



The Seminole Tribune

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Tribe to restrict truck traffic in Big Cypress

STAFF REPORT

Leadership at the Seminole Tribe has passed an ordinance to restrict heavy truck traffic on the tribe's open access roads on the Big Cypress Reservation during certain hours of the day.

The ordinance is in response to an increasing number of semi-trucks weighing over 26,000 pounds that access the Josie Billie Highway, which begins as Snake Road from I-75, during day and nighttime hours. Tribal officials said the trucks have become a health and safety concern for those living on the reservation, especially for those living in homes close to the road.

The ordinance was brought before Tribal Council for a vote at its April 14 meeting that was conducted online. It passed unanimously. The initial recommendation is to restrict the heavy trucks from passing through the reservation from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., officials said.

Signs are being created to notify truckers of the restrictions before they enter the road so they can turn around or use a different route.

Groundbreaking paves way for Immokalee medical and public safety building

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — A groundbreaking ceremony for a medical and public safety building on the Immokalee Reservation featured current and past tribal leaders as well as one of the founding mothers of the reservation.

Since the early days of the reservation, which was established in 1989, Nancy Motlow worked to bring a medical clinic to Immokalee. For decades, the idea of building a clinic on the Immokalee Reservation was seen as a game changer for residents so they wouldn't have to travel to other reservations or towns for primary health care.

The days of a clinic being housed in trailers, which has been in effect since 2006, will soon be over. The dirt lifted by Motlow and officials in the April 26 ceremony will make way for a 41,000-square foot building that will house the clinic, Center for Behavioral Health and public safety departments on 9.7 acres on Seminole Crossing Trail.

"It's been a long time coming," Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie told the audience. "Elaine Aguilar and Nancy Motlow had a big part in this community and I appreciate all they've done. They made this happen. The Immokalee ladies gave me the motivation to do what I'm doing today."

"Our Elders were about our age when they wanted to start things here," said Immokalee Council liaison Ray Garza. "Nancy planted a seed and it has grown to what Immokalee is today. Thank you to all the past and today's Council; you all had a vision of what we need to serve our people. This is a big accomplishment for this



Beverly Bidney

Dignitaries symbolically break the ground at the site of the future Immokalee medical and public safety building April 26. From left are Derek Koger, Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley, Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Nancy Motlow, President Mitchell Cypress, Immokalee Council liaison Ray Garza, Immokalee Board liaison Ralph Sanchez and Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie.

community."

Garza recalled traveling with his family as a child to the Big Cypress Reservation to see a doctor in a small building near where the Ahfachkee School is today. Perhaps his most memorable takeaway from those visits

is that the doctor flew to the reservation in his own airplane.

"Today is a great day for Immokalee," said Immokalee Board liaison Ralph Sanchez. "We used to load up my Aunt Nancy's station wagon and go to Big

Cypress to see a doctor. Nancy [Motlow], Elaine [Aguilar] and Ethel [Frank] all had a vision for this community. Immokalee, we are moving on up."

♦ See **GROUNDBREAKING** on page 7A

Valholly Frank lends support for renewable energy goals

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe's Valholly Frank might be a bit soft spoken in person, but she's been a fierce and outspoken leader in the fight against climate change in Florida for years.

At a news conference in Miami on April 21, she lent her support to proposed renewable energy goals for the state that were set forth by the commissioner of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Nikki Fried.

Frank, from the Big Cypress Reservation, was joined at the event by her colleague Delaney Reynolds, and Fried, at the Frost Museum of Science at in Miami. She spoke about the importance of a healthy Florida Everglades ecosystem.

"My culture, my tribe, my people depend on it," Frank said. "Our culture depends on this land and our community depends on being together. If we're displaced, we'd lose our togetherness, we'd lose our culture, our spirituality — we'd lose each other — and my tribe can't afford to go through that."

Fried said she was motivated to push for the proposed rules in response to a youth-led petition that Frank and Reynolds were part of that was filed on behalf of young Floridians earlier this year by the nonprofit public interest law firm Our Children's Trust. The petition called on FDACS to get 100% of Florida's electricity from renewable energy by 2050 in order to help reverse the effect of fossil fuel emissions on climate change and the environment.

Our Children's Trust said more than 200

young people under 25 signed the petition.

Florida statute authorizes FDACS, which oversees the state's Office of Energy, to establish goals and strategies to increase the use of renewable energy in the state. However, Fried's proposed rules would have to be approved by state lawmakers and signed into law by Gov. Rick DeSantis.

Our Children's Trust previously represented Valholly and seven other young people in a 2018 lawsuit against the state, then-Gov. Rick Scott and several state agencies. The lawsuit, which was dismissed in 2020, asserted that in causing climate change the state violated "the youngest generation's constitutional rights to life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness — and has caused harm to Florida's essential public trust resources, such as beaches, coral reefs and marine life ... by creating an energy system based on fossil fuels."

Frank comes from a family of environmentalists and activists, which include mother Rhonda Roff and father Joe Frank. At the news conference she said the use of renewable energy was essential to help reverse the effects of sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, worsening weather and more frequent and powerful hurricanes in the state.

"Nothing good can come of the climate crises and nothing good is coming of it. The only thing that we can do right now is fight," Frank said. "Remember where your home is and remember how important it is to be on this land and cherish it. I hope you all find it as important as I do."

More information about the proposed FDACS rules can be fdacs.gov.



Screenshot via Facebook

Valholly Frank, center, from the Big Cypress Reservation, speaks April 21 at a news conference in Miami with Delaney Reynolds, left, and FDACS commissioner Nikki Fried.

After lengthy journey, all-Indigenous groundbreaking play 'Distant Thunder' reaches the stage

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

"Distant Thunder" struggled to find a home for the past decade.

The all-Indigenous musical, whose cast includes the Seminole Tribe's Spencer Battiest, finally made its way to the stage in late March at the First American Museum in Oklahoma City. The show, a production of the Lyric Theater of Oklahoma, ran for five nights in front of audiences of 350 to 400 at each performance.

"The journey to get any musical to the stage is an interesting one," Battiest said. "It usually takes seven to 10 years. This is

the first time a musical was done with all Indigenous actors and writers."

"Distant Thunder" was written by actor and writer Shaun Taylor-Corbett, his mother Lynn Taylor-Corbett, who is the director and choreographer, and Shaun's songwriting partner Chris Wiseman. Over the years the play was expanded, songs were added and a cast was assembled to perform table readings in Los Angeles and New York.

Battiest and Shaun Taylor-Corbett first met when Battiest was cast for a reading in 2012 during the Native Voices program at the Autry Theater in Los Angeles.

"When I met Shaun, they only had three songs written and a few pages of

script," Battiest said. "We did a 20-minute presentation and throughout the years we kept in touch."

"Spencer has been with the show since the beginning," Taylor-Corbett said. "He has been an ambassador for the show and through him, I have met so many great Seminole people."

♦ See **THUNDER** on page 5A

Miki Galloway

Spencer Battiest, center, performs in the all-Indigenous play "Distant Thunder" in Oklahoma City.



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Visit the Tribune's website for news throughout the month at seminoletribune.org

Editorial

Navajo determination in ‘Long Walk’ extends to today

• Nida Khan

“From the moment we stepped off the train, we felt sick,” recounted a Navajo woman in the film *The Long Walk* as she discussed forced relocation. “All this time we wanted to go back home but could never afford to go back. Every year we plan, but something always comes up.”

What she was painfully relating was the withdrawal of government services and the relocation of Native Americans to urban areas in the 1950s. This is one of many subjects covered in “*The Long Walk*.” Tracing the Navajos’ forced migrations and other maltreatment by white Americans in the 19th century, this film takes a direct look at the cruelty inflicted upon the Navajo, and the people’s determination to maintain their traditions and their heritage.

“*The Long Walk*” is one of 50 films featured in the Legacy Archive Project Exploring Hate: Antisemitism, Racism and Extremism. At a time when the United States is striving to reconcile its difficult past with hope for a better future, the Legacy Archive Project is a space where everyone can go to learn, increase their understanding of historical events, and apply the lessons of the past for the present.

Recently, the Texas state senate passed a bill that would allow public schools to avoid vital subjects like the Civil Rights Movement, women’s suffrage – and Native American history. Senate Bill 3 (SB3) is just one of many advanced by legislatures in numerous states that are effectively rewriting history by removing aspects and incidents that reflect badly on the United States. While many aspects of our history are indeed horrendous, ugly and difficult to absorb, to erase them is to delete the experience of marginalized communities, in effect silencing them. Discriminatory practices and policies, outright murder and land theft — these laid the foundation for the present-day circumstances of ethnic minorities that form an underclass in America.

It’s no coincidence that bills like SB3 are simultaneously attacking Native history, the study of the women’s suffrage movement, and the Civil Rights Movement. To achieve any progress in historically disenfranchised communities has always involved struggle, and often the movements have become intertwined. There are examples everywhere even today, as demands for criminal justice reform and women’s right to choose are voiced in intersectional demonstrations.

In 2020, when antiracism and anti-police brutality protests broke out in unprecedented numbers across the country, a diverse coalition raised their voices in unison. In Minneapolis, where the murder of George Floyd by police sparked demonstrations, there was a noticeable Indigenous presence, including protesters who flew the flag of the American Indian Movement. Like other communities of color, Native Americans have often been victims of excessive and abusive policing tactics. It is why they were active during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, and why they continue to be active today.

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit the United States, the Native American community suffered greatly. The Indigenous population suffered more than 3.5 times the infection rate of white Americans, more than four times the hospitalization rate, and a significantly higher mortality rate. Healthcare disparities and a lack of resources contributed

to these higher numbers and tragic outcomes. But Indigenous communities organized and fought back, as they were accustomed to do in the past. Native Americans now have the highest vaccination rate in America, according to the CDC. It is just one more example of their perseverance in the face of adversity.

Whether it was the Indian Removal Act of 1830, the Dawes Act of 1887, or forced relocations and assimilation in the 20th century, the dispossession of Native lands has had catastrophic consequences for Indigenous communities. “*The Long Walk*” examines the history of the Navajo Nation through the eyes and perspectives of its people. As the Indigenous continue to advocate for recognition and a return of what was once stolen from them, this film provides great context and insight.

In 2020, when President Donald Trump went to Mt. Rushmore to deliver a divisive speech, activists took the opportunity to draw attention to the Land Back movement. For decades, Native Americans have been pushing to reclaim millions of acres of land in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The U.S. Supreme Court actually upheld the tribal claim 40 years ago, but only ordered restitution. Tribal leaders rejected the money and insisted on reclaiming the land. The struggle for reclamation of ancestral land, taken in violation of treaties, continues today.

Historical context is a key to understanding present-day inequities and the effort to bring about change. The Legacy Archive Project Exploring Hate: Antisemitism, Racism and Extremism examines ways in which groups of people have been subjugated, disenfranchised and discriminated against, as well as how these communities have organized and fought back.

In 1977, participants in the United Nations International Conference on Discrimination against Indigenous Populations in the Americas proposed that Indigenous Peoples’ Day replace Columbus Day. As an increasing number of states and localities make the shift, a more accurate portrayal of history emerges. In Canada earlier this year, hundreds of unmarked burial sites of school children were discovered. Canada has now observed its first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, honoring victims of its residential schools, which sought to forcefully assimilate Indigenous children.

While official recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ Day and a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation are important and necessary symbolic steps, the Indigenous still face a very real threat from forces attempting to rewrite history. In the United States, mechanisms designed to alter school curriculums are blatantly erasing Native experience and concealing the truth about America’s founding. It is why efforts to push back have taken on renewed spirit. As Land Back movements are galvanized in South Dakota and elsewhere, and police reform movements from Minneapolis to the Bay Area take on a new sense of urgency, Indigenous peoples are themselves a living, surviving reminder of the very long walk that they have endured.

Nida Khan is an independent journalist. The views and opinions expressed are those of the author. This editorial is part of Exploring Hate’s Legacy Archive Project by WNET (New York City), a PBS station.

Two Native Americans named to Indian Affairs

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Two Native American appointees to Indian Affairs were announced April 21 by the Department of the Interior.

Tracy Goodluck (Oneida Nation of Wisconsin/Mvskoke Creek) was named senior advisor, assistant secretary. Joel West Williams (Cherokee Nation) was named deputy solicitor.

Goodluck most recently completed details at the White House’s Domestic Policy Council and Council on Native American Affairs. Previously, Tracy served as deputy director of the Interior Department’s Indian Water Rights Office. She is a former classroom teacher, school administrator and co-founder of the Native American Community Academy. Tracy holds a Bachelor of Arts from Dartmouth

College, a master’s degree in teaching from the University of Washington, and a Juris Doctorate and Certificate in Indian Law from the University of New Mexico.

West Williams earned a Bachelor of Arts from Naropa University, a Juris Doctorate from Widener University Delaware Law School, and a Master of Laws in environmental law from Vermont Law School. Most recently, he was an attorney with the Native American Rights Fund (NARF). Prior to that, Joel was assistant counsel with the Pennsylvania Governor’s Office of General Counsel and senior legislative officer with the Cherokee Nation. He is a former president of the National Native American Bar Association and has taught at Vermont Law School and NYU School of Law.

Renowned artist, former Seminole Nation chief Enoch Kelly Haney dies at 81

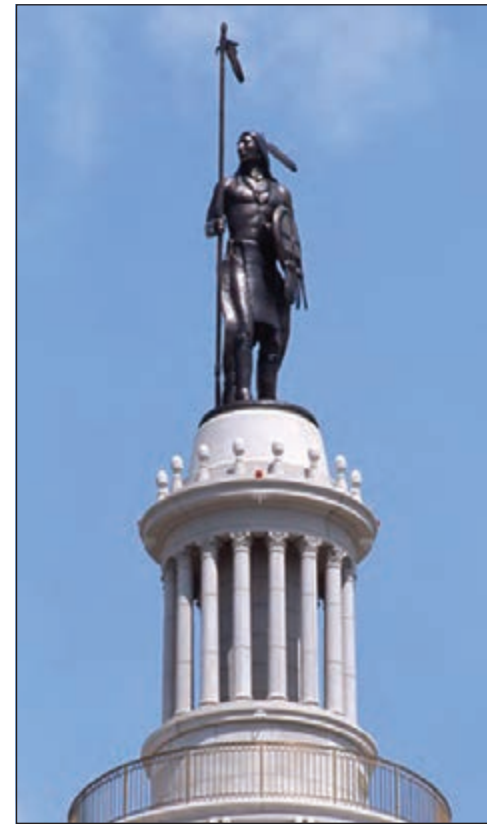
BY DARREN THOMPSON
Native News Online

On April 23, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma announced that Chief Kelly Haney died at the age of 81.

