Seminole Tibune Voice of the Unconquered The Unconquered Tibune org • Free

Volume XLVIII • Number 8

August 2024

Hard Rock Casino Rockford set to open Aug. 29

BY KEVIN JOHNSON Senior Editor

Get ready for more guitars to be smashed. Hard Rock Casino Rockford, located in Rockford, Illinois, about 90 miles northwest of Chicago, will hold its grand opening Aug. 29. The traditional Hard Rock guitar smash is scheduled to be part of the ceremony.

The menu for the grand opening weekend has performances lined up by Akon, Joan Jett and Brad Paisley at the new Hard Rock Live, which seats up to 2,000.

"We are excited to welcome guests to our house to showcase and expand the legendary Hard Rock brand," Geno Iafrate, president of Hard Rock Casino Rockford, said in a statement.

The casino, which has been operating in a temporary location since 2021 while the new property was built, has been in the process of hiring hundreds of additional people leading up to the opening.

"The economic impact of this casino will provide hundreds of new jobs and boost the entertainment options for anyone living near or visiting Rockford. We are thrilled to welcome this new property to our global portfolio of over 300 Hard Rock venues," Jon Lucas, chief operating officer at Hard Rock International, said in a statement.

♦ See ROCKFORD on page 7A

Brighton's CeCe Thomas, Trail's Violet Osceola crowned Seminole princesses

BY KEVIN JOHNSON Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — CeCe Thomas and Violet Osceola were crowned the Seminole Tribe of Florida's new princesses July 27 at the 67th annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant on the Hollywood Reservation.

Thomas won the Miss Florida Seminole title and Osceola won the Jr. Miss Florida Seminole title. They will serve one-year reigns representing the tribe.

Thomas, 18, is from the Brighton Reservation. She is a 2024 graduate of Moore Haven High School who also earned an associate's degree from Florida SouthWestern State College while in high school. She is from the Bird Clan and is the daughter of Cecelia Tommie and Frank Thomas.

"This means everything to me," Thomas said about becoming Miss Florida Seminole. "It's the biggest accomplishment I've ever bod"

Osceola, 14, was the youngest of all seven pageant contestants. She's from the tribe's Trail community in the Ochopee area of Collier County. She is from the Otter Clan. Her parents are Melody Osceola and Joseph Osceola.

"It means a lot more than I can say in words," said Osceola, who is a 10th grader at the Miccosukee School. "I don't know how to express it, but I know I'll be working hard for my tribe."

See PRINCESSES on page 5A



Beverly Bidney

The Seminole Tribe's new princesses are all smiles after being crowned July 27 at tribal headquarters auditorium in Hollywood. At left is Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Violet Osceola. At right is Miss Florida Seminole CeCe Thomas. They will represent the tribe and have a one-year reign.

Students from the Seminole Tribe attend the National UNITY Conference in Portland, Oregon.

UNITY conference helps unite Native students

BY CALVIN TIGER Staff Reporter

Fifteen students from the Seminole Tribe ventured out to Portland, Oregon, for the 2024 National UNITY Conference from June 29 to July 3.

The students were accompanied by Education Department staff, including K-12 program manager Reginal Belizaire, and education advisors Martha Santibanez and Dana Osceola. Big Cypress Councilwoman Marriann Billie, Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie and Jr. Miss Seminole Tahnia Billie also attended the conference with the students.

UNITY, which stands for United National Indian Tribal Youth, is an organization whose focus is to help and benefit tribal youth around the United States.

See UNITY on page 9A



Courtesy
Students talk with Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie, far right, at the conference.

Seminole Artist Experience supports business of art

BY KELLY FARRELL
Special to the Tribune

IMMOKALEE — Generations of artists expressed a sense of increased support during the second annual Seminole Artist Experience Art Sale at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee on July 20.

Approximately 500 people attended the event, which is an increased turnout in comparison to the first year, said Elizabeth Medina, events and program coordinator of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, which organized the art sale.

"This event focused on the artists and the artists' experience and shows that whether 7 years old or 70, it's never too late — or too early — to begin," said Tina Osceola, who comes from a family of well-known artists, with father O.B. and her children Broden, Dakota and Bryce, also participating artists at the event.

Elgin Jumper, 60, has been drawing and painting since he was 6 or 7 years old. He just began taking guitar lessons.

Jumper, a poet and artist of many styles and genres, noted that support for artists has increased since his younger years, thanks in large part to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Seminole artists are taken more seriously now and their art appreciated in an elevated manner, said Gordon "Ollie" Wareham, museum director

"When Elgin started out, there wasn't really support for Seminole artists back then. If you drew and all that, it was great," said Wareham.

The museum, along with artists, including the late acclaimed Seminole painter Noah Billie, Jimmie Scott Osceola and others, helped pave the way for elevating Seminole art, said Wareham.

That support from the tribe is bringing up a new generation of artists, noted Tina Osceola.

Among the youngest artists at the event was Larry "Liam" Motlow, 8. It was his first art sale, and he was accompanied by his mom, Anna Motlow Vidaurri, an art teacher of Naples

"I just love to make money," said Liam.
"I'm a little nervous, but I love it," he said.
Most of his works were acrylics and

several featured his stylized highland bull.
"I was in awe of Liam," said Tina Osceola.

See ART on page 9A



Larry "Liam" Motlow, 8, shows his colorful acrylic highland cow painting for sale along with dozens of his other pieces at the second annual Seminole Artist Experience Art Sale held at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee on July 20. The event was hosted by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Editorial

Native Americans face huge healthcare disparities. Here's a way to help close the gaps

Lauren Eberly

ne of my patients who lives in Diné Bikéyah, the vast Navajo reservation in New Mexico, sleeps in an old Ford pickup truck that often doesn't start. He has heart failure and relies on oxygen. But since he is without electricity, he spends his nights sneaking into the Walmart parking lot to charge his oxygen concentrator so he can survive another day.

For more than a year, he has needed coronary artery bypass surgery. But he can't drive himself to the hospital three hours away, and his friends can't afford the gas to take him. Each time his phone is out of service, I wonder whether it's a coverage gap or an unpaid bill. Or something worse.

Such health concerns are common on the nation's largest reservation. American Indians have the highest mortality and lowest life expectancy of any racial group in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. My team's research shows that nearly half of American Indians on Medicare suffer from a serious heart problem. And the life expectancy at birth for American Indian-Alaska Native people was 65.2 years in 2021 — equal to that of the U.S. population overall in 1944.

These disparities are not genetic but rather a result of generations of land theft, broken treaty obligations, forced displacement, discrimination and Indigenous genocide, all of which have fueled poverty as well as the worst health inequities in our

Many treaties that ceded tribal lands to the U.S. required high-quality health services in return. That's why the Indian Health Service was established. But the Indian health system remains grossly under-resourced and underfunded. IHS hospitals are four decades old on average, compared with the national average of 10.6 years; Veterans Affairs treats about 3.5 times as many patients as the IHS but employs 15 times as many physicians. The U.S. government budgeted \$4,104 per patient enrolled in the Indian Health Service in 2018, compared with \$8,093 per Medicaid enrollee, \$13,257 per Medicare enrollee and \$9,574 per VA patient.

These numbers mean that Native American people get less care and as a result die younger. They perpetuate a message that an Indigenous life is worth less than

There have been improvements in recent years. The Supreme Court ruled this month that the federal government must cover related administrative costs for tribes that take over their own healthcare programs. And last year, the government raised the IHS budget to \$7.1 billion, which represents a 68% increase over the last decade. But those

victories won't fill all the gaps.

At the University of New Mexico
School of Medicine, I worked with the Indian Health Service and saw firsthand the incredible burden of disease and pervasive injustice. Now, as a cardiologist with the IHS at Gallup Indian Medical Center and as a health equity researcher, I focus largely on improving heart care for the Navajo community. The area has profound

social needs: Unpaved roads and inclement weather are common, poverty is widespread, and thousands of residents lack electricity or running water. (Last year, the Supreme Court ruled 5 to 4, in Arizona vs. Navajo Nation, that the U.S. is not obligated to secure the tribe's water needs across the reservation.)

as the Environmental Protection Office

leadership to restructure the former Heritage

and Environment Resources Office (HERO).

The restructuring focused on bolstering the

tribe's protection of its natural environment,

a critical component to the cultural identity

director Dr. Paul Backhouse, consists

of three departments: Water Resources,

Environmental Resources and External

the ERMD, which was created when the

Seminole Tribe entered into the Water

Rights Compact with the state in 1987. Back

then, it was called the Water Resources

Department but over the decades its scope

of work expanded as the tribe has grown.

Changing to the EPO structure allows the

three departments to focus their efforts on

specific areas critical to the environmental

to meet the tribe's needs," Backhouse said.

'For we need to be able to deliver at a really

high level across all those resources. Our

commitment to the community has been

allows each to prioritize and concentrate on

its core services. However, the departments

also work together to tackle issues that

cross over into another department's area of

Water Resources

Creating three separate departments

The Water Resources Department

maintains the tribe's on-reservation surface

water resources and ensures the safety

of the water, maintains about 400 miles

of canals and ditches to keep the water

moving throughout the system, and works

with the South Florida Water Management

District (District) and the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers on the Water Rights Compact

the language needs updating," said director

Alfonso Tigertail. "We have the capacity in

our system to provide water in the canals

for cattle operations and for fires during

excess of water, such as a recent storm on

the Big Cypress Reservation that dumped

16 inches of rain in 24 hours. Tigertail and

his team are looking at data that shows

how much the deluge, which left a lot of

standing water on the reservation, raised the

Tigertail said. "Mother Nature is doing its

thing. It took us 10 working days to get the

water back to normal. We moved it from the

pumped off the Big Cypress Reservation.

coordinates with the District and the Army

Corps so the water is moved strategically off

the reservation. Tigertail said the best way to

get water is from rainfall. The department's goal is to keep as much of it as possible in

said. "We need to keep the water on the

reservations in the underground water table.

We don't want to over drain," Tigertail

"Big Cypress was always a swampland."

In flooding situations, water is routinely

Water Resources Department

underground water table.

residential areas to the south."

reserve for the next drought.

The department also deals with an

"We are revising the compact; some of

We wanted to focus on the environment

The EPO updates and modernizes

headed by senior

of the tribe itself.

health of the tribe.

redoubled.'

with the state.

EPO,

Environmental Compliance.

The Executive Operations Office (EOO) recently received guidance from tribal

In the Eastern Navajo community, heart failure reflects the acute challenges for care. Recommended lifesaving medications were being used by only 23% of our patients. As our team thought about how to better serve this group, we realized we had to listen — to center community voices. We had to reject the typical U.S. care model that relies on patients to make it to the doctor, a process that benefits affluent and white patients who face fewer barriers to care. On the reservation, we can't wait for an elder to reach out when he is isolated at home, unable to breathe and has his truck stuck in the mud 40 miles from our

With patient and community input, we designed and tested a proactive telehealth program to improve rates of guidelinerecommended care. We scoured the electronic health record to find all patients with heart failure in our system and reached out to them to start therapy over the phone. This approach meant we didn't have to rely on in-person visits or limited broadband internet access. Our Navajo-speaking nursing assistant provided weekly check-ins. Instead of waiting for patients to find us, we found them, bringing care one phone call at

The results, published in April by the journal JAMA Internal Medicine, were promising. Within 30 days, we increased patients' use of proven drug therapies for heart failure up to fivefold, far exceeding national rates of use.

Of course, even the best care on its own will never be enough. The injustices driving health disparities must be rectified, and social drivers of health targeted. For example, Native American communities and allies are working to increase access to fresh groceries and reduce the extreme underrepresentation of Indigenous physicians in the workforce. Centering traditional cultural knowledge and Indigenous health practices is also key. Research has found that incorporating tribal history, language and craft-making prove more effective for weight loss and blood sugar control than standard recommendations.

But access to care is a necessary start. Through our phone program, we have reached more than 100 patients with heart failure. We identified eight who needed a lifesaving procedure and helped them get it. After waiting 17 months, my patient in his old Ford truck finally has a surgery scheduled, and our team will help get him there. As we expand the phone program to reach folks with coronary artery disease and high cholesterol, the voices of our community members will guide us every step of the way.

Lauren Eberly is a senior fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania and an assistant professor in cardiovascular medicine at Penn Medicine. Her opinions are her own. This op-ed appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Attendees must be 21. Parking is free.

98 Degrees to play **Australia's Thunder** outdoor concert in from Down Under coming to Immokalee **Immokalee**

FROM PRESS RELEASE

IMMOKALEE — Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee welcomes internationally acclaimed vocal group 98 Degrees live in concert Nov. 19 with gates opening at 7 p.m. and the show beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets for this outdoor concert start at \$49 For ticket information go to ticketmaster.com or moreinparadise.com. Parking is free.

98 Degrees is a multi-platinum, multiaward winning and nominated vocal group, comprising brothers Nick and Drew Lachey, Jeff Timmons, and Justin Jeffre. The group has sold over 15 million albums worldwide with four Top 5 Billboard charting radio singles including mega-hits such as "The Hardest Thing," "I Do, Cherish You," "Because of You," and the number-one hit single featuring Mariah Carey called "Thank God I Found You."

dedicated global following, making them

one of the most sought-after live shows in

the entertainment industry.

Issue: September 2024

Issue: October 2024

Deadline: September 18, 2024

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

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY Staff Reporter **ENVIRONMENTAL** Since its inception, the Environmental Resource Management Department's PROTECTION OFFICE (ERMD) mission has been to protect, evaluate and conserve the Seminole Tribe's land and water resources. The department, but not its mission, was recently reorganized

New name, same mission as

Environmental Protection Office debuts

The logo of the newly named Environmental Protection Office.

We have long conversations with the District and the Army Corps about this. We are getting better at managing our systems in Big Cypress and Brighton and we are getting better support and understanding from them, but we will still have those conversations. I want to make sure we have a certain level during the wet and dry seasons, to give us

Environmental Resources

some flexibility."

Environmental Resources Department is responsible for permitting programs on the reservations, water quality and the environmental science program which consists of forestry, wildlife and wetland programs.

"It's important for us to understand how everything impacts the ecosystem, water flow and water quality," said director Whitney Sapienza. "We help to support the functionality of the different departments, there are interdependencies between the programs."

The narrower focus of the department allows it to give the programs all the attention needed to meet tribal leadership's intentions and expectations of tribal community resource management.

"It gives us the opportunity to look at ordinances and regulations that are in place and make changes that will meet the tribe's current needs and sustainable practices," Sapienza said.

For building permits on the reservations, the department coordinates with the Seminole Water Commission and plays a key role in development and building projects. It reviews how a project will affect storm water irrigation wells and makes sure the tribe is in compliance with federal regulations, such as the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Act and the Clean Water Act.

The department collects and evaluates water samples as well as inflows, outflows and interior sites of the reservations and trust land as the tribe continues to grow. It shares those samples with the Water Resources Department.

The forestry program is responsible for distributing permits for palmetto berry season and taking inventory of and removing exotic vegetation, including Brazilian pepper and melaleuca.

The wildlife program assists with invasive wildlife such as Burmese pythons toward tribal sovereignty," Myers said. "We and conducts surveys of threatened and endangered species including the crested caracara, Florida bonneted bat and various amphibians.

Burmese pythons have the potential to have the most impact on native resources because they can be so abundant," Sapienza said. "They are hard to see, difficult to capture and can maintain several habitats. They are an opportunistic species."

The wetland program helps maintain mitigation areas and native wetlands in Big Cypress and Brighton. The department helps Tribal Community Development (TCD) with field surveys to delineate wetlands as they relate to a potential new home or building.

"We do those surveys early in the

process so they can shift a property to avoid impacting to the wetland system," Sapienza

Courtesy image

External Environmental Compliance

The External Environmental Compliance Department works with District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Army Corps major civil works projects that are off the reservations. It reviews these complex projects by acting as a cooperating agency and through consultation, which means they are part of the planning process for these projects. Some of the projects include the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, the Central Everglades Planning Project, the Western Everglades Restoration Project and the Kissimmee chain of lakes, which all affect the reservations.

The amount of responsibility when we were under ERMD increased tenfold over what was originally expected," said director Stacy Myers. "All of these projects are also being fast-tracked and are going on all at once. We originally had only had 14 projects and now we have 40. It was clear we needed to create this department."

The new structure allows Myers and his staff to review and comment on the plans. The pace of the projects requires the tribe to respond quickly.

"Because we are a sovereign government, we have a strong interest in the outcome of the projects," Myers said. "There is only so much water to go around, so they need to balance the needs of all stakeholders. If their projects impact our water compact and supply, we want to be able to shape the way water is distributed in South Florida. We have a big stake."

The Kissimmee River Restoration Project construction was started over 22 years ago and completed in 2021.

"Now we have the opportunity to shape the Everglades as it should be," Myers said. "We have to get the water right. The Western Everglades Restoration Project should be a step in the right direction."

The department also monitors other external projects that could impact the tribe, such as drilling in the Big Cypress Preserve and other activities that could affect wildlife

sanctuaries and corridors. "Not having to rely on external agencies to manage water resources is a major step need to be very nimble, and I think we are

clearly getting there.' Two former departments of HERO the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum are now under the auspices of the Executive Operations Office. Backhouse said the plan was always to have strong tribal members lead THPO and the museum, which has come to fruition as Tina Osceola and Gordon

Backhouse said all the organizational changes are for the betterment of the tribe. We are doing this because it matters,"

Wareham fill those roles, respectively.



An aerial view of Big Cypress.

Staff Reporter: Beverly Bidney, ext. 16466

BeverlyBidney@semtribe.com

© 2024 Seminole Tribe of Florida

Contributors: Kelly Farrell, Mayli Tommie Senior Editor: Kevin Johnson, ext. 10715 KevinJohnson@semtribe.com

The Seminole Tribune is a member of the Indigenous Journalists Association.

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

Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make checks payable to: The Seminole Tribune 6365 Taft Street **Suite 3003** Hollywood, FL 33024

The following deadline applies to all submissions to The Seminole Tribune:

Deadline: August 14, 2024

Postmaster: Please send address changes to: The Seminole Tribune 6365 Taft St. Suite 3003 Hollywood, FL 33024

Publisher: The Seminole Tribe of Florida

Phone: 954-985-5700

Staff Reporter: Calvin Tiger, ext. 10739 CalvinTiger@semtribe.com

> Advertising: Donna Mason, ext. 10733 DonnaMason@semtribe.com

Community

Brighton patchwork fashion show highlights culture, history

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY **Staff Reporter**

BRIGHTON — Tribal members were models for a day as they walked the "runway" at the Brighton Boys & Girls Club on July 16 for a fashion show of Seminole patchwork through the ages, sponsored by the Education Department and the Ah-Tah-

The event proved to be popular as all the seats in the BGC music room were full of guests while others stood on the sides and in the back of the room.

