



Tribe plays big role in Chalo Nitka  
COMMUNITY ♦ 6A



Culture education at Ahfachkee School  
EDUCATION ♦ 1B



Chairman of the Greens Tournament in Tampa  
SPORTS ♦ 3C

# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered [www.seminoletribune.org](http://www.seminoletribune.org) • Free

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## Annex would bring new services to Hollywood

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — While the new Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center on the Hollywood Reservation has only been operating for a couple years, the head of Health and Human Services (HHS) at the tribe said the pandemic revealed the need for additional space for patients, employees and services.

The tribe has proposed construction of a two-story medical center annex that would be located north of the main facility, with HHS services on the first floor and offices on the second floor. Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley said it would allow the main building to fully house its range of services with medical providers, the pharmacy and space for other HHS-related departments.

The annex would allow HHS staff who are currently located in the Taft Street office complex to be located on-site, for example. In addition, the tribe's Center for Behavioral Health is in need of room for a "crisis center" at the facility. The tribe also wants to transition away from using contracted home health care workers from an outside agency into staffing its own such department with tribal employees.

♦ See ANNEX on page 9A

## FSU softball team learns about Seminole culture in Big Cypress

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Florida State University teams all sport the Seminole name on their uniforms, but softball coach Lonni Alameda wanted her players to learn more about the tribe itself, so she arranged for the team to visit Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on March 25.

"We represent something bigger than just softball and our university," said Alameda, who is in her 14th season at the helm. "When you get to put a meaning with a name, it give us a bigger purpose."

FSU, which won the national championship four years ago and finished runner-up last season, is in the midst of another outstanding season. With a 29-2 record, FSU is ranked third in the nation, but the team put aside softball to spend an afternoon on the Big Cypress Reservation learning about the tribe before heading to Miami to face Florida International University.

"We want them to learn more about the tribe's culture and history," said Kyle Doney, a FSU graduate, member of the university's alumni association board of directors and deputy director of the tribe's Native Learning Center. "A lot of students aren't privy to trips like this and it's beneficial for them to know about us. And tribal members get to meet a nationally ranked softball team."

The visit began with a story told by museum director Gordon "Ollie" Wareham. A storyteller by nature, Wareham was animated and filled with sound effects and emotion as he told the legend of the box turtle and the rabbit.

"The rabbit is a trickster," Wareham told



Mahala Billie, left, assists FSU softball third baseman Sydney Sherrill with holding an alligator during the team's visit to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on March 25.

the group. "He's our bad guy and teaches our kids how not to be and what not to do."

The story was a lesson about hubris and humility. During the tale, Wareham had the

team add to the sound effects.

♦ See FSU VISIT on page 5C

## As tribe resumes big events, return to 4-H show ring is welcomed by all

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — After two years without an in-person livestock show, 4-H'ers tribalwide were proud to show their animals at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.

The Seminole Tribe 4-H Livestock Show & Sale from March 9 to March 11 was more like a celebration as family and friends filled the arena to support the youngsters. The attendees also saw the results of the kids' efforts raising animals from as tiny as a hamster to a 1,335-pound steer.



Trina Hipp sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the Seminole 4-H show on March 9.

"The kids were happy and being the first big thing at the tribe in two years, there was a really good turnout," said Kimberly Clement, 4-H special projects coordinator. "I have no words for the excitement that was there. It was the biggest crowd in memory with well over 200 people."

The kids showed 66 animals over two nights. The breakdown was 26 pigs, 27 steers and 13 heifers. Pee wees, ages 5-7, showed 17 small animals including a hamster, guinea pig, rabbits, goats and calves.

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. came to the show March 9 to enjoy the

festivities and support the kids, including some family members. He remarked on the tribe opening up and getting back together again.

"People have been waiting for this," Chairman Osceola said. "I love to see people fellowshiping together. As a tribe, we are all family. It's good to see each other again, but it was heartbreaking not to see family for two years."

Chairman Osceola explained the process of reopening the tribe Feb. 28. As the numbers of new Covid-19 cases continued to decrease, the data indicated it was safe to open since the tribe had less than a two percent infection rate. He said they wanted to err on the side of caution to make sure everybody could be safe.

"Unfortunately, we lost a lot of good people through it," Chairman Osceola said. "We won't forget them; we will remember what we learned from them so their legacy will live on."

JB Anderson has been raising pigs in 4-H for five years and said this year was pretty easy for him. He likes to be in the show ring so people could see how hard he worked. Anderson showed a 283-pound hog and came in third in his category.

"He worked well and didn't give me much of a struggle," said Anderson, 13. "Experience helped. It really takes dedication to do this; you can't just want to do it one week and quit the next week."

The March 9 show featured pee wees and pigs, but started with an adult hog calling contest opened by Chairman Osceola.

Before the sale on March 11, adults had the opportunity to demonstrate their



Arlo Jackson, left, and Ailynn Tommie-Smith chat while holding their animals during the Seminole Tribe 4-H Livestock Show & Sale on March 9 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.

showmanship skills. About 20 adults showed animals belonging to their kids or friends' kids.

"We want to add more fun things little by little and make it more like a country fair," Clement said. "Alumni came back to

show their kids' animals. The parents came to compete, everyone had fun. Some said they want to come back and help build the 4-H program."

♦ See 4-H on page 5A

## 'Victory for our people, for our ancestors' as Alachua County purchases disputed Micanopy land

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

A land dispute has been unfolding during the past two years in Micanopy where a developer planned to build a Dollar General store near the Micanopy Native American Heritage Preserve. The land is about 12 miles south of Gainesville and near the site of a key battle of the Seminole Wars and a Native American burial ground.

On March 22, opponents of the proposed development earned a victory when the Alachua County Commission approved the county's purchase of the parcel along with an adjacent one during a commission meeting.

Plans for the land are not finalized yet, but activists hope to protect its history and possibly have the land added to the preserve.

Native Americans, including Martha Tommie from the Seminole Tribe, fought to prevent the construction.

"It's an honor to stand up here for my tribe, to be a voice to protect the land," Tommie told the commission. "I will go back and tell my people this is very important because if it wasn't for our ancestors, we wouldn't be here today. We have to acknowledge that; they deserve our respect and honor."

In response to Tommie's comments, commission chair Marihelen Wheeler said

she encourages more participation from Native Americans in the area.

"We will be looking for more interaction, so we need you up here for the education," Wheeler said at the meeting. "This is something we are focused on and we need your help."

♦ See MICANOPY on page 5A

Courtesy photo  
From left, Robert Rosa (Taino), Micanopy activist Aaron Weber, Shawn Updgrave (Cherokee) and Martha Tommie (Seminole) celebrate the victory at the Micanopy Native American Preserve on March 28.



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# Editorial

## The Black Hills award approaching \$1 billion

• Tim Giago

Anyone who watched HBO's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* had to be pretty quick to catch the scroll at the end of the movie about the illegal taking of the Black Hills from the tribes of the Great Sioux Nation. Justice Harry Blackmun in his legal opinion wrote, "A more ripe and rank case of dishonest dealings may never be found in our history."

The U. S. Supreme Court decreed that the Hills did belong to the Sioux and on July 23, 1980 awarded them \$105,994,430.52 for the Black Hills (Docket 74B) and \$40,245,807.02 for lands taken east of the Black Hills (Docket 74A).

The scroll at the end of the movie indicated that the award now stood at \$600 million and the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota refused to accept it. Well, that figure was wrong and should have been updated. As of today the amount of the awards are \$757,465,288.74 for the Black Hills and \$105,821,479.16 for the land taken east of the Black Hills.

That brings the total owed to the tribes of the Great Sioux Nation to \$863,286,767.90. A nice chunk of cash.

And yet, the poorest of people in all of America refuse to accept one single penny of the award.

In 1921 when the Sioux tribes first filed the lawsuit that took 60 years to reach the Supreme Court, my father was 27 years old. My mother was 19. They have since passed away. When the award was first announced in 1981, the president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe was Stanley Looking Elk and the president of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe was Norman Wilson. Both presidents went with the wishes of their people and refused to accept the money.

When I owned Indian Country Today weekly newspaper I took a survey in 1996 that came back with the powerful figures that 96 percent of the people still refused to take the money. How, in a world where everything revolves around money, can the poorest people in America refuse to accept millions of dollars? Because they consider the land that was stolen from them to be sacred and as they say, "One does not sell their Mother."

In the early 1980s then Senator Bill Bradley (D-New Jersey) visited the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and made many friends. At the behest of tribal member Gerald Clifford (now deceased) and tribal attorney Mario Gonzales, he introduced the Bradley Bill, which was intended to return 1.3 million acres of the original 7.5 million acres that make up the Black Hills to the Sioux people. The 1.3 million acres would be U.S. National Forest land only and would not contain any municipalities, state owned land, privately owned land, or any land containing national federal monuments. This Bradley Bill had the support of many tribal members.

However, a California millionaire claiming to be Lakota, Phil Stevens, attempted to introduce legislation of his own, with the backing of some tribal leaders, and he muddied the waters enough so that Bradley withdrew his sponsorship and the Bradley Bill died a quiet death. As has been

a problem of historic proportions, it only took one sweet talker with another idea to cause enough confusion to kill a good idea. South Dakota's Congressional delegation also would not support the Bradley Bill.

So for the next 26 years the money held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs has gathered interest and continued to grow. Several years ago when Greg Bourland was elected Chairman of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe he brought up the Black Hills Claims Settlement to some of the other tribal chairmen and he said, "It was as if the other chairmen were afraid to look at the subject. It was like that deranged aunt or uncle you hide in the basement."

It is a subject so touchy that even the Congressional delegates from South Dakota shy away from it like a skunk in the living room. But it is a subject that everyone in South Dakota, Indian and non-Indian, will have to face eventually and they had better start finding a position on it now.

Most Lakota just want a portion of the Black Hills returned, but each time this is brought up, as in the Bradley Bill, the white people of the state immediately start the propaganda machine up and start spreading the lie that, "the Indians are trying to take the Black Hills away from us."

There are those who say that if the Indians continue to refuse to accept the money that it will be forced upon them. There are also those who say that the Indians should take the money and then buy back a portion of the Black Hills. This idea is also unacceptable to the Indian people because to accept one penny of the settlement in any fashion would validate the theft of the land.

In my mind, the only solution is to have someone with an abundance of courage step forward and introduce new legislation following the guidelines of the Bradley Bill and hope that he or she can find a consensus amongst the different tribes of the Great Sioux Nation to make it work. Why are Republican Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds silent on this ancient issue? Where is South Dakota's lone Congressman, Dusty Johnson on this topic?

The settlement is fast approaching one billion dollars and the tribal leaders better take the issue out of the basement and start some serious conversations about it before the decision is taken out of their hands by the United States government. Before a new bill can be introduced the leaders of every tribe involved must come to an agreement and help to define the contents of the bill. p>

Thousands of Lakota have died while waiting for their leaders to find closure to the Black Hills issue and at the present rate; thousands more will die while their leaders sit on their hands. It's time for Lakota leaders to stop shaking in their boots whenever the Black Hills settlement comes up and get the ball rolling in one way or another. Your silence is not helping the Lakota people.

*Tim Giago is an Oglala Lakota. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard in the Class of 1991. His book "Children Left Behind, the Dark Legacy of the Indian Missions" is available at: [order@clearlightbooks.com](mailto:order@clearlightbooks.com). The book won the Bronze Star from the Independent Publishers Awards. He can be reached at [najournalist1@gmail.com](mailto:najournalist1@gmail.com). This editorial is at [indianz.com](http://indianz.com).*

## Massachusetts tribe chairwoman appointed to DHS advisory council

STAFF REPORT

Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, chairwoman of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah on Martha's Vineyard island in Massachusetts, was appointed March 17 to the Department of Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Andrews-Maltais is among more than 30 new members on the Council, which serves as the principal external advisory body to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"These distinguished leaders have agreed to serve our country as members of the Homeland Security Advisory Council at a critically important time not only for our nation, but also for the world," Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas said in a statement.

The Council convened its first meeting March 21.

"I am honored to have been selected to serve on such prestigious Advisory Council doing such important work," Andrews-Maltais said in a statement. "The Department of Homeland Security has a



Cheryl Andrews-Maltais

broad portfolio encompassing a wide area, with a tremendous responsibility for the safety and security of the American public. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with such an impressive and respected team of esteemed professionals. I look forward to contributing where I can."

Andrews-Maltais's experience on the federal level includes being appointed during the Obama administration as the first tribal leader to be senior advisor to the assistant secretary of Indian Affairs.

# Kastelic on ICWA: 'Tribes are rightly concerned'

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Feb. 28 that it would hear challenges to ICWA – the Indian Child Welfare Act that governs the adoptions of Native American children.

The law has been in effect since 1978 and gives preference to adoptions that keep Native children in their own tribal communities. It was a response to the history of abusive child welfare practices that resulted in the displacement of scores of Native American children who were often forcefully taken from their homes and placed in institutions or with families with no tribal connection.

Much of Indian Country considers the latest challenges to ICWA as a test of tribal sovereignty. Supporters say that if the rationale of opponents survives and the law is stricken down, it could also threaten laws that protect tribal casinos and water and land rights.

Three states — Texas, Louisiana and Indiana — and seven individuals sued the federal government to challenge the law. Their arguments include that ICWA intrudes on states' rights and that it is race-based and thus violates the Constitution.

A handful of tribes intervened in the case to defend the law and said the states' race-discrimination argument is inflammatory. They said ICWA is "tied to membership in Indian tribes — which is about politics, not race."

The Supreme Court has granted review in four appeals and is scheduled to hear arguments during its next term, which begins in October.

The Tribune asked Sarah Kastelic (Alutiiq), the executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), to weigh-in on the court's decision to hear the case.

Were you surprised by the court's decision?

No, we had anticipated that the court would grant cert. All parties — pro-ICWA and anti-ICWA — filed for review, asking the court to hear the case. Additionally, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals had previously ruled that a few provisions of ICWA violated the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which prevents the federal government from commandeering, or requiring, states to use their resources for federal purposes. When a lower court finds part of a federal law unconstitutional, that often attracts the Supreme Court's interest. (Editor's note: Granting cert, or certiorari, means if four of nine justices agree to review the case, then the court will hear it).

Did the make-up of the court (six conservatives and three liberals) affect its decision?

No, we don't know for sure why the court accepted the case. In general, the Supreme Court doesn't hear many child welfare matters — the last time they heard an ICWA case was *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl* in 2013. We don't know which justices wanted to hear the case and why.

Do you have a sense of which way the court might lean?

We don't; and by the time the court hears this case in the fall term there will be a new justice on the bench. There are multiple questions before them, and we don't even know which questions are of most interest. When we hear the questions that the court poses during oral arguments, that will give us a clue about where their interest lies.

Who will argue on behalf of ICWA?

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice and the four intervener tribal governments — the Cherokee Nation,



Sarah Kastelic

Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and Quinault Indian Nation — will argue the case before the court.

Are you worried that ICWA might be overturned?

I think tribes are rightly concerned. There's definitely risk, and there's a lot at stake. We have a lot of educating to do through our pro-ICWA amicus briefs to make sure the court has all of the information it needs to make a good decision. There's a real art and science to the amicus brief strategy and it will be important for tribes to consider signing on to the pro-ICWA tribal government brief when it's time, in mid-May. Once again, we want to show the court that tribal governments, in addition to state governments, members of Congress, mainstream child welfare organizations and others, overwhelmingly support ICWA. (Editor's note: Amicus briefs allow entities that have a stake in litigation to provide information to the court on particular issues they believe are important to the case).

♦ See ICWA on page 3A

## Alaska Rep. Don Young remembered for strong support of Natives

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Don Young, the longest serving Republican in the history of Congress, died March 18 at 88. Many in Indian Country are remembering the Alaska Congressman for his strong support for Alaska Natives and other Indigenous peoples on several issues, including land rights, health care and social programs

"He was a champion for Alaska tribes in many ways, including [support for the Violence Against Women's Act], transportation, Alaska Native veterans, and Southeast Alaska landless tribes," the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska tweeted.

The Anchorage Daily News reported that Young lost consciousness on a flight from Los Angeles to Seattle and could not be resuscitated. His wife, Anne, was reportedly by his side. Young had served in Congress since 1973.

Fawn Sharp, president of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), described Young as a strong supporter of tribal sovereignty with a "fierce commitment" to backing issues important to Indian Country.

"For decades, Congressman Young courageously stood alongside Native peoples and, with deep honor and mutual respect, dedicated time to learning about the pressing issues that must be addressed to ensure the well-being of all tribal nations," Sharp said in a statement March 19

Congressman Tom Cole (Chickasaw Nation) described Young as a friend, mentor and role model who vigorously supported Indigenous rights.

"Don's first wife was a Native Alaskan," Cole, a Republican from Oklahoma, said in a statement. "No one in the House did more to advance the cause of Indigenous peoples than Don. He was knowledgeable about their issues and sympathetic to their cause. He was a fierce defender of tribal sovereignty, treaty rights and the federal trust responsibility."

Young supported the nomination of Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) for Interior Secretary in 2021. In 2020, Young, Cole and Haaland, who was a Congresswoman at the time, partnered on the Progress for Indian Tribes Act aimed at streamlining the Interior Department's process for approving self-governance compacts and annual funding agreements for Indian programs. The trio also sponsored a bill to help tribes establish or increase their buffalo herd populations.

Following the news of Young's death, Haaland tweeted that Young became one of



Alaska Rep. Don Young speaks during a Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska function.

her most valued friends and mentors during her freshman term in Congress.

"As Dean of the House, Mr. Young taught all of us how to love the people and the states that we represent. Everything he did, every day, was for Alaska and its people, whom he loved dearly. He leaves us a tremendous legacy of bipartisanship in service of the greater good," she said.

According to his online biography, Young's early career included teaching a fifth grade elementary class at a Bureau of Indian Affairs school in Fort Yukon. He began his political career as the mayor of Fort Yukon in the mid-1960s. His 49 years of service in Congress is the ninth-longest tenure ever.

In January, Young introduced legislation aimed at helping Alaska Native elders.

