

# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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## Ahfachkee digs into expansion, renovations

*Construction to finish in 2020*

BY LI COHEN  
Copy Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress officially began construction on April 4 for its expansion and renovation.

The two-story, 30,000-square-foot expansion, which will include a new middle and high school building, will be completed in two phases. The first phase is construction of the new building and the second will revamp the existing buildings, including classrooms, the cafeteria and the culture room.

Jose Murguido, vice president of Zyscovich Inc., the architect group hired to help design the new school, said the expansion is going to make Ahfachkee a 21st century facility. When planning started in 2016, the school was named a finalist in the XQ Super School Project, an initiative started by Steve Jobs' widow Lauren Powell Jobs

to create high schools that prepare students for the 21st century. The design principles for the competition centered on real-world, interdisciplinary learning experiences, youth empowerment, student success, community partnerships, technology and non-traditional learning environments.

"This little school made it all the way to the top," Murguido said. "That was an impressive honor and that's what's built into the school."

The new design includes a middle and high school wing, state of the art technology, labs for robotics, medical science and information science, a two-floor media center and learning communities for grade levels.

face lift and when it's all said and done it will look like one seamless, brand new facility," Murguido said, adding that the best part about the design will be the center of the breezeway connecting the old and new buildings, which will contain revamped cultural art labs.

"Despite the preparation for the future, the great thing about the Tribe is it never forgets who they are, and that's what the focus on the education is here. It's all about the heritage and wonderful culture."

Ahfachkee Principal Dorothy Cain expects that the revamped design will double the size of the student population before the new doors open to students in about two years. She explained that a lot of children who live on the Big Cypress reservation go to other schools in the area, but the expansion is going to draw them back to Ahfachkee.

"We have plenty of seats, but now we need the students to fill them. When there's something brand new, that usually drives people to it," Cain said, noting that as great as the school will look on the outside, it's the internal renovations that will really attract the community. "We have a staff that's very



Li Cohen

Special guests at Ahfachkee's groundbreaking ceremony April 4 had the opportunity to make the first dig in the dirt. From left to right, President Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Miss Florida Seminole Princess Randee Osceola, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Zyscovich Inc. Vice President Jose Murguido, Ahfachkee Principal Dorothy Cain, Tribal Community Development Executive Director Harris Hamid, Executive Director of Administration Lee Zepeda, and Pirtle Construction Director of Operations James Armstrong.

While the existing buildings will maintain their structure, the inside will be completely redesigned.

"The existing school is getting a total

♦ See **GROUNDBREAKING** on page 2B

## Valholly Frank, seven other youth sue Gov. Scott over climate change

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**MIAMI** — Valholly Frank is too young to vote and too young to drive, but the teenager from the Big Cypress Reservation is not too young to make an impact.

Nor is she afraid.

Even though she's only 15, the Sagemont School freshman is more than willing to take on big challenges. Case in point: She joined seven other Florida youth on the front steps of the Miami Dade Courthouse on April 17. They are plaintiffs in the Reynolds v. State of Florida lawsuit about climate change that was filed the previous day in Tallahassee against the state of Florida, Gov. Rick Scott, Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam and several state agencies.

In front of about 40 people, including media and supporters, Valholly and the other kids each took turns at a microphone stating their case about the impacts of climate change.

"To see the oceans rise and people draining the swamps, it's the most upsetting thing that anyone can imagine," Valholly said in her three-minute address.

Valholly discussed her affection for nature on the reservation and in the Everglades. She criticized the state's reliance on fossil fuels and nuclear power for its energy needs.

"It is the Sunshine State. We should use solar," she said. "My house on the reservation uses solar and we get so much of our power, and the power companies pay us back because they are buying our leftover energy."

The 62-page complaint, filed in Leon County Court, contends that state officials are endangering the youth's future and failing their responsibility to protect the youth's constitutional rights to a safe climate system. The plaintiffs are requesting the state "adhere to its legal and moral obligation to protect current and future generations from intensifying impacts of climate change," according to the Oregon-based nonprofit Our Children's Trust, which is supporting the group.

"It challenges the state of Florida's fossil fuel dependency — the fossil fuel energy system that it relies upon in an awful way," said Mitchell Chester, one of nine attorneys for the plaintiffs. "It's unconstitutional because it's causing harm to these young plaintiffs. It's causing harm to the natural resources of Florida. It's causing harm to future generations. This lawsuit is about what the state is doing to cause and contribute to enhancing the greenhouse gas emissions."

*"We fought so many wars with the U.S. before ... and now I'm bringing a new one ..."*

*- Valholly Frank  
freshman at Sagemont School*

Chester said the plaintiffs seek a climate recovery plan that relies on and uses science-based greenhouse gas emission reductions throughout the state and improved land management, among other things.

For Valholly, the changes to the nature and environment which she says are occurring on the reservation are alarming.

"I see a lot more extreme weather, of course hurricanes; I've seen a decrease in certain animals," she said after the press conference. "There have been less frogs and snakes and animals in general. Whether that's because they migrated because of the weather, whether they just died out because

♦ See **CLIMATE CHANGE** on page 4A

## Jack Hanna goes 'Into the Wild' at Billie Swamp

BY LI COHEN  
Copy Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Billie Swamp Safari was a little more wild than usual April 5 as wildlife advocate Jack Hanna visited the Safari to film an upcoming episode of "Jack Hanna's Into the Wild."

Hanna, accompanied by his wife, Suzi, daughters Kathaleen Hanna Stephenson and Julie Hanna, and grandchildren Jack and Gabriella Stephenson, spent the day getting a full Everglades experience. Beginning in the morning, the family rode airboats, used swamp buggies to search for animals, witnessed and took part in a private gator demonstration with Billy Walker, and enjoyed a meal at the Swamp Water Café, which Jack Hanna said was one of his favorite parts of the experience.

"I'll tell people from a hundred-mile radius about this place to come here and eat your dinner. You don't need a five-star restaurant. I eat out all the time; I love food," he said, adding that he enjoyed chicken and dumplings, a meal that is hard to impress him by since he's from Tennessee. "I would drive three or four hours to eat here."

The dumplings were impressive to the Hanna family, but not as impressive as Jack Hanna and his grandson "Little Jack" taking part in the gator demonstration. Surrounded by the film crew and family, the Jack's got up close and personal with a 60-year-old gator. Walker explained the significant role gators play in Seminole life and history, offering one simple piece of advice to people who may come across one in the wild, "Leave it alone."

The demonstration wasn't all talk, as Little Jack got to sit on top of the gator. To his delight, there was no official gator wrestling involved in that moment, but he made sure to look directly to viewers through the camera



Li Cohen

Billy Walker explains to Jack Hanna and his grandson Jack Stephenson, 10, how Seminoles traditionally use and get ahold of alligators in the everglades.

and tell them 'not to try this at home.' As much as they both loved the gators, Jack Hanna said that he can't pick a favorite animal, either from above ground or underwater.

"As you travel the world, everything becomes special to you," he said.

This wasn't Jack Hanna's first time at Billie Swamp. He visited the Big Cypress reservation nearly 15 years ago and said he has always been impressed and in awe of how the Seminoles live with the Everglades versus on top of it.

"After traveling the world and seeing what happens in certain parts of the world, this is one part of the country that changes very little. ... You don't see a million skyscrapers," he said. "You look out here and you see what was here thousands of years ago in certain ways. The wildlife here is the natural wildlife that's lived here and the people here are the people who came here a long time ago."

The Seminoles hold a special place in Jack Hanna's heart, as he said that even after frequenting multiple other Native American



Li Cohen

The crew for "Jack Hanna's Into the Wild" films Billy Walker as he jumps into the alligator pool April 5 at Billie Swamp Safari to capture the alligator he will later use in his demo with Jack Hanna.

reservations, including the Cherokee in Tennessee and the Shoshone and Blackfoot in Montana, there is something special about the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

"The people are incredible," he said. "They love their country and they love everything about this place. It's why I came back."

Prior to visiting Big Cypress, Jack Hanna also filmed episodes of "Into the Wild" at the non-profit animal sanctuaries Save the Chimps in Fort Pierce and Loggerhead

Marinelife Center in Jupiter. Save the Chimps provides a lifelong sanctuary for chimpanzees rescued from research labs, the entertainment industry and pet trade, while Loggerhead Marinelife Center is a marine sanctuary that offers multiple exhibits and educational opportunities for the community.

These places, among a few other sites among Florida, are part of a typical schedule

♦ See **JACK HANNA** on page 4A

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# Editorial

## Organizations express educational concerns to Secretary DeVos

### • National Indian Education Association, and others

The National Indian Education Association and nine other organizations signed a letter April 4 to U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. In the letter, they expressed their concerns regarding a summit on school safety and climate that was held the following day.

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our dismay about the exclusive and non-transparent approach the Department has taken in arranging its upcoming summit on school safety and climate. As advocates for youth, disability rights, immigrant rights, tribal sovereignty, LGBTQ rights, gender justice, and racial justice, we are committed to the promise of educational success for all of our nation's children. Whether students feel safe in school is core to their ability to learn. And for too long, discriminatory practices and policies have sent the message that certain students are not welcome—not because of their actions, but because of who they are. Discriminatory discipline practices play out in ways informed by racial and gender stereotypes, and are often exacerbated when educators fail to recognize what may be a manifestation of a student's disability. Our nation's civil rights and educational equity laws aim to root out these discriminatory practices in our classrooms, so that all children have the opportunity to succeed.

And yet, despite the diverse stakeholders this topic affects, key voices that represent students uniquely and disproportionately affected by discriminatory discipline have been shut out. For example, schools are twice as likely to suspend and expel children with

disabilities as non-disabled children.

Students with disabilities are also often subject to harsh restraint and seclusion practices. Although Native American youth make up just one percent of students in school, Native American girls are three times more likely to be suspended and Native American boys are more than twice as likely to be suspended compared to their white counterparts. 2 Surveys also show that LGBTQ youth are more likely to be targeted by discipline policies that punish students for expressing their LGBTQ identity, as well as for being victims of harassment based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. 3 And the school-to-deportation pipeline presents a unique threat to the ability of undocumented students to access educational opportunities. 4 Our organizations represent children who sit within and at the intersections of these various identities—communities that are frequently ignored and left vulnerable to discriminatory actions.

We are very concerned about the lack of transparency regarding the summit participants. Although we have repeatedly stressed our interest in school safety and climate issues, we have been unable to identify whether the summit will include any representation of students with disabilities, Native American students, LGBTQ students, or immigrant and undocumented students. And representation from groups representing women and girls, as well as students of color more broadly, has been limited to just a handful of groups.

To be clear, we strongly support the 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on discriminatory school discipline and oppose any rescission or revision of the guidance and accompanying documents. This guidance is a helpful resource for educators, administrators, students, and parents. It reminds recipients of federal funding that their school discipline policy and practices must comply with

nondiscrimination requirements in civil rights law. The guidance has empowered students, parents, teachers and administrators to challenge policies that push students out of school and exacerbate inequities in education.

Although rescinding the guidance would not take away students' legal rights, it would send the wrong and dangerous message that the Administration would overlook schools that discipline students based on race and other protected traits. This is the same message that has been delivered to transgender students and survivors of sexual violence with the rescission of Title IX guidance documents and issuance of policies that are contrary to established and emerging sex discrimination law. These actions have made transgender students and survivors feel less safe in schools. We must not allow the recent tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida to be conflated with the need to limit student civil rights. Given what is at stake, we urge you to preserve the guidance and fully engage groups that take a comprehensive approach to promoting school safety and climate.

For too long, conversations about school safety and climate have focused on efforts that target historically marginalized groups. The school discipline guidance helped center those marginalized groups to the benefit of all children. As Secretary, you have a duty to ensure students are able to learn free from discrimination. We urge you to fulfill that duty.

This letter was signed by the National Women's Law Center, Autistic Self Advocacy Network, GLSEN, Human Rights Campaign, National Center for Learning Disabilities, National Center for Transgender Equality, National Disability Rights Network, National Down Syndrome Congress, The Arc of the United States and The National Indian Education Association.

## Changing tribal views on the LGBT community

### • Graham Lee Brewer, High Country News

Aray Nelson has campaigned for years for the right to marry the man he loves. Nelson, 32, a member of the Navajo Nation, works with his nonprofit, Diné Equality, to educate tribal council members and citizens about the need for marriage equality on the reservation. When he speaks to people living there, young and old, Nelson says he generally finds Navajos to be accepting of LGBTQ individuals. However, the tribal council, which in 2005 outlawed same-sex marriage, is the biggest roadblock between him and equal rights.

Nelson said a recent president of the Navajo Nation told him gay and lesbian couples should leave the reservation because marriage equality was a "white man's way of thinking." But, Nelson contends, most of America's tribal nations traditionally accept, and in many cases revere, LGBTQ members. In fact, for the Navajos, the nadleeh, a complex gender identification category, is part of the tribe's creation story. It was the introduction of Christianity and the erasure of culture that gave rise to the idea in Native American communities that homosexuality was wrong.

"We were getting married long before Stonewall had happened in New York City" —Alray Nelson

"Point period: It's wrong for anyone, whether a young person or an elder, to think LGBTQ is not traditional," Nelson says. "We were getting married long before Stonewall had happened in New York City," he said, referencing the 1969 uprising against homophobic police brutality. "We were recognizing the rights of LGBTQ and trans men and women in our communities, and we were holding them as sacred beings."

Nelson said he is not aware of a tribe that did not traditionally accept LGBTQ members. However, among the 567 federally

recognized tribes in the United States, he and his colleagues count only 35 that recognize same-sex marriage.

Territorially, Navajo Nation covers approximately 17.5 million acres, occupying portions of southeastern Utah, northeastern Arizona and northwestern New Mexico. Its population of roughly 350,000 disproportionately faces poverty, unemployment and health problems arising from past unregulated uranium mining.

As marriage equality continues to gain acceptance across the country, tribal nations that refuse to recognize same-sex marriages will find themselves increasingly at odds with state and federal laws, as well as popular opinion, which could present a danger to sovereignty. As law professor Marcia Zug astutely noted in a 2016 piece for The Atlantic: "tribal sovereignty remains precarious," and the longer tribes enact same-sex marriage bans "the higher the likelihood that they will negatively impact perceptions of tribes and tribal justice. Historically, when tribal and Anglo-American values were in conflict, non-Indians tended to disparage tribal values as backwards, inferior, and unjust."

This was certainly the case when my tribe, the Cherokee Nation, revoked the citizenship of the Freedmen, the descendants of black slaves once held by Cherokees. The move was widely condemned as a civil rights violation, and it spurred federal lawmakers and agencies to withhold funds and even question the legitimacy of the Cherokees to govern themselves. The Cherokee Freedmen eventually won in court and have since been granted full tribal citizenship.

Civil rights protections for minority communities have seen significant setbacks under President Donald Trump's administration, and Nelson argues that tribes should instead assert their sovereign authority by stepping in where the government is failing those communities. "Use our sovereignty as a way to protect our people," he said.

But while LGBTQ Navajo Nation employees who are paid through federal grants have workplace-discrimination protections,

the tribe has no laws protecting the rest. And that can have dire consequences. A 2016 study by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission found transgender Navajos felt not only misunderstood by their own people and subject to higher-than-average rates of violence, but also that violence against them is tolerated.

"It's very clear that if you identify as trans, especially if you're a Navajo trans woman living here on the reservation, it's more likely you're going to see violence within your lifetime because it's become so normalized and it's an issue that no one is really talking about," Nelson told me.

The continued legacy of colonialism, a tragic but very real part of this country's history, leaves indigenous peoples experiencing higher rates of violence, trauma, abuse, and a variety of negative health consequences. Compounding that with gender discrimination has horrifying results. One study found among Native Americans who identify as "two-spirit," a distinction often used to describe several gender identifications, 78 percent of female-identified respondents "reported being physically assaulted in their lifetime," and 85 percent "reported being sexually assaulted in their lifetime."

As Native peoples who are constantly asking the broader country to recognize and respect our unique and important histories and cultures, it hardly seems appropriate to use our sovereign authority to discriminate against our own.

Graham Lee Brewer is a contributing editor on the High Country News tribal affairs desk. He is a native of Oklahoma, where he resides with his son, and a member of the Cherokee Nation. Graham is an alum of The Oklahoman newspaper, where he extensively covered the state criminal justice system. Graham serves as a board member for the Native American Journalists Association.

## Learn your culture's past to protect the future

### • Aaron Tommie

There is undoubtedly a peace of mind that comes with knowing where we originate as people. This is especially crucial in societies that have enforced conformity and demonstrated apathy towards underserved demographics. Identity is an aspect of our lives that gives us purpose and a sense of belonging.



My Native American identity journey was initially akin to an adult who meets their biological family after learning they were adopted as an infant. Having spent most of my life away from Native culture has led to moments when I feel disconnected to my Seminole heritage. I have gone through periods in my life when I did not feel as if I was Native enough, but as years passed, my perspective has gradually evolved.

In October 2017, I went to a United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) conference in Cherokee, North Carolina, specifically to learn community development strategies that other Native American tribes have implemented amongst their people. While there, I was able to network with Tribal citizens from the Saint Regis Mohawk, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, and the Catawba Tribe, as well as others. Many of the Tribal citizens looked vastly different from the images the U.S. categorizes as Native American. This experience, along with many either, has led me to realize that a Native American cannot be classified as Native based on appearances alone.

As a Seminole with African ancestry, I come from two lineages that have undoubtedly experienced the most traumatic events of any other race in our country's history. Due to circumstances in my life, my experiences were primarily in relation to my African-American heritage. In recent

years, it has been a blessing to have fellow Tribal citizens and others knowledgeable about Seminole history teach it to me. Similar to instances involving immigrants in America, my Native people were shamed and encouraged to suppress their heritage and pride as Natives in order to fit in. Some Seminole elders have told me that they did not teach their children Creek and Miccosukee because they did not want their children to have the same negative experiences they endured throughout their upbringing outside of the reservations. Tribal members from my generation have expressed that they got into many altercations for simply being Seminole. Being able to learn details about Seminole history, including details about ancestors from several generations ago, is priceless.

The USET conference had a tremendous impact on me in many different ways, but most notably it was amazing to witness the strides Tribes are taking to elevate us as Natives. There have been many times in my life, in school and at other events where I felt isolated or as if I did not fit in due to differences. I carried that mindset even when I began working for the Tribe. My defenses were always up to protect myself from those awkward stares and uncomfortable questions I would receive. Now, I do not feed into that because I know that I am doing my best to ensure our Tribe's longevity. I take it as a serious honor to help carry the torch our ancestors have left for us.

As the next generation of Natives rises, it is important that they are guided and pushed to be stronger and better than previous ones. It may be challenging, but is our duty to help mentor them so that they hardships we faced they will be able to overcome. Due to our growing diverse background as Natives, we can provide advice to the next generation that ensures they will never encounter situations they cannot overcome. By doing this, we can help mitigate obstacles that our people may face as well as ensure that our people will always have an unwavering sense of self-understanding.

Aaron Tommie has worked for the Tribe since 2015. He is a participant in the Tribe's Advanced Career Development program. He is currently working in the Executive Operations Office.

## Finally, a serious look at unsolved deaths on reservations

### • Editorial Board, Yakima (Wash.) Herald-Republic

The Washington Legislature this past session took a definitive step toward addressing the plague of violence against Native American women on reservations with House Bill 2951. Sponsored by Goldendale Republican Gina McCabe, whose 14th District encompasses the Yakama reservation and ancestral tribal land in Central Washington and the Columbia Gorge, the measure calls for the sometimes competing state, tribal and federal jurisdictions to work together to identify missing Native American women.

The bill sailed through the Legislature with only one dissenting vote and was signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee. Now, state senators have decided what's good for Washington state is good for the nation — and on this issue, they are absolutely correct.

All 49 state senators signed a letter asking FBI Director Christopher Wray to collect data on missing and murdered Native American women and share the information with all law enforcement agencies. The letter uses

as a model the just-approve state legislation, which requires the Washington State Patrol to work with tribal law enforcement and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs to study an increase in state resources that are allotted for reporting and identifying missing Native American women in Washington.

The statistics are sobering, both here and nationally. An FBI investigation on the Yakama reservation in 2009 at one point found as many as 32 unsolved cases of missing persons or deaths. Further afield, a National Institute of Justice report found more than 80 percent of Native American women have experienced violence. The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that in 2016, homicide was the third-leading cause of death for Native American women between ages 10 and 24.

State Sen. Curtis King, who along with McCabe represents the 14th District, called the unsolved killings "an issue that needs to be addressed not only in the state of Washington, but nationally." Yakama Nation officials have praised McCabe's measure as an important first step toward doing just that. It is succeeding in raising awareness at the state level; now we can hope it can serve as a model for calling attention to this ongoing tragedy on a nationwide scale.

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

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

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# Community



## Congressional Silver Medal presented posthumously to Navajo Code Talker

STAFF REPORT

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A Congressional Silver Medal was presented to the family of the late Navajo Code Talker Adolph Nagurski during a ceremony April 3 in Albuquerque, N.M. U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich, of New Mexico, made the presentation at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial site. Nagurski earned the medal, but didn't receive it before he died.

According to Heinrich's office, Nagurski's family had attempted to get the medal for more than 14 years after Nagurski

was unable to attend a medal ceremony in 2001 due to health reasons.

"This recognition is long overdue for the sacrifices Adolph Nagurski made to protect his nation, his homeland and secure the freedom we enjoy today," Sen. Heinrich said.

Speakers also included Nagurski's son Benjamin, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye, Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Director ret. Lt. Colonel Tracey Clyde, Navajo Nation Council Speaker LoRenzo Bates, and Navajo Code Talker Thomas H. Begay, who knew and worked with Nagurski.



Photo courtesy office of Sen. Martin Heinrich

Benjamin Nagurski, center, receives the Congressional Silver Medal on behalf of his late father Adolph Nagurski, a Navajo Code Talker in World War II, during a ceremony April 3 in Albuquerque, N.M. U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich, of New Mexico, second from left, presented the medal. Thomas Begay, far left, one of the few surviving Navajo Code Talkers, and Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye, second from right, also participated in the ceremony.

## Alex Johns to lead Florida Cattlemen's Association

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

After more than a dozen years serving in leadership positions at the Florida Cattlemen's Association, Alex Johns is primed to take over as president at the organization's annual convention in June in Orlando.