The partnership between the museum and Education emerged through a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The goal of the grant is to support education through acquisition of projection equipment for educational presentations and promote life-long learning by increasing tribal members' knowledge of accessing digital information.

"The purpose of the grant is to conduct

presentations and workshops at all tribal libraries," said tribalwide library program supervisor Padmini Dukharan. "We've hosted 12 events over the last year, including computer literacy. We've showcased Seminole history and culture with the museum with this fashion show and another in Immokalee.

BGC member Maddox Osceola, 12, opened the show by performing a grass dance with an accompanying traditional drum and song recording.

Museum curator Tara Backhouse presented a slide show of historic patchwork items from the museum's vault. She said some items were so old that if they were left in the light for too long, they would degrade

Backhouse explained each photo of the clothing from the mid-1800s to present day. A few pieces from the late 1800s were made before patchwork was created and were decorated with bands of appliqued fabrics.

The tribe began using sewing machines in 1910. By the 1920s, patchwork began to



Kyle Doney holds Evangalina Billie as together they model patchwork clothing in the fashion show.

develop and was used on skirts, capes and

In the mid-20th century, the clothing evolved and more bands of patchwork were commonly used on the colorful clothing. Jackets also appeared at this time. From the 1960s to the 1990s, the clothing became more vibrant and creative. The creation of

vests began in this period.

"A lot of the clothing from that time were sold to tourists," Backhouse said. "Now we are seeing some of those items being returned to the museum. It's nice to see they are finally coming home."

The museum would like to add more modern pieces to the collection, which only goes up to the year 2000. Backhouse said they would like to promote contemporary artists' garments.

The goal of the fashion show was to bring the patchwork to life, which is exactly what the models did as they sashayed, strutted and swaggered down the runway, to the delight of the audience.

The models were Evangelina Billie, Kyla Billie, Lois Billie, Sarafina Billie, Chandler DeMayo, Kyle Doney, Amalia Estrada, Malcolm Jones and Viola Tiger.



Amalia Estrada models a modern patchwork outfit July 16 at the Education Department's and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's fashion show held at the Brighton Boys & Girls Club.



Maddox Osceola demonstrates grass dancing to open the fashion show.

Kyla Billie shows off the rows of patchwork on her skirt as she makes her way down the runway.



training program designed specifically for Seminole Tribal Members, where you will learn the essential steps to start and manage a small for-profit business. Real Estate Services will be available to assist with on-reservation Business Permit applications, helping bring your ideas to life.



For more information and to register, call the **Native Learning Center** at 954-985-2331

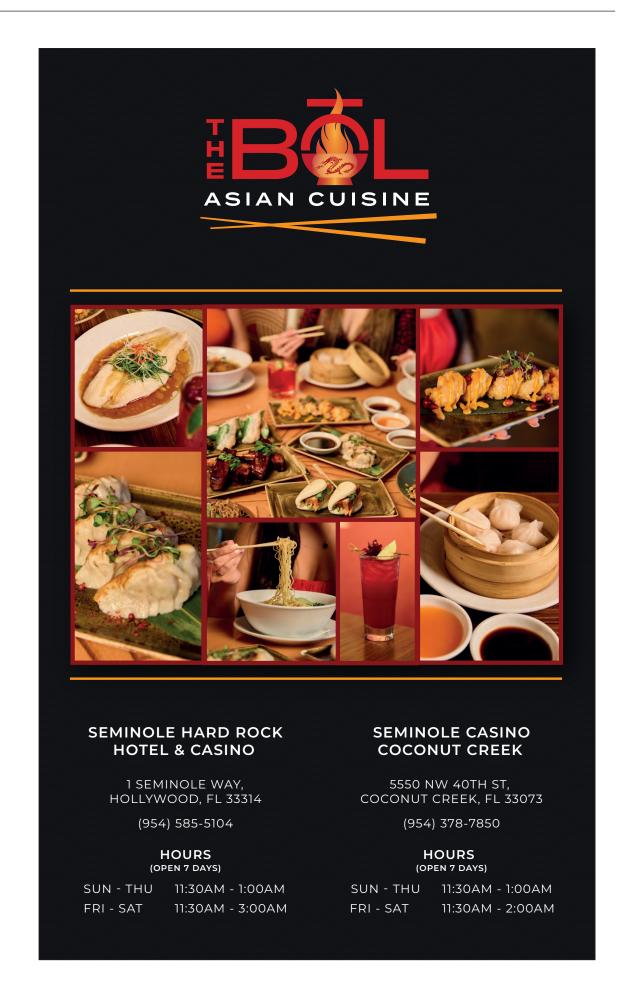














Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestants, from left to right, Felicia Buck, Gabriella Diaz, Willo James, Violet Osceola, Chaka (Yani) Smith, and Miss Florida Seminole contestants Leilani Burton and CeCe Thomas, pay attention during pageant practice July 25 as Princess committee member and stage manager Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall (2005 Miss Florida Seminole) explains what to do during each portion of the pageant July 27.

Behind the scenes, contestants receive guidance from former princesses

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY **Staff Reporter**

HOLLYWOOD — Seven young ladies from across Seminole reservations and beyond spent three days intensely preparing to compete in the 67th annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant, held July 27 at tribal headquarters in Hollywood.

The contestants for Jr. Miss Florida were Felicia Buck, 17, from Felda; Gabriella Diaz, 17, from Hollywood; Willo James, 17, from Brighton; Violet Osceola, 14, from Ochopee; and Chaka (Yani) Smith, 16, from Okeechobee. The Miss Florida Seminole contestants were Leilani Burton, 19, from Okeechobee, and CeCe Thomas, 18, from

The theme for the week seemed to be something acting tribal secretary and Miss Florida Seminole (MFS) 1985 Naomi Wilson said to the contestants during a banquet the night before the pageant.

"You're beautiful, you're Seminole, be proud," Wilson said.

The week began with an orientation given by Wilson, who told the girls that this wasn't a beauty pageant, but a way to find the best representative of the Seminole Tribe. Hollywood Board Rep. and MFS 2005 Christine McCall was the stage manager and ran the rehearsals with a group of knowledgeable volunteers, who were former princesses and one runner-up.

McCall and the volunteers spent the days coaching and helping the contestants get comfortable with the pageant as they rehearsed. They learned to introduce themselves to the audience, model traditional clothing, practice their talent presentations and study a group of impromptu questions they would have to answer confidently.

The volunteer helpers gave them tips as the practice on the stage progressed throughout the three days of rehearsals.

"During the pageant, the lights will be so bright you won't see anyone in the audience," said Brittany Yescas, MFS 2006. "We are here to get you comfortable. You can do it as many times as you want."

The contestants were told to project their voices because it shows confidence and to put some pep in their step.
"This is your moment," Yescas said. "It

says you are proud of yourself."

Brianna Nunez, MFS 2014, was excited when McCall asked her if she wanted to help with the pageant.

"I like helping them," Nunez said. "I remember I learned from the former Miss



The contestants learn how to put on every day makeup during a makeup demonstration and lesson given by Coral and Petra Battiest.



After practicing impromptu questions on stage, CeCe Thomas came back to supportive high fives from fellow contestants

to me, there are a lot of good memories. The girls are feeling nervous now; it's only day one and they are already leaning on each other for advice. It's like a sisterhood, they are starting to build strong bonds.'

On the first day of rehearsals, the girls sat apart from each other. During the day it was clear they were getting to know each other as they showed their support during practices. They applauded each other as they took turns on stage practicing their talents.

Backstage, the girls waited as each was called to answer one of the random impromptu questions. They came back and high fived everyone as if they just hit a home run in a the World Series. They talked about how they thought they did and what questions they got.

"I got nervous," said Leilani Burton. They talked about their answers and what they could have said, they all helped with suggestions and agreed on the difficulty of some questions. They studied the questions together until the day of the tournament, always helping each other.

The current MFS 2023 Thomlynn Billie and Jr. MFS 2023 Tahia Billie were with the contestants everyday giving advice and helping out. Tahnia told the girls during a



The contestants pose backstage with the pageant volunteers who are all former princesses or contestants. From left to right are Bailey Micco, Leilani Burton, Chaka (Yani) Smith, Christine McCall, Felicia Buck, Gabriella Diaz, Willo James, Violet Osceola, CeCe Thomas, Brianna Nunez, Sarafina Billie and Cheyenne Kippenberger.

ANNUAL MISS FLORIDA SEMINOLE PRINCESS PAGEANT

Contestants and outgoing princesses pose in front of the backdrop before the Seminole Princess Banquet July 26 at the Hard Rock hotel. From left to right are outgoing Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Tahnia Billie, Chaka (Yani) Smith, Gabriella Diaz, Willo James, Felicia Buck, CeCe Thomas, Violet Osceola, Leilani Burton and outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie.

break that she smiled so much during

the pageant that her face hurt.
"Just have fun," Tahnia said. "Be prepared for anything. If something does go wrong, no one knows about it but you. Cherish every moment because it goes by really fast.'

"The crown goes to who needs it," Thomlynn added. "Just be yourselves, don't act in a certain way that you're

The outgoing princesses hosted a dinner at BOL.

"You all are doing something most eople are scared to do," Tahnia said. I'm proud of you."

They introduced an ice-breaker game, "Heads Up," to get the girls comfortable and interacting with each other. It worked. After the game, there was lively interaction around the table during dinner.

Day 2

The second day of practice ncluded clothing changes and talent props. During lunch, the girls sat together at one table. They seemed like old friends as they practiced the impromptu questions some more, as if they were helping each other study for

a final exam.

Later that day, makeup artists Coral and Petra Battiest brought makeup kits, mirrors and two models, and showed the girls how to apply makeup for everyday wear. Their resumes are impressive with film, commercials, red carpet events including the Oscars, movie premiers and fashion shows to their credit.

The girls enjoyed the activity and continuously complimented each other on their new looks.

Pageant Day

Pageant day started with personal one-on-one interviews with the judges, Kassandra John (Dine), Miss Indian World 2024; Debora Whaley of Florida Cattlewomen Inc.; and Justin Huenemann (Dine), president and CEO of First Peoples Fund. After the interviews it was back to headquarters to rehearse some more and work out any kinks.

By this time, the contestants were a tightly-knit group and very comfortable with each other. The week held many meanings

"It means so much to me," Buck said. "It was an opportunity to represent my family and my tribe and make some good friends.'

This has always been a dream of mine

since I was a little girl," Diaz said. "I always looked up to the girls who had the bravery and skill to do this. This will have a hold on me forever. The relationships with the other girls are close to my heart. This experience has been everything.

"It has been very emotional and nervewracking, but it's been a great experience," James said. "I've made some new friends and strong bonds. We are a mutual support group and are like sisters."

'It's been very emotional because I know when it ends, I'm going to be really sad," Osceola said. "It's a big stepping stone for me and a memorable time in my life."

'It was about getting out of my comfort zone, make new connections and be able to represent my tribe in a different way," Smith

"It's about getting to represent my people and culture and show that we are strong Seminole women," Burton said.

'It was a good way to get together with other young ladies and get to know people from other reservations," Thomas said.

No matter who wore the crown on pageant night, it's clear this group of young ladies made a lifetime of memories in just three days.

→ PAGEANT From page 1A

Thomas and Leiliani Burton, 19, from Okeechobee, competed for the Miss Florida Seminole crown. The Jr. Miss field consisted of Osceola, Felicia Buck, 17, from Felda; Gabriella Diaz, 17, from Hollywood; Willo James, 17, from Brighton; and Chaka (Yani) Smith, 16, from Okeechobee.

Thomas and Osceola were crowned on stage by their predecessors, Thomlynn Billie

and Tahnia Billie, respectively.

The pageant included an introduction from each contestant followed by clothing, talent and Q&A segments. Thomas and Osceola won the talent awards; Thomas and Buck won the essay awards; and Burton won Miss Congeniality.

Presentations in the talent portion included the art of basketmaking by Buck, Native hymns sung in Mikasuki and Creek by Diaz, the many uses of sabal palms by James, how to harvest corn and prepare it for sofkee by Osceola, Smith read from a book in her Native language that she wrote as a middle school student, Burton demonstrated how Seminole women used baby carrier cloths to carry their children during the Seminole Wars, and Thomas discussed her love of painting and showed one her works,

a great, white egret.

The pageant was held in the tribal headquarters auditorium, where the walls were adorned with portraits of previous princess winners. The pageant started exactly when it was scheduled to start, 7 p.m., and lasted two hours and 12 minutes.

Van Samuels served as emcee. Paul Buster provided the invocation.



Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestant Willo James participates in the clothing portion of the pageant.



Beverly Bidney

CeCe Thomas wears the Miss Florida Seminole Crown for the first time as she is crowned by outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie.



Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Violet Osceola has her hands full in a good way after winning the crown.

The judges tasked with selecting the new princesses were Debra Whaley from Florida CattleWomen Inc., Miss Indian World Kassandra John, and Justin Huenemann, CEO/president of First Peoples Fund.

Prior to the pageant, the judges toured the Big Cypress Reservation, where they met Councilwoman Mariann Billie and Board Rep. Nadine Bowers. They also visited the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

"Many thanks for this amazing opportunity that I will always and forever cherish," Whaley said in a note to the Princess program.

"My time here in Florida has been wonderful," Huenemann wrote. "From day one, the kindness and hospitality shown has been amazing. It was an honor to be asked to be a judge. I can now see, it's a big deal for the tribe. I enjoyed traveling to Big Cypress and learning about the Seminole Tribe of Florida. I enjoyed meeting so many people. This was a new experience for me, one that I will not forget. Thank you to all who made this possible."

Before the winners were announced, the outgoing princesses received a video tribute and then addressed the audience with their final words in their one-year reigns. They thanked their family members who helped them along the way.
Jr. Miss Florida Tahnia Billie,

16, said she plans to run for Miss Seminole when she turns 18.

Thomlynn Billie said she's been competing in the pageant since she was 12, and becoming Miss Florida Seminole was a dream come true.

"From when I was a little girl this is all I ever dreamed of," she said.



Led by Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestants Felicia Buck and Gabriella Diaz, the contestants enter the auditorium to enthusiastic applause.



Beverly Bidney

From left to right, judges Debra Whaley, Florida CattleWomen; Kassandra John, Miss Indian World; and Justin Huenemann, CEO/president of First Peoples Fund; make notes during the pageant.

Beverly Bidney



Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestant Violet Osceola demonsrates how to make sofkee during the talent portion.



Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestant Chaka (Yani) Smith displays her talent as she reads from a children's book she wrote as a student at Pemaytv Emahakv Charter School.

in front of the audience. From left to right are Felicia Buck, Gabriella Diaz, Willo James, Violet Osceola, Chaka (Yani) Smith, Leiliani Burton and CeCe Thomas.

All seven princess contestants are on stage

2024 Miss Florida Seminole **Princess Pageant results**

Florida Miss Seminole

- 1st Runner Up- Leilani Burton
- Miss Seminole-CeCe Thomas
- Florida Jr. Miss Seminole
- 3rd Runner Up-Chaka Smith
- 2nd Runner Up-Felicia Buck 1st Runner Up-Gabriella Diaz
- Jr. Miss Seminole-Violet Osceola

Miss Congeniality Leilani Burton

Best Essay

- Jr. Miss Seminole-Felicia Buck Miss Seminole-CeCe Thomas
- **Best Talent**

- Jr. Miss Seminole-Violet Osceola
- Miss Seminole-CeCe Thomas



Festive-filled day as Hollywood celebrates the Fourth

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Before a colorful barrage of fireworks lit up the sky over the Seminole Estates section of the Hollywood Reservation, there were plenty of other things to do on July 4. Presented by the Hollywood Council Office, the reservation's celebration

began bright and early with a fun run and walk at 7:30 a.m. at Seminole Estates.

The day featured several contests, including cornhole, horseshoe and bowling tournaments, watermelon and hot dog eating competitions, and watermelon rolling.

Swimming, music, food vendors, carnival games, raffles and bingo rounded out the fun-filled day.



Mellisa Pichardo, left, and Tomie Motlow compete in the women's hot dog eating contest. Motlow won



Sean Frank, left, and Kaysen Brown try to eat as many hot dogs as they can during the men's hot dog eating contest. They were the only contestants.



Konstance Sanchez gets ready to take another bite out of her watermelon during the contest.

Hollywood Fourth of July bowling tournament results

Held at Sparez in Davie

Bowling Regular

1st – Jonathon Frank/Hali Garcia 2nd-Eric Osceola/Cassandra Jones 3rd - Christian Osceola/Virginia Garcia Sanders

4th – Issiah Billie/Rebecca Osceola 5th - Ricardo Hernandez/Randee McDonald

3-6-9

1st - Brent Frank/Randee McDonald 2nd - Issiah Billie/Halie Garcia 3rd - Jonathan Frank/Virginia Garcia

4th – Eric Osceola/Talia Rodriguez Christian Osceola/Řesha Doctor

1st – Ėric Osceola/Hali Garcia 2nd - Christian Osceola/Randee McDonald

3rd - Justin Frank/Virginia Garcia Sanders

4th - Ricardo Hernandez/Cassandra

Jones 5th - Issiah Billie/Jessica Osceola **Seniors Men** Regular

1st - Moses Osceola 2nd - Eugene Bowers 3rd – Ronnie Doctor 4th - Joe Osceola Jr.

5th - Charlie Tiger Jr.

1st – Ronnie Doctor 2nd - Eugene Bowers 3rd - Moses Osceola 4th – Vince Billie 5th - Charlie Tiger Jr.

No Tap

1st – Ronnie Doctor 2nd – Joe Osceola Jr. 3rd - Moses Osceola 4th – Eugene Bowers 5th – Charlie Tiger Jr.

Seniors Women Regular

1st – Loretta Micco

1st - Loretta Micco

3-6-9

No Tap 1st – Loretta Micco



Kids get ready to compete in the watermelon-eating contest at the Hollywood Reservation's Fourth of July celebration. Contestants had to eat their



Kevin Johnson

A game of tug-of-war proves to be a cool way to spend the celebration for these kids. Temperatures were in the low 90s.



Jessica Osceola reaches the finish line in the watermelon rolling contest at Seminole Estates.

during the contest.

Josiah Holt nears the end of his watermelon



Kevin Johnson **Brent Frank** keeps his watermelon on the correct path.



Halie Garcia eyes a strike during the Fourth of July bowling tournament at SpareZ in Davie.



Vince Billie shows good form as he releases the ball on the lane.