"Our elders are a rich source of history and tribal tradition; we must provide them with the support necessary to continue playing their crucial roles in their communities," Young said in a statement at the time. "Elders frequently receive benefits from their village corporations, representing a critical source of income to help elders meet their basic needs. Too often, these community benefits disqualify elders from receiving support through federal programs, and very frankly, that is wrong...I have introduced legislation to ensure that elders who may need a little extra assistance to make ends meet are not disqualified because

of their settlement trust income."

Young also proposed legislation to transfer property to the Tanana Tribal Council, recognize Alexander Creek as a Native Village, and direct the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to convey property in Anchorage to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for use in connection with health programs.

"Standing with our Alaska Native communities does not stop with federal recognition; we must ensure that our Native groups have possession of and access to land, including lands that they have utilized for centuries. It is my honor to partner with several Alaska Native groups in the fight for federal land use rights," Young said.

President Joe Biden ordered flags to be flown at half-staff March 19 in honor of Young.

"There is no doubt that few legislators have left a greater mark on their state," Biden said in a statement. "Don's legacy lives on in the infrastructure projects he delighted in steering across Alaska. In the opportunities he advanced for his constituents. In the enhanced protections for Native tribes he championed. His legacy will continue in the America he loved."

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

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# Community



A

## Erica Deitz's art to be featured as large mural at new FSU student union

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Seminole tribal member Erica Deitz's artwork will be displayed as a mural at Florida State University's new student union. The university made the announcement in a news release March 7, noting that the mural will be displayed in a prominent location in the building.

Deitz's painting, "Osceola's Vision," will be enlarged from its original 35-by-24-inch acrylic painting to a massive 24-foot-high by 16-foot-wide mural.

The painting depicts iconic Seminole chief Osceola looking down from the clouds with other Seminole leaders behind him, including Micanopy, Wildcat, Sam Jones and Billy Bowlegs. Deitz's idea for the painting was to show that Osceola's priority was the safety of his people. She said they were all integral to the tribe's survival.

"His vision was about more than winning battles," Deitz told the Tribune after the announcement. "Our lineage is about survival and to carry on what they fought for. Today there are leaders who put the survival and welfare of our people at the forefront and teach it to the future generations of the

tribe. That's how we should think and live; to teach our people and children to always give back so those blessings can come back to us."

In July 2021, the FSU division of student affairs solicited contemporary artists to submit proposals for a mural for the student union. The committee gave priority to works that represent and celebrate the Seminole Tribe's culture and history and also gave preference to artists with Seminole ancestry. Tribal member Elgin Jumper and two non-tribal artists were also finalists.

"As I create my art, I put all of the energy from my ancestors, their traditional teachings and their culture, into each painting," Deitz said in the news release. "This is my way of keeping the spirit of my ancestors alive. I am honored to share my artwork with the Florida State University campus community."

Artistic creativity extends throughout Deitz's family. Her mother, Jo Motlow North, is an artist and both of Deitz's grandmothers were artists. Her parents met when they were students at the Institute of American Indian Arts. She has Winnebago and Ojibway heritage from her father, Robert North.

Deitz, who lives on the Hollywood Reservation, has been drawing since she was 3 years old and she had her first art show at age 10. In June 2021, her art was featured on the cover of Indian Gaming magazine.

Installation of the mural is slated to be held this summer.

"We are honored to have Erica's art selected and to support a Seminole Tribe of Florida artist who offers an Indigenous

FSU

A rendering of an area in the FSU student union shows a highlighted portion where Erica Deitz's art is slated to be placed.



Courtesy Erica Deitz

Seminole artist Erica Deitz, from the Hollywood Reservation, works on the acrylic painting that will be reproduced to adorn a 24-foot-high by 16-foot-wide area in Florida State University's new student union.

perspective through art," Amy Hecht, FSU vice president for student affairs, said in a statement. "Erica's piece of art will be an iconic representation of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Florida State University

student union. Her art will communicate the history and celebrate the culture of the tribe. It is fitting that her work will be displayed in the most visible location in the union."

### ◆ ICWA From page 2A

What's the goal of those who oppose ICWA?

Despite what ICWA opponents say, they do not have the best interests of Indian children at heart. Opponents of ICWA

do not know what's best for Native kids. Their motives are to overturn tribal rights for profit, to access tribal land and natural resources and ultimately to dismantle tribal sovereignty. This starts by removing ICWA's protections for our youngest generations. ICWA is facing the ultimate challenge. We must protect ICWA at all costs to prevent history from repeating itself and to ensure the rights of Native children to their families,

communities and culture.

Can ICWA supporters do anything in the meantime?

Besides signing on to the tribal government amicus brief later this spring, tribes and Indian Country have the opportunity to educate the public about what ICWA is and why it's important. They can

also help educate people about this case, the opposition, and the political agenda that is being advanced. There are great resources on NICWA's website and on the Native American Rights Fund's (NARF) website. They can listen to Rebecca Nagel's (Cherokee Nation) podcast about ICWA and this case, called 'This Land.' I'd also like to encourage Native individuals and families to consider being a foster parent. You can make

a huge difference in the life of child. You can help them stay connected to their identity, family, community and culture – things that research shows make a big difference to children's health and wellbeing.

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

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# To-Pee-Kee-Ke Yak-Ne open house provides welcomed gathering for community

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — In Eloponke, “To-Pee-Kee-Ke Yak-Ne” means a place to gather – and that’s just what the Big Cypress community did during a festive open house event March 9 that featured vendors, music and food.

The To-Pee-Kee-Ke Yak-Ne Community Center in Big Cypress made its debut in May 2019, but was only open for 10 months before the pandemic struck.

The Seminole Tribe’s shift into phase three of reopening, which started Feb. 28, allowed a return to facilities and for tribal members to gather in-person.

The open house was organized by Quenton Cypress, the Heritage and Environment Resources Office (HERO) community engagement manager. His goal was to have the tribal community meet HERO staff and learn about programs and initiatives at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) and the Environmental Resources Management Department (ERMD). Each department staffed informational tables at the event.

Fifteen vendors also sold clothing, arts and crafts, jewelry and food. The crowd was

so large that some food vendors sold out. “The open house was more than we could have imagined,” Cypress said. “It was a great turnout.”

“The community is ready to be a community again,” said Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie. “The pandemic is still here with us, like a lot of other viruses. But they are ready to mingle and socialize. Without the people, we wouldn’t be a community or a tribe. We can’t be who we are if we are cooped up at home.”

The vendors were a welcomed sight for those who wanted to shop.

“It’s nice to get out,” said Esther Gopher, who shopped with her daughter Kristen Billie and 11-month-old granddaughter Daenerys Billie. “I haven’t seen some of these people in years, it feels good. We still wear our masks because we still have a baby.”

Rez Jamz, the center’s musical showcase for tribal member musicians, set up a backdrop and sound system outside. Featured artists included Eden Jumper and Cypress Billie.

“It’s good to see everybody and the vendors,” Councilwoman Billie said. “We all like socializing and the energy that comes with it. We want to create an environment where people feel welcome.”



At left, Barbara Billie helps tribal members look through some of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum’s old photos in order to identify people in them, as Edna McDuffie, center, and Councilwoman Mariann Billie discuss some of the pictures at the To-Pee-Kee-Ke Yak-Ne Community Center open house March 9 in Big Cypress.



Cypress Billie plays some of his original songs on the Rez Jamz stage at the open house.



Esther Gopher, left, and her daughter Kristen Billie shop for some child-sized patchwork pieces at the open house.

# Book: Indigenous women are resilient through centuries

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The matrilineal line of Indigenous cultures were empowered for centuries before European contact – and although colonization had devastating effects – Native women have kept their power as traditional and modern leaders.

Author and Cherokee historian Karen Coody Cooper examines the subject in her new book, “Cherokee Women in Charge: Female Power and Leadership in American Indian Nations of Eastern North America.”

Cooper, who previously worked at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, is a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma living in Lake Worth, Florida. Her book explores a range of topics related to matrilineal tribes, such as mythology, division of labor, sexuality, home life, governance, recreation, economics, hospitality, warfare and craftwork.

“Matrilineal social structure consisted of elder women as heads of family owning and governing the home – shared with their daughters – who relied on their brothers for meat, labor and protection,” Cooper said. “While husbands were a welcome guest in the house, men’s labor was devoted to their own mother’s home and family.”

Cooper said before European contact,

Indigenous women generally had no fear of molestation and traveled freely and independently during peaceful times for social events and trade. After contact, Indigenous women were not as safe.

“For a century or more afterwards, matrilineal women’s voices were heeded in council meetings but soon their children acquired patrilineal surnames, often due to marriage to traders, interpreters and government officials,” Cooper said. “Many Cherokee men continued to yield to the commands of their wives and many still do so today.”

The matrilineal analysis also features two Seminole women of influence – one from the Seminole Tribe of Florida (Betty Mae Jumper) and the other from the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma (Alice Brown Davis).

Davis (1852-1935) was appointed as a chief by U.S. president Warren G. Harding in 1922. It was during an interim time when statehood implied that tribal governments no longer existed, but when the federal government still needed signatures and agreements for certain practices, Cooper said. She said Davis also served as a delegate to assist the Seminole Tribe of Florida with development of its own government structure.

Jumper (1923-2011) became the first female chief of the Seminole Tribe of Florida

in 1967. The legendary leader was the first in the tribe to graduate from high school in 1945 and went on to be an influential nurse. She was also instrumental in the tribe’s effort to gain federal recognition.

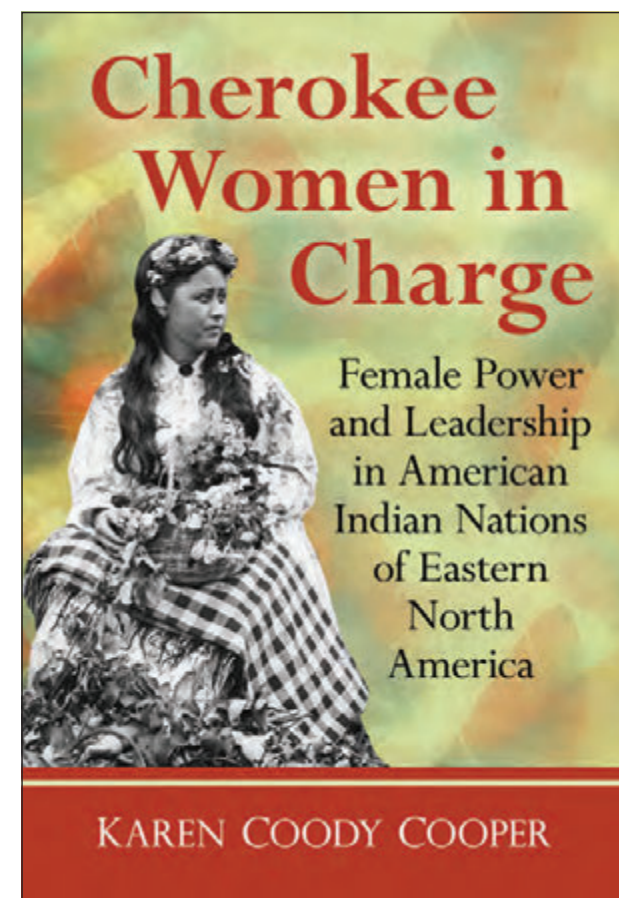
“These women were phenomenally proactive, take-charge women – and they both accomplished incredible advances for their people,” Cooper said. “Matrilineal women retained a sense of empowerment through the centuries and are putting it to work in modern life. Today, women in general are being more proactive, and that has aided Indigenous matrilineal women in also taking active roles in leadership.”

Cooper’s book also looks at early examples of matrilineal culture. The Iroquois, for example, were known as one of the most powerful Indian races – controlling land along the eastern seaboard of North America and for several hundred miles inland. Iroquois women enjoyed a social equality and respect that was not shared by colonial American women. Similarly, all the female members of the Algonquian nation were equal and played important roles.

Cooper said the goal for the book, her sixth, was to capture a slice of Indigenous history and make it appealing to Natives and non-Natives alike. “Cherokee Women in Charge” includes 38 illustrations and images of prehistoric pieces, early etchings, colonial

medals, oil portraits, carvings, craftworks and contemporary art.

The book was published by Jefferson, North Carolina-based McFarland & Co. To buy it, go to [mcfarlandbooks.com](http://mcfarlandbooks.com) and search for “Cherokee Women in Charge.” For more about the author, go to [karencodycooper.com](http://karencodycooper.com).



Courtesy image

The book’s cover features a bare-foot Sarah Downing, a Cherokee woman photographed in 1875 in Cherokee Nation Indian Territory by photographer John K. Hillers. Author Karen Coody Cooper said Hillers “romanced the photo” a bit by adding flowers and a buckbrush basket.

# Child abuse prevention draws extra focus in April

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe has planned a series of activities in April to bring more attention to child abuse prevention. The activities coincide with “National Child Abuse Prevention Month” which has been observed in April since 1983.

From April 18 to April 22, the Advocacy and Guardianship department’s tribal family and child advocates will encourage the tribal community to show support for child abuse prevention through a series of activities.

Advocacy and Guardianship is part of the tribe’s Health and Human Services department (HHS) and includes the Tribal Family and Child Advocacy (TFCA) program.

Angela Hardwick, a tribal family and child advocate on the Big Cypress

Reservation, said the activities would include wearing a certain article of clothing on a particular day – socks, sports team jersey, superhero outfit and hat. There will also be a day designated to wear blue – the color that represents child abuse prevention. She said members of the department would also visit preschools and Boys and Girls Clubs to do activities, read stories and hand out ice cream.

Hardwick has been in her position at the tribe for about six years assisting in child abuse and domestic violence cases. She said cases end up in her department after a child protective investigator (CPI) receives a phone call through the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-ABUSE) or after the Seminole Police Department is contacted. The CPI and SPD typically contact Advocacy and Guardianship so that an advocate is assigned to the case.

“We advocate for the family to make sure the case manager (CPI) stays within guidelines and that the family is treated fairly when being interviewed,” Hardwick said.

She said cases can involve domestic violence, emotional abuse, physical abuse, psychological neglect (lack of attention for the child or ignoring the child’s need of love and security), sexual abuse and environmental hazardous like an unclean home. For example, an advocate will go into a home and assess if the child feels safe and has running water and food. The department will then provide in home and out of home services depending on the case.

“We try to keep the family together and give them any assistance they need,” Hardwick said. “A parent might not be aware that a domestic violence situation is affecting the child, but you need to have that

conversation [with the child] so you’re aware of what they’re hearing or might be thinking.”

Hardwick said counseling is available to tribal members for a range of issues, including domestic violence, drug abuse, mental illness, underdeveloped coping skills, relationship problems and poor communication skills. Advocacy and Guardianship works hand in hand with the tribe’s Center for Behavioral Health – which is also part of HHS – and often refers tribal members to its many services.

“With preventative measures, we can



Image via Facebook

The tribe is promoting awareness of child abuse issues in April.

keep a situation from going to court or beyond,” Hardwick said.

Hardwick can be contacted by phone at (863) 983-5151, ext. 12347, or via email at [angelahardwick@semtribe.com](mailto:angelahardwick@semtribe.com).



◆ **4-H**  
From page 1A

The winners at the Seminole 4-H Livestock Show & Sale were:

- Grand Champion Commercial Heifer: **KaShyra Urbina**
- Reserve Champion Commercial Heifer: **Jaleigh Braswell**
- Grand Champion Commercial Bred Heifer: **Karma Koenes**
- Reserve Champion Commercial Bred Heifer: **Anna Tigertail**
- Grand Champion Commercial Cow/Calf: **Halley Ballentine**
- Reserve Grand Champion Commercial Cow/Calf: **Kulipa Julian**
- Grand Champion Registered SVF

- Heifer: **Jaleigh Braswell**
- Grand Champion Registered SVF Cow/Calf: **Khoal Cochran**
- Heifer Champion Junior Showmanship: **Karma Koenes**
- Heifer Champion Intermediate Showmanship: **KaShyra Urbina**
- Heifer Champion Senior Showmanship: **Karlyne Urbina**
- Grand Champion Steer: **Brace Miller**
- Reserve Champion Steer: **Paizlee Miller**
- Steer Champion Junior Showmanship: **Sue Forbes-Osceola**
- Steer Champion Intermediate Showmanship: **Paizlee Miller**
- Steer Champion Senior Showmanship: **Summer Gopher**
- Grand Champion Swine: **Ada Bruised Head**

- Reserve Grand Champion Swine: **Jaleigh Braswell**
- Swine Champion Junior Showmanship: **Ada Bruised Head**
- Swine Champion Intermediate Showmanship: **Jaleigh Braswell**
- Swine Champion Senior Showmanship: **Tadan Santiago**

- Adult Showmanship:**
- Swine: Champion: **Ayana Tommie**
- 2nd Place: **Ayze Henry**
- 3rd Place: **Ko' Oshee Henry**

- Cattle:**
- Champion: **Trina Hipp**
- 2nd Place: **Jodi Clay**
- 3rd Place: **Clarissa Urbina**



Beverly Bidney

4-H Special Projects Coordinator Kimberly Clement holds the microphone as Ayana Tommie gives it her best during the hog calling contest at the Seminole 4-H show March 9 in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Hannah Johns-Platt whistles as she moves her 245-pound pig around the show ring.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Zechariah Tigertail, Daryn Tommie-James and Ariel Concepcion try to get their pigs to walk around the ring without creating a traffic jam.



Beverly Bidney

KD Coleman, left, and Lillie Coleman meet with the judge during the Seminole 4-H show.



Beverly Bidney

Pee wee Jaynaleigh Bert cuddles with her rabbit before the Seminole 4-H show March 9.



Beverly Bidney

Members of the pee wee club say the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the Seminole 4-H show at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.

# Sites with Native slur include Marion County lake

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter



File photo

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) is leading an effort to rename sites that use a derogatory term for Native American women.

A lake in Florida's Marion County is one of 660 sites across the U.S. that are on a list to be renamed due to the use of the word "squaw," which is considered a racist and misogynistic slur toward Native American women.

Squaw Pond is a remote eight-acre lake located in the Ocala National Forest in the north-central area of the state. The circumstances of how and when the lake was named were not immediately clear. It is the only Florida site identified on the list.

The landmarks and sites on the list are located on federal lands and waterways. Work began in earnest this year at the Interior Department, led by Secretary Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo), to submit new names – based on input from tribes – for the identified sites.

