





# Editorial

## Farewells from Seminole 2018-19 royalty



Cheyenne Kippenberger and friends.

59 years ago, on this very same reservation, the first ever Miss Florida Seminole pageant was held. A tradition began that would long carry on for generations to come. A tradition of empowering our young Seminole women. A tradition of celebrating and sharing our culture. A tradition of bringing our community together. It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 62nd annual Miss Seminole Princess pageant. My name is Cheyenne Susan Eete Kippenberger and I served as your 2018-2019 Miss Florida

Seminole. I am the daughter of Joe and Susan Kippenberger and granddaughter of Lawanna Osceola.

I look back at the past 12 months and reminisce on the many friends I have made, the lessons I have learned, and the places I have traveled to with a full heart. I constantly thought about what I could bring to my reign as Miss, but I never anticipated what it would bring to me. This journey has helped me to find the woman I wanted and knew I could be. I will move forward in the next phases of my life with great pride knowing I walked in the same footsteps as my grandmother and the many women following her, as your Miss Florida Seminole. I will carry the memories and lessons of this year as a reminder to always love who I am and to never give up. It was an honor representing my tribe.

Thank you to my family for carrying me through the highs and lows of this year. Thank you to the committee for the endless dedication to this program and their continuous love and support. Lastly, thank you to my tribe for always believing in me and supporting me through this journey.

With all my love and gratitude,  
**Cheyenne Kippenberger**  
2018-19 Miss Florida Seminole



Good evening, my name is Clarice DeMayo and I am the 2018-2019 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole. I come from the Hollywood Reservation and I'm 15 years old. My mother is Melissa Osceola DeMayo and my father is Jacob DeMayo. I would

like to take this time to thank everyone who has showed up to support our contestants for Miss Florida Seminole and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole. These girls have already won because they decided to compete for this title. To the contestants, I have gotten to see you all grow throughout this pageant and I will be forever grateful to call you family.

Finishing up my reign it made me reflect on what I have learned and how I have grown to be the young woman I am today. This year has educated me about my tribe, but others as well. I have learned so much from starting a conversation with a member from our community and for that I say thank you. Education has always been a big part of my life and there is no better feeling than being educated on my culture. Reflecting on this year I have made so many new friends, from royalty tour tribal members. I will forever have long lasting friendships. Where I feel I have learned the most in this year is being open to new people and ideas, this has led me to be more confident in myself and what actions I take to better my future. Some of the people I have to say thank you to is my mom. My mom has made all of my outfits and I will be forever grateful for all the late nights she put in to make me look good. I would also like to give a big thank you to any seamstresses that have made me

patchwork and the beaders who have made me jewelry. I would like to thank our council for always respecting our communities. Finally to my dad, thank you for always giving me the strength that molded me into who I am today. As a little message to our new royalty, don't take anything for granted because memories last forever and these are ones you want a lot of.

I will be forever grateful to hold these memories close to my heart as you 2018-2019 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole, and remember when writing the story of your life, don't let anyone else hold the pen.

**Clarice Laura DeMayo**  
2018-19 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole

*(Editor's note: Cheyenne Kippenberger and Clarice DeMayo served as the Tribe's royalty for 2018-19. These are their letters that appeared in the Princess Pageant's program July 27 when new princesses were crowned).*

## US Navy recognizes Cherokee patriotism

•Bill John Baker

Cherokee Nation was recently bestowed a great honor by the U.S. Navy, which has decided to name its latest rescue ship after our tribal nation. The forthcoming USNS Cherokee Nation will be launched in summer of 2021 and will be a testament to the service and contributions the Cherokee people have made to the Navy and Marine Corps.

The naming of a ship is the highest honor the Navy issues, and as patriots of this great country, we are extremely honored by this distinction. It is a true testament to generations of Cherokee men and women who have humbly and bravely served in the United States military.

Valor, strength and honor are the traits we admire in our military heroes, and those are traits I admire in my Cherokee heroes, as well. This special announcement came at the annual Claremore Hall of Fame ceremony where Joseph James "Jocko" Clark was inducted. It was a well-deserved honor, as Admiral Clark remains an inspiration to Cherokees and all Native people across the country. He is the highest-ranking Native American naval officer in U.S. history, and he was the first Native American to graduate from the Naval Academy in 1917. Admiral Clark commanded the USS Suwannee and USS Yorktown during the Battle of Midway in World War II and went on to be the commander of the Seventh Fleet. He is buried with honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

My personal Navy heroes include my

father, Tim Baker, who proudly served during WWII. He was an ordnance man and was responsible for arming, loading and firing weapons, and he was a role model for me growing up. Also, two of my closest friends and important members of my administration served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Deputy Principal Chief S. Joe Crittenden served as a radio specialist on the USS Princeton, and Chief of Staff Chuck Hoskin worked on the flight deck of the USS Independence. Their commitment to country and duty is sincere, and it's inspiring every day. It is why they are such respected leaders within our tribe.

The Cherokee Nation has a deep and rich history in American military service, and thousands of Cherokees served and continue to serve in the Navy. Our heritage as sailors and seamen is something we take great pride in. Our Cherokee people have contributed in every major battle and war ever fought in this country and continue to serve in the Armed Forces in some of the highest rates per ethnicity.

Cherokees are a strong, resilient people, and we are privileged to soon have a U.S. ship at sea that reflects both our country and tribe's history and values.

This is the fifth U.S. ship to be named in honor of the Cherokee people. Previous ships include a gunboat that served during the Civil War and two boats commissioned during World War I, and the last Cherokee namesake was a World War II era tugboat.

*Bill John Baker is the principal chief for the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. This article appeared in Indian Country Today.*



Artist rendering of USNS Cherokee

U.S. Navy

## Why America's first Native American poet laureate gives me hope

•Nick Martin

"I know there is something larger than the memory of a dispossessed people. We have seen it."

These words, from the poem "Grace," rattle in my brain from time to time. They offer comfort in some moments, and inspiration in others. On Tuesday, when Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced that Joy Harjo, the writer behind these emotions, will succeed Tracy K. Smith to become the 23rd Poet Laureate, the words rang out again; this time, they took the form of hope.

When she assumes the position in the fall, Harjo, a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, will become the first Native American in United States history to claim the prestigious title. The honor was not entirely a surprise; if anything, it was the most logical step for Harjo to take in her career, given that the list of awards bestowed upon her over the last 40 years would trail on for the remainder of this column if I listed them out.

For those coming to her work just now, start with her 2004 collection, "How We Became Human," which provides a sampling of her work from the preceding three decades -- though I'd encourage those with the time and access to dive further back into her bibliography, hopefully opening with my longtime favorite, "I Give You Back." (You can read it here or watch her perform the hell out of it on HBO's "Def Poetry Jam" here.)

But for those of us who have long known Ms. Harjo's work, who have clung to it and repeated the above "fear" poem to ourselves in the dark of night, there exists something else in the announcement, present but unwritten, that cautiously bubbles in our hearts every time a Native artist grasps the nation by its eyes or ears.

Hope is a crucial theme found in Ms. Harjo's work, whether it comes in the form that stubbornly pervades "Eagle," or the kind that makes a late appearance in "Running." (I urge you to read them.) But for the Native people of this land, hope has been, and continues to be, a fleeting sensation.

Because we are regularly relegated to the shadows and edges of modern society's psyche -- save for the scattered moments we cannot be ignored -- the hope we cling to does not typically root itself in a desire for admiration by the colonizer society that surrounds us. To wait on the various

American literary communities to decide to promote and highlight authentic voices of Indigenous people, whose ancestors its government displaced and segregated not so long ago, is to wait for the sun to rise in the west.

Instead, Harjo, and the Native women that have followed behind her, paved paths that did not exist before they arrived. They eschewed the norms set by the industry gatekeepers that would have them produce



National Museum of Women's History  
Joy Harjo

more commercially appealing (read: American sympathetic) works. The ones who we revere do not simply succeed, but capture a tribe-specific authenticity that seems to bleed through their pens.

When asked by NPR how she considers her Creek culture and identity when she works, Harjo succinctly responded that, "it doesn't necessarily become a self-conscious thing -- it's just there."

As Julian Brave Noisecat wrote for the Paris Review last June, Harjo was a member of the initial Native Renaissance, which spanned from the 1960s to the 1990s. It is because of Harjo and her fellow artists that readers with no tribal connection are now

willing to listen to the burgeoning second wave of the Renaissance.

After all, it was a year ago this month that Tommy Orange's "There, There" -- a searing, insightful, and inspiring collection of a dozen urban Native narratives weaved together so skillfully that the final section demands both reading and re-reading in a single sitting -- exploded onto shelves and into the awards scene.

But what does the financial and critical success of our writers mean if our people still remain unseen? Is attaining a level of reverence and fame once reserved for those that sought to "Kill the Indian; save the man" enough for Native artists? Should they not turn the spotlight they've drawn through their gifts and labors back onto their people to illuminate the issues they face?

Maybe that isn't the right question -- to place the responsibility on the few Natives capable of demanding a nationwide audience is obviously incorrect. But that there is a desire to do so at all hints toward a larger, systemic issue of Native erasure that, to this day, awaits an adequate governmental response.

Such redress can be glimpsed in the official apology that California's governor, Gavin Newsom, offered to the Native people of the state in the form of an executive order on Tuesday. But the federal government has yet to issue such an apology. Newsom's order noted the "violence, exploitation, dispossession and the attempted destruction of tribal communities."

That begins to help. And now Joy Harjo will be Poet Laureate.

A lyric from "Halluci Nation," a song by A Tribe Called Red, appeared in front of my eyes the moment I read the news this morning:

"We are the human beings  
The callers of names cannot see us but we can see them"

They will read our works, they will use our lands, and they will even celebrate those of us whose talent demands nothing less. But will they listen to us after the final period of the poem arrives? In Ms. Harjo's ascension, and the ascension of those that fill the literary community still today, I find hope that they will. And for now, that will have to do.

*Nick Martin is a member of the Sappony Tribe and a staff writer for Splinter, where he covers Indian Country. The views expressed in this commentary are his own. This article appeared on cnn.com.*

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

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

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

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

Issue: August 30, 2019  
Deadline: August 17, 2019

Issue: September 30, 2019  
Deadline: September 18, 2019

Issue: October 31, 2019  
Deadline: October 16, 2019

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

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

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

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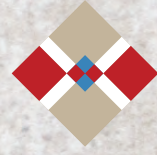
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# Community



## Alex Johns finishes term as Florida Cattlemen's Association president

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

After serving for a year as president of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, Alex Johns completed his term and stepped down at its annual convention June 20. He is the first Native American to lead the 5,000-member organization.

"I'm proud and humbled to have served as FCA president this year," Johns said in a farewell video shown at the convention. "The day after the convention is over I'll probably go back to Brighton, get back in the woods, get on a horse, relax and go back to what I love doing every day; being in the pasture with cattle."

During his tenure, Johns implemented a successful social media awareness campaign called #showyourpassion that aimed to promote the cattle industry.

"Our biggest accomplishment this year was getting our story out there on social media," Johns said. "The passion we share for our cattle is something to be proud of. You've done a great job supporting my Show Your Passion campaign and I think we made progress in educating the public on who we really are

and what it is that we do. We are the original land stewards; we are God's cow keepers. That's a huge responsibility and one we do not take lightly."

The convention, held on Marco Island June 17-20, included a trade show, plenty of meetings, a sweetheart competition, election of new officers and a banquet, which was decorated with an abundance of Seminole items.

Patchwork filled the ballroom as a large group of Tribal members and the

natural resource department staff attended the banquet, Johns' final moments as president. Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. introduced Johns by noting the FCA members are great stewards of the land and raise what he believes to be the best cattle in the country.

"It's an honor to be part of an organization that supports cattle and an honor to have one of our own to be its president," Chairman Osceola said. "He always knew his passion, it is what drives

him. He puts everything he has into what he is doing. What kind of passion does it take, what kind of drive do you have to have to accomplish goals not only for yourself but for a group of people? As you can tell by the rich history in this room, there have been many generations who came before us and there will be many who come after us. It's up to us to carry on that legacy. But I think it's fitting that knowing your passion is what got us all here today."

Johns said one of the toughest parts of

the year was dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Michael and getting displaced cattle behind fences again. Now that his term is over, he realizes how much work it was and looks forward to having more quiet time.

Before he turned over the reins to the new president, Matt Pearce, Johns thanked the Tribe for letting him spend time away from his position as natural resources director to represent the FCA. He also thanked his staff, who kept everything running smoothly.

"Who would have ever thought that a poor little Indian boy would grow up and rise in the ranks to lead a prestigious organization like the FCA," Johns said. "If you have a work ethic, the desire and the passion, anyone who is dedicated can earn the right to represent the Florida cattle industry. We must continue to share our story and our passion so much that it becomes synonymous with the public that cattlemen and women are great stewards of the land and animals they oversee. The world needs us, though many of them will never realize it. It's our job to keep up the fight to make sure we are still around for another 500 years."

With that, Johns turned over the reins, title and responsibility to Pearce, his friend of 30 years.

"In my mind, you are the ultimate cow keeper," Pearce said.



Joel Cohen

Alex Johns addresses the Florida Cattlemen's Association on June 20 for the last time as president. After a year of service, Johns' term was complete and he stepped down as its first Native American president.

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# Elvis's gold piano takes its place in Hard Rock Tampa history

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — Elvis may not be in the building, but his piano graces the new atrium at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tampa.

The glitzy 24-karat gold leaf piano is the centerpiece of the property's elegant new grand entrance and was unveiled July 11 in a ceremony just off the casino floor.

Tribal members, Council, Presley's bandleader and guitarist James Burton, members of the media and casino patrons gathered in the marble floored atrium, which is surrounded by two curving escalators leading to the mezzanine level. Adding to the unique quality of the space are an eye-catching multistory chandelier resembling a cascade of piano keys, beaded walls which mimic piano keys and a lyric from an Elvis song: "I just can't miss with a good luck charm like you." The atrium is clearly fit for the "King of Rock and Roll."

"It's been over two years of construction," Jim Allen, Hard Rock International chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO, said referring to the renovations to the entire property. "With the new finishes, this product can compete with anything in the U.S."

Casino patrons keep the machines busy all hours of the night and day, seemingly oblivious to the construction that continues behind temporary walls. The grand opening is scheduled for Oct. 3.

"Back in the '80s we needed to find a



Elvis Presley's gold piano graces the atrium at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tampa. The instrument, which sits on a marble platform under a free-form chandelier resembling a cascade of piano keys, was unveiled to much fanfare July 11.

Hard Rock International acquired the piano in 2015; it was the company's 80,000th piece of memorabilia.

Burton, who led Presley's TCB Band (Taking Care of Business) from 1969 until the King's death in 1977 attended the unveiling. He was inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2001, was recognized by the Rockabilly Hall of Fame and the Musicians Hall of Fame and was a member of the Wrecking Crew, the famed Los Angeles group of session musicians.

"Elvis would play the piano for his mom for hours," said Burton, 79. "In Graceland, the piano was in the front room with all the trophies."

Burton said he didn't play the piano. "It was too heavy to carry around so I played guitar," he said with a smile.

The piano is flanked by two Gibson guitars, a 1957 J-200 acoustic played by Presley in the movie "Elvis and Me" and a Dove played by the King in the mid-1970s. Andy Buster brought his own 25-plus year old Gibson J-200 to the unveiling which Burton graciously signed for him.

The stunning gold piano sits on a marble base surrounded by gold stanchions. Allen said there are plenty of people who would like to play the iconic instrument.

"We reached out to Presley's estate and it will have to be someone who respects the history of Elvis," Allen said. "One of the things we are proud of is when an artist gives us memorabilia we make sure it is respected. We are the curators of the pieces."

Hard Rock is talking to an A-list artist about playing the piano, which won't be moved from its perch in the atrium. Allen said they are trying to make it happen and if it does, virtually "everyone" will know the artist.

"We're upping our game with the piano," said Steve Bonner, president, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tampa. "The elegance we've created here while bringing back the music theme and the other things make us a total resort."

Before the barrier walls were moved aside to reveal the piano, Council members spoke about the day's milestone.

"It takes a great vision and a great team to execute the plans here and in Hollywood," said Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola. "We've come a long way."



Andy Buster talks to Rock & Roll Hall of Famer James Burton, Elvis Presley's bandleader and lead guitarist, after he signed Buster's guitar during Presley's gold piano unveiling at Hard Rock in Tampa

track for tourism here to build revenue," said President Mitchell Cypress. "So we built an alligator pit. Today we've accomplished a lot."

The Tampa property is in the midst of a \$700 million expansion that includes a 14-story hotel tower, three pools on a deck the size of a football field, an event center and a lot more gaming space. When the property opens, it will feature approximately 800 hotel rooms and suites, a 245,000-square-foot casino and a 17,000-square-foot Hard Rock Event Center that can be configured for concerts, conventions and private events. Country superstar Keith Urban will open the event center with a concert October 4.

"There used to be little village on this

place," said Brighton Councilman Larry Howard. "It humbles us to see the fruits of our labor. For something that looks this great, there was a lot of hard work and dedication."

Elvis Presley bought the 1928 W.W. Kimball grand piano for his mother in 1955. Since it didn't fit in her apartment, Presley put it in his home on Audubon Drive in Memphis. After his mother's death in 1958, the piano was put in storage. For their first anniversary in 1968, his wife Priscilla had the piano festooned with 24-karat gold-leaf. The piano was a fixture in the music room at Graceland until Presley's death in 1977. Since then, it had been on display at Graceland and the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville.



From left, President Mitchell Cypress, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress, CEO of Seminole Gaming and Chairman of Hard Rock International Jim Allen, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and Brighton Councilman Larry Howard pose in front of Elvis Presley's 24-karat gold leaf piano in the grand entrance of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tampa.



