

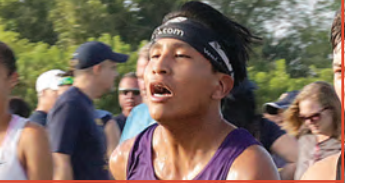
**Skin Deep exhibit**  
debuts at museum  
**COMMUNITY ♦ 8A**



**Natomah Robbins delves**  
into special make-up effects  
**EDUCATION ♦ 3B**



**Kaleb Thomas excels**  
for OHS cross country  
**SPORTS ♦ 3C**



# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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September 30, 2019

## Proposed 5G projects can be reviewed by tribes, court says

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

A recent federal court decision is being hailed as a win for Native American tribes, at least for now.

In August, a U.S. Court of Appeals – D.C. Circuit decision pushed back on the Federal Communications Commission by reinstating environmental and historical review requirements for the construction of new 5G wireless facilities.

The FCC has traditionally required a review of how such projects might affect the environment and historical sites before they can be constructed.

But the FCC had issued a policy change in March 2018 to “exempt from the review process all the small wireless sites that companies are using to build out their 5G networks.”

The FCC policy said the reviews – which fall under the federal National Historic Preservation Act and National Environmental Policy Act – were not required by law and that mandating them would hinder development of 5G networks.

♦ See 5G on page 3A

## Tribe, STOFI, Seminole Gaming, Hard Rock step up to help Dorian victims in Bahamas



Courtesy Clint El-Ramey, Seminole Hard Rock Support Services (left)/Kevin Johnson (right)

In the wake of Hurricane Dorian's destruction in the Bahamas, relief efforts were organized by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Seminole Gaming and Hard Rock to help the victims. At left, Capt. Ignacio Fleites, Capt. Juan Laserna, airplane maintenance manager Jose Diazviana and cabin attendant Cheryl Russell load cases of bottled water onto the Seminole Tribe's plane, which brought thousands of supplies to the Bahamas on multiple trips. At right, Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon Wareham and Seminole Wholesalers Distributors receiving clerk Antwan Jackson stand near thousands of bottles of drinking water donated by Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc. to the Bahamas.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon Wareham stood amid more than 25,000 bottles of drinking water in the Seminole Wholesale Distributors warehouse. Just days earlier the water had been purchased with the intention that it could be needed

for Tribal members, emergency operations and customers should powerful Hurricane Dorian, which churned in the Atlantic Ocean less than 200 miles away, wallop Florida. As it turned out, Dorian only teased the state's east coast, but some of the islands in the Bahamas weren't as lucky. Dorian, a category 5 monster, relentlessly pounded the islands in early September, resulting in the country's worst natural disaster.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida, including the Tribal Council, the Board, Hard Rock and Seminole Gaming, immediately shifted from preparation mode to distribution and donation mode.

“Traditionally, in our stories and in our culture, we are taught that we share,” Wareham said. “When you have an abundance, you share; when you have nothing, you share.”

After Seminole Wholesale Distributors receiving clerk Antwan Jackson loaded the hundreds of cases of Ice River Springs bottled water onto a truck, Wareham and Tara Chadwick blessed the water that would be brought to the Bahamas. It was a simple, brief ceremony, but one that carried plenty of meaning.

♦ See DORIAN on page 6A

## The final countdown

Grand opening of Seminole Hard Rock's enormous expansion set for Oct. 24

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — It's down to the wire as thousands of details are checked and double checked for what will be a new day in the history of the Seminole Tribe and Hard Rock International.

Many milestones have already been reached in Tampa where the Hard Rock has completed a \$700 million expansion. Eyes are now turning toward Hollywood and an Oct. 24 grand opening of the 450-foot tall guitar-shaped hotel that has redefined the skyline in Broward County.

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood is going from 465 rooms to almost 1,300; from a few restaurants and bars to almost 40. It's the same story with 13.5-acres of pool areas and a 42,000-square-foot Rock Spa & Salon.

New areas have already opened, including the food court, a redone Hard Rock Café and high-limit gaming area.

The new lobby is virtually completed – there are new front desk pods, new furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E) has moved in, you can dine at a 24/7 restaurant and, as usual, get your caffeine fix at the Constant Grind coffee bar. The reimagined Council Oak restaurant is putting the final touches in place, too.

Most pool areas are also complete, except for some last minute accents to the 4.5-acre lagoon.

“Everything is moving along; some areas are right down to the wire,” Drew Schlesinger, Hard Rock Hollywood VP of operations, said.

Tribal members will get the first look at the \$1.5 billion expansion and all the amenities on Oct. 13 – including 638 new hotel rooms in the guitar and another 168 in the adjacent Oasis Tower.

Then it will be the general public's turn Oct. 24 – the grand opening date for not only the new hotel but all areas of the property.

People have been booking the new hotel rooms in earnest since reservations began July 24, and ticket sales for the future lineup of shows at the new 7,000-person capacity Hard Rock Live entertainment venue have been robust. The inaugural concert will be Maroon 5 on Oct. 25.

The entire casino floor has essentially been rebuilt – and was done while keeping casino operations up and running. The casino also has a new ceiling, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), carpet, marble paths, lighting and sound and additional Hard Rock memorabilia.

### Team effort

It would be hard to choose from all the superlatives people have used to describe

♦ See HARD ROCK on page 6A



Kevin Johnson

The guitar-shaped hotel at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood was lit up in pink Sept. 19. The grand opening is scheduled for Oct. 24.

## Valholly Frank voices her climate concerns during massive global rallies

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — They chanted “Hey, hey, ho, ho, these fossil fuels have to go.”

They cheered each time a passing vehicle honked in support.

And on a day when most of them would normally be in classrooms in Broward County, they carried signs in front of the county's public schools office building that read “We Strike for Climate Justice” and “Time is Running Out” and “Respect Existence or Expect Resistance.”

Then the hundreds of teenagers in the Climate Strike rally marched on sidewalks through downtown in a loud, but peaceful and noticeable manner Sept. 20 as city police halted vehicle traffic at intersections.

In the sea of young, vociferous participants was Valholly Frank, who, at age 16, is no stranger to supporting causes. At 15, she put her name as a plaintiff on a lawsuit filed last year against then Gov. Rick Scott and others over climate change. She spoke out about her concerns with the climate situation at that time, and did so again at the Climate Strike in front of the hundreds of



Kevin Johnson

Valholly Frank (second from right), 16, of the Big Cypress Reservation, participates in the Climate Strike rally Sept. 20 in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The rally drew hundreds of people, mostly students. Frank, a student at the Sagemont School in Weston, was one of the featured speakers. Rallies were held throughout the day in more than 90 countries.



Kevin Johnson

Valholly Frank is interviewed by Miami TV station NBC6 during the Climate Strike rally.

supporters who, after the march, gathered in an amphitheatre at Bubber Park for speeches.

The climate change issue hits close to home for Frank, from the Big Cypress Reservation. She points to recent stronger weather occurrences, such as Hurricane Irma in 2017, that have directly impacted Big Cypress and the Tribe.

“We had kind of a crisis in our Tribe when the hurricane came around. It was really terrifying for us,” she said.

Indeed, the storm caused several problems in BC, including several days without power and gasoline shortages.

Being Seminole has helped fuel Frank's strong determination to do something about climate change.

“It makes it more personable for me the fact that I'm so connected with the Earth and my spirituality and my culture really depends on it,” she said. “It's super important to me to fix the climate crisis and to bring awareness to it because I don't want to see what keeps happening to my Tribe, and I don't want to

♦ See CLIMATE on page 4A

**INSIDE:**

Editorial.....2A  
Community.....3A

Health.....9A  
Education.....1B

Sports.....1C

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# Editorial

## Reclaiming the legacy of the Osage Murders story is still elusive to this Osage

• **Jim Roan Gray**

The story Osage people often hear is the one other people have told about them, but rarely is it the one they tell themselves says former Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray.

My personal journey to understanding my own family history with the Osage murders of the 1920s has led me to a realization that it is more than a sad chapter in the Osage Tribe's history. For me this part of our history should serve as a charge that our people never see such an abuse take place again, even in the telling of the story.

My great grandfather, Henry Roan was one of those murdered during this era. The location of his murder on the Osage Reservation allowed the FBI to come in and investigate his death and in the process uncovered the larger scheme underway to wipe out an entire Osage family and their headrights, which were worth millions.

That's the story I was told by my family and I always held back the raw emotions that his death brought to our family. My mother and father were both born in the 1920s and were both orphans by the end of that decade. Only through the love of their extended families did they avoid the boarding school and adoption agencies that profited from parentless Indian children. Because of this wealth, many Osage families were able to preserve their families, culture and language while having the means to adapt to the dominant society. At a time when it

was official government policy to "Kill the Indian to save the man" the Osage wealth tells a different story that runs counter to the extreme poverty dealt the rest of Indian country but not the dominant view of the non-Indian world that despite our wealth, our lives were cheap. So this history is as vivid to me personally as any treatment written by anyone who ever chose to tell the Osages their history.

Maybe it's better that an outsider tell the Osages their history back to them because people like me can't be objective or maybe the events are too hard to believe if told by the Osages themselves. Even after I consider this notion, I disagree because I know Osage people from across the spectrum have their version of these events not told in the archives of the BIA or the FBI but rather passed down from one family member to another and so the Osage version of this story never really goes away. But the story we often hear is the one other people have told about us, but rarely is it the one we tell ourselves.

The prospect that life of an Osage Indian who owned a headright in the 1920's was a mixed blessing is probably the understatement of the century. Our wealth put a target on our back, people of all stripes came to separate us from our wealth by any means necessary and the people whom we trusted to look out for our interest we're just as much a part of the problem as any bootlegger, investor, banker, storekeeper, or non-Osage spouse.

Through legal and not so legal means

Osage lost millions in investments they knew nothing about because government appointed guardians were in charge of the money each Osage whom the BIA deemed incompetent could do pretty much whatever they wanted. Storekeepers had two prices in their stores, one for Osages and one for everyone else. Food, clothing, cars, homes and other items simply would cost more if you were Osage. Often when an Osage passed away, there was a line of people who profited from their passing. From non-Osage widows and widowers to funeral homes who would respectfully put the recently deceased away for a price in today's dollars that would exceed \$80,000.

Even though the Boom in the Osage Mineral Estate diminished with the ebb and flow of the oil and gas industry, this practice went on clear up until the late 1970s when the Osage Tribal Council successfully lobbied Congress to amend the 1906 Osage Allotment Act denying any more Osage Headrights from leaving Osage hands.

Years later as I became an adult, I chose a profession in the media which fed my desire to allow Indian people to tell their stories and reclaim their histories. As an adult I grew to appreciate the movement in the 90's in the wake of new federal laws such as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act which by federal law deferred to tribes the right to protect and reclaim the actual graves of their ancestors and by extension their histories and their stories.

In the next decade, as chief of the

Osage Nation my interest in reclaiming the Osage history and stories of our people became more realized, we started our Nation's first Tribal Historic Preservation Office and empowered them to reclaim our history under Osage law. Combined with a constitution that extends political rights to all Osage and recognizing them as citizens of the Osage Nation while retaining our Mineral Estate for Osage Headright owners, we chartered a new course for the future of Osage people.

Despite these achievements the legacy of that era is still painfully with us today as we are reminded that over one-quarter of those Osage headrights are out of Osage hands. It burns many Osages after we received our \$380 Million settlement from our case against the Federal government in 2011 for mismanagement of our Mineral Estate knowing one-quarter of that settlement went to non-Osages.

Would my parent's life be different if my grandparents lived long enough to raise their children? Did this story affect the way my parents raised their children? Did this story affect the way I raised my children? I suspect my life choices and my life's work in Indian country is as much a reflection of that era as any other desire to make my life mean something.

Is this story in your history book? Probably not. This story is in my history book, it is in my family's history book, and in the history book of thousands of Osage families. As we approach the century mark of the so called "Osage Reign of Terror,"

just remember the Osage people have yet to write the final chapter on this story and make peace with our past.

*Note: The Book, "Killers of the Flower Moon - The Osage Murders and the Birth of the F.B.I. will be made into a major motion picture Directed by Martin Scorsese, and starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert DeNiro. Production is expected to begin later this year.*

*Jim Roan Gray, Osage, is the former principal chief of the Osage Nation (2002-2010) and former publisher of the Native American Times Newspaper (1996-2002) Today he's a consultant working in Indian country.*

*He was the youngest chief in the history of the Osage Nation. During his term, Chief Gray, led the Osage Nation through a comprehensive restoration of Osage sovereignty, the right to determine their own citizens and form their own government. This led to enrollment of thousands of Osages who had been left off the rolls for nearly 100 years and a referendum vote that adopted a constitutional form of government for the first time in generations. This effort gave all Osages over the age 18 the right to vote in tribal elections.*

*This article appeared in Indian Country Today.*

## It's important to understand Native Americans' long struggle for voting rights

• **Omaha World-Herald Editorial Staff**

It took many decades for American women to secure their right to vote. African Americans, meanwhile, faced blatant discrimination that the federal government began combating directly in the mid-1960s through federal enforcement. An additional, important part of the suffrage story is the decades-long struggle by Native Americans to assert their voting rights.

In Nebraska, a key figure in that fight was Hiram Chase (1861-1928), a member of the Omaha tribe. The Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln notes this part of Nebraska's past in its current exhibition, "Votes for Women," pegged to the State Legislature's unanimous passage of the 19th Amendment 100 years ago this summer.

The efforts to gain Native American enfranchisement faced a series of barriers over the years. An advancement came in 1879, when U.S. District Judge Elmer Dundy issued his famous ruling in the case of Ponca Chief Standing Bear. This was the first time in American jurisprudence that a federal court had ruled that tribal members are protected by the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection under the law.

Nonetheless, Native Americans continued to face a central legal obstacle: Under the federal Constitution, they weren't considered U.S. citizens except in particular circumstances such as marriage and military service. The 14th Amendment, ratified in 1869, gave citizenship to "all persons born or naturalized in the United States," but it was interpreted to exclude Native Americans.

In 1921, Chase addressed the Nebraska Legislature and urged the full recognition of Native Americans' suffrage and property rights. His father, Hiram Chase Sr., was a government inspector, and his mother, Nunzainza, was the granddaughter of Wahnookega, an Omaha chief.

Chase earned a law degree in Cincinnati and in 1891 became the first Native American attorney to be admitted to practice law in the U.S. District Court in Omaha. He served as county judge and county attorney of Thurston County and was a co-founder of the Society of American Indians, the first Native American civil rights organization.

Despite the work of Chase and others in individual states, the lack of citizenship status remained a central barrier for Native American enfranchisement. A breakthrough came in 1924, when Congress passed and

President Calvin Coolidge signed the Indian Citizenship Act, formally designating Native Americans as U.S. citizens.

But even that landmark legislation failed to resolve the issue. Individual states, especially those with major Native American populations, continued to obstruct tribes' voting rights, citing rationales such as property tax exemption for reservations or failure to meet state requirements for residency. Court decisions gradually removed most of those impediments.

By the late 1940s, the main holdouts were the state governments in Arizona and New Mexico. The New Mexico debate included a court case in which Miguel Trujillo, a Native American who had served as a U.S. Marine sergeant and was attending graduate school, sued in federal court to be enfranchised. Trujillo won the lawsuit.

In its ruling, the court said Native Americans had "responded to the need of the country in time of war in a patriotic wholehearted way, both in furnishing manpower in the military forces and in the purchase of war bonds and patriotic contributions of that character. Why should they be deprived their rights to vote now because they are favored by the federal government in exempting lands from taxation?"

The case was one of many examples of how military service in World War II by Native Americans and African Americans helped bolster the arguments for enfranchisement in the late 1940s.

At the same time, a federal civil rights commission appointed by President Harry Truman gave a strong push for Native American enfranchisement. Still, tribal members in some states faced obstacles such as poll taxes and literacy tests. In 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act to end such practices. In the present day, Native American voting issues are part of states' overall policy debates on issues such as voter ID.

Voting provides the very foundation for our governmental system. It's important to understand the long struggle tribal members have made, in Nebraska and elsewhere, in asserting that all-important right.

## Movies, advertising continue to negatively stereotype Native Americans

• **Mark Anthony Rolo**

In late August, the chic French luxury brand Christian Dior debuted an ad campaign for its fragrance referencing Native Americans. A number of American Indians immediately decried the advertisement as racist. It was.

The company featured a video in its Twitter feed of an American Indian dancing in full regalia in the desert. A narrator can be heard saying, "An authentic journey deep into the Native American soul in a sacred, founding and secular territory."

After a swift, negative reaction on social media, Dior pulled the ads.

It was not so much the imagery or even verbal content that elicited anger from native peoples. It was the name of the perfume: Sauvage, or, as it is pronounced by Americans, Savage.

Other than the term redskin, there is really no other word that offends native people as deeply as "savage." As Hanay Geigogamah, a Kiowa playwright, film producer, and theater professor at UCLA, told the Washington Post, this was one of the first slurs used against American Indians.

The Declaration of Independence, penned in 1776, accuses the king of England of creating domestic insurrections among the colonists by engaging "merciless Indian

Savages whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions."

This is not the first time Dior offended American Indians and other groups. In 1998, head Dior fashion designer John Galiano unveiled a clothing collection using Pocahontas as his theme. Then, in 2012, Galiano was fired by Dior for making anti-Semitic and racist remarks.

I appreciate the company's quick decision to pull the ad, but in a strange twist, I also understand the dilemma faced by American Indians attempting to pursue a career in television, movies, and now social media. Indian actors are offered so few authentic roles in the business they are forced to take stereotypical ones. I know some hard-working native performers who would not hesitate to don a braid of horsehair or squeeze into a felt buckskin bikini.

And it's tough to be critical if one of our American Indian elders gets recruited for such entertainment endeavors. Hanley Frost, a cultural education coordinator of the Southern Ute Tribe in Colorado, was paid a paltry \$1,000 to drive three hours to teach the Dior production crew about his people and to bless the land where the filming took place.

Sadly, there is often little support from those who could raise their voice for struggling Indian performers.

The advocacy organization Americans for Indian Opportunity was hired as a consultant to the Dior ad. Laura Harris, executive director of the group, said in a statement that the organization was proud to have worked with the company and that the organization's goals are to work toward "the inclusion of paid native staff, artists, actors, writers etc., to educate the production teams on Native American contemporary realities and to create allies for indigenous peoples."

Working to get more American Indians involved in all aspects of media is an admirable goal. But Americans for Indian Opportunity and Indian performers ought to devote more time demanding an end to racist roles and stereotyping — and call for parts that accurately portray Indian people instead of participating in projects that continue to degrade us.

*Mark Anthony Rolo is a member of the Bad River Band of Ojibwe in northern Wisconsin. He wrote this originally for the Progressive Media Project.*

## Native American history should be taught in schools

• **Connor Bahr**

For a class this semester, I have been tasked with learning about the Native Americans of Iowa. As I have begun to dig into the readings, I have been bombarded with information that I had never heard before. There were 30 or more tribes in Iowa with their own cultures, their own wars and their own history all happening in my backyard, yet I've never heard of it.

For example, a park I used to frequent in my childhood was originally set up because of a bison run and several burial mounds found in the area. I've probably been there hundreds of times and have never seen either of those and never learned they were there. Native American history should be in the public curriculum of U.S. schools.

There are about two million federally recognized Native Americans in the U.S. right now. In the current high school curriculum, the history of North America largely begins when European settlers appeared. They may run through the Trail of Tears, or mention Native American relocation, but the main focus is on the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and other large European conflicts. This

may be due to a lack of focus on history in general in public schools, but in states with rich Native American history, it should be taught alongside European history.

It's sad that I know more about the Roman Empire than people who may have lived where my house now stands. We tend to think of Native Americans as having one culture that didn't change until Europeans came, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Each tribe has a unique culture, and they were just as fluid before the Europeans arrived.

However, Native American education is changing. In Montana, a change to the state constitution requires teachers to integrate Native American culture into all aspects of teaching. For example, when teaching math Cheyenne beads are used as learning tools. This mandate is put in place to introduce children to Native Americans without just a history lesson. Montana is not alone. Wisconsin and South Dakota have policies meant to increase awareness of Native American culture and history. In California, a bill was passed requiring public schools to

set up a Native American Studies elective course.