Haaland's office directed a task force to submit the new names to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for approval – a federal body that standardizes U.S. place names. Haaland ordered the National Park Service to go through a similar process.

The suggested replacement names for the Florida site, according to the list, are Gardners Prairie, Forts Bear Hole, Greens Bear Hole, Indian Prairie and Sellers Prairie. It was not immediately clear what level of tribal input was used to determine the replacement names.

"Words matter, particularly in our work to make our nation's public lands and waters accessible and welcoming to people of all backgrounds," Haaland said in a statement about the initiative last month. "Consideration of these replacements is a big step forward in our efforts to remove derogatory terms whose expiration dates are long overdue."

Forty states have at least one site or landmark on the list that contain the slur. California and Idaho have the most – 86 and 84, respectively.

# Budget request directs billions more to Indian Country

STAFF REPORT

The Biden administration sent its proposed 2023 budget to Congress on March 28 – a \$5.8 trillion package that includes billions for Indian Country programs.

The Indian Country investments are in many cases increases from previous Biden budgets, which have already been described as historic for tribal communities. The funding request for the Department of Interior and its Bureau of Indian Affairs programs, for example, are \$18.1 billion, an increase of \$2.9 billion.

The White House said the budget reflects priorities from increased consultation with tribal communities.

"We are best served when tribal governments are empowered to lead their communities and when federal officials listen to and work together with tribal leaders when formulating budgets that affect tribal nations," the White House said in a statement.

The budget seeks \$562.1 million for public safety and justice operations under the BIA to support expanding needs in policing, detention and tribal courts. It also sets aside \$70 million for the Department of Justice's ongoing effort to address the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women

and girls. The budget recognizes other Indian Country needs, too, from stewardship of trust resources to funding the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative.

In addition, the Indian Health Service (IHS) would see a shift from discretionary funding to mandatory funding that would automatically grow to keep pace with rising health care costs and population growth. The 2023 budget includes \$9.1 billion in mandatory IHS funding, a \$2.9 billion increase.

Additionally, billions more would be directed to climate change programs and a job creation initiative intended to clean up abandoned oil and gas well sites and reclaim them for other purposes.

"The president's budget request lays the foundation for revolutionary and transformational change in the diplomatic relationship between tribal nations and the United States," United South & Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) president Kirk Francis, said in a statement. "We view each president's budget request as an indication of that administration's respect and reverence for its sacred trust and treaty obligations. With this request, the Biden administration is showing us that it intends to honor federal promises."

◆ **MICANOPY**  
From page 1A

Activist Robert Rosa, a member of the central Florida division of the American Indian Movement and the Florida Indigenous Alliance (FIA), worked for two years to get the land protected. At the meeting he said the county could set an example for how government should work with the Native community.

"The town wants to work with us and the Seminole Tribe to put a proper memorial there and preserve the area," Rosa (Taino) told the Tribune.

Rosa posted the news on the FIA Facebook page. "To our incredible surprise the Alachua

County Commission today ended the two-year struggle to protect the Micanopy Battlefield site [and] any burials there as well as its environmental status by agreeing to buy not only the parcel we were concerned about but an adjacent parcel to ensure the site is not developed."

The Seminole Wars were fought on land that now includes the town, whose official seal contains the image of Seminole Chief Micanopy. The tribe's ancestors fought, perished and were laid to rest there.

The next step for the parcels is for the county to meet with the Micanopy town commission to decide what to do with the land.

"When we got the victory, I just cried," Tommie said. "This is a victory for our people, for our ancestors."



Courtesy photo

Martha Tommie reads an informational sign about Seminole heritage in Micanopy in the Native American Heritage Preserve on March 28. The sign is near the site that will not become a Dollar General store.





Beverly Bidney

Siblings Kingston Jumper, 5, and Kanae Jumper, 8, ride their horses in the Chalo Nitka Festival parade March 5 in Moore Haven.



Beverly Bidney

Brighton Councilman Larry Howard addresses spectators at the Chalo Nitka Festival grounds March 5 in Moore Haven.

# Tribe plays big role in Chalo Nitka celebration

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**MOORE HAVEN** — After two years of the pandemic, it was clear people were ready to get out and celebrate the 74th annual Chalo Nitka Festival in Moore Haven on March 5.

The festival began in 1948 as a celebration of the town's newly paved main street. It has evolved into a celebration that includes Seminole culture and life near Lake Okeechobee.

Chalo Nitka means "big bass" in the

Seminole Creek language. The Brighton Reservation is a close neighbor of Moore Haven.

"This is a historical thing for us," said Brighton Councilman Larry Howard. "We bring our culture and keep it going for the future generations. I look forward to this every year. We all needed it; we missed [Brighton] Field Day and [Seminole] Tribal Fair and Pow Wow."

Those events were canceled earlier this year amid pandemic-related concerns. Positive Covid-19 cases have since decreased in recent weeks paving the way for the tribe's participation in events such as

Chalo Nitka.

The tribe's culture was prominently featured at the festival. Samples of freshly made pumpkin fry bread were given out at a cooking chickee. Tribal members sold traditional beaded jewelry and other arts and crafts. An alligator wrestling exhibition delighted spectators. A tribal clothing contest featured participants ranging from babies to elders in their most colorful finery.

"We came out last year, but there are a lot more people today," said Melissa Gopher, who attended with her family.

Crowds lined the streets for the annual parade, which featured floats, elected

officials, Chalo Nitka royalty, the Moore Haven Middle-High School marching band and horses. Candy and beads thrown from passing floats were immediately retrieved by children.

Tribal members in the clothing contest donned their traditional clothing. Kids received help from adults, who made sure each component of the look was just right. The contest began with infants and toddlers, who clearly stole the hearts of spectators.

The Chalo Nitka events included a 5K run, bass fishing tournament, parade, festival and rodeo. The festival grounds were filled with rides, food trucks and vendors selling

everything from jams to jerseys.

Councilman Howard said Brighton was eager to get back on track with a regular schedule of activities on the reservation, including Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day celebrations.

"Every day isn't promised to us; we have to keep our fingers crossed and do the right thing," Councilman Howard said. "We pray to God the pandemic goes away, but it will probably stay with us like the flu. We have what we need to protect ourselves now, so there is light on the horizon."



Beverly Bidney

Balene Clay makes pumpkin fry bread in the festival's cooking chickee as guests enjoy the samples.



Beverly Bidney

Makko Marcias, 3, stands out in the Seminole clothing contest for boys ages 3 to 5 at the festival.



Beverly Bidney

Clarissa Urbina adjusts her niece Kashyra Urbina's clothing before the Seminole clothing contest at Chalo Nitka Festival



Beverly Bidney

Mini Miss Ailynn Raynee Tommie-Smith is surrounded by patchwork as she waves to the crowd during the Chalo Nitka Festival parade.



Beverly Bidney

Virginia Osceola helps customers choose jewelry at the festival.



Beverly Bidney

Emcee John Madrigal interviews a group of 3-to-5-year-old girls during the clothing contest.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Jaydance Urbina, Jeremy Urbina and Malackai Garnane are pleased with the results of the clothing contest in the boys 13-17 age category at the Seminole clothing contest.



Beverly Bidney

Clockwise from top, siblings Iverson Huggins, Ellis Gopher, Eastyn Gopher and Ethan Gopher chase down candy at the parade.



# Proposed tunnel would connect to Hard Rock Stadium

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

As government officials across a growing South Florida grapple with mass transit options for millions of residents and visitors, a unique 6.2-mile transportation tunnel has been proposed in North Miami Beach. The project by The Boring Co. would connect to 10 sites and would include an extension to the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens.

According to media reports, the Elon Musk-owned company recently submitted a proposal to city of North Miami Beach officials for review. Tesla vehicles would transport passengers in underground tunnels. The city of Fort Lauderdale is considering a similar project from the same company, a "Las Olas Loop," that would transport people from downtown to Fort Lauderdale Beach — a 2.5-mile trip in about three minutes.

The North Miami Beach proposal said the initial capacity would be 7,500

passengers per hour — but could eventually be scaled up to handle 15,000. The proposed tunnel would run from a Golden Glades intersection near I-95 to the Newport Pier. A three-mile extension to Hard Rock Stadium would originate from the Golden Glades intersection.

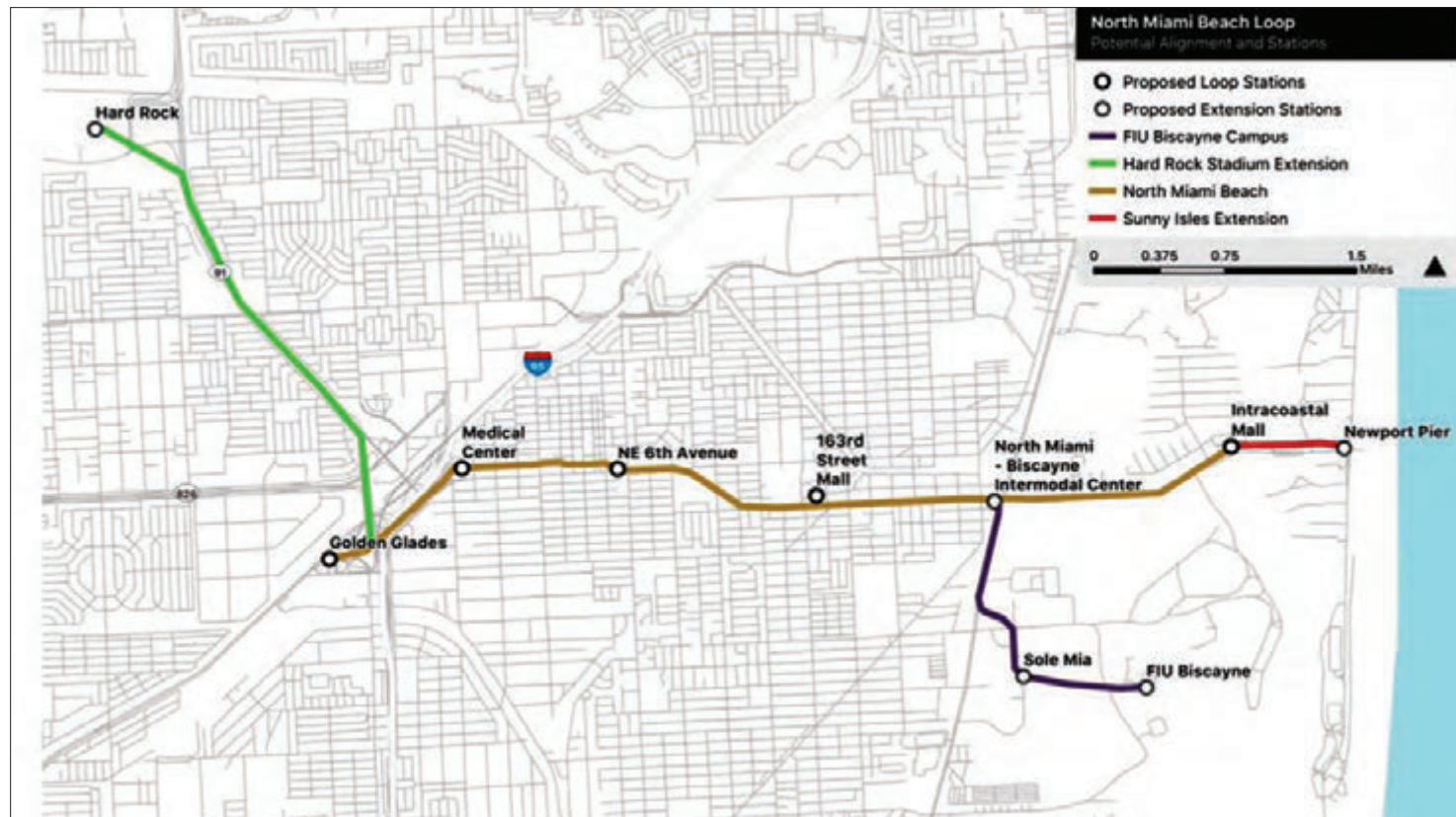
Hard Rock International holds the naming rights to the stadium — which is run by the Miami Dolphins organization. An 18-year naming deal signed in 2016 takes the current contract to 2034. The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of Hard Rock International.

In addition to Hard Rock Stadium, Golden Glades and Newport Pier, the proposed stations and extensions include the Medical Center at Jackson North Hospital, NE 6th Avenue, The Mall at 163rd Street, the North Miami-Biscayne Intermodal Center, the Intracoastal Mall, SoLe Mia Miami and Florida International University/Biscayne Bay North Miami.

In the proposal, The Boring Co.

estimates the project cost at \$185 million to \$220 million. The proposal argues the cost is less than what a traditional mass transit system would be for a project of such a scope. The proposal asserts that financing could come from the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act — which consists of \$110 billion for roads, bridges, and major projects — and that the federal government is likely to rate the project favorably. In addition, the proposal said The Boring Co. would finance a portion of the construction and operation costs.

If approved, the tunnel would take 36 months to plan and build, according to The Boring Co. — assuming permitting advances quickly. A North Miami Beach commissioner recently quoted in a Bloomberg report said the project would also need approval from nearby municipalities and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which could take additional time.



The proposed Miami Beach Loop would include an extension to the Hard Rock Stadium.

Image via The Next Miami

# Northern California's Hard Rock Live to debut with Maroon 5 concert

STAFF REPORT

Maroon 5 will headline the grand opening of Hard Rock Live in northern California. The June 3 concert will help celebrate a \$75 million expansion at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain.

"Maroon 5 is the perfect band to help us celebrate Hard Rock Live's grand opening. They are incredible live performers and live music is fundamental to the Hard Rock brand. This new venue will become the place for entertainment and world class amenities for the city of Sacramento," Mark Birtha, president of Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain, said in a

statement.

The 65,000-square-foot Hard Rock Live seats 2,500 and includes VIP skyboxes.

The casino and hotel opened in 2019 as a partnership between the Enterprise Rancheria Tribe and the Seminole Tribe. It is located in Wheatland, about 35 miles north of Sacramento.

# Dolphins QB to host benefit at Seminole Hard Rock

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Here is a list of upcoming special events at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood:

## Luuu with Tua

April 9 at 6 p.m.  
Hard Rock Hotel Pool  
Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa will host an evening of giving, Polynesian food, entertainment and aloha benefiting the Tua Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Broward County. For more information visit [tuafoundation.org/events/luuu-with-tua-miami/](https://tuafoundation.org/events/luuu-with-tua-miami/).

## Sips & Cigars Benefitting the Crockett Foundation

April 23 at 7 p.m.  
Terrace Ballroom and Patio  
Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood is the title sponsor of Sips & Cigars benefiting the Crockett Foundation. This elegant event will feature an open bar, food and more. The Crockett Foundation has positively impacted the lives of thousands of children since its inception in 2002. Its after-school programs focus on math, reading, health and technology for middle school students. For more information visit [crockettfoundation.org/events/seminole-hard-rock-hotel-and-casino-sips-and-cigars](https://crockettfoundation.org/events/seminole-hard-rock-hotel-and-casino-sips-and-cigars).

## United Way of Broward's Mayor's Gala

April 30 at 6 p.m.  
Seminole Ballroom  
Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood is a sponsor of the Mayor's Gala benefiting United Way of Broward that will feature a cocktail reception, silent and live auction, program, dinner and dancing. The United Way of Broward has helped community members with health, education, and financial prosperity. For more information visit [unitedwaybroward.org/events/2022-mayors-gala](https://unitedwaybroward.org/events/2022-mayors-gala).

# Hard Rock chosen as Chicago casino finalist

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Hard Rock International (HRI) has been selected as one of three finalists vying to develop Chicago's first casino-resort.

Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot announced March 22 that HRI joins Bally's Corp. and Rush Street Gaming for the bid to acquire the city's sole casino license. Lightfoot said in a news release that the city would eventually send a finalist to the city council for approval.

"Each proposal offers economic, employment, and equity-focused opportunities for Chicago, while simultaneously enhancing the city's cultural, entertainment and architectural scenes with world-class amenities and design," Lightfoot said in the release. "Our teams look forward to heading into discussions with the finalists and getting one step closer to bringing this decades-long project to fruition."

Hard Rock has proposed a \$1.74 billion casino as part of a massive mixed-use project that would be built near the Soldier Field stadium. It would include a 500-room hotel and 3,500-seat live entertainment venue, among other amenities.

"We're excited about the prospect of creating a new entertainment destination for the city of Chicago, and we're humbled to be chosen for the next phase of the selection process," HRI said in a statement to the Chicago Tribune. "We look forward to a robust dialogue with city leaders about Hard Rock Chicago and what we bring to the table. Chicago is a global city that deserves a global operator."

If chosen for the project, HRI has said it would open a temporary casino in the second quarter of 2023 and the permanent casino in the third quarter of 2025.



Rendering via City of Chicago

Rendering of the proposed Chicago Hard Rock casino-resort.

The city said each of the three finalists would now participate in community meetings with the city before being further evaluated. A formal development process would begin following city council and Illinois Gaming Board approval of the winning bid.

The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of HRI. More is at [hardrock.com](https://hardrock.com).

# Maluma concert at Hard Rock Live to kick off Miami Grand Prix race

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Columbian star entertainer Maluma will kick off Formula 1's Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix race weekend with a concert at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on May 5 at 8 p.m.

As a founding partner of Formula 1 Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix, Hard Rock International is bringing globally recognized superstars to celebrate the inaugural race in Miami at both the Miami International Autodrome and at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

Maluma, 28, is the first of several A-list entertainers announced who are scheduled to perform during race weekend.

Maluma is also slated to make an appearance at Hard Rock Beach Club at the

Autodrome during race weekend. Spanning the area by turns 11, 12 and 13, Hard Rock Beach Club will include a 24,000 square-foot beach, resort-style pools and two levels of luxury cabanas.

Maluma, whose name is Juan Luis Londoño Arias, 28, has a repertoire of hits and music collaborations with artists such as Madonna, Shakira and Ricky Martin. He has recorded five albums. His social media includes more than 93 million active followers.

In November 2021, Maluma starred in his first Disney animation movie, "Encanto," which was nominated for an Oscar and Golden Globe. He also has a starring role as in the movie "Marry Me" alongside Jennifer Lopez and Owen Wilson. He collaborated with Lopez on the film's soundtrack.

