

# The Seminole Tribune

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## Hard Rock Athens eyes 2026 opening

STAFF REPORT

Hard Rock International (HRI) held an event in Athens, Greece, on June 22 to ceremoniously mark the start of construction of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Athens. HRI has partnered with Greek business conglomerate Gek Terna Group on the project.

Hard Rock Athens is being built in the area of the Athens Riviera within the Ellinikon development. HRI said in a statement that construction would begin in early 2023, with a goal to open in 2026.

Hard Rock Athens will include a 1,000 room luxury hotel, a gaming floor with 200 tables and 2,000 gaming machines, meeting and convention space, a 3,000 seat Hard Rock Live entertainment venue (with a 7,500 seat outdoor-extension option) and many restaurant and retail options, among other amenities.

"We are thrilled to announce the partnership with Gek Terna Group and further expand Hard Rock's reach across the globe in the great city of Athens," Jim Allen, HRI chairman and CEO of Seminole Gaming, said in a statement. "This development will bring over 3,000 permanent jobs to the people of Greece and we look forward to bringing our unique brand of entertainment and providing an unparalleled experience for guests of all ages."

◆ See ATHENS on page 7A

## Ahfachkee School class of 2022 receives diplomas, praise

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Nine proud Ahfachkee School high school graduates dressed in caps, gowns and patchwork were presented with their diplomas June 2 in front of family and friends at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress. It was the school's first in-person graduation since 2019.

The class of 2022 graduates are:

- Carlise Bermudez
- Athena Bert
- Lauren Doctor
- Marina Garcia
- Hunter Howard
- Tehya Howard
- Daleen Osceola
- Jordan Osceola
- Timothy Tigertail

Seminole Tribe leadership praised them for their accomplishments.

"I see hope and wisdom in this room," said Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie. "I am reminded of the wisdom of our ancestors who worked together to achieve what our tribe is today. I know you will all continue the greatness of our people. You studied diligently when you could have just hung out. We celebrate what you did to get here today. You came from people who didn't give up. I have no doubt your talents will lead us to a better world."

The accolades continued as Big Cypress Board Rep. Nadine Bowers addressed the graduates.

"We celebrate the achievements of the Ahfachkee Warriors," Rep. Bowers said.



Graduates from the Ahfachkee class of 2022 celebrate by tossing their caps into the air June 2 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.

"You are ready to take the next step and I know you will become amazing leaders. You have started to create your success story and your success story will be our success story."

Two of Brighton Councilman Larry Howard's children were among the graduates. He congratulated the leaders, parents, families, teachers and school staff for being there to help get all the students to

the finish line.

"These kids don't want to give up," Councilman Howard said. "These are our leaders of tomorrow."

Principal Dorothy Cain spoke passionately when she told the grads they were the best class Ahfachkee has seen.

"You are an amazing group of kids," she said. "We've been virtual for several years,

which is a very difficult thing to do. It's a very big deal to finish and get your credits to graduate."

Cain said the graduates have a few important traits that will serve them well in life.

◆ See AHFACHKEE on page 3B

## Lucy Bowers installed as parliamentarian of Florida CattleWomen

Will serve as president in 2026

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**MARCO ISLAND** — Lucy Bowers, who has spent a lifetime around cattle in her family's pasture on the Brighton Reservation, has a new leadership position within the state's cattle industry. She was installed as parliamentarian on the executive board of the Florida CattleWomen Inc. (FCW) at its annual meeting June 16 in Marco Island.

Bowers is the first tribal member from the Seminole Tribe to serve on the FCW executive board. Her role as parliamentarian is to keep meetings orderly and on track by following Robert's Rules of Order. She also serves in an advisory capacity to the FCW president and is on the board of directors and two committees.

The executive board post is a four-year commitment to the organization, which will conclude with Bowers serving as president in 2026. She joined FCW in 2017 because she wanted to learn more about what goes on beyond the boundaries of the pasture.

"They were very welcoming and willing to share their knowledge with me," she wrote in an email to the Tribune. "I immediately gained a new perspective within the beef industry. ... I am honored that FCW has acknowledged my efforts and have asked

me to step up to be a part of leading their mission in promoting the beef industry."

The primary goals of the FCW are to promote beef consumption, educate the public about the beef industry's environmental and animal welfare practices, promote legislative awareness and educate the organization's membership and youth.

Bowers comes from a long line of cattlemen and cattlemen, starting with her grandparents. Her grandmother Ada Pearce, who was actually her aunt and the sister of her grandmother Annie Pearce Bowers, who died young, was one of the first Seminole cattlemen in the 1950s.

Bowers' mother Elsie Bowers and her siblings Mildred Bowers, Martha Jones, Gladys Bratcher, Lorene Gopher and Andrew J. Bowers Jr. inherited her grandfather Andrew J. Bowers Sr.'s herd in the late 1970s.

"I have lots of fond memories of being in the pastures as a child watching our family work the herd, whether it was marking calves, vaccinating or branding," Bowers wrote. "As I grew older, my brother (Marvin Bowers) and I became part of the work crew. Although I lived in Tennessee for 17 years, I was always excited to help work our cows whenever I came home."

Today both Bowers siblings help their uncle, former Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., maintain the family herd.

◆ See BOWERS on page 4A



After being installed as FCW parliamentarian June 16 in Marco Island, Lucy Bowers, center, sits on the dias with Deborah Whaley, left, and Rhonda Waters.

## Lynn Malerba to be first Native American US treasurer

STAFF REPORT

Indian Country recently took note of another historic Native American appointment by the Biden administration. Lynn Malerba, chief of Connecticut's Mohegan Tribe, is set to be the first Native American to be U.S. treasurer — the highest-ranking Native Treasury official in U.S. history and the first Native woman to have her signature appear on American currency.

Biden announced his intent to nominate Malerba on June 21. The nomination does not need approval by the U.S. Senate. The U.S. treasurer is part of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which is headed by Secretary Janet Yellen.

As treasurer, Malerba will oversee the U.S. Mint, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the storage of gold at Fort Knox, as well as serve as a senior adviser to Yellen on issues regarding community development and public engagement.

She will also lead the Treasury's newly established Office of Tribal and Native Affairs, which will coordinate tribal relations across the department and house staff dedicated to communication with tribal nations.

"This is yet another historic moment for Indian Country under this administration," the United South & Eastern Tribes Sovereign Protection Fund (USET SPF) said in a statement. "Chief Malerba will take full advantage of the opportunity to

ensure that tribal nations have a strong voice at the Treasury, as it seeks to craft policy that reflects our unique circumstances and relationship with the United States."

Malerba has served as USET SPF secretary for many years.

Malerba became the 18th chief of the Mohegan Tribe in 2010 and is the first female chief in the tribe's modern history. The position is a lifetime appointment made by the tribe's council of elders.

"This appointment is an honor for her and for our tribe, and it is well-deserved. Lynn has been a trailblazer in the Mohegan community," James Gessner Jr., chairman of the Mohegan Tribe, said in the statement.

Malerba previously served on the Mohegan tribal council, including as

chairwoman. She also led the tribe's Health and Human Services agency and has had a distinguished career in economic development and as a health care professional and hospital administrator.

She currently serves as chairwoman of the Indian Health Service's tribal self-governance advisory committee and is a member of the Justice Department's tribal nations leadership council, the tribal advisory committee for the National Institutes of Health, and the Treasury tribal advisory committee.

U.S. Treasury via Twitter

Lynn Malerba, right, who will be the first Native American to serve as U.S. treasurer, and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen visit the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota on June 21.



### INSIDE:

Editorial.....	2A	Sports.....	1C
Community.....	3A	Education.....	1B

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# Editorial

## Historic agreement gives Cherokee Nation self-governance over transportation projects

• **Chuck Hoskin Jr.**

It's a high priority for Cherokee Nation that our citizens can easily get around our 7,000-square-mile reservation. Well-built and maintained transportation infrastructure improves lives, making it easier to commute to jobs, go to the doctor, buy groceries and other essentials, and visit friends and family. As a sovereign government, we have the power and responsibility to meet these transportation needs.

That power is even stronger today, thanks to a historic self-governance compact that was recently signed with the U.S. Department of Transportation. The agreement is the first of its kind between a tribe and the federal government. It enables Cherokee Nation to plan and oversee our own road construction and transit projects. With self-governance over transportation funding, we will be able to move forward on transportation projects without needing to seek permission from the federal government.

This agreement speeds up funding and gives Cherokee Nation more flexibility to plan further into the future. We know better transportation means better economic opportunity, better jobs and more small-business opportunities. We know it impacts how our children get safely to and from school.

Just as importantly, we know that rural Cherokee communities, many established before statehood, depend on these investments. These communities are home to incredibly valuable Cherokee culture, history and treasured ways of life. But they cannot survive in isolation. Ensuring safer and more abundant channels of transportation will help these communities survive and thrive for generations to come.

As we enter this new chapter of government-to-government relationships with the United States, we hope other tribal nations will follow suit. Cherokee Nation has created a blueprint for how all of Indian Country can pursue self-governance agreements. By signing this compact, we reaffirm tribes' sovereign right to self-

determination.

In the last fiscal year, Cherokee Nation invested \$19.2 million and improved 88 miles of roadway across our 14-county reservation. So far this year, we have spent \$10.3 million to improve 50 miles of roadway. The self-governance agreement means these investments will speed up and grow.

This mission includes expanding our use of sustainable energy sources, which reduces the carbon footprint of the Cherokee Nation. We continue to increase our use of electric vehicles, both cars and buses. Today, the tribe has two electric transit buses and new charging stations to accommodate them, which were purchased through a \$1.5 million federal grant in 2018. The tribe also operates an electric school bus.

Our success during the last three years at securing intergovernmental agreements underscores something else that is very important. As Chief, I approach my dealings with the state and federal government without regard to partisan politics. My administration has worked with both parties – including the Trump and Biden administrations – on major funding and policy wins for Cherokee Nation. That only happens when Cherokee leaders put the interests of the Cherokee Nation above party politics. Cherokee leaders who do the opposite put Cherokee Nation's interests at risk.

Our new self-governance agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation is just the latest example of how Cherokee Nation's sovereignty brings great benefits for everyone living within our reservation, including our non-Cherokee neighbors. We are building up northeast Oklahoma and investing in rural communities that have had few other sources of support. Cherokee Nation's forward-thinking policies, backed by our sovereign rights and strong relationship with federal partners, ensure that the future of Cherokee Nation and northeast Oklahoma is bright.

*Chuck Hoskin, Jr. is the principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. This article was published in nativenewsonline.*

## Remarks from Treasury Secretary during visit to Rosebud Sioux Reservation

• **Janet Yellen**

*Editor's note: U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen visited the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota on June 21. Here are her remarks as prepared for delivery.*

It's great to be here. This is my first visit to Indian Country, and it's meaningful to me to see first-hand the beauty of the Rosebud Reservation and to hear about your tribe's rich heritage. It's also been illuminating to listen to you discuss the deep challenges that you and tribal nations around the country face, and hear your thoughts on how we can partner together to accelerate the economic recovery for all Tribal citizens.

I've spent my entire career thinking about economic policy and how it can help people during hard times and create longer-term opportunities. I see a great deal that policies can do to support tribal communities. Tribes are the backbone of local communities, and Tribal governments are often the largest employer of their citizens and residents in surrounding areas. Simply put, reservations can be centers of economic opportunity for millions of tribal and non-tribal members and they merit deep investment by the federal government and our private sector partners.

Yet, despite the efforts by tribal governments to develop their economies, significant inequities exist. Many have their roots in prior federal policy. According to the U.S. Commission for Civil Rights' Broken Promises Report, over 25 percent of Native Americans live in poverty. In certain tribes, over half of their citizens live in poverty. For Native Americans living on reservations, the unemployment rate is around 50 percent. Those numbers are unacceptably high.

The last two years have been hard for everyone, but they've been especially difficult for Native American communities. Tribal

communities have had some of the highest Covid mortality rates in the country, and the data shows that few suffered more than Native American workers and enterprises during the pandemic. In addition to the pain the pandemic caused tribal families and communities, this disproportionate impact resulted in the loss of critical Tribal revenue that supports governmental services for tribal citizens in need.

The American Rescue Plan, signed by President Biden in March 2021, provided much-needed relief, injecting billions of dollars into tribal communities across the country. This legislation has led to a historic investment in Indian Country. Our flagship program, the Fiscal Recovery Funds, provided \$20 billion to tribal governments to help fight the pandemic and help tribal households and businesses recover. Tribes across the country, including right here, used these funds for vaccination efforts to protect their Tribal citizens. Some places – like Rosebud – are using the funds for affordable housing projects. Others, such as the Quechan Indian Tribe, are providing assistance to tribal members who own small businesses that have been negatively affected by Covid-19. To date, 99% of this fund has been distributed, benefitting 2.6 million tribal citizens across the U.S.

Other programs have also helped tribal nations recover. Take the Emergency Rental Assistance program. Tribal citizens faced acute rental challenges pre-pandemic, and these conditions rapidly worsened after March 2020. This program allocated \$800 million to tribes to help prevent evictions and keep tribal citizens safely and stably housed. Early reports show that thousands of low-income tribal citizens have received housing assistance across tribal nations. Here, Rosebud has spent \$6.3 million to serve 700 low-income households in need of emergency rental assistance.

◆ See **YELLEN** on page 3C

## Matthew Campbell named NARF deputy director

STAFF REPORT

Matthew Campbell (Village of Gambell) was named June 10 to the new role of deputy director at the Native American Rights Fund (NARF).

"We're pleased that Matthew Campbell will provide an additional prong of leadership to the Native American Rights Fund as our deputy director," NARF executive director John Echohawk said in a news release. "We're grateful that he will apply his aptitude and creativity towards helping NARF achieve a shared vision of sustainable growth, and that our donors, board, staff, and clients have helped us reach a place where we can restructure the organization

strategically for the future."

Campbell is a former NARF staff attorney. According to the release, he will oversee the logistics and organizational strategy of deploying resources to support the caseload of the 23 staff attorneys who represent Indian Country from offices in Boulder, Anchorage and Washington, D.C.

"I'm deeply honored to serve Native people in this role," Campbell said in the release. "I envision this position as a fantastic opportunity to help the Native American Rights Fund build the capacity to broaden our support for Indian Country as well as support our attorneys and staff in undertaking this important work."



Matthew Campbell

NARF

## Native agriculture program names new executive director

STAFF REPORT

In May, the Native Agriculture Education Fellowship Program appointed Nicole DeVon as executive director to oversee the Tribal Agriculture Fellowship for Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students studying agriculture and related fields. DeVon is a member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe and was born and

raised in Washington State.

DeVon previously held a tribal affairs manager role for the family support division of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. She also served as Native American affairs and tribal liaison to the president of Eastern Washington University. She has more than 20 years of experience working in Native education.

"As the Tribal Agriculture Fellowship

develops, it is essential that it be embedded into our Indigenous communities. We are working to create sustainable networks and build pathways to pursue further education for diverse areas of study such as agribusiness, science, research, and land stewardship. We start by engaging with students to connect their educational endeavors to community, culture, and identity," DeVon said in a statement.

## Tribal youth tapped for conservation projects

STAFF REPORT

Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo), unveiled a renewed Indian Youth Service Corps (IYSC) program June 10 at a news conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The program seeks to connect Native American youth aged 16 to 30 with conservation projects on public and Indian lands and into potential career paths.

Organizers intend for the program to help provide good-paying jobs while also tackling the climate crises. The IYSC is also designed for tribal youth to deepen their connections to the nation's natural and cultural resources.

The IYSC was created through the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, and is modeled after other successful programs like the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps (ALCC), which began at Acoma Pueblo in New Mexico in 2008.

The Interior Department is providing \$2 million to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, \$700,000 to the National Park Service and \$600,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation to launch the renewed program.

In addition, the National Park Foundation said it would commit \$1 million to IYSC projects, as well as continue its support of ongoing tribal youth service corps projects. The NPF is currently funding more than 10 such projects across the U.S.

The IYSC projects seek to protect Indigenous cultural practices, languages and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) used for land management practices. Activities can include research projects, oral histories, habitat surveys, climate mitigation, trail restoration, invasive species



ALCC Facebook

Projects would connect Native American youth with conservation projects on ancestral and public lands. Here, youth workers plant a tree outside the Nihii Dine'é Bá, for the People Wellness Center in Fort Defiance, Arizona. (ALCC Facebook)

removal, fire fuels reduction, watershed restoration, recreational expansion and the development of educational, informational or communication materials for the public.

"Indigenous people have a strong and abiding connection to the earth – increasing their access to nature early and often will help lift up the next generation of stewards for this earth," Haaland said at the news conference.

The projects are to take place on tribal lands, or on federal lands where tribes

have ancestral connections. The program authorizes tribes to enter into agreements with qualified youth or conservation corps to carry out the projects. It also allows the secretaries of the departments of the Interior, Agriculture or Commerce to enter into cooperative agreements with tribes to provide funding and other support.

The full program guidelines are available at doi.gov.

## Secretary Haaland reveals members of new tribal committee

STAFF REPORT

region, are as follows.

### Alaska region

Primary: Robert Keith, president, Native Village of Elim. Alternate: Gayla Hoseth, second tribal chief for the Curyung Tribal Council.

### Eastern region (which includes Florida)

Primary: Kelly Dennis, councilwoman, Shinnecock Indian Nation. Alternate: Stephanie Bryan, tribal chair, Poarch Creek Indians.

### Eastern Oklahoma region

Primary: Gary Batton, chief, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Alternate: Del Beaver, second chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

### Great Plains region

Primary: Dionne Crawford, councilwoman, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate for the Lake Traverse District. Alternate: Cora White Horse, councilwoman, Oglala Sioux Tribe.

### Midwest region

Primary: Whitney Gravelle, president, Bay Mills Indian Community. Alternate: Michelle Beaudin, councilwoman, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin.

### Navajo region

Primary: Jonathan Nez, president, Navajo Nation. Alternate: Daniel Tso, council delegate, Navajo Nation.

### Northwest region

Primary: Kat Brigham, chair of the board of trustees, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation. Alternate: Timothy Greene, chairman, Makah Tribe.

### Pacific region

Primary: Erica Pinto, chairwoman, Jamul Indian Village of California. Alternate: Reid Milanovich, chairman, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

### Rocky Mountain region

Primary: Jody LaMere, councilwoman, Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation. Alternate: Jordan Dresser, chairman, Northern Arapaho Business Council.

### Southern Plains region

Primary: Walter Echo-Hawk, chairman, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma. Alternate: Reggie Wassana, governor, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma.

### Southwest region

Primary: Mark Mitchell, APCG chairman, Pueblo of Tesuque. Alternate: Christopher Moquino, governor, Pueblo de San Ildefonso.

### Western region

Primary: Amber Torres, chairman, Walker River Paiute Tribe. Alternate: Terry Rambler, chairman, San Carlos Apache Tribe.

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### CORRECTIONS

A photo caption on the right side of the "Everett Osceola produces feature film with all-Native cast" story on page 5C in the May 31 print edition had an incorrect name. The person in the photo was Diedre Hall.

Also in the story, the tribal affiliation of Beniaren Kane was incorrect. The tribe is Hidatsa, Ho-Chunk and Prairie Band Potawatomi.