All of these are great for teaching young people about Native American history, but it doesn't solve the problem. For many of us, our knowledge of history, particularly in America, begins with Europeans. While requiring schools to teach Native American studies is a great step forward, we need to change our mindset about history. We have to value all cultures, particularly the ones that were right in our backyard. We have to get rid of the eurocentric mindset that is so deeply ingrained in society that it extends even to public education. In the long run, this mindset can hurt those who may need help, or simply make us blind to a large area of knowledge.

*Connor Bahr is a columnist for the the Iowa State Daily, which is where this article appeared.*

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# Community



## 4-H season begins with plenty of newness

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The 4-H year began the month with some new programs, new procedures and a whole lot of kids and animals.

Nearly 50 kids in the heifer and steer projects brought their animals to Brighton and Big Cypress in September to tag their steers and attend the first meeting of the year. Meetings have been enhanced this year with veterinarian visits and guest speakers.

Kids are required to attend three meetings during the course of the year instead of monthly gatherings and they have to bring their animals to each meeting to have the veterinarian and 4-H leaders assess them.

4-H'ers will receive halter and lead ropes for their steers and heifers; those in the swine project will receive a whip to use to train the hogs to walk in the ring.

"We want the kids to have the tools they need to work with their animals on day one," said Aaron Stam, Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program livestock/4-H agent for the Seminole Tribe. "The vets will make sure the animals are healthy and sound. We will work with the kids throughout the year in order to help them succeed."

Guest speakers will add an educational component to the meetings and will cover issues pertinent to the 4-H'ers as they raise their animals. The speakers will be professionals in the field, which should resonate with the youth.

"We are trying to make simple yet thoughtful changes that will have a

meaningful impact for their projects," Stam said. "When they have issues, we want to help them. It will be more fun for the kids to see each other's animals before the show."

The Seminole Indian 4-H Show and Sale, where the kids show and sell their animals, will be held March 20-21, 2020, at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.

For more than 100 years, 4-H has empowered young people through mentoring and hands-on experience. The program teaches skills participants can use for a lifetime. The 4-H motto "To make the best better" sums up the organization's focus on positive youth development.

Typically about 120 kids participate in the Seminole 4-H, but Stam expects more this year.

Another new program is the registered heifer program. Six kids each acquired a registered heifer from Salacoa Valley Farms over the summer and are raising them as a separate 4-H project. Registered heifers allow the kids to become members of the International Brangus Breeder Association and present their animals at those breed-specific shows around the country. The Seminole 4-H show will include a new category just for registered heifers.

The birthdates and lineage of registered heifers is documented and adds value to the animals. The heifers can be impregnated with Salacoa seed stock, adding value to new calves.

"Parents want more experiences for their children," Stam said. "They can sell for more if the lineage can be tracked. Kids see more value in the development of heifers



Kevin Johnson

The Tribal Council joins Seminole Indian 4-H representatives Sept. 23 at Tribal headquarters in Hollywood. The Council approved a resolution for a proclamation that recognizes National 4-H Week 2019. From left are Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, 4-H program assistant Kimberly Clement, Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program livestock/4-H agent for STOF Aaron Stam and 4-H program assistant Dionne Smedley.

than steers. Heifers are an investment; steers represent a paycheck."

Regardless of what animal the kids choose to raise, show and sell, they must all take an animal ethics training.

"They are among the privileged few who are producing a food product," Stam said. "With that comes the responsibility to provide safe, healthy food. It has been a privilege to watch these kids go from babies into fine, upstanding young men and women

and good citizens."

The 4-H leaders – Stam, Kimberly Clement and Dionne Smedley – are looking for volunteers as well as ideas for programs that don't center on animals, such as baking, photography or anything else that could encourage kids to join 4-H.

"It is good to see the kids grow into good people and to see role models in the community help out," said Clement, special projects coordinator, who was a 4-H'er as a

child. "There was someone there mentoring me and I feel the need to be there for someone else."

To get involved as a 4-H volunteer, call 863-763-5020 or contact Aaron Stam at [aaronstam@semtribe.com](mailto:aaronstam@semtribe.com), Kimberly Clement at [kimberlyclement@semtribe.com](mailto:kimberlyclement@semtribe.com) or Dionne Smedley at [dionnesmedley@semtribe.com](mailto:dionnesmedley@semtribe.com).

## ◆ 5G From page 1A

5G (fifth-generation) construction, used for cellular technology, is typically referred to as a "small cell" wireless facility. The equipment used is smaller and denser than 4G. 5G is usually constructed in right-of-way areas and includes an antenna, equipment box and wiring. However, they can be mounted on towers up to 50 feet high – higher in places with existing tall structures.

Legal challenges began soon after the policy change, including from the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Blackfeet Tribe and the Omaha and Crow Creek Tribes. The tribes were joined by the Natural Resources

Defense Council.

The legal challenges argued that lifting the review requirements would "potentially imperil sacred Native American sites."

### 'Step in the right direction'

Joseph Webster, a partner at Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker, represented the Seminole Tribe. He called the decision an "important victory."

"As recognized by the D.C. Circuit, the FCC's order exempting small cell infrastructure from tribal review and consulting would have undermined federal laws that Congress put in place to protect this country's irreplaceable cultural heritage," Webster said in an August statement.

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Director Anne Mullins agreed with Webster and called the decision a win for Indian Country. She said the Tribe has been involved in the legal challenge since the beginning.

"It upheld federal law and is a step in the right direction," Mullins said.

Mullins said the THPO has asked the FCC to notify them of the status of any 5G projects that have been deployed or are in the process of installation.

Some wonder whether the review process is only in place for projects that would be physically located on tribal lands – it's not. It is for any tower that might be in an area that could, for example, obstruct a view or have a visual effect, affect wildlife on tribal lands, or have any direct or indirect affect – like a ground disturbance or an auditory issue.

Mullins said the FCC now has the opportunity to appeal the decision, which could take a year or more.

"It's in limbo now. A waiting game," she said.

### FCC undeterred

U.S. Circuit Judge Cornelia Pillard, who wrote the unanimous opinion on a three-judge panel, said the FCC had downplayed the intrusiveness of the 5G sites and did not fully consider what impact the new construction would have on the religious and cultural traditions of the tribes.

"The commission accordingly did not, pursuant to its public interest authority ... adequately address possible harms of deregulation and benefits of environmental

and historic-preservation review," Pillard wrote. "The Order's deregulation of small cells is thus arbitrary and capricious."

The court did allow to stand, however, a separate part of the FCC policy that cut back on tribes' ability to review new construction of larger wireless towers and facilities.

FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr hailed the decision to uphold that portion of the commission's order.

"I am pleased that the court upheld key provisions of last March's infrastructure decision," Carr said in a statement.

Carr went on to say the order has already "resulted in significant new builds," and that the FCC is reviewing its next steps for the parts that were struck down.

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# Get to know your new Seminole princesses

## Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

If you were wondering what to expect from the new Miss Florida Seminole over the next year – read on for a few clues.

Durante Blais-Billie, of the Hollywood Reservation, was crowned Miss Florida Seminole on July 27.

The exciting moment marked the start of a journey that will take the 22-year-old to many events and appearances around the Tribe and beyond during her yearlong term.

The judges were clearly impressed. In addition to the title, she won the essay and talent portion of the pageant.

In the talent portion, Blais-Billie talked about the role of sweetgrass baskets in Seminole history and showed how one is made.

The judges also took note of her answer to the impromptu question: 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 said. “In contemporary times, we now act as the guardians of the Everglades [and] speak up on behalf of the nature there.”

### Education, activism

Blais-Billie said her love of history is due in large part to her father’s influence.

She is the daughter of France Blais-Billie and the late July Billie. Blais-Billie attended the Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale and then went on to earn a degree in art history and a master’s degree in management from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

“I wanted to come back to Florida and integrate myself back in the Tribe,” Blais-Billie said. “It was hard to be away.”

She said she’s now ready to blend the traditional ways of the Tribe into the views and leadership skills she learned in her formal education.

In her study of management at St. Andrews, she specifically focused on diversity and equality issues.

One of her main causes is working to erase the barriers Indigenous People face in formal education.

As part of that, Blais-Billie wants to use her reign to bring attention to the stigmas that often prevent access to higher education.

Some of the stigmas stem from history, she said – forced assimilation, the challenges of missionary and reform schools and a warped Native self-identification.

Blais-Billie said the higher education experience is often simply not congruent with the life experiences of Indigenous People.

“The external stigmas or the way Western-style classes are taught,” she said. “For example, direct eye contact is expected and speaking up in class is valued.”

She points out that traditionally, Natives



Courtesy photo  
Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie

do not maintain eye contact, are taught to listen, and let elders speak first.

There’s a cultural dissonance in many Western curriculums, she said.

“Often the way education is taught tells us our knowledge systems are wrong,” Blais-Billie said. “Some Indigenous People simply don’t pursue higher education because they are afraid to be seen as too westernized.”

### Road to art

Along the way, Blais-Billie’s developed a career interest in modern art and museum curation.

At first, she thought she’d pursue a career in the hospitality industry somewhere in Florida.

Blais-Billie had admired Meg Gilbert Crofton, the former president of Walt Disney Parks & Resorts – she even immersed herself in an internship at the Hard Rock Hotel in Orlando.

The internship gave her the experience of working in many different Hard Rock departments, but ultimately she decided it wasn’t a match. Blais-Billie said she’s grateful for the valuable knowledge and

experience she gained, however.

It was the interest in art history and the pursuit of a degree that would shape her long-term career goals more profoundly.

Blais-Billie said she’s drawn to museums and exhibits. She’s participated in Nova Southeastern University’s Cobra Circle – and struck up a friendship with Bonnie Clearwater – the director and chief curator for the NSU Art Museum in the process.

“She cares a lot about Seminole contemporary art,” Blais-Billie said of Clearwater.

The goal of the Cobra Circle is to seek out and develop the next generation of leaders in Fort Lauderdale.

Blais-Billie has also helped curate a Seminole exhibit in collaboration with Tara Chadwick, the curator of exhibitions at History Fort Lauderdale. It starts showing in November and runs through January.

So, what is it, exactly, about art that appeals to Blais-Billie?

“I’m very into the theory of art perspectives beyond the conical narrative,” she said. “Art beyond the central narrative. Modernity. How the Seminoles have become modern. Our own interpretation of things.”

Yes, it can sound a little intimidating. “I’m very into theory and curating – the way you make a room so the viewer can interact with the art,” she said. “That’s something that’s important to me. Art in itself is very political in the historical context. The definition of art should not just be the classical narrative.”

Blais-Billie also likes film and music. She has a particular fondness for silent movies – silent film actor Harold Lloyd is one of her favorites – a “pioneer of comedy,” she said.

Two of her other passions are jazz and opera. She’s been to an opera in both London and Paris.

Which brings up travel – another of her passions. She’s traveled throughout much of Europe and Vietnam already. About a year ago, she was able to fulfill a dream trip to Egypt and a cruise down the Nile River.

### Next steps

Blais-Billie said she’s appreciative that Tribal leadership allows a lot of autonomy within the role of Miss Florida Seminole. She has some sway over which events she attends and the outreach she does.

Along with Tribal duties, she plans to speak to university audiences and to Tribal youth programs.

She is already in the midst of designing a workshop for children from third to fifth grades on different ways of understanding visual culture.

Blais-Billie is also looking forward to the eventual trip to the Miss Indian World competition at the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque next April.

She hopes she can bring the title back to the Tribe as Cheyenne Kippenberger did this year.

## Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Aubee Billie

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Aubee Billie knew from a young age she wanted to represent her Tribe. At age 5 she competed in the Little Miss Florida Seminole pageant and the experience stayed with her for the next 11 years.

In July she was crowned Jr. Miss Florida Seminole at the 62nd annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.

“I decided to enter the pageant this year because I wanted to get back into my culture,” said Billie, 16. “I really want to be a representative for younger kids and be an outlet for them if they have questions about the Tribe. We are the ones who will be in the leadership positions when we get older, so learning this now is great for us to understand how the Tribe works and shapes us.”

An 11th-grader at The King’s Academy in West Palm Beach, Billie keeps busy with parts in musical productions – she is in rehearsals for “The Hunchback of Notre Dame,” in which she has the lead role of Esmeralda – and her hobbies archery, beading and singing. She also sings in the school choir and will perform with the Radio City Rockettes in New York City in December. And she is training to compete in archery in the Indigenous Games next summer. Her duties as a princess add to her busy schedule with trips to Oklahoma and Tallahassee as well as local appearances.

Competing in the pageant was about connecting and forging friendships with the other girls. Pageant week brought the eight contestants together for a few transformative days.

“It was so much fun meeting all these girls who have the same passion as you do,” Billie said. “Meeting them from different reservations and seeing their perspectives on life was great. I made really great friends that I wouldn’t have made anywhere else.”

The winning moment was a bit surreal; she wasn’t expecting to win.

“It was crazy to think that just one girl would get the crown and that I was the one that got it,” Billie said.

She grew up in Brighton; her parents are Maria and former Chairman James



Courtesy photo  
Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Aubee Billie

Billie. She stays in West Palm Beach during the school week and goes home on the weekends. She plans to study musical theater in college and pursue a career on Broadway after graduation.

The goal for her reign is to connect with other Tribal members and achieve an understanding of what the Tribe has gone through.

“I want to meet different people in our Tribe and share our story about how we truly are unconquered with other Tribes,” she said. “Serving as princess is a lot, but it’s really exciting. I’m proud to represent our Tribe in a great manner.”



Courtesy photo Durante Blais-Billie  
Durante Blais-Billie, front right, walks with some of her fellow graduates at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.



Amber Loveland/ The King’s Academy  
Aubee Billie played the lead role in The King’s Academy performance of ‘Miss Saigon’ in April.

## CLIMATE From page 1A

see that happening to other Tribes around the world or anybody else around the world.”

The Climate Strike in Fort Lauderdale was part of a massive, worldwide eye-opener with similar events held in more than 90 countries that drew estimates of millions of people, many inspired by Greta Thunberg, whose calm and poignant testimony two days earlier in front of a Congressional panel help ignite and energize the marches.

If those who are demanding changes related to climate needed a face for its cause, they received one in the form of the petite teen from Sweden.

“It was so amazing. I wish I saw it in person,” said Frank, who added that the Climate Strike was inspired by Thunberg’s own Friday strikes to bring awareness to climate change.

Before the rallies, Frank did her part in trying to spread the word about the event. She said she put up signs at Sagemont School in Weston, where she is a junior, but she said the school removed them. Still, Frank was thrilled with the hundreds of students from across Broward and beyond as well as the adults who participated in the rally.

“I’m so proud of everyone ... and keep fighting,” she exclaimed to the crowd as it roared with approval.

Frank hasn’t decided yet what path she

would like to take in college, but she said environmental sciences and biology are among potential majors she’s considered.

Frank’s mother Rhonda Roff and the family dog, Willow, a rescue mutt, also attended the rally.

“This whole Greta Thunberg thing has just completely enlivened everybody,” Roff said.

Rev. Amy Carol Webb, minister of the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Davie which has Choctaw and Cherokee elders, participated in the march in support of the youths’ message.

“The congregation I serve, we believe in saving this planet,” she said. “We’ve been at it for a long, long time. Social justice is our focus. We have an Earth ministry and that’s what we’re here for, to stand up for the ministry of Earth, for the future generations and to reach back to listen to the wisdom of our elders who had said if we don’t cut it out, this is coming, and to listen to the youth that have picked it up. Apologize to them for our letting it go and now do our part following them to turn it around.”

Three days after the rallies, Thunberg addressed the United Nations in New York.

“The eyes of all future generations are upon you,” Thunberg told the UN. “And if you choose to fail us I say we will never forgive you. We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line.”



Kevin Johnson  
Dozens of youth show their support for the Climate Strike rally in downtown Fort Lauderdale on Sept. 20.

# Tribe works to preserve, teach history of Egmont Key

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Egmont Key might be a secluded island, but it's one with a significant historical connection to the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Located at the mouth of Tampa Bay, the island is just off the coasts of St. Petersburg and Bradenton. It became a wildlife refuge and was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The island was designated as a Florida State Park in 1989.

But it's the history of Egmont Key well before those years that is of most interest to the Tribe and those at the Tribal Historic Preservation Office and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress.

The final touches are being put on both an Egmont Key high school curriculum and a special report for Tribal members and the public, in an effort to keep the history of what happened there alive.

## 'The dark place'

As scenic and beautiful as it is to visitors who might go to snorkel, picnic or bird watch, Egmont Key has a sinister history.

The island was used as an internment camp for Seminoles before they were transported to New Orleans and other locations in the Western U.S. as part of the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

Thousands of Seminoles are estimated to have been shipped or forcibly walked west during this period. Many perished on the island or on the Trail of Tears.

While today there are no remnants left of the Seminole prison – what they have called “the dark place” – historians and researchers have a good idea of where it would have been located – close to the island's lighthouse and a nearby dock.

Egmont Key's history also extends to one of the most notable Seminole ancestors who was imprisoned there. Records show that in 1858, the steamer Grey Cloud left Egmont Key headed west with 160 Seminoles. Polly Parker (Emateloey) was on the vessel, but managed to escape when it stopped at St. Marks on the Florida panhandle.

The Tribe thinks the Egmont Key story is an important one to tell about the Seminoles fight for survival.

“We need to remember places like Egmont Key so that kids know what we went through and how we lived during the wars,” Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry said. “We need to keep talking about this history so we don't lose it.”

The quote from Henry is one of several Tribal voices that are featured in the forthcoming 40-page report – “Egmont Key: A Seminole Story.”

The photo-rich report looks less like a formal document and reads like an informative National Geographic-style publication.

“I think a lot of our ancestors fought very dearly for our lives to be free. And to be able to come back and visit something like this, it's very sad for me. But at the end of the day, I think as Seminoles all need to come and visit it and get an idea of what they went through,” former Big Cypress Councilman Manuel “Mondo” Tiger said in the report.

The report features a timeline of the island's history that starts at 2,000 B.C., when ancestors of the Seminole Tribe began using the island as a fishing location. You can follow the timeline all the way to present day.

There is also a section on Parker, her escape, and the impact she made on Seminole ancestry and history.

## 'Get the word out'

The report is intended to educate and be shared among Tribal members, the public and partners who share the Tribe's goal of preserving Egmont Key.

“[It's] designed to get the word out and develop a historical record,” Maureen Mahoney, a Tribal archaeologist at THPO, said.

She's been closely involved in Egmont Key with others on the THPO staff over the years.

The THPO has made trips to the island to do metal detecting for artifacts; something that ramped up after a lightning-caused fire in 2016 burned 80 acres of foliage making some areas easier to study.

Tribal members, THPO staff and others have made trips to the island for archeological finds. The THPO wants to continue to do archival research, excavations, examination of cemeteries and gather oral histories.

“Egmont Key: A Seminole Story” will soon be sent to all of the museum's members and distributed throughout the Tribe, Mahoney said.

## Egmont Key curriculum

Meanwhile, representatives of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki scheduled a community meeting Oct. 1 in Big Cypress to get final Tribal member feedback on an almost completed Egmont Key curriculum designed for the high school level.

Alyssa Boge, education coordinator at the museum, organized the meeting and has been working on the project and its lesson plans.

“If you go to the island today, you wouldn't know about what happened to the Seminoles there,” Boge said.

That's one of the main drivers for the curriculum (and the report), she said – so students can be taught what happened there and also learn that the Seminole Tribe is alive and well today.

Boge said the curriculum can be used in a variety of classroom subjects – social studies, writing, reading comprehension and even visual arts.

She expects the lesson plans will be used in both Tribal and non-Tribal schools, as it will meet Florida education standards.

“My long term goal is to make sure Seminole history is taught in every school in Florida,” Boge said. “I want teachers to feel confident teaching about Seminole People – it's important for teachers to have curriculum that is going to touch on Native American and Seminole experiences.”

## Ticking clock

There's been a time pressure at play among those involved in both Egmont Key projects.

That's because the island has been slowly disappearing – a phenomenon that's accelerated in recent years due to climate change and other environmental factors.

Because the Tribe is already involved in many environmental issues, it has also sought to bring awareness to the Egmont Key's erosion from storm surges, sea level rise, and ever more powerful and frequent hurricanes.

The THPO has partnered with park rangers who are also interested in preserving the island and its wildlife.

