



The Seminole Tribune

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Hard Rock Hollywood job fair attracts thousands

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Even to say it exceeded expectations would be an understatement.

About 2,500 job hunters descended on the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood June 4 for a shot to work at the site where the iconic brand's first guitar-shaped hotel will soon open.

"It was amazing. It goes to show you: if you build it, they will come," Jennie Sumner, vice president of human resources for the Hard Rock Hollywood, said.

Sumner said that out of the 2,500 who filled out an application, about 500 were offered positions.

Those offers include positions in departments such as banquets, beverage, cash operations, culinary, front desk, housekeeping, poker, pool operations, public spaces, restaurant outlets, security, slot operations and stewarding.

Sumner said many of those same departments — including a smaller number

♦ See **HARD ROCK** on page 6A

Seminole cross the country for cultural exchange with Quinault, Quileute tribes

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

OCEAN SHORES, Wash. — Sixty-four members of the Seminole Tribe's Naples community traveled about as far as possible in the continental U.S. for a cultural exchange with the Quinault and Quileute tribes in Washington State June 17-22.

The trip was a result of a previous cultural exchange the community had with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina last December; it was so memorable they wanted to do another one. The community took a vote and decided on the Pacific Northwest. Naples Liaison Brian Zepeda had been to the area in the past and he reached out to the two tribes.

The first event of the exchange was held at the Quinault Beach Resort and Casino in Ocean Shores where each tribe shared traditions, songs and dances. The Seminoles were first to share. Zepeda explained the stomp dance tradition, which is shared with other southeastern tribes including the Chickasaw, Cherokee, Choctaw and Miccosukee.

"The men sing, the women are responsible for the tempo with their shakers," Zepeda said. "Men and women have to work together to make the songs come to life. We usually dance around a fire to let the creator know we are honoring him."

They were led by Zepeda and his brother Pedro Zepeda.

"Historically the friendship dance is done with other tribes so we could find peace with each other," Brian Zepeda said.



Beverly Bidney

Pedro Zepeda, center, leads the friendship dance with members of the Seminole, Quinault and Quileute tribes at the cultural exchange June 18 at the Quinault Beach Resort and Casino near the Quinault Reservation in Ocean Shores, Washington.

He invited everyone to join the dance. The room filled with Seminole, Quinault and Quileute dancers of all ages who bonded through the dance.

A drum group comprised of both Quinault and Quileute tribal members gathered on one side of the ballroom. Rio Jaime, Quileute event coordinator

for the cultural exchange, explained that like the Seminoles and Miccosukee, these tribes' family connections go back through

♦ See **EXCHANGE** on page 5A

Board, Council sworn in for new terms

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Eligible members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida went to the polls May 13 to choose their next set of leaders.

Election results saw some leaders returning to their roles, while three positions changed hands.

Those on the ballot to represent Tribal Council were Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. (incumbent) and James E. Billie; Manuel Tiger (incumbent), David Cypress and Alfonso Tigertail (Big Cypress); Andrew J. Bowers Jr. (incumbent) and Larry Howard (Brighton); and Christopher S. Osceola (incumbent) Sunny Frank and Virginia C. Garcia-Sanders (Hollywood).

Those running for Tribal board of directors positions were President Mitchell Cypress (incumbent) and James Holt II; Joe Frank (incumbent) Nadine Bowers and Paul Bowers Sr. (Big Cypress); Marvin P. Bowers, Helene Buster, Johnnie Jones Sr., Theresa Nunez and Reno Osceola (Brighton); and Gordon Oliver Wareham (incumbent) Christine E. McCall and Larry J. Tiger (Hollywood).

All of the incumbents were voted back in except for Councilman Tiger and Councilman Bowers.

Tiger was replaced by David Cypress and Bowers by Howard, who was formerly the board representative for Brighton. Buster was elected to fill the Brighton board vacancy.

The president and chairman positions are four-year terms, while other positions are two-year terms. In addition, the president serves as vice-chairman of the council and the chairman serves as vice-president of the board.

Inauguration Day

Hundreds turned out on Inauguration Day June 3 at the historic Council Oak Tree located at State Road 7 and Stirling Road in Hollywood on the north end of the Seminole Classic Casino.

Sally Tommie was the mistress of ceremonies. She welcomed Tribal members, visitors and special guests, including Miss Indian World Cheyenne Kippenberger, Miss Jr. Florida Seminole Clarice DeMayo and members of the Miccosukee Business Council.

"It is a pleasure and an honor to have this role to participate in something that is so monumental for our Tribe," Tommie said.



Beverly Bidney

Members of the newly inaugurated Tribal Council and Board of Directors pose by the Council Oak Tree on Inauguration Day June 3. From left are Immokalee Council project manager Ray Garza, Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress, Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, Hollywood Councilman Christopher Osceola, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., President Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Brighton Board Rep. Helene Buster, Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon Wareham and Immokalee Board liaison Ralph Sanchez.

Tommie pointed out that many significant moments in the Tribe's history have taken place in the shadow of the Council Oak. The tree was the site of the signing of the Tribe's constitution and corporate charter in 1957; it is where the 25th anniversary of the birthplace for Indian gaming was celebrated in 2004; and it is where the Tribe's gaming compact was signed in 2010.

The Council Oak was added to the

National Register of Historic Places in 2012.

"Those that have made a path for our future beneath this tree, they gave a lot for us to exist as we exist today," Tommie said.

S.T.O.F. Executive Director of Administration Lee Zepeda gave the invocation. Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students led the Seminole pledge in Creek, while Ahfachkee School students led it in Mikasuki.

Singing group Native Voices of the Chickee Baptist Church on the Hollywood Reservation sang Seminole hymns.

Leaving office

Tiger thanked the members of the Big Cypress community and his staff for supporting him during his time in office. He also thanked the law enforcement officials of

Big Cypress and Immokalee.

"To be the council representative for Big Cypress has been an awesome job, one of the best jobs I've ever had in my life. I learned a lot," Tiger said. "When I first got here in 2010 I saw the worst the Tribe has had to deal with — no money, no credit, there were chains and locks on the Hard Rock.

♦ See **INAUGURATION** on page 4A

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Editorial

Don't block tribes from online gaming market

•Sarah Walters

More than ever, access to technology is a necessity for real economic growth. For some tribal nations, various hurdles have stymied economic development, limiting job prospects and opportunities for entrepreneurs and tribal business expansion. These obstacles have included not only a lack of physical infrastructure to support modern businesses, but also cumbersome legal and bureaucratic roadblocks that make it difficult to do business in Indian country.

However, a bill under consideration in New York state could break down at least one barrier between tribes and economic development. New York state Senator Joseph Addabbo's bill, S. 17—A, if signed into law, will allow Indian gaming establishments to participate in the online sports betting market throughout New York.

As an attorney in federal Indian law and former counselor and attorney at the National Indian Gaming Commission, I had the opportunity to testify in May before the New York State Senate Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee in support of Sen. Addabbo's bill, S. 17—A.

The bill would authorize casinos owned by tribes within New York state borders to offer mobile sports betting to consumers anywhere within the state. New York is home to several tribes engaged in gaming pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. The United States' current interpretation of federal laws, however, would limit mobile bets placed through tribal gaming platforms to Indian lands. As consumers seek out digital gaming platforms, limiting Indian gaming establishments' participation to their Indian lands will harm tribes and their surrounding economies.

As a lifelong advocate for the empowerment of tribes, I want states to understand three reasons for allowing Indian casinos to pursue online gaming offerings:

Indian gaming is an industry of governmental and economic importance, benefitting both Indian nations and

their surrounding local economies

Since the passage of IGRA in 1988, tribal gaming has assumed an important role in supporting jobs and economic opportunity for many Indian nations. New York alone has twelve Indian gaming facilities that bring more than \$461 million a year in gaming-related payments to the state, according to a recent study by the American Gaming Association.

Moreover, in 2018 those same facilities generated more than \$2.1 billion in combined sales. Profits enjoyed by tribes must, by law, be used for the tribe's general welfare, ensuring that revenue generated from Indian gaming operations serves tribal communities. That revenue also enables tribal casinos to create jobs and support local businesses in areas that might otherwise be economically depressed. As sports betting expands on mobile platforms, leaving Indian gaming operations out of the equation would mean imposing a competitive disadvantage, directly impacting tribal government programs as well as local non-Indian communities.

Advances in technology, including the proliferation of mobile platforms for gaming, produce substantial opportunities for revenue and economic growth. Tribes must have the opportunity to benefit equally from such technological advancements.

Likewise, economic obstacles for tribes hinder the broader economy.

If tribes are blocked from mobile sports betting operations, commercial operators, as well as states, may be negatively affected. For example, as part of their gaming agreements with the state, tribes have exclusive gaming rights in large swaths of New York. Tribes pay millions of dollars to the state annually in exchange to enjoy zones of exclusivity, which include much of upstate New York, including Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, Oswego and Cortland.

Allowing only commercial entities to establish online

gaming would violate the agreements New York made with its gaming tribes, unfairly disadvantage tribes, and potentially limit access to online gaming for many New York residents.

Further, in the event commercial operations were to accept wagers from within those zones, tribes could limit or completely omit payments to the state. As a result, if tribes were excluded from statewide mobile sports betting the state would experience large blackout zones or lose out on millions in annual revenue, neither of which is an attractive outcome.

Sovereign tribal nations should not be subject to unfair regulation.

Limiting tribal participation in mobile sports betting would reduce competition and actively disadvantage tribal communities. Any person betting on sports with a mobile device would place bets on platforms created only by commercial casinos, taking economic momentum away from tribal communities. Across the country, the gaming industry has been a crucial source of capital for several Indian nations, and as tribes look to diversify their economies, state and federal governments must ensure equal opportunity to continue to grow.

Laws limiting tribes' ability to compete in the online gaming space prevents economic growth and restricts tribal self-sufficiency, which is contrary to the goals of federal policymaking for the last 40 years or more. Absent a change in federal law and policy, I hope states will continue to consider and respect the important role that gaming plays in tribal economies and surrounding communities, and take appropriate action that will not unfairly hinder tribes from competing in gaming innovations.

Sarah Walters is Of Counsel, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. She is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. Walters has served at the Department of the Interior, the National Indian Gaming Commission, and as an attorney at the Department of Justice. This article appeared in Indian Country Today.

Supreme victory for Native treaty rights

•Billings (Mont.) Gazette

The United States is obligated to fulfill its 1868 treaty that promised the Crow Tribe the right to hunt on land that is now the Bighorn National Forest in northern Wyoming, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled this week. The ruling is a victory for Native American rights, but its practical results are yet to be determined.

The friend of the court brief filed in support of the Crow by ACLU of Montana and seven experts in public health, history and Crow culture concluded:

"The Second Treaty of Fort Laramie, now celebrating its sesquicentennial, has been a boon for the United States, which received peace in the aftermath of the Civil War along with 30 million acres of Crow territory, a small part of which became what is now the Bighorn National Forest. Wyoming seeks to deprive the Crow Tribe of its rights under that federal treaty. That is wrong. The Crow Tribe should be allowed to continue subsistence hunting in the forest lands it ceded away. Notwithstanding the

♦ See VICTORY on page 9A

Statement of Exoneration for Chief Poundmaker

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau delivered the following Statement of Exoneration for Chief Poundmaker on May 23, 2019, at the Poundmaker Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. The Poundmaker Cree Nation has long sought justice in regard to the conviction and imprisonment of Chief Poundmaker, who was arrested and sentenced in 1885 to three years in prison while trying to negotiate a peace agreement with the government. The exoneration acknowledges that it was an "unjust conviction and imprisonment."

•Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Elders, leaders and members of the Poundmaker Cree Nation – It is a privilege to be here with you today to honour the life and legacy of Chief Poundmaker or Pihtokahanapiwiin.

I would like to acknowledge that we are on the sacred lands of the Poundmaker Cree Nation in Treaty 6 territory.

It was here that Chief Poundmaker made his indelible mark on history – Here that he earned his well-deserved reputation as a diplomat and peacemaker.

Here that he stood up for his people and demonstrated compassion in the face of persecution.

134 years later, we gather at the battle site to honour and remember the story of Chief Poundmaker.

We recognize that during his lifetime, Chief Poundmaker was not treated justly nor showed the respect he deserved as a leader of his people.

We know that the colonial perspectives which dominated relations between Indigenous peoples and the Crown did not allow for open and collaborative dialogue.

And we acknowledge that if we are to move forward together on the path of reconciliation, the Government of Canada must acknowledge the wrongs of the past.

We have the duty to take an honest look at this chapter of our shared history and make right by the Poundmaker Cree Nation.

It is my sincere hope that by coming together today and taking this important step together as equal partners, we can continue the important work of reconciling the past and renewing our relationship.

Oral tradition tells us that Chief Poundmaker's role as an influential leader begins in 1873, with the conclusion of peace negotiations between the Cree and the Blackfoot nations.

Known as the "Peacemaker" by the Indigenous peoples of the Northern Plains, Chief Poundmaker had tried to maintain peaceful relations and open dialogue between the Cree and settlers both before and after the signing of Treaty 6 in 1876.

In 1876, Poundmaker, now a headman or minor chief, was part of the Cree delegation at Fort Carlton where Treaty 6 was concluded with Alexander Morris, Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Territories and Treaty Commissioner.

A powerful orator, Chief Poundmaker argued that the Government of Canada had to provide the appropriate assistance to the Cree as life in the Prairies was changing.

He requested assistance not only for the signatories of the Treaty, but also for future generations.

This included advocating for the Medicine Chest provision in Treaty 6.

Indeed, Chief Poundmaker was a visionary and an early advocate for universal health care. And his spirit and the strength of his convictions throughout the treaty negotiations continues to inspire his people to this day.

In 1881, Chief Poundmaker, as an acknowledged leader of his people, was selected to lead the Marquess of Lorne, son-in-law of Queen Victoria, on a journey from Battleford to Blackfoot Crossing.

Chief Poundmaker impressed the Marquess with his traditional teachings and his statesmanship.

In the years following the signing of Treaty 6, Chief Poundmaker, along with others such as Big Bear or Mistahimaskwa, pushed government officials to live up to the promises and obligations laid out in the Treaty, often with frustrating results.

By the winter of 1885, the combination of a depleted bison population, cuts to government aid and fundamental disagreements regarding the implementation of treaty promises resulted in wide-spread dissatisfaction in the Prairies.

In the push to settle Western Canada, and guided by colonial thinking and policies, the federal government sought to exert increased control over Indigenous peoples. Tension between the Canadian government, Métis, First Nations and settlers eventually amounted to a conflict known as the Northwest Resistance.

Government officials in Western Canada began to target Chief Poundmaker and his people, especially after members of his community were accused of looting in



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau provided a Statement of Exoneration at the Poundmaker Cree Nation on May 23.

Battleford, as Poundmaker sought rations from Indian Affairs officials for his people.

Chief Poundmaker and his people came to be viewed as a threat.

On May 2, 1885, seeking reprisal for the purported looting, the Canadian Expeditionary Force followed the Cree back to their reserve and launched an attack where we now stand.

Right here, at battle site hill. Led by Lieutenant-Colonel William Otter, more than 300 men attacked Poundmaker's people, but after seven hours on the battlefield, Otter's men were forced to retreat.

Though he did not participate in the battle, Chief Poundmaker saved many lives. At a critical time, he carried the pipe of a wounded war chief onto the battlefield, and used his considerable authority to stop the counterattack on Colonel Otter's retreating troops, thereby avoiding more bloodshed.

Fearing further reprisal against his people, Chief Poundmaker attempted to negotiate a peace agreement with the commander of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, Major-General Frederick Middleton.

Unable to come to an agreement, Poundmaker and his followers were arrested at Battleford on May 26, 1885.

Fueled by mistrust and a lack of understanding, government officials held Chief Poundmaker, as the recognized leader of his people, responsible for the actions of his community and convicted him of treason-felony in August 1885.

While Chief Poundmaker unequivocally maintained his innocence, he was sentenced to three years in prison at the Stony Mountain

Penitentiary.

Chief Poundmaker's imprisonment meant denying members of his nation his strong leadership.

They were deeply affected by the harsh restrictions and deprivations imposed upon them by government officials.

The Nation was also forced to surrender their weapons, which left them unable to hunt and protect themselves.

Labelled as a rebellion band by the Government of Canada, the Poundmaker Cree Nation saw the reputation of their honoured Chief tarnished by his

wrongful conviction and were forced to live without a Chief for over three decades.

Although Chief Poundmaker was released early from prison due to his deteriorating health, he died only four months after his release in 1886 while visiting his adopted father Chief Crowfoot at Blackfoot Crossing.

He was buried there and in 1967, his remains were brought back to the Poundmaker Cree Nation and buried here, at battle site hill.

Today, our government acknowledges that Chief Poundmaker was a peacemaker who never stopped fighting for peace.

A leader who, time and again, sought to prevent further loss of life in the growing conflict in the Prairies.

The Government of Canada recognizes that Chief Poundmaker was not a criminal, but someone who worked tirelessly to ensure the survival of his people, and hold the Crown accountable to its obligations as laid out in Treaty 6.

We recognize that the unjust conviction and imprisonment of Chief Poundmaker had, and continues to have, a profound impact on the Poundmaker Cree Nation.

Chief Poundmaker often spoke of the need to continue moving forward.

He said: "We all know the story about the man who sat by the trail too long, and then it grew over, and he could never find his way again. We can never forget what has happened, but we cannot go back. Nor can we just sit beside the trail."

Well, the Government of Canada has been sitting beside the trail for far too long.

And if we are to join the Poundmaker Cree Nation on the path of reconciliation, we need to acknowledge the past and build a foundation for healing and renewed understanding.

And so, as an important symbol of our desire to revitalize our relationship with the Poundmaker Cree Nation, I'm here today on behalf of the Government of Canada to confirm without reservation that Chief Poundmaker is fully exonerated of any crime or wrongdoing.

I would also like to offer all members of the Poundmaker Cree Nation, past and present, an apology for the historic injustices, hardships and oppression suffered by Chief Poundmaker and your community, on behalf of the Government of Canada and all Canadians.

The Poundmaker Cree Nation has long advocated to hear these words from the Government of Canada.

And it is your dedicated efforts that have brought us here today to honour Chief Poundmaker, the way he should have been many, many years ago.

To ensure that his legacy is celebrated for years to come. To help right past wrongs.

As Poundmaker's people, the hardships you have overcome reflect his courage, his belief and his vision that you would go on as a strong and vibrant people.

You have always known that your Chief deserved to be respected and celebrated.

Now, all Canadians will have the opportunity to learn and understand the true history and legacy of Chief Poundmaker.

Before being sentenced to imprisonment, Chief Poundmaker stated: "Everything that is bad that has been laid against me this summer, there is nothing of it true. ... I did everything to stop bloodshed. If I had not done so, there would have been plenty of blood spilled this summer ..."

In 1885, Chief Poundmaker was treated as a criminal and a traitor.

In 2019, we recognize the truth in his words that he – as a leader, statesman and peacemaker – did everything he could to ensure that lives were not needlessly lost.

It has taken us 134 years to reach today's milestone – the exoneration of Chief Poundmaker.

I know that the exoneration and apology I have offered today cannot make up for what has been lost.

But it is my hope that these words can mark a new beginning. That this day leads us to a brighter future, as we continue to walk together on the path toward reconciliation. A path Chief Poundmaker charted for us all so many years ago.

It is my hope that we can make the next century a shared legacy with a proud history, dedicated to the spirit of Chief Poundmaker, honoured leader of his people.

Thank you. Kinanaskomitinawaw.

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Community



HUD official lauds work of Native Learning Center

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — A senior HUD official made the Seminole Tribe of Florida an early stop in his new position — one that assists Native Americans.

Hunter Kurtz was recently named the principal deputy assistant secretary in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing. The position and department fall under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Long names and titles aside, Kurtz came to Hollywood on June 3 to tour the Reservation and visit with staff at the Native Learning Center.

“[The NLC is] helping not only their own Tribal members but tribes across the nation and I think that’s fantastic,” Kurtz said. “They are helping lots and lots of people. That’s what we do in this industry; we get up every morning to try and help people. I think this is a very good example of that.”

Kurtz met with NLC Executive Director Georgette Palmer Smith (Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma/Choctaw), members of her staff and others at the complex, located at 6363 Taft Street in Hollywood.

“I’m really proud of where we’re at now as far as our reach because we started with zero in a database to now 7,100,” Smith said. “It was all word of mouth in the beginning and then we began a more aggressive outreach program and doing Constant Contact to increase signups.”

The NLC, known as a networking hub, has entered its 11th year in operation. It is recognized as a first of its kind Tribal initiative that holds seminars, trainings, and provides technical assistance both in person and online to Native Americans and those working in Indian Country. Programs it offers include grant writing and management, procurement, housing, nonprofit establishment and more.

In 2013, the NLC launched its e-learning webinar platform system Kerretv, the Creek word for learning.



Damon Scott

Seated clockwise from left during a meeting at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood on June 3 are principal deputy assistant secretary in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing Hunter Kurtz, HUD special adviser Alexander Coffey, NLC compliance and resource development director Vincent Franco, NLC marketing coordinator Louis Porter Jr., NLC project specialist Tomasina Chupco-Gilliam, NLC deputy executive director Kyle Doney and NLC executive director Georgette Palmer Smith.



Damon Scott

From left to right are HUD special adviser Alexander Coffey, NLC executive director Georgette Palmer Smith, principal deputy assistant secretary in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing Hunter Kurtz, NLC deputy executive director Kyle Doney, NLC training and development specialist Wilma Noah, NLC compliance and resource development director Vincent Franco, NLC training and development specialist Krystal Cedeno and NLC project specialist Tomasina Chupco-Gilliam.

Tribal officials across the country have reached out to the NLC over the years for advice on how to establish a similar initiative on their own reservations.