Ruby Thomas, Bobby Henry, Sally Tommie, Annie Henry and Joanie Henry pose in front of the piano.

## ◆ HARD ROCK From page 1A

venue. The \$125 million theater-style performance space seats 7,000. The first performance in the new space will be Maroon 5 on Oct. 25.

### Food, shopping

Like any Hard Rock, treating the taste buds is a mandatory part of the experience. Foodies (and just those who are just hungry) can choose between 19 restaurants and 20 bars and lounges at the new Hollywood development.

Food options will include contemporary Italian, an American grill, 24-hour bakery-café, buffet-style, poolside dining and a coffee shop.

Those in the mood to shop can choose

stores within the 26,000-square-foot retail promenade.

### Tampa, too

Meanwhile, at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa — the largest of all Florida casinos — there has been increasing anticipation as well.

The grand opening date for its \$700 million expansion is slated for Oct. 3.

Tampa has a new 14-story hotel tower with 562 guestrooms and suites, three pools and additional gaming space. The 26,000 square foot spa and salon has 13 treatment rooms.

The new pools are located on the second level of the expanded hotel and casino complex. Along with the 200,000 gallons of water is an expanded 60,000 square foot deck area with 20 cabanas.

There are many new food, beverage and retail options as well. Guest can choose from 14 restaurants and bars within many styles and tastes.

Retail offerings include jewelry, cosmetics and men's and women's fashions.

Like Hollywood, but on a smaller scale, is the 2,000 seat Hard Rock Event Center, which is also a 17,000-square-foot grand ballroom that will host conventions, trade shows, private events and large-scale poker tournaments.

Country star Keith Urban will christen the Event Center with an Oct. 4 show.

The already completed 245,000-square-foot expanded casino includes an additional 1,000 slots and 41 table games. There are now almost 5,000 slots, 179 tables and 46 tables in the poker room.

As part of its extensive rock and roll memorabilia, the Tampa property recently acquired Elvis Presley's 24-karat gold leafed 1928 Kimball Piano Co. grand piano.

The piano represents Hard Rock's 80,000th piece of memorabilia.

Some of the hotel tower's more than 500 rooms are available to book now.

The Tampa casino-resort is located off I-4 at North Orient Road and Hillsborough Avenue, about 10 minutes east of downtown.

### Jobs, jobs, jobs

The economic impact of both projects

has already been felt with hundreds of new construction jobs and contracts at both locations. It will continue to increase with ongoing permanent positions.

Allen said the economic research he's seen predicts the creation of 19,000 direct and indirect jobs between both projects. Both properties have already held multiple job fairs and hired thousands of new workers.



This bird's eye view rendering shows the new areas of the Hollywood expansion.



The expansion in Tampa also includes a massive hotel.



◆ **PAGEANT**  
From page 1A

moms, and the grandmas, and the aunts, and the Tribal Councilmen, and maybe another female chairperson.”

Throughout the evening, Osceola enlightened the audience with behind-the-scenes stories that are forever etched into the fabric of pageant memories, including an impromptu run to Popeyes when the pageant was held in Immokalee, the times it was held at John Bay Auditorium in Okeechobee and how a fire alarm went off just as the winners were to be announced at last year’s pageant. Tribal Secretary and program director Lavonne Rose recalled the year both the air conditioning and caterers decided to take the night off when the pageant was held in the Ahfachkee School cafeteria.

Time will tell if this year’s brief moment of unanticipated drama – a few panicky seconds when the location of the Miss Florida Seminole crown wasn’t immediately known just before the winner was announced – will make it into pageant lore.

The evening began with an invocation from Judybill Osceola. Rose recognized the hard work put in by the Princess Pageant Committee members who are also former Miss Seminoles: Wanda Bowers (1968, 1969), Christine McCall (2005), Naomi Wilson (1985), Connie Gowan (1957), Alice Billie (1997), Tina Osceola (1986), Cassandra Jimmie (2010), Vanessa Frank (1996), Rande Osceola (2017) and Cheyenne Kippenberger (2018).

Other royalty was in attendance, too, including from the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and Miss Native USA Karyl Frankiewicz from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

The judges were Patina Park (Mnicoujou Lakota), Kella With Horn (Lakota) and James Williams Jr. (Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians),

coming from Minnesota, South Dakota and Michigan, respectively.

The pageant culminated a week full of practicing and bonding for the girls.

“These girls have worked so hard these past three days. We’ve watched them blossom and grow and open up in the most beautiful way all together,” Kippenberger said.

Durante Blais-Billie won the essay contest for Miss Florida Seminole; Winnie Gopher won it for Jr. Miss Florida.

The evening allowed the judges to see the contestants in various areas, including introductions, modeling of traditional outfits, talent and impromptu questions. Seminole culture served as the foundation for the talent portion, such as how to collect fiber from a palmetto tree with a machete (Satie Rico), how to make grass baskets (Patsy Veliz) and shakers (Tehya Howard), the traditional mosquito repellent method (Gherri Osceola) and the importance of the Creek language (Winnie Gopher).

The winners of the talent portion – Durante Blais-Billie and Aubee Billie – were soon after crowned Miss Florida Seminole and Jr. Miss Florida, respectively.

Blais-Billie, daughter of France Blais-Billie and the late July Billie, recently earned a Master of the Arts degree in both management and art history from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. She is taking a year off from academia. She said she would like to have a career in museum curation in modern art. For now, she’s focused on her new duties as 2019-20 Miss Florida Seminole.

“It means so much,” she said. “I’m so glad that I have this opportunity to show Tribal members that we have the resources here to achieve our dreams, and the education and culture preservation are really the path to go to.”

In the modeling category, Blais-Billie wore an outfit sewn by Melissa DeMayo that featured an autumn colored ensemble, including depiction of corn that recalls the



Kevin Johnson

Joining Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Aubee Billie and Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie are, from left, Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon Wareham, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, President Mitchell Cypress, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Brighton Councilman Larry Howard. The new royalty was named July 27 during the 62nd annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant at headquarters auditorium in Hollywood.

harvest season. Designs on the outfit included man on horse, zig zag and arrowhead.

For the talent portion, Blais-Billie provided a discussion and demonstration about the role sweetgrass baskets have in Seminole history.

“These baskets were made to be sold in souvenir shops so our Tribe could support itself independently,” she told the audience.

The impromptu question she was asked was: Why is the Everglades significant to the Seminoles?

“I think there’s a strong historic significance as during the three Seminole wars it was a refuge for our people as well as in the early 20th century it provide lots of the materials for our unique crafts,” she responded. “In contemporary times, we now act as the guardians of the Everglades (and) speak up on behalf of the nature there.”

Before she was crowned Jr. Miss Florida, Aubee Billie, who was contestant No. 1, told the audience about her strengths.

“Compassionate and hard-working are just some of the qualities that I identify myself with,” she said in the introduction portion.

Billie, daughter of Maria Billie and former Chairman James Billie, will be entering her junior year at The King’s Academy in West Palm Beach, where she had the lead role in the school’s production of “Miss Saigon” earlier this year. Her interests include musical theatre and archery.

As for the traditional dress portion, she wore an outfit made by Diane Snow which featured two rows of patchwork, a lightning design on the bottom and a fire design on the top. Its ruffles represented the Tribe’s medicine colors of white, black, red and yellow.

Billie used Seminole storytelling as her base in the talent portion, explaining the story about how the raccoon got its mask.

“Throughout Seminole history, storytelling has been a way for us to communicate and to teach life lessons and about the environment around us,” she said to the audience.

After being crowned, Billie said she was shocked to win the Jr. Miss title.

“It means everything to me,” she said. “I truly didn’t think I was going to get it; I just wanted to learn from the other girls and have a bond with them. It truly was a blessing.”

Alycia Mora, 20, of Immokalee, won 1st runner-up for Miss Florida Seminole. She said she would like to work in accounting for Hard Rock. Second runner-up was Kailani Osceola. Third runner-up was Gherri Osceola.

Lena Stubbs, 16, of Hollywood, who received the loudest cheers of the night from the audience, won 1st runner-up for Jr. Miss. She is heading into her junior year at American Heritage School in Plantation. Second runner-up was Winnie Gopher. Third runner-up was Patsy Veliz.



Kevin Johnson

Durante Blais-Billie competes in the talent portion of the pageant, showing and explaining the history and making of sweetgrass baskets.



Kevin Johnson

Miss Florida Seminole 1st runner-up Alycia Mora, center, is joined by reigning Miss Indian World and 2018-19 Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger, left, and 2018-19 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Clarice DeMayo.



Kevin Johnson

Junior Miss Florida Seminole 1st runner-up Lena Stubbs, center, is joined by 2018-19 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Clarice DeMayo, left, and reigning Miss Indian World and 2018-19 Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger.



Miss Florida Seminole contestant Satie Rico uses a machete to demonstrate how fibers are removed from palmetto trees during the talent portion of the pageant.



Kevin Johnson

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole and Miss Florida Seminole contestants gather before the announcement of winners during the 62nd annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.



# Thousands of calves, worth millions, shipped from Big Cypress, Brighton reservations

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Sixty-one cattle owners in Brighton and Big Cypress had a fruitful July as they shipped more than 3,500 calves to feedlots around the country. The annual two-week shipping event marks the end of a year in which the calves were raised, cared for and sold.

"It went pretty smooth, we didn't have any issues," said Alex Johns, natural resource director. "The weather was ideal this year and the calves were heavier for the most part. It's been a good season."

Crews of cowhands helped owners get their herds from the pastures into their pens. The herds were vocal as the calves were separated from the cows and loaded onto cattle trailers. It is a grueling, dirty and sometimes dangerous job that begins just after sunrise and ends when all the calves from the day's pastures have been shipped.

Blevyns Jumper, who was part of a team of cowhands working in the pastures, experienced a few close calls as he separated calves while on foot in the pens. From their saddles, Morgan Yates and Amanda Miller used their horses to move the cows from pen to pen.

Brighton's marsh pen was busy on July 12 as seven owners shipped 349 animals. Once they were unloaded from the trailers, the calves were sorted once again, this time by weight and gender. Cowhands moved the calves in small groups from the holding pens and into a chute leading to the scale. After their weight was ascertained, they were led into smaller pens with similar sized calves.

Melissa Gopher shipped 38 steers and 32 heifers and was pleased with the results.

"The numbers were good this year," Gopher said. "I supplement the herd with molasses and organic fruit and hay from the feedlot. It made a big difference this year."

A traditional cowboy lunch, home cooked by cattle owners' families, was served under a shed which was rebuilt after Hurricane Irma damaged the roof. The impressive spread was more than enough to satisfy the hunger of the workers in the pens and pastures, who still had more calves to retrieve and ship.

The animals were loaded onto multi-level cattle trucks and sent to feedlots in Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Mississippi and Texas. It took 39 truckloads filled with



Beverly Bidney

At the marsh pens, Joe Osceola runs with the calves as he herds them into the next pen leading to the scales.

around 80 to 100 animals each, depending on the weight, to complete the job. The average weight of the calves was 530 pounds. The value of all the shipped calves exceeded \$2.7 million.

"We are still making genetic progress," Johns said. "The calves are heavier every year; we have more beef per acre so it

increases our production. We got a good price for the calves."

Edna McDuffie and her brother Norman Johns shipped 110 calves.

"We try to get them as fat as we can," Norman Johns said. "It's been a good year."



Beverly Bidney

Above, Morgan Yates and Amanda Miller use their horses to move the cows and calves in Lola Gopher's pens during calf shipping July 12 in Brighton. At right, Aaron Stam and Alex Johns move calves into the chute leading to the scale.



## Part of Old Tamiami Trail to be removed to assist water flow

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**MIAMI-DADE** — Environmentalists are happy about the announcement of the long awaited removal of part of the Old Tamiami Trail near Everglades National Park.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) recently said the removal of 5.5 miles of Old Tamiami Trail roadbed, located in Miami-Dade County near the Miccosukee Reservation, would begin soon. The project is expected to increase the natural flow of water and wetland acreage in the area.

Built about a century ago, the Old Tamiami Trail was considered a triumph of engineering at the time, however there wasn't much consideration given to the potential hit the health of the Everglades would take from its construction.

Both the roadway and the Tamiami canal have acted as a dam which blocks water flow from Lake Okeechobee to the Florida Bay.

As a result, the project — and others throughout central and South Florida — has caused water flow to the Everglades to diminish considerably over the years. It has had a negative effect on the ecology of the region — including on some Seminole Reservations and on the Miccosukee Indian Reservation.

Since the 1990s, some canals have been filled and culverts constructed under roads

and highways to help regulate water flow, but efforts have largely been fragmented.

### 'As nature intended'

The SFWMD board approved a contract with Florida Power and Light Co. (FPL) to relocate power lines on the stretch of Old Tamiami Trail — clearing the way for its removal.

Reaction from a number of stakeholders in the state has been expectedly positive.

"Removing this stretch of road will allow the water to flow south as nature intended," SFWMD board member Ron Bergeron said in a statement, also praising restoration efforts by the Gov. Ron DeSantis administration.

DeSantis' office has identified at least two dozen Everglades restoration projects as a priority for SFWMD to tackle.

Following the announcement, Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Noah Valenstein said his office would continue to work closely with the SFWMD to "expedite and advance Everglades restoration projects as quickly as possible."

Celeste De Palma, director of Everglades policy for Audubon Florida said the project is a good start.

"Relocating power lines along Old Tamiami Trail is the first step to remove portions of the road and enhance the performance of the two new bridges along Tamiami," she said.

A National Parks Conservation Association official echoed De Palma's sentiments.

"Removing old Tamiami Trail will clear the way to flow water into Everglades National Park — water that is desperately needed to restore our national parks and connected ecosystems," Cara Capp, who is the Everglades restoration program manager for the NPCA, said in a statement.

While clearing the way for water to flow south from Lake Okeechobee is the goal of environmentalists and others, some stressed the Herculean effort that remains for full Everglades restoration.

"This will help to restore a strip of marsh that was paved over nearly 100 years ago before it was known as Everglades National Park," Eric Eikenberg, CEO of the Everglades Foundation, said in a statement. "The ultimate Everglades restoration objective is to flow more water under the Tamiami Trail bridges further to the east. The Old Tamiami Trail is a relic of the past and removing it will allow natural habitat within this wetland of international importance to reestablish."

Many environmental voices in Florida are Native ones. Betty Osceola, an environmental activist and member of the Miccosukee Tribe, lives and works near where the removal project will take place.

She is in support of SFWMD's project, but thinks more needs to be done.

"It's one portion of a barrier removed to get water flow, but you still have U.S.

41, she told The Seminole Tribune. "In the grand scheme of water flow, it's not going to do much. It's being given a lot of hoopla, but it's a baby step."

Osceola consults with the Miccosukee Tribe on environmental and cultural issues and she and her spouse also operate an airboat tour company on the Miccosukee Indian Reservation in the Everglades.

She is a member of the Panther Clan and has connections to the Seminole Tribe as her late mother, Mary Billie, was an enrolled member. Osceola has siblings who are Seminole as well.

She was recently featured in the TV documentary "The Swamp," which analyzes the history of the Everglades, man's attempt to tame it, and how that has shaped Florida.

Osceola said she hopes more Tribal members and others pay attention to where these types of projects are located and what different entities are proposing and doing across the state.

"People need to stay connected and keep tabs," she said, mentioning the aquifer, storage and recovery (ASR) wells under construction near Lake Okeechobee now.

"People need to understand and ask questions," Osceola said.

Osceola said the issue of nutrient pollutants flowing from the lake into Florida waterways — exacerbating red tide — is still one of the biggest environmental issues at play.

"You have to figure out how to remove the nutrients from the water and improve the

regulations to reduce the impact," she said. "I would want better regulation over all of the lands where agriculture is produced. When we are ignoring all these other problems, the removing of this little strip, what are we really accomplishing?"

Officials said the road removal would likely begin next spring and is expected to be completed by 2021.

### For more

The SFWMD recently released its 2020-2025 strategic plan for public review and comment. The plan is intended to serve as a blueprint for SFWMD and the public on water resource management priorities.

It can be reviewed at [sfwmd.gov/2025](http://sfwmd.gov/2025). Meanwhile, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is taking public comment on the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP) through the year.

The Corps is proposing several water storage ideas and two wetland restoration sites. Implementation is expected to better distribute water both entering Lake Okeechobee and being released from it, including near Glades County where the Brighton Reservation is located.

The document can be viewed at [www.saj.usace.army.mil/lowrp/](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/lowrp/). Comments can be submitted via email to [okeechobeewatershedrestoration@usace.army.mil](mailto:okeechobeewatershedrestoration@usace.army.mil).





From left to right are Sidney Gore, Donnie Gore, Norman Johns, Andrew Bowers Jr., Joletta Carney, Patty Waldron, Buster Baxley, Perrie Whiddon, Alex Johns, Reno Osceola, Emma Jane Urbina, Shane Buck, Stanlo Johns, Theresa Johns Urbina, Billy Joe Johns, Wendi Bowers Riley, Caria Gopher Rodriguez and Beulah Gopher.

Damon Scott

## Brighton cattle owners recreate old family photo

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The descendants of Seminole Tribe cattle owners in Brighton recently gathered to recreate a family photo of their elders holding branding irons.

Generations of family members met July 13 at the Brighton shipping-marsh cattle pens to eat lunch and pose for the photo before loading up calves for transport. Dozens of cattle owners in Brighton and Big Cypress shipped more than 3,500 calves to feedlots across the country in mid-July as part of an annual event. (See story page 6A).

The photo recreation was done with each descendent in the photo holding their

respective families' cattle branding tool. Some members are descended from the original owners from the 1940s.

The Tribe has a long history of men and women cattle owners. The historic lineage can be traced to families on the Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations, where the practice remains active today.

Nearly half of the Tribe's almost 70 cattle owners are women. Late last year, about a dozen of the 29 women cattle owners reestablished the Florida Seminole Cattlewomen Association.