Enoch Kelly Haney was a former Oklahoma lawmaker with years of service as a lawmaker in the Oklahoma State Legislature and became the Principal Chief of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma for four years in 2005. He was the first full-blood American Indian to serve in the state legislature, according to the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

“An inspiration to many, an accomplished artist, his work with the State and later as Chief highlighted his career, but his greatest achievement is that of family,” said Brian Palmer, Assistant Chief of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma in an announcement on the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma’s Facebook page. “Keep his family in prayer and may they find comfort in knowing the Seminole Nation and Indian Country mourns his loss.”

Haney made another mark on Oklahoma’s Capitol—he created “The Guardian” statue that currently stands on top of the state Capitol dome in Oklahoma City. “The Guardian” is a 17-foot sculpture of an American Indian man and was placed atop the state Capitol dome in 2002.



Jim Argo Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society
Enoch Kelly Haney’s 17-foot statue “The Guardian” has stood prominently atop the Oklahoma State Capitol dome since 2002.

An accomplished American Indian painter and sculptor, his art has been showcased throughout the world.

Sterlin Harjo, the award-winning writer and director of the FX comedy series *Reservation Dogs* and a citizen of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, credited Haney for the support that began his career in film.

“He saw something in me when I was young and hoping to become an artist,” said Harjo in an Instagram post about Haney. “I didn’t have the grades or test scores to get into the University Of Oklahoma when I was out of high school. Kelly wrote a letter to the president at the time telling him about this young artist from back home that had a lot of potential.”

“Because of his letter I got into the school and began my education in film,” Harjo said. “People like Chief Haney lead by example and show us how to share and lift others up.”

Haney was elected and served as a state senator in the Oklahoma Senate from 1986 to 2002. While in the Senate, he was the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee for his entire tenure. Prior to his term in the Oklahoma Senate, he was elected to serve in the Oklahoma House of Representatives from 1980-1986. During this second term in the House of Representative, he became Vice Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. He ran for Oklahoma governor in the Democratic primary in 2002, but lost to Brad Henry.

“Our department, tribe, and families are asking for prayers for our director



Enoch Kelly Haney

Stephanie Haney Brown and the rest of the Haney family and love ones,” said the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare in a Facebook post. “Kelly has done so many beautiful things for our tribe, and people. Even the titles he holds, long live Chief Enoch Kelly Haney as you make your journey to the spirit world.”

“He was a wonderfully talented man,” said Tricia Fields, niece of Haney, to Native News Online. “Everywhere I go, someone has great things to say about his accomplishments for our people. But what I will always remember about him is when he visited my Grandpa Woodrow and Grandma Pauline and how proud he made my Grandpa,” Tricia added. “What a great reunion in heaven it must be for all of them.”



Enoch Kelly Haney’s “Florida Panther.”

Worthpoint.com

Indigenous communities to receive \$46M in climate funding

STAFF REPORT

The Interior Department announced April 11 that tribal communities would receive \$46 million in new climate funding to help address the impacts of climate change.

Researchers say climate change affects Indigenous people disproportionately — leaving many more vulnerable to its impacts — which is partly due to a reduction or loss of historic lands over time. The consequences include reduced access to traditional foods, decreased water quality and exposure to various health hazards. In Florida, the Seminole Tribe sees impacts such as sea level rise, flooding, more frequent and powerful storms and hurricanes and increased temperatures.

The new funding is available for initiatives that address climate resilience and adaptation, the Interior Department said in a news release.

“As the effects of climate change continue to intensify, Indigenous communities are facing unique climate-related challenges that pose existential threats to tribal economies, infrastructure, lives and livelihoods,” Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said in the release.

“Coastal communities are facing flooding, erosion, permafrost subsidence, sea level rise and storm surges, while inland communities are facing worsening drought and extreme heat.”

Haaland said the federal government’s investments will “help bolster community resilience, replace aging infrastructure, and provide support needed for climate-related community-driven relocation and adaptation.”

Climate change has had a particularly outsized effect in Alaska Native communities, which make up 40% of federally recognized



Interior Secretary Deb Haaland

File photo

U.S. tribes. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says those communities have seen an accelerated rate of rising temperatures, melting sea ice and thawing permafrost, which has taken a toll on critical infrastructure and Native traditions. Some coastal communities have been forced to relocate to higher ground, while others have had to adjust to habitat degradation and extreme changes in ecosystems.

Meanwhile, Indigenous people have led the way in developing solutions for climate change, which the Interior Department mentioned in its funding announcement. The hope is that the federal government will begin to more formally implement

Tribal Ecological Knowledge, or TEK, into its climate resilience strategies. Tribes want TEK to be considered in decision-making about species and habitats, for long-term climate change strategy and to collaborate with Indigenous peoples on other environmental topics of common interest.

The Interior Department is accepting proposals from tribal communities who wish to receive a portion of the \$46 million in funding. In all, the Biden administration’s infrastructure law allocates \$466 million to the Bureau of Indian Affairs over five years, including \$216 million for climate resilience programs.

Go to bia.gov for more.

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Community



Father-son team continues Osceola business legacy

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Seminole tribal members Gem and John Osceola have been busy these days. The father-son team are involved in several business ventures and said they stay inspired by the memory of family patriarch Joe Dan Osceola, who died in 2019 at 82.

Joe Dan Osceola is known for many achievements at the tribe. He was the youngest elected president; he helped to form the United South & Eastern Tribes (USET) and served as its first president; and he hit milestones in education and athletics among many other accomplishments.

Osceola was also recognized for his entrepreneurship. He worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and later joined forces with then-Chairwoman Betty Mae Jumper to help create a business culture at the tribe. Osceola helped expand the tribe's cattle industry into one of the largest in the U.S. and he operated the Anhinga Indian Trading Post at the corner of Stirling Road and U.S. 441 in Hollywood where it remains today.

The family patriarch went from being born in a chickee in the Everglades to building and selling chickees himself.

"We still hear about the things he accomplished," Gem Osceola said. "He made such an impression on us and who we are today. It's just amazing what one man can accomplish in one lifetime. I don't

know how to put it into words. He was a real family man all the way until the day he passed away."

Gem Osceola said he and his son inherited his entrepreneurial streak.

John Osceola is now the owner of Florida Seminole Commerce, which was formerly the Seminole Salt Co. — a venture to sell salt and salt products to the general market. It's an idea that remains in an exploration phase today. As Florida Seminole Commerce, Osceola has recently helped to advance the possibility for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations between Miami-based PositivEnergy and STOF Inc., Seminole Gaming and Hard Rock International. He said Florida Seminole Commerce has already embarked on uninterrupted power supply (UPS) projects and other power backup solutions to service the tribe's interests.

Osceola graduated in 2021 with a degree in entrepreneurship from Nova Southeastern University. He said his company's high-level goal is to help bring comprehensive, sustainable energy solutions to any tribal nation that's interested.

"I've been helping out since I was a little kid when our family had this coffee shop off Stirling and 441. I helped bring people in with a sign that said 'The World's Best Coffee,'" Osceola said.

The family is still involved in the coffee business as a supplier. Florida Seminole Coffee distributes to Hard Rock Cafes across

the U.S.

"It's been hard work and John's been there as a natural progression," Gem Osceola said. "He'll ultimately take over all the companies."

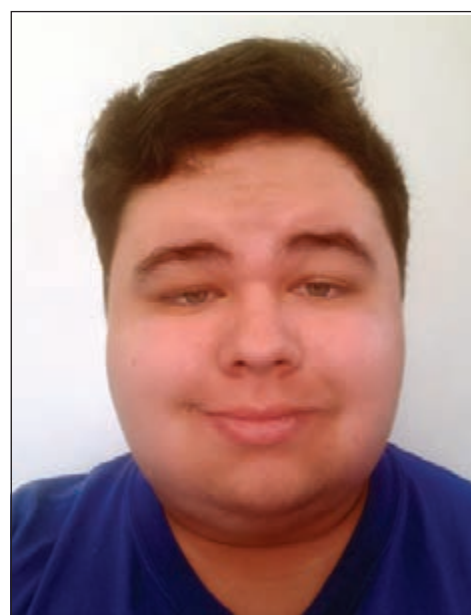
In addition to Florida Seminole Commerce and Florida Seminole Coffee, other companies include Florida Seminole Chickee and Papparazzi Photography & Entertainment, which recently won a contract with the Jimmy Johnson Championship Fishing Tournament that took place the first week of March in South Florida.

"We're pretty busy throughout the week, that's kind of what we enjoy doing," John Osceola said. "At the end of the day we want to be exhausted — that's how you know you've done all you can in a day."

Other family members are involved in the businesses too, including wife and mother Linda Jones-Osceola. The family has hired other employees to help — a bookkeeper, office manager, senior accountant and advisers.

"We have a litter of other people around that help us grow and make decisions," Gem Osceola said.

Emre Erkul, a former senior VP of corporate marketing for Seminole Gaming and Hard Rock International, is an adviser to Florida Seminole Commerce. Erkul and the Osceolas have formed a relationship with Ed Wise, PositivEnergy's founder and CEO. Wise believes, as the Osceolas do, that the Seminole Tribe could eventually become



John Osceola, left, and his father, Gem.

Courtesy photos

its own utility company through green technologies while also generating revenue.

PositivEnergy has worked with other tribes on sustainable energy projects.

"We not only believe in their projects, but their philosophy — the primary focus is not to make money — but to create a better world for generations to come," John Osceola said. "We really love doing this and we love enriching the community with these opportunities."

It's one of many connections he said he's been able to develop from years of networking and collaboration within the Hard Rock environment.

"I use a proactive approach when meeting people — I do one-on-ones with everyone we meet," Osceola said. "I've

maintained respectful relationships — and people always tend to remember us because we leave good impressions on them."

The father-son team said they are just one example of other entrepreneurial-minded families within the tribe.

"There's a lot of successful families out there in their field, the cattle and other ventures like that — and have been doing it longer and in many cases more successfully," Gem Osceola said. "We stay in our lane, don't look around too much, but run our own race and look at things that haven't been done. We believe the business profile we have is an ongoing relationship we like to keep, for the betterment of the tribe and communities around us."

Seminole role in plume trade, 'Everglades' film focus of event

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — Film buff, Native Reels Cinema Festival creator and cultural ambassador for the Seminole Tribe, Everett Osceola, spoke at an event to mark National Audubon Day at Savor Cinema in Fort Lauderdale on April 26.

Osceola spoke about the role the Seminoles played in the plume trade of the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Florida, as well as their contribution to the 1958 film "Wind Across the Everglades."

The event was a collaboration between Osceola, the Historic Stranahan House Museum, the South Florida Audubon Society and Savor Cinema. The Hollywood Culture department provided fry bread at a reception before the screening.

The so-called "plume wars" reference a time in the U.S. when it was a fashion craze for women to wear unique and colorful bird feathers in their decorated hats. Use of the large feathers, or plumes, became so popular that hunters made big money in the trade. However, much of Florida's wading bird population was being decimated in the process.

Osceola said hunters would hire Seminoles to be trackers to help them locate bird-nesting areas.

"We would help these hunters, but after awhile it became troublesome because they were taking more than they should," Osceola said. "Some of these birds we use for our ceremonies and we use some for our regalia. But they were becoming very scarce."

The increased bird slaughter caught the attention of Ivy Stranahan — who ran a trading post along Fort Lauderdale's New River with her husband Frank. Both were involved in the trade at first, but she would eventually direct her husband to stop buying the feathers and would also help persuade the Seminoles to no longer serve as trackers.

Ivy Stranahan was a conservationist and is known to have held a special relationship with the Seminoles as a schoolteacher and



Sergio Tirado

Everett Osceola speaks prior to a film screening of "Wind Across the Everglades" at Savor Cinema in Fort Lauderdale on April 26.

supporter.

Increased public outcry of the trade motivated state and federal legislators to pass laws against the practice, which then needed to be enforced. Enforcement fell to game wardens — many of which were hired by an emerging Audubon Society — to patrol areas from Key West through the Everglades.

One of those game wardens was Guy Bradley. "Wind Across the Everglades" is loosely based on his life. Poachers murdered him in 1905 at the age of 35 and his death would further outrage the public and result in additional legislation banning the practice. By 1920 the trend had all but ended and eventually many of the bird populations made a comeback.

Seminole Cory Osceola, who was a leader in the tribe, and his daughter, Mary Moore, both now deceased, are featured in the film along with lead actor Christopher

Plummer who plays Bradley.

"I believe one of [Osceola's] family [members] were one of the hunters during that time — was an actual part of the plume wars," Osceola said. "The director got him and his daughter, Mary Moore, to participate in the film."

Osceola said that when Plummer attended a screening of the film at Savor Cinema about a decade ago, Moore presented him with a Seminole patchwork vest. Osceola, in turn, honored Mary Moore for her role in the film at a previous Native Reels Cinema Festival event with a lifetime achievement award — renaming it the "Mary Moore Lifetime Achievement Award."

Prior to the April 26 screening, Osceola made a point to recognize Moore and members of her family, who live in the Naples community, although they were unable to attend in person.

'Coffee, tea and NLC' podcast available

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — The Native Learning Center in Hollywood hosts a monthly segment on the Hoporenkv Podcast with Executive Director Georgette Palmer Smith, Training and Development Manager

Krystal Cedeno and Training and Development Specialist Coralys Roman Anthony. In the "Coffee, Tea and the NLC" podcast these three Indigenous women discuss tribal housing and community development-related news, and current and relevant events in Indian

Country. Episodes will be released at the end of each month.

The April podcast focused on Financial Literacy Month and stress awareness.

For more information and to listen to the podcast go to nativelearningcenter.com.

Seminole Coconut Creek offers Mother's Day specials

FROM PRESS RELEASE

COCONUT CREEK — Seminole Casino Coconut Creek will offer specially curated menus at two of its restaurants Mother's Day (May 8).

NY Y Steak

The property's fine dining restaurant will offer a signature brunch with live entertainment from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for \$85 per person. Bottomless signature cocktails and all-you-can-eat small plates will be

featured. For reservations, call (954) 935-6699.

1st Street Deli

Mother's Day specials will include a three-course elevated menu. Cost is \$38.

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Tribe celebrates Earth Day in Big Cypress, Hollywood

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum held two comprehensive events to commemorate Earth Day; April 22 in Big Cypress and April 23 at Okalee Village in Hollywood.

Earth Day marked the start of the environmental movement when it began in 1970. The Seminole celebrations focused on the environment as well as the preservation of tribal culture.

"We need to celebrate this day," said Gordon "Ollie" Wareham, director of the museum, as he opened the Big Cypress event. "This is who we are, we are connected to the earth."

The events featured Seminole culture, traditions, food, activities, a recycled art contest, music, vendors and a poetry reading.