Johns, who runs the Tribe's cattle program, will preside over the nearly 5,000 member organization made up of cattle producers and affiliates, which represent about \$700 million in annual calf sales in the state.

"We keep our fingers on the pulse of politics, regulations and what we want to support or fight," said Johns, the Tribe's natural resource director. "We also do a lot of research on cattle fertility, forages, disease and economics and work closely with researchers from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences."

According to a 2010 membership survey, the FCA's most important function takes place far from the wide open pastures, but in the halls of power in Tallahassee and Washington DC.

Lobbying efforts, preserving the history of Florida Ranching, working with UF/IFAS and promotion of the cattle industry were the top reasons FCA members cited for retaining their membership in the association. The survey found that members believe the association is crucial to the sustainability and longevity of Florida's beef industry.

Johns believes his involvement in FCA brings positive exposure to the Tribe's cattle program. Last year the program sold and shipped out about 4,000 calves valued at more than \$3 million.

Raising lawmakers' awareness of the Tribe's involvement in agriculture and what it adds to the state economy is a prime example of the work Johns does and will continue to do as FCA president.

"I have ready access to all the politicians in Tallahassee and Washington D.C. and get to have one-on-one conversations with



Beverly Bidney

Alex Johns oversees the Brighton calf shipping operation in July 2017.

those guys and educate them about the Tribe and what we do," he said. "I let them know there's a lot more to us than casinos. When I go in a cowboy hat, they know this isn't just another gaming issue."

Johns began climbing the ranks of the FCA began about 13 years ago when as an FCA member, he began working on committees. From there he served two years as the Glades County FCA president and two more as district director. The path to the presidency started six years ago with his appointment as secretary. Every year thereafter he was promoted to treasurer, second vice president, first vice president and president elect.

When he is officially named president,

Johns will have the experience and knowledge to further the work of the FCA and the Tribe.

"We participate in a lot of programs that we may not have been aware of had I not been in the FCA," Johns said. "It allows me to stay more up to date than I could just by getting extension letters from the county; it allows me to be involved in decisions and actually have a voice at the table."

Johns will be inaugurated as president at the Florida Cattlemen's Association annual meeting June 19 to 21 at the Omni Championship Resort in Orlando. For more information visit [www.floridacattlemen.org](http://www.floridacattlemen.org).

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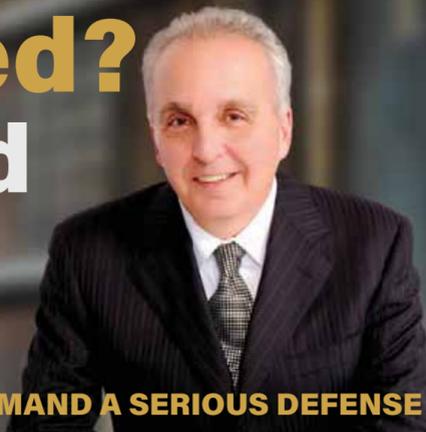
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◆ **JACK HANNA**  
From page 1A

for the Hanna family. Suzi and Jack Hanna's youngest daughter Julie said that she has been helping take care of animals since she was at least three years old and still does so to this day at the Columbus Zoo in Ohio.

"My dad used to bring home baby animals. One that just really touched my heart was a baby white tiger that needed some care," Julie said, adding that the tiger, who Suzi named Taj after the Taj Mahal in India, had problems with the development of its legs.

"We raised her pretty much in my parents' bathroom. Underneath the sinks they cleared it out and that pretty much became Taj's den. She could go in and out and just walk around the bathroom," she said, adding that the family grew up raising other exotic animals, such as wallabies, and less exotic, but equally lovable animals, such as mallard ducks and dogs.

"We became known as the animal house," Julie Hanna said. "People would ring the doorbell, and sometimes nobody would be there but you would see this box of whatever animal they decided to leave at our house."

Although it wasn't a typical childhood and instead was one filled with zoos, traveling and TV shows, Julie Hanna said that this is a life that she, nor the rest of her family, would trade.

"I treasure those moments that we had



Philip Blackwell holds an alligator down at Billie Swamp Safari while Jack Hanna discusses the animal's significance to the "Into the Wild" film crew.

as a family, as well as caring for the precious wildlife that occasionally needs some additional love when Mother Nature isn't quite all there for them," she said. "I treasure those times and to this day, I work at the zoo and the babies animals are one of the

biggest loves of my life."

Jack Hanna and his family's day in Big Cypress will be on the Billie Swamp Safari episode of "Into the Wild," schedule to air this fall. The show is available on Hulu and can be found through local TV listings.



Kevin Johnson

Valholy Frank speaks to the media during a press conference April 17 on the front steps of the Miami Dade County Courthouse. Valholy discussed environmental problems – which she said stem from climate change and the state's failure to properly address them – that are impacting South Florida, including the Everglades and the Big Cypress Reservation.

◆ **CLIMATE CHANGE**  
From page 1A

of the food sources or just different reasons, it's definitely sad to see."

This fight isn't one that Valholy said is about her, but rather the entire Tribe.

"I grew up here and I want many more Tribal kids to grow up here," she said. "We fought so many wars with the U.S. before and now I'm bringing a new one and I want Tribal kids to realize this and I want everyone in the Tribe to be involved because we want to fight for our land and it's so important us."

"The entire reason we won the Seminole War we survived because of the Everglades. We love the Everglades and it's the only Everglades in the entire world. If that was gone, we wouldn't be Seminoles."

Valholy's parents – Big Cypress Board

Rep. Joe Frank and Rhonda Roff – attended the press conference in Miami and expressed support of their daughter.

"I'm really proud of her for taking this on," Rhonda said. "This is an issue most adults are afraid to think about. Anybody that takes it on is brave, particularly a teenager who already has a full plate."

"She's determined and I know she wants to make a difference. I'm proud she's taking a stand," Rep. Frank said.

The governor's office contends that Gov. Scott is doing his part to protect the environment.

"The governor signed one of the largest environmental protection budgets in Florida's history last month – investing \$4 billion into Florida's environment. The governor is focused on real solutions to protect our environment – not political theater or a lawsuit orchestrated by a group based in Eugene,

Oregon,"

Gov. Scott's spokesman McKinley Lewis said in a statement in a Miami Herald article.

Valholy said she and her fellow plaintiffs, who range in age from 10 to 20 and live in Alachua County, Gainesville, Miami, Pensacola and Satellite Beach, are ready for a lengthy battle.

"Hopefully after this one

changes will be made, but change takes time and I'm ready to fight for that change," Valholy said.



Kevin Johnson

Valholy Frank, 15, left, of the Big Cypress Reservation, sits on the front steps of the Miami Dade County Courthouse on April 17 with her fellow plaintiffs from a lawsuit against the State of Florida and Gov. Rick Scott, among others. The group held a press conference to explain their concerns about how the state is addressing climate and environmental issues.

# Tribe, Gov. Scott reach agreement on revenue payments

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe reached an agreement April 18 with Governor Rick Scott to continue making revenue sharing payments to the state through May 2019. The payments are mandated by the 2010 compact between the Tribe and the state; the Tribe has been paying about \$300 million per year into the general revenue fund.

The agreement extends the forbearance period outlined in the July 2017 settlement of the Tribe's successful lawsuit against the state and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, which was set to expire in May 2018. The agreement with Gov. Scott extends the payments through the next legislative session.

In exchange for the agreement, the Tribe will continue to reap the benefits of the

compact which include exclusive state-wide rights to blackjack and allow it to provide the only slot machines outside of Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

"The Tribe is committed to its long-term compact with the State of Florida and intends to continue making revenue sharing payments as spelled out in the agreement," Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola said in a press release. "The gaming compact, which runs through the year 2030, is good for the people of Florida and good for the members of the Seminole Tribe. The Tribe is investing more than \$2.4 billion to expand its Seminole Hard Rock Casinos in Tampa and Hollywood and is hiring thousands of Floridians to fill jobs in construction and as permanent team members."

"Today, I am proud to announce that the State of Florida has reached an agreement with the Seminole Tribe which ensures the Tribe's current commitment remains intact,"

Governor Scott said in the same press release. "Since I took office, the Seminole Compact has generated more than \$1.75 billion which has helped our state make historic investments in things like Florida's education and environment. With today's agreement, revenue sharing payments from the Tribe will carry on as the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) continues its work of aggressively following and enforcing Florida's strict gaming laws and rules."

Despite the agreement, state lawmakers decided not to convene a special session to write a gambling bill. The leaders of the House and Senate, motivated by a proposed constitutional amendment slated to be on the November ballot that could take the power to approve any future expansion of gaming away from the Legislature and put it in the hands of voters, opted to leave it to the public.

# EE-TO-LEET-KE Grill reopens in Immokalee

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Movers and shakers in Immokalee, including Tribal members and Chamber of Commerce executives, attended the grand reopening reception of the EE-TO-LEET-KE Grill on March 30 at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee.

The complete renovation of the 202-seat casual dining restaurant took about six months, during which time it was transformed into a modern space with clean lines. The palate embraces the familiar colors of the Tribe, the kitchen is open for guests to view and the lighting is bright yet subdued. A section of the dining room can be closed off and used for private parties and events.

"The restaurant will add a whole other experience guests can enjoy," said Edward Aguilar, assistant general manager/vice president of Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee. "The restaurant still reflects the Tribe but with a modern flair."

EE-TO-LEET-KE, which means the camp, offers up traditional Seminole hospitality. The menu was tweaked a bit, but old favorites remain in place. One customer favorite, the complimentary fry bread served



Beverly Bidney

Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee's EE-TO-LEET-KE Grill features a modern ambiance.

with honey butter, is as authentic as it can be. The recipe is from former Tribal President Tony Sanchez's mother, Mary Sanchez.

"We've upped our game with more flavor," said Executive Chef Lisa Files. "Guests have been giving us good feedback. It isn't just the food alone that they like, it's also the renovation that makes the dining experience so much more pleasant."

The menu's signature dishes include the Yankee pot roast, baby back ribs and twin pork chops. Under the watchful eye and design skills of Banquet and Production Chef Osmany Acosta, plate presentation has been revamped to reflect the restaurant's modern ambiance.

"It's all been a positive change," Files said. "Guests often come up to the open exhibit kitchen and thank the chefs for the food. That makes them very proud since they never got praise directly from guests before."

Other menu items include pastas, house made soups, steaks, seafood, fajitas and pork osso bucco, as well as salads, burgers and sandwiches. Cappuccino's Coffee and Pastry Bar and the EE-TO-LEET-KE Grill Bar were also renovated.

"This gives us more direction to where we are heading in the future," Aguilar said. "It's no longer rustic; we are a Tribe living in the modern era."



Beverly Bidney

Pete Aguilar Jr., Edward Aguilar Sr., President Mitchell Cypress and Michelle Aguilar Ford, Immokalee Pre-school director, attend the grand reopening of the EE-TO-LEET-KE Grill on March 30.

# April showers bring May flowers and mosquitos

SUBMITTED BY PATRICK PECK  
STOF Environmental Health Manager

The fourth month of the year is known for April Fools' Day, Earth Day and the chance for daily rain showers. With additional rain frequencies comes an increase in the mosquito population.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is gearing up for another active 2018 mosquito season. To combat the increase in mosquito population, the STOF Health department will be closely tracking disease and mosquito traps on all reservations and will send out Tribal health alerts as needed. In the coming months, the STOF Health Department is to begin monitoring and conducting Tribal-wide surveillances on each reservation. We will spray all deserving areas by ground and air and treat individual homes on an as-needed basis.

Mosquitoes not only present a nuisance but they also carry diseases. As you may be aware, Florida is endemic to West Nile Virus, Zika, Dengue fever, Chikungunya, Equine Encephalitis and even Malaria. We remind all to take the necessary precautions to prevent mosquito bites.

We need your help in keeping the STOF community safe. We ask that you drain or toss out any containers in your yard that can possibly hold water for more than a few days. Mosquitoes can breed in containers less than one inch deep. Yard debris such as tires, buckets, rain barrels, tarps, un-kept pools and even plants such as Bromeliads can harbor mosquitoes and pose a significant health hazard in the community.

You can help reduce mosquitoes' numbers by remembering to drain and cover.

Drain all standing water around the yard. Mosquitoes need only a small amount of water to breed. Empty cans, buckets, garbage cans, house gutters, flower pots, bottles, toys, plastic "kiddie" pools, lids, old tires, pool covers, barrels and any other container or item that holds water.

If you have a boat, turn it upside down if it's small enough, or cover it if it's too large to turn. Just make sure the boat cover doesn't also hold water.

If you have a swimming pool, make sure to maintain it properly and run the pump every so often as mosquitoes do not like to breed in moving water.

Twice a week, make sure to empty or rinse out plants that hold water, such as bromeliads, pets' water bowls and birdbaths.

Make sure your doors and windows are covered with screens to keep mosquitoes out of your house. Protect infants with mosquito netting.

Avoid going outside when mosquitoes are most active, at dawn and dusk. If you do have to be outside, cover yourself up by wearing loose, light-colored clothing, preferably long pants and long sleeves, shoes and socks.

Use a repellent when you go outside. Follow the directions on the label. The best repellents use DEET or picaridin.

To summarize in a simple fashion, remember the five "Ds":

- Dusk and dawn: Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood.
- Dress: Wear clothing that covers the skin.
- DEET: Use repellents containing DEET.
- Drainage: Check your home and eliminate standing water where mosquitoes can breed.

To request a mosquito inspection or to report a mosquito complaint, call the Mosquito Hotline at 561-371-5643.

To obtain a free mosquito spray kit or should you anticipate an outdoor Tribal-related event, please contact the STOF Health Department at least one week in advance at 954-985-2330 ext. 10614.

For medical information, including testing, please visit your Tribal reservation medical clinic.

# Q&A

BY LI COHEN  
Copy Editor

## Know your veteran benefits with Marc McCabe

Marc McCabe, bureau chief and chief service officer of Vietnam Veterans of America in St. Petersburg, helps people throughout Florida, Georgia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico get disability benefits every year. Under a special grant partnership with the Seminole Tribe, McCabe provides assistance and guidance on benefits for the Tribe's veterans and Tribal employees who are veterans. He visits the Brighton and Hollywood reservations monthly. His services, through the grant, even extend to helping people in towns near Brighton.

A Vietnam War veteran himself, McCabe has worked diligently since 2005 to advocate for veterans. His cases, which are done at no cost to the recipients, have helped veterans, their spouses and their children in South Florida get the disability compensation they deserve from injuries and illnesses obtained during service.

The Tribune talked to McCabe to find out more about his position and his passion for helping fellow veterans.

**Q:** What made you want to get involved with the VA?

**A:** I was transitioning as the veteran coordinator for the United States Marine Corps in Camp Pendleton, stationed at Tripler, Hawaii and that job required me to help the servicemen and veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan transition into civilian hospitals. My boss at the time said to me that he'd like for me to go back to the veterans law program at Georgetown to assist veterans get their benefits. It was really more of a request than a desire. I did that and took on the job in 2005. I was the bureau chief in Chicago in the original office there, was in San Francisco at the Oakland office, I worked at the Palo Alto trauma center. In 2010, they requested I move to Florida and take on a Florida case because they didn't have anybody down here to take care of the veterans. So I started coming down to the Tribe in Okeechobee and Brighton in 2011 to start taking care of just the Seminole veterans. Once we got most of the Seminole veterans rated with veteran's disabilities, the Tribal Council asked me if I would be willing to take on the Seminole employee veterans. So I said sure because there's no sense in not taking care of them.

We started seeing all the Seminole employee veterans and then two, three years later the Council came back to me and said they'd like to give back to their neighbors. Brighton is a rural area and the VA doesn't have an outreach program there, so they asked me if I'd be willing to see veterans from surrounding counties and I said sure.

It basically started off that we would see two or three veterans a day and now when we go to Brighton we see about 70 veterans because they come from all around; they come from as far away as Sebring, Stewart and Clewiston. Then they said since you're doing that, why don't you come over to Hollywood. This was fine and I had no problem with it so we started coming one day a month to Hollywood. We have a room set up here. My counterpart Elaine Westermeyer sees people here too. If the veteran has a crucial point or a sensitive issue like a military sexual trauma, we'll separate that person and take them somewhere quieter and hold the interview to see how we can assist them and do the claims for them.

**Q:** Where do you visit veterans in South Florida?

**A:** We do Brighton and Hollywood. The Tribe sends out a tribal-wide announcement that we're going to come over. We don't take appointments in Hollywood, it's a free walk-in; however, we do say that Tribal members get ahead of the line privileges. In Brighton we do take reservations because we get there at 7:30, 8

a.m. and we won't leave until everyone is seen. We come every month and it's a three-day trip for us. It's because the rural, elderly, minority veterans that we're treating that the VA doesn't quite do a great job of outreaching to. That's why we advocate for the veterans. In Okeechobee, they have a VA clinic and a county officer who's supposed to take care of veterans but they don't do anything. We've had instances where the people will just give veterans a piece of paper and say 'Here, fill this out' without even talking to them. They don't talk to them. They don't try to delve into the issues as to what else has happened to them. For example, one of the veterans we had at the Miccosukee reservation who came to see us and he just wanted to put in a request for diabetes. I was looking at him and he had a golf shirt on so I could see this zipper on his chest. So I asked if he had heart surgery and he said, 'Yeah, I had four stents.' He's a Vietnam veteran and we have 18 presumptive illnesses for Vietnam veterans that were exposed to Agent Orange and he didn't realize that. So instead of getting 20 percent disability, he ended up getting 100 percent disability all because he came out to Brighton. That's happened to a lot of veterans — they don't know the benefits.

I'm on the national committee for toxic exposures during time of war and we talk about Agent Orange during Vietnam and the depleted uranium and the oil pits and the burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan. There are presumptive illnesses for both of those. The children that are being born with defects and illnesses, a lot of people don't know they can get benefits for. That's my job to go out there and inform the population; the VA doesn't do that. ... With the funding I get from the Seminole Tribe, we do town hall meetings throughout Florida to let people know and we found several veterans that have the same illnesses but never filed a claim because nobody came out to do outreach.

... When we find them, we sign them up for disability and ask them what happened to them in the service. As long as it's not willful misconduct, it can be service connected and we can draw a disability payment. The presumptive illnesses are really simple for Vietnam era. The people that served in Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange and the presumptive illnesses are mostly cancer. There are also birth defects to children because Agent Orange was a DNA inhibitor and stopped the reproduction cycle, which is why all these children were born with defects. That's why we had so many children born with serious illnesses like spina bifida to heart congenital issues to having to be in wheelchairs. They draw disability and their healthcare is covered. In 2012 we did our first town hall meeting in Brighton and we found that one of the Seminole daughters had spina bifida and the VA denied her. I took on the case and went to Denver and won the case so we got her benefits and the Tribe was reimbursed for all the money they had paid over the years. It's a good working partnership.

**Q:** Do you handle primarily disability benefits or all benefits?

**A:** My expertise is in disability benefits for the VA. If they want to do home loans or educational issues, we'll give them the point of contacts and tell them the basics.

**Q:** How do you find the VA is different in rural communities compared to more urban areas?

**A:** In rural areas we have more store front clinics — they're in a strip mall or just really small — and it's hard to attract the top doctors and nurses to come to small towns. We have a tough enough job getting doctors into bigger hospitals. It takes about a year to vet somebody security-wise. If one doctor quits, it can take up to a year to replace them. If they quit in a small town like Brighton or even Sebring, which is not as small as Brighton, it takes a while to replace a doctor and then the veteran who lives in that



Marc McCabe, right, meets with Angel Medina, left, and Curtis Motlow, center, to discuss veteran benefits during McCabe's visit to Hollywood in April.

community may have to travel another hour or two hours to find a better provider. They're doing better but they have a long way to go.

**Q:** How have you seen veteran services change over the years — federally and locally?

**A:** With the cutbacks, if it weren't for the Seminole Tribe funding my office we wouldn't be coming to Brighton or Hollywood because the government has cut back a lot of programs and a lot of programs are outreach. The outreach isn't what it used to be 15 years ago. They have staff called outreach coordinators, but that's all they are, coordinators. We do have some outreach people, like in St. Petersburg we have three but they handle the entire state of Florida, which is a very large state. You can't travel everywhere and do everything for everybody, so some places don't get the personalized treatment that other places do. Luckily for the veterans and the communities that we come to during this outreach, the only reason we're able to do it is because of the Seminole Tribal Council graciously allowing us to do it.

Right now we average about \$7.2 million a month in the state that we recover for the veterans that we represent. In a year that's \$86 million and all that money stays right here in the community. About half of the business I do is with Tribal members and Seminole Tribal employees.

**Q:** Why do you think it's important to take care of veterans?

**A:** We can't send our people to war and not be there to protect them when they come home.

When the Vietnam veterans originally came home, the VA didn't like them because it was an unpopular war — it was a TV media war. The Vietnam veterans took a brunt of the criticism and the VA looked at them like less than honorable type of people. It's a sad thing to say but that's exactly what happened. When the Iraqi veterans came home they were hailed as the next greatest generation so they got benefits a lot faster and were looked upon as better people. It's a perception we have to try to change for Vietnam veterans. When they came home the VFW didn't like them because they said they lost the war, so a lot of them didn't join. So the benefits were hard to get so Vietnam Veterans of America, which I represent, we fought the VA and

hold them accountable to make sure benefits are better for newer veterans than what we got. Our motto is never again should one generation of veterans abandon another generation of veterans. It works in theory and it works in practice when you hold the VVA accountable.

**Q:** Are there any particular cases or accomplishments you've made that resonate with you?

**A:** Cases like the Seminole family that had the daughter in the wheelchair and we finally got her totally granted and her dad taken care of, that was really an emotional issue. The Seminole warriors are very proud individuals.

We're veterans not asking for a handout, we're asking for earned benefits that we deserve for serving our country. Those things make it more memorable, when we get a veteran who's been struggling emotionally, mentally, physically, financially to get a quality of life.

A year ago I represented a POW prisoner of war who spent 56 months in Hanoi Hilton, a prison camp in Vietnam. He was never granted 100 percent and he never medically retired. He was only rated at 30 percent, but we got it to where he's 100 percent now. To see him and his wife, they get to go on trips now and enjoy life and do things they were never able to do before those things resonate with me. I'm a Vietnam veteran, a combat veteran, and my dad was a career military person killed in Vietnam, both of my brothers are combat pilots, so when you see all that you know you've done all you can do.