♦ ROCKFORD From page 1A

The casino features 175,000 square feet of gaming, entertainment and hospitality space, including 1,300 slot machines, 50 live table games including a poker room, a state-of-the-art sportsbook, six restaurants, and a Rock Shop with Hard Rock merchandise.

The casino has been making an impact in several areas of the Rockford community. In June, it was a major sponsor of South Main Mercado, a celebration of Latin culture, food and music. The casino also partnered with the city for a Juneteenth celebration.

Thanks to the casino and a local

construction company, residents now have an outdoor concert stage to listen to music and watch performances at a regional park.

The 807-square foot stage is made of cedar and has two dressing rooms with air conditioning. The Levings Unity Pavilion opened June 3.

The Rockford Park District praised Hard Rock's efforts.

"Huge thanks to Hard Rock Rockford & Ringland-Johnson Construction for making this possible. The music here will unite people of all ages and backgrounds for years to come. We're thrilled about the friendships and connections that this stage will create within our community," the district posted on social media.



A rendering of the new Hard Rock Casino Rockford.

Hard Rock



Rockford Park District Hard Rock Casino Rockford funded a new community performance pavilion in a regional park.

Seminole Hard Rock executives promoted

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Hard Rock Support Services announced July 12 the promotion of two senior executives to new roles and expanded responsibilities.

Stephanie Piimauna has been named senior vice president of People and Inclusion, and is now also responsible for Human Resources, reporting to Tracy Bradford, president, Seminole Hard Rock Support Services. Piimauna remains chief diversity and inclusion officer including oversight of Tribal Career Development, and Global Social Responsibility.

Meaghan Ryan was elevated to head of Human Resources for all of Seminole Support Services.

Piimauna joined Hard Rock in 2021. Under her leadership, Hard Rock has extended its 2020 designation as one of Forbes Best Employers for Diversity in 2021, 2022 and 2023, and Best Employers for Women from 2019 through 2023. Most recently, Hard Rock was also named to Forbes Best Brands for Social Impact in 2023.

Piimaunu previously held leadership

positions at Gilead Sciences and MGM Resorts International, among others.

Rvan has been

with Seminole Hard Rock for a decade and has served as vice president Global overseeing Talent and Team Member Relations. She began at the company overseeing acquisition. previously held HR leadership positions at various locations for Caesars Entertainment Corporation,



Resorts. She holds a bachelor's degree in human resources from

Stephanie Piimauna

Florida State University and is an inaugural member of the leadership team that launched the Women of Seminole Gaming mentorship program.

HR Department serves up sweet treats

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Tribe employees tribalwide received a cool, tasty break in July thanks to the Human Resources Department. HR organized ice cream socials on the tribe's reservations and communities, including July 18 at tribal headquarters auditorium lobby in Hollywood where staff dressed the part as they wore 1950s'-style malt shop uniforms. They dished out bowls of ice cream with an assortment of toppings as well as milkshakes, soft serve with cones and more.



Calvin Tiger

Laurell Battiste, right, hands a milkshake to Ana Garcia at the ice cream social July 18 at tribal headquarters in Hollywood.



Calvin Tiger

Ana Garces, left, puts toppings on an ice cream sundae for Christina Ordiales.



Calvin Tige

After a job well done serving ice cream to Hollywood employees July 18, the tribe's Human Resources and Payroll team salutes.





RICHARD CASTILLO

954.522.3500 HELPING THE

SEMINOLE COMMUNITY

FOR MANY YEARS

24 HOURS A DAY

Since 1990 I have protected rights like yours. My office defends DUIs, drug offenses, suspended licenses, domestic violence, and all felonies and misdemeanors throughout Florida and the United States.

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.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki partners with NJ institution to promote Seminole artists

BY TARA BACKHOUSE Curator

BIG CYPRESS — Calling Seminole musicians! The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum would like to announce an exciting new opportunity. The museum is partnering with the Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music to showcase Seminole music in their new facility at Monmouth



This guitar, a recent addition to the museum's historic collection, shows how important music and the promotion of music is to the Seminole Tribe of Florida today.

University in New Jersey. Scheduled to open in spring 2026, the 30,000-square foot facility will host archives, the Center for American Music, related exhibition galleries, and a 230-seat, state-of-the-art theater. Visitors will read about Seminole history and experience Seminole music as they enter the new complex.

The center's mission is to preserve the legacy of Bruce Springsteen and to celebrate the history of American music and its diversity of artists and genres. The founders believe that the music of Springsteen is a focal point of American music, but also that the entirety of American music needs to be represented, recognized, and honored at the center. This project will place Indigenous music at the forefront of visitor experience at the new center, as well as making it a primary feature on the landscape of American music.

The concept behind the exhibit is one that honors the past but also looks toward

The soundscape of Seminole culture goes back thousands of years. During the 19th century, war and upheaval led to the loss of some forms of traditional music, such as flute playing. Other traditional songs continued to be sung and danced during private ceremonies. Then into the 20th century, when traditional lifestyles were altered by Everglades drainage and development, new forms of musicality were introduced. Hymns and gospel music was featured in Christian contexts. This kind of music is carried on today. Modern Seminole musicians cross genres of rock and roll,

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

A PLACE TO LEARN. A PLACE TO REMEMBER.



The Bruce Springsteen Archive and Center for American Music is scheduled to open in 2026.

rap, and folk music. Other artists use their mediums to celebrate music, cementing the connection between Seminole art, music and Hard Rock International.

Seminole history and contemporary life will be an important part of the exhibit. For most visitors, this will be the first time they read about the Seminole Tribe of Florida. But the exhibit will also be interactive. Visitors will be able to hear and see Seminole

musicians and other artists that bring the Seminole story to life.

Musicians who participate will be able to have their artistry represented in the exhibit. Whether you create music that echoes the past or exemplifies today's beats, this is a great opportunity to showcase your talent. If you want to be recorded playing your music, or you want to tell your story, or if you want to perform live, you can be part

of this project in many ways. Even if you're not a musician and you want to be a part of this project, let us know. We're excited to talk about your interests and how you want to be involved.

Stop by the museum on Big Cypress, call us at (863) 902-1113 or email us at museum@semtribe.com. See you soon!

Movie night in Hollywood



The Hollywood Reservation held its own "drive in" movie July 25 with two large screens set up in the rodeo parking lot. Cars and families arrived to watch Kung Fu Panda 4.

Above, Tomie Motlow, from the Hollywood Council Office, gives an ice cream to Braxton Osceola-Heart during the movie night. At right, Sharon Osceola (left) and Sunshine Frank get ready to watch the movie with popcorn and a meal from The Bol. The event, including the movie and food, was organized by the Hollywood Council Office. The Hollywood Board Office also presented a movie night July 12 to see Despicable Me 4 at Regal Dania Pointe.



ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

We usually have a definitive classification for any artifact we find. For example, if TAS finds a turtle shell fragment in the field, we classify it as $\frac{1}{2}$ snail shell is a perfect example of this concept.

formed as minerals within a sediment precipitate, and are found

n.d.). Practically speaking, concretions are just rocks. Unless there is an artifact attached to them, TAS does not intentionally collect them, although sometimes they are collected by

What about the two artifacts? The snail shell is a Polygyra, which is a type dirt as a kid, you have likely come across at least one. Its current state snail that died in the right place at the right time. The snake bone is a vertebra and is more likely to have been the result of human interaction, such as food processing. What would you label it? Would you classify it as the most relevant artifact? Would you classify it as both? This might seem like a relatively trivial decision, but it can give you an idea of the choices made by TAS and Collections.



August 2024

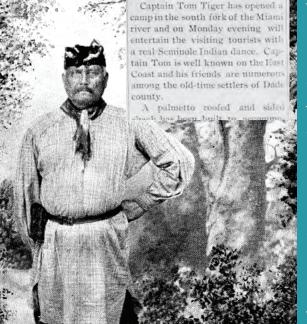




Figure 2

Glossary of Terms in Soil Science. (1976). Canada Department of Agriculture. https://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/publications/manuals/1976-glossary/pub1459_report.pdf Paleontological Research Institution. (2022). Concretions. priweb.org.

https://www.priweb.org/blog-post/concretions Korotev, R. L. (n.d.). Iron-oxide concretions and nodules 1. wustl.edu. https://sites.wustl.edu/meteoritesite/items/concretions/



In March of 1904 the first known Seminole Tourist camp opened just outside the growing community of Miami. Nearly three decades before the Florida Tourism Trade would become the driving force out in the Miami newspapers to invite one and all to come see traditional crafts, canoe crafting, and Seminole dance. The invitations came from Seminole leader Thlocklo Tustenuggee, but most visitors knew him better as "Captain" Tom Tiger.

SEMINOLE HISTORY STORIES - AUGUST 2024

Tom Tiger had seen incredible change in Florida over his life. He was a veteran of the Seminole War and had become a prominent leader among the Cow Creek band of the Seminole. He was the American settlers, helping the Tribe to secure regular trade without ever giving up their location. He would become a prominent figure in Florida, speaking for his people and Tribal concerns to the growing city councils and Florida government. When a settler stole his horse, he became the first Seminole to take a white man to court, and ne greeted and smoked a cigar with American President Chester A. Arthur when he visited

om Tiger's Tourist Camp was a giant step for the Tribe into the Florida economy. He applied for and received a merchant's license from the local judge to allow the Tribe to sell goods. The local newspaper, the *Miami Evening Record*, named a number of Tribal Members who helped to run the camp. Tom Tiger, along with Frank Jumper, Jumper, Jim Truitt, Young Ingraham, Little Tiger, Clyde Tiger-Tail, and Cypress Tiger, along with many women whose names would not be shared outside the Tribe, kickstarted both the Seminole and Florida tourist trade.

To see more Seminole History Stories, please visit the THPO website at www.stofthpo.com

TOW TIGER, THE TOURIST

TRADE TRENDSETTER

A Camp of Seminoles.

rom Judge Heyser a liceuse to er

he Seminole Indian camp on th

rage in merchandise business

outh fork of the Miami river,

Above: Photo of "Captain" Tom Tiger, courtesy FloridaMemory.com Top Insert: Miami Evening Record, March 7, 1904 Bottom Insert: Miami Evening Record, March 8 1904

Visit the Tribal Historic Preservation Office website at stofthpo.com

or use the QR code on the right for more Seminole history resources





···· Health

Country, tribe dealing with uptick in Covid-19

BY KEVIN JOHNSON **Senior Editor**

HOLLYWOOD Remember

A lot of people would like to forget the infectious disease that ravaged the world just a few years ago, but it hasn't gone away. In fact, this summer has seen a surge.

Since the start of May, Covid-19 wastewater indicators recorded by the Centers for Disease Control have been steadily increasing, so much that CDC, as of late July, lists the national wastewater viral activity for Covid-19 as "high" for the first time since last winter, with several western states listed as very high. Also in the very high group is Florida, one of only four states east of the Mississippi River with that unwanted distinction.

According to the CDC, "wastewater (sewage) can be tested to detect traces of infectious diseases circulating in a community, even if people don't have symptoms.

The data serves as an early warning about increases and decreases in infections.

With Florida showing an increase in positive cases, the Seminole Tribe's Health & Human Services (HHS) began issuing fliers via email alerting the tribal communities about the surge.

"The tribe has seen an upward increase in the number of covid cases tribalwide," Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley, HHS executive director, wrote in an email to the Tribune.

Kiswani-Barley said the severity of cases is different compared to the pandemic.

"It is presenting similar to a cold/ sinusitis. It is not resulting in seeking a higher level of care or supplemental oxygen at this time," she wrote.

HHS's flier provides the tribal community with a variety of suggestions similar or the same as during the pandemic to prevent infection and to slow the transmission. Hand-washing, covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze, and avoid touching your face are among the suggestions as is getting vaccinated.

In late June, the CDC issued an updated Covid-19 vaccine recommendation that now calls for everyone ages 6 months and older receive an updated 2024-2025 Covid-19 vaccine. According to the CDC, updated vaccines will be available later this year from Moderna, Novavax and Pfizer. The CDC says it is safe to receive the Covid-19 vaccine and a flu shot at the same time.

For those who test positive for Covid-19, Kiswani-Barley said they should seek medical attention from one of the tribe's clinics and to try to segregate for five days to help to mitigate the spread.

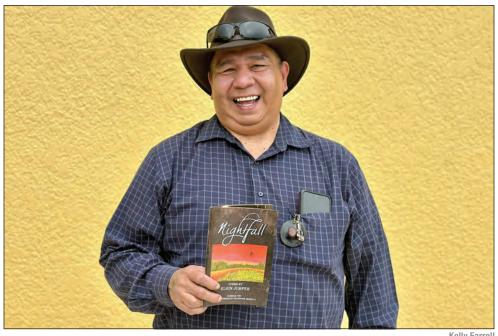
♦ ART From page 1A

"I remember what it felt like selling my first piece and someone actually paying money for it. There was nothing more fulfilling than people wanting to buy something that you made," she said."I hope it inspires a lifetime of artistry," Osceola added, echoing a sentiment expressed by many artists and attendees.

Osceola grew up in a family where arts and crafts was a way of life and economic survival, leading to everyone, regardless of age, having a role, she said.



Lorraine Posada, of the tribe's Wind Clan, at the Seminole Casino Immokalee during the Seminole Artist Experience Art Sale, shows off her custom "basket mafia" design she's wearing, signifying a warmhearted joke about her family winning all, or nearly all, the sweetgrass basketry contests that the family "win clan" enters.



Artist Elgin Jumper, a painter, writer and musician, read from his book of poems, "Nightfall" at the Seminole Artist Experience Art Sale on July 20 at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee.

Osceola gravitated toward beadwork and stuck with it.

The event is one of several that helps support the tribal economy through the arts,

Artists enjoyed an opportunity to buy from each other, whether finished works or supplies, such as beads from Annette Jones, who came from Okeechobee, or patchwork and ric rac from Mary Jane Billie, an Immokalee resident. Crowd favorites also included legendary musician Paul Buster "Cowbone;" award-winning basket maker Lorraine Posada; soap maker Justine Osceola; Tylor Tigertail with his blacksmithing axes and knives along with his glow-in-the dark paintings of planets and constellations, as well as culinary artists. These food vendors included Molena Hall, known as "Auntie Mo" with her Walkin Taco Company fry bread and Maria Arreola, of Pop N Hot, with kettle corn and giant fresh lemonades to please the palates.

Attendees included longtime artists'

fans, such as Andrew and Emerald Foster of Jupiter visiting to see Jumper, and surprise visits by casino goers. The latter included Randy Strong of North Port, an artist drawn on a whim to see other artists' work. He was especially impressed with Liam Motlow, he

"We need more kids doing this. That's for sure," said Strong, as he shared creative ideas with the young artist.

Wareham, playing flute, accompanied Jumper reading from his book of poems, "Nightfall," in a soundscapes performance that filled the casino event space with a new ambiance as silent videos on huge screens displayed images of Seminole culture near

Artists and visitors alike noted they are already looking forward to getting together again at one of the biggest art events of the year— the American Indigenous Arts Celebration held at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on Nov. 1 and Nov. 2.

Healing to wellness court training to be held in Phoenix

FROM PRESS RELEASE

PHOENIX, Ariz. — The Tribal Law and Policy Institute will host the 2024 Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Implementation and Enhancement Training from Sept. 18-20 at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown in Phoenix, Arizona.

The free training is titled "Reclaiming Indigenous Justice." According to the institute, the theme "serves as a poignant

reminder of the pivotal role traditional Indigenous justice plays in shaping tribal healing to wellness courts and guiding their current practices. It is a reminder that tribes best know how to care for their own communities and keep them safe, and have inherent strengths in Indigenous justice systems."

For more information go to enhancementtraining.org.

UNITY From page 1A

Students heard from a variety of speakers, including Dr. Evan Adams, Coast Salish from the Sliammon First Nation and an Indigenous Canadian actor, playwright, and physician; Governor Stephen Roe Lewis from Gila River Indian Community; fashion designer Norma Baker-Flying Horse; disc jockey Emcee One, and Taboo, a member of the Grammy award-winning group The Black Eyed Peas. The students experienced several workshop sessions while attending a general session. Some sessions pertained to health, culture, environment, career, education and mental health. One benefit of the conference was

that the tribe's students had opportunities

to interact with other Native students from different parts of the country. "I think it allows them to create a

vision of what their future will be like," said Belizaire.

Belizaire went on to speak about the opportunities the students gained from attending the national UNITY conference and learn about the differences that other

tribal youth face outside of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The students that attended the National Unity Conference were Adeline Garcia, Angel Stewart, EvaRay Stewart, CeCe Thomas, Chaka Smith, Eric Puente II Gregory James II, Jonah Garcia, Mia Herrera, Shyla Herrera, Miley Jimmie, Jr. Miss Seminole Tahnia Billie, Willo James, Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie, and

NICWA offers virtual training session on child welfare casework

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) has launched testimony that upholds the interests of 'Foundations of Tribal Child Welfare Casework Practice," a specialized training designed exclusively for tribal and First Nations child welfare workers. This interactive, one-day virtual training, which will be held Sept. 24, aims to equip participants with essential skills tailored to their unique roles and responsibilities.

This new curriculum will address crucial aspects of tribal child welfare guided by the relational worldview model. Participants will learn best practices for engaging and assessing families and ensuring culturally sensitive approaches that honor Indigenous

values and traditions. Special emphasis is placed on preparing for court proceedings, including report writing and providing children and families effectively.

The training will also cover strategies for enhancing children and family engagement within the tribal context. Utilizing supervision effectively to support professional growth and ensure successful service delivery to families is also a key focus. Participants will gain insights into basic case management practices that are specifically relevant to tribal settings, enhancing their ability to navigate complex casework scenarios.

To register for the Sept. 24 training go to nicwa.org/training-institutes/.



(Located next to YouFit Gym

in the Bahama Breeze plaza.)

Seminole students enjoy gathering for a group photo at the UNITY conference in Oregon.





THE PATIENT AND ANY OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT HAS A RIGHT TO REFUSE TO PAY, CANCEL PAYMENT, OR BE REIMBURSED FOR PAYMENT FOR ANY OTHER SERVICE, EXAMINATION, TREATMENT THAT IS PERFORMED AS A RESULT OF AND WITHIN 72 HOURS OF RESPONDING TO THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FREE, DISCOUNTED FEE, OR REDUCED FEE SERVICE, EXAMINATION, OR TREATMENT

ALL TRIBAL CITIZENS

AND EMPLOYEES

(\$150 Value)

SEMINOLE SCENES *





ourtesy photos (2)

BC VISIT: The judges in the Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant spent time visiting the Big Cypress Reservation, where they met tribal leaders and toured the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. At left, from left to right are judge Justin Huenemann, Board Rep. Nadine Bowers, Councilwoman Mariann Billie, judge and Miss Indian World Kassandra John and judge Debora Whaley. At right, the judges visit the musuem.



