a good number of Tribal Governments across North America now have active museums, cultural centers, or community centers. These institutions share a common goal of telling Native history from the perspective of the Native community, in their own voice. The Seminole Tribe of

Florida has always been at the forefront of this endeavor and oversees one of the oldest and nationally accredited Tribal museums in Indian Country.

There is a lot of Seminole history and culture that the museum is tasked to present to our visitors on a daily basis. In order to make sure the Seminole Voice is always present at the museum, community outreach and participation is a must. In this aspect, the occupation of museum staff is more than just a job as we serve the Seminole community. Lucky for me, my job keeps me from being homesick and I'm glad to have some new Seminole aunts tease me. If you see me out and about, feel free to visit and toss me some fry bread and sausage...! Please be sure to contact me anytime if you wish to participate in the Oral History program and become a part of the Seminole Voice we strive to present at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Sho-Na-Besh-Sha/Mvto!

James Billie honored by the state for contributions to Florida folklife

BY ZACHARY BOEHM
Special to the Tribune

TALLAHASSEE — Four distinguished Floridian folk artists and community leaders were honored April 13 with the 2019 Florida Folk Heritage Awards for their transformative, far-reaching contributions to Florida's folklife. The awards were conferred by Florida's Department of State and were presented during a ceremony at Word of South, an annual festival of literature and music in Tallahassee.

Among the honorees was former Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman James Billie, who was recognized with a Folklife Advocate award for his resolute and effective championing of Tribal sovereignty, his decades-long commitment to preserving traditional Seminole language and culture and his own considerable artistic achievements as a Grammy-nominated songwriter.

Billie, who was born of the Bird Clan in Dania, Florida, was elected chairman of the Seminole Tribe in 1979 after completing two tours in the Army during the Vietnam War. His first tenure as chairman spanned 22 years, ending in 2001. Ten years later, Billie was re-elected Chairman, serving for a second stint from 2011 to 2016. His years of tribal leadership distinguish him as one of the longest-serving elected political officials in the world.

During his tenure as chairman, Billie advocated unrelentingly for the enrichment of Seminole folkways. He instituted several strategic programs designed to chronicle and preserve the Tribe's unique cultural history, including the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation and the Seminole Camp at the Florida Folk Festival — where trained scholars of Seminole culture educate community members about tribal traditions each year.



2019 Florida Folk Heritage Award recipient James Billie holds his award with his son Echo, Secretary of State Laurel M. Lee and Chair of the Florida Folklife Council Annette B. Fromm during a ceremony April 13 in Tallahassee.

Stacy Prato

Billie is also credited with spearheading the development of a modern tribal broadcasting department and with revamping The Seminole Tribune, two efforts that continue to facilitate enduring, professionalized storytelling about the daily lives and cultural contributions of Seminole Tribe members.

While he admitted that receiving formal recognition for his historic career of advocacy and leadership may be a somewhat unfamiliar

feeling, Billie said his award reaffirms the importance of robust, community-based initiatives for the preservation of traditional Seminole language and culture.

"It's interesting, I'm not accustomed to getting awards; I'm generally the one who's handing them out," he said. "But if it wasn't for the language, the legends and the customs, there wouldn't be a Seminole Tribe. I always encourage the younger generation to learn something about their history, and

I'm proud of my tribe for maintaining their heritage.

"Even the younger generation, when you see them, you might think they know nothing, but they know quite a bit about their traditions. The Seminole Tribe maintains its culture through programs like the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki museum in Big Cypress, or through language immersion programs like you see in the Brighton Reservation, where they're teaching their young children the language."

Culture, legends, stories and language are very important to us."

Billie was one of four celebrated folk artists and advocates to receive Florida Folk Heritage awards at the ceremony. Tina Bucuvalas, curator of arts & historical resources for the City of Tarpon Springs, joined Billie in receiving the Folklife Advocate Award for her more than 30 years of steadfast work preserving the contributions of traditional folk artists in South Florida and beyond.

Folk Artist awards were presented to Jane Wells Scott, a scholar and instructor of traditional Irish fiddle who has played an indispensable role in the preservation and exchange of folk traditions in North Florida, and Michael Usina, a St. Augustine native of Minorcan heritage whose life's work maintaining and promoting the hand-made net-crafting techniques passed down by his ancestors has positioned him as a leader in the Florida folk art community.

Florida Secretary of State Laurel M. Lee, who presided over the ceremony and presented the awards, said the honorees represented the legions of folk artists, scholars and advocates throughout the state whose work is key to sustaining and communicating Florida's vibrant cultural heritage.

"We're fortunate to have so many Floridians who have brought tremendous distinction to our state through their careers and their tireless devotion to their crafts," she said. "Their work has touched and inspired countless people, and it's fitting that we honor them for their influence and their brilliance."

Established in 1985, the Florida Folk Heritage Awards are based on public nominations and recommendations from the Florida Folklife Council. The awards honor the state's foremost bearers of tradition for their advocacy of, and demonstrated excellence in, the traditional arts.

'Ancestral Connections' links past to present through work of contemporary artists

FROM PRESS RELEASE

NEW YORK CITY — "Ancestral Connections" will open at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian-George Gustav Heye Center on May 4. Organized by the museum's head curator Ann McMullen, this exhibition explores how 10 contemporary artists draw on aspects of their heritage to create new and compelling works of art.

The exhibition covers vast territory: the works illustrate how connections to Native culture, tradition and history serve as a catalyst for contemporary Native artistic expression. "Ancestral Connections" shows how the featured artists use heritage, tradition, and history—sometimes combined with personal experiences or remembered ancestors—as reference points rather than rules for their art. Some of the artists have

been shaped by their traditional homelands and landscapes, while others draw on traditional worldviews, lifeways and artistic traditions. Grounded in tradition and a sense of themselves as Native people, they have explored new materials, techniques, forms, and art genres to challenge the boundaries of what Native art can be.

The exhibition includes works by Marvin Oliver (Quinault/Isleta Pueblo, b. 1946), whose glass sculpture depicts salmon, from which his people are descended; Lillian Pitt (Warm Springs/Wasco/Yakama, b. 1943), who uses art to honor her culture and heritage from the Columbia River region; Jim Schoppert (Tlingit, 1947-1992), whose sculptures challenge the definition of Northwest Coast Indian art; Michael Massie (Labrador Inuit/Métis, b. 1962), who draws inspiration from cultures beyond his own

to expand the bounds of Inuit art; Rose B. Simpson (Santa Clara Pueblo, b. 1983), whose mixed-media work is a way for her to ground herself and connect physically with the earth; Anita Fields (Osage, b. 1951), whose pieces are informed by the Osage worldview; Gedion Caseo Fernandez Nolasco (Quechua, b. 1964), whose piece is an homage to the Ashaninka, an Andean forest people whose members formerly visited his hometown in Peru; Jackie Larson Bread (Pikuni Blackfeet, b. 1960) whose art reflects the past and present of her Blackfeet people; Jeri Redcorn (Caddo/Potawatomi, b. 1939), who uses pottery to connect to her ancestors and their history; and Isabel Rorick (Haida, b. 1955) and Robin Rorick (Haida, b. 1980) whose painted spruce root basketry hats connect them to their ancestral roots.



NAMI

Caddo Head Pot, 2005
Jeri Redcorn (Caddo/Potawatomi, b. 1939),
Norman, Oklahoma
Pottery, pigments
NMAI purchase from the artist, 2005

Health

Dr. Tonemah provides insight about trauma's impact on the brain

BY DERRICK TIGER
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Dr. Darryl Tonemah, a Native health psychologist who has been leading health seminars on Seminole reservations in recent months, returned to the Hollywood health complex March 27 to provide insight on understanding the effects trauma has on the human brain.

According to numerous studies, trauma impacts three areas of the brain: the prefrontal cortex also referred to as the "Thinking Center;" the anterior cingulate cortex also known as the "Emotion Regulation Center;" and the amygdala, which is called the "Fear Center."

All three of these parts of the brain are altered when trauma occurs. The "Thinking Center" and "Emotion Regulation Center" become underactive while the "Fear Center" becomes overactive.

Tonemah said the brain registers memories as having a beginning, middle and end. However, when it is introduced to trauma the brain only accounts when it started, when it occurred, but never processes it as having an ending.

"The level of trauma is determined by the level of activation," Tonemah said. "And all that is relative to the person. There's not

just one thing because each of us are put together differently, your brain is put together differently and things that happen prenatally and genetically all determine how big of an event this is to that part of the brain."

Tonemah also stated that the brain is most susceptible to trauma in childhood.

"When you come into the world the brain is only 17 percent done developing, so what it does is it says 'How is the world? And how do I need to adjust?'" Tonemah said. "And if the world is alcoholic, if the world is chaotic, if the world is abusive, if the world is cold, if the world is non-nurturing, if the world is distant, then the brain adjusts to how it needs to survive in that world."

One factor to take into account, according to Tonemah, is that when trauma occurs it is not stored in the "logic" center of the brain, so a person suffering from traumatic stress may not respond to logical questions. Tonemah — who has a degree in psychology — believes talk therapy to be less effective when dealing with trauma so he approaches it as more of a physiological process.

"What I'm concerned about is how are you feeling right now?" Tonemah said. "The event is over. When somebody is talking to me they're not going to be able to go back and change the event. What their most concerned



Dr. Darryl Tonemah has been leading seminars in recent months on Seminole reservations, including Hollywood on March 27.

Derrick Tiger

about is how it feels in them. If I had a picture of someone who hit me 25 years ago but it means nothing to me—if it has no weight in me—that's reconciliation. The memory will

still be there so the question is, 'how much weight does it have?'"

A physical action he suggests for managing overwhelming traumatic stress is

basic controlled breathing which affects the stress center of the brain, reducing anxiety and increasing alertness.

Task force formed on protecting Native children in IHS system

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — President Donald J. Trump announced March 26 the formation of a Presidential Task Force on Protecting Native American Children in the Indian Health Service System. According to a White House press release, Trump has charged the task force with investigating the institutional and systemic breakdown that failed to prevent a predatory pediatrician

from sexually assaulting children while acting in his capacity as a doctor in the Indian Health Service. The pediatrician left the agency in 2016 and is now in Federal prison.

The task force will be co-chaired by Joseph Grogan, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, and the Honorable Trent Shores, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma and citizen of the Choctaw Nation.

NIHB elects new executive board

FROM PRESS RELEASE

In February, during the National Indian Health Board's 2019 quarterly board of directors meeting, members of the board held elections for the positions of chairperson, vice-chair, member-at-large, and secretary. The new NIHB Executive Committee Members are:

- Chairperson (2019-2021): Victoria

Kitcheyan, Great Plains Area, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

- Vice-Chair (2019-2020): William Smith, Alaska Area, Valdez Native Tribe
- Secretary (2019-2021): Lisa Elgin, California Area, Manchester-Pt. Arena Band of Pomo Indians

- Member-at-Large (2019-2020): Andrew Joseph Jr., Portland Area, Confederated Tribes of the Colville

Reservation

- The position of Treasurer is continuing its current term and is held by Samuel Moose, Bemidji Area, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Native American nutrition conference to be held in September

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The fourth annual Conference on Native American Nutrition will be held at the Mystic Lake Center in Prior Lake, Minnesota from Sept. 15-18. The conference will bring together tribal officials, researchers, practitioners and others to discuss the current state of Indigenous and academic scientific knowledge about Native nutrition

and food science, and identify new areas of work.

Sessions will explore youth voices, urban and rural nutrition issues, best practices for collaboration between Native communities and academic researchers, and more. The event will also be held in conjunction with the Native American Journalists Association's annual National Native Media Conference.

In addition to programming exclusively related to Native nutrition, the two conferences will have joint sessions that will focus on telling the stories of the work in Native food and nutrition.

Early bird pricing on conference registration ends July 15. For more information visit seedsofnativehealth.org.

Healing the Circle Symposium to be held in Hollywood

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — The Healing the Circle in Our Tribal Communities Symposium will be held Oct 15-17 at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood.

The focus of the symposium is to bring awareness of the importance of safe and healthy environments for Native people. Training will provide advocates and survivors cutting edge content and in-depth

information on women's empowerment along with positive healthy relationships.