“I think what you’re doing is really incredible. We hope there are folks who will model this,” Kurtz said during a roundtable discussion at the NLC. “Everywhere across the nation, not just in Tribal areas, we’re facing an affordable housing crisis and we have to find unique and new ways to improve upon that. Right now as a nation we are only housing about a quarter of the people that need this type of housing.”

HUD’s Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) administers housing and community development programs that benefit Native Americans.

Kurtz said that while Native Americans face housing challenges similar to the general population, there are differences, and HUD has specific programs for Native populations.

Homeownership is also something

Seminole Tribal leaders have tried to secure for all Tribal members who want it.

“We’re proud of the work we’re doing and helping our Native people in any way that we can to build better communities, better housing options and safe communities,” Smith said.

Kurtz and Smith cited HUD’s Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program as one that has been pivotal in helping Native Americans achieve homeownership.

“Getting everyone to where they need to be to be a homeowner is really exciting,” Smith said. “When they do purchase their homes it’s a big celebration; it’s very rewarding and very fulfilling.”

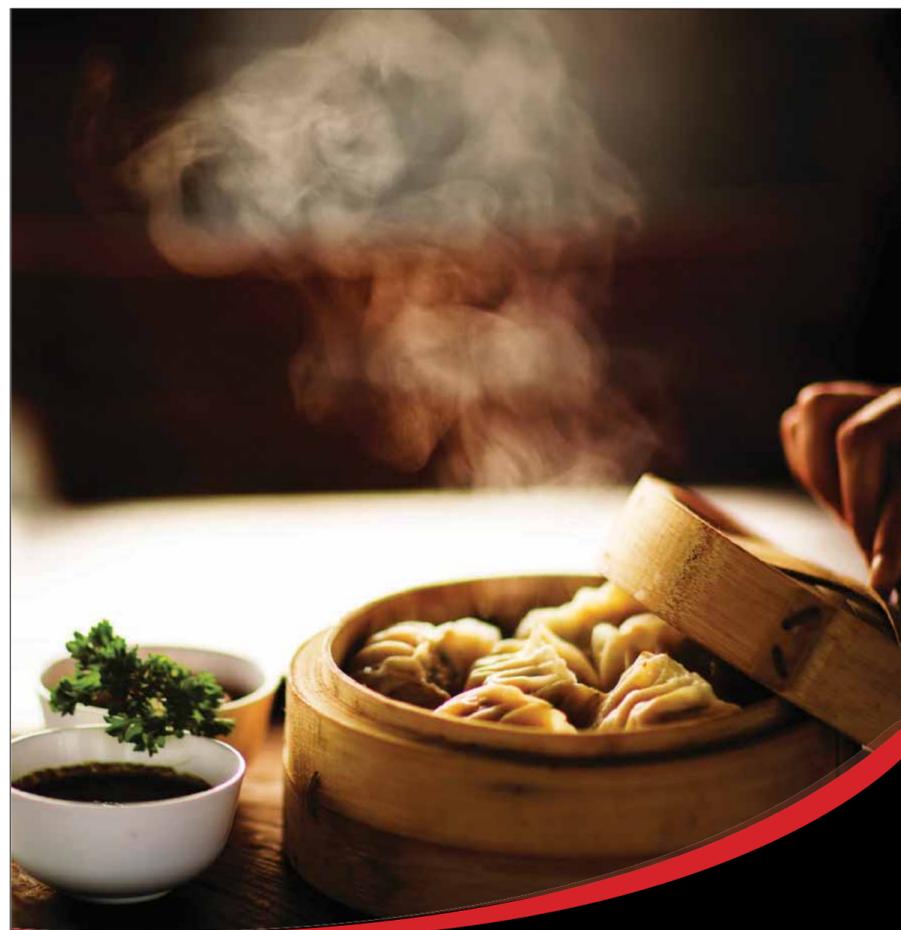
Kurtz made his way to Hollywood after attending the PHADA (Public Housing Authorities Directors Association) conference in Miami. He was at the conference with HUD special adviser Alexander Coffey, who initially suggested the two visit the Tribe before heading back to Washington, D.C.

“Native American tribes are an integral part of our culture [in Florida],” said Coffey, who grew up in Fort Lauderdale and attended the University of Florida. “Even going back all the way to the earliest settlers, trade, the New River — all our history is connected to the Tribal leaders. I’m so happy to be able to show that connection to [Kurtz] and broadcast all the good work [NLC] is doing.”

Kurtz, who has worked in and around HUD and housing programs for much of his career, including for the Obama and George W. Bush Administrations, admitted it was refreshing to be outside of Washington, D.C., to see what programs were working for Native Americans.

It was one of Kurtz’ first stops in his new position, but not his last.

“We’re honored that you selected us and our Tribe to visit and we are always excited to show off our center; we’re very, very proud of it,” Smith said.



NEW LOOK.
SAME DELICIOUS TASTE.

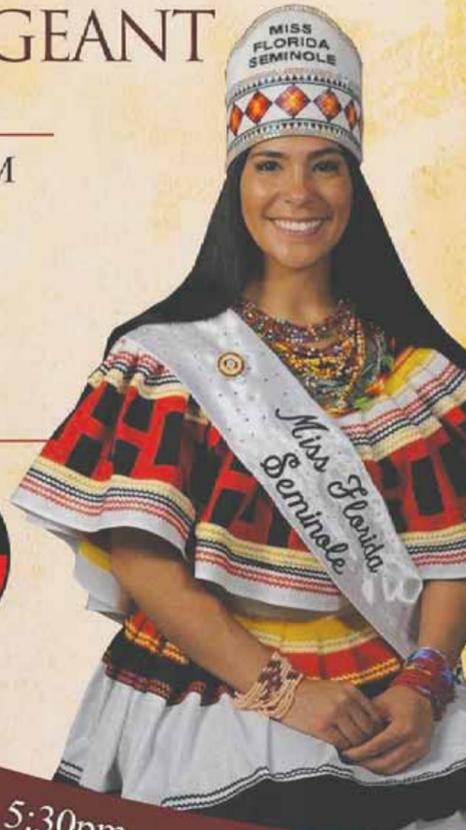


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62nd Annual SEMINOLE PRINCESS PAGEANT 2019

SAT JULY 27, 2019 7:00PM
Hollywood Executive Building Auditorium

Application Deadline is:
5:00pm July 15, 2019
No Exceptions



Community Dinner - 5:30pm



Crowning at FSU Homecoming

Toy Drive for DiMaggio Children’s hospital

Cheyenne Kippenberger and Clarice DeMayo at Speckle Perch

Symposium spotlights Tribal resource management of water, fire

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

For the first time the Seminole Tribe of Florida hosted the National Indian Timber Symposium, which is in its 43rd year.

The Tribe hosted the event in conjunction with the Intertribal Timber Council – a Portland, Oregon-based organization that works with a host of groups on how best to manage natural resources in Indian Country.

About 240 people attended panels and workshops at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood for four days – June 10-13. Many spent the third day on a field trip to the Big Cypress Reservation to take part in various activities (see story page 6A).

The symposium brings together Tribal members, federal and state agencies, academics, industry professionals and others working in the natural resources arena.

Issues covered during the gathering included water and fire topics, contracting, funding opportunities and the recently passed federal farm bill.

Seminole Tribe employees Bonnie Willis and Grant Steelman played a large part in organizing the symposium. Willis is a wildland administrative assistant and Steelman is a forester and fire management officer. During the field day in Big Cypress, Seminole Tribe employees Michael Lightsey (Brighton) and Anthony Curella (Big Cypress) hosted guests.

Big Cypress Representative Joe Frank gave the opening invocation at the Hard Rock and welcomed attendees on the first day. He also spent time laying out the history of the Seminole Tribe from its beginnings to the present.

‘500 Years of Change’

The symposium’s theme – “500 Years of Change” – was chosen because it marks approximately how long ago the Spanish arrived in Florida. Juan Ponce de Leon came ashore near present day St. Augustine in 1513, historians estimate.

European exploration and colonization efforts would have an effect on the land, water and its people for generations to come.

The first symposium panel looked at hydrological issues – a big topic in Florida and on Seminole Tribal lands for many reasons, including toxic runoff from Lake Okeechobee that has caused issues on both coasts and across the state.

Research being done by the Tribe on the Big Cypress Reservation native area was used a case study on water quality initiatives.

The research is looking to detect and



Symposium Chairman Howard Teasley Jr., of the Nez Perce Tribe, wildland firefighter Nate Cournoyer, wildland program field operations supervisors Tony Curella and Michael Lightsey discuss the challenges of managing the Big Cypress native area at Jones Grade Road.

Beverly Bidney



Lisa Meday, Environmental Resource Management Department protection specialist for the Seminole Tribe, spoke during one of the presentations on water quality.

Damon Scott

quantify microbes – bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites and protozoa – in water samples on various areas of the Reservation.

Lisa Meday, of the Tribe’s Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD), presented her initial findings. The ERMD is tasked with protecting the Tribe’s water quality and implementing its water policies. It is responsible for the conservation of fish habitats, wildlife and culturally important plant life. The ERMD also protects the rights of Tribal members to perform traditional cultural practices.

The Tribe’s water codes and standards state that water must be free from any substance that causes injury to, or is toxic to, humans, wildlife, plants, fish or other aquatic life, among other measures.

The ERMD study is identifying whether potential new water from the Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP) into the Big Cypress Reservation native area would threaten any of those standards.

“WERP has the potential to provide

a new water supply to the Big Cypress Reservation to benefit the Tribe, however with the potential benefit comes potential for irreversible harm to plants and animals because the new water supply is agricultural runoff treated for phosphorus levels only,” Meday said.

She said that at a minimum the Tribe needs to know what is in the water supply before any measures are taken.

Meday is expecting a report by the end of September that will provide the results of the “aquatic diversity study.”

“[It] may conclude the Big Cypress Reservation native area isn’t supporting culturally important fish, wildlife or plant life; however we think that conclusion is strongly unlikely,” she said. “As we learn and document more about the water quality and what flora and fauna conditions are currently supported (without WERP) in this impracticable to access and highly diverse area, we can provide better information to Tribal leadership to protect the Tribe’s Big

Cypress Reservation, environmental and water resources.”

Indigenous use of fire

If someone said you have to burn your way to cleaner air, would you believe it? That seemingly counterintuitive statement was posed to attendees at a final day workshop.

A panel of fire experts laid out how traditional Indigenous use of fire has been largely lost and ignored over the years, to the detriment of the environment.

Fire use affects Tribes in many different ways, from wildlife and fish programs, to water, infrastructure, jobs and the economy. There are also the more holistic effects of the spiritual and physical health of Tribal members.

The panel featured research on recognizing the Tribal worldview of allowing fire to take a more natural role on the landscape, instead of fire suppression at all costs.

Prescribed burns are a big part of the equation. Where prescribed burns are done successfully, panelist Mark A. Finney said, there are fewer devastating wildfires like the 2018 Camp Fire in California, which was one of the biggest and deadliest on record.

Finney, a research forester for the U.S. Forest Service at the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Missoula, Montana, argued that much of the Indigenous knowledge regarding fire needs to be applied more broadly.

“Why are we experiencing the fires we have today? You can look to the past to see why we’re in it and how we can get out of it,” Finney said.

He said land use changes, including the cessation of Indian burning practices and the addition of clearing, agriculture, logging and slash burning – the “consequences of modern

◆ See WATER, FIRE on page 9A



Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, Hollywood Councilman Christopher Osceola and the standing-room-only crowd applaud a speech given by Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress.

Beverly Bidney

◆ INAUGURATION From page 1A

We weren’t sure what was going to happen. Don’t ever forget that, we’ve been through a lot.”

Tiger said he was fortunate to work with other members of the council.

“Now the Tribe is at the very best it’s been in its existence. I’m leaving the Tribe a lot better shape than it was when I got here,” he said.

As Tommie introduced Bowers to the stage, she described him as someone who served a “long and legendary” term for the

Brighton community.

His departing remarks were delivered in his trademark straight-forward fashion.

“You all know the drill. Regardless of what you think, give your support to these news folks who are coming on board,” Bowers said. “Any decision made is made in the interest of 4,244 members of this Tribe. That’s how it’s supposed to be, that’s how it should be and I hope that’s how it will be.”

New terms

James “Chris” Redman (Chickasaw Nation), superintendent of the Seminole Agency, which is part of the Bureau of



The Chickee Church and Native Voices choirs from Hollywood and Brighton, respectively, sing traditional hymns at the inauguration ceremony.

Beverly Bidney

Indian Affairs in the Department of Interior, led the official induction ceremony of both the council and the board. It was then time for each Tribal leader to say a few words.

Chairman Osceola said that while it was hard to see Tiger and Bowers leave their leadership positions, he looked forward to the new makeup of both governing bodies.

“It’s truly historic for the Tribe to be here,” he said. “This journey started many, many, thousands of years ago for us to be here today. We have something special. We have 4,244 Tribal members that are family. We are unconquered Seminoles.”

Chairman Osceola is entering his second term as chairman.

“I want to thank Big Cypress and Immokalee,” Councilman Cypress said in short remarks. “[I’m] back by popular demand.” The line got the most applause and laughter from the audience during the ceremony.

Councilman Howard of Brighton, who was first elected to the board in 2011, thanked his family for their support.

“My kids had faith in me and the people had faith in me. You gave me the opportunity to support you and work for you and I went to work every day. Today I stand here strong. Today I take on another level of work,” he said.

Councilman Osceola was elected to his fifth term, representing Hollywood and Fort Pierce.

“I would not be standing here today without the support of my mother, my wife,” he said. “The people of Hollywood, the people of Fort Pierce have shown me tremendous support.”

President Cypress made a point to speak to those who may not have voted for him to return for another four-year term.

“Thank you for your support. Even if you didn’t vote for me, it doesn’t matter –

that’s [the] past, that was yesterday. Let’s get on the same train and move forward. We’ve got a lot of work to do,” he said.

One of the new faces and the only woman on the board is Rep. Buster, representing the Brighton and Tampa communities.

“I am blessed to have such a strong family behind me. I’m a hard worker and I’ll work hard for you. I’m called to do this. The board has worked really hard to bring us to a positive place,” she said.

Rep. Wareham said 2018 was one of the

best years for the board

“We had \$21 million in profits and reduced our debt by half,” he said.

Rep. Wareham added that voter participation was one of the most robust in recent memory with many young people casting ballots.

“Even if your candidate didn’t win, please keep that up; please keep participating in your government. This is your voice, this is what matters,” he said.



Elected officials greet Tribal members on the traditional reception line after the inauguration. Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola, Jr., Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, Brighton Board Rep. Helene Buster and Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank accept congratulations.

Beverly Bidney



The Seminole Color Guard brings the flags down the aisle at the inauguration ceremony June 3 in Hollywood. Holding the American flag is Coleman J. Josh, followed by Curtis Motlow with the Seminole flag and Sally Josh with the POW-MIA flag.

Beverly Bidney

◆ EXCHANGE
From page 1A

generations of intermarriage. "All of these four tribes know each other's dances," said Ann Penn Charles, Quileute. "That's the good part. We've all intermarried."

The drum group has met weekly for more than 20 years in the Quileute reservation as a healing circle for a recovery group. Jaime said people come from all over the region to participate. Michael Jacob Black led the group.

"We are the Quinault people, we are the Quileute people, we are the four villages of this territory," he said. "We are here to sing and share songs and dances. It's always good to see our young ones sing our songs and get the spirit up."

The first songs were paddle songs, which were used to announce which tribe and which families they represent. The group members each had hand drums and beat them in sync as their deep voices sang. The effect was powerful and resonated through the ballroom.

Simultaneously, a group of women and

girls dressed in traditional shawls and button blankets and holding smaller versions of canoe paddles, danced in a large circle with slow, deliberate movements. The song and dance told the story of their canoe journey.

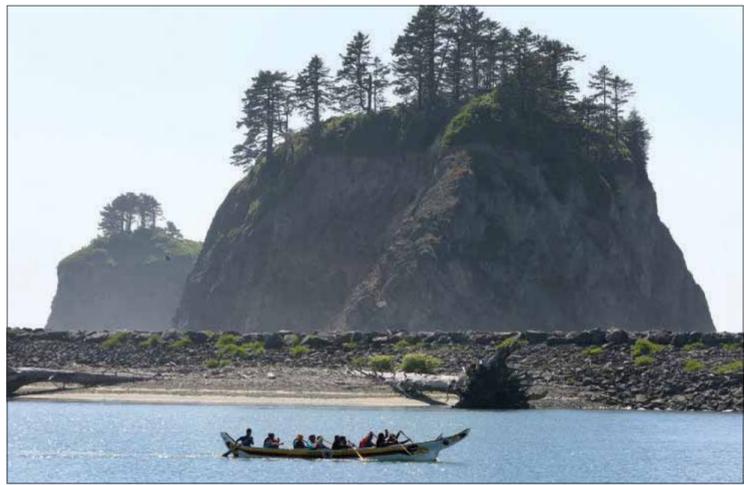
During a song about a killer whale and a wolf, dancers mimicked the movements of both animals as the drumbeat instructed.

The story tells of a killer whale that emerged from the sea to look for food. When it came onto land, it transformed into a wolf. In Quileute stories, killer whales and wolves are essentially the same since either one could transform into the other. As it was hunting on land for food, the wolf encountered man, who chased it back into the sea where it transformed back into a killer whale.

Hence, the dancers played both parts. As the whale, they appeared to swim like a whale. As the wolf, they crouched as they moved stealthily.

"We have seen our great canoes come in," Black said. "It's nice to have our guests here to share and have some fun."

Inclusion was an important theme of the evening. Outside of the drum circle, 18-month-old Galen Williams did his best to keep the beat on his own smaller version of the adults' drums.



A traditional Quileute canoe loaded with Seminoles heads up the Quileute River for a short journey June 19 on the Quileute reservation in La Push, Washington.



Quileute Tribal member Rio Jaime leads the weekly drum circle on the reservation during the cultural exchange on June 19.



Members of the Naples community take a canoe journey with Quileute Tribal member Rio Jaime in the skipper seat at the rear.



Alexus Walden leads a dance with members of the Quinault and Quileute tribes as Tina Osceola, at left, and other Seminoles watch and photograph the event.



Members of three tribes - Seminole, Quinault and Quileute - celebrate the cultural exchange with a group photo.

Jesse Kowoosh and Amber Green brought their 4-week-old son Journey into the drum circle. He didn't awaken despite the drumming and singing. They sang a prayer song to welcome the young family.

"We welcome this young one," Black sang. "Speak like your grandmother, speak like your grandfather."

Gifts and thanks were exchanged and the evening closed with musician Keith Secola on guitar.

The following day, after a detour to Ruby Beach and its magnificent rock formations and drift logs, Tribal members traveled north to the Quileute Reservation. All the coastal tribes have a strong canoe tradition which the Quileute shared with the Seminoles by taking them in canoes about a mile up the Quileute River.

"All the tribes of the northwest are canoe people," Jaime said. "It's faster and more efficient to travel by water than over the mountains and through the woods."

The ocean-going canoes are traditionally made of cedar strips and can be longer than 40 feet. Today, some are made of fiberglass, but all are painted with traditional symbols.

"There is a lot of math involved in making canoes," said Charles. "Algebra, trigonometry, geometry. We use the math in a cultural way. Our ancestors knew how to make the canoes before they knew they were using math."

The paddles are unique and decorated with family designs. Made of cedar, they can last for decades. Everyone in the canoe was expected to paddle, including the visiting Seminoles. The skipper sat in back and gave commands of where to paddle and which direction. The pacemaker sat in front and set the pace for all to follow. The ideal was for all eight people in the canoe to paddle together.

The two canoes left in shifts so everyone who wanted it had the experience of canoeing with the Quileute tribal members. Next up was a traditional fish bake of king salmon followed by a drum circle in the Tribe's gym.

The traditional way of roasting king salmon is skewered on cedar, or kwakspat, sticks which are stood upright next to a smoky fire of alder wood logs. The process can take three to five hours depending on the size of the fish. On this night they roasted 10 salmon for about three hours.

"The Quileute River has a generous bounty of salmon and steelhead trout," Jaime said. "There is something coming up the river all year. The

majority of the Quileute are commercial fishermen, just like our ancestors. Fish is food; it is the same word in our language."

As the salmon baked, Charles talked about the upcoming annual canoe journey from LaBush, the Quileute reservation location, to the Makah Nation in Neah Bay, a distance of about 55 miles.

"We leave at around 5 a.m. and pray we get there by 7 a.m.," she said. "One year we didn't get there until midnight because of a storm. We had to take shelter on an island."

During the journey, the canoes will sometimes use sails. They travel about three to 12 miles from shore, depending on the currents.

"It is impolite to go into another tribe's territory silently, so we come in singing," Jaime said. "It's like ringing a doorbell. We sing family paddle songs; it's a very old way of introducing who we are."

Brian and Pedro Zepeda shared their dugout canoe stories with members of the Quinault and Quileute tribes. They explained the Seminoles canoes can only be as wide as the cypress tree and today most are much smaller than hundreds of years ago. They are best for navigating through the shallow swamps of the Everglades.

Although a large cedar strip canoe is very different than a dugout canoe, the men shared a strong connection through their respect for taking a canoe out on the water; swamp, river or ocean.

"You guys are also canoe people," Jaime said. "It was great having you here today."

During the drum circle, Jaime wore regalia made of cedar wood cut in thin strips, deer hooves and representations of whales and elk. He explained the drums are made of

elk or deer or bear hides.

During the drum circle where the women danced and the men drummed, the Seminole Tribe was acknowledged and Brian Zepeda was invited to share a story. He told of stories that were shared through generations of Seminoles about other peoples - Pacific Islanders, Mauris, Tongas - who came to Florida. The Seminoles learned a lot from them including how to watch the sharks and navigate by the stars. He shared the same story with a group of Pacific Islanders who recently came to visit the Tribe.

