



The

Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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## New, bigger Brighton Trading Post on horizon

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The Brighton Trading Post on the Brighton Reservation has been a staple of the Seminole community since it opened in the 1960s. Located next to the Brighton RV Resort grounds, it's undergone different upgrades over the years – fuel pumps have been added and it once housed a laundromat and a Subway restaurant. It received a new digital fuel sign and other enhancements in 2020, but its last major renovation was in 2012.

Late last year, the Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc. became aware of a grant opportunity through the American Rescue Plan's Indigenous Communities program and applied for \$5 million to build a new Trading Post. On Aug. 16, STOF Inc. was notified that it would receive \$3.3 million toward a projected \$5 million cost. The tribe would contribute the remaining \$1.7 million.

"This EDA investment will create economic growth and opportunity for the Brighton Seminole community through the expansion of existing business operations," Commerce Department Secretary Gina Raimondo said in a statement.

The EDA is the U.S. Economic Development Administration, an agency of the Commerce Department, administering the grant funds.

♦ See TRADING POST on page 3A

## Fun, culture, unity highlight Seminole Tribe's return to Camp Kulaqua

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

HIGH SPRINGS, Fla. — Nearly 200 kids from the Seminole Tribe spent a week at Camp Kulaqua where they experienced a classic rite of childhood: learning to work, play and live together at camp with their peers.

Tribal youth ages 7 to 17 returned to the camp in High Springs – about 20 miles northwest of Gainesville – from July 31 to Aug. 5. The camp was last held in 2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic shut down most activities.

The youngsters lived in cabins with kids their own age. Along the way, they made new friends and challenged themselves in a variety of activities during the fun-filled week.

In addition to floating down the Ichetucknee River, ziplining high above trees and riding horses for the first time, there was more to the camp than just fun and games. It was a time for the kids to make memories and perhaps learn something new about themselves. For some kids, it was the first time they had been away from their families.

"This is a huge character-building time," said Suzanne Davis, the tribe's Integrative Health director. "They get to know who they are on their own, sometimes for the first time."

The kids' busy schedules started with a daily walk before breakfast and ended with lights out at 10 p.m. In between, activities included maneuvering a low ropes course, where they learned to work together to achieve a goal; being launched from the infamous giant inflatable "blob" at the camp's Hornsby Spring; driving go-carts;



Beverly Bidney

A group of enthusiastic campers from the Seminole Tribe cheer after members of Seminole Fire Rescue scaled a tall wall without the help of a ladder during the tribe's week at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida.

drifting on a lazy river; zooming down a water slide; battling the swells in a wave pool; competing in a boxcar derby; playing kickball; and participating in the "Wacky

Seminole Sports Challenge."

Many Seminole kids met for the first time. Each cabin housed kids from different reservations.

♦ See CAMP on page 4B, 5B

## BIA visits Brighton, Big Cypress reservations

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Officials from the Bureau of Indian Affairs met with Aaron Stam, the Seminole Tribe's Natural Resources Department director, during a visit to the Brighton and Big Cypress reservations Aug. 23 and 24.

Eric Wilcox, administrative officer for the BIA's eastern region, toured Brighton and met with cattle owners over lunch Aug. 23. The following day Thomas Mendez, branch chief of Agriculture and Rangeland Development in the BIA's office of Trust Services' division of Natural Resources, met with Big Cypress Board Rep. Nadine Bowers and toured the reservation with Stam.

The BIA officials were told about the function of the tribe's Natural Resources Department's program and the challenges facing the tribe's cattle producers, including invasive species and water issues on the reservations.

"This is a good chance to show him the reservations in person," said Stam, who introduced them to the cow crews and familiarized them with the cattle operation.

Stam also outlined some of the



Beverly Bidney

Natural Resources Department director Aaron Stam, left, shows Bureau of Indian Affairs branch chief of Agriculture and Rangeland development Thomas Mendez an example of the whitehead broom weed, an invasive species commonly found in pastures throughout South Florida. Mendez toured the Big Cypress Reservation on Aug. 24.

differences between the reservations' geography to Mendez (Mescalero Apache), who is from New Mexico. Brighton is subtropical and Big Cypress is tropical with swamps and cypress heads. Although the natural environments are different on the reservations, the Natural Resources program is fundamentally the same tribalwide.