Topics for the symposium (including but not limited to): domestic violence, positive healthy relationships, self-care/love, women's empowerment, elder abuse awareness and missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Register at NativeLearningCenter.com/Healing. For more information call the NLC at 954-985-2315.



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Crowning at FSU Homecoming

Toy Drive for DiMaggio Children's hospital

Cheyenne Kippenberger and Clarice DeMayo at Speckle Perch

SEMINOLE SCENES



BINGO-N-BBQ: We Do Recover hosted a BBQ April 4 for the Immokalee seniors and community. Although the weather was cloudy and windy, it didn't put out the flames in the massive grills or disturb the rousing bingo game under the chickee. Josh Garza, left, cuts the ribs as Lee Jumper and Billie Tiger, above, grill the burgers.

Beverly Bidney



GRANDPA LOVE: In the shade of the chickee, Douglas Osceola enjoys the company of his granddaughter Jaden Osceola-Haltorf at the Naples Earth Day celebration April 22.

Beverly Bidney



HARD ROCK HEALS: At right, in March, the Hard Rock Heals Foundation makes a \$10,000 donation to the onePulse Foundation, a 501(c) 3 incorporated by the owners of Pulse Nightclub and created following the 2016 mass shooting at the club in Orlando. Donations to the foundation are used for the construction and operation of an official memorial and museum, community grants and educational programs and scholarships. "We would like to sincerely thank Hard Rock Hotel at Universal Orlando and the Hard Rock Heals Foundation for their charitable donation of \$10,000. Your incredible generosity and continued support are invaluable in making our vision a reality," onePulse said on its Facebook page.

onePulseFoundation/Facebook



NAVO SCENES: At left, Salina Dorgan, from the Tribe's recreation department, holds up a 2019 NAYO basketball shirt which she designed the back of for the tournament which was held April 25-26 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood. The shirts turned out to be a popular item; they were just about soldout by late afternoon on the second day. At right, spectators Jeremy Smith, Jack Smith, Leona Johnson and Javaris Johnson show their support while watching a game. The annual youth tournament featured hundreds of Native American players from the Seminole, Choctaw, Cherokee, Seneca, Poarch Creek and Miccosukee tribes and other tribes.

Kevin Johnson (2)



Beverly Bidney

MORNING AT CAMP- As the early morning sun shines through the live oaks and chickees, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School teachers and students work in the Brighton culture camp April 17 as they participate in the school's annual culture days.



GONE FISHIN': Above, Big Cypress recreation employee Marcus Thompson helps kids do some fishing March 27 off the Eight Clans Bridge during the department's spring break camp. At right, Jayde Billie and Jaden Henderson spend an afternoon at the fishing hole, or canal, during the camp.

Beverly Bidney (2)

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

New law and policy firm boasts majority ownership by Native women

Harold Big Fire was a fighter, a boxer. But when a car accident stole his left arm, the Winnebago father had to find another way to support his family.

So he became a heavy equipment operator.

"I mean, who drives heavy equipment with one arm? He did," said Lance Morgan, president and CEO of Ho-Chunk Inc., the Winnebago Tribe's economic development corporation.

Recently, Morgan began searching for names for a new law firm he planned to launch, and he said he couldn't think of a better one than his grandfather's.

"He pretty much was the toughest guy I knew in my life, and I like the idea of honoring his name and his image and especially on something that hopefully creates some permanence in Indian Country."

[Recently], Morgan and seven other attorneys launched the Big Fire Law and Policy Group, a new law firm borne out of Morgan's former legal partnership – Fredericks, Peebles and Morgan – which Morgan and several of Big Fire's attorneys recently left.

Big Fire's six partners are Morgan, Leonika Charging, Sheila Corbine, Nicole Ducheneaux, Burton Warrington and Danelle Smith. Two other attorneys, Joseph V. Messineo and Michael Novotny, join the firm as senior associate and associate, respectively.

With four of its six partners being women, Big Fire is one of the first law firms in the country owned by a majority of Native women.

"That makes us unique in Indian Country," Morgan said.

Charging, a citizen of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, said she's hopeful Big Fire will serve as a shield for Indian Country, representing tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Native corporations and tribal gaming enterprises, among others.

She said she decided to become a lawyer after seeing the impact of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program on her tribe in North Dakota.

The federal flood control project flooded much of the productive land on the Fort Berthold Reservation, as well as the homes and lands of hundreds of tribal families. Charging said she understood then that her people, and all Native people, needed competent attorneys to protect their interests from public and private encroachment.

She said a Native-owned law firm brings expertise to Native law issues that non-Native-owned law firms can't by being able to understand the challenges facing tribes.

And Charging said she's particularly gratified to be able to work for a law firm that appreciates the value of diversity within its ranks. She said many law firms simply aren't concerned with understanding why so few women serve as partners or supervisors within their organizations.

"We're beyond that," she said of Big Fire. "We're built on a foundation of diversity. We're built on a foundation of gender equity, pay equity and providing opportunity for attorneys of color."

Morgan said Big Fire plans to add three more attorneys, making it one of the larger law firms in the country practicing Indian law. And unlike many of those large law firms, which don't usually focus on Native law, Big Fire's primary mission will be to serve its Native clients.

He said an explosion of economic development in Indian Country has provided greater opportunity and need for Native attorneys to protect tribal interests. He said his goal is to create the largest Native-owned law firm in the country within the next five to 10 years.

"We want to create the 800-pound gorilla in our world, and we want it to be Native-controlled," Morgan said.

He said the firm's attorneys bring with them valuable life experiences, having served as tribal judges, tribal economic development executives and elected tribal leaders.

Among them is Warrington, a citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, who served for five years as the CEO of his tribe's economic development corporation.

Warrington said his experiences inform his approach to Native legal issues and inspire him to continue seeking to protect tribal interests.

"Because of our ancestors, we're here now, and it's on our shoulders to keep this fight up in a little different way," he said.

"For us, it's being attorneys and contributing to the preservation and advancement of our tribal rights."

- Indianz.com

Flooding hits Pine Ridge Reservation

Flooding that has hit parts of the Midwest hard has nearly paralyzed an American Indian reservation in southern South Dakota, swamping roads, trapping people in homes and cutting off water supplies to thousands.

The situation on the sprawling Pine Ridge Reservation was improving Tuesday, but two weeks of severe flooding could put the Oglala Sioux tribe in recovery mode for months, if not longer, and deal a serious blow to its economy, President Julian Bear Runner said.

"This is going to have a devastating

effect on us, I feel," he said. "The tribe is utilizing any and all of its resources to try to help the communities that have been impacted."

The prairie reservation is roughly the size of Delaware and Rhode Island combined and is home to nearly 20,000 people, about half living in poverty, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics. Heavy snowfall and a rapid melt this month led to overland flooding, swollen creeks and rivers, swamped roads and broken water lines.

- Argusleader.com

New Mexico replaces Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day

New Mexico will no longer celebrate Columbus Day on the second Monday of October, instead opting for a holiday honoring Native Americans.

Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Tuesday signed a measure that creates Indigenous Peoples' Day and nixes Columbus Day from the list of official state holidays, according to the Albuquerque Journal. The bill sailed through the legislature earlier this year.

New Mexico joins a growing number of states and municipalities that are replacing the holiday celebrating Columbus with a day honoring indigenous peoples, though the federal holiday remains in place. The changes are in response to a growing controversy over the validity of honoring Columbus as a hero because of his treatment of indigenous people.

The New Mexico measure was introduced by state Rep. Derrick Lente, a Democrat and a member of the Sandia Pueblo tribe in central New Mexico, the Albuquerque Journal reports. New Mexico has 23 American Indian nations and tribes.

- usnews.com

U.S. lawmakers introduce bill to protect Native American site from drilling

New Mexico lawmakers introduced a bill to protect federal lands around the Chaco Canyon from drilling and mining, attempting to permanently shield the Native American cultural site from recurring attempts at oil and gas leasing.

U.S. Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich and U.S. Representatives Ben Ray Lujan and Deb Haaland introduced the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act, which would bar any future leasing or development of minerals owned by the U.S. government located within a 10-mile protected radius of the area.

The Federal Bureau of Land Management had deferred a planned lease sale of around 1,500 acres within 10 miles of the park in February after strong public opposition. It was the third attempt by the administration to offer those lands for leasing.

"Even as archaeologists are making exciting new discoveries about this region – and even as Tribes and the American public speak out in overwhelming support of protecting this precious landscape – Chaco is being threatened by expanding energy development, including recently proposed leasing inside this long-standing buffer zone," Udall said in a statement.

The Navajo Nation, as well as the All Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG) backed the legislation, which they said would protect sacred sites from development and environmental destruction.

"This land is a part of our histories as tribal nations, and holds life-affirming resources that many of our Pueblos still remember and use," said All Pueblo Council of Governors Chairman E. Paul Torres. "Once these areas are developed, they are gone forever."

- Yahoo! News

Louisiana tribe protects historic sites with oyster shells

A wall of oyster shells has been erected near Montegut to protect historical Native American mounds threatened by erosion and sea level rise.

The partially-submerged wall was completed this month by the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL), Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe and more than 100 volunteers. They spent weeks hauling and placing about 200 tons of shells gathered from New Orleans-area restaurants.

The wall will act as an artificial reef, fostering the growth of oysters and other marine life while protecting a collection of mounds valued by members of the tribe.

"Our ancestors made these mounds, so we won't just stand by while they are washed away," Pointe-au-Chien member Donald Dardar said.

"We like that the oyster bed will be good for other fish, too, since we're mostly commercial fishermen here," added Theresa Dardar, Donald's wife.

The oyster reef is the second built by CRCL in Louisiana. In 2016, the organization finished a half-mile-long reef in St. Bernard Parish using more than 4,000 tons of recycled shells.

Cheyenne Kippenberger: Miss Indian World



Damon Scott

Above, Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger does a traditional Seminole hair demonstration during the talent competition April 27 at the Miss Indian World Pageant in New Mexico. Below, Cheyenne enters the arena on the final night of the competition. More than 10,000 people filled the arena.



Damon Scott (3)

At right, Wanda Bowers gives two thumbs up after Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger became the first Seminole Tribal member to win Miss Indian World. Standing with her are Cheyenne's father Joe Kippenberger and to his right Cheyenne's grandmother Lawanna Osceola-Niles, who was Miss Florida Seminole in 1960. At far right is current Miss Jr. Florida Seminole Clarice DeMayo. Below, Cheyenne sports a smile with other contestants during the competition.

See complete coverage of the new Miss Indian World in the May 31 issue of the Tribune.



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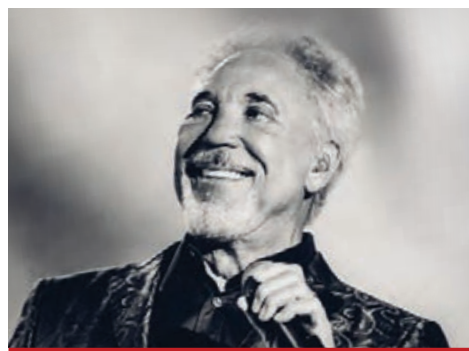
MAY 5
EVANESCENCE



MAY 9
WANDA SYKES
LIVE ON STAGE



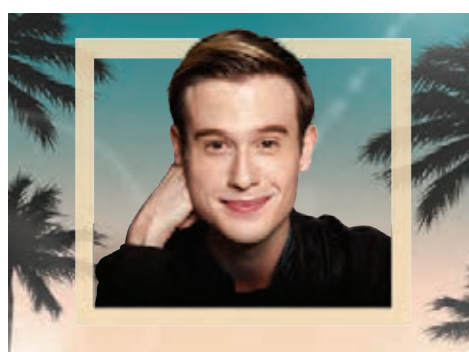
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RUMBLE AT THE ROCK V
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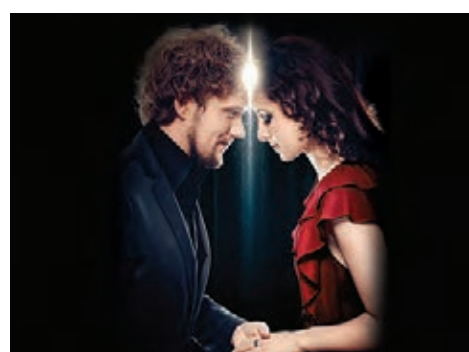
MAY 11
TOM JONES



MAY 25
AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH
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Education

B

Aubee Billie stars in 'Miss Saigon'

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

WEST PALM BEACH — If you think "Miss Saigon" is simply a girl meets boy love story, or in this case, a Vietnam teen meets American GI love story, think again.