"When I started to tell the story, a woman began to cry. I apologized for upsetting her and she said she cried because she heard the same story when she was a child, but from the other side," Zepeda said. "I know our people also met long ago and we are grateful to be here today."

A free day in Seattle followed the cultural exchange. Before a harbor cruise, Brian Zepeda summed up the visit.

"It went fantastic," he said. "We have a lot of similarities; canoes, songs and dances. Everyone enjoyed the canoes and the whale song, they were captivated by it."

Tina Osceola also came away from the exchange with positivity.

"It's always good to go to other parts of Indian Country and experience their lives," she said. "We always assume we're so different from each other, but we all have the same struggles, passions and celebrate the fact that we've survived. By sharing song, dance and art we reconfirm with each other that we weren't terminated."



At left pointing, Quileute Tribal member Rio Jaime describes the method of cooking king salmon, which was being prepared for the cultural exchange at their reservation in La Push. The fish is put on cedar frames and set next to a smoky fire. After three to five hours, the smoke and heat cook the fish.



Beverly Bidney

Seminole Petroleum operates its own fleet of fuel transport tankers and tank wagons. The company has recently embarked on a new sales strategy for its oil and lubricant business as well.

Seminole Petroleum launches new sales strategy

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Seminole Petroleum has placed a new eye on part of the business that isn't the big tankers you see delivering fuel at Florida gas stations.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc. board-controlled brand is working to boost its oil and lubricant business. It's part of a strategy to increase its overall footprint and market share in the state.

The plan is led by Carol Begelman, Seminole Petroleum's director of petroleum operations in Naples.

Begelman recently hired two full-time salespeople to spearhead the effort. One will cover accounts on Florida's east coast and the other will focus on west coast clients.

"It's kind of a new thing we're focusing on," Begelman said. "[We're] starting to focus on the oil and lubes business in addition to the fuel part. We're adding it to the mix."

Seminole Petroleum has the potential to cover the entire state, but Begelman said accounts currently stretch from Tampa Bay to Key West.

"What we're trying to do is get as much saturation as we can in our existing markets before we expand further geographically," she said.

Begelman said expanding the oil and lubes business just makes sense. For example, if the company already delivers fuel to an asphalt processing plant, why not sell them the oil and lube products needed for their machines?

"There are existing [commercial] fuel customers that we may not sell the oil and lubes to. We could gain that business from

them also," she said.

Examples of the products are oils and lubricants for compressors, engines and gears. There are greases, industrial fluids, industrial gas engine oils, metalworking fluids, small engine oils, synthetic oils and railroad lubricants for sale.

The fuel business is still top dog – about 80 percent of Seminole Petroleum's revenue, Begelman said.

Seminole Petroleum owns a fleet of fuel transport tankers and tank wagons. The company distributes regular and premium gasoline, aviation gasoline, low-sulphur clear diesel fuel and dyed diesel for construction equipment, generators and off-road vehicles.

Thriving business

Seminole Petroleum is in the third year of operation since a rebrand and launch in 2016. The board purchased Naples-based Evans Oil Co. in 2013.

The Naples bulk plant is equipped with fuel pumps for fleets and a dozen above-ground fuel storage tanks.

Trucks pick up product typically at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale and in Tampa. The company then stores the fuel in Naples for later delivery to customers.

Customers include the Tribe's own gas stations in Hollywood, Brighton, Big Cypress and soon in Immokalee. Seminole Petroleum also services some Chevron gas stations, marinas, golf courses, construction and agricultural companies, hospitals and others.

Seminole Petroleum is a high-tech operation, too. It offers SMARTank – a wireless fuel monitoring system that allows its commercial customers to track fuel levels 24/7. The system provides an uninterrupted

service with battery powered energy sources and cellular connections.

Seminole Petroleum operates in a very competitive market – but compete it does – said Begelman. She said the Tribe entered the space not only to generate revenue, but also as part of its strategy to be self-sufficient.

"The infancy [of acquisition and operation] is very expensive – [the] assets that are required to operate that sort of a business," Begelman said. "Not anybody can jump in."

Begelman has been in her position since 2016. She was there at the beginning during the transition period when operational control changed hands.

"We've had exceptional growth," she said. "We've grown a lot, but try to grow responsibly and make sure we have assets and people in place."

Seminole Petroleum employs 20 people between sales, drivers and office workers.

Seminole Petroleum is just one of the board's brands, which include OVV Water, Jani-King (commercial cleaning and maintenance), Brighton RV Resort, Brighton Mining Operations and The BOL restaurants.

Other board enterprises include the Tribe's cattle companies, Brighton Seminole Campground, Brighton Seminole Trading Post, Choopook-Cheke Gift Shop, citrus groves, credit and finance, Seminole Arts and Crafts, Seminole Okalee Village, Seminole Sugarcane, the Tribal Fair and Rodeo, a cigarette wholesale and distribution center, retail smoke shops and the Big Cypress Trading Post.

The Seminole Petroleum Naples facility is located at 3170 Horseshoe Drive South.

Business Profile: Billie Beauty

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Vanessa Billie has always been passionate about beauty and cosmetics. In May, she turned her passion into a business and created Billie Beauty, an online make-up store.

A 2015 graduate of Immokalee High School, Billie has since graduated from the Academy of Glam in Cooper City and the Florida Academy in Fort Myers, where she became an esthetician. Now that she is in the cosmetics industry, she is no longer a practicing esthetician.

Her make-up consists of cruelty-free, mineral infused, vegan cosmetics that include lipsticks and eye shadows in an array of colors. The patchwork packaging makes the product distinctly Seminole.

"Sales are going well and I'm getting a lot of support from the community," Billie said. "I want to inspire youth that we can all do something. Whatever your passion is, follow it and we can all be something."

Through her cosmetics, Billie hopes to share a bit of Seminole culture. One of her products, an eye shadow combination is called Medicine and has the following description:

"Inspired by the Medicine Wheel, which represents how life is interconnected and also the stages of life. Being a Tribal Member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, I wanted to represent us in a way we've never been represented before, I wanted to give all my native beauties a palette that is close to home. A palette we would be proud to have in our collection. I also wanted everyone to be able to see us for who we are and also



Beverly Bidney

Vanessa Billie by her eye-catching Billie Beauty sign at the Spirit Head Summer Challenge May 30 in Immokalee.

share a part of our culture with you. Hope you love this just as much as I do."

Billie Beauty had a booth at the Spirithead Summer Challenge on May 30, which attracted a lot of attention and buyers. Raised on the Immokalee reservation, Billie lives in Lehigh Acres with Joel Cardenas and their 7-month-old baby Khaleesi Cardenas.



Beverly Bidney

Vanessa Billie makes a sale of her Billie Beauty products at the Spirit Head Summer Challenge in Immokalee on May 30.

◆ HARD ROCK JOB FAIR

From page 1A

of professional positions in marketing and finance – will be on the list for attendees at the next job fair – a three-day run scheduled for July 7-9. In fact, she expects the job fairs to be ongoing through December.

Sumner said that while the lines to apply for the positions may be a little intimidating – almost the entire interior of the casino and event center had a line running through it on June 4 – job seekers should be assured that her staff is well organized and is as aware of the wait times as anyone.

And she has some advice: "Be prepared; come professionally dressed and with your resume. You may be interviewed on the spot and perhaps hired on the spot."

Sumner said she expects to fill 1,600 positions before the grand opening date. Start dates for those who are offered positions vary.

"What we do is give you a 'yes, you're hired,' but we're still working on the start date," she said. "Since unemployment is so low, a lot of people have jobs when they apply. We tell you to keep your job while we do a background check and then give you a tentative orientation date and start date."

Sumner said start dates will typically be in August and September.

The new positions are the result of the Hard Rock Hollywood's \$1.5 billion expansion — the cornerstones being the 450-foot guitar-shaped hotel with 638 rooms, a 6,500-seat Hard Rock Live entertainment venue and major additions to the casino.

"It's an exciting time for anyone who wants to join the Hard Rock and the Seminole Tribe of Florida," she said. "A great time to get your foot in the door."

Sumner is used to coordinating large job fairs for hotel-casino operations. She used to live in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she helped to open the massive Aria Resort & Casino. She's worked for Hard Rock Hollywood since 2010, starting as a training manager, then a director and now a VP.

"Jim Allen and the Tribe have been phenomenal," she said.

Allen is the chairman of Hard Rock International and the CEO of Seminole Gaming. The Seminole Tribe is the parent company of Hard Rock International.

Meanwhile, on the west coast of Florida, the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa is also undergoing its own hiring boom. The hotel-casino is in the midst of a more than \$700 million expansion. Its latest job fairs on June 4-5 were reported to have huge turnouts similar to Hollywood.

The economic impact of the Hollywood and Tampa expansions has been immense.



Damon Scott (2)

About 2,500 people attended the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood job fair on June 4. A line of job seekers wound throughout the Hard Rock Event Center and casino area.



Both locations have employed thousands in construction positions for almost two years. Temporary and permanent non-construction jobs at both sites also number in the thousands.

Prospective job candidates for either location must submit applications prior to any job fair by visiting gotoworkhappy.com or by texting the word "CASINO" to 97211.

Intertribal Timber Council tours Big Cypress

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A group of 167 attendees at the National Indian Timber Symposium, hosted by the Intertribal Council, took an educational field trip to Big Cypress on June 12 where they learned about the Tribe's cattle program and native area management practices.

The group also toured Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Billie Swamp Safari and enjoyed an alligator wrestling show as they dined al fresco at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena grounds.

Natural Resource Director Alex Johns met the group at the cow pens and gave a brief outline of the Tribe's history with cattle starting with the Spaniards in the 1500s.

"The state was the first to have cattle," Johns said. "Our ancestors met Ponce de Leon."

During the Seminole Wars, as the Tribe was fighting for their lives, they lost their cattle. In the 1920s they moved back to Big Cypress and collected their cows only to be stymied by barbed wire which was installed

throughout the state in the 1940s. Johns said they used to push cattle from coast to coast with no problem. That all changed with the fences and then again with extension agents once the reservations were established.

"They showed us the modern cattle business and field rotations," Johns said.

The Tribe established a cattle council, which was the model for the constitution in 1957.

"Cows helped us get federal recognition," Johns said. "We built fences, irrigation systems, changed breeds and were the first large scale ranch to adopt an electronic identification system."

The group went to the Jones Grade Road and Cowbone Island area where Tony Curella and Michael Lightsey talked to them about how they use the swamp buggies and other equipment for wild fire suppression. The wildland fire department manages approximately 52,000 acres in Brighton and 35,000 acres in Big Cypress.

They also explained that some areas are burned more frequently than others for cultural reasons. However, if those more dense areas burn they will burn hotter and destroy more trees.



Beverly Bidney

Jonah Cypress, Alex Johns, Josh Simmons, Yankton Sioux of the BIA in Boise Idaho and Grant Steelman discuss cattle and wildland fire management during the Intertribal Timber Council's visit to Big Cypress on June 12.

SPD lieutenant Joseph Johnson remembered for decades of police service, role model for family

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

ESTERO — Seminole Police Department Lieutenant Joseph P. Johnson was laid to rest June 5 after a 41-year career in law enforcement, the last 10 years spent as an investigator at SPD and most recently in its Homeland and Infrastructure Security Unit.

Johnson, 64, perished in the line of duty during a one-car accident as he was traveling between reservations on U.S. 27 in Palm Beach County late on May 29. He was transported to St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach where he was pronounced deceased in the early morning hours of May 30. He is only the second SPD officer to fall in the line of duty.



Courtesy photo

Seminole Police Department Lt. Joseph Johnson



Beverly Bidney

Pallbearers from the Collier County Sheriff's Office and Seminole Police Department take Joseph P. Johnson's casket from the hearse during the outdoor portion of the memorial service at Hertz Arena on June 5. Johnson, a SPD lieutenant, died in the line of duty May 30 following a car accident while he was traveling between reservations.

Hundreds of police officers in cruisers, SUVs and motorcycles traveled from police departments around the state to pay their final respects to Johnson at a memorial service at the Hertz Arena in Estero. Men and women in blue filled the arena as speakers honored Johnson's memory with recollections of his life and career.

Inside the arena, Johnson's flag-draped casket was surrounded by flowers, an SPD cruiser and an SPD pickup truck. Flags of the U.S., Seminole Tribe, Florida, SPD and Collier County Sheriff's Office provided a backdrop for the memorial. Large screens showed photos of Johnson with family and colleagues during the two-hour visitation before the memorial service.

Johnson spent 26 years with the Collier County Sheriff's Office, five years at the Hendry County Sheriff's Office and 10 years with the SPD. In 2013, the Broward County Crime Commission named Johnson one of the county's Detectives of the Year.

"He tried to retire twice before coming to SPD," Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said to the audience. "He wanted to make sure the world could be a better place. Because of his sacrifices, the world tomorrow will be better for it. Celebrate what he has given and honor his memory every day."

Executive Director of Public Safety William Latchford hired Johnson in 2009 and said he wished he knew him longer.

"He will be remembered for how he lived his life and cared for people," Latchford said. "He made sure he left everyone he came across as better than when he found them. I believe Joe's place on earth was to bless us. He took countless officers under his wing and taught them life lessons. He made sure his legacy was passed along to all of us."

At the end of his remarks, Latchford announced he posthumously promoted Johnson to captain.

"He was a skilled investigator," Latchford said. "He was a bulldog when it came to finding answers."

SPD Chief of Police John Auer reiterated

Johnson's desire to make the world a better place.

"Joe was old school and had a strong work ethic," Auer said. "Today we are in the presence of a true hero. He always had your back and put others first."

Johnson's daughter Ariana Johnson said a few words come to mind when she thinks of her father: sacrifice, service and commitment.

"He sacrificed his life for the country he loved," she said. "I'll miss his crazy stories of arresting bad guys, settling down hysterical people and getting incriminating confessions out of suspects. He was a true master of his trade."

She said at her father's core, he was a family man.

"I could not have asked for a better role model or protector than my dad," she said. "His best advice was to do what makes you happy and work hard at it. My dad's story is one of a hero and heroes are not easily forgotten."

Former Hendry County Sheriff Ronnie Lee worked with Johnson and recalled his endearing personality.

"Good people loved him and the outlaws feared him," Lee said. "He will be remembered by the good people and by the ones he put away. Even the ones he arrested came to like him."

Collier County Sheriff's Office Captain Mark Baker knew Johnson for 30 years and said he was a good judge of character, a consummate professional and committed to serving the community.

After the memorial service, the crowd adjourned outdoors for traditional law enforcement honors. Hundreds of law enforcement officers in dress uniforms lined the road from the arena to an adjacent field for the ceremony. Each officer saluted as the hearse passed by. Once the family gathered under the tent, a symbol of a fallen warrior, a riderless horse with Johnson's boots placed backwards in the stirrups, walked by the mourners.

The flag that draped Johnson's casket was ceremoniously folded. Latchford got

down on one knee and presented it to Johnson's widow.

A bugler then played taps and a large group of bagpipers played "Amazing Grace." The explosive sound of the three-volley salute was followed by a traditional end of watch call amplified over speakers for all to hear. The dispatcher called for Johnson, twice. When there was no reply, the dispatcher announced the officer had fallen in the line of duty.

Four helicopters came from the south and flew over the observance, but one fell away from the rest to create the missing man formation.

Born in Fort Myers, Johnson graduated from Naples High School, earned his associate of arts degree from Florida SouthWestern State College, joined the U.S. Army and served as a military police in the Vietnam War. He is survived by his wife Nadereh, daughters Ariana and Cara, three grandchildren, siblings Maggie, Grady and Jeanette and several nieces and nephews.



Beverly Bidney (2)

At left, Executive Director of Public Safety William Latchford presents the flag to Joseph P. Johnson's widow Nadereh Johnson. Below, Seminole Police Department officers salute at the memorial service.



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

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum rewrites history

BY JULIE RUHL
Museum Collections Assistant,
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Most people are not aware of the many issues impacting the Tribe as of late. NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) is one of those issues. Dominique deBeaubien, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) collections manager, who deals with this federal code every day, has this to say:

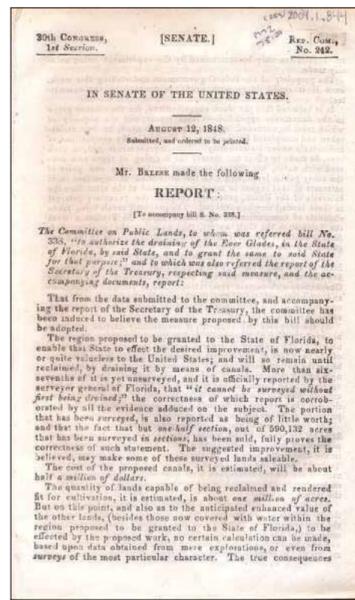
“The current state of NAGPRA is varied across the U.S., with some institutions ready and willing to do the right thing, with others lagging behind the curve. The Smithsonian however, doesn’t fall under NAGPRA. Their repatriation policy is guided by the NMAI Act, which requires very little of Smithsonian Museums with regards to repatriation procedures, and is well behind nationally accepted museum best practices. The Smithsonian’s lack of Native inclusivity in their repatriation process is rooted in the inherent colonialism of academia, which is something we are fighting to change.”

The museum has recently been called

upon to work with THPO to assert and document the Seminole Tribe’s true history. They and their ancestors have inhabited Florida for thousands of years, not just the last 150 years, as written in most history books. We recently utilized our archival collection to further this research and to provide objective information pertaining to this subject. A few particularly pertinent pieces of information were found and provided to a Smithsonian representative in order to further validate the evidence of the Seminole Tribe’s longstanding Florida roots. This information, along with oral histories and other academic work, is being taken back to the Smithsonian Institution to support our continuing efforts to have the Tribe’s ancestors returned home.

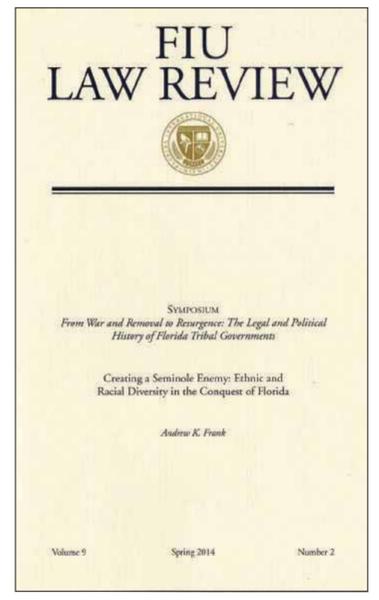
“This is the time when the Seminole Tribe of Florida is rewriting history, setting aside what has been written in schoolbooks and perpetuated by the media. American military history tells the story of three Seminole Wars. To the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the descendants of those that evaded capture and removal, it was one long war – 40-plus years of turmoil and harassment and conflict. The Seminole Tribe of Florida is also proclaiming its ancestry, not just as people who migrated from northern states, but as descendants of those earlier tribes known to archaeologists as the Calusa, the Apalachee, the Tequesta, etcetera. Both of these changes are critical to a new understanding that Tribal history belongs to those who lived it yet deserves to be universally heard,” said Mary Beth Rosebrough, research coordinator at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The museum staff feels fortunate to have the opportunity to help the Seminole Tribe of Florida bring their ancestors home



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

This historic document supports the museum and THPO’s mission to provide the accurate history and ancestry of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, while also detailing the original arguments for draining the Everglades.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

In this journal article, Andrew Frank makes many valid arguments for the Seminole cause and brings forth a significant amount of evidence to validate his arguments. Frank has done a good deal of research on the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Florida history.

you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 863-902-1113, ext. 12229.

and rewrite history.

If anyone would like to come to the museum to view any archival materials or if

Central, South American visitors connect with Seminole Tribal Court

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — A group of visitors from eight Central and South American countries gathered at Tribal Headquarters in Hollywood April 12 to meet with Seminole Tribal Court officials.

The morning session was designed for attendees to become acquainted with how the Tribal Court functions; to understand more about the relationship between the federal government and U.S. tribes; and also to learn a bit about the culture and customs of the Seminole Tribe itself.

Chief Justice Willie Johns, Chief Judge Moses B. Osceola and Deputy Clerk Silvia Obregon met with a dozen participants and translators in the auditorium for a presentation and meet and greet. The event was organized by Jacqueline González, Special Projects Administrator for the Tribal Court.

The visitors, all high level career officials within the legal profession, came from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay and Venezuela. They hold positions as lawyers, chief prosecutors, judges, attorney generals, heads of criminal justice offices, executive assistants and investigators.

This is all part of the International Visitor Leadership Program – administered by the U.S. Department of State with local partner Global Ties Miami.

This year marked the third time the Tribe has hosted visitors from the program. Last year, visitors came from 14 countries across the globe.

The program provides a way to introduce

current and emerging foreign leaders to their professional U.S. counterparts. It seeks to provide room to explore opportunities for business, professional and academic collaboration.

Seminole Court structure

Of the 573 federally recognized tribes in the U.S., about 310 have tribal justice systems – a mix of traditional, combination (Anglo and traditional) and CFR courts (Court of Federal Regulations).

The Seminole Tribal Court is a relatively new one – it was approved through an ordinance in April 2011. As Chief Justice Johns and Chief Judge Osceola explained to the group, while the Tribal Court has the authority to handle criminal cases, it doesn’t. It deals strictly with civil ones and can use traditional laws if it sees fit.

Cases that generally come before the court include property disputes and family issues – such as child custody or divorces.

The Tribal Court consists of appellate, trial and administrative arms, along with a judicial commission. The court falls under two codes – a tribal court code and judicial commission code. There are no jury trials unless they are requested, Chief Judge Osceola said.

Tribes operate under the “Major Crimes Act” – a law that places certain crimes under federal jurisdiction even if they are committed by a Native American in Native territory.

Tribes are expected to turn over such cases to state or federal courts.