Ahfachkee School students brought examples from the school's culture garden to Earth Day to showcase sustainable agriculture, the importance of gardening and the resurgence of agriculture with the

rise of inflation. The display included plants, repurposed items used as planters and plenty of information.

Students showed a variety of ways to expand a garden which include planting seeds from fruit grown in the garden, such as lemons, mulberries or tomatoes; using a cutting from the plant to grow new roots in water, such as aloe, ginger or wild onion; burying part of the vegetable directly in the ground where it will grow a new plant, such as sugar cane and potatoes.

"Stick it in the ground and in three months, you'll have potatoes," Ahfachkee senior Carlise Bermudez told a visitor.

As the planet's climate changes, climate resiliency is an important topic. Jill Horwitz, Heritage and Environment Resources Office climate resiliency officer, took the opportunity to survey tribal members about climate resiliency strategies.

Tribal members were provided a list of strategies and asked to rate them in importance. The strategies were renewable energy and reliable power, protect habitat and traditional plants, food sovereignty and



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee School students Carlise Bermudez and Athena Osceola, far right, explain to visitors how to use a stalk of sugar cane to grow a new plant at the school's culture garden display.



Beverly Bidney

Aimee Osceola Jones votes for her favorite pieces of student-created art at the recycled art contest during Earth Day events April 22 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Beverly Bidney

Austin Billie and Almira Billie examine the display of live bees during the Earth Day event in Big Cypress.

sustainable building standards.

"We want to get feedback from tribal members," Horwitz said. "This is an action oriented survey that will help us with strategic planning. It's an opportunity for community involvement, hearing people and giving tribal members a voice."

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office set up an activity making traditional pinch pots out of clay, which attracted young visitors.

"I came to enjoy Earth Day and learn a little more about Indigenous culture," said Londyn Slater, 10, of Pembroke Pines. "You don't get to do this every day."

The Big Cypress Council office gave out lemon plants and key lime plants for tribal members who wanted some citrus in their yards.

Alonso Apiaries, beekeepers from Clewiston and Miami, brought a display of live bees along with jars of honey. Bees are

an important part of agricultural production and ecosystem function since they are avid pollinators.

Ahfachkee and Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School students created art out of recycled materials such as cardboard, magazines, paper, fabrics, plastic bottles and other rubbish. Creativity ran the gamut from dioramas to sculptures. The pieces were displayed at the museum and attendees were encouraged to vote for their favorites.



Beverly Bidney

From left, HERO climate resiliency officer Jill Horwitz, Taylor Holata and Cody Motlow talk to Joni Josh about what issues she believes are most important for climate resiliency.

Hollywood seniors enjoy Easter lunch

STAFF REPORT

Food, games and raffles were on the menu for the Hollywood seniors Easter luncheon April 11 at the Seminole Estates clubhouse.

After enjoying lunch, seniors played bingo as Nathalie Ramirez, from Elder Services, called out numbers. Raffle prizes included patchwork clothing and lanyards, jewelry and a Seminole doll made by Stacey Sanchez.

Attendees also had their photos taken by photographer Robert Kippenberger in front of an Easter display.

The lunch was hosted by Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall.



Kevin Johnson

Marcellus Osceola, left, and Vince Billie show the raffle prizes they won during the Hollywood seniors Easter lunch April 11.



Kevin Johnson

Joe Osceola Jr., left, and William Osceola sit on a bench that was part of a photo display area for the Easter lunch.



Kevin Johnson

Tribalwide Elder Services director Joe Kippenberger holds up a Seminole doll that was a raffle prize at the Hollywood seniors Easter lunch. In the background are, from left, Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall, Elder Services aide Nathalie Ramirez and Elder Services site manager Elizabeth Bridon.

THUNDER

From page 1A

In 2018, after a few years of development and more readings, Taylor-Corbett received funding to do a reading at the Amas Musical Theater in New York. The show was scheduled to be staged at the Lyric Theater in Oklahoma City in 2020, but the Covid-19 pandemic shut everything down. No one knew it would take another two and a half years to finally perform the show in front of an audience.

"It's not a typical cast," Battiest said. "It's a diverse cast of Indigenous people from all across America. The show is the little engine that could; it just keeps on going."

The show was finally set to perform on an outdoor stage March 23 at the museum, but a snowstorm forced it indoors. The rest of the run was performed outdoors in crisp weather; some guests stayed warm under blankets.

"It felt like a campfire vibe," Battiest said. "Because of the weather, the show was trimmed from two acts to a 90-minute one-act piece. It worked really well and got the message across perfectly. The payoff was the laughter and tears at the end."

The play is about Darrell Waters, a successful young lawyer who, as a child, left his Blackfeet Nation home in Montana with his white mother. He returns years later to try to broker a deal with an oil company that could benefit the tribe financially, but the drilling location is at the site of an existing immersion language school. While he was there, Waters realizes the business deal could destroy the school and Blackfeet culture.

"A lot of the show is about identity," said Taylor-Corbett, who has Blackfeet, Scandinavian and Black ancestry. "Darrell is an outsider who doesn't understand why language is important."

The story of a young boy taken away from his tribe and returns years later doesn't

exactly mimic Taylor-Corbett's story, but there are similarities. Taylor-Corbett grew up in Long Island, New York, with his mother and said his childhood was confusing because of his mixed heritage. His mother took him back to the Blackfeet Nation in Browning, Montana, for the first time when he was 15.

Taylor-Corbett found a mentor in Darrell Robes Kipp, founder of the Piegen Institute, an immersion school on the Blackfeet Reservation. Kipp taught Taylor-Corbett about the importance of preserving language.

"I'm not a member of the Blackfeet Nation, but it is the biggest part of my identity; it's how I walk in the world," Taylor-Corbett said. "I always wanted to create a show based on his [Kipp's] work and show it in a community who has struggled with the effects of colonialization, boarding schools and other challenges, including youth who don't understand why language is so important. It's how they can become whole people in the world."

After a performance which included some Blackfeet members in the audience, Taylor-Corbett said they ran up to the stage to hug him after the show.

"That fulfilled everything for me," he said. "Bringing it to Montana would be full circle. I would like to bring it to the youth; we have roles that represent them and could have a positive influence. That's why I want to bring it around the country to other Native communities."

Battiest plays a teenager in the show; in real life, he wants to encourage them to be interested in musical theater.

"They can relate to it. It's a story about family, community and how Native people live today," Battiest said. "The show is a mixture of traditional musical theater and powwow dancing. It was uplifting to bring Native culture to the musical theater world. We made sure we shone a light on it in the right way."

That attention to detail required Battiest to learn to do the chicken dance in traditional regalia. He already knew how to sing and

act, but dancing was his biggest challenge.

"I don't consider myself to be a dancer, but I knew getting to this level you have to be able to act, sing and dance," Battiest said. "In a way the pandemic was a blessing; it gave me a chance to work on my stamina. During the show I was all over the stage, dancing and changing costumes. It was the highest level professional theater I've ever been part of. I can sing, but I had to learn to blend my voice with 15 others. It was my first time working with a musical director and performing with seasoned actors. It was the best education I could have."

Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie attended the show with her daughter Mahala Billie.

"The story is what a lot of people go through," Councilwoman Billie said. "It portrays how some of us don't know our culture because we lived off the reservation. Spencer did a good job. I've watched him grow up and this was a different way to see him. It was good to see him do what he loves."

Talking to audience members after the show, Battiest heard plenty of personal stories about how other tribes are also trying to keep their languages.

"The show has heart, family, community and conflict, which is how we live today. It was truly an honor to be part of something so revolutionary and new. We need to tell our own stories, like television is doing now with 'Reservation Dogs' and 'Rutherford Falls,'" Battiest said.

Taylor-Corbett is working on the next step for "Distant Thunder." He is talking to theaters around the country and hopes to bring the show to Off Broadway in New York City.

"Hopefully, we will create a pathway in the next few months for the next place we are going to be," he said. "This musical has the potential to bring people together from so many areas. As much as it's really entertaining, it has a power that goes beyond; it's more than just a show. That's why we have to keep working toward that next production."



Elgin Jumper talks about his artistic expression in the documentary.

It's a wrap: film captures Elgin Jumper's varied talents

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The documentary film is complete, but the journey continues. The Seminole Tribe's Elgin Jumper presented the final cut of a film that highlights his life and creative endeavors April 8 in the theater at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation. An early version of — "Elgin Jumper's Colorful Journey" — had been screened at the museum in October 2021.

Jumper said the final cut added about 10 minutes to the documentary, which makes it about 30 minutes long. He also features more of his poetry in the final version.

"We've been working on this documentary for nearly a year now," Jumper said at the April 8 screening. "It's been a wonderful, great experience. I'm so glad that we did it with collaboration."

Jumper worked alongside videographer and editor Matt Fernandez and others at Seminole Media Productions on the project. "We would schedule and plan and then we would film and edit," he said of Fernandez. "He would listen to my ideas and make them happen."

Jumper said the documentary speaks for itself, in that it presents a picture of Seminole life that some think is only, or mostly, about gaming.

"There are Seminole artists out there working on the art scene," Jumper said. "I hope more Seminole artists are inspired by this and share their stories."

Gordon "Ollie" Wareham, the director of the museum, is one of the tribal members featured in the documentary. He and Jumper became good friends years ago when the two started performing at an open mic night at the museum. Wareham would tell stories and play the flute and Jumper would read his poetry. Jumper said it's how he began to overcome a fear of speaking in front of people.

"When I first wanted to get in front of people and share my poetry I'd get nervous," Jumper said. "The only thing I saw was the paper; I didn't see the people out there and I was trembling a lot. But seeing the

response from people that was all positive — [Wareham] kept saying 'keep it up, keep it up, keep doing what you're doing.'"

Jumper said those who inspire him to write include N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa), Sherman Alexie (Spokane-Coeur d'Alene), Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians), Joy Harjo (Muscogean Nation) and the Seminole Tribe's late Betty Mae Jumper.

The documentary also highlights Jumper's affinity to paint. He said he picked up a pencil and started drawing at an early age and that it wasn't long before it became part of his identity — a craft that would help him navigate challenges throughout his life. He's now regarded as one of the most prolific Seminole artists, using a variety of mediums and styles.

"Elgin's art represents the Seminole's ability to work within the modern world and also have relevance with our past and in our own truths and knowledge," tribal member and artist Durante Blais-Billie, said in the documentary. "Seminole art is really important. It's claiming that voice for us in contemporary society. It's more than just an expression of our culture; it's a negotiation of our identity."

Jumper's artistic arsenal also includes music and performance art.

"Elgin will get an idea and give me a call, so we sit down and work on it," Wareham said in the documentary. "Through rehearsals, ideas start to develop. The creative process with Elgin is mind-blowing; you think you are going in one direction and he'll come back and say 'let's do this and let's experiment with this.' He's always pushing the boundaries."

A line Jumper reads in the documentary from one of his poems summarizes his work ethic, too. "Moving forward, forward, ever forward," he reads.

Jumper said his next big project is already in work — "Spread Your Wings and Fly" — a short film about his life that, unlike the documentary, is to be cast with actors playing different roles.

Those interested in seeing "Elgin Jumper's Colorful Journey" or his other work can contact him via email at JMWCconstable@gmail.com.



The cast of "Distant Thunder" onstage during a performance in March at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City. Spencer Battiest is in the center, front row.



Spencer Battiest performs in the all-Indigenous play "Distant Thunder" in Oklahoma City.



Dressed in chicken dance regalia, Spencer Battiest, right, performs in "Distant Thunder."



The "Distant Thunder" cast gathers for a photo.



Good friends Gordon "Ollie" Wareham, left, and Elgin Jumper perform at an event outside of the History Fort Lauderdale museum.

Fellowship grant applications opened

FROM PRESS RELEASE

LONGMONT, Colo. — First Nations Development Institute and The Henry Luce Foundation announced April 15 the opening of the grant application process for the 2023 Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship. The fellowship is a two-year, self-directed enrichment program designed to support the growth, development, knowledge and networks of Indigenous knowledge holders and knowledge makers.

First Nations will award 10 fellowships of \$75,000 each to outstanding Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers engaged in meaningful work that benefits Indigenous people and communities in either reservation and/or urban settings.

All applications must be completed and submitted by 5 p.m. Mountain Time on May 26.

To be eligible, applicants must be tribally-affiliated with a Native American, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian community. In addition:

- Applicants must be engaged in the creation, dissemination and/or perpetuation of knowledge in their field.
- Applicants should have experience or expertise within the knowledge field/area they are pursuing.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years old.
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Applicants must be able to clearly demonstrate how their work can impact and benefit an Indigenous community or communities in the U.S. and U.S. territories.

Applicants may self-apply or nominate another individual. For more information go to firstnations.org.



Peter Gallagher

Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry acknowledges the audience after he was saluted by John Anderson during Anderson's concert March 7 at the Florida Strawberry Festival in Plant City.

Bobby Henry honored at John Anderson concert

STAFF REPORT

Singer-songwriter John Anderson, a longtime friend of the Seminole Tribe, paid homage to Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry at the Florida Strawberry Festival on March 7 in Plant City.

Before playing his hit single "Seminole Wind," Anderson paused to recognize Henry, who was in the audience. "I'd like to say a very special hello to Mr. Bobby Henry, the chief medicine man from the Seminole Tribe of Florida, along with all his guests," said Anderson, who

also thanked Henry for his work on the song's video, which has millions of views on YouTube. "[Henry] was one of the ones responsible for it. If it weren't for him, we could never have done that video like we did. God bless you, brother. We love you and all the respect to you."

The crowd applauded Henry. "Seminole Wind," released in 1992, reached No. 2 in the United States and No. 1 in Canada. It is often played at large events for the Seminole Tribe. Anderson received a standing ovation from the festival audience at the end of the

song. Henry proved to be popular among audience members, who shook his hand and took photos with him after the concert.



Peter Gallagher

John Anderson with Bobby Henry at the Florida Strawberry Festival.



Peter Gallagher

John Anderson poses with Seminoles, including Bobby Henry, at the Florida Strawberry Festival.

Hard Rock Hotel comes to New York

STAFF REPORT

The highly anticipated Hard Rock Hotel New York opened for business April 25. The 446-room hotel is located in the heart of Midtown Manhattan in close proximity to distinct landmarks such as Radio City Music Hall, Rockefeller Center and the city's Theater District.