Human contact has also had an effect on the island's wildlife – its bird and sea turtle populations.

Experts think the island itself could completely disappear in 100 years. Records show its area was about 580 acres in 1877 and is about 250 acres today.



Bradley Mueller of the THPO looks toward the lighthouse as he approaches Egmont Key.

Courtesy THPO



The coastline of Egmont Key has been significantly eroded over time.

Courtesy THPO

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FROM PRESS RELEASE

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**◆ DORIAN**  
From page 1A

"I felt by doing that we were like elevating the water so it was not only going to take care of the physical needs of the people who are in great need of the water, but also to pass along some of that healing that needs to happen as part of the recovery process," said Chadwick, an Indigenous woman of Mayan descent.

In total, two 18-wheel tractor-trailers were used to cart away the water. One truckload donation was made on behalf of Seminole Wholesale and the other on behalf of Seminole Petroleum. Both are entities of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc (STOFI).

Also, in the days immediately following the hurricane, the Tribe and Hard Rock used its aviation resources, including two helicopters and a single-engine Pilatus PC-12/45 airplane, to make multiple daily roundtrip flights for several days with supplies aboard. Seats were removed from the plane in order to free up space for supplies. Cases of bottled water transported by the Tribe were collected by Banyan Air Service at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport and then trucked using Seminole Gaming vehicles to Sheltair Aviation.

Deliveries were made in cooperation with the Grand Bahama Port Authority, which operates the Grand Bahama International Airport at Freeport. The port authority is the municipal authority that governs Freeport and is one of the entities working to help hurricane victims.

Elsewhere, donation drop-off areas were set up outside the Seminole Classic Casino at the corner of Stirling Road and U.S. 441 in Hollywood as well as the Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee.

"The Seminole Tribe has a long and important history with the people of The Bahamas, and we are committed to helping them in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian," said Seminole Tribe Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.

On Sept. 21, Kuro restaurant at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood participated in the Lift a Fork, Lend a Hand fundraiser for Dorian relief and recovery through World Central Kitchen, an organization founded by Chef Jose Andres that delivers meals after natural disasters.



Courtesy Clint El-Ramey, Seminole Hard Rock Support Services

From left, Navarro Bastian, Christiano Gayle and Collins Lightbourne, all affiliated with the import-export company Fowico in the Bahamas that helped in the relief efforts, stand in front of the Seminole Tribe plane that brought cases of drinking water to the islands in the wake of Hurricane Dorian.

Andres told CBS that the organization would deliver more than 7,500 meals in the Bahamas.

Dorian's destructive path left more than 50 people dead and 70,000 homeless on the Bahamas before it headed north and caused further damage along the U.S. east coast and Canada's maritime provinces.

Aside from beach erosions, Florida mostly escaped Dorian's wrath. At one point, hurricane watches and/or warnings were posted from Deerfield Beach to points north, including Fort Pierce. In preparation for potential impact, the Tribe closed at noon on Friday, Aug. 30 and remained closed after the Labor Day holiday, reopening Wednesday, Sept. 4. During the threat of the storm, emergency command operation centers were activated in Hollywood, Big Cypress, Brighton and Fort Pierce. Buildings and homes were boarded up and sandbags were brought in.

A lot of attention was focused on the Chupco's Landing reservation in Fort Pierce as that city had the highest probability of receiving hurricane force winds out of all

the reservations; at one point, forecasts had it pegged at more than 50% probability, but those winds never arrived.

Emergency staff stayed overnight at Chupco's to ensure its safety.

During the preparations, a declaration of state of emergency was issued by Chairman Osceola. On Aug. 31, President Donald J. Trump approved an emergency declaration for the Seminole Tribe.

A press release from the White House stated: "President Donald J. Trump declared that an emergency exists for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and ordered Federal assistance to supplement the Tribe's response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from Hurricane Dorian beginning on August 28, 2019, and continuing."

The action authorized the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance.



Courtesy Clint El-Ramey, Seminole Hard Rock Support Services

Bahamian Navarro Bastian helps unload water off the Seminole Tribe plane with Captain Pablo Lemarchand in the Bahamas.



Analicia Austin

From left, in front row, Gwen Fuller, Sheryl Sommerville-Grant, and in back, from left, Ricardo Brown, Wilson Lascano and Sylvia Sadio help collect donations for Hurricane Dorian victims at the Seminole Classic Casino's drop-off location outside the casino in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

Dozens of sandbags were ready to be used at Chupco's Landing in Fort Pierce if needed, but Dorian only skirted the east coast of Florida and its impact inland was minor.

**◆ HARD ROCK**  
From page 1A

what's coming or to list all the bells and whistles visitors can expect to see and experience.

Behind it all is a massive Hard Rock team led by Jim Allen, the chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming. Allen's Hard Rock Hollywood team is led by its president, Bo Guidry.

"This project will redefine the South Florida hospitality market for decades to come," Guidry said. "This property is iconic in every sense of the word. From the architectural masterpiece of the guitar hotel, to the unique lagoon and water features and the Bora Bora style resort experience."

Guidry said the full spectrum of amenities will appeal to a wide variety of guests – those seeking fun in the sun and exciting nightlife and those looking for a relaxing retreat and "reconnection with their special someone."

The nightlife options include a new 44,000-square-foot indoor-outdoor complex called Daer South Florida – a nightclub and poolside day club with rooftop features.

"The talents of our entire team have made it possible to bring this vision to reality and I am grateful for their hard work and outstanding efforts," Guidry said. "This project is truly unique, there is nothing like it anywhere in the world. Our entire team realizes that they are part of something very, very special."

Guidry and other top level executives have been immersed in a string of job fairs over several months that have attracted thousands of applicants to Hard Rock Hollywood from across Florida.

Schlesinger said the human resources and marketing departments have done "one of the most amazing jobs" he's ever seen with an opening of this size and scope.

Human resources has hired 1,800 new employees so far – with about 200 more positions to be filled.

The department has conducted mass employee orientations of 200 people at a time. New employees are not only fitted for



Hard Rock

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood President Bo Guidry

new uniforms but learn about the Seminole Tribe and all of the Hard Rock's operations and expectations.

"Every department has participated. It's an amazing scheduling feat," Schlesinger said.

Schlesinger oversees all operations other than gaming – hotels, spa, pool operations, public spaces, facilities, engineering, banquets and housekeeping – that's just a taste.

**Foodies rejoice**

The expanded property will feature 19 food options and 20 bars.

Those projects are led by Hard Rock Hollywood's food and beverage VP, Justin Wyborn, who is always excited to discuss the options people will soon experience.

There are four fine dining restaurants in the lineup, including an "elevated" buffet (which Hard Rock Hollywood has never had) and several casual and contemporary

eateries. Fine dining includes the redone Council Oak. It's in a new location and overlooks the VIP pool. The restaurant has an open kitchen concept, butcher shop, 3,000-bottle wine room and floor to ceiling windows.

Those who enjoy Italian food will be happy, too. An Italian restaurant – something Wyborn said was always needed – will "celebrate the Italian American experience."

"Everything is made from scratch – the pastas, pizzas, sauces ... it's a family, high-energy restaurant," he said.

A contemporary American grill is coming as well. Wyborn said it's no less than "one of the most beautiful restaurants you've ever seen."

The American grill will be located on the second floor of the casino in the middle of the lagoon area. It's been designed with floor to ceiling windows and 360-degree views. The seating layout allows for a more intimate setting or patrons can sit in a large U-shaped bar area that surrounds the open kitchen.

And finally, Japanese restaurant Kuro is still the mainstay it's always been and has had its menu slightly upgraded.

Wyborn said all four of the fine dining concepts are Hard Rock creations. In the future, there will be a third-party Korean restaurant concept located in the new 26,000-square-foot retail promenade.

On the beverage front, bar and lounge options go from 11 to 20, and Hard Rock Live will have 36 bar wells up and running for concert goers.

Wyborn has been at Hard Rock Hollywood for about six years. He was previously with the Nobu Restaurant Group for 16 years, opening eight restaurants around the globe.

"I'm so incredibly blessed to work with the Tribe and the Hard Rock and be a part of this development and groundbreaking that is so special," Wyborn said. "To be a part of the creating with all the SVPs and VPs, it's been one of the most impressive times of my life."

Wyborn has done restaurant projects at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City and at a Hard Rock venture underway now in Sacramento, California.

"When you've got a leader that wants you to get involved and be creative and add



Analicia Austin

Hard Rock Live, seen here Sept. 24, will open with a concert by Maroon 5 on Oct. 25.

value to the organization – that's what we all take away. [Jim Allen is] a visionary and fantastic with finding a really good team that works together," Wyborn said.

**Marketing minds**

As one might imagine, marketing is another Herculean task in a department that has been in the midst of a juggling act for both the Tampa and Hollywood properties.

David Koloski, Hard Rock Hollywood VP of marketing, came into the position about a year ago after 13 years of experience in the Las Vegas gaming industry.

"What's been created here is pretty unparalleled," Koloski said.

The big challenge for Koloski and his staff (a good challenge, he said) is how to market all the pieces of the property – sometimes in bite sized chunks and sometimes collectively.

He put a plan in place that expanded the marketing outreach not just to Florida residents, but a regional, national and

international audience. For Koloski there are multiple audiences, multiple segments to consider from the guest whose primary purpose is gaming, to the tourist group who are interested in the full resort experience – hotel, spa and retail.

Then there are those who are local and want to, perhaps, use the spa for a day and have a nice dinner.

Part of Koloski's marketing plan also encompasses an expanded 120,000-square-foot meeting and convention space and 38,000-square-foot exhibition hall.

The Hard Rock Hollywood's proximity to the Fort Lauderdale and Miami airports are good leverage points for that market, he said.

"We can't wait to get this place open and running. Everyone is busy and running around and wants to deliver the experience. Ideas are flying everywhere," Koloski said. "It's a great place to be, to work, and to market one of the nicest new resorts to come online in a very long time."

# Girl Scouts honor 'inspirational' Golden Johansson

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida recently honored one of the Tribe's top executives.

Golden Johansson, the Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc.'s executive director of operations, was one of five women recognized at the "Girl Scouts Lead the Way" luncheon Sept. 19.

The luncheon was designed to honor "inspirational women of Broward County." The event took place at the Signature Grand in Davie.

"The Girl Scouts did a beautiful presentation and had a few scouts speak about why they love being a part of the program," Johansson said. "After the awards were presented, the CEO of the Girl Scouts conducted a panel discussion on leadership and success with all the honorees. It was really nicely done."

STOFI board representatives Helene Buser (Brighton), Joe Frank (Big Cypress) and Gordon Wareham (Hollywood) attended the event in support of Johansson.

Sara Nunez, chief development officer for GSSEF, said Johansson was an easy pick, considering her success in an often male-dominated industry.

Johansson, who reports to the board, oversees STOFI's many business ventures, including Seminole Petroleum, Seminole Wholesale Distributors, credit and finance, Seminole Smoke Shops, Seminole Trading Posts in Hollywood and Brighton, Brighton

RV Resort & Campground, Seminole Board Construction, natural resources (cattle), Brighton Mining, Seminole Commercial Cleaning, The BOL restaurant and OVV Water.

Beyond her day-to-day work with the Tribe, she is involved in the business community, local politics and in several philanthropic organizations within Broward County.

Fort Lauderdale photographer Graciela Valdes, who is involved in some of the same organizations as Johansson, submitted her nomination to the GSSEF.

"She embodies all the qualities you are looking for in a strong female community leader," Valdes said in the nomination. "She inspires those around her and is thought very highly of. She's a go-getter."

Valdez said Johansson is innovative with her ideas and takes risks to get the job done.

"She's not afraid to walk into a room of men and express her thoughts on the latest business initiatives or ways to make the organization better," the nomination read.

Johansson, who has two daughters, was also recognized for promoting the growth and advancement of women in the workplace.

She serves as a mentor in the Seminole and Hard Rock Women in Leadership program, an initiative that encourages and supports the development and success of a new generation of young professional women.

In addition, each of the honorees were



Graciela Valdes Fine Art Photography

Golden Johansson, Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc.'s executive director, is honored by the Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida on Sept. 19 at the Signature Grand in Davie.

considered to embody the characteristics of a "G.I.R.L." – Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker and Leader.

This isn't the first time Johansson has been recognized. She has been previously honored by the Boys and Girls Clubs, Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of

Commerce and South Florida Business & Wealth magazine.

The four other women who were honored at the Girl Scouts event are Lisa Lutoff-Perlo, president and CEO of Celebrity Cruises; Ellen Jaffe, on air/community affairs host at WFEZ-EASY 93.1 FM;

Col. Nichole Anderson, undersheriff at the Broward Sheriff's Office; and Christine Walker director of marketing and public relations at Holy Cross Hospital.

# Construction begins on Native American Veterans Memorial

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Officials recently broke ground on a highly anticipated new memorial in Washington, D.C.

The National Native American Veterans Memorial, which will be located at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, took a significant step toward reality Sept. 21 as construction officially began.

The project – the first national memorial honoring Native American veterans – is expected to take about a year to complete. If the timeline goes as planned, it will open to the public in November 2020.

Officials had a several activities lined up at the groundbreaking, including a chance for attendees to get an up-close look at the memorial's design with a hands-on replica.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Singers sang and played on hand drums and curator Herman Viola gave a tour through the museum's travelling exhibition: "Patriot

Nations: Native Americans in Our Nation's Armed Forces."

The mission of the exhibition and forthcoming memorial is to highlight the history of Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian men and women who have served in the U.S. military.

Native Americans have served in the U.S. military since the American Revolution, and records show they've served in greater numbers per capita than any other ethnic group.

The memorial is intended to highlight their service and provide some overdue recognition on Washington D.C.'s National Mall.

At the groundbreaking, attendees also had a chance to meet the memorial's designer – artist Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne/Arapaho). Pratt and Kevin Gover, the director of the National Museum of the American Indian, led a conversation about the importance of the memorial and Pratt's vision for its design.

Pratt's design was unveiled in 2018 – dubbed the "Warriors' Circle of Honor."



Paul Morigi/AP Images for Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian

Shovels hit the dirt during the groundbreaking of the National Native American Veterans Memorial on Sept. 21 in Washington, D.C. From right are Kevin Gover, director of the National Museum of the American Indian; Bill Lomax, National Museum of the American Indian board of trustees chair; Congresswoman Deb Haaland; Harvey Pratt, memorial designer; Jefferson Keel, lieutenant governor of the Chickasaw Nation, National Congress of American Indians president, and National Native American Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee co-chair; Brenda Shopodock, vice-chairwoman Forest County Potawatomi Community; Robert Wilkie, secretary of Veterans Affairs; and John Davis, Smithsonian Institution provost.

### Seminole connection

The road to a veteran's memorial for Native Americans has been a long one and the Seminole Tribe has been involved since the beginning.

In 2010, then-Chairman Mitchell Cypress tasked Stephen Bowers to work to get a statue placed at the Vietnam Veterans

Memorial to commemorate Native American veterans.

However, Congress had passed a law that wouldn't allow anything to be added on the site of the existing Vietnam Veterans Memorial – so a statue (or a memorial) would have to be approved and constructed at another D.C. site.

Bowers, who is the Veteran Affairs

director for the Tribe, has been involved for almost 10 years in raising money and awareness for the memorial that is now coming to fruition.

More information is at [nmai.si.edu/nnavm](http://nmai.si.edu/nnavm).



Paul Morigi/AP Images for Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian

Harvey Pratt, memorial designer, speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the National Native American Veterans Memorial at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian Sept. 21 in Washington, D.C.

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

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

## Florida, a tourist state; unconquered Seminoles, the tourism attraction

By Marlin Billie, Panther Clan, son of Juanita Fewell Billie and Henry John Billie

Over the past several months I have been going through the photographs of Seminole Tribal members which date back to the beginning of the Tribe's establishment on August 21, 1957, and before. This year is the 62nd anniversary! The earlier years of the 20th century were photographed by either missionaries or teachers that lived throughout our reservations: Brighton, Big Cypress and Hollywood (called Dania), the headquarters for the United States agency, the Bureau of Indian Affairs. (Several photographic collections are included).

Born in 1955, many of my memories come from the Seminole Okalee Indian Village and Arts and Crafts Center – the Tribe's first business venture. It was located on the corner of State Road 7 (441) and Stirling Road where the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino stands today. In 1960, tourism was what the Tribal members were accustomed

to for economic gain. Many families had formed together to make this a quality tourist attraction known as the "only deep water alligator wrestling in the world." While the tourist attraction created jobs, many families were still promoting the Seminole lifestyle through other tourism attractions, such as the Jungle Queen sightseeing tour boat that brought tourists along the New River waterways throughout Fort Lauderdale.

Before these Fort Lauderdale attractions, Miami Beach was the haven for tourism with Musa Isle Indian Village among other tourist sites that featured the Seminole Indian lifestyle. (There are photographs of these sites). North Florida had Silver Springs in Ocala, which families were involved in. This became a place established by Seminole tourism and then changed into a movie set location which many Seminole families were a part of. But once the Seminole Okalee Village and Arts and Crafts Center was established, many of the tourism sites closed down and the tourism was centered among the newly established Indian reservations, including the Miccosukee Tribe along U.S. 41 (Tamiami Trail) and the Brighton Reservation.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Above, Seminole men and women standing in front of a chickee at Musa Isle Indian Village.

In 1976, all the stories we had heard about the Seminole lands taken by the U.S. government during the War became "truth." The United States government and the Seminole Tribe of Florida came to an agreement about the lands taken and the price to be paid per acre (3 cents) which yielded 16 million dollars. These lands were in the Ocala area and across the state and down to South Florida. Both the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma were included in the settlement.

The outcome of the settlement was a greater focus on self-reliance as the government was now out of the Tribe's future with that final purchase of lands in 1976. Economic enterprise was the way for many that at one time relied on just tourism. As the Tribe looked ahead, many of the young people, educated now, began to change the landscape of economic growth, keeping tourism at the forefront and adding gaming with culture.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Okalee statue of Seminole man (Jackie Willie) and alligator outside of original Seminole Okalee Indian Village and Arts and Crafts Center.

## New Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki exhibit goes 'Skin Deep'

BY ANALICIA AUSTIN  
Digital Content Coordinator

**BIG CYPRESS** — A new exhibit at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress is a first-time concept that's been two years in the making. The idea started when an employee noticed Tribal member Lorelei Matthews' unique tattoos.

The exhibit "Skin Deep Contrasts in Seminole Culture" was a two-year process as the project underwent many changes, including the models and photographers. Matthews selected Drew Osceola, a classically trained Seminole photographer who specializes in portrait photography.

During two days of shooting, Matthews and Osceola aimed to create the effect of the Golden Age of Hollywood.

"I wanted to show that tattoos could be elegant and sophisticated," Matthews said.

She drew inspiration from Marilyn Monroe and Rita Hayworth, among other actresses from the Golden Age, by channeling their styles, specifically with the hair and makeup trends of that era.

"I wanted to showcase the ladies," Osceola said, "and not just their tattoos." He did so by using hand lighting to create shadows, and sculpting his subjects to create a dramatic effect that he calls a "canvas within a canvas." In other words, he wanted the women to be seen as whole, not just their tattoos.

Osceola said the best part about photographing his subjects was "seeing the smiles when they were presented with the final product."

The eight women photographed for the exhibit, including Matthews, are all Tribal members. They were recruited for the project at the Tribal Fair and through social media.

The exhibit opened in September and will run through January 2020.



Analicia Austin

Corinne Zepeda stands in front of her portrait at the 'Skin Deep Contrast in Seminole Culture' exhibit at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Analicia Austin

'Skin Deep Contrasts in Seminole Culture' exhibit is at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum through January 2020.

"My tattoos are the most outward expression of myself. They are in memoriam, designs I find aesthetically pleasing, and even political statements. They tell the story of my past and present. Me without tattoos just wouldn't be me."

- LORELEI MATTHEWS

Analicia Austin

Words from curator and project coordinator Lorelei Matthews are part of the exhibit.



Analicia Austin

Photographer Drew Osceola and Lorelei Matthews, curator and project coordinator, pose in front of their exhibit 'Skin Deep Contrasts in Seminole Culture.'