**Q:** What changes would you want to see in how the VA handles veterans?

**A:** The advocacy program is solid. The ones that are congressionally chartered report to the Office of the General Counsel of the VA in the United States so we have strict rules and regulations we have to follow or we lose our accreditation. The advocacy program is pretty good, the only thing I would say is that we do outreach where not all advocates do outreach and I think they need to do more of that now, especially with the cutbacks. We're finding veterans that got screwed by going to the county because the county didn't know the rules. The county service officers

are not trained like advocates who work for a congressionally chartered organization; they just graduated from high school or college and got a job with the county that said they'd be the county service officer. Then they go to this program that the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs puts on for training and go to Cocoa Beach for three days where the department gives them a test upfront with the answers. I'm a proponent against open book exams; it's like having a cardiologist using a book to know how to do an open heart bypass. Training is a vital issue. Sometimes I think the best thing for the VA is to blow it up and start all over again. It's a little radical but we have issues now with how we're taking care of our veterans. We don't have as many doctors or nurses, we're short-staffed on specialists. Nowadays 20 to 24 percent of combat veterans that come home are females. They have their own issues too. The VA isn't prepared for OBGYN issues and if you're a female veteran, you're probably going to have some of those issues. They're trying; they just need to try a little more.

**Q:** If you had a single message you'd want Tribal veterans to know about what you do, what would that be?

**A:** Come to our town hall meetings. We've had two town halls in Okeechobee on the Brighton reservation and I think more than 200 people showed up. If you're a Tribal veteran, come see me and file your benefits. ... You have a lot of benefits — healthcare, housing, VA loans that you don't have to put anything down. We need to get people to come in and do outreach to make sure that veterans understand what's available.

Come talk to us. The only stupid question is the one you don't ask. Without opening up, we don't know what's going on.

Town hall meetings will be held throughout South Florida in May, June and July. Tribal-wide emails will be sent with the dates. For questions about town halls or to find out what days Marc McCabe will be on the reservations, contact Cydney Reynolds, Veterans Affairs administrative assistant, cydneyreynolds@semtribe.com.

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

RICHARD CASTILLO  
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# Tribe recounts history at Egmont Key

BY AARON TOMMIE  
Contributing Reporter

**E MO TKE** — On April 5, Egmont Key was more than a tourist attraction with scenic views and various beach attractions. Staff members from the Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Office organized a two-hour tour for 33 Tribal citizens visiting the site, the largest Seminole visit on the island since the 1850s. On that day, the island that has been referred to as the "dark place" among Seminoles, became a relic that surfaced forgotten history and helped bridge the past for its kindred visitors.

"I just wanted to know more about Egmont Key when I talk to my grandchildren about Seminole history," Dorothy Tommie said. "When I was growing up, my world was small. Today, the world is big because of technology. It's important for me to be connected to my history."

Egmont Key is located off the coasts of St. Petersburg and Bradenton at the mouth of Tampa Bay. White sand borders the island that is saturated with palmetto palm trees. The only way to travel to the island is by boat. As a result of its prison and military history, there are prison cells and remnants from war on the island. Egmont Key is on the National Register of Historic Places and is home to Egmont Key State Park, the Egmont Key Lighthouse, Fort Dade and the Egmont

Key National Wildlife Refuge.

In 2017, the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation listed Egmont Key as one of Florida's 11 most endangered historic properties.

"There is not a lot of Egmont Key coverage," said THPO Tribal Archeologist Maureen Mahoney as she addressed Tribal citizens in front of the Egmont Key Lighthouse. "The island is slowly disappearing. We want make sure we capture that history."

Changes in climate, rises in sea levels and dredging in Tampa Bay have created huge issues for Egmont Key. Last summer, the island lost 60 yards and currently is just one-third the size it was during the 1800s.

After Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act in 1830, Native Americans were not allowed to live east of the Mississippi River. Egmont Key was one of the places Seminoles were brought to before they were forced to head to Oklahoma. After detainment at Egmont Key, Seminoles were taken to St. Marks in Florida's panhandle, then to New Orleans and up the Mississippi River to what became known as the Trail of Tears. During each stop, the vessel would refuel before heading out to its next destination.

In 1858, Billy Bowlegs and 163 other Seminoles were held at Egmont Key, one of them being Polly Parker.

"I just wanted to see what Egmont Key was all about," said Nancy Willie, a great-

great-granddaughter of Polly Parker, adding that she was interested in learning how Parker survived and what she went through. "I wish I paid more attention to what elders were saying. Now I regret it."

In the 1830s, the U.S. Army captured Parker and her husband Chai and forced them to become scouts to locate other Seminoles to imprison. Parker never betrayed her people, however, and in 1858 she was one of a large group of Seminoles who were detained with Billy Bowlegs on Egmont Key.

After she left Egmont Key on the vessel named The Grey Cloud, Parker was given permission to get materials for medicine while docked in St. Marks. While off the vessel, she and a small group of Seminoles began to escape from their captors. Although more than half of the Seminoles were caught, Parker managed to travel on foot and returned to Okeechobee. Many of her progeny have had a direct impact on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's success and some of her descendants were on the spring trip to Egmont Key. The group consisted of a mixture of Tribal citizens of various ages.

"You guys being here today, the world sees this," said Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Paul Backhouse during the trip. "Parker escaped tyranny so that you guys can have peace. It is an honor to have you here."

Although it is difficult to find Seminole remains on the island, according to Tribal



Kyle Doney

Seminole Tribal members relax on the boat ride over to Egmont Key on April 5.

Historic Preservation Office Field Technician David Scheidecker, a re-creation of a gravesite preserves memories of at least seven Seminoles who died on the island.

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office visits Egmont Key every year. Although there are no set dates for the coming months, there will be more trips for Tribal citizens.

"I think it went well. It just shows the strength of the women in our Tribe," said

THPO Community Engagement Coordinator Quenton Cypress. "It helps us preserve our past and lets us know where we came from as Seminoles. It reminds us that we are not here just because of casinos and gaming. We are trying to get that information out there and get more Tribal members out there to know their past."

# Walkers tribal-wide help raise child abuse awareness

BY KEVIN JOHNSON & BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Senior Editor and Staff Reporter

A sea of blue T-shirts wove its way through the streets of the Hollywood Reservation as Tribal members and employees made a colorful statement to emphasize child abuse prevention. About 100 walkers, some with blue whirling pinwheels in hand, participated in the Hollywood portion of the sixth annual Child Abuse Awareness Community Walk Ice Cream Social on April 13 while similar walks occurred simultaneously at other reservations.

The event is organized by the Center for Behavioral Health and coincides with National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

"We put some handouts out, some warning signs to prevent abuse," said Shamika Beasley, CBH advocacy administrator, as she helped distribute information and snacks to Hollywood walkers. "We like to raise awareness to let the Tribal community know that we are here. Child abuse is very real. It

does happen. We're here to be a support as well as if there is any information we can provide to help stop and stand up for child abuse, we're here to help."

In addition to CBH, other employees from the Health, Recreation, Education, Police and Fire departments participated along with staff and students from the Boys Girls Club and Hollywood Preschool.

Hollywood resident Kenny Tommie, whose grandson Ahziya Osceola died in 2015 at age 3 in an abuse case that shook the reservation and city, walks in the event every year. He said he wanted to see more Tribal members involved in the walk (a majority of the walkers were employees) but continuing to spread the word about prevention through information and events can help go a long way.



"Hopefully it brings the community together," he said. "It's about awareness, to let people know it's out there."

A crowd of a few dozen took to the streets in Big Cypress where they walked from the Herman L. Osceola Gym to the Boys Girls Club for an ice cream social.

"The walk is to promote awareness of the prevalence and the signs of abuse and let the community know what they can do," said CBH Big Cypress clinical supervisor Mark Lichtenberg at the BC event. "Our goal is to spread the

word and hope people will be unafraid to speak out if they suspect potential child abuse."

Since the walks began on the reservations, Lichtenberg has noticed that more people have spoken up and reported potential abuse cases. Long term effects of abuse can include nightmares, anxiety and depression. CBH, along with Children's Center for Diagnostics and Therapy, offers an array of services including counselling to help children process their emotions.

According to the statistics portal Statista, the 2016 child abuse rate in the U.S. is highest among American Indians or Alaska Natives at 14.2 incidents per 1,000 children, followed by African Americans at 13.9, multiple race at 11.2, Pacific Islanders at 8.6, whites at 8.1, Hispanics at 8 and Asians at 1.6.

Jonah Cypress is no stranger to child abuse: Ahziya was his great-nephew.

"We all need to take care of our little ones," Cypress said. "One day we will see that we can overcome this. I hope all our children can just grow up to be healthy kids."



Kevin Johnson

Stacey Elizabeth Brown, CCDT ESE specialist, and Dr. Kavita Marajh, CCDT supervisor of Psychiatric Services, carry the banner while leading the sixth annual Child Abuse Awareness Community Walk on April 13 in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

Amy Stewart carries her daughter Azalea while they participate in the Hollywood walk.



Beverly Bidney

Walkers make their way through Big Cypress during the Child Abuse Awareness Community Walk.



Kevin Johnson

Children from the Hollywood Preschool, including Skyla Hahn and Betty Osceola, and Nellie Baxley in the back, show their community spirit in the Hollywood walk.



Beverly Bidney

Participants wearing blue clog Josie Billie Highway as they start the journey from the Herman L. Osceola Gym to the Boys & Girls Club in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

BC preschoolers Shonayah Tommie and Arya Billie, both 3, enjoy popcorn and ice cream treats at the end of the walk.

# Seniors take the field for Earth Day

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**I C ESS** — It was billed as the annual Senior Earth Day Field Day, but cut-throat competition was nowhere to be found April 18. Instead, about 30 seniors relished the camaraderie, fellowship and fun of a day filled with activities and laughter at the Junior Cypress rodeo grounds in Big Cypress.

To celebrate Earth Day, a purple potato tree was planted in their honor next to the two Tabebuia trees planted in the previous two years. Then the competition began.

Seniors from Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee and Hollywood eagerly showed off their skills at the skillet toss, Frisbee toss, horseshoes, lawn dart bullseye throw, basketball, bowling, cornhole and miniature golf contests.

"I thank god for this beautiful day to be with my fellow senior citizens," said Paul Buster. "It's good to participate, enjoy the activities and share good thoughts and fellowship. I'm just going to enjoy what I can do today."

Every participant received medals on beaded lanyards and many received raffle prizes along with their lunch.

Beverly Bidney  
Mabel Tichenor, center, has an audience as she tosses her Frisbee into the basket during Senior Earth Day Field Day at the Junior Cypress Rodeo grounds in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney  
Recreation aide Gladys Herrera and President Mitchell Cypress watch as Aaron Billie attempts to get his Frisbee into the basket at the Senior Earth Day Field Day competition April 18.



Beverly Bidney (2)  
At left, Louise Osceola goes for broke as she attempts a five point shot at the net. On right, Linda Henry has a good laugh when her golf ball doesn't cooperate during the putt-putt event.



Beverly Bidney  
The enthusiastic crowd cheers on one of their own during the senior field day competition in BC.



Beverly Bidney  
Cindy Ackler, Maxine Perez and Mark Jock enjoy the camaraderie of the day as they wait for lunch to be served.

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

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

## Mystery portraits highlight fashion and beauty

BY TARA BACKHOUSE  
Collections Manager

Here at the Museum we've partnered with this newspaper to care for thousands of photographs their hardworking reporters took for the Seminole Tribe of Florida for over 30 years. You can imagine that is a lot of photos. We estimate there are around 30,000. Since they were transferred to the Museum in 2015 we've been working hard to get them cataloged and into our database, so that we can keep track of them and preserve them for the future. This month I'm happy to report that we are halfway there. This is impressive if you consider that these are not the only objects we're cataloging. Seminole history doesn't stop, and neither do we. Come see us if you want to see how and why we take care of the things we take care of. It is definitely an eye-opener for most people.

These days, photographs are digital, and the newspaper has no need for our services with their current work. However, we are happy to help care for the pictures they took in the past, because they are a treasure trove of information about recent Tribal life and activities. It's our mission to help preserve those things, and it's also our mission to bring this history back to anyone in the community who wants it. One of the ways we do this is by providing copies of photographs in our collection.

In my recent work with the Tribune photographs we have, I've run across a lot of similar portrait-style close-up photographs of well-dressed people. People are often wearing patchwork and posing for the pictures. Maybe they were doing this because they were participating in clothing contests, such as the ones held every year Tribal Fair. Such contests also take place at other times and on other reservations, so does anyone know if the newspaper was in the habit of taking advantage of the times in order to get stunning pictures of these photogenic folks. And at least one of the pictures was taken in 1999, but does anyone know if the newspaper was in the habit of taking these photographs for a series of years. Any information we can gather helps us preserve and share the past.

We know who some of these people are, but most are unidentified. We'd love some help in naming more of the people who went out to proudly strut their stuff. These are nice portraits, and we imagine that if you were the subject of one, you probably didn't get a copy at the time. It wasn't that easy 15 or 20 years ago, when film had to be commercially developed and printed. These days we can make digital copies quickly and we'd be happy to do that for you. Maybe you're looking for a nice photo of a family member



The screenshot above is just a sample of the portraits on file at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. The easiest way to see them is to visit the museum library and browse the database.

Courtesy photo

This might be a good way to find it.

We're happy to help if you make an appointment or even just drop by. See you soon

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# Health

## Big Cypress opens pharmacy, discusses clinic expansion

BY LI COHEN  
Copy Editor

**I C ESS** — Tribal members living in Big Cypress no longer have to take a road trip to pick up prescription medications.

The Seminole reservation opened the Seminole Pharmacy Big Cypress on April 5, an addition to the community's health clinic that is expected to make health services easier and faster for Tribal members. The new 950-square-foot facility includes standard prescription medications, a waiting room and a single lane drive-thru. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, with the pharmacy closing from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch.

Pauline Good, director of clinic operations in BC, helped with the planning and coordination of the pharmacy. She said it took roughly six months for the reservation to get the pharmacy, even though the clinic's building — constructed two years ago — was designed to include the pharmacy room and drive-thru.

"It's a big accomplishment; we're very happy," she said. "I remember having to drive back and forth to get labs stuff out and to bring medicines in. It's great to have additional services here."

Prior to the pharmacy opening, Tribal members and Tribal clinic physicians would have to drive at least 40 miles into Clewiston for prescriptions, some even driving to Hollywood. If residents couldn't make the drive, they would have to wait for a courier to bring the medication, which could take days. The new pharmacy will contain most standard medications, and what they do not have on hand will be delivered the same day it is prescribed.

"Now we can house things Tribal members need — antibiotics, blood pressure medications, cholesterol medications and things like that," Good added. "Whatever is needed we can get it the same day."

The pharmacy staff is starting small with a couple of pharmacists, rotating pharmacy technicians and a pharmacy manager. The facility is looking to bring in some additional



Pharmacy Technician Najla Walfall searches through the BC Pharmacy's database for medication information.

staff as well.

With the pharmacists on site, Good said it provides an educational advantage to Tribal members. The pharmacy is on the first floor of the clinic, so Tribal members can ask the pharmacist questions or learn more information immediately following their appointment or anytime thereafter.

"Ease of access is the number one challenge with health care. When people are sick, they're tired, their energy is low and the desire to do much is low, so having everything here increases convenience and increases availability," Good said, adding that patients can also have their medications delivered to their homes in Big Cypress. "It's definitely a plus and definitely much-needed."

**Clinic discusses expansion**  
While the pharmacy is a huge step for the Tribe, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger said that he wants more to be done. In the next few years, he hopes to turn the clinic into a full hospital, which is a conversation he has been having with Executive Director of Health Services Paul Isaacs for about three months.

Councilman Tiger wants the hospital to be a 24/7 facility special to Tribal members and possibly Tribal employees.

"I want to do away with the clinic image. I want you to be able to come through the door and see the doctors here that can take care of whatever you need," he said. "This floor plan is built the way it is because it was designed for emergency services."

Even though the clinic is a great asset to the community, Councilman Tiger said having a hospital could save lives. He explained that over the past few years, there were several occasions where Tribal members could have likely been saved if there was a hospital closer to the reservation. The closest hospitals are currently about an hour away from the Big Cypress reservation. "Just a few minutes makes a world of a difference," he said.

The hospital is not a confirmed project, but Councilman Tiger is urging Tribal members and employees to provide him with their thoughts on the possibility. Discussions are expected to pick up during community meetings, held every other week.

## Karen's Corner: Helping picky eaters

BY KAREN TWO SHOES  
Health Clinic Dietitian and Nutrition Coordinator

April is National Autism Awareness Month. This month hits home for me because my son Sam has autism. He is a picky eater and one of the reasons I became a dietitian. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurological and developmental disorder characterized by difficulties in social interaction, communication and patterns of behavior. The spectrum part means symptoms are greatly varied for each person affected. According to the Centers for Disease Control, approximately 1 in 68 children are affected, and ASD is more common in boys than girls and occurs in all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. People with ASD often have narrow, obsessive-like focus and repeat behaviors which can affect food choices and dietary habits. This can lead to health concerns like constipation, food-drug interactions and not eating enough. It also leads to limited food selection or strong food dislikes, which is just a fancy way of saying picky eating. Although the reasons may be different, picky eating is not unique to people on the spectrum. Lots of kids start off as picky eaters and many grow out of it. For those parents who have kids on the spectrum, those waiting for their child's food preferences to mature and even picky adults, here are some tips from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics on how to kick mealtime battles and develop a positive relationship with nutritious foods.

**Engage and recruit the cook**  
Watch cooking shows, look at cookbooks and research the ingredients on the internet to learn about where it comes from and how it grows. Then head to the supermarket and let picky eaters touch, and choose. Prepare and cook the food together. Now here's the tricky part — do not worry or get upset if your child doesn't like or eat it. The point is to keep it fun, low-pressure and positive for future flexibility.

**Food is art**  
A pancake is the perfect canvas for a smiley face or sun face. Use halved strawberries for sun rays and blueberries or chocolate chips for the eyes and mouth. Layer yogurt between different colored fruits for a colorful parfait. Get creative and search images of fun food for kids" on the internet for tons of artful food inspirations.

**late it**  
This is an oldie but a goodie to many of us who give up way too soon. Put the food on the plate and encourage your children to eat it, but don't force them. I put one piece of broccoli on my son's plate for more than a year; first he complained, then he ignored, then he played, then he lo and behold he ate it. He is not an avid broccoli eater but he will take a bite or two and he tries more foods. The key to this success is no pressure.

**Minimize distractions**  
No TV, phones, tablets or other electronics at the dinner table — for kids or adults. Keep it all on dinner time, which should be eating and family-focused. Also, don't have heavy discussions or brow-beating. The dinner table should be an enjoyable and stress-free zone.

**Lead by example**  
One of the reasons my Sam ate the broccoli is because we all were eating the broccoli. I can't count how many times we said, "Hmmm yummy" during dinner, and besides, aren't we all trying to eat better and be healthy?

Remember, this is a process that won't change overnight. If for any reason you feel your child's well-being is being compromised, consult a doctor and/or registered dietitian. In the end, be confident knowing you are promoting a lifetime of healthy habits.

Karen Two Shoes is a registered dietitian and the nutrition coordinator for the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Health Department. She is a member of the author and is a married mother of two.

## Get health exams for Mother's Day

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA  
Florida Department of Health Broward County

Women, put yourselves first this Mother's Day by finding out if you qualify for a free mammogram and pap test, courtesy of the Florida Department of Health.

The cancer-detecting screenings are available from the Seminole Health Department, but otherwise, qualified women up to age 65 with little or no health insurance can get them free statewide from the Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.

In Broward County, DOH-Broward and Holy Cross Hospital are offering a special free screening event from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 5, 2018. The free screenings will be offered at Holy Cross Dorothy Mangurian Comprehensive Women's Center at 1000 NE 56 Street, Fort Lauderdale.

Women can qualify for the DOH screenings if they do not have coverage or their insurance does not fully cover the tests. They can also receive free clinical breast exams and breast health information.

In Broward, qualified women ages 50 to 64 will be screened by DOH, which partners with many agencies to provide free mammograms and pap tests throughout the community year-round.

Qualified women under age 50 will be screened by Holy Cross, which is among several agencies in the community that offer free mammograms funded by organizations such as Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation.

An annual mammogram has been identified as a strong way to detect breast cancer, and the pap test is a reliable way to detect cervical cancer.

For more information, contact the Seminole Health Department at 954-962-2009. To learn if you qualify for free screenings in Hollywood, or to register, call DOH-Broward at 954-762-3649. Brighton, Immokalee and Big Cypress residents should call DOH-Manatee at 943-861-2676. Fort Pierce residents, call DOH-Brevard at 321-984-4702. Tampa residents, call DOH-Hillsborough at 813-307-8041.



The BC Pharmacy is located on the first floor of the Big Cypress Clinic, at left, and includes a waiting room, service desk and a single lane drive-thru area for patients to pick up their medications, at right.



Li Cohen (2)

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## New Medicare cards coming

SUBMITTED BY PAUL ISAACS, MD  
Department of Health and Human Services

The Centers for Medicare Medicaid Services (CMS) will mail you a new Medicare card between April 2018 and April 2019. Medicare is removing your Social Security number from your card and is replacing it with a number that is unique to you. Your new Medicare number will contain

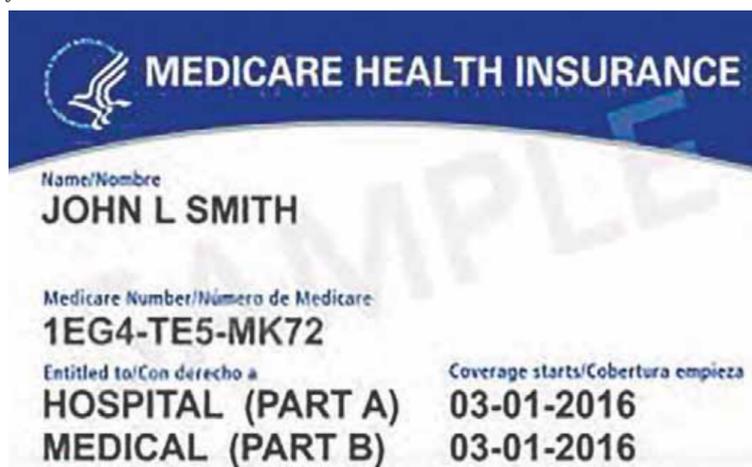
a combination of numbers and uppercase letters. This change will help protect your identity.