# Community



## Memorial Day event remembers fallen heroes

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

About 20 Seminole and community members gathered to honor fallen soldiers at a Memorial Day event May 30, held at the Veterans Fitness Trail Park on the Big Cypress reservation.

“Memorial Day is about remembering those who have fallen in war,” Pastor Arlen Payne, of the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church, said to those in attendance. “Today all across the country there will be events like this.”

Payne emceed the event.

A few tribal members and non-tribal servicemen and women spoke at the somber event.

“Today we pause to make sure they are not forgotten,” Richard Bowers said.

“I’d like to remember all of our tribal

ancestors who fought to keep us free,” said Joe Frank, Associate Justice on the Tribal Court. “And today’s tribal members that joined our new neighbors and allies in keeping us free.”

After the speeches, veterans from each branch of the military raised the flags of those branches to commemorate the day.

“We are thankful for everybody who’s here and thankful for many of them who serve, their dedication and commitment,” Payne said.

George Mutlos, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 23 in Fort Lauderdale, presented a plaque to show the organization’s appreciation for the support its golf tournament received from President Mitchell Cypress and the Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc.

The plaque reads: “Thank you President Mitchell Cypress and the Seminole Tribe of



A plaque presentation from George Mutlos, left, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 23, with former Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress, was part of the Memorial Day event May 30 at the Veterans Fitness Trail Park in Big Cypress.



Richard Bowers speaks at the Memorial Day event in Big Cypress.

Florida Inc. for their generous donation to benefit and support Chapter 23 Annual Golf Tournament. As a token of our appreciation, we present this to you.”

President Cypress’ brother, former Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress, received the plaque from Mutlos at the podium.



The sculpture and tribute wall at the Veterans Fitness Trail Park in Big Cypress.



Seminole veteran Paul Bowers attends the Memorial Day event.



An aerial view of the Veterans Fitness Trail Park.

### ◆ YELLEN From page 2A

But the ARP was an important milestone not only due to the relief it provided; it also began to expand and redefine the relationship of the Treasury Department with tribal nations. At Treasury, we took seriously the charge to use this moment as an opportunity to establish deeper engagement and trust with tribal communities across the country. As Treasury distributed this aid, which in totality is over \$30 billion in direct aid to Tribal governments, we made sure to do so in a way that both respected tribal sovereignty and built upon our partnership to tackle Indian Country’s economic challenges.

We have strengthened our government-to-government relationship with tribal nations. Over the past year and a half, our department has held 15 tribal consultations and over 100 engagement sessions with tribal leaders, along with one-on-one outreach to tribes directly and through related organizations. These consultations serve to strengthen our engagement with tribal national and regional associations and solidify our interagency partnerships. We’ve worked together with the White House to better coordinate the delivery of support to tribal nations.

At Treasury, we integrated tribal leader feedback into our implementation and distribution of funds. We saw that tribes faced unprecedented fiscal challenges because of the pandemic at the same time they took on new responsibilities to keep their citizens

healthy and afloat. So, we designed the Fiscal Recovery Funds to be able to meet the needs of each individual tribe. We utilized tribal self-certified data in allocation methodologies, incorporated tribal flexibilities into guidance, and customized tribal government reporting. Our administration of this aid has shown that learning from and partnering with tribal nations results in better federal policy for tribal and surrounding communities.

We were able to meet the different needs of different tribes. For instance, when you here in Rosebud told us that “many of [your] tribal members cannot afford internet in the home,” which “resulted in many children unable to attend virtual school as well as tribal employees unable to connect remotely,” we worked with you to approve a Capital Projects Funding Award to enhance internet connectivity across the Tribe. To date, Treasury has made \$8 million in Tribal Capital Projects Awards. This is just one way Treasury is working with the rest of the Biden-Harris Administration to improve broadband connectivity across Indian Country.

Our progress over the past year and a half was only possible because of a decision we made at the beginning of this administration: to make sure that tribal communities have a strong voice inside the Treasury building. As we established the Office of Recovery Programs last year, we built in a dedicated tribal policy and engagement team within the office, charged with informing our tribal policy and engagement efforts across recovery programs.

Crucially, this team was

staffed with diverse tribal citizens with previous tribal government, policy, and economic development experience. And it’s on them that I want to end my remarks. Earlier today President Biden announced his intent to appoint Chief Lynn Malerba of the Mohegan Tribe as our next treasurer. For the first time in history, a Native woman’s name will be the signature on our currency.

With this announcement, we are making an even deeper commitment to Indian Country: The Treasury Department is establishing an Office of Tribal and Native Affairs, in the Office of the Treasurer, which will be responsible for Treasury-wide tribal work. Treasurer Malerba will expand our unique relationship with tribal nations, continuing our joint efforts to support the development of tribal economies and economic opportunities for tribal citizens. Importantly, we look forward to working with tribal nations and Congress to make this office permanent – so it will be there for decades to come.

I promised to visit Indian Country, and I couldn’t be more gratified to have had this chance to visit with you today. Treasury and the Administration are deeply committed to partnering with you. We know that the programs the government is now implementing are by no means sufficient to remedy centuries-long inequities and injustices. But they’re a start, and it’s a start that I think we can build upon in the years to come. I’m excited to continue this journey – with you – as even deeper partners. Thank you very much.

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**◆ BOWERS**  
From page 1A

In 2018, Bowers pioneered the re-establishment of Florida Seminole CattleWomen Inc. (FSCW) with the help of the FCW. FSCW is an affiliate of the American National CattleWomen (ANCW). It has 29 members, of which 27 are also members of the FCW and 20 are members of the ANCW.

FSCW has been on a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, but Bowers is working to revive membership.

"I plan to use this organization to promote the beef industry locally and share what it is we do right here within the Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc.," she wrote. "I am also encouraging our membership to seek opportunities to get involved on the state and national levels, as networking is a valuable tool to bring our story of the Seminole Tribe's cattle operation to light."

A group of tribal members attended the FCW meeting to support Bowers, including her mother, Elsie Bowers, her aunt, Martha Jones, Naomi Wilson, Pauletta Bowers, Connie Whidden, Michele Thomas, Kay Braswell, Jade Osceola and Dinorah Johns.

"I feel real good about this," Jones said. "She's a hard worker and I hope she continues on and represents the Seminole Tribe."

"She brought us all in and it's good to support her," Pauletta Bowers said. "She's done a lot already and brought a lot of leadership. She's steering the ship the right way."

Bowers' mother was proud that her daughter became part of the leadership of



The official FCW executive board name tag for Lucy Bowers for 2022-2023.

FCW.

"I'm glad for her, she will do whatever needs to be done," Elsie Bowers said. "It means a lot that she represents the tribe. She is a leader and has always been that way. No matter how hard things get, she will just do it."

**In her own words**

After being installed as parliamentarian, Bowers shared her thoughts on social media.

"A journey that began five years ago, all because I was curious about the beef industry outside of the pasture boundaries. I consider myself to be an introvert, so joining the Florida CattleWomen (FCW) was definitely stepping out of my comfort zone on so many levels.

"What I found was a group of strong-willed ladies who are very passionate and dedicated to giving their time toward promoting beef and were willing to share their knowledge with me.

"I did not expect a 'seat at the table' but I am absolutely honored that Florida CattleWomen have asked a shy Florida Seminole girl to step up and assist with leading their mission. Yes, your girl has been installed onto the FCW Executive Board as Parliamentarian!

"I look forward to working side by side with you ladies to educate the public about a nutritious product and valuable byproduct that we diligently work on producing every day."

# Brighton residents attend Gulf climate rally

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Activists, including some from the Seminole Tribe, will go to great lengths and travel far distances to protect water and the environment. In 2016, Martha Tommie went to the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota to protest the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

On June 4, Tommie and Linda Gore drove from the Brighton Reservation to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to make their voices heard at the "Gulf Gathering for Climate Justice and Joy." Tommie spoke at the event, which drew more than 500 people from across the Gulf region.

"We are trying to save the Everglades," Tommie told the crowd. "I came here to gain knowledge and learn. This gives me strength and hope that I can stand for anything. This is important. The people, land, water, trees and everything God created for us is to protect it, not to destroy it."

The event was organized by Gulf South for a Green New Deal, a coalition of more than 300 organizations from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Puerto Rico who work toward achieving climate, racial and economic justice.

The day brought together representatives of some of the areas most affected by the oil and gas industry. The program began with Native and African drumming and a blessing by members of the United Houma Nation of Louisiana. The Poarch Creek Nation was also represented along with the Golden Feather Hunters and the Congo Square Preservation Society.

The gathering focused on the importance of finding joy in the fight to preserve the Gulf area. Speakers shared their stories and their struggles, but the celebration of food, music, dance and culture were part of the program to demonstrate joy can be found while coming together for a cause.

"I'm trying to be a leader and to be up front," Tommie said. "It makes me humble



Martha Tommie, left, joins a fellow Native American at the "Gulf Gathering for Climate Justice and Joy."

to be here and talk about the water, the land and the humanity. It was good to see other Natives here, including a friend I met at Standing Rock. That's what we do; we stand together and fight against the enemy."

The event also included workshops on the future of offshore energy, climate in a global context and planning a sustainable future. Plenty of music and dancing took place between speeches and sessions, including Zydeco, Cajun and Bomba.

"I came up here for the water and the justice and to look out for the future generations' water because if we don't stand now, nobody's going to stand in the future," Tommie said. "That's why I came, to look out for my people and the Indigenous people."



From left are youth agriculture extension agent Sheri Trent, Pauletta Bowers, Michele Thomas, Connie Whidden, Lucy Bowers, Elsie Bowers, Martha Jones, Naomi Wilson, Kay Braswell, Jade Osceola and Dinorah Johns.



The Florida CattleWomen executive board, from left are Deborah Whaley, chaplain; Lucy Bowers, parliamentarian; Anna Kirkland, secretary; Eden Yarborough, treasurer; Becky Finley, president-elect; and Holly Newsome, president.



Lucy Bowers, left, with her uncle Andrew J. Bowers Jr., center, and her brother Marvin Bowers.



Linda Gore and Martha Tommie are at the center of a group supporting the "Gulf Gathering for Climate Justice and Joy" event in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on June 4.



Martha Tommie, left, and Linda Gore attend the "Gulf Gathering for Climate Justice and Joy." They are in a tent where numerous speakers and musicians performed June 4.

### 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 5700 Griffin Rd Hollywood FL 33314. Comments must be received no later than July 11, 2022. For additional information, contact Emran Rahaman of the Public Works Department at (954) 894-1060 Ext. 10924.

# Hollywood Reservation water plant earns award



Courtesy photo  
The water treatment plant and wastewater treatment plant on the Hollywood Reservation was recognized at the Florida Water Resources Conference in Daytona Beach in late April. The Florida section of the American Water Works Association recognized the water plant as "outstanding" in its class, and the Florida Water Environment Association recognized the wastewater plant with a safety award. From left, Public Works employees Brian Fogle, Rudy Garcia and Bassem Sanaallah.

# Native Learning Center returns to in-person training

SUBMITTED BY NATIVE LEARNING CENTER

**HOLLYWOOD** — In June, the Seminole Tribe's Native Learning Center held its first onsite training since the onset of Covid-19. It had been 844 days since the center returned with onsite in-person training for "Leadership Boot Camp for Housing Professionals."

"We are so thankful to be able to meet with our friends in Indian Country once again and deliver training opportunities in our training center," executive director

Georgette Palmer Smith said.

Tribal member Chelsea Mountain, a Work Experience Program participant from the Housing department, joined the first in-person training to gain knowledge and improve her day-to-day in-office skills.

The Native Learning Center would like to thank all the attendees who participated in the training program and is especially grateful for the outstanding content delivery by instructors Brandi Liberty, of Heroda Bikaxe Consulting LLC, and Jack Hedrick-Lightfoot, of Dobyys Patterson Learning.



NLC  
The in-person attendees celebrate their achievements in June outside the Native Learning Center in Hollywood.



NLC (2)  
Above, Chelsea Mountain holds the certificate she earned for completing a housing leadership program at the Native Learning Center in June. Below, Mountain is joined by Krystal Cedeno, NLC's training and development manager.



# Tribe's mobile command vehicle draws eyes at hurricane conference

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe's new mobile command vehicle (MCV) made an appearance at the 2022 Governor's Hurricane Conference in West Palm Beach from May 8 to May 13. Tribal employees in attendance said the \$1 million, 45-foot-long, state-of-the-art vehicle was a favorite for attendees.

The conference is one of the nation's largest that focuses on hurricane planning, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

The company that built the vehicle, LDV Inc., asked the tribe's head of Public Safety, Will Latchford, if he would make it available for display near the conference's exhibition area for a few days. The tribe's director of Emergency Management, Paul Downing, and Emergency Management coordinators Erik Hartl and Ralph Tirona spent time attending conference sessions, networking and hosting tours of the vehicle.

"As one of the most technologically advanced systems on display, the tribe's mobile command vehicle was at the forefront of everyone's interest," Downing said.

Two of the attendees who requested a tour were Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) region four administrator, Gracia Szczech, and the director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Kevin Guthrie.

The tribe acquired the vehicle through a Department of Homeland Security grant on May 27, 2021.

The MCV can connect to dispatch services across the tribe, monitor the weather and has drone surveillance capability. One of its many benefits is a faster response time for law enforcement and emergency services. For example, the command truck could respond to an affected area during a natural disaster as opposed to people being transported to multiple facilities. The command truck can double as a mobile crime lab and survey an area with thousands of people. It can respond to events like flooding, wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, or even active shooter and terrorism incidents.

Its use is not limited to emergencies, either. The vehicle can function as a mobile medical treatment facility, too. For example, the tribe has the option to use it to distribute Covid-19 vaccines or administer booster shots. It can also be used for event safety and security at tribalwide functions or at Hard Rock events.



Courtesy photo  
The Seminole Tribe's mobile command vehicle.



Courtesy photo  
A view from the back of the mobile command vehicle.



Courtesy photo  
From left, Erik Hartl, Paul Downing, Gracia Szczech and Ralph Tirona.



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

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# The fight to bring Seminole ancestors home

BY ERIC BARTON  
Flamingo Magazine

Skeletons waited for Ryan Wheeler in the basement of a prestigious Massachusetts institution. It was November 2012 when the Floridian and archaeologist began pulling out rows of economically built wood filing cabinets, as if Ikea existed a century ago. He found bits of pottery and items that were buried with the dead over the course of centuries. They had been unearthed along with thousands of Native American remains that ended up in the institute's storage. Wheeler knew none of them should be there.

For Wheeler, 53, the finds were equal parts exciting and overwhelming. He had just begun his job as director of the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology, located at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. Founded in 1901, the Peabody is a venerable institution and among the nation's major holders of Native American archaeology, dating back more than 10,000 years. Descending into the recesses of the red-brick building, Wheeler discovered many of the collections hadn't been properly cataloged. He began the daunting task of sifting through every drawer. The institute's staff of five, along with temporary workers brought on for the task, pulled out each drawer and digitized all of the contents. It felt, he says, like discovering those burial plots all over again.

From the beginning, Wheeler noticed a sizable collection of artifacts from Florida. Having grown up in Lauderhill and having earned three degrees from state universities, he was a Florida boy, and so he gravitated to those drawers first. What he found astounded him and would eventually help uncover an archaeological site that no one knew existed, one that may soon have been paved over for good. It would also start a yearslong effort and a circuitous trip to return native Floridians back to their home soil.

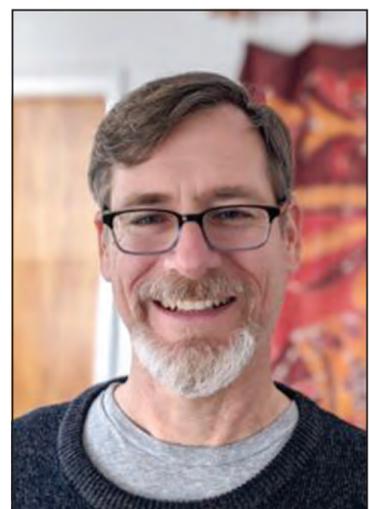
## The Long Road of Repatriation

When Wheeler identified the remains of at least nine Native Americans from Florida in his Massachusetts institute, the first thing he did was home in on a map of where the bodies had been dug up. It was fortuitous that Wheeler was looking at this map, because he was one of only a handful of people in the world who would understand its significance.

Before coming to the Peabody, Wheeler had been the official archaeologist for the state of Florida, a job he started in 2004. In that role, he often oversaw discoveries of unmarked gravesites uncovered during construction projects. He says he didn't know every archaeological dig site in the state, but just about. As he suspected, the site on the map at the Peabody had not been officially recorded.

Wheeler quickly moved to protect the location. He filed paperwork with the state of Florida in December 2012 that would help keep the site from immediate development.

It would take years more to determine what should happen to the Native Americans next. That's in part because of the sheer breadth of the project Wheeler had taken on. To date, the Peabody has returned the remains of 2,004 people to Native American tribes from storage, including a large joint repatriation with Harvard University. There



Courtesy photo

Ryan Wheeler, director of the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology.



Courtesy photo

Pamela Geller, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Miami.

are another 150 ancestors in whose case all paperwork has been completed and are awaiting repatriation, and there are 98 that are labeled "culturally unidentified," essentially meaning nobody has yet to determine where they should be returned.

On July 20, 2018, Wheeler wrote to the Seminoles. He told them he had big news: He might have found some of their ancestors.

Having worked with the Seminoles many times over the years, Wheeler knew the tribe had spent a generation tracking down and reburial of stolen ancestors, a practice known as repatriation. Tina Osceola oversees the program for the Seminoles. There's little joy in the work, she says. Osceola compares it to a scene she often witnessed in her former job as a tribal judge.

After a conviction, family members of victims would often become emotional—tears of joy mixed with pain.

"Honestly? I don't think there's any part of it that makes me happy, because it's so incredibly tragic," Osceola, 54, says of repatriation. "The only reward we get out of doing this work is stopping it from happening again."

The Seminoles have brought home thousands of their ancestors from museums all over the country. It's rare for anyone to know the identities of the bodies, since the grave robbers didn't always record or know who they were unearthing. The Seminoles have been on the hunt over the years for several high-profile ancestors, including Chief Osceola, the tribal leader from the 1800s. A surgeon serving in the Florida militia reportedly removed Osceola's head after his death in 1838 and absconded with it. Tina Osceola says the tribe's search for the skull has resulted in dead ends and stories that seem like myths, like the one that claims the Chief's head burned in a fire. "Whenever we want something back, we find out it was burned in a fire," says Tina Osceola. While she isn't sure she's related to the legendary tribal leader, she still takes the search personally.

There have been historical documents that recorded the identities of the remains in two or three of the repatriations, Osceola says. In those instances, her office reached out to the families to see if they wished to take part in a reburial, but none did. It was simply too shocking for them to learn that their ancestors had been stored in the depths of a museum for so many years. She declined to identify them by name, out of respect for the families. "In our culture, this is unnatural," Osceola says with a grievous tone. "It's sad to know this is a relative of yours. You didn't even know they were taken."

Osceola grew up in Naples and is the granddaughter of Cory Osceola, who was the leader of the Independent Seminoles. The Independent Seminoles is a group that was skeptical of the U.S. government's efforts to urge Native Americans to join tribes, fearing it was all just another trick by colonialists. Her grandfather had passed away by the time Tina Osceola joined the Seminoles in 1983, which she did because she couldn't afford college without scholarships available to tribal members. Osceola got a political science degree from Rollins College and a master's in public administration from Nova Southeastern University. In 2015, she was among the first judges in new courts set up by the Seminoles. During the pandemic in 2020, the Seminoles went on lockdown, suspending trials, and Osceola began rethinking what she wanted to do with her life. The lead position in the tribe's repatriation office opened up, and Osceola took over in August 2021.