“We can only hold people who commit these crimes,” Chief Judge Osceola said. “A lot of Indian tribes feel the states are failing



Damon Scott

From left, Chief Judge Moses B. Osceola, Chief Justice Willie Johns and Deputy Clerk Silvia Obregon explain different aspects of the Seminole Tribal Court system to program participants in April at Tribal Headquarters in Hollywood.

them ... tribes are trying to regain authority to prosecute all crimes as they did before.”

However, non-Indian people can be prosecuted by tribes for domestic violence under the Violence Against Women Act,

which is currently under a reauthorization review in Congress.

The reauthorization would allow tribes to keep offenders in jail for longer periods, too, from a maximum of one year to a maximum of three years.

Chief Judge Osceola added that as the Tribal Court grows older it will continue to build its trial docket and set more precedent. In the meantime, it can look to other courts for direction.

“If a judge needs direction he can call upon state or federal court precedent as necessary. They only influence a direction, but we decide in the end. We can draw on outside legal cases that have been conducted,” he said.

Another difference is that in Seminole Tribal Court the Elaponke and Creek languages are spoken when requested or needed.

“We’re losing a lot of the language, especially in the city areas. It’s not required that our Tribal members or even judges speak the language,” Chief Justice Johns said, adding that he hopes the language will be preserved in the long run.

Along with Chief Justice Johns and Chief Judge Osceola, the Tribal Court consists of Associate Justices Moses Jumper Jr. and Amy Johns, and Associate Judges Tina M. Osceola and Mary Tigertail.

IVLP, Global Ties

The exchange program sends about 5,000 international visitors to the U.S. every year. Since 1940, more than 225,000 participants have engaged with Americans through the IVLP.

Alumni in the program include more than 500 current or former chiefs of state or

heads of government, 10 Nobel Laureates, and thousands of leaders in the private and nonprofit sectors, officials said.

Participants are nominated by the staff at U.S. embassies and consulates.

Global Ties Miami, located in Coral Gables, hosts about 300 participants each year.

Executive Director Annette Alvarez said the connection with the Seminole Tribe has been very valuable for attendees. Previous visits have included time at Seminole schools and Billie Swamp Safari. The Tribal Court connection is fairly new, she said.

“[The Seminole Tribe of Florida] are an invaluable member of our community. Their [court] system, the sovereignty that they have on their own reservations and how they administer justice is critically important because many of our visitors come from countries where the rights of Indigenous People are being delved into and explored,” Alvarez said.

Global Ties Miami sees special courts as important for participants to learn about, Alvarez said, whether it’s a tribal court, children’s court, or a special criminal court for veterans.

This year’s group of visitors spent two days in South Florida, meeting not only Seminole Court leaders, but officials at the Third District Court of Appeals in Miami and the U.S. District Court | Southern District of Florida in Fort Lauderdale.

“These exchanges are designed to be very professional,” Alvarez said. “It’s real work and in this instance we are at tail end of three weeks in the U.S. These people have taken three weeks of their lives to examine issues that are critically important in their work.”



Damon Scott

Tribal officials take a final photo with participants after the presentation concluded.

Louis Levi Oakes, last World War II Mohawk code talker, dies at 94

BY CBC NEWS

Louis Levi Oakes, the last Mohawk code talker — using the language to encode messages for Allied forces during the Second World War — died May 28 at age 94.

The veteran was one of 17 Mohawks from Akwesasne, which straddles the Quebec, Ontario and New York state borders, who received code-talker training while stationed in Louisiana.

Kanien’kéha, the Mohawk language, was one of 33 Indigenous languages used

during the war to send encoded messages between Allied forces so enemies could not understand what was being said.

At 18, Oakes enlisted in the U.S. army and served for six years as a technician fourth grade with Company B of the 442nd Signal Battalion. He served as a code talker in the South Pacific, New Guinea and the Philippines.

Oakes received an honourable discharge on Feb. 15, 1946. He then worked as an ironworker in Buffalo, N.Y., and later as a highway maintenance worker in his community before retiring.

Oakes didn’t talk about his experience



Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
Levi Oakes

as a code talker until about five years ago, said his daughter Dora Oakes.

“He finally started talking about it. He said he was threatened not to say anything,” she said.

When he finally opened up, it was a surprise to his family.

“As kids growing up, we’d watch movies and he’d just say, ‘I was there,’ but he would never go into it,” said Dora.

The Code Talkers Recognition Act was signed into law by U.S. President George W. Bush in 2008, requiring the secretary of the Treasury to strike Congressional Medals in recognition of the dedication and valour of

Indigenous code talkers to the U.S. Armed Services during World War I and World War II.

For his service, in 2016, Oakes was awarded a Silver Star Medal — the third-highest military decoration given in the U.S. for showing gallantry in action against an enemy.

“It was great. I wish they would have did it years before when he could have enjoyed it,” said Dora. “But life goes on, and he was finally recognized, and I’ve been all over the place with him.”

Health

Tribal members paint their stress away on every reservation

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Everyone may not be as gifted as Leonardo Da Vinci, Vincent Van Gogh or Pablo Picasso but every individual can reap the stress relieving benefits of putting paint on canvas.

Tribal members created their own masterpieces as they participated in Paint Your Stress Away events, sponsored by the Integrated Health department tribalwide in May and June.

“Stress is more than just a feeling of being overwhelmed, it’s a physical and chemical reaction our bodies have,” said Lauren Goas, health educator. “If we don’t take care of the ongoing stress in our lives it can literally make us sick.”

The workshops, most of which took place during National Stroke Awareness Month in May, included some education about how to recognize signs of a stroke in progress. Before the paints and canvases were given out in Big Cypress on May 29, health educator Jamie Diersing gave Tribal members some tips on spotting signs of a stroke.



Budding Big Cypress artists paint the background colors on their canvases during the Paint Your Stress Away event in BC on May 29.

Beverly Bidney



Jenny Johns and Molly Shore try to paint their stress away in Brighton.

Courtesy photo

“Remember the acronym FAST- Face drooping, Arms weak, Speaking trouble, Time to call 911,” Diersing said. “There may also be some numbness in the legs, confusion, trouble walking, balancing, seeing and possibly a severe headache. Call Fire Rescue and have them come out.”

Artist April Kirk taught the groups how to paint their versions of a painting she brought called “Cypress Trees,” which depicted some trees in the swamp. The idea of the painting party was to relax and have a good time.

“Use this as an inspiration, yours

doesn’t have to look like this one,” Kirk said. “There is one rule; you aren’t allowed to look at the person’s painting next to you and say ‘yours looks better than mine.’ The only real decision you have to make is what colors you want to use.”

With that, the budding artists chose paints for their palettes and got to work. Backgrounds were painted first; some were colorful, others monochromatic. When the backgrounds were finished, they dried the paint with a hairdryer and began creating their subject image over it. Most used the cypress trees as inspiration, but others did their own things. Louise Osceola painted a horse on her pastel background because she

used to ride as a girl. Celeste Billie created a stylized sun surrounded by trees.

“I wanted to do an abstract background,” said Edna McDuffie about her colorful background of blues, greens and purples. “I love these colors; they just came together for me. We’ll see how it turns out.”

As people painted, Kirk helped them bring their canvases to life with guidance and helpful hints about painting. She let each painter figure out what they would do next by serving as a sounding board.

“Take a break,” Kirk told one painter who appeared stuck. “Walk away from it and refresh your eyes.”

The day was the perfect antidote to stress as participants put their minds to the images in front of them and not much else.

“Painting is fun and they get to take something home at the end of the day,” Goas said. “It’s a real stress reliever. Health isn’t only about eating and exercise; it’s about taking care of ourselves from the inside.”

Left unchecked, stress can cause a multitude of illnesses including an increased risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity, depression and more.

“There are so many different and unique ways to relax and painting is one,” Goas said. “We are teaching the community how essential stress management is to being healthy and encouraging every person - no matter how busy - to take time out for themselves.”



Sheila Aguilar and Michelle Ford display their completed stress-free paintings.

Courtesy photo



Celeste Billie and Jacob Osceola create their masterpieces in Big Cypress.

Beverly Bidney

VICTORY

From page 2A

(Wyoming court and 1896 U.S. Supreme Court decisions) there is no basis in precedent, policy, or common sense for depriving the Tribe of its essential treaty rights.”

Five of the nine U.S. Supreme Court justices basically agreed with that (on May 20).

The High Court sent the case, *Herrera v. Wyoming* back to Wyoming state court in Sheridan for consideration of two key questions:

Can Wyoming justify limits on Crow hunting to conserve wildlife? Other states have negotiated agreements with Native American tribes on treaty fishing rights for wildlife conservation.

Is the place in the national forest where Crow Tribe member Clayvin Herrera shot a bull elk “occupied” under

the terms of the treaty. The Fort Laramie treaty says the Crow can hunt only on “unoccupied lands” the tribe ceded to the United States in 1868.

Legal experts had varied interpretations on the *Herrera* decision setting precedent that would affect other tribes or other public land. Gregory Ablavsky, an associate professor of law at Stanford Law School, posted on SCOTUSBlog: “For Indian country more broadly, the court’s specific reasoning is less significant than its tone. The court’s repeated emphasis that treaty terms must be interpreted ‘in the sense in which they would naturally be understood by the Indians’ reiterates a long-standing Indian law principle that recent Supreme Court decisions have sometimes honored in the breach. Perhaps most notably, Justice Neil Gorsuch’s willingness to break with the other conservative justices and join the court’s more liberal wing — hinted at in earlier Indian law decisions — may

signal an emerging coalition in favor of the rights of Native nations.”

The *Herrera* decision is “unlikely to have much precedential value elsewhere” because the treaty language at issue is limited to a few tribes, Matthew Fletcher, director of the Indigenous Law and Policy Center at Michigan State University, wrote in an email to *The Gazette*.

“In other areas of the country, the tribes and state have cooperatively worked out how those treaty rights can be exercised,” Monte Mills, University of Montana law professor, told *The Gazette*.

The state and the tribe must abide by the treaty. It will be best for both tribal and non-tribal hunters if a clear, commonsense agreement can be negotiated to uphold Crow rights while protecting elk and other wild game populations on “unoccupied” forest land.

WATER, FIRE

From page 4A

management” — have made the landscape ripe for large fires.

“Fire suppression became the dominant paradigm in the West,” Finney said. “Fire suppression efforts have not been successful in the past 100 years despite billions and billions of dollars and technology deployed. And the fires are different — they are crown fires instead of surface fires. We need to abandon the notion of control and technologic solutions and go back to what was working.”

A crown fire is a forest fire that spreads from treetop to treetop.

“Fires are the essential treatment to reduce fires and their severity,” he said.

The reason, he said, is that prescribed burns consume fuels other fires depend on and remove surface fuels that create crown fires.

“Indian Country can lead the way in fire natural resource management. Prescribed burns are higher in the east and wildfires are less. It’s the opposite in the west,” Finney said.

Tribal voices ‘need to be heard’

Gary S. Morishima, the natural resources technical adviser to the Quinault Indian Nation in the Pacific Northwest, said that fires were, and are, used by Native Americans to manage and transform the landscape positively.

“Europeans are still bringing disease and death to the New World, but this time it’s through fire suppression efforts,” he said.

Natives used fire in ethnobotany; to produce foods and medicines; for communication and soil health; and also to hunt, fish and even in war applications, he said.

Native people have burned grasslands

in conjunction with bison herd movements near winter encampments; used wood ash to fertilize fields and crops; and have used it to clear areas for grass and wild seed production, as well as to clear out land for farming.

“The voice of Indigenous peoples and tribes are needed today,” Morishima said. “Tribal voices need to be heard: listening and learning about fire and the relationship to the land and plants, animals and each other. The time is right for tribes to participate in solutions. Tribes are well positioned to make a difference.”

Steelman said the Seminole Tribe’s fire strategy — with most of its reservations below 40-foot elevation — is a little different than what’s done in the west, but there are similarities.

He said that Indigenous People in Florida have used fire for habitat management for thousands of years, but that roads, canals, and changing water flows in the state since the 1800s have had a profound effect.

The amount of sunlight hitting the ground has changed, as has the depth of the water table.

“We have to relate back to the predevelopment of farming and canals. Not prehuman, but predevelopment. We work with the Culture Department to learn the plant cycles, work with the water, work with the seasons, and don’t forget the ceremonies. You need to listen to the people of the land that you manage,” he said.

Steelman said the first Florida ranchers followed the tradition of the Native Indians who used fire to maintain the open nature of land and to promote the nutritious grasses that sprang up following the fires.

“We want to remember that a lot of what we’re doing scientifically already has a basis,” he said. “We set it and control where the smoke goes versus waiting. As we burn, smoke gets less.”

Steelman has overseen 709 prescribed burns on about 112,000 acres on Seminole Tribal land since 2010.



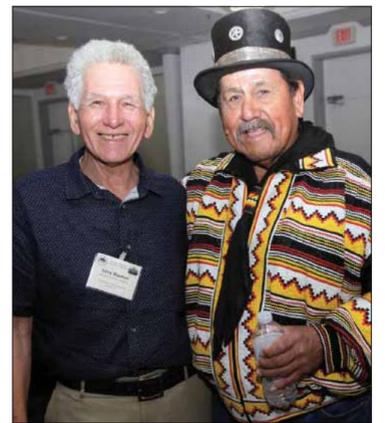
Participants in the National Indian Timber Symposium get a close up view of timber buggies in Big Cypress on June 12.

Beverly Bidney



Stacy Myers, acting executive director of the Environmental Resource Management Department for the Seminole Tribe, Cecil Frost, landscape fire ecologist research collaborator at the University of North Carolina and Big Cypress Rep. Joe Frank sit on a panel during the first day of the symposium at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

Damon Scott



Larry Waukau, from Menominee Tribal Enterprises, and Moses Jumper Jr. pose for a photo at the Intertribal Timber Council dinner on June 11 at the Fort Lauderdale Grand Hotel. Jumper said a prayer before the dinner and he served as the guest speaker.

Kevin Johnson



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SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

BROTHERS IN LEADERSHIP: Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress and President Mitchell Cypress pose by the Council Oak Tree with the Seminole Hard Rock guitar hotel in the background after the Tribe's inauguration ceremony on June 3 in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

PICTURESQUE PARK: Quenton Cypress and his daughter Willow enjoy the day at Ruby Beach in the Olympic National Park in Washington State. Behind them is a sea stack, or island, called Abbey Island.



Beverly Bidney

ROOF CLIMBERS: This may not be Mt. Everest, but these workers are harnessed for safety as they affix the roof to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's new Major Billie L. Cypress building.



Tampa Bay Rowdies/Facebook

ROCKIN' ROWDIES: The Tampa Bay Rowdies, whose official jersey sponsor is the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, gather for a photo in Alabama before their 2-0 win against Birmingham Legion FC on June 1. The victory kept Tampa Bay undefeated with an 8-0-5 record in USL Championship play.



Kevin Johnson

CLASSY CLASS: Miss Indian World Cheyenne Kippenberger addresses class of 2019 high school Tribal graduates from the Hollywood Reservation and elsewhere in Broward County on June 18 during a dinner at Seminole Estates.



Derrick Tiger (3), Matt Goes (lower left)

WELCOME DAY: The Tribe held its annual Take Your Child to Work Day on April 25 at Tribal headquarters in Hollywood. Youngsters were treated to a full day of activities, including participation in arts, culture, fire-rescue, health and other stations. They even had the opportunity to put on judge's robes in Tribal Court. The event was organized by the Human Resources Department. Participating departments included Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Billie Swamp Safari, building and grounds, construction management, housing, human resources, information technology/GIS, integrative health, Seminole Fire-Rescue, Seminole Media Productions, Seminole Police Department and Tribal Court.



NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Riders participate in 200-mile horseback ride to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

PIERRE, S.D. — Riders participated in an annual 200-mile horseback ride raising awareness for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) movement.

The ride finished at the state Capitol in Pierre and was joined by Gov. Noem for its last segment.

"I think this is one of the most meaningful moments that I've ever had," said Noem. "And the more that you do rides like this, you talk about it, it raises awareness and people take care of their friends and community members who are vulnerable."

The annual ride began five years ago, the Daily Republic reports, and seeks to highlight the high number of Native American women and children whose murders and disappearances have never been solved. It also draws attention to the higher rates of violence experienced by Native American women and children.

A local study conducted in 2014 in Rapid City indicates that Native American women in the area are almost twice as likely to be victims of a violent crime than white females.

Advocates say a large part of the problem has been poor coordination and data collection across tribal governments, the FBI and local agencies. According to the National Crime Information Center, 5,700 American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls were reported missing in 2016, but only 116 of those cases were logged in the DOJ's federal missing persons database.

Federal and local laws have begun to address the issue as the MMIW movement continues to gain momentum across the U.S. and Canada.

In South Dakota, a bill signed into law in March establishes standardized guidelines for how authorities handle and report cases of missing and murdered indigenous people. It also implements additional training programs for law enforcement on how to conduct investigations into such cases.

-NBC News Center

Father's Day walk honors missing and murdered men and boys

RAPID CITY — As part of the larger movement to find and identify those responsible for murdered and missing indigenous persons, three women have organized a prayer walk in Rapid City to shed light on the men and boys who are part of this international effort.

Not wanting to take away from the MMIW (Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women) campaign, the three women who came together in Rapid City simply want to have their male relatives and friends included in the overall conversation.

The Prayer Walk for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Men and Boys will begin near Roosevelt Park in Rapid City and will walk along Rapid Creek. This is the sight of the eleven unexplained deaths which some have called unsolved murders beginning in the late 1990's.

Among those found dead during that period were: Ben Long Wolf, 36, George Hatton, 56, Allen Hough, 42, Royce Yellow Hawk 26, Randell Two Crow, 48, Lauren Two Bulls, 33, Dirk Bartling, 44, Arthur Chamberlain, 45, Timothy Bull Bear Sr., 47, Lonnie Isham, 43, and Wilbur Johnson, 41. It is believed many of these were homeless and most of them were Native American men.

The three women organizing the event are Misty Hernandez, Carla Cheyenne and Shaunta Roubideaux. These concerned women are all advocates in the community for various causes and came together on a social media page called "Our Missing and Murdered Warriors"; a page started by Hernandez in honor of her missing relative, Alex Vazquez who was last seen near Kyle on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in fall of 2015.

The organizers of this event hope to bring in speakers of influence in political, social, traditional, cultural, and law enforcement backgrounds in order to create the buzz needed to get law enforcement and others to continue to put importance on finding their loved ones and solving murders.

"On Father's Day, we will be doing this walk for our missing and murdered indigenous warriors and men," said Roubideaux. "We want to stop the injustice against them and other warriors around the country." She feels the state and federal systems are not protecting these men and that many are lost to the streets on the reservations and in urban areas due to alcohol and drugs. This makes these men and boys especially susceptible to violence and dangerous situations which may lead to their death or disappearance.

As the founder of "Our Missing and Murdered Warriors", Hernandez has a personal investment in this cause. "I started the page because of my cousin Alex Vazquez. We didn't have a lot of help from law enforcement when he first went missing. It was hard getting help; even to this day it's like he's been pushed aside," said Hernandez. "There is not a lot of media out about him and not just him, there are a lot of missing men."

During her research, Hernandez has had the opportunity to meet and hear from other families who have missing and/or murdered men and boys. Through these interactions, some commonalities in their stories began to form. "A lot of them aren't getting help. Many of their family members have been pushed aside, too. There is no one helping them. A lot of people don't even know that

these men are still out there, still missing."

Hernandez has found out there are no central locations or databases which are easily found on the internet. She has used various internet search engines, but nothing has come up. The organizers of the prayer walk says this is a problem. Despite the fact that murdered and missing cases are constantly turning up in Indian Country, both on and off reservations, they feel there should be a place where families can go to find updated information or other items of interest which may help in finding loved ones or solving these murders.

"There's not much out there about missing men," said Hernandez. "We hope to have more media attention. Keep their names alive and keep their stories told."

-Native Sun News Today

American Gods' Devery Jacobs is a Queer Indigenous TV star

On the second season of American Gods, the Amazon/Starz series based on author Neil Gaiman's novel, one face stands out: actress Devery Jacobs. Playing the feisty Sam Black Crow, Jacobs is representing something rare in Hollywood, as she and her character are both queer and First Nations.

Born and raised in Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Territory, which straddles the U.S. and Canadian borders, Jacobs grew up reenacting Disney movies and starring in summer plays at the Turtle Island Theatre Company. She later studied to be a counselor and worked at the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal.

Her first big acting break came as the lead in 2013's award-winning film Rhymes for Young Ghouls, followed by two television shows, Cold on go90 and This Life on CBC, and another film, The Sun at Midnight, for which she won best actress at the American Indian Film Fest. This year, she hit the big time.

In addition to Gods, Jacobs is also starring in the campy Netflix original series, The Order, about a secret society, werewolves, and the dark arts; as well as in season 3 of Canada's addictive crime drama, Cardinal, and two upcoming films, The Road Behind and The Lie. Named one of Canada's Rising Stars in 2017 by The Hollywood Reporter and a TIFF Rising Star at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival, Jacobs is also currently producing the film adaptation of the best-selling novel So Far From God. But none of this detracts from her activism. She was the original founder of the Kahnawà:ke Youth Forum, where she led and organized protests and rallies. She was also an active participant in the Idle No More Movement. Most recently, Devery has been focusing on activism through her art, to alter how Indigenous people are seen.

-The Advocate

Senate's push for Native American safety a bipartisan effort

Lawmakers pressed the Trump administration Wednesday to respond with urgency in addressing violence against Native American women and children after they say two officials arrived at a key U.S. Senate hearing unprepared to take concrete positions on proposed legislation.

The U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held the hearing in Washington to review a slate of bipartisan bills aimed at stemming domestic violence, homicides, and disappearances on tribal lands.