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# Health

## Tribe to host first trauma-focused symposium

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The idea had been brewing for some time in Cheyenne Kippenberger's mind — a Tribal conference that addressed issues of trauma. She'd spoken about such subjects during her reign as Miss Florida Seminole.

She wasn't sure exactly how to go about bringing all the pieces together, but the current Miss Indian World soon found a way.

"The vision was to create a safe space to heal the many traumas that we as Native people have suffered from for many generations," Kippenberger said. "After this safe space was created: how do we encourage healing in a healthy, positive way?"

She would eventually forge a collaboration with the Tribe's Native Learning Center in Hollywood — its executive director Georgette Palmer Smith and project specialist Tomasina Chupco-Gilliam.

The partnership took the idea into reality this year. The first "Healing the Circle in Our Tribal Communities Symposium" will take place from Oct. 15 to Oct. 17 at the NLC.

Kippenberger and Gilliam are symposium co-chairs.

The agenda features three days of speakers and sessions, and includes the Tribe's second annual domestic violence walk and a healing circle/smudge event.

At press time, Gilliam said more than 150 people had registered — a full house. Attendees will consist of Tribal members and those who work in Indian Country across the U.S. and Canada.

Because the NLC receives funding for

community safety issues under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the symposium was offered at no cost to attendees.

"The goal is to raise awareness and speak on the issues, such as domestic violence, elder abuse — [to have] an encompassing conversation on community safety and initiating healing," Gilliam said. "It's important to me because I know it's been an issue throughout Indian Country and the older communities. The elders don't really speak on it; our generation is more open to speaking on it and creating conversation."

Gilliam said there will be many resources available at the symposium for those who aren't comfortable "speaking up," or choose to be anonymous.

A resource room will host StrongHearts Native Helpline and the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, among other organizations.

Additional topics to be covered include women's empowerment, positive, healthy relationships, self-care/self-love and the plight of missing and murdered Indigenous

women.

Kippenberger will moderate a panel titled "Breaking the Silence on Domestic Violence."

Other Tribal members who are part of the agenda are Dakota Osceola, who will moderate a discussion on "The Hidden Voice — the Native male perspective," and Tina Marie Osceola who will speak about healthy relationships.

The opening keynote — "A Survivor's Story" — will be given by Brandi Liberty



Kevin Johnson

Miss Indian World Cheyenne Kippenberger, a former Miss Florida Seminole, is co-chair of the first "Healing the Circle in Our Tribal Communities Symposium" that will take place from Oct. 15 to Oct. 17 at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood.

(Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska) who is the owner of Morning Star Consulting.

Dr. Jacque Gray (Choctaw and Cherokee) of the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences will present on elder abuse, financial exploitation, and fraud and identity theft.

A central focus of the symposium is violence against Native American women and girls. That topic will be further discussed by Patina Park (Cheyenne River Sioux) of the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center who will present

"Understanding the Past to Address the Present."

### Walk, heal

Other activities taking place during the symposium include the "2nd Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk" on Oct. 16 at 6 p.m. at the ballfields on the Hollywood Reservation.

Registration is not required to

participate and walkers are encouraged to wear purple in support of victims.

Hollywood Councilman Christopher Osceola is hosting a dinner after the walk at 7:30 p.m. at the Seminole Estates.

A "Healing Circle/Smudge Ceremony" takes place Oct. 17 from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. also at the ballfields. Gilliam said the circle is meant to provide a safe space for participants who are working on their healing process.

In addition, throughout the three day symposium, attendees will have access to a "healing blanket" at the NLC. The blanket will be on display and available for those who want to write or draw something that is symbolic of their journey of healing as a "safe release of negative experience and emotions."

### For more

The NLC is launching a new podcast in October and Kippenberger will be speaking on human trafficking and missing and murdered Indigenous women on one of the podcast's episodes during the symposium.

The podcast is called "Hoporenkv" (Hopo-thlee-in-ka), the Creek word for wisdom.

The NLC is also gearing up now for its third annual "Renewable Energy & Sustainability" conference from Feb. 11 to Feb. 13.

More information on the symposium, podcast and future conference can be found at [nativelearningcenter.org](http://nativelearningcenter.org).

Contact Gilliam with any symposium questions by phone at (954) 985-2315 ext. 10649 or via email at [tomasina.gilliam@sentribe.com](mailto:tomasina.gilliam@sentribe.com).

## Diabetes program for Natives remains in limbo

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

A federal program designed to assist Native Americans who have diabetes or are at risk of it has been nearing expiration.

The Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) was set to expire Sept. 30 unless renewed by Congress. It was unknown by press time if Congress would approve the funding and keep the program alive.

The National Indian Health Board and other groups have been trying to keep the pressure on lawmakers for months now, not only to renew the program, but do so at increased funding levels.

The NIHB said SDPI is a successful public health program that supports 301 grantees throughout Indian Country in diabetes prevention and treatment. Since the program's creation in 1997, supporters say it has helped to reduce the rate of end stage renal disease among Native American and Alaskan Natives by 54 percent.

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

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

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

The SDPI renewal bill would have funded the program for five years at \$200 million per year, marking its first funding increase in 15 years. However, the Energy and Commerce Committee reduced the funding level to \$150 million for four years at a July meeting.

Congress has historically renewed SDPI in one to three year increments at \$150 million per year.

"Without this program, hundreds of Tribes across the country will not have vitally needed resources and the progress made since 1997 will be at risk," the NIHB said in a recent newsletter alert to members and supporters.

The NIHB encouraged those in Indian Country to contact their respective members of Congress to push for the continuation of SDPI and its funding.

Earlier this year, at least 379 out of 435 House members signed onto a letter supporting the program.

The SDPI is one of two diabetes-related bills in Congress. The other is the Special Diabetes Program or SDP. The fate of that bill's extension was also not known by press time.

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

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

## NIHB opens health conference with discussions on sovereignty, responses to Broken Promises report

FROM NIHB PRESS RELEASE

**TEMECULA, Calif.** — Nearly 600 Tribal health providers, experts and advocates gathered Sept. 17 for the opening session of the National Indian Health Board's (NIHB) annual National Tribal Health Conference to hear how Tribal leaders are strengthening sovereignty while partnering with federal agencies to ensure trust obligations are upheld.

A Tribal leader panel discussion focused on tribal sovereignty in relation to health equity. Panelists included NIHB Chair and Great Plains Area representative, Victoria Kitcheyan; National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President and Chickasaw Nation Lt. Governor, Jefferson Keel; St. Regis Mohawk Nation Tribal Chief, Beverly Cook; and Lummi Nation Tribal Councilmember, Nick Lewis. NIHB Chair Kitcheyan said that sovereignty means "we are in charge of the destiny of our people, and we cannot let the federal government dictate what we do on our lands. I want to remind people that our Tribal nations existed before their role and will live on past their role. So, we must remind them of our sovereignty."

NCAI President Keel said that everything tribes do is rooted in sovereignty. Remembering a time when Tribal citizens waited all day to see a doctor, he said "We can sit back and wait on the U.S. to deliver on their promises — or we can take it on ourselves and do it better because we know how to care for our people."

Though sovereignty is the driving force for Tribal self-governance, Tribal leaders still must demand that the federal government live up to its treaty and trust responsibilities. U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR) Chair Catherine Lhamon presented on the Commission's recent Broken Promises report which confirms that conditions are poor, and disparities are significant within Tribal communities.

"The Commission's report documented harrowing inequities across every issue area the Commission examined including public safety, healthcare, housing, education and economic development. We called for immediate federal action to ensure Native Americans and Native Hawaiians live, work, and learn with the same expectations for opportunity and equality to which all other Americans have access. The Commission will continue to urge the President and Congress to do all that is necessary to fulfill our trust responsibilities and recognize the sovereignty of tribal governments, to ensure that these inequities come to an end," said USCCR Chair Lhamon.

The response to the Broken Promises report from Tribes prompted action from allies in Congress. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Representative Deb Haaland (D-NM-1st) are seeking input on how best to achieve budgetary certainty for Indian programs through the Honoring Promises to Native Nations Act. Related to tribal health, the Honoring Promises proposal would ensure mandatory funding for the Indian Health Service (IHS); implement and full

all components of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act; strengthen the Special Diabetes Program for Indians; provide funding for urban Indian health programs and behavioral health; and expand the role of Tribal Epidemiology Centers.

In a video message, Congresswoman Haaland said that, "Every community deserves access to quality health care programs and to live healthy lives, but often times tribal communities are left behind. The failure of the federal government to live up to its trust responsibility leads to stark health disparities in Indian Country. I'm proud of the work the National Indian Health Board does to improve health outcomes in our communities and am working as an ally in Congress. It's why Senator Elizabeth Warren and I are working on the Honoring our Promises to Native Nations proposal to further the conversation about what Indian Country needs for these promises to be fulfilled and to empower tribal governments to serve their people."

IHS Principal Deputy Director RADM Michael Weahkee also gave an update on programs and funding, sharing that through a national HIV initiative, IHS was able to fund the Cherokee Nation's Ending the HIV Epidemic pilot project and will award nearly \$2.4 million to Tribal Epidemiology Centers to address HIV in tribal communities. RADM Weahkee also mentioned that the agency concluded its tribal consultation and urban confer to seek input and guidance on the opioid grant program that will be modeled after SDPI.



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# SEMINOLE SCENES



Damon Scott (2)

**CALIFORNIA TRIBE OFFICIALS VISIT NLC:** At left, the chairman of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, Robert H. Smith sits with Native Learning Center deputy executive director Kyle Doney in a conference room Sept. 23. Smith and members of his staff visited the Seminole Tribe's NLC in Hollywood to learn how they can start a similar operation within their own tribe. The Pala Indian Reservation is located in the middle San Luis Rey River Valley in northern San Diego County, California. In the above photo, from left, are Doney, NLC executive director Georgette Palmer Smith, Pala Tribe executive director of housing Annalee Trujillo, Pala Tribe IT specialist Rachel Graham, Chairman Smith and NLC compliance and resource development director Vincent Franco.



Beverly Bidney

**SLOW SPEED AHEAD:** Workers use chalk to outline the striped directional arrows on the newly installed speed bumps near the Brighton administration building Sept. 20. Three speed bumps have been installed on a stretch of Harney Pond Road.



Kevin Johnson

**WARRIOR SUPPORTERS:** Mohayla Billie and Allekeao Billie show their support for the Ahfackkee School girls volleyball team during a game against Sheridan Hills Christian School on Sept. 20 in Hollywood.



Damon Scott

**TAKING SHAPE:** Construction continues on the new Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center on the Hollywood Reservation. The facility will be two stories tall and 40,000 square feet. It's located near the clubhouse on Seminole Estates. Here's what the building looked like on Sept. 25. Construction began in January and is expected to be completed in the spring of 2020.



GC Media

**HONORING NATIVE AMERICANS:** Victor "Long River" Mooney, a descendant of the Carnasee Tribe in Brooklyn and president of the H.R. 1242 Resilience Project, honors Native Americans that gave refuge to runaway slaves during a ceremony at House of Slaves, a UNESCO designated site on Goree Island, Senegal, in August. Here, at Door of No Return, he pays homage to Native Americans that gave refuge to enslaved Africans in the United States while holding a cypress walking stick he received from the Seminole Tribe of Florida during a visit to the Tribe. The project seeks to honor Native Americans that gave refuge to runaway slaves – commemorating the "400 Years of African American History Commission Act." "You can't honor the 400 years without recognizing the contributions that Native Americans made to the enslaved Africans," Mooney said.



Hard Rock Atlantic City/Facebook

**PATRIOTIC PARADE:** The Celebrate America Parade passes in front of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City on Sept. 7. Hard Rock was a major sponsor of the parade, which featured a 1.4-mile-long route and included several first responders. Spectators were encouraged to bring American flags, lawn chairs and blankets to watch the family-friendly parade.

Beverly Bidney  
**SISTERS SEEK SHELTER:** Cady Osceola holds her sister Khodie Osceola, 1, tight as they take shelter from a thunderstorm under an umbrella during the Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School swim Olympics at the Brighton pool Sept. 20. Fortunately, the storm passed quickly and the Olympics continued with only a short delay.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## Climate change report: Native Americans face unique challenges

While climate change poses common risks across the United States, some scientists say Native American tribes in the southern Great Plains face unique challenges.

Higher temperatures, extreme weather events and water resource constraints could severely impact the ability of Native Americans in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas to obtain food, water and shelter, as well as hamper their ability to preserve ancient cultural activities, according to the National Climate Assessment.

In the southern Great Plains by the end of the century, temperatures are projected to increase between 3.6 and 5.1 degrees, and if greenhouse emissions are not cut, the region might endure up to 60 more days above 100 degrees than it does now, according to the report.

“Given the ancient symbiotic relationship between environment and culture that shapes tribal identities and life-way practices, climate-induced changes to the seasons, landscapes and ecosystems pose an existential threat to tribal cultural traditions and community resilience,” authors of the climate report said.

Excessive heat, drought and the disappearance of native species have disrupted ceremonial cycles in Oklahoma, they said.

The authors cited the Sun Dance ceremony as one ritual that has been threatened by climate change. Natural materials like willow branches, which are used for shade arbors, have been harder to find during drought conditions. Invasive poison ivy can choke out willow saplings.

Max Bear, tribal historic preservation officer for the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, said he has noticed a shortage of willows.

“If it’s drought season it will be slow,” he said. “Those two years, it was sparse and people were talking about it. There’s a lot of other issues when we’re thinking about harvesting what we need.”

Native American tribes in the southern Great Plains are developing climate adaptation plans.

Some partner with climate scientists and others in academic, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, especially in using information and tools that have become more available in recent years, according to the climate report.

In March, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Environmental Services hosted a climate training workshop for the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center, which is housed at the University of Oklahoma.

The two-day workshop in Okmulgee focused on the basics of climate change and future projections of the impacts. Topics also included vulnerability assessments, drought planning, weather hazards, climate tools and data resources.

Workshop attendees represented the Sac and Fox Nation, Chickasaw Nation and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Hannah Jacobs, an environmental specialist for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, said climate resiliency plans are in the early stages of development.

“It’s a huge undertaking,” she said. “We are in the process of installing two weather stations so that we can start obtaining data. We are also installing a water monitoring station in Okmulgee. We’re going to try and plot out future projections and impacts, and we are working on hazard mitigations.”

- *The Oklahoman*

## Native American nation files lawsuit over Alamo master plan

**SAN ANTONIO** — The Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation said it filed a lawsuit Sept. 10 against the Texas General Land Office and the subsidiary Alamo Trust Inc., the Texas Historical Commission and the City of San Antonio, claiming the organizations have “mismanaged and disregarded processes to protect sacred remains located on the historic campus.”

The lawsuit names several requests. “The first is to recognize the existence of the cemetery here at the Alamo,” said attorney Art Martinez de Vara. “The second is to allow the participation of lineal descendants in the human remain protocols, so when remains are found, they’ll be involved in the process of deciding what happens with those remains. Finally, we filed a claim under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act because they refused access to their chapel for a religious ceremony.”

The Texas General Land Office declined to comment Sept. 10, citing pending litigation. The city released a statement on behalf of City Attorney Andy Segovia, writing:

“The Alamo Trust, City of San Antonio and the Texas General Land Office are following the strict legal protocols set forth by the Texas Health and Safety Code as it relates to the possible discovery of human remains at The Alamo. This means the project will obtain the necessary permits for archaeology and the protection and preservation of designated burial grounds. No further comment will be provided by the City due to pending litigation.”

- *KENS5*

## Nebraska Residents Advocate for Casino Gambling Legalization on 2020 Ballot

According to some members of its legislature, the state of Nebraska has a gambling problem. The problem is not that people are gambling too much. In Nebraska, they are barely allowed to gamble at all.

States that allow gambling surround the Cornhusker State. However, in Nebraska, there are no traditional table games at the state’s four casinos. People who live in Nebraska feel they are being left out of the gambling pie.

Members of the legislature and some Nebraska residents want to put casino gambling on the ballot for the 2020 elections.

Nebraska has some of the most restrictive gambling laws in the nation. The four casinos are all run by Native American tribes. They are Lucky 77 (Omaha Tribe), Ohiya (Santee Sioux), Iron Horse, and Native Star (Winnebago Tribe) They are Class II casinos and operate under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. This law allows Native American tribes to offer gambling on their land. The tribes can offer casino gambling even if it is not legal in the state. Class II casinos do not offer traditional casino games. Instead, they offer slots, keno, and bingo.

The state has charitable gambling sites that offer bingo, keno, lotteries, raffles, and pull tabs. Nebraska has had horse racing and pari-mutuel betting since the 1930s. The state also has four racetracks. A state lottery has been operating since 1992. However, according to Nebraska law, residents cannot buy lottery tickets until they are 19.

Nebraska is in the minority concerning gambling. All the states that surround it have more gambling than it does. For example, Iowa legislators recently legalized sports betting. Iowa also has casinos, racetracks, and a lottery. Legislators in Nebraska want to legalize casino gambling, as well as sportsbooks. They think casino gambling would bring much-needed revenue to the state.

Nebraskans have argued that when they want to gamble, they must slip across the state line into Iowa. Depending on where they live, Nebraskans also can travel to South Dakota to gamble. Legislators say if Nebraska had casino gambling, it would keep gambling revenue in the state. Nebraska legislators who favor gambling want the tax revenue to go toward property tax relief. Several states, including Pennsylvania, use portions of their gambling revenue to offer property tax relief for their residents.

Citizens in Nebraska and legislators appear to be split on whether the state needs casino gambling. People who support it say Nebraska could take in more than \$120 million a year in tax revenue. This would allow the state to offer property tax relief to its senior citizens. Since many Nebraskans own farms or homes, this would be a welcome relief. Advocates also point out that the stigma against gambling has largely disappeared because social gambling is now acceptable. They also note that many people visit casinos for other reasons besides gambling. For example, many people like going to casinos for the food and beverages. People also go to casinos to see concerts or participate in events.

However, there are other Nebraskans who are opposed to having additional gambling offerings. They say that gambling will increase crime. People who oppose gambling also say the rate of business failures and bankruptcies will rise if the state legalizes gambling. Legislators who are against gambling argue that gambling leads to divorces and the breakdown of families.

There is a deadline for proponents to gather signatures to put the legalization of casino gambling on the ballot. If proponents collect enough signatures, Nebraska residents will get the opportunity to vote for casino gambling next November.

- *USAonlinecasino.com*

## Minnesota task force launched on missing and murdered Native American women

Tribal elders spoke aloud the names of loved ones murdered or missing, and with tears and smiles, they made a commitment: to end the epidemic of violence against Native American women and girls.

The Minnesota Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force on Sept. 19 met for the first time, starting a 15-month timeline to write a report guiding law enforcement and the Legislature on the systemic causes of violence against Native American women and girls.

In an emotional ceremony, tribal elders and leaders, lawmakers and state officials acknowledged that the creation of a board to study the epidemic of missing and murdered Native American women was a long time coming and the state had work to do in repairing relationships with tribal communities.

For years, survivors and advocates have asked the state to investigate the disappearances and murders and for media outlets to take them seriously. Earlier this year lawmakers unanimously approved the proposal, teeing up the task force.

“Today we start with the signing of what should have happened centuries ago,” Ojibwe elder Mary Lyons said. “Today we as Indigenous women rise. We’re not being forgotten today. We can call each of our missing and murdered women’s name out loud and we can embrace them in prayers. Today we let them know they did not fall to their deaths only to be forgotten.”

Minnesota is one of seven states to create a task force to study the prevalence of missing and murdered Native American women. And state officials on Thursday vowed to take seriously the panel’s recommendations and advance them in the Legislature rather than shelving the group’s report.

“We must tell these stories, but we must tell these stories to action,” Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, a member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, said. “Stories simply for stories sake, putting our trauma on display. If that

happens without action, we have failed.”

There’s little data that tracks the prevalence of the disappearance, abduction or murder of Native American women. Breakdowns in communication and overlaps in police jurisdiction have also created problems in data collection.

But federal reports show that Native Americans disappear at twice the rate per capita of white Americans, though they make up a much smaller portion of the population. And in some areas, Native American women living on tribal lands were murdered at rates 10 times the national average, the Department of Justice found in 2008.

Task force members said tackling those discrepancies in data and identifying factors that put Native American women and girls at risk of facing trafficking, abduction or murder will be among the topics they research in coming months.