When her office got the call from Wheeler about the Seminoles in Massachusetts, it triggered a lengthy process to repatriate them. It also meant trying to figure out how they had gotten there in the first place. At the time, remnants from the grave robbing in Orlando were spread out among nine or ten drawers in the basement of the Peabody. The drawers held an illustrated journal which listed separate sections of bays and drawers that held skeletons. The journal also documented how the collection had gotten to Massachusetts.

The story begins in the spring of 1919 when a man from Haverhill, Massachusetts, named Fred Luce contracted the Spanish influenza during the last global pandemic. Luce worked in the Victory Destroyer naval shipyard during World War I and nearly died from the flu. He took his family to Florida in October of 1919 while he recuperated. Luce and his sons had been amateur archaeologists back home, and so they set out to find spots to dig near their temporary home.

They discovered an Indian mound near the shores of Lake Tibet southwest of Orlando and started digging. A village once stood on what must have been a scenic rise overlooking the lake, knobby cypress and cabbage palms draped in Spanish moss along its banks. The Luces collected skeletons and thousands of artifacts, taking them home when they returned to Massachusetts. Eventually they turned over their finds to a local museum, which in turn gave them to the Peabody.

These are among tens of thousands of Native American remains held in museums across the country for centuries. Often, the reason for this is quite simply racism.

## When Grave Robbing Became a Profession

Back in the 1800s, xenophobes thought they could use science to justify the subjugation of Black and Native American people. These pseudo-scientists hoped that by measuring skulls they could find some proof to determine that white people were smarter than people of other races.

To collect the skulls, they hired grave

robbers. They dug up cemeteries, sites of Civil War battles, and sacred Native American burial mounds dating back millennia. They were called resurrectionists, and they pockmarked the country with their thievery. They hauled skeletons into museums and research institutions, like macabre bounty hunters.

When Pamela Geller started as an anthropology student in the 1990s at the University of Pennsylvania, skulls looked down on her from inside glass cabinets in her classrooms. As a graduate student, Geller took inventory of the skulls in the university's collections and, in some cases, set out to return them to their people.

Geller, now an associate professor in the department of anthropology at the University of Miami, contacted several tribes to let them know some of the skulls at the University of Pennsylvania came from their ancestors. The Seminoles were one of several tribes who came to the university to collect their ancestors, a moment Geller, 48, says was a mix of difficult emotions. Sometimes the visits went well. Michigan's Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians even invited Geller and others to participate in a Calumet,



Courtesy photo

In March 2019, a group of tribal members and tribal employees, including Domonique deBeaubien, second from left, and Tina Osceola, third from left, gathered on the National Mall near the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., after they met with the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

or a pipe ceremony where sage is burned to help ancestors on their overdue journey to the afterlife.

But another group, "they just yelled at us, and rightfully so, because the ancestors were, well..." Geller says, trailing off. "Just to work with the tribes, it was pretty profound." Being Jewish, Geller says she can't help but think about the similarities to the genocide her people suffered and what happened to the Native Americans. "It's emotional. I don't know how you can't be emotional about this. I think it makes your science better to see the larger background."

It's not always so easy for the Seminoles to get their ancestors back. Not all institutions are as forthcoming as the University of Pennsylvania and the Peabody. Among the museums the Seminoles say have been especially difficult is one of our nation's most esteemed: the Smithsonian Institution.

In its defense, the Smithsonian points to following the law closely, says Bill Billeck, program manager of the Smithsonian's Repatriation Office. Federal law requires museums to return the bones if a tribe can prove to be "culturally affiliated" to the remains.

While the Seminoles have asked for the remains of about 1,500 native Florida people from the Smithsonian, it may be difficult to prove that cultural affiliation, according to Billeck, noting that the Seminoles began migrating to Florida in the 1700s, while many of the people taken from Florida gravesites date back thousands of years. Most of the tribes that preceded the Seminoles in Florida have been lost to history. If the Seminoles fail to prove cultural affiliation, the tribe can still attempt to claim its ancestors under the museum's "culturally unaffiliated policy."

To date, Billeck says his office has offered to Native American tribes the remains of about 6,600 people and 220,000 funerary objects. As the Seminoles' request is evaluated, Billeck says the remains from Florida will be kept in a Maryland facility.

"I have a lot of respect for native people, and I really value working with them. I hope eventually the Seminole will be pleased with the result [of their requests], but I know they're not happy with us right now, because we're not returning things immediately," Billeck says.

For Osceola, that argument is nonsensical, since all people native to North America share a lineage. After a decade of refusals by the Smithsonian, her office started a hashtag that took off on social media: #NoMoreStolenAncestors. She hopes the attention puts pressure on museums to understand how her people see it, that ancestors who aren't at rest poison the generations that follow.

"There's an inextricable relationship between ancestors and their descendants, and that relationship doesn't stop beyond someone's death," Osceola says. "When their remains are being stored in cabinets, they've been separated from the natural world that they were supposed to be in. That's against every rule of law and the creator's law for us. If our ancestors aren't healthy, neither are we."

For the bones found in the Peabody's basement, the process to return them to where they were stolen should have been simple. Then, the pandemic struck.

## Correcting a Century-Old Wrong

Back in Massachusetts, when Wheeler first found the skeletons of ancient Floridians in the basement of his museum, the piece of land where they had been unearthed was getting ready for its next life.

The site is part of an 18-acre tract in the Bay Hill area of Orlando. A company called Unicorn National Developments, Inc. planned to build luxury homes costing up to \$2 million. They would call it Carmel by the Lake.

But because Wheeler happened upon those skeletons and recorded the burial site, the developers had no choice but to allow archaeologists to conduct a dig. The state of Florida hired a Gainesville-based company called Search, Inc. to handle the excavation. The site is now called the Macey Mound. The team of archaeologists began digging up remains and relocating them to a spot



Courtesy photo

Tina Osceola, director, Seminole Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

point during the trip, acquired an ancient skull that he brought home as if it was a vacationer's souvenir. He gave the skull to the Bruce Museum, which displayed it in its "Indian Room."

When Reinhardt found the skull in storage decades later, she made contact with the Seminoles and started the process of repatriation. After the bones from the Peabody arrived by courier, Reinhardt says the Bruce Museum's COO and her husband drove the bones to Pennsylvania, where they met an archaeologist from Search, Inc. who had worked on the Macey Mound site, and she took both sets of remains the rest of the way to Orlando.

What happened to the bones from there isn't something the Seminoles like to discuss with outsiders. They fear more grave robbers and say it's a process sacred to the tribe. Where they ended up, whether there's a marker there—those are things nobody outside the tribe should know. But Osceola will say this: The remains were returned to Florida soil.

The process often reminds Osceola of something her grandmother said to her before she left for college: "Don't forget where you come from." At the time, she thought it was a warning about remembering the directions to drive back home. Now, it's something she thinks about regularly, the idea that she needs to preserve the memory of the people who came before her. "I know there are ancestors who fought to survive, to live this life that I'm living right now," she says. "To think those ancestors are sitting on a shelf in some dusty room. They're not being kept with any care. There's no ceremony. They're not with their people or where they come from."

While the Seminoles don't allow outsiders to witness the reburials, in 2015, a reporter from The Seminole Tribune, the tribe's newspaper, documented the return of 21 skulls. They were the ones that Geller helped repatriate from the University of Pennsylvania. The skulls included three children, two women and 16 men collected at battlefields from the Seminole Wars. Willie Johns, the chief justice of Tribal Court before he passed away in 2020, brought the skulls to their final resting spot. He carried them in a cardboard box wrapped in white burial cloth. The skulls were lowered into a hole dug by a backhoe into the mucky soil near Lake Okeechobee.

During a eulogy before a small crowd, Johns contemplated the words he would use if he had the chance to speak to the ancestors he was burying. "I would say, 'Welcome home. Welcome home. And, oh, by the way, did you hear? We won. Your people are still here in Florida. And they are doing well.'"

*Editor's note: This article first appeared in the spring/summer 2022 issue of Flamingo magazine.*

# Hard Rock Live venue debuts at California casino

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain opened its Hard Rock Live entertainment venue June 3 with a sold-out concert by pop band Maroon 5. The 65,000-square-foot venue seats 2,500 and can accommodate 3,500 in a general admission format.

The casino and hotel portion of Hard Rock Sacramento opened in 2019 – part of a \$75 million project. Officials said more than two million people have visited since the opening. The Hard Rock Live debut was part of a second phase of opening.

Hard Rock Sacramento is a partnership between the Enterprise Rancheria Tribe and the Seminole Tribe – the parent entity of Hard Rock International. Hard Rock manages the development, while Enterprise Rancheria owns the property and licenses the brand from Hard Rock.

The development is located in Wheatland, California, about 35 miles north of Sacramento. It was built on about 40 acres in a rural area of Yuba County within the tribe's lands. It's the first venture of its kind in California for Hard Rock.

Officials said the Hard Rock Live venue, in addition to concerts, serves as a flexible event center with the capability to host live shows, sporting events, galas and more. The design of the seating puts spectators never more than 140-feet from the stage, officials said.

The venue also features Hard Rock's



Image via YouTube

Maroon 5, with lead vocalist Adam Levine, performs June 3 at the grand opening of the Hard Rock Live in Wheatland, California.

memorabilia – more than 40 pieces – as well as a photo booth and bar.

"Live music and entertainment are fundamental attributes of the Hard Rock brand," Mark BIRTHA, president of Hard Rock Sacramento, said in a June 1 news release. "We are so excited to be able to provide unmatched entertainment experiences from premier talent in a venue unlike any other in

the Sacramento region."

The space can also be used in the event of regional emergencies, officials said. The building was designed to be available as an emergency shelter for up to 1,000 people, if needed.

More information is at [hardrockhotelsacramento.com](http://hardrockhotelsacramento.com).

# Hard Rock Tejon casino-resort clears major hurdle

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The Tejon Indian Tribe of California has taken a big step toward the development of a \$600 million Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tejon in Mettler.

Tribal officials signed a gaming compact with Gov. Gavin Newsom June 13. The compact not only gives state approval for the tribe's reservation – the first time it has had a sovereign homeland in more than 150 years – but also establishes the terms for its gaming rights, which effectively gives the green light for the Hard Rock Tejon project to proceed. The site is located near Bakersfield in Kern County.

In June 2019, the tribe announced it had partnered with Hard Rock International (HRI) in a development and operating deal for the project. The tribe's chair, Octavio Escobedo III, said at the time that HRI, whose parent entity is the Seminole Tribe, had "stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us to help make our dream of restoring our land base a close-at-hand reality."

Hard Rock entered into a similar partnership with the Enterprise Rancheria Tribe of California, which resulted in the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain opening in 2019.

The Hard Rock Tejon calls for an 11-story hotel with 400 rooms and a 166,500-square foot gaming floor. There would be convention and meeting space, an event center, restaurants, an RV park and tribal offices. Once completed the project is expected to create 4,900 jobs.



Hard Rock

This rendering is a representation of the proposed Hard Rock Tejon casino-resort.

The original Tejon Indian Reservation was established in 1853 and was known as the first Native American reservation in California. According to the tribe, it was dissolved in 1864 after many of its inhabitants were forcibly relocated to the Tule River Reservation about 60 miles away.

The tribe was federally recognized in 2012 and today has approximately 1,200 members, which the tribe says have mostly lived in the Bakersfield area since the 1950s.

In 2015, the tribe applied to have a 306-acre parcel of land in Mettler taken into trust by the federal government. The Bureau of Indian Affairs signed off on the application

in January 2021, saying it would allow the tribe to be self-sufficient and maintain a stable source of revenue to provide for governmental programs. Gov. Newsom then needed to approve the BIA decision, which he did June 13.

The tribe said it expects to use 52 acres of the site for the Hard Rock Tejon. The remaining land would be used for administrative offices, a health care facility and other infrastructure support. No specific timeline for construction or a predicted opening date has yet been announced.

More information is at [hardrockhotelcasinotejon.com](http://hardrockhotelcasinotejon.com).

## ◆ ATHENS From page 1A

HRI said the design of the project was inspired by basic Greek elements such as the sea, the arts and ancient mythology, combined with the modern requirements of

architecture. Open spaces, gardens and water features are key elements of the project's design, HRI said, with a large amount of green open space. The development's three-level tower uses nautical references, incorporating waves, sails and a lighthouse in its design.

The project also includes the highest outdoor rooftop terrace in Athens, HRI said,

with a rooftop pool deck that consists of bars, a spa and fitness center.

Hard Rock Athens is the latest addition to HRI's overseas portfolio, with venues in over 70 countries spanning 265 locations. The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of HRI. More is at [hardrock.com](http://hardrock.com).



Rendering courtesy Hard Rock

The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Athens is set to open in 2026.

# Tracy Bradford to lead Seminole Hard Rock Support Services

STAFF REPORT

Tracy Bradford has been promoted to president of Seminole Hard Rock Support Services. She is responsible for the management and operations of support services, customer care and aviation. A news release announced the promotion June 3.

Seminole Hard Rock Support Services was established in 2017 to consolidate and coordinate multiple staff functions between Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming, which share office space in Davie, Florida.

Bradford was previously the executive vice president of administration for Seminole Hard Rock Support Services.

"Tracy Bradford has been instrumental in the hugely successful coordination of purchasing and other staff functions of Seminole Hard Rock Support Services," Jim Allen, the chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming, said in the release. "She will be a driving force in maximizing the benefits of its entire consolidated operation."

Bradford joined Seminole Gaming in 2005 as director of purchasing at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, and then served as vice president of purchasing for Seminole Gaming.

The New Jersey native began her career in the casino industry in 1984 as a clerk with Caesars Atlantic City Hotel & Casino. Two years later she worked for the former Trump Plaza in Atlantic City as a junior buyer –



Hard Rock

Tracy Bradford

the beginning of a 10-year career with the Trump Organization. She helped to open the former Trump Taj Mahal, which is now the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City.

Bradford has worked at many other casinos throughout her career as well, including the Isle of Capri Casino, Sam's Town Casino and Ameristar Casino, all located in Mississippi.

The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of Hard Rock International and the owner of Seminole Gaming.

# Matthew Zappoli named creative culinary director at Hard Rock Tampa

STAFF REPORT

TAMPA — Hard Rock officials announced June 24 that chef Matthew Zappoli has been named creative culinary director of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

The New Jersey native now oversees all the Hard Rock Tampa restaurants. He was

previously chef de cuisine at Cipresso.

Zappoli previously served as executive chef at NYY Steak located at the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek. In 2010, he was crowned champion on an episode of the Food Network's "Chopped" TV series.

Zappoli is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York.

# Supreme Court sides with Texas tribes on bingo games

STAFF REPORT

After a long legal battle with the state of Texas, a U.S. Supreme Court decision allows two Texas tribes to conduct electronic bingo games at their facilities.

The court's 5-4 ruling issued June 15, determined the Texas tribes have the autonomy to regulate electronic bingo games on their lands in compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, like most other U.S. tribes, regardless of the state's rules on bingo, which is permitted in the state of Texas.

The tribes involved in the legal process are the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Reservation (near El Paso and known as the Tiguas) and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas (north of Houston), which operate the Speaking Rock and Naskila gaming facilities, respectively.

"The court's decision is an affirmation of tribal sovereignty and a victory for the

Texas economy," Ricky Sylestine, chair of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas' tribal council, said in a statement June 15. "The highest court in the land has made clear that our tribe has the right to legally operate electronic bingo on our reservation, just as we have the past six years."

However in the majority opinion, Justice Neil M. Gorsuch emphasized that the ruling doesn't mean Native American tribes can offer any games they choose on their lands.

"None of this is to say that the tribe may offer gaming on whatever terms it wishes. The Restoration Act provides that a gaming activity prohibited by Texas law is also prohibited on tribal land as a matter of federal law," Gorsuch wrote. "Other gaming activities are subject to tribal regulation and must conform to the terms and conditions set forth in federal law."

Texas' lawyers have argued that the electronic bingo machines are like slot machines, which are banned by Texas, and thus forbidden as a matter of federal law.

# MGM sells hotel-casino to Cherokee Nation

STAFF REPORT

MGM Resorts International is selling the operating rights to its Gold Strike Hotel & Casino to the Cherokee Nation. The \$450 million cash deal was announced June 9. Gold Strike is located in Tunica, Mississippi.

It's the latest large-scale cash transaction between MGM and a tribal gaming entity. Late last year, MGM agreed to sell the operations of the Mirage Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas to Hard Rock International (HRI) for \$1.075 billion in cash. HRI plans to build a guitar-shaped hotel on the Las Vegas Strip. The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of

HRI. "Gold Strike is a wonderful property with a bright future ahead," MGM CEO Bill Hornbuckle, said in a statement. "Strategically, though, we decided to narrow our focus in Mississippi to a single resort — Beau Rivage..."

The Beau Rivage Hotel & Casino is located in Biloxi.

The Gold Strike transaction to Cherokee Nation Entertainment Gaming Holdings LLC is scheduled to close in the first half of 2023.

The Cherokee Nation, located in present-day Oklahoma, is the largest tribe in the U.S. with more than 390,000 citizens worldwide.

# Chicago council approves winning casino bid

STAFF REPORT

Chicago's first casino project is set to be built by Bally's Corp. The casino entertainment company's bid won out over competing bids from Hard Rock International and Rush Street Gaming. Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot announced the selection of Bally's on May 5 and the city council approved it three weeks later.

Hard Rock had proposed a \$1.74 billion casino as part of a massive mixed-use project that would have been built near the Soldier

Field stadium. It would have included a 500-room hotel and 3,500-seat live entertainment venue, among other amenities.

Bally's \$1.7 billion proposal is to redevelop a former Chicago Tribune plant into a gaming and entertainment destination. It is on a 30-acre site location along the Chicago River in the city's River West neighborhood.

Hard Rock operates a Hard Rock Cafe in Chicago and the Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana in Gary, about 30 miles from Chicago.

# A century of Seminole golf in photographs

BY TARA BACKHOUSE  
Collections Manager

**BIG CYPRESS** — Golf has a very long history. Its specific origins have been lost to time, however it's generally accepted that it began in Scotland in the Middle Ages. That was over 1,000 years ago. But for the last 150 years the game has enjoyed widespread popularity throughout the world and close to home. But have you ever wondered when the first Seminole or Miccosukee person played golf? We certainly don't have a

definite answer for that. But a picture recently added to the museum's collection may show one of the earliest games of golf enjoyed by a community member here in Florida. The image shows a very early 20th century game of golf being enjoyed by some well-dressed players. Fast forward nearly 100 years and the Seminole Tribe has not lost its love for the game. In the 2000s, three gentlemen paused a game to pose for a picture. From this picture of Steve Osceola, Jimmy Hank Osceola and Moses Jumper Jr., it's not clear who was winning the game. They all look happy, so hopefully a lot of fun was had. The love of golf can start early in life as well. On Big Cypress in the year

2000, golf pro Shirlee Aylor was brought on to share her skills with some local children. Maybe this event led to a lifelong enjoyment of the greatest game ever played.