Once you get your new card, safely and securely destroy your old card and start using your new card right away. Protect yourself by making sure no one can get your personal information from your old Medicare card.

Please make sure your mailing

address with Medicare is up to date. If your address needs to be corrected, contact Social Security at ssa.gov/myaccount or 1-800-772-1213. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778. You may also contact one of the Medical Social Workers at the STOF Health Clinic for assistance in updating your address.

Beware of anyone who contacts you about your new Medicare card. CMS will never ask you to give them personal or private information to get your new Medicare number and card.



# SEMINOLE SCENES



**KISSY FACE:** Daisy Jumper watches as her teacup Chihuahua "Gucci" makes friends with BC firefighter George Carbonell at the Senior Field Day on April 18 in Big Cypress.



**PLENTY OF PRIDE:** Native Pride Dancers founder Larry Yazzie poses with members of the Immokalee Boys & Girls Club after a performance April 18 in the gym.



**ON THE FENCE:** These Big Cypress kids scramble over the fence at the Boys & Girls Club property after participating in the 6th annual child abuse awareness walk April 13. Why the rush? There was ice cream for everyone at the end of the walk, of course.



**BEST FRIENDS:** Opponents for a night, but best friends otherwise as Moore Haven High School senior Sunni Bearden and Lake Placid High School senior Camryn Thomas, both of the Brighton Reservation, pose for a photo before their softball game April 16 in Moore Haven.



**DIGGING IN:** Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola can't help but share her excitement to help break ground at the Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress on April 4.



**HAVING A BALL:** Zhane Carter, 3, smiles as he has fun dribbling a basketball April 20 before he watched the adults, including his dad Greg Carter, play in the 50th annual Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood.



**REMEMBER MEMORIAL DAY:** Memorial Day is Monday, May 28. First known as Decoration Day in the years following the Civil War, the holiday was later named Memorial Day and became a federal holiday in 1971. Memorial Day honors the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Above is the sculpture in Big Cypress of U.S. Marines Lance Corporal Herman L. Osceola, who died in a 1984 military helicopter crash in South Korea while serving his country. The crash claimed the lives of 18 U.S. Marines and 11 South Koreans.



**PECS TRIO:** Adryauna Baker, Tafv Harris and A'Nyiah Baker from the PECS' NAYO team gather for a photo March 30 in Cherokee, N.C.



**FUTURE LOOK:** The lobby at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood features a replica of the property's expansion project. The model is in a glass display case. It shows the existing hotel and casino as well as the \$1.5 billion expansion project, which includes a guitar-shaped hotel that is currently being built.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## Native American Chief visits Samaria A great honor

The Native American Chief Joseph RiverWind and his wife, Laralyn arrived Sunday for a tour of Samaria. Chief RiverWind is the Peace Chief of the Arawak Taino Nation.

The two, who came from the United States, visited factories in the Barkan industrial zone, took in the view from Har Bracha (Mount of Blessing) of Joseph's Tomb in Shechem (Nablus), and tasted local Samaria wines at the award-winning Har Bracha winery.

In a meeting with the head of the Samaria Regional Council, Yossi Dagan, RiverWind revealed the warm feelings of the Native American community towards the State of Israel in general and Judea and Samaria in particular. He said that the story of the Jewish people and their return to their land is an inspiration for them and gives them hope for their own future.

RiverWind said: "It is an honor for us to be here and to meet such wonderful people, the people of this land. Your story, the people of Israel, gives us a lot of hope. Your return to your language, your land, your return to your spirituality. For Native Americans this is an exciting success story."

"We share a similar story. They took from us our language, our identity, our land, and here there is the story of returning to Israel. It is an honor for us to be in Samaria and to encourage people in America and overseas to support Israel, including Samaria, to speak against the BDS movement and to support any way to help Israel, we are doing what we can to stop the propaganda and the Israel."

He added: "The Arab occupation must be stopped and Samaria should be returned to the Jewish people as they have restored Jerusalem and the rest of the country to its owners." The two played and sang a traditional Native American song, which they wrote and composed especially for the celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of Israel's independence.

"It's exciting to see leaders from all over the world come to Israel, come to Samaria and identify with the story of the Jewish people," Dagan said. "This is something that happens to us quite a bit despite the attempts to demonize this area and the people living here. Many leaders see and hear beyond these attempts and come here to get to know better and connect. What we see is the realization of the prophets' vision as a reality."

Last week, the Seneca Nation, a Native American nation in New York State, celebrated "the 70th Anniversary of Israel's Independence."

The proclamation stated that "the Seneca Nation and the State of Israel share in common a passion for freedom and a willingness to fight for and defend our sovereignty and our shared right to be a free and independent people."

- Arut Sheva

## New Washington law aims to help find missing Native American women

Carolyn Deford wasn't too worried when she first got a call saying her mother didn't show up to meet a friend.

Her mother, Leona LeClair Kinsey, a member of the Puyallup Tribe, was fiercely independent, Deford said, and it seemed likely she had just gone off on her own for a day or two.

Deford's concern grew as she was unable to contact her mother throughout the week. And with Kinsey's history of substance abuse, she knew her mom wouldn't want her contacting the police.

As a single mother with two daughters working overtime, it was nine days before Deford was able to visit her mother's house where she lived off-reservation in La Grande, Oregon.

She found her mom's dog left alone, and Kinsey took her dog everywhere.

"I started calling her more frequently, (but) she didn't respond."

That was nearly 20 years ago, and Deford's mother still hasn't been found. She is one of the unknown number of missing or murdered Native American women who disappear each year.

A new Washington law that takes effect in June aims to provide more information on how many women are missing.

The law's sponsor, Rep. Gina McCabe, R-Goldendale, said it tries to fix a lack of coordination between different law enforcement and government agencies at state, federal and tribal levels.

It directs the Washington State Patrol and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs to work with community and tribal law enforcement to strengthen relations, and the U.S. Department of Justice to share more information and coordinate resources. It also requires the WSP to do a study on how to increase state resources for reporting and identifying missing Native American women in Washington.

MCCabe said she became aware of the problem after watching the movie "Wind River," which follows the story of a murdered Native American woman. Around the same time, she said, an old high school friend reached out to her after learning about the high rate of missing and murdered

women while working to get her Modoc tribal card.

Native American communities often feel the police don't prioritize searches for their missing women because of stereotypes and stigmatization, Deford said.

Many Native women have been the victims of sexual abuse or domestic violence, which leads to higher rates of substance abuse to cope, she said. There's a tendency to blame the victims when they go missing, or when they are raped or murdered, Deford said.

If someone's gotten in trouble with the law before, they're more likely to be brushed aside, she said.

"In small towns, the police may get tired of dealing with them," she said.

After her mother went missing, Deford felt like she was doing all the work to find her mother herself, with little help from police.

"From that point on we didn't really hear or see anything," she said. "The police were just taking (the information) and letting us do the work."

Deford now runs a Facebook page to help find missing or murdered Native Americans where law enforcement efforts have failed.

Over the past several months she said she's met over 40 people who are friends or family members of missing persons — many who live in Washington. But there are far fewer missing Native Americans on the state patrol website or the federal registry, NamUs.

It's a best practice for law enforcement to add their missing persons to NamUs, she said, but it's not required. That means there's no accurate data on how many people are really missing, she said.

Human trafficking is also a danger for Native American women, said Earth-Feather Sovereign, a member of the Colville Tribe. Laws about jurisdiction between different law enforcement and government authorities make prosecuting nontribal members who commit a crime on reservations incredibly difficult.

"Our women are not taken seriously," she said.

As a teenager, Sovereign was taken from a party by gang members who wanted to send her to Hawaii for sex trafficking. She was eventually returned home thanks to friends and family with connections to the American Indian Movement.

In some cases, law enforcement officials who should be informed on the problem never even find out about it.

Capt. Monica Alexander, legislative liaison for the WSP, said the new law will help agencies start sharing information to find more missing persons. That lack of coordination is partly why many missing persons don't end up in the online databases like NamUs, or the WSP's missing persons list.

"What (the law) will do is to help us communicate openly with the tribes to talk about resources that we have available," she said.

Many missing women never made it onto the state patrol website because their friends and family were unaware of how to navigate the reporting system, Alexander said. Talking to tribal members and sharing information is crucial.

"If there are a large number of people missing — women, children, anybody — and we don't know about it, we can't problem-solve our way through it," she said.

Multiple factors, such as sexual violence, domestic violence and substance abuse, make Native women more vulnerable.

A study by the National Institute of Justice found that over 84 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native women experience violence in their lifetime. This includes an increased risk for of sexual and physical violence, psychological abuse and stalking.

Both Sovereign and Deford said they also believe the numbers are underreported. Because so many women are affected by abuse, everyone knows someone who has it worse than them.

"To the tribal community, that's just life," Deford said. "(It's) a normal sense of chaos or insecurity."

Native Americans also disproportionately fall victim to homicide. A study by the Center for Disease Control found they had a higher rate of homicide deaths than any other group.

To fix the problem, more tribes need to be willing to work with state governments, Sovereign said. Only a few tribes have compact agreements with the state or acknowledge state laws that could help protect Native women, such as the Violence Against Women Act.

"There are a lot of tribes that claim sovereignty and don't want to work with the state," she said.

Deford said she doesn't think most tribes will be willing to sacrifice sovereignty by entering into a state compact agreement. Too many historical injustices make many tribes distrustful of nontribal government.

Instead, she would like to see the state allocate money to help tribes set up their own response protocols and provide law enforcement with more resources to help families.

Police cases that don't make progress within a certain amount of time should be handed off to bigger agencies with more

resources like the state patrol or the FBI, she said.

Sovereign and other activists are planning an eight-day march from Blaine, Washington, to Olympia. It begins May 5 — the national day of awareness for missing and murdered Native women and girls — and ends on Mother's Day.

Many activists are Native American women trying to ensure a better future for their children, Sovereign said.

"Myself, my sister and my mother all have been raped," she said. "I have two daughters, and I'm very concerned about their future. I don't want them to go through domestic abuse or become sexually assaulted, or even missing or murdered."

- The Spokesman-Review

## Hemp drives Navajo presidential candidate

SHILOCK, M — On April 22 in Shiprock, Navajo Nation Dineh Benally former Vice-Presidential Candidate and current President of the Navajo Nation Farm Board officially announced his candidacy for the President of the Navajo Nation.

Mr. Benally 40, is the father to four children and has been married to Mrs. Joyce Arviso Benally for 14 years. They are proud of their Navajo Heritage and they speak fluent Navajo. They are a modern Navajo Family that are looking to the future of the Navajo Nation while respecting and embracing traditional Navajo values and customs.

Dineh's campaign will be based upon the urgent issues and needs of the Navajo People. He will not degrade his opponents or himself by digressing to a negative campaign or mudslinging with fake news that has permeated current politics. He thinks people want to know what he stands for and how he can help guide the Nation, not what his opponents did or are doing wrong. He will focus on what can be done, as there are so many urgent needs.

While major issues such as Health Care, Housing Shortages, Education and Infrastructure repairs are so obvious, the funding for improvements in these areas is not.

That is why Dineh is endorsing the emerging legal Hemp Industry as one of the ways to help fund all these major shortcomings.

He believes that legal Hemp and its many uses and profit centers can help lead the way to improving the lives of the Navajo People. As he said recently "Hemp will help our People be Healthy and Prosper again."

As the President of the Navajo Nation Farm Board, Dineh has met with Government and Industry professionals and concluded that the legal Hemp Industry can be a major employer and income provider to the Navajo Nation as evidenced in Colorado, Kentucky, California and 19 States and Countries such as New Zealand, Canada, Australia, China and 26 other countries. The Navajo Nation adopted legal hemp laws in 2002 but never pursued its benefits.

"We have the land, we have the water and we have the people needed to become a major force in the legal Hemp Industry and compete on a National and International Scale," he recently stated. "We have health problems, addiction problems and other problems that hemp products, medicines and foods can help," he added.

There seems to be no other Candidate for a major election for President of any nation or country that has ever specifically called on the Legal Hemp Industry as part of their campaign to help to improve the lives of their people.

- NewsWire

## Native American activists stop in Billings to raise awareness of drug abuse, domestic violence

It's been 40 years since the original Longest Walk, when Native American activists marched from San Francisco to Washington, D.C.

The crowds were smaller and the route was shorter through Billings on Monday, but the sentiment was still the same.

About 10 people marched a couple blocks downtown through a snowstorm to bring awareness to drug abuse and domestic violence — two issues that disproportionately affect Native Americans.

"It's rampant across all the reservations," said Goodwolf Kindness, a descendant of the Onieda and Mohawk tribes. "(But) this is not just a Native issue."

That's been a theme of recent iterations of The Longest Walk. Monday's Billings leg was part of the fifth, which has spanned three years. Previous years looked at issues like diabetes and environmental protections.

The walks were organized by Dennis Banks, a co-founder of the American Indian Movement who died in 2017. The group was prominent through the 1970s during an important era for Native American civil rights.

The original walk, which drew attention to treaty rights, occurred after protests like the takeover of the Washington, D.C., headquarters of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1972 and the occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973.

"These aren't as violent and radical,"

said Kindness, who protested with the American Indian Movement in the 1970s. "We don't have to go to those things."

That walk took about five months. Upon arriving in Washington, D.C., walkers met with the likes of Muhammad Ali and Marlon Brando. Walkers were specifically protesting a group of legislative proposals they viewed as "anti-Indian." None of the bills passed.

President Jimmy Carter would go on to sign three bills in 1978 addressing religious freedom, community college assistance and child welfare among American Indians.

This year's walk is aimed at prompting better funding for government initiatives that address drug abuse and domestic violence.

"If we help one person on each reservation, that's better than not helping anybody," Kindness said. "But we reach farther than one person."

American Indians are more likely to use illicit drugs than the general population in the United States, according to a 2015 federal report.

Native American teens in Montana are more than twice as likely to use meth as the general population and generally more likely to use other drugs, according to a 2017 survey.

A 2016 federal study found that Native Americans suffered "alarmingly high" rates of violence. More than half of women experienced sexual violence, and more than half experienced violence from an intimate partner.

"It affects everyone in that family," Kindness said.

- Billings Gazette

## Ole Miss law grad first Native American to clerk on U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch made history Friday in announcing the appointment of a woman believed to be the first Native American to clerk for the nation's highest court.

Tobi Young, who graduated with high honors in 2003, will serve during the Supreme Court's 2018-19 term, the Ole Miss Law School said in a press release. Young also is the first female graduate of the law school to clerk for the U.S. Supreme Court, the university said.

The Chickasaw Nation applauded the move in its own press release, with Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby stating: "It is difficult to overstate the significance of having a well-qualified, experienced Chickasaw such as Ms. Young serving as Supreme Court clerk. Justice Gorsuch is well respected by tribal leaders for his understanding of tribal sovereignty and Indian law. His decision to select a Native American to serve as clerk underscores his appreciation of the importance of the Native perspective on Indian law."

The National Law Journal reported that Gorsuch ranked relatively high in its review of law clerk diversity, noting that in his brief tenure he has hired three minorities so far, two Asian-Americans and an Hispanic.

Young was an associate White House counsel during the Bush administration and served in the civil rights division of the Justice Department. There, Young said she worked to make sure that "Choctaws in Mississippi were receiving voting instructions in the Choctaw language."

- Mississippi Today

## Bill honoring Native American vets passes state Senate

AVA OTIO — The state Senate on April 4 passed three memorial proposals introduced by Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai (D-LD7) to push the Arizona Department of Transportation to designate certain highways on the Navajo Nation in honor of Native American veterans.

The memorials have now been sent over to the Arizona House of Representatives for final approval.

SCM 1013 will designate a portion of U.S. 89 between the Utah state line and Flagstaff as "Native American Veterans Highway"; SCM 1014 will designate portions of State Route 264 that fall under the Navajo Nation's jurisdiction as "Navajo Code Talker Highway," while the portion of the highway traveling through the Hopi Reservation would be named "Hopi Code Talker Highway"; and SCM 1015 would name a portion of U.S. 160 between the New Mexico State line and the junction of U.S. 89 as "Native American Women Veterans Highway."

"Arizona is home to almost 11,000 living Native American veterans like myself — men and women who have served our country with honor and dignity, including our beloved World War II Code Talkers," Peshlakai said in a press release.

Peshlakai, of the Navajo Nation, served in the U.S. Army from June 1989 to October 1997. She served active duty in Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War as a personnel and postal clerk with a combat support hospital. She also served during peacetime in Europe with the Arizona National Guard as an administrative clerk in a transportation unit.

"By designating these sections of state highway in honor of their service and the service of those who are no longer with us, we will show the residents of northeastern

Arizona and our visitors that our Native communities have and still do play a vital role in protecting our country," she said. "I sincerely hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives pass these memorials and ADOT acts on the Legislature's wish to designate these portions of highway in honor of Native American veterans."

- Hite Mountain Independent

## Three Arizona tribes sue to stop mining project

TCSO, Ari — For more than a decade, Native American tribes in Arizona have voiced their opposition to a proposed copper mine in the southern part of the state. Now, three tribes are joining together to bring the fight to court.

The Tohono O'odham Nation, and the Pascua Yaqui and Hopi tribes have filed a lawsuit in federal court over the fate of about 3,600 acres of public land in the Santa Rita Mountains. A Canadian company has plans to establish a copper mine there, but the tribes say the area is sacred.

Peter Yucupicio, a vice chairman with the Pascua Yaqui tribe describes the land as not only important to his heritage but as an iconic piece of the Southwestern landscape.

"It's very precious and very important to preserve those mountains, those hills," he says. "And it's amazing how people don't understand that once it's gone, it's gone."

The U.S. Forest Service already heard public comments and gave its final approval for the mining plan. In its decision, the Forest Service noted it was aware of the ecological concerns and tribal significance, but said federal law allows for the type of project that has been proposed.

The tribes hope a federal judge might see things differently. The mine site is expected to contain nearly six billion pounds of copper. But while a mining business might create economic opportunities, Yucupicio says the price of what could be lost is too high.

"There was a lot of life there for a while, for some of the first inhabitants," he adds. "And it's sort of like me going to your neighborhood, your house, and destroying it and saying, 'We need it to build a mall,' or, 'We need it to build this business.' But how is that bigger than the people that were there for a long time?"

The Forest Service will have until mid-June to respond to the tribes' complaint before the lawsuit moves forward.

- Public News Service

## Albuquerque revives Native American homeless task force

ALBANY — New Mexico's largest city is reviving a task force to address Native American homelessness after a homeless man was shot and killed last month.

Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller announced Friday that he was resurrecting the Albuquerque Native American Homeless Task Force and would ask city councilors to pass an ordinance to expand its reach.

"I think it's a good opportunity for us to go back and refresh the organization," Keller said at a press conference for the city's upcoming Gathering of Nations, one of the largest powwows in North America. "Not only will the task force look into homelessness but also economic development and it will work with our tribal governments."

The task force was initially formed during former Mayor Richard Berry's tenure in response to the 2014 beating deaths of two Navajo men while they slept in a vacant lot.

In the latest case, police said two Hispanic teenage boys shot 50-year-old Ronnie Ross "for fun." Ross was from the Navajo community of Shiprock.

Court records show that Ross had been released from jail less than 48 hours after his body was found riddled with bullets. He had been arrested for trying to steal a basket full of clothes and shoes from a Walmart, court records said.

A criminal complaint in his killing doesn't identify a motive, but it said the teen suspects bragged to friends about the shooting.

Keller said, although he wasn't an attorney, he believes the killing was a hate crime. "I don't think any mayor can sit here and say this was not a hate crime," he said.

Albuquerque police spokesman Gilbert Gallegos said investigators and prosecutors would determine whether the crime fits the legal definition of a hate crime.

"But regardless of whether that law applies, there is a disturbing number of violent crimes being committed against the most vulnerable people in Albuquerque, including people experiencing homelessness," Gallegos said.

In Albuquerque, Native Americans make up only 4 percent of the population, but account for 44 percent of people living on the streets, raising the likelihood they will be victimized when there is an attack on the homeless.

A 2014 survey showed 75 percent of homeless Native Americans in Albuquerque had been physically assaulted.

- Santa Fe New Mexican

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HOLLYWOOD, FL

# Education

B

## Jessi Harmon earns Marines Corps scholarship, spot on VMI soccer team

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

As Jessi Harmon shifts from being a high school student to a college student, she's carried two primary goals: To attend military college – following in the footsteps of her older brothers – and to play soccer.

Those goals have come to fruition as the daughter of Donna and Edward Harmon will attend Virginia Military Institute on a four-year U.S. Marines Corps scholarship and play for the school's NCAA Division I women's soccer team.

Jessi, 18, a Seminole from Flagstaff, Ariz., was offered a spot on the team on the same day she attended a one-day soccer camp at VMI in February. She officially signed in April.

"I was ecstatic, elated. It's something I really wanted. Soccer has always been my favorite sport," said Harmon, who is plenty familiar with VMI and its soccer teams. Her brother Levi was a member of the VMI men's soccer team for three years and will graduate May 16. One week later another sibling, Eli, will graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

Jessi said her brothers have played important roles in her life.

"Incredibly so, both as mentors and friends. They've really guided me through the things I needed to achieve my goals," she said.

VMI soccer coach Chris Bergmann described Jessi as "an outstanding athlete."

"She has a great understanding of the game and has tremendous communication skills," Bergmann said. "She can play as a central defender or in the midfield. Jessi has excellent vision and a tremendous fight on the field. She has a team-first mentality that is contagious to those around her. She also

has great leadership skills both on and off the field."

Jessi plans to major in international studies and modern language with an emphasis on Arabic and French. She'll also join the Marines' ROTC at school. After she graduates from VMI, she'll enter the Marines as a 2nd lieutenant.