“Data is another area where our people have been erased, where the incidents of many things have been kept out of systems and we’re statistically insignificant in so many ways because genocide has been so very effective,” Patina Park, president and CEO of the Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center, said. “We’re going to take the time and see how many women are missing, how many women’s families are still looking for them, how many women that are being exploited right now.”

The task force will continue meeting over the next year as a whole and in smaller subgroups. And it will deliver to the Legislature a report of its findings in December of 2020. More than two dozen tribal leaders, law enforcement officers, lawyers, lawmakers, advocates and others make up the panel.

- *Twincities.com/Forum News Service*

## Navajo Nation students awarded rare opportunity to train in neuroscience

Native Americans are among the most underrepresented groups working in science today.

A new effort on the Navajo Nation in Arizona is trying to reverse that disparity.

The tribe’s 4-year Diné College has teamed up with the University of Arizona to create a neuroscience training program, aimed at advancing Native American scholars in biomedical sciences and increasing their population in graduate schools and research careers. A \$1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health will fund the endeavor.

The goal is to mentor 34 students over the next five years in laboratory and research skills.

University of Arizona’s Kathy Rodgers hopes the program will empower students to bring what they’ve learned back to their community.

“Every one of the students in their applications talked about wanting to give back and being personally touched by a neurodegenerative disease within their family,” she said.

There’s no doubt going to be some challenges for the students who leave Navajo Nation for the program. According to a study by the Postsecondary National Policy Institute, only 10% of Native Americans attain bachelor’s degrees, while 17% attain associate degrees. Once they’re in college, the students deal with a lot of barriers — such as a lack of support and understanding from the universities.

Rodgers said university staff participating in the program will be trained to meet the needs of the students and build trust with them.

Diné College provost Geraldine Garrity said students in the program are going to have to “learn how to balance the Navajo cultural and the Western perspective and try to integrate the two” while navigating the neuroscience field.

The program benefits both parties, said Fred Boyd of Diné College, who is leading the program with Rodgers. Scientists and researchers working with these students might learn and understand new things about Native Americans, he says, while students will get the opportunity to work beside top-tier researchers.

“I want to give our students the opportunity to realize their vision for themselves and so whether it’s remaining on the Navajo Nation, whether it’s going off to Johns Hopkins or the Mayo Clinic to do a 40-year career in cutting-edge research, that’s their vision that I want to enable,” he said. “If they’re happy 10 years from now, [the program] will have been a success.”

- *WBUR (Boston)*

## Ottawa ordered to compensate First Nations children impacted by on-reserve child welfare system

Ottawa must pay potentially billions of dollars in compensation to First Nations children harmed by the on-reserve child welfare system, following a ruling Sept. 6 by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal that also called for payments to some of their parents and grandparents.

The tribunal ordered the federal government to pay \$40,000 to each child — the maximum allowed under the Canadian Human Rights Act — who was apprehended or taken from their homes on reserve, no matter what the reason.

The ruling covers all children in the care of the on-reserve child welfare system at any point from Jan. 1, 2006, to a date to be determined by the tribunal.

Some estimates place the number of potentially affected children at about 50,000, with the largest proportion in the Prairies and British Columbia. The ruling also covers First Nation children in the Yukon territory.

The tribunal ordered Ottawa to enter discussions with the First Nations Family Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations — who both filed the initial human rights complaint in 2007 — to determine the best independent process to distribute the compensation and determine who qualifies.

It gave the parties until Dec. 10 to come to the tribunal with proposals.

The tribunal said logistical issues like establishing trust funds for children, administrators, protections for mentally disabled children, opt-out provisions and how to deal with children with no parents or grandparents need to be sorted out.

Indigenous Services Minister Seamus O’Regan said in statement that Ottawa would review the tribunal’s order. The statement said Ottawa already had substantially increased investments for on-reserve child welfare services.

“We want to ensure that, first and foremost, we continue to place the best interests of the child at the forefront,” O’Regan said in the statement.

“Our government is committed to seeing the unmet and long-standing needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children met.”

Ottawa can seek a judicial review of the decision with the Federal Court of Canada.

The order stems from the landmark January 2016 tribunal ruling which said the government discriminated against First Nations children by under-funding on-reserve child welfare services.

“Canada’s conduct was devoid of caution with little to no regard to the consequences,” said the order.

“Canada was aware of the discrimination and of some of its serious consequences ... Canada focused on financial considerations rather than on the best interests of First Nations children and respecting their human rights.”

The tribunal also ordered compensation for each “parent or grand-parent” — if the latter was the primary caregiver — whose children were taken from their home unnecessarily. Each should get \$20,000, plus an additional \$20,000 for every child taken, said the ruling.

“These parents and grand-parents experienced pain and suffering of the worst kind,” said the tribunal. Those who abused their children or grandchildren do not qualify.

The ruling also orders Ottawa to pay \$40,000 to each First Nations child — along with their parents or grandparents — who were forced to leave their homes to access services, or who were denied services covered by the policy known as Jordan’s Principle.

Under Jordan’s Principle, the needs of a First Nations child requiring a government service take precedence over jurisdictional issues over who should pay for it.

The Jordan’s Principle portion of the order covers a time frame from Dec. 12, 2007 — when the House of Commons adopted Jordan’s Principle — to Nov. 2, 2017 — when the tribunal ordered Canada to change its definition of Jordan’s Principle and review previously denied requests.

Compensation for child welfare could not be combined with compensation for Jordan’s Principle cases, said the tribunal.

Cindy Blackstock, who heads the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, said this latest ruling shows Ottawa learned little from what happened in residential schools and during the Sixties Scoop era.

“They knew better and did not do better resulting in tragedy for First Nations children, families and [First Nations],” said Blackstock in a statement.

“We must demand Canada stop its piecemeal approach to remedying cross cutting inequalities in First Nations public services by fully implementing the Spirit Bear plan to end all of the inequalities once and for all.”

Perry Bellegarde, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said Canada must respect the tribunal’s decision.

“This is about our children, their safety, their right to be with their families, kin and communities, and their right to quality of care. No government should be fighting these fundamental values,” said Bellegarde in a statement.

- *CBC News*

## Report: Native Americans suspended at disproportionate rates

The state-level school suspension rate among Native American children and youth is more than twice the average in California, presenting inequities in the treatment of and outcomes for Native American youth in California, according to a new report.

San Diego State University researchers worked with the Sacramento Native American Higher Education Collaborative (SNAHEC) to co-author the study, “Suspensions and Expulsions of Native American Studies in California Public Schools,” published today. The report also presents a series of solutions to mitigate the disproportionate suspension rates among Native American youth.

“The data shows that Native students, particularly Native boys are not being served by our educational system,” said J. Luke Wood, SDSU’s Chief Diversity Officer and Distinguished Professor of Education, and one of the co-authors on the report.

“These aren’t just bad numbers, these are stories of pain and it needs to stop. As educators and community members, we should all be ashamed at the lack of attention to this issue and action to address these disparities,” Wood said.

A joint publication of the SNAHEC and SDSU’s Community College Equity Assessment Lab (CCEAL), researchers, including graduate student Mohamed Abdi, evaluated California Department of Education data on school suspensions.

“The report shows that little has changed in the way that Native people have been assimilated and excluded from education,” said Molly Springer, Dean of Engagement and Completion at Sacramento City College

and co-author of the report. “When they’re repeatedly excluded from the classroom, Native youth are being told that they are not good enough, that they don’t matter, and they aren’t welcome in school.”

The team’s analysis found:

- The statewide suspension rate for Native American children and youth is 7.2%, higher than the statewide suspension average of 3.5%.
- Kings County was the top expulsion county for both Native American boys and girls, with boys being more than 40 times more likely to be expelled than the statewide average; the rate is 20 times higher for girls.
- Native American girls were suspended at a rate of 4.6%; Native American boys were suspended at a rate of 9.6%.
- Native American boys are expelled at a rate 4.2 times higher than the state average, representing the highest expulsion rate for any racial or ethnic or gender group; that rate is steadily increasing.

The team also found that early childhood education (kindergarten through third grade) is a time when much of the suspension disparity appears. During that time, Native American boys are 2.5 times more likely to be suspended than boys in the same grade-range. That rate is 3.7 times greater for Native American girls in comparison to their peer group.

But the highest percentage of suspensions overall occurs while students are in middle school, the team reported. During that time, Native American boys are suspended at a rate of 16.5%, while Native American girls are suspended at 9.1%.

“This groundbreaking report exposes the dramatic inequities in the treatment of and outcomes for Native American youth in California,” the authors wrote in the report, indicating that the team also included the narratives of Native American students speaking about their experiences. “All these data points highlight the ways in which Native American youth in California are criminalized and held back from achievement in our state’s educational system.”

The team generated qualitative case study data to contextualize quantitative data provided by the state. Overall, the team found and reported that qualitative insights demonstrated that Native American children reported excessive punishment and being singled out for punishment, and were at times suspended when they reported being bullied or stereotyped.

The research team calls on school and school districts to implement a number of solutions, namely to:

- Provide training in partnership with tribal nations for K-12 teachers, educators and administrators to help generate understanding about the lives and experiences of Native American students.
- Introduce culturally aware processes as part of the review for suspensions, which would consider cultural beliefs and values. Such a process would serve to uncover held biases.
- Collaborate with parents, families and tribal officials to discuss issues that may lead to suspensions and expulsions before engagement with law enforcement.

- Involve Native American students in discussions at school about policies and practices that may implicate them.
- Adopt a restorative justice practice when managing disciplinary issues, which calls for conversation and compassion rather than a punitive and purely bureaucratic approach.
- Create memoranda of understanding between school districts and local tribes, allowing tribal nations information and data related to suspensions and expulsions and also other practices.

- *SDSU News*

## UMD adopts formal statement recognizing location on American Indian land

The University of Minnesota Duluth has adopted a formal statement to recognize its location on traditional and ancestral American Indian land.

UMD is the first University of Minnesota campus to adopt the land acknowledgment, though individual departments and schools on other campuses have similar statements.

The acknowledgment was crafted in cooperation with UMD’s Department of American Indian Studies, Campus Climate Leadership Team, Campus Climate Change Team and participants from the school’s 2019 Summit on Equity, Race and Ethnicity.

In June, the statement was endorsed by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, which acts as a liaison between state government and Minnesota’s 11 sovereign tribal nations.

The land on which UMD sits, as with most of northeastern Minnesota, was ceded to the United States in an 1854 treaty with the Anishinaabe people.

“We collectively acknowledge that the University of Minnesota Duluth is located on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of Indigenous people,” the acknowledgment reads. “The University resides on land that was cared for and called home by the Anishinaabe people, and the Dakota people before them, from time immemorial.”

“Ceded by the Anishinaabe in an 1854 treaty, this land holds great historical, spiritual, and personal significance for its original stewards, the Native nations and peoples of this region. We recognize and continually support and advocate for the sovereignty of the Native nations in this territory and beyond.”

“By offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm tribal sovereignty and will work to hold the University of Minnesota Duluth accountable to American Indian peoples and nations.”

- *Twincities.com*

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# Education

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## Meet the new Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School principal – Tracy Downing

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** —There was a new face on campus July 25 at Brighton's Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School – principal Tracy Downing.

But while Downing is indeed a fresh face, she's not an entirely new one.

Downing lives in nearby Okeechobee, and has worked in the Okeechobee County School District for more than two decades.

She's been a principal at three Okeechobee elementary schools, has worked in middle and high schools, and was previously a teacher and reading coach.

In other words, she knows a lot of students, parents, families and people in the community.

Before PECS (which offers pre-K through eighth grade) opened 13 years ago, a lot of Tribal students went to school in Okeechobee.

Downing was the assistant principal of Seminole Elementary School when she first remembers hearing about PECS. It sticks out in her mind because she said about 100 of her students left Seminole Elementary to go to school there. (Okeechobee County and Glades County – where Brighton is located – neighbor one another).

Thirteen years later, she still knows a lot of them – students and parents alike. For example, Lewis Gopher – now the Tribalwide community recovery liaison for the Center for Behavioral Health – is one of the parents she knows through those years at Seminole Elementary.

Downing also graduated from Okeechobee High School and knows some of the PECS parents from those years. She went to high school with one of PECS' founders, and now administrative assistant, Michele Thomas.

"I knew it was being built. I had good friends and teachers being pulled there," Downing recalled.

Brian Greseth was one – PECS' last principal who was at the helm for eight years.

Greseth is now the executive vice president of Charter School Associates – a group of 23 schools in Florida.

Downing said Greseth has been her friend and neighbor for many years.

Put simply, Downing knows a lot of people.

"My mom hates going to Walmart with me – I talk to almost every one," she said, adding with a chuckle that she likely knows the most of Okeechobee's 45,000 residents one way or another.

After Greseth left PECS earlier this year, there were more than a few people interested in filling the position.

Downing said that while it was a tough choice – she knew immediately that it was the right one.

"I came out and toured and saw the facility and started learning about the resources, the curriculum" Downing said. "This is a really unique, special place."

Downing said she was also attracted to the position due to the school's technology, teacher-to-student ratio, materials, supplies, resources and support from all of the stakeholders, including the Tribe, CSA and community.

"It's like nothing I've ever seen," she said. "There is a feel when you come here; just a strong sense of community and everyone is working toward one goal. I've never felt that before. Now I feel like I'm part of that."

Downing interviewed before a panel that included Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, a member of the CSA, Thomas and a Tribal member.

She oversees dozens of staff members, including 38 teachers. There are currently 306 students enrolled at PECS and Downing said there's room for 100 more.

"It's a lot more than reading, writing and math," she said. "We are preserving the language and cultural diversity of these children, and that's going to impact them for generations to come."

### Humble roots

Downing's father has passed away, but her mother, two brothers and one sister live in the Okeechobee area.

The family grew up on a small farm in Indiantown until Downing was about 15 – that's when they made the move to Okeechobee.

"We grew and killed everything we ate," Downing said.

Her mother made their clothes. They would have been considered poor, but were not destitute, she said.

"We had cattle and animals to sustain our lives. Going into town was a rarity. We'd get up and milk the cows before school; we made butter; made our own soap. It was a tough life, but good. It instilled a strong work ethic. Family was important and education was important to my parents," she said.

Downing earned a double major in English and English education at Florida State University. She'd go on to earn a master's degree in education from Florida Atlantic University.

Downing has three kids of her own now – one girl, 15, and two twin boys in the eighth grade. All three go to school in Okeechobee.

When Downing isn't working at PECS, you can find her reading historical fiction at home before turning in for the night. She's up early for a session at CrossFit 426 in Okeechobee from 5



Damon Scott

Tracy Downing is the new principal at PECS in Brighton. Her first day on the job was July 25.

a.m. to 6 a.m. before heading to work for the day.

At lunch, you might also catch her grabbing the area's "best sweet tea" from Alice's Restaurant not far from the school.

Downing said she's always been active – she coached soccer when she was a teacher.

She's also a volunteer firefighter with

the Okeechobee Fire Department – one of 43 who train two times a month. She's ridden in ambulances and has been part of the emergency services provided at high school football games and rodeos.

## Dartmouth grad Joseph John passionate about academics, Native issues

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

When it was time for Joseph John to attend college, his first choice was to go out west to Stanford University in California. When that didn't pan out, he chose the Ivy League instead and graduated from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, in June 2018.

One of the reasons he chose Dartmouth was its Native American studies program and the impressive number of Native Americans at the school. In 2018 there were 220 enrolled in the school, which has more than 6,500 students. Founded in 1769, Dartmouth's mission includes educating Native American youth.

"They have a large Native American student population so I knew I wouldn't feel alone," said John, 24. "Dartmouth opened so many opportunities for me. It was great being surrounded by Native American intellectuals and see how motivated they are."

John said it was a bit of a culture shock when he first arrived in New Hampshire. Knowing other Ivy League graduates including Tribal member and Columbia University graduate Braudie Blais-Billie, and Harvard University graduate Marcus Briggs-Cloud, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, who leads the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School immersion program, gave him confidence that he too could survive at a school of this caliber.

His initial goal was to major in business and economics, but his heart wasn't there so he changed his major to Native American studies.

"We looked at history from a Native point of view, including events leading up to battles," John said. "I was always skeptical about U.S. history, because it is also Native history."

John plans to attend graduate school for Native American studies or go to law school. All federal Indian law is based on how the Declaration of Independence characterizes Native Americans. One passage listing complaints about King George III reads "He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of



Courtesy photo

Joseph John, who grew up on the Brighton and Hollywood reservations, at his graduation from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

warfare is undistinguished destructions of all ages, sexes and conditions."

"It all comes from Supreme Court decisions based on the interpretation of how Natives are viewed," John said. "It goes from sovereign to independent nations to wards of the state. There are legal terms that get to the point of how we can fight for our sovereignty; there are precedents on both sides, for and against tribes."

Many of the Dartmouth Native student population sought an education so they could better their communities and the youth. The school's library and Native American House hosted to numerous events and speakers, including

the Dartmouth pow-wow during Mother's Day weekend.

John's friends understood Native communities, family dynamics and even how tough it can be when a relative passes. Like them, he plans to come back and help the Tribe.

"When I go home, I want to do more than the status quo," John said. "Things that inspire you to get educated are what could keep you from returning home when you realize there are so many more opportunities outside of the community. But I want to come back and help tribal youth."

Earning his degree in Native American studies was a challenge and an accomplishment for John; he took about six months off to deal with homesickness, depression and anxiety and focus on his mental health.

"I want to help with mental health issues since there is so much of it in the community," he said. "Mental wellness is so important to Native people because we've been so traumatized. In the timeline of human history, our trauma is so recent."

John wants to be a role model as someone who dealt with mental issues and came out stronger.

"I learned how to cope," he said. "I'm not afraid to let people know what is going on; holding things in doesn't work for me. If family and friends are going through things, I encourage them to go to CBH (Center for Behavioral Health) and get those things out. Sometimes saying things out loud makes you feel better."

Although John was the only Seminole at Dartmouth, there were a lot of Native students with a similar upbringing. He grew up in Brighton until at age 5 his family moved to Hollywood. He went back to Brighton nearly every weekend, so he is familiar with both the city and the country. Like him, some of his college friends also navigated between the cultures of the reservation and prestigious prep schools.

During the graduation ceremony, John and many other Native American graduates donned traditional clothing as they received their diplomas.

"We wanted to honor the school's mission

statement to educate Native Americans," John said. "I walked in patchwork to signify what I have done for my people. A lot of people fear school will change them in a bad way. I'm not a typical Ivy League student; I'm not a New England prep. I wore a grill to acknowledge South Florida."

His advice to Seminole students is not to forget who they are, take pride in Seminole culture and know they are an important part of the Tribe's continued success as a people and a sovereign nation.

"You're part of a proud Tribe who never surrendered," John said. "Keep that in mind when you feel like you want to give up. People before you didn't give up. It's going to be hard, but so many people are rooting for you. So many people who came before you helped get you where you are today. Every step you take in your education is a big step for the Tribe."

John wants to go out west and live there for a while. He is looking into master's degree programs in Arizona, California and New Mexico.



Courtesy photo

Joseph John, center, poses with his family at his graduation from Dartmouth College. From left are his grandmother Julia John, sister Carson John-Carney, father Doug Carney, sister Lucky John-Carney and mother Jolletta John-Carney.

## PECS students celebrate their grandparents

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students had a "love"-ly lunch Sept. 6 when grandparents, hugs and kisses filled the school cafeteria for Grandparents Day.

The menu consisted of fried chicken and

all the fixings, but the look of love on young and older faces was the best part of the meal.

National Grandparents Day has been celebrated since 1978 to honor grandparents, give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children and to help children become aware of the strength, information and guidance older people can offer.



Beverly Bidney

Joanne Osceola enjoys a laugh with children in the lunch line during PECS Grandparents Day.



Beverly Bidney

Emma Urbina is surrounded by grandchildren Elakaiah Collins, Nohea Collins and Esteban Santibanez Jr. at the PECS Grandparents Day luncheon Sept. 6.



Beverly Bidney

Albert Snow poses with grandson Jamaric Davis at the PECS Grandparents Day luncheon.

# Carrisa Colon earns professional certificate from Aveda Institute

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

Seminole Tribe of Florida Center for Student Success and Services higher education student Carrisa Colon recently earned a professional certificate as an esthology full specialist from the Aveda Institute Tampa Bay. She earned her certificate on Aug. 23 and held a 99% average throughout the program. She plans to open her own salon in the near future.