And even though the last two years of the Covid-19 pandemic have limited golfing and other group activities, a search of the Seminole Tribe website ([seminoletribe.com](http://seminoletribe.com)) shows that golf has remained an important subject with several events over

the past few years.

The rest of 2022 will no doubt bring even more golfing events to the Seminole Tribe and we look forward to seeing the Tribune's coverage of those events. In the meantime, if you'd like to peruse pictures of golf and golfers in the museum's collection, about 700 golf related photos can be found at [seminoletribe.pastperfectonline.com/photo](http://seminoletribe.pastperfectonline.com/photo).

If you're on Big Cypress, you can stop

in to see us and we can help you find them in the museum library. You can also reach out by email at [museum@seminoletribe.com](mailto:museum@seminoletribe.com) or phone (863) 902-1113 to request copies of photos or to make an appointment. Hope to see you soon!



This golf game most likely took place in South Florida in the 1930s.



From left, Steve Osceola, Jimmy Hank Osceola and Moses Jumper Jr. on a golf course in the 2000s.



Golf pro Shirlee Aylor teaches golf techniques to Big Cypress children in 2000.

# 'Groundbreaking' Native TV series debuts on AMC

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Another mainstream television series has been added to a growing list of Native-led productions.

"Dark Winds" is based on a book series by Tony Hillerman and is described as a psychological thriller that follows two Navajo police officers in the 1970s Southwest. The officers search for clues in a grisly double murder case that force them to challenge their own spiritual beliefs and come to terms with the trauma of their pasts.

The show was created and executive produced by Graham Roland (Chickasaw Nation) and stars Zahn McClarnon (Hunkpapa - Lakota), Kiowa Gordon (Hualapai) and Jessica Matten (Red River Metis-Cree). Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/Arapaho) serves as director and executive producer. All five took part in a virtual roundtable June 7 hosted by the Native American

Journalists Association to promote the series. The show aired the first of six episodes June 12 on AMC.

"Dark Winds" is part of a recent surge of Hollywood TV productions like "Rutherford Falls" and "Reservation Dogs" that feature Native Americans in front of the camera and behind it. The cast and crew of "Dark Winds" is 85% Native American and 70% of the show's debut season was shot on Tesuque Pueblo and Cochiti Pueblo in New Mexico.

"As a Native American I grew up in a time when Native stories had a white character; [stories were] done through a white character's point of view," Roland said. "This one is told through Native American characters."

While based on Hillerman's books, the writers on the show are Diné (Navajo) — a milestone itself.

"We were looking to the Native writing staff and their experiences and taking our lead from them," Roland said.

Through the journeys of the tribal police characters, the show broaches Indian Country issues like forced sterilization, forced assimilation and racism.

"Having control over our own stories is important and we're getting control now," Zahn, who plays one of the police officers, said. "It's a great step toward seeing Natives and their experience as normal. It allows the audiences to see that Native culture is American culture [and] is American history."

Eyre said the show is proof of a shift that's taking place in Hollywood.

"It's groundbreaking," Eyre said. "People are paying attention to Indigenous stories and talent."

Eyre said he's hopeful for a second season to be approved. For now, season one and its six episodes are available on AMC and AMC+.

More information is at [amc.com](http://amc.com).



Zahn McClarnon, left, and Kiowa Gordon play tribal police officers in the series.

# NMAI launches 'Ancestors Know Who We Are'

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian new digital exhibition "Ancestors Know Who We Are" features works by six contemporary Black-Indigenous women artists that address issues of race, gender, multiracial identity and intergenerational knowledge.

Visit the [AmericanIndian.si.edu/ancestors-know-who-we-are](http://AmericanIndian.si.edu/ancestors-know-who-we-are)

to experience artwork by Rodslen Brown (Black/Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, 1960-2020), Joelle Joyner (African American and Kawwets'a:ka [Meherrin] descent), Moira Pernambuco (African and Amerindian [Wapishana]), Paige Pettibon (Black, Salish, and white descent), Monica Rickert-Bolter (Prairie Band Potawatomi, Black, and German), and Storme Webber (Alaskan Sugpiaq [Alutiiq] and

Black descent).

"The women featured in this exhibition powerfully tell their stories through the art they created," Cynthia Chavez Lamar, the museum's director, said in a statement.

The exhibition also features artist interviews and writings from Black and Black-Indigenous scholars in the fields of history, gender studies, art history and education.

# Artifact of the Month

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

July 2022



As we make our way through our annual wet season, Florida's residents and visitors have already been met with a deluge of water. The constant alerts for tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings have most of us wondering when the really big storm is going to hit. Closer to home, storms have a huge impact on the rise and fall of water levels for our various ponds, streams, lakes, and canals. Certain marsh plants are great indicators of just how high the water levels have gotten ([Florida Native Plant Society](http://FloridaNativePlantSociety.org)).

Alligator or fire flag is this month's artifact (bottom). The plant, which blooms between May and July can grow up to 10 feet tall but can start growing in very shallow water (2-3ft). It is often used for wetland restoration and is a great home for water birds to hide their nest. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation has a large boardwalk that visitors can utilize. There are great examples of alligator flag (above) along the path that can be seen clearly even though the boardwalk sits around 4 feet above the ground. Alligator flag really is a TALL plant so when the water levels rise, check to see if it gets covered!



THPO

# Health



## HHS updates Covid-19 guidelines

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe's Health and Human Services (HHS) department has updated its Covid-19 quarantine and isolation guidelines.

According to HHS executive director Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley, if a person has tested positive for Covid-19 or has been exposed to someone who has the virus, the quarantine and isolation period is now five days instead of 10.

The new guideline took effect June 27. In addition, there is no longer a mandatory quarantine period for those returning from international travel.

Quarantine is a strategy to prevent transmission of the virus by keeping people who have been in close contact with someone with Covid-19 apart from others. Kiswani-Barley said tribal members who develop symptoms in quarantine — usually within five days — should contact their local

clinic.

Isolation takes place, she said, when an individual is sick and has tested positive for Covid-19, even without symptoms. HHS recommends that those in isolation stay home, separate from others, wear a mask and stay in a "sick room" or other area and use a separate bathroom when available.

"We're seeing that most people who are positive resolve their symptoms in five days," she said. "However, you should wear a mask for another five days to keep others safe."

She said travel should be avoided during the 10 day period (five days quarantine/isolation, five days mask use) when possible.

Kiswani-Barley added that there's currently no requirement to retest for the virus. However, she said it's important for tribal members to contact their health clinic if symptoms aren't resolving or worsen, and if someone is in an immuno-compromised status.

The new guidelines come as positive cases ebbed and flowed in May and June.

"It's going to go up, it's going to go down," Kiswani-Barley said. "The important thing is to have no hospitalizations or deaths."

Meanwhile, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved the Covid-19 vaccine for those six months and older. HHS is administering those vaccines — Pfizer and Moderna — in local health clinics.

In addition, Kiswani-Barley said tribal members should look for health fairs to be coming their way starting in the second week of July at all the reservations. At press time HHS was still working on a date for the Tampa community. The health fairs will feature vendors and there will be wellness checks for blood sugar, blood pressure and more. Questions about quarantine, isolation or vaccinations can be directed to the HHS hotline at (833) 786-3458.

## Patrice Kunesh nominated to serve in lead ANA position

STAFF REPORT

Patrice H. Kunesh, of Standing Rock Lakota descent, has been nominated to serve as commissioner of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Native Americans (ANA).

The Biden administration made the announcement June 22 in a news release. The U.S. Senate must confirm the appointment.

The position promotes self-sufficiency for Native Americans by providing funding for community-based projects, training, and technical assistance to eligible tribal nations and Native organizations. The position includes roles in Native language preservation, social and economic development, and the administration of American Rescue Plan Act programs. ANA partners with related programs in the administration for children and families,

other HHS programs, and other federal agencies and nonprofit organizations.

Kunesh currently works on the development team at the Native American Rights Fund, where she has held multiple positions. She recently founded Pehiñ Haha Consulting, described as a social enterprise committed to fostering culturally centered Native economic development.

Kunesh previously served as in-house counsel to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and on the faculty at the University of South Dakota School of Law. She has held appointments as the deputy undersecretary for rural development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and as the deputy solicitor for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Kunesh earned a law degree from the University of Colorado Law School and a master's degree in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

## Native tribes, health organizations awarded funding for cancer prevention, control

STAFF REPORT

Eighteen Native organizations and tribes were among 86 recipients awarded a round of funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC announced June 8 first-year funding awards of \$215 million in a 5-year, \$1.1 billion investment geared toward three national programs to prevent and control cancer. The funding is part of President Biden's "Cancer Moonshot" effort to reduce the death rate from cancer by at least 50% over the next 25 years and improve the experience of people impacted by cancer.

The recipients include state, local, tribal, and territorial public health organizations and academic institutions.

"This funding is an important part of our strategy to support communities in improving chronic disease outcomes among

people experiencing health disparities and inequities," Karen Hacker, director of CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, said in a statement. "Cancer prevention and control is an urgent public health issue, as cancer remains the second leading cause of death in the United States with more than 1,600 people dying of cancer every day. We can do more together to save lives and make this disease history."

According to the CDC, the funding supports progress toward its goals that include reducing preventable cancers and improving health and wellness for cancer survivors.

The funding will go through three national cancer programs: the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP), the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (NCCCP) and the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR).

### Tribal NBCCEDP Award Recipients

American Indian Cancer Foundation	\$400,000
Arctic Slope Native Association Limited	\$899,000
Cherokee Nation	\$836,119
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	\$809,804
Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board	\$900,000
Hopi Tribe	\$600,000
Kaw Nation of Oklahoma	\$526,062
Native American Rehab. Assn. of the Northwest	\$825,182
Navajo Nation	\$1,061,000
South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency	\$899,000
Southcentral Foundation	\$1,400,000
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium	\$933,387
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	\$983,740

### Tribal NCCCP Award Recipients

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	\$352,711
American Indian Cancer Foundation	\$334,950
California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.	\$350,391
Cherokee Nation	\$196,418
Fond du Lac Reservation	\$342,085
Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board	\$341,988
Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan	\$300,000
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Bd.	\$335,580
South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency	\$285,000

## US life expectancy still falling, Native Americans hardest hit

BY LISA MARSHALL  
CU Boulder Today  
(University of Colorado)

Life expectancy of Native Americans in the United States dropped by a shocking 4.7 years during the Covid-19 pandemic, about three times that of whites and by far the most of any ethnic group, according to new University of Colorado Boulder research.

The study also found that in 2021, while its peer countries around the world appeared to rebound from a historic 2020 dip in life expectancy, the U.S. experienced even higher death rates.

"With the wide availability of vaccines in the United States, there was a lot of optimism that 2021 would look better than 2020," said co-author Ryan Masters, an associate professor of sociology. "That did not happen. The U.S. didn't take Covid seriously to the extent that other countries did, and we paid a horrific price for it, with black and brown people suffering the most."

The paper marks the latest in a series co-authored by researchers at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and the Washington-D.C.-based Urban Institute.

The first, published in the British Medical Journal, found that overall U.S. life expectancy plunged by nearly two years between 2019 and 2020, the greatest dip since World War II.

Racial minorities were hit hardest, with life expectancy slipping 3.25 years among Black Americans and nearly four years among Hispanics during that time, compared to 1.36 years among whites.

For the new paper, which has not yet been peer-reviewed, the team looked at official death data for 2019 and 2020 as well as provisional data for 2021 from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), including newly available data on

Native American (American Indian/Alaska Native) mortality.

"As a nation, we tend to be blind to health trends in our Indigenous population because of challenges to collecting accurate data," said co-author Dr. Steven Woolf, director emeritus of Family Medicine and Population Health at VCU. "Our study provides a rare glimpse into the scale of the disparities they live with and reminds us of the need for systemic change."

In 2019, the life expectancy of the Native American population in the United States was already the lowest of any racial/ethnic group, at 75 years for women and 68.6 for men. By 2021, those numbers had slipped to 70.4 for women and just under 64 for men.

Previous studies of hospitalized patients have shown that Native Americans died of Covid-19 at a higher rate than any other population. And, according to the Centers for Disease Control, American Indian/Alaskan Native individuals are 1.6 times as likely to be infected with Covid-19, three times as likely to be hospitalized, and twice as likely to die as a result of Covid-19 as whites.

"Native American populations have been ostracized and pushed to the margins to the most extreme extent in this country's history, so we expected to see a decline in life expectancy," said Masters, noting that such populations often lack access to vaccines, quality health care and transportation to seek care. "But the magnitude was shocking. You just don't see numbers like this in advanced countries in the modern day."

When the researchers looked at data from the Human Mortality Database and other statistical agencies to glean information about 21 other high-income democratic countries, they discovered another troubling

trend:

While the rest of the developed world began to rebound from COVID-19's toll on life expectancy in 2021, the U.S. did not.

Overall, U.S. life expectancy decreased from 78.85 years in 2019 to 76.98 years in 2020, slipping even further to 76.44 years in 2021—a net loss of 2.41 years. Peer countries, in comparison, saw only .55 years of lost life expectancy between 2019 and 2020 and a 0.26 increase between 2020 and 2021.

Researchers noted that life expectancy during the pandemic actually increased in some countries studied, including in Australia, New Zealand, Norway and South Korea.

Masters attributes the United States' grim numbers to social inequities, systemic racism and health disparities, such as high rates of obesity and heart disease, that existed long before the pandemic.

Curiously, when looking only at 2021, the new study found that the racial group that experienced the sharpest decline in life expectancy was whites.

The reason is unclear, but Masters suspects high rates of vaccine hesitancy and resistance to mitigation measures among this population may play a role.

The authors chose to post the research online now, on the preprint server medRxiv, because they believed it held an important and timely message.

"I know we are all ready for this pandemic to be over, but I think we need to hold in our collective memory as a nation just what a devastating toll it has taken and realize that, as demonstrated by our peer countries, much of this was avoidable," said Masters. "By presenting the numbers, we hope to clarify what happened so we can learn from it."

## Aaron Payment to head NIHB's Government Relations

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Aaron Payment has joined the National Indian Health Board leadership team as its director of Government Relations as of June 14.

Payment served as Chair of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa for more than 14 years and an additional eight years on council. He also served on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee.

He chaired the National Institutes of

Health Tribal Advisory Committee, was Tribal Health Research Advisory Chair, and was on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Tribal Advisory Committee.

**Powwow season is back! Are you covered?**

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# SEMINOLE SCENES



**MARINE MEMORIAL:** Memorial Day was May 30. The holiday serves as a remembrance of those who have died in service to the United States, including the Seminole Tribe's Herman L. Osceola. He was 23 years old and serving in the Marines when he and 28 other military personnel from the United States and South Korea died in a helicopter crash during a training exercise March 24, 1984, in South Korea. Since 2012, a bronze sculpture of Lance Cpl. Osceola has been in front of the Big Cypress gymnasium that bears his name.

Beverly Bidney



**DEMO DAY:** Above and below, eight portables at the Ahfachkee School were demolished in late June to make room for the soon to be constructed elementary school building, which is expected to be completed in April 2024. Sixteen portables have been a fixture at the school since 2008; eight will remain on campus until January 2024.

Beverly Bidney (2)



**SWING TIME:** The Big Cypress Recreation summer camp gives kids a chance to build their strength while having fun on the playground. Jason Billie Jr., left, and Mariah Cypress show how to swing their legs to propel them from bar to bar.

Beverly Bidney (2)



**MCCARTNEY MANIA:** Paul McCartney and his bandmates wave flags toward the end of their performance May 25 at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood. The legendary singer, songwriter and musician brought his "Got Back" tour to the 7,000-seat venue inside Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. McCartney turned 80 three weeks later. The tour's 12 other venues included Fenway Park in Boston, Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore, MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, and SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles. McCartney's Beatles teammate Ringo Starr is scheduled to perform at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood on Sept. 17.

YouTube



**CARVING CLASS:** Holding an adz used for carving traditional dugout canoes, Daniel Tommie explains a display of deer hides and other canoe carving tools for Ahfachkee students who were at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on June 8 for the opening of the students' art exhibit.

Beverly Bidney

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## New quarter honors Native American leader and activist Wilma Mankiller

Some coin enthusiasts will be able to add a quarter dedicated to the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation to their collections on Monday.

The Wilma Mankiller quarter is the third coin released under a U.S. Mint program celebrating the achievement of diverse prominent women in American history.

Mankiller led the Cherokee Nation from 1985 to 1995 and is credited with boosting tribal enrollment and employment and reforming the tribe's programs for health, children and housing.

On one side of the quarter there's a portrait of President George Washington. The other side you'll find the late chief in a traditional shawl. On her left is the seven-pointed star of the Cherokee Nation.

Wilma Pearl Mankiller was born in 1945 in Tahllequah. The surname "Mankiller" refers to a traditional Cherokee military rank, like a captain or major.

"I'm fairly soft spoken and people, sort of, have an image of what a woman named Mankiller would be like, and I don't think that I really fit their image," she told Fresh Air in 1993. "And I know it's an unusual name so I, you know, I'm not defensive or offended by people's reaction to it."

Mankiller became the first woman to head a major Native American nation in the U.S. She served two years as deputy principal chief from 1983-1985, followed by a decade as principal chief.

- NPR

## Ponca Tribe gets its tomahawk back

The long-lost pipe-tomahawk that belonged to Chief Standing Bear was finally returned home to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska on June 3.

Standing Bear is recognized as one of the first civil-rights heroes for Native people. In 1879, he persuaded a federal judge to recognize Native people as persons who are entitled to the right to sue for their freedom. This decision in Standing Bear v. Crook came after Bear sued General George Crook for wrongful imprisonment. Crook had captured and jailed Standing Bear and his band of Poncas in 1877, when, after being forcibly relocated to Oklahoma, they returned to Nebraska to bury Standing Bear's son.

Several current citizens of the tribe are Standing Bear's descendants. On June 3, several members of the Ponca Tribal Council and staff visited Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to retrieve the pipe-tomahawk. They were joined by members from the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma to celebrate its return.

The piece of heritage and tradition had been given to John Lee Webster, one of the two lawyers who represented Standing Bear in the Standing Bear v. Crook case. Unfortunately, after Webster died, the pipe-tomahawk was not returned to the tribe's possession, but sold to a private collector. It changed hands several times before Harvard acquired it in 1982.

Once the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska got wind that the pipe-tomahawk was being held in the Peabody's collection, they began talking to museum officials about getting it back. Last year, the museum agreed to return it, but COVID-19 prevented the tribe from traveling to Cambridge to repossess it until this month.

Many artifacts from different tribes are still being held in museums across the country. Many have ended up in museum custody through faulty acquisition processes that often go against the wishes of families and communities. Currently, Harvard has around 6,400 Native remains and 13,600 funerary objects.

At the June 3 ceremony, Peabody Museum director Jane Pickering expressed her commitment to do better.

"The Peabody directly benefited from collecting practices that we acknowledge today ignored the wishes and values of families and communities," she said, adding that the museum needs to reflect on and think "about our relationship to affected communities, to try to repair the harm that these practices have caused."

"What's happening here today is what I think we all want to happen, for the Peabody and Harvard not just to do the bare minimum of complying with the law, but to recognize the rightful and moral claims of your sovereign nation," said Shawon Kinew (Ojibwe), a member of the Peabody faculty executive committee.

