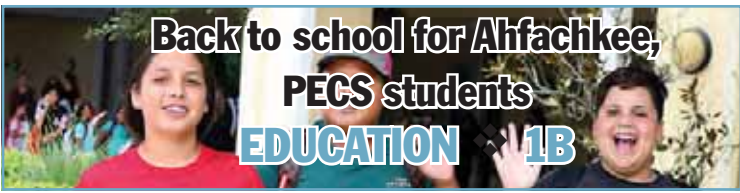




Hollywood seniors share culture in Hawaii
COMMUNITY ♦ 6A



Back to school for Ahfachkee, PECS students
EDUCATION ♦ 1B



Lady Seminoles Legends win NASA championship
SPORTS ♦ 3C



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

www.seminoletribune.org • 50¢

Volume XLII • Number 8

August 31, 2018

Hard Rock recognized as a 'best employer' for women

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

LAKE BUENA VISTA — Hard Rock International has been ranked by Forbes as one of the “best employers for women” in the United States. HRI, owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, was mentioned as a leader in the travel and leisure category and is one of two Native American-owned enterprises on the 2018 list. (The other is the Chickasaw Nation Division of Commerce of Ada, Oklahoma).

Forbes and market research firm Statista surveyed 40,000 employees of companies with more than 1,000 workers to compile a list of 300. Respondents were first asked to rate their organizations on criteria such as working conditions, diversity and how likely they’d be to recommend their employer to others.

The surveys included men and women and were anonymous.

HRI ranked No. 177 on the overall list. Among the 11 organizations in the travel and leisure category, HRI ranked ahead of Expedia Group (No. 186), MGM Resorts (No. 199) and Intercontinental Hotels Group (No. 284).

The overall No. 1 spot went to Principal Financial Group of Des Moines, Iowa. The rankings were published in late July.

“All of us at Hard Rock are honored to be named by Forbes as one of 2018’s Best Employers for Women,” David Carroll, senior vice president of Human Resources for HRI said in a statement. “We are working hard to increase management opportunities for women through mentorship and training programs. While this ranking reflects our recent success, we consider it a starting point and we intend to build on it.”

Carroll told The Seminole Tribune that there has been a steady increase in female directors and vice presidents throughout the company.

Mentorship program

The Women of Seminole Gaming was

♦ See HARD ROCK on page 5A



Kent Phillips

With medicine man Bobby Henry at the podium, Seminoles take center stage during the opening of “Creating Tradition: Innovation and Change in American Indian Art” on July 27 at Walt Disney World’s Epcot theme park in Lake Buena Vista. Forty tribes are represented in the exhibit, which is located at the American Heritage Gallery inside the American Adventure pavilion.



Matt Strohane

Quenton Cypress and his daughter Willow check out an interactive exhibit at the opening of “Creating Tradition: Innovation and Change in American Indian Art” on July 27 at Walt Disney World’s Epcot.

Epcot debuts ‘Creating Tradition’ exhibit with Seminoles

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

LAKE BUENA VISTA — Dignitaries and other invited guests gathered at the American Adventure pavilion at Walt Disney World’s Epcot theme park for the dedication of a new exhibition July 27.

“Creating Tradition: Innovation and Change in American Indian Art” was officially opened at the American Heritage Gallery with a ceremony that involved members of the Seminole and Miccosukee tribes.

The new exhibit is designed to give visitors a glimpse of American Indian culture and history through artifacts and

contemporary pieces.

“If you read the history of great Indian nations of North America, one thing becomes clear: great accomplishments are usually the result of many hands working together. And that is certainly the case with our new gallery,” said Melissa Valiquette, Epcot vice president, in opening remarks.

The exhibit features 89 pieces representing 40 different American Indian tribes, including the Seminole Tribe, from seven geographic regions across the U.S. During the next five years, it will feature new artifacts and refreshed displays, incorporating pieces from more of the 573 American Indian tribes recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“America’s tribes are extraordinarily

diverse, yet they share common beliefs. One of those beliefs is the importance of harmony — harmony among people, harmony with nature and harmony between the physical and spiritual world. No one knows this better than Seminole representative Mr. Bobby Henry,” Valiquette said as she brought Henry to the stage.

Henry gave a blessing and led several Seminoles and Miccosukees in a traditional “Stomp Dance.”

Others giving remarks included Della Warrior, director of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Veronica Gonzales, secretary of Cultural Affairs for the state of New Mexico. Kevin Gover, the director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian

also spoke. The three were all collaborators of the exhibit, as was Dr. Paul Backhouse, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Tribe.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki connection

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress was contacted about nine months ago by Epcot officials who wanted the organization to be a part of the unique exhibit.

“We had some staff that knew one of their curators from past jobs and they reached out and wanted to see if we’d be

♦ See EPCOT on page 4A

Big Cypress Reservation celebrates opening of SemFuel station

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The gas is flowing at the newly opened SemFuel gas station on Josie Billie Highway in Big Cypress, making the reservation a gasoline desert no more.

Customers waited for officials to speak and the ceremonial ribbon to be cut Aug. 20 before they drove up and filled their vehicles on opening day.

“This community really needs this fuel,” said Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger. “I’m so glad it’s done now and I’m very pleased with what my administration was able to do in such a short time.”

It had been two years since residents of Big Cypress had easy access to gas. Prior to the opening, the closest gas was the Miccosukee station at Snake Road and I-75, about a 20-mile drive.

When Councilman Tiger was elected in May 2017, Tribal members in BC asked if he could get a gas station open on the reservation. He said he would try, and just over a year later, SemFuel is open for business.

“I think this will be beneficial for the community and our visitors,” Councilman Tiger said. “I think it’s a win-win for the Tribe and for Council. It’s our responsibility to make sure our Tribal needs are met.”

Seminole Petroleum, a Board business, supplies five types of gasoline to SemFuel: regular, mid-grade, premium, diesel and Rec 90.

“It’s a good thing we are doing business with our own reservation to help the community,” said President Mitchell Cypress. “This has been a long time coming; I think everybody’s happy today.”

Veldina Osceola was first to get gas



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger speaks during the grand opening of the SemFuel gas station Aug. 20 on Josie Billie Highway. Employees and other tribal leaders, including President Mitchell Cypress, far left, participated in the festivities before the first tank of gas was filled.

during the grand opening festivities. It was fitting since her father Roy Nash Osceola built the first store on the very same site many years ago. Her brother Raleigh put in gas pumps in the 1990s

“It started as a small store in a chickee and then he built the store behind it,” Osceola said. “I’m honored to be the first customer.

♦ See SEMFUEL on page 5A



Beverly Bidney

Junior Billie was one of SemFuel’s first customers on grand opening day.

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Editorial

Rep. Kevin Yoder says Democratic rival Sharice Davids doesn't have Kansas values. Huh?

• **Kansas City Star Editorial Board**

We endorsed Sharice Davids to be the Democratic nominee in Kansas' 3rd Congressional District not knowing if she'd win or finish closer to the bottom among the six candidates competing to go up against Republican U.S. Rep. Kevin Yoder in November. Bernie Sanders-endorsed progressive Brent Welder raised almost twice as much cash in the primary campaign, and moderate high school history teacher Tom Niermann raised even more. It was Welder who was all over national media.

It was Davids herself — her seriousness and her thoughtful answers in her interview — that made her such a standout in a field of fine candidates with only minor policy differences. So hearing from Yoder about her “radical ideas” is jarring, if in no way unexpected. Neither is Yoder the “extremist” Davids describes; on the contrary, it's his minute-to-minute malleability that we've criticized.

They do have extremely different ideas, however, and plenty to debate. So we're going to dare to hope not to hear any more of Yoder's dog-whistling that she's not from around here. In what sense?

At his election night celebration, before it was clear Davids had won, Yoder said of Davids and Welder that “neither of them are



Sharice Davids/Facebook

Sharice Davids, a Native American and former MMA fighter, flexed her muscles by winning the Democratic primary Aug. 8 in Kansas' 3rd Congressional District.

from around here, and both want to force their radical ideas on those of use who have dedicated our entire lives to this community and this state.”

As a Native American, oh yes, Davids is very much from here.

As a graduate of Leavenworth High, where she lived until her single mom retired

from the Army there, and of Johnson County Community College, yes, she is from around here.

As someone who graduated from Cornell Law, was in private practice, worked on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and then was a White House fellow, she could have gone anywhere but chose to come back to Kansas. So yes, she is from around here.

Davids and Welder “don't know Kansas,” Yoder told the crowd on election night. “They don't know our values.”

He could not have been knocking the work ethic of a woman who worked her way through college and law school, or the discipline of a former mixed martial arts fighter.

We hope he wasn't talking about the fact that she'd be the first Native American woman elected to Congress and the first openly LGBT person to represent Kansas.

There is still more voters will need to know about this first-time candidate, and we are a long way from deciding on an endorsement in this fall's 3rd District race. But the values we saw in her included the pragmatism that she said would compel her to focus on fighting corporate tax giveaways and delivering health care for her constituents instead of on impeaching the president.

“I wouldn't call myself a very moderate Democrat, but I am a very pragmatic Democrat” who, yes, will work with all kinds of people and “have the hard conversations that we've been missing.” Those start now.

The false narratives, invisibility, and the erasure of Native peoples must end

• **Crystal Echo Hawk**

Forget what your elementary teacher taught you about Native Americans.

American students learn some of the most damaging misconceptions and biases toward Native Americans in grades K-12. In fact, 87 percent of history books in the U.S. portray Native Americans as a population existing before 1900, according to a 2014 study on academic standards. For many Americans, we no longer exist.

With minimal mention of contemporary issues and ongoing conflicts over land and water rights or tribal sovereignty, Native Americans have become invisible and it can be argued that it makes it easier for non-Natives to take the lead on creating their own narratives about us. Our invisibility makes it easier to create and support racist mascots or over sexualize caricatures of Native women in everything from fashion to Halloween costumes.

For the well-being of Native peoples and future generations, these false narratives, the invisibility and erasure of Native peoples must end.

The Reclaiming Native Truth Project, the largest public opinion research project ever conducted by and for Native Americans, is built upon new and existing research. Among the significant findings is that invisibility of Native peoples may be one of the biggest barriers we face.

This invisibility extends beyond education curriculum to pop culture entertainment, news media, social media and the judicial system. The results are extremely damaging and contribute to bias, discrimination and institutional racism. Not surprisingly, non-Natives are filling the information void with devastating effects -- our Native children struggle with identity and their place in the world.

The most toxic myth is that Native Americans receive government benefits and get rich from casinos. This narrative has been played out over and over in popular TV

shows, films and in the media, particularly over the last two decades. This stereotyping for years has infuriated Native peoples and intuitively we knew how damaging those portrayals to us with real consequences in our daily lives. However, for the first time we have the hard data and ground-breaking research to show that stereotypes, false and inaccurate narratives and the invisibility of Native peoples has real and damaging effects as they create the lens in which major decisions are made-from the highest court in the land, to Congress, schools, by employers, etc. It can no longer be viewed as fighting for political correctness. The modern form of bias against Native Americans is the omission of contemporary ideas and representations of the ways in which Native people contribute to society.

This unprecedented research project has yielded promising steps forward to begin chipping away at decades of misconceptions about Native Americans. The study found a 78 percent majority are interested in learning more about Native cultures. For example, 72 percent support increased representation of Native Americans in entertainment, and 72 percent advocate significant change to K-12 curricula.

The significance of these findings cannot be underestimated. For too long the argument against doing more to include Native Americans-whether in movies, media coverage, philanthropy and in policies-has always been undercut by arguments that the Native population is too small, and not a significant enough demographic that the American public will be interested in. That small population argument for decades has been used to rationalize and justify the erasure of Native peoples, the lack of resources, services and even discrimination. The research findings can now blow these arguments out of the water and illuminate pathways forward for Native peoples to work together to organize and achieve change.

Standing Rock is an important example. The historic stand for water rights interrupted and disrupted the invisibility, erasure and toxic narratives the majority of Americans

held about Native peoples. We can never underestimate the victory that was achieved at Standing Rock for that reason alone. Jodi Gillette, former Advisor on Native American Affairs for President Obama, shared in a soon-to-be-released case study on the lessons learned from Standing Rock on narrative change that “what Standing Rock did for all of America was that it brought past injustices to the present.”

Echo Hawk Consulting was proud to be a co-leader in the Reclaiming Native Truth Project. We now understand what different groups of Americans think (and don't know) about Native Americans and Native issues. We also learned what types of messages will begin to shift public perception. This is where the real work is just starting.

This fall, Echo Hawk Consulting in partnership with diverse Native artists, filmmakers, activists and some key allies will launch IllumiNative, an initiative to break through the dominant negative narrative and erasure of Native peoples in pop culture and media. We hope to create platforms to share stories of Native people and create accurate and positive representation of Native peoples on a mass scale.

We know we have friends and allies in concerned parents, educators, lawmakers, donors and people who just want the facts. Together, as Native peoples from all backgrounds and walks of life in partnership with non-Native allies, we need to break through the dominant negative narrative and erasure of Native peoples to illuminate the vibrancy of Native voices, contributions, wisdom, innovation and lived experiences. Our time is now.

Crystal Echo Hawk, Pawnee, founder and chief executive officer of IllumiNative, is president and CEO of Echo Hawk Consulting. The mission of Echo Hawk Consulting is to help to create new platforms, narratives, strategies and investment that can help to catalyze transformational change for and by Native Americans. Crystal served as co-project leader for the Reclaiming Native Truth Project.

New hope for neglected Native kids

• **Billings (Mont.) Gazette**

Montana's child protection system is struggling with increased numbers of abused and neglected children and too few resources to care for them. In the midst of this struggle, the Indian Child Welfare Act Court established in Yellowstone County District Court is a bright ray of hope.

The ICWA Court, led by Judge Rod Souza, is coordinating limited resources to provide the greatest benefit to children. It started one year ago and this month and now serves 93 children who are eligible for membership in the Crow, Northern Cheyenne or Fort Peck tribes.

The key to improving service to abused and neglected kids is for the court team members to establish good working relationships.

“The goal of the court is to improve relationships,” Souza told The Gazette.

Prehearing conferences held soon after children are reported in need of protection have helped speed up the process of finding the most appropriate placements and getting parents the drug treatment and other help they need to become safe parents.

A federal law, the ICWA applies to abuse and neglect cases involving Native American children, regardless of whether they are living on a reservation. The law gives the tribes a say in these cases and it requires active efforts by the state to keep Native children in Native homes and to reunite them with their birth parents.

ICWA Court team members include “qualified expert witnesses” who testify on cultural and community questions when needed. They also provide local insight that helps the court locate relatives to care for kids and to make decisions that fit a particular family's needs.

Souza looks forward to a national review team's visit next month that he expects will help provide data to measure the court's performance. It's too soon to verify

success with annual statistics, but early data suggest that fewer Native children have had to be re-removed from their parents' homes in the past year. Furthermore, fewer Native children were removed in 2017 than in 2016 or 2015.

Native American children account for about 10 percent of Yellowstone County' under-18 population, they have accounted for about 40 percent of the county's child abuse and neglect cases for many years — until last year. According to 2017 statistics compiled by the Yellowstone County Attorney's Office, less than 28 percent of the total 574 children who entered the foster care system last year were Native Americans.

Unfortunately, that reduction was more than offset by an increase in non-Native children removed. Last year's total was the highest ever for Yellowstone County.

It takes time and sufficient staff to build the working relationships that will move children permanently to safe homes — with their birth parents, relatives, guardians or adoptive parents. Montana Child Protective Services presently lacks the staff to provide prompt and adequate attention to every child in the system. Those failings must be addressed by the governor as soon as possible. Sufficient funding must be restored and sustained by the 2019 Legislature.

Besides Souza, the Yellowstone County ICWA court team includes: Heather Sather, deputy county attorney; Brooke Baracker-Taylor, assistant attorney general; Jenn Weber and Heather Eleazer, CPS supervisors (several social workers regularly appear); Juli Pierce, guardian ad litem for the children; James Reintsma, Public Defender Conflict Office; Dennison Butler, Office of Public Defender; Georgeette Boggio, representing Crow Tribe and Fort Peck Tribes; Sophia Jackson, Court Appointed Special Advocate ICWA coordinator; qualified expert witnesses Edie Adams, Skeeter He Does It, Anna Fisher and Dana Runsabov. Several other attorneys for parents regularly appear, as do numerous CASAs.

We commend all of these individuals for striving to better protect Yellowstone County's must vulnerable children.

How running changes lives

• **Billy Mills**

When I first began to train for the Olympics, I visualized winning daily and did so much that I could actually see it. Using this method to win the 10,000-meter run at the 1964 Olympics forever changed me.

For anyone who runs long distance, well, for all runners, transformation can be seen immediately. But for most, transformation happens over time. Not only are physical benefits seen, but mental, emotional and some would say spiritual changes occur when pushing your body to move beyond what you think you can do.

This transformation is explored in the new film, 3100: Run & Become. The documentary tells the stories of ultra runners, those who run more than the customary marathon distance, 26.2 miles, in various cultures. The main character is a Finnish paper boy trying to beat his best time in the Self-Transcendence 3100, a 3,100-mile, 52-day run around a half-mile loop in New York City. The film also features a Buddhist Monk on a 1,000-day prayer circuit, African Bushmen fighting to retain traditional hunting methods, and Diné ultra runner Shaun Martin.

In the film, Martin retraces the steps his father took as a small boy when he ran away from boarding school back to his family's homestead over 100 miles away. This revelatory journey helps Shaun understand where the resilience of his family first took form. It was through running that his father asked for guidance and strength

from the Holy People to contend with an institutionalized system attempting to suppress Navajo culture.

Several organizations in Native America use running as a tool to help young people set goals and find a sense of belonging in two worlds. Wings of America, which celebrates

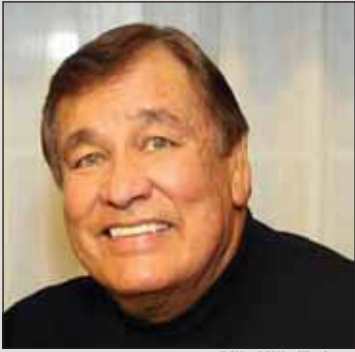
its 30th anniversary this year, is one that helps youth tap into a meaningful tradition that can lead them to other interests, goals and eventually, careers. Since 1988, at least 50,000 students have participated in Wings programs. Today, many of them work in health care, education, engineering, among so many other professions.

Wings, an associate producer of 3100, however, can only do so much until we have tribes and tribal

enterprises make similar investments. I look forward to the day that our tribal leadership honors the potential of young runners with the resources they need. Not just to foster the next Olympian, but to empower young people of all talent levels and help them discover their passions to fulfill their dreams.

Whether you're a runner or someone looking to transform your life, inspiration can be found if you have the courage to look within. A film like 3100: Run and Become is the perfect starting point for anyone lacking direction. I'm thankful for organizations like Wings of America that push Native youth to the next level by creating community, goals and inspiration to help their passions flourish.

Billy Mills, Oglala Lakota, is the 1964 Olympic gold medalist in the 10,000-meter and an emeritus member of the Wings of America Board of Directors.



Billy Mills/Twitter

Billy Mills

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.

Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make checks payable to: The Seminole Tribune 3560 N. State Road 7 Hollywood, FL 33021 Phone: 954-985-5700 Fax: 954-965-2937

The following deadlines apply to all submissions to The Seminole Tribune:

Issue: September 28, 2018
Deadline: September 12, 2018

Issue: October 31, 2018
Deadline: October 17, 2018

Issue: November 14, 2018
Deadline: November 30, 2018

Please note: Submissions that come past deadline will be published in the following issue.

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

Postmaster:
Please send address changes to:
The Seminole Tribune
3560 N. State Road 7
Hollywood, FL 33021

Publisher: The Seminole Tribe of Florida

Senior Editor: Kevin Johnson
KevinJohnson@semttribe.com

Staff Reporter: Beverly Bidney
BeverlyBidney@semttribe.com

Staff Reporter: Damon Scott
DamonScott@semttribe.com

Contributors: Li Cohen, Maury Neipris, Naomi Wilson

If you would like to request a reporter or would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem, please contact Senior Editor Kevin Johnson at 954-985-5701 ext. 10715

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Community



Oral histories provide important part of museum archives

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Storytelling has been a common way to pass along traditions and memories since ancient times.

Also known as oral history, the practice predates the written word and is the oldest method of recording history. But it is also a very modern way of documenting history. In the 1940s tape recorders became tools of the trade and now state-of-the-art digital technology is used to record the stories.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress has a vibrant oral history program and aims to document as many stories from Tribal members as possible.

“Once you start to record things, you can save them for posterity,” said Justin Giles, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki oral history coordinator. “We want to show what you are doing right now so your grandchildren and great-grandchildren can see it, too.”

Giles recently recorded an oral history

of Alex Johns, the first Native American to be elected as president of the Florida Cattlemen’s Association. Johns talked about his life growing up in Brighton, working with his family’s herd and what it means to be Natural Resource Director in which he oversees the Seminole Tribe’s cattle program. Along the way, he talked about what cattle means to the Tribe and how it evolved into the sophisticated business it is today.

“Crossbreeding was magic to our people,” Johns said as Giles recorded it on video. “Offspring are always superior to the parents.”

Johns also talked about cattle’s importance to the land.

“Land is made to be grazed by wildlife and becomes infertile if you remove livestock,” Johns said. “Cattle enhance the land.”

Johns’ focus in the oral history was about what he knows best: cattle. Giles wants other Tribal members to tell their own stories, whether it’s about attending the



Beverly Bidney

Alex Johns is recorded by Justin Giles, left, during an oral history session at the Cattle and Range building in Brighton on Aug. 14.