"New York City is one of the greatest cities in the world and we are honored to open our doors to locals and travelers looking for a best in class hotel, dining, and entertainment experience," Jim Allen, chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming, said in a statement. "Hard Rock has had a presence for decades in the city,

but this location will deliver an entirely new experience from the brand that's been synonymous with music and entertainment for over 50 years." Hard Rock operates its signature cafes in both Times Square and at Yankee Stadium. It was in Times Square where tribal members joined Allen in 2007 to announce that the Seminole Tribe had purchased Hard Rock for \$965 million. The hotel features live music options within a two-floor entertainment space and a variety of restaurants, including the RT60 rooftop bar and lounge on the 34th floor. The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of Hard Rock International. For more information and to make reservations, go to hardrockhotels.com.



Hard Rock

The Hard Rock Hotel New York features the RT60 rooftop bar and lounge on the 34th floor.

Hard Rock sets grand opening date for temporary Virginia casino

STAFF REPORT

A temporary full-service casino in Bristol, Virginia, will hold its grand opening July 8. The 30,000-square-foot 'Bristol Casino - Future Home of Hard Rock' will feature 900 slots, 20 gaming tables and a sportsbook.

"We are excited to open the casino, and welcome guests," Jon Lucas, Chief Operating Officer of Hard Rock International, said in a statement. "As Virginia's first casino, 'Bristol Casino - Future Home of Hard Rock' will be a wonderful addition to the Hard Rock global portfolio of dining, hotel and entertainment properties."

A store on the property will offer Hard Rock merchandise. Entertainment and food options will include a new restaurant, a grab-and-go outlet and a bar and lounge. According to Hard Rock, the temporary casino will create 600 new jobs. The property was previously a regional

shopping mall. The permanent casino and hotel will be built on the property. In an announcement in 2020, officials with the project said it will result in more than 2,000 direct jobs and four million visitors annually. The casino is scheduled to feature more than 2,100 slots and 100 table games. A 3,200-seat Hard Rock Live and an outdoor area with capacity for up to 20,000 are also part of the project. Bristol, Virginia, and its bordering sister city Bristol, Tennessee, are regarded as the birthplace of country music. Hard Rock Bristol's memorabilia will be country music-orientated with items from legends such as Garth Brooks, Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn and Hank Williams. The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of Hard Rock International.



Hard Rock

A model of the future Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Bristol in Virginia.

GAO seeks tribal representation for advisory council

STAFF REPORT

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) is forming its first-ever tribal advisory council to provide insights and recommendations on issues affecting tribal communities. The organization is seeking nominations to build membership in the new group.

According to an April 7 news release, the council will help inform the nonpartisan watchdog agency's priorities in examining federal programs that serve tribal communities.

"The persistent challenges facing tribal communities are a national concern," Gene L. Dodaro, comptroller general of the United States and head of the GAO, said in a statement.

Dodaro said while the GAO does not generally audit tribal nations' activities, it reviews several federal agencies and programs that serve tribes, their citizens and descendants.

"That work touches on such critical areas as health care, education, economic development, environmental protection, justice and infrastructure," he said.

The release said the council would include up to 15 members and could include elected or appointed officials from federally recognized tribes, from a state-recognized tribe and/or Native Hawaiian organization, or technical advisers who are knowledgeable about tribal and Indigenous issues. Council appointees are invited to serve terms of two or three years.

Nominations for terms beginning in August are now being accepted. Nominations should be submitted to TAC@gao.gov by May 20. More is at gao.gov.

◆ GROUNDBREAKING
From page 1A

Motlow, with her son Gary McInturff at her side, made remarks in Elaponce and English.

"We lived in a camp that had a water pump in the center," Motlow said. "We'd go to pump water and that was our meeting place."

Aguilar's daughter Michelle Ford told the standing-room-only crowd at the groundbreaking that she remembers when her mother started working as a liaison for the Board and Council when she was in middle school.

"I'm proud to be here to represent my mother Elaine," Ford said. "This would have been a dream come true for her. Her wish list for the community was health care, senior care, day care and a police department. It's been 16 years since the current clinic opened. There used to be a doctor here once a month; now five days a week is the reality. I know that my mom and the others who passed on are smiling so proudly today."

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. recognized the collaboration between Council and the Board to get this, and other projects, done for the Immokalee community.

"This had to happen because the community deserved something better," Chairman Osceola said. "We don't want to leave anyone behind; all tribal members are equal, we are all family. It's because of our ancestors that we are able to do this. I hope the ones who come

after us will keep building for our community and our families continue to grow."

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola has seen three clinics go up during his years serving on Council. He said he is glad the effort has been made to replace the older buildings on the reservations.

"Now that we have these services in our own backyards, we don't have to go to outside facilities," said Brighton Councilman Larry Howard. "Immokalee, the fruits of the labor of your community are here today. Hollywood [Reservation] may not be big, but we packed a lot of stuff in there. We hope we'll do the same here and take advantage of every little piece of property for our people so we can build more and more."

Brighton Board Rep. Helene Buster, a former nurse, was happy to see a health center being built.

"We have a Creator who has blessed us and given us the knowledge we need to ask the right questions and make the right decisions," Rep. Buster said. "This community has always been 'little' Immokalee, but now we have this and a gas station going up. We've been looking forward to this for a long time."

President Mitchell Cypress acknowledged former Chairman James Billie, who was in attendance, for being instrumental in getting the project done.

"It takes teamwork to get things done," President Cypress said. "Whatever we accomplish as a tribe, we have to be a team with leaders

and departments working together. I'm happy to be here today and I hope I won't be the first patient."

Former Chairman Billie, who is Councilwoman Billie's father, was given a microphone to speak to the audience. He recalled the first trip he took on his motorcycle in his youth, which was to Immokalee.

"There were chickees everywhere on that small piece of land," Billie said. "After we saw some money from bingo, we started buying land in Immokalee and a few years later, wanted to put it into trust."

Billie selected Motlow and Frank as liaisons between the tribe and Bill Ott, who was Eastern area director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the time.

"I didn't realize these two ladies would be the two most influential people in putting the land into trust," Billie said.

During a trip to Washington, D.C., to see Ott, Billie asked Motlow and Frank to meet with Ott.

"The next time he came down here, this land was in trust," Billie said. "I don't know what those ladies did, but they must have cornered Ott into putting it in trust."

The medical and public safety building is scheduled to open in late 2023. Until then, those services will continue to be available in the existing trailers.

"I can't wait to see you all at the ribbon cutting in about 18 months," said Tribal Community Development executive director Derek Koger.



Gary McInturff and his mother Nancy Motlow applaud with other attendees at the groundbreaking ceremony April 26 in Immokalee. Beverly Bidney



From left, Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, Immokalee Council liaison Ray Garza, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Immokalee Board liaison Ralph Sanchez and Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola at the Immokalee construction site after the official groundbreaking. Beverly Bidney



From left, former Chairman James Billie, President Mitchell Cypress, former Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress and Immokalee "founding mother" Nancy Motlow enjoy the groundbreaking ceremony. Beverly Bidney



From left, Big Cypress Board Rep. Nadine Bowers, Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie, Immokalee Board liaison Ralph Sanchez, Immokalee resident Nancy Motlow and Brighton Board Rep. Helene Buster gather after the groundbreaking. Beverly Bidney



A rendering of the medical and public safety building to be built in Immokalee. Rendering courtesy TCD



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Power and protection: the oral history program at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

BY ALEXANDER BANKS
Oral History Coordinator
and
TARA BACKHOUSE
Collections Manager

BIG CYPRESS — The Oral History Association (OHA) will be hosting a virtual conference in June about the role of race and power in oral history theory and practice later this year. At the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, staff take great care to empower

oral history interviewees. The oral history program protects and preserves every community member interview with as many or as few restrictions as that tribal member asks for. The oral history collection exists primarily to be referenced and accessed by community members. The interviews are not available online for any interested party to access. Each request for access is handled by program staff with the utmost care and respect. The oral history program goes to great lengths to protect the agency, power, and voices of tribal interviewees. For these reasons, this upcoming OHA conference

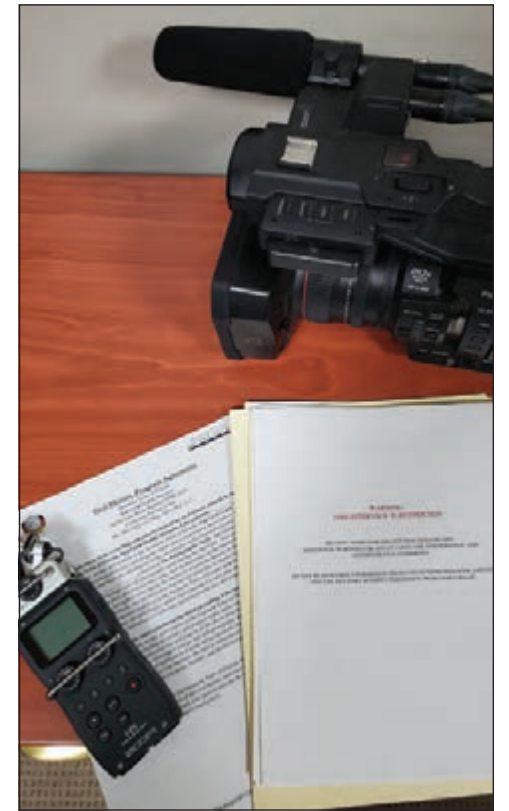
is a rich opportunity for our museum to contribute to the discourse around oral history methodology.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki staff have collectively transcribed more than 100 oral histories, most of which were transcribed in the last two years. Just as with the physical and digital recordings, these transcripts are protected and only distributed or shown to anyone with the permission of the interviewee. Permissions are granted with a consent form (the oral history agreement). It states that

each interviewee has the right to impose any kind of restriction on their interview at any time. If no forms are signed, the recordings and transcripts are respectfully considered restricted to all.

The museum's conference presentation will be about the merits of verbatim (or exact) transcription. While program staff strive to produce the most accurate transcripts possible, even the most dedicated attention to detail will still leave room for mistakes and omissions. Other institutions might dismiss these omissions as just a small utterance, pause, false start, slang term, crutch word, etc... When enough of those nuances are omitted, though, at what point does the transcriber begin to exert too much editing power to retroactively alter what was said in the interview? The power of an oral history should remain with the interviewee, and at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki our verbatim transcription method aims to do just that.

The museum wants to be as transparent as possible about our methods. If anyone were to notice a small difference between the video/audio and the transcript, we would always be a willing to review and rewrite the transcript in question. This revision and review process is one in which the museum happily invites past and future interviewees to participate. The presentation at the upcoming conference will demonstrate how verbatim transcription can be a big step in moving towards oral history methodologies that empower under- and misrepresented communities. However, verbatim transcription is just one step in the right direction, and at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki we look forward to collaborating with interviewees to find new and thoughtful approaches to continue improving our oral history methodology. If you're interested in the museum's oral history archive and how we protect it, or if you want to hear



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Oral history program staff use digital recording equipment to capture both audio and video interviews. Any restrictions noted on oral history agreements are honored and noted on a cover page of the associated transcript.

the interviews we have available for the community, contact us at (863) 902-1113 or museum@semtribe.com.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Even a large family group can record an oral history or family gathering for future generations through the Oral History Program, as the Johns family did in Brighton in 2018.

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma visitors delve into STOF culture, history

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Seven members of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma spent a whirlwind two days visiting Seminole Tribe of Florida tribal members and venues in early April. The group visited the Brighton, Hollywood and Big Cypress reservations.

The visit was arranged by Naples Council liaison Brian Zepeda and Brighton Councilman Larry Howard.

Seminole Nation Principal Chief Lewis J. Johnson said the trip was special to him since he lived in Brighton for a few years about 20 years ago. He has visited numerous times since then.

"My experience is always good when I come to the Seminole Tribe," Chief Johnson said. "The hospitality and courtesy shown to us is always overwhelming. It's an honor to be here."

The trip's first day featured an airboat ride in the Everglades, a trip to the History Fort Lauderdale museum, a tour of the Hard Rock memorabilia vault and dinner at the Council Oak restaurant at Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood.

The second day included a trip to the Brighton Reservation where the group toured Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School and the Florida Seminole Veterans Building.

Chief Johnson reflected on seeing the PECS' immersion program. His tribal language is Creek, which is very similar to the Seminole Creek spoken on the Brighton Reservation.

"It was a wonderful experience," Chief Johnson said. "It shows what can be done when the effort is put in. We spoke and sang with the kids. They are really learning. I see great benefits to learning the language and communicating in it all day long. We were all very impressed with the program."

After Brighton, the group's next stop was the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big



Beverly Bidney

Naples council liaison Brian Zepeda shares information with members of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma during a tour of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on April 5.



Jake Tiger, from the Seminole Nation, examines a copy of an 1838 painting of Chief Osceola in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum vault.

Cypress.

A few of Zepeda's bandolier bags are on display at the Seminole Nation's museum in Oklahoma, so the Oklahoma Seminoles were interested in seeing other bags at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki.

"Beads were a sign of wealth for the ladies, like bandolier bags were for the men," Zepeda told the group.

At an exhibit of Miccosukee leader Buffalo Tiger's artifacts, Zepeda told the story of what it took for the Miccosukee Tribe to be recognized by the federal government. When the government refused to recognize them as a tribe, Tiger approached Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, who said he would recognize them instead. The U.S. government wasn't pleased, so in 1962 the Miccosukee Tribe finally received the federal recognition it sought.

"The Miccosukees made a power play and it paid off for them," Zepeda said.

After the tour, Billy Walker gave

some history of alligator wrestling and demonstrated how it's done on the lawn behind the museum. From there, the group toured the museum's vault where restored artifacts are kept.

In the vault, a bandolier bag, believed to have been owned by Seminole warrior Osceola, was on display along with other items including vintage tiny beaded moccasins, beadwork and patchwork.

The museum keeps its collection of paintings hung on movable racks in the vault when not on display. An image of Osceola, painted in 1838 by Robert John Curtis, garnered a lot of attention from the group. The original was painted while Osceola was in prison at Fort Moultrie in South Carolina. The museum has had the image since 1997. It is one of only three known copies of the original oil painting, which is located at the Charleston Museum.

Seminole Nation members Rodney

Factor and Jake Tiger were impressed with the collection of textiles and bandolier bags from the 1800s in the vault.

"The museum has a lot of the clothing and things they used for their everyday things," Factor said. "To see them displayed on mannequins brings them to life."

The two men examined a display of vintage clothing with a practiced eye.

"The bags are pretty intricate," said Tiger, who made a bandolier bag inspired by the one worn by Billy Bowlegs. "I try to do as accurate a job as they did; I don't use sewing machines in my bags or clothing."

By the end of their visit to their Florida kin, the Oklahoma Seminoles had a lot to consider.

"I learned a lot about the culture of my ancestors," said Rex Hailey, commander of the Seminole Nation color guard. "It's been very educational, it's something I can pass down to my children and grandchildren."