- Native News Online

## University of Ottawa names first Indigenous chancellor

**OTTAWA, Canada** — The University of Ottawa has appointed First Nations activist Claudette Commanda as chancellor, the first Indigenous leader in the institution's 174-year history.

Commanda, who is an Algonquin Anishinaabe from the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation, will become the school's 15th chancellor in the fall, as well as the third female chancellor. She will succeed Calin Rovinescu, whose second term will end in November of 2022.

"This means honour, pride, and happiness to me, but it also means bringing the validation and recognition that Algonquin people have so much to contribute, and we continue to contribute. It's so meaningful and I'm so honoured to be chosen for this

position," said Commanda in a release from uOttawa.

Commanda told The Sam Laprade Show on Friday, June 24 that there hasn't been many moments in her life that left her speechless, but this historic moment did.

"It is such an honour," she said. "I am proud as an Algonquin woman to carry this title."

"I am delighted to announce the appointment of Claudette Commanda, who is a well-known member of our community," said president and vice-chancellor Jacques Frémont in a release. "She will continue bringing her leadership, passion, and wisdom, on behalf of Indigenous peoples to the University as a whole. Claudette holds degrees from the uOttawa Faculty of Arts ('93) and the Faculty of Law, Common Law Section ('97), and was inducted into the Common Law Honour Society in 2009."

Commanda first walked onto the uOttawa campus in 1987, as a student, going on to earn several degrees.

During her time as a student at uOttawa, Commanda also founded a First Nations student association to improve their representation on campus and also established an Indigenous resource centre, now called the Mashkawaziwogamig Indigenous Resource Centre.

- CityNews Ottawa (Canada)

## Tribal police agencies struggle to attract, maintain officers, panel told

**WASHINGTON** — A Navajo Nation official told a Senate panel [in May] that the tribe's police department lacks the resources to attract and retain officers, a problem that experts say is faced by tribal police departments across the country.

Navajo Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton told the Senate Indian Affairs Committee on Wednesday that drug traffickers "know that Indian Country has far too few officers, especially with the size of some of our nation, our reservations."

"We have heard the stories about what's happening here within Indian Country when it comes to violence against Natives," said Charles-Newton, chairwoman of the Navajo Nation Council's Law and Order Committee. She said a lack of police "does make it an issue."

It's not just the Navajo Nation. The need for officers has been one of the most talked about issues among police chiefs at annual conferences of the National Native American Law Enforcement Association, said board member emeritus Tom Woolworth.

Less competitive wages and benefits are the main contributors making it harder to retain younger recruits, he said.

"For younger officers, especially those who have graduated an academy and have gone back to their communities to work, many of them are looking at essentially, 'Can I promote up and will my pay increase and will there be additional benefits?'" said Woolworth.

"When they start asking those questions, a lot of them begin to start looking to see if those opportunities may or may not exist," he said.

As a result, Woolworth said officers may look for better jobs in federal or state agencies, county sheriff's offices or other local law enforcement. He said what causes some officers to remain is that they are serving in their own reservations and don't want to leave their family.

But when costs are increasing and other benefits are needed, the comfort of home may not be enough enticement for an officer to stay, especially in rural communities.

"It's hard to become competitive because we are in rural Arizona," said Yavapai-Apache Police Chief Nathan Huibregtse. "We can't compete with what we call the Phoenix wage. They pay a lot more down there in those regions."

"A lot of what we call the metropolitan tribes, which are down in the Phoenix area, have a large population to pull from. And they get more money and are very financially stable," he said. "When you start getting out to rural Arizona, that's when it becomes more challenging."

Huibregtse said his department is trying to remain competitive with pay and benefits, and is working on getting its officers into the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System, which many metropolitan tribes already belong to.

The Navajo Nation also is taking steps to address its need for police officers on their land. Leonard Redhorse, police commander at the Navajo Nation Shiprock Police Department, said the force is planning to cut the age requirement for recruits from 21 to 18, which should help increase the candidate pool and significantly expand the number of officers for patrol response.

Huibregtse said the federal government could do a better job of providing equal benefits to rural tribal departments. That was echoed by Charles-Newton, who recommended at the hearing that Bureau of Indian Affairs funds be used for sign-on and retention bonuses.

Charles-Newton also criticized the FBI and Justice Department, which she said have consistently declined to investigate and prosecute crimes on Native land, and have allowed investigations to fall through the cracks without explanation.

The Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for a statement. But in a written response, the FBI said it has investigative responsibility for federal crimes committed on about 200 Indian reservations, and that it investigates matters that fall within its jurisdiction without regard to age, race, gender, or other personal demographics.

"In the last two years, the FBI has opened more than 6,500 Indian Country Crime investigations to include numerous

homicide, sexual assault, and violent assault investigations," the statement said. "The decision to prosecute or decline cases rests with the United States Attorney's Offices."

But Charles-Newton called on lawmakers to hold both departments more accountable.

- Cronkite News/Arizona PBS

## Gov. signs bill extending birth registration deadline

On June 22, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill authored by a North Coast Assembly member that expanded the deadline to submit birth registration paperwork — which includes a baby's name — from 10 days to 21 days after the birth.

Assembly Bill 2176 was created in order to accommodate the many Native American families who practice a cultural tradition of performing a naming ceremony 10 days after a baby's birth. The bill was authored by Assembly member Jim Wood (D-Santa Rosa), who represents the counties of Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, Mendocino and parts of Sonoma County.

"Humboldt County is home to nine federally recognized tribes and rancherias and remain on their traditional homelands to this day," Wood said in a release. "These sovereign nations, and others throughout California, have their own specific beliefs, traditional practices and ceremonies and I am pleased that the state will respect Native American culture and tradition by allowing adequate time to complete the required registration process."

On March 29, California's Assembly Health Committee heard testimony from Yurok Tribal Council Member Phillip Williams in support of the bill. In his statements, Williams touched on the fraught history between California and the tribes within its boundaries, and expressed hope the bill could be part of a new, brighter history.

"California laws and policies have often harmed Native people. I'm happy to see the beginning of a shift towards justice. Extending live birth registration from 10 days to 21 days is a step in the right direction. This bill will positively impact many tribes and families across the state," Williams said. "No matter the practice, every Yurok family will benefit from having more time between a child's birth and registration. Our naming ceremony is something that's been with us for thousands of years."

Providence Humboldt County, the area's largest medical provider, began a "Better Birthing Project" in 2021 with local tribes. The project involved interviewing Native parents to identify problems and solutions with the birth experience, and St. Joseph Hospital spokesperson Christian Hill attributed the newly signed bill to the families who participated.

"We are so grateful for the many Native families that shared their birth stories with Providence St. Joseph Hospital and trusted us to listen and take action. Without them, this legislative change would not have happened. And, thank you to the Better Birthing team at St. Joseph Hospital for your many months of dedication and commitment to re-designing a system of care that is more inclusive and equitable to all, but especially Indigenous communities on the North Coast. Thank you to Assemblymembers Wood and Ramos for introducing AB 2176 and to Governor Newsome for signing it into law," Hill said in a statement.

- Eureka (Calif.) Times-Standard

## Tribes will co-manage Bears Ears National Monument

In an unprecedented move, federal officials signed an agreement to collectively manage the more than 1.3 million acres of Utah's Bears Ears National Monument with five Native American tribes.

The Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service, along with representatives from the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Pueblo of Zuni and the Ute Indian Tribe formalized the arrangement on June 18, just before unveiling a new sign for the monument that includes the tribal nations' insignia.

Carleton Bowekaty, lieutenant governor of the Pueblo of Zuni tribe, said having the opportunity to manage the tribes' ancestral homes is the best avenue for restorative justice.

"Today, instead of being removed from a landscape to make way for a public park, we are being invited back to our ancestral homelands to help repair them and plan for a resilient future," said Bowekaty, who co-chairs the Bears Ears Commission, the panel of tribal representatives tasked with working with federal officials.

Bears Ears, a sprawling southern Utah region rich in red rock canyons, cliff dwellings and numerous archaeological sites, was the focal point of protests, political battles and a broken promise in recent years.

In 2016, former President Barack Obama used the Antiquities Act to designate Bears Ears as a national monument and directed officials to engage tribal government officers in the development of a management plan for the monument. Before a year had passed, former President Donald Trump decided to cut its boundaries by roughly 85%.

It was until last year that President Joe Biden directed officials to restore the monument's boundaries to 1.36 million acres.

Each tribe -- the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Pueblo of Zuni and the Ute Indian Tribe -- has ancestral ties to Bears Ears that date back to time immemorial. Many Native people often visit to run in prayer, connect

with their ancestors' spirits and collect medicinal herbs.

Due to their ties to the land, tribal members began looking into a way to protect the land and formed the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in 2015. The group has advocated for the monument and worked to develop a land management plan.

"This is really, to me, a victory because of the vision and the leadership and the tenacity of the tribes involved," Patrick Gonzales-Rogers, executive director of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, said about the agreement.

- CNN

## Arizona tribes get grants to preserve Apache, Navajo language

In an effort to help tribal nations preserve and revitalize their traditional languages, an Arizona tribe and a Navajo college will receive a portion of \$7 million in grants from the Indian Affairs Office of Indian Economic Development.

The grants were awarded to 45 American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and tribal organizations as part of the Living Languages Grant Program, which provides an opportunity for tribes to receive funding to document and revitalize languages that are at risk of disappearing because of a declining native-speaker population.

"Native language preservation has for many years been cited by Indigenous leaders as important to their self-preservation, self-determination, and sovereignty," Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland said in a press release.

The San Carlos Apache Tribal Council and Diné College are the two Arizona tribal organizations that received funding as part of the program.

The San Carlos Apache Tribe, located in Eastern Arizona and home to more than 10,000 tribal citizens, received \$184,344.

Diné College is a four-year tribal college located on the Navajo Nation with six campuses and two microsites across Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. The college primarily serves Navajo students and was established in 1968, making it the first tribal college in the United States. Diné College received \$60,189 in funding.

The Living Languages Grant Program is run through the U.S. Department of Interior Indian Affairs' Office of Indian Economic Development and it was part of a new interagency initiative launched after several government agencies entered into a memorandum of agreement in 2021 to further the Native American Languages Act of 1990.

"The cornerstone of any culture or community is its language. Languages are where oral histories are passed down, knowledge is shared, and bonds are formed. As part of our commitment to strengthening and supporting Indigenous communities, the Interior Department is resolute in its efforts to ensuring Native languages are preserved and protected," Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland said in a press release from the launch of the program in 2021. "From our libraries and schools to museums and cultural centers, the Department is proud to help lead this interagency effort to encourage programs and projects to include instruction in and preservation of Native languages."

For more than 150 years, Native languages in the United States, have been subjected to suppression and elimination from a variety of factors, the Department of Interior said. For instance, the federal boarding school system forced Indigenous children to forgo speaking the language of their peoples.

"Native preservation and language revitalization is a critical priority because languages go to the heart of a Tribe's unique cultural identities, traditions, spiritual beliefs and self-governance," Newland said.

- Arizona Mirror

## Cherokee Nation celebrates first film made at tribe's studios

**TULSA, Okla.** — The Cherokee Nation and its film office are celebrating the world premiere of "Land of Gold," the 2021 winner of AT&T Presents: Untold Stories, and the first production of its kind to be filmed at the tribe's studios and state-of-the-art virtual soundstage located in Owasso.

The film, directed by award-winning filmmaker Nardeep Khurmi, debuted at the Tribeca Festival in New York City this month.

"This premiere illustrates the significance of Cherokee Nation having introduced groundbreaking film technology to our region," said Jennifer Loren, director of the Cherokee Nation Film Office and Original Content. "It is truly exciting to see this film and the diverse production capabilities within our reservation and state being featured on a worldwide platform."

In addition to its premiere, "Land of Gold" is also screening virtually on Tribeca at Home through June 26. The film will also be featured at the Bentonville Film Festival in Bentonville, Arkansas.

"Inclusive storytelling is important not only in front of the camera, but behind as well. This story of hyphenated Americans could not have been made without the support of the Cherokee Nation, whose generosity allowed us to film our road trip sequences in comfort and in safety," said Khurmi. "I'm honored to have made my first film about what it is to be American with the collaboration of First Nations people. It is exhilarating, and I'm so proud of what we accomplished together."

The film follows truck driver and expectant father Kiran, played by Khurmi,

as his already tumultuous life takes a drastic turn when he sets out to reunite a young girl named Elena, played by Caroline Valencia, with her family after he discovers the child stowed away in a shipping container.

"Land of Gold" is the 2021 winner of AT&T Presents: Untold Stories — a multiyear, multitier alliance between AT&T and Tribeca Festival. Each year the program awards a deserving, underrepresented filmmaker \$1 million to produce their film and provides mentorship and first-look opportunities for distribution.

The tribe's virtual soundstage, a first of its kind in Oklahoma and in Indian Country, includes 27,000 square feet located on more than 4 acres within the Cherokee Nation reservation. The Cherokee Nation Extended Reality Studio, or XR Studio, encompasses both an LED wall and ceiling structure to provide industry-leading content and capabilities in virtual production by using Augmented Reality, Mixed Reality and Virtual Reality elements to create a fully immersive experience.

Earlier this year, Cherokee Nation and its businesses also launched a powerful economic tool within the tribe's reservation and expanded its effort to help grow the film and television industries in Oklahoma when Cherokee Nation Film Office became the first tribal film commission to offer an annual \$1 million film incentive for productions filmed within its tribe's boundaries.

- Cherokee Phoenix

## Oregon to pay college expenses of 700 tribal students

Good news for Oregon's aspiring college students from tribal communities: The state legislature sanctioned \$19 million to fund the Tribal Student Grant program aimed at reducing financial barriers for Native Americans looking for a college education.

The program will cover most or all college-related expenses — including tuition, board, and books — for tribal students who attend an in-state college or university.

Communications director for the state Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Endi Hartigan, said that more than 400 people have started grant applications so far, adding that around 700 students are expected to take part in the 2022-23 academic year.

To apply, students need to be registered with one of the state's nine federally recognized tribes. Then they have to submit the grant application along with the Federal Application For Student Aid or the Oregon Student Aid Application.

The Tribal Student Grant covers the difference between the cost of attending the school and the state or federal aid received by the student.

The measure follows a 2021 report revealing that the number of Native American high school graduates in Oregon attending college has declined in recent years.

"It's definitely a big relief. It's exciting to talk about, even just to think about," 20-year-old Malumaleumu who recently filed her application told Oregon Live.

- The College Post

## Tribes welcomes 'extremely rare' white buffalo calf

**BELCOURT, N.D.** — It's a rare occurrence, and it's also considered a blessing.

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribe recently welcomed the birth of a white buffalo calf.

The tribe views the white buffalo as the most sacred living thing on earth.

The calf signifies a sign of hope that their prayers are being answered.

There is a difference between albino and white buffalo. Albino ones typically have a health deficiency, while white ones are usually purebred.

During the birth, the tribe held a community healing fire and are starting a Sundance. "I didn't believe it, I said I'll believe it when I see it because you know we were gifted a white buffalo last year and just the odds that you know a calf would be born this year or at all are just astronomical," said Jamie Azure, TMBCI Tribal Chairman.

The calf is expected to stay in the Turtle Mountains for the time being.

- KMOT (Minot, North Dakota)

## New legislation could give Karuk Tribe uninterrupted access to sacred land

**WASHINGTON** — On June 23, U.S. lawmakers introduced new legislation to put sacred land back into the hands of the Karuk Tribe.

Senators Alex Padilla and Dianne Feinstein introduced the Katimiin and Aameekyaaraam Sacred Lands Act to transfer ownership of sacred lands in Humboldt and Siskiyou Counties from the U.S. Forest Service to the Interior Department. The department will then place those lands into trust for the federally-recognized Karuk Tribe.

This means the tribe will receive full, uninterrupted access to 1,000 acres of federal land that the tribe has used for hundreds of years to hold ceremonies and teach new generations about traditional culture and customs. The ancestral land called Katimiin is considered to be the center of the Karuk world and is the ending point for the tribe's World Renewal Ceremonies.

- KRCCR (Redding, Calif)

# SOUTH FLORIDA'S ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION



**JUL 3**  
STEVE MILLER  
BAND



**JUL 10**  
NEHA KAKKAR



**JUL 14**  
CHRIS TUCKER



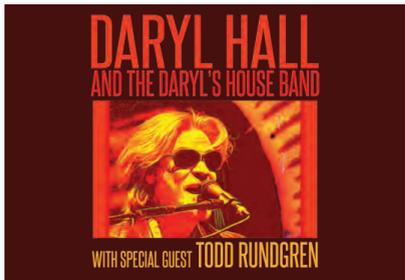
**JUL 16**  
FESTIVAL  
COLOMBIANO



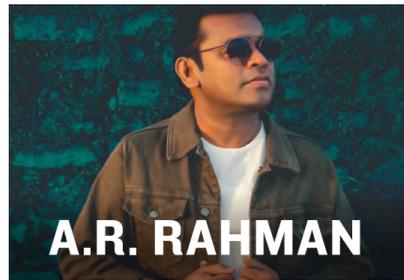
**JUL 28**  
STEELY DAN



**JUL 29 & 30**  
GABRIEL  
IGLESIAS



**JUL 31**  
DARYL HALL & THE  
DARYL'S HOUSE BAND  
WITH TODD RUNDGREN



**AUG 5**  
A.R. RAHMAN



**SEP 10**  
AMY SCHUMER



**SEP 11**  
DPR LIVE



**SEP 12**  
SCORPIONS &  
WHITESNAKE



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HOLLYWOOD, FL

# Education

B

## Panel: Students often get limited info on Native Americans

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**DAVIE** — How students learn about Native Americans in the classroom (or learn at all) was the basis for a panel at the Broward County Public Schools “Equity Conference” on June 17. Four members of the Seminole Tribe and a member of the Mohawk and Lakota tribes took part in an hour-long session at the Signature Grand event venue in Davie.

Seminole tribal members on the panel included Gordon “Ollie” Wareham, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum; Krystle Bowers; Rollie Gilliam III, quality assurance analyst for the tribe’s Education department; and Kim Cunningham (Mohawk/Lakota), an instructional facilitator in the Broward County Public Schools equity and diversity department.

Dozens of Broward County educators, including Seminole tribal member Wilson Bowers, attended the panel. Some educators said they don’t always know the most effective way — or the most reliable resources to use — when teaching about Native Americans and the Seminole Tribe.

Cunningham said one of the core problems is that the state of Florida doesn’t have any mandates that require educators teach about Native Americans — although some states do. A recent survey by the National Congress of American Indians of 27 states with federally recognized tribes found that 11 required public schools to teach about Native Americans in at least some grade levels.

Cunningham said Florida does have

mandates, for example, that students learn about Holocaust history, African American history, women’s history and Hispanic heritage. She said she’s been working with Seminole tribal members to push for a mandate in Florida.

“I cannot understand people living on our land and never learning about us at all,” she said.

Cunningham added that although some teachers try, many are overworked or don’t have the time to figure out how to accurately teach about the contributions of Native Americans and their history.

Wareham said that when teachers do include Native Americans in their lesson plans, it’s often incorrect or as an afterthought of history.

“I had a teacher around the [Florida panhandle] tell me that it was in their books that there are no Native Americans in Florida, that they were all wiped out and are nonexistent,” he said. “I said, well the Seminole Tribe is here. But we’re presented as history only. We’re part of the history courses but not of today, we’re [presented as] not part of the community.”