Beverly Bidney

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum oral history coordinator Justin Giles edits oral histories in his office.

recent opening of the SemFuel gas station or anything else.

“One conversation can lead to other things,” Giles said. “It can be what it’s like to go to school on a reservation, make a batch of sofkee, go to the beach, anything at all. It’s all indicative of the community at this time.”

Giles goal is to record a few each month. Tribal members can request him to come out to make a recording, or he may reach out to people to recruit them for an oral history session. The point is to get as many people interested in recording their stories as

possible.

The oral histories are stored in a vault. Anyone may request to view or listen to most of them, but some are meant only for Tribal members or even only specific clans. Researchers, students, professors and others often come to the museum to access the videos.

Like other Tribal-run museums around the country, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki is more than just a place for artifacts; it is a place to see, touch, smell and hear. Giles believes Native American museums can be cultural centers, gathering places and the voice of the

community.

“It’s a way of flexing the sovereignty muscle,” Giles said. “It always has to be reaffirmed so people understand who the Seminoles are. The more you can tell your own story, the better they will understand it.”

The museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is a Smithsonian Affiliate.

“We have a world-class institution here in the middle of Big Cypress,” Giles said. “It does a great service telling the Seminole story.”

Tribes eye Farm Bill as deadline looms for Congress

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Farming and ranching are important professions to the Seminole way of life in Florida and to Native communities around the country.

However, Indian Country has – some say for decades now – often been marginalized when it comes to discussions of the federal Farm Bill. Stakeholders say the consequences are such that Native Americans and tribal governments are left out of the mix and can’t effectively protect and advance agriculture-related interests.

The Farm Bill is one of the largest pieces of domestic legislation in the U.S. It is renewed by Congress every five years and covers areas like nutrition programs, agricultural policies, food production, natural resource conservation, rural development and insurance programs. Other provisions are on topics like commodities, trade, credit, research, forestry and horticulture.

The House and Senate prepare their own provisions of the bill to emerge with a final version which would eventually be sent to President Donald J. Trump for his signature.

The current bill expires on Sept. 30 and is now in the conferencing process.

‘Equal footing’

Jeanne Morin, the president of Public Policy Advisors, represents the Seminole Tribe of Florida in Washington, D.C., and lobbies on various issues important to the Tribe.

“Tribes have, for years, only been able to use the programs that the [U.S. Department of Agriculture] provides around the edges,” Morin said. “Tribes often don’t get included or aren’t able to participate in programs or contract directly with the government.”

So at the beginning of 2018, tribes and other Native entities got together to form the Native Farm Bill Coalition. The group has been working to get provisions in the reauthorization of the bill to be able to, among other things, allow tribes greater access to those federal government contracts.

“... There are several provisions included in both versions of the bill that would be of historic importance to tribal governments and communities, Native producers, and all of Indian Country,” the coalition said.

Morin said among tribes, including the Seminoles, is an interest in having better access to disaster and commodity insurance programs and better access to some of the funding sources available. For example, there is a beginning farmer and rancher program that provides loans to Native youth that is accessible through the Farm Bill.

There are parts of the Farm Bill

that relate to environmental concerns as well, something tribes are also tuned into.

“Part of my job is to educate people in Congress to the fact that the Tribe is a government, and to the extent that the federal government gives access to any local government, that Tribal governments are on an equal footing,” she said.

Morin said the final goal for Congress is to come up with a conference report that has provisions that both sides agree to before it’s sent to the President.

Potential holdup

Any controversy with reauthorization of the bill might be in the details of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, provision. The food assistance program now has work requirements in the House version that previously didn’t exist.

“That is really the big sticking point that needs to be resolved and how they resolve it will have some say on whether it’s acceptable to the President when it gets to his desk,” Morin said, alluding to the fact that the work requirement is something Trump is likely in favor of including.



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Damon Scott

Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Allegra Billie are joined by Carmen Smith, left, Creative Development and Inclusive Strategies executive with Walt Disney Imagineering; and Debbie Petersen, executive Creative Development with Walt Disney Imagineering, at the opening of “Creating Tradition: Innovation and Change in American Indian Art” on July 27 at Disney’s Epcot theme park. The display behind them includes some Seminole items.

◆ EPCOT From page 1A

interested in loaning objects,” Kate Macuen, assistant director at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, said.

Macuen has been at the museum for almost three years and previously spent six years in the Tribal Historical Preservation Office.

Macuen said after going through certain criteria like display and security requirements, the museum was able to give Epcot six initial items – mostly textiles, sashes, shirts and purses.

Since the exhibit is ongoing for the next five years, she said items will rotate

out probably every seven to eight months, meaning the public can expect to see more work from the Seminole Tribe over time.

“The Seminoles are really known for a variety of art forms – bead work, basket makers, patch work and sewing, wood carving ... and then you have more contemporary artists doing all types of work – graphic designers, painters, poets ...,” Macuen said.

Everything Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki loaned to Epcot was from the museum’s collection, including a bandolier bag by Brian epeda, Naples Council liaison.

The exhibit is expected to mix modern pieces with historic ones.

This is the second exhibit Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki has done outside the walls of the

museum in Big Cypress. And it’s the first time the museum has worked with Epcot, even though the Tribe has a relationship with Disney as a whole, said Macuen.

The other exhibit was revealed at the recent opening of the Hard Rock Hotel Casino in Atlantic City. The museum worked with the Hard Rock’s memorabilia department to be part of a temporary exhibit there, although Macuen said officials are looking to build a permanent exhibition space for Seminole objects.

Macuen said while loaning objects to exhibits outside of the walls of the museum is a nontraditional route for Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, she thinks it’s a positive development.

“The impact we hope to have is by sharing the Tribe’s culture and history with



Courtesy Ah Tah Thi Ki Museum

Brian Zepeda stands next to an exhibit that includes his Seminole bandolier bag, all part of the “Creating Tradition: Innovation and Change in American Indian Art” at the American Adventure pavilion in Walt Disney World’s Epcot theme park.

millions and millions of people that might not even know about the Tribe,” she said. “We can help with misconceptions people might have. Even people in Florida don’t always know about the Tribe. We are able

to present the correct history and the true culture.”



Damon Scott (2)

Above, led by Pedro Zepeda, Seminoles take center stage during the opening of “Creating Tradition: Innovation and Change in American Indian Art” on July 27 at Disney’s Epcot theme park. Also in the group are Everett Osceola, Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon “Ollie” Wareham and Peter Hahn. Below is the American Adventure pavilion at Epcot.



Kent Phillips

Bobby Henry looks at one of the exhibits in “Creating Tradition: Innovation and Change in American Indian Art” on July 27 at the American Adventure pavilion in Walt Disney World’s Epcot theme park.



Damon Scott

The audience watches the opening ceremony for “Creating Tradition: Innovation and Change in American Indian Art” on July 27.

Plastic straws, to-go bags a thing of the past at HRI, Seminole Gaming properties

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming, both owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, announced in August the elimination of plastic straws and plastic to-go bags at its properties. The to-go bags were to be eliminated by mid-August and the plastic straws by Sept. 1.

Hard Rock officials said “durable, earth-friendly drinking straws” will now be available to customers on request. To-go bags made of paper will be used instead of plastic.

The move is significant, say environmentalists, and follows similar actions by other companies recently like Marriott International, Walt Disney World, SeaWorld and Busch Gardens, Starbucks and Royal Caribbean International.

While the environmental effect of a plastic straw might not seem like much to the average person, industry watchers say otherwise, as Americans used almost 400 million plastic straws per day in 2017, according to marketing research firm Freedonia Group.

Environmentalists say plastic straws can’t be easily recycled; they do not

biodegrade and never fully degrade; and plastic straws are one of the most-often littered items responsible for polluting the oceans and killing sea life.

Comparable and often worse environmental consequences can be attributed to the use of plastic bags.

“Seminole Gaming has a long history of sustainability programs, and we are pleased to add more earth-friendly straws and to-go bags to the list,” said Tracy Bradford, senior vice president of Purchasing, in a statement.

Bradford noted that Seminole Gaming restaurants already use reusable, recyclable or eco-friendly to-go containers. She said

the casinos also recycle cardboard and wood pallets.

Two of Seminole Gaming’s six Florida casinos operate under the Hard Rock brand. They are the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino Hollywood and the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino Tampa. Others are the Seminole Classic Casino in Hollywood, Seminole Casino Coconut Creek, Seminole Casino Immokalee, east of Naples, and the Seminole Casino Brighton, near Lake Okeechobee.

The announcement is significant for the Hard Rock brand as well, as it has a presence in more than 74 countries across the globe

with 185 cafes, 25 hotels and 12 casinos.

“One of Hard Rock’s founding mottos is to ‘Save the Planet,’ and this is only an extension of the commitment we made to do just that 47 years ago,” Bradford said in her statement.

“Our vendors and partners have been and will continue to be instrumental in activating this endeavor across the globe, and we are proud to help make a difference in conscientious sustainability practices as a business – it’s the right thing to do,” she said.

◆ **SEMFUEL**
From page 1A

People need gas around here; now we don't have to drive so far to get it."

The atmosphere at the SemFuel grand opening was festive. Swamp Water Cafe served lunch, country music played on the loudspeakers and, as each vehicle filled up, SemFuel and Executive Operations Office employees applauded heartily.

The hours at SemFuel are Monday to Saturday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Beverly Bidney

Veldina Osceola was the first customer at the SemFuel gas station. Employees pumped the gas as President Mitchell Cypress observed. Osceola's father built a convenience store on the site years ago.



Beverly Bidney

President Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger cut the ribbon declaring the opening of the SemFuel gas station in BC. Executive Director of Operations Andrew Jordan Bowers, SemFuel manager Michelle Willie and employees watch the ribbon fall.

Nine Tanner fills three five-gallon containers with fuel for his ATVs during the grand opening festivities.

Beverly Bidney



◆ **HARD ROCK**
From page 1A

created a few years ago by a group of Seminole Gaming senior executives to mentor, develop and educate Gaming employees. Carroll said the Women of Seminole Gaming mentorship program has helped to boost the percentage of women vice presidents from 20 to 27 percent, while the percentage of women working at the director level has grown from 28 to 32 percent.

One of those executives is Meaghan Ryan – the vice president of Global Talent and Team Member Relations for Seminole Hard Rock Support Services. She's been in the position for more than four years after starting with the company as corporate director of Talent Acquisition.

"It was really exciting that Hard Rock got that ranking," Ryan said. "It's only going to get better."

Ryan thinks it will get better with the expansion and evolution of the mentorship program.

She describes the program as all about the employee-team member engagement, performance management and performance coaching. The group holds mini-conferences, teaches public speaking, financial wellness, personal branding, brand awareness, social media presence and how to dress for success, among other topics.

"It's an opportunity to network and know people outside their normal day to day," Ryan said.

Thus far the program has more than 100 mentors and mentees. There have been two main sessions and two graduation events.

"We've seen the success for the women in the program who have been promoted. They've become mentors in other programs," Ryan said.

The program is formally set up for salaried team members, but Ryan thinks it will expand to hourly employees at some point – and hourly employees are still invited to come to events.

One of Ryan's mentors and an executive

sponsor of the Women of Seminole Gaming is Tracy Bradford, senior vice president of Purchasing for Seminole Hard Rock Support Services.

Bradford has been with the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Seminole Gaming for more than 13 years. She began in 2005 as the director of Purchasing for the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino in Tampa and was promoted to VP of Purchasing three years later at the Seminole Gaming corporate office.

She's now transitioned to Support Services to "build the bridge to Hard Rock," she said.

"I wouldn't want to work anywhere else. I'm probably to the extreme of passionate, because they (Hard Rock) say what they mean and do what they say," Bradford said. "I love this company. I trust the leaders; appreciate the relationships, direction, goals, and communication and the successes."

Bradford said it was important to create a program that enabled women to find a "constructive, professional and appropriate" way to use their knowledge and experience and feel empowered.

"To pay it forward and educate," she said. "I like to mold team members and hone in on their strengths. There's so many different ways to look at it and I love the diversity of the program."

e t e i o n

Bradford said some tweaks are being installed before the next session takes place, including adding a section on how important it is to stay positive and to "try and get to yes."

She said the next round of sessions should take place in September or October. Applications will be available and accepted at all six Florida gaming properties. Bradford and her team read through them all.

"I want people to feel they matter and make a difference. You can go anywhere to make a paycheck," she said.

HRI now has a presence in 74 countries, including 185 cafes, 25 hotels and 12 casinos.



Meaghan Ryan



Tracy Bradford

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MAY 13, 2019

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■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Voter Registration Packets will be mailed out September 1, 2018 to all eligible Tribal Members who are not registered.

All Voter Registration Packets mailed to the Supervisor Of Elections must be postmarked by March 1, 2019

Voter Registration Drives will be held on the reservations or visit the Tribal Secretary's Office in Hollywood or Brighton to register.

Unless your residency has changed, you do not need to re-register.

Questions regarding voting status contact:
Supervisor of Elections Office at (954) 966-6300 X 11461

Hollywood seniors share cultural exchange in Maui, Hawaii

SUBMITTED BY NAOMI WILSON

I II — During their recent out of state trip, the Hollywood seniors were able to do a cultural exchange with the local Natives in Ka'anapali, Maui, Hawaii.

This event was organized by the Hollywood Elders Services Activities Coordinator Elizabeth Bridon and the host hotel, the Westin Maui. It took a lot of back and forth due to the six-hour time difference between Hollywood and Ka'anapali, however it was arranged and everyone was excited to attend. Prior to the group leaving Hollywood, it was announced that Hollywood senior Nettie Stewart (Big Town Clan) was donating a Seminole doll and a Seminole ladies skirt with patchwork to present to the local Natives at the cultural exchange. The Seminole doll was made by Nettie's mother, the late Minnie Doctor (Big Town Clan) who was usually a frequent traveler on the senior trips. So everyone was very happy that a treasured golden senior could be represented on the trip in this way.

On Saturday, July 21 the seniors, Elders staff and the Fire/Rescue duo gathered under the portico at the Westin Maui and were presented to Ke'eaumoku and Uilani Kapu and members of their cultural group. They represented the local Hawaiian Natives and are part of the Na'aikane Cultural Center. Their leader, Ke'eaumoku Kapu, started off the presentation explaining the history of their people in the area and sharing how his native families still thrive in the area today. All of the local Natives wore their traditional clothing and to some of the seniors, they were quite revealing. He thanked the seniors from the Seminole Tribe of Florida for visiting and for wanting to meet the local Natives. His wife then presented the native Hawaiian flag to the Hollywood senior group and it



Photo courtesy Hollywood Elder Services

During their recent trip to Hawaii, Hollywood seniors pose together with a group from the Na'aikane Cultural Center after cultural presentations were made.

was accepted by Agnes Billie-Motlow (Bear Clan).

Agnes Billie-Motlow then made the Seminole introduction in Elaponke and translated to English as all members of the Seminole group stood behind her. As she presented the Seminole doll and patchwork skirt to the Hawaiian Natives, Agnes

explained the importance of the items to the Seminole's survival and legacy. She explained some of the history and culture, told them about the clan system and how the seniors were honored to be able to meet the local Natives and share time with them. After the presentations were done, the seniors did a thank you hand shake with all members of

Ke'eaumoku's group. Pictures and personal thank yous were done.

Afterwards everyone went inside to share lunch. However, before lunch was served, the Hawaiian group performed several Native dances to the delight of all there.

In the end, everyone who participated

said it was refreshing to meet the local Natives and see the similarities we all have in common; love for the Creator, their people and the importance of keeping their culture alive.



Naomi Wilson

Agnes Billie-Motlow is presented with a gift from the local Natives in Maui, Hawaii.



Photo courtesy Hollywood Elder Services

Agnes Billie-Motlow and Joe Kippenberger making the gift presentation to Ke'eaumoku Kapu



Naomi Wilson

Ke'eaumoku Kapu welcomes the Hollywood seniors to Ka'anapali, Maui, Hawaii

Alaska Native Tara Sweeney sworn in as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs

FROM PRESS RELEASE

S I G — Earlier this month, Tara MacLean Sweeney, a prominent Alaskan leader and acclaimed businesswoman with the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, was sworn in as the Department's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. Sweeney was nominated by President Donald J. Trump in October 2017. Sweeney, a member of the Native Village of Barrow and the I upiat Community of the Arctic Slope, is the first Alaska Native and only the second woman in history to hold the position.

The Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs oversees Interior's manifold responsibilities to enhance the quality of life, promote economic opportunity, and provide quality educational opportunities for American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives, while protecting and improving their trust assets.

"Tara is a results-driven team leader and coalition builder who has an impressive combination of business acumen and service to her community," Secretary of the Interior Ryan Inke said. "Her lifelong active engagement in Native American policy development and her outreach, advocacy, and organization skills are the combination we need to carry out the President's reform initiative for Indian Country. She will be a great asset to the Department."

"I am honored to be able to serve Indian Country in this capacity," Sweeney said. "My goal is to develop strong relationships with Tribes, Alaska Native corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations to work on innovative solutions for lifting up our

communities. I am motivated to work with Indian Country to find efficiencies inside the Bureau of Indian Affairs, improve service delivery and culturally relevant curriculum in the Bureau of Indian Education, and create a more effective voice for Tribes throughout the Federal Government. I am humbled by the confidence President Trump and Secretary Inke have shown in me and ready to serve."

Sweeney grew up in rural Alaska and has spent a lifetime actively engaged in state and national policy arenas focused on advocating for responsible Indian energy policy, rural broadband connectivity, Arctic growth and Native American self-determination. She has served her Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and its subsidiaries in a variety of capacities for nearly two decades. The \$2.6 billion corporation is the largest locally-owned and operated business in Alaska, with about 13,000 I upiat Eskimo members and 12,000 employees worldwide. In her role as the Executive Vice President of External Affairs, she was responsible for all facets of government affairs and corporate communications. Her primary responsibilities include strategic policy and position development, implementation and execution; engagement with federal and state executive and legislative branches on improving policies affecting Indian energy, taxation, resource development, government contracting, broadband development and access to capital; as well as all facets of corporate communication as official company spokesperson, including stakeholder engagement and coalition building.

Sweeney also has served in leadership positions on numerous business and



Courtesy photo

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney, an Alaska Native, is joined by Secretary of the Interior Ryan Inke.

nonprofit boards at both the state and national level, including chair of the Arctic Economic Council from 2015 to 2017; co-chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives (2013); Coast Guard Foundation Board of Trustees; the University of Alaska Foundation Board of Trustees; FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in a Digital Age; Analytical Services, Inc.; Kohanic

Broadcast Corporation (parent to the first Native American-owned, publicly supported FM radio station); Cherokee Nation New Market Tax Credit Advisory Board (CNB Economic Development Company, LLC, beneficiary); Breast Cancer Focus, Inc.; and Arctic Power.

Among her honors, Sweeney -- a lifetime member of the National Congress

of American Indians -- was crowned Miss NCAI in 1993 and traveled the country as an ambassador for the organization. In 2003, Governor Frank Murkowski recognized Sweeney's passion for rural Alaska, appointing her to his cabinet as Special Assistant for Rural Affairs and Education. In 2008 she was honored as a "Top Forty Under 40" business leader by the Alaska Journal of Commerce. In 2014 2017 her team won two Emmy Awards from the Northwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts Sciences, for its IAM I UPIA commercial campaign 2014 and its 2017 long-format documentary titled, "True North, the Story of ASRC". She also served as co-chair for Senator Dan Sullivan's (R-AK) successful Senate campaign. In 2017 she was inducted into the Anchorage ATHENA Society, a program of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce that encourages the potential of women as valued members and leaders of the business community.

Born to Dr. Bryan Mac Lean and the Late Representative Eileen Panigee Mac Lean, Sweeney is the granddaughter of the Late May Ahmaogak Panigee and the Late Henry Panigee of Barrow. She is the great granddaughter of the late Bert and Nellie Panigee and Isabel and Dr. Roy Ahmaogak. She was raised, attended schools and lived most of her life in rural Alaska in villages from Noorvik to Wainwright, Barrow, Bethel, and Unalakleet. She graduated from Barrow High School in 1991. A 1998 graduate of Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations with a Bachelor of Science Degree, Sweeney is married to Kevin, and together they have two children, Caitlin and Ahmaogak.

Scientists: Many Natives better poised to deal with climate change, but tribes still at risk

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

I I — It's happening now, and it's going to get worse.

That's the sobering assessment from scientists about climate change and sea level rise and how the two will continue to affect coastal communities like those in Florida. Many of those at-risk communities, in and out of Florida, include Native American lands.

A session on the subject took place at the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) conference in Miami the last weekend in July at the InterContinental Hotel. Perhaps ironically, the hotel is located just feet away from the waters of Biscayne Bay.

A panel of experts took on the topic of: "Preparing for a Changing Climate: Impacts, Costs and Tough Decisions in Combating Rising Seas." It was one of a few on the subject during a weekend that also included programming by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

Two of the NAJA panelists were with the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). The UCS says more than 90 coastal communities in the U.S. already face chronic inundation

from sea level rise and the number could jump to nearly 170 in less than 20 years and as many as 670 by the end of the century. The UCS says those projections depend largely on what governments and citizens do to curb global carbon emissions.

‘ lot to lo e’

Among the most vulnerable populations are Native tribes and other communities of color – groups whose cultural identity and history are deeply tied to their land along coastlines.

And while those communities are some of the most prepared, Dr. Astrid Caldas, lead economist and climate and energy policy director for UCS said that tribal communities are not all in the clear.