Mendez wasn't familiar with the

tribe's cattle program, so Stam explained that the tribal ranchers own their herds and the Natural Resources program provides services to the cattle owners.

"A lot of young people want to be in the program," Stam said. "There is a waiting list for pastures."

♦ See BIA on page 5A

## Native heritage becomes part of statewide art, essay contests

*PECS students led the effort*

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students played a part in the state of Florida recognizing Native American heritage in statewide student art and essay contests that will be held each November. The contests will coincide with Native American Heritage Month.

This is the first time Native American Month has been included in the statewide contests by the Florida Department of Education, which also holds contests for Hispanic Heritage Month and Black History Month.

The addition of the Native American aspect came after a grassroots initiative from a group of PECS students on the Brighton Reservation.

"This is absolutely awesome," said PECS principal Tracy Downing, who shared the news with the students during morning announcements Aug. 26. "I talked about the process and recognized the students who played a big part in it. Our school board and [Tribal] Council supported the resolution and the Florida Department of Education followed that. As a result of our efforts, we

have accomplished our goal. [The FLDOE has] done everything we asked them to do and we will fully participate."

Florida First Lady Casey DeSantis made the announcement in a news release Aug. 25. The theme for the 2022-2023 school year contests is "Celebrating the achievements of Hispanic, Native American and Black Floridians."

"I'm excited to recognize Native American Heritage Month. Our state is rich in contributions from the Hispanic, Native American, and Black communities throughout Florida," DeSantis said in the release. "We are honored to highlight their achievements and impact on Florida's history. These contests will help students learn about Florida's leaders and their contributions to our great state."

"The Seminole Tribe plays an important part in Florida's history and culture, and we sincerely appreciate being included in this meaningful educational outreach program that reaches students across our state," Seminole Tribe Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said in a statement. He thanked the governor, first lady and education commissioner.

♦ See PECS on page 4A

## Tribe celebrates 65th anniversary of government formation

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminoles who met under the Council Oak Tree on the Hollywood Reservation to create a new tribal government on Aug. 21, 1957, weren't removed from the generations who survived in the swamps of the Everglades day by day with little to no modern day resources or money. They met with the hope that fortunes could change and that the tribe would one day be financially independent enough to offer health care and education to its members and

to secure its rights to land, water and other natural resources.

It was 65 years ago that a Seminole constitution was forged creating a two-tiered system of government with a tribal council and a board of directors. It was also in 1957 that the U.S. Congress would officially recognize the unconquered Seminole Tribe of Florida. The government formation and the federal recognition laid the groundwork for what would be an increasingly influential and financially formidable tribe.

The tribe took note of its history, the sacrifices of its ancestors, and the foresight of the leaders who met under the Council

Oak Tree at a 65th anniversary event Aug. 25 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

An opening video presentation produced by Seminole Media Productions and narrated by Cheyenne Kippenberger featured several Seminole elders who reminisced about how different life was in those early years.

♦ See 65th on page 6A

Beverly Bidney

Brian Zepeda, dressed in traditional clothing holding an antique rifle, served as emcee of the anniversary celebration Aug. 25.



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Visit the Tribune's website for news throughout the month at [seminoletribune.org](http://seminoletribune.org)



# Editorial

## Castro-Huerta decision ‘flips federal Indian law on its head’

• Mary Kathryn Nagle

As a child, my grandmother taught me to revere the United States Supreme Court. Her eyes would beam with pride as she pointed to the photos of my grandfathers that hung on her wall and explained that in 1832, the executive and legislative branches of the United States government sought to extinguish us. But, the judicial branch recognized our right to exist.

In Worcester v. Georgia, a case that my great-great-grandfather John Ridge worked on alongside Cherokee Nation Chief John Ross, the United States Supreme Court declared that Georgia could not exercise criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians located within Cherokee Nation’s borders. The Supreme Court’s declaration of tribal sovereignty threatened nothing less than President Andrew Jackson’s 1830 Indian Removal Act and his plan for genocidal forced removal. And it affirmed our inherent right to exist.

Worcester v. Georgia is the reason I went to law school. It’s the reason I’ve always believed in the legitimacy of the Supreme Court as an institution that does not bend to the political pressures of the day, but instead, applies the law, plain and simple.