The hearing followed recent pledges among Justice and Interior department officials to address gender violence in tribal communities as concerns mount over high rates of victimization. It also came amid a national movement to increase awareness of the deaths and disappearances of hundreds of Native American women.

"It is only fair to question the sincerity of claims to a 'renewed commitment,'" U.S. Sen. Tom Udall, a New Mexico Democrat, said at the hearing after expressing "utter frustration" with both departments.

Sen. John Hoeven, a Republican from North Dakota and the chairman of the committee, said the departments had failed to meet a deadline to pre-file written testimony ahead of the hearing. He directed representatives from both departments to explain why testimony had been filed late, especially after they had received a month's notice, and he gave them until July 8 to file further testimony with "definitive conclusions" on the bills.

Tracy Toulou, director of the Justice Department Office of Tribal Justice, apologized, saying the bills are complex and require wide review within the department. He underscored that the department has heightened its commitment to improving public safety in tribal communities, especially following a visit by U.S. Attorney General William Barr last month to Alaska.

Mr. Toulou, a longtime Justice Department official, said the trip had shown the department's leadership the consequences of "historically inadequate support" for public safety.

"During the trip, Attorney General Barr promised to be mindful of the urgency that underscores requests for support from Native communities," Mr. Toulou said.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, an Alaska Republican, said during the hearing that nearly 40% of more than 200 Alaska Native villages do not have law enforcement.

Meanwhile, Charles Addington, the director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Justice Services, also apologized for the late filing of testimony, saying it had gotten held up during a clearance process. His department oversees BIA

police, who serve as the primary day-to-day law enforcement presence on some U.S. reservations.

When questioned directly, he said that the Interior Department would support Savanna's Act, one of the five bills before the Senate Committee. It proposes to increase tribal law enforcement's access to criminal databases, increase data collection on missing persons cases, and set new guidelines for law enforcement's response to reports of missing Native Americans.

Both Mr. Addington and Mr. Toulou agreed generally with the intent of the bills, with most concerns over the legislation appearing to stem from "technical issues," or details about how the initiatives would be executed.

The other bills before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs seek to expand coordination among federal agencies responsible for improving public safety on tribal lands, and expand tribes' ability to prosecute non-Native Americans in sexual assault cases and crimes against law enforcement and children.

U.S. law currently gives tribes only a narrow set of instances where they can pursue prosecutions of people who aren't Native American.

"Criminals are free to offend with impunity," said Lynn Malerba, who is chief of the Mohegan Tribe and testified Wednesday.

-The Associated Press

Keystone XL threatens endangered species

RAPID CITY — Speaking on national Endangered Species Day, a Kyle biology teacher said the oil industry's thrust to remove federal protection from the American burying beetle promotes hazardous pipeline construction and habitat destruction on the Great Plains.

Dan Sneath, former Science Department chair at Little Wound High School, spoke at the invitation of the Prairie Hills Audubon Society, Rapid City Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, South Dakota Chapter of Citizen's Climate Lobby, Black Hills Clean Water Alliance, Western Watersheds Project, and Dakota Rural Action.

The organizations advised listeners that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is taking comments until July 2 on its proposed beetle reclassification to "threatened," a less protected status than its current "endangered" category.

"My concern is habitat pressure and fragmentation, which I believe the Keystone XL Pipeline will produce if they are allowed to build it," Sneath told the Native Sun News Today.

The Canadian TC Energy Corp. is seeking federal, tribal and state approval to complete the pipeline through Nebraska, South Dakota and Montana. It plans to ship diluted bitumen, or dilbit, from the tar sands of Alberta to refineries and export facilities on the Gulf of Mexico.

Tribes of the Oceti Sakowin, together with indigenous and other organizations, including Dakota Rural Action, have tied up the permitting with legal red tape for a decade, arguing that it threatens treaty land and water with oil spills.

The Rosebud Sioux Tribal Utility Commission scheduled a public hearing on the proposed pipeline May 28 and 29, 2019. The tribe is among several that have sued U.S. President Donald Trump for illegally issuing a Presidential Permit.

The American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) is the largest of the carrion beetles in North America. A fiery black-and-orange bug known as one of "nature's undertakers," it efficiently cleans up bird and animal carcasses by burying them, nesting and feeding on the hosts, then raising young on them underground.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the species as endangered in 1989. The agency claimed it was in danger of extinction, because viable populations could no longer be found in 90 percent of its former range. Once occurring throughout 35 states east of the Rocky Mountains, it is now only in six, including the parts of South Dakota and Nebraska where the Keystone XL Pipeline is slated.

Sneath is the one who discovered the beetle populations in many South Dakota and Nebraska counties, including Tripp and Todd, which overlap tribal jurisdiction and are on the pipeline construction route.

"I want them to remain there," he said of the bugs, noting that they are an "apex scavenger," which plows nutrients back into the soil, covering rotting varmints with secretions that prevent spread of disease-causing bacteria.

The environmental impact statement for the pipeline says the megaproject "is likely to adversely affect" the American burying beetle along a 60-mile stretch in Nebraska, as well as along a 35-mile length of the route through Tripp County in South Dakota. The installation would permanently affect 102 acres of beetle habitat in South Dakota and temporarily impact some 525. It would permanently impact some 170 acres in Nebraska and 285 acres temporarily, according to the environmental study.

The permanent impact would result from above-ground facilities, such as pump stations, and raised soil temperature in a 22-foot-wide corridor along the pipeline right of way. The temporary impact would result from construction and access roads.

However, the data is from 2010, so it's outdated, Sneath said. South Dakota is only now embarking on a new study, in which he is participating. He explores and encounters beetle habitat, then traps, monitors and records beetles.

-Native Sun News Today

Joy Harjo named the nation's 23rd Poet Laureate

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced June 19 the appointment of Joy Harjo as the nation's 23rd Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry for 2019-2020. Harjo

will take up her duties in the fall, opening the Library's annual literary season on Sept. 19 with a reading of her work in the Coolidge Auditorium.

Harjo is the first Native American poet to serve in the position — she is an enrolled member of the Muscogee Creek Nation. She succeeds Tracy K. Smith, who served two terms as laureate.

"Joy Harjo has championed the art of poetry — 'soul talk' as she calls it — for over four decades," Hayden said. "To her, poems are 'carriers of dreams, knowledge and wisdom,' and through them she tells an American story of tradition and loss, reckoning and myth-making. Her work powerfully connects us to the earth and the spiritual world with direct, inventive lyricism that helps us reimagine who we are."

Harjo currently lives in her hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and is the nation's first Poet Laureate from Oklahoma.

"What a tremendous honor it is to be named the U.S. Poet Laureate," Harjo said. "I share this honor with ancestors and teachers who inspired in me a love of poetry, who taught that words are powerful and can make change when understanding appears impossible, and how time and timelessness can live together within a poem. I count among these ancestors and teachers my Muscogee Creek people, the librarians who opened so many doors for all of us, and the original poets of the indigenous tribal nations of these lands, who were joined by diverse peoples from nations all over the world to make this country and this country's poetry."

Harjo joins a long line of distinguished poets who have served in the position, including Juan Felipe Herrera, Charles Wright, Natasha Trethewey, Philip Levine, W.S. Merwin, Kay Ryan, Charles Simic,



Shawn Miller/Library of Congress

Joy Harjo

Donald Hall, Ted Kooser, Louise Glück, Billy Collins, Stanley Kunitz, Robert Pinsky, Robert Hass and Rita Dove.

Harjo was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 9, 1951, and is the author of eight books of poetry — including "Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings"; "The Woman Who Fell From the Sky", which received the Oklahoma Book Arts Award; and "In Mad Love and War", which received an American Book Award and the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award. Her next book

of poems, "An American Sunrise," will be published by W. W. Norton in fall 2019. Harjo has also written a memoir, "Crazy Brave", which won the 2013 PEN Center USA literary prize for creative nonfiction, as well as a children's book, "The Good Luck Cat" and a young adult book, "For a Girl Becoming."

Harjo's many literary awards include the PEN Open Book Award, the American Indian Distinguished Achievement in the Arts Award, the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts and the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Center for the Book. Harjo has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Witter Bynner Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Her recent honors include the Jackson Prize from Poets & Writers (2019), the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize from the Poetry Foundation (2017) and the Wallace Stevens Award from the Academy of American Poets (2015). In 2019, she was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets.

Harjo has taught at UCLA and was until recently a professor and chair of excellence at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She has returned to her hometown where she holds a Tulsa Artist Fellowship.

-Press Release

Wes Studi to receive Academy Award

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science announced June 3 that its board of governors has voted to present an Honorary Award to Wes Studi, a Native American actor who has appeared in more than 30 films.

"These Governors Awards given by the Academy each year recognize individuals who have devoted themselves to a lifetime

of artistic accomplishment and brought outstanding contributions to our industry, and beyond," said Academy President John Bailey.

Studi (Cherokee), 71, is known for portraying strong Native American characters with poignancy and authenticity. Born and raised in Nofire Hollow, Oklahoma, Studi became deeply

involved with Native American politics and activism after a tour of military service in Vietnam. He began his acting career with the American Indian Theater Company and his first film role in the independent feature "Powwow Highway" (1989) led to a memorable appearance in "Dances with Wolves" (1990). He has since co-starred in such films as "The Last of the Mohicans" (1992), "Geronimo: An American Legend" (1993), "Heat" (1995), "The New World" (2005) and "Avatar" (2009).

According to multiple reports, Studi will be the first Native American actor to receive an Academy Award.

Studi joined the U.S. Army and while stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, stories from returning Vietnam War veterans set his blood on fire. With only 12 months of his six-year service left, Studi volunteered to go to Vietnam. He served one tour in South Vietnam with the 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta, living his own future war stories. At one point his company was pinned down in the Mekong Delta — and nearly killed — by friendly fire.

After an honorable military discharge, Wes returned home with a fire in the belly, and became seriously involved with Native American politics. He joined the American Indian Movement (AIM) and participated in the Trail of Broken Treaties protest march in 1972, where hundreds of Native American activists marched on Washington. He was one of the protesters who briefly occupied the Bureau of Indian Affairs Building there. In 1973, Studi participated in the occupation

at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, for which he was arrested.

Studi now sees his political activism as a form of post-Vietnam catharsis. "I began to purge the bad feelings within myself," he says, adding that he joined the resisters because "I wanted to make myself a viable part of the machinery that affected my people."



Hank Henley Photography/Native Reel Cinema Fest Facebook
Gordon "Ollie" Wareham and actor Wes Studi gathered for a photo at the 2018 Native Reel Cinema Festival in Hollywood.

Recognizing his current path could lead to self-destruction, Studi changed course and channeled his feelings toward positive change. Shortly after Wounded Knee, Studi moved to Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where he worked for the Cherokee Nation, and helped start the Cherokee Phoenix, a bilingual newspaper still in publication today. During that time Studi put his linguistic skills

to work and began teaching the Cherokee language in the community. Later attending Northeastern University in Tahlequah, he made further attempts at positive influence in his work with his people.

He began acting at The American Indian Theatre Company in Tulsa in 1983, where he found both the adrenaline rush he craved and the cathartic release he needed. "When you're able to release those feelings in an acting form, it's healthier than leaving them inside," he says of discovering acting.

In 1990, Studi portrayed a Pawnee warrior in "Dances with Wolves." Two years later he landed the role of Magua in Michael Mann's "The Last of the Mohicans," the performance that put him on the map.

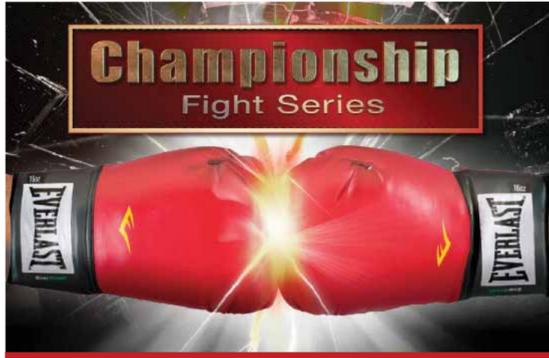
Studi remains a passionate activist and academic. He's taken a national leadership role in the promotion and preservation of indigenous languages, acting as the spokesperson for the Santa Fe-based Indigenous Language Institute, and working as a language consultant on several films, including "Avatar" and the PBS documentary "We Shall Remain." He's also active in encouraging the next generation of filmmakers and performers, providing mentorship and participating in apprenticeship programs.

Studi and his wife Maura live in Santa Fe, New Mexico. They have one son, Kholan. Studi also has a son, Daniel, and a daughter, Leah, from a previous marriage.

-Tribune Staff

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Education



B

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School 8th-graders bid farewell

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The largest-ever group of eighth-graders at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School walked the school's halls for the last time as PECS students on May 31. The rest of the student body, teachers and staff lined the corridors and provided a cheerful sendoff as the students passed by on their way to the media center for a final farewell celebration.

Most of the 35 eighth-graders have spent their entire academic life at the Brighton school and are accustomed to its small size and the abundant attention given to them by teachers and staff. In a sendoff address, Principal Brian Greseth congratulated the students, but also advised them how to navigate the much larger high schools they will attend next year.

"You may not have as much help, you have to do that yourself," Greseth said. "You



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, eighth-graders navigate a sea of well-wishing younger students as they walk the corridors of the school May 31 on their final day as PECS students. At left, in a rite of passage for these graduating PECS eighth graders, they line up and create keepsakes as they sign each other's class T-shirts.



have to go to the teacher for help. As long as you put in the time, you will be successful. Enjoy high school, but do the work. Do what needs to be done."

The last day of school was one to remember. The students signed each other's Straight Out of PECS' T-shirts, and gave and received a multitude of high fives as they traversed the familiar walkways of the school to a chorus of hoots, hollers and cheers. They ended their PECS career with a party in the media center, complete with cupcakes and buckets of candy as well as a video presentation of their years at the school.

"There aren't as many kids here as in

◆ See PECS on page 4B

Family ties keep Tomasina Chupco Gilliam focused on education, career

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tomasina Chupco Gilliam was just 13 when her grandmother died and it had a profound effect on the path her life would take.

She said it was her grandmother — Marie Tommie — who instilled in her a sense of family, respect for the Tribe, and motivated her toward education and career aspirations.

"I had to grow up rather quickly," Gilliam said of her teenage years. "We were attached at the hip."

Gilliam said she had an epiphany after high school that she should pursue alternative and holistic medicine in college and beyond.

She'd seen her grandmother treat her diabetes through a more naturopathic and traditional route — so Gilliam thought she'd eventually be that kind of practitioner herself.

"I was around her during all those teachable moments," she said.

Gilliam would discover she had not only the desire to teach, but an ability to do so.

"Naturally, I love teaching, instructing and sharing knowledge with others," Gilliam said. "It doesn't help if I keep it [to myself]. That's what led me into education — a broader view — that allows me to go into any field; teach any subject I want. My grandma said: 'Whatever you learn, bring it back and teach people. Maybe they'll teach it to others.'"



Courtesy photo

Tomasina Chupco Gilliam

All in the family

The power of family ties and a formal education is a common theme for several members of the Gilliam family.

Gilliam is one in a line who has not only pursued higher education, but has decided to work for the Tribe after graduation.

Now 28 years old, she recently earned her doctorate in education from Lynn University. Gilliam previously earned a master's degree in public health and a bachelor's degree in alternative medicine from Everglades University.

Her brother, Rollie Gilliam III, earned his master's degree in criminology in 2017 at Florida Atlantic University and their cousin, Aaron Tommie, is about a year away from a master's degree in business administration at the University of Florida.

Gilliam III works in the advanced career development program at the Center for Student Success and Services, while Tommie is an executive management trainee in the Tribe's executive operations office.

Gilliam has been a project specialist

◆ See GILLIAM on page 4B



Beverly Bidney

The PECS eighth grade class and family members gather in the school's media center for a festive send-off before they enter high school in the fall.



Courtesy photo

Tomasina Chupco Gilliam's grandmother Marie Tommie and her sister Minnie Tommie.

PECS Students of the Month - May 2019

Elementary School

- Quitman Johnson
- A'milya Rodrigues
- Iverson Huggins
- Embree Woodward
- Aiyana Robinson
- Tawnee Baker
- Kamden Osceola
- Levi Peacock
- Silas Snow
- Jaiden Turtle
- Caysie Platt
- Dominic Gaucin
- Melaine Bonilla
- Marley Jimmie
- Paizlee Miller
- Serenity Billie
- Tehya Nunez
- Timothy Urbina
- Jessie Martinez
- Malakai Garland
- Greyson Johns
- Etanis Torres



Middle School

- Kalissa Huff
- Saniya Rodrigues
- Renee Ringer
- Caitlyn Olivarez



Courtesy photos

PECS Students of the Month for May 2019 (elementary school at left, middle school above)

Class of 2019



Alyssa Osceola

Florida Virtual School

Alyssa will be attending Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota and she plans to become a professional illustrator and designer. In February, she won first place for two pieces at the Tribal Fair and Pow Wow fine arts show. Alyssa's parents were instrumental in guiding her through high school and providing her with unique experiences and opportunities. Her grandmother Carolyn has always encouraged and inspired her.



Lindsey Posada

Dual enrollment: Immokalee High, Florida South Western State College

Lindsey earned an Associate of Arts degree three weeks before she graduated from high school. She has all the requirements to transfer into a four-year university, but hasn't yet decided where she wants to go. Lindsey aims to be a psychiatrist and will also take pre-med classes. Lindsey gives her parents, Lorraine and Mario Posada, credit for her success. "I wouldn't have gotten here without their devotion," she said.



Jillian Rodriguez

Immokalee High School

Jillian will attend Tennessee State University in Nashville, where she will play softball and study early childhood education. A member of a large family, she enjoys children and looks forward to teaching kindergarten or first grade. Jillian's "strong and kind-hearted" mother Rhonda Nunez inspires her. "I hope to be half the woman she is. I look up to her every day."



Alicia Fudge

Moore Haven High School

After taking the summer off, Alicia will attend classes in the fall at Seminole State College near Orlando. She plans to study business and entrepreneurship at the school. One of her favorite memories from high school was returning her senior year and helping to propel the girls' basketball team to the second round of district play, something the squad had never achieved previously. Coach Al Gary has been an inspiration and mentor during Alicia's time at the school.



Krysta Burton

Okeechobee High School

Krysta will attend Webber International University in Babson Park on an athletic scholarship to play volleyball. She said she wants to earn a degree in sports medicine at the school. One of her favorite memories of high school is the wood hauling for the bonfire during homecoming events. Krysta said her parents were an inspiration to her during high school. She said they always pushed her to do what she wanted to do and be happy and prepared for anything.



Allegra Billie

LaBelle High School

Allegra wants to become a veterinarian and plans to attend Florida SouthWestern State College in LaBelle for the first two years of her post-high school journey and then transfer into a four-year university. She has always loved animals and wants to be a veterinarian for all types; small, aquatic and large animals. Her parents Tammy Billie and Peter Martinez pushed her to continue in school and motivated her to keep going.



Raymond James Mora

Vanguard School

James will attend Johnson and Wales University in Charlotte, North Carolina where he plans to study business administration.



Thomlynn Billie

Ahfachkee School

Class of 2019 Salutatorian, Thomlynn will attend Hodges University's online school for digital design and graphics. She isn't sure what she wants to do in life, but enjoyed earning community service hours by helping people. Thomlynn said best part of high school was the friends she made. Her sister Alice Billie inspires her because when she sets her mind to something, she gives it her all and always finishes what she starts.



Abraham Jonah Tigertail

Ahfachkee School

AJ will be going into the Marines, but doesn't yet have a date to report for boot camp. He will be the first in his family to serve in the military and believes it is a good career choice. "It will be a stepping stone for me to come back and help the Tribe." Spending time with his friends and going through school together as a group was the best part of high school. AJ gets inspiration from his father Alfonso Tigertail, who "taught me how to be a man."



Victoria Smith

Grace Christian School

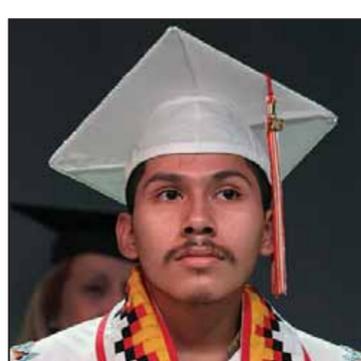
Victoria attended Grace Christian near Tampa during her sophomore through senior years. She now plans on going to the University of Tampa in the spring. She thinks she'll explore studying accounting. Her favorite memory of high school was when she got asked to homecoming in front of the whole school but said no. Mrs. Wilson, now retired, was one of her inspirations. "She always had a good spirit and whenever someone was upset she'd make them happy," Victoria said.



Conner Thomas

Moore Haven High School

Now that he's graduated, Conner will attend the Tulsa Welding School in Jacksonville. He wants to be a professional welder. One of his favorite memories of high school is playing right guard in football. He said he has a bunch of friends that helped keep him motivated through high school, but says his boss, Brandon Baughman, owner of Skull Hill Archery, has been a mentor, too. He also credits his parents Frank and Cecelia who encouraged him "to do the very best I can do in anything I did."



Carlos Romero Jr.

Ahfachkee School

Carlos is considering enlisting in the military or finding a job and going right to work. His cousin Adam McAlroy was an important role model. "He took me under his wing and showed me what to do and what not to do in and out of school."



Alyke Baker

Moore Haven High School

Alyke said he's looking forward to taking a break after graduation and then will "go get a degree." He is particularly interested in welding. He has a welding shop at his house and has used it to help create a trailer and a dog box. He said one of his favorite memories of high school was "Grad Bash." "Everything was fun about it," he said. Alyke credits his parents for getting him through the rigors of high school. "They kept pushing me. Especially on the days when all I wanted to do was sleep," he said.

Romeo Jumper-Garcia

Ahfachkee School

The best thing about Romeo's high school years was his English teacher Dr. Olukolu, who also taught him a lot of life lessons. One day Romeo hopes to be Chairman, which will take a lot of hard work and effort.