"Many Native American and Indigenous communities are part of those that will be inundated," Caldas said. "These communities have a lot more to lose than just their property: there's their culture, their history, their traditional livelihoods – lots of things they have are connected to coastal land they've had for hundreds of years."

At the same time, one thing tribal communities have going for them, she said, is that on many reservations commercial and residential development has been more thoughtful.

"Studies have revealed that land that is owned by Indigenous people has suffered the least development, the least change," Caldas said. "They are in better condition than any other land in the world. So that gives them a good head start."

Caldas explained that when land has been highly developed or overdeveloped, with concrete and asphalt, flooding becomes more problematic. The less land has been transformed, the more likely it can withstand the hit of a hurricane or other storm.

d antage o unit

In addition, Caldas and others explained that the more a community is tight knit, the greater the chances of recovery after inundation from an event like flooding.

"Natives have very good relationships within the community and they care for each other," Caldas said. "Whenever there is a disaster, they bounce back better. And many times faster. They share resources."

Dr. Kristina Peterson is co-founder and facilitator at the Lowlander Center in Gray, Louisiana. She works with many tribes that are not federally recognized in a delta near the Gulf Coast. She's seen many of them face resettlement or relocation due to climate change.

"Tribes usually get portrayed as only



Damon Scott

From left are Rachel Cleetus, lead economist and climate and energy policy director, Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS); Kristina Peterson, co-founder and facilitator, Lowlander Center; Astrid Caldas, senior climate scientist, UCS; and session moderator Ashanti Washington, science writer and communications officer, UCS.

vulnerable and victims," Peterson said. "But they have incredible ingenuity. They have ways of seeing the world that didn't destroy the world."

an o t

One of the worst years on record for devastating climate events across the U.S. was 2017, something that certainly isn't lost on Floridians and Seminoles. There was about \$306 billion in weather-related costs, mostly from hurricanes and wildfires.

"Buried in the numbers is the human toll," said Rachel Cleetus, UCS lead economist and climate and energy policy director. "Not only that, but it's an environmental and economic disaster. Climate change exacerbates socioeconomic inequities that already exist in the U.S. and around the world."

Cleetus said one of the cruel ironies of climate change is that it's often the communities who have contributed the least in emissions, which drive rising sea levels, who are at the front end of its impacts.

"That's true for Native American communities," she said.

So far, so good in battle against mycotoxins

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

As one of Florida's top cow/calf operations, the Seminole cattle program relies on consistently high pregnancy and birth rates to thrive. So when those rates fell in 2014, Natural Resource Director Alex Johns decided to investigate.

2014 was a mild winter but the cows were in worse body condition than the previous year, when there was less grass. In theory, with all the grass available to eat, the cows should have looked much better. Body condition is the best indicator of a cow's ability to be bred.

"I haven't been alive long enough to see climate change in the past," Johns said. "We had about five or six years of mild winters and had less frost and more grass so the cows should have been in better shape. I think this issue has always been around, but we finally put a finger on it."

Aaron Stam, Florida cooperative extension agent and federally recognized tribal extension agent, worked with Johns to identify the problem and find a solution. They knew something was going on in the environment and were determined to find the problem.

"We saw some reproductive performance issues," Stam said. "Typical pregnancy loss is about five to seven percent from bred cows. We found pastures with 14 percent loss, which was significant."

Clearly, something was wrong so Stam started testing for mineral and other deficiencies; none were found. He did some research and started to look for mycotoxins, a type of fungus, which had never been documented in Florida pastures before. Five of the most common grasses in Tribal pastures were tested. The mycotoxin earlalenone (EN) was found in the common Bermuda grass.

Stam took 157 samples from the pastures used for the field trial and 78.6 percent came back positive. He later increased the testing to all Tribal pastures and the findings were similar.

"Bermuda grass is a low, matt type grass," Stam said. "Most of the other species grow tall. I thought if I were a fungus, this is where I would be."

The grass was contaminated with the mycotoxin at a very high level. Making

matters worse, mycotoxins are given off when the fungus is under stress. Cool, wet winters allow the fungus to thrive; but cows nibbling on the grass, walking on it, frost, heat and other factors stress the fungus.

EN causes an excess of estrogen in the cows and attaches to the animals' estrogen receptors, which prevents them from getting pregnant or carrying a fetus to term. Virgin heifers even displayed signs of pregnancy.

Once the problem was identified, Johns and Stam met with representatives from Biomin, an animal nutrition and health company that develops and produces feed additives to combat mycotoxin risk. One of its products, Biofix Plus Pro, has been added to the molasses and mineral supplement the cows eat since 2015.

"We are on the cutting edge of implementing safeguards against mycotoxins," Stam said. "We've seen

dramatic results after two years of field trials."

Biofix has been used in dairy cows, who are fed a specific amount of food and don't go into a pasture to graze. Until the Tribe began using it, the product had not been used in beef cattle, which graze continuously and eat the molasses at will.

Johns had Stam observe how the cows behave at the molasses lick so he could see that not all cows eat the same amount. Older cows came and ate what they wanted, allowed yearlings to eat but chased heifers away from the lick. Stam has also seen horses kick cows away from the molasses. It was obvious the animals weren't all getting the same amount of supplements.

"Alex is a scientist of the game," Stam said. "He asked if I ever thought about the social dynamic of feeding. He proved to me that his knowledge is second to none."

The result of the research has not been well received by everyone in the cattle industry. When Stam started sampling the grass, he didn't know what he would find. When the first sample came back positive with EN, he believed he found the problem.

"New science is tough for people, but I say pay attention," Stam said. "There are a lot of really good cowmen who have never heard of it. There is resistance to new things, that's just human nature. If someone tells me I'm doing my job wrong, I'm going to fight. So I'm not surprised at the resistance to it. As the data comes out, people should begin to open up to it."

After two years on Biofix, the pregnancy rate in the test herd increased by 21 percent, animals were 28.7 pounds heavier, bred up at 10 percent better and had a half point better body condition score. Every Seminole rancher now has access to Biofix in their molasses supplement.

Johns and Stam attend cattle owner meetings to communicate their findings and data about the use of Biofix.

"Owners know we are trying to address the issue and are providing a solution to them," Johns said. "If they use the product, they get the solution. Those on the program are seeing the benefit, the ones that aren't are suffering."

The majority of Tribal cattle owners are participating in the program. Stam knows there are some naysayers, but he looks at the use of Biofix as an insurance policy.

"You are mitigating the risk of



Beverly Bidney

Veterinarian John Yelvington, of Lake Placid, uses an ultrasound to determine if the heifer is pregnant. Here he looks at the image on the machine, which displays the answer in a grainy image of the inside of the animal's uterus.



Beverly Bidney

Kane Jumper and Josh Jumper give a pregnant heifer dewormer and other shots after her pregnancy check at Mike Henry's pasture in Big Cypress.

mycotoxins," he said. "Some years may be worse than others and we feel there is some seasonality to it. Ultimately, it is up to the cattle owners. My job is to keep the data coming in and interpret it for the owners."

Stam estimates the cost to about \$20 to \$30 per head per year and he believes with heavier calves and 10 percent more of them, it is a worthwhile investment. The return on investment can be significant per herd.

The process of getting the results takes two years; the cows are fed, impregnated, give birth and the calves are counted and weighed.

"We are already seeing a higher conception rate for those in the program," Johns said. "We expect to have more heavier weaned calves a year from now."

Other ranchers in the state have reached out to Johns for information on how the Tribe is dealing with the issue. He gladly shares it with them.

"Any time you do research, you wind up with more questions than answers," Johns said. "Every day we learn more about issues affecting cattle in Florida. You aren't doing your job if you aren't doing the research to find answers to the problems you may have."

Stam shared the details and results of the field trial at the Academy of Veterinary Consultants conference in Denver in August.

"I feel like I'm a good source of information now," Stam said. "But I gave them a Seminole history lesson before I spoke about the science. I told them about the Seminole people and where cattle in this country came from, the location and environmental challenges faced in the Big Cypress swamp, one of the hardest places to raise cattle in the world, and in hot, humid Brighton. The Tribe were the first cowboys in this country and I thought it was pretty important information to share."

Johns has great expectations for the owners in the program.

"In general it will increase conception, have more live calves, more weight sold and more money in their pockets," he said.

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Agricultural Agent

BY SIOBHAN MILLAR
Exhibits Coordinator, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

In the second year of the Museum’s mobile cattle cart exhibit, the cart made an appearance at six events from October of 2017 to May 2018. Despite its size, it provides a fairly succinct overview of cattle keeping among the Florida Seminoles since the Spanish first introduced “cattle” to the Florida peninsula in 1523. It tells of Micanopy amassing thousands of heads of cattle in the mid-1700s, and the subsequent cause and effects of cattle keeping in the periods during and following the Seminole War. It highlights the re-introduction of cattle to the Seminoles in the mid-1930s and the key figures who played an instrumental role in the emergence of the Seminole cattle program, amid trials and tribulations, to make it the success it is today. Only so much

can be captured. As each generation looks towards the cattle industry’s future and is further removed from those modest beginnings, it helps to be reminded of the earnestness of those who shaped the cattle industry. Perhaps one of these men was a relation of yours, maybe an original trustee of the Seminole Cattle Program, or perhaps the family is your neighbor and you are well acquainted. These family names are part of the history of cattle herding on the Brighton and Big Cypress reservations. Frank Shore, Charlie Micco, Naha Tiger, John Josh, John Henry Gopher, Morgan Smith, Junior Cypress and Josie Billie are hailed for rearing those early reservation herds. But, there’s one name that you may be less acquainted with: Fred Montsdeoca. Fred Montsdeoca took on the federal government assignment as cattle foreman in 1935, first guiding the Seminoles of



Shula Jones votes on the Brighton Reservation. Lonnie Buck stands next to her.

Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Fred Montsdeoca demonstrates to Jack Micco, Moses Jumper, and George Storm (Huff) how to salt a cow hide.

Glades County (Brighton Reservation) and later the Big Cypress Reservation. What started out as a daunting project - turning 500 head of Hereford cattle from drought stricken Arizona into a stable Seminole Cattle Program - proved a solid step towards the Tribe’s economic self-sufficiency and a means to secure their independence. Under his guidance as the official Agricultural agent for Okeechobee County, the Seminole “cowman” learned how integral good livestock management practices, pasture rotation and maintenance, along with modern improvements, were to the overall success and health of the herds. Montsdeoca was an agriculturalist and conservationist with a keen business acumen he willingly passed onto his stewards. Together these ideas became the model for the cattle industry. These practices are still implemented, if not improved upon. Montsdeoca was committed to the Seminole communities and recognized their willingness to learn, “If you can just show them that some program is going to help, they’ll make a go of it no matter what”. But what of the younger Tribal members? Montsdeoca, sought to involve the young boys from the start by having them gain experience roping cattle and cleaning screwworm wounds. It was one way for them to invest in their own future. For 40 years, Fred Montsdeoca dedicated his time, care, encouragement and expertise to the Seminole Tribe of Florida. He was a hardworking, tenacious, yet modest man, who was the last to accept credit for the success of the cattle program, speaking more on what others had contributed to make it a success. Along with William and Edith Boehmer, Montsdeoca was instrumental in advancing the welfare of the Tribe and their place within the larger non-Seminole community. Together they coordinated with Joe Peebles, then the Glades County Board of Commissioner, to set aside a section in the public cemetery for Seminole use. In June 1958, through the combined efforts of Montsdeoca and William Boehmer, the residents of the Brighton Reservation were registered to vote for local and general



Courtesy photo

Billy Osceola presents Joe Peebles, a member of the Glades County Board of Commissioners, a patchwork jacket for his service to the Seminole Tribe (setting aside a section in the Ortona Cemetery for the Tribe).

elections. Though assistance was needed by most to complete the voting process, all who were registered turned out to vote. Perhaps, it was that Montsdeoca was grounded in the land he had inherited, grounded with his Seminole neighbors he shared the land with. Perhaps it was sense of community-the coming together to lend a hand for the good, which earned Fred Montsdeoca the trust of the Seminole Tribe in their fight for economic independence.

NCAI President Keel says Sen. McCain was ‘tireless

champion for Indian Country and tribal sovereignty’

FROM PRESS RELEASES

S I G — U.S. Senator John McCain of Arizona passed away, Aug. 25, at the age of 81, with his family by his side at his ranch in Arizona. A Vietnam combat veteran and POW, McCain served in the U.S. Senate and was the GOP Presidential Candidate in 2008. McCain was a prominent member of the Senate serving on a number of committees including the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. He passed after his yearlong battle with brain cancer. “The National Congress of American Indians gives honor to the life of Senator John McCain and celebrates the time we had with him as a tireless champion for Indian Country and tribal sovereignty. The Senator dedicated many years to Indian Country,” NCAI President Jefferson Keel said in a statement. “Serving as longtime member and former Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, he met frequently with tribal leaders on the Hill, in their community, and at our gatherings. In his last speech at NCAI, Senator McCain said, ‘We must listen more to you, and get out of the way of tribal authority.’ As we close out the day, we extend our sincere condolences with the family of Senator John McCain.” Throughout his tenure, McCain worked closely with NCAI and tribes as he advocated for tribal sovereignty and self-governance. His latest bill, the Native American Education Opportunity Act, was introduced in March 2016, and since then, he has worked with NCAI and the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) to refine and strengthen the bill which will expand authority for tribes that run and operate Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools to exercise self-determination in Indian education. Of the bill, Senator McCain said in a statement: “It is unconscionable to leave Native American students stranded in failing schools when we can create the option of expanding educational opportunities on Indian reservations now.” In 2000, NCAI honored him at the NCAI Leadership Awards for his service to Indian Country. In 1993, despite his public thoughts on gaming he stood with tribal nations to support self-determination, he sponsored the Indian Gaming Regulatory

Act with Senator Inouye. That same year, he co-sponsored and introduced the Tribal Self-Governance Act. McCain has a long list of legislation extending Indian Country’s agenda including: (1) expanding the AMBER Alert warning system to include reservations with the Ashlynne Mike Amber Alert in Indian Country Act; (2) the Water Settlement Act of 2004 completing 10 water settlements for tribes in Arizona; and (3) to finalize the construction of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American Indians among others. Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye extended his condolences to the McCain family. McCain served Arizona — and much of the Navajo Nation — in the Senate for six terms (since 1987), including two stints as chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. He also served Arizona’s 1st congressional district as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for one term, from 1983 to 1987. “Sen. McCain sometimes had a rocky relationship with the Navajo Nation, but he was always willing to listen,” President Begaye said. “We didn’t always see eye to eye, but we maintained a good relationship. We had each other’s cell phone numbers and he called me to talk about budgeting, education and the Office of Navajo and Hopi Relocation. As a veteran himself, he was always willing to do something for other veterans.” “He will be missed. This is a critical time for the Navajo Nation and for Indian Country, and we need someone to fill this position who is willing to work with the Navajo Nation and all tribes.” House Speaker Paul Ryan issued the following statement: “This is a sad day for the United States. Our country has lost a decorated war hero and statesman. John McCain was a giant of our time—not just for the things he achieved, but for who he was and what he fought for all his life. John put principle before politics. He put country before self. He was one of the most courageous men of the century. He will always be listed among freedom’s most gallant and faithful servants. Our hearts are with his wife, Cindy, his children, and his grandchildren. This Congress, this country mourn with them.”



Sen. John McCain

Former Vice President Joe Biden said in his statement, “John McCain’s life is proof that some truths are timeless. Character. Courage. Integrity. Honor. A life lived embodying those truths casts a long, long shadow. John McCain will cast a long shadow. John impact on America hasn’t ended. Not even close. It will go on for many years to come.” Biden continues by saying, “John was many things – a proud graduate of the Naval Academy, a Senate colleague, a political opponent. But, to me, more than anything, John was a friend. America will miss John McCain. The world will miss John McCain. And I will miss him dearly.” In honor of his service, flags were ordered to be lowered around the country.

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Health

Childhood vaccination myths, debunked

BY LI COHEN
Special to The Seminole Tribune

One topic, one million opinions. The conversation surrounding vaccinating children often makes headlines, whether it's professionals debating with parents, or celebrities who refuse to vaccinate their children in belief that they will cause autism, alter immune systems, release toxins, and overall, deem them not necessary as many communicable diseases are eradicated.

Although thousands of people make these arguments against vaccinations, licensed health professionals from around the world continue to support childhood vaccinations. Richard Benson from the Centers for Disease Control provided some information on these arguments.

Myth No. 1: Vaccines cause autism

When celebrity Jenny McCarthy published her book "Louder Than Words: A Mother's Journal in Healing Autism," in which she attributed her son's alleged autism to the vaccine for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), many parents got on board with her ideals. In the book, McCarthy alleged that her son developed autism when he was two years old a few months after receiving his vaccinations and that it was only through treatments and therapies that her son was cured from the developmental disorder.

McCarthy's and many parents' basis for this myth stems from research conducted by Andrew Wakefield who lost his medical license after manipulating data and research to show that the MMR vaccine causes autism.

The CDC reports that numerous studies conducted since Wakefield's data prove that vaccines do not cause autism. What does cause the disorder, according to Autism Speaks, is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, including genetics, advanced parent age and pregnancy and birth issues. The organization also acknowledges that vaccines do not cause autism.

Myth No. 2: Vaccines damage children's immune systems

The amount of vaccines required for children, especially the ones before a child's second birthday, can be intimidating

for many parents; however, they are all necessary to ensure babies retain a healthy immune system. While many people believe that so much exposure to contagions actually causes illnesses, all vaccines contain antigens from inactive viruses. Essentially, there is only a miniscule amount of antigens within a vaccine and the amount that is present is significantly weakened.

The feeling of being sick after a vaccine is the body's immune system working to protect your body and is a normal response. Once the weakened virus enters the body, the immune system registers the virus and knows to kill it if it were to ever enter the body again. This activity does cause some individuals to feel mild side effects, but those symptoms should be gone within a few days and are not a result of a viral infection.

Myth No. 3: Vaccines don't do anything because polio, meningitis, rubella, etc. are eradicated

There is a substantial difference between a disease being eradicated and eliminated. Eliminated diseases are those that no longer circulate throughout a particular region, such as polio, measles and diphtheria in the United States. Eradicated diseases are those that no longer circulate worldwide, and the only such disease to date is smallpox.

Because diseases that are eliminated in the U.S. are still found globally, it is still possible to contract any disease that someone is not vaccinated for. If an unvaccinated individual were to come in contact with a disease and bring it back to the U.S., it could easily spread to others who are not vaccinated as well, bringing a cycle of the disease back to the U.S.

The reason vaccines are no longer seen throughout the country or seen as prevalent throughout the world is because of the development of their respective vaccines. Failure to keep up vaccine schedules opens the doors for those diseases, namely polio, meningitis and rubella, to become much more prevalent.

Myth No. 4: Vaccines actually infect children with the disease and contain toxins

The ill feeling many children and adults experience after a vaccine is the immune system's natural response to a foreign body entering the body. This same feeling can

happen from accidentally pricking your finger or coming in contact with an allergen.

The chemicals found in vaccines are in miniscule doses that cannot harm the human body. Such chemicals may include preservatives to prevent contamination, adjuvants to stimulate the immune system to register and attack viruses and stabilizers to make sure parts of the vaccine are not lost while the body registers and stores the vaccine's information.

A full list of the chemicals in vaccines can be found on the CDC's website.

Myth No. 5: Not vaccinating a child does not put anyone else at risk

When something isn't visible, it's easy to imagine it simply doesn't exist. A common misconception is that vaccinations have become irrelevant because the illnesses they aim to prevent are no longer around. The truth is, however, that those illnesses are not eradicated, they are simply under control because of the vaccinations. Parents are encouraged to vaccinate their children for hepatitis, rotavirus, diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis, haemophilus influenzae, pneumococcal conjugate, polio, MMR, meningitis, and human papillomavirus, all of which can be fatal and easily spread if developed.

Let's not forget the black plague that killed 60 percent of Europeans, the smallpox that killed 30 percent of those who contracted it, and more recently, the 147 people sickened with measles in 2014 after the disease had been declared completely eradicated from the U.S. in 2010. All of those infected in the 2014 outbreak had not received their measles vaccinations and it took only one person infected with the disease attending Disneyland to cause the devastation.

The recommended schedule and dosage of vaccines can be found online or at your local facility. Any questions or concerns about vaccines should be brought up with your healthcare provider.

Li Cohen is a freelance writer based in New York City. She is a former staff reporter for The Seminole Tribune.

Pets and the 'H' word

BY JONATHAN VASQUEZ
STOF Animal and Wildlife Services

Welcome to sunny Florida where millions visit each year and we call home. It is one of the best vacation spots in the world. We have celebrities, beautiful beaches, around the clock entertainment, a diverse culture, cuisine, and hurricanes. Yes, I said it, the "H" word.

We spend so much time thinking about work and play that we forget to plan for the possibility of a hurricane. From June 1 until Nov. 30 the threat of a possible hurricane is real. Most Floridians don't believe a hurricane will hit this year, and they say that every year. Then it happens, the news starts tracking a storm and soon enough you are running to the store to buy up all the water and plywood and fuel you can find. After hours of digging and finding your generator, you cross your fingers hoping it still runs. Finally, a sigh of relief. You have completed your hurricane preparation. Or have you? We tend to forget that our pets have needs, too, and if we have to relocate, it is just as stressful for our pets as it is on us.

Have a hurricane pet plan. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. Your pets need to be prepared as well. Here is a list of things to consider.

Never leave a pet behind: Pets may become lost or injured. If you need to leave

them behind, find a shelter and pre-register your animals in case of a hurricane.