Kevin Johnso

RODEO READY: Kenny Tommie, right, chats with pro bull rider Caden Bunch (Cherokee) on June 29 at the Hollywood Reservation's rodeo arena. Bunch and his Florida Freedom PBR teammates were on the reservation preparing for their season, which includes a home match Aug. 2 through Aug. 4 in Sunrise.



Courtesy image

NABI NOD: The Seminole Tribe of Florida was recognized as a sponsor of the Native American Basketball Invitational during the live broadcast of the semifinals and finals July 27 on Arizona Family Sports.



Harry Hall/Instagra

HARD ROCK HARRY: English golfer Harry Hall, 26, carried a little bit of Hard Rock with him when he won his first PGA Tour event July 14. Hall's golf shirts on the PGA Tour feature the Hard Rock logo on his right chest. Hall chipped in from 45 feet on the third playoff hole to win the ISCO Championship at Keene Trace Golf Club in Nicholasville, Kentucky. The victory was worth \$720,000 for Hall. It gave him exempt status on the tour through 2026 and spots in the PGA Championship and The Players. Hall played college golf at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. In an Instagram post, Hall thanked his team of supporters, including Hard Rock. More good news came for Hall and his wife a few days after the tournament with the birth of their first child.



Calvin Tiger

FUTURE FIREFIGHTERS: From left to right, Allie Billie, Braylen Carter, Zaylee Billie, Evaliah Puente and Big Cypress Recreation employee Tee Johnson wear firefighters gear at the Big Cypress Fire Rescue Career Day on June 24.



Kevin Johnson

MUSIC MAN: Jay Holata provides upbeat and festive music during the Hollywood Reservation's Fourth of July celebration July 4 at the Seminole Estates



Kevin Johnson

PAVING THE WAY: Crews have been working on improvements to Reservation Road near the new Seminole Brighton Bay Hotel & Casino that is scheduled to open in early 2025. This photo is from July 25.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Man accused of selling fake Native American art was vendor at **Ann Arbor Art Fair**

MADISON, Wisc. — Federal agents say a Florida artist who sells Native American-made art is lying to potential buyers across the Midwest, alleging his art is fraudulent and he has no connection to any

A federal grand jury indicted Jose Farinango Muenala June 26 in U.S. District Court Western District of Wisconsin with scheming to defraud, wire fraud and misrepresentation in sale of products, according to the federal indictment unsealed

Though it is not listed in the indictment. most recently Muenala was a vender in the 2024 Ann Arbor Art Fair, known as the largest juried art fair nationwide, July 18-20. Organizers said they were unaware of the federal allegations.

"Jose Farinango participated in the Marketplace section of the Ann Arbor Art Fair in 2024. However, due to new information recently made available to the Jury, Jose will not be invited to the 2025 fair," said Angela Heflin, executive director of the Ann Arbor State Street District Art Fair, one of three collaborative, but separately organized events that make up the art fair.

He has also sold art in Grand Haven and Rochester, Michigan.

The U.S. Justice Department says Muenala, from Dec. 3, 2015, to Jan. 17, 2024, applied online to numerous arts shows to sell "authentic" Native American jewelry he made himself, claiming he was Native American.

The feds contend he is not Native American, according to an investigation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior Indian Arts and Craft Board.

"Prosecuting these types of fraud cases is part of our important work to support Tribal Nations," U.S. Attorney Timothy M. O'Shea said in a statement. "The indictment announced today is not only about enforcing the law, but also about protecting and preserving the cultural heritage of Native Americans."

Messages left with Muenala's attorneys requesting comment were not immediately

Investigators say Muenala claimed in his fair applications his art was derived from the Pueblo Nation in New Mexico and his jewelry was made using "techniques that my forefathers passed down to me" while creating unique pieces that "demonstrate my Native American culture," according to the indictment.

Muenala is accused of selling fraudulent art at the following art shows:

Three Rivers Arts Festival, 2016, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Virginia Highlands Festival, 2019, in Abingdon, Virginia

Arts & Apples Festival, 2021, Rochester,

Michigan St. Augustine Art and Craft Festival,

2023, St. Augustine, Florida Grand Haven Art Festival, 2023, Grand

Haven, Michigan Loon Day, 2023, Mercer, Wisconsin

Muenala is also scheduled to be a vendor

at the Milford Memories Arts in the Village, set for Aug. 9-11, in Milford, records show. "Jose Farinango's false tribal affiliation

cheated customers and impacted the economic and cultural livelihood of Native American artists," Edward Grace, Assistant Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement, said in the statement.

"Our dedicated team of special agents works on behalf of the Department of the Interior and the Indian Arts and Crafts Board to protect Native American and Alaska Native artists. Safeguarding Native American culture, traditions, and the consumers who purchase authentic Native American art are a critical part of these investigations."

If convicted, Muenala faces up to 20 years in federal prison.

The Indian Arts and Crafts Board administers and enforces the Indian Arts and

Crafts Act. a truth-in-marketing law. "The act is intended to rid the Indian arts and crafts marketplace of fakes to protect the

economic livelihoods and cultural heritage of Indian artists, craftspeople, and their Tribes, as well as the buying public," Indian Arts and Crafts Board Director Meridith Stanton said in the statement. "Authentic Indian art and craftwork is

an important tool for passing down cultural traditions, traditional knowledge, and artistic skills from one generation to the next. Those that market fake Indian art and craftwork, such as under Jose Farinango's guise of from "the Pueblo Nation of New Mexico," tear at the very fabric of Indian culture and livelihoods and prey upon unwitting consumers, and therefore must be held accountable.'

- Mlive.com (Michigan)

Generations of work culminates in major land return for **Leech Lake Band**

BENA, **Minn**. — The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe has achieved a historic milestone with the return of more than 11,000 acres of ancestral land. This transfer, involving 11,778 acres previously managed by the Chippewa National Forest, was finalized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in June, marking the culmination of decades of effort by Leech Lake. The act reversed an illegal land seizure by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs in the 1940s, which saw land transferred on the signature of the Secretary only, without any consent from the landowners.

The band held a commemorative ceremony to mark the historic transfer July 17. The event, held at Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school, was the first of its kind for the band and believed to be "...the largest land return to a tribal nation within this century," according to U.S. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment, Homer Wilkes. Throughout the afternoon, community members were able to see maps of the returned land, hear the historical background of why the land was lost, and hear speeches from honored guests.

The ceremony represented the crowning achievement for many tribal, state, and federal staff members whose work expands back several decades; as well as the efforts of many tribal community members who have since passed on and did not live to see the fruition of their work.

This land restoration will let the tribe address critical housing needs, expand access to wild rice beds, and help to restore the broken relationship between the tribal and federal government.

Leech Lake Band Chairman Faron Jackson Sr., who spoke to the crowd, thanked the large number of people who worked to get the act signed into law, honored the tribal members who had previously worked on restoring tribal lands and focused on what the land return means for the tribe moving

"We control less than 5% of our treatyguaranteed homelands today. Dispossession of our homelands has limited access to our sacred places and cultural resources and aggravated social issues related to homelessness. With all of this land being returned, we're going to have more available land to build homes for our members that are experiencing homelessness today," Jackson said. "That's a priority for the councilalso the lack of economic development and poverty. Because of the illegal secretarial transfers, we've heard far too many stories of Leech Lake people returning to their family lands only to find a forest service gate and a padlock. Thanks to your work todaythese stories will begin to change for the generations that come behind us.

An announcement that came out during the celebration was the confirmation of a new bill that Senator Tina Smith is sponsoring titled "Leech Lake Reservation Restoration Technical Corrections Act" which seeks to return an additional 4.3k+ acres that were discovered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) during implementation of the original act.

- Leech Lake News (Minnesota)

Pentagon to review 20 Medals of Honor from Wounded Knee Massacre

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin directed the Pentagon to review the 20 Medals of Honor awarded to U.S. troops for their actions at Wounded Knee in 1890, when soldiers killed and injured between 350 and 375 Lakota men, women and children.

Austin ordered the creation of a special panel to determine whether to retain or rescind the medals, the Department of Defense announced July 24. In a July 19 memorandum ordering the review, Austin said the panel would investigate 'each awardee's individual actions" and also "consider the context of the overall engagement.'

"It's never too late to do what's right," an unnamed senior defense official said in a statement July 24. "And that's what is intended by the review that the secretary directed, which is to ensure that we go back and review each of these medals in a rigorous and individualized manner."

The killings, referred to as the Wounded Knee Massacre, occurred Dec. 29, 1890, near Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota. It was part of a larger effort by the U.S. government to repress Native American tribes of the Great Plains and eradicate a religious movement known as Ghost Dance.

Reports about the Ghost Dance movement prompted the U.S. Army to guard reservations. On Dec. 29, 1890, troops from the 7th Cavalry were confiscating weapons from Lakota people when a struggle with a reportedly deaf man sparked a chaotic onesided firefight. When the smoke cleared, dozens of cavalry troopers were wounded or killed by friendly fire — likely from their artillery - and hundreds of Lakota were

For their actions that day, 20 cavalrymen were awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor. Austin's memorandum lists the recipients, along with short descriptions of why each man received a medal.

One citation says a recipient showed distinguished conduct "in a battle with hostile Indians." Another says one man "voluntarily led a party into a ravine to dislodge Sioux Indians concealed therein.'

A few citations said troops had rescued their fellow soldiers, and some said only that the men exhibited "extraordinary gallantry."

Congress officially apologized for the massacre around its 100th anniversary in 1990, but it did not rescind the medals then. In 2022, Congress approved a measure encouraging the Pentagon to review the awards.

The panel reviewing the Medals of Honor will comprise five experts, including two from the Department of the Interior, Austin's memo states. The panel is expected to submit a report to Austin by Oct. 15 with recommendations for each recipient, and then Austin will take those recommendations to President Joe Biden.

When reviewing the awards, panelists will consider the context at the time and use the military's 1890 standards for awarding

the Medal of Honor, rather than today's

Panelists will determine whether any of the soldiers did anything disqualifying them from the award, which includes intentionally directing an attack against someone who surrendered in good faith, murdering or raping a prisoner or engaging in any other act "demonstrating immorality," Austin's memo reads.

- Military Times

Tribal leaders advocate for historic water rights settlement in DC

WASHINGTON — Leaders of the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe traveled to Washington, D.C., to testify before the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee to urge the passing of bills that would bring water to their communities.

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren testified that right now, about a third of Navajo households lack running water.

"Thousands of our people continue to haul water over 30 miles roundtrip to meet daily water demands," Nygren said. "Congress must act to end the water crisis on the Navajo Nation. This made the pandemic devastating to my people and holds us back from the that other Americans take for granted."

Hopi Tribe Vice Chairman Craig Andrews also testified. He told committee members how the federal government landlocked the Hopi, surrounding them with the Navajo reservation and separating them from their traditional water sources.

"The current water supplies on the reservation cannot sustain our population or growth into the future," Andrews said. "Unlike others, Hopi cannot simply move away to where there is more water. We have a sacred covenant with the original caretaker to be the stewards of this land.

The Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024, introduced by Republican Congressman Juan Ciscomani, so far has gained bipartisan support from lawmakers like Democratic Congressman Raul Grijalva and Republican Congressman David Schweikert. The bill would fund the construction of a \$1.75 billion pipeline to divert Colorado River water to communities

"For far too long, many tribal communities in northern Arizona have had a lack of access, or no access at all to clean drinking water," Ciscomani said. "It is high time we right this wrong and ensure these families and communities have reliable water resources, which is the foundation of a thriving community.'

The pact would also allow the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation to lease, exchange, and accrue long-term storage credits for its

The settlement marks a historic time for Arizona's northern tribes after being left out of the Colorado River Compact more than a century ago. That agreement divided Colorado River basin water among seven states in the West but left tribal nations out. The proposed \$5 billion bill is a culmination of decades worth of government-togovernment negotiation and collaboration. All three tribes and surrounding communities approved the settlement. Now the federal government is left to ratify and fund the

"When this water settlement does get passed by Congress, that not only is Navajo Nation going to benefit economically, but the state of Arizona will continue to push some of those things forward so that we can uplift ourselves as a nation," Nygren said.

The bill would also ratify a treaty between the Navajo Nation and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, creating a reservation for them. Right now, the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe is the only federally recognized tribe in Arizona without a designated reservation.

Earlier in July, Democratic Senator Mark Kelly and Independent Senator Kyrsten Sinema introduced the Senate version of the bill.

- AZPM (Tucson, Arizona)

San Carlos Apache Tribe officials arrest tribal member accused of starting Watch Fire

In just under a week, the Watch Fire burned more than 2,000 acres of the San Carlos Apache Reservation and prompted reservation-wide evacuations. Officials announced that a tribal member was arrested Tuesday in connection with starting it.

Twenty-two-year-old Keanu Dude is accused of arson in connection with what began as a small brush fire that forced hundreds to evacuate their homes last week.

Local, state, and federal investigators worked to track down its cause while fire crews contained the blaze that ultimately left 73 people homeless.

Chairman Terry Rambler called the alleged crime senseless in a statement, expressing sadness over a member of the Tribe being the one charged.

Officials say the case remains under investigation.

- KJZZ (Phoenix, Arizona)

Army director of Small Business Programs visits the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina invited the Army's Director of Small Business Programs to observe the Annual State of the Tribe Address and the Annual Shareholders Meeting for Lumbee Tribe Holdings, Inc. (dba Lumbee Holdings, Inc.) from July 1-2, 2024. These events are by

invitation only to non-Tribe members.

Formed in 2011, LH is wholly owned by the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. Headquartered in Pembroke, North Carolina, with a second office in Stafford, Virginia, LH serves as a holding company with multiple subsidiaries that service diverse federal agencies, including the Army. Current subsidiaries include Lumbee Tribe Enterprises, LLC (LTE); Lumbee IT Solutions, LLC (dba Lumbee Federal Solutions, LLC) (LFS); Lumbee 56 Construction, LLC (dba Lumbee 56, LLC) (L56); and Lumbee Support Solutions, LLC (LSS). LH exists to provide economic resources to the Lumbee tribal government for delivery to tribal citizens.

The visit also included meetings with Lumbee Tribe members such as Chairman John Lowery, CEO Joshua Malcolm, and key members of Lumbee Tribe Holdings, Inc., a site visit to the primary offices, and a review of cultural resources.

- Army.mil

Spokane Tribe casino celebrates new expansion

AIRWAY HEIGHTS, Wash. — The Spokane Tribe, casino staff, and the public celebrated the newly expanded hotel July 12 with a ribbon cutting officially opening the new wing of the building.

It's the culmination of decades of planning – and 20 months of construction. The new hotel opened to VIPs during Hoopfest and is now taking in all guests.

This is the transition from the original casino into what now is the hotel lobby and the connection to the gaming floor," said director of hotel operations Matt Damskov, as he pointed out where the new addition begins. "Everything from the tile all the way down is all brand new.'

From the new retail shop, guest registration, and its 175 rooms, the hotel was all the vision of former Spokane tribal council members and an economic plan drafted in the late 90s.

'A lot of our youth, some of the younger people working in this establishment. That was all part of going through this, to get our people working, get jobs, get revenue," said tribal council chairman Greg Abrahamson.

The resort and casino are hiring right now to staff the new hotel, adding to the hundreds of people already employed.

"When we first started this four years ago, we were [at] 150 employees," said general manager Javier de la Rosa. "Today we're at 600 employees, so the economic impact is incredible.'

Damskov says the hospitality industry is rebounding post-pandemic.

Last spring another casino and resort in Airway Heights opened its latest expansion. Northern Quest's River Tower boasts 192 rooms, including 17 suites. At the time it opened in May 2023, it was the largest casino resort in Washington with a total of

The Spokane Tribe's new expansion is already bringing in more people.

"People on staycation, on vacation but also business travelers. We're right next to the airport, Air Force base is right here," Damskov said.

Rooms will average between \$130 and \$200, based on demand and other factors. The hotel is now accepting reservations and they suggest you book early.

The entirety of all revenue goes to the Spokane Tribe.

Tribal and casino leaders aren't relaxing just yet. They're already talking more gaming, more rooms, and even more for this growing community.

"There's more to come," de la Rosa said. "The conversations have already started."

- KREM (Spokane, Washington)

Crown made a 'mockery' of 2 treaties with First Nations for 150 years, Canada Supreme Court rules

For the past 150 years, the governments of Ontario and Canada have made a "mockery" of their treaty obligations to the Anishinaabe of the upper Great Lakes, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled July 26.

In a unanimous decision, the top court said the ongoing failure to increase the annual per-head resource extraction revenues since 1875 for the residents of two First Nations groups has undermined the honour of the Crown.

"For almost a century and a half, the Anishinaabe have been left with an empty shell of a treaty promise," the ruling said.

"It is time for the parties to return to the council fire and rekindle the perpetual relationship that the Robinson treaties envision. Nothing less will demonstrate the Crown's commitment to reconciliation."

The ruling does not award a settlement to the Huron or Superior Anishinaabe First Nations, but sets out the obligations of the Crown to negotiate an increase to resource revenues retrospectively, and into the future.

The case stretches back to 1850, when the Robinson-Huron and the Robinson-Superior treaties were signed between the Crown and the Anishinaabe of the upper Great Lakes.

As a part of the agreement, the Huron and Superior ceded more than 100,000 square kilometres of territory encompassing Thunder Bay, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury, in exchange for an annual payment in perpetuity.

Under the Robinson-Huron treaty, each First Nation member received \$1.70 per head a year. Under the Robinson-Superior treaty, the rate was \$1.60 per person.

In 1875, that annual payment was increased to \$4 per person, but since that time it had not increased.

"Today, in what can only be described as a mockery of the Crown's treaty promise to the Anishinaabe of the upper Great Lakes, the annuities are distributed to individual treaty beneficiaries by giving them \$4 each,' the ruling said.

Over time, the number of on and off reserve Huron members increased from 1,422 to nearly 30,000. Superior members increased from 1,240 to more than 13,000

As part of the 1850 agreement, the Anishinaabe were also entitled to continue hunting on the land.

"Although the Anishinaabe have upheld their end of the treaty bargain, the Crown has failed to do the same," the ruling said.

"Remedying this failure and restoring the honour of the Crown requires returning to the foundations of the treaty relationship between the Anishinaabe and the Crown."

At the centre of the dispute is the proper interpretation of the "augmentation clause" in the agreements. That clause says the Crown has the discretion to increase the annual payments from time to time, providing doing so does not result in a loss to the Crown.

The Supreme Court ruled that because "treaties engage the honour of the Crown," increasing the annual payments "must also be consistent with the honour of the Crown.'