Marlain Weeks

Members of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma pose with John Madrigal, Brian Zepeda and Brighton Councilman Larry Howard in front of the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie, left, shares a laugh with Charlotte Tommie and Seminole Nation Chief Lewis J. Johnson.

SEMINOLE SCENES



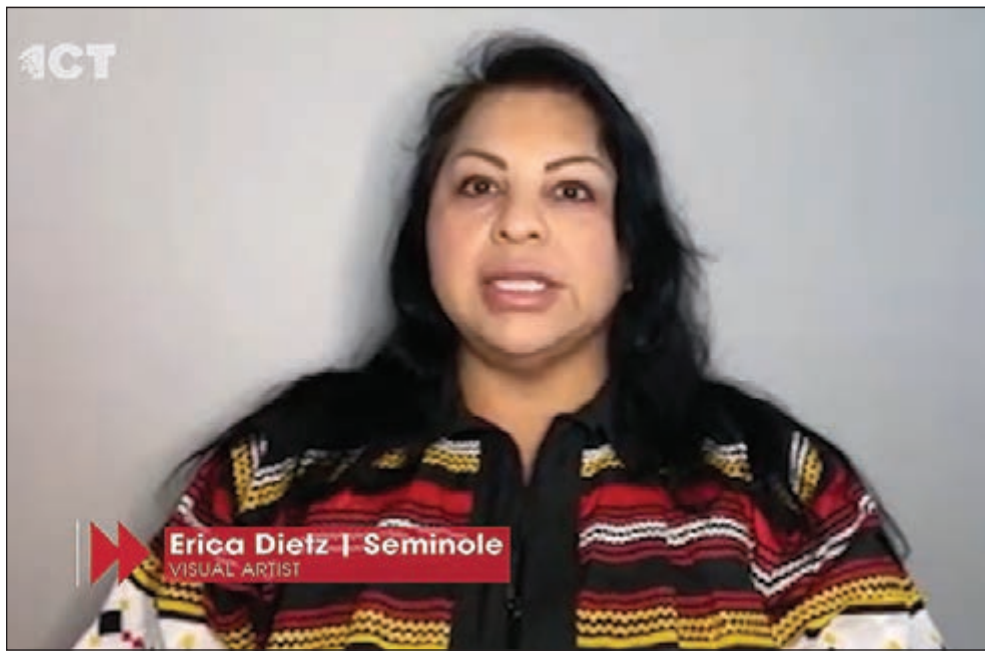
EASTER GREETING: A giant inflatable Easter egg basket greets visitors at the entrance of the Big Cypress Senior Center in April.

Kevin Johnson



DOLPHIN STARS AT HARD ROCK: Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, left, and former Dolphins great Dan Marino attend the Luau with Tua charity event April 9 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. The event benefited the Tua Foundation and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami and Broward County.

Tua Foundation



ARTIST INTERVIEW: Seminole artist Erica Dietz, from the Hollywood Reservation, was a guest on the Indian Country Today newscast with anchor Mark Trahan on April 21. Dietz discussed her work, including being selected to do the art for a mural in Florida State University's new student union.

Screenshot via ICT



NBA ON THE REZ: Former NBA player Doug Lee talks to kids April 1 during a basketball clinic at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood. Lee played for the New Jersey Nets and Sacramento Kings in the early 1990s. Since his retirement, Lee has been a businessman and coach.

Courtesy photo



COOL POOL: Finishing touches are made to a swimming pool that is part of the Hard Rock Beach Club at the Miami International Autodrome racetrack on the Hard Rock Stadium campus in Miami Gardens. The track will host the Miami Grand Prix Formula 1 race May 8. The club is set up near one of the turns on the track. Its features include pools, sand and cabanas.

Hard Rock



AND THE WINNER IS...: While Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall holds a basket, Gianni Boyce, 7, picks a ticket for the raffle portion of the Hollywood seniors Easter lunch April 11 at Seminole Estates.

Kevin Johnson



GROUND AND AIR: The Big Cypress Reservation was abuzz with firefighting activity on the ground and in the air in late March and early April as emergency personnel from the Seminole Tribe and others dealt with wildfires which caused heavy smoke conditions on some days. Tribal offices and schools were closed April 1 due to the situation.

Kevin Johnson

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MAY 6
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MAY 13 & 14
JOHN MULANEY



MAY 22
STING



MAY 25
PAUL McCARTNEY



MAY 27
JHAY CORTEZ



JUN 9
THE BLACK CROWES



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HOLLYWOOD, FL

For Purvis siblings, it's all about space and so much more

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

PALM BEACH GARDENS — When Ben Purvis Jr. was in third grade, a switch he made in topics for a project seemed innocent enough.

Instead of doing a project about World War II as he initially planned, he opted for space. That little change blossomed into a liftoff for what has become his passion with engineering, space and technology.

So much, in fact, that last year — as a middle school student — he led a presentation to a group of engineers and scientists at the International Astronautical Congress conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, more than 7,000 miles from the family home in Okeechobee. The presentation, which he and the Wolverine CubeSat Development Team at the Weiss School in Palm Beach Gardens developed, dealt with monitoring space weather in highly technical terms.

The career goal for this young Seminole,

as of now, would seem to be out of this world for most people to even consider, but not for Ben, who is in eighth grade.

“I figure the world is turning into a computer, so I might as well jump on it as soon as possible,” he said. “I want to be a computer scientist that codes algorithms that land rocket boosters.”

Before he’s guiding massive machinery safely back to land, he has his high school and college years ahead, so there’s plenty of time to delve into Python, java scripts, html and the rest of the coding world. His courses at Weiss include honors classes in pre-calculus, language arts and physics.

Ben earned a spot on the Wolverine CubeSat Development Team as a fifth grader. One of the team’s accomplishments was working on the launch of a satellite into space. Ben has been a member for four years; his sister, Cyndl, a seventh grader, has been on the team for about three and a half.

Similar to Ben, Cyndl has opted to tackle tough classes, including Algebra I,

chemistry honors and ninth grade language arts.

Space didn’t initially appeal to Cyndl, but the more she attended the banquets, conferences and programs of Ben, the more interested she became.

The Seminole siblings have attended Florida Space Day multiple times in Tallahassee. The day is aimed at educating legislators about the aerospace industry in Florida. They’ve also been part of the Missile, Space and Range Pioneers, a networking organization for those who work or are interested in missile, space, and range activities.

Cyndl’s career thoughts revolve around doing something with engineering, perhaps in the medical field.

Cyndl participated in the Dubai conference with Ben and about eight other students.

“We were really nervous practicing in the hallway. We were scared that we were going to mess up. It was our first time doing it in a foreign country,” Cyndl said. “I was scared there was going to be a super science guy that knew everything in the world about space and was going to ask a question we didn’t know the answer.”

But the presentation, which lasted about 10 minutes, went smoothly. There were no tough questions.

“The first question we were asked: How old are you? It was hilarious,” Ben said. “I guess we had a good enough performance so nobody had any questions based about what we were talking about. So that went well.”

As did the post-conference chatter.

“There were people who went up to our teacher and said how impressed they were that we were getting involved at such a young age,” Ben said.

Time permitted Ben, Cyndl and their mom Shannon, a tribal member, to learn more about Dubai and explore. They went from camel rides in dunes to a visit to the world’s tallest building and dining at Hard Rock Cafe Dubai.

Living in Okeechobee and attending school in Palm Beach Gardens takes dedication not only on the students’ behalf, but also their parents. Shannon said that she and Ben Sr. have sought the best fit for their children to further expand their educational experience, but it comes at a price. The family is together on weekends during the school year, but during the week Shannon and the kids stay at a condo in Jupiter while Ben Sr. remains in Okeechobee for work. Shannon said Ben Sr. sacrifices a lot in order for the kids and Shannon to be in a good spot during the educational journey. That arrangement looks like it could continue for years as Ben and Cyndl reach high school.

Ben has been accepted to FAU High School at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. According to a ranking by Niche last year, FAU High School is the second best public high school in Florida.



Courtesy photo

Ben Purvis Jr., far left, and his sister Cyndl, far right, attend an international space-related conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in fall 2021.



Courtesy photo

Cyndl and Ben Purvis Jr. take their first camel rides in Dubai.



Courtesy photo

From left, Cyndl, Shannon and Ben Purvis Jr. are met by a greeter at the airport in Dubai.



Courtesy photo

A visit to Hard Rock Cafe Dubai has the Purvis siblings feeling right at home.



Courtesy photo

The Purvis kids visit the world's tallest building in Dubai.

◆ RESOLUTION From page 1B

Councilwoman Billie also addressed the students. “I’m proud of you all. Keep speaking up because you are our future leaders. I encourage you all to use your voice.”

The next goal for the students is a trip to Tallahassee to present the resolution to the governor. A date has not been set, but they are hoping for early June.

The resolution, “Designation

of Indigenous Peoples Month and Establishment of a Native American Arts and Writing Contest,” reads in part:

WHEREAS, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School (Our Way School) aspires to protect and promote the rights and way of life of Indigenous People, while respecting the land resources, hunted and fished for the survival and sustainability of their people; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous traditional knowledge is unrecognized and left out of the federal decision-making process,

and Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School (Our Way School) recognizes the fact that Indigenous People possess the capacity to create our arts and maintain language and customs while facing enormous adversities and oppression, with integrity; and

WHEREAS, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School acknowledges the Indigenous People’s courage to evolve during times of uncertainty and contribute to society in many areas such as technology, arts, and science to solidify their cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School desires to increase the

recognition of Indigenous People as well as the knowledge and acceptance of Indigenous People statewide; and

WHEREAS, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School urges the Tribal Council of the Seminole Tribe of Florida to declare November as Indigenous People’s Month and to establish a Native American Arts and Writing Contest and recommends that the Tribal Council of the Seminole Tribe of Florida request a Proclamation from the Governor of the State of Florida to declare same; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is

otherwise fully advised.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Tribal Council of the Seminole Tribe of Florida hereby proclaims the month of November as Indigenous People’s Month and hereby establishes a Native American Arts and Writing Contest and will formally request that the Governor of the State of Florida proclaim same.

With a unanimous vote, the Council adopted the resolution.

Fond memories for Seminoles who called Indian Camp home

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Immokalee's Indian Camp had no electricity or running water, but the children who lived there in the 1960s remember it as a happy place.

The 160-acre wooded site holds an untold number of memories for the Seminoles who called that land home decades ago. With the purchase of the land by the Seminole Tribe in 2021, home has come home.

About eight families, including Norita Yzaguirre's, had camps on the site. Yzaguirre lived at the Indian Camp from 1958 to 1966. Her family, which consisted of parents Jack and Lena Motlow and eight children, moved from Big Cypress to Immokalee. She has fond memories of playing with kids from other families. Each family had its own camp, but they all shared one well. The large site had paths through the woods to the other family camps and they visited each other frequently.

"We were kids running wild out there," said Yzaguirre, who still lives in Immokalee. "We lived in chickees, there were no modern homes. We were like a big family that lived in different areas."

Yzaguirre is still close to the other families who lived there.

"We just played in the woods. We didn't have TV," she said. "After we graduated from high school, we moved to other reservations."

Clarence Motlow, Yzaguirre's younger brother, remembers his grandfather Jack Motlow caught alligators and sold the hides.

"He let me soak the hides and go to Clewiston with him to sell them," Motlow recalled. "It took us all day to drive to Clewiston. I also interpreted for him as much as I could. He did a lot of medicine and he let me go into the woods with him. I realized when I got older that it was a historical event."

Motlow said they survived off the land, mostly.

"Life was easy and simple," he said. "We played in the woods with the other kids; it was like living in a park."

Jimmy Wayne Holdiness, who grew up in Immokalee, is Grace Motlow's son. Yzaguirre and Motlow are his aunt and uncle. He never lived at the Indian Camp, but he's been told a lot of stories about life in the camp.

"My great-grandparents, Jack and Lena Motlow, had the biggest camp," Holdiness said. "They lived the old way and always had a fire burning. At school, all the kids who lived there were forced to take showers because they smelled of smoke."

Gary McInturff, Nancy Motlow's son and Jack and Lena's grandson, was a toddler at the camp.

"I remember we were dragged through the woods on a plank behind a horse," McInturff said. "It was like a ride, it was a lot of fun. My uncle John Jimmie was the rodeo guy and got a horse."

Nancy Garza also lived there in the early 1960s with her family, the Osceolas.

"There weren't too many families, it wasn't a big community," Garza said. "It was just a place to stay because my parents, Harjo and Alice Osceola, wanted to send us to school here in Immokalee. They were originally from Big Cypress."

Garza lived with her parents, grandmother Lucy Tiger and two brothers and a sister. A typical day included going to elementary school and cooking.

"It was all we knew. When we lived in Big Cypress we lived the same way," Garza said. "I never knew what was hard or fun, it was just something you had to live day to day. We moved into a house when the tribe bought the acreage we now live on and started building homes."

Carol Cypress, of the Frank family, lived in the camp when she was about eight or nine years old. She remembers that everyone at camp spoke Elaponke.

"We lived there because Collier County was the only one that let us go to school," Cypress said. "It was free out there; we could go anywhere we wanted. We'd play in the woods, look for swamp apples and dealt with the leeches. The water came to the edge of the camp."

Charlie Tiger lived there in his grandmother Betty Clay Billie's camp when he was in second grade and was about eight



Courtesy photo

Mary Lou Alvarado, Barbara Garza, Virginia Tommie and Manuel Garza in his mother Nancy Osceola's arms in 1966. They all lived in the Indian Camp at the time.

years old. He remembers the kids were always dirty and their clothes were cleaned on washboards.

"I remember a lot of trees, chickees and wetland," Tiger said. "Behind the camp we were knee-deep in water. We'd wake up with alligators around the chickees."

On Sundays they walked to church in a pole barn near Lake Trafford, a few miles away through the woods. Tiger said his grandmother made them go every week.

Linda Beletso lived there as a child, but her parents Elizabeth and Jimmy Roberts, moved back and forth from Big Cypress to Immokalee for field work. Even though each of the eight families had their own camp on the site, Beletso remembers it as one big camp where all the kids played together.

"If we didn't go to school, the officers would come to find us," she said. "We'd run into the woods and they never followed us."

Beletso explained that they didn't go to school on days they had to babysit for younger siblings while their parents worked in the fields. Sometimes they went with their parents to the fields while they worked and waited by the car. Beletso and her three siblings would eat the food her parents planned to eat for lunch.

"We were taught not to talk to strangers, so we were scared of outsiders," Beletso said. "Sometimes someone would come into the camp drunk when our parents weren't there. We'd all scatter into the woods; that was our safe place."

The road wasn't paved and the paths were made of black dirt; Beletso remembers her hands and feet were dirty every day. There was an orange grove across from the camp and sometimes her father would get some oranges.