Wareham said the disconnect is why he works to engage with museums, historical societies, colleges and universities in his role as the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director.

“We want to change that narrative because it’s hurting us as a community, as people. We are here, we have a voice and we do matter,” he said.

The panel also talked about the balancing act of working with interested educators while also maintaining tribal privacy.

“There’s a lot of culture and traditional teachings that we hold close to the chest

and the majority of it isn’t for public knowledge,” Gilliam said. “When certain things get out in to the public sphere, we’re not allowed to confirm or deny it, because grandma and granddaddy say: ‘hey this is just for family, you keep it as such.’”

Gilliam added that there’s also a public perception that the Seminole Tribe is mostly about gaming and the glitz and glamour of the Guitar Hotel in Hollywood.

“But I look at it as the blood and the tears that come from that — that’s where the land was at,” Gilliam said. “We’re bigger than those casinos and those guitars that y’all see. We have five programs [in Education] that I do quality assurance for and make sure that it’s done according to our tribal needs.”

Some audience members asked where to get accurate resources to teach about Native Americans.

Krystle Bowers suggested that educators

try to access Indigenous-owned bookstores for materials and seek out Native American authors.

“Like Birchbark Books in Minnesota. They’re more accurate resources, more true,” she said.

Wareham said there’s a great resource for

educators on the Big Cypress Reservation. “Bring the kids to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum,” he said. “They can get the story from the people.”



Damon Scott

From left, Gordon “Ollie” Wareham, Krystle Bowers, Rollie Gilliam III, Kim Cunningham and Wilson Bowers.

## Hollywood Preschool celebrates class of 2022

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Kindergarten is just around the corner for the Seminole Tribe’s Hollywood Preschool graduating class of 2021-2022 — 15 youngsters in all.

The Education Department hosted a graduation ceremony and party June 8 at the Seminole Estates on the Hollywood Reservation to mark the occasion.

Those graduating were:

- Ethan Alvarado
- Victor Baker
- Annie Jimmie Billie
- Archimedes Bowers
- Karter Canellas
- Ahzayden Cypress
- Maylena Frank,
- Glazer Tommie Jackson
- Kahari Louis
- Avianna Osceola
- Jemma Osceola-Harding,
- Rocco Perez
- Marilu Sirota
- Valentina Stewart
- Lisa Wilcox.

“It’s been a crazy two years — to think it’s been that long since we’ve been in person to congratulate our youngest leaders of the tribe,” Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall said, reflecting on the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rep. McCall told the graduates to look around the room at all the supporters who were in attendance — family, friends and Education staff.

“All these people want to see you succeed and do the most that you can. We’re here to support you, we’re really proud of you. We want to make sure that you’re on your path to success,” she said.

As part of the graduation program, the preschoolers sang songs and performed choreographed dances on stage. Attendees got to watch a video of highlights from the year, produced by Seminole Media Productions. Once dressed in their cap and gown, each walked down a red carpet to the stage to recite a prepared miniature biography of themselves in Mikasuki.

“This has been an amazing year. Not only did they overcome the pandemic, but they reached some amazing milestones,” Dana Rolle, the Hollywood Preschool manager, said to dozens of parents and family members who came to the ceremony.

Rolle said when the year started, some of the preschoolers didn’t know their alphabet, numbers, shapes or colors and some didn’t know how to write their names. She said by the end of the school year each student met or exceeded all their tasks.

At the end of the program the graduates received a diploma and handshake from Hollywood Preschool director Thommy Doud and Rep. McCall. They then returned to the stage to sing a final song of gratitude to all their supporters in the room.

“Are you ready to go to kindergarten?” asked Doud at the end of the song. To which the graduates responded with a loud and boisterous “yeah!”

Then it was party time. The Hollywood water park was opened and barbeque was provided. Each graduate also received a bicycle as a graduation gift.



Damon Scott

Archimedes Bowers makes sure his cap stays on tight as he quickly walks to the stage.



Damon Scott

An excited Ahzayden Cypress takes to the microphone to recite his biography in Elaponke at the Hollywood Preschool graduation June 8 at the Seminole Estates clubhouse.



Damon Scott

Glazer Tommie Jackson walks the red carpet in anticipation of receiving his diploma.



Damon Scott

Victor Baker is happy to receive his diploma from Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall as Hollywood Preschool director Thommy Doud and Hollywood Preschool manager Dana Rolle look on.



Damon Scott

Annie Billie recites her biography before receiving her diploma.



Damon Scott

The graduates perform a song before changing into caps and gowns for the formal ceremony

# Brighton preschool graduates honored for 'amazing job'

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Surrounded by a full house of loved ones, a dozen young Brighton preschoolers walked down the aisle May 27 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building to collect their preschool diplomas, shake hands with tribal leaders and become full-fledged graduates.

The class of 2022 is comprised of

- Jeremiah Ash
- Eztlil Billie
- Javontae Osceola-Broughton
- McCoy Gabbard
- Ethan Gopher Jr.
- Kiara Jackson
- Mason Mojica
- Zoey Motlow
- Khodie Osceola
- Bronx Serrano
- Ofelia Urbina
- Mia Virto

Preschool director Thommy Doud noted that the class of 2022 had a short amount of time together in person due to the pandemic. He thanked the parents, families and caretakers for their support.

"You guys have done an amazing job," Doud said. "It is a team effort and it wasn't easy, but you all hung in there. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with your children."

The graduation program included other

activities leading up to the diploma ceremony. Together the students recited the Pledge of Allegiance in English and Seminole Creek, then they changed into costumes reflecting what they wanted to be when they grew up, told the audience about it and sang a song about growing up.

Before the presentation of diplomas, tribal leaders addressed the crowd.

"The tribe provides for all of us," Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said. "This is our family; take care of one another and support the dreams of each other. In 30 to 40 years, these kids will be standing up here and running the tribe."

Brighton Councilman Larry Howard acknowledged the hard times everyone went through over the last two years.

"But you all did it," Councilman Howard said. "Stand tall with your kids and tell them you love them every day because tomorrow is never promised."

Brighton Board Rep. Helene Buster talked about the children's varied personalities on display.

"That's what it takes to make a community," Rep. Buster said. "Help them grow into who they are supposed to be. Their personalities are out there, we just need to help them grow and let them be who they are going to be."

After the graduates received their diplomas they posed for photos with their families and enjoyed time together during lunch.



From left, Brighton Board Rep. Helene Buster, Brighton Councilman Larry Howard and Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. congratulate preschool graduate Javontae Osceola-Broughton on his accomplishment during the graduation ceremony May 27 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building.



Accompanied by her parents, graduate Kiara Jackson walks down the aisle at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building to receive her preschool diploma.



An exuberant Bronx Serrano describes what he will do when he becomes an astronaut once he grows up.



Dad, Pablo Virto, holds his daughter, Mia Virto, on his lap as they examine a commemorative framed photo of her as a graduate.



From left, Brighton Councilman Larry Howard and Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. congratulate McCoy Gabbard on his graduation.

## Education holds workshops for high school students

SUBMITTED BY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Education Department's K-12, Higher Education and Tribal Professional Development programs hosted a series of workshops in May for high school students entering their junior and senior grade level for the next academic year. Students were able to meet with staff, receive resources, learn pertinent details regarding high school graduation requirements and gain insightful information for college and career options. It was a great way to end the school year and start getting ready for the next.



Courtesy photo  
At left, Dr. Reginal Belizaire, K-12 program manager, and Delana Ayers, Higher Education academic and career advisor, talk to a student in May during a workshop in Hollywood.



Tiawannah Calhoun, K-12 advisor, talks to students at the high school workshop in Hollywood.



Felicia Brown, K-12 advisor, and Dr. Katherine Coulson-Johnston, Higher Education academic and career advisor, hold a workshop in Big Cypress. A similar workshop was held in Brighton; a photo was not available.

Courtesy photo  
At right, Magdalie Dumorne, K-12 advisor, and Dr. Katherine Coulson-Johnston, Higher Education academic and career advisor, meet with students in Immokalee.



# Creativity resonates as Ahfachkee art exhibit opens at museum

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, artwork by Ahfachkee School students finally went on display at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation. “Home is Where the Heart is” is a celebration of art created after the long period of isolation from other students and teachers.

“When the reservation went into lockdown, it robbed students of their sense of community, their sense of home,” art instructor Jennifer Brittingham wrote in a description of the show displayed along with the artwork. “As a result, this artwork is a response to students’ reaction to being back on campus again and working together toward a unified goal.”

The exhibit is comprised of about 50 individual and collaborative pieces. Students used paint, paper, plaster and other mediums to create the art. They also created three-dimensional pieces, including molded sculptures of their hands, and a few small frescos made the same way as in the 1500s, painted on wet plaster to create a durable mural fit for the outdoors.

“Many professional artists never get to see their work hanging in a museum,” Brittingham said during the opening reception June 8. “It isn’t always the end product that counts in life, it’s the process; that’s how we learn.”

Kiki Roberts, 14, painted a flower featured in the video game “The Legend of

Zelda” for the show.

“It’s nice to see it on the wall,” she said. “I chose that flower because it’s beautiful and I thought I should paint it.”

A large collaborative piece made of tissue paper that looks like stained glass emulates the work of Spanish architect Antoni Gaudi, whose buildings often featured stained glass windows. Another collaborative piece by the students is a group of hearts inspired by artist Jim Dine, who has created series of hearts since the 1960s.

“The students created hearts using their own style and flair,” Brittingham said. “The show is a reflection of each student. It’s all about coming together and interacting in the classroom again.”

Describing her heart painting, Tehya Howard said she dropped some black paint on it and decided to make the hearts black.

Traditional interpretation coordinator Daniel Tommie met the students at the museum’s hunting camp, where he shared words of wisdom and explained items in the camp.

“You have a strong lineage,” Tommie said. “Don’t take that for granted. Experiment and try different things. Time is the most precious commodity we have. Take the time to talk to your parents and grandparents. There are no bad things in life, just lessons.”

The group then adjourned for lunch under a chickee decorated with poster-sized reproductions of the students’ art.

“Home is Where the Heart is” will be at the museum until October.



Three dimension artwork created by Ahfachkee students, including frescos and sculptures, on display at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Beverly Bidney



Ahfachkee School students at the opening reception of their art exhibition June 8 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

Flanked on the left by her mother Lenore Roberts and on the right her aunt Lorraine Posada, Ahfachkee student Kiki Roberts, center, stands in front of her vibrant painting of a flower inspired by a video game.



“Home is Where the Heart is” is on display at the museum until October.

Beverly Bidney

## ◆ AHFACHKEE From page 1A

“You are dedicated to meeting your goals, you persevere and continue to move forward and you are resilient,” Cain said. “You made it through when many students around the country did not. Chase your dreams, never stop learning, live life to the fullest and do you best at everything you do.”

Lee Zepeda, executive director of Administration and former Ahfachkee teacher and principal, delivered the keynote address. After congratulating the students and the people in their lives who had an impact on them, he spoke about the importance of identity.

“Who you are is so much more important than what you do,” Zepeda said. “When you find out who you are, it changes everything. You will know what to do. Identity is tied to whatever you give your heart to and what you spend your time doing. It is your drive, your passion and what makes you who you are. Whatever you do, do it with all your heart.”

After the speeches, the graduates left the stage to carry out the longstanding Ahfachkee tradition of students presenting gratitude gifts to those who are important to them. Guidance counselor Chip Osborn emceed as the students found their loved ones in the crowd and gave them the gifts and hugs.

The Warrior Award is given to the graduate who best demonstrated characteristics of being a warrior. English teacher Dr. Rona Olukolu presented the award to Daleen Osceola, along with an emotional speech about her fortitude.

Timothy Tigertail was the class salutatorian and Carlise Bermudez was the valedictorian. Bermudez addressed her fellow graduates.

“Having a voice is a powerful tool,” Bermudez said. “Each graduate is a persistent individual who didn’t give up. I see artistic and creative people and advocates who are willing to stand up for others. I’m grateful to have spent my high school career with each of you. High school tested our resiliency and taught us how to quickly transform.”

The graduates joyfully received their diplomas from Cain. Hunter Howard was so proud that he took the microphone and made an impromptu speech of his own.

“It took me 19 years to get here and people thought I wouldn’t graduate,” he said as he raised his diploma over his head. “But I’ve felt so great during these last few months.”



Beverly Bidney

Graduate Timothy Tigertail beams as he shakes the hand of Ahfachkee principal Dorothy Cain while receiving his diploma June 2 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Valedictorian Carlise Bermudez gives the valedictorian speech at the Ahfachkee graduation ceremony.



Beverly Bidney

Graduate Hunter Howard holds his high school diploma proudly over his head.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie, Big Cypress Board Rep. Nadine Bowers and executive director of Administration Lee Zepeda congratulate Daleen Osceola on her graduation.



## ATTENTION CLASS OF 2022

The Tribune wants to recognize your accomplishments. A section on the tribe’s high school graduates will be in the July 29 issue. If you are a tribal member from the Class of 2022 and haven’t been contacted by the Tribune yet, reach out to us for more information before July 17.

tribune@semtribe.com  
(954) 985-5701, ext. 10715

# Education brings carnival fun tribalwide

## STAFF REPORT

The Seminole Tribe's Education Department hosted a series of "Summer Carnival" events throughout the reservations as part of its ongoing initiative to connect with the tribe's communities.

The purpose was to have fun, eat food, win prizes, and engage with students, parents and the tribal community about the programs and services the Education Department has to offer.

On the Hollywood Reservation, the event was held June 7 in the Classic Gym. Dozens of students played carnival-style games with Education staff and employees from other tribal departments, like Climate Resiliency, Culture and Language and the Children's Center for Diagnostics and Therapy, among others.

On the Immokalee Reservation, a host of departments came together to celebrate a job well done and mark the onset of summer. Tribal Council sponsored a few bounce houses and an ice cream truck, while the fire department kept kids busy and engaged at an interactive booth where kids put out a virtual fire with a fire extinguisher. The Culture Department offered a fry bread bar where customers could add sweet toppings to the bread.

"This is fun," said Jadayah Amari, 9. "It's better than being in school."

More information is at [seminoleeducation.com](http://seminoleeducation.com).



Kevin Johnson

Madison Phillips enjoys competing in a game at Education's carnival June 10 at the Huggins Camp in Trail.



Damon Scott

The Education Department drew a large crowd to the Classic Gym in Hollywood on June 7.



Beverly Bidney

Jadayah Amari enjoys a snow cone at the Immokalee event.



Beverly Bidney

Kids celebrate the end of the school year on an inflatable bouncy slide in Immokalee on June 1.



Kevin Johnson

Captain Osceola, left, and Lennox Osceola have a blast while competing against each other in a game at the Trail event.



Kevin Johnson

Birdie Osceola-Bartlett, 3, plays a game at the Trail event while guided by Education's Jillian Delen.



Damon Scott

Education staff provides food to attendees in Hollywood. From left, Marisa Schnirman, Education assistant director, Leila Patterson, tribalwide Education higher education program specialist, and Melissa Forges, tribalwide Education higher education program manager.



Damon Scott

The Climate Resiliency program had an informational table at the event. From left to right (back row) are Jill Horwitz, the tribe's climate resiliency officer, Cody Motlow, the tribalwide climate resiliency coordinator, and Davina Motlow. In front are Noa Motlow-Viveros (at left) and Lynn Osceola.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above and below, Seminole Fire Rescue hands out items, including plastic helmets, at the department's interactive booth at the Immokalee end of the school year event.



Damon Scott

Staff from the Children's Center for Diagnostics and Therapy staffed an informational table at the event. From left, Amy Bain, Rosa Arce, Danielle Brown and Catherin Mejia.



Beverly Bidney

The Education Department in Brighton held a drive thru event May 26 for parents and students. Indian River State College was among those who had a booth.



Kevin Johnson

Education Department and representatives from the Trail community gather at the start of the event.

# Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki hosts teacher appreciation month

## FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Seminole Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum will host teachers throughout the month of July for free.

For the first fall since 2019, the museum on the Big Cypress Reservation will welcome school groups. The teacher appreciation

month is an opportunity for educators to get familiar with the museum's galleries and boardwalk at no cost. Up to four guests will receive 50 percent discounted admission.

"We welcome teachers to come learn about the Seminole Tribe and the Florida Everglades at our accredited museum, and take their excitement back to the classroom. Seminole history is Florida history. We are

an incredible resource for teachers and the perfect place for an immersive field trip," Abena Robinson, education coordinator, said a press release.

Educators should sign up in advance at [ahtahthiki.com/teachers](http://ahtahthiki.com/teachers) and bring their school-issued identification the day of the visit. The museum will be closed July 4 and July 8, but is otherwise open daily from 9

a.m. to 5 p.m.

The museum opened in 1997 and is owned and operated by the Seminole Tribe. Situated in the Everglades on a 66-acre cypress dome, the museum offers more than 5,000 square feet of gallery space. Exhibits feature rare artifacts and lifelike dioramas that depict Seminole life at the turn of the century. In 2009, the museum

became the first tribally governed museum to be accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. For more information, visit [ahtahthiki.com](http://ahtahthiki.com) and follow the museum on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

# Tribe celebrates Father's Day 2022



Kevin Johnson

From left, Tyce Osceola, Jaylee Osceola and Justin Osceola get ready to enjoy lunch at the Brighton Father's Day event.



Kevin Johnson

From left, John Madrigal, Chance Madrigal and Josh Madrigal attend the Brighton Father's Day lunch June 15 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building.



Kevin Johnson

Sandy Billie Jr. shows enthusiasm as he enters the Brighton Father's Day event.



Kevin Johnson

Brighton Councilman Larry Howard speaks to the Father's Day guests before giving the go ahead for everyone to get lunch.



Damon Scott

Nina Frias, left, and Michael Gentry attend the Hollywood Father's Day dinner in Fort Lauderdale.



Beverly Bidney

Michael Onco, at left, and his sons Michael Onco III and Chaska Onco enjoy the Father's Day luncheon in Big Cypress.



Kevin Johnson

The Bonillas, from left, Melanie, Melaine and Danny attend the Brighton Father's Day lunch.



Beverly Bidney

Johnnie Jimmie, center, is surrounded by his loving daughters Alice Jimmie, left, and Haloma Jimmie at the Big Cypress Father's Day celebration June 22 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.



Damon Scott

From left, Kenny Tommie, Cameron Osceola and Melissa Billie enjoy lunch at the Hollywood Father's Day event.



Damon Scott

From left, Andrew Perkins, Stella Perkins and Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall enjoy their meals during the Hollywood Father's Day dinner at Chima Brazilian Steakhouse in Fort Lauderdale. Rep. McCall hosted the dinner.



Damon Scott

From left, Clinton Tommie, Joe Kippenberger, Lawanna Osceola and Robert Kippenberger attend the Hollywood Father's Day event in Fort Lauderdale.



Beverly Bidney

Maverick Osceola, left, is joined by his son Aero, 3, and wife Myra Chapa at the Father's Day event in Blg Cypress.

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# Sports



## Chobee 14 volleyball makes its mark at AAU Nationals

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

It might be difficult for a team to stand out at the AAU Nationals – which features thousands of players – but the Chobee 14 girls team from the Chobee Volleyball Academy in Okeechobee managed to carve its own niche in a couple ways.