Many of those women, whose group originally began in 2009, were present for the photo recreation in Brighton. Emma Urbina is the president and other officers include Wendi Riley, Lucy M. Bowers and Carla Gopher Rodriguez.

The Tribe is well-known as a large

producer of cattle — one of the main enterprises of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc.

The Tribe's cattle operations are one of the cornerstones toward its overall goal of sovereignty and self-sufficiency. The Seminole Tribe is one of the few tribes in the U.S. that grows enough protein to feed its own people, if necessary.

Last spring, the Tribe honored two cattle bosses at its 23rd annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive & Rodeo in Big Cypress in, which has become an annual tradition.

The two cattle bosses who were honored at the event were the Rev. Frank J. Billie — who passed away in 2008 at 96 — and Joe "Benji" Osceola. Both are members of Wind Clan.

"Most of the elders knew that for true sovereignty you have to be able to feed

yourself, you have to be able to feed your people," Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank said at a ceremony for the men. "With the cattle program we became organized and they knew we had to feed ourselves."

Alex Johns, the Tribe's natural resources director, recently finished a one-year term as president of the Florida Cattlemen's Association. He was also present for the photo recreation in Brighton.

*Editor's note: Not all of the members of the cattle families were present at the time of the group photo. Those members include Donnie Gore, Polly Osceola Hayes, Lewis Gopher and others.*



Damon Scott

Brighton's Lewis Gopher is part of a long line of Tribal cattle owners.



Damon Scott

The Florida Seminole Cattlewomen Association includes, from left to right, Stephanie Johns, Patty Johns Waldron, Theresa Johns Urbina, Emma Jane Urbina, Carla Gopher Rodriguez, Wendi Bowers Riley, Beulah Gopher, Perrie Whiddon and Joletta Carney.



Damon Scott

Donnie Gore and Polly Osceola Hayes both descend from Seminole cattle families.

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

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

## The process behind the processing

**ROBIN P. CROSKERY HOWARD**  
Conservator,  
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Each year, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum acquires objects to add to our collection. It is not a simple matter of purchasing or being given an object and then placing it on exhibition. Prior to entering the collection, the objects undergo a long process to ensure that the object is safe and that all of the initial information is captured. Part of the job of a conservator is to assess each object as it comes into the collection, prior to exhibition or loan, and routinely assess objects to ensure that no damage has occurred in storage. This assessment is known as a condition report.

Once the object has reached the museum, it undergoes an isolation procedure to ensure that it does not house any sort of infestation of insects or other pests. This is part of the integrated pest management (IPM) procedures. Sealed in a thick plastic bag, the anoxic (extremely low oxygen) environment is too harsh for most pests to survive over a two week period. As soon as the IPM is complete, the objects are moved into the laboratory for the initial processing. This initial processing involves documenting the object through condition reports and photographs. The condition reports can either serve as a cursory glance to make quick notes, or provide an in-depth analysis down to the chemical make-up of the object. During the reporting, conservators

identify any issues with the object that should be addressed prior to exhibition, loan, or even, simply, storage. These objects are then imaged and sent to be numbered, catalogued, and housed. Occasionally, customized housing is a necessary component of preventative or interventive conservation measures; conservators and other collections staff can create unique housing for these objects to protect them for a longer period of time in storage.

One collection in the midst of being processed is the papers and photographs of district nurse Claudia Wilson. She served as the nurse on the Big Cypress and Brighton reservations during the mid-20th century. This collection provides an in-

depth look at life on the reservations, the general level of health care provided to the residents, and the major health concerns of the era. Years ago, Wilson gifted it to the Clewiston Museum, where it sat untouched in several cardboard boxes until former director, Butch Wilson, donated it to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki.

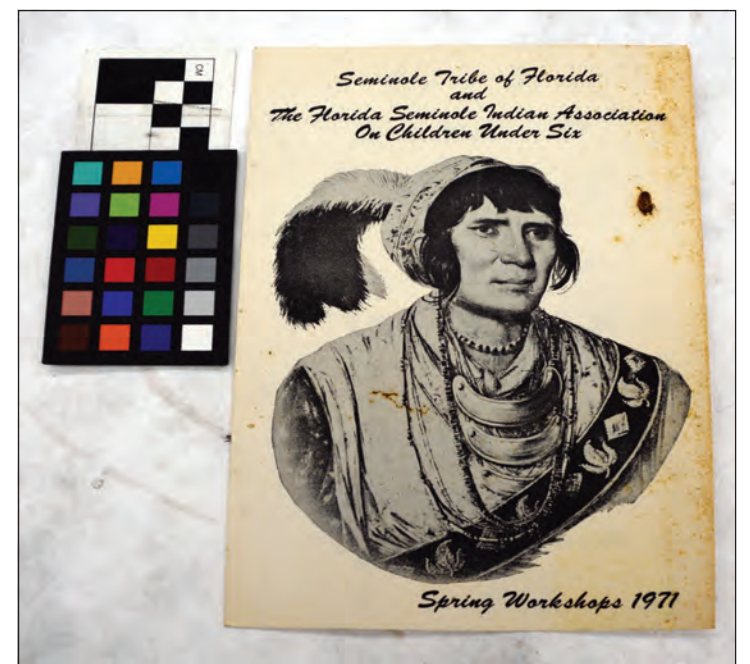
When the collection first entered the laboratory, the estimate of the number of objects in the collection was approximately 200. Currently, the laboratory has processed over 450 items and there is likely another 150 items left in the collection that require processing. This one collection will take

several hundred hours to assess, catalog, house and store properly. However, once the processing is complete, the objects will be able to be accessed at the museum for Tribal members and researchers alike who wish to learn more. This invaluable information is precisely why the museum collects such objects.

Are you interested in learning more about the museum's collections or conservation in general? Please contact Robin Croskery Howard at 863-902-1113, ext. 12220 for more information.



Uncatalogued photographs in binder from the Clewiston lot.



Uncatalogued brochure, spring 1971, from the Clewiston lot.

## STOF employees develop climate change plan at Montana tribal climate camp

**BY BEVERLY BIDNEY**  
Staff Reporter

Developing a strategy to deal with the impact of climate change isn't child's play, but a group of Seminole Tribe of Florida employees recently went to summer camp to come up with a plan.

Paul Backhouse, senior director of the Heritage and Environment Resources Office; Juan Cancel, assistant director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office; and James Charles, consultant for Tribal environmental and cultural resources, attended the Tribal Climate Camp (TCC) held from June 16 to 21 at the University of Montana's Flathead Lake Bio Station in Polson, Montana.

The Seminole team was one of 14 other groups representing tribes from the Pacific Northwest, Alaska and the plains states who attended the TCC. Hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Salish Kootenai, TCC provided scientists, university professors and facilitators to guide the teams as they developed climate change plans for their respective tribes.

According to its website, the philosophy of TCC is build the capacity of tribal leader teams to address climate change and its associated economic, social, cultural,

regulatory and technological impact within the tribe and with other governments through strategic alliances with partners in Indian Country and globally. The TCC curriculum taught how to devise a plan and work together with tribal leadership on a climate change program.

The objective of the week-long camp was to create a 10-year climate change strategy focused on traditional Tribal culture and traditions. By the end of the week, the Seminole team had an outline of a plan that can begin to be implemented.

"We wanted to build a framework to deal with climate change from the Tribal perspective," said consultant Charles, of Volya Innovative Solutions. "There is no reason to sacrifice cultural sensibilities and traditions."

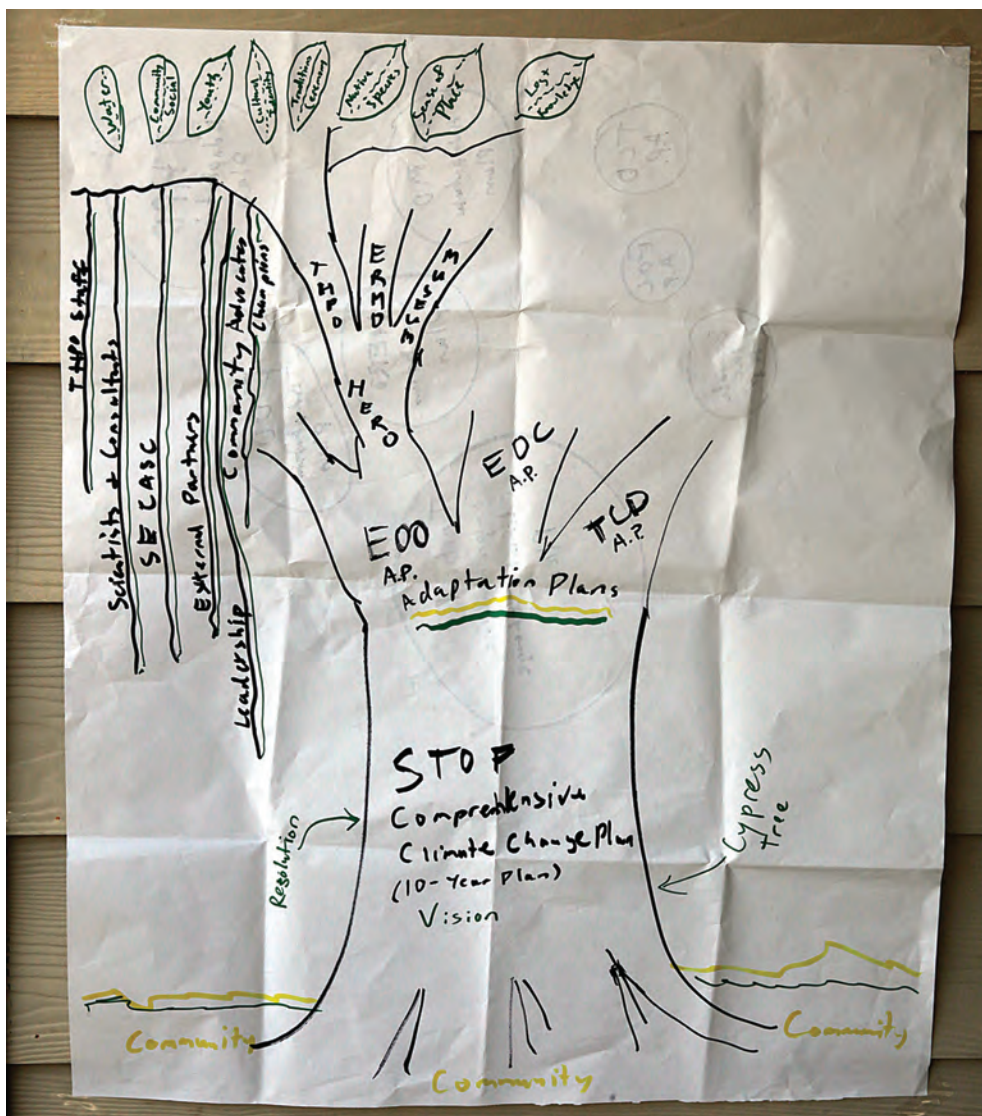
The idea was to create the plan with input from the community and integrate it into all departments of the Tribe. Using the analogy of a tree, Backhouse explained that the priorities of the plan will come from the roots, which represent the community.

"We will get input from the community from the start," Backhouse said. "Without the community, there is no plan."

The vision of the Seminole climate change plan is to improvise, adapt, overcome and thrive. Once complete, the plan will be



Juan Cancel and James Charles work on a climate change plan for the Seminole Tribe while at the Tribal Climate Camp in Montana on June 17.



Courtesy photo

The graphic visualization of the Seminole climate change plan created by the Seminole team at the Tribal Climate Camp.

based on Seminole culture and traditions, which will be gathered from the community. Western science will provide additional information and guidance when culturally appropriate and necessary.

During the workshop, Backhouse, Cancel and Charles used the tree to bring the plan into focus. The trunk represents STOF government, the branches are the executive offices and departments, vines represent influences and partners to implement the plan, leaves are the Tribe's values and cultural identity, and the fruit is the result of the plan.

"The main focus is the community," Charles said. "The framework will be traditional and science will be incorporated as appropriate."

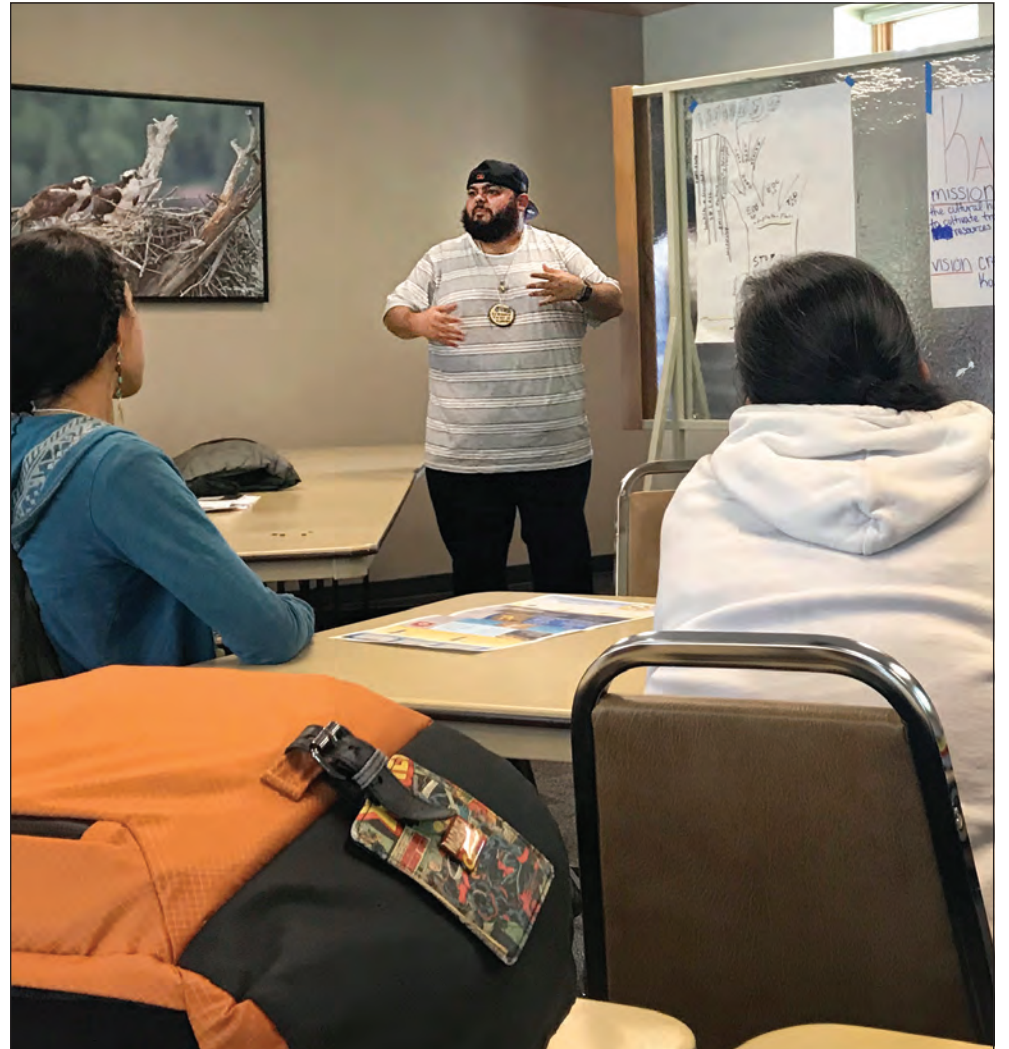
The first step will be to assess the vulnerability on all reservations to determine how each may be impacted by climate change. Determining the probability of the occurrence will help the Tribe make informed decisions.

"Science will give projections for the future," Backhouse said. "Some things are going to change. The plan allows the Tribe to respond to climate change, keep the integrity of the community and maintain their cultural identity. Science will be used with culture and traditions in mind."

A key component of the plan is communications.

"Thinking about climate change has to be integrated into everything we do," Backhouse said. "Climate camp gave us real clarity."

Every member of the Tribal community is encouraged to give feedback for the climate change plan by contacting Quenton Cypress, THPO community engagement manager at 863-983-6549, ext. 12223 or email him at quentoncypress@semtribe.com.



Courtesy photo

THPO assistant director Juan Cancel presents the climate change plan he, Paul Backhouse and consultant James Charles devised to other participants at the Tribal Climate Camp.

## National Congress of American Indians names Allis its first CEO

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The National Congress of American Indians announced June 12 that Kevin Allis has accepted the role of its first chief executive officer. In this role, Allis will be responsible for leading and managing all strategic and operational aspects of the organization while creating a vision for the future long-term success for NCAI and the NCAI Fund. Allis will report directly to the NCAI Executive Committee.

Allis, a member of the Forest County Potawatomi Community, comes to NCAI with a leadership background within the

government relations industry where he spent time building working relationships with congressional offices, relevant administrative agencies and other advocacy organizations, to strategically advance top priorities for Indian Country.

Allis's previous roles include executive director of the Native American Contractors Association, Board chairman of the Potawatomi Business Development Corporation, and founder of Thunderbird Strategies, LLC, a government relations firm specializing in advocacy of Native American rights. Allis is also an attorney and former law enforcement officer who served the

Baltimore Police Department for eight years.

"NCAI, in its 75 years, has defined, defended, and continues to champion efforts to promote Native resiliency and tribal sovereignty. I am sincerely humbled by the honor to lead this organization, and appreciate the opportunity and challenge to continue the great work of this historic organization in strengthening tribal sovereignty and safeguarding our traditions and customs for generations to come," Allis said in a statement.

"As we embark on a new chapter with the hiring of our first CEO, we are pleased to welcome Kevin Allis to the

National Congress of American Indians. We are fortunate to benefit from Kevin's considerable expertise and look forward to working together to protect and advance tribal sovereignty," said NCAI President, Jefferson Keel, of the Executive Committee's selection of Allis.

Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country.