"The best memory of camp was those oranges," she said. "They were a sweet treat for us. We didn't eat a lot of candy."

Occasionally they would walk to the Buy Rite store and get some penny candies, but that was a rare occurrence.

"At night we would all go back to our own chickees," Beletso said. "That was one happy camp. I didn't look at us as being poor, but when I look back I guess we were. But we were happy."

Beletso said she would love to see some kind of museum on the Indian Camp site.

When the Seminole families lived at the Indian Camp site, most of the land belonged to the Collier family. Pam Brown's father

Percy Brown purchased it in the late 1970s or 1980s.

The Brown family has a long history with the tribe.

Pam Brown's great-grandfather William H. Brown had a trading post in Big Cypress, her grandfather Frank Brown was an agent for the tribe and was friends with Josie Billie. Brown said Billie preached at her grandfather's funeral.

Brown's father came to Immokalee from Big Cypress and traded with the tribe for years. He even learned to speak some Elaponke. Brown lived on the property, which has a couple of houses and out buildings, for 25 years. She has been active in the community, a supporter of the Roberts Ranch and museum and wants to keep the history alive.

The family sold the land to the tribe in late 2021.

"I'm glad the Seminoles purchased the land because it is their land as far as I'm concerned," Brown said. "I'm glad I got to share it for a little while."



Beverly Bidney

Nancy Motlow at the Indian Camp property in February 2022.



Courtesy photo

Nancy Motlow sitting in a chickee at the Indian camp property, date unknown.



Courtesy photo

Lena Billie, in back, with two of her children Clarence and Grace Motlow at the Indian camp property sometime in the 1960s.



Beverly Bidney

A clearing in the Indian camp property in February 2022.

Spring brings plenty of tribal events

Naples Ochaape Ahfachkee Tanohkeem



Bryce Osceola and her niece Miakoda Osceola enjoy the breeze coming off the lake at the Naples Ochaape Ahfachkee Tanohkeem event.



Billie Tiger checks one of the briskets she and the rest of the We Do Recover group cooked for the Naples Ochaape Ahfachkee Tanohkeem, or Happy Garden Gathering, on April 21.



Carie Osceola makes not-so-traditional shakers from cans filled with brass bbs at the Naples Ochaape Ahfachkee Tanohkeem.



We Do Recover members Kenneth Tommie, Gary McInturff and Charlie Tiger prepare hot dogs and hamburgers for the event.



Artist Jessica Osceola sells some of her artwork to a visitor from Naples. She made a lot of ceramics, painting and textiles during the pandemic and was happy to share them.



Mari Veliz peddles the stationary bike to mix up a healthy and delicious smoothie at the Health department's booth.



Tyra Jimmie, Daleen Osceola, Jaylee Jimmie, Lania Bert and Athena Bert hang out together at the Big Cypress Spring Festival.



Tammy Billie mans the fry bread bar, where customers partook of a slew of toppings for their fry bread.

Big Cypress Spring Festival



Patsy Veliz and her daughter Nalahni Veliz enjoy the Big Cypress Spring Festival on April 19 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo grounds.



Johnnie Jimmie, back row center, enjoys his family at the Big Cypress Spring Festival. From left are Jaylee Jimmie, Destiny Cypress, Alice Jimmie, Lena Cypress and Billie Cypress.

Hollywood Easter Drive-thru



Damon Scott (2)

At left, Kenny Tommie of We Do Recover on the Hollywood Reservation hands out flowers to a vehicle. Right, Paladine Willie of the Hollywood Culture department gives drinks to a resident.



Damon Scott (2)

From left, Chairman's Office staff Alex Tommie-James, Indra Fredericks and Carlene Osceola with umbrellas ready to give to tribal members during the Easter drive-thru event April 12 at Seminole Estates. The Hollywood Council Office sponsored the event. Below, rows of colorful flowers are ready to be handed out.



Hollywood Easter Egg Hunt



SMP (3)

With guidance from adults, Hollywood kids eagerly seek eggs on the ballfields. The Easter egg hunt was sponsored by the office of Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall.



Immokalee Easter Event



Beverly Bidney

Allison Concepcion keeps her cool as she safely catches an egg during the Immokalee Easter celebration egg toss.

Adults show their competitive side as they race to gather Easter eggs in the Immokalee Easter celebration April 8.



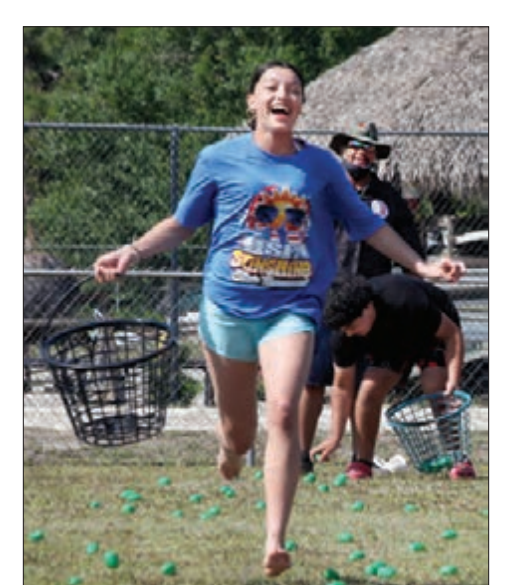
Beverly Bidney

Kids from age 4 to 6 race to collect as many colorful Easter eggs as they can during the Easter event.



Beverly Bidney

Ray Yzaguirre shows confidence as he prepares to catch an egg during the egg toss in Immokalee.



Beverly Bidney

Nyssie Gonzalez happily runs to the end of the field to collect as many Easter eggs as she can.

Indigenous big band to convene for unique show

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Jazz vocalist, actor and educator Julia Keefe (Nez Perce) has achieved something uncommon. She's assembled an all-Indigenous, 16-piece big band for a May 19 performance at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts in Olympia, Washington.

Keefe says that while Indigenous jazz musicians, ensembles and big bands hold a place in the contemporary jazz world and in the first half of the 20th century – today it is a rarity to see one, let alone 16, on a stage. The “Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band” has an ambitious goal, she said – to perform new music inspired by traditional melodies and to help create and nurture the next generation of Indigenous jazz musicians.

Keefe is based in New York City, but she isn't a stranger to South Florida. She earned a degree in jazz vocal performance from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music in Coral Gables.

The Tribune recently asked Keefe about her life and music. The following has been edited for length and clarity.

How long have you been working on this project?

I have always dreamt of singing in front of a big band since I was a little girl. This project in particular is the culmination of not only my dream but also that of Delbert Anderson (Diné). When he and I first met in fall of 2020, we talked for a long time about Native jazz musicians and the hope to one day have an all-Indigenous big band. There is a historical precedent for the project, with big band and marching bands popping up on reservations in the 1930s. So really, this project continues a long forgotten tradition.

Will you be doing other performances?

Hopefully this show will kick off a nice long tour or a series of performances around the country. I really want to build a strong community of Indigenous jazz musicians so that we are all connected and can support and perform with each other. I also hope this will foster educational opportunities for other young Native musicians. I hope this is a movement that will grow.

How did you get your musical start?

My first musical memory is of Billie Holiday. My mom had a collection of her greatest hits. Her voice and the melodies she sang haunted my brain as I grew up. I started studying music in junior high, and began competing in the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival (in Idaho) as a solo vocalist in the eighth grade. I continued to compete through high school and eventually won my division in my senior year of high school. When I was 15, I began performing professionally in Spokane (Washington).

What are your childhood memories?

My early childhood was on the Nez Perce Reservation. I lived in Kamiah, Idaho, on my family's farm. My memories of my



Courtesy photo

Julia Keefe (Nez Perce) has been a vocalist and musician for many years.

childhood are all happy ones. I loved growing up with all my cousins. We were a bunch of rowdy girls who loved to play basketball and ride horses and get into trouble. I had a speech impediment as a kid but that didn't stop me from singing the national anthem at the biggest basketball game of the season. That was my very first public performance. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to live on my tribal lands with my extended family and with the support of my people. My elders' belief in me and my singing really did set the stage for a life in the arts.

Tell us more about your personal life and family.

I'm just a small town girl living a life of music in the big city. I have a dog named Leia, after Princess Leia – the ultimate shero. I also have two cats named Lilith Eleanora and Fitzgerald Dillard. My mom is JoAnn Kauffman, a leader in Native health. Her sisters, Hattie Kauffman and Claudia Kauffman, are my aunts. Hattie was the first Native American to file a report on a national news broadcast. My uncle, the late John Kauffman, was an actor of film, television and stage. My dad is Tom Keefe. He represented David Sohapp in the “Salmon Scam” trial.

Jazz singer Mildred Bailey (1907-1951) is very important to you?

Bailey was the first woman to sing in front of a big band in the late 1920s and early 1930s. She was of Coeur d'Alene descent and helped get Bing Crosby his start in the music industry. It is so important for her contributions to be remembered and celebrated. No her, no me – and I know that is true for many, many jazz vocalists who followed the trail she blazed. It is also important to remember her Indigenous heritage. We as Native people have a place in this music. I am still incredibly hopeful she will be inducted into the Jazz Hall of Fame [at the Lincoln Center in New York City]. Her time will come, I have no doubt.

For more information on the May 19 show and to purchase tickets, go to washingtoncenter.org.

Native American '40 Under 40' to be honored in May

FROM PRESS RELEASE

MESA, Ariz. — The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development announced in April the 2022 class of Native American “40 Under 40” award recipients. Every year, 40 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian leaders under the age of 40 are inducted in recognition of their leadership, initiative, and dedication, and for making significant contributions in their business and/or in their community.

The National Center will honor awardees during an in-person reception May 25 at The Cromwell Hotel in Las Vegas.

“Inductees into the 2022 Native American ‘40 Under 40’ awards showcase the hard work, perseverance, and dedication that have come to define this prestigious award,” Chris James, president and CEO of the National Center, said in a statement. “The Native American ‘40 Under 40’ represent leaders in tribal government, medicine, law, politics, activism, agriculture, Native cuisine, economic development, media,



Jeanie Campbell (Aleut)
CEO and owner Grid Electric Corporation



Kathryn Gardner-Vandy
(Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma)
assistant professor, Oklahoma State University

and many other areas. They are a reminder that Native American leaders are making a difference in every aspect of American life.”

2022 Native American 40 Under 40 Award Recipients

- Stephanie Allison, Navajo Nation, Owner/CEO, DreamCatcher Financial Strategies, LLC
- Peggy Barlett, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Senior Counsel Husch Blackwell LLP
- Pamela Boivin, Menominee, Executive Director, NiiJii Capital Partners, Inc.
- Jackson Brossy, Navajo Nation, Assistant Administrator, Small Business Administration Office of Native American Affairs
- Savannah Burwell, Chickasaw Nation, Content Manager, The Chickasaw Nation
- Jeanie Campbell, Aleut, CEO / Owner, Grid Electric Corporation
- Rachel Crawford, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, CEO/President, Quivera Enterprises LLC
- Emily Edenshaw, Yup'ik/Inupiaq, President & CEO, Alaska Native Heritage Center
- Chelsea Fish, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Federal Project Officer, US Department of Labor
- Kathryn Gardner-Vandy, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Assistant Professor, Oklahoma State University
- Jessi Goldner, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi/Waseybek, Development Corporation, Director of Compliance, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi/ Waseybek Development Corporation
- Carly Griffith Hotvedt, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Associate Director, Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative
- Andrea Gusty, Yupik, Athabaskan, Village of Aniak, President & CEO, The Kuskokwim Corporation
- Eva Harvey, Native Village of Kiana, Alaska, Co-Founder, First Alaskans First
- Kirby Hays, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, President & CEO, Hal Hays Constructions, Inc.
- Tim Hicks, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Chief Operating Officer – Hospital Services, Muscogee Nation
- Kandace Howell-Keahbone, Caddo, Tribal Government Relations Coordinator, Oklahoma Health Care Authority
- Thomas Ice, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Small Business Banking Relationship Management Manager (LO), Wells Fargo and Company
- Sasanehsaeh Jennings, Menominee, Tribal Liaison, University of Wisconsin System
- Billye Jimerson, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Public Health Administrator, Cherokee Nation Public Health
- Kelbie Kennedy, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Policy Manager and Policy Lead – National Security and Community Safety, National Congress of American Indians
- Allison Lampo, Seneca Nation of Indians, Founder & Director of Projects, AMJ Concepts
- Renee Linton, Organized Village of Grayling, Program Manager, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation
- Johnathon Lopez, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, Atlanta Project Manager, Red Alligator LLC
- Wendy Merrill, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Assistant General Manager, Grand Casino Mille Lacs
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- Corey Still, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Director of Student Programming and Research, American Indian Graduate Center
- Marley Tanner, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe, Clinical Pharmacist, Indian Health Service, Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital
- Concetta Tsosie de Haro, Navajo Nation, Democratic Counsel, U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
- Shea Vassar Gomez, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Journalist/Critic/Filmmaker, Freelance
- Brian Weeden, Mashpee Wampanoag, Chairman/President, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
- Alex Wesaw, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Tribal Council Member At-Large & Director, American Indian Relations Division, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians & Ohio History Connection
- Carrie Whitlow, Cheyenne & Arapaho/Kiowa/Creek, Executive Director, Cheyenne & Arapaho Department of Education, Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribe

'Artists Den' showcases talent at Hard Rock locales

STAFF REPORT

Featured artists in the series are filmed in their own homes and studios and also in cities and venues they say are meaningful to them – including the Guitar Hotel, the Hard Rock Cafe in Hollywood, and the Hard Rock Cafe in New Orleans.

The current season is a partnership between Hard Rock, Fujifilm and Variety.

“Artists Den ... gives fans an unprecedented view into the creative process of their favorite artists,” Artists Den CEO and founder Mark Lieberman, said in a news release. “From rock to reggaeton, from soul to synth-pop, the artists this season are

distinguished stars in their respective genres.”

Season three began April 8 and features seven artists in all. The diverse lineup includes Latin musician Justin Quiles, synth-pop duo Magdalena Bay, and singer-songwriter Nicole Atkins. In addition to the live performances, each artist answers fan questions. Viewers also get a peek into the artist's homes and recording studios and get an inside take on their creative process.

Past artists featured on the series include John Legend, Adele, Shawn Mendes, Alabama Shakes, Ed Sheeran, Imagine Dragons and Lady Antebellum. Past venues have featured Graceland, the New York Public Library, the World's Fair and the

Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

“We are proud to once again partner with Artists Den to share the music and stories of some of the top emerging artists in the world,” Keith Sheldon, president of entertainment at Hard Rock International, said in the release. “We welcome these incredible performers to grace our stages ... while on their path to superstardom.”