Chobee went undefeated in its four matches on the fourth and final day of the massive tournament that ran June 15-18 in Orlando. They also captured a division title and finished with a 9-4 record.

“We won the Pearl Division. We were 91 out of 190 [teams]. I would say that’s pretty good,” said Chobee coach Monica Koger, who added that the event is the biggest volleyball tournament in the world. It stretches throughout June with multiple sessions. Chobee played in session one.

Chobee 14 was the only team from the academy to compete in the tournament, which is literally packed with wall-to-wall volleyball.

“It is intense. A little under 200 courts, volleyball on every single one of them all day,” Koger said.

Koger was thrilled with the way her team battled on the final day. She said some teams on the last day of a grueling tournament might not have the proper focus, but her squad was determined to depart the Orange County Convention Center with a plaque.

“You can always look at areas where you can improve. The last day, 4-0, that was the way to end the season,” she said.

The solid finish helped soothe some of the sting of early defeats. Chobee went 2-1 on the first day and 1-2 on the second day.

“[Some of] those early matches that we lost we could have held on and won three of them,” Koger said.

The team is comprised of 11 players, including three Seminoles: Preslynn Baker, Alyssa Madrigal and Chaka Smith. Koger said the experience of playing and coaching against teams from throughout the country was invaluable. Chobee faced a few teams that it sees at Florida tournaments, but also played teams from Georgia, Minnesota, Michigan, Puerto Rico, Tennessee and Texas.

Koger said she enjoyed seeing the different styles of play from the teams beyond Florida.

“Puerto Rico is completely different. They are a lot quicker,” she said.

High school volleyball is next for most of the players; several, including Madrigal and Smith, will attend Okeechobee; Baker will attend Moore Haven.

### Chobee 14 Volleyball Team

- Head coach:** Monica Koger
- Asst. coach:** Ramona Baker
- Asst. coach:** Suraiya Smith
- Asst. coach:** Liann Whipple
- Angely Acosta
- Jenessa Arana
- Preslynn Baker
- Tatiana Flores
- Lindy Harwas
- Jadyn Jeune
- Alyssa Madrigal
- Emma Pereira
- Daniela Sanchez
- Chaka Smith
- Azariah Washington



From left, the Seminole Tribe volleyball trio of Chaka Smith, Preslynn Baker and Alyssa Madrigal show the honors they received at the AAU Nationals in Orlando. Chobee won the Pearl Division.



The Chobee 14 players look like movie stars as they put on sunglasses during a break in the tournament.



Above, Chobee 14 players wore pink jerseys for one day of the tournament as a way to help raise breast cancer awareness. Below, the team gets ready for one of its matches.



## NABI semis, final to air on ESPN+

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Basketball fans won’t have to be in Phoenix to see the semifinals and championships of the Native American Basketball Invitational.

This year the games will be broadcast on ESPN+ on July 22-23.

“For 19 years, NABI continues to be the largest and most prestigious all-Native American basketball tournament in North America,” GinaMarie Scarpa, president of NABI, said in a news release. “We are excited to showcase our athletes in a way that has never been done before, on a global stage. It will be a significant history-making moment for our athletes and our entire Native community.”

NABI teamed up with executive producer Robert Judkins, LTN Global and ESPN to broadcast the games. Semifinals will be played at Phoenix College and Camelback High School. The championship games will be held at Footprint Center, home of the NBA’s Suns and WNBA’s Mercury.

NABI week tips-off on July 17. The invitational features 136 Native teams of boys and girls teams from throughout North America. It is for ages 14-19. The schedule calls for more than 470 games in 11 Phoenix-area gyms.

The Seminole Tribe is a longtime major sponsor of NABI. The Tribe has enjoyed plenty of success in recent years. Last year, a girls team coached by Skyla Osceola of the Hollywood Reservation finished runner-up. Seminole boys were on teams that won championships in 2014 and 2018.

This year Native Soldiers and N2Deep are the Florida representation in the boys section. On the girls side, Florida teams are Native Soldiers and 4Deep. Pool play beings July 18.

It’s not all about basketball. NABI’s educational youth summit will be held July 18-20 at Phoenix College. There will also be trips available to teams to see the Mercury and MLB’s Arizona Diamondbacks play.

## IRSC names new men’s basketball coach

STAFF REPORT

Indian River State College in Fort Pierce named Bill Morosco as its men’s basketball head coach June 22.

Morosco has plenty of ties to Florida. He is a native of Wellington and a graduate of the University of Florida. His resume includes stints as an assistant coach at Barry University in Miami Shores and Eastern Florida State College in Melbourne.

Most recently Morosco served as head coach for Garden City Community College in Kansas, where he guided the squad to a 22-10 record in 2021-22. He was also head coach of Independence Community College in Missouri and an assistant at Presbyterian College in South Carolina.

“Coach Morosco possesses extensive knowledge of Region VIII basketball and an exceptional ability to recruit,” Scott Kimmelman, IRSC athletic director, said in a statement. “We are excited to have him back in Florida to lead and attract student-athletes to the IRSC program. We can’t wait to see where he will take the team next.”

Morosco takes the helm of a program that has reached the National Junior College Athletic Association National Tournament the past two seasons.



Bill Morosco

## World Cup coming to Hard Rock Stadium

STAFF REPORT

The list of big events at Hard Rock Stadium is about to get even bigger.

The stadium in Miami Gardens is one of 11 in the U.S. selected June 16 to host FIFA World Cup games in 2026. A total of 16 cities were picked in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Each city is expected to host up to six games, although the exact schedule has yet to be determined.

“We are thrilled that the 2026 FIFA

World Cup is coming to Miami,” Tom Garfinkel, vice chairman, president and CEO of the Miami Dolphins and Hard Rock Stadium, said in a news release.

“The Hard Rock Stadium campus is a global entertainment destination reflective of the dynamic and international culture of Miami. This selection was a culmination of collaborative work from multiple stakeholders including [Dolphins and stadium owner] Stephen Ross, Miami-Dade County officials and the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau.”

The World Cup is often regarded as the world’s biggest sports event. According to the18.com, viewership for the Super Bowl in 2018 was about 103 million compared to more than 500 million that year for the World Cup championship match.

“Miami-Dade is the ideal community to host the 2026 World Cup. Our residents hail from every corner of the world, creating a vibrant metropolitan area unlike any other in the United States. Soccer runs through the veins of our county,” Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said in a

statement.

Hard Rock International, whose parent entity is the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Miami Dolphins are six years into an 18-year agreement for the stadium’s naming rights. Since the stadium became known as Hard Rock Stadium, it has hosted a Super Bowl, college football national championship, international soccer matches, The Miami Open tennis tournament, Formula 1 racing and several big musical acts, including The Rolling Stones.

IRSC

# Trevor Thomas wraps up 5-year career with Warner baseball

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Some college baseball players might express frustration if they rode the bench for most of their final season.

Trevor Thomas, from the Brighton Reservation, isn't like those players, not even close.

When asked about his limited playing time this season – his fifth and final one at Warner University in Lake Wales – Thomas said the players in front of him deserved to be playing. He even named names – Tyler Brown and Casey Mawhinney – and pointed out they each batted over .300.

"I can't argue with it," he said.

Thomas's unselfish, team-first persona is among the many attributes that draw admiration from Warner coach Jeff Sikes.

"First of all, he's been a terrific young man. We love Trevor," said Sikes, who has been at the helm of the team for nearly 40 years. "He's represented our school well. He's a great student. We just think the world of Trevor and his family. He's been a very solid player for us. His playing [time] has been sporadic. He's had stretches where he's played a lot and other times where he hasn't, and through all of those times his attitude has been consistent, his approach is consistent. He's very much a team player. We really appreciate Trevor."

When he wasn't in the lineup, Thomas made sure he helped the team in other ways, including spreading enthusiasm and making sure "nobody was sitting there daydreaming."

Thomas, a 6-foot-1 outfielder, appeared in 16 games this season with nine starts. He made 38 trips to the plate and notched eight hits and six RBIs.

Among his highlights: two RBIs in a 6-2 win against Siena Heights, one run, one RBI and one run scored each in games against Grand View and Montreat, and two hits and a run scored against Ave Maria.

His best career game at the plate may have come in 2021 when he went 3-for-4 with two doubles, three RBIs and a walk against Florida Memorial. He finished the 2021 season with a .220 batting average. He had a three-hit game against Grand View in 2020.

Off the field, Thomas was among seven Warner players named this spring to the Sun Conference all-academic team.

The fifth year came as somewhat of an unexpected bonus season for players, who were granted an extra year due to the impact of the pandemic. Thomas had planned to play four years, but he jumped at the opportunity to come back while working on his master's degree.

"I'm very thankful for that because it gave me a chance to play with this group of guys," Thomas said.

Indeed, the team generated a memorable



Trevor Thomas (21) and his Warner University teammates huddle after being ousted from the Sun Conference Tournament on May 6 in West Palm Beach.

Kevin Johnson

season by setting a school record with 20 consecutive wins. That success didn't accompany the team to the postseason, where it went winless in two games each in the Sun Conference and the NAIA tournament.

Thomas appeared in the first game of the NAIA tournament in Kingsport, Tennessee, a 4-2 loss against the University of Cumberlands, but did not bat. In the next game May 17, Thomas started in right field and went 1-for-4 with an RBI single in the fourth inning that drew Warner to within 5-4 against Madonna University of Michigan in what turned out to be his final career hit. He scored the tying run in the fourth, but Madonna scored late to win, 6-5.

Thomas, who is a graduate of Okeechobee High School, is on schedule to finish his master's in business administration next spring. He would like to work for the Seminole Tribe's Cattle & Ranch division and work his way up.

The son of Michele and Gene Thomas won't soon be forgotten by Warner baseball.

"We love the family," Sikes said. "They are the sweetest people. Trevor is just a great, solid guy. When you are an Evangelical Christian university, you want guys who fit and contribute to the atmosphere in a positive way and Trevor absolutely does that."



Trevor Thomas

Warner



Trevor Thomas played five seasons for Warner.

Kevin Johnson

# Immokalee summer camp begins with a splash

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — The Immokalee Recreation Department kicked off summer camp June 13 with a group of bouncy water slides, face painting and a hearty lunch. More than 40 kids are signed up for a summer of fun on the reservation and off with weekly

field trips.

Summer work experience counselor Alice Jimmie, 14, was looking forward to working with the campers.

"I enjoy hanging out with kids, it's fun," Alice said. "I'll keep an eye on them, take care of them and be positive with them. I'm really good with kids; I have two younger sisters."

Brothers Zachary Yzaguirre, 6, and Alexaviar Yzaguirre, 9, were excited for camp. Alexaviar went last summer and loved it; this is Zachary's first time.

When asked what advice he had for his younger brother, Alexaviar said "Be good, be nice, always listen and just have fun."



Beverly Bidney

Kids at Recreation's summer camp in Immokalee get the summer started with a splashing good time on some large inflatable water slides.



Beverly Bidney

A group of campers and SWEP counselor Alice Jimmie, center with mask, participate as they watch a face painter perform a magic trick on the first day of summer camp.



Beverly Bidney

Brothers Alexaviar Yzaguirre and Zachary Yzaguirre watch wrestling on their phone while enjoying a snack of popcorn and snow cones.



Beverly Bidney

Camper Claire Yzaguirre, 7, is amazed by and happy with the artwork painted on her face.

# Putting my passion on paper

BY CALVIN TIGER  
Reporter/Intern

My passion for cars started in the early 2000s when I was in high school. For the most part, I learned about cars on my own, although my older brother Allan, who is an auto mechanic, provided some guidance. At 17, I purchased a used 2000 Volkswagen Jetta with my father, Lee Tiger. I had almost no experience driving a manual transmission car, but I was about to quickly learn. My dad told me I had to figure it out in order to get home.

It was a little rough, but I eventually figured out clutch engagement after stalling a few times. It was at this point, the lightbulb went off and my passion for cars accelerated from first to sixth because I really enjoyed rowing the gears over an automatic transmission, although I certainly understand why other

automotive enthusiasts are die-hard fans of a manual gearbox.

As a tribal member, I have been blessed over the years to have the opportunity to own a variety of cars, including a Subaru WRX STI, Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution VIII and X, fifth generation Chevrolet Camaro ZL1, Volkswagen Golf R and a Audi RS3. Some I wish I did not get rid of, but that's another story. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would own a Porsche GT product. This is the brand that has changed the way I look at cars today in regard to combining elements of motorsports and implementing them in a streetcar perspective. Aspect Porsche still offers a manual transmission in several vehicles. Now, do not get me wrong, BMW, Ford, Chevrolet, etc... are still providing their customers with a manual transmission option. However, there is an ongoing trend

with automotive manufactures not producing as many sports cars with a manual transmission option compared to years ago. Now let's be honest, the majority of people prefer an automatic over a manual gearbox, but for us enthusiasts, we do not comply. Do not get me wrong though, I do enjoy a fast shifting dual clutch gearbox as well, just do not give me a slushbox automatic transmission.

What I look for in a car is an experience, whether it is a sports, luxury or muscle car, and that does not always translate to the highest horsepower or torque figures in a vehicle, sorry to burst anyone's bubble. There is more to a car than just 0 to 60 MPH and quarter-mile times. What I try to focus on, is "how does this vehicle make you feel when you drive it?" It is with this focus and mindset I will write automotive stories for The Seminole Tribune. My

goal is to develop stories that include tribal members in the community who share the same automotive passion; this would include writing stories or making videos. From a consumer point of view, I would also like to give the community my impressions on new automotive products.

Tribal member Calvin Tiger has worked with the Seminole Tribe since 2013. He is in the Education Department's Emerging Leaders Program.

He has a passion for automotive journalism. If you would like to talk to him about your vehicle or anything in the automotive industry, send him an email at calvintiger@seminole.com or call him at (954) 985-5701, ext. 10739.

Courtesy photo

Calvin Tiger will be writing about the automotive industry.



# Gumball drivers raise money from Toronto to Hollywood

BY CALVIN TIGER  
Reporter/Intern

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Gumball 3000 Rally served as the perfect excuse for sports car and driving enthusiasts to take a road trip through two countries – with memorable pit stops along the way – ultimately crossing the finish line June 1 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

The week-long rally, which organizers emphasized was not a race, raised money for the charities of the rally's foundation. It began May 27 in downtown Toronto. Actor David Hasselhoff, who shared stardom with a talking sports car in the 1980s TV show "Knight Rider," waved the ceremonial starting flag amid the participating vehicles and throngs of spectators on blocked off streets. Other celebrities involved in the launch included DJ Deadmau5, Miami Heat player Jimmy Butler, baseball Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr., automotive YouTuber Mr. JWW and rap artist Bun B.

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola participated in the rally. He and his teammate, Sean Caffery, senior vice president of casino & business development for Hard Rock International, drove a Chevrolet C8 Corvette with a custom vinyl wrap displaying the colors of the Seminole Tribe's flag and the logo of Hard Rock, which was a major sponsor. Similar to pro racecar drivers, Councilman Osceola and Caffery's team shirt was covered with an array of logos, including the tribe's flag and Hard Rock and some of its entities, such as the Council Oak restaurant, Daer nightclub/dayclub and the Guitar Hotel.

Additional exotic sport cars in the rally included McLaren 765LT Spider, Porsche 911 GT2RS, Porsche 911 GT3, Ferrari as well as Rolls Royce, muscle cars and others.

The rally's purpose was about more than just sleek, fast cars making the 1,500-mile trek south.

"It is all for a great cause; everybody on this ride donated money for this cause. [Teams] raised over \$1 million for various charities," Councilman Osceola said.

According to the Gumball 3000 Foundation's website, the Osceola-Caffery team was among the top five teams in fundraising.

The event's history dates back to 1999. Founder Maximillion Cooper's vision was to gather people who enjoy driving supercars through different bucket list adventures across the world. Through the foundation, the rally's charity efforts focus on improving the lives of youth, including at-risk and underprivileged kids, through automotive, educational and recreational-based projects.

After leaving Canada, the rally stopped at several cities. In Indianapolis, participants attended the Indianapolis 500 race, which was a first for Councilman Osceola. In country music-rich Nashville, the rally cars made their way along the famed downtown Broadway thoroughfare. Before crossing into Florida, the rally had an opportunity in Alabama to take laps at the Talladega Superspeedway, one of the most iconic race tracks in NASCAR. The rally also stopped in Atlanta in the Atlantic Station area.

One of the last stops was at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, home of Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"We stopped at the Tampa football stadium and parked our cars on the field," Councilman Osceola said.

The journey concluded at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood with a rock star welcome for Councilman Osceola, Caffery and other participants. They were greeted by spectators, loud rock



Calvin Tiger

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola greets spectators as he crosses the finish line of the Gumball 3000 Rally on June 1 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. He arrived in a Chevrolet C8 Corvette.



Calvin Tiger

A Porsche GT2 RS from the Gumball 3000 Rally arrives at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on June 1.



YouTube

Actor David Hasselhoff gets the Gumball 3000 Rally started May 27 in Toronto.

music, and bright flashing lights with smoke at the entrance of the Guitar Hotel.

"Hard Rock embodies entertainment;

we are an entertainment company first," Caffery said. "We have the opportunity to partner with a global company that brings

entertainment and does so much for charities around the world. We felt that it was an incredible opportunity to bring the two together and create something that could excite people around not only the Hard Rock brand but our partnership with Gumball."



Calvin Tiger

From right, Dodge Viper, McLaren, and two Porsches finish the Gumball 3000 Rally at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on June 1.



Calvin Tiger

Sean Caffery, Hard Rock International's senior vice president of casino & business development, talks about participating in the Gumball 3000 Rally.



The Okeechobee Belles softball team celebrate their district championship win in June.

Courtesy photo



It's all smiles as the Okeechobee Belles hoist the district championship trophy.

Courtesy photo

# Okeechobee Belles win district championship

**STAFF REPORT**

Featuring a roster loaded with Seminoles, the Okeechobee Belles softball team (ages 13-15) won the District 5 championship in June.

The team will head to the Panhandle to play in the Dixie Softball state tournament July 7-10 in Bristol.

Tribal members on the team are Merlaysia Billie, Serenity Billie, Melaine Bonilla, Amalia Estrada, Ayana Fonseca, Adeline Garcia, Carlee Osceola, Truley

Osceola, Kiara Snell and Kashyra Urbina. Non-tribal players are Jaelyn Lineberry and Emily Rucks.

The team won the double-elimination district tournament against Fort Meade and Sebring.

# Gabby Lemieux becomes first Native American to play in U.S. Women's Open

**BY KEVIN JOHNSON**  
Senior Editor

Gabby Lemieux didn't make the cut at the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament, but she did make history.

Lemieux (Shoshone-Paiute Tribe) became the first Native American to play in the 76-year-old tournament, which was held June 2-5 at Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

Lemieux finished far from the cutline after rounds of 82-81, but that didn't dampen her attitude.

"I may not have come out firing with my A game this time, but next time... I'm going to be prepared. I am so happy to have had the opportunity to be the first Native American in the US Women's Open. Words cannot describe how I am feeling," she wrote on Twitter.

Her 36 holes included two birdies, which came on par 3s on the first day, and 15 pars.

Before the tournament, Lemieux told KTVB-TV in Boise, Idaho, that playing in the U.S. Women's Open is "a goal that I've

been chasing ever since I was six when I started this game."