Carrisa Colon

# Soggy weather can't dampen PECS swim Olympics

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Late summer showers didn't stop the action at the Pemaeytv Emahakv Charter School swim Olympics Sept. 20. Students came to the Brighton pool prepared to get wet and compete, so water falling from above was no problem for these young athletes.

The PECS K-5 swim program aims to get students familiar with the water and learn strokes. The three-week program allows the students to progress at their own pace and culminates with the Olympics in the fall. The program will resume in the spring, but without the Olympics.

Families gathered poolside to cheer their swimmers on. When the rain came down, they huddled under colorful pool umbrellas or took shelter in cars. There was no thunder or lightening, so the event continued uninterrupted. Even the award ceremony was held in the rain.

By the end of the day, students earned medals and ribbons for their efforts in gold, silver and bronze categories.

**Kindergarten freestyle gold winners**

- Bradley Villanueva
- Chayton Robinson
- Ryker Miller
- Maddox Newkirk
- Lily Banda
- Isabella Virto
- Aries Serrano

**Kindergarten backstroke gold winners**

- Bradley Villanueva
- Chayton Robinson
- Ryker Miller
- Charlie Julian
- Lily Banda
- Isabella Virto
- Aries Serrano

**Kindergarten buddy race gold winners**

- Kalliope Puente and Kahnyiah Hill-Billie
- Elakiah Collins and Chayton Robinson

**1st grade freestyle gold winners**

- Cody Tommie
- Kohloni Rodriguez
- Embree Woodward
- Miguel Estrada
- Aiyana Robinson
- Matthew Peaden

- Kaliyanita Hodge
- Micah Jimmie

**1st grade backstroke gold winners**

- Embree Woodward
- Malarie Alvarez
- Tyse Osceola
- Miguel Estrada
- Aiyana Robinson
- Matthew Peaden
- Kaliyanita Hodge
- Micah Jimmie

**2nd grade freestyle gold winners**

- Travis Mitchell
- Kayden Peaden
- Cadayden Sardina
- Levi Peacock
- Damahni Bonilla
- Silas Snow
- Margaria Fudge
- Jaiden Fludd
- Raylee Turtle

**2nd grade backstroke gold winners**

- Jeremiah Johns
- Hayden Nunez
- Damahni Bonilla
- Silas Snow
- Jakayah Johns
- Margaria Fudge
- Okalani Collins

**2nd grade buddy race gold winners**

- Jeremiah Johns and Josiah Gopher
- Hayden Nunez and Jaelle Weimann

**3rd grade freestyle gold winners**

- Elainna Fonseca
- Kowi Osceola
- Stellar King
- Uriah Bowers

**3rd grade backstroke gold winners**

- Caysie Platt
- Kowi Osceola
- Kulipa Julian
- Uriah Bowers

**3rd grade buddy race gold winners**

- Ciani Smith and Azariah Washington
- Elainna Fonseca and Kulipa Julian

**4th grade freestyle gold winners**

- Dali Nunez
- Jayshawn Henderson
- Case Prescott
- Marley Jimmie

**4th grade backstroke gold winners**

- Melaine Bonilla
- Jesse Gabbard
- Marley Jimmie
- Case Prescott

**4th grade buddy race gold winners**

- Meleah Billie and Dyani Kayda
- Walt Fortner and Case Prescott

**5th grade freestyle gold winners**

- Serene King
- Etanis Torres
- Rylee Bowers
- Devon Mitchell

**5th grade backstroke gold winners**

- Hannah Platt
- Adarius Ford
- Josiah Robinson
- Rylee Bowers

**5th grade buddy race gold winners**

- Waniya Fortner and Hannah Platt
- Rylee Bowers and Serene King



Beverly Bidney (3)

Above, PECS students race across the pool during the school's swim Olympics Sept. 20 as family members cheer them on. At left, Augustice Jumper participates in the third grade freestyle race. Below, these first graders aren't dismayed by a brief downpour during the competition.



# Tribe's class of 2032 from Tampa starts the new school year

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

The 2019-20 school year kicked off for four kindergarten Tampa area students on Aug. 12 and Aug. 19. Three of the students attend Lithia Springs Elementary School in Valrico; one attends Brandon Academy in Brandon.

Amari Osceola is attending Brandon Academy and is the son of Brian Osceola and the grandson of Connie Osceola.

Liam Patton is attending Lithia Springs Elementary School and is the son of Alana Henry.

Jayla Foster is attending Lithia Springs Elementary School and is the daughter of Jamie Henry Foster.

Nolan Little is attending Lithia Springs Elementary School and is the son of Tiffany Foret.

These bright, young minds are beginning their journey toward high school graduation, which would be with the class of 2032.



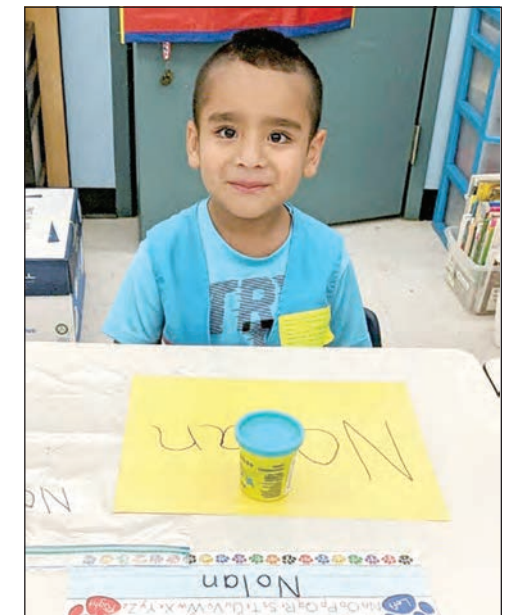
Amari Osceola



Liam Patton



Jayla Foster



Nolan Little

# PECS Students of the Month - August 2019

**Elementary School**

- Ollie Jones
- Hendrix Osceola
- Kailin Coleman
- Aries Serrano
- Claire Randolph
- James Law
- Dylanie Peak

- Alakai Bert
- Ameliana Osceola
- Cassie Pearce
- Jaiden Fludd
- Rosalie Jones
- Stellar King
- Kulipa Julian
- Geonnie Ward

- Logan French
- Layda Choquette
- Jayshawn Henderson
- Waniya Fortner
- Serenity Billie
- Jeremy Urbina
- Troy Billie
- Kaison Bush

**Middle School**

- Alyssa Madrigal
- Jaydence Urbina
- Saniya Rodriguez



Courtesy photos

PECS Students of the Month for August 2019 (elementary school at left, middle school above)

# Natomah Robbins embarks on not-so-horrifying career in special make-up effects

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The foundation to Natomah Robbins' love of art started to take shape in the fourth grade when she began drawing and painting. Since then, that love hasn't waned and now she's determined to make a career of it.

Robbins, 21, graduated in January from the Tom Savini's Special Make-Up Effects Program at the Douglas Education Center in Monessen, Pennsylvania.

Savini, aka the "Godfather of Gore," created the special make-up effects for some iconic horror films including "Dawn of the Dead," "Day of the Dead," "Creepshow," "Friday the 13th" and more. The school cements his role as a mentor as well as an artist, director, actor and stunt man.

"In middle school I took a class called stage make-up," said Robbins, who attended middle and high school at American Heritage in Plantation. "Ever since then I've had an eye for make-up. My teacher saw that I could take off in it and told me about basic special effects. I started with face painting, worked on school plays and became the make-up chief for those plays."

Robbins found the Savini program online and knew it could be for her.

"My time at school was the most fun experience I've had with school overall," Robbins said. "It was also the most challenging. In the beginning I felt a bit overwhelmed by how much information we had to take in and learn. I didn't realize how many different branches there are to the special effects community and how a lot of people in the business specialize in what they are most passionate about or skilled at."

At school Robbins learned to sculpt, make molds, eyes and prosthetics, do hair application and hair punching, prop making and fiberglass mold making. Professional artists from the special effects world came to the school as guest speakers and



Courtesy photo  
Thanos fiberglass bust sculpted, molded and painted by Natomah Robbins, who also made the eyes and hand painted them. The armor is made from L200 foam.

on the set.

"They let you learn everything and then decide what you want to do," Robbins said. "It pushed me out of my comfort zone to get out of Florida and experience something new. You definitely find what fits you by learning all these things."

Coming from Florida to western Pennsylvania was a big adjustment for Robbins, especially during winter. But living so far from home helped her to strive for her goal. Monessen is about an hour south of Pittsburgh and Robbins enjoyed getting to know the City of Bridges. Pittsburgh has 446 bridges that span the Allegheny, Ohio and Monongahela rivers.

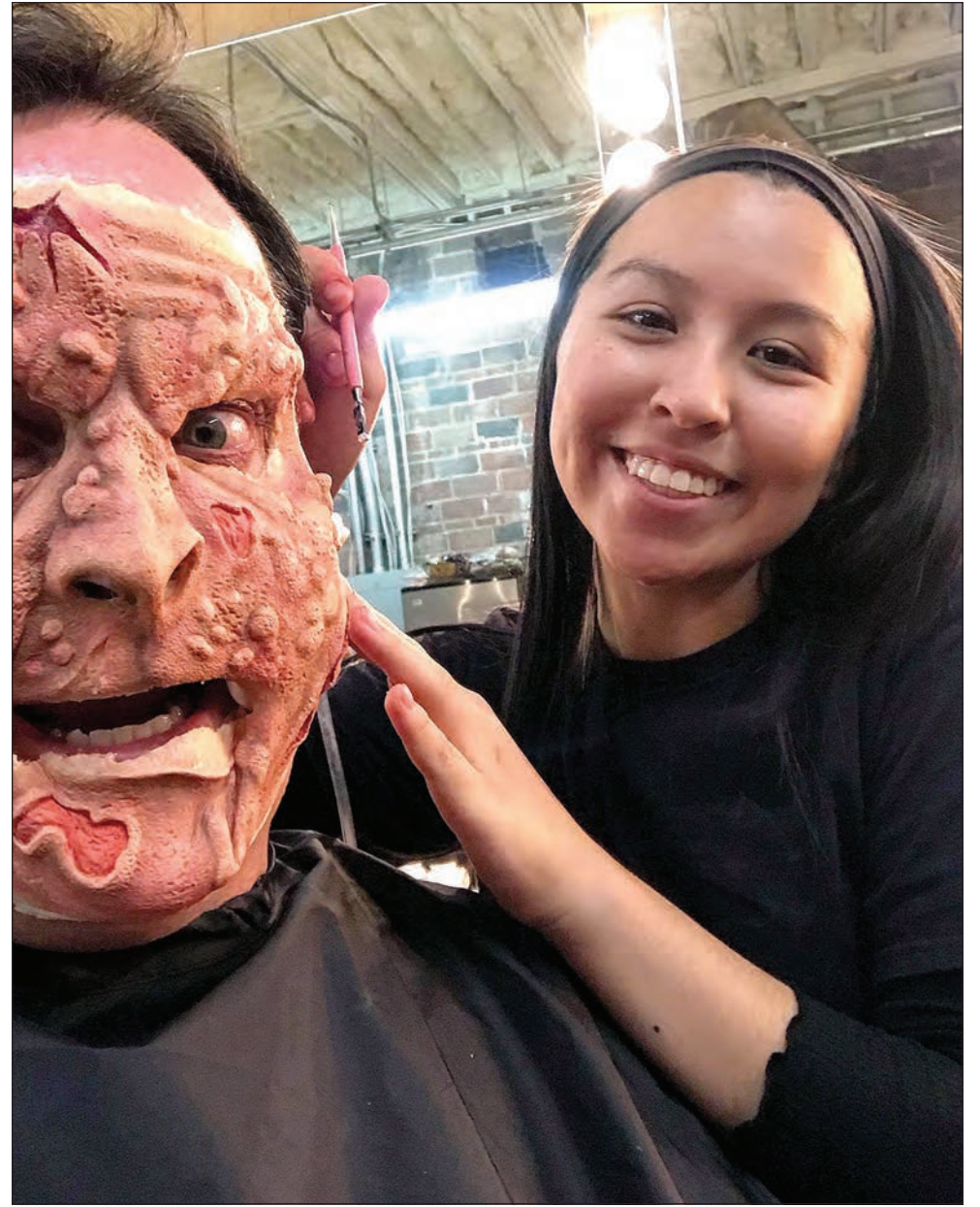
Robbins recently moved to Atlanta to pursue a career in special effects and is hoping to find her place in the industry. Dozens of films and TV shows are made in the city and surrounding areas, which has led to a boom in all kinds of jobs, including special make-up effects.

"Atlanta is a hopping spot to move to for the industry," she said. "The school is there to help us find work wherever we move. It's scary, but it's exciting."

Robbins has friends in Atlanta and is hoping to find a job in a workshop since she likes working as part of a team, as she did on the student film.

"It's a competitive business, which is why I would like to start in a workshop," she said. "I feel like you learn a lot. You get different projects all the time in a workshop. That's where I can shine, working on a team."

Robbins is also glad to be closer to home and in "Publix territory" again. She would like to work on a movie someday and eventually move to jobs on set, but for the time being she is not the least bit afraid to start her career.



Courtesy photo  
Natomah Robbins works on a character in the student film "Bad Hare" at Tom Savini's Special Make-Up Effects Program at the Douglas Education Center in Pennsylvania.



Courtesy photo  
Natomah Robbins makes a fiberglass mold of Thanos, which she made into a bust.



Courtesy photo  
Above, Natomah Robbins applies special effects to a character in the student film "Bad Hare" at Tom Savini's Special Make-Up Effects Program. Below, she paints the full face prosthetic, which she sculpted and molded, in a make-up room at school.



Courtesy photo (2)  
Above left, a mushroom bust sculpted, molded and painted by Natomah Robbins. Above right, she sculpted, molded, applied and painted this full face prosthetic.



Courtesy photo  
Natomah Robbins is surrounded by family members at her graduation from the Douglas Education Center in Pennsylvania on Jan. 30. From left are her brother Adakai, mother Sherrie Robbins, brother Tucumah and sister Redfeather.



# Smutgrass now a delicacy for cattle in Pasture X

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — When Aaron Stam began a groundbreaking field trial in Brighton to see if cattle will eat smutgrass, he hoped to prove the animals would consume the nuisance invasive weed.

Young and tender smutgrass has plenty of nutritional value, but when it grows to maturity the grass forms a seed head with no nutritional value. For the experiment to succeed, the cows would have to eat really fast.

Two years later, the trial appears to be a success so far. The cattle in what Stam calls Pasture X seem to be thriving.

About 25 University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF-IFAS) extension agents, state specialists and ranchers attended the South Florida management tour and workshop Sept. 19 and visited Pasture X.

Stam, a federally recognized Tribal extension program agent, and Alex Johns, the Tribe's natural resource director, described the pasture and the method of getting the cows to graze on smutgrass. Both men know that most ranchers want to kill smutgrass, so demonstrating to the group how to manage it for forage was the objective of the tour.

"Can we use smutgrass as forage?" Stam asked the group. "Yes we can, with the right management strategy. I've learned a lot about our forages doing this."

Competitive rotational grazing places more cows in smaller pastures and forces them to compete for whatever forage is available. Stam looked for spots on the Brighton Reservation with the thickest smutgrass; he wanted the experiment to be a challenge. About 80 percent of the site was covered in smutgrass.

Pasture X is a 20-acre parcel divided into four five-acre paddocks. The animals are rotated to a different paddock every seven days. The first group in 2017 consisted of 36 heifers. Although they ate voraciously, they couldn't keep up with the smutgrass. It grew faster than they could consume it.

The normal practice of cattle ranching stocks a pasture with one cow per two-acres. Pasture X is stocked with two animals per one acre, a significant increase over the norm. Since the heifers are moved often, the result is a continuous diet of tender, protein-rich smutgrass. The animals are also fed a molasses supplement with minerals.

"If you put a fat kid at a buffet and tell him he has all day to eat, he'll choose pizza and pudding," Stam said. "If you tell him he only has 10 minutes, he'll eat what's



Standing in 14-day growth smutgrass, Aaron Stam and Alex Johns talk to a group of attendees of the South Florida forage management tour and workshop Sept. 19 in Brighton's Pasture X.

Beverly Bidney

in front of him. It's the same with cows in competitive rotational grazing."

The first group of three-year-olds who grazed in Pasture X for a year had a conception rate of 96 percent.

The second group of animals that was brought in for the second year was much larger; 78 heifers are now grazing in Pasture X. These cows were on feed for a few months before being transferred to the smaller pasture.

"Not every one of them thinks they are in paradise," Stam said. "A lot of them only want to eat Bahiagrass. There was a learning curve, but now they go right to the smutgrass."

The amount of heifers in the five-acre paddocks seems to be about right. Stam said they are keeping up with the smutgrass, whereas the original 36 could not. Next month he will set up a portable scale to gauge

the heifers' average daily gain. He hopes to see one to one and a half pounds.

An unexpected benefit of the competitive rotational grazing is the appearance of Bermuda and Bahiagrass. One paddock even had some white clover.

"As the cows grazed the smutgrass, it let light and air in which made the other grasses grow," Stam said. "That was a real bonus."

Stam and Johns answered questions from the group, including ones about mowing the smutgrass. Johns said they have looked at implementing competitive rotational grazing on a larger scale.

"On a large ranch, you have to coordinate mowing," Johns said. "After seeing this, we can cut down on mowing. We've changed our strategy; now we mow or burn just a portion of it. We used to not manage the pastures very well. Since we started managing it, we need less feed."

And less feed means a stronger bottom line. The Tribe has been fighting an expensive battle with smutgrass for a long time. Managing it by using it for forage could add up to a significant cost savings, adding to that bottom line.

"There is a bit more labor involved, but not much," Stam said. "I've trained the cows to move from paddock to paddock with pellets."

In May 2018 and June 2019, Stam gave presentations on smutgrass management at the Ona Cattle Research and Education Center's smutgrass field day. The event was mostly about how to kill smutgrass, but Stam talked about how to use it as forage. Most of the attendees at the forage management workshop in Brighton were also advocates of eradicating smutgrass.

"There are some non-believers here," Stam said. "But one man heard what I said

at the Ona smutgrass field day. He took my advice and had calves 30 pounds heavier. That makes me feel pretty good. It made my day."

The ranchers at the forage management workshop listened to Stam with some skepticism since he is an extension agent and not a rancher himself.

"It was good that Alex [Johns] reaffirmed what I said," Stam said. "People pay attention to that. As the former president of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, he represented thousands of head. He wouldn't have backed this up without real results."

Before the group left the pasture for lunch and an afternoon of classes, Stam and Johns invited them to come back any time for a second look.

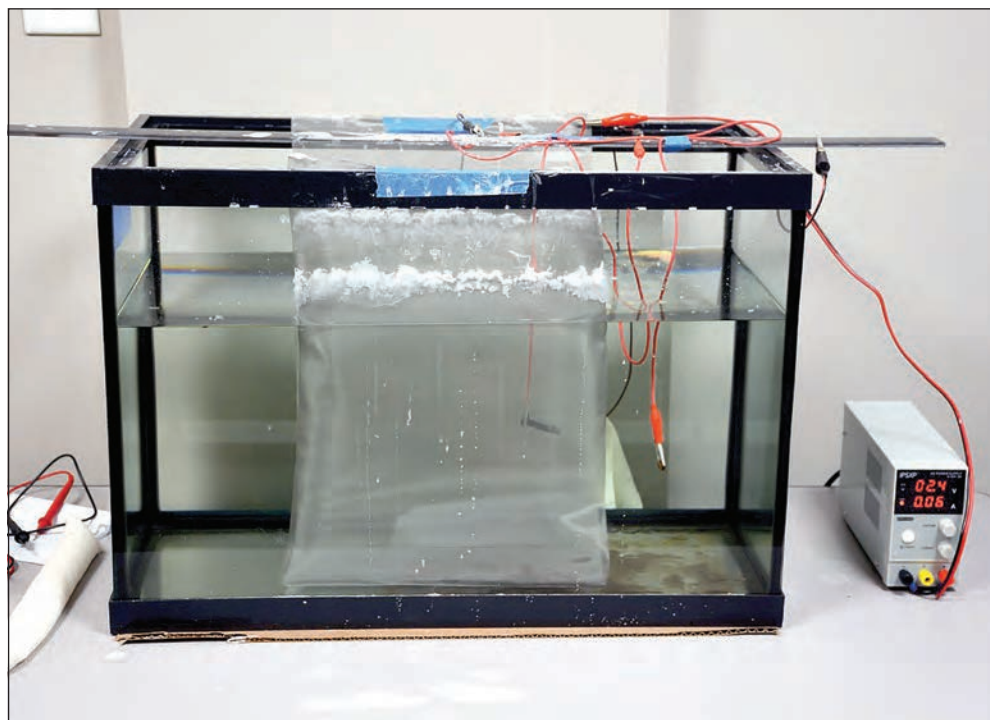
## What's in the tank?