See additional graduates on pages B3, B5.

If you're a 2019 graduate and not included in this issue, contact the Tribune to be included in the next issue.

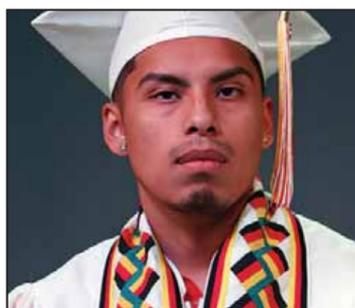
Class of 2019



Crystal Garcia

Ahfachkee School

Crystal, who loves to play the bass guitar, plans to continue studying music and perfecting her skills. She said the good times and bad times at high school were made better by her friends. "In the end, we will always be there for each other."



Leslie Gopher Jr.

Ahfachkee School

Although Les isn't sure what direction his life will take, he plans to get a job, work hard and earn some money. Graduating was a milestone that made Les feel good about himself. His mother, Yvonne Jumper, helped him through high school and "tells me to do good and always wants the best for me."



Lucas Osceola

Okeechobee High School

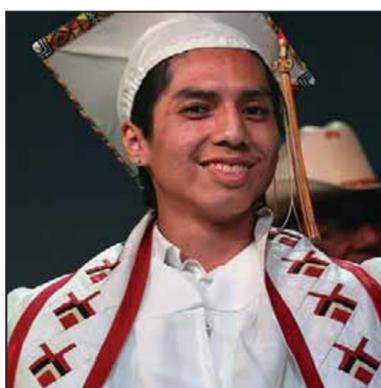
Lucas, who was a starting guard on the Brahms district championship basketball team and won a Native American Basketball Invitational championship in Arizona, would like to continue to play basketball in college as well as pursue a business degree. He wants to own a business. He plans to attend Talladega College.



Brandon Frank

The Vanguard School

Brandon hasn't decided yet what he plans to do next.



Franklin Jumper

GED

Franklin is considering going to Broward College or Sheridan Technical College to study culinary arts, carpentry or mechanics. Listening to various types of music and playing guitar keeps him motivated.



Emmitt Arroyo-Osceola

Ahfachkee School

Emmitt isn't yet sure what path his life will take post-graduation, but he is sure about what the best thing about high school was for him; the people and the environment. His parents Carmen and Jose Arroyo-Osceola motivated him to graduate.



Janessa Jones

Ahfachkee School

The Class of 2019 Valedictorian, Janessa will attend Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas where she plans to study political science, business administration and Native American studies. She isn't sure how yet, but Janessa plans to help Indian Country. In high school she built close bonds with her classmates is sure that bond will "grow stronger as we grow older." She is inspired by her brothers Willie Smith and Randy Rueda Jr.



Mya Cypress

Ahfachkee School

Mya will attend Aveda Institute in Davie to study cosmetology or possibly go to college to study English. Her larger goal is to have a job she "genuinely enjoys." The most important part of high school for Mya was serving on Student Council, which she did every year since seventh grade, except this year. "It made me realize I like being in a leadership position. Eventually I could be on Tribal Council, which is something I want to do."



Aiyana Gonzalez

The Vanguard School

Aiyana will attend the Florida School of the Arts in Palatka. She will study either costume design or musical theater.



Nyah Davidson

Moore Haven High School

Nyah said she plans on getting a job after graduation and then attend Indian River State College. She's always done drawing and sketching as a hobby and said she will likely pursue something art-related in school. Nyah said the school's "Grad Bash" is a favorite memory, when they went to Universal Studios in Orlando and rode the rides. Her friends in school were her inspiration and served as her mentors along the way, she said.



Aidan Tommie

Moore Haven High School

Aidan will spend the summer working for the Seminole Tribe as part of the cattle crew on the Brighton Reservation. He'll later attend the Universal Technical Institute in Orlando, which focuses on automotive and diesel education. However, Aidan wants to be a professional rodeo cowboy and ride bulls. He said UTI is his backup plan. He said he enjoyed the overall atmosphere in high school where he said "everyone wants you to succeed."



Kano Puente

Moore Haven High School

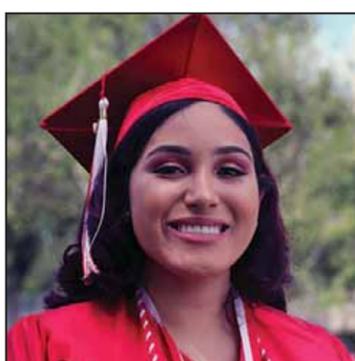
Kano plans on attending Indian River State College at its Okeechobee campus this fall. He said he'll spend the summer relaxing first. Kano isn't sure yet what career he might pursue and said he wants to spend time "seeing what I might be interested in." While he doesn't have any specific favorite memory of high school, he said a lot of different events come to mind. Kano said his mother has been an inspiration and mentor through high school as she would "really push him" to do more.



Bradin Ray Jim

Ahfachkee School

Now that he has graduated from high school, Bradin plans to get a job for a while and then go to college. His mother Maria taught him to focus and not do anything that would affect his grades.



Jada Holdiness

Immokalee High School

Jada will attend Florida State University and study hospitality management. She hopes to someday work in Hard Rock hotels and casinos and plans to work her way up to general manager. She believes it is important to give someone from the Tribe work at the hotels to give younger people someone to look up to. Jada's role models are her sisters Miranda Campos and Anjelica Robertson, who showed her that every day is a fresh start and gave her the confidence to take on anything.

Tribal students at Sagemont School moving on to 6th-grade

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

WESTON — Parents and families beamed with pride and students were ready to party at the Sagemont School's fifth-grade year-end celebration June 4 in Weston.

Seven Tribal members in the lower school are moving on to the sixth grade. They are Erica Sanders, Kyngston Sanders, Aiyana Crespo, Amirani Brooks, Kaydence Green, Padmai Billie-Hiers and TeenaMaree Covarrubias.

The students were decked out in white and the school's gym was decorated in a 1980s-style for the party. There was a food, a photo booth, DJs spinning tunes and a dance floor.

Students were given special certificates and recognitions based on their respective areas of study during the school year.

Lower School Principal Monica Vigna and Assistant Principal Pilar Valdes oversaw the ceremony and were the emcees of the event. Fifth grade teachers Sarah Perkins and Bonnie Hendrickx posed for pictures with the students.

The Tribal students were recognized across many areas for their hard work, efforts, contributions and achievements throughout the school year. Awards earned were for cognitive skills and knowledge, interpersonal skills and empathy, interpersonal skills and collaboration and self-awareness skills and independent learning.



Seminole student Kaydence Green, second from left, receives a certificate with another classmate and fifth-grade teachers Sarah Perkins, far left, and Bonnie Hendrickx, far right, during the Sagemont School's fifth-grade year-end celebration on June 4 in Weston.

In addition, the students were honored for demonstrating learning outcomes in special area classes such as art and media/technology.

Vigna said the school prides itself on excellence in academics, athletics and the arts.

"Our passionate teachers and staff create a safe and supportive learning environment that embraces diversity and promotes self-discipline, independence, motivation and lifelong learning," Vigna said.



Seminole students Amirani Brooks, second from left, and Aiyana Crespo, fourth from left, receive recognition with other students for their many years attending Sagemont School.



Seminole students Kyngston Sanders, left, and Erica Sanders, second from right, pose with their mom Virginia Garcia-Sanders and teacher Josephine Jorge, far right, at the Sagemont School's fifth-grade year-end celebration.



Seminole student Padmai Billie-Hiers, third from right, is pictured with classmates and fifth-grade teachers Sarah Perkins, far left, and Bonnie Hendrickx, far right.

PECS From page 1B

public school; they have a lot of time for you here," said Jarrett Beecham, who will attend Moore Haven High School in the fall.

"I'll miss the teachers and the people," said Dylan Johns, who will attend Sarasota Military Academy in the fall.

The kids and their families filled the media center for the celebration, which

began with Greseth's address. He assured the students that although they are leaving PECS, the school will always keep track of them.

"We expect you all to be high school graduates," Greseth said. "We want to see you in your caps and gowns in four years."

Even though the students will disperse among a few schools in the area, such as Moore Haven and Okeechobee high schools, Greseth urged them not to forget their PECS friends.

"You are a group of very special friends and are family in more ways than one," he said. "For the rest of your lives, this will always be your special group. I still meet with my middle school friends every summer."

After Greseth urged parents to stay vigilant in their children's high school careers, the Class of 2023 enjoyed the video, laughed together and enjoyed their final moments as PECS students.

Sweet sounds of 'Synergy' fill Sagemont



Jake Mazzone/JakeMazzone.com (2)

Above, Valholly Frank sings a solo act on guitar during a concert in May at Sagemont School in Weston. At right, Aujua Williams plays the ukulele. Both Tribal students belong to the school's middle school and high school rock band known as "Sagemont Synergy."



GILLIAM From page 1B

at the Native Learning Center for about six months.

In addition, her older cousin — O'Hara Tommie — was instrumental in the development of the advanced career development program at the Tribe. He's pursuing his own business interests now, Gilliam said.

"I'm proud of my family because we really embrace the education component," Gilliam said.

Fort Pierce life

Gilliam, whose father is Rollie Gilliam Jr., was born and raised in Fort Pierce.

"Growing up in Fort Pierce built us for resiliency," Gilliam said. The family lived near Vero Beach for a time before moving on the Reservation.

She considered her grandmother's household to be a traditional Seminole one. After her grandmother died from diabetic complications in 2004, she went to live with her father's sister.

Family and school would help her through the tough times. She was enrolled in private schools since the first grade with challenging and engaging curriculum. Gilliam always took honors classes which prepared her for "what was to come," she said.

She attended John Carroll Catholic High School in Fort Pierce, graduating in 2009.

Tribal future

Later, Gilliam would use her master's degree in public health for a job at the Tribe's Allied Health Program to help develop its integrated health program.

"[Integrated health] is more mainstream now, but [Native Americans] have always used [herbalism] and the study of plants and medicine. I wanted to get a more structured sense of it," she said.

After she earned her doctorate in education, she eyed a position at the Native Learning Center. It seemed like a good

fit since the NLC is about instruction and program development with those who live and work in Indian Country.

Gilliam worked closely on her dissertation with Marcus Briggs-Cloud, a culture language instructor at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton. She studied and wrote about the revival of the Muscogee-Creek language.

Gilliam said she looked at different points of view about why people think the language is dying. It took her back and forth from Hollywood to Brighton quite a bit.

"[Briggs-Cloud is] an expert in language, and of course the elders are there to help and the charter school. We're pioneers in a lot of things. It's important for other Tribal members to get involved through school or whatever their passion is," Gilliam said.

Gilliam also travels to conferences and events as a guest speaker on women's issues and health topics. She is currently working with her friend, Miss Indian World Cheyenne Kippenberger, to organize the "Healing the Circle in Our Tribal Communities" symposium to take place at the NLC Oct. 15-17.

"The demographic will be women who need more balance and guidance," Gilliam said. "Whether it comes to domestic violence or knowing what a healthy relationship looks like. There will be a vast array of topics for women who want to gain that internal healing within a comfortable environment."

Gilliam and Kippenberger got to know each other as workout partners at the Hollywood gymnasium. She was also a volunteer the night Kippenberger won the Miss Florida Seminole title.

Gilliam has no plans to leave Florida and wants to keep working for the Tribe. She wants to keep speaking at events and help other women, too.

Gilliam recently returned from a summit in Atlanta for women in business.

"It was amazing to be in a room full of women helping other women succeed," she said.

When Gilliam isn't working or traveling to speak at a conference, she likes to be at home watching movies, or out playing volleyball. She still does her workouts, too — every morning at 5:30 a.m.



The Gilliam family photo during the time when the Fort Pierce Reservation was being built. James Billie, (seated on the ground in front) is related to the Gilliam's by clan.

Class of 2019



Cady Osceola

Okeechobee High School

Cady said she's unsure where she will go to college, but she would like to be a teacher.



Mary Stivers

Independence High School (Iowa)

Mary, who is a triplet with her brothers Jerome and Robert, will attend Iowa State University and study business and interior design. She would like to own a business after college.



Deven Osceola

Mount Dora Christian Academy

Deven will attend Full Sail University in Winter Park and he plans to continue his music career as a music production major. He's been a band member throughout his school years and has produced his own music, including on iTunes. He said his favorite memory from high school was visiting a resort for children with medical needs and giving his drum sticks to a blind child. He said his teachers Mr. and Mrs. Bastin provided guidance during his high school career.



Robert Stivers Jr.

Independence High School (Iowa)

Robert will attend Iowa State University with his brother and sister. He will study kinesiology. Similar to his siblings, he would like to own a business after college.



Jerome Stivers

Independence High School (Iowa)

Jerome will major in computer engineering at Iowa State. A favorite memory from high school, which are also favorite memories of his brother and sister, is participating in marching band.



Grant Osceola

Hollywood Christian School

Grant thanks his family and all his friends who supported him in high school. He played basketball at Hollywood Christian and suffered a season-ending injury as a senior, but he said he would like to continue to play. "I'm still figuring out what I want to do next, but with God anything is possible." He said his favorite memory from high school was walking across the stage to receive his diploma.



Sheldon Osceola

University School

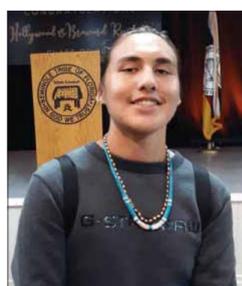
Sheldon, drummer for The Osceola Brothers Band, hopes to join his older brothers at Belmont University in Nashville and continue his music career. He would like to major in music engineering. He thanks his brothers and his parents for their support throughout high school.



Boryalys Cypress

West Broward High School

At 6-foot-3, Boryalys wants to continue to play basketball. He will attend Valencia College in Orlando. He thanks his family for their support.



Adakai Robbins

Hollywood Hills High School

Adakai will attend Palm Beach State College. He would like to be a professional mixed martial arts fighter and then come back and help the Tribe. He thanks his mom and his brother for supporting him ever since he was young. "My mom has always been my hero since day one," he said.



Cavan Guzman

Palmetto High School

Cavan plans to attend Florida State University starting this fall.

Caitlyn Billie

University School

Caitlyn will attend Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. Caitlyn, who plays guitar and piano, plans to study music therapy.

Xavier Michael -Young

Bemidji High School (Minn.)

Xavier will attend the University of Wyoming and study agriculture business. Someday he would like to start a buffalo ranch as part of a sustainable community. He served as a school board representative. One of his favorite memories from high school was starring as the Cat in the school's production of "Cat in the Hat."

Faith Osceola

AEF School

Faith thanks her brother and dad for helping her get through high school. She plans to attend Lynn University.

Peter Hahn earns master's from FIU

Tribal Treasurer Peter Hahn earned his Master's of Science in Finance with an emphasis in International Banking and Financial Institutions from FIU in April 2019. Hahn has been working for the Seminole Tribe of Florida for 14 years. He is married to Rossana Hahn and they have six children, Kia, Perla, Draven, Presleigh, Daveny and Skyla.



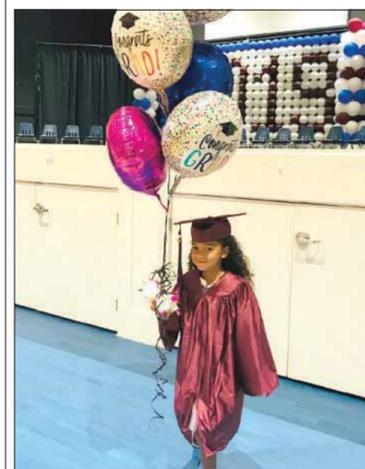
Peter Hahn

Courtesy photo

Honors for Kassidy Baker

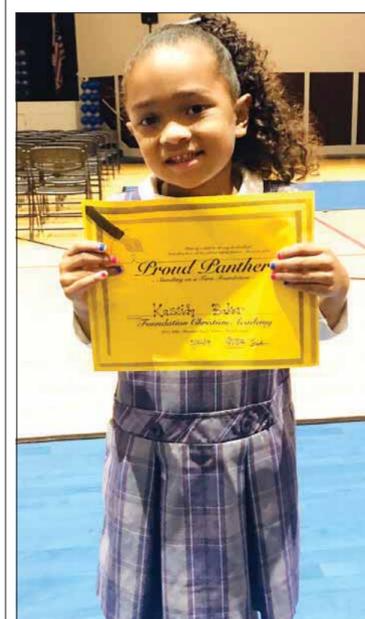
Kassidy Baker was promoted from kindergarten to 1st grade in grand style May 15 at Foundation Christian Academy in Valrico. The kindergarten class participated in a graduation and awards ceremony highlighting their academic achievement. Kassidy was presented the Star Reader award during the graduation.

Kassidy is the daughter of JaMenia "Tacey" Thomas and Kyle Baker. She is also the granddaughter of Sally Tommie.



Courtesy photos (2)

Above, Kassidy Baker celebrates her graduation from kindergarten at Foundation Christian Academy while, below, she shows holds a certificate she earned.



CSSS in midst of summer programs; college tour on horizon

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Graduation ceremonies are in the books and most family celebrations complete. Now, newly graduated Tribal students are spending the summer with friends and family and perhaps working or traveling. Some will spend the summer preparing for the fall semester of college or a technical school.

The staff at the Center for Student Success and Services (CSSS) doesn't really slow down during the summer months, said assistant director Alvaro Perez. He and his team spend the summer months helping recent graduates and Tribal students in all grades prepare for the next steps of their education, among the department's many other functions.

SWEP

Some students will enter SWEP: the Summer Work Experience Program. The program runs for up to eight weeks.

SWEP students learn the ropes within the Tribe's many departments, and earn a paycheck as well.

Students are placed in a variety of Tribal departments, such as culture, recreation, the Boys & Girls Club, preschool, the Seminole

Police Department, fire and rescue, housing, cattle and range, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Billie Swamp Safari, Native Learning Center, elders and the library system.

More than 100 teens from every reservation participated last year.

Time to hit the road

The CSSS college tour is back after a five-year hiatus. The tour transports students across the state by bus to visit a variety of schools.

Participating schools this year include Florida A&M University, Florida State University, University of Florida, University of Central Florida and Full Sail University.

There are 46 seats available on a first come, first served basis. Students must have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher for the 2018-2019 school year to qualify, and must be entering grades 10, 11 or 12 for the 2019-2020 school year.

The tour is scheduled for July 28 through Aug. 2.

In the future, Perez said CSSS would look at possible tours outside of the state, including at various Tribal colleges and universities around the country.

Call (954) 989-6840 for more information.

Orlando conference

From July 4-8 many Tribal students will be involved in the 2019 National Unity Conference in Orlando.

Unity's mission is to foster the "spiritual, mental, physical and social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth, and to help build a strong, unified, and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement."

It is a national network organization that has been around for more than 40 years.

Conference organizers expect more than 2,000 attendees to converge at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Conference Center for the four-day event.

Participants can expect keynote speakers, workshops and many other youth-oriented activities.

There will be a college and career expo, cultural night, talent show, 3-on-3 basketball tournament and a banquet.

Kyle Doney, deputy executive director of the Native Learning Center, and Quenton Cypress, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office community engagement manager, will represent the Tribe at the conference.

Go to unityinc.org for more information.

Mark your calendar

CSSS has launched its summer reading

program as well. The program's theme is tied to commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

The program offers reading, crafts and other assorted fun and adventures for kids. The following are the days and times the program is in session at the Tribe's respective libraries.

- Big Cypress — Each Wednesday in July from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Hollywood — Each Monday and Thursday in July from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. and Thursday Aug. 1 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Immokalee — Each Monday and Thursday in July from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday Aug. 1 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Brighton — Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to noon.

Odds and ends

Finally, if you have a summer packet or Florida virtual schoolwork to complete, CSSS wants you to know help is available this summer.

Contact Dorothy Scott Osceola on the second floor of the DSO building, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Aug. 30.

For more information on any CSSS programs or services, go to csss.seminoletribe.com or call (954) 989-6840.

Tribe celebrates Father's Day

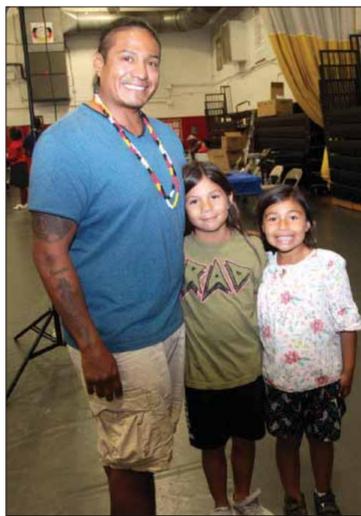


Above, Remus Griffin proudly holds one that didn't get away during the Fort Pierce community's Father's Day fishing trip on the Atlantic Ocean. At left, Justin Davis is surrounded by children Martha, 4, Ira, 6, and Mercedes, 15, at the Immokalee Father's Day luncheon.



Beverly Bidney

Josh Garza cradles his 2 month old son Josh at the Immokalee Father's Day luncheon. Baby Josh's twin sister Marylie Garza slept soundly in her stroller during the lunch.

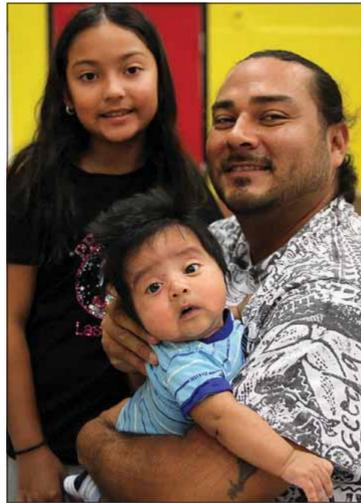


Kevin Johnson

Proud dad Clinton Billie is with his kids Clinton Ki Billie and Camille Billie at the Big Cypress Father's Day lunch in the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.