Go to [myhri.com](https://myhri.com) for concert tickets.



Maluma

Phraa

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

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# Tina Osceola, William Cypress jewelry on view at Walt Disney World

**BY LAURA DELLO RUSSO**  
Registrar  
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

**BIG CYPRESS** — Located in the American pavilion at Walt Disney World's Epcot theme park, the "Creating Tradition: Innovation and Change in American Indian Art" exhibit showcases historical Native artifacts alongside works by contemporary American Indian artists. The exhibit includes a diverse array of objects ranging from traditional baskets and moccasins to modern sneakers and skateboards. Native communities from seven regions across the U.S. are included in the gallery, and the art represents the richness and diversity of Native cultures, both past and present.

While the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum has

participated in the exhibit since its inception in 2018, staff from the museum's collections department rotate the objects twice each year to ensure the safety of the exhibited items. This also provides Disney's visitors with an opportunity to view a variety of Seminole artifacts, textiles and artwork. The most recent rotation of objects occurred at the beginning of March, and it included two beaded necklaces by Tina Osceola and three pairs of silver earrings by William Cypress. Each of these beautiful pieces of jewelry were created within the past few years.

Made from Swarovski crystals and silver coins, Osceola's necklaces immediately capture the attention of guests as they walk past the gallery space. Her glittering necklaces offer a unique contrast to the historic strands of beads displayed beside them, which were also included in the recent rotation of objects. The beads, made

during the 1930s, were originally created to be sold as souvenirs at the former Musa Isle Indian Village in Miami. The beads are well-preserved examples of Seminole beadwork from the early 20th century. Displayed next to Osceola's necklaces, visitors are able to view this transition from historic beaded jewelry to a more modern interpretation.

The same is true for William Cypress' elegant silver earrings. Purchased by the museum in 2021, these earrings are some of the newest pieces of jewelry in the collection. Each earring was intricately hand-crafted by Cypress, and the attention to detail can be seen in its exquisite design. Like Osceola's necklaces, Cypress' earrings are also displayed next to an object which contrasts with their modernity. An 18th century bronze gorget, worn around the

## SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

A larger view of the "Creating Tradition" display is seen here.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

This beaded necklace by Tina Osceola is one of two on display at the exhibit.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

William Cypress' silver earrings are on display now.

neck, rests beside his 21st century earrings, demonstrating the evolution of metalwork over hundreds of years.

This contrast between the past and the present is what makes "Creating Tradition" such a meaningful experience to the thousands of visitors that Walt Disney World welcomes each day. The exhibit gives guests a chance to learn about and enjoy the history of American Indian art. However, and perhaps more importantly, it also allows visitors the opportunity to explore contemporary Native artists who have continued to create and adapt their traditions

in innovative ways. Therefore, showing that art in Native cultures not only continues, but thrives.

"Creating Tradition" is on display at the American Heritage Gallery in Epcot's American Adventure Pavilion. The jewelry by Osceola and Cypress can be viewed through September 2022. Additionally, those objects and others from the museum's permanent collection can be viewed at [sentribe.pastperfectonline.com](http://sentribe.pastperfectonline.com).

# Reception highlights poetry through art, writing

**BY BEVERLY BIDNEY**  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Since Elgin Jumper sees poetry in everything, the opening reception for his "Fluent Poetry" show at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on March 16 celebrated all types of poetry, including visual and the written word.

The title of the show comes from Jumper's take on the poetic and lyrical feeling of the visual art he creates with paint. The versatile fine artist and writer said he

speaks fluent poetry through both art and writing.

In addition to unveiling the artwork hung on the wall of the museum's Mosaic Gallery, the reception featured poetry readings by members of the Seminole Writers Group, which Jumper founded in November 2021.

The 15-piece exhibit showcases Jumper's creativity which has been influenced by various artistic genres such as tonalism, Cubism, Fauvism, graffiti art and abstract art. During the opening ceremony, a group of Ahfachkee School high school students listened, learned and asked

questions of Jumper after he introduced the show.

"Just get started," Jumper said. "I urge you right now to get into it and start that journey."

In response to a student's inquiry if he painted landscapes outside or from photos, Jumper recalled fond memories of traveling to different reservations with his friend and mentor Jimmy Osceola to paint outdoors. Jumper said he still paints outside, "but you have to be quick because the shadows move all the time. It keeps you on your toes."

Students wanted to know which was his favorite painting in the show. After mentioning a graffiti art inspired piece, Jumper said his favorite at the moment was the latest one he painted. The piece, a portrait of a man, is painted almost entirely in shades of red. He said the piece was inspired by Vincent Van Gogh, who did a series of paintings of sunflowers almost entirely in tones of yellow in 1888-89.

"Just experiment with styles, go to museums to look at art," Jumper advised the students. "Find out what you like, but try other things too."

The spoken word portion of the reception was held outdoors by the smoldering fire in the shelter near the museum's front door. Members of the writing group took turns reading from their poems.

Barbara Billie was up first and warned the attendees that she was just a beginner. She read from her poem "Mother," which was the first thing she had ever written.

"She asked for nothing, only that her children become good adults," Billie read. "How lucky am I to have such a beautiful giving person to be my mother."

Krystle Young Bowers read a poem and an essay about language as museum director Gordon "Ollie" Wareham played the flute. The next writer, Carol Cypress, spoke from her heart instead of from the page.

"When the flag was down, I used to ask who passed away," Cypress said. "I don't



Beverly Bidney

Elgin Jumper talks about his art that is displayed in the Mosaic Gallery at the museum.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Gordon "Ollie" Wareham plays flute during the poetry reading at the opening reception of Elgin Jumper's "Fluent Poetry" show March 16. Below, attendees watch the program in the front of the museum.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Barbara Billie, Marcella Billie and Krystle Young Bowers are resplendent in patchwork as they prepare for the opening reception of "Fluent Poetry."



ask anymore and that makes me sad. My grandfather was a medicine man and told me a lot of people came to his camp. There was a lot of death and illness, but they didn't run away from it."

The last to read was Jumper, who offered a poem he found inspiring and hoped would be helpful to other poets.

"Poetry is good for developmental learning

Poetry is good for developing skills  
Poetry helps improve ideas  
Poetry is therapeutic for the writer  
Poetry is therapeutic for the reader  
Poetry helps you to understand the

significance of words themselves

Poetry helps you understand people"

Bowers also announced the formation of "Around the Fire Magazine," a literary journal focused on Indigenous stories. The website states it accepts short stories, flash fiction, poems and essays. The website is [aroundthefiremag.com](http://aroundthefiremag.com).

"We hope to get some Florida Natives to submit poetry, fiction, essays," Bowers said. "Descendants, too. People can submit their pieces on the website. We'd like to have 100 pages."

The "Fluent Poetry" exhibit is open at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki through May 31.



# Health



## Tribe celebrates healthy eating with cooking classes

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe's Integrative Health team brought tempting aromas and lively flavors to every reservation during "National Nutrition Month" in March. Tribal members learned to cook up tasty and nutritious food before sitting down to a tasty meal of their own creation.

The theme of the month was "Celebrate a World of Flavors." Cooking classes on the reservations featured menus from around the world including Italy, China, Mexico, Japan and Indian Country.

### IMMOKALEE

In Immokalee, Italian pomodoro sauce was made with fresh tomatoes, garlic, onions, olive oil and fresh herbs. It was served over healthier-than-usual pasta.

Lenora Roberts, Maggie Porter, Maxine Jock and Mark Jock ate the fruits and vegetables of their labor at the end of the class.

Led by chef Lorraine Posada on March 8, the class was peppered with plenty of health and safety tips for working in the kitchen.

"Italian can be a little bit of a trap," Posada said. "Be careful if you have diabetes, pasta can be one of those things that jumps your sugar. Overeating carbs can be bad."

A discussion of innovative and healthier pasta choices ensued. Pastas made of chickpeas have more protein and fewer carbs than traditional pasta. Whole grain pasta is another choice since it has a lot of fiber, which is good for glucose control and weight management. Posada said companies know consumers are being more careful and are making a wide array of pasta choices to meet those needs.

Posada explained the difference in types of fats. Oils are generally better than butter or animal fats, which contain saturated fat that is not good for the heart.

"Oils are more heart healthy," Posada said. "Vegetable oils have healthier mono or poly unsaturated fats."

Tropical oils, such as palm and coconut, are not quite as healthy. They contain naturally occurring saturated fat, so Posada



Rowdy Osceola and Vera Herrera cut some zucchini as chef Lorraine Posada teaches the proper way to get the seeds out of the vegetable during the Big Cypress cooking class March 17.

Beverly Bidney

advised to use them sparingly.

The Mediterranean diet uses a lot of olive oil, a healthy fat. Posada warned it is still a fat, has nine calories per gram and should be used in moderation.

A question about salt was answered with a bit of history. Back in the 1950s, table salt was infused with iodine, or iodized, to help with thyroid issues. Mineral salts have no iodine. Regardless of the type, salt has the same effect on the body; it can raise blood pressure if too much is consumed.

"You can always add more salt, but you can't take it out," Posada said.

Posada told the group that spices are good for the heart and liver and "gets the body going." As the group learned how to peel and chop tomatoes by doing it themselves, she taught some basic knife skills.

"If you drop your knife, just get out of the way," she said. "Don't try to grab it. Let it fall and then pick it up. A sharp knife is safer than a dull knife, it's easier to cut with. A good way to test the sharpness is by



Beverly Bidney

Chef Lorraine Posada watches as her sister Lenora Roberts peels tomatoes for the pomodoro sauce.

cutting a tomato."

As the sauce cooked, Posada gave her philosophy on cooking.

"Good food takes time," Posada said. "It's not just about opening a can or jar and saying dinner is served. By making your own food you can control what goes into it."

Roberts talked about her family's cooking habits and how the pandemic affected them.

"I went to the grocery store and got fresh vegetables," Roberts said. "I cooked because of these classes. My daughter learned to love cooking and even makes her own ramen. It went from me to my daughter and we fed my parents."

Integrated Health nutrition coordinator Karen Two Shoes explained how pleased those in the department are to be back offering cooking classes after the pandemic shut down.



Beverly Bidney

Health nutritionist Marianna Nikiforov and health nutrition coordinator Karen Two Shoes prepare elements for the dishes to be made during the Big Cypress cooking class March 17.

◆ See COOKING on page 5B

## Still masks, but HHS expands focus

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Even though positive Covid-19 cases have recently decreased, the head of the tribe's Health and Human Services (HHS) department, Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley, said the virus and other airborne illnesses aren't going away anytime soon — one of the reasons a mask requirement is still in place.

The tribe entered its phase three of reopening Feb. 28, allowing a return to offices and facilities as well as in-person gatherings, but with the use of masks.

"Masks will remain in place to ensure the safety of the community," Kiswani-Barley said March 23. "While everyone outside of the tribe has lifted it, we're small and more vulnerable than the regular population."

She said the mask requirement would likely be reevaluated in a couple months.

In addition, the tribe is still administering the Covid-19 vaccine and booster shot. Kiswani-Barley said the tribe was preparing to administer a second booster shot approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for those 50 and older.

While the tribe's health officials still have an eye out for future waves of Covid-19, the recent decrease in activity has allowed more time to focus on other medical concerns like diabetes and high blood pressure among tribal members.

Kiswani-Barley said HHS is organizing tribalwide wellness days for each reservation that operates a health clinic — Hollywood, Big Cypress, Brighton and Immokalee. The first is planned for mid-April and will be geared for tribal members age 40 and older.

"It will be a one-stop shop to see a nutritionist, have blood drawn for lab work — a thorough exam for each member — almost like an annual exam," she said.

A wellness day with a focus on tribal members under 40 will be scheduled later,



File photo

Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley

she added.

For more information, tribal members can contact their local clinics or call the HHS hotline at (833) 786-3458.

### Mobile HHS units

Meanwhile, the tribe is in the process of acquiring four mobile medical units to be used in Hollywood, Big Cypress, Brighton and Immokalee. Kiswani-Barley said the vehicles are about the size of a shuttle bus and will initially be used for Covid-19 testing and evaluation and vaccine distribution.

"It's a way to see patients outside the clinic setting in a parking lot or a car instead of in a patient room," she said.

Each unit, to be purchased through grant money, has two compact exam areas, a lab and a bathroom. Kiswani-Barley said the goal is to have the mobile units up and running sometime this summer.

### ◆ ANNEX From page 1A

"There are 123 tribal members that have a home health aide or skilled nurse from eight hours to 24 hours a day," Kiswani-Barley said. "Through the pandemic the quality of service declined."

She said the creation of a tribal department for home health services would result in a better experience for tribal members by requiring streamlined policies and procedures. Kiswani-Barley expects to hire a director of nursing and ancillary staff

to run the department — about 150 employees in all.

There are also plans to house an imaging center in the annex for services like basic X-rays and ultrasounds.

"It takes away unnecessary emergency room visits and will save the tribe significant money," Kiswani-Barley said.

The hope is that the annex can be constructed and additional services be up and running by 2024. However, Kiswani-Barley said the tribal home health care department would be developed as the facility is being built.



File photo

The tribe plans to build an annex north of the Betty Mae Jumper Medical Center to provide new services and offices.



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# SEMINOLE SCENES



**TRIBAL RECOGNITION:** American rock band Portugal. The Man performed March 5 at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood with British band alt-J. Before the show began, members of Portugal. The Man invited two members of the Seminole Tribe on stage to thank them for sharing their land and allowing them to perform. From left, are tribal members Ledonna Tucker and Amy Clay, along with Portugal. The Man bassist Zachary Scott Carothers.

**FESTIVE FESTIVAL:** Spectators listen to one of the nearly 20 bands that performed at the first Southland Bluegrass & Wilderness Festival on March 12-13 at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee.



**POOL DUEL:** Lonnie Billie, left, and Vince Billie, right, play a friendly game of pool at the Big Cypress Senior Center on March 9. A tournament with eight men and two women had finished up, but these two were game to play some more.



**THUNDER ARRIVES:** "Distant Thunder," a Native musical production, opened at the new First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City on March 23 for a five-night run. The show features the Seminole Tribe's Spencer Battiest, center in both photos.

Miki Galloway (2)



# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## Nevada tribes call for new national monument near Navy bombing range

A coalition of four Native American tribes is lobbying for the establishment of a sweeping new national monument surrounding a Navy bombing range in central Nevada in order to permanently protect the area's cultural and natural resources.

Two leaders of the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe met with senior Biden administration officials and members of Congress [in March] to pitch their vision for a Numu Newe National Monument spanning nearly 3 million acres of federal lands that are the ancestral home of the Paiute and Shoshone people. "Numu" and "Newe" mean "the people" in the Paiute and Shoshone languages.

Four federally recognized tribes in Nevada — the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe, the Walker River Paiute Tribe, the Lovelock Paiute Tribe and the Yomba Shoshone Tribe — are supporting what would be Nevada's fifth national monument. The site could be established via either a presidential proclamation or legislation.

The proposed monument would consist of public lands east of Fallon, Nevada, and adjacent to the four tribes' reservations. It would encompass the Stillwater, Clan Alpine, August and Desatoya mountain ranges, as well as Job Peak, also known as Fox Peak, which is central to the Northern Paiutes' origin story. The area is already home to several designated wilderness study areas.

The proposed area would be the largest U.S. national monument on land, dwarfing Utah's 1.87 million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. (The offshore Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is much larger.)

Area tribes, including the Fallon Paiute Shoshone, Walker River Paiute and Yomba Shoshone, have fiercely opposed the Navy's effort to triple the size of Fallon Naval Air Station's bombing and training range in the high desert east of Reno. The tribes argue that the planned expansion, currently on hold, would destroy cultural sites and burial grounds, and restrict access for religious ceremonies and other activities.

The tribes see their proposal as a compromise that safeguards their sacred landscapes while allowing for the Navy to continue national security activities on the existing range.

"While the Tribes value a strong military defense, the Navy acknowledges that they have been harmed by Naval Air Station Fallon operations, including the contamination of the Walker River Paiute Tribe's Reservation, lack of access, constant flyovers, and the bombing of a sacred medicine rock," reads a summary of the tribes' proposal shared with HuffPost. "Protecting these lands is a step toward remedying historical wrongs and reducing the environmental justice implications of forcing tribes to bear the disproportionate burden of national defense training."

Over several days [in late March], Cathi Tunni-Williams, chair of the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe, and Leanna Hale, the tribe's director of land and water, and others presented their idea to top officials in the Biden administration, including Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro and Interior Deputy Secretary Tommy Beaudreau. They also met with members and staff of Nevada's congressional delegation, including Sen. Jacky Rosen (D) and staff of Rep. Mark Amodei (R). They met with Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D) earlier this month.

Tunni-Williams told HuffPost she grew up fishing, hunting deer and rabbit, and gathering pine nuts in the mountains east of her tribe's reservation. The area, she said, is a place where Paiute and Shoshone people return for retreat, serenity and prayer.

"Our big purpose here is to recognize and honor our heritage and protect what we have left from years of natural resources dwindling, our sacred sites dwindling," Tunni-Williams said.

Protecting the area is about preserving an identity, Hale said.

"Without these cultural lands, items and way of life, we cease to be numa," she said, using an alternative Paiute term for "the people."

The campaign comes as the Biden administration looks to advance its goal of conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030 as a way to combat the dual climate and extinction crises. But national monuments have become a political lightning rod in recent years, and one as sprawling as what the tribes' are asking for is sure to attract opponents.

In 2017, then-President Donald Trump carved more than 2 million acres from a pair of national monuments in Utah — Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears — in what was the largest rollback of federal land protections in U.S. history. But in October, President Joe Biden reversed the Trump-era rollbacks and restored the sites to their original boundaries. Five tribes — the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Pueblo of Zuni and the Ute Indian Tribe — consider the Bears Ears landscape sacred.

The Nevada tribes now championing the designation of a Numu Newe National Monument say the proposal not only provides an opportunity for the Biden administration to get closer to its "30x30" conservation target, but to fulfill a joint order that Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack signed in November 2021. Among other things, the order directed federal agencies to "make agreements with Indian Tribes to collaborate in the co-stewardship of Federal lands and waters."