Donna Harmon, who grew up on the

High School in northern Arizona on June 1. There's a good reason why she was named most athletic in her class. She played four years on the soccer team, which went undefeated in the regular season this year before losing its only game in the state final. Her other athletic endeavors in high school included being a member of the archery, cross country and mountain biking teams.

And last fall, she joined the varsity football team.

"I love football. I love watching football," she said. "I said, 'Why can't I play football?'"

So she did.

Jessi was a 5-foot-5, 120-pound defensive back and wide receiver and she used her soccer skills to be one of the team's kickers. Soccer, her primary sport, certainly contains plenty of physical play, but nowhere near the amount of contact that ensues on every play in football.

"I think (my mom) was nervous. She closed her eyes when I got close to anyone, but she was very supportive," Jessi said.

Jessi was the only girl on the team. She picked up some leadership experience by serving as a captain in one game and she also had a memorable night by

kicking two extra points in a victory against Cortez High School in September.

"Her teammates were so happy for her. They ran out there and picked her up," Donna said.

Jessi said she's glad she gave football a shot and being a member of the team improved her teamwork skills that should help as she delves into academics and athletics at VMI.

"It was fantastic. It was like having 20 or more older brothers. They had my back," she said.



Courtesy Photo

Jessi Harmon, 18, a Tribal member from Flagstaff, Ariz., has plenty of reasons to smile as she is headed to Virginia Military Institute.

Brighton Reservation as Donna Bratcher, said she's proud of her daughter for working hard to gain admission into VMI, earn the scholarship and secure a spot on the soccer team.

VMI was established in 1839. Male cadets comprise 90 percent of the current 1,700 enrollment. Females were first allowed to enroll in 1997.

"She's blazing a trail as one of the few female students there," Donna said.

But before Jessi packs and heads to the east coast, she will graduate from Flagstaff

## Hollywood Kids get head start with Nike running

BY LI COHEN  
Copy Editor

HOLL WOOD — As the days extend and weather warms, the Hollywood Boys Girls Club hopes Tribal kids' runs will get longer in a new partnership with Nike.

Nike's Marathon Kids, a program designed to create youth running clubs that get kids to walk, jog or run a combination of four

marathons,

or 104.8

miles,

invited the

Hollywood

Club to start

the program

right in time

for summer.

The club is

hoping to

get its kids

to be more

active every

day and

collectively

meet that

mileage

within six

months,

beginning

at the

Marathon

Kids kickoff

party April

24.

Valentina Arce,

Boys Girls

Club

tribal wide

youth events

coordinator,

said that the

new program

will take the

place of a

former fun

run program

at the club.

The fun

runs consisted

of different

themed runs

and obstacle

courses, but

she believes

the partnership

with Nike will

be more of an

incentive to

get kids active.

"We're trying

to get the kids

to beat

different

milestones

against themselves,"

she said. "It's

not a race or

anything like

that, but we

want kids

throughout

the program

to run about

100 miles

or four

marathons

season."

Every marathon – 26.2 miles – the club completes, Nike will send club members exclusive Marathon Kids gear. The rewards include T-shirts, custom shoelaces, custom shoe tags and exclusive 104.8 finisher wristbands for each marathon, respectively. At the end of each season, club members will also receive mileage certificates for their individual mileage completed throughout the program.

Arce

said that

Nike

approached

the club

about the

program

and staff

members

felt like the

program is

a perfect

fit for the

students.

There are

currently

15 kids

enrolled in

the program,

but she

expects a

large boost

"We're

all about

giving

our kids

different

opportunities

and thought

this would

be a cool way

to get them

to work out

and be healthy

and get some

Nike rewards

in the process,"

she said, adding

that the main

intent behind

the new program

is to get kids

healthier, younger.

"We just want

to start the idea

young. Kids

just kind of

look at running

as a huge chore

instead of an

enjoyment and

a part of healthy

living. We

don't push the

kids or overexert,

we just want

to introduce them

to it now because

it's super

vital to their

growth."



Courtesy Photo

Hollywood kids kickstart their Nike marathon training season with a little team encouragement at the kickoff party April 24.

## Students fill Ahfachkee after-school clubs

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

IC ESS — The hours after school are a prime time for Ahfachkee students to explore the world of creativity

and knowledge through fun activities that have nothing to do with every day classroom work.

Once homework help is finished at 3:15 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, students flock to after school clubs. Kids choose which of the clubs they want to join,

choosing from story, coding, sign language, soccer, robotics, makerspace, art, volleyball, games of strategy, 3-D design, drama, rock garden, teaching kitchen, and leadership/student government clubs.

"After-school clubs have been proven to help kids be more connected to and engaged with their schools, which parlays into academic progress," said Valerie Whiteside, Ahfachkee teacher coordinator. "Another benefit is that kids who are living in a more remote area, such as Ahfachkee, usually don't have access to all the things students might have in a city. Having the clubs here gives them access to things like 3-D design and printing that are more readily available in a city school."

A 2008 study by the Harvard Family Research Project showed students who participate in quality after-school programs show significant gains in academic achievement, as well as positive benefits in social and emotional development, prevention of risky behaviors and improved health and wellness.

About 50 students are enrolled in the clubs and 40 attend on any given day; some attend only on the day their club is held while others are signed up for a few different clubs. About 30 students show up every day.

"We see a lot of progress in elementary kids, the older ones are usually engaged in sports programs," Whiteside said. "The robotics club was mostly comprised of older students but after the last competition, most of them left. The younger kids are taking over the club and they love it."

On a Tuesday afternoon in April, students filled the clubs with energy, excitement and creativity. In the art club, teacher Lynette White gave the students paper, markers, crayons and watercolors so they could recreate a drawing of some daffodils in a vase. She taught them how to create shadowing and shading to enhance their artwork. It wasn't an easy task for the students and White didn't want them to become frustrated.

"Not everyone's will look the same," she said. "And that's the good thing about art."

The students buckled down and interpreted the picture in their own way while giving a personal stamp to their images.

In the makerspace club, media specialist Michele Horrell read students a book and showed a video about the Wright Brothers. They then built small airplanes and had to figure out how to get them to fly, much in the way the Wright Brothers did – by trial and error.

Makerspace is a program in which students learn to ask, imagine, plan, create,

improve and communicate while creating projects. The process improves critical thinking skills, communication, collaboration and creativity.

"They tinker and they build," Horrell said. "They learn to follow directions and focus on the design process. And they have fun doing it."

The airplane kits included already cut out paper for the wing and tail sections, straws and a few small weights to fit into the straws. Once the students finished decorating the wings and tails of their airplanes with colored markers, they had to figure out how to put it together and use the parts to make it fly efficiently. The challenge was placing the wings and tail on the fuselage correctly and using the right amount of weight to ensure a long flight through the library.

After a few tries, first-grader Kalina Cavazos realized how to use the weights to improve her plane's flight time.

"It's a lot of fun," said Kalina, 7, who comes to makerspace club twice a week.

Over in the 3-D design club, kids sat behind computer monitors and designed creatures they would print in the 3-D printer.

"I designed an astrobot that has glasses," said bespectacled Gene Jimmie, 9. "He has rockets on his back and he's waving. I like it, it looks cool."

Instructional technology teacher Robert Figueroa makes sure the items students create are small enough to print

quickly, which for the 3-D printer can take 15 minutes to an hour.

"I want them to use their imaginations," Figueroa said. "They can build anything using 3-D printing; it brings out all of their ideas."



Beverly Bidney

Teacher Kathy Dixon helps Curtis Motlow and Kalina Cavazos get their Wright Brothers-inspired airplanes ready for flight in the school's media center.



Beverly Bidney

Second-graders Angelina Billie and Kysley'ana Anderson work on their daffodil drawings during Ahfachkee's after school art club April 10.



Beverly Bidney

Now that first-grader Sky Ortega Billie finished painting her airplane in the makerspace club, she watches to see how far she can make it fly.

◆ **GROUND BREAKING**  
From page 1A

knowledgeable about STEM, about project-based learning, about being able to work in all different areas, including robotics and engineering. Those are skills for our high schools students that are job-ready skills. If students decide not to go to a university, they'll have skills to take with them."

Ahfachkee plans to hire three or four more teachers from Broward County public schools to help teach these skills, which Cain hopes will prepare students for the future.

"They have to go out in society and be accustomed to all these things that they're going to be looking at and using," she said. "We have to prepare them here for it."

The expansion is a big change for many people in the community, including second-grade teacher Sue Tiger, who has taught at Ahfachkee since 1979.

"When I first started, we had 13 staff members and now we have about 70," Tiger said. "Back then, we only had kindergarten to fifth grade, but now we have pre-k to 12th-grade."

She said that although it's going to be very different from what she and many others are used to, the renovations are going to be wonderful and motivate students.

"They're going to want to come to school every day," she said. "It's going to give students more initiative. We've been waiting on this for a long time."

Before the groundbreaking, many people didn't believe the expansion would really

happen. Cain said that she told students the campus would look different when they returned from spring break, which was the week of March 22, but they kept telling her it wouldn't happen.

"The kids have been hearing about this school for a long time, but nothing ever transpired for them. On Monday they all came back and the fence was up," she said, adding that she made sure the construction workers put peep holes in the fence so students can see the transformation process.

Executive Director of Administration Lee Zepeda is also excited to see the school transform, as he was a teacher at Ahfachkee for five years before being principal of the school for an additional five years.

"Today's a huge celebration," he said. "We're not just celebrating the groundbreaking of a brand new school, but I think we're celebrating the future learning that's going to take place here with all the generations that are going to come up through this school. I worked here for 10 years at this school and it is truly special."

The expansion is expected to be completed within 24 to 26 months.

Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola said she hopes she can complete a full circle with the school and stay a part of the future advancements.

"My grandma went here when it was just a chickee out back, my mom went here when there was just the school right there, and I went here when they added the two trailers," she said. "Hopefully one day, maybe 20 or 30 years down the line, my children will be able to come here."

# Community gets sneak peek into Boys & Girls Clubs

BY LI COHEN & BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Copy Editor & Staff Reporter

**HOLLWOOD IHTO** — The Tribe's Boys & Girls Clubs showed the community their accomplishments as part of the National Boys & Girls Clubs of America Week from April 9 to 13.

With an overarching theme of "A place to become," every Boys & Girls Club throughout the U.S. held a series of activities and events to provide a glimpse of what they do on a daily basis. This year, Tribal reservations did this through kick off parties, parent days, service activities, color blast field days and participation in the sixth annual Child Abuse Awareness Walk.

Valentina Arce, Boys & Girls Club tribal-wide youth events coordinator, explained that the main reason Tribal clubs take part in this national effort every year is to show the community how they are helping Tribal children accomplish their goals.

"It's important to give an example and show the community what we want to do for the kids and all the opportunities we're able to give the kids," she said.

In Brighton the week featured a parent day complete with slime and fuse beads, a

day of community service, color blast field day and participation in the Child Abuse Awareness Walk.

The color blast field day on April 12 had kids of all ages - a first in Brighton - run the gauntlet while their peers belted them with cheesecloth balls filled with colored corn starch. Kids from age 5 to 16 had a great time dodging and weaving to avoid the colorful barrage, although some kids tried to get as much color as possible on their crisp white t-shirts emblazoned with the B & G Club logo. After running through the shower of color, teams traded places and the pitchers became the targets.

By the end of the event, kids were covered head to toe in color and, as evidenced by the number of smiles, clearly had a blast.

Along with a week of events, the Hollywood Club was also selected as a finalist in the national Boys & Girls Clubs of America blue door contest. The contest, which selects six finalists out of hundreds of submissions every year, seeks club doors designed to coincide with the week's theme. With the phrase "A place to become anything that you can imagine" scripted along the door, the Hollywood club's design was created by club staff and students.

Hollywood Boys & Girls Club Manager Rebecca Bryant said that having a week dedicated to the club helps give Native children a leg-up in national recognition.

"We have a little river on there with stops along the path to get to the ultimate goal, which is success," said Hollywood Boys & Girls Club Manager Rebecca Bryant. "At our Boys & Girls Club here, we always say that you define your own success, so it's down to the individual youth and we support them along their way."

Although the ultimate winner of the competition was Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club - Frederic R. Margaret Couderc Clubhouse, Bryant said that having national recognition is just further proof that the club has come a long way since it first began.

"Because we are a Native club, we usually don't get the same kind of coverage as other clubs. It's kind of nice to get out there, get our club seen and get our kids heard on a larger scale," she said, adding that any recognition helps give Native children a leg-up. "It's big just being able to see that we can get to a higher platform and step outside of our box here. We're showing the kids that there is more out there and that we can win things on a larger scale."



Above, Ahfachkee students sing the National Anthem at the groundbreaking ceremony. Below, Zyscovich Inc. Vice President Jose Murguido gives a thumbs up to Ahfachkee Principal Dorothy Cain about the plans for the school.



Destin Stewart, left, and Chance Frye, right, look forward to the week ahead at the Hollywood Boys and Girls Club safari kickoff party April 10.



The Immokalee Boys & Girls Club shows off their Boys & Girls Club Week T-shirts in front of the club's building.



Destin Stewart, left, and Chance Frye, right, look forward to the week ahead at the Hollywood Boys and Girls Club safari kickoff party April 10.



Kids at Hollywood Boys & Girls Club had a fun time playing an "elephant trunk" game where they tried to swing a slinky top of their heads.



Brighton B&G Club members have a ball during the color blast field day April 12. Whether the goal was to avoid the color or get as much as possible was unknown to those not in the middle of the fray.

## PECS March Students of the Month

ECS Elementary  
Miranda Tommie  
Aiyana Robinson  
Egypt Adium  
Koah Osceola  
Damahni Bonilla

Giovanni Ford  
Mattie Platt  
Kairyn Dixon  
Karter Puente  
Cordelia Snell  
Case Prescott

Jesse Gabbard  
Hannah Platt  
Adarius Ford  
Serenity Billie  
Derrion Faison  
Jessie Martinez

Lason Baker  
Merlelaysia Billie  
Tiyanni Anderson  
Maylon Foster  
Troy Billie

ECS Middle  
Tiera Garner  
Pherian Baker  
LaShae King  
Caleb Burton



# Historical figures reimaged as author visits Ahfachkee

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Reporter

IC ESS – Ahfachkee students had a rare insider's view of what it takes to write and illustrate books when children's book author Andrew Toffoli spent the day April 20 demonstrating the process.

Toffoli specializes in histories told through characters that slightly resemble the authentic figures, but in the guise of adorable animals. For example, Alligator Graham Bell is the story of Alexander Graham Bell. Thomoose Jefferson is the story of the third U.S. president, Leonardo Da Vinci gives the history of the renowned artist. In each book, the protagonist's life is told starting at birth and leading up to his major accomplishments.

"All the books are about historical people, but they are much more fun as animals," Toffoli said. "I make the books so simple that even a 6 year old can understand it."

Every grade level attended the presentations given throughout the day. Toffoli, a graphic design teacher at Miami Coral Park High School, knows how to command a room full of students and easily engaged them.

He read from his latest book about the



Author Andrew Toffoli show a group of Ahfachkee students how a drawing of Leonardo Da Vinci looks in its original form, on right, and in the printed version. He noted that detail is lost in the printing process, but the energy of the image remains.



Author Andrew Toffoli presents third-grader Curmya Smith with the drawing of Thomoose Jefferson he completed in front of the group April 20. Curmya answered a question about his presentation correctly to earn the prized drawing.

Wright Brothers, Boarville and Wilboar, and showed the students how the illustrations evolved from pencil sketches to publication. The process of adding color to his black and white drawings takes an artist using colored pencils six months to complete.

"The writing and sketching doesn't take long," Toffoli said. "Waiting for the pictures takes the longest."

He has written and illustrated 10 books

since 2004 and his next, which comes out in September, will feature his first female character; Susan Bear Anthony, the women's rights activist and suffragette from the 19th century. The books all start with the story, which he writes before he starts drawing.

A question and answer period followed each presentation. At one, Toffoli told the students he started drawing at age 6 while he watched cartoons on television.

"Back then you couldn't pause a TV, so I

learned to draw really fast," he said.

One student gave a suggestion for another book: Albert Einstein. Toffoli explained he has to wait 75 years after a person passes, and the story enters the public domain, to write about him or her without paying heirs for the rights to the story.

Toffoli gives about 30 to 35 school presentations each year, and said he has learned to be a better listener because of them.

"The kids' questions come out of nowhere," he said. "Some of my best teaching is done during the presentations."

Toffoli studied graphic design at Florida State University. He was given an assignment for a book in a history of animation class and the idea of "history with animals" came to him immediately.

"It was the only A I got in my college career," he said. "I couldn't wait to show it. Afterward a friend told me I needed to do something with this."

Following the day of presentations, Toffoli met with students, parents and community members to sell and sign books.

Toffoli's books are Gullileo Galilei, Thomoose Jefferson, Alligator Graham Bell, Thomas Owlva Edison, Christopher Cowlumbus, Michelangelo Bunnyrofti, Leonardo Da Vinci, George WashingTON, Bengalman Franklin and The Wright Brothers.

He plans to create books with the following characters: George Washington-Carfun, Ludpig Van Beethoven, Abrahound Lincoln, Marco Hippolo, Juan Ponce De LeBison, Bark Twain, Sir Ibis Newton, Namolean Bonaparte, Susan Bear Anthony and JoHorn Gutenberg.

The books are available at Toffoli's website littlegerm.com and amazon.com.

# Brighton Boys & Girls Club helps Ecuadorian youth

SUBMITTED BY BRIGHTON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

BGCA youth to "engage in their communities through fun volunteering programs."

Greenbaum felt that Brighton youth would benefit in participating in the local BGCA program by assisting Native youth in a different country through the initiative.

Greenbaum brought the members of the Brighton Boys Girls Club together to watch a video about Pack for a Purpose, which exemplifies the desperate need for school supplies of extensive groups around the world. Furthermore, the Brighton Youth learned about a group of Native children in rural Ecuador receiving supplies and learned about the country's children, its culture and their daily lives.

"It made me feel thankful for what I have," said Brighton resident Caysie Platt after watching the video.

Brighton club members had many questions about these Ecuadorian youth and were surprised to see that the children of

Ecuador were similar to Native children of the United States, but in great need of the basic subsistence for living.

It was agreed upon by the Brighton staff and youth to collect much-needed school supplies for these Native Youth in Ecuador. The members packed 100 individual supply bags for the Ecuadorian youth, which included paper pads, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, highlighters, chalk, glue and bookmarks. Brighton became so involved in Pack for a Purpose that they customized the bookmarks and other supplies with personalized drawings. "I felt so happy and excited to help friends Ecuadorian children", exclaimed Brighton BGC Member, Zoie Foster-Snow.

Greenbaum personally delivered a 50-pound suitcase full of school supplies to the Ecuadorian youth during a vacation to the area.

"Being able to involve the Brighton Boys Girls Clubs youth in the Pack for a Purpose program proved to be an extremely valuable learning process for our collective Native youth," she said.

HTO — In preparation for a vacation stay in Ecuador this past summer, Diana Greenbaum, counselor for the Brighton Boys Girls Club, decided to participate in a world-wide program called, "Pack for a Purpose." Pack for a Purpose allows children with established resources to help children in need in foreign countries. Greenbaum not only wanted to participate in this program, but felt it would be great if the Brighton youth could participate by collecting school supplies for a group of tribal Kichwa students located in the rural depths of Amazon region of Ecuador.

The coordinating factor of this program was an initiative entitled the Yachana Project.

Greenbaum explained that "the word Yachana means a place for learning in the



Rural Ecuadorian children receive the packages sent by the Brighton Boys & Girls Club. Items in the bags were paper, pads, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, highlighters, chalk, glue sticks, personalized book marks and slap bracelets.

Kichwa Language." Coincidentally, the four Boys Girls Clubs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida were involved in a curriculum designed by the Boys Girls of America (BGCA) called, "Million Members, Million Hours of Service" project, which encourages

# Ahfachkee competes at SECME Olympiad

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

IC ESS — Ahfachkee students have been expanding their horizons this year by exploring new ways to learn through hands-on fun, yet educational, competitions.

The South Florida FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics League competitions ended in January, so a group of fourth, fifth and sixth graders competed in the SECME-STEM Olympiad April 14 at Dillard High

School in Fort Lauderdale. The students gave it their all in competitions of mousetrap powered cars, water bottle rockets, school banners and school posters.

The Ahfachkee STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) program encourages students to participate in the competitions. During STEM, students learned how to do the projects and the best ones were chosen to represent the school at the Olympiad. Preparation for the competition took about three or four months.

Ahfachkee didn't win this time, but

STEM teacher Barbara R. Oliva-Espinosa isn't discouraged.

"I'm sure we will do better next year as now they are more familiar with what's expected of them," Oliva-Espinosa wrote in an email. "The students came back energized and motivated. Most want to attend next year if they qualify again."

Participants in the elementary mousetrap powered car competition were fourth graders Lena Cypress, Ina Robbins and Curtis Smith. Lena Cypress, Alice Osceola and Sautva Billie competed in the elementary water rocket competition.

Fifth graders Alex Covarrubias, Lucee Cypress and Abbigale Green also competed in the water rocket competition and Emma DiCarlo participated in the poster contest. The entire fifth grade class participated in the school banner contest.

Sixth graders Keithana Osceola-Onco, Dyami Koenes and Jonnie Sue Russell participated in the middle school mousetrap car competition.

The SECME Olympiad is usually only open to Broward County Schools, but since Oliva-Espinosa taught in the county for many years she was able to get Ahfachkee included with the 84 other schools.

According to its website, SECME (Southeastern Consortium for Minorities in Engineering) was founded in 1975 and is an alliance of K-12 educators, universities and industry / government partners committed to engaging and preparing more minorities and girls for college and careers in STEM.



Fifth-graders Emma DiCarlo, Alex Covarrubias and Lucee Cypress show off the school banner at the SECME-STEM Olympiad in Fort Lauderdale on April 14.

# Immokalee Boys & Girls Club welcomes Native Pride Dancers

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

groups of all ages about the beauty and skill of Native American dance. The troupe has performed at the Olympics, Kennedy Center, Smithsonian Institution, Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade and at U.S. Embassies around the world.

After the day in Immokalee, Native Pride Dancers were scheduled to perform at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. They planned to do a healing dance, a smudging and prayers at the school.