At left, Dillon Cypress holds the vest he won at the Big Cypress Father's Day lunch raffle. In middle, Kevin Tommie shows a good-sized fish he reeled in from the Atlantic Ocean during the Fort Pierce Father's Day fishing trip. At right, Gary Frank enjoys Father's Day in Immokalee with his children Evelyn, 8, and Elias, 2 months.



Kevin Johnson (left), Joel Colon (center), Beverly Bidney (right)



Joel Colon

Fort Pierce community members celebrate Father's Day with a fishing trip on the Atlantic Ocean.



Big celebration in Big Cypress

Kevin Johnson (3)

Music and culture were big parts of the 124th annual Big Cypress Celebration on May 11 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo and Entertainment Complex. Above left, Canadian country singer Brad Rempel, of the High Valley group, entertains the audience. Above right, Daniel Tommie, of the Big Cypress Reservation, works at his dugout canoe that was part of the cultural demonstrations that guests saw as they entered the complex. Below, Supaman, from the Apsáalooke in Montana, gets the crowd revved up. Country music artist Gary Allan was the main feature on stage. Jimmie Allen also sang.



South Florida events in July

BY SYMPHONY OSCEOLA Intern

THE MONTH OF THE MANGO – Three fests celebrate the King of Tropical Fruit in July: the 27th Annual International Mango & Tropical Fruit Festival, the 23rd Annual MangoMania Tropical Fruit Fair and a relative newcomer, the 2nd Annual South Beach Mango Festival. A variety of mango-centric activities will be offered at all three: tastings, recipes, food demonstrations, mango smoothies, mango trees for sale, pie-eating contests, island-flavored music, vendors and children's activities. **When & Where:** Respectively, July 13-14 at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables; July 13-14 at the German-American Social Club in Cape Coral, and July 26-28 at Lummus Park in Miami Beach. **Web:** Respectively, fairchildgarden.org, mangomaniafl.net and sobemangofest.com

MIAMI SPA MONTH – Dang, it's hot out there. What better way to chill than to pamper yourself at Miami's world-famous luxury spas – at discount prices, no less. Actually, it's not one month, it's two months long! **Where:** Various luxury spas throughout Miami-Dade County.

Web: miamispamonth.com **When:** Miami Spa Months runs July 1-Aug. 31

THE KEY LIME FESTIVAL – Who would think that condensed milk, egg yolks and the juice from tiny Key limes could be the basis for such a famously delicious dessert? This event is a yummy celebration of Florida's official state pie. Includes, of course, pie eating and pie making contests, but also much more: an attempt to make a world-record largest Key Lime pie, the Key Lime Bar Sip & Stroll, a wacky talent show, samplings of Keys-distilled rum flavored with the tangy lime and the Miss Key Lime Pie and L'il Miss Key Lime pageants. **Where:** Various locations in Key West **Web:** keylimesfestival.com **When:** July 4-7

UNDERWATER MUSIC FESTIVAL – Divers and snorkelers go deep at this quirky concert for divers and snorkelers that emphasizes reef preservation and is a whole lot of fun. Classic rock is piped in underwater via speakers suspended from boats hovering above the third largest reef in the world. **Where:** Looe Key Reef (about six miles south of Big Pine Key). **Web:** fla-keys.com **When:** July 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Kool & The Gang coming to Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

FROM PRESS RELEASE

COCONUT CREEK — Grammy Award winners Kool & The Gang will perform in The Pavilion at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek on Aug. 15, at 8 p.m. Tickets priced at \$40/\$50/\$60 per person 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. Kool & The Gang officially launched in 1969 after performing for five years under various band titles. The group has recorded a

number of hits over the years including "Jungle Boogie," "Hollywood Swinging," "Ladies' Night," "Celebration," "Get Down on It," "Joanna" and "Cherish." Today, the group still enjoys global fame and recognition and has a following that spans generations due in part to the group's widely sampled catalogue. Their drum beats, bass, guitar and signature horn lines lace the tracks of numerous artists, including the Beastie Boys, Jay-Z, Madonna, Janet Jackson, Cypress Hill and P. Diddy. Kool & The Gang's music has been featured on the soundtracks for Rocky, Saturday Night Fever, Pulp Fiction, Wreck It Ralph and countless others.

Fireworks Show by Grucci of New York set for Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

FROM PRESS RELEASE

COCONUT CREEK — In celebration of Independence Day, Seminole Casino Coconut Creek will light up the sky on July 3, at 9 p.m. with a fireworks show by world-famous Grucci of New York. The Grucci family are the innovators, creators and leaders of international fireworks and special-effect pyrotechnics. Using the finest variety of fireworks set to popular melodies, the magical Grucci choreography is the catalyst that marries the two art forms of music and fireworks to provide an all-around exciting entertainment experience. The 18-minute program will feature three

distinctive and exciting scenes, each with its own unique facets. From the attention-grabbing "Opening" to the spectacular "Feature Presentation," followed by the truly amazing Grucci-style "Grand Finale," the entire production is considered awe-inspiring. In addition to the fireworks show, guests can enjoy a variety of gourmet food trucks, festive drinks and live entertainment through the evening. The designated public viewing area opens at 7 p.m. and guests of all ages are welcome to attend as the event will be held outside of the casino. In the event of rain or inclement weather, the show will be postponed to the following night, July 4, at 9 p.m.

Sports



Courtesy photo

Cheyenne Nunez holds the award she won for being named State College of Florida Female Athlete of the Year.

Cheyenne Nunez named SCF's Female Athlete of the Year

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Cheyenne Nunez's outstanding season on the field for the State College of Florida softball team was rewarded with a high accolade off the field. Nunez, of the Brighton Reservation, was named the college's Female Athlete of the Year earlier this spring.

The former Okeechobee High standout led the Bradenton college in several categories, including a school record 38 stolen bases this season. She had team highs in at-bats (186), runs (54), hits (67) and on-base percentage (.464). She batted .360 in 59 games.

Nunez racked up 18 multiple hit games, including four 3-hit games. She hit her only home run on April 4 in a 10-4 win against South Florida State.

As the team's leadoff batter and center fielder, she helped SCF to a 45-16 record and earn bid to the FCSAA State/NJCAA District Tournament.

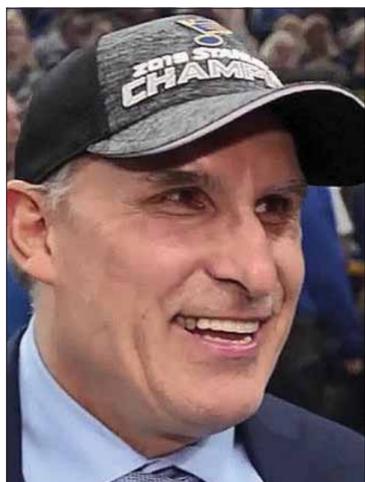
Nunez, a sophomore, will be shifting to NCAA Division I ball next season as she heads to South Carolina to play for USC-Upstate.

First Nations' Berube, Nolan win Stanley Cup with St. Louis Blues

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

First Nations were well-represented on this year's Stanley Cup champions. The St. Louis Blues won the championship June 12 against the Boston Bruins. St. Louis head coach Craig Berube (Cree) and center Jordan Nolan (Ojibwe) are First Nations from Canada.

Nolan, who played 14 games in the regular season for the Blues but did not see any game action in the playoffs, previously won a Stanley Cup with Los Angeles.



NHL.com

St. Louis head coach Craig Berube, First Nations, is all smiles after his Blues won the Stanley Cup on June 12 in Boston.

Behind the plate, FGCU's Ahnie Jumper steps up

Sophomore catcher played 48 games for Eagles this season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

After seeing sparse playing time in her freshman season, Ahnie Jumper made sure her sophomore year would be more active.

Working harder to get better during the offseason and a shift from third base back to her normal position behind the plate helped as Jumper played in 48 of 51 games for the Florida Gulf Coast University softball team this season.

"My role was different than it was the year before. [I was] a lot more comfortable [catching]," Jumper, of the Big Cypress Reservation, said while she was attending the Seminole Indian 4-H program's awards banquet June 4.

Most of her appearances came in relief of senior starting catcher Brooke Clemens, but Jumper did start five games. She was part of the battery that was second in the Atlantic Sun Conference with a 1.73 team ERA. With the graduation of Clemens, Jumper's role could increase again next season.

Offensively, Jumper notched her first collegiate hit and RBI on the same swing,

a run-scoring single in a 5-0 win against Memphis on Feb. 17 at home. She had an RBI double and scored a run in a 7-2 win against Jacksonville on April 14.

She finished the season with a .182 batting average that included four hits, six runs, one double and two RBIs in 22 at-bats. Jumper said hitting is an area that she's working to improve.

"It's something I need to continually work on. It's not my strongest part of the game, but if I work on it, it will become one," she said.

Hitting wasn't a strong part of the Eagles, which finished sixth in the conference in batting average. The team only had two players bat over .300.

FGCU finished with a 29-22 record. They were third in the A-Sun. Highlights outside of the conference included wins against the Big Ten's Indiana, Minnesota and Penn State as well as triumphs against UConn, the University of San Diego and Team Japan.

The Eagles struggled down the stretch, losing six of their final seven games, including getting knocked out of the conference tournament by North Florida.



Beverly Bidney

Florida Gulf Coast University catcher Ahnie Jumper in action against Team Japan earlier this year.



Beverly Bidney

Catcher Ahnie Jumper, left, recently completed her sophomore season on the Florida Gulf Coast University softball team.

OHS baseball wraps up season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

One year after a memorable run all the way to a regional final, the Okeechobee High School baseball team couldn't recapture that magic this year.

The Brahmins, whose roster includes Seminoles' Ozzy Osceola and Silas Madrigal, fell to Jensen Beach, 3-0, in a Class 7A-District 13 semifinal May 7 in Palm Beach Gardens.

Osceola was a captain as a junior this season and provided valuable leadership. He was a starter in the outfield and batted around the middle of the lineup for most of the season. He had an eventful final game at the plate, which included being hit by pitches in his first two trips and a sacrifice bunt.

"Ozzy had a good season," said Okeechobee coach Eric Kindell. "He's a good captain. He's a team leader and somebody we're looking forward to coming back next season."

Kindell said Osceola didn't have a great year at the plate, but was solid defensively in the outfield and a key part of the team's leadership.

"He was a leader this year and I definitely see something for him next year. He's a guy that gives it all every time he steps on the field. It's a pleasure having him around," Kindell said.

Okeechobee picked up where it left off the previous season by winning five of its first six games, including triumphs against Centennial, LaBelle and South Fork, but the Brahmins struggled to string wins together the rest of the way and finished below .500.

"We started off hot. I was expecting us to continue to be hot, but we cooled down a lot," said Osceola, who also pitched in relief and had one start on the mound.

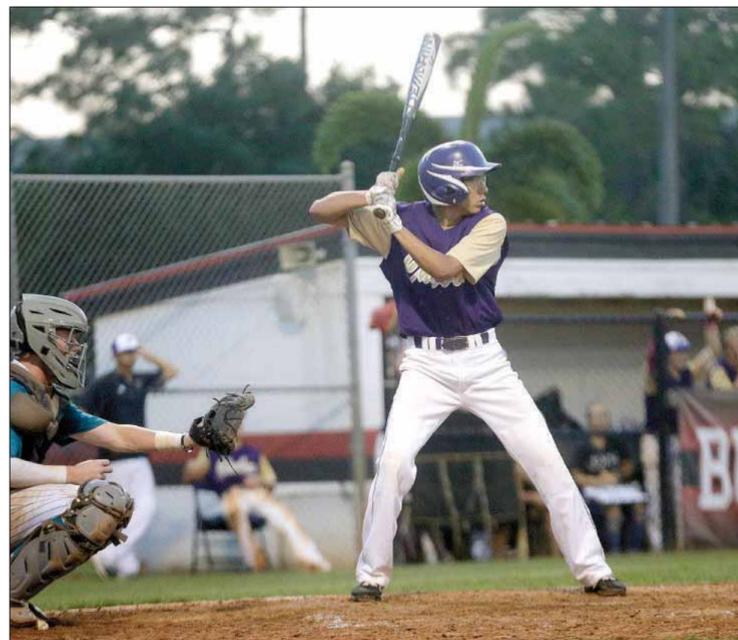
Graduation will take its toll on the roster. "We need to rebuild a lot in the infield and we're losing a few outfielders," said Osceola, who plans to play for an Orlando-based team this summer. "I need to work a lot during the summer and see how that goes and get ready for next season."

Madrigal's baseball season was an abbreviated one. He joined the team late after being part of the school's district championship boys basketball team. Madrigal, a junior, played the outfield as a substitute, but he hopes to earn a starting position next year.



Kevin Johnson

Ozzy Osceola, left, and Silas Madrigal recently wrapped up their junior seasons on the Okeechobee High School baseball team.



Kevin Johnson

Silas Madrigal takes an at-bat in Okeechobee High School's season finale.



Kevin Johnson

Ozzy Osceola squares around for a bunt against Jensen Beach in a district semifinal.

Seminole Indian 4-H holds awards banquet

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The Seminole Indian 4-H program held its annual awards banquet June 4 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.

Aaron Stam, University of Florida Extension Agent for the Seminole Tribe, served as the master of ceremonies as the 4-H'ers and their families filled the gym. The program honored all of its participants, ranging from the rookie class of 25 first-year 4-H'ers to the veteran group of 10th-year members, which consisted of Issiah Alvarado, Alyke Baker and Conner Thomas.

Not all participants were in attendance, but a majority did attend and were recognized with honors and praise from Stam and 4-H program assistant Kimberly Clement along with others.

"You did real good this year," Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank told the participants.

Alvarado, the only graduating senior in attendance, was also recognized for his academic accomplishment as well as his work in the program.



Kevin Johnson

Seminole Indian 4-H participant Issiah Alvarado receives a certificate for being a graduating 4-H senior. He was also honored for being one of only three 10-year program participants. With Alvarado is 4-H agent Aaron Stam.



Kevin Johnson

The Seminole Indian 4-H program honors its members at a banquet June 4 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress. With Aaron Stam, far left, and Kimberly Clement, far right, the 7th-year members honored are Harmany Cypress, Canea Jumper, Karlyne Urbina and Ramone Baker.

"He's done a phenomenal job over the course of the last several years and I'm sorry to see him go," Stam told the audience.

Two herdsman awards were given out, one each in the swine and steer categories. Stam said picking two winners was a tough process because there were plenty of good candidates.

"Those are kids who stepped up their game, that behaved responsibly and went

above and beyond the call of the typical 4-H'er," Stam said. "I probably could have given this award out to at least 15 or 20 kids I saw this year really step up in the barn, step up to being mentors to other children. I just can't say how impressed I was with the behavior and the attitude and the overall performance of the kids at the show-and-tell this year."

Braydyn Daum won the steer category;

Thomas won the swine category.

Tribal cattle owner awards went to Norman Johns-ND Ranch (grand champion steer, reserve champion steer), Naha Jumper-J&J Ranch (grand champion heifer) and Seminole Feed Lot Brighton (reserve champion heifer).

Volunteers Mary Jene Koenes, Melissa Gopher, Josh Jumper and Linda Spurlock received club leader appreciation awards.



Kevin Johnson

The 4-H program honors Melissa Gopher, Josh Jumper, Linda Spurlock and Mary Jene Koenes with volunteer leadership appreciation awards.



Kevin Johnson

Sixth-year member Jaytron Baker.



Kevin Johnson

Fourth-year members Aleah Turtle, Jeremy Urbina, Justin Gopher, Jaydence Urbina, Pherian Baker, Dyami Koenes and Lavin Billie.



Kevin Johnson

Second-year members Ayden Aguilar, Creek Gopher and Harmony Urbina.



Kevin Johnson

Third-year members Justin Gopher, Carlee Billie, Wyatt Bruised Head, Preslyn Baker and Kashyra Urbina.

Kevin Johnson
Ninth-year member Priscilla Alvarado



Tribe's 4-H kids take summer break at Camp Cloverleaf

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

LAKE PLACID — During much of the year, youth from the Seminole Indian 4-H program are busy learning responsibility by caring for hogs, heifers and steers. But for one week each summer at Camp Cloverleaf, they get to be just kids without a care in the world.

From June 10-14, a group of 18 Seminole kids went to the sleepaway camp on the shores of Lake Francis in Lake Placid where they spent the days kayaking, fishing, learning survival skills, field sports, arts and crafts, dance classes, a pinewood derby, free swim and an epic shaving cream war. Camp spirit permeated the grounds and buildings as campers, counselors and staff frequently sang camp songs and cheers together at top volume.

During the week, Camp Cloverleaf was filled with 136 kids from the Tribe and Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. The camp was founded in 1950 and many Tribal members have attended over the years.

"My mom [Michele Thomas] and my grandmother [Connie Whidden] both went here," said Kaleb Thomas, 17. "Now I'm the third generation coming here. It's really cool that I get to do the same thing they did."

After a long break, this was the fourth consecutive summer in which Tribal youth attended.

"We bring them all together and they are friends for the week," said Aaron Stam, University of Florida cooperative extension agent and 4-H leader. "They develop friendships with the Tribal kids."

Some of those friendships last for longer than the one week at camp. Kaleb, who was a counselor this summer, met Trevor Berryman of Vero Beach last summer and the two kept in touch throughout the year.

"I like that I get to be with all my friends," said Shaley Aguilar, 9, who was at camp for the first time. "I want to come back here next year."

Most first-year campers have never



Seminole Indian 4-H members Kaleb Thomas (purple shirt), Ayden Aguilar and Jarrett Beecham work together on a project at Camp Cloverleaf in Lake Placid.



Kristan Williams paints during an arts and crafts session at Camp Cloverleaf.

been away from their families. Sometimes kids can get homesick and sometimes they blossom on their own.

"This was the first time I have been away from my family," said Bailey Bowers, 10, who comes from a large family. "It's good to get a break from them."

Another aspect of camp is sharing a cabin with people you don't know, including campers, counselors and counselors-in-training (CITs). First-year camper Sam Josh has three brothers and a sister so he's used living with a lot of kids.

"This is my first time away," said Sam,

12. "I'm making new friends and want to come back next year."

This being 4-H, responsibility crept into the program. The kids had to keep their bunks clean, wake up at 7 a.m., participate in flag raising daily and generally be well behaved. Every day the bunk with the cleanest cabin won the White Glove award and was the first to go to lunch, meaning no wait in line for food.

Those responsible for having the campers do their share of the chores were the counselors and CITs. The CIT in counselor Kaleb's cabin was Jarrett Beecham, 14, who



Shaley Aguilar has plenty of fun during the shaving cream fight.

likes helping out. It was his third summer at camp, so he has seen other CITs and counselors do their jobs.

"When the kids act out, I calm them down," Jarrett said. "The best thing is being able to hang out with all the counselors."

His advice to campers, new and old, is simple.

"Have fun, be yourself and be responsible," Jarrett said.

Again, that familiar 4-H trait is hard to miss in these kids. Kaleb took his role as a counselor to heart and was happiest

interacting with the campers, being a leader and mentoring them.

"The Seminole kids are doing amazing," said Camp Cloverleaf program director Erika Pereda. "The kids love seeing them here and learning about their culture and traditions. Most have no experience with Native Americans."

During an outdoor skills class, the campers were given the task to build a shelter from whatever was around them which included logs, tarps, branches and chairs. Along with the counselors and CITs, the girls and boys were resourceful as they created spaces safe from the elements.

Before the outdoor skills instructor judged the structures by testing to see if they were waterproof with a conveniently located hose, Jarrett shared some Seminole culture.

"These are sort of what our chickens look like," he said. "Except they have wood holding it up and palm fronds on the roofs instead of these branches."

After lunch, the skies opened up and lightning threatened the camp forcing everyone to stay in the lunchroom to watch a movie and make lanyards or the auditorium for a dance party.

When the storm moved on, the kids were more than ready for the shaving cream war. Armed with cans of shaving cream, the campers, counselors and CITs went at it, careful not to get the shaving cream in each other's eyes. At the end of the day, they were all hosed off, showered and ready for dinner and the evening activity. It was the last night of camp and the activities were a pinewood derby followed by a candle lighting ceremony marking the end of camp.

Stam and 4-H program assistant Kimberly Clement spent the week at camp and were pleased with the Seminole campers. Stam was impressed with Kaleb's performance as a counselor.

"I'm as proud of Kaleb as I have been with anyone," Stam said. "He has been a leader, mentor and big brother to kids when they needed it. He just rocked it."



4-H campers get covered from head to toe in a fun-filled shaving cream fight.

Hard Rock Stadium to host FC Barcelona, SSC Napoli

FROM PRESS RELEASE

MIAMI GARDENS — FC Barcelona and SSC Napoli will face off in the inaugural LaLiga-Serie A Cup starting Aug. 7 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens. The annual cup will be a home and away series featuring teams from each of the leagues. The series will continue Aug. 10 at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"LaLiga has recognized the importance of international expansion, especially in the United States, which is why we have dedicated significant resources through our joint venture with Relevant Sports Group," said LaLiga President Javier Tebas. "The creation of the LaLiga-Serie A Cup is in line with our mission to create more opportunities for U.S. fans to celebrate LaLiga and we look forward to this new annual tradition to bring our clubs to America each summer."

Both clubs have confirmed that they will debut their first teams internationally in the LaLiga-Serie A Cup.

"It's always a point of satisfaction to go to the United States and to be able to get closer to our fans, even more so if we can face an opponent that has the quality and class of SSC Napoli. Moreover, we will have the chance to play in two iconic stadiums, such as Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, where we played the very special LaLiga El Clásico in

the summer of 2017, and Michigan Stadium, the largest in the United States," said FC Barcelona President Josep Maria Bartomeu.