All of that changed this past month. The Supreme Court’s decision in Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta is not an application of the law. It is an outcome-determinative decision designed to satisfy the governor of Oklahoma’s multi-million dollar campaign to undermine the court’s decision from two years ago, in McGirt.

Justice Gorsuch begins his dissent with the case my grandfather worked on. And he concludes that there is no reason Worcester should not control here. Just as the court rejected Andrew Jackson’s attempt to usurp the sovereignty of Cherokee Nation in 1832, the court should have, in this case, denied Gov. Kevin Stitt’s attempt to commandeer the sovereignty of tribal nations today in Oklahoma. If Oklahoma wants to exercise jurisdiction over tribal lands, their solution is — as it has always has been — in the halls of Congress.

But the majority, authored by Justice Kavanaugh, concludes that states, like Oklahoma, have jurisdiction over the lands of tribal nations until or unless Congress limits that jurisdiction. This, as many Indian law scholars have pointed out, defies the plain language in the Constitution and flips federal Indian law on its head. To reach this decision, Justice Kavanaugh attempts to eviscerate the victory my grandfather and my nation won in the court just less than 200 years ago, claiming that “Worcester rested on a mistaken understanding of the relationship between Indian country and the States.”

Nothing in Chief Justice Marshall’s decision was mistaken. At the time that the court issued its decision in Worcester, the question of which sovereign could exercise criminal jurisdiction on tribal lands, for Native women, had life and death implications. In 1825, the governor of Georgia instructed the Georgia Militia to rape Cherokee women, believing that if the militia raped enough of

us, we would voluntarily agree to leave our homes and move west of the Mississippi. His plan did not work. My great-great-grandfather, Major Ridge, was the speaker of our nation’s tribal council at that time, and in response, he worked with our council to pass a law that made it a crime for any person to rape a woman on Cherokee lands. Long before many states criminalized rape within their borders, Cherokee Nation prosecuted anyone, Indian or non-Indian, who raped a woman on Cherokee lands.

Until 1978, the United States Supreme Court concluded, in Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe, that tribal nations could no longer exercise jurisdiction over non-Indians who come onto tribal lands and commit crimes. And as a result, today, Native women and children are more likely to be raped, assaulted, and murdered than any population in the United States. The Department of Justice reports that the majority of these crimes are committed by non-Indians. Because of Oliphant, our nations can no longer protect our own women and children in their own homes.

As Native women, we know there is a connection between the sovereignty of our nations and the safety of our bodies. There always has been. That is why the governor of Georgia instructed his militia to rape us. That is why the soldiers raped Cherokee women on the Trail of Tears. And it is why, as a lawyer today, I fight to restore the sovereignty the Supreme Court took away.

The court had the opportunity in Castro-Huerta to right a wrong. But instead of restoring the tribal jurisdiction that the court took away in Oliphant, the court gave it to the state. Instead of upholding Chief Justice Marshall’s decision in Worcester, Justice Kavanaugh injudiciously tried to undermine it.

Just as Andrew Jackson claimed the forced, genocidal removal of my nation, the Cherokee Nation, was for our own safety and welfare, Gov. Stitt has claimed that his state’s multi-million dollar campaign against tribal sovereignty is to benefit me and my fellow Native women and children. But just as Andrew Jackson failed to reach his ultimate goal, Gov. Stitt will fail to reach his. Tribal nations, and their citizens, are still here. And no amount of money, lawyers, or public relations campaigns can eliminate us and our right to protect our own citizens in their homes. Gov. Stitt — we will see you in Congress. And this time, the truth will prevail.

Worcester was not a misunderstanding. It was, and continues to be, an example of what the Supreme Court can be, if and when it decides to look past prejudice and simply apply the law.

*Mary Kathryn Nagle is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation. She is an attorney whose work focuses on the restoration of tribal sovereignty and the inherent right of Indian Nations to protect their women and children from domestic violence and sexual assault. This op-ed is posted at indiancountrytoday.com.*

## Canadian justice comes to Minnesota

• Winona LaDuke

This month, I returned to the Wadena County Courthouse to join with six other women facing charges for opposing the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline on the Shell River.