Kevin Allis



# Health



## Two bills would increase funds for key Native diabetes programs

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

There are two bills sponsored in the U.S. House of Representatives that the National Indian Health Board and others are keeping a close eye on. Both affect funding for programs that target diabetes issues for Native Americans.

The bills – H.R. 2680 (Special Diabetes Program for Indians or SDPI) and H.R. 2668 (Special Diabetes Program or SDP) – have recently been introduced by members of the House.

Diabetes programs are of particular importance to Native American communities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that American Indians and Alaska Natives have a greater chance of getting diabetes than any other U.S. racial group. With the increased risk come greater health complications and higher health care costs.

The SDPI renewal bill would fund the program for five years at \$200 million per year, marking its first funding increase in 15 years. Congress has historically renewed SDPI in one to three year increments at \$150 million per year.

“[SDPI] reflects two longstanding

Tribal goals for the program that NIHB has worked to achieve: long term reauthorization and a funding increase,” the National Indian Health Board said in a recent statement.

Rep. Tom O’Halloran, D-AZ, introduced the H.R. 2680 renewal legislation.

“This short term renewal process has caused uncertainty for Tribal grantees and makes long term planning difficult,” the NIHB statement continued. “Despite short-term renewals and stagnant funding, SDPI has well documented success in Indian Country.”

NIHB said there are more than 300 grantees receiving SDPI funding.

The NIHB estimates that over the life of the SDPI program, the incidence of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) among American Indians and Alaska Natives has fallen by 54% – the largest decline for any national demographic.

“This has led to tremendous cost savings, as for every year a person is kept off of dialysis treatment for ESRD, Medicare saves \$88,000 per patient,” the NIHB statement said.

The NIHB said that SDPI empowers Tribes, Tribal organizations and urban Indian groups to develop their own programs at the community level to prevent and treat diabetes.

Rep. Diana DeGette, D-CO, introduced H.R. 2668, also a renewal bill, which funds programs researching type-1 diabetes treatment. That bill also increases SDP funding to \$200 million.

NIHB is monitoring the bills along with partners that include the American Diabetes Association, Endocrine Society, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the National Council of Urban Indian Health.

The groups recently asked members of Congress to sign their names on a letter to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-CA, and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-CA, in support of the program.

Out of 435 members in the House, at least 376 have signed the letter – a strong bipartisan show of support for the difference the programs are making in Indian Country, NIHB said.

NIHB is now urging their supporters to call their respective members of Congress and urge them to support both bills.

The Washington, D.C.-based NIHB represents Tribal governments – both those that operate their own health care delivery systems through contracting and compacting – and those receiving health care directly from the Indian Health Service.

More information is at nihb.org.

## Two Seminoles participate in Miami climate rally on evening of presidential debate

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The 2020 Democratic presidential debates in Miami on June 26 and 27 attracted a lot of attention from voters and television viewers as well as more than a dozen climate change organizations, which used the second debate as an opportunity to emphasize the importance of fighting climate change.

The group held an “Underwater Climate Rally” at the Freedom Tower, near the debate venue, to ensure the issue of climate change is a top priority during the presidential election. Seminole Tribal members Valholly Frank and Kelli Tigertail, both from Big Cypress, participated in the event along with dozens of other activists.

At the ripe young age of 16, Frank has become a seasoned climate activist; she is a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the state. Reynolds v. State of Florida argues that the state has shirked its responsibilities and endangered its youth by failing to protect the environment and their future. She spoke at the rally.

“We are suing on behalf of all the people of the state of Florida and those who will be born,” Frank said. “The government ignoring climate change is violating our right to life and property. There is no fight for human rights or animal rights if we don’t solve the climate crisis right now.”

Tigertail told the crowd that all of Florida is Seminole land, but the original inhabitants were the Tequesta.

“Indigenous people are still being displaced because of climate issues,” Tigertail said. “Black and brown people will

be the first to be affected by climate change; you saw that after Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, Liberty City was the last to get power after the last hurricane and Opa Locka residents had to deal with big piles of debris in front of their homes that affected their air quality. Let’s be here for climate issues, but don’t forget the racial issues, too.”

Many of the protesters believe there should be a debate about climate change only.

“It is the singular issue because everything else will be affected by it,” Frank said. “Climate change is a problem maximizer; it makes every other issue a lot worse than it already is.”

Caroline Lewis, founder of The CLEO Institute, moderated the rally. The CLEO Institute’s mission is to break down scientific data and educate communities about climate change at a grassroots level.

“This is a climate crisis, a climate emergency, a planetary disruption and we have to face this crisis head on,” Lewis said. “Climate change is a threat multiplier, everything we worry about is heightened by a changing climate.”

Climate change is already impacting people around the world. Parts of Miami Beach see flooding during King Tides and some high tides. Frank’s commitment to the cause is personal.

“Since my community is at sea level, we will be the first to be affected by sea level rise,” she said. “I have a deep sense of home; my ancestors survived in the Everglades. This place is why I’m alive and I want to keep it alive.”

## Free back-to-school shots available in August

BY SALLIE JAMES  
Florida Department of Health in Broward County

Shopping for new clothes, stocking up on school supplies and picking out edgy new backpacks are some of the back-to-school rituals kids look forward to every year. Making sure their childhood vaccines are up-to-date is equally important and required by Florida law.

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

“Vaccination is the best way to protect the health of your children and our community,” said Dr. Paula Thaqi, Director of the Department of Health in Broward. “Vaccines are safe and effective. Back to school time is a great opportunity to make sure vaccinations are up to date.”

The best choice is to have the children vaccinated by your family doctor. But if that isn’t possible, you can visit county offices of the Florida Department of Health. DOH will be offering free immunizations

at the Lauderhill Mall at 1267 NW 40 Ave. from August 5th-16th. The immunization campaign will include a back-to-school Resource Fair at the mall on August 10th.

Children in Broward County get most of their vaccines from their healthcare provider. DOH-Broward also provides vaccines at the Edgar Mills Health Center at 900 NW 31st Avenue in Fort Lauderdale and the Paul Hughes Healthcare Center at 205 NW 6th Avenue in Pompano Beach centers (appointments 954-467-4705).

Vaccinations required for school include:

- Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) – 4-5 doses of DTaP for babies and pre-schoolers. 1 booster dose, TdPa, before seventh grade.

- Polio – 3-5 doses for babies and pre-schoolers.

- Measles, mumps, rubella (German measles) – 2 doses of MMR for babies and pre-schoolers.

- Varicella (chickenpox) – 2 doses for babies and pre-schoolers. 1 booster dose before seventh grade.

- Hepatitis B – 3 doses for babies.

Parents are encouraged to consider additional vaccinations recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the

American Academy of Family Physicians. These include vaccines against flu (yearly starting at age six months), rotavirus (3 doses for babies), Haemophilus influenzae B (3-4 doses for babies), pneumococcal disease (4 doses for babies), hepatitis A (2 doses for babies), human papilloma virus (2-3 doses starting at age 11) and meningococcal disease (2 doses starting at age 11).

DOH-Broward – Shots will be administered during the DOH’s Back to School campaign at the Lauderhill Mall per the following schedule:

- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Aug. 5-9 and Aug. 12-16

- 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Aug. 5, 8, 12 and 14.

- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Aug. 10 during the Back to School Resource Fair.

Information is available online at <http://broward.floridahealth.gov/>.

Seminole tribal clinics give required back-to-school immunizations. Parents can make an appointment for their children and be ready for school in advance. For details, phone numbers and locations, visit <https://www.seminole.com/STOF/services/health-and-human-services>

## Tribal health conference set for September

The 36th annual National Tribal Health Conference will take place in Temecula, California from Sept. 16-19. The conference is the largest American Indian and Alaska Native specific gathering each year focused specifically on health. The conference focuses on exploring health policy and its impact on tribes, advancing tribal capacity to expand own policy work, and policy and political work in the arenas of health care, public, behavioral, and environmental health.

The conference features multiple tracks of concurrent breakout sessions, as well as general plenary sessions that feature nationally recognized guest speakers and elected and appointed governmental officials. Government consultation and listening sessions are held in conjunction with the conference, but are offered on pre- or post-conference days.

The conference is hosted and planned annually by the National Indian Health Board, as well as local member organizations

or tribes. The 2019 National Tribal Health Conference is being hosted locally by the California Rural Indian Health Board.

For more information about the conference, call NIHB at 202-507-4070, email [NTHC@nihb.org](mailto:NTHC@nihb.org) or go to [www.nihb.org](http://www.nihb.org).



Valholly Frank, at far right, participates in a rally about climate change June 27 in Miami.

Courtesy photo



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# SEMINOLE SCENES



Kevin Johnson

**COUNCIL PORTRAITS:** Portraits of the new Tribal Council have been placed in Tribal buildings. The Council was inaugurated June 3. From left, top row: Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and President Mitchell Cypress. From left, bottom row: Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress and Brighton Councilman Larry Howard.



Kevin Johnson

**SEMINOLE SUPPORT:** After hitting a home run and being injured on the final play of the championship game, Seminole Impact's Lason Baker gets a lift from coach Cheyenne Nunez during the postgame handshakes at NAYO on July 20 in North Carolina.



Beverly Bidney

**COUNTING COWS:** Melissa Gopher holds Leona Cochran, 2, as they look for calves from their herd during calf shipping July 12 in Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

**SEMINOLE STATEMENT:** Sandy Billie Jr. shows his support for Seminole softball and baseball teams at the NAYO tournament July 20 in Whittier, North Carolina. Billie had five grandchildren playing in the tournament.



Analicia Austin (above), Beverly Bidney (right)

**COOL IN THE POOL:** Above and right, nothing beats the heat like a pool filled with cool water, some friends and some good old-fashioned free swim time. These kids from the Big Cypress recreation camp, including Jalen Osceola at right, enjoy the pool July 16.



Avanzar/Facebook  
**HARD ROCK DONATION:** Avanzar, a New Jersey nonprofit organization that provides assistance in a variety of areas to individuals and families, receives a \$20,000 donation from Hard Rock Atlantic City during a ceremony June 12. Avanzar was among a group of charities that received \$20,000 each, a figure that was matched by Hard Rock International Chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen (far left in photo) and other Hard Rock Atlantic City leaders. Avanzar posted the following on Facebook: "AVANZAR hit the jackpot BIG today at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City!!! Thank you so much for your generous contribution! AVANZAR is proud and honored to be one of your Community Partners helping to make Atlantic City thrive. We are so appreciative that you are doubling your gift to \$40,000! Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Atlantic City – YOU ROCK!"



Beverly Bidney

**AT HOME ON THE RANGE:** Calf shipping week looks like a good time on horseback, but these Brighton cowboys and cowgirls are working hard driving herds of cattle into pens for the annual calf shipping event July 12.

Kevin Johnson  
**EDUCATIONAL STOP:** A group of officials from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Kansas visits the cooking area at Hollywood Culture on June 28. The group also toured Culture's turtle pond and sewing facilities and was treated to frybread and sofkey.





# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## Presidential forum to focus on Native American issues

**STIOUX CITY, Iowa** – Six presidential hopefuls will be coming to Siouxland, Iowa, in August for a two-day forum for Native American voters. The forum will be held from Aug. 19-20 at the Orpheum Theater in Sioux City and is being organized by Four Directions as a forum focused entirely on Native American issues.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, former United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro and former United States Rep. John Delaney are all scheduled to attend the Frank LaMere Presidential Candidate Forum. Also slated to attend is author Marianne Williamson and independent candidate Mark Charles.

Keene called out two women for wearing headdresses at the Coachella music festival in California two years ago. One of them apologized in response, saying: "I am all about love, peace and understanding. I'm human and I admit there are many things I'm still unaware of."

- *Siouxland News*

## Native American war bonnets banned at music festival

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The organizers of San Francisco's popular Outside Lands music festival in Golden Gate Park have banned Native American headdresses at the event.

"Out of respect for Native American heritage and culture, we do not allow headdresses at Outside Lands," organizers said in a statement to The San Francisco Chronicle on July 25. "We are committed to creating a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for all."

The music event, which runs from Aug. 9-11, in the past has attracted more than 200,000 attendees. It will feature Childish Gambino, Counting Crows, Paul Simon, Lil Wayne, Blink-182, Kacey Musgraves and scores of others this year.

The war bonnet ban was hailed by Adrienne Keene, an assistant professor of American Studies at Brown University in Rhode Island whose social media sites call out "Native appropriations." Keene objected to Outside Lands organizers' use of the singular term "culture" in their statement, noting that there are hundreds of different Native American cultures. But she added in a tweet: "I'll take it!" Keene has frequently lashed what she calls "hipster headdresses" that have become part of festival fashion.

The Bass Coast Festival in Canada, which is held on tribal lands, banned "all feathered war bonnets" in 2014. "We understand why people are attracted to war bonnets," a festival statement said at the time. "They have a magnificent aesthetic. But their spiritual, cultural and aesthetic significance cannot be separated. Bass Coast Festival takes place on indigenous land and we respect the dignity of aboriginal people."

Native American headdresses are among a long list of items prohibited at Outside Lands this year, including fireworks, threatening signs, umbrellas, strollers, drones, audio recording equipment and skateboards. But only the headdresses and "totems" are prohibited due to cultural sensitivity.

- *Huffington Post*

## Native American Tribe raising awareness on effect of immigration policies

A Native American Tribe is attempting to raise awareness about President Trump's immigration policies and how they are not only affecting immigrants but the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe as well.

"We are not illegal and we are not criminals," – a phrase chanted by dozens at a border rally July 27 where the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe took a stand on the government's response to immigration issues at the border.

The rally was an opportunity for those affected by immigration policies to come together and take a stand alongside the Carrizo Comecrudo tribe.

"The passions being shared here are a lot of the similar passions and worries that we have coming from the southern most tribe," said one attendee of the rally.

North Dakota Representative, Ruth Buffalo, was in attendance at the rally as the effect of the President's immigration policies hits close to home for her and she says she hopes to soon see an end put to these policies.

"We really need to stand by our country's true mission of welcoming people, especially our relatives who are seeking asylum- there's no reason why families should be separated," says Buffalo.

While the North Dakota State Legislative Assembly passed a resolution urging President Trump to fund a border wall, Buffalo says she was one of the few voices who opposed the resolution.

- *CBS4 Valley Central (Texas)*

## Professor fights for Native American tribe

**VALDOSTA, Ga.** – One Valdosta State University (VSU) professor is working tirelessly to help a Native American tribe gain federal recognition.

"Defining the identity of a people is like nailing jelly to a wall," said VSU History Professor Dixie Haggard.

Haggard has been working with the Pascagoula Tribe of Southeast Mississippi.

"They've been denied their heritage, they've been denied opportunity for an equal education, they've been denied just the truth of their existence," said Haggard.

So that's where Professor Haggard and his research comes into play.

"To help them gain federal acknowledgement with the federal government through the Bureau of Indian Affairs," said Haggard.

Acknowledgement that he said could mean access to healthcare, education, economic development and more.

The professor said the tribe only gets one shot at getting the process right.

"It's hard to do," said Haggard.

Haggard said he's been working for the past six years to compile all of the information and facts on the tribe's 700 years of history for the government petition.

"I've had to go through Spanish and French documents, British documents, American documents. We're looking at birth certificates, census records, school records," explained Haggard.

Haggard hopes all of his work will soon pay off.

"This is the hardest thing I've ever done. This will probably be my life's work. Hopefully, it will be successful," said Haggard.

Haggard said his work is all a part of demonstrating that the heritage of the South is not just black and white, but that it also includes Native Americans.

- *WLAB*

## Battle brewing over Native American land

A battle between progress and preserving Native American history is brewing in northern California.

Investors hope to build a 320-acre sand and gravel mine on Sargent Ranch in Gilroy, west of Highway 101. But one Native American leader says doing so will destroy his tribe's sacred land.

The Sargent Ranch area consists of more than 6,000 acres of land. The plan is to harvest sand and gravel there and turn it into cement used in construction.

But the land is the spot where the Amah Mutsun tribe once lived and held spiritual ceremonies, and tribal leaders are fighting to save it.

As Valenteen Lopez surveyed the land Wednesday, he recalled the rich history for the Amah Mutsun tribal band. The region, called Juristac, was once home to a Native American village and where the most important spiritual ceremonies were held.

"Juristac is a sacred place," Lopez said.

Lopez fears if a proposed sand and gravel quarry is built there, his tribe's history will be lost forever.

"It would allow the destruction of not only juristac as a home, but also destroy where our ceremonies were held and that would be a total desecration to our spiritual practices," he said.

There are also environmental concerns. The Committee for Green Foothills says building a quarry at Sargent Ranch would impact the mountain lions and other animals that migrate from other mountain ranges.

"If those populations become isolated, they are subject to inbreeding and eventually become under threat," committee spokesperson Alice Kaufman said.

The manager of Sargent Ranch said building a quarry would actually help the environment because sand could be developed locally and not need to be trucked in.

"So, we look at this as a local source of sand and a greenhouse reducing project as well as producing local jobs," Verne Freeman said.

Freeman said the plan is to use only 5% of the ranch for development and preserve the rest.

Lopez said developing even 320 acres would be devastating to his tribe.

"How much more?" he said. "Haven't they already destroyed enough? So many of our sacred sites have been developed and covered up."

Several environmental groups are now working to purchase the entire ranch. In the meantime, a draft environmental impact report is expected to be completed in the next six weeks, and the public will have a chance to weigh in on the potential impacts.

- *Nbcbayarea.com*

## Oklahoma tribes oppose governor's effort to renegotiate gaming compacts

Oklahoma tribes are uniting to oppose an effort by Gov. Kevin Stitt to renegotiate gaming compacts and increase revenue-sharing responsibilities stemming from their Native American casinos.

Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association (OIGA) Chairman Matt Morgan said recently that the majority of the state's 38 Native American tribes have agreed to come together to thwart the governor's plan to amend their gaming agreements.