Build a kit: Include basic items that will keep your pet happy and comfortable such as blankets and his or her favorite toy and any familiar item that may reduce your pet's stress. Pack enough food and water for five days. You never know what will be available after the storm. Make sure the animal is microchipped or has a collar or harness with ID tag. Have their vaccinations and documentation sealed in a water tight envelope and kept with all your important documents. This should include a picture of you and your pet together.

Find a pet-friendly hotel: If you must evacuate, take your pets with you. They will receive better attention from you than anyone else. There are also many pets that experience anxiety during hurricanes and will do much better with you than a stranger. If you use a crate for confinement, make sure that it's large enough for your pet to stand and turn around and lie down.

Sanitation: Pet litter and litter box, newspapers, paper towels, disposable gloves, plastic bags, and chlorine bleach should be available to maintain a clean environment for your pet.

This is just basic information that should help you create a plan ahead of time and one less thing to do in case this is the year for the "H" word.

Native nutrition conference to be held in Minnesota

FROM PRESS RELEASE

PRIOR LAKE, Minn. — The third annual Conference on Native American Nutrition will be held from Oct. 2-5 at Mystic Lake Center in Prior Lake, Minn. The conference brings together tribal officials, researchers, practitioners, and others to discuss the current state of Indigenous and academic scientific knowledge about Native nutrition and food science, and identify new areas of work. Topics include:

Nutrition across the lifecycle
Intergenerational learning about food and nutrition

Learning from Indigenous communities around the world
Optional half-day workshops on Oct. 2:
• "Native Infusion: Reclaiming Ancestral Beverages"
• "Dream of Wild Health – Youth Garden Tour"
• "Foraging for Native Edible Plants"
• "Indigenous Wellness: Ancestral Food Ways, Indigenous Fitness and Movement, and the Inter-connectedness of Wellness, Culture, and Indigenous Language"
For more information visit seedsfornativehealth.org.

The high cost of diabetes and how to avoid it

BY JAMES ASHFORD

I recently attended the American Diabetes Association's 78th annual Scientific Conference in Orlando. Over 13,000 people from all over the world attended the conference for three jam-packed days. The conference was filled from morning to evening with tremendous teaching, informative symposiums, and great access to see the latest and greatest advancements in new technology in the fight against diabetes.

Right after the conference the ADA released the latest numbers. I don't think any of us are shocked to hear that diabetes is an even bigger problem than it was in 2012 when the previous numbers were released. Here are some of the highlights. Nearly 30 million Americans have diabetes and over 86 million have prediabetes. Those numbers translate into 1 in every 5 healthcare dollars or 20 percent of your healthcare costs are because of diabetes. Diabetes is costing \$322 billion every year with no signs of it slowing down. Approximately, 27 percent of prescription drug costs are related to diabetes and the ADA reports that people with diabetes have health care costs 2.3 times higher than those who don't have the

disease.

Pretty staggering numbers and a bit scary if you apply the percentages to your organization. At the conference I saw tremendous movement in technology to control the disease, fantastic education about the disease and an increase in general knowledge of the disease. I saw study after study on how to lower costs for existing diabetics. Obviously, it's important to companies to try to lower costs. The CDC reports that diabetics costs over \$7,000 more than an employee without the disease.

Here's what I was shocked by. No one at the conference was focused on early detection and prevention of the disease. The average cost of a colonoscopy is over \$1000. Why is that offered at no cost, because early detection is the key and no one thinks twice about it. Those of us that work with large populations of employees already understand the ROI behind early detection. Working with Optometrists, I have long known that diabetes can be seen in the eye earlier than any other area in the body. In fact, we have technology that will allow us to do onsite screenings that can show prediabetes up to 7 years before the blood shows evidence. So why isn't there more emphasis on early detection and prevention? Many say, there's no money in the medical community for

prevention, but as an employer of a large group there certainly is tremendous savings for prevention that will improve the bottom line.

Another statistic I heard at the conference was that 77 percent of prediabetics can be prevented from having the disease and that approximately a third of our population has prediabetes. What I have come to learn is that a population health management strategy aimed at early detection of the disease and prevention can have a tremendous impact to your bottom line, without a doubt. One that will produce a significant ROI.

Think about this: if you have a 1,000-employee company that means you probably have between 250-350 prediabetics in your organization. If 77 percent of those can be prevented through small behavioral changes, annual comprehensive eye exams and blood glucose monitoring, that means 192-271 employees could be prevented from ever costing that additional \$7,000 the CDC reports. On the low end that is a \$1.3 million-dollar cost avoidance strategy. That certainly will affect your bottom line, but that doesn't even factor in the intangible costs savings of lost productivity at work, increased absenteeism, increased mortality, etc.

Having done thousands of scans for

prediabetes, I know the numbers line up as reported and I know that most are shocked to with the results. Unfortunately, every time we scan, we catch several Type 2 diabetics that had no idea. These employees would become very expensive if they had not been scanned. I highly recommend for companies that are self-funded to look for ways to detect prediabetes and implement a mitigation strategy to avoid the rapidly rising health care cost of diabetes. This is my passion. If I can be of any help, please reach out to me.

James Ashford is the State Director for Vision Care Direct and the Director of Population Health Management Solutions in Tulsa, Okla. His passion is working with tribes because he is proudly married to a Creek and has five Native American children. He has seen first hand in his wife's family the destruction this disease causes. This article was published on the Native Nation Events website: nativenationsevents.org.

National Tribal Health Conference to be held in September

FROM PRESS RELEASE

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — The 35th annual National Tribal Health Conference will take place in Oklahoma City, Okla., from Sept. 17-20. The conference is the largest American Indian and Alaska Native specific gathering each year focused specifically on health. The conference focuses on exploring health policy and its impact on tribes, advancing tribal capacity to expand own policy work, and policy and political work in the arenas of health care, public, behavioral, and environmental health. The conference features multiple tracks of concurrent breakout sessions, as well as general plenary sessions that feature nationally recognized guest speakers and elected and appointed governmental officials. Government consultation and listening sessions will be held.

The conference is hosted and planned annually by the National Indian Health Board as well as local member organizations or Tribes. This year's conference is being hosted locally by the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board.



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SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

RODEO GAZING: Madysyn Osceola, Kade Johns and Ryker Miller take a break from competition at the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association's kids rodeo Aug. 18 in Big Cypress. All three competed in various events in the summer series.



Maury Neipris

SCENIC SETTING: Decorated table settings greeted guests at the Miss Florida Seminole Princess dinner July 13, the night before the pageant.



Kevin Johnson

LOOKING SHARP: The gas pumps at the Hollywood Trading Post feature a clean, new look following a recent makeover.



Beverly Bidney

DISMISSAL TIME: Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School first-graders Margarita Fudge and Travis Mitchell await dismissal on the second day of school Aug. 14 with a pickup game of basketball at the end of the day recess in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

TONS O TUBES: Hundreds of kids who participated in summer camp's Rez to Rez also had fun at the health department's Splash Dash in Brighton. Tubes were a necessity as the kids navigated the activity/ obstacle course July 30, and for some it was a challenge to find the perfect tube.



Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City/Facebook

HIGH FLYIN': With the new Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City in the background, a vintage World War II plane flies by as part of the Atlantic City Airshow over the Boardwalk on Aug. 22. The show also featured the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and other military-related demonstrations.



Kevin Johnson

READY FOR NEW SEASON: A display in the Miami Dolphins team store is all set for the team's season opener Sept. 9 against the Tennessee Titans at Hard Rock Stadium.



Beverly Bidney

HAND-TO-HAND: Construction workers work together July 31 at the Ahfachkee School expansion. The two-story, 30,000-square foot middle and high school building is rising right next to the existing Big Cypress school and should be complete in early 2019.



C. El-Ramey/Hard Rock Support Services Aviation

WHAT A VIEW: Here's the view from more than 30 stories up at the top of the guitar hotel during the topping out ceremony, which included a tree and flags, July 9 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. The ceremony marked the final structural beam to the hotel, which is scheduled to open in about a year.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Report: A eri an kno little about Native A eri an

A recent report confirms what Native Americans have always known: Most people in the United States know little, if anything, about American Indians. And what they do know is based on questionable information spread by traditional media.

At the same time, the report shows that the U.S. media is ready to help end misunderstandings and build new stories about Native Americans.

The report comes from The First Nations Development Institute and Echo Hawk Consulting, a private advisory business. The two-year “Reclaiming Native Truth” project was designed to study common ideas about Native Americans and find ways to correct stereotypes.

With help from Native American experts, researchers organized nearly 30 study groups across 11 states. The researchers spoke with political, judicial and business leaders. They also questioned more than 13,000 Americans and looked at social media.

- Among the findings:
- Native Americans are largely invisible in modern society;
 - Non-Native media controls news about Native Americans;
 - Stories about Native Americans deal mainly with their problems, not strengths;
 - Stereotypes affect law, policy and decision-making;
 - Politicians do not understand tribal rights or U.S. treaty requirements.

“Most people said they didn’t know a Native American,” said Sarah Dewees, director of First Nations’ research, policy and asset-building programs. “Many people think that there aren’t many Native Americans left in America, which of course is not true.”

Dewees points out that Americans have conflicting images of Indians, both good and bad, because of history.

Engraving from Oct. 1, 1881 issue of popular Frank Leslie’s newspaper. Stereotypes of the “savage” or “defeated” Indian have helped shape public opinion about Native Americans for more than 200 years.

The study shows Americans hold competing stereotypes of Native Americans: Both poor and wealthy from legalized gaming; spiritual, but struggling with drug abuse and violence; independent and non-tax-paying, but dependent on federal government assistance.

The report says the belief that Native Americans receive a lot of federal aid is the most harmful because it separates Native Americans from other communities. Many U.S. citizens believe the government gives Native Americans special treatment.

The researchers agree: News media is partly responsible for keeping these stereotypes alive.

“If it bleeds, it leads,” said Dewees, noting the media’s interest in bad news. “News stories about Native Americans focus on deficits, not positive developments in Indian Country. It’s harder to find an audience for ‘feel-good’ stories, but these are the stories that need to be told.”

The good news, say researchers, is that most Americans see Native Americans’ love of country, high rates of military service, and concerns about family, community and the environment. And they also like tribes’ strength in the face of difficulty, historic oppression and cultural genocide.

The study says most Americans are willing to let go of stereotypes when given facts. That is where the media can make a difference.

Brian Pollard is president of the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA). He said the media has a responsibility to reach out to Native Americans to find the truth.

“One of the things we see very consistently is that many non-Native journalists think that any Indian they talk to will be an expert on that community or that particular issue.”

Pollard also notes the need for reporters to provide context when covering Native issues. He said, “Most people do not understand that each tribe has its uniquehistory, its own culture, and its own story of what has brought that tribe to where it is today.”

The American Society of News Editors has worked for years to increase diversity in news media, but recent information shows minorities remain underrepresented in newsrooms. Native American journalists make less than two-tenths of one percent of people working in traditional media.

As part of the Reclaiming Native Truth project, First Nations has published a guide to help non-Native journalists improve their reports about Indian Country. It is also working with Echo Hawk Consulting to develop a national campaign to increase recognition of and respect for Native Americans.

The “Reclaiming Native Youth” project received money from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, as well as several other groups and tribes.

Voice of America

Line 3 oil pipeline opponents file appeal follo in approval

Two groups filed court documents Aug. 8 arguing Minnesota’s environmental review of Enbridge Energy’s Line 3 oil pipeline was insufficient.

Honor the Earth and Friends of the Headwaters claim the environmental impact statement, or EIS, failed to look at potential oil spills at specific locations or the results of a tribal cultural survey.

In June, the five-member Minnesota Public Utilities Commission unanimously granted the 340-mile long pipeline across Minnesota a certificate of need, but deemed the EIS “adequate” in March.

In a statement Aug. 8, Richard Smith, president of the Friends of the Headwaters, said the PUC was in the wrong.

“We don’t think the final EIS was conducted in accord with environmental law and feel an obligation to challenge the Public Utilities Commission’s adequacy ruling,” Smith said.

In a separate statement, Winona LaDuke, executive director of Honor the Earth, said the EIS overlooked many factors.

“While the EIS is long, it is shallow and was written to support approval of Line 3,” LaDuke said. “The EIS simply failed to take a hard look at the costs of Line 3 to our people, our land, our water, and our climate.”

In an emailed statement Aug. 8, Enbridge spokeswoman Jennifer Smith said that “Today’s filings are an expected part of the process.”

“The FEIS was the most extensive, related to a pipeline project, in the history of Minnesota,” Smith said.

Once completed, the pipeline will carry 760,000 barrels of oil per day across northern Minnesota on its route from Alberta to the Enbridge terminal in Superior. Enbridge began working three years ago to get the project approved.

Though the company maintains the new pipeline is needed to replace the existing and aging Line 3, opponents contend the line contributes to climate change, violates indigenous rights and is ultimately unnecessary.

Twincities.com

.S. attorney , tribal leader eek ay to ork to ether to redu e ri e in Indian ountry

T LSA, Okla. – The prevalence of crime in Native American communities nationwide is catching attention in Washington, prompting the U.S. Attorney General’s Office to reach out to indigenous leadership to find solutions.

The latest effort took place Aug. 13 in Tulsa, where more than 30 U.S. attorneys from as far as Montana and Maine met with local tribal leaders at the River Spirit Casino Resort to talk about what needs to change.

Trent Shores, U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma, said the main focuses are violent crime, drug trafficking, addiction and abuse, and white-collar crime, as well as securing more resources for tribal authorities.

When Shores joined the Department of Justice 15 years ago, indigenous people were victims of violent crime at double the rate of any other ethnic group, he said. Since then, little has changed.

“That same statistic is true today,” Shores said. “I want to make a change.”

Over the past 30 years, violent crime in the United States has gone down, but in the past eight years the trend has started turning in the wrong direction, he said. Murder and rape are up. This can be seen in Indian country, too, where violent crime was already above the norm.

Human trafficking and violence against women are primary contributors to crime on reservations, Shores said.

“We have, even at this moment, several missing Creek youth. They get no attention, ... though they’re just as valuable as anybody else,” Muscogee (Creek) Chief James Floyd said. “They can easily be in another state in a matter of hours because of the highway system that cuts through.”

Interstates 40 and 44 and U.S. 75 all pass through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Floyd noted. It makes the tribe a target for trafficking and violence, he said.

“We have a responsibility to ensure that our citizens are insulated from those activities,” Floyd said. “That’s a big, tall order, and cross-jurisdictional agreements come in very helpful in those instances.”

Navigating the jurisdiction and authority issues among federal, state and tribal courts and law enforcement is sometimes tricky. Often, tribal authorities are limited in what they are allowed to do and must work with federal authorities to seek justice.

The talks could reshape those existing relationships, giving tribes more power and autonomy and increasing cooperation between federal and tribal authorities.

“If this is the spark that starts the fire that leads to legislation and policy changes, we would very much be appreciative of that,” Floyd said.

The opioid crisis hasn’t spared reservation lands, said Kurt Alme, U.S. attorney for Montana. Substance abuse within Montana’s native communities is “particularly bad,” he said, adding that he hopes the Aug. 13 conversations would “have repercussions across the country.”

According to Shores, the DOJ is looking into providing training for tribal prosecutors to better equip them for the most serious cases, including capital offenses. Currently, capital offenses are outside the jurisdiction of tribal courts, and when such offenses do occur, they are tried in federal courts.

With this additional training, Shores said tribal prosecutors could serve as special assistants to U.S. attorneys. By working with a U.S. attorney’s office, they could then bring capital charges to federal courts

themselves through cooperation with the office.

It is unknown what changes, if any, will come from the conference, but Shores said he is confident that it will be productive.

“Mutual trust, mutual respect and mutual accountability. That is what this group of U.S. attorneys have,” he said.

Tulsa orld

With hi tori vi tory, e o rat Shari e avid to take on Rep. Kevin Yoder

Sharice Davids made history Aug. 8 when Kansas Democrats selected the Johnson County attorney as the red state’s first openly gay, Native American nominee for Congress.

Davids, the winner of a six-way primary race, will face Rep. Kevin Yoder, a vulnerable incumbent Republican from Overland Park, in the general election. No Native American woman has ever been elected to Congress.

She also would be the first openly LGBT person to represent Kansas at either the federal or state level.

Davids found out she had won while she was in the car on the way to the hospital to visit a campaign staffer, who had just had a baby. Her mother told her the news.

Davids thanked her rival Democrats in the race in a statement on Aug. 8 “for their passion and for engaging in a spirited and important debate about the future of this district and this country.” All five of her former competitors joined her at a Democratic unity rally.

“Now, we turn to the general election and set our sights on defeating Kevin Yoder, an extremist who has tried time and time again to undermine health care access and give tax breaks for the largest corporations,” Davids said. “He is a pawn for Donald Trump and I will not allow him to continue to take us in the wrong direction while working families in our communities suffer.”

Kansas has been at the center of debates over LGBT rights in recent years, which gives Davids’ selection as her party’s nominee extra significance for the state’s LGBT community.

Her nomination comes only three months after Gov. Jeff Colyer signed a law that explicitly establishes the right of faith-based adoption agencies to refuse to place children with same-sex couples.

In 2014, the Kansas House overwhelmingly passed a bill that enabled private and public employees to refuse same-sex couples based on religious views of marriage. The bill was abandoned after it sparked international outcry.

The following year, then-Gov. Sam Brownback stripped LGBT state workers of anti-discrimination protections that had been enacted under former Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

“Since 2011, our state has been ‘ground-zero’ in the fight against discriminatory ‘religious freedom’ laws,” Tom Witt, executive director of Equality Kansas, said in a statement. “Tonight, however, voters in the third congressional district have sent a clear message to the nation: Fairness and tolerance are Kansas values.”

Davids won the hotly contested and crowded Democratic primary by capturing 37 percent of the vote, edging out her closest competitor in Brent Welder, who received 34 percent, by 2,088 votes.

“As the daughter of a single mother and Army veteran, Sharice is running to expand opportunities for all Kansans, which falls in sharp contrast with her opponent who has consistently voted to make it harder for Kansans to get ahead,” said Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Ben Ray Lujan. “After this hard-fought primary win, Sharice emerges even stronger in her historic bid to flip this competitive seat.”

ansas City Star

Nearly half of youth in ar erated a ro Canada are Indi enou : Stati ti Canada

Nearly half of all youth who end up in custody across Canada are Indigenous — a statistic that a Manitoba activist says shows unacceptable and systemic racism.

Data released by Statistics Canada shows aboriginal youth made up 46 percent of admissions to correctional services in 2016-17 while making up only 8 per cent of the youth population.

“It’s not actually surprising to me to hear those numbers,” said Michael Redhead Champagne.

“As a member of the Indigenous community, with First Nation, Metis and Inuit people around me, I see the overrepresentation of Indigenous people going into the justice system,” he said.

Champagne founded Aboriginal Youth Opportunities in Winnipeg’s North End neighbourhood in 2010 to support Indigenous youth. Working with kids in the inner city area, he has seen how “Indigenous people often get the short end of the stick.” “I see Indigenous and non-Indigenous people literally doing the exact same crime and not experiencing the same amount of jail time, probation, etc....” he said.

Incarceration of youth generally across Canada has declined slightly each year since

2012. But the Statistics Canada data from 10 reporting provinces and territories also showed the proportion of aboriginal youth in custody has steadily increased.

It was 21 percent in 2006-07, but 10 years later aboriginal boys made up 47 percent and aboriginal girls accounted for 60 percent of correctional admissions.

In the provinces, the numbers of Indigenous youth in custody were highest in Saskatchewan (92 percent for boys; 98 percent for girls) and Manitoba (81 percent for boys; 82 percent for girls).

Howard Sapers, an independent adviser to the government of Ontario on corrections reform, said the increasing numbers, particularly for girls, carries through to adulthood.

“We are getting so dangerously close to half of all adult women in custody being Indigenous,” he said in a phone interview from his Ottawa office.

Aboriginal men accounted for 28 percent of admissions, while aboriginal women accounted for 43 percent. At the same time, they represented about 5 percent of the Canadian adult population.

“There is little way to escape the conclusion that there are some systemic biases built into the system that are contributing to this overrepresentation,” Sapers said.

Policy decisions, such as mandatory minimum sentences, have had a disproportionate impact on Indigenous communities, he said.

But there is also movement in the other direction, said Sapers, pointing to bail reform, restorative justice efforts and culturally appropriate initiatives.

The justice system cannot stand alone in curbing the trend of incarcerating Indigenous youth, he suggested. Tackling poverty, unemployment or underemployment, poor housing, addictions and mental illness would make a large difference, he said.

lobe and Mail

Chi ka a and Cho ta Nation file lawsuits against 19 opioid anufa ture

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. – Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter joined Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby and Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton at the Whitten Burrage law firm Aug. 3 as they announced the two tribal nations will be filing a lawsuit against the nation’s leading manufacturers of opioids.

The tribal leaders say the lawsuits are their way of holding the companies accountable for the opioid epidemic that killed thousands in their nations.

“We continue to hear stories from our families in the community that indicate that they need help because they can’t shake this addiction,” Gov. Bill Anoatubby said.

“These companies have lied, they have betrayed our trust,” Chief Batton said. “They have not told the truth in regards to how these have been addictive and how they effect our people.”

The lawsuit alleges the 19 manufactures knew of the highly addictive nature of the drugs and lied about it to healthcare providers while pocketing billions from the purchases.

“Native American communities have been one of the hardest hit by the opioid epidemic across the nation,” Attorney General Mike Hunter said. “The CDC reports that between 1999-2015 overdose deaths among Native Americans and Native Alaskans rose by more than 500 percent.”

The lawsuit mentions 5 causes of actions — public nuisance, fraud, unjust enrichment, civil conspiracy and negligence and demands a trial be held by a jury.