The ruling says that while the treaty does not promise to pay a certain sum of money, "no party doubts that the Crown was able to increase the annuities beyond \$4 per person without incurring loss, and that it should

have exercised its discretion to do so." "Thus, in my view, the Crown must increase the annuity under the Robinson treaties beyond \$4 per person retrospectively, from 1875 to the present. It would be patently dishonourable not to do so," the ruling written by Justice Mahmud Jamal said.

Going forward, the Ontario and federal governments must use that standard of honour when striking revenue-sharing agreements with the Huron and Superior Anishinaabe. Those agreements have yet to be struck.

The Hurons came to a final settlement of \$10 billion with the Ontario and federal governments last year for past breaches of the Robinson-Huron treaty. Ontario and the federal government have split that settlement obligation between them 50/50.

The July 26 ruling from the Supreme Court makes no orders with respect to the settlement agreement with the Hurons.

The Superior Anishinaabe instead took their claim — seeking as much as \$126 billion for past breaches — to Ontario Superior Court, which came to a ruling in September.

Before that ruling could be released, the Supreme Court ordered it to be held in reserve pending the release of this decision. On July 26, the top court ordered that the settlement ruling remain unreleased for another six months.

The July 26 decision by the top court ordered the Ontario and federal governments to use those six months to come to an agreement with the Superior Anishinaabe.

- CBC News (Canada)

Tribes hold signing ceremony for landmark water rights settlement

PHOENIX, Ariz. — A signing ceremony was held July 17 in Phoenix for a sweeping water rights settlement that has been decades in the making. Leaders of the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe and others called the agreement "historical."

Hopi Vice Chairman Craig Andrews said the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement would increase prosperity and cultural preservation and allow the tribe to further protect ancestral lands. He also applauded the unity between his tribe, the Navaio Nation and the San Juan Southern Paiute amid region-wide drought and water

"Although our communities are the oldest in Arizona, they lack basic access to clean, reliable water," said Andrews during the ceremony. "Our current infrastructure is a patchwork of aging and inadequate systems, which has long jeopardized the well-being of our people and forced many to leave their ancestral lands.' Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren

also praised the cooperation between the tribes and Navajo Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley said water access is a "fundamental right." "This settlement will secure a homeland

for our children," said Curley. "As tribal leaders, we must protect our water for the next 100, 200, and 300 years. For many years, the Navajo Nation contributed to the development of many cities. This is our time to have access to what has been ours since our emergence as Navajo People.'

Nearly a third of Navajo households lack running water and the settlement is expected to allow tens of thousands of residents to access a consistent supply.

The agreement also would create a homeland for the San Juan Southern Paiute, the only federally recognized tribe in Arizona with no official reservation. President Robbin Preston Jr. was emotional as he described the increased access to electricity, water and other basic services that the settlement would bring.

The agreement would also confirm water rights to the City of Flagstaff and its future supply projects like at Red Gap Ranch. At the ceremony Mayor Becky Daggett pledged continued support of the tribes and said funding for water infrastructure was long overdue.

- KNAU (Flagstaff, Arizona)

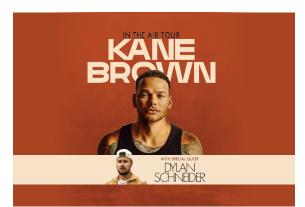
SOUTH FLORIDA'S ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION



AUG 1 LINDSEY STIRLING



AUG 2 & 3
JONAS BROTHERS



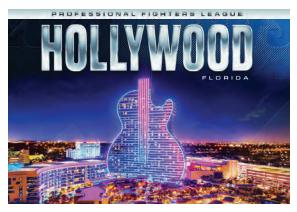
AUG 4
KANE BROWN



AUG 9 DEF LEPPARD



AUG 14DEEP PURPLE



AUG 16 PROFESSIONAL FIGHTERS LEAGUE



AUG 17 IVAN CORNEJO



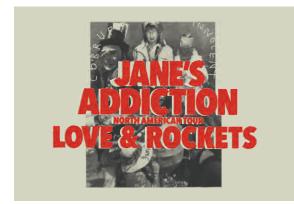
AUG 18 Maren Morris



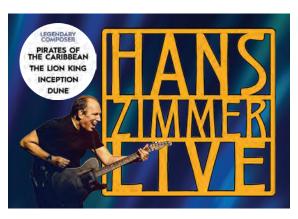
AUG 24
CONCIERTO
CELEBRANDO LA
RESTAURACIÓN
DOMINICANA



AUG 30 BUSH



AUG 31
JANE'S ADDICTION
& LOVE AND
ROCKETS



SEP 8
HANS ZIMMER
LIVE



GETTICKETS!
TICKETMASTER.COM
MYHRL.COM · HARDROCKHOLLY.COM





Education

ERD SWEP students use drones to monitor invasive vegetation

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) allows students the opportunity to gain experience in a multitude of tribal departments. Opportunities with the Environmental Resources Department (ERD) have provided kids a chance to go fishing, learn about wildlife and fly drones to take photos of areas monitored by the Forestry program.

Led by forester Grant Steelman, SWEP students Aiyana Crespo, 16, and Lena Cypress, 15, spent July 22 flying drones to photograph and map an area that was recently treated to kill invasive plant species, with the mission to determine the effectiveness of the treatment

The treatment was previously dispensed by helicopter, but Steelman also treats areas with a lot of native vegetation by hand to destroy only the invasive species.

In addition to using the drone to take photographs, Crespo and Cypress

also learned about the GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping program. GIS, a computer system that analyzes and displays geographic information, collects a lot of data and is used to review the photographs taken by the drone cameras.

"I joined the program to have the opportunity to see the wilderness and the wildlife," Crespo said. "On the first day we saw a bear. I've learned a lot; it's awesome to be learning about something I'm actually interested in.

"I joined so I could go fishing, explore and learn about Big Cypress," Cypress said. 'We've seen a lot of deer, more bears and I found a shark's tooth. We've also counted a lot of berries and been bit by many bugs."

With some help from the students, Steelman set up the large drone – which is more than four-feet wide – in the rock mine area of the reservation. The students used a smaller drone, but both drones have the ability to fly at an altitude of 400 feet. Steelman has been using the drones to



ERD forester Grant Steelman flies the large drone in Big Cypress as Aiyana Crespo and Lena Cypress observe.

photograph the land for about a year.

The weather was typically hot with a few threatening clouds, so Steelman, Crespo and Cypress set up a tent to protect themselves and the sophisticated equipment of the large drone from the heat of the day. The drone's computer ran on a generator in the bed of Steelman's truck; the drone was gas powered and sounded like a lawn mower 400 feet overhead.

The large drone was programmed to photograph an 80-acre area in neat rows,

much like a field planted with crops. It ran automatically as Steelman helped the girls set up their smaller drone, which Crespo flew at a much lower altitude of just 63 feet. She was deliberate as she photographed, composed the photos carefully and took some wide shots with a lot of sky. Steelman explained the need to have more plants and less sky for their scientific purposes.

The girls were glad they joined the ERD's SWEP program. "I feel pretty distant from my culture, See DRONES on page 2B

so this gives me the opportunity to be hands-

on and learn about my reservation," Crespo said. "The program confirmed my future

plans; I'm interested in photography, and I

got to take a lot of pictures of things. I really

want to be a photographer."

Big Cypress, Immokalee team up for rez-to-rez day at camp

SWEP participants Aiyana Crespo, left, and Lena Cypress prepare to set up the drone they would use

STAFF REPORT

to take photos of the rock mine area July 22.

BIG CYPRESS — Summer camp is a time to make new friends, have fun, and explore new activities. The recreation departments in Big Cypress and Immokalee brought 44 of their campers together for just

such a day July 10 in Big Cypress.

The campers spent time at the Big Cypress garden decorating pots and planting flower seeds in them, playing some indoor games in the cool of the Herman Osceola gym and having fun in some water slides and a dunk tank at the ball field.



Under the shade of a chickee near the Big Cypress garden, Curtis Smith, left, and Curmya Smith decorate pots in which they will plant flowers seeds July 10.





Beverly Bldney

Big Cypress and Immokalee campers unite for a photo July 10 at the rez-to-rez event in Big Cypress.



Zoey Garcia, left, and Jezabel Yzaguirre decorate pots under the chickee by the Big Cypress garden.

Proposed federal commission would investigate abuses at Native American boarding schools

BY BRIANNA CHAPPIE **Cronkite News**

WASHINGTON — From 1819 until 1969, hundreds of thousands of Native American children were forcibly removed from their homes and sent to boarding schools - sometimes hundreds or even thousands of miles from their families.

The schools were run by churches and the federal government with a clear purpose: to strip Native Americans of their cultures and force them to assimilate.

Abuse was rampant. Overcrowded and unsanitary, the schools became breeding grounds for tuberculosis and other diseases. An estimated 40,000 children died in these boarding schools.

Arizona was home to 59 of these schools. A move is underway in Congress to bring accountability to the federal government for promoting these policies.

"We cannot rectify the past until we face it head-on," Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Massachusetts, said July 24 on the Senate floor as she and a handful of colleagues held forth on the topic. "There isn't an indigenous community in this country that hasn't been affected."

A bipartisan bill that currently has 32 Senate co-sponsors would create a "Truth and Healing Commission" akin to those used in post-apartheid South Africa and in other places affected by conflict.

The commission would investigate Native American boarding schools and the lasting impact they had on families and tribal communities. It would hold hearings to gather witness testimony, and would have subpoena power to dig out documentation and unshroud a history that churches and governmental entities have kept hidden for

The commission would also make recommendations on whether the dark history of these schools should shape current federal

policy.

Warren introduced the bill with Sens.

Phase and Brian Schatz, Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii. Both senators from Arizona are co-sponsors: Independent Kyrsten Sinema and Democrat Mark Kelly.

Only Oklahoma had more Native American boarding schools than Arizona, according to lists compiled by the National Native American Boarding School Healing

"It's cheaper to educate Indians than to kill them," Thomas Morgan, the federal Indian Affairs Commissioner appointed by President Benjamin Harrison, said at the establishment of the Phoenix Indian School

As Captain Richard Henry Pratt, founder of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania - which became the model for government-run boarding schools infamously said, "Kill the Indian, save the

Haskell professor to speak at ecosystems services conference

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Daniel Wildcat, a Yuchi member of the Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma, is among the guest speakers slated to speak at the ACES Conference: A Community on Ecosystem Services from Dec. 9-12 in Austin, Texas. Wildcat is a professor, scholar and author at Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas.

Guest speakers also include University of Calgary associate professor Deborah McGregor, described by ACES as a "pioneer in Indigenous environmental justice research and Indigenous knowledge applications across various domains including water, environmental governance, climate justice, and the development of Indigenous research theories and methodologies.

The conference provides opportunities to engage leaders in government, academia, the private sector, Native American tribes and NGOs to advance the use of ecosystem services science and practice in resource management and other societal decisions.

For more information visit https:// conference.ifas.ufl.edu/.

CNAY seeks youth art

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) at the Aspen Institute is seeking art from Native youth ages 5 to 24 for its 7th annual Creative Native Call for Art.

Artists who submit will have the opportunity to receive national recognition and a monetary prize of up to \$1,000.

The program this year asks Native youth artists to reflect on the Moon. The theme is "Who or What is the Moon?" What does the Moon mean to you? Do you or your community have a special relationship with or stories that can be told about the Moon? All interpretations are welcome.

The deadline is Aug. 15 by 11:59 information go to cnay.org/creative-native/.





At left, Norrah Grasshopper takes a photo of Harleigh Grasshopper, left, and Lucianna Tiger during a photography class July 23 in Big Cypress. At right, a photo student explores a swampy area for interesting photos as a counselor observes. Students used iPads or cell phones to capture images.

Photography class opens eyes of 4-H, Boys & Girls Club kids

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY **Staff Reporter**

Editor's note: Seminole Tribune reporter and photographer Beverly Bidney taught a photography class for Seminole 4-H and Boys & Girls Clubs kids July 23. She explains how she spent the day helping the kids grasp the art of photography.

BIG CYPRESS — Photography is a way to show the world in many ways, depending on the eye of the photographer. Members of the Seminole 4-H and Boys & Girls Clubs participated in a photography class July 23 that demonstrated how to see the world from a new perspective through the lens of a camera, smart phone or tablet.

I taught 10 kids, from age 5 to 16, in a hands-on class. They learned about composition, light and backgrounds.

They were taught to look at what is behind their subjects. For example, if they are taking a photo of friends or family, look what is behind them and notice if there is something, like a tree, that appears to be coming out of the top of their heads. The solution to that is simple; just take a step to the left or right to move the tree out of the way. I explained other tricks of the trade, such as kneeling down, standing on something for a higher viewpoint and taking photographs safely behind a fence at a cow pen.

No photo is a bad photo, it only shows how the photographer saw that sliver of the world in that one specific moment. To

demonstrate, I showed them printed photos and a slide show of images made over the last couple of years.

In many cases, I showed the same subject, place and time in a very different image. For example, a photo of Andre Jumper in a pasture trying to round up calves for shipping. In one photo the environment is featured as a vast plain with Jumper on his horse with his dogs heading out to find the animals. In another photo, I had knelt down to emphasis the depth of the grass, which partially obscured the cattle Jumper was herding in the pasture.

After a question and answer period, the kids and counselors headed outside to see what they could see, and photograph. It didn't take long for them to become fully engaged as they took pictures of flowers, trees, each other, some ducks and a couple of stumps. An hour later, they headed inside for lunch.

As we were eating, 4-H special projects coordinator Kimberly Clement, youth agriculture extension agent Sheri Trent and 4-H program assistant Jonathan Spurlock went through their images and sent them to

work displayed on tables in the Boys & Girls Club auditorium and on the screen in a slide show. After a review of each photograph, the kids adjourned to the rest of their summer but had a memory and a printed photograph of the way they saw the world on that single





The kids were very excited to see their Photos taken by students during the class include a hand in the photo to give context to the size of a berry, and a photo of a flower in a swampy area shows how getting in close to a subject can improve the composition of the photo while showing the detail of the flower

DRONES From page 1B

"It opens a lot of doors and gives us new ideas about what careers we can have," See ABUSES on page 3B added Cypress. "There are a lot of things

we can do in wildlife. We learned about the opportunities the tribe can give you, the possibilities are endless. The people here know a lot and have a lot of good perspectives. You learn a lot from them every





At left, ERD forester Grant Steelman and SWEP participant Aiyana Crespo set up a large drone, which would later take photos of about 80 acres from an altitude of 400 feet. Above, Steelman watches a drone being flown successfully by Crespo as it photographs foliage to determine the effectiveness of recent treatment to remove invasive plants.

New center to help lead Indigenous language revitalization efforts

BY UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA NEWS

TUCSON, Ariz. — A new center at the University of Arizona is one of only four designated by the U.S. Department of Education to lead a collective effort to empower tribal communities across the country to revitalize and maintain their

The Department of Education began funding the new West Region Native American Language Resource Center in the

The new center, administratively housed in the university's American Indian Language Development Institute and physically located in the College of Education, is one of four inaugural centers doing similar work at other institutions. The others are a national center at the University of Hawai'i and three regional centers at the University of Oregon and Little Priest Tribal College in Winnebago, Nebraska. The U of A center will primarily serve Indigenous communities in Arizona, California, Nevada

All four centers are already working collaboratively to promote a collective approach to service and assistance to p.m. (Eastern Time). For rules and more existing language programs and those in development.

The new center will be largely an extension of what the university's American Indian Language Development Institute, or AILDI, has been doing for decades. Established in 1978 and housed in the College of Education since 1990, AILDI's core programming involves bringing tribal members to campus for workshops to promote the use of tribal languages as a key aspect of revitalization efforts.

Ofelia Zepeda, a Regents Professor of linguistics and director of AILDI, serves as co-principal investigator for the new center. Sheilah E. Nicholas, a professor in the College of Education and AÎLDI faculty member, will serve as center director. Zepeda and Nicholas have a decades-long track record of helping tribal communities revitalize and promote the use of their languages.

'When we looked at the call for proposals for the grant, the things it listed were the things we were doing for years," said Zepeda, a Tohono O'odham linguist who wrote the first grammar book in the Tohono O'odham language. The grant will also pay for much of the training for tribal communities.

The new center will more formally establish the network of partnerships across tribal communities and other institutions

that have applied the AILDI model in Nicholas has taught to tribal educators since service to local tribal community language revitalization efforts: the University of Oregon's Northwest Indigenous Language Institute, and the Hopilavayi Summer Institute from 2004 to 2010 in the Hopi community in northeastern Arizona, Nicholas said.

Partnerships with tribes that tailor Indigenous language education to each community will be the core of the center's work, Zepeda and Nicholas said, adding that each community has unique linguistic needs that are deeply linked to geographic location. The western United States is the most linguistically diverse region in the U.S., with California alone being home to more than 100 Indigenous languages, Nicholas said.

'Enumeration has always been a curiosity from the outside," she said, driven by many linguists' narrow view of how language is used. "If we can shift and show the vitality, it broadens the definition of language – it's not just a form that people use to communicate on a daily basis. That's often the measure, but there's many different kinds of forms, such as prayers and songs, that still use the language.'

Much of the center's programming will involve an instructional technique known as Indigenous language immersion, which the 1990s. Indigenous language immersion involves developing teaching methods that use the language as the medium of instruction 50 to 100% of the time.

These techniques, influenced by French immersion in Canada, were first applied by the Mohawk Indigenous community in North America, and later became an Indigenous language immersion school movement for the Hawai'ian language and Māori, the language of the Indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand. The new center has the potential to support this growing movement, Zepeda and Nicholas said.

AILDI has helped Indigenous language immersion instruction in communities across the U.S., and the new center will allow the institute to expand support of community language revitalization efforts into the education systems serving Indigenous communities. Zepeda and Nicholas said.

One challenge for Indigenous language teachers, who are often so busy working in the classroom, is finding enough time and resources to evaluate their curriculums and show how effective they are.

See LANGUAGE on page 3B

Reservations learn from the emergency experts

BY CALVIN TIGER Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS/HOLLYWOOD —

Seminole Tribe public safety entities – Fire Rescue, Police, and Emergency Management - have been increasing their community involvement, with a focus on tribal youth.

On June 24, the Big Cypress Recreation Department partnered with Seminole Fire Rescue and SPD to conduct a career day for youth who were attending summer camp. The career day consisted of different firefighters interacting and educating youth on what firefighters do and how to become one. Tribal member and firefighter Trina Hipp gave insight to the career aspect of what firefighters do as well. Multiple workstations were created to give the kids a hands-on experience of being a firefighter.

Workshops included an EMS simulation lab, firefighting simulator, forceable entry demonstration, firetruck demonstration, and firehose knockdown.