"If we stand together, we have a good chance at being in the position we want to be in," Morgan said at a tribal gaming meeting, as reported by Tulsa World.

Oklahoma's tribal organizations operate 130 casinos throughout the state. They range from gaming stations inside convenience centers to full-scale integrated resorts like WinStar World – the world's largest gaming venue in terms of floor space.

Stitt says the 15-year-old compacts, which are set to expire on Jan. 1, 2020, need to be updated. The Republican is of the opinion that the exclusivity fees the tribes pay the state for the right to operate slot machines and table games is far too low.

Tribes pay between four and six percent of

their slot win to the state, and 10 percent of table game revenue.

Murphy says the governor simply doesn't possess the power to require the tribes to renegotiate. Instead, the Native American groups are under the impression that the compacts will simply renew in their current legal form for another 15-year term.

Murphy says the current tax rates imposed on tribal gaming in Oklahoma is similar to other states where Native Americans are operating casinos. However, he says his constituents might be willing to alter the compacts if the state expands their gaming options.

Specifically, the tribes want the right to operate sportsbooks. Their current compacts allow for expansion such as the recently liberalized sports gambling activity. The US Supreme Court struck down the federal sports betting ban in May 2018. Nine states have since joined Nevada in getting sports betting operational.

Of those states is New Mexico, which has already allowed its Santa Ana Star Casino – owned by the Pueblo Indians – to include a sportsbook. Under that tribe's gaming compact with New Mexico, the tribal casino is free to operate "any and all forms of Class III Gaming." William Hill opened the doors to its sportsbook at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort & Casino in July.

- *Native Sun News Today*

## Resort Casino Veteran Brings Over 25 Years of Native American Gaming Leadership to Foxwoods

**MASHANTUCKET, Conn.** – The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council announced July 16 tribal gaming executive John J. James has been named the new President and CEO of Foxwoods Resort Casino. James currently serves as Chief Operating Officer for Morongo Casino Resort & Spa located in Cabazon, California and will be taking the helm at Foxwoods starting Aug. 12.

James succeeds Felix D. Rappaport, whose untimely death in June of 2018 led to Tribal Chairman Rodney Butler taking over as the resort's interim CEO shortly thereafter. James has more than 25 years of Native American gaming resort operations experience.

"Over the past decade, Foxwoods transformed the traditional gaming model through a relentless pursuit of guest-first experiences resulting in the only true all-encompassing resort destination," said Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Chairman Rodney Butler. "With his proven track record for innovation, John is the right leader to continue that commitment to our guests, fulfill our vision and ignite our passion for delivering a resort that excites and surprises. John perfectly represents our team's values and beliefs, and we are ready to drive the future of Foxwoods together."

Prior to joining Morongo Casino Resort & Spa, James was Chief Executive Officer for Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. where he led the tribe's three casinos in achieving the highest recorded earnings in the State of Arizona. He also held chief executive roles at Seminole Gaming, Inc. and Pechanga Resort and Casino. Additionally, James served as a Vice President and General Manager for various successful Station Casinos properties in Las Vegas.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, James attended the University of Nevada where he graduated from the accounting program.

- *press release*

## 'Everyday Native' website nears first anniversary in business

Since it launched last year, a Native American educational website has reportedly grown to be used by teachers in 37 states.

Everyday Native, which offers free lesson materials to school teachers, went online in August 2018 with the goal of sharing art, writing and other information about contemporary Native American culture. Although it was developed without a specific audience in mind, founder Sue Reynolds said non-Native American students and teachers appear to be benefiting from it the most, because they know less about the realities of Native American life.

Reynolds said she first thought about starting the teaching resource in 2015 when she "started to hear about difficulties with racism and poverty" that Native American communities face. She later began work on the project with help from Black Hills State University Associate Professor Emeritus Jace DeCory, whom she contacted through the university's Center for America Indian Studies.

DeCory, who taught Native American studies at BHSU for 33 years before retiring last July, said Wednesday that she agreed to assist Reynolds out of her desire to share more positive examples of modern Native American culture than are shown in film and television.

"We have enough examples of negative stereotypes and information," she said.

Today, DeCory reviews material for the website before it is published. Much of the site's contents focus on the Native American tribes of the Great Plains, she said, and blend aspects of history and sociology.

Because racial stereotypes and misconceptions about Native Americans are prevalent, DeCory said it's important that material shared on the website is historically accurate. While lessons about Native American culture and issues are being taught in more classrooms than when DeCory was a child, she said that they are still largely absent from public school curricula.

"Even today, there are very few high school classes that focus on Native American studies," she said.

DeCory did note the growing number of Native American language classes offered in public schools as a step in the right direction.

Reynolds said that the website is intended for children grades four through 12. As the website continues, she said it will aim to grow the number of teachers who use it.

Another hope Reynolds has for the project is its potential to combat youth suicide, which disproportionately affects Native Americans.

According to Reynolds, the total number of schools that use Everyday Native is not currently known. She said that the states that use it most often are California, Montana, Washington, Colorado and Illinois.

Users include teachers, librarians, state Offices of Indian Education and home schooling families, she said.

- *Rapid City (South Dakota) Journal*

## First Native American in space reflects on the journey

On the anniversary of the Apollo 11, and the first moon landing, Indian Country Today speaks with Natives Americans at NASA

John Herrington has seen the world in ways many only dream they could.

He's traveled across the country on his bike, starting on the Pacific coast in Cape Flattery, Washington, and peddling all the way to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

He took part in a mission that had him spend 10 days underwater, with the idea of working and living in an environment not hospitable to life.

And, oh yeah, Herrington spent nearly two weeks aboard the International Space Station, performing three spacewalks 220,000 miles above Earth hanging by a thumb and a forefinger.

"I've had a 3D view of life on this planet," Herrington said, "it makes me appreciate it even more."

As a kid growing up in the 1960s, Herrington, Chickasaw, and his brother would build spaceships out of cardboard boxes, lay in them and dream about going to the moon.

"We'd draw stuff on the inside of it and pretend we were Apollo astronauts," Herrington said. "I dreamed about it (becoming an astronaut) but it was not something I really pursued until much later in my career."

On July 20, NASA and the United States celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing mission, a feat that hasn't been accomplished since Apollo 17 in 1972.

Just a few months away from his 61st birthday, Herrington remembers gathering around the TV with his family to watch Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walk on the moon from his home in Black Forest, Colorado.

Although he may have dreamed about becoming an astronaut as a kid, Herrington's path to the launch pad in 2002 was somewhat unconventional. He admits to having some troubles growing up and not doing well in school but ultimately found a passion for mathematics through rock climbing on a survey crew in the mountains for Colorado.

"I was learning mathematics in a practical, every day way and the guy I worked for convinced me if I wanted to be something, I needed to go back to school and become an engineer and get a college education," Herrington said.

Herrington went on to get his Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics and later his Master of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering as well as a Ph.D. in Education. He's quick to credit his mentors and people who pushed him to be better.

"I've had people in my life that encouraged me to do something," he said. "I took their advice and I did it, I wouldn't be talking to you if I hadn't."

Ultimately, he became the first Native American to fly into space.

On his trip, Herrington took with him the flag of the Chickasaw Nation, a friend's 100 year old regalia, as well as eagle feathers and flutes.

It was an honor of a lifetime and being able to share his background and upbringing is something he takes very seriously.

Today, Herrington does a lot of speaking engagements and work with Native students, looking for the factors that motivate and engage them to learn math and science, spreading the idea of living your dreams.

"I think that's one of the biggest things that came out of me being an astronaut is having the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others," he said.

Given the chance to do it all over again, Herrington said he would in a heartbeat, adding he wouldn't think twice about going to Mars either given the opportunity. There is always another challenge, something new to learn.

"Apollo inspired us to do the space shuttle and station," he said. "Our lives would not be the same if we didn't aspire to go to space."

- *Kolby KickingWoman for Indian Country Today*

## Judge dismisses suit from teen who faced-off with Native American activist

A federal judge has thrown out a Kentucky teen's lawsuit against the Washington Post for its coverage of his viral encounter with a Native American activist at the Lincoln Memorial back in January.

Nicholas Sandmann, a student of Covington High School gained public

notoriety after a video emerged of him wearing a "Make American Great Again" hat while standing in front of activist Nathan Phillips, while being cheered on by his fellow classmates.

Phillips, who was seen on the video beating a drum and singing while surrounded by the teenagers, claimed the group yelled derogatory comments at him before the stare down took place. Sandmann disputed the claim in a statement, saying he believed "that by remaining motionless and calm, I was helping to diffuse the situation."

In the wake of the incident and subsequent coverage, Sandmann's parents filed a complaint alleging the Post "ignored basic journalist standards because it wanted to advance its well-known and easily documented, biased agenda against President Donald J. Trump ("the President") by impugning individuals perceived to be supporters of the President."

Sandmann said he received death threats in the aftermath of the news stories published on the encounter.

The suit sought \$250 million in damages.

On July 26, the federal judge overseeing the case granted the Post's motion to dismiss, ceding to Sandmann that "The Court accepts Sandmann's statement that, when he was standing motionless in the confrontation with Phillips, his intent was to calm the situation and not to impede or block anyone."

- *ABC News*

## ◆ CENSUS From page 1A

Some estimates put the number of undocumented immigrants currently living in the U.S. as high as 11 million. In theory, Census 2020 would help to determine if that number is an accurate one – but the success of the Census depends on participation.

In addition, an inaccurate count would redistribute money and political power away from many cities led by Democrats, where immigrants tend to cluster.

The Trump Administration admits it is now out of time to challenge the Supreme Court's decision for the purposes of Census 2020. The Census Bureau has already begun what is a long and expensive process of printing the Census questionnaire without the citizenship question.

However, Trump has said he will issue an executive order to use existing federal databases as a way to circumvent the court's decision.

### Why it matters

The U.S. Constitution requires that every person in the country be counted. The Census Bureau will send a letter or Census worker to every U.S. household. A fairly new development is that respondents will also have the option to complete it online or by phone.

The result of the count has wide-ranging implications, including representation in the U.S. House of Representatives (and thus the Electoral College) and the distribution of more than \$900 billion in federal funding for infrastructure, housing, health care and education.

There are huge political considerations, too, as certain populations are more at risk of being undercounted. Those populations include minorities, those in poverty, people living in non-traditional homes or those who don't speak English.

Native Americans – of which there are approximately 600,000 who live on reservations or semi-sovereign entities led by their own elected people – fall into at least one of those four categories.

In fact, 25% of Native Americans already live in areas described by Census officials as "hard to count," according to the Native American Rights Fund.

A Census Bureau audit of the 2010 count showed that 1 in 7 Native Americans living on a reservation was missed. That adds up to about 82,000 people being overlooked and undercounted.

Some of the undercounting is due to a historical distrust Native Americans have of the U.S. government.

"An inaccurate count has far-reaching effects most-often carried by our most vulnerable citizens," NARF said in a statement on its Census 2020 "Natives Count" webpage.

Seth Damon, spokesman for the Navajo Nation's tribal council, was recently interviewed about the Census by the Los Angeles Times. The Navajo Nation encompasses the largest land area in the country by a tribe and has a population of more than 350,000.

"For the Navajo Nation and Indian Country, the Census determines whether your dirt roads get graveled or paved, or whether your people move from dirt floors to a solid foundation," Damon said in the interview.

Many Florida counties, including some that encompass Seminole Reservations like Big Cypress and Brighton, have been tagged by Census officials as historically "hard to count." The same is true for the Miccosukee Reservation west of Miami.

And while the Seminole Tribe of Florida may not fall into all the at-risk categories for being undercounted, it's still an issue of importance in Indian Country as a whole.

Native American activists say one solution is to have locals do Census counting locally. In other words, hire Native Americans to count Native Americans.

Those who are interested can join the "Get Out the Count" group through NARF. The group spreads the word about how tribal communities can participate in the Census and get Census jobs.

More information is at [census.narf.org](http://census.narf.org).



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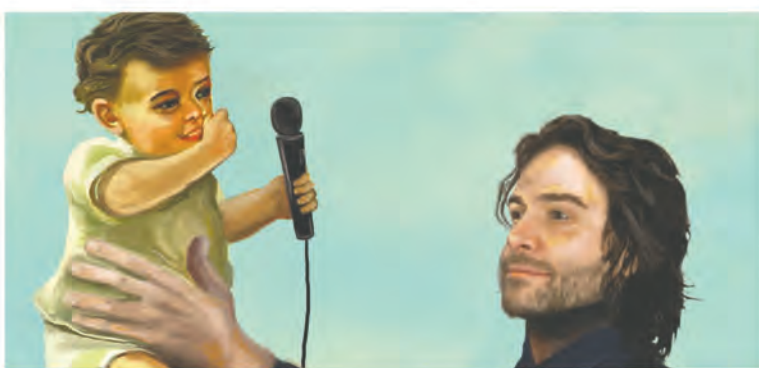
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# Education

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## SWEP gives students experience in working world

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

For most students, summer brings a break from studies with time to relax and have fun. But instead of all that down time, 87 students participated in the Student Work Experience Program (SWEP) and got an inside look at the adult working world.

The program is sponsored by the Center for Student Success and Services department and places students in a plethora of positions in a variety of Tribal departments. Founded in 2005, the goal of the program is to prepare students for the workforce by instilling a strong work ethic and a familiarity with employment opportunities within the Tribe.

"We want them to get true experience from the work and grow professionally," said Tribal Professional Development Supervisor Rembrandt Peralta, who runs the program. "We also want them to learn to understand time management and responsibility, but most importantly to have fun."

Students from the age of 14 to 24 are eligible for the eight-week program, which runs from June 10 to Aug. 2. Students were placed in 14 departments including culture, recreation, the Boys & Girls Clubs, preschool, Billie Swamp Safari, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, cattle and range, Fire Rescue and others.

Chandler Demayo spent his second year working at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, which he found a little easier this year. He mostly worked alongside the professionals in the conservation lab to check on how artifacts are aging.

"I saw Osceola's sash the other day," said Demayo, 18. "It's in good shape for how old it is. It's made of finger woven yarn with green and black beads. He wore it as a belt."

His sister Clarice Demayo also worked at the museum where she gave tours, organized items in the library and educated non-Tribal youth and adults.

"The best part is that we get to learn about our culture," said Clarice, 15.

Since Valholly Frank was a little kid, she wanted to see what happens behind the scenes at Billie Swamp Safari. She got her wish through SWEP; she spent the summer working at the popular tourist attraction's Critter Show where she fed the animals, helped backstage and brought the critters out to the audience during the shows.

The Sagemont School junior learned the working world isn't much different than high school. Change doesn't come easily at either place, but she enjoyed the experience.

"I like the people who work here and get to make new relationships every day," said Valholly, 16. "I

wake up early, go to work and get paid at the end of the week. Now if I want something, I don't have to ask for it. I can buy it myself."

Alani Marks also spent the summer working at Billie Swamp Safari.

"I like working with the animals, I get to feed them and help out during the shows," said Alani, 16. "If I didn't work here, I'd just be bored at home."

Teijo Smith, 16, also worked at Billie Swamp Safari and thinks every student should participate in SWEP.

"It's fun and it keeps you active," he said.

Avery Bowers worked in the collections area at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki and learned more than he expected while he helped take inventory of photos and books.

"I like looking at the old photos and I found family members in some of them," said Avery, 14. "Sometimes it's hard to find the books and check them off the list, but I like looking through them to see what's inside."

Tiger Youngman's family has cattle at their Lake Placid home, so it was a natural for him to work at cattle and range. It was his second year at SWEP and said the hardest part of the job is the heat, which reached up to 102 degrees at times. Last month he helped cattle owners ship their calves.

"I love cattle, so I figured this was the best thing to do," said Tiger, 16. "I've learned what to do and what not to do. The best thing is hearing the old cowboy stories from the guys."

A few students gravitated to Immokalee's culture department where they learned to sew, helped cook and build tables and benches for the new culture village.

Ronnie Jimmie said when it was time to choose a department, culture caught his eye. He knew a little about beading, but got a lot more experience over the summer.

"I like the people here," said Ronnie, 14. "I've learned how to make more complicated beadwork necklaces. If I didn't join SWEP, I'd be sitting at home.



Beverly Bidney

Rosalinga Jimmie learns to sew as a SWEP participant in the Immokalee culture department.



Beverly Bidney

Cattle and range SWEP participant Tiger Youngman helps move calves from the scale to the next holding pen at the Brighton marsh pens during calf shipping July 12.

This is more entertaining and it keeps me active."

Culture instructor Josh Garza was glad to have the summer help.

"Ronnie helped build tables and benches and learned to use a circular saw and a drill," Garza said. "It was a lot of work but it was fun to be a part of teaching them and passing it down."

Rosalinga Jimmie, 14, learned to sew and liked the learning process. Carlise Bermudez worked in the culture department during spring break and came back for the summer.

"I just like to sew," said Carlise, 15. "I like to learn more culture and be more involved. I enjoy it here and it kept me busy all summer."



Beverly Bidney

Carlise Bermudez shows a patchwork headband she made as a SWEP participant in the Immokalee culture department July 21.



Beverly Bidney

SWEP participants Alani Marks and Valholly Frank hold the gators they show at the Billie Swamp Safari Critter Show on July 16.



Beverly Bidney

SWEP participant Ronnie Jimmie works with some beads in the Immokalee culture department.

## Summer program winds down, but Tribe's libraries are year round

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

There's more activity in the DSO building than most people probably realize.

Those who are familiar with the Hollywood Reservation naturally think about the bustling preschool on the first floor. Maybe others have been to the third floor offices of the Center for Student Success and Services, known as CSSS, where there is constant activity.

But what may be a little less known

is the second floor – where the Hollywood library is located.

The library in the Dorothy S. Osceola building is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The staff welcomes dozens of visitors each week – both youth and adults.