BY DEANNA DE BOER  
STOF THPO Collections Assistant

Not many people think about what happens to artifacts once they're taken out of the ground. Often, they can't just be put in a box on the shelf, and need a little TLC to make sure they are stable enough to be placed in the vault. For iron objects, without stabilization they can become brittle, and split or flake. If the object is very degraded or corroded, the iron core can fracture over time.

In 1855 Fort Shackelford, a U.S. Army Fort on Big Cypress was burned to the ground by the Seminoles. The STOF THPO spent many years searching for the fort site, through researching oral histories, metal detecting, and archaeological excavation. In the winter of 2017 a line of posts, hand-cut square shaped nails, and additional remnants of the old fort structure were found. Since

Fort Shackelford. After some research and consultation with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Conservator Robin Crockery Howard, we settled on a simple electrolysis set up. For about \$200, we bought a simple 60v Battery, a waterproof reptile tank, wire mesh, alligator clips, sodium carbonate, and a metal hang bar. The artifacts we wanted to conserve would be suspended in a solution of sodium carbonate and distilled water in the reptile tank, and basically hooked up to the battery. An electric current would be run through the object at low voltage and amperage. This process does a couple things. One, it allows the iron core to stabilize and become stronger. Secondly, tiny bubbles form through a chemical reaction, and the corrosion begins to slough off the artifact. Once complete, the objects are removed from the tank corrosion free! Unfortunately, to make sure there isn't damage to the artifacts the process is very slow and can take weeks or months depending on the size



Sam Wade

Electrolysis tank set up at the end of the first run of artifacts.

then two field seasons of excavation, with the help of students at the Afatchkee School, have uncovered dozens of artifacts. The majority of these have been metal. For a lot of the iron objects found at the Big Cypress Fort Shackelford site, once excavated, they started to degrade. Now that we have the objects back in the lab, we have struggled with how to answer the question; how do we take care of these objects?

It was important to us in the THPO Collections section that whatever we did to help preserve the objects to be inexpensive, reproducible, and effective. We wanted to be able to do it over and over again for a lot of our iron objects, like the ones from

of the artifact.

So far, we have been able to work on two objects in our little electrolysis set up, with big plans for the future. We have placed in one square nail and one piece of cast iron from Fort Shackelford. Both the nail and the cast iron piece have responded very well to the treatment, and after being taken out are visibly free of corrosion. After they are removed from the tank, they are additionally sealed with tannic acid and wax to make sure they are as protected as possible. This fall, we hope to continue the process and work on more objects from Fort Shackelford and other sites. Hopefully, with a little help from a battery and a reptile tank, we will be able to



Sam Wade

Collections Assistant Deanna de Boer examines a square nail in the electrolysis set up.



Sam Wade

Square nail and nail head suspended in the tank, with corrosion on base.

preserve these objects so they can continue to help tell the Seminole story for years to come!

## Hard Rock opens first Maldives property

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Talk about getting away. This destination won't disappoint.

Hard Rock International recently opened its first property in the Maldives — a chain of 26 atolls that make up the Republic of Maldives in the Arabian Sea of the Indian Ocean.

Hard Rock Hotel Maldives is part of the brand's "Crossroads Maldives" and is the 30th hotel property in the company's portfolio.

The Maldives is one of the world's most geographically dispersed sovereign states. Malé is the capital and most populated city (about 143,000 people), known for its central location.

Crossroads Maldives is the name for the multi-island project that features a wide variety of leisure and entertainment options for visitors. It is accessible in 15 minutes by speedboat from Malé International Airport and spans a seven kilometer long lagoon and nine islands.

Crossroads has a 30-berth yacht marina, 11,000 square meters of retail space, the Café del Mar beach club, and a discovery center and event hall.

Hard Rock Maldives is also the country's first integrated resort — meaning lodging, dining, entertainment and more all in one property.

The hotel features 178 guestrooms, including beach villas, family suites and one

and two bedroom villas positioned over the water.

Dining options include the familiar Hard Rock brand Sessions, as well as Latin American-inspired cuisine at the Elephant and the Butterfly. Of course there is also a Hard Rock Café, Rock Shop and Rock Spa.

Officials describe the design of the property as a blend of contemporary touches with local Maldivian culture and tropical architecture.

"Hard Rock Hotel Maldives offers the beauty and serenity of the destination perfectly paired with the lifestyle and energy that only the Hard Rock brand can deliver," Dale Hipsh, senior vice president of Hard Rock Hotels said in a news release. "We're excited to showcase the property's unique experience and signature brand amenities to locals and visitors from around the world."

One of the unique accommodations is the two bedroom "Silver Family Suite" which allows parents and kids to stay together in bunk beds and with direct beach access.

There is also the almost 5,000 square foot "Rock Star Villa" that features outdoor living areas, an infinity pool, terrace tuk-tuk bar, panoramic ocean views and a private boat jetty.

Hard Rock International has venues in 75 countries, including 188 Hard Rock Cafés, 241 Rock Shops, 30 hotels and 11 casinos. The Seminole Tribe of Florida is the parent company of HRI.

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



Hard Rock

Hard Rock Maldives, located in the Arabian Sea of the Indian Ocean, recently opened.



# Arts & Entertainment

## Seminole artists gather at Seminole Okalee Indian Village

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

**HOLLYWOOD** — On Sept. 9, some of the most talented Seminole artists gathered at Okalee Indian Village in Hollywood to be interviewed by Seminole Media Productions broadcasting unit. The artists discussed their interest in art, their artwork, and its meaning in the Seminole community and beyond.

Those present included Durante Blais-Billie, Tia Blais-Billie, Elgin Jumper, Jackie Osceola, Jessica Osceola, Jimmy Osceola, Samuel Tommie and Gordon Wareham.

Tara Chadwick helped organize the gathering.



Analicia Austin  
Tia Blais-Billie and Durante Blais-Billie.

Analicia Austin  
From left, Gordon Wareham, Elgin Jumper, Jimmy Osceola, Samuel Tommie, Tara Chadwick, Jackie Osceola, Tia Blais-Billie, Durante Blais-Billie and Jessica Osceola pose for a photo at Okalee Indian Village on Sept. 9 in Hollywood.



Analicia Austin  
Tia Blais-Billie shows a necklace she created.



Analicia Austin  
Samuel Tommie smiles while he waits to be interviewed.



Analicia Austin  
Elgin Jumper poses with one of his paintings at Okalee Village.

## Indigenous programs to be held at Florida International University

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**MIAMI** — The Florida International University Global Indigenous Forum, in its seventh year, has announced the following upcoming programs that are free and open to the public:

On Oct. 14, FIU Indigenous Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be a celebration of Indigenous peoples and issues on the Graham Center north lawn. The event is organized by the student club the Global Indigenous Group.

On Oct. 15, Democratizing the Conversation on Earth Citizenship, an Intercultural Dialogue from Indigenous and Western Perspectives on Humans and Nature will be held from 3:15 to 4:50 p.m. at FIU Modesto Maidique campus, room SIPA 103. The event is organized by the FIU

Global Indigenous Forum.

Speakers will be Thomas Pliske and Rubi Hurtado. Pliske is Lecturer Emeritus in the Department of Earth and Environment, and the Department of Religious Studies at FIU. He is the author of numerous articles in scientific journals and the books, "Light, Truth and Nature" and "A Himalayan Hope and a Himalayan Promise."

Hurtado is traditional musician, dancer, researcher, and professional journalist from the Xauxa-Quechua people of Peru. She is a founding member of both the Kuyayky Foundation, and the FIU Global Indigenous Forum. She holds degrees in journalism and anthropology from FIU.

A University-Community Partnership to Ameliorate Substance Use Among Native American Adolescents will be

held in November on a date to be announced. The event is organized by the Global Indigenous Forum. Native American youth report higher rates of alcohol, marijuana, and illicit drug use than U.S. adolescents from any other racial/ethnic group. Dr. Michelle Hospital, from the FIU Department of Biostatistics, and Dr. Staci Leon Morris, from the Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work, will present their research and interventions incorporating Native American cultural values involving tribal elders and stakeholders as partners. Both are associate directors in FIU's Community-Based Research Institute (CBRI).

For more information call 305-348-2247 or go to indigenous.fiu.edu.

# Get it. Use it.



**All Medicare users should have their new Medicare ID cards.**

New Medicare numbers have replaced Social Security numbers to protect your identity.

If you're not sure if you have the right one, log on to [MyMedicare.gov](https://www.mymedicare.gov) to check your account.



## American Indian Arts Celebration set for Nov. 1-2 in Big Cypress

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum will stage its annual American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC), Nov. 1-2, on the museum's festival grounds.

In its 22nd year, the AIAC is one of the top festivals in the Southeast and will feature an array of arts, crafts, food, hands-on activities, musical performances, dance demonstrations and wildlife presentations.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$7.50 for seniors and students. Admission is free for Tribal members, children four and under, and museum members.

There's also a special group discount of \$5 per person for parties of 10 or more who book in advance. Admission includes entrance to the event as well as the museum with its mile-long boardwalk. Parking is free. For more information, please visit [www.ahthathiki.com/events](http://www.ahthathiki.com/events).

## Marshall Tucker Band to play in Immokalee

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**IMMOKALEE** — Jay Goldberg Events and Entertainment will present an evening with The Marshall Tucker Band live in concert at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee on Jan. 26, 2020 at 8 p.m. Advance tickets are on sale now for \$69 and are available at the casino, on [moreinparadise.com](http://moreinparadise.com) or by calling 800-514-ETIX. Attendees must be 21 years of age.

The Marshall Tucker Band came together as a young, hungry six-piece group in Spartanburg, S.C. in 1972, naming the band for a blind piano tuner after they

found it inscribed on a key to their original rehearsal space. The band's 40-plus-years music catalog consists of more than 20 studio albums and a score of live releases and has racked up multi-platinum album sales.

The Marshall Tucker Band members include original lead vocalist and bandleader Doug Gray and his current band-mates, drummer B.B. Borden (Mother's Finest, The Outlaws), bassist/vocalist Tony Black, keyboardist/saxophonist/flautist/vocalist Marcus James Henderson, guitarist/vocalist Chris Hicks, and guitarist/vocalist Rick Willis.

## Early 2019 Indian Day scenes



Beverly Bidney

Cecilia Garcia tends to a meal being prepared in the cooking chickee at the Immokalee Indian Day culture day Sept. 23, one of this year's early Indian Day events in the Tribe. Seminole favorites including spam and tomatoes, chili, spaghetti and plenty of fry bread were just a few items on the menu for the community to enjoy. Check out the October 31 issue of The Seminole Tribune for complete coverage of the Tribe's Indian Day events.



Beverly Bidney

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

## 19th annual Native American Music Awards to be held Nov. 2 in New York

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**NEW YORK** — Nominations in 33 categories for the 19th Annual Native American Music Awards (NAMA) have been announced. The nominations reflect recordings by music makers released in the past year throughout North America and were selected by the combined votes of the 150 Advisory Board member committee of the Native American Music Association.

The 19th Annual Native American Music Awards will be held Nov. 2 at the Seneca Niagara Casino & Resort in Niagara Falls, New York. Actor Wes Studi (Cherokee) and pro wrestler Mickie James (Powhatan) will host the event.

Both Studi and James are also musicians. James sings country music and Studi

performs the blues. As a member of the WWE and TNA, James is a nine-time champion, a national record and is also the only female to hold the WWE Women's, WWE Divas, and TNA Knockouts Championships in wrestling history.

Studi has won critical acclaim and awards for his portrayal of Native Americans in film. He has been a favorite among the awards audience as a special guest and host. In October, Studi will become the first Native American to receive an Oscar as he will be honored with an Academy Honorary Award.

Both new and established artists share the list of total NAMA nominations throughout a diverse array of 33 varied music categories. This year's new music trends arrived at full strength evidenced by several new artists dominating the nominations list, particularly

from the Navajo Nation and Lakota Country.

General Public voting is now open. To vote, visit the vote now page of the awards website or by clicking on the ballot link: [voting.ballot](http://voting.ballot). Music tracks from all nominees are also featured on the Awards' website at [www.namalive.com](http://www.namalive.com).

Winners will be announced live at the awards show.

The Native American Music Awards & Association is the world's largest professional membership-based organization committed to honoring contemporary and traditional Native American and Indigenous music initiatives.

## Lynyrd Skynyrd's 'Last of the Street Survivors Farewell Tour' to play at Hard Rock Live in November

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Southern Rock icons Lynyrd Skynyrd will make one last stop at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Nov. 30, at 8 p.m. as part of their "Last of the Street Survivors Farewell Tour." Hard Rock Live, Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood's new entertainment venue, is part of the \$1.5 billion property expansion that will be completed Oct. 2019. The integrated resort will also be home to three hotel towers, including the world's first and only iconic Guitar Hotel.

Tickets cost \$256, \$156, \$106, \$91 and \$71, which include a \$1 donation to the Lynyrd Skynyrd Foundation. 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).

The farewell tour consists of original member Gary Rossington joined by



Lynyrd Skynyrd Facebook Courtesy photo

Lynyrd Skynyrd

Johnny Van Zant, Rickey Medlocke, Mark "Sparky" Matejka, Michael Cartellone, Keith Christopher, Peter Keys, Dale Krantz Rossington, Carol Chase and special guest Jim Horn. The show celebrates a career that

has spanned more than 40 years. The tour derives its name from their song, "The Last of the Street Survivors," and the band's multi-platinum studio album, "Street Survivors."

## Dancing with the Stars tour coming to Hard Rock Live in February

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — The dance show "Dancing with the Stars - Live Tour 2020" will be at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Feb. 25, at 8 p.m. The all-new production will feature professional dancers with every type of dance style as seen on ABC's hit show Dancing with the Stars. The show continues its legacy of performing show stopping routines alongside new numbers choreographed just for the live show ranging from the time-honored dances of the Cha Cha, Foxtrot, Salsa, Tango - and everything in between.

Tickets cost \$125, \$80 and \$60. VIP packages are available through VIPNation.com. 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).

The tour delivers performances from world-renowned dancers including Brandon Armstrong, Lindsay Arnold, Alan Bersten, Witney Carson, Val Chmerkovskiy, Sasha Farber, Jenna Johnson, Gleb Savchenko, Emma Slater, with additional casting to be announced.

"Dancing with the Stars - Live Tour 2020" is produced by Faculty Productions in association with BBC Studios.

"Dancing with the Stars" airs Monday nights at 8 p.m. on ABC. Episodes can also be viewed the next day on ABC.com, the ABC app and Hulu.



ABC.com Courtesy photo

Dancing with the stars live.

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**Deadline for space reservation is January 24, 2020.**  
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For further information visit:  
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Performers are allowed to bring folding chairs into the venue.

# Sports



## Andrew Fish, St. Thomas football make their college debut

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**MIAMI GARDENS** — Andrew Fish was part of a new era that St. Thomas University and its fans welcomed as the school's football team made its debut.

With Miami Gardens Mayor Oliver Gilbert III and former Dolphins great Nat Moore watching from the sideline, the St. Thomas football team played its inaugural game Sept. 7 in front of packed stands at Monsignor Pace High School, which is next door to the college's campus. The era kicked off at high noon with 2,650 spectators in attendance.

Fish, a Seminole Nation of Oklahoma member who grew up on the Brighton Reservation and attended Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School and Moore Haven High School, wore No. 77 and started on the offensive line at left tackle. In his first college game, the 6-foot-4 Fish looked right at home as he helped protect quarterback Jordan Sepulveda's blind side and pave the way for nearly 300 yards in total offense against Thomas More University of Kentucky.

"I think the O line did pretty good for the first time together," Fish said after the game.

Thomas More spoiled the inauguration party with a 38-14 win, but there were plenty of highlights, especially in the second half, for the new kids on the block.

After a shaky first half which saw them fall into a 24-0 deficit and struggle to move the ball, the Bobcats came out in the third quarter looking sharper. They picked up two first downs on the first possession of the quarter and capped off the drive on a 12-yard run by Robert Armes for the school's first-ever points. Fish provided key blocking on that play as he did in the fourth quarter on a fourth-and-two run by Armes for a first down which led to the team's first touchdown pass a couple plays later.

Fish, who only started playing football a couple years ago, said he enjoys his spot on the O line.

"I love left tackle," said Fish, whose supporters in the stands included his mom Angie, his aunts Michele and Cheryl, and one of his former coaches at Moore Haven, Andy Ringstaff.

Despite the final score, St. Thomas and the Miami Gardens community basked in the fact that college football had arrived.

"We're a football town. This is the beginning of something that is going to be great," Mayor Gilbert said during a ceremony on the field.



Kevin Johnson

St. Thomas University offensive lineman Andrew Fish, right, battles a defender from Thomas More University during St. Thomas's first-ever game Sept. 7 at Monsignor Pace High School in Miami Gardens. Fish, a freshman, is from the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. He attended Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School on the Brighton Reservation and Moore Haven High School.

"We won a lot of games when we practiced here. The Bobcats will take on that same mantra and win a lot of games here," said Moore, who starred for the Dolphins in the 1970s and 80s.

It didn't take long for St. Thomas to earn its first win. The following Saturday the

Bobcats defeated Union College, 45-20, in Barboursville, Kentucky.

St. Thomas's 10-game regular season will conclude Nov. 16.

Fish is majoring in sports administration. He said he would like to be a coach someday.



Kevin Johnson

St. Thomas University's Andrew Fish (77) takes a break on the sideline with his offensive linemen.



Kevin Johnson

Andrew Fish (77) provides pass protection for St. Thomas University quarterback Jordan Sepulveda during the team's inaugural game, a 38-14 loss to Thomas More University.

## Plenty of learning experiences for young Ahfachkee volleyball team

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — The final scores might not matter as much as the learning experiences this season for a very young Ahfachkee School volleyball team.

A majority of the squad is comprised of middle school students, yet it is a high school varsity team, one that faces high school opponents like the Lady Warriors did Sept. 20 against Sheridan Hills Christian in Hollywood.

Nine of the players are in grades six, seven or eight; four are sophomores and Destiny Cypress is the only senior. Only two players — Jaylee Jimmie and Lania Bert — played on last year's team. Most of the players are new to volleyball, which is why coaching will be crucial this season.

"We've got like a rookie team. A lot of them are first-time players," said head coach Randy Hernandez, who was an assistant last season.

Ahfachkee's game plan is to teach and form a solid core of young players who can grow with the program as they move from middle school to high school.

"We're building from middle school. Our main focus is to build those kids from the middle school so that once they get to high school they're good at volleyball," Hernandez said. "We're practicing the basics."

Although it's likely to take time and patience for results to be seen on the scoreboard, there are already plenty of encouraging signs. For example, turnout was excellent with 14 players coming out for the team. A year ago, there were only eight players.

Hernandez likes the numbers and he's thrilled about their enthusiasm.

"A lot of them have never played volleyball. The good thing is that they are motivated to do it every day at practice. They always go to practices. That's a good start," he said.

Ahfachkee didn't get off to a good start against Sheridan Hills, which easily won the first two games as Ahfachkee mustered just four points, but the Lady Warriors found a bit of a spark in the third game. They actually led 3-2 early and served much better before falling, 25-7.

"We played better toward the end," Hernandez said. "That's progress."

It will be a brief season. The team has just five matches scheduled and only one match at home, which was scheduled for Sept. 30.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee School's Jaylee Jimmie lines up a serve during the Lady Warrior's match against Sheridan Hills Christian School on Sept. 20 in Hollywood.