And if you think Aubee Billie is just a typical 15-year-old high school student, think again.

For three captivating hours on a Thursday evening in April, Billie, a sophomore at The King's Academy, whisked the audience on an emotional roller-coaster ride with a riveting performance that culminated with a thundering standing ovation and an abundance of well-deserved praise at the school's Page Family Center for Performing Arts in West Palm Beach.

Acing the play's lead role of Vietnamese teenager Kim during and after the Vietnam War, Billie flawlessly ventured through the peaks and valleys of a turbulent teenage and young adult life precariously occupied by abandonment, romance, marriage, motherhood, love triangle, murder, suicide and war in besieged Saigon in the mid-1970s.

But this lead role in The King's Academy Theatre Company production did more than shine a bright spotlight on the daughter of James and Maria Billie; it also brought her closer to her dad's military past, which she grasped to further her role and understanding of the war.

"The way I relate to it is from my dad because he served in the Vietnam War for two years," Billie said, "so hearing his stories and most of the scenes in there are actually what guys did, like them going to bars and them getting girls and paying for girls and stuff like that. I relate to the story through my dad and through research and seeing the pictures and how [the women] climbed up the gates just to get freedom and just to survive."

James Billie, a former chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, attended nearly every performance of "Miss Saigon" during its two-week run that ended April 13.

"This is not what you call high school



Amber Loveland/The King's Academy

Aubee Billie, center, performs in The King's Academy Theatre Company's production of "Miss Saigon" in April. Billie, a sophomore at The King's Academy in West Palm Beach, played the leading role of Kim, a Vietnamese teen who falls in love with an American GI during the Vietnam War.

drama; this is Broadway-show quality," he said.

James Billie was an airborne trooper in the U.S. Army who served in Vietnam in the mid-to-late 1960s.

"I went over there with the 101st Airborne, but then once you get there it don't matter who you're with, when the outfit needs some people, they just put you in there," James Billie said. "The 25th infantry from Hawaii was really get their rear-ends kicked. They had a bad battle and

they needed replacements, so I was one of the replacements."

It wasn't the play's war scenes, however, that tugged at his heart the most; rather it was when Kim sends her young son to America and waves goodbye, a somber moment reminiscent of one that happened in James Billie's life when he was a kid.

"The touchy part was not because of Vietnam. The last time I saw my mother she was at Broward General Hospital, second floor, waving to us good-bye. Two days later

she was dead," James Billie said. "That was touching."

James Billie said his daughter caught the acting and singing bug at about age 11 or 12 when she told her parents she wanted to go to a summer fine arts camp in New York. She's returned to the camp in ensuing summers.

"This year I asked her if she is going to go back," James Billie said. "She said, 'No. When I came to [The King's Academy], everything I wanted is right here.'"

Nearly all the credited roles in "Miss Saigon" belonged to juniors and seniors, but Aubee Billie, as a sophomore, managed to capture the lead.

"She's 15 and she's remarkable," is how The King's Academy artistic director David Snyder described Aubee to the audience prior to the start of the April 11 performance.

Before the end of the night, audience members, who included some Seminoles, concurred with Snyder's critique.

"I think she's spectacular and one of the great up-and-coming Native American stars," said Spencer Battiest, who is already an accomplished singer and actor. "For me and my career, it makes me so happy because that's what I want to see, I want to see that generation take it further than I ever could."

Aubee Billie saw Battiest perform in the Native American play "Distant Thunder."

"That was her first time in New York," Battiest said. "It was a cool experience to have here there. And now, two years later, to see her on stage in a role like this, I feel like a proud brother. She has a beautiful voice and she's going to be a star."

Joni Josh, who worked in the chairman's office when James Billie was chairman, remembered Aubee's visits and her voice.

"She's great. She'd come into the office and sing. She'd sing everything. She's really taken off. I'm so proud of her," Josh said.

Praise for Billie's performance extended beyond the Tribe, too. Theatre-goer Jerry Waldman didn't have to wait until the end of the play to give a thumbs up.

"She's terrific. She's 15-years-old. She's wonderful," Waldman said during intermission.

The audience witnessed what Snyder, the director, has appreciated ever since Billie earned the role.

"Every night I sit back and I wonder where is she getting all this from as a 15-year-old. She comes out on stage and immediately the audience is engaged with her. Immediately, the moment she walks on stage there's something about her presence," Snyder said.

♦ See AUBEE BILLIE on page 6B

Seminole Tribe honors defending national champion Seminoles

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Any time Florida State University and the University of Florida meet in athletics the competitions carry additional significance thanks to the matchup being one of the best rivalries in the nation, no matter the sport.

When the defending national champion Seminoles softball team hosted the Gators on April 17 there was even more magnitude than usual.

Both teams were ranked in the top six in the country. More than 1,800 fans — the third largest home crowd in FSU history — filled JoAnne Graf Field for the Wednesday night showdown. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis threw out the first pitch. And the Seminole Tribe was represented in a pregame ceremony by Richard Osceola, who presented FSU coach Lonnie Alameda with a framed portrait of a woman that he referred to as "Mother Morningstar" and a medallion of the Mother on a necklace. The presentations were made in recognition of FSU's national championship squad from a year ago.

"We're honoring [coach Alameda] with the success she's had here," Osceola said, "and being a woman's team, we thought it would be nice to give her a portrait of a lady."

Osceola explained that the portrait and medallion represent wisdom among other things and that each clan has a "Mother Morningstar" or someone of similar ilk.

"She's a wisdom woman. She has a lot

of Indian wisdom and culture and life itself," Osceola said.

The portrait was made by Leroy Osceola and was presented on behalf of Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.'s office. The medallion was made by Tina Marie Osceola and was presented on behalf of President Mitchell Cypress's office.

Alameda treasures the relationship between FSU and the Tribe.

"It was a great honor to host the Seminole Tribe for the game and it is a continual privilege to represent the Seminoles every day as the head coach of the FSU softball team," Alameda wrote in an email to the Tribune. "It is outstanding to have the relationship that we do with the Tribe and how often they are willing to come up and share the stories of their history, or be gracious and hospitable to us when we are down in South Florida. I aspire to be everything that Mother Morningstar represents in being a strong leader and will treasure the portrait and the necklace forever. As head coach of the FSU softball program, I not only want to develop the young women into the best players and students that they can be, but also to educate them on what the Seminole Tribe represents and their long history. We appreciate our relationship with the Tribe and how we are part of a communal family."

As for the game, FSU fell to UF, 4-0, but the Seminoles rebounded right away, winning their next six games as of April 27 and upping their record to 44-8.



Ryals Lee (2)

Above, Richard Osceola presents Florida State softball coach Lonnie Alameda with gifts on behalf of the Seminole Tribe's Tribal Council and Board of Directors during a pregame ceremony April 17 before FSU's home game against Florida. Below, generations of the Osceola family attend FSU's game against Florida.



Ryals Lee

Florida State shortstop Cali Harrod shakes hands with Richard Osceola, who made a pregame presentation on behalf of the Seminole Tribe's Tribal Council and Board of Directors.



Living, learning history at PECS culture camp

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School students brought history to life in April as they learned to live as their ancestors did at culture camp.

The annual culture camp days featured age-appropriate hands-on tasks and activities on April 17 for grades 7-8 and April 18 for grades 4-6. On the first day, the older students learned to scale and clean fish, break down cabbage palms to make swamp cabbage and played traditional games such as horseshoes and corn hole.

Most of the day's activities were gender specific: boys slaughtered and butchered a 250-pound hog, carved spears from cypress wood, shot arrows at animal-shaped targets and threw tomahawks. Girls prepared the traditional meal, which included pork, fish, frybread, swamp cabbage, sweet potatoes, green beans, rice and stew with gravy. They also cleaned and roasted three water turtles, ground corn and made roasted corn sofkee, tossed skillet and learned to create traditional Seminole hairstyles.

"Learning this will help me survive in the wilderness if anything happens," said eighth-grader Tatiana Torres, 15. "It's cool and fun learning what our ancestors used to do; they were smart."

Girls listened and watched around a table as Helene Buster demonstrated how to make fry bread light and fluffy. She told them the key is not to work the dough too much or it will get hard when it is cooked.

Most of the students have been learning culture throughout their time at PECS and have attended culture camp before. For eighth-graders, this was their last time spending the day under the oaks and chickees at the Brighton camp.

"I try not to think about this as my last year, this school has been a home to me," said eighth-grader Winnie Gopher, 13. "I've learned respect for the elders who come out and do this with us; they don't have to. It humbles me. Every time I come out here, they teach me more and more."

Brighton elders come to help every year with a mission to pass the culture on to the next generations.

"We do it so the culture can continue," Alice Sweat said. "Someone has to teach these things, we aren't going to be around forever. The girls are eager to learn. Hopefully they can add this to their modern homes."

Culture used to be taught in clans by family members, but accommodations are made for today's modern lifestyles.



PECS eighth-grade girls show off their traditional hairstyles in a formal portrait at the Brighton culture camp April 17.

Beverly Bidney

year. Eighth-grader Shyllyn Testerman, 14, will miss having it in the future, but she plans to keep learning from her great-grandmother Emma Fish.

Seventh-graders noticed a marked difference in camp now that they are the older students. Tasks and responsibilities are quite different as a younger student.

"We stand out here longer and help out more," said seventh-grader CeCe Thomas, 13. "When we're younger they don't trust us as much. Now they let us cook by the fire. I see how hard our ancestors had to work just to cook a meal. I'm thankful for what we have now, but I don't take it for granted."

Instead of the usual legends storytelling sessions during the day, this year the boys and girls were divided up for discussion about Seminole life. Andy Buster met with the boys while Sweat, Jenny Shore and Helene Buster talked to the girls. Their approaches were quite different, but equally interesting.

Andy Buster aimed to tell the boys about what it means to be a Seminole man. He spoke as the boys sat in a semi-circle

one Creator."

Buster gave advice for living an honorable life and told the boys to stay focused on what they are doing, where they are and why. Follow rules. Be aware of every word they speak, be precise. Observe so they can learn what is going on.

"You need to be knowledgeable enough to provide for the family," he said. "You can do anything you want if you put your minds to it and try hard. Take care of your body so it will last a long time. Stay strong. I never use the word power, I use energy and knowledge. The Creator has all the power."

Over at the girls' discussion, the women talked about practical matters that pertain to females.

"Every month you have to take care of yourself," Shore said. "Use a special plate and silverware during that time and don't share food with other girls or boys."

"I used to have to go eat by myself," added Helene Buster. "We weren't allowed to swim, ride horses or sit at the table with other people. We were told we would make the boys sick."

"You are blessed," Sweat said. "We at STOF are all blessed. I encourage you to use your money wisely; take care of yourself and your children with it."

Traditionally, Seminole men have always been providers of food for the family while the women have always cooked the meals.

"Women ate last because you want the men to stay healthy so they could bring food

home to the family," Buster explained. "If you were a good cook, you made sure to make enough so you could eat too."

The discussion then turned to marriage and the importance of marrying into the Tribe to maintain it.

"You can't help who you fall in love with, but you want to try to keep the Seminole blood," Buster said. "You need to learn the stuff we are doing here so you can pass it on to your children."

More pearls of wisdom were shared with the girls.

"Learn to sew, do beadwork and make crafts," Shore said. "Learn your language. Language is who you are; if you lost that, you lose everything."

"Use the words you learn in class," added Buster. "If you use them, you will get used to speaking. You all know a lot of words; just use them in conversation with each other."

After the girls served lunch, the students went to the other activities. Girls learned to make the hairstyle often seen in black and white photos of ancestors in the Everglades. The hair is wrapped around a piece of cardboard and kept in place with a net.

"They wore it that way to block the sun," said culture instructor Jade Osceola. "We wore it instead of a hat; we probably couldn't have afforded a hat."

By the end of the day, kids had experienced a time gone by.

"This has taught me to respect my elders, cherish my culture and learn everything I can while I can," said eighth-grader Pherian Baker, 14. "It's important to me and I want it to be around for my grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

The message to learn the culture and use it or lose it was a strong one.