Summertime is a particularly creative time there, as library assistant Cecelia Vickers and library program supervisor David M. Blackard feature different themes for the reading program.

This summer's theme was "A Universe of Stories," tied in to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. The Apollo 11 mission was the first spaceflight to land humans on the moon. It took place July 29, 1969.

The library's summer program features different books for youth to read, of course, but also craft making and other activities.

Vickers worked with the youth to create a host of decorations around this summer's theme – most were done using black light paint. The effect was a library with glowing stars, spaceships, space aliens, moon rocks and the like.

Vickers said the kids learned about many different aspects of space and science during their visits to the library throughout the summer.

Hollywood wasn't the only Reservation to get in on the action. The program was in effect in Big Cypress, Brighton and Immokalee, too.

While Aug. 1 was the last official day of the summer program, the Tribe's four libraries, which fall under the direction of CSSS, are a year-round operation. The library program has a full-time staff of six. There are also two student work experience program (SWEP) members.

Blackard has been library supervisor since 2007.

He said he allows each individual library supervisor to have independence when creating and executing summer program themes.

For example, instead of "Universe of

Stories," the Big Cypress library decided to feature lectures on Tribal culture and the clan system with community culture adviser Victor Billie this summer.

Blackard has been working for the Tribe since 1993. He was part of the original design team, led by Billy L. Cypress, which helped to open the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress.

Blackard said the Tribe's first library was founded on the Brighton Reservation in the late 1930s.

He said attendance at the libraries is fairly uniform year round, but that there are spikes in Hollywood when the Boys and Girls Club brings a group in four days a week.

He attended an American Library Association conference in Chicago in June.

"You would have no inkling by attending the conference that books are waning in popularity," Blackard said.



Damon Scott

Library assistant Cecelia Vickers helped students create displays for the summer reading program like this one, among other activities.



Damon Scott

Maurice Tyler is currently one of two SWEP employees in the Tribal library system.



# NIEA names new executive director

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The National Indian Education Association's Board of Directors announced July 1 the appointment of Diana Cournoyer (Oglala Sioux Tribe) as the organization's new executive director. After a nationwide search, the Board overwhelmingly supported Cournoyer, who has been serving as the interim executive director for the past six months. Cournoyer first joined NIEA as a program manager nearly six years ago.

"I am deeply honored to be chosen for this important role and am looking forward to continuing to strengthen Native education and reach students, tribal leaders, educators, administrators, and advocates through NIEA's resources, trainings, events, and support," Cournoyer said.

As executive director, Cournoyer will direct a 10-person staff in carrying out the organization's 7-Pillar Strategic Plan which includes: Advocacy; Building Tribal Education Capacity; Culture-Based Education; Skilled Teachers and Leaders; Establishing Educational Standards, Assessments, and Accountability; and Post-Secondary Success.

Prior to joining NIEA, Cournoyer worked with the Oglala Lakota College Graduate Studies Department, managing the Education Administration Professional Development Grant and Educational Leadership master's degree program. Her work realigned the Education Administration curriculum and objectives with national and South Dakota State educational standards.

Cournoyer earned a master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Oklahoma and is currently a doctoral candidate with the University of South Dakota.



NIEA Executive Director Diana Cournoyer

# An evening for Hollywood grads

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

**HOLLYWOOD** — A dinner was held June 18 to honor the Seminole Tribe's 2019 high school graduates from the Hollywood Reservation and elsewhere in Broward County. Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola hosted the event at Seminole Estates.

After the meal, the graduates heard inspirational stories from two recent Hollywood graduates who have gone on to achieve impressive accomplishments. Nova Southeastern University basketball player Skyla Osceola talked about how her determination to overcome serious injuries in high school and college has helped make her a better person. 2018-19 Miss Florida Seminole and Miss Indian World Cheyenne Kippenberger discussed the struggles she endured during her high school years and how she persevered through tough times and eventually reached new heights in her life.

Each graduate received gifts and addressed the audience. Most of the students gave thanks to their families and the Tribe's Center for Student Success and Services for the support they received on their way to earning diplomas.



Kevin Johnson

Above, 2019 graduate Sheldon Osceola gives a few comments at the dinner. At right, with Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola looking on, 2019 graduate Adakai Robbins addresses the audience at Seminole Estates.



Kevin Johnson

Nova Southeastern University women's basketball player Skyla Osceola, of the Hollywood Reservation, discusses her battle and determination to overcome injuries during her career at a dinner for Hollywood's Class of 2019 on June 18 at Seminole Estates.



Kevin Johnson



Lee Zepeda, excutive director of Administration, addresses the 2019 graduates.

# Tampa graduates honored at dinner

Courtesy photo

Tampa's high school graduating seniors were honored June 25 at a dinner celebrating their accomplishments. The students were presented with gifts to help them begin their postsecondary journeys and words of wisdom were spoken by all leadership who attended. As summarized by leadership: our young people have the foundation, resources and ability to make a positive contribution to the world and to now inspire the next generation. From left, Brighton Board Rep. Helene Buster, Tampa Reservation Administrator Richard Henry, graduate James Williams Jr., Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, graduate Deven Osceola (graduate) and President Mitchell Cypress.



# Grants awarded to 24 tribes in 11 states

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Tara Mac Lean Sweeney announced July 30 that the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) has awarded \$5,382,606 in energy and mineral development grants to 24 federally recognized tribes in 11 states across the U.S. The grants will fund tribal efforts to identify, study, design, and/or develop projects using energy, mineral or natural resources on the tribes' lands to achieve their economic development goals.

The grants were made through IEED's Energy and Mineral Development Program. The program is administered by the Division of Energy and Mineral Development (DEMD), which assists tribal governments and American Indian allottees with evaluating energy and mineral resource potential on their lands. Recipients use this information to determine whether or not they wish to develop energy projects, or extract and market commercially, or strategically, valuable minerals.

The 2019 EMDP grant awardees by tribe name, state, award amount and purpose are:

- Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, Montana (\$1,158,000) – To identify high-confidence, low-risk oil and gas prospects on the Fort Peck Reservation that can be

profitably developed.

- Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, California (\$295,868) – To analyze and follow up on findings from the tribe's mineral assessment project to determine potential mineral deposits on the Chemehuevi Reservation.

- Chippewa Cree Tribe, Montana (\$121,635) – To qualify, quantify and determine suitability for customer use aggregate sand and gravel deposits on the Rocky Boy's Reservation.

- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, Oregon (\$294,000) – To prepare for geothermal drilling operations on land parcels selected to host temperature gradient holes.

- Coushatta Tribe, Louisiana (\$141,226) – To study existing energy resources and associated projects available to them, specifically natural gas technologies and processes such as Combined Heat and Power (CHP) distributed generation.

- Fond du Lac Band, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota (\$98,000) – To design, evaluate and develop specifications for a micro-grid on the Band's reservation to produce a more reliable power supply, reduce brownouts and blackouts, and lower energy use costs.

- Hoopa Valley Tribe, California (\$152,575) – To complete an investment grade feasibility analysis for a CHP biomass/biogas 15 megawatt power plant to be

located on its reservation.

- Kashaia Band of Pomo Indians, California (\$50,500) – To assess 1) the potential of biomass energy resources available in a tribally owned forest, 2) go-to-market opportunities for this resource, and 3) the potential for using these resources in a biomass/biogas power plant to serve tribal members and facilities on the tribe's Stewarts Point Rancheria.

- Kewa Pueblo [formerly known as Pueblo of Santo Domingo], New Mexico (\$219,608) – To study and determine the feasibility and profitability of the sale of tribally owned sand, gravel and concrete resources to markets within the greater Albuquerque-Santa Fe region.

- Mescalero Apache Tribe, New Mexico (\$295,557) – To delineate, map, sample and test multiple aggregate resource sites on the Mescalero Apache Reservation.

- Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Montana (\$198,135) – For two projects: 1) to evaluate the potential for a network of residential and community rooftop and commercial site photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal installations, and 2) to conduct a feasibility analysis on developing wind power generation on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

- Oglala Sioux Tribe, South Dakota (\$145,750) – To identify and assess as suitable sand and gravel mining sites on the

Pine Ridge Reservation that can serve job sites within the three-county region where the Tribe is located.

- Pueblo of Laguna, New Mexico (\$100,000) – To complete an assessment/preliminary engineering report determining the current capability for solar PV power at several locations on its reservation that can also be used by the tribe to seek funds to deploy such technology.

- Pueblo of Nambé, New Mexico (\$81,625) – To explore a solar energy project to serve local distribution utility solar power needs while, potentially, reducing the tribe's dependence on grid connectivity with its associated high costs and reliance on fossil fuels.

- Pueblo of Zia, New Mexico (\$370,952) – To expand on work done in earlier studies funded by the EMDP that will identify, test and analyze clay deposits on the tribe's reservation to determine their suitability for the production of Compressed Earth Blocks (CEBs).

- Sac & Fox Nation, Oklahoma (\$89,000) – To explore a micro-grid solution that would alleviate power outages, reduce electricity costs, and serve multiple tribal facilities.

- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, South Dakota (\$65,940) – To determine, through a marketing and feasibility study, the potential

for the profitable sale of tribally owned sand, gravel and concrete ready-mix resources.

- Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Colorado (\$140,000) – To identify options for using solar resources in renewable energy project initiatives and to determine the financial feasibility and viability of projects utilizing such technology.

- The Osage Nation, Oklahoma (\$193,620) – To estimate recoverable oil with enhanced oil recovery.

- Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe, Louisiana (\$306,460) – To study the Tribe's oil and gas resources to determine their use and development on the Tunica-Biloxi Reservation.

- Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Oklahoma (\$69,000) – To develop a comprehensive solar development plan.

- White Mountain Apache Tribe, Arizona (\$45,155) – To identify and develop sand and gravel sources on the Fort Apache Reservation to meet the Tribe's future needs.

- Wind River Reservation (Arapaho Tribe and Eastern Shoshone Tribe), Wyoming (\$750,000) – To: 1) conduct a technical evaluation of challenges, opportunities and upside potentials in mature oil fields on tribal lands in the Wind River Basin, 2) to improve and/or enhance oil recovery, and 3) conduct an economic evaluation of oil fields having the highest priority to the tribes.



# FOURTH OF JULY



Beverly Bidney

Jasmine Billie, 2, and Faith Billie, 6, play bingo during the Immokalee Fourth of July festivities July 2.



Kevin Johnson

Wendi Snow and her eight-month-old niece enjoy the festivities at the Brighton Fourth of July celebration on July 4.



Kevin Johnson

Chance Madrigal braces for a splash on a watery slide at Brighton's Fourth of July celebration July 4.



Beverly Bidney

Tito Sanchez, Denise Gonzalez, Naveah Dorsey and Jazmine Garcia take a moment to pose during the Immokalee Fourth of July celebration.



Kevin Johnson

CeCe Thomas, left, and Giselle Micco use all their strength to try to win a tug of war contest during the Brighton Fourth of July celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Sue Jane Cypress and Courtney Ervin wait for the kids to arrive and devour the massive amount of treats the President's office provided for the festivities at the Big Cypress Fourth of July celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Ed Garcia keeps an eye on the ribs at the start of the Big Cypress Fourth of July celebration.



Kevin Johnson

Daryn Tommie and Kenneth Tommie enjoy diving into the pool at Seminole Estates during Hollywood's Fourth of July celebration on July 4.



Kevin Johnson

As he slides down a watery ride, Noah Osceola receives a high-five from Mary Cypress during Hollywood's Fourth of July celebration at Seminole Estates on July 4.



Kevin Johnson

Charleze Osceola and McKinley Turtle, in back, try their luck with an amusement game at Hollywood's Fourth of July celebration.





Damon Scott

Mary Kim Titla is the executive director of the Unity organization.

## Unity executive director hands wheel to Native youth

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**ORLANDO** — Mary Kim Titla is the executive director of Unity. As such, she oversees the planning and execution of its yearly conference, which took place in Orlando this summer.

She's been at the helm since 2013. "Everyone loved Florida. We received an amazing welcome, not only from the host Seminole Tribe of Florida, but resort staff and the city of Orlando in general," Titla said.

She said many attendees had never been to Florida, and even more where unaware of the culture and history of the Seminole Tribe.

But they were able to learn a little bit about the Tribe at a Unity welcome cultural event. Miss Indian World Cheyenne Kippenberger did her traditional Seminole hairstyling demonstration and Quenton Cypress staffed a booth in the exhibition hall about the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

While Titla is involved in the conference programming and agenda, she is all about handling decisions over to the young people that the organization serves.

The conference agenda was jam packed with events, activities and keynote speakers. Each of the main conference days had a development theme: social, spiritual, physical and mental.

"What we do every year, and we pride ourselves on it, is that it's youth led," Titla said. "We seek youth input on everything; the planning is inclusive of the youth voice from keynotes to the agenda, to extracurricular activities. It matters to us."

Part of the planning includes compiling the feedback from the previous year's evaluations — what the youth liked, or perhaps didn't like.

Keynote speakers the youth wanted to see this year included John Herrington (Chickasaw), Paulette Jordan (Coeur d'Alene), Vicky A. Stott (Ho-Chunk), Michelle McCauley (Paiute), Martin Sensmeier (Tlingit/Koyukon-Athabaskan) and Kahara Hodges (Navajo).

Herrington is a retired U.S. Naval Aviator and former National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut. In 2002, he became the first enrolled member of a Native American tribe to fly in space.



Damon Scott

Idaho's Paulette Jordan spoke to Unity attendees July 5. She is the first Native American to win a U.S. gubernatorial primary election. The Democrat lost to her Republican opponent in the general election in 2018. She is an enrolled citizen of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

## NIEA annual convention to be held in Minnesota

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The 2019 National Indian Education Association Convention will take place from Oct. 8-12 at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The 2019 NIEA Convention theme, "Celebrating 50 Years of Building Education Nations: Strengthening and Advancing Native Control of Native Education" recognizes the role educators and communities play in shaping the future leaders of Native education. The five-

day convention will not only celebrate the successes realized in Native education over the past 50 years but also look forward to the future.

The convention and trade show will include innovative participatory workshops, research presentations, poster sessions, and keynote addresses by prominent educators and advocates.

For more information go to [niea.org](http://niea.org) or call 202-544-7290.

### ♦ UNITY From page 1A

from youth who wanted to meet and talk with her.

"It was special because we were the hosting Tribe, but also because I am now serving as the Southeastern peer guide representative," Kippenberger said. "I am a part of an amazing cohort that will be serving Native American and Alaska Native youth affected by the foster care system and juvenile justice system through a partnership between Unity and the [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program]."

Kippenberger said she spent most of

her time at the conference working with her group to create guidelines, curriculum and structure for the peer program.

"My favorite part of the conference was the talent show and seeing our own youth there," she said. "It made me so happy to see our kids getting involved, speaking up, and enjoying the conference. I love being a part of such a positive impacting organization."

Doney also helped to present awards at the closing night banquet where the Tribe was recognized for its support of the Unity organization and the conference.

He accepted a Pendleton blanket from conference organizers as a gift to the Seminole Tribe.

### Keeping momentum

Doney said all the post-conference positive feedback has resulted in interest by those who attended to develop a Unity youth council to represent the Tribe.

"That's a positive thing that can grow and succeed," he said.

Doney is expected to speak with Tribal Council, along with some of the Unity attendees, to report their experiences at the conference and pitch the idea to Tribal leaders.

The next Unity conference takes place in Washington, D.C., in 2020.



Damon Scott

The Unity conference brought out more than two dozen Seminole youth along with parents, other supporters and one member of the Miccosukee Tribe.



Damon Scott

Miss Indian World Cheyenne Kippenberger participates in the grand entry with royalty from other tribes during opening ceremonies for the annual Unity conference July 4 in Orlando.



Damon Scott

Kyle Doney, left, and Bobby Henry gather before the lighting of the "Unity Fire," a tradition that marks the opening of the conference.



Damon Scott

The conference attracted more than 2,000 Native youth from across the U.S. Here, the American and Florida flags are presented at the opening ceremony.



# Elgin Jumper shows art, teaches painting at museum

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Elgin Jumper has proven himself to be an accomplished artist, author and poet, but at the recent Seminole Artist Experience at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, he showed he is also a patient teacher.

During a field trip from camp July 16, a group of Seminole kids listened to Jumper as he read poetry, examined his art on display and sat behind easels as Jumper taught them how to paint. He has been creating art since he was a child and Jumper appeared comfortable in his role teaching the group of eight eager painters.

Over the years, Jumper's work has focused on nature and Seminole life. Lately he has been making colorful abstracts and more subdued tonalist landscape paintings. Jumper visits art museums throughout the state to get inspiration for his own work.

Tonalism, which dates back to the 1870s, is a style of landscape painting



Elgin Jumper reads during the Seminole Artist Experience at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on July 16.



With the artist himself looking on, youngsters check out Elgin Jumper's work during the Seminole Artist Experience at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

that uses subdued tones to express a mood or feeling. Jumper describes his tonalist paintings as poetic, spiritual, evocative, simple and elegant.

"Everything is so divisive in this country today and this is a peaceful and tranquil art," Jumper said.

Jumper and the campers made their way to the museum's classroom. Easels with blank canvasses were placed in front of every seat at the large conference table. Like at any other art studio, near each canvas was a palette, acrylic paint, brushes and some water.

After Jumper and his students for the day were seated behind an easel, he showed him one of his tonalist paintings of a cabbage palm in the Everglades at sunset. Jumper told them they would learn to paint one like it by going through the process together. They all started the same way, with a field of dark

blue depicting the evening sky.

"It's all in the wrist," Jumper said. "Once you start a painting, don't stop. Use water to thin the paint, but don't make it too watery."

Artist Erika Tommie helped the children during the class and shared some sage advice. "It doesn't look like a masterpiece until you put it all together," she said. "There are no mistakes in art."