The simulation lab is where the youth got to see and learn how firefighters give lifesaving medical aid and see the training that goes into becoming a firefighter. The youth learned hands on CPR training and first aid training with "Stop the Bleed," a national campaign focused on teaching the public how to stop life-threatening bleeding.

The firefighting simulator allowed the youth to pretend that they were firefighters. They used a simulation hose line to extinguish a simulation fire. During the simulation, the kids wore real firefighter gear.

The summer campers also learned about the Fire Rescue firetruck and its equipment.

Next to the firetruck presentation was a firehose knockdown, where the youth used an actual fire rescue firehose to knockdown a simulated fire on a prop that resembled a home with fire.

After the workstations were completed, photo opportunities were available with Spark the Fire Dog and the Robotic Firefighter.

"Our primary goal at this event was to teach the children that they can achieve anything they aspire to in life," said Stephen Zitnick, Fire Rescue battalion commander.

Expo in Hollywood

Another community event with the public was held July 16 in Hollywood. Sponsored by Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola's office, the Public Safety Expo drew kids and adults to Seminole Estates.

Some of the activities and work stations were similar to the ones offered at the Big Cypress event. In addition, the Hollywood guests saw a flooding/irrigation presentation, toured the Emergency Management mobile vehicle, watched a drone demonstration, and took photos with Sparky the firedog and Robotic Firefighter, CPR training, and fire

extinguisher training.
"The purpose of the Public Safety Expo was to engage the community, and from tribal members down to the kids just to show them the opportunities that exist in the three disciplines of public safety." Paul Downing, Emergency Management director, said.



Robbins put on a firefighters jacket before using Rodriguez at the Hollywood Public Safety Expo. the firefighting simulator.



From left to right, Emergency Management's Jonathan Urtechco, Megan Mesa and Paul Downing demonstrate a flood/irrigation model to Osceola Primus at the Hollywood Public Safety Expo on July



During a career day event June 24 in Big Cypress, kids from left to right, Merle Koenes, Evaliah Puente, Asia Billie and Allie Billie are shown by Seminole Fire Rescue Operations Division Chief Louis Valdes, Firefighter Trina Hipp, Firefighter Robert Redruello and Lt. David DeCardenas the importance of an oxygen mask that is used by firefighters while battling fires.



Seminole Fire Rescue Firefighter Jordan Chenique helps Nevabh Booker with the firehose knockdown activity at the Hollywood Public Safety Expo.



Calvin Tiger

Deputy Fire Chief Jonathan Hedrick helps Terrance Devontage Steve learns hands-on CPR training by Seminole Fire Rescue Division Chief Michael



From left to right, Seminole Police Department's Carolina Gonzalez and Christina Ordiales speak to Konstance Sanchez at the Seminole

Police Department booth during the Hollywood Public Safety Expo at the Seminole Estates.

Bravlen Carter is shown by Seminole Fire Rescue Deputy Chief Jonathan Hedrick how to put out a simulated fire using a firefighting simulator at the Big Cypress Career Day.

Conference focuses on STEM, college, careers for Indigenous peoples

FROM PRESS RELEASE

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — The annual AISES National Conference will be held from Oct. 3 to Oct. 5 in San Antonio, Texas. The conference focuses on educational,

The education these schools provided

Children were hit, slapped and starved

A recent Washington Post investigation

if they dared to speak their native languages,

practice their religion or display any behavior

identified 122 priests and student workers at

18 schools alone who had been accused of

molesting Native American children under

their care. The perpetrators rarely faced

that indicated a resistance to assimilation.

There was also sexual assault.

professional, and workforce development for Indigenous peoples of North America and the Pacific Islands in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) studies and

The theme of the conference is "Rivers

repercussions and were instead often moved

to other schools. The Catholic Church sent

priests to facilities such as the Servants of the Paraclete in New Mexico, set up for

recounted incidents in his own state. Fort

Lewis College used to be known as the "Fort

Lewis Boarding School," he recounted as

he, Warren and others held the Senate floor

Fort Lewis, was known for raping girls at

the school, the senator said, and staff were

instructed to make any student who became

to spotlight their commission proposal.

Sen. John Hickenlooper, D-Colorado,

Dr. Thomas Breen, superintendent at

Innovation. According to AISES, the conference has

pregnant "disappear."

these genocidal policies."

more than 3,500 attendees, 250 exhibitors and the largest college and career fair in Indian Country. The event also features

"Why was our government preying on our own children?" Hickenlooper said during his impassioned floor remarks.

responsibility, but a legal obligation to

the welfare of tribes across the country to

uphold treaty rights, and to recognize the

dark history of our own country," he said.

"This obligation cannot be met without

securing truth, justice and healing for every

Native person, family and tribe affected by

to give up their children were incarcerated

Native American parents who refused

We have not simply a moral

of Resilience: Sustaining Indigenous

closing ceremonies. Attendees include Indigenous high or had their food rations cut off by the U.S.

government.

research competitions; sessions in STEM,

business, research and educator topics;

a traditional powwow and marketplace;

keynote speakers; awards; and opening and

onto reservations to pry children from their families, some as young as 4. "If I was a parent, I would be absolutely catatonic," Schatz said.

Warren spoke about armed men sent

Many of these parents would never see

their children again.

At least 53 mass graves containing the remains of Native American boarding school children have been found after an investigation launched by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland - the first Native American to hold a Cabinet position.

professionals, tribal nations and tribal enterprises, universities, corporations, and government agencies. For more information go to conference.

school and college students, educators,

aises.org

Haaland's own parents had been forced to attend these boarding schools.

It's unclear how many living survivors of the boarding schools remain. Warren and others called it urgent to let them tell their

stories before it's too late. "Most of those affected have passed away. But there are remaining survivors in their 60s, 70s and beyond," Warren said. "These people have been harmed enough. Their wounds go deep, and they deserve a chance to stand before the United States government and tell their stories.'

LANGUAGE From page 2B

ABUSES

was often inadequate.

From page 2B

"One question we always get from educators is, 'I see why we should do this, but where is the buy-in among decisionmakers?" Nicholas said.

Emerging research, she added, confirms that Indigenous language immersion education is not subtractive but additive students are not only academically excelling but also learning their community's ancestral language and developing a strong cultural

identity and a desire to give back.

clergy with "personal difficulties."

A network of experts for tribal linguists Growing up on the Tohono O'odham Nation, Ronald Geronimo learned O'odham as his first language and uses it every day.

Many O'odham children today do not speak the language fluently and only know a few vocabulary words, Geronimo said.

"Now, children look at the language as something only adults know or use," Geronimo said. "Some of them think that you don't learn the language until you get older because they only see older people speaking it."

As co-director of Tohono O'odham Community College's O'odham Ñi'okĭ Ki:, or O'odham Language Center, Geronimo helps lead a mission to "reclaim" the O'odham language - returning its usage to everyday life.

To do that, Geronimo and his colleagues at the center have developed programs to teach O'odham to children in schools and immerse students in the language.

Geronimo has partnered for years with AILDI to develop the center's programs. They include partnering O'odham language experts with elementary educators to help them teach courses in the language, as well as teaching parents who may also not be fluent how to use the language more often around their children at home.

'We're trying to have a comprehensive approach, not just to doing immersion in the school but also with the parents and in the communities with the overall goal of having the child grow up seeing the language," he

The federal grant that established the new center, Geronimo said, will provide a valuable network where he and other tribal linguists can connect and share resources

toward a shared goal to support Indigenous language revitalization.

'We'll have a lot more resources to do what we want to do, and maybe we don't have the funding to do it, but maybe they can assist in that way," Geronimo said. "It's a good thing to have that expertise available.'

Ultimately, Zepeda said, how the center works will be largely up to the tribal communities that come to use its resources.

'We'll have our own ideas to meet the obligations of the grant," Zepeda said. "But we'll also be listening to the communities about what they want and what they need."

August calendar for Native Learning Center

FROM NATIVE LEARNING CENTER

HOLLYWOOD — The NLC offers free training, technical assistance, and Kerretv online webinars to Native Americans and those working within Indian Country. The NLC's housing-related training opportunities and resources focus on areas that are critical to the growth and improvement of tribal Communities. Stay informed about the latest trainings, webinars, and podcast episodes.

Webinar: Your Money or Your Life Instructor: Russ Seagle, Executive Director, The Sequoyah Fund, Inc. Date: Aug. 01 Time: 2-3:30 p.m.

Training Description:

Many small business owners struggle with work-life balance, trading time for dollars while cashing in their happiness and health to keep their business afloat. If this sounds like you or someone you know, this webinar will provide you with key strategies for finding balance, getting control over your money, and improving your life outside the office or shop. You'll learn how successful entrepreneurs and executives use routines and build habits to work less, make more money, and live a happier life.

Training Objectives:

-These objectives aim to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary to achieve a harmonious balance between work and life as small business owners or entrepreneurs, leading to improved well-being, financial stability, and overall happiness

-Understand the importance of worklife balance for small business owners and entrepreneurs in maintaining overall wellbeing, happiness, and productivity

-Identify common challenges and pitfalls associated with work-life balance, including time management, financial stress, and burnout, and their impact on personal and professional success

-Explore strategies for prioritizing personal health, happiness, and relationships while effectively managing business responsibilities and obligations

-Learn practical techniques for optimizing time management, productivity, and efficiency to work smarter, not harder, and achieve more with less effort

Webinar: Make Sure Your Small Business Can Compete with the Retail Giants

Instructor: Russ Seagle, Executive Director, The Sequoyah Fund, Inc. Date: Aug. 2 Time: 2-3:30 p.m.

Training Description:

You can't out-Walmart Walmart! The good news is that you don't have to. In a world of 24-hour big-box superstores, online ordering, and self-checkout, there are ways you can compete - and win - against these retail giants. In this webinar, you'll learn what big retailers get right, what they get wrong, and how you can exploit their weaknesses.

Just like Jack from "Jack and the Beanstalk" fame, you'll learn "giant killer" strategies that will make your small retail business more competitive and profitable, delight your customers, and help you sleep better at night.

Training Objectives:

-These objectives aim to empower participants with the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary to compete and thrive in the retail industry against large competitors, drive profitability, and create a sustainable advantage for their small businesses

-Understand the challenges and opportunities faced by small retail businesses in competing against large retailers like Walmart in the modern marketplace

-Identify the strengths and weaknesses of big-box superstores and online retail giants and analyze how they impact the competitive landscape for small retailers

-Explore successful strategies and best practices employed by large retailers that can be adapted and implemented by small businesses to enhance their competitiveness and profitability

-Learn how to leverage unique advantages of small retail businesses, such as personalized customer service, community engagement, and niche market focus, to differentiate from big-box competitors

Webinar: Home Loans: Traditional, VA's Native American Direct Loan, Section 184, and USDA Rural Development Opportunities

Instructor: Marie Bonville, MPA, C2EX, ePro, REALTOR®,
Tribal Housing and Education

Consultant, Sunlight Armour Training, LLC

Date: Aug. 07 Time: 2- 3:30 p.m.

Training Description:

Begin your homeownership journey with a detailed webinar designed to simplify the home-buying process and reduce stress by exploring various home loan options. Throughout the session, you will learn about the roles of different housing professionals and become familiar with the numerous terms you'll encounter along the way. We will specifically focus on several loan programs, including Section 184, USDA 504, conventional loans, VA loans, and the Native American Direct Loan (NADL), emphasizing their distinctive procedures and

Training Objectives:

-Understanding the roles of housing professionals: clarify the duties and roles of key figures such as real estate agents, loan officers, and appraisers in the home-buying process

-Review home buying terminology -Navigating home ownership timelines

-Focus on specific loan programs (Section 184, USDA 504, Conventional, VA, NADL)

-Exploring concepts of affordability, contracts, and closing

Webinar: A Human Resources Checklist to Reduce Risk Instructor: Lisa Perez, SPHR, Human Resources Consultant, Founder & CEO, HBL Resources, Inc. Date: Aug. 08 Time: 2-3:30 p.m.

Training Description:

While the end of the year may be less demanding for most employees who will spend time celebrating at office parties, filling up on potluck lunches, and enjoying vacation time, it is a very busy time of year for Human Resources. Year-end should be spent ensuring all the administrative details are taken care of for a seamless transition into the new year. In this session, owners, office managers, or anyone who wears the HR hat will learn some of the key business strategies and tasks to ensure continuing success and compliance while reducing risk in the coming year.

Training Objectives:

-Understand and address legal requirements and compliance issues that arise at the end of the year, including updating policies, handling time-off requests, and ensuring payroll compliance

Webinar: How to Use Video in Your Small Business or Nonprofit Instructor: Russ Seagle, Executive Director The Sequoyah Fund, Inc. Date: Aug. 13 Time: 2-3:30 p.m.

Training Description:

Our brains are wired for stories, and there's no better way to tell a story than with video. People are consuming more video today than ever before, and they're watching videos in places and on devices that were unheard of just 15 or 20 years ago. You don't have to have an expensive production studio to create videos people want to watch and share. This webinar will teach you how to use video in different ways, how to look good on camera, how to produce dynamite videos on a firecracker budget, and - most of all - how to get results from your videos.

Training Objectives:

-These objectives aim to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to leverage the power of video storytelling to engage audiences, drive results, and achieve their marketing and communication objectives effectively and affordably

-Understand the psychological power of storytelling and its effectiveness in engaging audiences through video content

-Explore the current landscape of video consumption trends, platforms, and devices,

and how they have evolved over time
-Identify the key elements of successful
video content and storytelling techniques that
resonate with viewers and drive engagement

-Learn practical tips and techniques for creating professional-looking videos without the need for expensive production equipment or studios

-Develop skills in on-camera presence, including body language, vocal delivery, and presentation style, to enhance viewer engagement and connection

Podcast: A Celebration of Native American Voices in Film Instructor: Everett Osceola (Seminole Tribe of Florida) Film Liaison Florida Seminole Tourism Seminole Tribe of Florida Release Date: Aug. 14

Time: 12 p.m.

We sit down with Everett Osceola, Seminole Tribe of Florida tribal member who is the film liaison for the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tourism Department. Everett is a storyteller through and through, and we feel his joy and passion this episode as he takes us through time, noting historical instances of Native Americans in film as well as highlighting the influence Indigenous People have had on the world of motion picture. He regales us with tales of a long-lost film reel's discovery leading to the inception of

the Native Reel Cinema Fest, the journey of creating an Indigenous horror film, what it's like to work on a movie set, the experience of acting alongside his daughter, and, of course, the significance of the phrase, "Hey, Victor!"

Webinar: Time Management Secrets of High Achievers Instructor: Russ Seagle, Executive

Director
The Sequoyah Fund, Inc.
Date: Aug. 20
Time: 2-3:30 p.m.

Training Description:

There are a lot of myths about time management, and most of them will only serve to frustrate you and, well, waste time! The most productive and the most successful people don't practice time management at all. This webinar is based on studies of and interviews with highly effective people who cracked the code on making the most of their time. You'll learn strategies for getting more done in less time, ending procrastination, using technology as a productivity tool, digging out from under the information avalanche, and more. If you want more hours in your day, this webinar will help you find them.

Training Objectives:

-These objectives aim to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to transcend common time management myths, increase productivity, and reclaim control over their time in order to achieve greater success and fulfillment in both professional and personal domains

-Challenge common myths and misconceptions about time management and productivity that may hinder effectiveness and success

-Explore insights from studies and interviews with highly effective individuals who have mastered the art of optimizing their time and achieving their goals

-Identify strategies and techniques for maximizing productivity and efficiency to accomplish more in less time

-Learn how to overcome procrastination and prioritize tasks effectively to focus on high-impact activities that align with personal and professional goals -Understand how to leverage technology

as a productivity tool to streamline workflows, automate repetitive tasks, and manage information overload

Webinar: National Management
Training Week Content
Instructor: Lisa Perez, SPHR,
SHRM-SCP,

Human Resources Consultant, Founder & CEO, HBL Resources, Inc. Date: Aug. 22 Time: 2-3:30 p.m.

Training Description: Workplace statistics regarding the lack of management development in the workplace and its result on employee retention continue to go unaddressed and therefore unchanged. There is a critical need for consistent, effective management training particularly related to soft skills for managing the human element. National Management Training Week is focused on transforming the human in Human Resources. This weeklong event is designed to empower people managers with the skills and knowledge to successfully lead their teams and excel in their managerial roles. Through interactive sessions and case studies, led by industry experts, participants will enhance their leadership, communication, and team management

***This webinar will be reviewing National Management Training Week Content of sessions Aug. 19-23.

Training Objectives:

-Realign leadership to focus on the Human element of management and leadership -Discover solutions to workplace

challenges and introduce new concepts and strategies across the organization

-Forward thinking practices and

-Forward thinking practices an

strategies, who want to harness the collective knowledge obtained to offer solutions to improve business performance

-Focused on self-development and seeking ways to improve their managerial acumen particularly focused on the human

Steps to Starting a Business for Tribal Members

Instructor: Vince Franco, CEO Founder/Owner, Next Ventur Consulting, LLC

Consulting, LLC Date: Aug. 27-28

Location: Big Cypress Reservation
- Frank Billie Field Office, 31000 Josie
Billie Hwy, Clewiston, FL, 33440

Training Description:

Join us for a free two-day, in-person training program designed specifically for Seminole tribal members, where you will learn the essential steps to start and manage a small, for-profit business. This comprehensive course covers everything from launching and operating a business to marketing, with specialized content on accounting, finance, and accessing small business resources. Tribal members will also learn specific procedures for conducting business with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, including vendor registration and tax implications. By the end of the program, participants will not only understand various business model strategies but will also have crafted a detailed business plan. Don't miss this opportunity to gain invaluable insights into business management.

Real Estate Services will be available to assist with on-reservation business permit applications, helping bring your ideas to life.

Virtual Training: 2024 Updates to the Super Circular Under NAHASDA Instructor: Vince Franco, CEO Founder/Owner, Next Venture Consulting, LLC Date: Aug. 29-30

Training Description:

This two-part training session provides the building blocks of understanding the responsibilities, obligations, citations, and best practices of the federal regulations contained in the Uniform Guidance - 2 CFR Part 200 for tribes and tribal entities that are recipients of federal funding in the form of agency grants, and/or cooperative agreements, and/or contracts.