"We went from doing everything for ourselves to being able to pay someone to do things for us," Helene Buster said. "A little bit of knowledge is better than none. Two days of culture camp probably isn't enough, but it gives them a taste of the culture."



Teachers and students worked together to make sure these water turtles were on the lunch menu. The turtles needed to be cleaned out, which as it turns out, wasn't an easy task.

"Even though we aren't their family, the elders in the community come together to teach it and pass it on," Buster said. "Every clan has their own ways and the kids have to learn those from them. We teach the general things; I always tell them this is the way I was taught."

Students appreciate the opportunity to learn and look forward to culture camp every

around him.

"At the very beginning, there was nothing," Buster said. "But the Creator had a plan. He wanted somebody to look after the land so he took clay, made it into the image of himself and blew on it. That was the first man. We came from his breath and his spirit. No matter what people call it, there is only



Ohnie Osceola observes as students take turns grinding roasted corn fine enough to make sofkee.

Beverly Bidney



Davey Snow shows Pherian Baker and Jarrett Beecham how to butcher a hog. All the boys at the PECS culture camp participated in preparing the hog for the girls to cook.



Jenny Shore shows Jaime Smith how to create the iconic Seminole hairstyle.

Beverly Bidney

Tribal preschools celebrate Week of the Young Child together

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Oozing with cuteness, hundreds of preschoolers from Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee and Hollywood gathered together to celebrate the Week of the Young Child at a carnival just for them April 12 in Big Cypress.

The youngsters were kept busy and happy in bounce houses, ball pits, a petting zoo, playing carnival games and being dazzled by a clown as their teachers and parents tried to keep up with them.

The Week of the Young Child emphasizes the importance early childhood programs have on children's lives. Founded in 1971, the annual event is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

"The focus of the Week of the Young Child is to remind everyone that the first 1,000 days of life are so important," said BC Preschool Center Manager Andrea Jumper. "Preschool creates sensory rich activities that develop social, emotional, cognitive and language skills. It looks like fun, but it all has a purpose."

In addition to the carnival games and bounce houses, Tribal departments set up

activities and shared information under the chickees on the Junior Cypress Rodeo grounds.

"I want families to know they aren't alone in raising their children," Jumper said. "These departments are their support system."

This was the first time preschools tribal wide joined together for an activity, but it likely won't be the last.

"The Tribe always likes to do activities for all age groups," said Executive Director of Administration Lee Zepeda. "The departments all wanted to be a part of it and everyone stepped up. We want to continue this going forward."



Beverly Bidney (4)

Scenes from the preschool carnival April 12 in Big Cypress: far left, Paisley Doctor sits patiently as she gets her face painted with swirls of color; top center, Mama Clown entertains the kids with magic; bottom center, Khiyan Hodge brushes a baby pig in the petting zoo; above, Indigo Jumper and Bibi Osceola enjoy some cold, sweet shaved ice from the Snow Kone Factory booth.

PECS Students of the Month March 2019

Elementary School

Isabella Virto
Madeline Solis
Claire Randolph
Jeremy Jones
Alakai Bert
Bentley Osceola
Kylo Cochran
Marley Cypress
Joshua Torres

Urijah Bowers
Josiah Gopher
Ana Banda
Jayshawn Henderson
Bobbi Osceola
Daliyah Nunez
Joleyne Nunez
Kiera Snell
Devon Mitchell
Alyssa Madrigal
Lason Baker

Brandon Gabbard
Etanis Torres
Kaison Bush

Middle School

Keenan Jones
Marcos Reyna
Karlyne Urbina
Caitlin Olivarez



Ahfachkee wins SECME teamwork award

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Ahfachkee middle school students brought home the JJ Teamwork Award from the SECME Competition on March 16 in Broward County.

The Southeastern Consortium for Minorities in Engineering, founded in 1975, is an alliance of K-12 educators, universities, industry and government partners committed to engaging and preparing more minorities and girls for college and careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Overall, 109 Broward County schools participated in the competition in some capacity. On the day of the event, 82 teams competed at Cooper City High School. The theme was Star Wars. The Ahfachkee teams participated in Banner, Mousetrap Powered Cars and Water Rockets competitions.

The "JJ" Teamwork Award gauges how well

the team works together. Judges, volunteers and community partners spent the day judging the criteria for the award, which included team spirit, sportsmanship, character and SECME citizenship.

"Our students are setting an amazing example out in the community. We are very proud of our middle school students who

participated," Principal Dorothy Cain wrote in an email.

Members of the Ahfachkee teams were fourth-graders Jaleesa Hill and Thelma Tigertail; fifth-graders Curtis Smith, Layla Billie, Tommi Stockton, Lena Cypress, Sautva Billie and Tahnia Billie; seventh-grader Thomas Tigertail and eighth-grader Ramona Jimmie.



Courtesy Ahfachkee School

Mrs. Oliva, Jaleesa Hill, Laylah Billie, Thomas Tigertail, Tommi Stockton, Tahnia Billie, Ramona Jimmie, Lena Cypress, Ms. Lampon and Curtis Smith.

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Jetta Osceola wins Jackie Robinson Breaking Barriers essay contest

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — In February, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students learned that life is about breaking barriers, just as baseball legend Jackie Robinson did when he started for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

By being the first black baseball player to play on a major league team, Robinson was the epitome of what it means to break barriers and change the world. PECS students took inspiration from Robinson's core values, such as teamwork, patience and perseverance, and crafted essays about obstacles they have faced for the Scholastic Breaking Barriers Essay Contest.

The national contest for grades 4-9 had two grand prize and eight MVP winners. PECS fifth-grader Jetta Osceola won an MVP award, which came with laptops for her and teacher Michelle Pritchard as well as a set of books written by Robinson's daughter Sharon Robinson.

"I am so very proud of Jetta," Pritchard wrote in an email. "Jetta's essay [is] very personal but as you read it, you can hear her playful spirit remind you that she is healing. What an honor and what a sweet blessing it was for all of my students. I pray they will want to enter this contest in the future -- as many of our students are overcoming barriers each day."

Here is Jetta's essay:

"A Kid Who Lost Her Dad"

I have the biggest barrier that most kids my age don't have. The barrier I have is that my dad passed away when I was in third grade. I am now in 5th grade but even as I grow older -- this barrier can level me and I become one sad little girl -- back in 3rd grade. Jackie's values that I relate to and use to overcome my barriers are persistence and courage. He was persistent and courageous as he played major league baseball in a time where it seems everyone hated him. I too, have to be persistent and courageous to remember my dad and move forward.

First of all, let me tell you about my dad. My dad was funny and sometimes he was very good to us! He would spoil us by buying us some dinner at fancy restaurants. Also, he would cook us some breakfast and dinner. He cooked really well. He took us to fun places, like Disney World or a water park. He was a good dad! However, there was some bad about my dad. The bad thing about my dad was that sometimes he was not around family. He was out doing bad



Jetta Osceola, center, and some of her PECS classmates hold copies of one of Sharon Robinson's books as they celebrate her win in the Jackie Robinson Breaking Barriers Essay Contest.

Courtesy photo

things like drugs. When I really began to realize that was happening and what he was doing, I was sad and mad. That would really hurt my mom, my two brothers, and me too. Sometimes he would come home late and we would not like that! In a nutshell, his drug problem sort of led to his death. He had used drugs too long and that made his body break down.

When my dad passed away, he was very sick. He was in the hospital with blood clots. When he got out of the hospital, he was fine for a couple of weeks or whatever, I don't know exactly how long. But, then the first day of school it happened. When I was at school, he went to his doctor to see if he was doing better. Actually that day he was not feeling good and the blood clots came back. He was driving my mom's car and he had parked somewhere close and went to sleep and passed away in his sleep. Again that was my first day of 3rd grade. It kind hits me hard each new school year. I am told he didn't suffer - but I did. My mom did. My brothers did.

Jackie was persistent on the field. He never quit. I wanted to quit school and just move away. Everyone kept asking me

questions about my dad and how he died. Many people knew he had been struggling with drugs and they assumed the drugs killed him when it was his blood clots. I really just wanted everyone to stop questioning because I was still trying to heal through the pain. My brothers were sad and my little brother really did not understand what was going on. My Mom was a basket-case and our family just really had a very hard time coping. It was a very hard time, but we had to persist and keep going. As I said, that was almost two full years ago, but it seems like it was just yesterday.

I am like Jackie in that I am persistent. Like Jackie, even though I did not want to go to school, I did. I still kept up with my work so I could get good grades and meet my goals. I am in the fifth grade now. When I am done with school, I am going to college. I want to go college for hair styling and makeup. Then my dad will be super proud of me! I also know the dangers of drugs and I will do my best to help my mom make sure that my brothers and I don't fall into the trap of addiction like my Dad did.

I will overcome the barrier of being just a kid who lost her dad.

Easter in Immokalee



Beverly Bidney (3)

The Immokalee community enjoys its Easter celebration April 16 with Easter egg hunts, egg tosses and plenty of food and friendship. Above, some adults try to keep raw eggs intact as they toss and catch them.

At right, Moleana Hall enjoys the sunny day with her grandson Mordaci Yzaguirre at the celebration. Below, Mark Jock keeps his eye on the ball, or egg, as he successfully catches it.



Easter celebration in Big Cypress



Kevin Johnson (5)

Scenes from Big Cypress's Easter celebration April 18 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena grounds: clockwise from top photo, youngsters dash to fill their baskets with Easter eggs; Kyrin Billie does a good job picking up Easter eggs with support from Kristen Billie and Zaylee Billie; a rare bumper-to-bumper traffic jam on the reservation; Aaneah Delgado soars on a zip line ride; Maddy Garza is all smiles at the face-painting table.





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Remembering T. K. Wetherell: FSU President 2003–2010

BY BROWNING BROOKS

From college freshmen to the most powerful politicians in Florida, all called him simply "T.K."

Florida State University President Emeritus Thomas Kent Wetherell, who passed away Dec. 16, 2018, at the age of 72, leaves a legacy as one of higher education's most dynamic and lifelong champions.

At the helm of his alma mater from 2003 to 2010, Wetherell was the first alumnus of Florida State to become its president and brought a wealth of experience and dedication to the institution that raised its stature on many levels.

After retiring from the presidency, Wetherell continued working to improve higher education as a professor in the College of Education and director of the Center for Higher Education Research, Teaching & Innovation.

"As a veteran lawmaker, tireless supporter of higher education and then as president, T.K. used his energy and intellect to not only lead FSU through a severe budget crisis but to make sure it flourished in so many ways," said President John Thrasher. "He was a remarkable person and a great friend."

Under Wetherell's leadership, Florida State increased the academic quality of its students, the number of doctoral degrees awarded and the amount of research dollars it received, while experiencing a boom in campus building. Longtime former provost Larry Abele remembered Wetherell as

courageous and determined to see things through, no matter how formidable the task.

"T.K. was an amazing man who was able to accomplish so much because of his boundless energy and his ability to focus and continue working through any challenge," Abele said. "He was always optimistic that whatever project he was working on would be successful."

Soon after assuming office, Wetherell launched the ambitious Pathways of Excellence initiative that included hiring additional faculty members in interdisciplinary clusters built around academic themes, significant investments in graduate-level programs and \$800 million worth of new construction and renovations, including state-of-the-art chemistry, biological science, psychology and medicine buildings that transformed the northwest corner of campus into a research quadrangle.

Wetherell achieved a major coup in 2005 when Florida State lured the Applied Superconductivity Center from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where it had been housed for two decades. The center became the materials research division of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory.

A new Alumni Center, new general classroom building, parking garages, residence halls, dining halls and other projects followed. Wetherell took special interest in the \$33-million repurposing and renovation of Ruby Diamond Auditorium into one of the finest concert halls in the country.

Under Wetherell, the university saw its students reach unprecedented national academic recognition. He established the Office of National Fellowships in 2005, which guided students to win three Rhodes scholarships and dozens of other competitive national awards.

He established the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors, now called the Center for Undergraduate Research and Academic Engagement, which allowed undergraduate students to work directly with professors beyond the classroom, and innovative programs dramatically increased retention and graduation rates.

"In addition, beyond expanding academic programs and facilities, T.K. made sure that space for student life kept pace," said former Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Coburn, citing the addition of the Dunlap Student Success Center, the Center for Global and Multicultural Engagement, and the Health and Wellness Center. "He was a tireless advocate for students and valued the importance of growth and learning beyond the classroom."