Interesting and useful tips were shared as the kids worked on their paintings. Trees are always darker at the bottom. Since the sun hits trees at the top, less light gets through and the branches make shadows at the bottom. Jumper advised the young artists not to overwork an area.

"You should always have fun when you're painting," Jumper said. "Art is always your interpretation. The more you paint, the better you are going to get."

Later in the afternoon, Jumper had



Artist Erika Tommie watches as Javon Mottow paints during a class with Elgin Jumper.

a meet and greet outside of the museum under a tent where he displayed some of his paintings. Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon Wareham played his flute and Jumper read one of his poems. Attendees admired the paintings and Jumper graciously answered questions.

A museum visitor, Lubo Repka, of Slovakia, follows Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki on Facebook and came to meet Jumper and see his work. By the end of the event, he had purchased a painting.

# THPO wins 'Tribal Story Map' grand prize

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) won the grand prize for the 2019 Tribal Story Map Contest at the Esri User Conference in San Diego in July. Winners of the Tribal Story Map Challenge were announced at the conference, which was for users of geographic information systems (GIS).

Story maps combine the use of technology, maps, images and text to tell an interactive multimedia story of a place using the visual language of geography.

Lacee Cofer, THPO chief data analyst, created the winning story map titled A H.E.R.O. for Tribal Heritage. The Heritage and Environmental Resource Office (HERO) consists of THPO, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and the Environmental Resource Management Department. The story map highlights numerous environmental initiative projects recently done by HERO, which combined the three departments in the spring.

"We thought it would be a good way to do a collaborative project with all three departments," Cofer said. "The ultimate goal is to have the story map available on iPads at community events so people can go through and learn about the environmental projects we are doing."

Some of the projects highlighted include a tribalwide climate resiliency plan, protecting cultural and environmental resources and enhancing tribal sovereignty, the museum's composting program, the use of native landscaping for the museum's new restroom building, creating a sustainable office environment, creating bat boxes to shelter a more natural method of mosquito



The grand prize trophy.

control instead of pesticides, using funds from the Restore Act to train Tribal youth for environmental data collection including water sampling, Egmont Key laser scanning and bringing lacrosse and stickball to the Big Cypress Reservation.

After the story map won the grand prize, it was displayed at the map gallery at the international conference, at which about 20,000 people attended.

"People thought it was really interesting and had questions about how we combine heritage and environment together," Cofer said. "They were impressed that we were doing so many environmental projects."

To view the story map, visit <https://afstof.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index>.



Esri founder Jack Dangermond and Lacee Cofer at the 2019 Esri User Conference awards ceremony on July 10.

## Sting to perform at Hard Rock Live

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — "Sting: My Songs" will be presented at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Nov. 9, at 8 p.m.

Currently on tour throughout Europe, Sting's My Songs concert features his most beloved songs, written throughout the 17-time Grammy Award winner's prolific career both with The Police and as a solo artist.

All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com), [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

Composer, singer-songwriter, actor, author, and activist Sting was born in Newcastle, England before moving to London in 1977 to form The Police with Stewart Copeland and Andy Summers. The band released five studio albums, earned six Grammy Awards and two Brits, and was inducted into The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2003.

Earlier this year, Sting was

honored at the BMI Pop Awards for his enduring hit single "Every Breath You Take," which has become the Most Performed Song, with 15 million radio plays, from BMI's catalog of over 14 million musical works.

On May 24, a new album entitled "My Songs," featuring contemporary interpretations of his most celebrated hits, was released and followed by a European summer tour of the same name.

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# Hollywood Culture gets a visit from Kansas tribe

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — Even before they met any Seminoles on the ground, a group from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Kansas got a good idea from the sky as to what's been happening on the Hollywood Reservation.

As their flight was approaching Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, they took photos of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood's new guitar-shaped hotel that soars into the sky. They said they loved the color and the lights and that it makes a statement.

The group's itinerary during its visit in late June included visiting Hard Rock and meeting with its officials as well as a stop at the Hollywood Community Culture Center. PBPEN is in the midst of a casino expansion of its own.

"We want to better our relationship with the Seminoles and learn from them, learn their culture and pick up some business pointers," said Chago Hale, a member of the board of directors for PBPEN Entertainment Corp.

The group of five was treated to Seminole favorites frybread and sofkey before learning about Seminole sewing, patchwork and cooking while guided along by Culture Center manager Bobby Frank.

"They have really nice machines and lots of resources," said Hattie Mitchell,



Jona Rupnicki, from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Kansas, checks out some of the clothing on the racks at the Hollywood Community Culture Center on June 28.

Kevin Johnson

PBPEN Entertainment Corp's board treasurer. "We want to look like this."

"It's always nice to meet other tribes and see their traditions and their ways,"

Hale said. "Our elders could come here and do a cultural exchange. They would love something like that."



Frank Tecumseh, left, and Chago Hale, right, of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, take a close look at Seminole chickee huts with Swan Kimble and Hollywood Community Culture Center manager Bobby Frank.

Kevin Johnson



Valerie Frank explains Seminole sewing, patchwork and designs to a group from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Kevin Johnson

## Gladys Knight to sing at Hollywood's Hard Rock Live in February

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Singing icon Gladys Knight will perform at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Feb. 29, 2020 at 8 p.m. Hard Rock Live, Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood's new entertainment venue, is part of the \$1.5 billion property expansion that will be completed October 2019. The integrated resort will also be home to three hotel towers, including the world's first guitar-shaped hotel.

Tickets go on sale Aug. 2, at 10 a.m. Tickets cost \$95, \$70 and \$45. All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets online at [www.myhrl.com](http://www.myhrl.com) and [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). Doors open one hour prior

to show start time. Additional fees may apply.

A seven-time Grammy winner, Knight has enjoyed No. 1 hits in pop, gospel, R&B and adult contemporary, and has triumphed in film, television and live performance. Knight has recorded more than 38 albums over the years, including "Good Woman," "Just for You," the inspirational "Many Different Roads" and "At Last."

Most recently, Knight graced the Super Bowl LIII field with a beautiful rendition of the "National Anthem" and shocked households nationwide as she was unmasked as the Queen Bee, coming in third after Donnie Osmond and T-Pain on FOX's "The Masked Singer." Knight has also guest starred on the 2018 Thanksgiving episode of CBS's "Hawaii Five-O," made

an appearance in 2016 in the FOX hit show, "Star" and in the film "Almost Christmas" in 2016, both of which were produced and directed by Lee Daniels.

Her involvement in other creative undertakings, business ventures and humanitarian activities has been extensive, and has brought her honors from the industry and community alike. In 2015, a portion of Atlanta's State Route 9 from Peachtree Street to 14th Street was officially named Gladys Knight Highway. Continuing her community efforts, Knight and her husband, William McDowell, founded the Reynolds High School Community Foundation in 2017 to benefit the renovating of the former high school into a community center for the Canton, North Carolina, community.



Ringland-Johnson Construction/Facebook

Hard Rock International Chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen, second from left, attends a media event July 16 regarding a Hard Rock project in Rockford, Illinois. Cheap Trick guitarist Rick Nielsen is second from the right.

## Everything is coming up aces for Hard Rock's Midwest projects

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Two areas in the Midwest U.S. will soon have a Hard Rock presence.

Hard Rock International recently announced plans for casino projects in both Rockford, Illinois, and Gary, Indiana.

Both are expected to generate significant jobs, spur tourism and generate more business in their respective regions.

HRI is submitting a proposal to city of Rockford officials to develop and operate a casino at the former Clock Tower Resort and Conference Center site, located at 7801 East State St.

The facility would include a casino, restaurants and an entertainment venue, HRI officials said in a statement.

The site was chosen because of its proximity to Interstate 90 and Interstate 39. About 70,000 cars drive past the location each day, officials said.

"We understand there is a process, one that we have the utmost respect for, and we look forward to working within it over the coming months," Jim Allen, chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming said in the statement.

HRI executives said they are committed to working closely with Rockford's downtown business community to "bring the economic benefits of the casino to the heart of the city through partnerships, promotions and other collaborative efforts."

The proposed casino site is about seven miles from downtown Rockford.

Rockford resident and lead guitarist for the band Cheap Trick, Rick Nielsen, was present for the announcement with Hard Rock officials in Rockford. He has been an outspoken supporter of the casino and its proposed location.

"This is a dream come true. I made more trips to [the state capitol in] Springfield and handed out more guitar picks than I can count to push for exactly why we are here today," Nielsen said. "I know this town. My family and I call Rockford home. This is not only the best location; it's the best partner for any community. Nobody comes close to Hard Rock. I should know, I have my guitars hanging in tons of Hard Rocks around the world and I can't think of a better place to hang one than in Rockford where I grew up and where I live."

More information, and perhaps a timeline

### 'Spectacle' in Gary

Meanwhile, Spectacle Entertainment and HRI have formed a partnership for a northwest Indiana casino project in Lake County, home of the city of Gary.

Spectacle is a newly formed and Indianapolis-based investment company.

The \$400 million joint venture will be branded and managed by HRI. It is expected to create about 3,000 jobs.

"We want to thank the general assembly and the office of Governor Eric Holcomb for approving this project," Rod Ratcliff chairman and CEO of Spectacle said in a statement.

Ratcliff said the venture will result in significant tax benefits for the state as well as the creation of 1,000 construction jobs and nearly 2,000 more permanent jobs.

"We're confident this \$400 million investment will serve as a significant catalyst for the continued economic revitalization of northwest Indiana and the city of Gary," he said. Gary is known as the location of musician Michael Jackson's childhood home, as well as the birthplace of the Jackson 5 musical act.

Jim Allen said HRI is excited to bring the first "land based" gaming destination to northwest Indiana and the greater Chicago area. Spectacle currently own two Majestic Star casino boats in Gary.

One of Majestic Star's casino licenses is expected to be transferred to the Gary project, which will be developed on approximately 40 acres located about 20 minutes south of Chicago off Interstate 94.

The new development will include the casino, multiple restaurants and bars, a Hard Rock Café and Hard Rock Live concert venue.

HRI and Spectacle are also interested in a site in Terre Haute in central Indiana for a future project, which would use the second of Majestic Star's casino licenses.

HRI has venues in 74 countries, including 186 Hard Rock Cafés and 29 hotels. The company also owns, licenses and/or manages hotel-casino properties worldwide. Destinations include the company's two most successful hotel and casino properties in Tampa and Hollywood (Florida).

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

More information is at [hardrock.com](http://hardrock.com).

## Bo Guidry named president of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Bo Guidry was named president of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on July 3. Guidry will be responsible for all operations and management of the integrated resort, which will debut its \$1.5 billion expansion on Thursday, Oct. 24. Guidry replaces Auggie Cipollini, who has been promoted to the position of president of Seminole Hard Rock Support Services.

Guidry was most recently senior vice president and general manager of Horseshoe Council Bluffs and Harrah's Council Bluffs Hotel & Casino, both located in Council Bluffs, Iowa. With a combined team of 1,200 employees, the two casino complexes were owned and operated by Caesars Entertainment Corporation.

Guidry managed the two casinos in Council Bluffs for 10 years and was responsible for strategic direction and daily operations. During that time, he also managed the Mid-America Center arena complex for the City of Council Bluffs.

He previously was vice president of operations and assistant general manager for what was then Harrah's Casino St. Louis in Maryland Heights, Missouri.

Guidry worked in food and beverage departments at casinos in Atlantic City, Lake Tahoe and at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas. He began his career in food and beverage at the Hilton New Orleans.

A Louisiana native, Guidry received a bachelor of science in business administration from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and a masters in business administration from the University of New Orleans.



Bo Guidry

Hard Rock



# Sports



## With roster full of Tribal players, Okeechobee All-Stars win state championship

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

After winning the Florida state championship, the Okeechobee Angels 10U All-Stars softball team wasn't about to rest on its success.

In fact, the girls are preparing for the Texas heat they expect to encounter in the upcoming Dixie World Series from Aug. 2-7 by working hard in the Florida heat.

"We practice during the day because it's going to be hot in Texas. You have to be prepared, be hydrated," said Okeechobee assistant coach Cheyenne Nunez.

The Angels, whose 12-player roster has eight Seminoles, will travel to Hopkins County, Texas to vie for the World Series championship in a 10-team tournament. The strategy will have been laid out long before the team plays its first game.

"Our pitchers will be focusing on pounding the zone more," said head coach Daniel Nunez Sr. "As for our offense, we will be working on swinging at only strikes and being more disciplined in the box. As for

our defense, we have a pretty solid infield and outfield, so we will just keep practicing on making routine plays, communicating and backing each other up on every play."

Before Daniel's daughter Cheyenne — a former multi-sport standout at Okeechobee High School — heads off for her first season of Division I college softball at the University of South Carolina-Upstate, she hopes to guide the All-Stars to another championship win. The team went undefeated in the state tournament in July and concluded with a nail-biting one-run victory in the championship game against Holmes County.

In the tournament opener, Okeechobee beat Springhill, 18-2, behind a complete game from Hannah Platt in the circle. Okeechobee kept the momentum going in its next game, a 10-0 win against Holmes County as Charisma Micco pitched a complete game no-hitter. In the championship, Okeechobee used a strong combined pitching effort with Melaine Bonilla and Charisma Micco to edge Holmes, 5-4.

"It was intense," said Cheyenne Nunez, who coaches the squad alongside her dad as well as her boyfriend Eddy Gonzalez. Her



Courtesy photo

Okeechobee Angels 10U All-Stars coach Daniel Nunez Sr. is doused by his players after the team won the Florida state championship in July.

younger sisters Joleyne and Daliyah play on the team.

"It was a great experience for these girls to play in a state tournament and win it," said Daniel Nunez Sr. "We would like to thank the OCRA (Okeechobee Citizens Recreation Association) program and President Jessica Slovenski for all her help. Also a big thanks to all the parents, community, Brighton Reservation, Councilman Larry Howard and Board Rep. Helene Buster."

Nunez also thanked his coaching staff. "They have taught the girls a lot and it shows," he said.

Regardless of how the team fares in Texas, the players have already earned high praise from their coaches.

"I'm extremely proud of them. They have worked so hard," Cheyenne Nunez said.

Donations can be made to OCRA to help defray costs of the All-Stars' trip to the World Series. For more information contact head coach Daniel Nunez Sr. at 863-623-7733.



Courtesy photo

The Florida state champion Okeechobee Angels 10U All-Stars: Back row, from left: coaches Cheyenne Nunez, Daniel Nunez Sr. and Eddy Gonzalez; middle row, from left: Waniya Fortner, Deisy Serrano, Joleyne Nunez, Carly Claxton, Charisma Micco and Kiera Snell; front row, from left: Daliyah Nunez, Hannah Platt, Illa Trueblood, Melaine Bonilla, Cherrish Micco and Alexa Fonseca.

## Tyler Hiatt named Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

SIoux FALLS, S.D. — Tyler Hiatt, grandson of Semiole Tribal member and veteran Stephen Bowers, and son to Seminole Tribal member Stephanie Bowers Hiatt, is a two-time state champion in track and field at Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

In his junior year at the state track meet, the 6-foot-3, 245-pound Hiatt threw the shot put 59 feet, 1 inch and the discus 182 feet, 11 inches earning him two state titles and the MVP in the field division for the South Dakota State Track Meet.

His discus throw ranked No. 59 in the nation among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection while his effort in the shot ranked No. 94.

The combination of Hiatt's athletic accomplishments in track and field, participation in concert choir and chamber choir and a 3.6 grade point average earned him the title of 2018-19 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year.

Hiatt, who is heading into his senior



Courtesy photo (2)

Tyler Hiatt, center, with his parents Stephanie Bowers Hiatt and Jon Hiatt, is a two-time state champion in track and field in South Dakota.

year, is being recruited for track and field from numerous Division I colleges including Nebraska, Kansas State, Baylor, North Dakota State, South Dakota State, University of South Dakota and Abilene Christian.

This summer and fall, Hiatt plans to

visit colleges and make a decision about where he will continue his academic and athletic career. Currently, he is focused on finding a school that will help him pursue a career as a physician's assistant.



Courtesy photo/Michael Brown Photography

Tyler Hiatt, the Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year, competes in shot put for Lincoln High School in South Dakota.

## Hollywood's Sylas Billie thrives on the mound

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — One big reason Aroldis Chapman is Sylas Billie's favorite Major League pitcher is because how hard the New York Yankees left-hander throws. He shares the record for fastest pitch speed ever recorded in MLB. In fact, Chapman has earned the nickname "The Cuban Missile."

"He throws hard," Sylas said. Sylas, a right-handed pitcher who plays travel baseball in the 10U division, is years and velocity away from coming close to Chapman's 105 m.p.h. fastball, but the Hollywood Reservation youngster is producing pitching lines similar to MLB standouts.

When he visited the ball field on the reservation in late June, he was coming off an impressive outing at the Futures Invitational tournament in North Carolina. Pitching for the Pembroke Pines-based Elite Squad, Sylas pitched 2.3 innings, fanned five and didn't allow a hit, run or walk. The tournament featured teams from states such as California, North Carolina, New York and Texas.

Sylas throws about 65 m.p.h. He has a fastball, change-up and cutter. Curveballs will likely come when he is older. He receives instruction on the side from his uncle Nolan Mulligan, a former star pitcher at Chaminade-Madonna High School who played in the Philadelphia Phillies organization. Sylas also receives tips and advice about baseball from his grandfather Wayne Mulligan.

It's not only on the hill where Sylas thrives; his .477 batting average last season



Courtesy photo

Sylas Billie gets ready to deliver a pitch.



Kevin Johnson

Sylas Billie is joined by Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon Wareham, left, and Naples Liaison Bryan Zepeda at the ball park on the Hollywood Reservation.

provides proof that he is the complete package, one which the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. is glad to invest in.