While the dollar amount of damages being sought is still in the works, the leaders say if they win the money will go back towards helping their tribes.

“The damages sought are what has costs the state and these tribes with regard to treatment cost, with regard to law enforcement, with regard to health care - the court system,” Judge Matthew Burrage said.

Attorney General Mike Hunter says the state will support the two tribes in their efforts in these lawsuits.

News

Mashpee tribe, Interior official and opponent ei h in on re rvation land bill

The U.S. Department of the Interior on July 24 took no position during a congressional hearing on legislation that would secure the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s reservation lands despite indications earlier in the day that the agency was prepared to back the effort.

Darryl LaCounte, acting director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, testified before the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs that the department is not prepared to take a position on the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reaffirmation Act, but said he will “encourage” speeding up his department’s review of the status of the tribe’s land.

The bill was introduced by U.S. Rep. William Keating, D-Mass., earlier this year; a twin bill has been introduced in the Senate. The bill would affirm a 2015 decision by the Interior Department to take 321 acres of land into trust on behalf of the tribe, effectively ending a legal challenge that threatens the reservation.

That legal challenge was brought by

neighbors of a proposed \$1 billion casino project on reservation land in Taunton. The lawsuit was successful in federal court, where a judge remanded the Interior Department’s decision back to the federal agency for further consideration.

During his own testimony before the subcommittee, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Chairman Cedric Cromwell said the “disestablishment of our reservation,” would have a devastating financial impact on the tribe, saying it would be the first instance of the U.S. government severing its trust relationship with a tribe since the Termination Era, a period from the 1940s to the 1960s during which Congress pushed to end tribal independence by removing federal protections.

Lawmakers questioned LaCounte about whether the Interior Department is contemplating taking the land out of trust. Asked if the federal agency would rule against the tribe, LaCounte offered vague assurances that it would not.

“Not to my knowledge,” LaCounte said. “It is in trust right now.”

LaCounte appeared to suggest that the agency is still working toward a solution, but did not offer details. A copy of LaCounte’s prepared remarks that were changed before the hearing, stated the Interior Department supported the legislation.

“The Department supports this legislation, which would clarify the Secretary’s authority to acquire land in trust for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, providing certainty for the tribe and the Interior, and finality for all the interested parties,” according to LaCounte’s remarks as originally prepared. The sentence was removed before his appearance.

The town of Mashpee has moved forward with hiring David Mullen Jr. to lobby for the bill’s passage, according to Selectman John Cahalane. Mullen served as a senior attorney on the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and as chief counsel at the National Congress of American Indians, according to biographical information on his firm’s website.

LaCounte’s testimony comes as the Interior Department is trying to determine whether the tribe qualifies to have land taken into trust under a different legal category than the one rejected by a federal judge in 2016.

Nedra Darling, a Bureau of Indian Affairs spokeswoman, did not respond to questions about the status of the tribe’s land or the change in LaCounte’s remarks.

The department’s authority is delegated by Congress, which has the ultimate authority over Native American affairs, according to legal experts.

Michelle Littlefield, a plaintiff, wrote a letter to committee lawmakers, saying that the Interior Department, in continuing to weigh an outcome that would overturn the federal ruling, “would put over one hundred years of case law at risk.”

Judge William Young ruled in 2016 that the Secretary of Interior lacked the authority to take the land into trust for the tribe because they were not under federal jurisdiction at the time of the passage of the Indian Reorganization Act in 1934.

“We understand that while the committee has a responsibility to look after federally recognized tribes, it should not do so at the expense of the rule of law and the rights of other tax paying citizens of this country, especially not through special interest legislation to benefit ... a foreign entity that is using a sovereign nation to increase the financial gain of Malaysian investors,” Littlefield wrote.

Cromwell has repeatedly condemned the lawsuit, saying it was funded by an out-of-state gaming interest that seeks to undermine the tribe’s fight to secure its reservation land. That casino developer, Neil Bluhm, is backing a casino proposal in Brockton that recently re-emerged when Mass Gaming & Entertainment asked the Massachusetts Gaming Commission for a second review of its application.

Cromwell called the federal ruling against the tribe “a technical legal issue.” The tribe was “mysteriously” removed from a list of tribes under federal jurisdiction many decades ago, he said.

“Mashpee had always been there,” Cromwell said. “We had the first Indian district of the United States.”

Support for Keating’s legislation has garnered support from tribal nations across the country.

Cape Cod Times

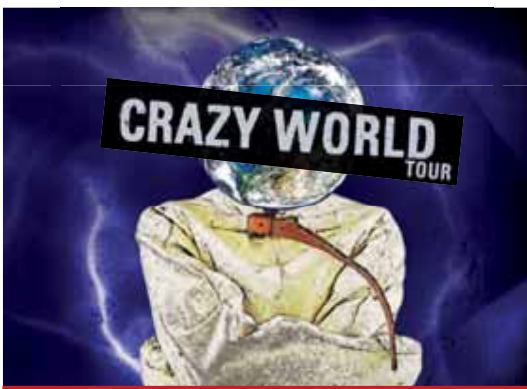
PBS to broad a t Native A eri a erie

ARLINGTON, a. – PBS announced July 16 its fall 2018 schedule lineup, which includes the series “Native America.” At the intersection of modern science and Native knowledge is a new vision of the world created by America’s First Peoples. NATIVE AMERICA reaches back 15,000 years to reveal cities aligned to the stars, unique systems of science and spirituality, 100 million people connected by social networks spanning two continents, and a past whose story has for too long remained untold. “Native America” will air Tuesdays from Oct. 23 to Nov. 13 at 9 p.m.

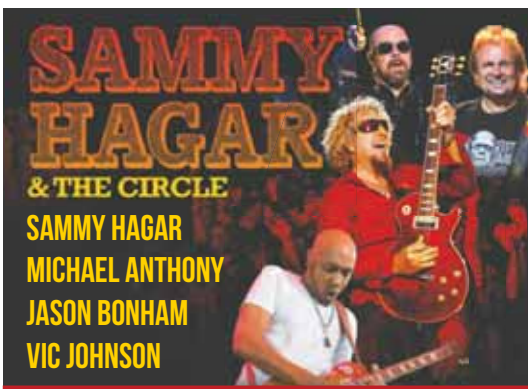
P S press release

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HOLLYWOOD, FL

Education

B

Good start for Ahfachkee as Cain enters third year at helm

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Students began the new school year at the Ahfachkee School on Aug. 15, but there were two events leading up to opening day that helped them get revved up and ready.

Up first was a “Back to School Bash” at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium across the street from school grounds. The Big Cypress Council Office sponsored a variety of activities and attractions for students, in addition to a line-up of food trucks in the parking lot.

The event was designed for the kids to let loose and start thinking about the school year ahead.

About a week later came Ahfachkee’s “Sneak Peek” on Aug. 14. School staff were set up to register students, give out elementary grade level assignments, distribute middle and high school schedules, hand out information about exceptional student education, give general school



Damon Scott

Ahfachkee School Principal Dorothy Cain talks to students and parents Aug. 14 as the school prepared to start the 2018-19 academic year.



Damon Scott

Student Chanon Frye meets with Jeannette Cypress and Wanda Billie at the culture program table.

information, distribute information about the culture program and issue school uniforms.

Principal Dorothy Cain spoke to parents and staff at the event and assisted any nervous and excited students who had questions.

Cain, who is from Miami and lives in Pembroke Pines, is entering her third year as the leader of the Pre-K through 12th grade school and its 173 students and 40 teachers.

The Seminole Tribune asked her about the upcoming school year and the school’s growth, which is one reason for an ambitious expansion project that is currently in work.

oe Ahfa hkee operate like other publi hool in Florida

Yes. We offer the four common core state standards: ELA (English Language Arts), science, math and social studies. We follow Florida standards – all the same guidelines – and offer all the same classes as other schools.

Tell u about pha e one of the hool e pan ion.

The new middle and high school building will be done in March (2019) and we’ll be migrating into that building sometime by April 1. Students will be in portables for the transition. But we already use portables, which is one of the reasons for the new construction.

Ho about pha e t o and three

The existing buildings will be gutted and will be elementary level and administrative offices. Gutting and revamp should be done by Dec. 2019. The final project is the gymnasium, located in the back part of the property, which will have outdoor basketball and indoor basketball. There’s no completion date set for the gym project yet, the drawings aren’t done.

Ha the e pan ion pro e t been per olatin for o e ti e

The community has been waiting a long time for the school to be revamped and brought up to par. Most of the classes are in portables and some of them are 25 and 30

years old. We’re running a high school and a middle school, but not one of those students is in a regular building structure. They are all in portables. They are decrepit, falling apart and old. It makes utility costs higher.

The ne buildin ill be a relief, then

The idea, the concept, is to build towards 21st century technology and also to build into a concept toward project-based learning and collaboration. Those are the two big keys for the development of the new school. Teachers can collaborate across disciplines. The core classes will be in four rooms and in the middle is a collaboration room, which is almost as wide and much longer. It’s kind of like networking. Kids learn from kids and they talk about topics and get in depth knowledge by talking to other students and then working together as a team. That’s what we’re moving towards. The classroom setting makes a difference in order to achieve

this goal with students.

Ho doe Ahfa hkee keep tudent onne ted to the re ervation

High school students do internships on the reservation, to work in ag, buildings and grounds, the museum, Billie Swamp Safari, housing, Frank Billie [Field Office]. We send them out to do internships that are actual life experiences for them. We give an opportunity each quarter to collaborate and move, if they want to stay they stay, if not we move them to a different area as we try to get a handle on what we think the direction is that they want to go.

o you ee a dire tion early on
By the time they’re in eighth grade you’re starting to see differences in how they think and you can see where they might be going in terms of interest. We offer a 24-credit

♦ See AHFACHKEE on page 4B

Future looks bright for Tribe’s higher ed graduates

Bryce Osceola earns communication degree from FGCU

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Now that Bryce Osceola graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers on Aug. 5, she is keeping her options open.

Osceola earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication with a minor in medieval and modern European studies, but wants to take some time off to figure out her next move. She is thinking about graduate school, but would also like to spend some time with family and friends while she works on making patchwork.

“I’ve always loved teaching,” said Osceola, 23. “If I get a master’s degree in history, I could become a professor. That’s just one plan. If a job comes up, I can always go a different way.”

Competition to become a college history professor is fierce, but Osceola may choose to pursue it after graduate school. She would consider graduate school at FGCU or elsewhere, but would like to stay in state.

The field of communications has many components including the study of human behavior and interpersonal communication, which was Osceola’s area of study. She said she may want to get a job in human resources or management, which would draw on the skills she learned in college.

Like many college students, it took Osceola five years to graduate. New freshmen don’t always succeed if they take on too many classes.

“I always advocate for people who are already in college to do workshops to help high school seniors prepare for college,” Osceola said. “I used to be a youth assistant at FGCU and talked to students’ younger siblings, people at the gym and women with high school kids.”

Public speaking appears to come easily to Osceola, who made



Courtesy photo

Bryce Osceola poses on the FGCU campus on graduation day Aug. 5.

presentations to freshmen and sophomore students about how to choose their classes.

“In college, 60 percent of your waking hours go to whatever classwork you have to do,” she said. “I’m really happy I have some time off and don’t have to worry about schoolwork now and can focus on my hobbies.”

In a few months, Osceola will start to look at graduate schools and make plans.

“Having the degree means I have something to my name, a sense of accomplishment,” she said. “I think there needs to be more Native Americans with degrees. An important thing to me about being in college was representing my culture. There is a sense of pride and as Native Americans, we can do anything that anyone else can do.”

Reese Bert earns welding technology certificate from IRSC

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Reese Bert was born in Avon Park, Fla., in 1994. He grew up on the Brighton Reservation, however, where he said he was “too busy running around being a trouble kid.”

He stopped causing trouble, he said, when he went to Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Okla., for about a year and a half. RIS is an off-reservation Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) boarding school.

“That was when I realized what life and family meant to me,” Bert said.

Soon after Bert

returned from Oklahoma, he welcomed the birth of his son, Alakai.

“Then from that day on I realized everything I do isn’t for me, it’s for him,” he said. Bert would later welcome his daughter Jayna.

Bert then enrolled into a Universal Technical Institute automotive technology program in Orlando, where he earned his certification

“Once I was done, I wanted to do more, so I did and went to a couple colleges to see if they have a welding program,” Bert said.

Bert said Indian River State College – its main campus is in Fort Pierce – was the only one that offered

classes within the time frame he needed.

“When I was attending IRSC, I met some pretty cool people, and of course, I was the Native in the class,” Bert said. “But what I liked the most was learning how to use different processes like Stick, MIG and TIG,” he said of different welding processes. “I don’t have a favorite process. If it welds I’m on it.”

The details of Bert’s future plans are still being developed, but now with his welding technology certificate from IRSC in hand, he thinks he’d like to open up his own welding shop someday.

“Well, right now I’m in the process of trying to take business classes,” he said. “Then once I’m done, I would like to go out West to experience what it’s like to weld on different things in different atmospheres.”

He said his desire to learn and his family will always be the reasons for his drive to do better.

“I still have a couple things I want to do before I say: I should have done this, or done that,” Bert said. “Someone I know close to me said: the day you stop learning is the day you die.” But really I’m just a Native who is trying to make someone out of himself.”



Courtesy photo

Reese Bert and Abril Maldonado with their kids Alakai and Jayna.

Seminole Tribe’s 2017-18 higher education graduates

Graduate

Jaryaca Baker
Kasandra Baker
Ashton Baxley
Thomas Benson
Reese Bert
Lois Billie
Peter Billie
Tia Blais-Billie
Holly Bowers
Kirsten Doney
Sunshine Frank
Teanna Garcia
Remus Griffin
Erica Gonzalez
Cassandra Jimmie
Joseph John
Symphoni Jumper
Cheyenne Kippenberger
Thomasine Motlow
Randi Kittle
Bryce Osceola
Megan Otero
Marissa Sanchez
La’Shara Stockton
Layton Thomas
Marina Tigertail
Danny Tommie
Jessica Tull
Matthew Wideman
Acealyn Youngblood
Cleofas Yzaguirre

Pro ra

General Studies
High School Diploma
Fashion Design
GED
Welding Technology
General Studies
Business Management
Illustration
Law
General Studies
Digital Media/Marketing Certification
High School Diploma
Captain’s License
High School Diploma
Sports Medicine/Fitness Technology
Native American
Cosmetology
Accounting
Criminal Investigation
Hospitality and Tourism
Communication
Nursing
Fashion Design
Registered Nurse
Arts
Nursing
Business Management
Interdisciplinary Studies
Real Estate License
Illustration
General Studies

S hool

Keiser University
Penn Foster
Keiser University
GED
Indian River State College
Indian River State College
Keiser University
Rhode Island School of Design
Nova Southeastern University
Tallahassee Community College
Duke University Continuing Studies Certificate
Penn Foster
The Sea School
Penn Foster
Keiser University
Dartmouth College
Boca Beauty Academy
Keiser University
Florida State University
University of Central Florida
Florida Gulf Coast University
Rasmussen College
The New School
Chamberlain School of Nursing
Indian River State College
University of Phoenix
Nova Southeastern University
Liberty University
America’s Real Estate Academy
Savannah College of Art and Design
Florida SouthWestern State College

e ree

A.A.
HS
A.A.
GED
Certificate
A.A.
B.A.
B.F.A.
J.D.
A.A.
Duke University Continuing Studies Certificate
H.S.
Test Prep for Licensure
HS
A.S.
B.A.
Licensure
A.A.
B.S.
A.A.
B.S.
M.A.
B.A.
B.S.
A.A.
B.S.
A.A.
M.A.
M.A.
Test Prep for Licensure
B.A.
A.A.

ERMD celebrates National Pollinator Week with the community

SUBMITTED BY CHELSEA JEFFERS
Environmental Resource
Management Department

The Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) celebrated this year's National Pollinator Week (NPW) from June 18-24 through hosting a Tribalwide "Pollinators in My Backyard" art contest. The contest for enrolled Seminole Tribal members held three winning categories for applicants aged 2-7, 8-17, and 18 and older. The artwork submissions focused on representing the habitat and environment found on reservation land by depicting pollinators such as wildlife like birds, bats, bees, butterflies, other insects, and vegetation.

The first NPW was held in 2007 when the U.S. Senate approved international recognition of the importance of pollinators to ecosystem health and agriculture. It was recognized that awareness and support for the protection and sustenance of pollinators was needed due to declining populations.

Most plants require pollination in order to produce fruits, vegetables, other crops, and to support flowering plant reproduction. When pollen derived from the male part of a flower (the anther on the stamen) is transferred to the female part of that or another flower (stigma) and fertilization occurs, the result is the production of fruits and seeds. While some wildlife intentionally pollinate, such as bees during their nectar collection search for the production of honey, others move pollen unknowingly. For instance, songbirds and insects like moths who are in search of food, shelter, mates, or nesting materials often land on vegetation where pollen sticks to their body, thus being carried on to the next flower or plant.

Animals pollinate an estimated 75 percent of all flowering plants, supporting vegetation that supplies half of the world's oils, fibers, and raw materials (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2018. <https://www.fws.gov/pollinators/>). Research presenting pollinator agent and wildlife population declines has brought attention to the need to assist in their protection in order to ensure plentiful food supply and the many benefits posed from natural resources ranging from the stabilization of soils, weather protection, and clean air. These benefits are all upheld by the maintenance of healthy ecosystems and their existing vegetation. In this case, the NPW art contest was designed to promote the protection of the Tribe's environmental resources while simultaneously highlighting the creative talents of Tribal Members. ERMD continues to increase awareness about preserving and protecting the Tribe's environmental resources, further helping to ensure the continuation of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's culture. The department's official mission is to protect and evaluate the Tribe's land and water resources and to facilitate the wise use and conservation of these resources by other departments.

Congratulations to the winning art contestants listed below, and thank you to all that participated in this event. First and second place winning artwork will be displayed in one of the three ERMD offices stationed in the Hollywood, Big Cypress, and Brighton reservations.



Age 18 and up First Place Kiana Bell



Age 18 and up Runner Up Celeste Billie



Age 8-17 Runner Up Lucee Cypress



Age 8-17 First Place Tia Billie



Age 2-7 First Place Caiden Motlow



Age 2-7 Runner Up Zack Tigertail

Kids say goodbye to summer at Rez to Rez camp

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — About 250 kids from Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee bade farewell to summer with one last burst of summer camp fun at Rez to Rez on July 30 in Brighton.

"The whole point was to let them socialize together," said Dallas Nunez, Brighton recreation site manager. "They get to know kids from other reservations."

The recreation, culture and health departments pooled their efforts to assure the kids had a blast with a host of activities. The lake at Tucker Ridge hosted a slew of campers in canoes and kayaks, on the shore with fishing poles and playing cornhole in the shade.

Before the boats hit the water, the culture department gave the kids some background information on the role of canoes in traditional Seminole culture.

Pete Osceola, who grew up in a traditional camp in a hammock in Trail, told the kids they had dugout and fiberglass canoes as well as an airboat.

"We had a few chickees and a cooking chickee," Osceola said. "We went to school in Miami and used canoes every day."

Bobby Frank, Hollywood community culture center manager, told the group how to paddle a canoe and warned them not to row only on one side of the canoe or "you'll go for a swim."

"The turnout for the canoes was fantastic," said Joe Collins, Hollywood recreation site manager. "We had more than 30 kids and they were chomping at the bit."

Pickup basketball games kept things hopping at the gym, slip-n-slide kickball games took over the ballfields and free swim at the pool kept campers cool.

"That team is made up of kids from Brighton, Hollywood and BC," Nunez said about one fast-paced basketball game on the court. "When you see that, you know it's a success."



Beverly Bidney (5)

Rez to Rez scenes clockwise from upper left: Canoeing at Tucker Ridge; splashin' and dashin'; Adryauna Baker and Miguel Estrada test their fishing skills; Aundre Baker, 12, figures out how to get past defenders during a pick-up basketball in the Brighton gym; kids race through the Splash Dash's slip-n-slide and head toward the next obstacle.



Young scholars start school year in Tampa area

TAMPA — Some of the Tribe's newest young scholars started their school year in August in the Tampa area. Here's a few of the bright, young minds.



Courtesy photo

Kassidy Baker is a kindergarten student who attends Foundation Christian Academy. Kassidy is the child of Jamenia “Tacey” Thomas.



Courtesy photo

Liam Patton is a preschool student who attends Foundation Christian Academy. Liam is the child of Alana Henry.



Courtesy photo

Nolan Little is a preschool student who attends The Learning Experience. Nolan is the child of Tiffany Foret. Nolan is pictured with his mother and sister.



Beverly Bidney (

Above, Kimberly Bridgeman, center, is surrounded by happy children at the Big Cypress Preschool open house. From left are Amir Garcia, 1, Jaiden Gore, 3, Alivea Garcia, 2, and Zy'onna Motlow-Hubbard, 2. At left, mom Erica Balentine cuddles with son Charles Balentine, 2, as they attend the open house.

Adults welcomed at Big Cypress Preschool open house

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Parents, grandparents, guardians and other adults attended the first open house of the school year Aug. 15 at the Big Cypress Preschool.

Preschool is a time for babies and toddlers to investigate the world as they grow. Their days are filled with plenty of hands-on activities that let them explore art, science, math and dramatic play. The youngsters put on a few shows for parents

during the year including Thanksgiving, Christmas and graduation.

"We want them to reach their full potential in the developmental range including social-emotional, cognitive, language, literacy and physical," said Dana Rolle, Preschool Center manager. "We give them the opportunity to explore all areas of life and interact with others. Teachers serve as role models and help to build their language development."