Under Wetherell, the College of Medicine graduated its first class, in 2005, opened six regional campuses and established research collaborations with the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville and Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare.

And it was Wetherell who pushed successfully for Florida's public universities to assess a tuition differential in an effort to make up for budget shortfalls and continue

to offer high-quality education to students. This laid the groundwork for preeminence funding later.

A career educator who served in the Florida House of Representatives 1980-1992, including two years as House Speaker, Wetherell earned his bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as a doctorate in education administration, from Florida State.

He served as president of Tallahassee Community College 1995-2001. Previously, he was president of Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida and was responsible for coordinating and promoting postsecondary higher educational opportunities and programs in the state's private colleges.

Wetherell had served in a number of positions at Daytona State College, including provost and dean of instruction. Before that, he was associate professor of education at Bethune-Cookman College.

A native of Daytona Beach, Wetherell attended Florida State on a football scholarship and played on the 1963-1967 football teams.

Decades later, as president, he advocated a closer relationship with the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The university created a Seminole history course, began a new tradition of tribe members participating in every commencement ceremony and unveiled a bronze statue at the University Center depicting a Seminole family during the wars of the 1830s. In 2005, the Seminole Tribe of Florida approved a historic resolution supporting the university's use of the

Seminole name and honored Wetherell with an invitation to the Big Cypress Reservation.

Wetherell also devoted significant attention to a matter close to his heart: preserving and honoring the history of his alma mater through the Heritage Protocol Committee, construction of a Legacy Walk, restoring campus traditions such as Convocation, and campus beautification.

He and his wife, Virginia, left a permanent legacy with the creation of the stately President's House on West Tennessee Street. The house includes large areas for public events and was built and furnished completely with donated funds and materials.

As a result of Wetherell's advocacy and service, Florida State is a better university today, said Jim Smith, who served as chairman of the FSU Board of Trustees during Wetherell's tenure.

"Carole and I have had a wonderful relationship with T.K. and Ginger for many years," Smith said. "They are among our closest friends, and it was a special privilege to marry them in 1988. A highlight for me was to serve as chairman of the Board of Trustees during part of his presidency of FSU, where he did many wonderful things for Florida State and the Tallahassee community. His passing leaves a big hole in our lives."

This article is from December 2018 and is reprinted with permission from Florida State University News.



Remembering T. K. Wetherell: 'A great friend to the Tribe'

BY STEPHEN D. BOWERS

Florida State University (FSU) President T.K. Wetherell Requests Seminole Tribe Color Guard

Soon after the United States invaded Iraq in March of 2003, FSU President T.K. Wetherell sent a letter to the then Seminole Tribe Chairman, Mitchell Cypress, requesting the Seminole Tribe Color Guard at the school's Spring Graduation ceremonies in April. The Seminole Tribe Color Guard was asked to present the flags of the United States, Seminole Tribe of Florida, State of Florida and the POW/MIA flag. T.K. was also requesting that the Seminole Color Guard present the flags at all future commencement activities as well. Many FSU students that were in the National Guard had been deployed to Iraq as part of the invasion, and T.K. thought it would be good to recognize their participation by having the Seminole Color Guard present

the flags.

This request of President Wetherell was the first of many interactions between FSU and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The Seminole Tribe Color Guard first met President Wetherell at the President's Commencement dinner held in the FSU School of Law prior to the initial graduation ceremony on Friday night. It is tradition at FSU, and at most colleges/universities, to have dinner with university department heads, university officials and the graduation dignitaries. The dinner provides an opportunity to introduce the commencement speaker for that graduation class to the Board of Trustees, and students who gained special recognition. During the first dinner that the Seminole Color Guard attended, T.K. introduced the group which represented a first in FSU history.

NCAA Examines FSU's Use of Seminole Name

In early summer of 2005, a large effort by NCAA (National College Athletic

Association) began to encourage colleges/universities to discontinue use of American Indian/Native American mascots. The organization declared that the use of Indian mascots could only continue if schools obtained an official resolution from a tribe whose name was used that authorized the school to use the mascot name. President Wetherell knew of the long-standing good relationship between the Seminole Tribe and FSU, and he was very adamant about keeping this relationship. T.K. and FSU were truly inspirational in working with the Seminole Tribe to keep the name "Seminole" associated with the school.

Prior to the Seminole Tribal Council approving FSU to use the "Seminole" name, I realized that the NCAA was trying to discourage tribes from allowing colleges/universities to use their Indian name as mascots. It reminded me of a story that our former Seminole Tribal Councilman, Max Osceola, told me. Max and a group of Seminole motorcycle riders were on their way to Sturges in South Dakota when an official of the NCAA called Max on his cell

phone. The NCAA official questioned Max about the mascot issue. In a firm voice, Max told the official that "the Seminole people fought the U.S. government to a standstill. We are not bowing down to the NCAA!" To Max, it was history repeating itself again with non-Indians trying to tell Indians what to do.

On June 17, 2005 the Seminole Tribal Council gave approval to FSU to use the name "Seminole." In exchange, Seminole Tribe of Florida members could attend FSU tuition-free if they met the school's admission requirements. In the historical words of the Tribe's chairman at the time, Mitchell Cypress: "We could give Tribal members tangible items that could possibly one day be taken away from them, but FSU can give education to our people and that is something that no one can take away."

T.K. Wetherell Leaves Florida State University

T.K. announced his retirement as FSU President in 2009. At his last meeting with

FSU Trustees, T.K. stated "I want to do some teaching. I want some time to relax and travel...just be a real person." To me T.K. was always a real person and a great friend to the Tribe.

Seminole Tribe Color Guard Continues Today

The Seminole Tribe of Florida still has a presence at FSU commencement through the Seminole Police Department. Many of our law enforcement personnel served in Iraq.

I would like to think that we continue our Color Guard presence in honor of the late FSU President T.K. Wetherell.

Stephen D. Bowers served as a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Color Guard since it was formed many years ago. He had to stop performing with the group last year when he fell and shattered his knee cap.



Author's Seminole War book tries to cure historical 'amnesia'

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Author C.S. Monaco calls it the most dramatic event to take place in 19th century Florida. But it's one that is largely unknown – not just by those in the U.S. and abroad – but even to many who live in the state where it happened.

The event is the Second Seminole War, which took place largely in areas of central Florida from 1835 to 1842. Even though 177 years might seem long ago, Monaco argues that it's really only a handful of generations past.

Monaco said this last major conflict fought on American soil before the Civil War is significant for a number of reasons.

For one, he said, the early battlefield success of the Seminoles would greatly unnerve U.S. generals. They worried the Seminoles would ignite a rebellion among Indians who had been displaced by President Andrew Jackson's removal policies.

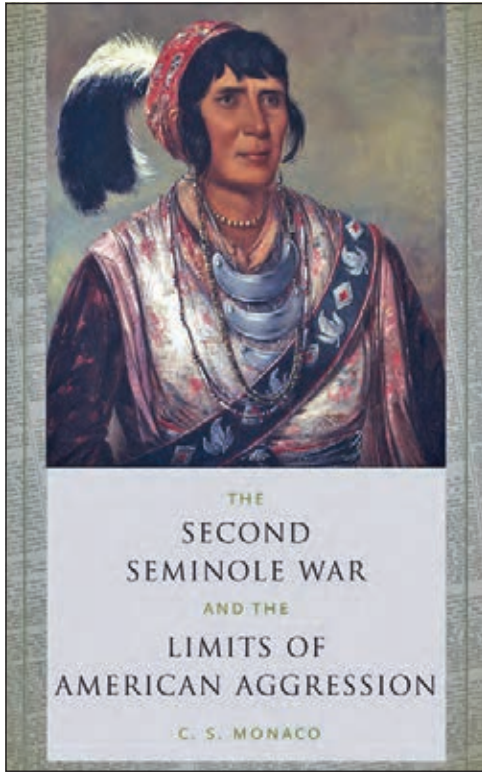
There was also the presence of black warriors among the Seminoles who would agitate southerners who were wary of real and potential slave revolt.

Monaco said the war would tarnish the U.S. Army's reputation at home and abroad. This was sped up after the capture of Seminole chief Osceola under the pretense of a truce.

Further, there were few decisive victories for the U.S. Army, and bad decisions were made along the way, Monaco said. Fifteen percent of soldiers died in Florida, out of a standing army of just 10,000 men.

Even though there was desertion and troops dealt with the harsh conditions in the Florida wilderness, the losses for the Seminoles were disastrous. By the war's end, only a few hundred would remain in the state.

Monaco's recently published book, his second, is "The Second Seminole War and



the Limits of American Aggression," which analyzes the impact of the war in society and the impact it made in Jacksonian America. He writes about the war through the lenses of race, media, public opinion, American expansion and military strategy.

Monaco is a courtesy professor of history in the Department of History at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He and his wife live in nearby Micanopy.

He spent 15 years in New York as a television executive before returning to Florida in 1995.

Book's origins – a war that 'loomed'

Monaco's first book is "Moses Levy of Florida: Jewish Utopian and Antebellum Reformer." He wrote it after a neighbor who was a professor at UF sparked his interest in the character. Levy, who lived from 1782 to 1854, was the father of David Levy Yulee, a big name in Florida as the first person of Jewish ancestry to be elected to serve as a U.S. senator.

"[Moses] Levy was totally ignored in history. He was a true individual of the Atlantic world. The British were fairly impressed with Levy, where the Abolitionist Movement is a big deal," Monaco said. "He was the first to disallow slavery, and a Jew from Florida showing up in London and making such an impact was unheard of."

Monaco said during his research, the Second Seminole War always loomed in the background.

"Levy's plantation was burned by the Seminoles. I was tempted to start a history of the Seminole War, but I knew I needed a breadth and scope of the study," Monaco said.

His interest peaked; Monaco would go on to earn his doctorate degree in England at Oxford Brookes University. He'd continue to research the Seminole War and its importance during the Territorial Period.

"I went back to the study of the war itself, to place it in perspective with the other wars," he said.

Why it's important

Monaco said a lot of history books are written through a strictly military lens. He set out to write his book with a broader perspective and to present both sides as equally as possible.

"Not to know [about the Seminole Wars] would be to sever oneself from the past, and that's to live a life that's diminished," Monaco said. "Culture heritage and history has become more important over the years,

the sense of continuity, what came before, your place in it, a psychological place of wellbeing."

Monaco said this yearning for historical context, intuitive but often subtle, is why people want to visit old places.

"It's important to one's psychology; and more and more in today's society, with technology, [it's] vital to our spiritual wellbeing – to get the story straight, the truth, not some kind of hype," he said.

The sentiment was reinforced in a recent op-ed Monaco wrote for the Gainesville Sun – "Shed the amnesia, embrace the past."

"If you ask any stranger in Gainesville, as I did recently, if they are familiar with the Second Seminole War, chances are that the reply will be a rather brisk, if somewhat mystified,

"No," Monaco wrote.

"If one persists and mentions that this seven-year, \$40 million military conflict actually started in Alachua County, then, an embarrassed laugh might ensue, as if such a thing defied all comprehension. If people remember anything about the war, it is usually vaguely connected to the Everglades; certainly not in this area."

Seminole connection

Monaco gives a lot of credit to Paul Backhouse as a key contact in the process of writing the book. Backhouse is the director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and officer at the Tribal Historic Preservation Office in Big Cypress, a clearinghouse for Seminole history.

During the course of his research, Monaco also organized a Second Seminole War day of commemoration in Micanopy in 2015 and invited Seminole Tribal members and members of the U.S. Army to attend.

He said it was a day he'll not soon forget, as about 700 people came – including Seminoles, U.S. Army veterans and members



Courtesy photo

C.S. Monaco is the author of 'The Second Seminole War and the Limits of American Aggression.'

of the public.

"It's a big thing to me and it should be to everyone who lives in Florida," he said. "We owe the Seminoles something. We took part in this ethnic cleansing, a removal of a Native population from the land in the most brutal way possible."

Monaco said the Seminoles had a heroic vision that was almost completely obliterated, and yet today the Tribe thrives like few other.

"It's worthy of respect and has to be known in our modern day culture in Florida," he said.

Monaco said he has formed a steering committee to explore the possibility of a Seminole Wars Museum.