- The Huffington Post

## Blackfeet Nation declares state of emergency over opioid overdoses

The Blackfeet Nation has declared a state of emergency to address a series of opioid overdoses and deaths attributed to fentanyl, a strong synthetic opioid.

The tribe's declaration states there were 17 opioid overdoses and four deaths on the Blackfeet Reservation in just a week's time.

The Blackfeet Nation is forming a task force led by tribal law enforcement and behavioral health officials to craft recommendations on how to deal with the growing issue and will report back to the tribal council.

Recently, Montana law enforcement has found fentanyl in counterfeit prescription pills. Methamphetamine is increasingly laced with the powerful drug.

State law enforcement officials say the number of deaths related to fentanyl overdoses nearly tripled across Montana from 2016 to 2020.

All deaths related to opioid overdose have increased at similar rates, according to a state health department analysis of the most recent data. That report shows Indigenous Montanans are dying from drug overdoses at nearly three times the rate of white Montanans.

According to another state health department report, Indigenous people accounted for nearly a quarter of all 911 responses to suspected opioid overdoses last year, despite making up seven percent of the state population.

- Montana Public Radio

## South Dakota hotel denied service to Native Americans, lawsuit says

A hotel in South Dakota is accused of refusing to rent a room to at least two Indigenous women after its owner reportedly threatened to ban all Native Americans from the property.

The NDN Collective, an Indigenous rights group in South Dakota, and Sunny Red Bear, the group's director of racial equity, filed a class action lawsuit March 23 claiming they were racially discriminated against when they were denied reservations at the Grand Gateway Hotel in Rapid City this week.

The alleged incident was "part of a policy, pattern, or practice of intentional racial discrimination against Native Americans," according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit was filed in the US District Court for the District of South Dakota Western Division against the hotel, a sports bar within the property and its parent company the Retsel Corporation. Connie and Nicholas Uhre, who are also named in the lawsuit, are directors of the Retsel Corporation, according to company documents filed with the South Dakota Secretary of State.

When Sunny Red Bear and another Native American woman arrived at the hotel on March 21, a front desk employee claimed the hotel was not renting rooms to people with "local" identifications, the lawsuit says. The following day, the suit states, a hotel employee refused to reserve five rooms to representatives of the NDN Collective, saying the hotel wasn't able to rent the available rooms to the group because of unspecified "issues."

CNN has contacted the hotel, the sports bar, their parent company and the Uhres for comment.

Brendan Johnson, an attorney representing Red Bear and the group, said his clients wanted to confirm whether the hotel was "actually excluding Native Americans," following reports that Connie Uhre had written in a Facebook comment that the hotel would no longer allow Native American people on the property, according to the lawsuit.

"To be clear, we didn't file this complaint to send a message -- we filed a complaint because we want justice," Johnson said in a news conference announcing the lawsuit.

According to a Facebook screenshot that has circulated online since March 20 and was reported by the Rapid City Journal, Connie Uhre states the decision to deny access was taken after a shooting took place at the hotel and considering previous "vandalism" incidents.

The Rapid City Police Department said a 19-year-old Native American man was arrested in connection with a shooting reported inside a room at the hotel early Saturday morning that left one person injured.

CNN has not independently confirmed the comments posted by Uhre. Steve Allender, the Mayor of Rapid City, told CNN he saw Uhre's comments on her personal Facebook page under an article related to homelessness after several people alerted him. He took a screenshot and tweeted it, saying neither the shooting nor Uhre's comments reflected the community's values.

Prior to the lawsuit, the comments allegedly made by Uhre were widely criticized in Rapid City by local officials, activists and tribal leaders.

- CNN

## St. Regis Mohawk Tribe seeks court remedy after ruling of unlawful reservation land sales

AKWESASNE, N.Y. — A recent federal court ruling affirming the St. Regis Mohawk reservation should be returned to its boundaries as defined in a 1796 treaty is just a step in a larger process. Tribal authorities said they're preparing for what comes next, which includes the court ordering a remedy

for the historic unlawful land transfers.

In a land claim dispute that has been ongoing for decades, U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence E. Kahn ruled that all land sales of reservation land to New York state after 1796 violated the 1790 Indian Nonintercourse Act. The 1790 federal legislation says Native American reservation land cannot be sold without an act of Congress, which didn't happen for land sales after 1796.

In emailed responses to a reporter's questions, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council said the areas in question include the so-called Hogansburg/Bombay Triangle, mile-square areas in the towns of Massena and Fort Covington, an area referred to as the "Grasse River Meadows" and Barnhart, Long Sault and Croil Islands on the St. Lawrence River. Also included are 5,000 acres in the town of Fort Covington between the reservation's eastern border and the Fort Covington mile square.

"The next phase is to address those aspects of the case that are left to resolve, such as the status of the various plaintiffs and the remedy," the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council wrote. "There can be no appeal to the Second Circuit until these aspects of the case are completed. After that, all appeals can be heard. Not only can the state and county appeal, the Tribe will consider appealing the dismissal of its claim to the islands in the St. Lawrence River, claims that were dismissed in 2013."

An issue at this stage of the litigation is that tribal authorities say they're not entirely sure where the exact boundaries lie for the Massena and Fort Covington mile-square areas and the Grasse River Meadows.

"We are in the process of developing a map that will identify clearly defined boundaries for both mile squares and the Grasse River Meadows. These areas are known to the state and county since they were surveyed by the state when they were illegally purchased. We have been trying to get definitive maps from the county records office to be sure our map matches those surveys," the Tribal Council said.

The Hogansburg/Bombay Triangle's boundaries are clearly defined, which can be seen on any modern map of the town of Bombay. The Tribal Council said it will seek to have that land returned to reservation status. The tribe is not seeking to remove non-Indians from the triangle, nor will it take away their property.

"While title to the other areas will not be returned to the Tribe under this ruling, the tribe still has the option of purchasing and taking that land into trust," the Tribal Council wrote. "The significance of the district court rulings as to those areas is that the land is now within reservation boundaries. The authority of the tribe in those areas and the applicability of state laws to Mohawks living in those areas will have to be worked out."

The triangle is almost entirely Mohawk-owned and occupied, according to the tribe. The council said it doesn't yet have accurate population data breaking down Natives and non-Natives for the mile squares, the town of Fort Covington or the Grasse River Meadows.

"For the triangle, the area is conservatively over 90% Mohawk-owned and occupied and there are numerous businesses located there. As presented to the court in 2011, according to the 2010 census, the Mohawk population figure in the triangle was 85% which was likely low. At the same time, we found that only 3.4% of the land was owned by non-Indians. That figure is now approximately 1%," the Tribe said.

Tribal officials said the case could possibly end up in U.S. Supreme Court. However, since the court has declined to hear other land claim appeals in New York state, tribal officials say it's unlikely the court would hear their case.

- NNY360.com (Watertown, N.Y.)

## Native Americans face more barriers in voting; the White House suggests these changes

In an effort to expand voting access to Native American communities, the Biden administration released a report March 24 outlining the barriers Indigenous voters face in the election process, which includes additional steps and recommendations the administration will take to combat existing restrictions on the right to vote.

The report was a result of an Interagency Steering Group on Native American Voting Rights that President Biden announced in March 2021, as part of an executive order he signed to expand access to the ballot.

"For far too long, members of Tribal Nations and Native communities have faced unnecessary burdens when they attempt to exercise their sacred right to vote. Native voters often have to overcome language barriers, a lack of accessibility for voters with disabilities, cultural disrespect and outright hostility, geographically remote residences, and persistent poverty — conditions that have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic," the White House said March 24.

On the top of the list of recommendations the administration outlined was for Congress to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which includes the Native American Voting Rights Act and the Freedom to Vote Act as well.

The report notes that states can also pass legislation that incorporates protections from the Native American Voting Rights Act on their own, without having to wait for Congress to take action.

Additional recommendations included having the U.S. Postal Service consider adding routes and offices in areas serving Native communities and adding more

language assistance.

The White House says the report is "just a beginning" and that more work with agencies across the government will be working to implement the report's recommendations.

For example, the Department of the Interior announced March 24 that it will designate Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas and the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute in New Mexico as voter registration agencies. Both schools are department-operated.

"Tribal nations have played a significant role in influencing the contours of American democracy, yet systemic barriers continue to disenfranchise Indigenous people and impede a free and fair electoral process," Secretary Deb Haaland said in a statement. "The Interior Department is committed to defending the right to vote, which includes increasing access to voter registration and engaging young people in our democratic system."

The Interior Department also said they are getting the White House report translated into six different Native languages to make it more accessible. The report will be translated into Navajo, Yup'ik, Ojibwe, Cherokee, Lakota and Native Hawaiian.

- NPR

## Tribal sovereignty bill would allow Oxford Casino to conduct in-person sports betting

AUGUSTA, Maine — State lawmakers narrowly advanced a bill that would allow Maine's tribes to operate mobile sports betting businesses, and authorize harness racing tracks, off-track betting facilities and the Oxford Casino to conduct in-person sports betting.

The Judiciary Committee voted 8-6 March 16 to advance a bill of targeted tribal sovereignty reforms negotiated between the Mills administration and Maine's four tribes. While leaders of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseets and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs (or Mi'kaq) support the bill, they do not see it as a substitute for a comprehensive sovereignty bill narrowly endorsed by the same committee March 15 but opposed by Mills.

The governor's proposal would make other limited changes, such as removing state sales taxes from certain goods and services produced and consumed on tribal territories or giving the revenues from those taxes to the tribes, and lifting state taxes on incomes earned by tribal members on their reservations.

But when the bill, L.D. 585, goes before the full Legislature in the coming weeks, the committee recommendation will come with four minority reports, including three amended versions and an ought-not-to-pass recommendation.

The committee spent over three hours discussing the bill before voting March 16. Most of the attention focused on a last-minute amendment that addresses criticism from Maine's gambling interests, which wanted similar access to sports betting. The amended version would allow commercial harness racing tracks in Bangor and Cumberland and the Oxford Casino to offer in-person sports betting, while tribes would have exclusive rights to the operation of mobile sports betting, which is done from computers or cellphones.

The original bill only would have allowed in-person sports betting at off-track betting facilities, but the tribes also wanted to support harness racing tracks, said Allison Binney, an attorney for the Penobscot Nation. She said the tribes included Oxford Casino after realizing that Hollywood Casino would be able to conduct sports betting at Bangor Raceway, which it operates as a condition for having the casino.

"The Wabanaki Nations support the inclusion of commercial tracks, including Hollywood Casino Raceway Bangor (Bangor Raceway), and Oxford Casino for facility licenses to conduct retail in-person sports betting," the Wabanaki chiefs said in a letter to the committee March 15. "The inclusion of these entities will directly benefit the two casino operators in Maine."

Chris Jackson, a lobbyist for Hollywood Casino, urged lawmakers to allow the company to operate the sports betting facility at the Bangor casino, rather than the racetrack, which he said is across the street and ill-suited for in-person sports betting. He said the raceway only generates 1 percent of the foot traffic generated by the casino.

"It's simply not practical to give the racetrack a retail sports book license," Jackson said. "If the Oxford Casino is getting a license, our strong preference would be that the license just go to the Bangor casino. That would generate more traffic to the raceway than the raceway would generate to the casino."

But a majority of committee members, all Democrats, were not moved by that argument.

"The point of this was to give the tribes access to mobile betting. That's my only interest in this bill," said Rep. Lois Galgay Reckitt, D-South Portland. "I have zero sympathy to Hollywood Casino."

Republicans, who questioned the financial impacts of the bill, also offered several minority reports.

Sen. Lisa Keim, R-Dixfield, said she would only support a portion of the bill that called for greater collaboration and communication between the state and tribes, an idea endorsed by Rep. James Thorne, R-Carmel.

- The Sun Journal (Lewiston, Maine)

## Oklahoma tribes boast billions in economic impact in new report

An organization that tracks tribal economic data released a new report March 23 detailing a more than \$15.6 billion impact to Oklahoma's economy, ranging from jobs, gaming exclusivity fees and healthcare contributions.

The report detailing the state of tribal economies was prepared by the Oklahoma Tribal Finance Consortium and shows an increase of more than \$2.6 billion in economic activity from 2017 to 2019, the last time tribal economic data was collected.

Tribes employed more than 54,000 people and supported a total of 113,442 jobs for tribal citizens and non-citizens, accounting for more than \$5.4 billion in wages and benefits to Oklahoma workers in 2019.

Tribes participating in the study include: Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Delaware Nation, Eastern Shawnee of Oklahoma, Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, Muscogee Nation, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma and the Wichita Affiliated Tribes.

According to the report, tribes are making investments in local communities by leveraging federal transportation money to build roads and bridges. Jobs created by those construction projects have a short one-year impact. However, the new roads have a long term impact for tribal and non-tribal citizens who use them to drive to work or shop nearby. The report says this helps by increasing revenue for local businesses.

Another key investment tribal nations are making in the state is in healthcare. At a time when many hospitals in rural Oklahoma are closing or are short-staffed, tribal nations have continued to invest millions of dollars by building new facilities and providing care to both Native and non-Native systems. Tribes operate 45 healthcare facilities throughout the state, and tribal employers — government and business — provide health care to their workforce, which includes both Native and non-Native Oklahomans.

"Health care is one of the most significant pieces of infrastructure because it's one of the key components of the location decision," said Kyle Dean, who prepared the report. He's an associate professor of economics and the director for the Center for Native American and Urban Studies at Oklahoma City University.

In August 2020, Oklahoma State University and the Cherokee Nation established the first tribally affiliated college of medicine in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Cherokee Nation launched with a class of 54 first year medical students.

According to the report, "when health care is provided to Native Americans at tribal health facilities, the entire cost of care is paid by the federal government, resulting in savings to the state. In 2019, tribes paid \$232 million in Medicaid expenditures."

Tribal nations can capture third party dollars from programs like Medicaid and Medicare and receive their primary care through Indian Health Service. Savings to the state is around \$86 million dollars.

In 2019, under the compacting agreement that allows tribes to operate Class III gaming operations, the exclusivity fees paid to the state totaled \$148 million. More than \$130 million of that went to the state's education fund.

On top of that, an additional \$78.2 million dollars went to tribal scholarships and education programs. Another \$20 million was donated to Oklahoma communities and universities. Cherokee Nation, for example, donates a portion of their tribal car tag fund to schools located within the Cherokee Nation reservation.

Matthew Morgan, the Chairman of the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association, says the report is eye-opening in terms of tribal impact to the state of Oklahoma.

"I think it really helps tell that narrative, that story that tribal leaders have really been focused on over the last couple of years," said Morgan. "And that story really is that they are full partners in building up this state, no matter what industry you're talking about, what segments you're looking at."

Dean likened tribal nation investments to that of corporations who locate to the state, except that corporations have the option to move at any time, while tribes will remain in the state.

Tribes, he said, are having a positive impact in rural Oklahoma at a time when those communities are declining in other parts of the country.

"We couldn't luck into a better situation and especially in rural communities in Oklahoma than we have," said Dean. "And it's all just based upon this fluke of geography and the tribes being willing partners to provide the things that they do to these communities."

Dean, who has worked with tribal communities for more than 13 years, says that data collected for this report didn't surprise him, but other things did.

"What is surprising to me as an Oklahoman is the general lack of understanding or appreciation from the citizens and the state for the fact that we have such good partners that benefit all Oklahomans," said Dean.

- KOSU (Stillwater, Okla.)



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# Education



B

## Cookbook helps Seminole Tribe's new grads make a quick meal

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

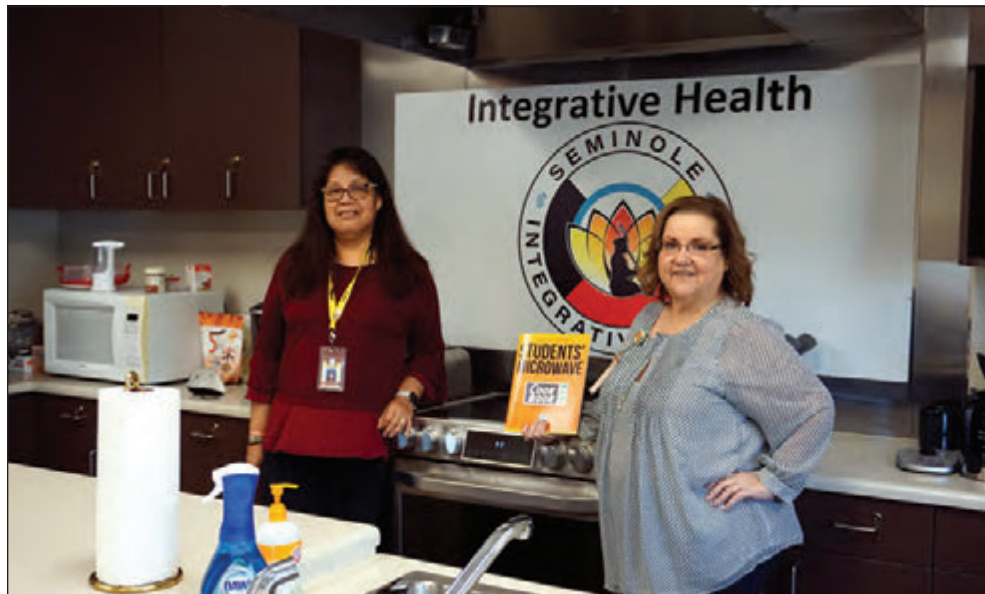
**HOLLYWOOD** — A love of cooking and an idea born out of the pandemic has resulted in a partnership among three of the Seminole Tribe's departments — Education, Integrative Health and Seminole Media Productions (SMP). The result is a boon for the tribe's high school students — many who are soon to graduate and live away from home for the first time.

The "Students' Microwave Cookbook" is the brainchild of Suné Brandon, the office coordinator at Education. Like many, she was working from home during much of the pandemic and was inspired to do something that would renew community spirit after a long stretch of being away from colleagues and friends in person.

Brandon said she was looking to (quite literally) "channel some positivity and get cooking." She had the idea to assemble a cookbook for the tribe's forthcoming college students and fill it with delicious and easy recipes — something they could make instead of ordering pizza delivery or making the typical microwave popcorn or Hot Pockets.