"To have a chance to play in a major at [age] 25 and not to have LPGA Tour status – but still trying to chase it – is really all I've been looking for," she said.

Lemieux grew up in Idaho and played college golf at Texas Tech University. She has been on the LPGA minor league tour – now known as the Epson Tour – since 2018.

She earned her way into the U.S. Women's Open by winning the only available spot in a one-day qualifier May 9 in Chaska, Minnesota. She shot 71-72 to win medalist honors by one stroke. Her second round included four birdies.

Lemieux didn't get a bounce from her Open appearance. She missed the cut in her next two Epson Tour tournaments in mid-June. She has made five of 10 cuts this season, including a season best T13 at the Inova Mission Inn Resort & Club Championship in May.

The Epson Tour wraps up its season with the tour championship Oct. 6-9 at LPGA International's Jones Course in Daytona Beach.



Instagram

Gabby Lemieux became the first Native American to play in the U.S. Women's Open when she competed in early June at Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club in North Carolina.



Instagram

Gabby Lemieux signs autographs at the U.S. Women's Open.

## EIRA INFR Tour rodeo results - May 29-30 at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, Brighton Reservation

EIRA		May 29 - 30, 2022	
<b>Bareback</b>		<b>Team Roping-Header</b>	
Jacoby Johns	72 \$1,240.80	1 Jobe Johns	6.85 \$1,008.62
Ground	\$827.20	2 Justin Turner	8.55 \$834.72
		3 Preston Louis	8.56 \$660.82
<b>Saddle Bronc</b>		4 Justin Turner	11.41 \$486.92
1 No Qualified Rides		5 Andre Jumper	12.64 \$313.02
		6 Connor Osborn	20.50 \$173.90
<b>Bull Riding</b>		<b>Team Roping Heeler</b>	
1 Preston Louis	76.00 \$1,240.80	1 Wyatt Gibson	6.85 \$1,008.62
2 Norman Osceola	72.00 \$827.20	2 Chuck Morgan	8.55 \$834.72
		3 Naha Jumper	8.56 \$660.82
<b>Calf Roping</b>		4 Quinton Inman	11.41 \$486.92
1 Rush Hodges	9.94 \$845.06	5 Cat Tommie	12.64 \$313.02
2 Quinton Inman	10.81 \$699.36	6 Chuck Morgan	20.50 \$173.90
3 Justin Turner	11.57 \$553.66		
4 Jaxon Clegg	14.31 \$407.96	<b>Ladies Barrel Race</b>	
5 Ivan Bruised Head	14.92 \$262.26	1 Calgary Johns - Okeechobee, FL	15.856 \$899.58
6 Marvin Tolth	17.86 \$145.70	2 Jalee Wilcox - Clewistown, FL	16.371 \$744.48
		3 Madysyn Osceola - Okeechobee, FL	17.115 \$589.38
<b>Steer Wrestling</b>		4 Jennifer Turner - Vinita, OK	20.646 \$434.28
1 Quinton Inman	6.81 \$1,353.60	5 Savannah Fish - Harrah, OK	21.200 \$279.18
2 Ground	\$902.40	6 Mackenzie Bowers - Okeechobee, FL	21.296 \$155.10
<b>SRTR-Header</b>		<b>Ladies Breakaway</b>	
1 Jimmy Roper	10.29 \$451.20	1 Ahnie Jumper	4.00 845.06
2 Robie Inman	14.42 \$300.80	2 Chelsey Gibson	14.09 699.36
		3 Ground	\$1,369.58
<b>SRTR-Heeler</b>			
1 Ralph Williams	10.29 \$451.20	<b>Jr. Bulls</b>	
2 Chuck Morgan	14.42 \$300.80	1 No Qualified Rides	
<b>Sr Breakaway</b>		<b>Jr. Breakaway</b>	
1 Marvin Tolth	3.28 \$493.50	1 No Qualified Runs	
2 Ralph Williams	3.89 \$329.00	2	
		<b>Jr. Barrels</b>	
		1 Jernie Roper - Oktaha, OK	15.671 \$423.00
		2 Hayden Edwards - Browning, MT	17.143 \$282.00

## EIRA qualifier results - June 3-4 at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, Brighton Reservation

<b>Bareback</b>		<b>Team Roping-Header</b>	
1 Jacoby Johns - Okeechobee, FL	70 \$3,045.60	1 Willie Covers Up	7.43
2 Tom Chee - Denver, CO	59 \$2,030.40	2 Clay Martinez	9.52
		3 Justin Turner	10.12
<b>Saddle Bronc</b>		4 Braydon Boyd	12.84
1 Tom Chee - Denver, CO	81 \$3,102.00	5 Clay Martinez	16.53
		6 Robie Inman	17.42
<b>Bull Riding</b>		<b>Team Roping Heeler</b>	
1 Jaquez Antonio - Whiteriver, AZ	65.00 \$1,232.34	1 Gene Curtis	7.43 \$
		2 Gene Curtis	9.52 \$
<b>Calf Roping</b>		3 Chuck Morgan	10.12 \$
1 Jobe Johns - Zolfo Springs, FL	10.04 \$1,383.68	4 Darryl Boyd	12.84 \$
2 Jaxon Clegg - Coweta, OK	10.11 \$1,203.20	5 Braydon Boyd	16.53 \$
3 Marvin Tolth - Farmington, NM	12.46 \$1,022.72	6 Ralph Williams	17.42 \$
4 Wyatt Gibson	12.94 \$842.24		
5 Naha Jumper - Clewiston, FL	15.40 \$661.76	<b>Ladies Barrel Race</b>	
6 Quinton Inman - Ketchum, OK	15.61 \$481.28	1 Calgary Johns - Okeechobee, FL	15.784
7 Ivan Bruised Head - Okeechobee, FL	16.81 \$300.80	2 Savannah Fish - Harrah, OK	15.960
8 Justin Turner - Vinita, OK	19.70 \$120.32	3 Boogie Johns - Okeechobee, FL	16.169
		4 Sallye Williams - Skiatook, OK	16.234
<b>Steer Wrestling</b>		5 Canaan Jumper - Clewiston, FL	16.575
1 Michael Bates - Tohatchi, NM	5.17 \$1,232.34	6 Ashlynn Collins - Okeechobee, FL	16.726
2 Quinton Inman - Ketchum, OK	5.37 \$1,071.60	7 Brittany Bird - Cut Bank, MT	16.838
3 Braydon Boyd - Vander Wagon, NM	10.35 \$910.86	8 Jennifer Turner - Vinita, OK	20.577
<b>SRTR-Header</b>		<b>Ladies Breakaway</b>	
1 Robie Inman	8.76 \$775.50	1 Keleigh Lee - Farmington, NM	3.06
2 Robie Inman	9.62 \$517.00	2 Ahnie Jumper - Clewiston, FL	3.16
		3 Savannah Fish - Harrah, OK	3.66
<b>SRTR-Heeler</b>		4 Brittany Bird - Cut Bank, MT	4.35
1 Chuck Morgan	8.76 \$775.50		
2 Ralph Williams - Skiatook, OK	9.62 \$517.00	<b>Jr. Barrels</b>	
		1 Jernie Roper - Oktaha, OK	15.693
<b>Sr Breakaway</b>		2 Julie Ann Weaver - Vinita, OK	16.086
1 Chuck Morgan - Comanche, OK	2.65 \$573.40	3 Jhett Dale - Shiprock, NM	16.921
2 Marvin Tolth - Farmington, NM	2.69 \$430.05	4 Hayden Edwards - Browning, MT	17.633
3 Ralph Williams - Skiatook, OK	3.58 \$286.70		
4 Robie Inman - Ketchum, OK	3.82 \$143.35	<b>Jr. Breakaway</b>	
		1 Jett Turner - Vinita, OK	4.59
		2 Cody Tommie - Okeechobee, FL	14.31
		<b>Jr. Bulls</b>	
		1 Biddy Deschine	60

## Jeff Culhane named new voice of FSU men's basketball, football

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**TALLAHASSEE** — Jeff Culhane has been hired as director of Broadcasting for Learfield's Seminole Sports Properties and will serve as the voice for Florida State football and men's basketball. Culhane will begin his new role July 1 and is scheduled to call his first FSU contest Aug. 27 in football's season opener against Duquesne.

Culhane brings 20 years of multimedia experience to the Seminoles, including roles building radio affiliate networks in addition to broadcasting duties for Nebraska, West Virginia and North Dakota State. He has extensive experience growing radio networks through adding new affiliates and producing original content, including daily shows, weekly features and podcasts that highlight student-athletes and coaches in each program.

"Jeff Culhane is an exciting hire for our department and fans," FSU Vice President and Director of Athletics Michael Alford said in a statement. "He is a talented, experienced play-by-play voice who has called many postseason games across multiple sports while also creating content for the programs he has worked with and their affiliate radio networks. This position attracted nationwide interest, and Jeff's unique abilities continued to rise to the top. I look forward to how Jeff will help tell the stories of our student-athletes, coaches and department through this expanded role."

For the past six years, Culhane has been the voice of North Dakota State football, men's basketball and baseball.

"It is truly an honor to be named play-by-play voice for the Florida State Seminoles," Culhane said in a statement. "To follow in the footsteps of a legend like Gene Deckerhoff is an opportunity and a challenge I will look to live up to every single day. My family and I can't wait to get to Tallahassee



Jeff Culhane

and immerse ourselves in all the traditions of Florida State. Go Noles!"

Culhane handled play-by-play duties for West Virginia women's basketball and baseball from 2013-16 while also hosting the Mountaineer Tailgate Show and 5th Quarter Show for football as well as the Mountaineer Insider Podcast, a weekly feature for WVU's official athletics website. At Nebraska from 2007-13, he produced and served as the studio host for football, men's basketball and baseball broadcasts. In addition, he hosted Sports Nightly and The Nebraska High School Scoreboard Show.

Prior to his time at Nebraska, Culhane was the play-by-play voice for South Dakota women's basketball and held multiple broadcasting roles throughout the state from 2001-2007.

## Five straight wins for Oracle Red Bull since Hard Rock announcement



The good vibes and victories in Formula 1 racing continue for Oracle Red Bull Racing since it announced a multiyear partnership with Hard Rock International in May. Since the announcement, Oracle Red Bull has won the next five races (as of June 20) in Miami, Spain, Monaco, Azerbaijan and Montreal. Max Verstappen won four of the races and his teammate Sergio Perez won in Monaco (pictured). The partnership makes Hard Rock an official team viewing partner and promotes Hard Rock destinations and experiences aligned with race weeks. It also gives Hard Rock's logo a presence in Oracle Red Bull's team, including on its cars' front wheel covers/air deflectors.

## Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open starts July 27

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open (SHRPO) will be held July 27-Aug. 9 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood.

The tournament will feature the \$400 Deep Stack No Limit Hold'em series opener with a \$1 million guarantee.

Unique to South Florida, SHRPO is

known for its one-of-a-kind finisher – The Big 4, a collection of four-tournament finales that feature staggered structures, timed so the events play down simultaneously. The Big 4 championship will be filmed for TV and live-streamed by Poker Night in America on Aug. 9. Carrying combined prize pools of \$6.5 million, The Big 4 events include:

- \$5,300 SHRPO NLH Championship (Single Re-Entry Per Day),

\$3 Million Guarantee, starts at 11 a.m. on Aug. 5

- \$2,700 Deep Stack No Limit Hold'em (Re-Entry), \$1 Million Guarantee, starts at 2 p.m. on Aug. 7

• \$1,100 Deep Stack No Limit Hold'em (Re-Entry), \$500,000 Guarantee, starts at 11 a.m. on Aug. 8

- \$25,500 High Roller NLH (Re-Entry), \$2 Million Guarantee, starts at noon

on Aug. 8

Other events surrounding The Big 4 include the Big Stack No Limit Hold'em (Re-Entry) highlighting a \$200,000 guarantee, starting Aug. 1 at 11 a.m., and a Deep Stack Eight-Handed No Limit Hold'em (Re-Entry) event starting Aug. 9 at noon, highlighting a \$500,000 guarantee.

SHRPO's footprint boasts a capacity for more than 70 tables providing plenty of

space for poker tournament players from around the globe. In 2021, SHRPO's The Big 4 total cash payout exceeded the guarantees, topping out at more than \$9.7 million. Boasting the third-largest championship field in SHRPO history, the 2021 championship also saw 1,180 total entries, for a total prize pool of \$5.7 million.

For more information visit SHRPO.com.



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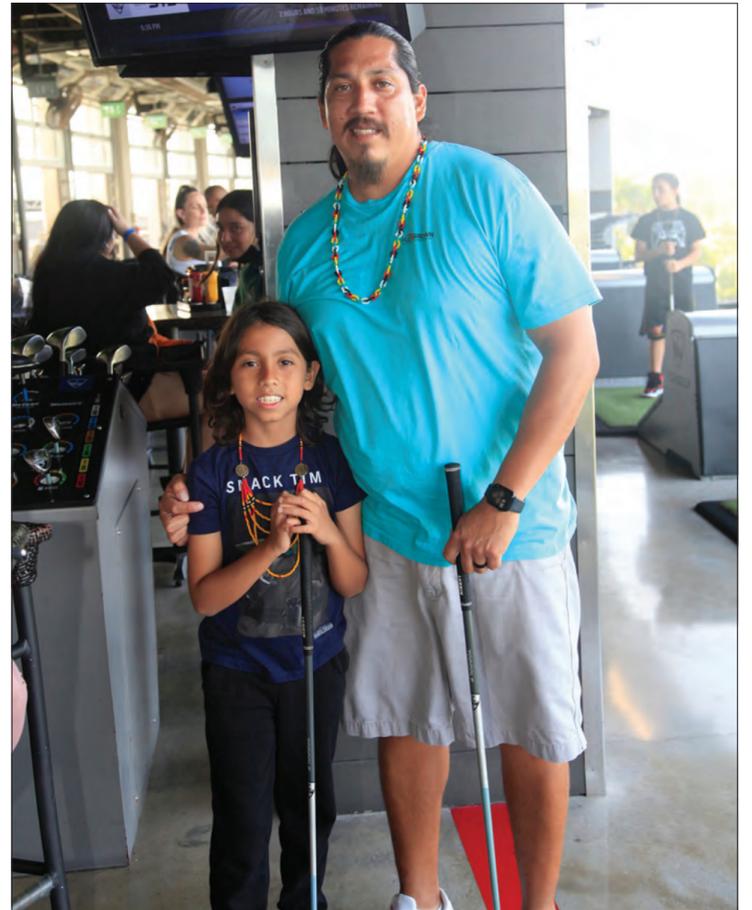
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# Hollywood community tees it up for Father's Day



Kevin Johnson

Leon Wilcox gets ready to launch a drive during the Hollywood Father's Day event June 15 at Topgolf in Miami Gardens. The event was organized by the Hollywood Council Office.



Kevin Johnson

Joah Billie, left, and Jonah Billie get ready to hit some drives at Topgolf.



Kevin Johnson

Milo Osceola, center, with Milo Osceola Jr., right, and Storm Osceola at the Topgolf event.



Kevin Johnson

Nnamdi Tommie, left, and Aaron Tommie prepare for their evening of golf.



Kevin Johnson

Proud dad Marlon Tommie with Kenzi, Ravyn and Phoenix Tommie.

## Cage fighting championship to be held in Tampa

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**TAMPA** — Cage Fighting Championships (CFFC) returns to Florida, at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa for the “CFFC 110: Alequin vs. Radtke” on July 14 at 7 p.m.

Topping the bill are a pair of title fights, including the main event, which sees undefeated welterweight champion Eric Alequin (7-0) putting his belt on the line for the first time when he takes on the hard-hitting Charles “Chuck Buffalo” Radtke (5-3). Meanwhile, the co-feature sees former CFFC flyweight champion Santo Curatolo (6-2) return to the promotion after an appearance on Dana White’s Contender Series to contest for an interim flyweight belt against veteran contender Lloyd “Albie” McKinney (15-8).

An additional featured matchup sees Bryan “The Ecuadorian Warrior” Bautista (4-1) take on Brazilian promotional newcomer Gonzalo Ojeda (3-1) in a key featherweight matchup.

Tickets are available at Ticketmaster or [seminolehardrocktampa.com](http://seminolehardrocktampa.com).

The event will stream live on UFC Fight Pass.

“Our previous events at the incredible Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa

were both phenomenal nights made even more special by the amazing sold-out crowds in attendance,” CFFC CEO Rob Haydak said in a statement. “We’re bringing another lineup full of MMA’s next big stars, and we’re expecting another evening of action-packed entertainment from start to finish.”

A Brazilian jiu-jitsu black belt who remains an active competitor in the grappling world, Florida’s Alequin made his CFFC debut in March, battling to a hard-fought decision win over Hugh Pulley to claim the welterweight title left vacant when former titleholder Yohan Lainesse was signed by the UFC. He’ll now look to defend the belt against Radtke, who has won back-to-back appearances in the CFFC cage after leaving the lightweight division behind and moving up to 170 pounds.

Meanwhile, Curatolo is an impressive 6-1 under the CFFC banner but now faces the incredibly experienced McKinney for an interim belt, as reigning flyweight champion Phumi Nkuta remains sidelined from surgery he underwent earlier this year.

Current All Elite Wrestling champion and two-time UFC veteran CM Punk calls the action at CFFC 110 alongside Mixed Martial Arts.com editor-in-chief John Morgan on UFC Fight Pass.

## Thompson brothers win lacrosse awards

FROM PRESS RELEASE

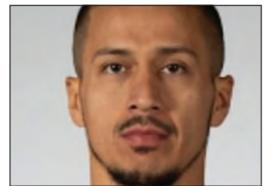
**PHILADELPHIA** — Native American brothers Lyle and Jeremy Thompson (Onondaga Nation) won two National Lacrosse League awards, the league announced June 28.

Lyle Thompson, 29, won his fourth consecutive sportsmanship award. He finished with 102 points on the season for the Georgia Swarm on 47 goals which was tied for a league high and is a career high. The 2017 MVP has continued to represent the game of lacrosse and the NLL to the highest degree and is the only player to win the award four times since its inception in 2002.

Jeremy Thompson, 35, won the teammate of the year award, a particularly high honor as it is voted on by the players of the NLL from among one nominee per team. He helped lead the expansion Panther City Lacrosse Club to a 7-11 record and at one point, a five-game winning streak. He helped lead the team that played 10 rookies throughout the season. The 10-year veteran totaled 17 points on the season, 146 loose ball recoveries, 13 caused turnovers and won 52.0% of his faceoffs



NLL (2)  
Lyle Thompson, left, and Jeremy Thompson.



### FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
B23658	2007	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT (RWD)	221,600	Poor	\$1,151
B88213	2010	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F150 STX REG CAB (RWD)	239,930	Poor	\$1,840
B30770	2006	FORD PARCEL VAN	E350 PARCEL DELIVERY BOX TRUCK (RWD)	105,841	Fair	\$4,385
52361AB	2006	HOMES OF MERIT MOBILE HOME TRAILER	COUNTRY MANOR - DOUBLE WIDE	N/A	Poor	\$4,891
52362AB	2006	HOMES OF MERIT MOBILE HOME TRAILER	COUNTRY MANOR - DOUBLE WIDE	N/A	Poor	\$4,891

Note - Previously advertised items are not reflected on this advertisement, only new listings. For more information contact Fixed Assets Dept. 954-967-3640, 954-966-6300 ext. 20034.

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