Rolle expects about 40 to 45 students to enroll in school this year, from infants to 4 years old. Teacher to student ratios are low

to ensure the finest care.

Preschool director Thommy Doud welcomed the adults and shared some pertinent information as the youngsters played with balloon animals and squirmed on laps as the grown-ups tried their hardest to listen.

Preschool hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Students need to be in class by 8:30 a.m. There will be fees for tardiness, so Doud encouraged parents to be on time for drop-off and pick-up.

Back to school for nearly 300 students at PECS

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Loaded down with spotless new backpacks filled with unused pens, pencils, notebooks and paper, students took their classroom seats at Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School as the new school year began Aug. 13.

Enrollment is projected to be close to 300 students in pre-K through eighth grade plus about a dozen preschoolers in the Creek immersion program.

The school is coming off a great year, according to Principal Brian Greseth, who touted the middle school's A rating, the elementary school reached the top 10, fourth-grade math teacher Joy Prescott

was named the 2019 Florida Department of Education Teacher of the Year and the Creek immersion program was cited by the National Indian Education Association as the only true full-time immersion program in the contiguous U.S.

Going forward this year, the school will continue the successful TRIBE positive behavior system which stands for Trustworthy Respectful Individuals who are Brave and Eager to learn. It will also strengthen the reading and exceptional student education programs by adding another teacher. Clubs will get underway soon.

School hours are 7:50 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Beverly Bidne

Quayton Billie, Jaydence Urbina and TL Gopher wave goodbye to the second day of school as they leave PECS for home



Beverly Bidney

PECS Principal Brian Greseth gives a high five to students as they wait for the bus at dismissal Aug. 14.

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Bowers sees finish line for Native American veterans memorial campaign

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

For some it might seem like a slam dunk in this day and age: erect a memorial to Native American veterans in the nation's capital. Or some might be surprised to learn a memorial isn't already there, after all it's 2018.

Stephen Bowers knows better and knows the journey for a memorial has been anything but easy.

Bowers, who is the Veteran Affairs director for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, has been on the front lines for years to push for what will now be construction of the National Native American Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. He can see an end in sight to what has been an almost decade-long journey.

While Native Americans have served in the U.S. military since the American Revolution, they have historically not been duly recognized for their sacrifices. And data shows they've served in greater numbers per capita than any other ethnic group.

Recognition is finally on the doorstep. And while Bowers and others pulled as many strings as possible along the way to get the project done quickly, to see through a memorial that requires the approval of Congress and significant funding explains part of the long wait.

Waking people up

Bowers' campaign for the memorial began in 2010, after then-Chairman Mitchell Cypress called him to his office. Cypress gave Bowers a mission: work to get a statue placed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to commemorate Native American veterans.

"We started waking people up, because the discussion and the bill for a memorial had already been passed by two major American Indian groups," Bowers said.

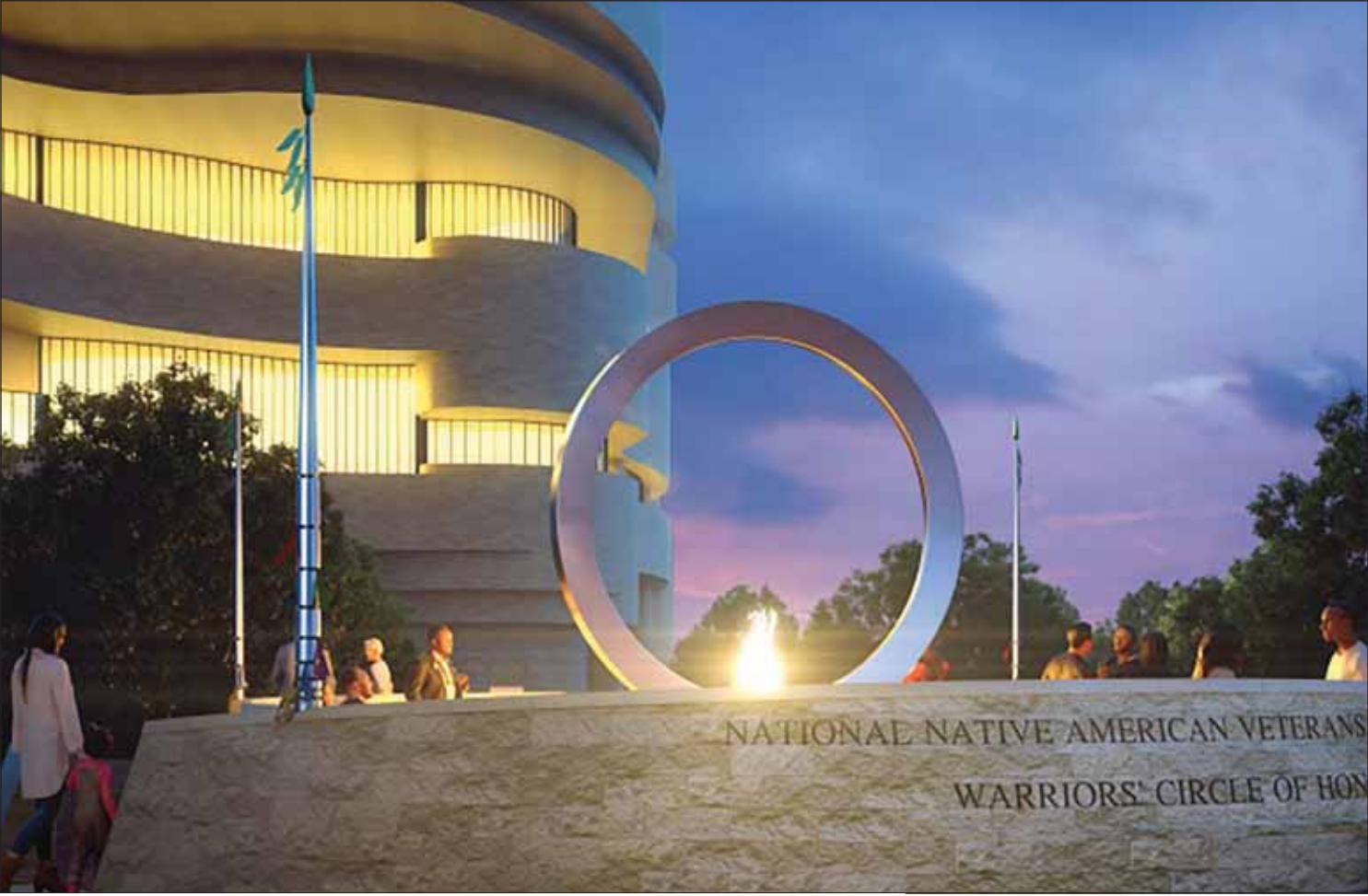
The bill was passed in 1994, but momentum had stalled. "They never decided where it was going to be put and the fundraising never went anywhere," Bowers said.

With the mission in mind for a statue, Bowers went to work to get the momentum back.

What Bowers would soon discover is that Congress had passed a law in 2003 that wouldn't allow anything to be added on the site of the existing Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The statue (or a memorial) would have to be approved and constructed at another D.C. site.

After almost two years of traveling to meetings and drumming up support among tribal members across the U.S. and talking to members of Congress and their staffers, momentum was taking hold again. The project also had a strong ally: Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii. However Inouye, who thought the project would be one of his lasting legacies, died in 2012 before he could see it completed.

But after his death, the then-governor



Courtesy illustration

The National Native American Veterans Memorial, whose design is shown above, will be located at the National Museum of the American Indian, which is adjacent to the U.S. Capitol on the National Mall.



Courtesy illustration

This illustration of the memorial shows some of the features of Harvey Pratt's winning design. The name of the memorial is the "Warriors' Circle of Honor."

of Hawaii replaced Inouye with the state's then-lieutenant governor, Brian Schatz.

Schatz was ambitious and was convinced to pick up the project Inouye had cared so much about.

Congress later gave the green-light for a memorial, not necessarily a statue, to be put on the grounds of the Smithsonian-run National Museum of the American Indian. But there was still a lot of red tape and bureaucracy to go through.

Military connection

Bowers has lived in Hollywood his entire life and the family name is one that is well-known in the Seminole community with far reaching branches of the family tree. Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. is his cousin.

His mother, who was Muscogee (Creek) Nation from Oklahoma, was good friends with Betty Mae Jumper, the only chairwoman of the Seminole Tribe.



Stephen Bowers

Bowers' father was a rancher who lived near what is now the Brighton Reservation, but died in a car accident when Bowers was fighting in the Vietnam War.

Bowers was the first of his family to serve in the military. He enlisted to serve in Vietnam in 1969 and was an Army combat veteran who served on long range reconnaissance missions with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He received an "early out" in 1971 after his mother, Jumper and others visited the offices of former Congressman J. Herbert Burke to ask for Bowers' release

from service. They pleaded with Burke that he be able to return home to help support his family after his father's untimely death.

His lifelong respect and affection for the sacrifices of those in the military and for military veterans had already been solidified.

Advisory committee

After the memorial project was handed over to the Smithsonian, Kevin Gover came calling for Bowers to be on his advisory committee.

Gover is the director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and a citizen of the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. He traveled around Indian Country to garner support and search for Native artists to be part of a juried contest to design the memorial.

He and Bowers would continue to raise funds, as a complete cost-estimate was still in flux.

The Smithsonian eventually chose artist Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne/Arapaho) and his design was unveiled this past June.

The National Native American Veterans Memorial will now have a celebration of Pratt's winning design at the site on the National Mall on November 8.

The NNAVM groundbreaking is slated for September 2019 and a formal dedication is scheduled for November 2020.

Part for Bowers

While the NNAVM has been an almost 10-year long journey for Bowers, he's ready to move on to his next mission: recognition for Polly Parker.

For the past year, he and his wife Elizabeth have been mulling over what it would take to have a statue commissioned for Parker, who they say is an unsung hero of the Seminole Tribe.

"She was a lady that was captured [during the Seminole Wars], we don't know with how many other men, women or children," Bowers said.

Bowers references a citation on Parker in the "Florida Seminole Wars Heritage Trail" publication by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress. She's mentioned in a citation on page 36. It says:

"Polly Parker, forced to emigrate in 1858, escaped from the steamer when it docked at St. Marks to take on fuel. Telling her guards she and other women were going ashore to gather medicinal herbs, she fled south, making her way back to the Everglades where she eventually became an important tribal matriarch."

"She jumped ship and defied the U.S. government," Bowers said. "She had to have had kids, who maybe fought later on. Those women and Polly Parker could be the great, great grandmother of me or Mitchell's [Cypress] elders. Without that escape, they wouldn't have had the kids they had and we might not be here right now."

For more information about the memorial, go to nnaiv.edu/nnaivm

New game at Seminole casino is a first for Florida

DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

COCONUT CREEK — To keep diners, music lovers, gamers and gamblers happy and entertained, it's important to offer plenty of options at casino properties. For those visiting Seminole Casino Coconut Creek a new game has arrived, and it marks a Florida debut.

An automated version of roulette is now at Coconut Creek, located at 5550 NW 40th St., about 20 miles north of the flagship Hard Rock property in Hollywood.

"IGT's Dynasty Auto Roulette offers both casual and experienced players a unique, user-friendly way to play roulette," said Kelley Waynert, global communications executive for gaming at the company.

Waynert said the EGT terminals feature "stunning ultra-HD displays" and a variety of configurability options for casinos. IGT stands for International Game Technology — a multinational gaming company based in Rome, Italy. EGT stands for electronic table games.

The auto roulette game first launched in May at the Resorts World Casino New York City and has been installed at three other properties since then, including at Coconut Creek.

Waynert said the new auto roulette "retains all the functionality and excitement of the live table game in a relaxed environment, which makes it very approachable for new players." The game includes all traditional bets, he said.

On the terminal screens you can see trends and statistics for player pattern tracking, and the screen view can be changed and adjusted to fit the ergonomics of the player, too.

"We're excited to be the first casino in Florida to offer this new gaming experience," said Jonathan Marcus, vice

president of marketing at Coconut Creek in a statement. "What's significant is that these games are suitable for both experienced and new players."

IGT officials added that offering the game is a smart way for a casino to differentiate its gaming floor.

"We pride ourselves in keeping a wide selection of quality games, along with giving our guests some of the newest games to be released," said Brent Colston, vice president of gaming operations at Coconut Creek.

Colston said Coconut Creek has worked closely with IGT throughout the years and are excited to show off the new roulette machines — 12 of which were scheduled to be up and running on August 13.

Coconut Creek has 2,000 Las Vegas-style slots and 70 live table games, including blackjack, baccarat and poker. Eating options at the property include NY Steak, Sorrisi Italian, 1st Street Deli and The BOL. The property has live music at Legends Lounge, Nectar, Sunset Grill and The Pavilion, a 1,200-seat entertainment venue.



Photo courtesy IGT

This is an example of the new automated roulette game that is now in Florida for the first time. It made its debut at the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek.

♦ AHFACHKEE From page 1B

diploma. They have to do community service hours, meet EOCs (end-of-course exams), semester exams, pass algebra one class, U.S. history ... you have to pass all these things or you don't get a diploma.

So the student will go to university and other vocational-technical school.

Yes, the vocational route and the college route. They might want to stay on reservation or move off. We identify if a student is more hands-on or more on the academic end. We know where we need to get them to.

What your professional background.

I retired from Broward County Public Schools after 35 years. I was in public

school administration for all but eight of those years, when I taught ESE (exceptional student education), science, math and ELA.

How did you end up at Ahfachkee? It's really weird how I ended up here. Colleagues were harassing me and teasing me about leaving the district after 35 years. I had a gap to bridge before real retirement though. I thought: well, I'll do something different. I saw an ad come out and said: that's unusual, a tribal school, it's under the BIE (Bureau of Indian Education) and owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. But I'm not Seminole, I thought. I'd applied to Franklin Academy [Charter School] — they were building a new high school. I got the position, but never signed the offer letter. When I got a second interview for Ahfachkee, I drove out on a Saturday and saw the school and the ambience of the community and the ranges and the cattle ... and the whole environmental piece just pulled me right in. I said: wouldn't this be

an interesting experience?"

What were your first impressions on the job?

I've cleaned up a lot of schools up in Broward, a lot of schools that were troubled schools — there were problems and messes. Here, there were some things that needed to be fixed, but in general it was functioning OK. So I just worked to bring it up to par, to bring standards up. We're the best kept secret. We have Tribal students going all over the place to go to school. We have them going to American Heritage [School], going to [NSU] University School, we have them going to [The] Sagamore [School] and all the pricey private schools. But they can get the best education sitting right here. So building our new school will be telling people. They'll see it, see how nice and beautiful it's going to be, and they'll try it. The word is out.



Damon Scott

The sign says it all as Ahfachkee welcomes students for the 2018-19 school year.

Arts & Entertainment

Passion for art, writing motivates Elgin Jumper

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — Elgin Jumper says it was art and writing that saved his life.

The Seminole from the Hollywood Reservation said it was about two years in jail and a parole violation in the early 2000s that was a major wake-up call. He's very upfront about his prior struggles with alcohol and drugs.

"Something had to change or I was going to keep on that same way," Jumper said. He entered an in-patient Seminole treatment center for four months. "I put away the drink and never drank again," he said.

Part of the change was to double down on his propensity to create art and write poetry.

"I thought I had to try. So I started to pursue art and writing with everything I had," Jumper said.

Family influence

Jumper said soon after he got out of jail he wanted to go to an art store, but didn't know anything about art supplies (he'd always drawn with a pen or pencil) and didn't have any money either.

"I told my dad I was looking to change my life and be someone, and he said he'd

Jumper Jr. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress sponsored the pair and they took their show on the road, including to other Seminole reservations.

Elgin Jumper, who has educated himself in fiction writing, poetry, art history, theater and literature, is a voracious reader. He's also a student of history.

"Military history is something that has always fascinated me since I was a little kid," Jumper said. "I have uncles who went to Vietnam. They would tell stories when they came back about certain things. I would read every kind of history book I could find."

Colorful collaboration

His interests helped him start to make connections with other artists and writers and he became part of a community of Seminoles and non-Seminoles who were like-minded.

Jumper's book of poetry – "Nightfall" – was published in 2006.

Jumper started organizing different aspects of his work, which culminated into mixed-media theatrical performances. His first was in 2013 at Florida Gulf Coast University. It included painting and drawing, music and dramatic Shakespearean poses, among other elements.

"It was a real connection with the audience and very well received," Jumper said, describing it as similar to a one-

Colorful Warriors Theater, a group that has found strong support for years with the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society.

Jumper's story isn't complete without mentioning his knack for successful collaborations with other artists and writers and groups like the FLHS.

One of his strongest connections is with Rosa Sophia, a librarian by day and auto mechanic by night, who recently did an open reading with Jumper at the invitation of Tara Chadwick, curator of exhibitions.

Sophia is also a novelist and editor. Her latest novel is "Hurricane," a ghost story about the 1928 Florida hurricane which killed at least 2,000 people.

"Elgin is an art visionary and teacher," Chadwick said. "He's been building this type of community for South Florida artists to work together and collaborate for many years."

First novel on deck

Jumper has been writing his first novel – also titled "Nightfall" – which explores Seminole history, language and culture. It will include drawings and quick sketches he made on a road trip to St. Augustine, which is part of the novel's content. The semiautobiographical piece takes place in 2004.

"It's a four-hour road trip to St. Augustine, but in the novel it will take four to seven days," Jumper said.

He's hopeful the novel will be published in early 2019.

Painting

Jumper's artwork will be featured in December's "Seminole Art Scene from the Frontlines," at the New River Inn in Fort Lauderdale.

He's also working on another novel, which will be a modern day Seminole myth. He describes it as a "Lord of the Rings or Star Wars" vibe.

And Jumper is working on a story about the Seminole art scene itself, which he's been a part of now for the better part of a decade.

The following is an excerpt from chapter three of 'Nightfall', the novel, by Elgin Jumper:

...the mean while settled in for the four our long drive to aint ugustine more or less. I casually flipped through a lac leather Case for some Classic Rock, just to keep us cool.

My uncle cleared is throat and is mmiied is soulders momentarily raced myself for the rig t t en and t ere e ad ust initiated a dou le uic countdown to another story. He pulled his hat forward in an assured, confident manner and it seemed to me is glasses ere but mere ornaments for the shiny sparkle of is storyteller eyes ic still eld to t e ig ay from ic e as e idently o taining is ords

at as my uncle istory as definitely his forte, the deep study of it, and e as fore er cornering some illing individual to overhear an impromptu lecture or story nd e commenced to all inds of istrionics ile e as doing it too all categories of t eatrics ere co ered so serious a out it suc as e as



Damon Scott

Rosa Sophia (seated left) and Elgin Jumper (at podium) took turns reading excerpts from their in-work novels Aug. 10 during an "open reading" event at the historic New River Inn in Fort Lauderdale.

is eyes touc in off ne la es e ery time t e glorious energy o erta ing im

My uncle said, "Okay, John, listen up, m gonna tell you a story from eminole history. Yep. Learned it from my alma mater, and from our native predecessors, don't cha see icture it Florida Georgia order t e ar of round a out t ere lot of times ac t en t ey ad t ese cross border raids, devastating, and in ample supply, let me tell you, and one side would snatch up a dear loved one and run off to regions nort ards and in countering t is a c eris ed lo ed one ta en from t em and so on, the varmints galloping hell-ent for t e ori on ea t ere as ar enough for everyone, cannot emphasize that point enough, with remnants of tribes on orse ac ma in t eir o n ars plunderin and pillagin, just a continuous eart rea in retaliation ac and fort at it as o in my imagination can see t e morning attac s can clearly see and ear t e orsemen and often can smell the twilight fires on the villages, can even ear t e turmoil as sad and as tragic as any poet's passionate work.

O ay so nati e orsemen on ot sides rig t nd dangerous too ey came sout to steal and de astate ell one time t ey made a ay it a C ief s daug ter ea Can you imagine ell t ere as a running battle, in response, of course, with the chief's daughter in great peril and in t e ery tic of t e fray ear t e an s of a dar mur y rier t e c ief and is warriors caught up to the invaders and the c ief concluded immediately on t e rescue of is daug ter at it time eing so of t e essence

ell t ey scouted out t e in ader camp in the dark of the night. They took careful note of t e in ading forces t eir positions, and more importantly, of where t e c ief s daug ter as situated and t en t ey concealed t emsel es in dense tic ets till da n n an early morning rain t ey made the lightning-like rescue, prying her from ra enous ands stunning t e in ader for a crucial period of time, and then t e rescuers roding sout to t e safety of familiar omelands

O ut t e in aders ere relentless When they appeared suddenly in pursuit, the c ief and is arriors steeled t eir earts

for more urgencies and some o found t e strength for more fighting. They set a guard for the protection of the chief's daughter and galloped out to meet the invaders. But riding up a short distance from the chief who was situated near a stand of pine trees, t e leader of t e in aders yelled out y do you take back our prize?"

e c ief listened too t oug t and responded: "Our people do not ride north to ta e at does elong to us e elongs it us at you a e done to us is not rig t a e li ed my entire life it out it I shall always fight against it, unto the end.

e in ader leader s rie ed out eerily for more ar es t ey faced a strange foe this time. The enemy fired a musket and returned to is arriors and toget er they rode down hard upon the chief in a se ere contest it seasoned ard itten arriors cilled and ounded on ot sides It was close in fighting, with musket and ayonet toma a and o and arro and nies ere as a roar of men and a terri le neig ing of ar orses a dreadful gnashing of teeth, and the floating fog of battle smoke and gun muzzle flash. Well, the c ief as s outing Fig t on Fig t On Fig t on and so t ey did and y no t e c ief s daug ter as t ras ing and ic ing out at her captors. Oh, the chief and his arriors foug t on li e furies till at last t ey dro e t em ac

"It was hard fighting indeed. The chief fired a musket and urged his warriors on, not it standing t e terri le noise and lur of fighting. He caught the invader leader in a terrifying melee and in itter and to and fighting dispatched him and that, John, was it for his malicious horsemen, who fled from the field, though still a formidable force to rec on it t e c ief and is arriors rig t e in aders nort ard efore t em all the while keeping up the pressure.

nd t oug t e c ief is daug ter and t eir arriors ere e austed from the fighting, they eventually recovered, and t e c ief li ed on e en to t e outs irts of a undred years

O my uncle as uite t e storyteller as you ll see e idenced t roug out t is narrative, much-impassioned, eccentric, and colorful nd yet ne too t at in is own time, he would arrive at the lesson part of is story at as al ays a gi en



Courtesy Elgin Jumper

This in-progress painting by Elgin Jumper is being created for an exhibition later this year at the historic New River Inn in Fort Lauderdale. Jumper describes it as 'a Seminole still life in the Classical style.'

buy me anything I wanted at the art store," Jumper said.