Our crime: Sitting in lawn chairs with some logging chains on our waists on a boardwalk on state forest lands, which Enbridge claims to own. We are facing up to two years in jail for trespassing and obstruction of legal process. As I face these charges I, like many others, want to know why Enbridge — the corporation which took 5 billion gallons of water from a parched northern Minnesota, fracked 28 rivers and pierced three aquifers — is not facing any charges.

Maybe that’s what happens when Enbridge pays over \$8.6 million to numerous jurisdictions of Minnesota, and the state looks the other way. Most ironically, the very agency charged with protecting the waters of Minnesota, the Department of Natural Resources, received the most money from Enbridge: over \$2.2 million for arresting

and surveilling water protectors and Ojibwe people, like myself. For an additional \$2 million, the DNR also let Enbridge run over endangered species.

All told, authorities made over 1,000 arrests. Most of us had been part of the 68,000 people testifying against the project (as opposed to 4,000 for the project). We tried. A federal case is still pending.

There’s a pretty good argument to be made that Enbridge incentivized arresting people, including creating some new legal theories of theft. A half-dozen people were charged with felony theft for locking themselves to construction equipment, depriving Enbridge of its use. Hubbard County dismissed those charges.

Another example of legal overcharging: Shani Matteson was nailed with “aiding and abetting trespass” for a speech, videotaped by police informants. Matteson, an artist and 40-year-old mother of two, was charged in Aitkin County. But on Thursday, July 14, District Court Judge Leslie May Metzén acquitted Matteson based on insufficient evidence.

♦ See LADUKE on page 4A

# Indian Country urges Supreme Court to uphold ICWA

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments Nov. 9 in Haaland v. Brackeen — the case that challenges the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and some of its provisions.

On Aug. 19, 21 amicus briefs were sent to the Supreme Court in favor of upholding the 1978 law — enacted to protect Native children from being separated from their extended families and taken away from their communities and culture when possible. Proponents, such as the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), say research has clearly shown the law leads to more positive outcomes for Native children, such as higher self-esteem and academic success.

Almost 500 tribes (including the Seminole Tribe and the Miccosukee Tribe), 62 Native organizations, 23 states and the District of Columbia, 87 members of the U.S. Congress and 27 child welfare and adoption organizations signed onto the amicus briefs in support of ICWA. Amicus briefs allow entities that have a stake in litigation to provide information to the court on particular issues they believe are important to the case.

“We are seeing the true breadth of those who champion ICWA,” a statement from NICWA on Aug. 23 said. “This large, bipartisan coalition of tribal leaders, policymakers, and organizations understand that the far-reaching consequences of challenging ICWA’s constitutionality in Haaland v. Brackeen will be felt for generations.”

ICWA supporters say the case has implications for upholding tribal sovereignty — which already took a hit this year. The Supreme Court’s Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta decision in late June caused unease across Indian Country due to its expansion of the states’ authority over Native lands.

“ICWA opponents have two things in common: deep pockets and minimal contact with tribal nations, Native organizations, tribal leaders, or Native peoples,” the statement said. “A threat to ICWA is a threat to tribal sovereignty.”

Non-Native people and organizations



Courtesy NICWA

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments Nov. 9 in Brackeen v. Haaland.

have contributed to the amicus briefs as well, NICWA said, including legal perspectives affirming ICWA’s constitutionality to first-person perspectives from children and families navigating the child welfare system.

Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta, the threat to ICWA and other Supreme Court decisions have also sparked activism among some non-Natives.

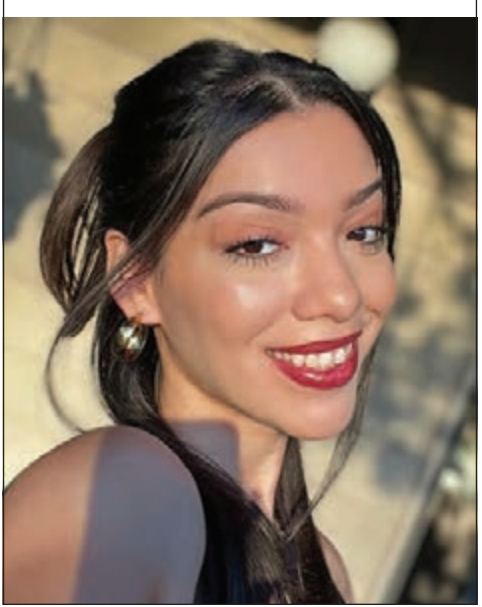
Sierra Rae, who lives in Tampa, told the Tribune Aug. 23 that she began to educate herself about the reach of Supreme Court decisions after Roe v. Wade was overturned June 24.