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Boys Girls Club welcomed the Native Pride Dancers to the Immokalee reservation April 18 where founder and artistic director Larry Yazzie shared his talent, skills and enthusiasm for dance with the kids.

After a day of programs at Immokalee High School and the Boy Girls Club of

Collier County, Yazzie performed in the gym for they eager young audience. A two-time world champion fancy dancer and member of the Meskwaki Nation in Tama, Iowa, Yazzie engaged the kids with his dance and taught them a few steps.

Immokalee High School student Ezekiel Roberts was moved by the music and got up on his feet.

"It was my second time dancing today," said Ezekiel, 17, who enjoys attending Tribal Fair and Pow Wow in Hollywood every year. "I'm not a dancer, but I like to get out there."

The Native Pride Dancers travel the world to educate



Ezekiel Roberts dances in the Immokalee gym with Native Pride dancer Larry Yazzie as members of the Immokalee Boys & Girls Club watched April 18.

# Arts & Entertainment

## Controversial 'Indian' dance performance in Orlando draws criticism

BY LI COHEN  
Copy Editor

The Orlando Museum of Art's latest exhibition was curated to highlight Seminole history and culture, but a dance performance April 7 at a special event meant to promote the new addition instead evoked heavy criticism.

The event, a free family fun day, featured numerous interactive performances and showcases to promote the exhibit "Enduring Beauty: Seminole Art and Beauty." While many elements were successful, including storytelling and flute performances by Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon "Ollie" Wareham, it was a dance and music performance by the group Talako Indian Dancers that resulted in criticism on social media. As depicted in a video shared by Native Opinion on Facebook, the Talako group — a non-profit organization that began in 1986 — performed pow wow-style dances with traditional Seminole clothing. The performance, however, was deemed incorrect by numerous Facebook and Twitter users, many even saying that the children performing the dances were not Native Americans.

The woman who captured the videos pointed out that she did not know whether or not the youth performing the dances were Native or not, but that the performance itself seemed inexperienced and appeared as "silly play times" for non-Native youth.

The woman asked that her name not be used in this article.

"It makes me horribly sad to see these kids with so much heart being misled by ignorant adults," she posted on Facebook. "My problem is not that they are embracing the culture, my problem is that it is being done with no traditional guidance or traditional education."

Similar comments were shared on Twitter.

"I'm Seminole, I'm from Florida, I used to live in Orlando and there were so many ways that this could've been avoided and/or had Seminole consultation and oversight," said @TheToniSanchez.

Another user, @Chakabake, said "there's been mixed feelings about it all. It could have been handled better."

Paul Backhouse, director of the Seminole Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Office, said that the controversial performance is a "complicated" situation. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum reached out to OMA to create the exhibit and affiliated programs, but

according to Backhouse, that coordination was not reciprocated.

"We reached out to them several times to try to facilitate that coordination because we were concerned that without Tribal input, something could go awry with how this turned out in its presentation. It just did not work," Backhouse said. "We couldn't make the connection we were hoping we would to positively affect the message of this exhibition. It went on display and opened without us having any real input on what it was."

Although Talako's website has been unavailable since April 7, a summary of the organization on OrlandoAtPlay.com says that the Talako's do programs in full Indian dance regalia and that membership is open to all children under 17 years old and does not mention Native American affiliation. The summary provides an Orlando address for the organization.

"What they do is their version of pow wow dances, but they're really disassociated with the cultures and the meanings of the dances that they're portraying," Backhouse said. "When someone in the audience there saw these kids dancing — and this dancing wasn't of a high standard — and they posted that video and that's what caused the outrage."

However, despite the appearance of the children, their performance and the information online, a spokesman for the Orlando Museum of Art told The Tribune in an email that all of the children have Native American heritage. The Tribune reached out to the Talako Group to confirm but had not received a response before publication.

Backhouse emphasized that the troupe's performance was not the only event of the day and that other components went well. Wareham's programming, for example, was well-received by guests.

"The museum wasn't completely insensitive that they hadn't thought to invite Seminoles," he explained. "They had; they just made a horrendous blunder in the booking as far as we can tell."

After receiving significant backlash in the days following the event, the Orlando Museum of Art published the following apology on their Facebook page:

"To the Native American community, we acknowledge your concerns and apologize that the children's dance performances were found to be problematic. The dance troupe is now aware of the issues you raised about their performance and how it was perceived. The Orlando Museum of Art takes your concerns very seriously. We acknowledge

that there were cultural nuances and Native American traditions that were overlooked and thank you for making us aware of it. Through this, we have been given many Native American contacts that will help us with future Native American programming."

While some accepted OMA's apology, including one Facebook user who said she's glad to "see some open discussion" about the problem and is "grateful that good connections between good people have come out of this," many people did not forgive the museum so easily.

Many Facebook and Twitter users argued that the performance was a blatant display of cultural appropriation and that the museum needs to facilitate more coordination with Native Americans on future programming.

"I appreciate you making the public apology," one Facebook user said. "I hope one day that we are no longer a fetish, that we are no longer portrayed as savages in films from one side narratives and that someday we can get the same respect that even through all we have been through, that we try to give everyone else."

OMA told The Tribune that they are using the situation as a learning experience for future events and happenings at their museum, noting that they had received contacts they plan to work with for future Native American-related programming.

Orlando Museum of Art and the  
Ah Tah Thi Ki Museum

The controversial performance occurred a week before the Seminole Tribe planned to take a group of Tribal elders to see "Enduring Beauty." Although Backhouse said the coordinators of the trip struggled with whether they wanted to proceed with the trip, they ultimately decided to leave the decision to the elders.

A group of approximately 50 Tribal elders and members decided to move forward with the trip and visited OMA on April 14 during a closed viewing. OMA closed the museum to other guests and the media while Tribal members were viewing the exhibit. They also provided the group with refreshments. Backhouse described OMA as "very kind and courteous" in regards to making sure Tribal members were respected during their visit, an effort that rectified some prior negative criticisms.

The exhibit itself featured valuable historical objects, including some that the Tribe hasn't seen since the Seminole Wars in the 1800s. One of the most significant pieces was a sash worn by Seminole Chief

John Jumper. Accompanying the display is a photo of Jumper being forcibly relocated to Oklahoma while wearing that same sash. According to Backhouse, the Tribe hasn't seen that particular item since roughly 1957.

After viewing the exhibit, OMA exhibit curators met with Seminole Tribal members to answer any questions and get feedback on the collection. Tara Backhouse, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Collections manager, said that Tribal members pointed out a few errors and misspellings on some of the item labels throughout the exhibit.

"But they're easy to fix," she added. "The Orlando Museum of Art has been really willing to work with us and correct those things."

In the email to The Tribune, OMA said they received positive feedback during the visit and was "delighted to hear that some of the visitors recognized family members in the historic photographs." OMA added that they were honored to be presented with an acorn from the Council Oak as a symbol of friendship between the Seminole Tribe and the museum.

The Orlando Museum of Art originally told the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum of their plans for the exhibit last summer. As soon as Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki found out about it, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki's Curator of Exhibits Rebecca Fell contacted OMA to collaborate. While

OMA claims they tried to collaborate with Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki for the exhibit and Family Day, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Assistant Director Kate Macuen said that this collaboration only ran smoothly for a short while.

"But then after many attempts to try and get back in touch with them after that conversation, it really fell off the radar," Macuen said, adding that OMA didn't get back to the museum until about a month before "Enduring Beauty" opened. "We really feel like there was an opportunity lost to work with them and make it as great as it could be."

Despite the missed opportunity, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki's staff is continuing to find ways to work with OMA. They are currently working to obtain catalogs of all the items in the Seminole exhibit that they can then provide Tribal members. The catalogs list photos and information about each exhibit item.

"I suspect the outcome of this is that we have a better relationship going forward and that they'll be much more likely to reach out to us in the future if they have a similar exhibition and program," Paul Backhouse said. "We're going to look at developing more opportunities with Tribal members to engage with aspects of culture and history that exist beyond the boundaries of the reservation in the future."

The Orlando Museum of Art issued this apology April 10 on Facebook three days after a dance performance at the museum sparked controversy on social media.

To the Native American community, we acknowledge your concerns and apologize that the children's dance performances were found to be problematic. The dance troupe is now aware of the issues you raise about their performance and how it was perceived. The Orlando Museum of Art takes your concerns very seriously.

We are grateful for our performing artists who traveled to the Museum to share their time and talent during Family Day — thank you to Gordon "Ollie" Wareham, a member of the Seminole Tribe who provided Seminole storytelling and Native American flute performances; Tara Chadwick who shared the history of her Maya culture through performances of the Mesoamerican Danza; Native Insights, with members of the Tuscarora and the Lipan Apache Tribes who educated guests about their cultures through dances, music, and the sharing of artifacts; and Erika Tommie of the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska who oversaw the creation of dreamcatchers with families.

We acknowledge that there were cultural nuances and Native American traditions that were overlooked and thank you for making us aware of it. Through this, we have been given many Native American contacts that will help us with future Native American programming. If you have any further questions or concerns, please message us directly so we can come up with a thoughtful resolution.

Sincerely,

The Orlando Museum of Art

## Elgin Jumper heads Earth Day Celebration at Fort Lauderdale Historical Society

BY JENNA KOPEC  
Freelance Reporter

FO T LA DE DALE — As part of their Earth Day Celebration on April, the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society hosted Tribe Member Elgin Jumper for a literary reading and mixed media.

Although Jumper, who's been part of the Seminole art scene for 14 years, helped create and headlined the event, he was joined by author and novelist Rosa Sophia and fellow members of the Colorful Warriors Theatre Ollie Wareham and Stephanie-Gabrielle Sneed.

Tara Chadwick, curator of events for the Fort Lauderdale History Society, credited Jumper for bringing ideas like this and contributing to the history society for years.

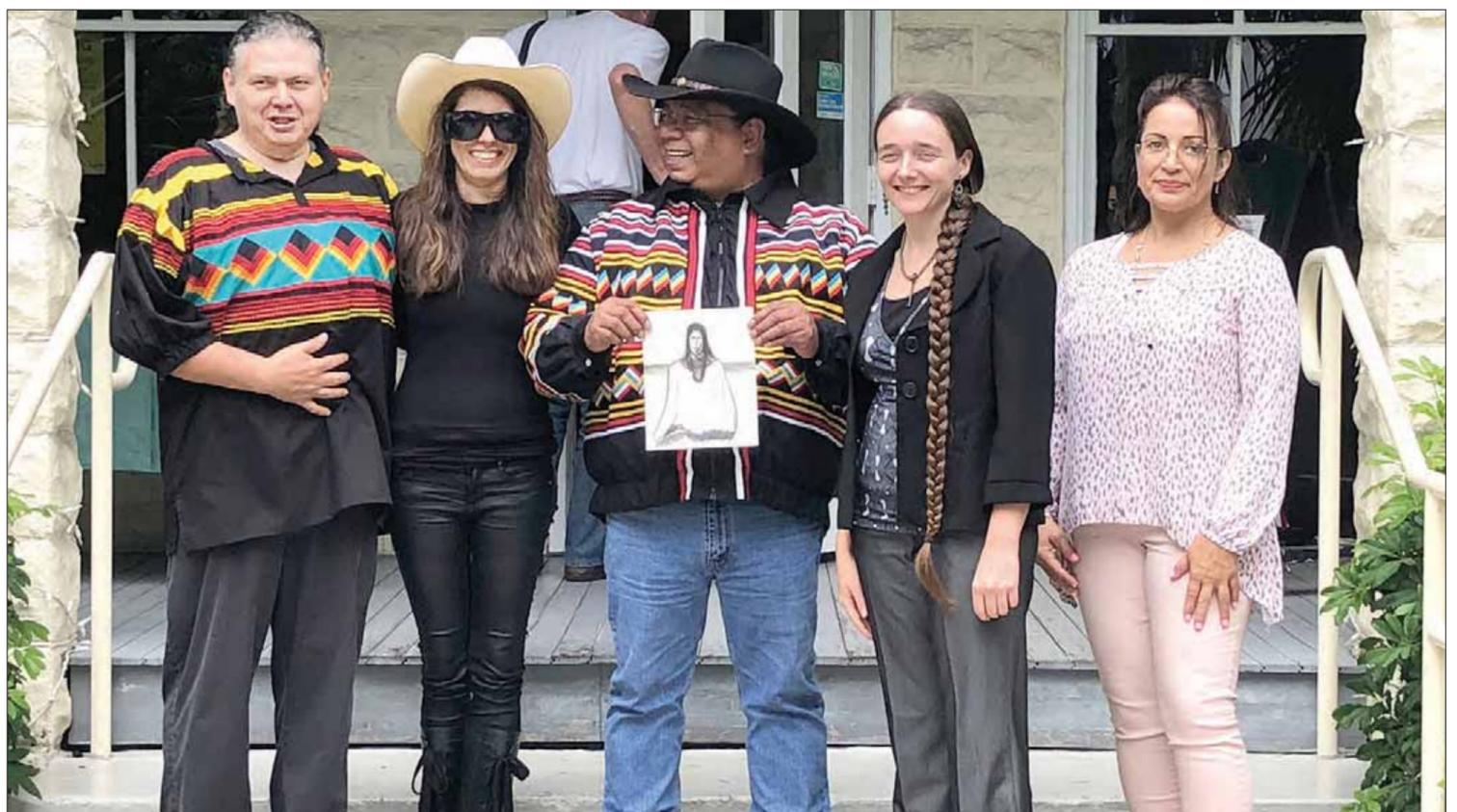
"Every time after a leap of faith, we end up with these really cool artistic experiences that weave together culture and history and future," said Chadwick.

The evening started off with a reading from Sophia. Sophia, who's worked with Jumper in the past shared the first chapter of a novel she's been writing about the 1928 hurricane that killed thousands in Florida. After Sophia's performance, Jumper took the stage.

He began with a reading from his latest literary endeavor — a novel about the Seminole art scene which he plans to finish this year. Although not completely based on truth, Jumper admitted that the novel is at some level semi-autobiographical. The book's main character, Zachariah Sundance, wants to create an art revolution, something Jumper's been trying to do through the mixed medium performances he does now with Colorful Warrior Theatre.

Jumper explained that he's been working with Colorful Warriors Theatre to create performances that combine live drawing, music, and literature for about five years.

Jumper portrayed that type of mixed medium performance after his reading by creating a live-drawing to the sounds of Wareham on flute and Sneed on soundscape. He closed the event with a reading of one of



From left, Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon "Ollie" Wareham, Stephanie Gabrielle Sneed, Elgin Jumper, Rosa Sophia and Erika Tommie gather together after the readings and live art performance.

his original poems.

"I've always wrote poetry and short stories," he explained, touching a bit on incorporating so much of himself into his art. "When I'm telling my story, I'm also telling

other people's stories."

The Colorful Warriors Theatre will be performing in Big Cypress for Art Day on June 16.

Until then, Jumper said they plan to

have open rehearsals at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. Chadwick said that the rehearsals and any upcoming events will be listed on the society's Facebook page or online.

To watch the live stream of the Earth Day Celebration, go to Fort Lauderdale Historical Society's Facebook page.

# Arts & Entertainment

## Hard Rock announces Atlantic City Hotel & Casino opening date

BY LI COHEN  
Copy Editor

It was only one year ago when Hard Rock International announced a multi-million dollar plan to purchase Donald Trump's Taj Mahal Hotel. Now, in nearly record time, the new Hard Rock Hotel Casino Atlantic City is slated to open June 28.

During a press conference April 18 at Hard Rock Cafe in Times Square, Jim Allen, CEO of Seminole Gaming and Chairman of Hard Rock International, announced the 17-acre site includes a 400-seat Hard Rock Caf, 150,000 square-feet of event space, 2,200 slots and 125 table games with 2,000 upscale hotel rooms.

The reconstruction will also feature a Howie Mandel Comedy Club and two separate arenas – one being the Hard Rock Live at the Etess Arena with a capacity of more than 7,000. A video shown at the press conference announced performances will kick off July 5 with Third Eye Blind. Fifty-nine other shows are already available and Allen said that nearly 300 shows are already booked, including Florida Georgia Line, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Stone Temple Pilots, Counting Crows, Steely Dan and Kid Rock.

Allen said he was told this was the first known time in history that an entertainment company launched 60 entertainment acts at one time.

"It shows the commitment that we as an entertainment brand, a hospitality brand, bring to Atlantic City," Allen said.

Despite recent reports that tourism in Atlantic City decreased 1.2 percent in 2017, Allen believes the opening of the Hard Rock will help create a significant economic boost. The location has already created 3,000 permanent jobs.

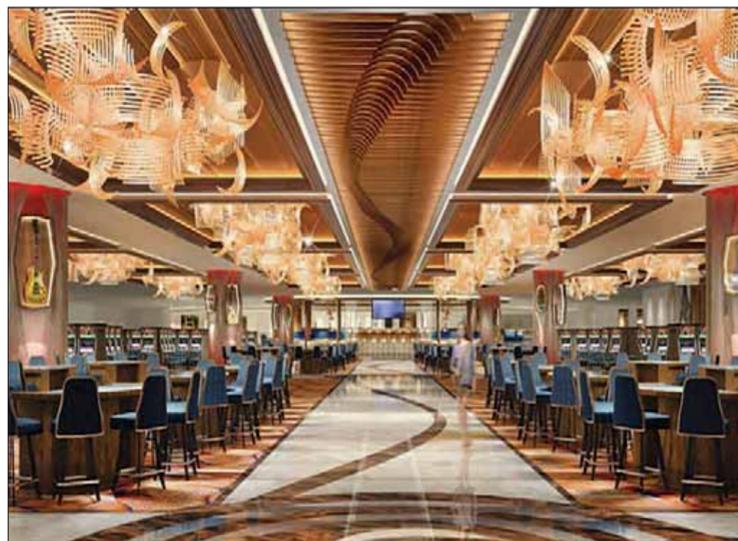
Hard Rock Hotel Casino Atlantic City was originally slated to cost nearly \$400 million to construct, but the end result cost more than \$500 million. Despite the extra cost, the Seminole Tribe of Florida funded \$400 million of the project in cash, paving the way for the new site to be complete with no debt.

"The Hard Rock brand is alive and doing very well and the one thing that we are extremely confident about is it will create the curiosity to come to Atlantic City," Allen said, adding that the added cost was no issue for the company because they were going to do it right or not do it at all.

Trump's Taj Mahal, transformed

Before Donald Trump became President, he was the owner of what he called the "Eighth Wonder of the World." The Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, now known as Hard Rock Hotel Casino Atlantic City, was built in the 90s for \$1.2 billion.

"Atlantic City has had some amazing ups and downs," Allen said. "The reality is that it was the most expensive casino hotel or individual freestanding hotel ever built in the history of gaming or hospitality."



The above photos are renderings of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City, including the entrances, casino floor and the theater.

Courtesy Sharon Pearce/Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City

Despite that cost, however, Hard Rock International purchased the estate in March 2017 for \$50 million – only four cents on the dollar.

The Taj Mahal closed on Oct. 9, 2016 after CEO Carl Icahn failed to make a deal with union workers about health care and pension benefits. Trump forfeited his title with the Taj Mahal in 2009 after it filed for bankruptcy for the second time.

Aside from the structure of the building, the image of the hotel and casino will be completely different. Formerly filled with eccentric colors of magentas and teals, the exterior of the building will now be bronze

and feature light shows; in place of the fountain series at the entrance, there will now be an 80-foot Hard Rock guitar monument. The inside of the casino will feature stone floors.

The image will also be personalized for hotel guests. In a new Hard Rock brand experience, guests can opt in to The Sound of Your Stay program, an audio experience that brings a more audio element to an already musically-themed stay. Guests can choose from Tracks, Pics or Wax amenities – which include personalized music playlists, a Crosley turntable with unlimited music selection in the hotel room and a 'jam session'

kit where guests can reserve a Fender guitar, headphones and amplifier to play music in their hotel room, respectively.

Hard Rock International expands

Hard Rock hotels and casinos are currently in 75 countries and last year generated approximately \$60 billion in global revenue. While the Atlantic City expansion is the closest opening, it is not the last in the near future. HRI plans to open an additional 32 hotels and nine casinos by 2021. Destinations will include the French Quarter in New Orleans, Maldives and the Swiss Alps, among others.

To celebrate the grand opening, Seminole Tribal members will visit Hard Rock Hotel Casino Atlantic City from June 27-30.

Room reservations and more information about the new Atlantic City location are available at [HardRockHotelAtlanticCity.com](http://HardRockHotelAtlanticCity.com).

## Calendar of events

May  
Queens of the Stone Age  
7:30 p.m. Bayfront Park

May  
PECS exhibit reception  
10 a.m. Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

SunFest  
5 p.m. West Palm Beach

May  
SunFest  
5 p.m. West Palm Beach

May  
Ft. Lauderdale Air Show  
9 a.m. Ft. Lauderdale Beach

SunFest  
12 p.m. West Palm Beach

Cinco De Mayo Festival  
7 p.m. Miramar Regional Park

May  
Seafood Music Festival  
11 a.m. Centennial Park

SunFest  
12 p.m. West Palm Beach

May  
Sounds of the Town  
6 p.m. Bergeron Rodeo

Fifth Harmony  
8 p.m. Hard Rock Event Center

May  
Great Dock Canoe Race  
9 a.m. Dock at Crayton Cove

Pirate Festival  
11 a.m. Esplanade Park

Dane Cook  
8 p.m. Hard Rock Event Center

May  
Tupelo Honey Festival  
9 a.m. Lake Alice Park

May  
Jacksonville Jazz Festival  
4 p.m. Downtown Jacksonville

Kenny Chesney  
7:30 p.m. Coral Sky Amphitheatre

May  
Delray Beach Craft Festival  
10 a.m. Delray Tennis Center

Latin Music Festival  
6 p.m. Miramar Regional Park

May  
Watermelon Fest  
10 a.m. Clay County Fairgrounds

LOTOS Music Fest  
4 p.m. Mizner Park Amphitheater

May  
Memorial Day Parade  
10:30 a.m. Bergeron Rodeo

## Epcot to show Native American culture in new exhibit

Epcot World Showcase's The American Adventure, a show with audio-animatronics, film and music, is bringing in a new exhibit this summer featuring Native American life. The exhibit, called "Creating Tradition: Innovation and Change in American Indian Art," will feature works by famous Native American designers and artists, as well as interactive elements, and will be on display at the American Heritage Gallery. Featured artists include fashion designer Loren

Aragon (Acoma Pueblo), doll-maker Glenda McKay (Ingalik-Athabaskan) and Juanita Growing Thunder (Assiniboine Sioux). Epcot created the exhibit in collaboration with the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe, New Mexico and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. The opening date will be announced on Disney World's blog at [disneyparks.disney.go.com/blog](http://disneyparks.disney.go.com/blog).