He experimented with oil paints and with acrylic paints.

"My dad was a showman with the Tribe, he was an alligator wrestler, he was a dancer, he was an actor," Jumper said. "He had an agent and everything. He was in movies. That all rubbed off on me."

Alan Jumper is now in his mid-80s. His father was a performer as well. Betty Mae Jumper is Alan Jumper's aunt.

The family's inclination for showmanship led Elgin Jumper to start an open mic night with his cousin Moses

man show, with poems a monologue and soliloquy that he memorized. He'd later perform live painting demonstrations and is currently learning the keyboards and synthesizer to use in his work.

Jumper credits traditional Seminole artists and painters as some of his earliest teachers. He has expanded his knowledge into studying and doing contemporary art as well.

"I was told: There are people who paint in the box and people who paint outside the box," Jumper said. "And I was saying: 'You mean there's a box?' I didn't want to limit myself." It's all led to what is today the

Saturday Night Live stars to appear in Coconut Creek

FROM PRESS RELEASE

COCONUT CREEK — Seminole Casino Coconut Creek will host Veterans of SNL: Rob Schneider, Darrell Hammond, Chris Kattan and Finesse Mitchell in The Pavilion on Sept. 27 at 8 p.m.

A household name and comedy star, Schneider is well known for his trademark blend of character and comedic acting, and has become one of the most popular touring acts in comedy. He created and stars in the Netflix docu-series "Real Rob," which focuses on the day-to-day hijinks of his life. The series marks the first time any actor has ever written, produced, starred in, directed and financed an entire season of a television show.

Schneider first came to prominence on NBC's "Saturday Night Live," along with friends Adam Sandler, Tim Meadows, and David Spade. He's a three-time Emmy winner as part of SNL's writing staff. He has also starred in some of the top comedy features of the past 20 years including "Grown Ups," "You Don't Mess With The ohan," "Big Daddy" and "The Waterboy."

Hammond, who hails from Melbourne, Fla., is known for being one of the most prolific comedians of his time. He holds the title for being the longest running cast



member on SNL. He frequently tours comedy clubs and theaters boasting a number of brilliant impressions in his act.

Recently, Hammond has seen a massive resurgence in national notoriety due to his uncanny impression of President Donald Trump. From his first impression of Trump on SNL 15 years ago (earning him the praise of Trump himself), his imitation has evolved along with all of the extreme changes in Trump's public appearance.

Kattan is one of the longest serving cast members on SNL. In the eight years he has starred in the landmark late night program, he's become best known for his characters "Mango," "Mr. Peepers" and one of the "Butabi Brothers," opposite Will Ferrell, which was such a hit that the sketch was

adapted into the 1998 cult classic "Night at the Roxbury."

Mitchell is best known for his three-year run on SNL, creating hilarious characters like "Starrkeisha" and impersonating actor Morgan Freeman and rapper 50 Cent. He has also appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Late Night with host Jimmy Fallon and Seth Meyers, and starred in the hit urban movie, "Who's Your Caddy."

Tickets (priced at \$40/\$60/\$200 – for couch seating) are on sale now via Ticketmaster locations, online at Ticketmaster.com, or by calling 800-653-8000. The Pavilion box office will also open at 1 p.m. on the day of the show for on-site ticket purchases and will call pickup.

Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin Evening comes to Hard Rock

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Jason Bonham's Led eppelin Evening comes to Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino in Hollywood on Nov. 9, at 8 p.m. Encompassing hits from the iconic band's career, including albums "Led eppelin," "Led eppelin II," "Led eppelin IV" and

"Physical Graffiti," Jason Bonham's Led eppelin Evening celebrates the life and music of Bonham's father, the legendary Led eppelin drummer John Bonham.

As Bonham and his band storm through Led eppelin's hallowed catalog, a state-of-the-art sound system and light show enhance the live performance onstage to create an awe-inspiring multimedia concert experience. Behind them, giant screens

display futuristic art as well as mood-setting historical video footage.

Tickets cost \$60, \$45, \$35 and \$25. All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at www.myhrl.com, www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone: 1-800-745-3000.

New Medicare Card Mailing Strategy

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is required to remove Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from all Medicare cards by April 2019. A new, unique Medicare Number is replacing the SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) on each new Medicare card. Starting April 2018, CMS is mailing new Medicare cards to all people with Medicare on a flow basis, based on geographic location and other factors.

These mailings will follow the sequence outlined below. Additional details on timing will be available as the mailings progress. Starting in April 2018, people with Medicare can get information about the mailings and sign up for emails about the status of card mailings in their area on Medicare.gov/NewCard.

New Medicare Card Mailing Waves

Wave	States Included	Cards Mailing
Newly Eligible People with Medicare	All - Nationwide	April 2018 - ongoing
1	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia	Beginning May 2018 COMPLETE
2	Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon	Beginning May 2018 COMPLETE
3	Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin	Beginning June 2018 COMPLETE
4	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont	Beginning July 2018
5	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina	Beginning August 2018
6	Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming	After August 2018
7	Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Virgin Islands	After August 2018

Hard Rock welcomes Japanese college students

The program at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood is a first-of-its-kind study tour for Japanese college students.

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The massive operation has dozens of departments and hundreds of employees performing all manner of duties every day. Needless to say the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood is a bustling place with many moving parts.

A group of six Japanese college students got a first-hand look at those parts, both from the perspective of a customer and in a unique behind-the-scenes working experience. The visitors — Shinya Kasai, Anna Araki, Midori Kiyonan, Mikiko Sato, Ayami Shirai and Nao Kizuka — completed a two-week “study tour,” part of a new Hard Rock initiative, from Aug. 6-19.

The program is a first — a partnership between Hard Rock and Toyo University, which has several branches in Japan. The students were carefully chosen from Toyo’s School of Hospitality Management in a rigorous process based on their research and interviews.

The non-paid program offered the students a “holistic overview” of everything Seminole Hard Rock,” said Jennifer Rice, vice president of human resources, something that is different from a typical year-long, paid internship position.

“They came to understand our integrated resort approach to business and hospitality,” Rice said. “The intention was to rotate them through all of the various departments and see how it’s all integrated and how it all comes together to deliver the amplified service and guest experience.”

A bit of a change

The six students started out with two days of orientation, just like a new hire at the property would go through. Part of the induction was learning about the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Hard Rock.

The group was then immersed in Seminole history by spending time on the Big Cypress Reservation, where they took in the attractions at Billie Swamp Safari, including a “Swamp Buggy Eco-Tour” ride on the Everglades.

Back at the Hard Rock the schedule was jam-packed. The students learned about gaming, (particularly responsible gaming), security operations, everything the marketing department does, finances (including a look at profit and loss statement scenarios) and facilities maintenance. They also received a tour of the construction at the Hard Rock’s massive guitar-shaped hotel scheduled to open in the fall 2019.

While the group wasn’t technically old enough to be on the casino floor, they still learned the standard operational procedures of the gaming department: slots, table games, poker — all in a classroom setting.

In between the more intensive days of shadowing and classroom work, the group had some time to take in a day at Disney World and a Taylor Swift concert at Hard



Damon Scott

A group of Japanese college students show off their certificates Aug. 17 and pose with many of the Hard Rock staff members who they shadowed and learned from during a two-week program that is part of a new partnership between Hard Rock and Toyo University in Japan. The students are, from left, Nao Kizuka, Mikiko Sato, Midori Kiyonan, Ayami Shirai, Anna Araki and Shinya Kasai.



Damon Scott

Goodbyes are filled with emotion as Japanese students say farewell to Shamelly Pichardo, Hard Rock training coordinator, near the end of their two-week program with Hard Rock in Hollywood. The students received certificates of completion after lunch at Kuro at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood.

Rock Stadium.

But the agenda was intense and the bonding with leaders of the different departments real, as they shadowed executives and employees in all areas from concierge services to housekeeping and the front desk.

A typical day might include sweeping and mopping on the one hand, and touring the areas of the property that fall under VIP support services like the helipad on the other hand.

The students said they particularly

enjoyed their work with the food and beverage department. They learned both front of the house and back of the house operations and did everything from bussing tables to helping prepare food with the chefs on staff.

“It really has been an overview of everything it takes to run a successful operation like this,” Rice said.

To say the least

Officials at Seminole Hard Rock want to use the unique mix of features at the Hollywood property to showcase its integrated entertainment-resort format, meaning hotel, casino and live music components.

“Our goal is to be able to leverage our assets here, because this property is run so well and it could potentially be a learning ground for students around the world to come and learn our best practices and also allow us the opportunity to learn from them,” Rice said. “They also have best practices to share.”

Rice added that it’s also an advantage for the company to see the cultural diversity at the property. “It’s cultural enrichment for the team here as well. We wanted to learn from them, too,” she said, “And we did.”

Hard Rock Japan’s future

The impetus for the program, in part, is because Japan is in the Hard Rock’s sights. Hard Rock International Chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen dropped a hint of that in early July at the final beam raising ceremony for the 450-foot guitar shaped hotel.

“We are looking to do an integrated resort in Japan,” confirmed Rice, including another guitar-shaped hotel. “To have a Hard Rock there would be a game changer. And we’re looking at one in Barcelona (Spain),” she said.

Rice said that while hospitality and tourism are taught in Japan, there’s not a known curriculum that focuses on integrated resorts and entertainment. She’d like to see the program become a way to create a workforce in Japan for the future Hard Rock property.

“We’d love to take it to the next level and have it be a partnership and curriculum where people are being certified,” Rice said. “Graduate out of that program and come work for us.”

Back at home in Japan, the six students will now write and submit an in-depth report of their experience with feedback and ideas to make the Hard Rock experience even more pleasurable for guests.



Photo courtesy Hard Rock

In the background is the Hard Rock guitar-shaped hotel being built in Hollywood. The students took a trip to the construction site.



Photo courtesy Hard Rock

Dressed in traditional Japanese clothing, the visitors are treated to dinner at Kuro, the highly-regarded Japanese restaurant in the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Pictured with them are Dustin Maurhoff, manager of training and development (at head of table); Antonia Elliot, director of training and development, hotel and casinos; and Jennifer Rice, vice president of human resources.



Photo courtesy Hard Rock

Part of the students' visit included a trip to the Seminole Hard Rock aviation hanger.

Sports



Brighton trio attracts colleges' interest as Moore Haven eyes another strong season

Terriers coming off undefeated regular season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — It didn't take long for Andrew Fish and Robert Harris to get noticed by the eyes of college football.

Having never played organized football, Fish and Harris made their gridiron debuts last year for Moore Haven High School. All the 6-foot-4, 320-pound Fish and the 6-foot-6, 352-pound Harris did was quickly establish their presence as starting offensive linemen who helped pave the way for the Terriers' outstanding 10-1 season.

Now, a year later, as the towering duo embarks on year two, they find themselves on the radar of college coaches.

Their remarkable and rapid ascension combined with the veteran leadership of fellow O lineman Conner Thomas means the entire trio from the Brighton Reservation are drawing interest from college football. Fish handles left tackle duties while Harris and Thomas are on the right side as tackle and guard, respectively.

"It's awesome for them," Moore Haven coach Max Manin said before a practice in August. "They've worked really hard. It's nice because O linemen usually don't get a whole ton of credibility. They're not scoring touchdowns; they're not making tackles, so it's cool for those guys to get some recognition."

Attention is coming from FBS schools for Fish and Harris. Fish, a senior, has offers from Florida Atlantic University in Boca

Raton, Georgia Southern, Kent State, North Carolina Central and Western Kentucky. Manin said the University of South Florida is also very interested in Fish. Harris, a junior, has an offer from Florida International University in Miami and he said Stanford University has also expressed interest.

All in all, not bad for a couple of kids from the reservation who had never played football until a year ago.

"They picked it up so easily, which is pretty rare because a lot of kids when they play backyard football when they're little they practice throwing, passing and catching and being a receiver and a running back, but no one practices being an offensive lineman. No one practices putting their hand in the ground and blocking people. It's a very technical position. So for those guys to pick it up, is unbelievable," Manin said.

"They're football smart. They picked up very quickly," said Moore Haven offensive coordinator/offensive line coach Chris Cook. "They're coachable kids. They're likable. They listen. They want to learn and get better."

Opting to come out for the football team is a decision Harris is glad he made.

"Everybody told me how much fun it was; I wanted to go out there and see for myself," Harris said.

The Terriers had plenty of fun last season. Despite an 11th-hour head coaching change before its first game, the team quickly adapted to Manin at the helm and reeled off 10 straight wins. They won their district



Photo courtesy Chris Cook

Moore Haven High School's offensive line features, from left, senior Conner Thomas, junior Robert Harris and senior Andrew Fish. All three are from the Brighton Reservation and are returning starters on a team that won its district and reached the Class 2A regional finals last season. They are shown here before the team's spring game in May.



Alonso Parra

Andrew Fish, left, and Robert Harris line up during a drill at Moore Haven High School football practice Aug. 8.

title despite being the only public school in the district and captured a thrilling playoff win against Glades Day. The season ended on a bit of sour note as the Terriers were rocked by powerful Champagnat Catholic of Miami-Dade County in a regional final, but Champagnat steamrolled everyone in its path to winning the 2A state title.

Football is not the only sport that Fish and Harris quickly excelled. They joined the track team last spring and, similar to their football experience, soared right away. They did shot put. Harris won the district title and both made it all the way to the state finals.

"You see what they did in track with the shot put. They started off throwing like 20 feet and at the end they were throwing 40 feet and they were making it to states. They're incredible athletes. They're big kids, but they move really well. They're very coachable," Manin said.

Meanwhile, Thomas might not bring the same kind of size to the O line as Fish and Harris, but his presence is felt in many ways as a fearless leader. Listed at 6-foot, 300 pounds, Thomas gets the most out of his

frame and his heart. Manin said Division II schools are interested in Thomas and he has received an offer from Ave Maria University.

"He's good. He's got a ton of talent. He's one of our team captains," Manin said. "He's a natural leader. He's the kind of guy you want taking your daughter out. He's honest, hard-working, great in the classroom, great on the field. Good teammate, good peer."

Those sentiments were echoed by Cook.

"For his size, he's super athletic," Cook said. "He's good. I wish he was a foot taller. He's not a short guy, but if he was three or four inches taller, he would have everybody looking at him. He moves very well."

As for the team's expectations this season, the Terriers know they won't surprise anyone coming off a 10-win season. They'll have to replace some key skilled players, such as elusive running back John Cox, who is playing for Colgate University in New York.

"We lost a lot of talent, but we've got a lot of talent returning," Manin said. "We had a great offseason. We got a ton of guys lifting. We look good."

Moore Haven's season is scheduled to kick off Aug. 31 at Lake Placid. The home opener will be Sept. 21 against Community School of Naples.

2 1 Moore Haven Hi h S hool
var ity football h edule

Aug. 31 at Lake Placid, 7 p.m.
Sept. 14 at St. John Neumann (Naples), 7 p.m.
Sept. 21 home vs Community School of Naples, 7 p.m.
Sept. 28 at Glades Day (Belle Glade), 7 p.m.
Oct. 5 home vs SW Florida Christian, 7 p.m.
Oct. 12 home vs Oasis, 7 p.m.
Oct. 19 at Mullberry, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 26 at First Baptist (Naples), 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 2 home vs LaBelle, 7 p.m.

Busy times for EIRA: youth series concludes, INFRers punch tickets to Vegas

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Young cowboys and cowgirls spent the summer competing in the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association's summer kids rodeo series at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.

The final rodeo on Aug. 18 wrapped up the summer competition and by the end of the day, the competitors were adorned with buckles, confidence and perhaps a few bumps and bruises.

About 52 kids ages 4 to 17 participated in three rodeos on June 30, July 28 and Aug. 18 in Big Cypress and Brighton. Events were designed to prepare them for more adult rodeo events and included pole bending, dummy roping, mutton busting, pony riding, calf riding, bull riding, breakaway roping and barrel racing.

"We need more bareback riders in the EIRA," said emcee Moses Jumper as he announced the pony riding event, in which kids rode bareback and tried to hang on for six seconds.

At the end of the day, the final points and winners were announced. Later, on the EIRA Facebook page, Secretary Melissa Gopher gave a



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, Iverson Huggins gives it his all to hang on the the sheep during the mutton busting event, but his efforts didn't earn him the title. At right, EIRA Rodeo Queen Madisyn Osceola opens the EIRA kids rodeo Aug. 18 with the American flag.

shout out and thanks to EIRA officers Lisa Osceola, Mackenzie Bowers and Moses Jumper as well as all the directors, volunteers and parents who made the summer series a success.

Rodeo Cha pion :
Pole Bending, age 9 to 11 - Avery Savoie
Pole Bending age 13-17 - Cyiah Alvia
Dummy Roping age 3-6 - Brace Miller

Dummy Roping age 7-9 - Stetson Stokes
Mutton Busting age 4-6 - Brace Miller

EIRA Open Su er Kid

♦ See EIRA on page 5C





The Davie Sonic Blast U-12 soccer team features Seminole players, from left, Antonio Tosca, Christian Shaffer, and Sam Josh, and coach Kenny Bayon, a Seminole Recreation employee.



Coach Kenny Bayon and the Davie Sonic Blast players get fired up before the championship game in the Greater Hollywood Soccer League on Aug. 21 in Hallandale Beach.

Hollywood kids wrap up impressive summer soccer season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HALLAN ALE BEACH — Seminole’s Sam Josh, Christian Shaffer and Antonio Tosca each played key roles for the Davie Sonic Blast U-12 soccer team that recently wrapped up an outstanding summer season.

Coached by Kenny Bayon – a Seminole Recreation employee who grew up next door to the Hollywood Reservation – the team finished with a 9-4 record in the Greater Hollywood Soccer League. They earned the No. 2 seed for the postseason and promptly won two playoff games to reach the championship match.

All three Seminoles made their impact felt at both ends of the field during a hard-fought, heartbreaking 3-2 loss in the championship against Driftwood on Aug. 21 in Hallandale Beach.

The Sonic Blast rocketed to an early 2-0 lead thanks in large part to Josh, who set up both goals by teammate Matthew Santana. On the first goal, Josh made a short, accurate pass to Santana who finished it off. Four minutes later, Josh made his presence felt again by using his quickness to make a steal at midfield and getting the ball to Santana, who fired home a long shot for a 2-0 lead.

Meanwhile, at the other end, Driftwood was kept scoreless in the first half behind stellar goalkeeping from Shaffer and some quality, hard-working minutes from Tosca in a defensive substitute role.

In the second half, Driftwood, which was the undefeated No. 1 seed, chipped away at the deficit and scored a late goal in regulation to tie it and another goal late in the second extra time frame to emerge with a 3-2 win.

Regardless of the setback, Bayon, whose son Kenden plays on the team, said the Sonic Blast had an excellent season.



With Christian Shaffer in goal, teammate Sam Josh helps clear the ball away from harm's way in the defensive zone as the Davie Sonic Blast faced Driftwood in a summer league championship game.

“I’m proud of them. We’re here to play, compete and have fun. You want to be in the finals in any sport,” he said. Josh and Shaffer came into the year with soccer experience; Tosca is a first-year

player who showed plenty of improvement throughout the season. As a winger/attacker, Josh was one of the go-to guys on the team when it needed offense, but he’s also a player who is

noticeable in all sections of the field. “He’s everything. He’s tough. He’s fast, skillful, tenacious,” Bayon said. When the summer season started, the Sonic Blast didn’t have their regular goalie.

entire gym floor was dedicated to soccer. He hopes at some point interest will grow strong enough so teams can be formed to enter 5-on-5 tournaments.

Bayon asked for a volunteer before a game and it was Shaffer who courageously came forward to play a position he had never played. “He said, ‘I’ll do it.’ We won 4-2. I named him Player of the Match.” He made some stops and he kicked the ball well,” Bayon said. Shaffer stayed in net the rest of the season.

Bayon hopes to spread soccer’s popularity to additional Tribal youngsters. He said plenty of kids enjoyed watching the World Cup on TV at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center. Recreation recently started a youth indoor soccer league at the Rec Center. Bayon said interest is growing. He said at first only half the gym was needed, but as more players showed up, the

Participants give it a ‘tri’ in Big Cypress

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Big Cypress Recreation hosted the Triathlon Tournament on Aug. 11 at three locations on the reservation. The three-sport event was sponsored by the Chairman’s Office.

Up first was the fishing competition, which started at 6 a.m. and continued until noon, when the live fish had to be at the dock in front of Moses Jumper Jr.’s house for weigh-ins. It was at that time that Michelle Osceola and Cicero Osceola, Tribalwide special events coordinators for the Chairman’s Office, drew the winning names for a raffle.