“I really started getting into activism, protested, signed petitions and was trying to get active in the community,” she said.

Rae said she learned about the Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta decision and that led her to find out about the threat to ICWA.

“It blew my mind that there was no rage toward the Supreme Court in the same way as Roe versus Wade,” she said.

Rae, 21, said she has Indigenous roots in Mexico and grew up doing ceremonial dances. She made a TikTok video about the threat to Indian Country and it got tens of thousands of views. It led Rae to also create an online petition through Resistbot to support ICWA. The Resistbot platform generates letters and messages that are sent to elected officials. The petition has more



Courtesy photo

Sierra Rae, who lives in Tampa, created pro-Indian Country videos on social media and launched an online petition in support of ICWA.

than 26,000 signatures so far.

To view Rae’s ICWA petition go to <https://resist.bot/petitions/PCCPGW>. More about ICWA is at [nicwa.org](http://nicwa.org).

## Cherokee citizen wins GOP nomination for US Senate in Oklahoma

BY LEVI RICKERT  
Native News Online

U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), a tribal citizen of the Cherokee Nation, is poised to become the first Native American Senator since Colorado Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell retired in 2005.

Mullin has clinched the Republican nomination for the open U.S. Senate seat in Oklahoma with a landslide victory. The five-term congressman beat former Oklahoma House Speaker T.W. Shannon on Aug. 23 with 65 percent of the vote in a runoff that was necessary because neither candidate

received 50 percent of the vote in the June primary.

Current incumbent Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) announced in February he would resign his seat, which set up the special election.

Mullin, who is highly favored to win the Senate seat, will face off against the Democratic Senate nominee former Rep. Kendra Horn (D-OK) in the November midterm election. The Senate seat is considered solid Republican.

Mullin cautioned supporters against celebrating too early.

“We still have an election in November.

We obviously understand this state leans red, but we’re not going to take that lightly either,” Mullin said.

If elected, Mullin will be the first Native American to serve in the U.S. Senate since former Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO), who is a tribal citizen of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, retired in 2005.

Prior to serving in the House of Representatives, Mullin operated a plumbing business.

He is a staunch supporter of former President Donald Trump, who endorsed him in the runoff.

## Officials cut red tape to speed up tribal internet projects

STAFF REPORT

Two federal departments tasked with bringing high-speed internet service to tribal communities are expediting the process.

The Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Department of Interior’s Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) announced an agreement Aug. 9 to streamline environmental permitting for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP).

The agreement allows high-speed

internet service to be deployed quickly while also ensuring that the safeguards in the National Environmental Policy Act stay in place to protect Native lands and its environmental, historic and cultural resources, a news release said.

“Tribal communities are long overdue to gain access to life-saving technologies, economic and educational opportunities, and countless other benefits of high-speed internet,” Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information Alan Davidson said in the release. “We are streamlining and creating efficiencies within the federal government to ensure tribal

communities get the resources they need quickly to close the digital divide on tribal lands.”

The TBCP is part of the Biden administration’s “Internet for All” initiative, which offers grants to Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian entities for high-speed internet deployment, digital inclusion, workforce development, telehealth, and distance learning, the release said.

The amount available for high-speed internet grants is \$2 billion.

More information is at [internetforall.gov](http://internetforall.gov).

## Two NC Natives named to commission posts

STAFF REPORT

Kerry Bird and Quinn Godwin were appointed in July to leadership positions on the newly created North Carolina American Indian Heritage Commission.

Bird (Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate and of Lumbee Tribe heritage), was named director. Godwin (Lumbee Tribe) was tabbed as associate director.

The commission was created in the 2021 State Budget Act. Its purpose is to “advise and assist the Secretary of Natural

and Cultural Resources in the preservation, interpretation, and promotion of American Indian history, arts, customs, and culture,” according to a news release.