"Should educators and historians simply put our hands up in dismay and accept the general decline in historical knowledge and leave it at that?" Monaco said in his op-ed.

The book is available through Johns Hopkins University Press or Amazon.

◆ AUBEE BILLIE From page 1B

Snyder said Billie is an ideal fit for the role of Kim which features plenty of singing.

"Aubee's voice is just so sweet and silky and beautiful," he said. "She opens up her mouth and that's exactly what I think the composers had intended when they wrote that role."

Snyder provided sort of a carpe diem pep talk to Billie before the first performance.

"Right before we opened [April 4], I told her your life is about to change and you don't really realize this yet," said Snyder, who predicts that when a tape of the play becomes available more than a few heads will turn.

"Usually we have students that get

signed with a professional company or with an agency. I wouldn't be surprised if that happens before she graduated," he said.

Billie said she's interested in continuing her academics, including performing arts, in college. Carnegie Mellon University, New York University and Hofstra University are among the schools that have drawn her interest, but for now she's focused on excelling in theatre as well as the rest of her academics and appreciating the opportunity afforded to her by her first-ever lead.

"I wasn't nervous; I say I was scared. Everything went well. It's a different feeling when everyone has their eyes on you," she said about opening night. "I'm a very social person so it's not that hard for me to do."

Billie, whose love interest Christopher Scott is played by Clayton Hider, praised the performances of all of her castmates.

"Literally, every person I see in this cast, they are so talented ... they are so good," she said.

But nobody was as good with a weapon as Billie, whose role required her to twice fire a gun. She became the first female to ever fire a weapon on The King's Academy stage.

Having grown up in the rural environment of the Brighton Reservation, Billie is accustomed to handling weapons, whether its guns or bows or arrows. In fact, she won a bronze medal in archery two years ago at the North American Indigenous Games in Canada.

"She's an expert at bow and arrow. She's been around bows and guns all her life," her father James said. "She got the bronze. Next time she'll get gold."

So Aubee Billie can handle guns, and

thanks to her performance in "Miss Saigon," at age 15 she's proven she can handle a lead role.

"When you get to spend time with her in real life, she's a normal 15-year-old," Snyder

said. "She likes to dance and have fun with her friends, but when she puts that costume on and she comes out on stage, she's a true professional."



Amber Loveland/The King's Academy

Lead actress Aubee Billie sings during a performance of 'Miss Saigon' at The King's Academy in West Palm Beach.



Amber Loveland/The King's Academy

In her role as Kim, Aubee Billie performs a duet with her love interest Chris, played by Clayton Hider.



Kevin Johnson

'Miss Saigon' star Aubee Billie is congratulated by Joni Josh and Spencer Battiest after her performance April 11.



Amber Loveland/The King's Academy

Aubee Billie in The King's Academy performance of 'Miss Saigon.'

Sports



Sisters star for Immokalee High softball

Jillian Rodriguez signs with Tennessee State; Ava Nunez earns Player of the Year honor

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

IMMOKALEE — Immokalee High School softball coach Ruben Lucio wishes he could have the sensational sister duo of Jillian Rodriguez and Ava Nunez for four years, but he'll settle for one.

Jillian, a senior, and Ava, a freshman, have made the most of their only season as high school teammates this spring on the Immokalee team.

Both players, who also play for Seminole teams at Native tournaments, have attained lofty recognition this season in one way or another.

For Jillian, it was her signing with Tennessee State University, a Division I program in downtown Nashville.

For Ava, it was being named the Florida Athletic Coaches Association's Player of the Year in Class 6A-District 12. She's also a nominee for the Naples Daily News Player of the Year.

Lucio said both girls deserve everything they've earned.

"They're students of the game. They do their jobs. They show up and they know there's a job to do. They've both got great work ethic and it shows," Lucio said.

The spotlight shined on both sisters during and after Immokalee's 1-0 loss to Estero on April 24. Immokalee's three seniors, including Jillian, were honored after the game, but during the game the



Kevin Johnson

Immokalee High senior Jillian Rodriguez is accompanied on her senior night April 24 by, from left, stepmom Sandra Rodriguez, father Ray Rodriguez, mother Rhonda Nunez and stepfather Armando Nunez.

freshman pitcher was the focus of attention. Ava battled toe-to-toe against pitcher Lauren Hobbs and Estero's powerful lineup. The Wildcats entered the game with a 22-2 record, but mustered just two hits off Ava in seven innings.

"You're talking about a freshman going up against a nationally-ranked team in Estero. The sky is the limit for her," Lucio said. "She has all the tools and all the ability and her work ethic is off the charts. She wants it more than any player I've ever seen."

At the plate, Ava reached base in the fourth on an error. In the sixth, she drilled the team's hardest hit ball all night, but it landed in foul territory close to the left field line. The foul ball was one of the few times Immokalee players were able to pull a pitch against the hard-throwing Hobbs.

Lucio said Ava leads the team in batting with an average of about .400 and is second in RBIs with 27.

Ava, a right-hander who has an arsenal of four or five different pitches, said one of her goals is to play Division I college softball. Florida State University is her favorite team.

Ava and Jillian shared pitching duties earlier in the season, but now Ava is the main pitcher and Jillian handles centerfield duties.

Jillian showed her resiliency at the plate in the sixth inning when she fouled off four 2-2 pitches before fanning, one of 13 strikeouts notched by Hobbs.

"She's an athletic player, left-handed hitter that can do just about anything on the

field," Lucio said.

She'll be headed to college as an outfielder, but she's been a standout pitcher for Immokalee throughout her career. In a game against 11-time state champion Naples, Jillian pitched four hitless and scoreless innings before the game was suspended due to an umpire's illness.

It was in the infield that Rodriguez and her two fellow seniors — Sommer Erebia and Mia Gallegos — were honored in a postgame ceremony on senior night. Jillian walked between a 'bridge' of teammates who raised their bats as if she was about to be knighted. Jillian was accompanied by her mom Rhonda Nunez and stepdad Armando Nunez on her left side, and her dad Ray Rodriguez and stepmom Sandra Rodriguez on her right side.

Afterwards, the seniors posed for photos with teammates and family. Ava and Jillian were in a group photo with the Estero players who they played with as youngsters for the travel ball team Tropic Wave. Jillian's first coaches in youth softball — Lori Greco and Andrea Peterson — were also on hand to watch the game. The sisters now play for the Gold Coast Hurricanes based in Miami.

Jillian signed with Tennessee State on April 17. She said it was during a softball showcase event last summer in Tennessee that she gave a verbal commitment to the school, which is about a 12-hour drive from Immokalee.

"We're proud of it, but kind of scared of it because it's so far. I guess it's scary for every parent to see their kid leave home,"



Kevin Johnson (2)

Above, Ava Nunez gives her older sister Jillian Rodriguez a big hug during the senior night ceremony for the Immokalee High School softball team April 24. Nunez is a freshman; Rodriguez is a senior. Below, Rodriguez eyes a pitch during an at-bat against Estero.



Kevin Johnson

Immokalee High freshman pitcher Ava Nunez, who was named a district Player of the Year by the Florida Athletic Coaches Association, winds up in a game against Estero on April 24.



said her stepdad Armando, who is also an assistant coach for Immokalee.

"I'm very proud of her," Ava said. "We've played ever since we were really young because my dad played and so did my mom. This season was a lot of fun. I'm glad I got to play with her this year."

Likewise, Jillian said she'll cherish this

one high season playing with Ava.

"She's a lifesaver. I love her so much. She's awesome," Jillian said. "I enjoyed playing my last season here with her. Those are a lot of memories I'll hold close to heart with my little sister."

Successful season for PECS softball

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Even before the season wrapped up and even before the team said 'goodbye' to its four eighth-graders, the Pematv Emahkv Charter School softball team had already exceeded the expectations of its coach.

With a 6-1 record entering its final day

of the season in late April, the Lady Seminoles had generated an impressive season.

At the start of the year, coach Melissa Hines wasn't sure what the results would look like.

"I was nervous. I knew we had a solid team, a young team, but I've been pleased with the outcome," she said.

As was often the case this season, PECS

took care of business on the field with a win April 11 against Osceola Middle School on eighth-grade parent day in Brighton. Before the game, the team's graduating players — outfielders Javelle Anderson and Janaya French, pitcher/second baseman Giselle Micco and first baseman Carolina Urbina — were honored with their families in a pregame ceremony. Hines said all four players

had strong seasons.

"I'm very pleased with them," Hines said. "It's sad to see them go."

Despite the departures, the future looks bright for next season with a solid returning core. The team's main pitcher Lexi Thomas along with Preslynn Baker will be back to lead the pitching staff while home run leader Carlee Osceola will be another key returner.

Before looking ahead, there was still plenty to like about this season.

"We only lost one game," Hines said before the final doubleheader of the season. "We have an awesome team this year."

◆ See PECS on page 6C



Beverly Bidney

The Pematv Emahkv Charter School softball team, including its four eighth-graders and their families, gather for a photo before the team's final home game April 11.

Tribesmen shine again at NAYO

Seminole team from Brighton finishes runner-up in 14U boys

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — In recent NAYO basketball tournaments, the Tribesmen 14U boys team has shown it belongs among the elite teams in its age division.

This year was no different as the Tribesmen, filled with speed on the outside and toughness on the inside, went the furthest of any Seminole team at the annual NAYO tournament, whose rotation brought it to the Hollywood Reservation and other local venues April 19-20.

The tournament features some of the top Native American players among five tribes: Seminole (Florida), Choctaw (Mississippi), Cherokee (North Carolina), Seneca (New York) and Poarch Creek (Alabama).

After all of the other Seminole teams had been eliminated, the Tribesmen fought their way through the losers bracket to reach the championship, where they finished runner-up to the Choctaw's Kiwashowa.

"All of them contributed to the wins we got and every last one fought to the end. None of them gave up," said Tribesmen coach Preston Baker.

The Tribesmen love to run. They get the ball and go. They love the transition game and often dictate the pace of their games.

"We like to push the ball. Slow pace is not us," Baker said.

But before a fast break can develop, defense needs to do its job, and the Tribesmen excelled in that department. Channon Frye, Jaytron Baker, CJ Jumper and Ramone Baker won a lot of battles on the boards. Meanwhile, pressure from quick



Kevin Johnson

Tribesmen guard and leading scorer Roger 'Fresh' Walters gets ready to shoot a short jump shot in a 14U boys game at NAYO.

guards such as Dakoya Nunez, Nakai Alex and Dathen Garcia forced turnovers.

Offensively, the team was led by Roger "Fresh" Walters, a smooth-shooting guard who was a scoring machine throughout the two days. He scored nearly half of his team's points when he dropped 25 in a 52-44 win against Skinz. Consistent secondary scoring came from Frye and Alex.

The Tribesmen emerged from the losers bracket to face undefeated Kiwashowa. Needing two victories to win the title, the Tribesmen nearly forced a winner-take-all game, but fell 46-42. Kiwashowa was led by Johnny Vaughn II with 17 points and Jariel Cotton with 12 points. The Tribesmen's balanced scoring came from Walters (12 points), Alex (10 points), Frye (9 points) and Ramone Baker (4 points).

NAYO marked a busy two days for coach Baker, who coached three teams.

The 14U NWA girls team, which didn't have much experience on the roster, went 1-2.

"It was a struggle for them," Baker said. "They had a hard time adapting and coming together, trying to find that chemistry. It was tough for them. I told them not to give up and never stop fighting and keep moving forward. It's going to be like that someday."

Preston Baker wasn't the only one who coached multiple teams at NAYO; Hunter Osceola coached two. He had the Native Soldiers' 14U boys and 17U boys.

"I love coaching kids and trying to make them better and trying to make their IQ higher to make the game easier for themselves," Osceola said.

The 14U squad went winless, but Osceola said it was still a good experience for coach and players.

"It's fun coaching little guys, but it's hard because they're still learning and they're still developing," Osceola said.

The 17U team won two games, but was eliminated in the losers bracket by OTF Elite.

"[OTF] had good chemistry. It's tough to beat a team like that when they've been playing for a while," Osceola said.

Daewon Huggins was a standout for NS in the final game with 23 points.

After winning a state championship with Anadarko High School in Oklahoma, Lexi Foreman suited up for the Lady Seminoles in the 17U girls division. She scored a team-high 19 points in the team's opening game, a 35-30 win against the Lady Ballers of Mississippi. The Lady Seminoles finished 1-2.