Brandon enlisted the help of Karen Two Shoes, a registered dietician and the tribalwide nutrition coordinator. The two began to assemble recipes and brought in SMP's creative services manager — Miguel "Migz" Freire — to assist in producing a cookbook with the recipes and images of the food.

The book was published in March and features 25 recipes, including a



Karen Two Shoes, left, and Suné Brandon collaborated on the cookbook with help from Seminole Media Productions.

"mug omelet," "microwave chicken and dumplings" and "microwave chocolate pudding cake."

"Although cooking in a dorm room does not often lead to culinary masterpieces, there are definitely ways to have a delicious, varied diet when all a student has is a microwave and a few plates or mugs," Brandon said. "We could not believe what could be prepared in a microwave."

Two Shoes and Brandon created the recipes as single servings, which they hope will help students with portion control. In

addition, they hope it will help students to cut back on eating at fast-food restaurants.

The project — called "Culinary IQ" — didn't stop there. Two Shoes and SMP began to also produce companion cooking demonstration videos in the teaching kitchen at the Betty Mac Jumper Medical Center in Hollywood. There's one video that's available on YouTube so far. Two Shoes demonstrates how to make the "midnight mac and cheese" and "chocolate cake in a mug."

"Students are typically a hard group

to get to think about their health, but it's important because what they do now will effect them later," Two Shoes said. "This is a great way to reach out to that age group and give them something nice and what they want."

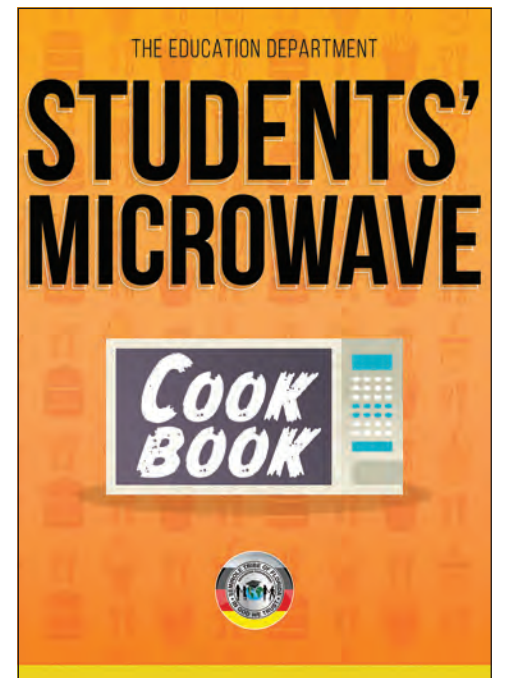
More cooking videos are on the horizon and Brandon and Two Shoes are working on a second cookbook with smoothie recipes for students. They'd like to create a cookbook for the tribe's elders, too — one with diabetic-friendly recipes and options for those who have kidney-related issues.

"Karen is really savvy with all this stuff — going to the reservations and cooking," Brandon said. "She was a piece of the jigsaw puzzle that fit right in. We want to accentuate the positive and help strengthen the community — food uplifts everybody."

Two Shoes is one of the few tribal members who works in Integrative Health. She often travels to the tribe's reservations to pass on a message of healthy living. She'd like to see more tribal members working in Integrative Health and at the tribe's health clinics.

"It's all about portion control. I tell people my grandmother used to make the best fried chicken and Spam and tomatoes," Two Shoes said. "I don't use terms like bad and good — but nutritious and less nutritious to help people make choices."

Starting in the cooking videos comes naturally for Two Shoes, who has a background in media — she was a radio DJ and previously did video work at SMP. She also did online cooking demonstrations during the pandemic for tribal members. Now that the tribe is in phase three of



"Students Microwave Cookbook"

reopening, she's doing them in-person. She recently did one in Hollywood on how to make "fish-free sushi."

To download the cookbook, visit [seminoleeducation.com](http://seminoleeducation.com). A hard copy can be picked up at the Education department on the third floor of the Dorothy S. Osceola (DSO) building on the Hollywood Reservation. Brandon said the cookbook can also be sent to students who request it, by contacting her at [sunebrandon@seminoletribe.com](mailto:sunebrandon@seminoletribe.com).

## Ahfachkee culture class has delicious final exam

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Ahfachkee School's culture department aims to pass along language (Elaponke), cultural knowledge and skills to keep Seminole traditions alive for generations to come. Students learn Elaponke from Monday through Thursday and how to cook traditional fare on Fridays.

Eight high school students completed a unit on pumpkin fry bread Feb. 25 and took a final exam over an open flame of the cooking chickee. Each student made the bread by themselves with no help from the teachers.

After the bread was cooked and examined by teachers Danielle Jumper-Frye and Jeannette Cypress, the students enjoyed eating it.

"We had Wanda Billie come teach us how to make pumpkin bread," said senior Carlise Bermudez. "Now we can make it ourselves. We can do everything we learn here...and at home."

Students said the hardest thing about cooking in the chickee is keeping the oil at the perfect temperature. On the day of the final exam, the wind was blowing so Jumper-Frye moved the pot, added logs to the fire and put a couple of wind barriers against the cooking grate.

"Culture class is the best part of school," said junior Kassim Stockton. "You learn stuff you'll use. It has a bigger impact on you, it's



Maggie May Jimmie forms the dough for her final exam - pumpkin fry bread - in Ahfachkee culture camp's cooking chickee.

part of our heritage."

The Friday cooking project empowers students with the ability to have that skill. Throughout the unit, they helped one another absorb the lessons. Jumper-Frye believes peer-to-peer learning is effective.

"Everyone has unique gifts and strengths," she said. "When we have weaknesses, we should help one another."



Pumpkin fry bread cooks over an open fire.



Carlise Bermudez makes pumpkin fry bread in the Ahfachkee cooking chickee Feb. 25.

## Ahfachkee seniors donate plants to senior center

STAFF REPORT

The Ahfachkee School high school seniors donated plants to the Big Cypress

Senior Center on Feb. 24. The students grew a variety of plants at the school's culture camp, including aloe, wild lemon trees, potatoes and other garden plants.

Each one was planted in a container

with fresh soil and a card that read "Echeepoh-tchomeeka," which means "we are thinking of you" in Elaponke.



Rosalinda Jimmie shows off an aloe plant in the Ahfachkee garden.



Aloe plants, with a message, are gifts for elders at the Big Cypress Senior Center, courtesy of Ahfachkee high school culture students.



With Big Cypress Senior Center site manager Angelita Arreguin (second from left) are Ahfachkee students, from left, Carlise Bermudez, Rosalinda Jimmie, Maggie Jimmie, Kassim Stockton, Ronnie Jimmie, Akira Cabral and Timothy Tigertail with plants they donated to the center Feb. 24.



# Six influential women honored by Hollywood preschoolers

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The staff and students of the Hollywood Reservation's Preschool held a special event March 4 to recognize six women who are influential in the tribal community.

Dana Rolle, the Hollywood Preschool Center manager, emceed a short program at the school in front of an audience of Education department staff and about 30 preschool students. Those honored included a trio of tribal members — Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall, Karen Two Shoes and Leona Tommie — along with Timika Reid, Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley and Sergine Bourdeau.

The event was designed to coincide with "Women's History Month," which began in 1978 and takes place each March. The month is designated for the recognition of women who have contributed throughout history and in contemporary society.

"Each of these women have contributed their time, effort, knowledge and experience in making the tribe a better community for the Seminole Tribe of Florida members and a better workplace for the Seminole Tribe of Florida staff," Rolle, who chose the honorees, said.

Rep. McCall made history on June 7, 2021, when she was sworn in with three other Seminole women to leadership positions at the tribe — the most in its history. She is a former Miss Florida Seminole and has volunteered her time as a stage director for the annual Miss Florida Seminole/Jr. Miss Florida Seminole princess pageant.

Two Shoes has worked for the tribe since 2017. She is a registered dietician and a tribalwide nutrition coordinator. Two Shoes went back to school at age 47 for dietetics and nutrition at Keiser University.

She graduated summa cum laude and as valedictorian in 2017. Being a dietician is personal to her as she was diagnosed with diabetes in 2001. Two Shoes is known for sharing a message of healthy living with tribal members and for those with diabetes — a condition that affects Native Americans more than the general population.

Tommie has held many positions at the tribe — starting as a switchboard operator and later in early childhood education. At the Hollywood Preschool, she has been a parent involvement coordinator, interim director and director. She has volunteered extensively over the years for organizations that assist the homeless, those in poverty, senior citizens, and children, among others.

Reid is the director of human resources and has worked for the tribe for 11 years. She has been a recruiting coordinator, human resources program specialist and administrative manager. Reid has been the director since November 2020. She is credited with successfully leading the department and the tribe's employees through the challenges presented by the pandemic.

Kiswani-Barley is a family physician and the executive director of the tribe's Health and Human Services (HHS) department. She has worked at the tribe for three and a half years. Tribal leadership has previously recognized her work to keep tribal members healthy and safe during Covid-19. Kiswani-Barley volunteers her time to several organizations and began her own foundation to provide skills and education for girls who have been abandoned and/or molested in Jamaica, where she previously lived.

Bourdeau is known as "Ms. Gigi" to Preschool students and staff. She has worked for the tribe since 2016, and has a degree in early childhood education and a master's degree in curriculum and assessment.



Courtesy photo

On March 4, the Hollywood Preschool honored, from left, Timika Reid, Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley, Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall, Karen Two Shoes, Leona Tommie and Sergine Bourdeau.

"Ms. Gigi is an exceptional early childhood teacher, and takes pride in making sure her children are given the best learning and challenging activities into her daily routine," Rolle said.



Damon Scott

Preschool students cheer on Leona Tommie as she walks to receive a certificate and flowers.



Damon Scott

Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall is cheered on by Preschool students and staff.

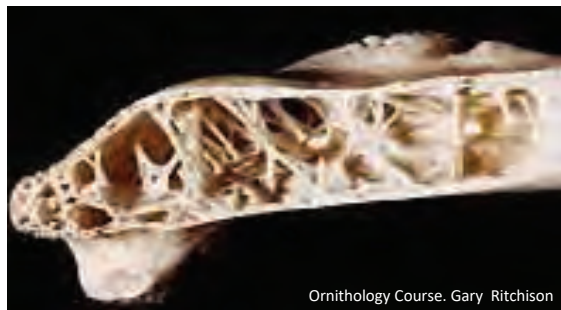
## Artifact of the Month

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

April 2022

Florida is home to several different species of bird, most of which, tourists do not get a chance to see unless they visit a zoo on their travels. Larger species of bird such as sandhill cranes, great blue herons, and wood storks are rapidly losing their nesting grounds to the high influx of people moving in droves to Florida. In fact, none of the Collections staff have ever seen a Wood Stork in the wild, and most of us thought the bird wasn't even native to the state.

However, the tibiotarsus bone we have in our Collection is a fraction of its actual size because unfortunately bird bones are easy to break. Why? Because they are practically hollow. Bird bones are incredibly light with only struts running through them for structural purposes (see below). This helps them to fly, allowing for air sacs to attach to hollow areas within their bones.



Ornithology Course, Gary Ritchison

Wood storks (bottom) are the only native stork to North America and use Florida's cypress swamps for nesting areas; a practice that was significantly diminished with the draining of the Everglades and disruption of water flow into south Florida. This month's artifact highlights the bird's tibiotarsus (middle) bone. This bone is situated within its very long legs and is sturdy enough to keep them upright for long periods of time.



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# Spring break active for kids



Courtesy Vera Herrera  
Youngsters participate in morning exercises at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress during the Recreation Department's spring break camp.



Courtesy Vera Herrera  
Logan Covarrubias aims for the hide during archery lessons in the Big Cypress Recreation Department's spring break camp held March 21-25.

## IAIA establishes unique Indigenous-focused program

### STAFF REPORT

The Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) announced March 7 the establishment of a master in fine arts (MFA) program titled "MFA in cultural administration."

Referred to as MFACA, it is the first of its kind to focus on Indigenous arts and cultures nationally and internationally, according to the school located in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The MFACA offers two distinct tracks, one with an emphasis on tribal museum and cultural center administration and the other in arts administration.

The two-year, low-residency program is geared toward postgraduate Indigenous professionals in leadership positions in museums and arts and cultural organizations. It is also designed for those who believe leadership should be driven and guided by community engagement and involvement, according to the school.

The Higher Learning Commission recently accredited the program. IAIA also offers an MFA in creative writing and an MFA in studio arts.

## Ryan Reynolds donates to Indigenous water program

### FROM CTV

Vancouver-born actor Ryan Reynolds has made a donation to support a program that brings clean water to Indigenous communities.

Reynolds and his wife, actress Blake Lively, donated \$500,000 to Water First Education and Training Inc. The charity trains Indigenous youth and adults to become water operators and environmental water science technicians.

In a message on social media, Reynolds said Canada is home to 20 per cent of Earth's freshwater, and that there's "no acceptable reason" for some Indigenous communities to be without safe and clean water.



Courtesy Vera Herrera  
From left, Immokalee spring break campers Dylan Garza, Sofia Garza and Gia Garza try their hands at beading during spring break camp held March 14-18.



Courtesy Vera Herrera  
Kyrin Billie is a happy camper as he displays his catch of the day during Big Cypress's spring break camp.



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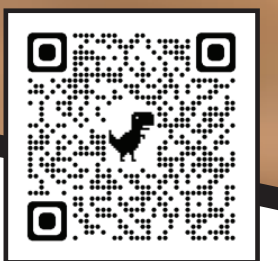
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**◆ COOKING**  
From page 8A

“We look forward to doing more classes and we want your input,” Two Shoes said. “The pandemic changed people’s way of thinking and eating. It’s not just about losing weight, it’s about keeping the body going.”

**BIG CYPRESS**

Instead of a foreign cuisine, on March 17 Native American food was the focus. Swamp cabbage was on the menu, courtesy of Edna McDuffie, who made a big pot of the traditional dish at home and brought it to the Big Cypress health clinic kitchen.

Budding cooks in the kitchen included Jake Osceola, Vera Herrera and Rowdy Osceola.

“There are a lot of ways to make it,” McDuffie said. “Elders have their own way, some people make it more like a vegetable soup, I hope you like it.”

The group of participants clearly did and filled their bowls with generous helpings. As they ate, McDuffie explained the process in some detail. First some men cut two small cabbage trees and brought her the trunks.

She cleaned it “boot by boot,” cut the bitter parts off to where “you can see circles of the heart, the good part.” McDuffie boiled it down with onion, tomato and other ingredients.

“In the old days they used pork drippings,” McDuffie said. “I tried to keep it as healthy as I could and used bacon drippings.”

Two Shoes told the legend of the three sisters, an agricultural phenomenon where three plants together help each other grow. Corn, beans and squash represent three sisters who thrive together.

“Corn is planted first, the beans climb up the corn stalks and provide nitrogen for the corn and squash, whose leaves keep



Jake Osceola stirs up a three sisters salad he made at the Big Cypress cooking class.

Beverly Bidney

the ground covered and moist,” Two Shoes said. “It’s pretty common in most tribes. It originally came from the Iroquois.”

The menu included a grilled three sisters salad consisting of zucchini, yellow summer squash, corn, kidney beans and tomatoes topped with a freshly made green goddess dressing. A Seminole chop-chop

with ground bison completed the meal. “Bison doesn’t have a lot of saturated fat,” Two Shoes said. “It tastes similar to beef; it’s grass fed and is the way to go.”

Posada taught the group knife skills and guided them through the recipes. She and Two Shoes agree that a lot more people have been cooking at home during the pandemic.

“People aren’t running from the dieticians anymore, they want to tell us about what they made,” she said. “The program has been very successful. We are looking for menu ideas from tribal members; we want to do what they want and give them the information they need.”

**College Fund honors Paul Robertson as honoree of the year**

**STAFF REPORT**

Paul Robertson, president of Tohono O’odham Community College (TOCC) in Sells, Arizona, has been named the American Indian College Fund Tribal College and University Honoree of the Year for 2021-22.

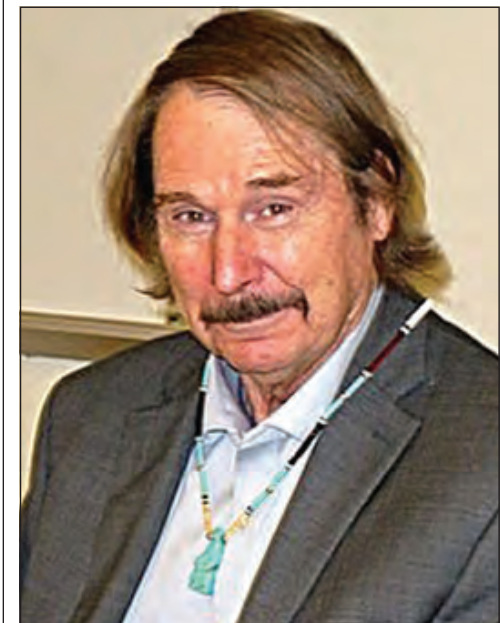
Robertson has more than 40 years of experience in tribal college education, including as a teacher and administrator. In recent years, he served as president of Little Priest Tribal College and chief of operations at Sinte Gleska University. He joined TOCC in January of 2016.

“This [tribal college university] is blessed with the generosity and continuous ongoing support of the Tohono O’odham Nation. TOCC is well-positioned because of the casinos the Nation has and the regular fiscal support from the Nation in ways that other TCUs may not enjoy,” he said in a statement.

Robertson’s involvement in tribal college education career began when he visited his brother, who was working at Oglala Lakota College in South Dakota. Soon after, Robertson was hired by the college and has been involved in Native higher education ever since.

“It was a rude awakening to find the conditions that existed there in the 1980s—not just the lack of social services—but the oppression of Lakota landowners who often lacked control over their own land,” he said.

Robertson completed his dissertation on the colonial history of the reservation. He and his wife, Eileen Iron Cloud, have organized several efforts aimed at redressing grievances involving land, pollution, domestic violence and treaty rights.



Paul Robertson

Courtesy photo



Mark Jock dices tomatoes as Maxine Jock watches during the Immokalee cooking class.

Beverly Bidney



Maggie Porter dices tomatoes during the Immokalee cooking class March 8.