Training Objectives:
-Knowledge of the Components and

Obligations of Federal Grant Awards
-Understanding the Requirements of the

Uniform Guidance, Subpart A - Definitions
-Understanding the Requirements of
the Uniform Guidance, Subpart B - General

-Understanding the Requirements of the Uniform Guidance, Subpart C - Pre-Federal Award Requirements

-Understanding the Requirements of the Uniform Guidance, Subpart D - Post Federal Award Requirements

-Understanding the Requirements of the Uniform Guidance, Subpart E - Cost Principles

-Understanding the Requirements of the Uniform Guidance, Subpart F - Audit

-Knowledge of the Components and obligations of Internal Controls

Follow the Native Learning Center on social media or visit www. nativelearningcenter.com to keep up-to-date. For technical assistance, feedback, or more information, please contact us through our

For technical assistance, feedback, or more information, please contact us through our website or call (954) 985-2331. The Native Learning Center values your input and welcomes your questions. Let us know what courses you and your community would like to see offered or if there are insights and lessons you and your community would like to share with others through the Native Learning Center.

Native Cinema Showcase takes place Aug. 15-18 in New Mexico

FROM PRESS RELEASE

SANTA FE, N.M. — The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian returns to Santa Fe, New Mexico, Aug. 15-18 for its Native Cinema Showcase. The museum's 24th annual celebration of the best in Indigenous film includes 38 films.

All screenings and events will take place at the New Mexico History Museum; seating is first come, first served.

In addition to the screenings, the museum will host a special performance Aug. 17. The event will include music video screenings and music by DJ Shub (Mohawk). Other special appearances include post-screening discussions with directors Steven Paul Judd (Kiowa/Choctaw), Leya Hale (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota/Diné), Mariah Hernandez-Fitch (Houma), Tasha Hubbard (Plains Cree) and producer Jason Ryle (Anishinaabe).

All events associated with the showcase are free and open to the public. The program is funded in part by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

Aug. 15

7 p.m.: Native Cinema Trailblazers

A conversation with legendary veteran Native actors who paved the way for stronger representation in the entertainment industry: Graham Greene (Oneida), Tantoo Cardinal (Cree/Métis/Nakota), Gary Farmer (Cayuga) and Wes Studi (Cherokee).

Aug. 16

1 p.m.: I'm Just Here for the Riot (Canada, 2023). A game seven Stanley Cup finals loss to the Boston Bruins sparked a massive riot in downtown Vancouver.

Preceded by Dau:añcut (Moving Along Image) (USA, 2023).

3 p.m.: Uproar (New Zealand, 2023, 110 min.)

A 17-year-old is forced to clamber off the fence he has actively sat on all his life to stand up for himself, his whānau (family) and his future.

7 p.m.: "Goosebumps" shorts program

11 a.m.: "Future Focused" shorts rogram.

1 p.m.: The Electric Indian (U.S., 2024)

hockey legend, Henry Boucha. 3 p.m.: "Belonging" shorts program 7 p.m.: Special Performance: DJ Shub

The Electric Indian follows Ojibwe

Aug. 18

11 a.m.: "Rise Above" shorts program. Stories of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

2 p.m.: Singing Back the Buffalo (Canada, 2024), Indigenous visionaries, scientists and communities are rematriating the buffalo to the heart of the North American plains they once defined, signaling a turning point for Indigenous nations. the ecosystem and the collective survival.

For info go to americanindian.si.edu.

Butcher gallery to host National Preserve anniversary celebration

FROM PRESS RELEASE

OCHOPEE — A celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Big Cypress National Preserve will be held Oct. 19 with environmentalist and photographer Clyde Butcher, Niki Butcher and The Alliance for Florida's National Parks at the Clyde's Big Cypress Gallery, 52388 Tamiami Trail, in

Ochopee. The event runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will include a meet-and-greet, and opportunities to explore the 13-acre property and engage with National Park Rangers.

Learn about this vast ecosystem through outdoor educational exhibits, demonstrations and guided swamp walk tours.

The event benefits the "Swamp Water And Me Program" (S.W.A.M.P.) for 6th graders in Collier County. S.W.A.M.P. is

designed to ensure that every 6th grader in Collier County experiences a field trip to Big Cypress National Preserve, with a swamp walk and eduction about the importance of preserving the ecosystem for future generations.

For more information and tickets go to floridanationalparks.org/event/swamp-celebration-2024/.

BIA offers increased payment limits for certain programs

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The Bureau of Indian Affairs announced July 23 increased payment limits for certain Financial Assistance and Social Services programs which directly support American Indian and Alaska Native families and individuals. According to the BIA, the last time there was an increase to these payment amounts was

The programs with new, higher payment limits are:

• Burial Assistance: This program provides funds to assist with the burial expenses of deceased indigent Indians whose estates do not have sufficient resources to meet funeral expenses. The program can now pay up to \$3,500 per burial, an increase from \$2,500.

Grieving families have been faced with rising costs of funerals, adding to the emotional toll in the grieving process. The updated payment amount will better support culturally dignified funeral and burial services.

Increasing access to funding for funeral expenses was recommended by the Not Invisible Act Commission as part of broader efforts to combat and address the impacts of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples crisis.

• Emergency Assistance: This assistance is provided directly to individuals whose homes were damaged or destroyed by fire, flood or other calamities. It is used for the essential needs of food, shelter and utilities when other resources are not available. The program can now pay up to \$1,500 per household, an increase from \$1,000.

Native communities are often the most vulnerable to climate impacts and extreme weather events. This funding will help families with basic necessities as they recover from these incidents.

Child assistance for adoptions/guardianships: This subsidy provides assistance to a child in need of adoption or guardianship. The program may now pay up to the maximum basic foster care rate for the age group of the child in the state where the child resides. Previously, payments were limited to 75% of basic foster care rate in the state where the child resides.

For more information contact the BIA Headquarters Division of Human Services at (202) 513-7642 or www.bia.gov/bia/ois/dhscontacts.

SHOW UP & SHOW OUT!!!

SHOW UP AND SHOW OUT THAT'S WHAT MY BIG HOMIE ALWAYS DID, I REMEMBER ALL THAT FROM WAY BACK WHEN WE WERE KIDS. WE WERE RAISED TO STICK TOGETHER NO MATTER THE COST, WHEN WE RUN DOWN ON ANYONE NO DOUBT THEY LOST. MY BIG BRO HANDS DOWN 2ND TO NONE, A JOKESTER, THE LIFE OF THE PARTY, JUST HAVING FUN. BIG HOMIE WITH THE BIG HEART A GREATER MAN THAN I COULD EVER BE, MY LIFE IS EMPTY BUT AT THE SAME TIME I'M HAPPY FOR THE O.G. THE ORIGINAL GANGSTA THAT PUT OUTSIDER'S ON NOTICE THAT HE WILL PROTECT HIS KIND, YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE WE PANTHER'S WE WILL FIND. ASK BECKY ABOUT THAT RARE LOVE AND LOYALTY BIG BRO DISPLAYED, HE IS A PANTHER IN ITS TRUEST FORM HUNTING DOWN HIS PREY. AS I SAID NO MATTER THE COST THAT UNCONQUERED SEMINOLE WARRIOR DID WHAT MYST BE DONE, TO ALL HIS TRUE FRIEND'S ITS 21 GUN SALUTE FOR THAT 100% NATIVE SON. AS I SAID I'M HAPPY FOR THE O.G. NOW BIG HOMIE CAN ENJOY THAT NEXT RIDE, POSHE, WAACHE, BIG, SIS, SUE AND OLIVIA ALL OF OUR LOVED ONE'S THAT BEEN ON THE OTHER SIDE. BIG BRO REUNITED WITH ALL THAT LOVE WE LOST HERE, I CAN SEE YOU ALL SMILING AND HUGGING CRYSTAL CLEAR. IN THIS WORLD BIG HOMIE I'M GOING TO KEEP YOUR MEMORY ALIVE, IN MY WORLD BIG BRO, ME AND THE HOMIES WILL BE WAITING FOR THAT CLOWN TO ARRIVE. IT'S GOING TO BE A BLOCK PARTY WHEREVER THAT CLOWN LANDS, YOU ALREADY KNOW I'M GOING TO DO WHAT WE DO, IT'S HAPPENING MAN!!!! MANY YEAR'S AGO YOU SAVED JOHNNIE J FROM GETTING TORE ALL THE WAY DOWN, THEN YEAR'S LATER YOU SAVED E RED FROM GETTING PUT IN THE GROUND. BIG HOMIE WITH THE BIG HEART YOU SAVED THEM FROM THEIR END, NOW YOU'RE NOT HERE THAT ONE PAYS FOR THAT SIN. WE ARE ALL CLOSE, IT WASN'T DONE INTENTIONAL THAT I UNDERSTAND, BUT FATE WAS SEALED IN BLOOD WHEN THAT FOOL RAN. TO ALL THAT PLEAD IT WAS AN ACCIDENT THATS COOL, NOW YOU'RE GOING TO SEE WHAT THE STREET'S CREATED IN THIS #! @** FROM THE OLD SCHOOL. IT'S AN HONOR AND PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO CALL YOU BIG BRO, I'M GOING TO ENJOY RISING TO THE OCCASION FOR BURTON LEE HARJO. BIG BRO SINCE DAY ONE I GOT WORD YOU WENT TO THE SPIRIT WORLD NOT A DAMN THING IS THE SAME, BIG HOMIE LEFT ME IN THIS WORLD WITH ALL THESE LAME'S. I'M GOING TO MAKE THE BEST OF THIS AND REMEMBER YOU BIG BRO EACH DAY, NO MORE WILL THERE BE ANOTHER UNCONQUERED SEMINOLE WARRIOR WITH THAT LOVE AND LOYALTY YOU DISPLAYED. EVERYONE HAS STRUGGLE'S IN LIFE THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES, TO ANY MAN OR WOMAN THAT THINK YOU BETTER THAN US, #! @** ALL YOU HO'Z!!! BIG BRO YOU LIVED HOW YOU WANTED YET STAYED TRUE TO YOUR KIND, IT DIDN'T MATTER YOU HAD STRUGGLE'S, FOR THAT AND MANY REASON'S I'LL ALWAYS BE PROUD OF THAT GREAT BROTHER OF MINE. BIG HOMIE ITS A DAMN SHAME I COULDN'T BE THERE BECAUSE I'M LOCKED IN THIS CAGE, BUT I HAD A MESSAGE RECORDED AND PLAYED FOR YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS, I CAPTIVATED THEM AS IF I WERE ON STAGE. BIG BRO I SPOKE TRUTH AND PRAISED AN UNCONQUERED SEMINOLE WARRIOR THAT WENT TO THE OTHER SIDE, THEY YELLED IN AGREEMENT AND CLAPPED FOR BIG HOMIE THAT TOOK HIS LAST RIDE. I HAVE TAKEN MANY LOSSES SINCE I BEEN IN THIS CAGE OF FAMILY AND FRIEND'S THAT NOW RIDE THE WIND, BIG BRO IT'S #! @**% UP I'M STILL HERE WHEN YOUR LIFE HAD TO END!!! BIG HOMIE IS THIS HOW YOU FELT WITH ME BEING GONE ALL THESE YEAR'S??? IF SO BIG BRO I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE FOR ALL THE PAIN AND TEAR'S. BIG BRO WHEN I LEFT HOME (THE REZ), THE STREETS WERE HELL SO I GAVE IT HELL BACK. BIG HOMIE I MASTERED THE GAME OF HYSTLE AND JACK. THAT VIOLENT LIFE OF CRIME I LIVED OFF THE REZ IS WHY I'M STILL PAYING KARMA IT'S DUE, CONSEQUENCES ARE MANDATORY, BIG BRO MY DOG ROPE WILL ALWAYS BE STAKED TO THE GROUND FOR YOU. BIG HOMIE RIDE OFF INTO THAT SPIRIT WORLD, DON'T LOOK BACK, DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT'S GOING DOWN HERE, YOUR LIL BROTHER IKE IS A RIDER SHEDDING TATTOOED TEAR'S. SHOW UP AND SHOW OUT I LEARNED THAT FROM YOU BIG BRO, EVERYONE GIVE THAT STANDING OVATION TO THE GREATEST UNCONQUERED SEMINOLE WARRIOR IN THESE TIME'S BURTON LEE HARJO!!!!



WARRIOR
4LIFE,

IKE T. HARJO

BIG HOMIE UTMOST RESPECT, I LOVE YOU AND I WILL ALWAYS MISS YOU!!!!

EVERYONE THINK OF THE SONG "CLOSE YOUR EYES."







954.894.1500 | MYEYESURGEONS.COM

4651 Sheridan Street, Suite 100, Hollywood, FL 33021

Hours: Monday 7:30am - 6pm • Tuesday - Friday 7:15am - 5pm • Sunday 7:15am - Noon

Sports*

Tribal players win USSSA World Series

BY KEVIN JOHNSON **Senior Editor**

With half its roster filled with Seminoles and coached by tribal member Cheyenne (Nunez) Gonzalez, Chobee AMP overwhelmed its opponents on the way to capturing the USSSA Space Coast World Series in late June.

Chobee won the 16 Open championship at the USSSA Space Coast Complex in Viera with a perfect 8-0 record. Along the way, they defeated teams from Arkansas, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Oklahoma and Wisconsin in the tournament that featured 20 teams.

Seminoles on the team include Gonzalez's younger sisters Joleyne Nunez and Daliyah Nunez along with Presslyn Baker, Serenity Billie, Aaryn King, Tehya Nunez and Kiera Snell.

After finishing ninth in its previous tournament just days earlier, Gonzalez was in no mood to see a repeat performance. She said the team returned to practice as she emphasized a lot of the same components

attitude, communication, composure, effort, fight, heart and hustle - that made her a standout player at Okeechobee High School who went on to play NCAA Division I softball.

"I told them to focus on those things and no one can beat us," said Gonzalez, who coaches the team with her husband, Eddy.

Indeed, it was an unconquered journey that saw Chobee outscore its opponents by a whopping 45-11 margin.

The pitching staff was in control from start to finish, allowing just a smidge above one run per game and tossing three shutouts.

"Our pitching definitely held their own. They did very well all week. Our pitching staff did exactly what they were told and when they hit their spots, it is very hard to hit off of us," Gonzalez said.

Avalowe Fitzgerald and Luna Asension led the way in the circle.

Fitzgerald had an immaculate ERA of 0.00 with 33 strikeouts. She was voted the team's overall MVP for the tournament.



The champion Chobee AMP are, from left to right, front row: Luna Asencion, Tehya Nunez, Daliyah Nunez, Aaryn King, Jenessa Arana and Audra Friend. Back row: coach Cheyenne Gonzalez, Loghan Elkins, Presslyn Baker, Zoe Sheffield, Avalowe Fitzgerald, Gianna Padro, Cailee Sessions, Kiera Snell, Joleyne Nunez and coach Eddy Gonzalez. Not in the photo: Serenity Billie.

"This kid did so amazing. I have never seen such a great ballplayer with such genuine passion for the game and she is only 13 years old," Gonzalez said.

Asension earned the team's pitching MVP nod. She fired a no-hitter against the Diamond Chix from Ohio in a pool play game and had a 3.29 ERA and 19 strikeouts. Audra Friend received the team's MVP

Offense award. "Her bat was on fire the whole week," Gonzalez said. "She had an RBI almost every inning she played or she would just get on base somehow. This kid is one of a kind. So disciplined, she puts in so much work and it finally showed. She is a true hustler. I have seen her play since she was in 8U and now watching her grow into a beautiful young lady is so special to me."

Chobee faced the Diamond Chix again in the championship. Chobee emerged with an 8-3 win in a game that ended after Chobee twice).

Gonzalez said her team battled through tough conditions throughout the World Series, including hot weather and multiple weather-related delays.

"I couldn't be more proud of them," she said. "The entire week/weekend they fought every pitch and never gave up, not once. There were times when the games got very intense, but the girls kept their composure

midnight (Diamond Chix needed to beat and played their game. My pitchers had to throw in pouring rain and that's probably the hardest thing a pitcher will ever have to face. On defense my girls could hardly see the ball because of the rain but even with all of that they never made an excuse. We made adjustments and overcame all of it. We were at the ball fields all day and all night. The perseverance and resilience these girls showed was remarkable."

Dolphins cheerleaders bring talents to BC

BY KEVIN JOHNSON **Senior Editor**

BIG CYPRESS — Seminole kids received cheerleading instruction from NFL pros July 15 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress Reservation.

Six members of the Miami Dolphins cheerleading team taught the kids a variety of cheers set to music at the one-day junior cheer camp presented by the Big Cypress Recreation Department.

Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie stopped by to show her support.

"We just want to give them the opportunity to do things on the reservation instead of always having to go off the reservation," she said.

The youngsters came from the Big Cypress, Brighton and Immokalee reservations.

Sports are popular with kids in the tribe, but cheerleading is done by only a few. Bringing the Dolphins cheerleaders to the reservation could provide a spark for a youngster to want to pursue it further.

Especially the younger ones it gives them the opportunity go out of their comfort zone - cheerleading," Councilwoman Billie said.

Ahfachkee School had



At the end of the one-day cheer camp, kids show their support for the Miami Dolphins cheerleaders who came to the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress on July 15.

cheerleading squad that cheered at the school's home basketball games for a season or two around 2015, but the school hasn't had sports teams in recent years.

"If we could get there, I would love to have it. It would be awesome to have our own team, our own cheerleaders," Councilwoman Billie said.



Kids pay close attention to Dolphin cheerleaders as they work on their cheerleading skills.

The visit marked the second time Dolphins cheerleaders have been in BC this summer. A different group attended the Father's Day celebration.

The cheerleaders will be in action at Hard Rock Stadium on Sept. 8 when the Dolphins host Jacksonville in the season



Seminole teams win 5 NAYO championships

BY KEVIN JOHNSON Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD/COOPER CITY

— No matter the location, it wouldn't be a NAYO baseball and softball tournament without a weather delay.

This year's tournament – hosted by the Seminole Tribe from June 18-20 – was only one hour old when lightning halted play on day one at the Cooper City Sports Complex.

Play eventually resumed that day and the three-day tournament stayed pretty much on schedule as it crowned champions from as young as 8U to as old as 17U. The 8U and 10U softball teams played at the ballfield on the Hollywood Reservation while the rest of the teams hit the fields a few miles away in Cooper City.

Seminole teams produced an impressive tournament. They racked up five championships, including four in baseball.

In addition to Seminole teams, the tournament drew squads from North Carolina (Cherokee) and Mississippi (Choctaw). About 30 teams competed in hot and humid conditions. The conditions were especially tough for catchers, some of whom didn't finish games they started.

2024 NAYO baseball and softball touranment (hosted by the Seminole Tribe)

Baseball

8U 1st – FL Made (Fla.) 2nd – Dinger Nation (Miss.) 3rd – Sglili Boyz (N.C.)

1st – FL Boyz (Fla.) 2nd – Native Swag (Miss.) 3rd – Qualla (N.C.)