A 26-time LaLiga and five-time UEFA Champions League champions, FC Barcelona holds the league record for the most Copa del Rey (30) and Supercopa de Espana (13) titles, as well as European records for the most UEFA Cup Winners' Cup (4) and UEFA Super Cup (5) wins. SSC Napoli has won two league titles, five

Coppa Italias, two Supercoppa Italiana titles, and one UEFA Cup. The club placed second overall in the league this year. This will be SSC Napoli's first trip to the United States in 30 years.

Hard Rock Stadium holds the record for the largest crowd for a soccer match in Florida in 2015 and held the first El Clasico in the US in 2017. Tickets for the match at Hard Rock Stadium are available at releventsportsgroup.com/events.

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Miami Dolphins' Football Unites program comes to Big Cypress

FROM PRESS RELEASE

BIG CYPRESS – The Miami Dolphins, in partnership with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, hosted their fifth Football Unites Cultural Tour on May 24 in an effort to experience historical locations throughout South Florida. Dolphins players Chris Lammons, Jamiyus Pittman, Kenny Stills and Durval Neto Queiroz, alumni Donald Brown and Nat Moore, as well as Dolphins cheerleaders and staff spent the day with local youth, community leaders and law enforcement to understand the richness and diversity of the Seminole Tribe throughout the Everglades.

"It was an amazing experience to connect and learn more about the Seminole culture with our Football Unites community partners," Miami Dolphins Senior Vice President of Communications & Community Affairs Jason Jenkins said. "South Florida has a deep history and the hope is that these educational experiences will bring us closer together."

The tour began with a visit to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum followed by a tour of the Big Cypress Reservation where the team sampled traditional foods from the Seminole Tribe. The tour concluded with an exploration of the Billie Swamp Safari, where the group participated in an airboat tour.

"The Seminole Tribe of Florida values and appreciates the efforts of the Miami Dolphins to bring people in our community together through building a greater understanding of the diverse cultures in our region. The Big Cypress Seminole Reservation, home to the Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Billie Swamp Safari attraction, is the perfect place to learn more about the history and culture of the Seminoles," Seminole Tribe of Florida spokesperson Gary Bitner added.

As part of the organization's goal to level the playing field through the power of teamwork to inspire a healthier, more educated and united South Florida community, Dolphins owner Stephen Ross and Dolphins players created the Football Unites program as a way to bring positive social change. The Dolphins organization



The Miami Dolphins' Football Unites Cultural Tour takes in the sights and sounds of a Billie Swamp Safari airboat ride May 24 in Big Cypress. In front, from left, are defensive tackle Durval Queiroz Neto, safety Chris Lammons and defensive tackle Jamiyus Pittman. Also on the boat are Dolphins staff and the team's Football Unites community partners.

believes it is important to be inclusive of the diversity and aware of the intersections that make up South Florida, uniting groups of different races, genders, sexual orientations, identities, abilities and faith around the power of football. These programs connect to the NFL's Inspire Change platform,

showcasing the collaborative efforts of players, owners and the league to create positive change in communities across the country and work with RISE – the Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality – to eliminate racial discrimination, champion social justice and improve race relations.



The Dolphins' Football Unites program enjoys a ride through the Everglades in Big Cypress.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum tour guide Richard Billie provides a tour to the Miami Dolphins and its Football Unites program.



Miami Dolphins defensive tackle Jamiyus Pittman participates in a culture-related activity.



The Miami Dolphins and its Football Unites participants gather outside the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum during their cultural tour of Big Cypress.

Miami Dolphins

Sean Osceola, Pasco-Hernando finish 3rd at World Series

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

For only the second time in program history, the Pasco-Hernando State College baseball team, which includes the Brighton Reservation's Sean Osceola, reached the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division II College World Series.

Pasco-Hernando finished third at the 10-team tournament, which was held in Enid, Oklahoma.

Pasco-Hernando went 4-2 in the tournament, including a 12-11 slugfest win on May 29 against Northern Oklahoma Enid in what was a must-win game for PHSC. Osceola, normally a starter, notched the victory with two innings of relief to close out the 10-inning game. The teams combined for 33 hits. Osceola allowed just one run on three hits and fanned two. The victory forced a rematch against Northern Oklahoma Enid the following day, which the hosts won 15-6. Northern Oklahoma Enid won the World Series the next day, 5-4, against Mesa.

Osceola appeared in three games at the World Series, all of which PHSC won. He started against Lackawanna and Pearl River, but didn't figure in the decisions.

For the season, Osceola, a freshman right-hander and Okeechobee High School graduate, had a 9-6 record with a 3.58 ERA and 88 strikeouts in 98 innings. He started 17 of the 20 games he appeared and led the club in wins and innings pitched.



Kevin Johnson

Pasco-Hernando State College freshman pitcher Sean Osceola.

Lucky Roulette makes national debut at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD – Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Fla. is the first casino in the country to offer Aruze Gaming's Lucky Roulette.

The new machine, with eight stations, is located in the casino's new gaming space as part of the \$1.5 billion property-wide expansion.

Seminole Casino Coconut Creek will also offer Lucky Roulette beginning next week.

Considered a "hybrid roulette" game, Lucky Roulette combines classic mechanical elements with innovative projection mapping technology.

The HD projector displays high-resolution graphics of the roulette wheel on to a spinning mechanical wheel. The result is a beautiful, crisp, hyper-realistic 3-D visual experience that melds the appeal of a traditional roulette wheel with vibrant graphics that significantly enhance the gaming experience.



gaming experience.

Game features include:
Overhead Screens

Large screens display extensive game history and several game scenes in real time, such as graphics representing all chips bet on the current game and a live camera

feed of the spinning ball and roulette wheel.

Game Screen

In addition to standard and strategy bets, the variety of betting options has also been increased to include box bets.

Jackpot Chance

If the ball drops into a randomly displayed jackpot spot on the roulette wheel, the jackpot chance is triggered and starts after the roulette game result is displayed. All players participating in the jackpot have a chance to win either a bonus prize or one of three jackpots based on the result of a special virtual roulette wheel.

Additional Betting Options (settable)

Nine Numbers/Box Bets

Bet on a group of numbers that contain nine sequential numbers: 1-9, 10-18, 19-27 and 28-36.

Game History

Substantial game history that is highly valued by players is provided in a variety of improved and engaging formats.

Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open runs Aug. 1-13 in Hollywood

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD – The Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open (SHRPO) will celebrate its seventh season of tournament play at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood starting Aug. 1 with the \$600 Deep Stack No Limit Hold'em series opener highlighting a \$1 million guarantee.

Unique to South Florida, SHRPO is known for its one-of-a-kind finisher – The Big 4. The Big 4 is a collection of four-tournament finales that feature staggered structures, timed so the events play down simultaneously in front of a live audience. Filmed by Poker Night in America and televised on CBS Sports Network, The Big 4 will be played at the resort's Hard Rock Event Center on Aug. 13. All of the synchronized poker action will be live streamed on SHRPO.com.

"SHRPO is our flagship series and has put South Florida front and center on the poker map since the first \$10 million guarantee in August 2013," said Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood Tournament Director Tony Burns. "The tournament attracts a global audience and we've amped up this year's series with new

pricepoints as well as the return of The Big 4, a finisher unlike any other in the industry."

Carrying combined prize pools of \$6.5 million, The Big 4 premium events include:

- \$5,250 SHRPO Championship NLH (Single Re-Entry), \$3 million guarantee, starts at 11 a.m. on Aug. 9
- \$2,650 NLH (Single Re-Entry), \$1 million guarantee, starts at 2 p.m. on Aug. 11

- \$1,100 NLH (Re-Entry), \$500,000 guarantee, starts at 11 a.m. on Aug. 12
- \$25,500 High Roller (Re-Entry), \$2 million guarantee, starts at noon on Aug. 12.

Other events surrounding The Big 4 include the \$50,000 Super High Roller NLH (Re-Entry) highlighting a \$1 million guarantee, which starts on Aug. 8 at 1 p.m. and a \$10,000 One-Day NLH event starting on Aug. 13 highlighting a \$500,000 guarantee.

The resort's Hard Rock Event Center will serve as the primary tournament space during the 13-day series. SHRPO's footprint boasts capacity for more than 90 tables providing plenty of space for poker tournament players from around the globe.

Last year's SHRPO Championship saw Brandon Eisen best 914 entries for more than \$770,000, while The Big 4 events saw 2,099 combined entries awarding more than \$9.2 million in prize money – a figure that easily surpassed the \$6.5 million guarantee.

On Aug. 7, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino will host the Jeff Conine Celebrity Poker Classic benefiting the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation. The charity event will kick off with an exclusive VIP player party in the Terrace Ballroom at Hard Rock Event Center from 5:30-7 p.m. prior to the tournament's start time at 7 p.m. Guests will enjoy live music, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a chance to win a variety of prizes including a seat in the SHRPO Championship. Buy-in for the charity event is \$300 and players can re-enter throughout the evening. Former major league baseball player Jeff Conine will be in attendance along with other celebrities.

Tournament promotions include Seminole Gaming's signature "Win a Seat" program. Participants can visit HardRockPoker.com to enter for a chance to win entries into major poker tournaments at Seminole casinos.

Gabby Lemieux to compete in LPGA event

FROM PRESS RELEASE

ONEIDA, Wis. — Native American Gabby Lemieux, former U.S. Women's Amateur champion Sophia Schubert and 14-year-old sensation Alexa Pano complete sponsor invitations for the third edition of the Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic from July 4-7 in Oneida, Wisconsin.

Lemieux, a member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, returns to Thornberry Creek at Oneida, the official golf course of the Green Bay Packers, just one year from her professional debut. Lemieux, who graduated from Texas Tech in 2018, has played the majority of the season on the LPGA Symetra Tour and is the only Native American in the 144 player field.

Commenting on her return, Lemieux said, "I'm so grateful to Oneida for the invite to play at Thornberry Creek again this year and I'm determined to learn from my experience last season and come back stronger. As the only Native American in the field I definitely felt the support of the tribe out on the course and I can't wait to be back."

The field in the \$2 million event includes past champions Sei Young Kim and Katherine Kirk as well as Rolex Ranking No. 3 Sung Hyun Park and Hall of Famer Inbee Park.

Schubert, a 23-year-old from Tennessee, shot to prominence in 2017 with victory in the U.S. Women's Amateur before turning professional and making her LPGA debut last summer.

Completing the trio of invitations is 14-year-old amateur star Pano, who despite her age, already boasts a notable golfing CV including no less than 67 national titles and most recently, an appearance in the U.S. Women's Open.

Oneida Golf Enterprise Agent Chad Fuss said, "We are thrilled to offer invitations to these three rising stars and provide them with a platform to showcase their talent to the world. They all have extremely bright futures and we are looking forward to giving the fans a chance to cheer on some young talent. Gabby is the only Native American tribe member with LPGA Symetra Tour status at the moment but I'm sure she will help to inspire the next generation of golfers to get to this level."

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Announcements



NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To the Tribal Community at large, the Draft Control Schedule for Tribal and BIA Roads is available for review/comments at the office of Tribal Community Development of the Seminole Tribe of Florida located at 6365 Taft Street, Suite 3004, Hollywood FL 33024. Comments must be received no later than July 8, 2019. For additional information, contact James Jeffers or Sugeily Patxot of the Planning and Development Department at (954) 894-1060.

STOF Job Openings

Court Clerk I, Seminole Tribal Court Location: Hollywood Reservation

The Seminole Tribal Court is looking for a full-time Court Clerk I. This position is responsible for assisting the Clerk of Court in the administration and day-to-day operations of the Tribal Court of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The individual will assist the general public in properly navigating the judicial system, and will answer general inquiries regarding judicial procedures, court appearances and trial dates. The individual will also assist in maintaining the files of all cases filed with the Seminole Tribal Court and in the preparation and maintenance of dockets for court sessions, as well as in the preparation and dissemination of court documents including summons, notices and subpoenas.

High school diploma or GED required. Associate's degree is preferred. Tribal preference applies. For more information, please see the job description posted on <https://www.semtribe.com/Employment/JobPosting/>

Court Clerk II, Seminole Tribal Court Location: Hollywood Reservation

The Seminole Tribal Court is looking for a full-time Court Clerk II. This position is responsible for assisting the Clerk of Court in the administration and day-to-day operations of the Tribal Court and Tribal Appellate Court of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, including the oversight of satellite court offices. The individual will assist in maintaining the files of all cases filed with the Seminole Tribal Court and the preparation and maintenance of dockets for court sessions. In addition, the incumbent is responsible for the orientation and training of the Court Clerk I in the application of court policies, civil rules, appellate rules and court procedures.

Associate's degree in Criminology, Business Administration, Public Administration or Paralegal is required. A minimum of three (3) years of progressively responsible clerical experience, two (2) of which consist of direct experience working with legal documents in a court or legal setting, with experience utilizing court recording equipment and case management software is required. An equivalent combination of education, training and experience may be considered. Tribal preference applies. For more information, please see the job description posted on <https://www.semtribe.com/Employment/JobPosting/>

Chris D'Elia to perform at Hard Rock Live

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Comedian Chris D'Elia will bring his "Chris D'Elia: Follow The Leader Tour" to Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Nov. 23, at 8 p.m., as part of the 6,500-seat Hard Rock Live.

Tickets are available at Ticketmaster locations, online at Ticketmaster.com, or at 800-653-8000.

D'Elia has become one of the most in-demand performers in comedy. He has three comedy specials available on Netflix — "Man on Fire," "Incorrigible" and "COMEDIANS of the World." The latter features 47 comedians from 13 regions in eight different languages. His first special, "White Male. Black Comic," debuted on Comedy Central in 2013 and was featured on Comedy Central's "Roast of Justin Bieber," which aired in 2015. D'Elia also hosts the highly successful podcast, "Congratulations with Chris D'Elia," which has been a mainstay on iTunes' comedy podcast charts since its debut in February 2017. D'Elia has numerous appearances on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon," "Comedy Central Presents" and "Conan."

On-screen, D'Elia is most known for his starring role in the NBC's comedy series "Undateable" and can be seen in the upcoming second season of "You" on Netflix. He can also be seen in the Netflix feature "Little Evil" opposite Adam Scott and Evangeline Lilly.

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048860	N/A	VALLEY TIGER BUMPER TABLE	9000	N/A	Poor	\$100.00
C48806	N/A	VALLEY TIGER POOL TABLE	PANTHER 93-7 FT.	N/A	Poor	\$100.00
S00001	N/A	GLASS DISPLAY CABINET	3' L x 7' H x 1' W (SMALLER CABINET)	N/A	Fair	\$102.00
S00002	N/A	GLASS DISPLAY CABINET	3' L x 7' H x 1' W (SMALLER CABINET)	N/A	Fair	\$102.00
S00003	N/A	GLASS DISPLAY CABINET	3' L x 7' H x 1' W (SMALLER CABINET)	N/A	Fair	\$102.00
488076	N/A	EZ-GO CART	E402	NA	Poor	\$167.00
409992	N/A	EZ-GO CART	E402	NA	Poor	\$167.00
L00001	N/A	GLASS DISPLAY CABINET	5' L x 7' H x 1' W (LARGE)	N/A	Fair	\$241.00
L00002	N/A	GLASS DISPLAY CABINET	5' L x 7' H x 1' W (LARGE)	N/A	Fair	\$241.00
L00003	N/A	GLASS DISPLAY CABINET	5' L x 7' H x 1' W (LARGE)	N/A	Fair	\$241.00
L00004	N/A	GLASS DISPLAY CABINET	5' L x 7' H x 1' W (LARGE)	N/A	Fair	\$241.00
L00005	N/A	GLASS DISPLAY CABINET	5' L x 7' H x 1' W (LARGE)	N/A	Fair	\$241.00
L00006	N/A	GLASS DISPLAY CABINET	5' L x 7' H x 1' W (LARGE)	N/A	Fair	\$241.00
488752	N/A	EZ-GO CART	E402 W/ SPRAYER TANK	NA	Fair	\$604.00
A82209	2007	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F150 XLT CREW CAB (4WD)	162,457	Poor	\$2,439.00
181556	2010	DODGE VAN	GRAND CARAVAN SE (FWD)	118,849	Poor	\$2,705.00
D91458	2006	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F250 XL SUPER DUTY (4X4)	101,850	Poor	\$4,322.00
527611	1998	INTERNATIONAL BOX TRUCK	4700 (RWD) Diesel	203,565	Poor	\$4,554.00

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

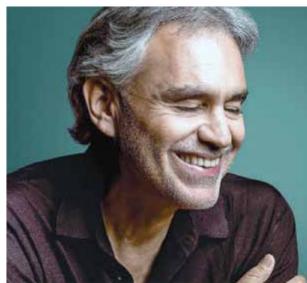
NEW!! - Tribal Members only - access this information at the website: <http://semtribe.com/FixedAssets>. (Registration required)

Tenor Andrea Bocelli comes to new Hard Rock Live

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Grammy Award-nominated and legendary tenor Andrea Bocelli is coming to Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Nov. 7, at 8 p.m., as part of Hard Rock Live's new opening lineup. The 6,500-seat Hard Rock Live, Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood's new entertainment venue, is part of a \$1.5 billion property expansion to be completed fall 2019. The integrated resort will also be home to three hotel towers, including the world's first and only iconic guitar-shaped hotel tower.

Bocelli, who is widely regarded as the most popular Italian and



Andrea Bocelli

classical singer in the world, has been thrilling audiences for more than 20 years. His album "Sacred

Arias" became the top selling classical album by a solo artist of all time and his most recent album "Si," released in October 2018, debuted at No. 1 on the UK Albums Chart and US Billboard 200.

For every ticket sold, \$1 will go to support the "Voices of Haiti" Project, giving children from the most vulnerable areas of Port-au-Prince the chance to escape violence and poverty, and express their true potential. For more information, visit www.andreabocelli.com and www.andreabocelli-foundation.org.

For tickets go to Ticketmaster.com, or by call 800-653-8000.

An evening with Don Felder

FROM PRESS RELEASE

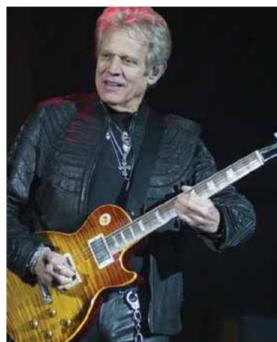
COCONUT CREEK — Seminole Casino Coconut Creek will host An Evening With Don Felder in The Pavilion on Friday, Aug. 2, at 8 p.m.

Tickets priced at \$25/\$35/\$45 per person are on sale at Ticketmaster locations, online at Ticketmaster.com, or at 800-653-8000.

Felder, formerly of the Eagles, has a new album that features such names as Sammy Hagar, Slash, Richie Sambora, Orianthi, Peter Frampton, Joe Satriani, Mike Fleetwood, Chad Smith, Bob Weir, David Paich, Steve Porcaro and Alex Lifeson, among others.

A Gainesville, Florida native, Felder is a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, having been inducted with the Eagles back in 1998. He is also a member of the Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville and the Florida Artists Hall of Fame.

He spent 27 years with the



Don Felder

Eagles, who have sold over 150 million albums worldwide to date and own the distinction of recording the top-selling album of all time — Their Greatest Hits (1971-1975).

Felder left the band in 2001 and has since forged a career as a top-tier solo artist.

Hard Rock International announces partnership with Mercury Phoenix Trust to honor Freddie Mercury

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Hard Rock International announced in June a continuation of its partnership with The Mercury Phoenix Trust, a UK charity created in memory of Freddie Mercury by Queen band members Brian May and Roger Taylor together with their manager Jim Beach to support the global fight against HIV/AIDS, that includes a series of collaborative initiatives taking place from June through December 2019. As The Mercury Phoenix Trust brings together Freddie Mercury's legendary passion for music and social purpose, so too does Hard Rock. The iconic restaurant and entertainment brand was founded on the motto, "Love All - Serve All." "Take Time to Be Kind," "Save the Planet" and "All is One," and honors its commitment to serve people and the planet through its partnership with The Mercury Phoenix Trust.

As part of the partnership, The Hard Rock Heals Foundation — Hard Rock's charitable arm — will donate a portion of proceeds from co-branded activations and Freddie Mercury inspired merchandise such as collectible tees and tote bags to The Mercury Phoenix Trust in support of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"The Mercury Phoenix Trust has been a valued partner of Hard Rock's for nearly a decade, and we are excited to continue the partnership in 2019 starting with an exciting collection of co-branded merchandise launching in June during Pride Month with proceeds benefiting the foundation," said Edward Deutscher, Senior Vice President of Merchandising

and eCommerce at Hard Rock International. "Our new Pride merchandise collection is inspired by Freddie Mercury and provides a unique opportunity to celebrate equality and raise awareness and funds for The Mercury Phoenix Trust, while embracing Hard Rock's All is One mantra alongside the LGBTQ+ community."

To honor Freddie Mercury and Queen, Hard Rock Café locations around the U.S. will host various Queen-themed activations from July through August in celebration of Queen + Adam Lambert's sold out North American tour taking place this summer.

"Hard Rock's ongoing support of The Mercury Phoenix Trust's mission has been invaluable, and we cherish the partnership that continues to strengthen year over year between their iconic brand and our foundation," said Mercury Phoenix Trust trustee and Queen's manager, Jim Beach.

As a loyal partner since 2013, The Hard Rock Heals Foundation has donated proceeds from its annual Freddie for a Day celebrations to The Mercury Phoenix Trust. This year, Hard Rock will further its support for the foundation by extending the annual tradition to Freddie for a Week — a week-long, fundraising celebration taking place this September. Fans will be able to participate in Freddie for a Week celebrations at Hard Rock properties around the world and support The Mercury Phoenix Trust by purchasing limited-edition Freddie Mercury pins and popular Freddie-inspired mustaches.

Theodore Nelson Sr.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, SW5813, Indian Child Welfare Consultant-Expert, Board Member National Indian Child Welfare Association, Licensed and Insured, Seminole Health Plan Provider

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