## Manito Ahbee Festival hosts free indigenous music conference

### INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY

The Manito Ahbee Festival, which celebrates Indigenous arts, culture, and music in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, will host the Indigenous-based Manito Ahbee Festival Music Conference as part of its offerings May 17 and 18 at the Delta Winnipeg Hotel.

At the free conference, industry professionals will sit down with Native American and First Nations musicians and music industry professionals for roundtable discussions and one-on-one meetings. Topics will include management, publicity, marketing, festivals, radio and more.

The Manito Ahbee Festival's Indigenous Music Conference gives Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists and industry members a free opportunity to learn about how they

can take their careers to the next level.

According to Kerry Clarke, the Artistic Director of the Calgary Folk Music Festival, a music industry veteran who entered the independent music world through community radio 30 years ago told Indian Country Today, "I think this is a really exciting time for indigenous music and culture. I find the music with strong cultural roots and references – often done in a fresh, modern way, stands out and is getting the most attention. I'm looking forward to discovering more interesting and diverse indigenous Canadian artists to include at our festival and other events."

Though the Indigenous Music Conference event is free, advance registration is required, and space is limited.

Register at [manitoahbee.com/events/indigenous-music-conference/](http://manitoahbee.com/events/indigenous-music-conference/).

# American Indian College Fund receives \$600,000 grant to study economic and social impact of Tribal colleges

PRESS RELEASE

DE VE, Colo. – The American Indian College Fund (the College Fund) announced April 24 a new effort to study the impact of tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) on the overall well-being of graduates from five institutions. The study will occur over two years and is funded through a \$600,000 grant from Strada Education NetworkSM, a national nonprofit dedicated to strengthening pathways from education to employment.

Working with the North Dakota Association of Tribal Colleges, the College Fund will determine the statewide and individual institutional economic and social return on investment of five TCUs in North Dakota to illustrate the value of a TCU education and the importance of continued public and private investment of these dynamic institutions. Participating TCUs include Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College, Sitting Bull College, United Tribes Technical College, Turtle Mountain Community

College, and Cankdeska Cikana Community College.

The project will also assess graduate employment and conduct a Gallup College Values survey of 5,000 College Fund scholars to gather information about the value of an education rooted in Native American values. A pilot study focused on how TCUs serve their communities through preservation and restoration of languages and culture and how they build strong American Indian nations will also be conducted.

Cheryl Crazy Bull, President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, said, "Since their founding in the late 1960s, tribal colleges and universities strived to describe their economic and social impact on individuals and communities. This project helps us tell the tribal college story of student success, economic contributions, and impact on society. Strada is a collaborator and partner, helping us frame our research and supporting outreach to nationally recognized experts. We appreciate their investment."

The two-year project will conclude in September 2019. Upon completion of

the project, the College Fund will publish and share the results with state and federal policymakers.

"Tribal colleges and universities have often been overlooked in regard to the critical role they play in serving students from our country's Native American populations with the postsecondary education they need to advance in their careers and lives," said Bill Hansen, president and CEO of Strada Education Network. "This research in partnership with Gallup will promote greater understanding of the impact tribal colleges and universities have on student success."

Tribal colleges and universities are located in communities on or near American Indian reservations and provide an accredited, affordable, and culturally relevant higher education to Native Americans and others in their communities. The first TCU was established in 1967 by the Navajo Nation. Today 35 accredited TCUs are located across the nation, often in remote, rural locations.

# NCAI President Jefferson Keel responds to Senate vote on Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act

PRESS RELEASE

WASHI TO – On April 16, the Senate failed to come up with the necessary votes to proceed with a full vote on the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act, an amendment to the National Labor Relations Act that would include tribes in the same exempt category as all other government employers in the United States. The Senate voted 55-41 in favor of moving forward with the legislation, but this tally fell short of the 60 votes needed to prevent a filibuster.

"Obviously, this is disappointing," said NCAI President Keel. "But I want to thank the Senate for taking up this important issue, and thank each Senator for the time he or she spent to understand the issue and the nature of tribal governments. From the comments we heard on the Senate floor today, we still have much work to do to educating Congress about the fact that tribal sovereignty is not a conditional proposition. However, I am encouraged that we won a majority of votes, and that our issue made it to the Senate floor. We will be back."

The purpose of the legislation is to fix a problem created by the National Labor Relations Board's decision to single out Indian tribes as the only form of government in the United States subject to the National Labor Relations Act. Over 90,000 other units of government in America, who employ over 21 million Americans, are not subject to the NLRA. The Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act is a crucial step for Congress to ensure that the United States consistently respects the sovereignty of tribal governments.

Keel continued: "Everyone knows that the U.S. Constitution set up our federal system of government, but far too few know that the Constitution also recognizes the sovereignty of Indian tribes. The reason is found in our history. Our lands and resources were stolen despite the guarantees of treaties and federal laws, and when there was little left to take from us, our rights have simply been ignored. This is the dark history we have inherited. However, tribes have struggled and succeeded in establishing the federal policy of tribal self-determination, economic development is taking hold in many places, and our government structures are growing

ever more effective and secure.

"Tribal sovereignty is not an abstract principle. Tribal self-government is critical for us to maintain our cultures and our viability as distinct groups of people. We want our children to grow up with the same traditions and values that we grew up with. These are reasons that everyone in America can understand because these are the basic values of cultural survival that we all share just as much as our need to breathe the air."

According to NCAI Executive Director Jacqueline Pata, "The Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act builds upon a principle that has been long established by Indian tribes across the country: when tribal sovereignty is respected and acknowledged, successful, accountable and responsible governments and economies follow. This is not merely a legal issue but a moral imperative of protecting and defending the sovereignty of America's Indian tribes, and guarding against any discrimination against those tribes. There is no good reason to treat tribal governments in any way different from other governments. Federal law should uphold, not undercut, parity of treatment and equality of opportunity for tribal governments."

# NCAI calls on Secretary Ryan Zinke to publish tribal gaming compact amendments

PRESS RELEASE

WASHI TO – The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) sent a letter to the Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Ryan Zinke urging him to publish notice in the Federal Register of gaming compact amendments for the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot Tribes of Connecticut.

The letter states the following: "These (tribal gaming compact) amendments are very important to economic development for both tribal governments as well as the State of Connecticut, and publication of amended compacts is within your duties under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. We urge you to act with dispatch."

"Under federal law, the Secretary's

publication of gaming compacts is not discretionary. The Secretary may disapprove a compact only if it violates federal law or the trust obligations of the United States. If the Secretary does not approve or disapprove a compact within 45 days, the compact shall be considered to have been approved. At that time, the Secretary is required by law to act;" the law says the Secretary "shall publish in the Federal Register notice of any Tribal-State compact that is approved, or considered to have been approved." 25 U.S.C. 2710(d)(8).

The state of Connecticut, in conjunction with the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot Tribes, is currently suing DOI in an effort to get the department to follow the law and publish these tribal gaming contracts. The case is currently working its way through the Federal court system.

# Miccosukee Resort selects Aristocrat to provide casino management systems

PRESS RELEASE

The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, which owns and operates the 1,700-slot Miccosukee Resort Gaming Center in Miami, Florida, has selected Aristocrat as its casino management systems partner.

Aristocrat's multiple award-winning Oasis 360 system and its broad casino management systems solutions will replace a competitor's casino management system currently installed at the Miccosukee Resort Casino.

Aristocrat's suite of casino management systems products will be integrated within the Miccosukee Resort Casino, including:

- Oasis 360 Bonusing, which gives operators an extensive array of bonus game engines that help to keep the casino floor energized with a variety of bonus play.
- Oasis 360 ONE LINK, a fully customizable, integrated media and marketing solution for the entire enterprise, which includes total media management, marquees, wayfinders, bonusing - and more.
- Drinks on Tap, an all-encompassing beverage-ordering solution integrated to POS, and offering a streamlined amenity and service to loyal patrons.
- Oasis 360 PlayerMax allows casinos

to market to customers with customized push notifications and marketing messages, deliver event incentives and engage players with gamification tools designed to enhance the customer experience.

Miccosukee Controller Gary Beecher said, "We needed to find a gaming management solution that was a bit more adaptable to our specific needs, both on and off property. Throughout our search for the best in class provider, it became clear to us that the Aristocrat team and the Oasis 360 solution had the flexibility and customization we needed to reach our customers and reward them in meaningful ways."

"We are thrilled to welcome the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and Miccosukee Resort Gaming. As we met with the Tribe and staff, we listened carefully to their needs, and we are very pleased to have devised a suite of solutions tailored precisely to their unique business situation," said Clark Warren, Aristocrat's Vice President of System Sales.

Aristocrat's Oasis 360 system is one of the most widely used casino management system in North America. The Oasis 360 system comprises essential solutions for the modern casino, ranging from accounting and bonusing to loyalty and progressives/media management helping to drive operational efficiencies for its business partners.

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Voice of the Unconquered

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# Sports



## Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament turns 50

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

HOLL WOOD — As he sat at the scorer's table in the gymnasium named in memory of his dad, Mike Tiger smiled while he watched a group of boys pick up a basketball and freely play, sprinting from one end of the court to the other.

No refs, no coaches, no scorekeeping; just kids enjoying a few minutes on a Friday evening with a ball and friends at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center on the Hollywood Reservation.

"You can tell these boys are having the time of their lives, running back and forth, getting good exercise," Mike said.

Providing recreational opportunities for the Seminole Tribe's youth and adults — be it basketball, baseball, boxing, football and other sports — is one of the many lasting legacies left by Mike's father, who was one of the Tribe's first recreation directors.

"My dad had a special way of implanting good, positive recreation for everyone, men, women and children," Mike said. "He brought about the thought process of 'Hey, let's have recreation for everybody'."

Eventually the boys on the court scattered to the sidelines as adults came out to warm up for the second day of the 50th annual Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament held April 19-21. Reaching a milestone year carried extra significance.

"They're all special, but this one is

"I can't believe it's been 50 years since we started this tournament," said Moses, who described Howard as "our Jim Thorpe of the Seminole Tribe" and "probably our greatest athlete."

Howard's legacy extended from the playing fields to the battle fields. Moses told the audience about his dad — Moses Jumper Sr. — and Howard were the first two Seminoles to enlist in the military.

"That was back in the 1940s, World War II," Moses said. "They wanted to represent not only their country, but their people."

"I'm proud that my father and my uncle were the veterans that they were. They fought in World War II. Howard was part of the battle of Iwo Jima and my dad was in the Navy and fought in the Pacific. They were great military men."

Howard was the Tribe's first Marine. He came home from the war, got married, moved around North Carolina for work, including Cherokee, started a family and then decided to return to his roots in Hollywood in 1957.

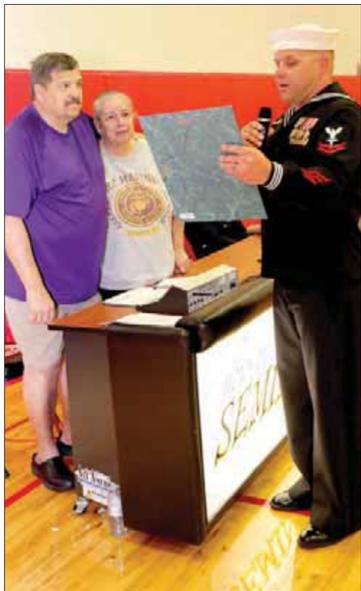
"We lived in a chickee on the church property. There was no housing," Mike recalled.

Howard's leadership was prevalent throughout his life, something that benefited the Tribe in multiple areas. In addition to playing semi-professional baseball and football, he served as president of the Tribe and was a coach and mentor in several sports for Tribal kids growing up in the 1950s and 60s.



Kevin Johnson

Family and relatives of the late Howard Tiger gather on the court during a ceremony April 20 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood to mark the 50th anniversary of the Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament. Howard's son Mike Tiger, second from left, and Mike's wife Judy, along with Howard's daughter Ruscilla, second from right, and her granddaughter Marissa DiCarlo and Howard's nephew Moses Jumper Jr. were joined by U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Adam LoBrutto. Howard served in the U.S. Marines during World War II and became a prominent leader in the Tribe in several areas, including government and recreation.

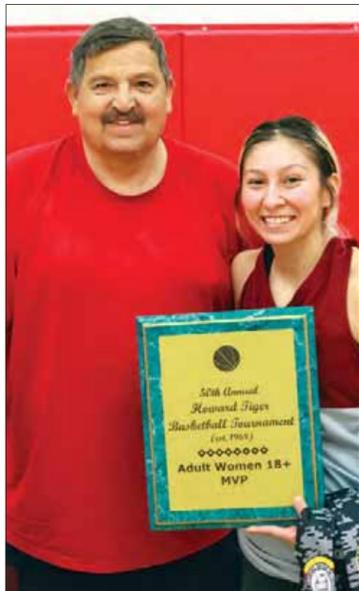


Kevin Johnson

U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Adam LoBrutto presents a plaque on behalf of the Seminole Tribe's Recreation Department to Howard Tiger's children Mike and Ruscilla during a ceremony.

really special," Mike said.

A ceremony started with the entrance of a military honor guard. Fond memories of Howard, including his athletic and military accomplishments and his leadership skills, were shared with the audience by Mike and Moses Jumper Jr., Howard's nephew.

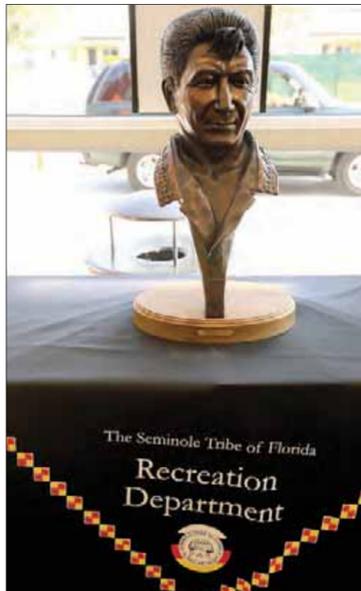


Maury Neipris

Mike Tiger presents the women's MVP award to Jenna Plumley, who is a former college standout for the University of Oklahoma and Lamar University.

Mike said his dad was "a natural-born leader" and "a natural-born athlete."

It's been 51 years since Howard passed. The tournament started a year later. He was inducted posthumously into the Tribe's sports Hall of Fame in 1998 and was joined in the Hall a few years later by Mike. The Howard Tiger Recreation Center, whose



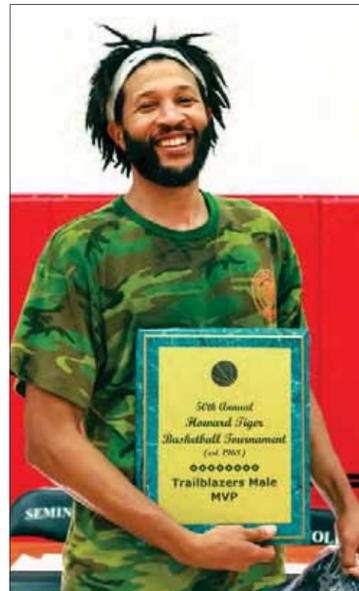
Kevin Johnson

A bust of Howard Tiger is located in the lobby of the Howard Tiger Recreation Center.

lobby includes the Hall's display cases and a bronze bust of Howard, opened in 2014, giving the Tribal community a first-class facility.

"Kids, think about where we came from, and it's something to be proud of to where you are today because you've got great facilities," Moses told the audience.

"These little kids don't remember him, they don't know him, but they know that it's named after him," said Howard's daughter



Maury Neipris

Nathan Lang holds the men's MVP award that he won.

Ruscilla "Rusty" Tiger, who wore a grey U.S. Marines T-shirt at the tournament. She pointed in the direction of the ball fields behind the Rec Center and remembered how her dad cleared that land so youth would have a place to play.

"He wanted it for the kids."

That field, and others in the area, became second homes for Ruscilla Tiger while growing up in an athletic family.

"I was always on a ball field," she said.



Kevin Johnson

This year's tournament T-shirts featured the tournament logo on red shirts.

"My brothers played sports, so I would run around and play. I had to know the score at the end of the games because when we were going home my dad would ask me what was the score. So I had to find out who won and what the score was so I could tell him on the way home."

◆ See HOWARD TIGER on page 6C



Kevin Johnson

Chelsea Mountain pulls up for a 3-point attempt.



Kevin Johnson

Mike Tiger gets the women's division underway at the 50th annual Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament by tossing the tip ball up between Anna Van Stippen, left, and Keli Warrior on April 20 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center.



Maury Neipris

Greg Carter soars in the air while making a layup.

# Tribesmen lead Florida teams at NAYO

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

HOLL WOOD - A year from now, dozens of Native American youth basketball teams will come to Florida when the Seminole Tribe hosts the 2019 NAYO Basketball Tournament.

If the turnout resembles anything close to this year's event - held March 29 to 31 in Cherokee, N.C. - then it will be a busy, basketball packed few days.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians welcomed nearly 70 teams which vied for championships in two girls and two boys divisions: 12 to 14 and 15 to 17.

"We had like 10 that came from Florida. New York brought seven. Choctaw brought 33 teams. The rest came from Cherokee," said Salina Dorgan, of Brighton Recreation and the NAYO board. "I know a lot of them are preparing to come to Florida. A lot of the Tribes have been contacting me and asking about the area where we're going to have it so they can start their fundraisers to get their teams here."

The double-elimination format was held



Kevin Johnson

Tribesmen guard Dakoya Nunez heads to the basket in a NAYO 12 to 14 boys division game March 31 in Cherokee, N.C.

to push the tempo. As soon as they grabbed rebounds, they were off to the races.

"We don't have to wait on the big man to get back down court. We're fast. We don't

Lena, who scored 65 points in a high school game this winter in Oklahoma, contributed 15 points for the winners who also received seven points from Silas Madrigal and six points from Cisco Rodriguez. Daewon Huggins was the Canes' top scorer with 17 points. Cedric Martin drained four 3-pointers for his 12 points and Keyunte Fuller also scored a dozen.

Savage Storm was up 36-28 at halftime. The Canes drew to within 39-36 in the second half before Savage Storm pulled away.

The Canes, coached by Amos Huggins, finished with a 1-2 record. Savage Storm was eliminated in the following game by the Seneca Chiefs, 65-44. LaPointe scored 20 points followed by Lena (12), Rodriguez (6) and Madrigal (5).

Earlier in the tournament, Savage Storm staged off elimination in dramatic fashion at Cherokee High School. They trailed by five points with less than 20 seconds left before LaPointe made a 3-point play and then, following a turnover, hit a game-tying layup

to force overtime. Early in the extra session, baskets from Ricky Garza and Jaylen Baker put Savage Storm ahead for good. In the final minute, LaPointe went 4-for-4 from the line and finished with 29 points, and Michael Harvey made two free throws to cap the 82-78 victory.

"They don't panic," Frost said after the game. "We had to make some big free throws at the end."

On the girls side, Swoopz, coached by Steve's wife Theresa Frost, finished 2-2 with wins against Lady NDNS and Seneca Storm.

Caroline Sweat's 14 points led Swoopz to a 50-25 win against Seneca. In their final game, Swoopz received 11 points from Lexi Foreman, nine from Burgundy Pierce and five from Charli Osceola.

Foreman, a Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal member from Oklahoma, earned a starting spot at forward on the Anadarko High School varsity team as a freshman this season. She helped the team reach the state quarterfinals.

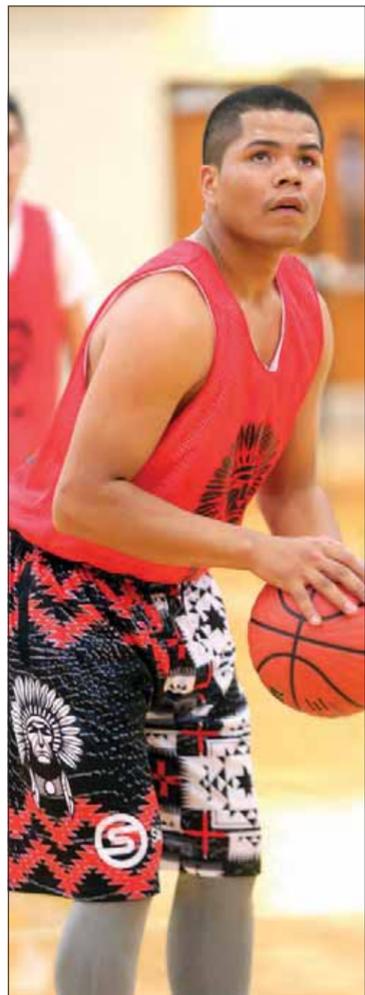
As the team huddled moments after its final game, Frost praised the girls for their effort.

"As long as you give your best, that's all we ask. I wouldn't have to ask that, they do it naturally," she said.

Other Florida teams and their records included Dreamcatchers (1-2) and Lady Seminoles (0-2) in the 15 to 17 girls division; PECS (0-2) in the girls 12 to 14 division; Unconquered (0-2) in the boys 12 to 14 division; and Seminole Heat (1-2) in the boys 15 to 17 division.

Choctaw teams made it a clean sweep by winning championships in all four divisions: Rainmakers (15-17 girls), Chaos (12-14 girls), 1 Family (15-17 boys) and Tune Squad (12-14 boys).

Before hosting next year's tournament, the Tribe will see plenty of action on its ball fields and beyond as the NAYO baseball/softball tournament will be held in Hollywood from July 19 to 21.



Kevin Johnson

Savage Storm's Jaylen Baker lines up a free throw during a NAYO 15 to 17 boys game March 30 in Cherokee, N.C.



Kevin Johnson

Lexi Foreman leads a fast break for the Swoopz team in a NAYO 15 to 17 girls game March 31 in Cherokee, N.C.



Kevin Johnson

Tribesmen guard Leon Edouard (3) battles for a rebound along with teammates Dathen Garcia (34) and Lee Edouard (13) during a NAYO 12 to 14 boys game March 31 in Cherokee, N.C.

at three venues amid the Smoky Mountains on the three days prior to Easter Sunday.