The tournament featured 61 teams, including 11 Seminole. Months of planning and organizing by Seminole Recreation led to a well-run tournament.

"Very smoothly. We enjoyed it. We'd like to come back again," said Johnny Vaughn, coach of the 14U boys championship team from Mississippi.

Games were played on the Hollywood Reservation's Howard Tiger Recreation Center and Classic gym as well as Broward College and Hollywood Hills High School.

Considering hundreds of players are involved in the tournament and each game requires staff, referees, timekeepers, scorekeepers and Fire Rescue, it was a massive operation.

"We did NAYO baseball and softball last summer. We learned from that. This was much smoother," said Recreation Director Cathy Cypress. "Overall it was good, and it



Kevin Johnson

Tribesmen forward Corey Jumper blocks a shot in a NAYO 14U boys game April 20 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

Channon Frye goes airborne for the Tribesmen while driving toward the basket.



Kevin Johnson

Tribesmen guard Nakai Alex eyes two points during a 14U boys game.



Kevin Johnson

The Tribesmen gather with the runner-up trophy and shirts after finishing in second place in NAYO's 14U boys division. Preston Baker coaches the team. He also coached two other teams at the tournament.

was fun."

Champions and runner-ups for 2019 NAYO were:

- 14U girls: Rez Girls - Choctaw (champion), Hoopers (runner-up)
- 14U boys: Kiwashowa - Choctaw

(champion), Tribesmen - Seminole (runner-up)

17U girls: Team Elite - Choctaw (champion), Rainmakers - Choctaw (runner-up)

17U boys: Seneca Chiefs - Seneca (champion), IDM - Choctaw (runner-up).



Kevin Johnson

Tribesmen guard Dakoya Nunez gets past defenders during a game at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center.



Kevin Johnson

Tribesmen's Ramone Baker splits the defense on a driving layup in a 14U boys game at Howard Tiger Recreation Center.



Kevin Johnson

Young spectators watch a NAYO game from the the second floor at Broward College's gym.



Kevin Johnson

Native Soliders' Grant Osceola battles Native Elite during a 17U boys game.

2019 NAYO Basketball Tournament



Kevin Johnson

Tribesmen's Pherian Baker, left, defends against Dalmon King in a 14U game. King was the only Seminole on the Skinz team that featured Cherokee and Choctaw players.



Kevin Johnson

Adryauna Baker wins the opening tip for the Lady Warriors in a 14U girls game at Hollywood Hills High School.



Kevin Johnson (2)

Above, Boryalys Cypress provides tough defense for the Native Soldiers 17U boys team. Below, Lexi Foreman, who recently won a state championship in Oklahoma, controls the ball for the Lady Seminoles 17U girls.



Kevin Johnson (3)

Above, Karey Gopher lines up a 3-point shot in a 14U girls game. At left, Lucas Osceola puts in a layup for NWA in a 17U boys game against Native Elite at Hollywood Hills High School. Below, NWA's Silas Madrigal eyes the basket.



Kevin Johnson

No Seminole teams won championships at NAYO, but Deagen Osceola won a championship with the Choctaws' Kiwashowa 14U boys team from Philadelphia, Miss. Deagen, who attends Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton, was the only Seminole on the Kiwashowa.



Kevin Johnson

Coach Jason Billie and the Lady Seminoles 17U girls team watch from the bench during a game at Hollywood Hills High.



Kevin Johnson

Haylie Huff and Caylie Huff battle in the paint for the 14U girls Lady Warriors.

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Cheyenne Nunez ready for NCAA Division I ball

Standout from Brighton to play for USC Upstate

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

It didn't take long for Cheyenne Nunez to determine where her next stop will be in her college softball career.

One trip to Spartanburg, South Carolina is all it took for Nunez to know that the University of South Carolina Upstate is an ideal fit.

"I fell in love with it. It's one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen, and I've been to a lot of places," said the former Junior Miss Florida Seminole from the Brighton Reservation.

Nunez, a sophomore who has played two years of junior college softball for the State College of Florida in Bradenton, committed to USC Upstate on April 1. She'll enter as a junior and have two years of playing eligibility. As if to celebrate the good news, three days after making the commitment she smacked her first home run and drove in four runs in a 10-4 win against South Florida State College.

USC Upstate, a NCAA Division I program, has been led by coach Chris Hawkins for the past 25 years. The Spartans play in the Big South Conference. Their non-conference schedule this season included ACC and Big Ten schools as well as SEC powerhouse LSU, which as the ninth-ranked team in the nation narrowly defeated USC Upstate, 2-0, in Baton Rouge.

Nunez's visit included spending time with current players, who showed her around campus and the town.

"It felt like home," said Nunez, daughter of Peggy and Daniel Nunez Sr. "The facilities and the academic center are nice. It felt like such a good fit for me. Everything was awesome. I always dreamt about going Division I and now it's finally happening."

"I think it's a great fit for her. The coaching staff will be really good for her," said SCF coach Mandy Schuerman.

Nunez, a speedy and versatile centerfielder who bats in the leadoff spot, said an initial connection with USC Upstate



Beverly Bidney

State College of Florida sophomore Cheyenne Nunez, the school's all-time leader in stolen bases, is pointed toward second base during a game in Fort Myers on April 11 against Florida SouthWestern State College, the nation's No. 1 ranked junior college team. Nunez will be headed to South Carolina later this year to play for the University of South Carolina Upstate.

was made early in the season when USC Upstate's coach saw her play at a tournament early in Clearwater. She said SCF's announcer Chuck Landers, whose daughter played at USC Upstate, put in a good word for her, too, which helped.

A strong regular season for Nunez and SCF ended April 25. The team was ranked nationally among junior colleges in April. Entering the postseason in early May, SCF had a 44-14 record. Nunez shattered the team record for most stolen bases in a season; she had 38 as of the end of the regular season. She also led the squad in hits (67) and runs (54) and was tied with two teammates for the best batting average (.364).

"She's been quite consistent, always looking to improve, which I really like about her. She's really a hard worker," Schuerman said.

Power isn't a big part of Nunez's game; her strengths are found in her ability to reach base and then steal bases.

"I don't look for home runs or triples. I just try to find a way on, with a walk, hit, get hit by a pitch," she said.

Nunez described her two years at SCF as "literally life-changing."

"All my coaches are amazing. I love all of them," she said, adding that she made great friendships with teammates. "I'll never forget them."

With Nunez headed to USC Upstate, next year is shaping up to be a potential memorable one as the Seminole Tribe could have three players on Division I softball teams. Ahnie Jumper is currently in her sophomore season at Florida Gulf Coast University. Jillian Rodriguez recently signed with Tennessee State University.

Beverly Bidney

Cheyenne Nunez helps fire up her team in a game April 11 in Fort Myers.



Moore Haven shot putters Andrew Fish, Conner Thomas place in top 3 at district meet

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

NAPLES — There's no doubt Andrew Fish and Conner Thomas's athletic careers at Moore Haven High School will be most remembered for their accomplishments on the football field.

After all, the duo from the Brighton Reservation helped the Terriers football team compile an 18-3 record the past two seasons as standouts on the offensive line.

But they've also excelled beyond the gridiron. Both Fish and Thomas shined in shot put for the track and field team this spring. Thomas also found success in the discus throw.

The seniors made sure the Class 1A-District 8 meet April 10 at St. John Neumann High School in Naples wouldn't be their last one.

Through somewhat precarious routes, they qualified for the regional tournament in shot put and Thomas also qualified in discus

throw.

Entering the district meet, Fish had earned consideration as one of the elite throwers in the district. Last year he was district runner-up as a junior and reached the state meet.

"He's had a pretty good season so far and has shown much improvement meet after meet," said Moore Haven track and field coach Cynthia Cook.

But his first two throws at the district meet were scratches (throws that landed outside the field lines). So his third throw — and what could have been his final throw of his high school career — carried plenty of drama. He not only needed to make sure the shot put landed in-bounds, but he also needed the throw to be among the top eight of the 28 competitors in order to advance to the next flight that day.

Fish didn't panic. His third throw was good enough to advance into the next flight. His final throw of the day — at 13.23 meters — turned out to be his best and it earned him runner-up in the district championship and

a spot in regionals. Fish barely missed out on winning the district title, which went to Seacrest Country Day's Srdjan Kopunovic at 13.34 meters.

Thomas, meanwhile, didn't have as much drama in shot put thanks to a series of strong and consistent throws. His steady day of throwing included a personal best of 12.86 meters, which was good enough for third place. It was in discus that Thomas surprised just about everyone, including himself.

He competed in the event almost as an afterthought and ended up finishing runner-up out of 28 competitors. His furthest toss was 38.06 feet and earned him a ticket to regionals.

"Conner definitely surprised me with his second place overall finish in discus," Cook said. "We had actually discussed him not doing that event at districts in fear of hurting his arm and risking his chances in the shot put. But as he always does, he not only did well, he got second overall and advanced to regionals. As for shot put, he was on fire. He made two new [personal records] and ended up placing third overall and earning a seat to regionals."

The Class 1A-Region 2 meet was held April 27 at Cypress Creek High School in Wesley Chapel just outside of Tampa.

Fish finished fifth overall, which gave him an at large spot to the state meet May 3-4 at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. His best throw at regionals was 13.32, close to his personal best of 13.65. He finished ahead of Kopunovic, the district winner, who finished seventh.

Thomas didn't advance to states in either shot put or discus. He finished 14th in shot put with his top throw being 11.70. As for discus, Thomas's tosses got better and better, but not good enough. He started with a scratch followed by tosses of 27.32 and 29.81 feet.

Had Thomas reached states, he would have been competing in the same city where he'll go to college. He'll be headed to Tulsa Welding School. Fish, meanwhile, will continue his athletic career in Miami this fall when he joins the St. Thomas University football team.

On the girls side at Moore Haven, Tafv Harris wrapped up a solid freshman season in shot put. She had a personal best of over nine meters. Her best throw at districts was 8.17, which placed her right in the middle of the pack, 12th out of 24 competitors. It wasn't enough to advance to regionals, but she has three more years to look forward to.

"...I think it was a good lesson as to what to prepare for and I expect good things from her in the future," Cook said.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven High School senior Conner Thomas delivers a shot put throw April 10 at the Class 1A-District 8 meet at St. John Neumann High School in Naples.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven High School senior Andrew Fish gets ready to launch the shot put at the Class 1A-District 8 meet in Naples.

Powerful start to college career for Sydnee Cypress

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — Last fall, Sydnee Cypress was a softball player looking for a team, and ASA College Miami was a new team looking for players.

The two sides connected just in time for Cypress to enroll and then help ASA christen its inaugural season.

It's turned out to be a perfect match as Cypress emerged as one of ASA's top players, batting near the top of the order and starting at shortstop.

"She's been one of our best hitters," said ASA coach Gina Capitini. "We had her at No. 1 [in the batting order], but we dropped her down to No. 2 and she just opened up hitting-wise. She felt more comfortable there. She's got a lot of speed. She can drop down a bunt. She's kind of like a three-tool player; she can slap, she can hit. She's definitely been an impact player this season starting at shortstop. She's making some good plays and she's definitely one of our most improved players."

Not surprisingly, wins were elusive for a program in its infancy. ASA, whose Miami campus is in Hialeah, finished with a 3-19 record.

Cypress, a former Moore Haven High School standout from the Big Cypress Reservation, carved out a memorable freshman season along the way.

She cemented her name in ASA history by hitting the program's first home run. The solo shot came March 15 in a 5-2 win against Parkland College, of Illinois, in a game played in Titusville.

Cypress finished the season with the team's second best batting average (.394) thanks to 26 hits in 66 at-bats. She tied for the team lead in doubles with five. She belted a team-high three home runs, the last of which was an opposite field blast over the right field fence on a windy afternoon April 3 at Miami-Dade College in Kendall.

"Luckily I just got hold of one and hit it out," Cypress said after her home run accounted for the team's only run in a 2-1



Above left, ASA College Miami freshman Sydnee Cypress, of the Big Cypress Reservation, belts her third home run of the season April 3 against Miami-Dade College. Above right, after the blast, Cypress is greeted at home plate by her teammates.