Participants won cash prizes, gift certificates and fishing-related gear.

Although a heavy rain storm rolled in and lingered after the fishing competition, participants eventually competed in an archery battle at Billie Johns Ballfield, where they were also treated to lunch.

The final leg of the competition took place at the Big Cypress Billiards for the pool shoot out. Kids who participated in the fishing and archery received gifts.

The results were as follows:

Senior men’s fishing
Singles – 1st place: Moses Jumper Jr.; 2nd place: Joe Frank; and 3rd place: Efrain Marrero Jr.
Doubles – 1st place: Joe Frank/Efrain Marrero Jr.; and 2nd Place: Moses Jumper Jr.

Men’s fishing
Singles – 1st place: Robert Hill; 2nd place: Heath C. Bert; 3rd place Tony S. Bert; and 4th place: Brian Billie.
Doubles – 1st place: Robert Hill/Tony

C. Bert; and 2nd place: Brian Billie/Heath C. Bert.

Senior men’s archery
Doubles – 1st place: Moses Jumper Jr./Joe Frank; and 2nd place: David R. Cypress/Charlie Cypress.
Singles – 1st place: Charlie Cypress; 2nd place: Joe Frank; 3rd place: Moses Jumper Jr.; and 4th place: David R. Cypress.

Men’s archery
Doubles – 1st place: Jason Grasshopper/Tony S. Bert; and 2nd place: Gary B. Frank/Heath C. Bert.
Singles – 1st place: Jason Grasshopper; 2nd place: Heath C. Bert; 3rd place: Tony S. Bert; and 4th place: Gary B. Frank.

Women’s archery
1st place: Jennifer Chadwick

Senior en billiard
Singles – 1st place: Roy Snow; 2nd place: David R. Cypress; 3rd place: Joe J. Billie; and 4th place: Moses Jumper Jr.

Senior o en billiard
Singles – 1st place: Laura Clay; 2nd place: Esther Buster; and 3rd place Dale Grasshopper.

Wo en billiard
Singles – 1st place: Claudia M. Jumper; 2nd place: Nadine Bowers; and 3rd place: Rande Osceola.

Men billiard
Singles – 1st place: Charles A Osceola; 2nd place: Robert Hill; 3rd place: Idly J Garcia; and 4th place: Tony S. Bert.



Above, Moses Jumper Jr., also known as Bigg Shot (front, in sunglasses and white hat) is at the fishing dock outside of his house in Big Cypress with other participants after the fishing portion of the Triathlon Tournament. He stands next to his grandson, Talen Jumper. At right, Talen shows off a garfish he caught during the triathlon competition.

Lady Seminoles Legends win NASA

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The Lady Seminoles Legends battled their way out of the losers bracket and roared back to win the NASA Women's Legends softball championship Aug. 11 in Choctaw, Mississippi.

The team won its opening game and lost the next one, but then reeled off five straight wins to claim the title and finish with a 6-1 record.

The Lady Seminoles' championship performance highlighted a strong tournament overall for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, whose seven teams compiled a 25-13 record.

The annual two-day, double-elimination tournament for adults was hosted by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and featured five divisions and more than 70 teams representing MBCI, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Poarch Band of Creek Indians. MBCI teams won three championships: Natives (Women's), Suicide Squad (Co-ed) and Native Legends (Men's Legends). Poarch Creek's Sneeky Creek won the Men's title.

The only loss for the Lady Seminoles Legends came against the Cherokees' C-Nation early in the tournament, but the Lady Seminoles regrouped and notched wins against the Choctaws' Battitudes and Shockerz and a 12-11 thriller against Poarch Creek's Lady Legends to set up a rematch against C-Nation.

Coming out of the losers' bracket, the Lady Seminoles forced the "if needed" game in convincing fashion with a 17-4 triumph and then blanked C-Nation 14-0 in the winner-take-all finale.

Despite high temperatures and playing five straight must-win games, the Lady Seminoles Legends persevered all the way to the winner's circle.

"It was the determination in the girls, each and every one of them. It was extremely hot, but they had heart and determination," said Brighton Recreation Coordinator Salina Dorgan, who assisted the team which was coached by Richard Osceola and Joey Micco.

The tournament was a marathon for Lady Seminoles such as Susan Davis, Rita Gopher, Wendi Riley, Carla Rodriguez, Billie Tiger and Laverne Thomas, all who did double duty by also playing for other Seminole teams in other divisions. Many played in the Women's Division (18 and up) for the Lady Seminoles' squad which also had an impressive tournament that included five straight wins sandwiched around a pair of losses. They finished third.

Also in the Women's Division, Onna B's, another Seminole team, started strong by winning three in a row, but then dropped two straight, including an elimination loss to the Lady Seminoles.

In the Co-ed Division, the Natives, which was organized by Jaryaca Baker, returned to Florida with a trophy thanks to finishing runner-up. They won their first three games and finished with a 4-2 record.

Other Seminole teams in the Co-Ed Division were the Florida Natives, which started with three straight wins and finished 4-2, and the Seminole Sluggers, which went 0-2.

In the Men's Division, the Seminoles' Hayla Boyz won their first two games and advanced all the way into Saturday evening's 'Final Four' before being eliminated by Sneeky Creek. Hayla Boyz finished with a 3-2 record.



Photo courtesy Joe Collins/Seminole Recreation

The Lady Seminoles Legends celebrate their championship victory at the NASA tournament Aug. 11 in Choctaw, Mississippi. From left, kneeling, Carla Rodriguez, Laverne Thomas, Wendi Riley and Rita Gopher; middle row, from left: Salina Dorgan, Melanie Benn, Vita Johnson, Diane Smith, Reina Micco; back row, from left: Henrietta Welch, Trisha Osceola, Billie Tiger, Susan Davis, Dana Osceola, coach Richard Osceola and coach Joey Micco.



Photo courtesy Joe Collins/Seminole Recreation

The Seminoles' Natives Co-Ed team gathers with the runner-up trophy after their second place finish at the NASA tournament Aug. 11 in Choctaw, Miss.

Native American team to debut in PBR Global Cup

FROM PRESS RELEASE

ARLINGTON, Te . — PBR (Professional Bull Riders) announced Aug. 22 that the PBR Global Cup, the only nation vs. nation international bull riding competition, will make its third stop at AT T Stadium in Arlington, Texas from Feb. 9-10, 2019 as the WinStar World Casino and Resort 2019 Global Cup USA.

PBR's global tournament features top athletes from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico and the United States riding for national pride, record purses and the very soil they compete upon. The \$750,000 purse in Arlington makes the PBR Global Cup the sport's second highest-paying event next to the PBR World Finals in Las Vegas.

For the U.S. stop, Team USA will feature one team comprised exclusively of Native American riders, called the Wolves, competing alongside another American team, the Eagles. U.S. coaches selected Stetson Lawrence (Williston, N.D.; Chippewa and Sioux) and Ryan Dirteater (Hulbert, Okla.; Cherokee) for the Wolves, and Cooper Davis (Buna, Texas) and Cody Nance (Paris, Tenn.) for the Eagles. The complete rosters for each seven-man squad will be announced later.

Two-time PBR World Champion Justin McBride (Elk City, Oklahoma), who guided Team USA to a win in Edmonton and fourth place finish in Australia, will return to lead the Eagles, while Wiley Petersen (Fort Hall, Idaho; Shoshone Bannock) will coach the Wolves. Both U.S. teams of seven riders and one alternate will be comprised exclusively of coaches' picks. For each visiting nation, the first two riders will be coaches' picks with the remainder of the roster selection process to be announced at a future date.

PBR has competed in AT T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, since 2010, including the league's largest single-day event, the WinStar World Casino and Resort Iron Cowboy, powered by Kawasaki, which drew more than 46,000 fans in February of 2018.

Tickets for the WinStar World Casino and Resort Global Cup USA start at just \$10 and will go on sale August 23, at 10am CT. Tickets are available at SeatGeek.com, PBR.com, or by calling PBRDirect at (800)732-1727.

CBS Sports will broadcast a one-hour show from the two-day Global Cup USA, which will also be brought to fans on RidePass, the PBR's western sports digital network.

Additional dates for the tournament's visits to Brazil and Mexico will be announced in the future.

Tigertail tournament returns for 11th annual

BIG CYPRESS — Teams are encouraged to sign up for the 11th annual Tigertail Brothers Basketball Tournament by Sept. 11 for the Sept. 13-15 event at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.

Teams must have an eight-man roster and have their own jerseys. Entry fees for 40 and up Legends teams are \$200, 18 and up adult teams must ante up \$350. Payouts for men's teams at the open tournament are \$6,000, \$3,000 and \$1,000; women's teams earn \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$1,000.

Food and raffles will be available daily. For more information call DeForest Carter at 386-299-8033 or Big Cypress Recreation Department at 863-983-9659.

Halloween golf tournament to be held Oct. 31

A IE — Golf may not be a spooky sport, but the Halloween Golf Tournament could send shivers down the spines of some golfers. The tournament, to be held Oct. 31 at Grand Oaks Golf Course in Davie, will have a shotgun start at 8:30 am.

In addition to the golf game, other competitions will include the longest drive, closest to the pin and straightest drive. The tournament is open to all Tribal members and there will be a bonus raffle for anyone wearing purple, orange or green.

For more information, contact the Chairman's office at 954-966-6300, ext. 11402.

ROGER BILLIE MEMORIAL "BIG BASS" FISHING TOURNAMENT



Saturday, October 20, 2018

(South Boundary Canal – 1.4 miles past BC Landings)

Entry Fee \$50.00

Categories

- Biggest Pan Fish
- Biggest Other

Biggest Bass > \$1,500.00
Most Weight – 5 Fish Limit > 1st Place - \$700.00
(12 inches or more) > 2nd Place - \$500.00
> 3rd Place - \$300.00

RULES:

- Sign-in and pay entry fee @ 6am
- Fishing Time @ 7am – 2pm
- Weigh-in @ 12pm – 2pm
- Fish must be alive at weigh-in
- No live bait
- Awards 3pm – 4pm
- Boat or bank fishing only
- Reservation water only

**Tribal, Community
and STOF Employees
Are All Welcome!**

If you have any questions, please contact
Cecilia Tigertail @ (863) 599-4363.

Sharp start for Ahfachkee volleyball

It must one practice under their belts the Warriors played three strong sets in loss to Donahue

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BIG CYPRESS — If the opening match serves as an indication of the path the Ahfachkee School girls volleyball team will follow this season, then the Warriors should do just fine.

Plenty of optimism emerged from the team's season debut Aug. 23 in Big Cypress, a hard-fought 3-0 loss to Donahue Academy of Ave Maria. Scores were 25-14, 25-16, 25-16.

Despite having just one practice under their belts and playing the opener without their head coach, Ahfachkee showed an abundance of determination as it played Donahue even for most of the afternoon at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium. Their resilience was evident throughout the match, including in the second set when they trailed 15-6, but then won 10 of the next 13 points to pull to within two.

"For being the first time, they did really good. There was some fight. They wanted to win. We played three sets, but I think they had fire," said Ahfachkee assistant coach Randy Hernandez, who was among the subs for head coach Miliani Uinsaat (out with illness).

Ahfachkee captain Mya Cypress said the team looked like it was already in mid-season form compared to last year's squad.

"This is like how we played last year when we did practice a lot," said Cypress, a senior who is one of the more experienced

players on a club that features three middle schoolers. "We also have a lot of middle schoolers and this is their first time playing volleyball so we're trying to teach them as we go."

Cypress was in the starting lineup along with her 2019 classmates Thomlynn Billie and Janessa Jones, juniors Abby Tigertail and Leilani Gopher and sixth-grader Aaliyah Billie. The subs were seventh-graders Jaylee Jimmie and Lania Bert.

Cypress served up the team's first ace of the season early in the first set. She also strung together a handful of solid service points along with Bert and Jones during the rally in the second set.

In the first set, Thomlynn Billie had an ace that brought Ahfachkee to within 15-14, but Donahue won the next 10 points to win the set.

Tigertail was a defensive standout, which included an outstanding get in the third set. Everyone in the building thought the point was over and the ball would hit the floor, but she somehow kept it alive. Those type of extra effort plays kept Ahfachkee within striking distance in all three sets.

A kill by Cypress and an ace from Thomlynn Billie helped knot the third set at 15-15 before Donahue pulled away.

Hernandez said working on basic skills, such as serving and passing, will be emphasized when the team gets into a regular practice rhythm, although the team will see plenty of game action, too, with four matches in the first eight days of the season.

"We'll do better next time," he said.



Kevin Johnson

The 2018 Ahfachkee School girls volleyball team gathers for a team photo before the season opener Aug. 23 in Big Cypress. The players are, from left, front row: Aaliyah Billie, Jaylee Jimmie, and back row, Abby Tigertail, Janessa Jones, Mya Cypress, Lania Bert, Leilani Gopher and Thomlynn Billie.



Kevin Johnson

Abby Tigertail controls the ball as teammates Thomlynn Billie, left, and Leilani Gopher help out during Ahfachkee's season opener Aug. 23 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee's Janessa Jones battles Donahue Academy at the net.



Kevin Johnson

Mya Cypress winds up for a hit in Ahfachkee's game against Donahue.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee is on the defense as Mya Cypress, Janessa Jones (23), Aaliyah Billie (18) and Leilani Gopher (16) are in position for a service return.



Kevin Johnson

The Ahfachkee volleyball team receives well-deserved applause from their fans following their first game of the season.

♦ **EIRA**
From page 1C

Youth Pony Riding age 7-9 - Trenton McClelland
Pony Riding age 10-12 - Summer Gopher
Jr Bareback Riding age 14-17 - Kirk Griffin
Calf Riding age 7-10 - Trenton McClelland
Jr Bull Riding age 14-17 - Myron Billie
Jr Breakaway Roping age 10-17 - Ashlynn Collins
Barrel Racing age 4-8 - Talen Jumper
Barrel Racing age 9-12 - Kamryn Hoffman
Barrel Racing age 13-17 - Cyiah Alvía

INFR Qualifiers

Here's a list of those who qualified at the EIRA Regionals in July for the Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Bareback Riding

Jacoby Johns - Tour
Jaylen Baker - EIRA

Steer Wrestling
Bryton Edmundson
Dayne Johns
Tie Down Roping
Jobe Johns
Naha Jumper
Lady's Breakaway Roping
Trina Bowers-Hipp
Ahníe Jumper
Team Roping Headers
Josh Jumper
Justin Gopher
Team Roping Heelers
Naha Jumper
Ed Harry
Lady's Barrel Racing
Ashley Parks
Mackenzie Bowers
Bull Riding
Kdawg Smedley
INFR Jr. Barrels
Jalee Wilcox
INFR Jr. Breakaway
Canaan Jumper
INFR Jr. Bulls
Norman Osceola
Justin Gopher Jr.



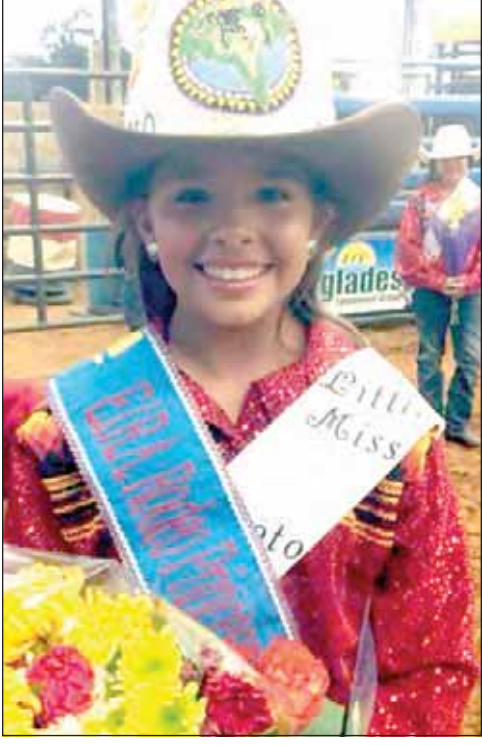
Ada Bruisedhead takes a tumble during the youth pony riding event. She was shaken up but competed in her next event, calf riding.



Myron Billie competes in the junior bull riding event.



Courtesy photo
Jr. Miss EIRA Queen Cyiah Alvía



Courtesy photo
Little Miss EIRA Princess Ashlynn Collins



Kirk Griffin displays some acrobatics as he attempts to last six seconds on the back of this bull.

Hard Rock Stadium living up to role as ‘global entertainment destination’

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MIAMI GARDENS — Hard Rock Stadium and its immediate surroundings are evolving into somewhat of a campus thanks to new multi-million dollar venues on different sections of the property.

The hub, of course, is the 65,000-seat stadium that the Seminole Tribe's Hard Rock International attached its name in 2016 in an 18-year, \$250 million naming rights deal with Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross.

Under construction on the south side of the property is a \$50 million tennis facility that will be the new home of the Miami Open, one of the sport's most prestigious non-Grand Slam events.

The northwest corner will be the site of the Dolphins new training facility. Tom Garfinkel, president and CEO of the Dolphins and the stadium, pegged the cost of the training facility at potentially \$75 million to \$80 million. The team's decision to move from its current practice location at Nova Southeastern University in Davie to Miami Gardens was warmly welcomed by officials in Miami-Dade County during an Aug. 7 press conference at the stadium.

“By giving world-class athletes a top training location, this facility will beef up our ability to bid for, and win, top sports events, such as the 2026 World Cup and future Super Bowls,” said Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez. “I can certainly see the new training facility being a training facility for World Cup teams in 2026.”

Although specific locations for the 2026 World Cup, which will be held in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, have not been announced, Hard Rock Stadium is among 17 candidates vying for games in the U.S.

Long before the World Cup comes to North America, Hard Rock Stadium has plenty of other high-profile events that will place it on the national and international stages. In addition to next winter's Miami Open, the stadium will host the 2020 Super Bowl and 2021 College Football Playoff National Championship. (Hard Rock's 36-story guitar-shaped hotel in Hollywood is scheduled to open in the fall of 2019 in time for the Super Bowl.)

Garfinkel pointed out at the press conference that in the coming few weeks alone, the stadium would be the site of three Dolphins games as well as concerts featuring music superstars Taylor Swift, Jay-Z and Beyoncé. Also on the menu for the remainder of 2018 are six Miami Hurricanes football games, Columbia vs Venezuela and Chile vs Peru soccer matches and the Orange Bowl, which will double as a national semifinal this year. Earlier this year, soccer heavyweights



Kevin Johnson

A massive, new video board has been installed near the Dan Marino statue on the south side of Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens.

Manchester United and Real Madrid played at the stadium as did The Eagles and Jimmy Buffet. In 2017, it was U2, Metallica and Cold Play that highlighted the agenda.

Attracting all of these major players from the sports and music industries comes on the heels of Ross's recent three-year, \$500 million investment in major renovations to the stadium.

“I think it's truly the global entertainment destination that was envisioned,” Garfinkel said.

Construction is well underway on the 30 courts for the tennis facility outside the stadium. A temporary 14,000-seat Center Court will be set up in Hard Rock Stadium for the tournament, which will be held from March 18-31.

“I have to thank Mr. Ross and the Dolphins organization for helping keep that major tennis tournament here in our community. Without them, believe me, we would have lost the Miami Open,” Gimenez said.

According to Garfinkel, the earliest the football training facility will be open is 2020.

The addition of both venues means the elimination of close to 4,000 parking spots, but Garfinkel said Hard Rock Stadium's parking was built to accommodate the stadium's previous capacity of 75,000 seats, which was reduced by 10,000 seats due to the renovations. He said there will still be enough parking spots to accommodate everyone and stressed that the addition of pedestrian bridges and tunnels – expected to

be in place by the start of the 2019 football season – will help alleviate congestion and improve safety.

“On some days, it can look like a game of Frogger out there. We want to avoid that,” he said.

Garfinkel said the condition of the stadium's turf, which was an issue last season, has been solved by changing vendors. The Dolphins will also delve first-hand into the sod business.

“We've now invested in 80 acres outside of West Palm Beach. We will be building and creating our own sod farm, producing our own sod so we can control the quality of the sod and not rely on outside vendors, and make sure for the 2019 season, the 2020 Super Bowl and beyond we can control the quality of the sod,” Garfinkel said.

As for additional changes off the field, new vendors & Pizza and Mojo Donuts have been added to the food choices. A plaza leading from the stadium to the tennis facility on the south side now includes a giant video board behind a statue of former Dolphins star Dan Marino. Landscape additions include the planting of more than 1,500 trees and 57,000 shrubs and flowers along with new paths and fountains, all at a cost of \$4 million according to Garfinkel.

Finishing touches to upgrades in the team's locker room were being made by workers a couple days before the preseason opener Aug. 9 at home against Tampa Bay. Miami's regular season kicks off Sept. 9 against Tennessee at Hard Rock Stadium.



Kevin Johnson

Tom Garfinkel, president and CEO of the Miami Dolphins and Hard Rock Stadium, speaks to the media Aug. 7 during the Miami Dolphins' announcement about moving their practice facility to the Hard Rock Stadium campus.

Triumphant return with Cup for T.J. Oshie

Indigenous Hockey/Facebook

During a trip back home to Warroad, Minn. on July 24, Washington Capitals forward T.J. Oshie, of the Ojibwe Nation, raises the Stanley Cup that the Capitals won this spring. Oshie, 31, had 21 points in 24 playoff games as Washington won its first Cup. Players are allowed to spend a day with the Cup, and many often return to their hometowns for community celebrations. Several events were held for Oshie and the Cup in Warroad.