1st – Seminole AMP (Fla.) 2nd – Seminole Thunder (Fla.)

1st – Rez Warriors (Miss.) 2nd – Who's on 1st (N.C.) 17U 1st – Bad Boyz (Fla.) 2nd – EBCI Rugrats (N.C.)

Softball

1st – Pink Diamonds (Miss.) 2nd – Native Rascals (Fla.) 3rd – Diamond Elite (N.C.)

10U 1st – Rez Sox (Miss.) 2nd – Seminole Dolls (Fla.) 3rd – Uklenas (N.C.)

1st – Diamond Elite (N.C.) 2nd – Lady Seminoles (Fla.) 3rd – Beaded Barbies (Fla.)

14U 1st – Diamond Elite (N.C.) 2nd – Lady Tomahawks (Miss.) 3rd – Seminole AMP (Fla.)

17U 1st – Seminole Impact (Fla.) 2nd – Dream Catchers (Fla.) 3rd – Lady Warriors (N.C.)

10U softball - Seminole Dolls (2nd place)

The Seminole Dolls didn't win the 10U softball championship, but coach Jewel Lavatta was still thrilled with the way her team finished.

The Dolls won their first two games but lost their next two to the champion Rez Sox from Mississippi. It was in that second loss that Lavatta saw plenty of positive things from her team, which produced strong hitting, defense and pitching in a 3-2 loss.

"I'm proud of what they did," she said.
"We've come a long way. It was days of hot sun and working. We lost significantly in the first game against them, but this game we held them and only lost by one. It's a major improvement. Everybody made contact with the ball."

Indeed, the team's hardest hit ball came off the bat of Lavatta's daughter, Amariah, who smashed a two-run double to left-center that scored Javaiah Jones and Bella Virto.

In a showing of unity and sportsmanship, after the second game both teams met at the pitcher's circle, formed a circle and said the "Our Father."

Amariah Lavatta also helped her team to a fast start in the tournament by striking out the side in the first two innings of the opening game against the Lady Tomahawks from Mississippi.

12U softball – Lady Seminoles (2nd place), Beaded Barbies (3rd place)

Two Brighton teams not only faced each other, but did so in a dramatic game.

Beaded Barbies played a strong game throughout and led for most of the elimination game against Lady Seminoles until the final batter.

McKenna Macias delivered a clutch walk-off hit that brought home Faithlynn Cypress with the winning run.

Cypress with the winning run.

Earlier in the game, the Lady Seminoles received a big boost from Okalani Collins, who hit an inside-the-park home run down



The Beaded Barbies and the Lady Seminoles gather after they played each other in a 12U NAYO softball game June 19 in Cooper City. Both teams are from Brighton.

Kevin Johnson

the right field line.

Collins was also a standout in the field. She and fellow outfielder Jaiden Fludd made outstanding catches. Overall, the Lady Seminoles defense was solid.

"They did what they needed to do," Lady Seminoles coach Delaney Osceola

The following day the Lady Seminoles needed to beat Cherokee's Diamond Elite twice, but they lost the first game.

14U softball – Seminole AMP (3rd place)

AMP battled to the end, but didn't reach the championship round. In its final game, AMP trailed 1-0. Amalia Estrada ripped a triple down the left field line and scored on a single by Cherish Micco to knot it at 1-1. A hit by Melaine Bonilla gave AMP a 2-1 lead, but they didn't hold on and lost by one run.

17U softball – Seminole Impact (1st place); Dream Catchers (2nd place)

It's been a summer to remember for Cheyenne Gonzalez and a group of her softball players. A few weeks after winning a USSSA World Series title, Gonzalez and players Daliyah Nunez and Joleyne Nunez – who are Gonzalez's younger sisters – and Tehya Nunez, Kiera Snell and Aaryn King added to their trophy stockpile.

Playing as Seminole Impact, the team rallied to beat Dream Catchers, 3-2, to win the NAYO 17U championship in a well-played battle between two Brighton teams.

Seminole Impact's Charisma Micco and Dream Catchers' Preslynn Baker went head-to-head in a sizzling pitchers' duel.

The Dream Catchers, which needed to win twice, held a 2-1 lead in the final inning. Seminole Impact received the spark they needed when Ila Trueblood and Jaylynn Rodriguez ignited a rally by reaching base. Fittingly, it came down to Baker facing Micco. Although she barely made contact with the ball, Micco hit a short infield squibbler that proved it doesn't matter how far a ball is hit as long as it is hit. An error on the play brought home the tying and winning

runs.

"It's hard because both teams are from Brighton," coach Gonzalez said. "You want to cheer for your team, but you also want to cheer for the other team. They're both very good teams. I knew it was going to be a good game."

Gonzalez praised both pitchers. Baker struck out the side in order twice, which isn't an easy task against a sharp-hitting team.

"Preslynn threw lights out. She was throwing very, very good. That's probably the best I've seen her throw in a long time," Gonzalez said.

"If there was an MVP award, it would go to Charisma. She pitched all weekend and threw her butt off. In this heat, it's so hard to stay hydrated, and mentally being able to keep pushing and keep playing. It's not easy."

Seminole Impact finished 3-0; Dream Catchers finished 2-2.

8U baseball – FL Made (1st place)

If FL Made's championship win is any indication, the future looks bright for Seminole baseball. FL Made edged the Choctaw's Dinger Nation, 11-10, to win the 8U title for the coach-pitch division.

10U baseball – Florida Boyz (1st place)

A championship team came through with a championship performance, and its coach couldn't have been happier.

The Florida Boyz won their third consecutive NAYO championship (one as 8U, two as 10U).

In the game prior to the championship win, coach Marshall Tommie said the team struggled in several areas and didn't play

like he knew they could and should. In the final, the real Florida Boyz

showed up. They won 15-1.
"That was the team I knew We him

"That was the team I knew. We hit the ball, played defense, didn't make errors. Kids put trust in each other and played the game they love. They put a lot of hard work in this summer," said Tommie, whose team was comprised of nearly all players from Brighton, and one from Big Cypress.

Nakoa Smiley, Maddox Tommie and Charles Julian were the standouts on the mound.

Ryker Miller and Tyse Osceola showed plenty of heart and toughness by handling catching duties in oppressive heat.

The squad will go for four in a row next NAYO when they will be in 12U.

12U baseball – Seminole AMP (1st place), Seminole Thunder (2nd place)

The Seminole Tribe was guaranteed to be a winner in the 12U baseball division. The only two teams were Seminole.

They met in a best-of-3 series. AMP won both games against Seminole Thunder by comfortable margins.

"We hit pretty good. We gave up one run in both games," said AMP coach Danny Bonilla.

The team used a whole lot of pitchers and catchers. On the mound, AJ Yzaguirre, Ray Yzaguirre, Josh Torres and Damahni Bonilla.

The Yzaguirres and Torres also handled catching duties along with Russ Osceola.

Thunder coach Kevin Holata said his team hit the ball better in the second game, and that overall, it was a team effort.

14U baseball – Rez Warriors (Miss.) (1st place)

There were no Seminole 14U baseball teams, but a trio of Seminoles helped the Choctaw's Rez Warriors win the championship.

Tribal members Justin Rodriguez and Malloy Williams and descendent Tyreke Tubby were part of the winning side. Tubby, who plays for Choctaw Central High School, hit an inside-the-park home run in the final game.

17U baseball - B-Town Bad Boyz (1st place)

Saving the best for last proved to be the right strategy for the B-Town Bad Boyz.

Coach Nate Simmons barely used his ace pitcher Sylas Billie until it was absolutely necessary, which came in game 3 of a best-of-three series against the only other team in 17U, the EBCI Rugrats.

After the teams split the first two games, Billie, who has played in elite levels of baseball for many years, got the call, and he didn't disappoint.

Billie struck out 17 batters and was in control throughout with a complete game effort to lead Bad Boyz to the championship

"It worked out perfect for us," Simmons said.

While Billie provided the spark on the mound, Thad Johns served as the star at the

plate.
Simmons said Johns went about 8-for-10 in the tournament.

In high school ball, Simmons is Johns and Timothy Urbina's head coach on the Moore Haven High School varsity team. Simmons said the two players asked him to

coach the NAYO team.

Simmons knew Johns struggled with the bat toward the end of the season, which is why the performance at NAYO was so encouraging.

"I took him aside and said let's get back to the fundamentals of it and hit the ball square up, and it showed. It helped him out. I'm proud of him," Simmons said.

Simmons said he was proud of the entire team for rebounding after the game 2 loss. "We got our butts beat (in game 2); it



Kevin Johnson

Bad Boyz' Nakih Billie slides into home plate in a 17U baseball game.



Russell Osceola scores a run for AMP in a 12U baseball game.

Kevin Johnsor

was a little bit of a beatdown, but the boys came back this morning hungry for it," Simmons said.



Kevin Johnson

Tahnia Billie makes a big stretch at first base to record an out against Lexi Thomas in a 17U game.



Kevin Johnson



Thad Johns delivers a pitch for Bad Boyz in a 17U game.

Timothy Urbina scores a run for Bad Boyz in a 17U game.



Seminole Impact pitcher Charisma Micco winds up for a pitch.



The champion Bad Boyz and runner-up MBCI Rugrats gather together following their best-of-three series.



The 8U Native Rascals enjoy their time in the dugout.



The Seminole Dolls high-five a Rez Sox player after their 10U softball game.



Kevin Johns

Kevin Johnson

Mayli Tommie

Bad Boyz 17U's Blaze Billie delivers a pitch.

♦ NAYO From page 4C



Bella Spencer handles catching duties for the Seminole Dolls 10U softball team.



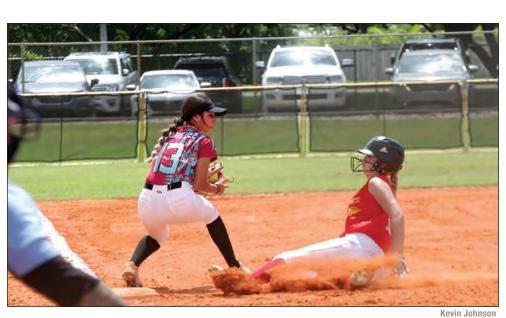
Maddox Tommie delivers a pitch for FL Boyz in 10U baseball





Kevin Johnson

The FL Boyz 10U team celebrates after a victory.



Seminole Impact third baseman Jaylynn Rodriguez prepares to make a tag.



Preslynn Baker receives congratulations from her teammates after throwing a strikeout.



Sylas Billie delivers a pitch during his 17-strikeout performance in a 17U game.



Dalyse Baker from the Beaded Barbies crosses home plate as Lady Seminoles' catcher Naylahni Hardy catches the ball in a 12U game.



lla Trueblood lays down a bunt for the Seminole Impact 17U team.

See the September Tribune for championship team photos

Hard Rock Stadium receives recognition for sustainability efforts

FROM PRESS RELEASE

MIAMI GARDENS — Hard Rock Stadium announced June 12 that it has received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold v4.1 O+M certification for the overall sustainability of both Hard Rock Stadium and the Miami International Autodrome Paddock Club building. South Florida Motorsports (SFM) was also awarded FIA Three-Star Environmental Accreditation rating, which is the highest rating achievable for demonstrating best practice in environmental management.

green building certification program led by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) that rates buildings for their operational performance. This certification provides a framework for building owners and operators to be environmentally responsible and use resources efficiently.

Hard Rock Stadium is now one of six NFL stadiums which has received Gold or higher certification for operations of the facility. It is the only Formula 1 venue in the United States to receive the FIA Three-Star Environmental Accreditation rating.

"We are proud to be LEED certified Gold for both Hard Rock Stadium and

The LEED v4.1 O+M Certification is a the Formula 1 Paddock Club building. To

FSU kicks off 2024 season in Ireland

STAFF REPORT

team will begin its 12-game regular season

on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. The

Seminoles will face Georgia Tech in Dublin,

Ireland, on Aug. 24.

The Florida State University football

the field expands to 12 teams. 2024 Florida State

football schedule

Aug. 24 FSU vs Georgia Teach (Dublin, Ireland), 12 p.m. Sept. 2 Boston College at FSU, 7:30

Sept. 14 Memphis at FSU, 12 p.m. Sept. 21 California at FSU, TBA Sept. 28 FSU at SMU, TBA Oct. 5 Clemson at FSU, TBA Oct. 18 FSU at Duke, 7 p.m. Oct. 26 FSU at Miami, TBA Nov. 2 North Carolina at FSU, TBA Nov. 9 FSU at Notre Dame, 7:30

Nov. 23 Charleston Southern at FSU, TBA

Nov. 30 Florida at FSU, TBA

transform a 37-year-old stadium into an energy-efficient building is an incredible feat thanks to the collaborative efforts across many departments and individuals who have set out to ensure that we continue to be environmentally-responsible stewards of this community asset," Tom Garfinkel, president and CEO of Hard Rock Stadium and Managing Partner of the Formula 1 Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix, said in a

Other highlights on the schedule include a Monday night home game against Boston College on Labor Day (Sept. 2), a visit to Hard Rock Stadium on Oct. 26 to face the Miami Hurricanes, a prime time Saturday night game at Notre Dame on Nov. 9, homecoming Nov. 23 against Charleston Southern, and the regular season finale at home against Florida on Nov. 30.

championship, but were not picked for the four-team national playoffs. They finished with a 13-1 record that included an

Orange Bowl loss to Georgia.



Oklahoma is next stop for **Chanon Frye**

BY KEVIN JOHNSON **Senior Editor**

BIG CYPRESS — Chanon Frye, from the Big Cypress Reservation, has been spending his summer making sure he is in good shape to start his college basketball career in Oklahoma.

During a mid-July workout session in the weight room at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, Frye said he's been trying to add muscle to his 6-foot-6 frame. He said he is up to 200 pounds.

"I got up there. (The coaches) want me to put on some muscle," Frye said.

Frye spent the past few years attending IMG Academy in Bradenton, a school with a worldwide reputation for producing standout athletes in several sports. He said he improved a lot while at school.

"It was good," he said. "It was different.

Brockman, 22, of Okeechobee, used

to do rodeo when she was a kid, but hasn't

been active in recent years as she's pursued

her career path as a dental assistant. Her

goal is to ease her way back into the rodeo

environment. Her starting point is being

foot in the door," she said during the Josiah

Johns Memorial All-Indian Rodeo on July 12

would like to get back to competing, perhaps

in Brighton.

next season.

"I plan to get back into it. This is my

Instead of being a spectator, Brockman

They get you ready for college right away. You have block schedules. Half of the day is school and the rest of the day is all workouts. It was worth it."

Frye graduated from IMG this spring. The next chapter in his basketball career will be at Murray State College in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, a junior college. Frye is scheduled to join the team in mid-August.

Last season, Murray State reached the National Junior College Athletic Association's Region 2 semifinals and finished with a 16-16 record. Most of the team's games were in Oklahoma, Kansas

Frye said he's looking forward to playing in Oklahoma where he has family. His dad, Charlie, grew up in the state.

Frye said his goal is to play NCAA Division I or II basketball after junior college.

Seminole cowboys, cowgirls turn out for Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo

BY KEVIN JOHNSON **Senior Editor**

BRIGHTON — The annual Josiah Johns Memorial All Indian Rodeo attracted some of the top cowboys and cowgirls from the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The adult portion of the two-day rodeo was held July 12 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena on the Brighton Reservation.

The father-son duo of Josh Jumper (header) and Blevyns Jumper (heeler) was time of 7.3 seconds proved to be the fastest among the nine teams.

Blevyns also produced the top time in calf roping (21.3 seconds).

Boogie Johns won the ladies barrel racing (15.81 seconds). LeAnna Bille turned in the fastest time

in breakaway roping (4.3 seconds). The kids portion of the rodeo was held the following day.

The rodeo is a tribute to the late Josiah Johns of Brighton. Johns was known as

the first team ropers out of the gates. Their an outstanding all-around cowboy. He competed in all major rodeo events and won championships, including in steer wrestling and saddle bronc. He brought his rodeo talents to several venues throughout the country and even rodeoed at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

> He cofounded the Southeastern Indian Rodeo Association, which became the current Eastern Indian Rodeo Association. He was posthumously inducted into the Indian National Finals Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2012.



Kevin Johnson

Josiah Johns's great-grandson, also named Josiah Johns, battles a fierce bull as one of two bull fighters at the rodeo.





Justin Gopher (header) and Hilliard Gopher (heeler) work on reeling in a calf during team roping



Kevin Johnson

to rodeoing BY KEVIN JOHNSON "Barrels, roping, whatever I can do whatever I'm good at," she said. **Senior Editor** Brockman graduated from Okeechobee

Miss EIRA Brienna

Brockman eyes return

High School in 2020 during the height of the **BRIGHTON** – Brienna Brockman is Covid-19 pandemic. Instead of hunkering in the midst of serving a one-year term as down, she decided to get a head start on her Miss EIRA Rodeo Queen, but if things go career. She entered an accelerated program according to her plans, she'll be a part of the to become a dental assistant, an occupation Eastern Indian Rodeo Association for years she's had now for four years.

This year she decided it was time to become involved in rodeo again. She said her family has rodeo in its blood. She had her eyes on running for Miss EIRA for years, but there was no queen in recent seasons due to Covid until this year.

"I've always had dreams to do it, but with Covid we unfortunately didn't have one, so technically, I'm the first rodeo queen since Covid," she said.

She won the title in March and has been attending EIRA events and even a few Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association



Miss EIRA Rodeo Queen Brienna Brockman attends the Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo on July 12.

Dolphins preseason starts Aug. 9

STAFF REPORT

The Miami Dolphins preseason slate features two games at Hard Rock Stadium. The Dolphins will face Atlanta on Aug. 9 at 7 p.m. and the Washington Commanders on Aug. 17 at 7 p.m.

The regular season begins Sept. 8 at 1 p.m. when the Dolphins host Jacksonville.

Preseason

Aug. 9 home vs Atlanta Aug. 17 home vs Washington

Miami Dolphins 2024 schedule

Aug. 23 at Tampa Bay

Regular season Sept. 8 home vs Jacksonville Sept. 12 home vs Buffalo Sept. 22 at Seattle

Sept. 30 home vs Tennessee Oct. 6 at New England Oct. 20 at Indianapolis

Oct. 27 home vs Arizona Nov. 3 at Buffalo Nov. 11 at LA Rams Nov. 17 home vs Las Vegas

Nov. 28 at Green Bay Dec. 8 home vs NY Jets Dec. 15 at Texas Dec. 22 home vs San Francisco

Nov. 24 home vs New England

Dec. 28 at Cleveland Jan. 4 or 5 at NY Jets

TRIBAL MEMBERS ONLY





Contact Fleet Services: 954-967-3480 or fleetservices@semtribe.com