Kevin Johnson (2)

loss against Miami-Dade, a well-established and respected program in the junior college ranks. ASA played a crisp game – its coach said it was one of its better games of the season – which bodes wells for next season when the team will join the same conference as Miami-Dade, Broward College and others.

Cypress admitted she was a bit rusty at the start of the season, but through determination she eventually rediscovered her groove at the plate.

"When I first came back, I wasn't hitting that well because I had taken two years off, but I've worked a lot to get to where I am now," she said.

Sydnee Cypress, ASA College Miami's starting shortstop, settles under a popup during a game against Miami-Dade College.



Kevin Johnson

Cypress finished her freshman season on a high note when she went 4-for-4 with a double and triple and scored three runs in an 8-7 loss against Eastern Florida State College on the final day of the season.

Cypress said she plans to play for ASA next season and then hopefully land a spot with a four-year college program, a path often followed by junior college athletes.

"This isn't their final stop. They come in here for two years and we get them on to another school," Capitini said.

Cypress plans to study psychology and would like to work for the Tribe after finishing college. Her addition to the team has brought benefits beyond the field.

"I love the fact she is Native American and she brings that culture to the team," Capitini said. "She always gives us information about it, which a lot of the girls

never knew before. It's nice to have that because I like diversity on my team. I like all different cultures to come together as one."

Before she joined ASA, Cypress hadn't played softball since she graduated from Moore Haven in 2017 after helping the Terriers win district and regional championships. Her desire to return to the sport never waned.

"Two of my friends from Immokalee play on the team," Cypress said. "Coach was looking for players and they asked me if I wanted to come play and I said yes. It was two days before the deadline and I got enrolled in two days."

"I'm so glad I'm playing again," she said.

So is ASA. "A late addition," Capitini said, "but definitely a great addition for sure."

Miami Open sets attendance records in new home at Hard Rock Stadium

FROM PRESS RELEASE

MIAMI GARDENS — The 35th edition of the Miami Open presented by Itaú featured a blend of tennis, art, culture, cuisine, and entertainment in its new Hard Rock Stadium home. Record crowds filled the new tennis facility and stadium court as Roger Federer and Ashleigh Barty captured the men's and women's singles titles, respectively.

The tournament set numerous attendance records: 15 of its 24 sessions had higher attendance than the previous records, including an all-time singles-session attendance mark of 32,831 during the Saturday, March 23 day session. Overall, the tournament's two-week attendance was 388,734, breaking the old record of 326,131 set in 2012. It also marked the 10th consecutive year the tournament recorded more than 300,000 in total attendance.

The tournament partnered with local restaurants to present an array of dining and lounging experiences.

The Miami Open also collaborated with Art Miami and Goldman Global Arts to curate art murals and gallery work by internationally renowned artists and showcased a range of musicians and DJs.

The luxury seating at Hard Rock Stadium elevated the premium seating experience to a new caliber unlike any seen before in tennis. The premium seating options featured multi-screen experiences with large-screen televisions and tablets, spacious seating with ample legroom complete with an all-inclusive club showcasing world-class fare.



2019 Miami Open men's singles winner Roger Federer clutches the championship trophy in the tennis plaza outside Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens.

Miami Open

NIGA honors pro golfer Notah Begay III with lifetime achievement honor

FROM PRESS RELEASE

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — The National Indian Gaming Association honored PGA Tour winner and golf commentator Notah Begay III with the Chairman's Lifetime Achievement Award in March at the 2019 Indian Gaming Tradeshow and Convention in San Diego, California.

"It is an amazing opportunity to have someone like Notah Begay to be here with us," National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr., said. "He is not only one of the greatest golfers I've ever known, but he is one of the greatest persons I've ever known in my life. He works day in and day out, and is always ready to serve. He's changing lives, supporting our young athletes and helping people and families."

Upon receiving his recognition, Begay said, "Through the lens of sport, leadership and service has been the cornerstone of my approach, which was handed down to me from my father, and his father. They handed down the community ownership, and the ability to continue to serve. That's really what it's all about for me." He added, "It has never been about achievement or winning or the money, it is about doing my very best, continuing to ask more of myself daily and the serve in whatever capacity I can. Giving



Notah Begay III, center, receives a lifetime achievement award from the National Indian Gaming Association in San Diego, California.

NIGA

of your time is the most valuable asset you can give."

Notah Begay III, from the Navajo Nation and San Felipe/Isleta Pueblos, is

the only full-blooded Native American to have played on the PGA Tour. He was born

and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico and attended Stanford University where he earned a degree in economics in addition to earning All-American honors three times and leading the golf team to a national championship in 1994.

In addition to winning four PGA Tour events, Begay became only the third player in the history of professional golf to shoot 59 in a professional event. He partnered with his good friend Tiger Woods in the 2000 President's Cup.

When Begay is not on the golf course, he dedicates his time to positively impacting the Native American community. In 2005, Notah launched The Notah Begay III (NB3) Foundation. The Foundation works to battle obesity and diabetes in Native American youth. In addition, Begay owns a golf course development firm and works exclusively with Native communities to develop golf projects.

Begay was named one of Golf Magazine's Innovators of the Year in 2009 for his philanthropic work through the NB3 Foundation and has also been named one of the Top 100 Sports Educators in the world by the Institute for International Sport.

◆ **PECS SOFTBALL**
From page 1C



The Pemaetv Emahkv Charter School softball team lines up before facing Osceola Middle School on April 16 in Brighton.



Giselle Micco pitches during her final home game for Pemaetv Emahkv Charter School April 16 against Osceola Middle School.



Pemaetv Emahkv Charter School infielder Lexi Thomas keeps her eye on the ball as an Osceola Middle School player slides into second base.

Rumble at the Rock returns to Hollywood May 10

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — The fifth installment of the Rumble at the Rock series will be held May 10, at 7 p.m. at Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood. The event, titled “Night of the Undeclared,”

will feature at least seven undefeated local favorites in separate bouts.

The 10-round main event will feature undefeated featherweight contender Hairon “El Maja” Socarras (21-0-3, 13 KOs) of Miami via Marianao, Cuba. Also scheduled for action is undefeated welterweight Livan “The Machine Gun Kid”

Navarro (10-0, 7 KOs).

Back in action will be undefeated 20-year-old boxing prodigy Logan “The Korican Kid” Yoon (15-0, 12 KOs).

Tickets for “Rumble at the Rock V” cost \$250, \$150, \$100 and \$60 and are available through ticketmaster.com.

Upcoming events

Mother’s Day Dolphin Tournament

Fish for a cause in this one-day Dolphin shootout that benefits Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys. It features fab fishing, prize money and trophies for the winners, and an awards banquet complete with door prizes and an auction.

Where: Marathon, Florida Keys
When: May 10-11
Info: www.habitatmiddlekeys.org/dolphin-tournament.php

ArtNaples World Festival
Each year a different country is honored gets the royal treatment with concerts, piano recitals, jazz, chamber music, opera, cinema and, of course, great food and wine
Where: Naples
When: April 24-May 8
Info: www.stayinmay.com/2019-festival-events

Tupelo Honey Festival

Get a glimpse of Real Florida with a day trip to Wewahitchka with its one stoplight, Spanish moss dripping from Live Oaks, eerie Dead Lakes and three generations of beekeepers harvesting the world famous Tupelo Honey. Purchase locally-made products featuring the honey, attend the Miss Tupelo pageant, participate in a 5K run and enjoy live music.

Where: Lake Alice Park, Wewahitchka
When: May 18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Web: tupelohoneyfestival.com

Florida Folk Festival

For more than 60 years, Florida’s folk artists, craftsmen and musicians have gathered along the banks of the Suwannee River where

the Spanish moss drips from the live oak trees to celebrate Florida’s rich cultural history and traditions.

Where: Stephen Foster State Park in White Springs.
When: May 24-26
Info: www.floridastateparks.org/FloridaFolkFestival

Blue Crab Festival

Ring in the Memorial weekend holiday with 200,000 new friends at this annual seafood festival that pairs small town charm with big-time fair-inspired food and fun. Think carnival rides, arts and crafts vendors, live music, a kids’ zone, Memorial Day parade and fireworks.

Where: downtown Palatka
When: May 18-19
Info: www.bluecrabfestival.org/

Announcements

Happy Birthday, Aaliyah

My dear princess Aaliyah Denise, mommy wants to say how blessed I truly am on this day 4/23. I share my birthday with you, princess, mommy loves you so much and is so proud of you, how hard you try at school and you don’t give up. You’re my lil “boo-boo, Baby.” Mommy will always be here to the end, princess, and I hope you enjoy your special day and may all your little wishes come true.

We love you,
Mommy, Teddy, Mariyah, Aaliyah, Jazzlynn, Baby J., Grandmothers: Belen, Guadalupe, Barbara, Nancy, Claudia. Grandfathers: Alfredo, Felix, Encarnacion, Joe, Uncles: Joe, Alfredo Jr. Daniel, Aunts: Lillie, Alicia Nina, Brenda, Lory, Samantha Lez and all your Cuzins. Family: Martinez/Alvarado/Garza/Faz.



Attention Native youth: summer program wants you

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Youngsters looking for a unique summer experience this year might find it in the state’s capitol.

The dates have been set for the 2019 Florida Indian Youth Program and Leadership Academy.

The two week program will run from July 13 through July 27 at Florida State University in Tallahassee. The deadline to submit application materials is May 30.

The youth program and leadership academy is free and open to Native American, Native Alaskan and Native Hawaiian youth tribal members and descendants from Florida and Georgia.

The youth portion, offered as a college preparatory program, is designed for those who are freshmen or sophomores in high school. The leadership academy is reserved for ambitious juniors, seniors or recent graduates (not older than 19).

Organizers said participants live in a residence hall on campus

or nearby, and classes are held daily between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. During the program, students are required to be with a counselor and the group is accompanied by at least one officer of the FSU police department during off campus activities.

Those in the youth program can expect to learn more about STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), computer literacy and SAT/ACT preparation. During the evening and on the weekends, organizers host parties, trips to the mall and activities like bowling.

Leadership academy students are expected to gain leadership skills as well as independence during their time in the program. The students will have access to college site tours, be able to explore academic programs of study and also take part in fun activities on evenings and weekends.

Students will practice writing and learn more about tribal government issues, financial literacy and art.

An awards banquet takes place the end of the experience to

recognize all attendees. There are also special awards given out to a few select students for outstanding achievements during the program.

The “intensive away from home educational experience” usually attracts about 50 to 60 participants each year. It is organized by the nonprofit Florida Governor’s Council on Indian Affairs.

“The students participate in scholastic, cultural and social events and activities, all designed to increase the probability of high school graduation and inspire the students to higher academic achievement,” said FGICIA organizers.

Students will rack up more than 70 hours of classroom activities.

The program was originally developed by the state of Florida to give Native American students the opportunity to spend two weeks in the state’s capitol and be exposed to higher education and state government.

For more information and to apply, go to fgcia.org/youth-program.

FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
216475	2007	FORD SEDAN	FUSION SE AWD	214,084	Fair	\$557.00
B25138	2005	FORD CARGO VAN	E250 EXT VAN (RWD)	142,975	Poor	\$891.00
A16476	2005	FORD CARGO VAN	E250 EXT VAN (RWD)	132,775	Poor	\$1,026.00
501675	2007	DODGE SUV	DURANGO SLT (4WD)	169,365	Poor	\$1,050.00
A93027	2006	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT (4WD)	110,292	Poor	\$1,446.00
B25449	2006	FORD VAN	E250 CARGO VAN (RWD)	171,723	Fair	\$1,846.00
280640	2008	DODGE SEDAN	AVENGER SXT (FWD)	116,213	Fair	\$1,875.00
B86641	2008	FORD SUV	ESCAPE XLT (FWD)	150,432	Fair	\$1,900.00
A42828	2006	FORD PASSENGER VAN	E350 XL CLUB WAGON (RWD)	101,178	Fair	\$3,150.00
A42829	2006	FORD PASSENGER VAN	E350 XL CLUB WAGON (RWD)	100,249	Fair	\$3,264.00
A01727	2010	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT (4WD)	142,459	Fair	\$4,011.00
A82213	2007	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F150 XLT (4WD)	151,992	Fair	\$4,450.00
A33767	2010	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT (RWD)	96,949	Fair	\$5,575.00
D91458	2006	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F250 XL SUPER DUTY (4x4)	101,850	Poor	\$7,372.00

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

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