### 2019 Ahfachkee volleyball team

- Coach:** Randy Hernandez  
**Asst. coach:** Dr. Chin-Tang Liu  
 3 Jaylee Jimmie  
 5 Tommie Stockton  
 6 Barbara Jimmie  
 7 Ina Robbins  
 8 Edie Robbins  
 9 Tahnia Billie  
 13 Lania Bert  
 15 Lucee Cypress  
 16 Taina Billie  
 17 Athena Bert  
 18 Laylah Billie  
 20 Nettie Smith  
 21 Destiny Cypress  
 23 Marina Garcia



Kevin Johnson (2)

Above, Tahnia Billie blasts the ball over the net during Ahfachkee's pregame warm-up drills. Below, Athena Bert returns a serve during the match against Sheridan Hills Christian while teammate Ina Robbins looks on.



# Moore Haven football rebounds from slow start

*Five Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School grads suit up for the Terriers*

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**MOORE HAVEN** — Losing football games at Moore Haven High School has been rare the past few years, but when this year's squad started 0-2, nobody was reaching for the panic button.

Rather the Terriers simply kept working hard and it's paid off. The Terriers rebounded

Fish was another giant on the Terrier line the past couple years, but he graduated and is now playing for St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens. The departure of Fish and Conner Thomas has left big shoes to be filled on the offensive line.

"The offensive line is young and need some experience," Harris said.

One of those youngsters on the line is Pherian Baker, who is a backup. He played in the fourth quarter against Glades Day as



Kevin Johnson

Ramone Baker, middle, sees action on the defensive line in the fourth quarter of Moore Haven's victory.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven High School senior Rob Harris, a 6-foot-6, 350-pound offensive lineman, battles Glades Day's Miguel Gonzalez on Sept. 13 at Moore Haven High School. The Terriers notched their first victory of the season, 43-7.

from the slow start to notch solid victories against Glades Day (43-7) and Okeechobee (26-14) and evened their record at 2-2.

"We had to come back and practice hard and get better," said freshman lineman Pherian Baker, who is one of five players on this year's varsity team who attended Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School on the Brighton Reservation. The others are senior Rob Harris, sophomore Ramone Baker — who is Pherian's brother — sophomore Hyatt Pearce and freshman Wyatt Hines.

Harris is the lone starter among the group, but all are making an impact on the team in various roles.

At 6-foot-6, 350-pounds there's no doubt Harris is the big man on campus, and on the field. Nearly every touchdown the team scored against Glades Day was run on Harris's side on the offensive line.

"We run behind him. We lean on him. He's out-manning everybody right now so we've got to go with what we got," said Moore Haven coach Brent Burnside, who is in his first year at the helm.

Harris's size no doubt will attract attention from colleges. He started playing football late and only has two full seasons under his belt.

"He's young at football. He started at a late age. His ceiling is so high it's crazy," Burnside said. "I think at this point now he's had to step up and be a leader. He kind of rolled behind Andrew Fish for a while; now he's in that leadership role. He's adjusting to that a little bit."

did Ramone Baker on the defensive line. Ramone also saw action throughout the game on special teams.

"Ramone and Pherian came on late this year," Burnside said. "They're starting to get a little bit of experience and a little bit of success so hopefully we can set the hook on them and keep them playing. They're athletic kids and I know we can use them somewhere."

In addition to Pherian Baker, other promising rookies are Hines and Pearce. Hines saw action against Glades Day in the second half at defensive end. He can also play quarterback.

"He's playing a little defensive end," Burnside said. "He played a significant role the first couple weeks because D'Arrien Washington has been out. He's in that D line mix with us and he's also got some quarterback experience, too. We're working a couple of other kids in there, but he's a versatile athlete."

Pearce, a wide receiver, is also battling for playing time.

"Young at football; just needs some more experience. He has the athletic ability and the tools," Burnside said.

Moore Haven has four games in October, including home tilts against Lake Placid (Oct. 11), Frostproof (Oct. 18) and First Baptist Academy (Oct. 25). The regular season is slated to conclude Nov. 1 at LaBelle.



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School graduates are well represented on this year's Moore Haven High School varsity football team. With head coach Brent Burnside are from left, Wyatt Hines, Hyatt Pearce, Ramone Baker, Pherian Baker and Rob Harris.



Kevin Johnson

The Moore Haven High School Terriers take the field before their game against Glades Day with Robert Harris (75), Ramone Baker (10) and Wyatt Hines (15) among those leading the charge.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven freshman Wyatt Hines warms up on the sideline before the Terriers game. Hines is a defensive end, quarterback and safety who played DE as a substitute in the win against Glades Day.

# Kaleb Thomas strives for memorable senior season on OHS cross country

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BOCA RATON** — Kaleb Thomas wants to make his final high school cross country season one to remember.

So the determined Okeechobee High School senior trained this past summer in a way he had never before. He left a lot of sweat on the Brighton Reservation in preparation for the season.

“I ran the whole summer,” he said Sept. 14 as OHS competed in the Spanish River Invitational in Boca Raton. “It was different from any other summer I’ve had. I came into this season very good. I ran every day. I put in a lot of work. I think it’s because it’s my senior year and my last year of high school cross country and I want to enjoy it. Last year I didn’t train as hard.”

Except for one hiccup, the hard work has paid off as Thomas has consistently been among the team’s top three runners. The exception came in a race in early September when his time was in the 24-minute mark, which he deemed unacceptable.

“That was probably my worst race at Okeechobee,” he said. “Terrible form.”

Before his next race – the Spanish River Invite – Thomas regrouped and zeroed in on making improvements in practices. With the number of races left in his high school career dwindling, Thomas wasn’t about to let one bump in the road impact his entire season.

“This past week I just worked on my form and it definitely showed a big improvement with this race,” he said after he finished with a time of 22:08 at South County Regional Park. He said his stretch run – the final portion of the race where runners empty their tanks with everything they have left – was far better than his previous race. His time was the third fastest on the team



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee High School senior Kaleb Thomas, center with #766 bib, runs in the middle of the pack at the start of the 3A boys race in the 37th annual Spanish River Cross Country Invitational high school meet Sept. 14 at South County Regional Park in Boca Raton.

behind Zachary Friend and Aiden Adamo.

While Thomas said it’s important to try to keep moving up in his rankings on

the team, he said improving his times is at the top of his agenda.

“Mostly focusing on my times. I want to break 19 this year and get into 18s. I’m just going to work very hard at practice and see where I go from there,” he said.

His PR – personal record – came last year with a 19:46 time.

Thomas is the only senior on the squad, but he’s not the only Seminole. Dakota Entry and Jace Brown are also on the team. Thomas recruited Brown, a freshman, to come out for the team.

Okeechobee, which has regular season meets in Port St. Lucie, Sebastian and Arcadia in October, will compete in the Class 3A-District 4 meet on Oct. 26. Thomas said a goal of his is to advance past district and qualify for regionals.



Kevin Johnson

Kaleb Thomas sprints in the final yards of the 3.1 mile Spanish River Cross Country Invitational. He finished in 22:08.



Kevin Johnson

Kaleb Thomas, from the Brighton Reservation, warms up with his Okeechobee High School cross country teammates before the Spanish River Cross Country Invitational.

## RIDE TV to broadcast INFR

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The 44th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) championship round Oct. 26 will be broadcast live by RIDE TV from South Point Arena in Las Vegas. Showcasing the action from previous rounds, RIDE TV will also air five one-hour INFR highlight shows in December on dates to be announced.

Several Seminole Tribal

members and Eastern Indian Rodeo Association riders are scheduled to compete in INFR Oct. 22-26.

In all, more than 400 Native American competitors from 50 tribes in the U.S. and Canada will compete in the major and junior-senior events.

All 10 rounds of the INFR will also be carried live by RidePass, the PBR’s western sports digital network.

“INFR is honored to join forces with RIDE TV and RidePass to host the first INFR to be carried on

live television,” said Donna Hoyt, General Manager, INFR. “This has been a vision and goal for some time. We have a great media partnership with PBR, and it has made this vision a reality for our members.”

For more information about INFR visit [www.infr.org](http://www.infr.org) to see where RIDE TV is available, visit [www.RIDETV.com/Watch](http://www.RIDETV.com/Watch).

## Team Iroquois excels in World Indoor Lacrosse Championships



Iroquois Nationals Lacrosse/Twitter

From left, assistant captain Cody Jamieson (Mohawk Nation), captain Jeremy Thompson (Onondaga Nation), and assistant captain Randy Staats (Mohawk Nation) lead Team Iroquois as captains for the 2019 World Indoor Lacrosse Championships that ran from Sept. 19-28 in Langley, British Columbia, Canada. As of press time, Team Iroquois had reached the championship bracket with a 3-1 record in pool play. Their wins were against England, Israel and the United States.



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Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Nena Youngblood stretches to make a service return during the Seminoles' win in a varsity match against West Glades Middle School on Sept. 19 in Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

Carlee Osceola controls the ball for PECS during its varsity match against West Glades Middle School.

## Strong serving propels Pemayetv Emahakv volleyball teams

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BRIGHTON** — For spectators who watched the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's volleyball doubleheader Sept. 19, a common theme was evident throughout the afternoon with the junior varsity and varsity squads.

Both teams have outstanding servers.

It's not just a matter of getting the ball over the net for these Seminoles; it's also about placement, velocity and power.

PECS' JV starting lineup against West Glades consisted of Alyssa Madrigal, Taryn Osceola, Neela Jones, Summer Gopher, Miley Jimmie and Kashrya Urbina. The Seminoles fell behind 6-1, but CeCeThomas came off the bench and provided a spark with four aces during a 10-0 run on her serve. PECS never trailed again.

Urbina and Madrigal also delivered aces and a couple of kills came from Gopher in the 25-12 win.

The strong serving continued in game two thanks to Osceola, who cranked out nine service points to start the game as PECS built a 9-0 lead. Later, it was Jimmie who blasted a bunch of aces which were too hot for West Glades to handle. Madrigal stamped an exclamation point on the victory with an ace on match point.

The varsity team picked up where the JV left off. Lexi Thomas started the varsity match with six consecutive service points, most of which were aces.

After West Glades battled back to trim the deficit to 7-5, PECS won a long stretch of points behind the serves of Nena Youngblood. Truly Osceola blasted a kill toward the end of the 25-11 win.

In game two, West Glades won the first two points but their lead was short lived as Thomas responded with four straight aces. Preslynn Baker also delivered plenty of quality serves as PECS' serving kept West Glades bottled up all match. When West Glades pulled to within three points late in the match, it was a kill by Truly Osceola on a set by Thomas that squashed the visitors' momentum. PECS won the game, 25-20.

As good as PECS' serving was against West Glades, it wasn't as sharp against Osceola Middle in a match earlier in the week. The loss to Osceola Middle cost the Seminoles a chance at an undefeated season and a banner with their names that would have been hung in the gym.

"We were trying to get another banner for undefeated, but that's ok. We can win the tournament at the end of the season," said PECS coach Pam Matthews, whose team improved to 4-1 at the halfway mark.

### 2019 Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School volleyball

**Coach:** Pam Matthews

**Asst. coach:** Mary Huff

**Varsity**

- 1 Lexi Thomas
- 2 Preslynn Baker
- 3 Truly Osceola
- 5 Jana Johnson
- 8 Saniya Rodriguez
- 12 Carlee Osceola
- 13 Tianni Anderson
- 14 Nena Youngblood

**Junior Varsity**

- 4 Summer Gopher
- 7 Miley Jimmie
- 10 Chaka Smith
- 11 CeCe Thomas
- 15 Alyssa Madrigal
- 16 Taryn Osceola
- 17 Neela Jones
- 18 Kashrya Urbina



Kevin Johnson

With her PECS teammates Preslynn Baker (2) and Saniya Rodriguez (8) next to her, Lexi Thomas makes a return from the back row during the varsity match.



Kevin Johnson (2)

At left, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Kashrya Urbina, and, at right, Summer Gopher deliver serves during the junior varsity volleyball team's win against West Glades junior varsity Sept. 19 in Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

Taryn Osceola gets ready to set the ball during PECS' junior varsity game against West Glades. Ready to help out is Alyssa Madrigal (15).



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# Announcements



## Scottish band captures Hard Rock's Battle of the Bands

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Moonlight Zoo from Glasgow, Scotland, beat out Sweet Fever from Nashville, Tenn., and Napkin from Curitiba, Brazil, to win the Hard Rock 2019 Battle of the Bands competition on June 21 at Hard Rock Café New York. The final round, held on World Music Day, featured live performances on the iconic former Paramount Theater stage at Hard Rock Cafe in the Heart of Times Square.

Moonlight Zoo took home the \$15,000 grand prize as the winner of the competition after hitting a high note with the panel of major music label and industry executive judges.

"At Hard Rock Cafe, we are committed to seeking out talent and giving bands a platform to launch their music careers," said Stephen K. Judge, President of Cafe Operations at Hard Rock International. "Throughout the competition we have been amazed by the level of talent displayed by participants around the globe, and this final

round was no exception. Moonlight Zoo gave their heart and soul to the Battle of the Bands competition and we look forward to seeing what's to come for them."

Formed in 2015 in Dunfermline, Scotland, Moonlight Zoo made a splash with the launch of their first single, "Breaking or Broken" before launching their follow up single, "Wild" in 2018. On the same day the band took home the grand prize for their final performance at Hard Rock Cafe New York, Moonlight Zoo launched their latest single, "Survive", which will be a big part of an EP album and supporting tour that will take off later this year.

"Winning Hard Rock's Battle of the Bands competition is an experience that has exceeded our wildest expectations," said Sean Francesco, front man for Moonlight Zoo. "We are so grateful for the opportunity Hard Rock has given us to come to New York City and showcase our talents on stage for hundreds of fans and industry executives. This is a moment none of us will ever forget."



Moonlight Zoo, a band from Scotland, celebrates winning the Hard Rock Battle of the Bands in June at Hard Rock Cafe in New York City.

## Happy Birthday, Mariyah Lee

Mariyah Lee, mommy wants to say how blessed I truly am on this day 09/16, my 1st princess was born.

Mommy loves you so much. I am so grateful to be here alive to see you grow and how much you make me and mama so proud. You're so smart and outgoing, crazy, funny, spoiled, diva, and that attitude, but most of all you a loving and caring Mya. Mommy and Mama will always be here to the end, princess, and no matter how much you grow you will always be our lil princess.

I hope you enjoy your special day and may all your little wishes come true. Happy 9th Birthday! "Mya, Booboo."

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



## Best tribal destinations recognized at American Indian Tourism Conference

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**TULSA, Okla.** — The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) honored tribal destinations and leaders in the tourism industry in September at the Enough Good People Awards Gala & Silent Auction during the 21st annual American Indian Tourism Conference (AITC) in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Each year, AIANTA, as the national organization representing the tribal hospitality and tourism industry, recognizes the best of Indian Country travel and tourism in three categories, with the Enough Good People Industry Awards.

The 2019 Tribal Destination of the Year was awarded to the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort in Worley, Idaho. Coeur d'Alene's tribal history and way of life, its people, tribal language, beadwork, traditional songs/dance, storytelling and artwork are all elements featured throughout the resort.

The Best Cultural Heritage Experience was awarded to the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage, Alaska. The Center

features six recreated winter dwellings, which represent the 11 different cultural groups of Alaska where visitors can explore the history and cultural heritage of Alaska Native peoples.

The Isleta Resort and Casino in Albuquerque, New Mexico, received the Excellence in Customer Service award. The Resort has built an "I Respond & Care" program, establishing a new mission, vision and core values and series of workshops.

Along with the Industry Awards, AIANTA has also been honoring tribal tourism leaders from across the country with the Enough Good People Director's Award since 2012. This year, AIANTA presented Lisa Gassman, from the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, with the prestigious award, recognizing her deep commitment to the preservation and sharing of American Indian culture through tourism.

Proceeds raised from the event are used to support AIANTA's scholarship program, which awards financial aid to Native American students interested in pursuing careers in the hospitality and tourism industry and culinary arts.

## Poem

"Inside Genocide"

I can remember when it was all of us, our unity's what made us and now it's a must, we gave from our hearts we had our tribal pride, each clan gave love and for us was down to ride.

Respect was our Creed with loyalty and trust. Now we crest new addiction with the white man's lust. This is no longer a war it's a Genocide. They're slowly tearing us apart, this is my war cry.

These tears that I write come deep from the soul, hurt by the pain heart growing cold. A culture so rich slowly losing its life, Seminole brothers and sisters please open your eyes!

Because times is a ticken and we're almost there, I can hear them demons whisper and they aren't fighting fair. Corruption and lies and now we talked deception, wake up my Native people, cause this is more than a lesson.

From within they win so let's separate the fake, let's recapture who we are and dehead this snake. Because the great Creator's watching firelight stomping and for us it's worth the fight.

This is my Native pride until the day that I die, a Panther Clan representative exposing their lies. When a Warrior speaks that Warriors die, so before I take my last let me unmask their disguise.

Let's look beyond the picture and see the truth, there's been too many lies spoken, let's save our youth. We can't forget who we are, and where come from, our ancestors are looking down through the Eye of the sun.

History we are from the past and presence, I can't sit back and let my Tribe make that final exit. We got to stand up and unite and let our light shine, or give in to their Genocide and get lost in time.

I emerged from the smoke of the peace pipe, I was born a Seminole, this is my Rez life. Unconquered my mind frame no matter what you say it's time to unite and let them know that we ain't going away.

This is my Rez life born a sacrifice da end is near this is my war cry. There tears I had hide this pain I can't hold at times I just want 2 let go, it's in our blood 2 stand up an fight let's take our Native pride 2 a new height, warrior by birth leader by choice this our Native rights.

LVB Sr.

## Seminole Hard Rock Tampa's Council Oak names new executive butcher

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**TAMPA** — Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa announced Sept. 16 the appointment of Walter M. Apfelbaum as executive butcher at Council Oak Steaks & Seafood at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa. In his latest role, he will also oversee butchering for the property's other contemporary and fine dining establishments.

Apfelbaum, a renowned butcher, has been in the meat industry for more than 30 years. Born in Asbury Park, New Jersey, and raised in a German household, he began learning the tricks of the trade at his father's best friend's butcher shop at age 12.

Apfelbaum's increased passion for the culinary arts led him to attend The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park. Following graduation, he was recruited by Whole Foods to participate in their butcher training program, where he was mentored by the lead butcher for Whole Foods tri-state locations. This experience eventually led him to travel abroad for several years throughout Europe visiting various regions



Walter Apfelbaum has been named executive butcher at Council Oak Steaks & Seafood at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

from Denmark to Southern Italy to continue mastering his butchering skills, while also learning about the seafood trade. Upon his return to the States, Apfelbaum worked at various butcheries and world-renowned steakhouses located within the tri-state area including Peter Luger's, Delmonico's, Gallaghers, and Keens.

In 2009, he relocated to Tampa and joined the butcher team at Council Oak Steaks & Seafood, at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa. Three years later, the Seminole Tribe of Florida team offered him the opportunity to transfer to Seminole Casino Coconut Creek to open NYY Steak. Additionally, he was asked to join the opening team for NYY Steak in Midtown Manhattan.

In 2017, Apfelbaum's career path led him to Detroit, where he brought his craft and knowledge of big city steakhouses to launch Prime + Proper steakhouse.

As of this summer, he has rejoined the team as executive butcher for all of the eateries within Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

## Il Mulino at Hard Rock AC named best U.S. casino restaurant

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**NEW YORK** — Il Mulino New York at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City, located on the Atlantic City Boardwalk, was voted the Best U.S. Casino Restaurant by USA TODAY's 10Best.com Readers' Choice Awards.

"Il Mulino is known for serving

the best authentic Italian dishes of Abruzzo paired with exceptional service. We are very proud of this top honor by USA Today's Readers' Choice Awards and look forward to continuing to offer guests a memorable dining experience at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City," said Brian Galligan, President, Il Mulino USA.

USA Today 10Best Readers'

Choice Awards 2019 named twenty nominees in the Best Casino Restaurant category. The nominees were selected by a panel including editors from USA Today and 10Best.com, and relevant expert contributors. And then readers voted during a span of four weeks on their choice for the top Casino Restaurant.



## Theodore Nelson Sr.

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

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309632	2011	POLARIS ATV	SPORTSMAN 800 GREEN	N/A	NA	\$1,013.00
C33560	2011	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F250 SD XL CREW CAB 4WD	228,955	Poor	\$8,969.00

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