The weekly series is available on variety.com every Friday at 8 p.m. EST.

The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of Hard Rock International. More is at hardrock.com. More about Artists Den is available at artistsden.com.



Kevin Condon

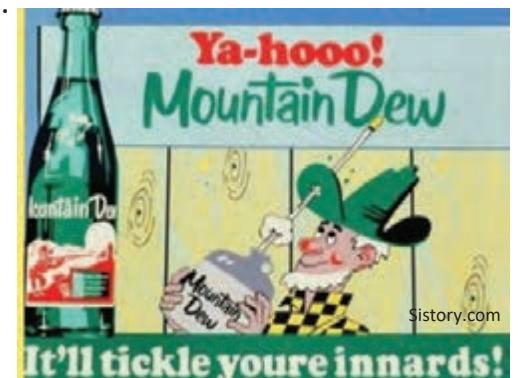
Latin musician Justin Quiles (with microphone) performs outside of the Guitar Hotel at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. The performance is featured in the third season of “Live from the Artists Den.”

Artifact of the Month

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

May 2022

Created in Knoxville, TN in the 1940s by two brothers (Barney and Ally Hartman), Mountain Dew's original intention was to be a mixer. It was first officially sold in 1951 in only 7 ounce bottles. So high in sugar and caffeine, the beverage wasn't popular in its early days and in fact, the flavor we know as Mountain Dew today wasn't invented until 1960. Bought by Pepsi-Cola shortly after its popularity grew in the southern parts of the U.S., Mountain Dew was marketed with a “hillbilly” flair. The phrase “It'll tickle your innards” and the character “Willy the Hillbilly” were proudly displayed on bottles giving it an edge in the southern markets and Appalachia; an impactful campaign that lasted for five years. Some bottles even designate who they were filled by (below-left).



In early 2020, the Tribal Archaeology section of the THPO office found a 1960s Mountain Dew bottle on the Brighton Reservation. After some research the Collections team stumbled upon the wild history of the beverage and even found some old advertising commercials on YouTube. The image at the top of the bottle (left) signifies the 1960s secondary motto: “...there's a bang in every bottle.” (Roadside America).



Sports



PECS students earn softball championship with Osceola Middle School

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

VERO BEACH — The lengthy drives at the end of their academic day to play softball for another school 30 miles from the Brighton Reservation proved to be worth the effort for six Pemayetv Emahkv Charter School students.

With no softball offered at PECS due to the pandemic, Joleyne Nunez, Tehya Nunez, Truley Osceola, Hannah Platt, Kiera Snell and Ila Trueblood spent their winter and early spring as members of the Osceola Middle School team in Okeechobee.

“As soon as they get out of school, their parents bring them straight over to Osceola [Middle School]. All of them are super committed, which is nice,” said Osceola coach Lauren Throop.

The PECS students comprised nearly half of the roster and played a significant role in helping Osceola generate a successful season. Osceola lost only one game and was seeded No. 1 in the conference tournament. It wrapped up the season by winning the Indian River Conference middle school softball championship April 12 at Jackie Robinson Training Complex in Vero Beach. Throop said the 8-3 win against Imagine School of Vero Beach was the best game her team played all season.

Platt, who started in the circle, and Lilly Larson, who came on in relief, combined for the win.

“Hannah did a great job – she only gave up three runs – and Lilly came in and closed it out. Lily threw a great game,” Throop said.

Trailing 3-2, Osceola didn’t show any nerves. Its bench remained upbeat and confident.

The PECS players paved the way for a six-run fourth inning that helped secure the victory. Catcher Truley Osceola, who ended an Imagine threat in the second inning by throwing out a runner at second, ignited the squad with a leadoff double. She stole third and scored on an error to knot the score at 3-3. It proved to be the spark her team needed.

A strong at-bat from Snell – who fouled off a few two-strike pitches before earning a walk – led to an RBI single from Platt that put Osceola ahead for good.

Trueblood, who was the game’s defensive star with two tough catches at shortstop, delivered at the plate with a two-run hit to shallow center that made it 6-3.

“She’s been coming in clutch a lot this year,” Throop said.

Later, cleanup batter Joleyne Nunez



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahkv Charter School students, from left, Hannah Platt, Tehya Nunez, Truley Osceola, Joleyne Nunez, Ila Trueblood and Kiera Snell are all smiles after they won the Indian River Conference middle school softball championship with the Osceola Middle School team April 12 in Vero Beach.

beat out an infield hit that brought home the game’s final run. She also scored the game’s first run after belting a double in the second inning.

In early April, Nunez earned the Okeechobee News’ Big Lake athlete of the week honors.

“Joleyne has been really big in the four spot all season,” Throop said.

Second baseman Tehya Nunez also had

a hit.

With the anticipated return of sports to PECS next academic year, Throop said she realizes she may be coaching against some of the same girls who were on her team this year. Truley Osceola is an eighth grader who

will be headed to high school, but the other five from PECS are seventh graders. Throop said she enjoyed getting to know the PECS players and their parents.

“It’s been a lot of fun,” she said.



Kevin Johnson

Joleyne Nunez gets ready to score a run for Osceola Middle School in the Indian River Conference middle school softball championship game.



Kevin Johnson

Osceola Middle School catcher Truley Osceola waits for a throw during the Indian River Conference middle school softball championship game April 12 in Vero Beach.



Kevin Johnson

PECS student Ila Trueblood delivers a two-run hit for Osceola Middle School in the Indian River Conference middle school softball championship game April 12 at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex in Vero Beach. Osceola won 8-3.



Kevin Johnson

Tehya Nunez makes solid contact for Osceola Middle School in its 8-3 win against Imagine School in the Indian River Conference middle school championship game.



Kevin Johnson

The 2022 Indian River Conference champion Osceola Middle School softball team.

Immokalee ace Ava Nunez stars in her senior night game

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Ava Nunez made sure her senior night would be one to remember.

The hard-throwing Seminole, who has been an ace on the Immokalee High School softball team for the past four years, fired eight strikeouts and didn't allow a run or walk in nearly four innings April 20 as Immokalee blasted Lely, 18-3.

The pitcher's circle wasn't the only place where Nunez starred in her final regular season home game. She also produced a strong game at the plate with two hits, three runs scored and one RBI.

Before the game, Nunez and Alyssa Alvalos – the team's only seniors – were honored by the team. Nunez walked with her parents Rhonda and Mondo Nunez, who is an assistant coach on the team. They followed the team's traditional senior tribute by walking under a sea of bats held high by teammates on each side.

It was the same walk her sister Jillian Rodriguez, a standout outfielder, made in 2019 when Nunez, as a freshman, burst on the scene with a .387 batting average and 1.42 ERA. That season the Seminole sisters helped Immokalee win its first-ever district championship, which Nunez said is her favorite softball memory. In the title game, she pitched a three-hit shutout against Lely.

This season Nunez has cherished another family connection. Nunez is a teammate and aunt of freshman Jaylynn Rodriguez, who had one hit and drove in two runs against Lely.

"We've gotten really close," Nunez said. "Not many people can say they were on the same team in high school with their niece."

When Nunez's high school career ends, she'll shift her attention to college ball. She will attend Thomas University in Thomasville, Georgia, where she plans to study early childhood education. Her goal is to become a teacher.

As of April 27, Nunez had a 7-6 record, 2.79 ERA and a team-high 65 strikeouts. Immokalee, which was 10-10 with two regular season games left, will start its district playoffs in early May.



Immokalee High School senior softball pitcher Ava Nunez and her parents Mondo and Rhonda Nunez are saluted by the team during a pregame senior night ceremony April 20.

Beverly Bidney

Staff reporter Beverly Bidney contributed to this story.



Ava Nunez follows through on a swing against Lely. Nunez had two hits and scored three runs.



Winning pitcher Ava Nunez delivers a pitch in her senior night game, an 18-3 win against Lely.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

Immokalee senior Ava Nunez, right, with her niece Jaylynn Rodriguez, who is a freshman on the team.



Beverly Bidney

A display with flowers, photos and gifts honors Ava Nunez on her senior night game.

Theresa Frost wins BCA Pool League World Championship

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Competiveness and passion are always part of Theresa Frost's game when she plays in pool tournaments, but there was some additional motivation that helped propel her into the winners' circle at a tournament in Las Vegas.

Frost won the BCA Pool League World Championship Ladies 8-Ball Singles in the gold division. The three-day tournament in late March and early April featured players from around the globe. In fact, Frost faced opponents from Idaho, Canada and Venezuela, among others.

Frost, a tribal member from Brighton, has won big tournaments before, such as championships on the state level in Florida, but this one was extra special because she recently lost her mother, Alice Sweat.

"My mother was the kind of woman who wanted to be at every sport. Now she's not here. I felt her spirit was there watching me," Frost said.

Frost grew up with pool players all around her, including her dad and uncles.

"I have a passion for pool and I love the sport," she said.

In Vegas, Frost won all her matches on day one, but it was a loss in day two that proved to be a crucial turning point for her.

"The girl I lost to was very rude. It set a fire in me," Frost said.

The loss meant Frost had to work her way out of the losers' bracket with no setback to spare. Playing with increased determination, Frost emerged from the bracket and got what she wanted: a rematch.

Frost had to win twice, which she did by overwhelming her opponent. Scores were 5-2 and 5-1.

Nothing her opponent did could derail Frost.

"I'm a fast player; I don't play slow. She put me on the time clock to mess with my mind," Frost said.

Frost said she loves Las Vegas, but hopes the tournament would someday be played at a location in or close to Florida so her children and other family could watch her play. She was accompanied by her husband Steve, who is also a pool player. They own the Brahma Bull restaurant in Okeechobee.

Frost said when she returned home her kids, who are grown, were ecstatic about her winning the championship.

"I'm thankful for all my family," she said. "I appreciate their support."



At left, Theresa Frost holds up prizes she earned after winning the BCA Pool League World Championship in early April. At right, Frost lines up a shot in the Las Vegas tournament.

Courtesy photos (2)





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PECS' Alyssa Madrigal, Melaine Bonilla come up big for Yearling softball

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

OKEECHOBEE — After helping Yearling Middle School win a conference volleyball championship last fall, Alyssa Madrigal and Melaine Bonilla shifted this spring to softball where they made quite an impression.

With Madrigal as the No. 1 pitcher and Bonilla as the starting shortstop and leadoff batter, the pair of Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students were core components on a team that compiled a 6-3 record and dealt rival and conference champion Osceola Middle its only loss of the season.

Since sports were not played at PECS this academic year due to the pandemic, Madrigal and Bonilla opted to play for Yearling, which meant 30-minute drives to get to 4 p.m. practices at the end of PECS' school day.

"The parents are wonderful, getting them here," Yearling coach Kacy Hackett said prior to the team's final regular season game March 31 against Sebastian Middle School.

Hackett said both players fit in right away with the team. For Madrigal, the smooth transition was made easier because she knew several of the Yearling players.

Madrigal said she was glad to have the opportunity to play middle school sports this year even if it wasn't with her own school. Similar to her other eighth grade classmates at PECS, Madrigal's only time playing for PECS came as a sixth grader with volleyball and basketball before the pandemic ended softball in March 2020.

Against Sebastian, Madrigal was the starting pitcher. She showed why she was such a valuable part of the pitching staff. In the top of the first inning, a walk and an error put two Sebastian runners on base. Madrigal responded by striking out the next three batters to end the threat. She continued to overpower batters in the second inning as she struck out the side in order.

"Alyssa has done wonderful," Hackett said. "She is working really hard on her pitching. She has a really great fastball. She has a change-up every now and then. She's working on a curve."

Madrigal also had a strong year at the plate.

"She has been one of our players you can count on to get on base and she's aggressive on the bases," Hackett said.

Immediately after the game against Sebastian, Madrigal and the team's seven other eighth graders were honored in a



Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students Alyssa Madrigal, left, and Melaine Bonilla, were two of the top players on the Yearling Middle School softball team this season. They are shown pitching in a game against Sebastian Middle School on March 31.

ceremony on the field. Madrigal, who will be headed to Okeechobee High School where she plans to play volleyball and softball, was accompanied by her mother, Letty.

On a team comprised of nearly all eighth graders, it seemingly would have been difficult for a sixth grader to stand out, but not for Bonilla. The team's only sixth grader stepped right in as the starting shortstop and leadoff batter.

"That's very impressive, especially

with a team stacked with upper classmen," Hackett said. "She comes in with a lot of softball knowledge. She's our leadoff hitter. Her game is spot on. Strong arm, dependable at the plate."

She was dependable in the circle, too. She finished up the win against Sebastian by pitching one scoreless inning of relief.

Yearling's season ended in early April with a conference semifinal playoff loss to Imagine School.



Alyssa Madrigal, far right, chats with her Yearling teammates and coach during a break in a game against Sebastian.



Alyssa Madrigal at the plate against Sebastian Middle School.



Melaine Bonilla rounds third base on her way to scoring a run for Yearling Middle School.



Yearling eighth graders, including Alyssa Madrigal, were honored after their final regular season game March 31. Madrigal was accompanied by her mom Letty Madrigal during the ceremony.

NABI golf tournament raises \$56K



Kevin Johnson

The Seminole Tribe seal was displayed on signage at the ninth annual Native American Basketball Invitational Golf Classic on April 11 in Chandler, Arizona. The sold-out tournament was played at Whirlwind Golf Club at Wild Horse Pass. According to NABI, the tournament raised \$56,000.00 with 100% of all proceeds benefitting the NABI College Scholarship Fund and NABI programs for youth. The Seminole Tribe is a longtime major sponsor of the basketball invitational. This year's tournament will be held July 18-23 in the Phoenix area.



OHS hires new football coach

STAFF REPORT

There will be plenty of coaching experience at the helm of the Okeechobee High School football team this fall.

In a post on Facebook, the school announced April 11 the hiring of BJ Pryor as its new head coach.

"He is a champion for the balance of 'Faith, Family, Future, and Football,'" the school said in the post. "Coach Pryor and his wife have fallen in love with the area and are anxious to settle into the Okeechobee community after this school year ends. We are excited for this new opportunity to grow our program, staff, and student athletes."

According to OHS, Pryor has

26 years of coaching experience at various levels, including high school and semi-professional. His coaching background includes stints in Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi and Texas. The post noted that he has a dozen high school playoff appearances and one state championship.

Last season OHS athletics director Kenny Buckner coached the football team. The Brahms went 1-7 and struggled offensively, putting up just 62 points.

According to floridahsfootball.com, Okeechobee's spring game will be at home May 19 against Glades Day. The preseason kickoff classic will be Aug. 19 at home against Jupiter.