STOF, Inc. is sponsoring Sylas for an elite national tournament to be held at Disney's Wide World of Sports. When Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon Wareham arrived at the reservation's ball park to see Sylas, the amount of medals and rings already accumulated by Sylas in his brief career served as an impressive sight. The shiny honors around his neck and on his hands included an MVP award from 2015

in Hollywood Hills and USSSA tournament champion and finalist rings.

"That's awesome," Rep. Wareham said. "This is a Board investment in the future. It's an investment more than a sponsorship."

Sylas, the son of Melinda Lee Billie and the late Markell Billie, began playing baseball at age 4 and has been in love with the sport ever since.

"He is really dedicated," said his aunt, Amanda Carbone, brother of Markell. "We're very proud of him."



Courtesy photo

Sylas Billie checks out the action from the dugout.



Kevin Johnson

Sylas Billie with his grandfather Wayne Mulligan and the rings and medals he's earned.



# Seminole Impact win NAYO championship

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**WHITTIER, N.C.** — The final play of NAYO for the Seminole Impact epitomized the team's determination on its path to winning the tournament's 10U softball championship.

The Impact's Lason Baker smacked a hard-hit ball deep into the outfield and raced around the bases. She showed no hesitation rounding third base as she sprinted past coach Cheyenne Nunez in the box and her teammates on the bench. With home plate partially blocked by the catcher, Baker managed to beat the throw and scored while catching a piece of the catcher on her way by before tumbling to the dirt to give the Impact a 4-2 win.

Baker was shaken up on the play, but still participated in the postgame handshakes thanks to being carried on the back of coach Nunez.

The Impact won the championship at John Crowe Complex in Whittier, North Carolina, while coming out of the losers bracket in the double-elimination tournament.

NAYO, which consists of the Seminoles, Seneca (New York), Poarch Creek (Alabama), Choctaw (Mississippi) and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (North Carolina), which hosted the three-day tournament in Cherokee and Whittier.

The Impact lost earlier in the tournament to MS Sparks, from Mississippi, but rallied to win five in a row, including the final two



Kevin Johnson

Waniya Fortner belts a home run for the Seminole Impact 10U softball team July 20 at the NAYO tournament in Whittier, N.C.

against the Sparks.

"These girls have a lot of heart. I kept telling them to believe in themselves," said head coach Daniel Nunez Sr.

Earlier in the championship finale, the Impact's Waniya Fortner belted a home run.

The team received outstanding pitching and catching throughout the tournament from Charisma Micco and Joleyne Nunez,



Kevin Johnson

With the mountains of western North Carolina in the background, the Seminole Impact 10U softball team celebrates winning the championship July 20.

respectively.

Playing six games in about 48 hours under warm, summer conditions could cause just about any team to wilt, but not the Impact.

"They wanted it more and it definitely showed. I couldn't be more proud of them," said Cheyenne Nunez, who served as an assistant coach along with Eddy Gonzalez.

"They're a great group of kids. Their future is bright," Gonzalez said.

The Impact were the only Seminole team, out of 12, to win a championship.

## Seminole Impact

NAYO 10U softball champions

**Head coach:** Daniel Nunez Sr.

**Asst. coach:** Cheyenne Nunez

**Asst. coach:** Eddy Gonzalez

Lason Baker

Waniya Fortner

Alyssa Madrigal

Charisma Micco

Joleyne Nunez

Tehya Nunez

Truly Osceola

Hannah Platt

Yani Smith

Kiena Snell

Illa Trueblood



Kevin Johnson

Alyssa Madrigal delivers a pitch for the Seminole Impact.



Kevin Johnson

It's time to celebrate as the Seminole Impact hoist the 10U championship trophy at the NAYO tournament.



Kevin Johnson

Seminole Impact's Lason Baker goes airborne as she scores on a home run she hit in the championship.

## Dozen Seminole teams hit the fields in North Carolina

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**WHITTIER, N.C.** — Two of the 12 Seminole teams battled to get to championship rounds at NAYO, where they

each finished runner-up.

The 12U Seminole baseball team earned second place while exceeding the expectations of head coach Charlie Micco.

"Last year they took third," said Micco, whose assistant coach was Jason Baker.

The Seminoles had scoring chances in the final against the Choctaw Storm, but just couldn't deliver hits with runners in scoring position.

"We just couldn't get the runs in," Micco said.



Kevin Johnson

The runner-up Seminole 8U softball team celebrates with the second place trophy and NAYO sweatshirts.



Kevin Johnson

The Seminoles 12U baseball team shows its prizes for finishing runner-up at NAYO.

The Seminoles made it to the championship thanks to a win against Poarch Creek in the losers bracket final.

During the tournament, the team was led on the mound by Jaydence Urbina, Bryson Smith and Micco's son Charlie Micco.

The youngest of the Seminole girls

teams — the 8U coach-pitch squad — also returned to Florida with a runner-up trophy. After losing late Friday night, the Seminoles won three in a row on Saturday but ran out of gas against champion Chaos in their



◆ **NAYO**  
From page 2C

fourth game of the day. "You can't expect more out of this little group. They did great," said head coach Dallas Nunez, whose assistant coach was Lois Kayda.

The Seminole Warriors 15U softball team was perhaps the most improved team from the Tribe at the tournament.

With a roster filled mostly with players from Immokalee and a couple from Brighton, the Warriors showed what a difference a year makes.

"Last year we scored no runs. Nine teams here this year (in the 15U division) and we came in third, so it's good," said head coach Eric Grimaldo, whose assistant coach was Joey Garcia.

The Seminoles gave Poarch Creek all it could handle before falling late.

"I feel like we had the best team here, that's just being a coach," Grimaldo said. "We knew Poarch Creek was strong. They won it last year. We gave it everything we had. 3-3 going into the last inning. It was a phenomenal game. Adrianna (Sigurani) pitched phenomenal. Giselle (Micco) was awesome behind the plate. Every girl came through hitting. It was just a good game."

Before the team left the parking lot, attention had already shifted to next year's NAYO, which will be held in New York.

"I can't wait until next year. The girls are excited," Grimaldo said.

Also in the 15U softball division, Native Dolls, coached by Nicki Osceola and



Kevin Johnson

The Seminole Warriors 10U softball teams shows its spirit before taking the field at NAYO.

Marilyn Doney, went 2-2, which included a win on Saturday against Slammers before being eliminated by Lady Indians.

"They were excited about winning," said Doney, who added that the team didn't have much experience, especially playing in



Kevin Johnson

N.W.A. catcher Carlee Osceola can't believe the umpire's call after a close play at the plate.

travel tournaments. N.W.A., which featured players from Brighton and was coached by Mona Baker,

◆ See NAYO on page 6C



Kevin Johnson

Ava Nunez



Kevin Johnson

Koty Gopher-Turtle



Kevin Johnson

Lexi Thomas



Kevin Johnson

Jacee Jumper



Kevin Johnson

Hayden Billie



Kevin Johnson

Augustine Jumper



Kevin Johnson

Harlie Holloway



Kevin Johnson

Dalayah Nunez



Kevin Johnson

Xavier Thomas



Kevin Johnson

The Seminoles 12U baseball team gets ready for a postgame handshake.



Kevin Johnson

Cherrish Micco



# NABI provides learning experience for Tribe teams

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

For most of the players on the Tribesmen boys team from the Brighton Reservation, a trip to the Phoenix area in July marked their first experience at the 17th annual Native American Basketball Invitational.

The week at the tournament, which features 64 Native boys and girls teams each, is one they won't soon forget.

"It's a lot faster. You don't need a shot clock," said Tribesmen coach Preston Baker, whose roster included current high school players and a couple 2019 graduates. "That tournament is hard. You have to be in shape and be ready to do your thing."

The wake-up call for the Tribesmen came in an opening game loss, but they quickly rebounded and won their second game in the pool portion of the 68-team boys tournament that featured Native squads from throughout the U.S. — mostly from western states — and beyond.

Moore Haven High School's Donovan Harris and 2019 Okeechobee High School graduate Lucas Osceola brought plenty of NABI experience with them, having played on the Seminole Tribe's championship team at last year's tournament. For the younger players, getting acclimated to the quick pace and adjusting off the court to the sweltering heat in the desert was all part of the learning curve.

"For the younger boys, it was a new experience and they were happy to be there," Baker said.

The Tribesmen finished second in pool play and advanced to the Gold Division playoffs. They were ousted in the first round by FMD (Arizona, Yavapai), which went on to win the championship.

Baker said Osceola, a guard, and Andrew Fish, a forward who will be headed to St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens to play football, were among the standouts for the team. Overall, Baker was pleased with the effort of the squad.

"The boys played hard. They played their hearts out," Baker said. "It's a different pace, faster than what we used to. We got up there and we figured out that we're a little behind. We need to work on some things."

It wasn't all business for the Tribesmen;



Darin Sicurello

Tribesmen guard Lucas Osceola avoids traffic on this layup at the NABI tournament in Arizona.



NABI/Facebook

Shooting Stars, which included Caroline Sweat and Burgundy Pierce, from the Brighton Reservation, as well as team organizer Theresa Frost, celebrate after winning the girls Silver championship June 29 at Talking Stick Resort Arena in Phoenix.



Darin Sicurello

Native Soldiers' Lexi Foreman splits defenders for a layup at NABI.



Darin Sicurello

Dakoya Nunez brings the ball up court for the Tribesmen at NABI.



Darin Sicurello

Alyke Baker takes a jump shot for the Tribesmen at NABI.



Darin Sicurello

Native Soldiers' December Stubbs handles point guard duties at NABI.



Darin Sicurello

Native Soldiers' Grant Osceola leads the play up court at NABI.

they spent some time whacking golf balls at TopGolf.

"They enjoyed themselves," Baker said. "Golf is not their game; we'll stick to basketball."

The Tribesmen were one of six Florida teams at the tournament.

The Shooting Stars, which featured Burgundy Pierce and Caroline Sweat from Brighton, won the girls Silver Championship. The Silver category is for teams that finished third or fourth in pool play. The team also had players from Comanche, Muskogee Creek and Winnebago.

The Stars roared through the playoffs with wins against teams from Arizona, Iowa and South Dakota. They beat Florida-based A.B.C., which included Navajo players, in the semifinals. The Stars captured the championship game with a win against Pink Thunder (New Mexico, Navajo) at Talking Stick Resort Arena, home of the Phoenix Suns.

A.B.C. notched playoff wins against

Hualapai Nation (Arizona), Wildfire (North Dakota) and Elite (Canada — Six Nations).

Also in the girls tournament, Native Soldiers, from Florida, finished first in its pool and then cranked out playoff wins in the Gold Division against Oklahoma Tushka, NA Natives (Arizona, Navajo) and N-10 (Arizona, Navajo). Native Soldiers' run came to an end in the semifinals with a loss to NM Elite (New Mexico). NM Elite won the championship against Unity.

The Native Soldiers' boys team also made an impressive run in the playoffs. After finishing second in their pool, they beat NM Mustangs (New Mexico, Navajo) and PHX Hotboyz (Arizona) before being ousted by Sweat Rocks (Kansas, Northern Cheyenne, Navajo) in the quarterfinals.

The DC team, also from Florida, finished third in its pool and lost in the first round of the Silver playoffs to Sharpshooterz (New Mexico, Navajo).

♦ See NABI PHOTOS on page 6C



Darin Sicurello

Ricky Garza dribbles the ball for the DC team at the NABI tournament.





Alan D. Mendelsohn, M.D.  
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The Tribesmen from the Brighton Reservation at NABI includes, from left, coach Dallas Nunez, Leviticus Buster, Alyke Baker, Ramon Baker, Dakoya Nunez, Lucas Osceola, Donovan Harris, Nakai Alex, Jaytron Baker, Daewon Huggins, Andrew Fish and coach Preston Baker.

Darin Sicurello



The DC team at NABI includes Todd Pierce, who was injured, coach Duelle Gore, Dathan Garcia, Tanner Gore, Ricky Garza, Malcolm Jones and coach Steve Frost.

Darin Sicurello



The Native Soldiers boys team at NABI includes coaches Hunter Osceola and Marl Osceola along with Boryalys Cypress, Chayse Billie and Grant Osceola.

Darin Sicurello



Native Soldiers girls team coaches Skylla Osceola and Marl Osceola look on from the bench during a NABI game along with players Charli Frye and December Stubbs.

Darin Sicurello

**◆ NAYO**  
From page 3C

Brighton was coached by Mona Baker, lost its first game in 12U softball, but rebounded nicely with two straight wins before being eliminated. Baker said she was thrilled with the team. "I couldn't be happier with them," she said during a break between games. "They're already winners as far as I'm concerned." On the baseball side, the Seminole 8U coach-pitch baseball team didn't have any problems fielding a team. Eighteen players suited up for the Seminoles, which won one game, 9-8. Highlights from another game

included a double by Walnard Fortner and a two-run single by Zaden Spencer. "We did real good. I'm real proud of our boys. I'm real happy with the turnout," said head coach John Madrigal, whose assistant coach was Richard Osceola. After the team was eliminated early Saturday morning, players and coaches met in the outfield. The coaches told the players how proud they are of the team, and then Madrigal provided a reminder that there's more than NAYO in the western North Carolina mountains. "You have the rest of the day off. You can go tubing and swimming," Madrigal told the kids. The Tribe's 10U baseball team enjoyed a strong start, winning its

opener against Achafa Piyah, 11-4. Gabriel Cypress hit a triple and had a one-hitter on the mound into the fourth inning. Jeremy Urbina finished up in relief. The Seminoles lost two games on Saturday, but still departed with good memories. "We won a game. We're usually two and done. They had fun," said Torres, whose assistant coach was Ryan Garcia. In 17U baseball, the Seminoles, coached by Preston Baker, won its first game against the Sluggers, but lost the next two to 7 Clans and Dirt Bags. The Seminoles' 17U softball team, coached by Mondo Nunez, beat Eastside in its first game, but lost its next two.

# Announcements

## POEMS

### "July 12th, 2019"

The dark clouds rolled back in and with it have brought tears and pain,

I am no stranger to either one and both know my name.

I cry, they laugh, my smile, my mask.

July 12th, 2019 will always haunt my soul, one night, 9 months, my daughter, I will never let go.

A Panthers path I will continue to walk, love, joy and happiness I will stalk.

Hold my hand and never let go, warm my heart for it's turning cold.

I understand but I don't believe, my eyes are open but I can't see.

LVB, Sr.

### "My Heart, My Soul, My Tears"

Walking my darkest steps as my tears nourish this pain, I know only one thing and that's this heart of mine will never be the same.

These steps I take I don't know where they'll lead me, but I'll take these steps knowing they'll set me free.

My heart cries for it knows the burn of the flame, my soul has weakened as these tears fall like the rain.

I wait these moons as I dance this pain away, inside I die hoping to make it another day.

I cry, I cry and I know you see my pain, take me ol spirit for I cry in vain.

Rest In Peace  
B.T.B.  
My Heart and Soul  
Sincerely,  
Your dad,  
LVB, Sr.

## Honors for Tampa's Council Oak Steaks & Seafood and The Rez Grill

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

TAMPA — Council Oak Steaks & Seafood and The Rez Grill, both located within Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, have once again earned the Award of Excellence by Wine Spectator Magazine. Council Oak Steaks & Seafood was recognized for its wine list which features more than 300 fine wines from more than 13 countries, while The Rez Grill was recognized for its 100-bottle wine menu. Each restaurant has staff trained in the exacting nuances of proper wine service in order to meet the standards and qualifications for the award.

This is the 12th straight year Council Oak Steaks & Seafood has been honored by the magazine, while it is the second year The Rez Grill has received the impressive acknowledgment. "We're thrilled to announce that Council Oak and The Rez Grill are returning recipients of this elite award by Wine Spectator for their world-class selection of wines," said Dawn Lazo, Vice President of Food & Beverage at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa. "Our team members are on a constant mission to seek out the finest selection of wines that will cater to the palates of our distinguished clientele."

## Native film festival to be held in New Mexico

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

SANTA FE, N.M. — The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian will present the 19th annual Native Cinema Showcase in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Aug. 13-18. In this year's installment, nearly all of the films were made by Native filmmakers; more than half were made by women, including the opening and closing films. In all, this year's event includes 53 films from 11 countries, representing nearly 40 Indigenous groups. In an affirmation of the power of self-representation, and in recognition of the International Year of Indigenous Languages, the lineup includes films such as "SGaawaay K'uuna (Edge of the Knife)," the first feature-length film to be spoken entirely in the Haida language, and "Wiñaypacha (Eternity)," the first feature-length film shot entirely in the Aymara language. "More and more, Native filmmakers are able to use their medium to assert Indigenous identities on their own terms," said Kevin Gover, director of the National Museum of the American Indian.

The showcase begins and ends with portraits of strong women. Tuesday evening's feature film, "Warrior Women," shows the role of women in the American Indian Movement of the 1970s from a female perspective. The closing film, "Vai," incorporates languages of Oceania as it follows the journey of one woman across eight Indigenous communities throughout the Pacific Islands. Saturday's family-friendly feature, Disney's Ralph Breaks the Internet, brings together Disney princesses including Pocahontas as they question the stereotypical roles they fell into during past film appearances. The showcase runs in conjunction with the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts Santa Fe Indian Market, the largest juried show of Native fine art in the world. The majority of the films will be screened at the New Mexico History Museum, and Ralph Breaks the Internet will screen outdoors at the Santa Fe Railyard Park. All screenings are free, and seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

### FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
524257	2010	CHEVROLET STATION WAGON	HHR LS (FWD)	106,363	Good	\$4,095.00
B02511	2005	FORD ECONOLINE VAN	E350 XLT SD (RWD) - WHEEL CHAIR RAMP	26,061	Poor	\$1,034.00
A48316	2007	FORD PICKUP	RANGER SUPERCAB XLT (RWD)	224,486	Poor	\$558.00

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://seminoletribe.com/FixedAssets>. (Registration required)



## Theodore Nelson Sr.

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

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

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

Office: (754) 215-3113

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