The best showing from a Florida team came from the Tribesmen, whose players are from the Brighton Reservation, Okeechobee and Fort Pierce. Loaded with quick guards who used their speed advantage at both ends of the court, the Tribesmen finished third out of 15 teams in the boys 12 to 14 age division. Coached by Preston Baker, the Tribesmen dropped their first game but then made a strong run with five straight wins to reach the final of the losers' bracket where they were ousted by Tune Squad from Choctaw, Miss., 56-50.

The Tribesmen were more than willing

give the defense time to set up. We rest on offense," Baker said.

Roger Walter was the Tribesmen's top scorer in the tournament. He poured in 28 points and 21 points in a pair of the wins. Nikai Alex made four 3-pointers in one game. One of the defensive highlights in the tournament was a steal by Dakoya Nunez in the final second to preserve a two-point win.

In the boys 15 to 17 division, Savage Storm, coached by Steve Frost, went 2-2, which included a 63-51 win against FL Canes in a matchup between two Florida teams. D'Von LaPointe, a standout for Nebraska state runner-up Winnebago High School, led Savage Storm with 24 points. Micah



Kevin Johnson

The FL Canes bench, including John Osceola (55) and fans cheer for their team during a NAYO 15 to 17 game against Savage Storm on March 31.



Kevin Johnson

Swoopz guard Alicia Fudge leads a fast break in a NAYO 15 to 17 girls division March 31.



Swoopz assistant coach Charlie Frye gets the team ready in a pregame huddle before facing a Choctaw team in the NAYO 15-17 girls division March 31 in Cherokee, N.C.



Savage Storm guard Todd Pierce fires a 3-pointer during a NAYO 15-17 boys game March 31 in Cherokee, N.C.



Swoopz guard Amarys Huggins gets the ball away from two Seneca Storm players.



FL Canes' Daewon Huggins blocks a shot by Savage Storm's Michael Harvey in a battle of Florida teams in NAYO's 15 to 17 boys division March 31 in Cherokee, N.C.



Tribesmen guard Dathen Garcia goes baseline on his way to the hoop.



Swoopz guard Julia Smith gets past a Seneca Storm defender at midcourt.



Micah Lena finishes off a slam dunk for Savage Storm against the Seneca Chiefs.



Swoopz forward Burgundy Pierce fires a pass over a defender.



Tribesmen coach Preston Baker talks to his players during a timeout.



Savage Storm guard Silas Madrigal battles the Seneca Chiefs.

## Camryn Thomas provides depth to deep Lake Placid pitching staff

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Camryn Thomas's senior season on the Lake Placid High School softball team can be summed up with the phrase 'quality over quantity.'

With an abundance of pitchers on the team, Thomas's playing time has been limited, but she's done a solid job in her few appearances.

"She's a pitcher and we have five pitchers on the squad, so she hasn't been able to pitch a lot, but when she's come in she's pitched well. She's done good," said Lake Placid Coach Gus Diez, whose team was in the midst of one of its best seasons in school history with a 16-7 record as the Dragons neared the end of the regular season in April.

Lake Placid's resume includes wins against Immokalee and Okeechobee, two of the area's stronger teams, as well as spoiling Moore Haven's senior night with a convincing win.

Thomas's top performance in the circle came April 5 when she notched a victory

against Tenoroc with just two earned runs. She tossed five innings of two-hit ball with seven strikeouts.

Thomas has had only a handful of trips to the plate, but similar to her pitching, she's made the most of her opportunities. She had an RBI in a win against Clewiston and she had a hit and scored a run against Tenoroc.

Lake Placid was slated to host senior night for the team's five seniors April 20 against Southwest Florida Christian.

After the season, Thomas will be ready to turn the tassel and take the next step in her academic career, which will be as a student at Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College in Tifton, Ga.

"It's been fun; I just can't wait to graduate," she said.

Kevin Johnson

Camryn Thomas, third from right in the line, greets teammates before her Lake Placid High School softball team faced Moore Haven on April 16 at Moore Haven High School.



## Tears flow as Moore Haven softball honors Sunni Bearden

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — As soon as Moore Haven High School softball coach Clint Raulerson arrived at the field and saw Sunni Bearden — his team's only senior from the class of 2018 — the tears followed.

"We're proud of Sunni. She's come a long way since we got here. She's part of the family, she's part of my family," Raulerson said before the team honored Bearden on senior night April 16 against Lake Placid.

Nobody could have forecasted such a stirring farewell a couple years ago when Raulerson took the job as head coach alongside his daughter/assistant coach Paige.

For a long time softball was never Bearden's favorite sport. Plus, Raulerson, a hard-nosed, no-nonsense coach, said he had been warned when he started that this girl "would be a pain in your butt."

The seemingly inevitable collision never materialized. In fact, with Raulerson at the helm, Bearden blossomed into a vital piece of a squad that won two district championships and one regional title, and hopes to add more before this season ends.

"We sat down and had a talk and I think Sunni realized how much I and coach Paige care about her," Raulerson said. "We can't be more proud of her. She's come a long way. Now she's a great student, a great player, she's a great person. That's the biggest thing is that she's probably a better person than she is a player or student. We love her."

"Since he's been my coach I've learned to love softball and it's become my favorite sport," said Bearden, a multi-sport standout who also starred for the Terriers volleyball and basketball teams.

Before warm-ups started, Lake Placid senior Camryn Thomas stopped by to wish Bearden good luck before the Brighton residents and good friends faced each other in the game.

As for the ceremony, Moore Haven players stood in two lines near the pitcher's



Kevin Johnson

Sunni Bearden, from the Brighton Reservation, center, smiles with her teammates Jada Jenkins, left, and Leighton Steedley, right, during Moore Haven High School's softball senior night ceremony April 16. Bearden was the team's only senior this season. In the background are Bearden's mother Timi Bearden and grandmother Helene Buster along with the Terriers coaching staff, including head coach Clint Raulerson.

circle. As she was introduced, Bearden walked onto the field accompanied by family members, including her mom Timi Bearden and grandmother Helene Buster. They were greeted by the coaching staff for heartfelt

hugs and tears. Sunni then walked down the line of her teammates, stopping at each one as more hugs and tears ensued. Moments later, Bearden took her usual spot in center field to start the game.

Lake Placid cruised to a comfortable win. Compared to recent seasons, this year's Moore Haven club isn't nearly as deep or experienced. There has been plenty of learning moments for the younger players and fewer victories, none of which has dampened Bearden's attitude.

me back to outfield a couple games ago and I was happy about that. We've gotten much better."

Getting better is something Bearden has done throughout her career at the plate and in the field while playing with teammates from Brighton, such as Darlah Cypress, Sydnee Cypress, Kalgary Johns and Delaney Osceola and helping the Terriers reach two state semifinals. No doubt Bearden's bat, glove and presence will be missed next year. As a slap hitter in the leadoff spot, she has often provided the spark that has lit the offense. She hit over .300 as a sophomore and a sizzling .500 last season. Defensively, it would be tough to find an outfielder in the region who covers more ground and makes more spectacular catches, often of the diving variety.

"We haven't had too much success this year, but it's been a fun year," she said.

For a stretch this season Bearden found herself in unfamiliar territory — as an infielder.

"We've been short on players and we have some brand new players, so they moved me into the infield at one point and I've never played infield, so that was kind of tragic," she said. "They moved

"She's our leader," Raulerson said. "Whether it's just the way she handles herself or what she does on the field, her hard work in practice is the biggest thing I can ever ask of her. She does everything she's asked to do, and she does it in the classroom and she does it off the field. She's the right kind of kid."



Kevin Johnson

A banner hangs on a fence during Moore Haven High School's softball senior night April 16.



Kevin Johnson

An emotional farewell greets Sunni Bearden and her family as Moore Haven's coaching staff honors the four-year standout on her senior night.



Kevin Johnson

Sunni Bearden gets set in center field in the top of the first inning of Moore Haven's senior night.



Above, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School pitcher Elle Thomas delivers a pitch during the team's eighth-grade parent night March 28 at Ollie Jones Memorial Park in Brighton. At right, the team's eighth-graders are honored during a pregame ceremony.



# Pemayetv Emahakv softball wraps up successful season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

I HTO — For a majority of the starters on the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School softball team, the next softball uniform they wear will be Okeechobee High purple, Moore Haven High black or perhaps another school. Regardless of where they go next, this year's 8th-graders left a tough act to follow.

PECS wrapped up a sizzling season in late April with a 10-1 record as the Lady Seminoles — behind seven eighth-graders — thrived against teams that included fellow middle schoolers and even some high school players. No doubt PECS will be supplying plenty of talent to the high school ranks next spring.

"Some girls are going to Okeechobee High School; some to Moore Haven High School. They all want to play softball in high school. We're very pleased and very proud of them," said PECS head coach Melissa Hines, whose assistant coaches this season were Nicole Platt and Mona Baker.

Those graduates — Adryauna (Nova) Baker, Mariah Billie, Virginia Garcia, Kalyn Hammil, Tafv Harris, Angelie Melton and Elle Thomas — departed on a positive note by defeating Glades Day, 7-3, in the season finale that started April 10, but was complete eight days later due to storms.

Elle led the way with a powerful performance in the circle. She struck out 10. "Elle pitched an awesome last game as a PECS Lady Seminole," said Hines, who also received strong pitching this season from 7th-grader Giselle Micco and sixth-grader



Lexi Thomas.

Elle received outstanding defensive support from her classmates in the final game.

"Nova had a great game behind the plate with two throw downs to second base for outs. Tafv made two tag outs at third. Kalyn held her own at short stop," Hines said.

Angelie ignited the offense with an early triple and scored a run. Virginia and Mariah also had strong games.

The coaching staff opted to provide a glimpse of the future at the start of the game by placing nearly all sixth-graders in the starting lineup.

Beverly Bidney

First baseman Karlyne Urbina gets ready to catch the ball on a close play

"We'll have a young team coming up. I'm confident we'll do well," Hines said.

The program's popularity is certainly in good shape as the squad carried 17 players this season, which bodes well for depth and talent in the coming years.

"We are excited about our returning girls and anxious about the ones that will be joining our team. We will have a young team next year with only four 8th-graders, but we are confident that we will have just as much success next year," Hines said.

Although plenty of key players will have to be replaced, the approach will stay the same.

"We emphasize a good, positive attitude. We're a team, a family off and on the field," she said.



PECS third baseman Tafv Harris tags a Glades Day baserunner during a game April 10.



Adryauna Baker takes aim at a low pitch during an at-bat against Glades Day.

# Basketball, memories fill Herman L. Osceola Tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

I C ESS — It's been 34 years since U.S. Marines Lance Corporal Herman L. Osceola died in a military helicopter accident while serving his country. The presence of the Seminole hero, who was 23 at the time of the crash in South Korea, remains a vital part of the Big Cypress community that he called home.

From the 5-foot-8 Bradley Cooley sculpture of Herman as a proud Marine in front of the gymnasium that bears Herman's name to the two large framed photos of Herman on walls inside the gym, his impact on the Tribe spans generations.

The crash claimed the lives of 29 U.S. and South Korea military personnel, including 18 U.S. Marines.

As they've done every year since his passing on March 24, 1984, Herman's family along with men's and women's basketball teams gathered for a tournament March 22-24 in memory of Herman in the gymnasium that he helped build in 1980 and where he worked with youth as a Big Cypress Recreation worker.

"He just loved being around kids and doing things for kids," said Herman's sister Valdenia Osceola, who, as the youngest sibling of five, often tagged along on

Recreation trips with Herman. "We used to go on all sorts of trips, movie trips, bowling trips, go swimming somewhere."

Herman played several sports, including baseball and volleyball, but basketball was his favorite, which is one reason the Herman L. Osceola Memorial Basketball Tournament was organized. The 33rd edition featured legends and adult men's and women's divisions.

Valdenia, her sister Caroline and their mom Ruby each wore T-shirts from different years of past tournaments. As they do every year, they provided meals to the players and spectators and presented trophies to the champions and runner-ups at midcourt. The champions also received tournament jackets.

Ages 35 and up were first in the Legends men's division on opening night.

"Two legends teams dropped out, but two played. It was fun," Valdenia said. "My mom loves watching Legends. Everybody had fun. It brings back a lot of memories."

Captained by Andrew Bert, the Trail team won the men's legends championship. The squad also included Glen Tiger, Bill Osceola, Earl Sanders and Eric (last name unavailable). Trail swept Old Skool two games to none. The scores were 53-22 and 46-11. Bill Osceola scored 18 points in one of the wins. Old Skool was captained by Chris Hulbutta, who scored 13 points in one game.

Trail and Old Skool were the only teams in the division. The Hollywood Ladies were the only team that registered in the Legends women's division, so since the team was organized and ready to play, they decided to shift to the adult division, which included the Lady Ballers and Swoops.

Swoops defeated Hollywood Ladies 31-14 in the first game behind 17 points from Burgundy Pierce and six points from Darlah Cypress. Next the Lady Ballers received a game-high 27 points from Anna Van Stippen, 26 points from Jenna Plumley



Hustle Hard/Soul Clean's Duelle Gore looks for a teammate during a game in the adult men's division March 23 at the 33rd annual Herman L. Osceola Memorial Basketball Tournament in Big Cypress.



and 14 points from Ariah Osceola as they cruised past the Hollywood Ladies to set up a winner-take-all championship showdown against Swoops.

In the final, the Lady Ballers used a barrage of 3-pointers to claim the title with a 64-38 win. Plumley hit seven shots from beyond the arc and finished with 32 points. Mercedes Osceola's nine points all came from 3-point land. Van Stippen and Ariah Osceola made one 3-pointer each. Swoops tried its best to answer by knocking down six

3-pointers of their own.

The men's division featured four teams and an abrupt ending.

Hustle Hard/Soul Clean opened the tournament with an 88-75 win against Darkside as Taylor Osceola drained 35 points for the winners.

BC Heat made it through pool play as the only undefeated squad. Ty Pierce led the way with 36 points in a 93-87 win against What's Left. Ty had 18 points in a 91-79 win against Hustle Hard/Soul Clean, but his teammate and brother Trewston Pierce was the game's high scorer with 37 points.

Darkside went 2-1 in pool play. Daewon Huggins (16 points), Alonzo Wargolet (12 points) and Shelby Osceola (9 points) paved the way to a 69-57 win against What's Left. Huggins continued his hot shooting with 20 points and Ethan Cypress scored 19 as Darkside edged Hustle Hard 61-58 to reach the final.

The championship game between Darkside and BC Heat didn't reach the second quarter. The game was cancelled after a fight broke out in the first quarter. Darkside was awarded the championship trophy and jackets.

# Nunez leads State College of Florida in sweep

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

A big day at the plate and on the base paths from Cheyenne Nunez helped State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, sweep South Florida State College in a softball doubleheader April 5 in Bradenton.

Nunez, from the Brighton Reservation, had four hits, three runs scored, one RBI and four stolen bases in the doubleheader.

In game one, Nunez went 2-for-3 with a double, two runs scored and two stolen bases.

In the nightcap, she had two hits, one RBI, one run scored and two stolen bases. She started both games in right field and batted out of the No. 2 spot.

Nunez's offensive production out of the No. 2 spot continued April 17 in an 8-3 win against South Florida. She went 2-for-2 with a sacrifice, RBI, run scored and stolen base as the Manatees upped their record to 35-18.

Nunez, a former standout at Okeechobee High School, leads SCF in stolen bases with 19 and on base percentage at .457. She's batting .357 with 25 hits and 8 RBI in 30 games. She returned to action March 13 after missing a month due to an injury.



Cheyenne Nunez



Shelby Osceola, of the Darkside team, makes a layup during a game in the adult men's division.

Kevin Johnson

## ◆ HOWARD TIGER

From page 1C

Ruscilla, Mike and Moses played in that first tournament 50 years ago. Not all the players are still around, but the stories remain.

During the ceremony, Moses talked about how the first tournament was held on the outdoor court with wire nets. He reeled off the names of the first championship team, the Chiefs, which included Mike Tiger, Howard Tommie, Cecil Johns and others, and the runner-up team which included himself, Max Osceola, Truman Bowers, Steven Bowers, Moses Osceola and Reuben Billie.

At the end of the ceremony, Mike and Ruscilla received plaques that express the Seminole Tribe Recreation Department's gratitude to the Tiger family for allowing the tournament to be held as a tribute to Howard. Adam LoBrutto, Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class, made the presentation of the plaques. He received emotional salutes from both Mike and Ruscilla.

The last sentence on the plaque states: "He will always be remembered as a veteran, hunter, fisherman, athlete, leader, and friend of youth."

Champions in the 50th Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament were: Adrianna's (women 18+), Natives (men 18+), N.F.G. (men 35+), Lady Seminoles (women 35+) and Hot Mix (Co-ed 50+).

Adrianna's was led by sharp-shooting 3-point specialist Jenna Plumley. The former University of Oklahoma and Lamar University guard scored 58 points in the women 18+ championship game against the Lady Seminoles and 46 in another. In the final, Adrianna's also received big games from Mercedes Osceola (13 points), Ashley Wilcox (8 points) and Anna Van Stippen (7 points). Ariah Osceola led the Lady Seminoles with 21 points in the championship game.

Natives outgunned Soul Plain, 106-89, in the men 18+ title game.

Soul Plain didn't have an answer for tall center Nate Lang, who poured in 31 points. Natives' scoring was spread out as Hunter Osceola netted 26 points and Greg Carter had 24 points.

Ethan Cypress hit seven 3-pointers and finished with 25 points for Soul Plain.

In a battle between the only two teams in the women's 35+ division, the Lady Seminoles swept Hollywood Ladies in two games, 39-26 and 34-18. In one of the victories RaeAnn West led the Lady Seminoles with 14 points followed by Danielle Frye and Stacey Jones with eight points each.

Only two men's teams competed for the 35+ title. NFG swept Old Skool, 46-38 and 42-29. Kenny Tommie scored a combined 26 points to lead NFG, which received 19 points from Milo Osceola.

Hot Mix, organized by Aaron Billie, won the Co-ed 50+ division without much problem. The only other team in the division did not show up.



Maury Neipris

The Adrianna's team shows the jackets it won for capturing the women's 18+ division.



Maury Neipris

Hot Mix, led by captain Aaron Billie, has plenty of reasons to smile after winning the co-ed 50+ division.



Maury Neipris

The Natives team celebrates winning the men's 18+ division.



Hunter Osceola eyes a 3-point basket.



Kevin Johnson

Howard Tiger's children, Mike and Ruscilla, hold plaques from the Seminole Recreation Department in honor of their dad and the tournament.

# Announcements

## Poems

### Hashoobome Waache

Hashoobome Waache so I know you are doing well, No more do I have to worry about your safety here on Earth which is hell.

Though it was a pleasure because I enjoyed providing and protecting my pride and joy, You give me purpose in life Waache your youngest boy.

That hasn't changed, you will always inspire me, Against all odds I will always stand tall and stand strong whether I'm here or free.

Just like that great warrior Osceola, Waache you raised one too, Unconquered til the end Waache for you.

Waache most couldn't handle all these tests of time, I take pride in being in your bloodline.

Though you still see me when you were here you seen me become a better man, Evil became good so anyone can change if they make a stand.



Jennie Harjo and grandkids

Waache enjoy your journey with our loved ones you've missed for so long, Don't worry about us here especially those that continue to do wrong.

Hashoobome Waache just as your beautiful smile, A poem for Jennie Billie Harjo as always my own style.

Warrior Life,  
Ike T Har o  
Koowaathi

I love you Waache!

### My Time Has Come

My time has come now I don't have to dream of being free, Just as that great warrior Osceola I hope you remember me.

Different times, different circumstances yet the same fate, Two unconquered Seminole warriors caged til the end by a government of hate.

So many years has passed and loved ones too, I stood tall and I stood strong for Waache, Poshe, Big Sis, all of you.

I worked so hard at bettering myself day after day, I just wanted to make you proud of me with actions I've displayed.

I hope I was able to touch the spirit of those that listen with their hearts, You are stronger than the struggle putting forth effort is the start.

If I'm remembered I hope it's for becoming a better man, As I walked through the valley of the shadow of death of the condemned and damned.



I found comfort in bringing smiles to my loved ones face, Those genuine smiles brought light to this very dark place.

My time has come and with me goes a loyalty that's second to none, I embrace this journey reunited with Waache, Poshe, Big Sis, Sue, Olivia, all my fellow unconquered ones.

Warrior Life,  
Ike T Har o  
Koowaathi

### FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
806754	2013	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F150 4X4 SUPER CREW ECO BOOST	209,313	Fair	\$13,595.00
413008	2006	CHEVROLET BUS	STARCRAFT C5500 (Diesel)	42,718	Poor	\$6,047.00
226780	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER (RWD)-POLICE (RWD)	135,757	Poor	\$4,772.00
4EX335	NA	SCAT TURNER MULCHER AERATOR	481	50	Fair	\$3,000.00
076889	2002	GOOSENECK ALUMINIUM LIVESTOCK TRAILER	24' X 6' 8"	N/A	Good	\$2,867.00
141966	2006	CHEVROLET SUV	TAHOE - POLICE (2WD)	187,868	Poor	\$2,811.00
138836	2007	FORD SEDAN	CROWN VICTORIA - POLICE	113,041	Poor	\$1,612.00
614482	2006	THOR DUTCHMAN TRAVEL TRAILER	31BH4 FOUR WINDS - 30ft	N/A	Poor	\$908.00
067689	2004	MITSUBISHI SEDAN	LANCER ES (FWD)	100,736	Poor	\$712.00

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

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



## Theodore Nelson Sr.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, SW5813, Indian Child Welfare Consultant-Expert, Board Member National Indian Child Welfare Association, Licensed and Insured, Seminole Health Plan Provider

Are you unhappy with your current counseling/child welfare services? Now there are alternative services for you and your family. Philosophically, we all have difficulty balancing social life, culture, health, substance use/abuse, self-esteem, sense of belonging, emotions, our hopes and dreams.

I offer 20 years of professional experience as a qualified therapist working with children, teens and adults in a confidential, private setting in your home or my office. I am available for individual counseling, dependency/custody cases and tribal court; services are available for all reservations.

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