BJ Pryor

Facebook

Ashley Callingbull to be first Indigenous woman in SI Swimsuit issue

BY CTV NEWS EDMONTON (CANADA)

Enoch Cree Nation's Ashley Callingbull is the first Indigenous woman to pose in the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issue.

The annual casting call for models garnered thousands of submissions, Callingbull being one of them, and on International Women's Day it was announced she was one of the 14 women chosen as a finalist in the 2022 SI Swim Search program.

"I found out probably at 6 a.m. while I was lying in bed, not even a week ago and it's just been a whirlwind ever since," she said excitedly from her hotel room in the Dominican Republic.

Callingbull arrived in the Dominican on March 31 and hit the ground running, starting with fittings.

The editor of Sports Illustrated Swimsuit, MJ Day, gave her free rein to pick from the hundreds of swimsuits in the fitting room. She said the experience was like a dream come true.

"[MJ's] like 'We're not going to pick for you, it's how you want to represent yourself,'" said Callingbull. "I was like, 'I love that.' So it took me forever."

She's narrowed down her choices to five in preparation for the photo shoot Thursday, where she's not only the first Indigenous woman to participate, but also the only Canadian in this issue of the magazine.

"It just feels so surreal because it's something I couldn't have imagined when I was a little girl," Callingbull said. "It's such a dream come true."

Her social media accounts have been flooded with messages of support from other Indigenous women and girls, and talking about it brings tears to her eyes.

"They're like, 'It's so amazing to see someone that looks like me and to see we're actually being represented,'" Callingbull said. "That's why I know it's so much bigger than me, and it's so important to have that proper Indigenous representation."

Growing up Callingbull said she was

told she wasn't beautiful because of her skin colour, her background and her culture.

"Now I own the skin I'm in. I'm proud of who I am, and I encourage other women to be proud of who they are."

The women posing in Sports Illustrated Swim aren't just pretty faces, said Callingbull, they're accomplished women. The models include an astronaut, lawyer, and ICU nurse, just to name a few.

"You wouldn't think that when you think of a Sports Illustrated model, you'd initially just stereotype them, but we are more than a face, we are women with a voice and with a mission," she said.

Callingbull says people will ask her how she broke into the modeling industry and she proudly says locally at Edmonton Fashion Week. She says it's the place she started to step out of her comfort zone.

"I've worked my way up to get to this point where I'm like, 'Why can't I do it? I'm going to submit myself.'"

Though she's the first Indigenous woman to pose for the SI Swimsuit issue, Callingbull says it's important to her that she won't be the last.

"When I walk in these spaces, I've got to make sure that other women feel confident and comfortable to walk in these spaces after me so they can shine as well."

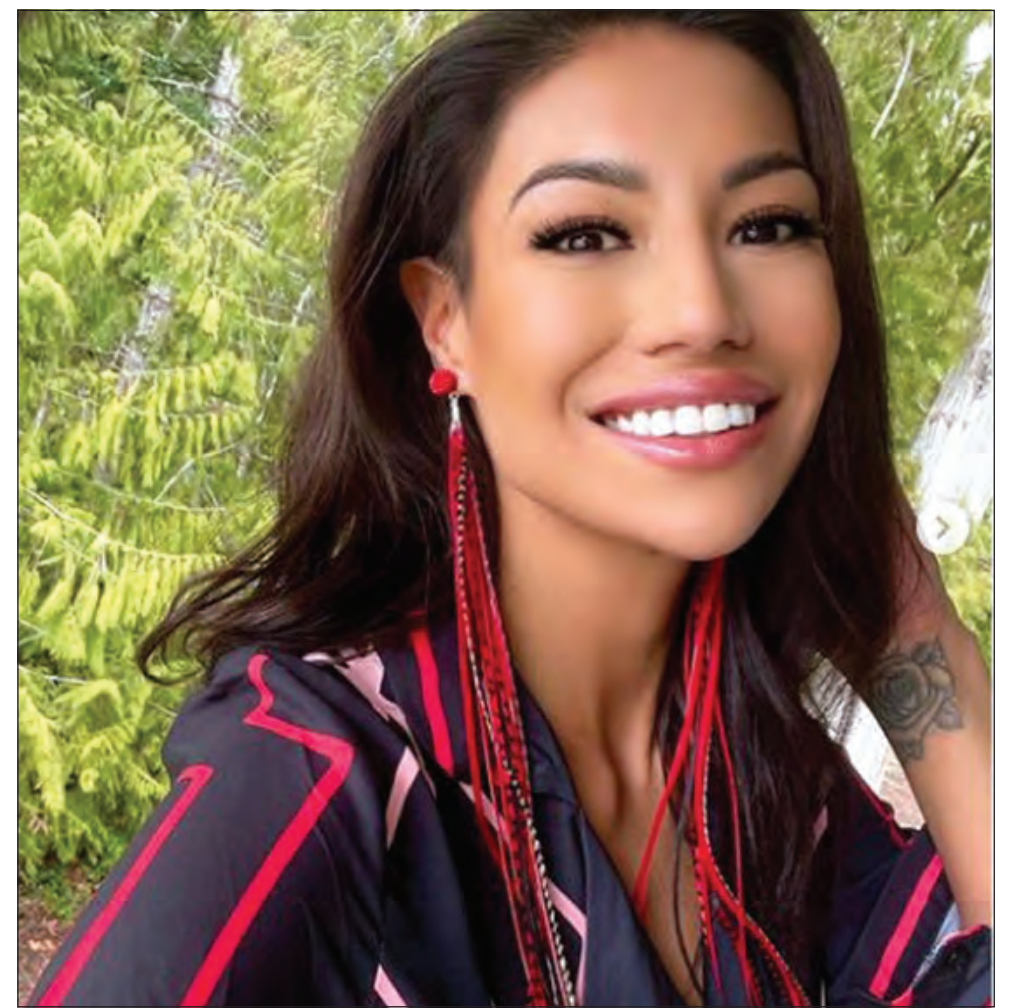
She told CTV News Edmonton that being the first can be a burden, but it's a weight she's willing to carry if it makes things easier for the next woman.

"I learned that from my mom and from my grandmother, paving the way you never know whose life you could change."

Callingbull says the support from Sports Illustrated has also been incredible, and she hopes this experience will create more opportunities for her to use her platform to help amplify the voices of other women.

"For me it's all about the legacy I'm going to leave behind and I'm excited that Sports Illustrated is a part of it."

The 14 Swim Search finalists are competing to be a "rookie" for the 2023 SI Swimsuit issue, Callingbull hopes she'll have lots of Canadian support behind her.



Ashley Callingbull

Instagram

Thomas sisters excelling for OHS

STAFF REPORT

The Okeechobee High School softball team is peaking at the right time.

With two games left in its regular season, the Brahms had won four in a row and six of their last seven games.

The Thomas sisters, from the Brighton Reservation, have provided a big spark this season.

As of April 27, Elle Thomas, a senior, is batting .333 with four doubles, six RBIs and 15 runs scored. She had three hits, two RBIs and scored three runs in a win against Clewiston on March 30. Six days later she had two hits, one

RBI and scored three runs in a win against Port St. Lucie.

Lexi Thomas, a sophomore, is second on the team in hitting with a .379 average that includes seven RBIs and three doubles. She has notched at least one hit in nearly every game.



File photo

Okeechobee High School's Elle Thomas, shown batting in a game in 2021, is among the team's top hitters this season.



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Hard Rock surprises students, instructors with F1 tickets

FROM PRESS RELEASE

MIAMI GARDENS

— Hard Rock International was among three donors that surprised students and instructors who are part of the F1 in Schools program with tickets to the inaugural Formula 1 Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix from May 6-8 at Hard Rock Stadium.

After the surprise ticket giveaway with students, program instructors from Seeking Education Empowers Knowledge (S.E.E.K) received tickets to Maluma at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on May 5.

“We are so proud to join forces with F1 Miami and F1 Global on meaningful community outreach,” Gina Morales, vice president of

brand reputation for Hard Rock International, said in a statement. “Music heals and inspires and what better way to thank educators than to surprise them to see one of the biggest musicians in the world? We are excited to welcome them to our flagship property, the Guitar Hotel at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, during the big race weekend in May.”

Hard Rock joined South Florida Motorsports and the City of Miami Gardens in making the surprise gesture.

Created in 2000, F1 in Schools is dedicated to introducing students to design, engineering, project management, branding, marketing, and teamwork.

Motorsports legend Willy T Ribbs, the diversity and inclusion representative for Formula 1, encouraged the

students to seek careers in motorsport by championing pathways into engineering and underlining the importance of STEM subjects in schools.

“These kids have so much capability. The support from Formula 1 and this investment in the STEM program is going to accelerate their learning process,” Ribbs said in a statement. “If they want to be in the sport as an engineer, as a designer or as a driver, this all accelerates their goal. It’s amazing what these kids know today as opposed to what I knew. They are lightyears ahead of where I was at the same age.”

The race will be held May 8. Hard Rock will offer a beach club experience with pools, sand, cabanas and music near one of the turns on the track.

For more information go to formula1.com.



Instructors in Miami Gardens receive tickets to the Maluma concert at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

Notah Begay named captain of Junior Presidents Cup

BY NEELY BARDWELL
Native News Online

On March 30, the Presidents Cup and American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) announced the return of the Junior Presidents Cup which will be held Sept.19-20. It is to be held at Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, N.C. This will be the third year that the Junior Presidents Cup will be contested. Notah Begay III and South Africa’s Tim Clark have been selected as captains of the U.S. and International Teams, respectively.

The Junior Presidents Cup is a two-day, team match-play competition that will feature 24 of the world’s top 19 years-and-younger boys. The two teams: 12 from the U.S. and 12 from various countries around the world, excluding Europe. The International team will be captained by South Africa’s Tim Clark.

Begay (Navajo, San Felipe, Isleta) will be the captain of the U.S. Junior Team. It’s the first time in the history of golf and the PGA tour that a Native



Notah Begay III

American has received such a designation.

Begay is the first Native American to compete in the Presidents Cup. He was also a member of the victorious 2000 U.S. Team. He is a four-time PGA Tour winner, and even partnered with former Stanford teammate Tiger Woods in four matches. The pair finished with

a 2-2 record.

Begay is the host and founder of the Notah Begay III Junior National Championship which gives juniors opportunities to compete with other talented golfers from around the country.

During his early years as a junior golfer, Begay competed in AJGA events and was named Rolex Junior All-American in 1987 after winning two AJGA tournaments at the Southwestern Junior and the Meridian Junior Classic.

Begay is excited for the opportunity to take part in this event saying:

“As a player it was special to represent my country at the Presidents Cup, so to now be asked to captain the junior team is truly an honor. This event is a wonderful chance to showcase the next generation of stars at golf’s highest level. Every one of these kids wants to play on Tour, so my goal is to be a resource for them not only in preparation for their matches but also as they look toward a future in the professional game.”

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Notice of Virtual Public Hearing

AGENCY: Seminole Water Commission

DEPARTMENT: Environmental Resource Management Department

RULES UNDER REVIEW:

- Tribal Water Code Subtitle B- Water Quality Code
- Seminole Water Commission Rules, Part 12 of Chapter B

PUBLIC HEARING DATE:

- Monday, June 13, 2022- 1:00pm to 5:00pm

SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED:

As required by the Federal Clean Water Act and the Tribal Water Code, the Seminole Water Commission (Commission) will review the existing Tribal surface water quality standards and consider amendments based on new scientific data and information. Water quality standards are provisions of tribal law approved by the Environmental Protection Agency that describe the desired condition of a water body and how that condition will be protected or restored. A water quality standard is made up of three parts: water quality criteria for the protection of human health and the environment; designated uses of all water bodies; and an antidegradation policy to keep the designated uses from becoming impaired from pollution. The Tribal Water Quality Code and the Commission’s implementing rules apply to all surface waters, including wetlands, water resource areas, and canals within the Big Cypress and Brighton Reservations. The topics to be discussed during this virtual public hearing include an overview of the Seminole Tribe’s water quality standards, the federal requirements for the triennial review, and solicitation of feedback from interested parties regarding the Seminole Tribe’s water quality standards.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT:

The Commission is conducting a Public Hearing to solicit comments and feedback on the Seminole Tribe’s surface water quality standards. This Triennial Review ensures that all water bodies on the Big Cypress and Brighton Reservations meet federal requirements and ensures the protection of Tribal waters for the designated uses of water on Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations. All surface water quality standards located within the Tribal Water Code Subtitle B- Water Quality Code and Seminole Water Commission Rules, Part 12 of Chapter B- Water Quality are under review and may be revised as part of the Triennial Review.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY AND APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Seminole Tribe of Florida – Article V;
- Tribal Water Code -3.5 of Subtitle A;
- Tribal Water Code- 12.3 of Subtitle B;
- Tribal Water Code- 15.2 of Subtitle B;
- Tribal Water Code- 15.4 of Subtitle B;
- 33 U.S.C. Section 1251 *et seq.*; and
- Clean Water Act- 40 C.F.R. Parts 25 and 131.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you wish to be included in the list of interested persons to receive updates and information about this triennial review process or to receive a link to this virtual public hearing and hearing materials, please contact Whitney Sapienza, Assistant Director at the Environmental Resource Management Department at SeminoleWaterQuality@semtribe.com or scan the following QR Code:



Full text of the current Tribal surface water quality standards are available on request or can be accessed online here:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-12/documents/seminole_floridawqs.pdf.

The Seminole Water Commission has not yet made a determination on any major issues related to this triennial review and no rules are currently proposed.

Miami Open wraps up at Hard Rock Stadium



Miami Open

The Miami Open at Hard Rock Stadium concluded April 3. Carlos Alcaraz, from Spain, won the men’s title; Poland’s Iga Swiatek won the women’s championship. This year’s 14-day tournament set a Miami Open attendance record with more than 385,000 spectators.

FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
017691	NA	MMD EQ PORTABLE GENERATOR	NGK4300K	N/A	Poor	\$112
183300	NA	TITAN PORTABLE GENERATOR	TG8000E	N/A	Poor	\$142
289067	2012	RAM PICKUP TRUCK	1500 ST CREW CAB SHORT BED POLICE (4WD)	120,768	Poor	\$500
289071	2012	RAM PICKUP TRUCK	1500 ST CREW CAB SHORT BED POLICE (4WD)	96,777	Poor	\$500
679371	2013	RAM PICKUP TRUCK	1500 TRADESMAN CREW CAB POLICE (4WD)	160,396	Poor	\$500
212409	2003	BLUEBIRD SCHOOL BUS	ALL AMERICAN 65 PASS RWD DIESEL (RWD)	164,589	Poor	\$500

Note - Previously advertised items are not reflected on this advertisement, only new listings. For more information contact Fixed Assets Dept. 954-967-3640, 954-966-6300 ext. 20034.

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