Beverly Bidney



From left, Akira Cabral, Maggie May Jimmie, Rosalinda Jimmie and Ronnie Jimmie gather around the fire as Rosalinda tends to her pumpkin bread.

Beverly Bidney

**◆ FINAL**  
From page 1B

As often as possible, culture classes are held in the school’s culture camp chickees. For language classes, students identify utensils and other objects in the camp. When they aren’t learning Elaponke in the chickee, they are engaged in the classroom where they learn to use the complex language.

“It’s good to be able to talk to the elders in Elaponke,” said student Marina Garcia.

Cypress and Jumper-Frye, director and assistant director of Ahfachkee’s traditional preservation program, encourage tribal members in the community to share their knowledge with the students.



Siblings Maggie May Jimmie and Ronnie Jimmie compare their completed pumpkin breads.

Beverly Bidney

**Sundance’s Indigenous program has new leader**

**STAFF REPORT**

The Sundance Institute has named Adam Piron as the new director of its Indigenous program. The organization made the announcement in a news release March 3.

Piron (Kiowa and Mohawk tribes) has worked as a staff member in the program for many years and succeeds former director Bird Runningwater (Cheyenne and Mescalero Apache), according to the release.

Sundance is well known for its annual film festival. It was founded in 1981 by Robert Redford and has expanded into the operation of film labs, grant distribution, and the development of mentorship programs in film, theater and digital media.

The Indigenous program has coordinated an “Indigenous film circle,” for more than four generations, the release said. The program looks for Indigenous artists and provides support so work can be produced and distributed for audiences to see. The

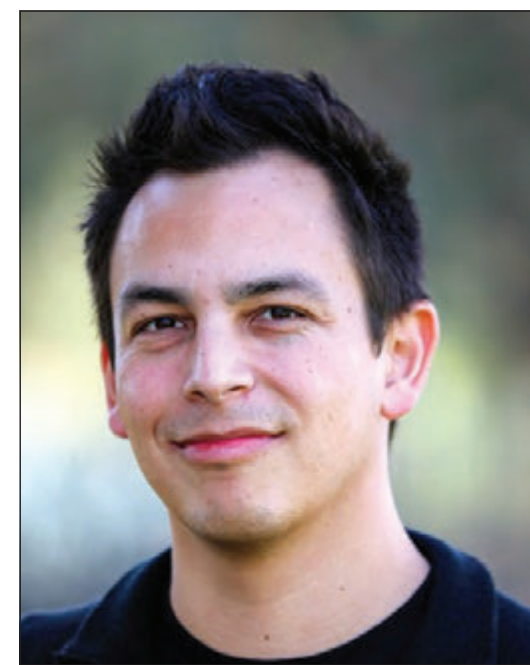
program spearheads the Institute’s “Native Lab” and also offers the Merata Mita and Full Circle fellowships.

“It’s been a privilege to collaborate with colleagues in devising ways to support Indigenous storytellers at every stage in their career,” Piron said in the release. “I look forward to leading this work with heart, vision and experience.”

Piron is also a cofounder of Cousin, a film collective that supports Indigenous artists, and was previously the film curator at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Piron earned a degree in film production from the University of Southern California’s School of Cinematic Arts.

Additionally, Piron serves on the editorial advisory board of Seen, a journal that examines the visual culture of communities of color and features interviews, reviews and essays featuring Indigenous artists. He also serves on the Indigenous advisory board for TIFF – the Toronto International Film Festival.

More information is at sundance.org.



Adam Piron

Courtesy photo



# Tribal co-management of public lands gains traction

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The role of tribes in public land and waterway management received some rare Congressional focus March 8 when the House Committee on Natural Resources held an online hearing on the subject. The committee invited National Park Service head Charles “Chuck” Sams III (Cayuse and Walla Walla tribes) – the first Native American to lead the agency – to testify on the issue.

The idea is of interest to the Seminole Tribe and the Miccosukee Tribe, as a formalized co-management agreement would likely include Florida’s Big Cypress National Preserve and could theoretically include Everglades National Park. The tribes are invested in the health of both – whether it is to monitor the intentions of oil companies or is due to the many environmental implications of Everglades restoration.

The details of how a formal co-management agreement would be implemented are still being discussed. The effort is an extension of the kind of coequal federal-tribal partnership the Department of Interior has sought under Secretary Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo).

At stake is the health of lands, waterways and sacred sites that are important to Florida’s Native population. The hope is that through such agreements the federal government will more formally implement Tribal Ecological Knowledge, or TEK, into its stewardship strategies. Tribes want TEK to be used 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.

Sams said there are currently four parks in the NPS system that have co-management authority with tribes, although formalized agreements

are still in work or in early stages. The sites include Canyon de Chelly National Monument in Arizona, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in Alaska, the Grand Portage National Monument in Minnesota and Florida’s Big Cypress National Preserve.

Sams said the NPS wants to hear from tribes about other potential sites that should be added to the list. He said \$38 million in annual funding agreements, or AFAs, were available for implementation of co-management agreements.

“This is long overdue,” said committee chair Raúl M. Grijalva, a Democrat who represents Arizona’s 3rd Congressional District. “Tribal co-management provides an opportunity to work with Indigenous perspectives that can improve management practices, protect the climate and protect federal lands.”

While some committee members used their testimony to propose increased oil drilling on tribal lands in order to, ostensibly, help ease a recent increase in energy prices, the idea of formal co-management appeared to have some bipartisan support.

“We can learn a lot from tribes by the way they manage their land, in contrast to how the federal government does it,” Bruce Westerman, the ranking Republican on the committee who represents Arkansas’ 4th District, said. “We need to be more aggressive with the Tribal Forest Protection Act with an unprecedented fire season coming up.”

The act authorizes the secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture departments to consider tribal stewardship regarding U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management lands that borders or is adjacent to Native American trust lands. It is designed to protect Native resources from the threat of fire or disease coming off federal lands.



Michael Gue/NPS

The Big Cypress National Preserve undergoes a series of prescribed fires each year. The objective of such burns include ecosystem maintenance, invasive species management and keeping a healthy habitat for plants and animals.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

**REPURPOSING RECYCLABLE MATERIAL FOR ART**

**CATEGORIES:**  
Best of Show, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each group. (Groups: Preschool, Elementary, Middle School, High School, and Adults)

**RULES:**  
All submitted artwork must be made with used and/or found, clean, recyclable materials such as straws, cups, bags, bottles, cans, and/or similar material, plus other materials required for structure or support.  
**Tribal Members only!**

Register at [ahtahthiki.com/recycle](http://ahtahthiki.com/recycle)

Your artwork will be displayed during the Earth Day event at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum or Okalee Village.

**Big Cypress, April 22nd,**  
Winners will be announce at 3:30 PM  
Submit your artwork on April 18th, between 1-5 PM at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum  
34725 W Boundary Rd, Clewiston, FL

**Okalee Village, April 23rd,**  
Winners will be announce at 3:30 PM  
Submit your artwork on April 20th, between 1-5 PM at the Okalee Village  
3551 N State Rd 7, Hollywood, FL

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Elizabeth Medina - 954-560-0762  
[Elizabethmedina@semtribe.com](mailto:Elizabethmedina@semtribe.com)

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CHRISTOPHER OSCEOLA, Hollywood Councilman  
MARIANN BILLIE, Big Cypress Councilwoman  
LAVONNE ROSE, Secretary  
PETER A. HAHN, Treasurer

### Notice of Virtual Tribal Community Meeting

**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

**COMMUNITY MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING DATE:**

- Friday, May 6, 2022- 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Information is below on how to receive the Webex invitation to participate! Tribal feedback is requested for water quality concerns within the waters and wetlands of Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations.

**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 the means by which 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.

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT:**

The Commission is conducting a Triennial Review of Seminole Tribe’s surface water quality standards to ensure that all water bodies on the Big Cypress and Brighton Reservations met federal requirements and ensure the protection of Tribal waters for the designated uses of water on Reservation. 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.

**HOW TO LEARN MORE & PARTICIPATE:**

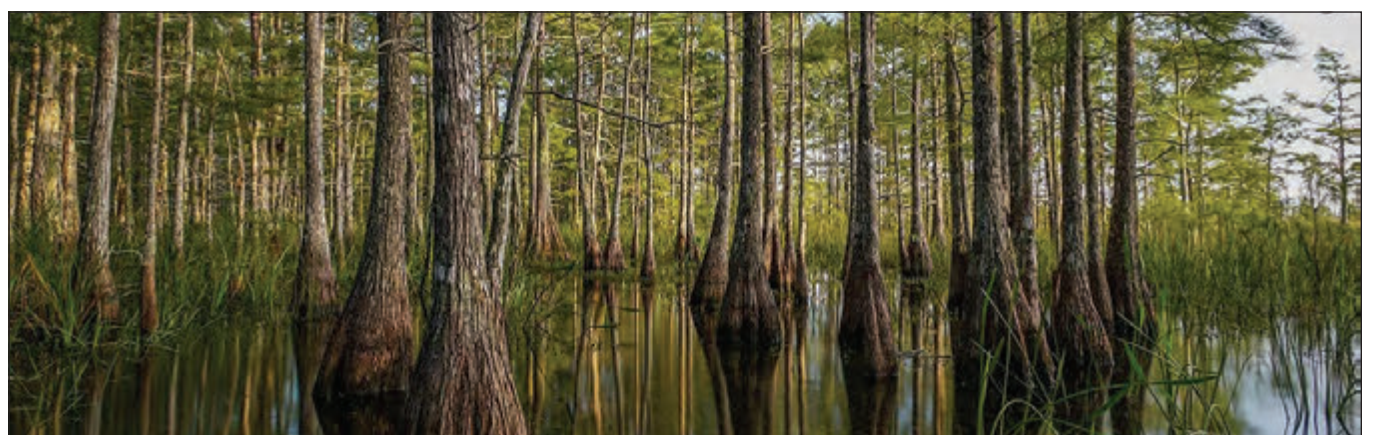
To be added as an interested party for participation in the Triennial Review, please email [SeminoleWaterQuality@semtribe.com](mailto:SeminoleWaterQuality@semtribe.com) or scan the following QR Code:



Interested persons names will be added to a direct email distribution list to be maintained by the Commission/Department and will be provided a direct invitation to the Community Meeting. For additional information, please contact Whitney Sapienza, Assistant Director at the Environmental Resource Management Department (Department) at (954) 965-4380 Ext. 10627

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

**PRELIMINARY PROPOSED RULE TEXT IS NOT YET AVAILABLE**





# Sports



## Pherian Baker, Zach Riley provide spark for Moore Haven baseball

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

WEST PALM BEACH — Things might be quieter next season for the Moore Haven High School baseball team.

The Terriers won't have friendly Pherian Baker — from the Brighton Reservation — around to encourage and lift the team up when needed. Playing in his first and last high school baseball season, the senior third baseman known as "Bear," brings plenty of energy and life to the squad.

"He's our pick-me-up guy. He picks up the team," said his father Preston, who is in his first season as the team's head coach and is also the head coach for boys basketball.

The younger Baker is not only a vocal leader for the team, but he's also personable with opponents. In Moore Haven's 12-5 win against Berean Christian Academy on March 11 in West Palm Beach, Baker chatted with Berean's coach while playing third base. When he got on base, he had conversations with Berean's first baseman.

After not playing baseball for about eight years, Baker said he's glad he returned to the diamond as he nears graduation. He had a hit in his first game.

No matter the results — Moore Haven was 3-6 entering April — Baker is determined to have a good time.

"It's pretty fun. We've had some ups and downs," said Baker, who is one of two Seminoles on the team; outfielder Zach Riley is the other.

Against Berean, Baker showed it was going to take more than being hit by pitches three times to wound this bear.

"Just brush it off," he said.

Baker is wrapping up a busy sports year. He was a lineman on the football team last fall and a forward on the basketball team in the winter.

He's also the last of four boys from the athletic Baker household to play high school sports; Ives, Ramone and Alyke all played before him. His family also includes five sisters, including Moore Haven volleyball, basketball and softball coach Jaryaca Baker and freshman three-sport athlete Preslynn Baker.



Moore Haven senior Pherian Baker scores a run in the Terriers' 12-5 victory against Berean Christian School on March 11 in West Palm Beach.

Baker has enjoyed being able to play for his dad in basketball and baseball.

"He's great. He's great at everything he does. Without him, I'd be nothing," he said.

Coach Baker said he sought the coaching position when he saw that it was not being filled by anyone. He wanted to make sure there was going to be a season.

"I just wanted to give the boys something to do," he said.

The Terriers' win against Berean was sparked in part by the solid hitting of Riley, who batted third in the lineup. He delivered one of the hardest struck balls all game when he drilled a double down the left field line.

He also had two infield singles and scored two runs.

"He's doing good. He plays left field; today he stepped in and played second base. He's a good kid," coach Baker said.

Riley is among a large group of underclassmen on a young team whose other wins have come against the Village School of Naples and Pahokee.

"We're kind of new," coach Baker said. "We're still learning."



Moore Haven's Zach Riley prepares to make contact against Berean Christian School.



Pherian Baker smiling is a common scene during Moore Haven baseball games.

## Young Terriers picking up wins

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — It wasn't long ago when Moore Haven High School was a force on the softball field.

The Terriers reached the state final four three times from 2014 to 2019 — including one appearance in the title game — and two other years their seasons ended in the regional finals.

During that impressive stretch, Moore Haven featured experienced teams loaded with juniors and seniors. That's not the case this year as the young team is in the midst of a learning-as-you-go season. In fact, the team's roster resembles a junior varsity or middle school in regard to experience. Ten eighth-graders are on varsity, including starters at first and third base. Many of those young players don't have a background with club or travel teams.

"We have a lot of kids who are inexperienced. They are catching on quickly," said coach Jaryaca Baker, from the Brighton Reservation.

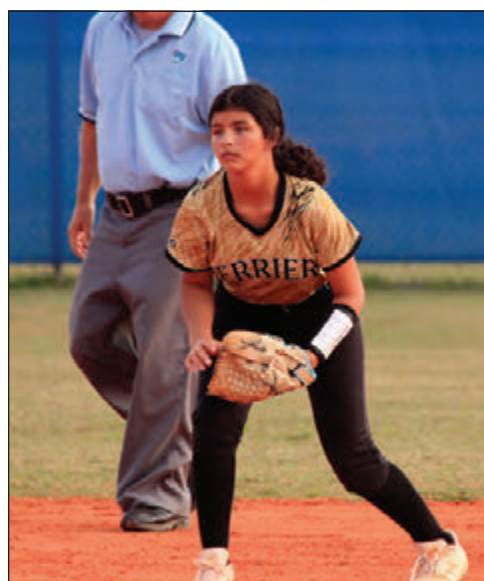
The team has only two seniors and one junior.

Growing pains are to be expected, such as a couple of lopsided losses incurred early in the season, but there have been plenty of bright spots so far, too, such as wins against Avon Park, Community School of Naples, Glades Day and Lehigh.

"I want them to understand that we don't have to have the biggest or best players to be good," said Baker, whose assistant coach is former Terrier player Monica Devine.

The team entered April with a 5-3 record.

In addition to the head coaching position, the Seminole Tribe is well-represented with freshman starting pitcher Preslynn Baker, sophomore starting shortstop Sumer Gopher and young reserves Halley Balentine and



Moore Haven shortstop Sumer Gopher, left, and pitcher Preslynn Baker are key starters on a young team this season.

Tahniah Billie (out for the season with an injury).

Preslynn Baker, the younger sister of the coach, smacked three home runs within the first few games of the season. She and Gopher are among the team's top hitters. Baker bats clean up followed by Gopher, who had a big night in a 10-6 win against

Lehigh with two hits and three RBIs.

Coach Baker said she is pleased with her entire team's work ethic, which should bode well for this year as the Terriers seek to continue postseason success now and in the coming years.

"All of them work hard; that shows a lot to me," she said.

## Milan Schimmel part of FGCU's most successful season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Milan Schimmel (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) picked a good year to become a Florida Gulf Coast University Eagle.

The 5-foot-8 guard from Oregon played in 24 games for the women's basketball team, which generated their most successful season in history.

FGCU went 30-3, notched regular season wins against LSU and Michigan State, won the Atlantic Sun Conference and upset Virginia Tech in the first round of the NCAA Tournament before being ousted by Maryland in the second round March 20.

Nine years ago, Schimmel's sisters — Jude and Shoni — sparked interest throughout Indian Country in the tournament as they helped Louisville make a memorable run all the way to the championship game.

Milan Schimmel saw limited playing time as a reserve throughout the season. The only games she played more than 10 minutes came in an opening night rout against Florida Memorial and a win against Ave Maria on Dec. 11 when she scored a season-high six points in 16 minutes.

She played two minutes against Maryland.

She averaged one point and 4.3 minutes per game. She finished with 23 points and 15 rebounds for the season.

FGCU is Schimmel's fourth college team. She previously played for Cincinnati, Eastern Florida State College and Hutchinson Community College. She has one year remaining of eligibility.

## Warner baseball goes on 20-game winning streak

STAFF REPORT

There might not have been any hotter team in all of baseball during March than the Warner University baseball team, which includes the Brighton Reservation's Trevor Thomas.

From Feb. 22 to March 18, Warner reeled off 20 consecutive wins and moved up to 18th in NAIA rankings. The team from Lake Wales saw its streak end with a loss to Southeastern University — the nation's No. 1 ranked NAIA team — on March 25.

Thomas, an outfielder, played in five of the games during the streak. He went 1-for-2 with an RBI and scored a run in 9-4 win against Grand View on March 3. Two days, he drove in two runs — one via a single and the other on a bases loaded hit-by-pitch — in a 6-2 win against Siena Heights. The agrusiness major reached the end of March with a .233 batting average that included seven hits and five RBIs in 30 at-bats.

Warner entered April with a 28-9 record.

## Ava Nunez shines in Immokalee loss

STAFF REPORT

Ava Nunez battled one of the nation's top rated high school pitching prospects in a pitchers' duel between Immokalee and Naples that lasted nine innings on March 1. Naples won, 2-1.

Nunez pitched all nine innings and scattered seven hits with seven strikeouts and three walks. She held Naples scoreless until the Golden Eagles tied the game at 1-1 in the sixth.

Immokalee's lone run came in the first inning.

Macy Miles, a University of Central Florida signee, delivered a no-hit shutout with 16 strikeouts. Miles was ranked the 72nd top pitching prospect in the class of 2022 by Extra Innings Baseball. She is the daughter of Les Miles, who coached LSU to a national football championship.

The following week Nunez fanned 10 batters in seven innings as she led Immokalee to a 3-1 win against Barron Collier.

As of late March, Nunez had a 3-2 record with 32 strikeouts.



# Formula 1 racecar with barefoot skier comes to BC

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS**—It isn't every day you see a barefoot water skier on a Big Cypress canal. It is even rarer to see one being pulled by a Formula 1 racecar speeding down a dirt road next to the canal.

But that is exactly what happened Dec. 10, 2021, on the Big Cypress Reservation, thanks to Red Bull – which has a Formula 1 team – and professional wakeboarder Parks Bonifay.

Red Bull, the international brand of energy drinks and home to extreme sports videos, wanted to film the stunt, so it approached Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie.

"They said they wanted an authentically Florida location, they wanted the Everglades," Councilwoman Billie said. "So they reached out to me. It was easier for them to come here instead of some other location, they didn't have to go through the state for approval."

The set was closed but Councilwoman Billie and her executive assistant Marlin Miller-Covarrubias stayed off to the side at the site to watch as the dangerous stunt was filmed.

"This is the first time anyone has barefoot skied behind a Formula 1 racecar going 50 or 60 miles per hour," Bonifay said. "I've always been a fan of Formula 1 and I love barefoot skiing in unique situations. This is one of the coolest Red Bull projects."

Bonifay, 41, has been with Red Bull since 2001. One of his recent adventures was a four-day wakeboarding trip up the Gulf Coast from the Caloosahatchee River in Fort Myers to Blue Lake, north of Clearwater. During the trip, he wakeboarded off the shore of Egmont Key in the Tampa area.

Being a Red Bull-sponsored athlete has given Bonifay the chance to live out his dream extreme sport scenarios. Over the

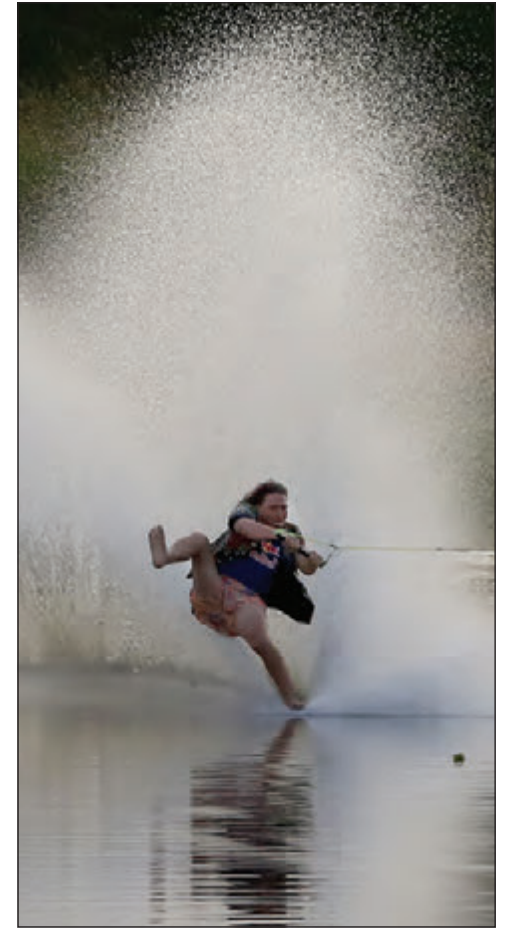


Parks Bonifay is pulled by a Red Bull racecar as he skis barefoot on a Big Cypress canal Dec. 10, 2021.

without weeds. Since the car would remain on land, he needed no obstruction to hamper his stunt.

He found it and did four successful runs as the late afternoon light was fading.

Max Verstappen and Sergio Perez will drive the Red Bull racecar at the Miami Grand Prix May 6-8 at Hard Rock Stadium.



Parks Bonifay leaves a wall of water behind him as he skis barefoot on a Big Cypress canal.

years, he has skied on icebergs in Greenland, surfed the best waves in Tahiti, wakeboarded in an underground cave in Missouri and behind a helicopter where he skydived down from 1,000 feet.

"We like to push the boundaries in ways that have never been done," he said. "I've been able to do so much cool stuff."

Bonifay said he invented a few tricks and was the first person to do a 1080 over a wake. He has been on skis since he was a baby; his parents were skiers in the Cypress

Gardens water ski show. Wakeboarding became popular when he was a young teen and he believes the sport was made for him. Bonifay won the inaugural wakeboarding competition at the 1996 X Games at age 14. After five seasons of the X Games he had two gold and numerous other medals in the sport.

He is a member of the Wakeboarding Hall of Fame and, according to his Red Bull biography, is considered the most influential rider of all time.

Barefoot skiing brings the skier's feet into direct contact with the water. Bonifay said the smoother the water is, the more it hurts.

"It feels like a burn," he said. "When there is a little chop, it gives your feet some relief."

The first run down the Big Cypress canal was interrupted when the 100-foot ski rope became entangled in weeds and Bonifay wiped out. After that, he walked up and down the canal looking for a good straightaway

# Osceola, Yearling split season series

STAFF REPORT

It wasn't just Osceola Middle School and Yearling Middle School who faced each other when their softball teams met twice this season. There was a lot of Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School present, too.

PECS athletic teams haven't resumed playing since the outbreak of the pandemic in March 2020, but the school's student-athletes have been starring in fall, winter and spring sports at nearby schools.

In softball, Yearling won the first meeting against Osceola, 11-6, on March 3. Osceola evened things up with a 3-2 win March 24.

It didn't take long for Yearling to rebound from the loss as it topped Imagine School of Vero Beach, 11-6, a few days later.



Yearling Middle School's softball team includes Alyssa Madrigal, left, and Melaine Bonilla, right.

Letty Madrigal (3)



Osceola's Middle School softball team features, from left, Ila Trueblood, Truly Osceola, Joleyne Nunez and Tehya Nunez.

Letty Madrigal (4)



# Big turnout for Chairman of the Greens tournament to support charities of Brooks, Marino

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — The greens and fairways at Tampa's Avila Golf and Country Club were filled with more than 130 golfers eager to score low on the links and bid high at the auction at the third annual Chairman of the Greens charity golf tournament March 21.

The tournament was a fundraiser for the Dan Marino Foundation, which helps individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities, and the Derrick Brooks Charities, which provides educational opportunities for socio-economically challenged youth. The event was organized by Seminole Tribe Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola's office.

"There is a lot of excitement about this tournament," said Chairman Osceola. "Our goal is to raise \$150,000 for our charities. If we can do that coming out of Covid, that would be great."

The Dan Marino Foundation has been affiliated with the tournament in years past, but it was the first year for the Derrick Brooks Charities.

"Derrick Brooks is a great guy and we are happy to help him with his charities," said Chairman Osceola.

Marino was quarterback for the Miami Dolphins for 17 years and lives in South Florida. Brooks is a Tampa resident and former linebacker who played football at Florida State University and for 14 years with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Both men are hall of fame inductees.

After the golfers completed their rounds, a luncheon and awards ceremony commenced.

"The charities are the ones who truly benefit today," Chairman Osceola said at the luncheon. "With your dollars they will be able to do great things."

Top sponsor Rick Taylor, from Champion Electrical Contracting, wanted to raise even more money and proposed a challenge. The company offered to donate an additional \$5,000 if five others offered up another \$1,000 each.

Former Dolphin wide receiver Nat Moore was the first to accept the challenge. Four others followed in short order and an



Tommie Jackson, Jeremy Smith, Jerry Smith and Jahna Smith line up a putt during the Chairman of the Greens tournament March 21 at Avila Golf and Country Club in Tampa.

Beverly Bidney

extra \$10,000 was raised in a scant few moments.

"The Dan Marino Foundation was founded 30 years ago and has helped



Beverly Bidney

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. explains the details of the basket the tribe gifted to top sponsor Rich Taylor, from Champion Electrical Contracting.



Beverly Bidney

Elrod Bowers follows through on a swing during the tournament.



Beverly Bidney

Winners of the Chairman of the Greens tournament are, from left, Mondo Tiger, Mateo Jimenez and Greg Renfro.

Elrod Bowers, from the Chairman's office, played with Moore, who played with the Dolphins in the 1970s and 1980s and is now an executive with the team. He attributes his long career to listening and learning from coaches.

"When I came into the league I was as fast as a deer," Moore said. "When I left 13 years later, I was slow as molasses but

I could always get open because I knew all the tricks."

The day was rounded out with a silent auction of 35 high-end items, including gift baskets from Hard Rock, footballs signed by former Dolphins coaching great Don Shula and current quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, luxury handbags, jewelry and other goodies that raised money for the charities.



Beverly Bidney

Raul Nunez watches a shot by Jimmy Wayne Holdiness, who was trying to get the ball back onto the fairway.

many children," Steffan Lue, director of community engagement at the foundation, told the golfers. "One in 44 kids have autism and one in six have developmental disabilities. We really appreciate your generosity."

The threesome of former Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, Mateo Jimenez and Greg Renfro proved to be unbeatable as they fired a sizzling 53. The self-described "Birdie Boys" won by five shots. The foursome of Josh Dennstedt, Toby Lee, Brian Mirus and Mike Moses finished runner-up with a 58.

It was the second trip to the winners' circle for Tiger and Jimenez, who were part of the winning team in the 2019 tournament.

Tribal members Richard Henry and Jimmy Wayne Holdiness played with longtime friends Raul Nunez and Daniel Anez for a foursome.

"I'm here to support the Chairman and the foundations," Henry said. "We also came out to have a good time, meet friends and make new ones."

Henry got his second Covid-19 vaccine before he played a round of golf during the pandemic and said the stiffness it caused in his arm improved his game. He lamented with a smile that the improvement didn't last.

"Golf was the perfect sport during the pandemic," Holdiness said. "You were isolated but outside with your buddies."

Members of the Smith family — Jerry Smith, Jeremy Smith, Jahna Smith and Tommie Jackson — golf together often as a regular foursome. They carefully lined up each other's putts, rejoiced the good shots and commiserated on the bad ones.

On the eighth hole, they tried to beat pro golfer Jack McGuire, an FSU graduate who made the cuts in the 2017 and 2019 U.S. Open, but to no avail. As a consolation prize, McGuire autographed their golf balls before he awaited the next foursome.



Beverly Bidney

Richard Henry eyes the hole as he prepares to putt the ball onto the green.



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◆ **FSU**  
From page 1A

“The story was told to me by my aunt, Carol Cypress, who was told the story by George Billie,” Wareham said. “We became one people during the Seminole Wars and survived because of these stories.”

After a tour of the museum, the team walked on the boardwalk to the ceremonial grounds where they watched Billie Walker wrestle an alligator and enjoyed a

traditional lunch that was provided by Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie’s office. Executive assistant Marlin Miller-Covarrubias and other staff prepared Indian tacos, fried alligator, pumpkin fry bread, banana fry bread, a three sisters salad and sofkee.

“We wanted them to have a great experience here and have a chance to show the world who we are,” Wareham said. “They will take this back to school with them and share our culture and traditions with their classmates.”

The Chobee AMP 12U and 14U softball

teams met the team at the ceremonial grounds and had the opportunity to get their softballs signed by the players. The FSU players also had a chance to hold a small alligator.

By coincidence, FSU pitcher Danielle Watson is from Osceola, Indiana, a small town about two hours east of Chicago. She doesn’t know why her town is named after Osceola – a heroic warrior for the tribe during the Seminole Wars – since it wasn’t taught in her local schools, but she was happy to learn about the tribe.

“More about it should be taught,” Watson said. “[The Seminoles] did a lot for

their people. It’s interesting that they have different clans, that is super cool.”

The players appeared moved by what they learned at the museum; many didn’t know about clans.

“It’s interesting that you can’t marry within your clan and that the male goes to the female’s clan,” said first baseman and pitcher Mack Leonard. “It’s very different from our patriarchal society.”

During lunch, the players shared what they learned.

“Representing something other than ourselves is really cool,” said outfielder

Hallie Wacaser.

Alameda believes it will be important for the upperclassmen to share these stories about meeting the tribe with younger students. She believes it is more impactful to learn about the culture first-hand than through books.

“Taking this all in and understanding what the tribe and their culture is, is a really cool thing,” said shortstop Josie Muffley. “What we are wearing isn’t just a symbol for us, it has real meaning.”



The FSU softball team, Chobee AMP 12U and 14U teams, Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie and other tribal members gather for a photo to commemorate FSU’s visit to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on March 25.

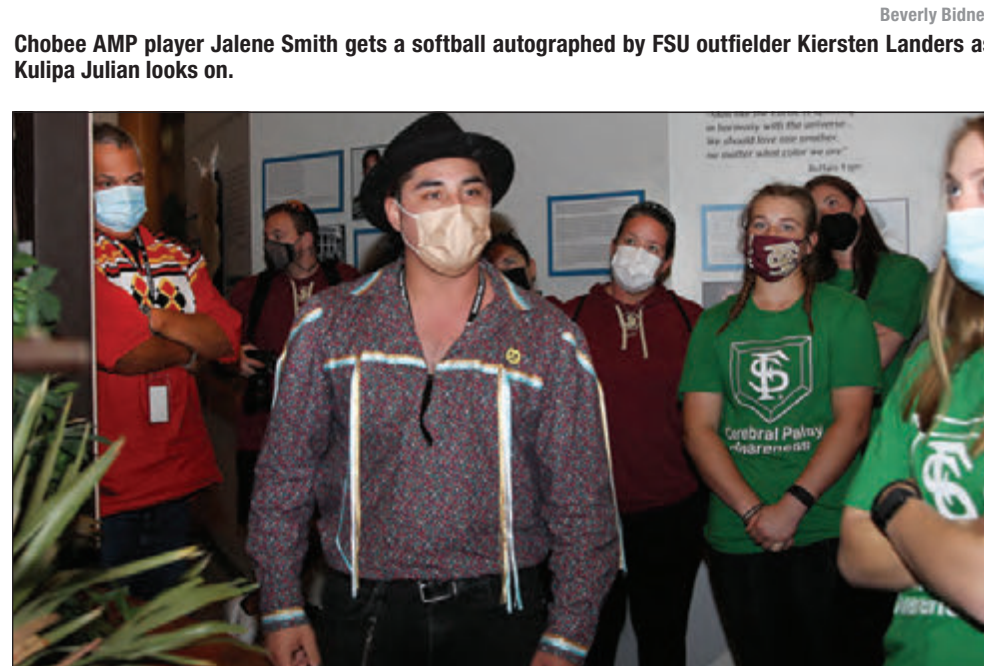
Beverly Bidney



FSU alumni Kyle Doney, left, and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Gordon “Ollie” Wareham talk to FSU softball coach Lonni Alameda during a tour of the museum.



FSU softball player Sydney Sherrill poses with Kulipa Julian from the AMP Chobee team.



Above, museum educator Cypress Billie leads the FSU softball team on a tour of the museum. Below, FSU alumni Kyle Doney gets a kick out of the small gator held by FSU pitcher Kathryn Sandercock as Jonah Walker helps out.



Billy Walker talks about alligator wrestling to members of the FSU softball team during the team’s visit to the museum.



Beverly Bidney

Beverly Bidney (2)



# Opening day for Triple Crown Fishing Series

STAFF REPORT

The anglers have returned. The Seminole Sportsmen's Triple Crown Fishing Series kicked off March 19 with the Bass Buster's Tournament in Big Cypress. It marked the series' first tournament since 2019. The pandemic forced the series to be cancelled the past two years.

Fishermen departed at sunrise and returned mid-afternoon to Moses Jumper Jr.'s dock for the weigh-in and an awards ceremony.

Brian Billie won the Big Bass award for the biggest catch of the day.

The team of Daniel Conde and Frank Marrero captured first place. Trewston Pierce and Marshal Tommie finished runner-up.

The three-tournament series continues April 23 and will conclude May 21.



Participants gather near Moses Jumper Jr.'s dock in Big Cypress for the Bass Buster's Tournament.

Seminole Recreation



Mike Tiger holds up one of his big catches of the day.

Seminole Recreation



Seminole Recreation

Above, Brian Billie is awarded the Big Bass Champion. Below, Trewston Pierce, left, and Marshal Tommie hold up their trophies for finishing second.



Kenny Descheene is all smiles as he shows his impressive catch.

Seminole Recreation



First place team: Daniel Conde, left, and Frank Marrero.

Seminole Recreation

## FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
A97082	2014	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT (4WD)	166,320	Poor	\$10,107
F46065	2012	FORD SUV	EXPEDITION (RWD)	126,014	Poor	\$8,762
VEND01	N/A	NEWSPAPER VENDING MACHINE	COIN OPERATED (MISSING COIN BOX)	N/A	Poor	\$10
VEND02	N/A	NEWSPAPER VENDING MACHINE	COIN OPERATED (MISSING COIN BOX)	N/A	Poor	\$10
VEND03	N/A	NEWSPAPER VENDING MACHINE	COIN OPERATED (MISSING COIN BOX)	N/A	Poor	\$10
VEND04	N/A	NEWSPAPER VENDING MACHINE	COIN OPERATED (MISSING COIN BOX)	N/A	Poor	\$10
VEND05	N/A	NEWSPAPER VENDING MACHINE	COIN OPERATED (MISSING COIN BOX)	N/A	Poor	\$10
VEND06	N/A	NEWSPAPER VENDING MACHINE	COIN OPERATED (MISSING COIN BOX)	N/A	Poor	\$10
VEND07	N/A	NEWSPAPER VENDING MACHINE	COIN OPERATED (MISSING COIN BOX)	N/A	Poor	\$10
VEND08	N/A	NEWSPAPER VENDING MACHINE	COIN OPERATED (MISSING COIN BOX)	N/A	Poor	\$10
VEND09	N/A	NEWSPAPER VENDING MACHINE	COIN OPERATED (MISSING COIN BOX)	N/A	Poor	\$10
A18464	2006	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F150 XL SUPER CAB (4WD)	151,373	Poor	\$2,987

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.

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