“The American Indian Heritage Commission under the leadership of Kerry Bird and Quinn Godwin will help realize this vision by ensuring that state-supported sites and resources preserve and promote American Indian culture and contributions to our state,” D. Reid Wilson, Department of Natural Cultural Resources secretary, said in the release.

Bird is president of the Triangle Native American Society. He is a former president of the National Indian Education Association.

“The Commission will bring visibility and recognition to North Carolina’s first peoples and create a greater understanding and appreciation for their rich cultures,” Bird said in the release.

Godwin has served as field coordinator for Gov. Roy Cooper’s Office of Public Engagement and Inclusion for the past four years.

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

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# Community



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## Owachige Osceola's 2013 death draws new attention

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

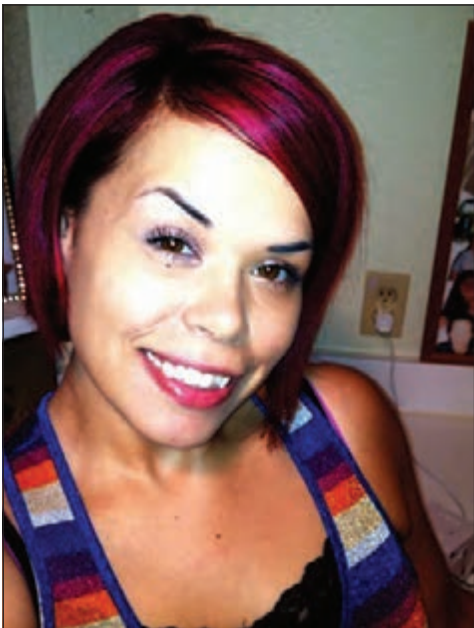
**HOLLYWOOD** — It's been almost nine years since 27-year-old Owachige Osceola, of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, was found dead in her apartment in Norman, Oklahoma. The Norman Police Department and Osceola's family say she was murdered, but no one has ever been charged. However, the case has received more attention recently from a new podcast and a renewed call to action by those close to the investigation.

Osceola's mother, Roberta Osceola, and Will Latchford, the head of Public Safety at the tribe, took part in a webinar July 14 to provide updates on the case and ask for help. Members of the tribe's leadership and dozens of tribal members and employees attended the session.

Osceola, who grew up on the Big Cypress Reservation and attended the Ahfachkee School, was found dead on Sept. 25, 2013. The door to her apartment had been kicked in and her belongings ransacked. She was found face down on the floor. Detectives with the Norman Police Department immediately began a homicide investigation.

Months later, detective Jim Parks said he had enough evidence to arrest a suspect and hand the case over to the Oklahoma district attorney's office for charges to be filed, but the case hit a snag. While the state's chief medical examiner said in its autopsy report that Osceola sustained injuries to the back of her neck, which police said were consistent with strangulation, the cause of death was found to be "undetermined" instead of by "homicide." The finding baffled police and outraged Osceola's family. Prosecutors said the report made charging the suspect all but impossible.

Years went by and in 2017 Parks reopened the case and reexamined the evidence. In 2019, he sought a second opinion on the manner of death issued in the autopsy report and was assisted by a federal medical examiners office in Maryland. In April 2019, the medical examiner said there was "no doubt" that Osceola was murdered.



Courtesy photo

**Owachige Osceola, in an undated image used by her family and law enforcement to ask the public for help in her case.**

But when Parks presented the new finding to the Oklahoma district attorney's office, officials said they would stand by what the state medical examiner had originally determined.

"Whereas the circumstances of death are indeed suspicious, I find it inappropriate to insert any reference to manner of death into the cause of death statement," the state medical examiner said in a statement to Parks. "The cause of death in this case is undetermined. The manner is best classified as undetermined."

In 2020, Seminole Tribe Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. wrote a letter to the Oklahoma district attorney to ask for an independent review of the case, which was also supported by Roberta Osceola, the Seminole Police Department and the Norman Police Department. Then in May of this year, the case got more attention from a podcast called "The Deck," which goes into a detailed timeline of the case and features

interviews with Parks and Roberta Osceola.

To keep the momentum going, the tribe and Osceola's family are asking tribal members and the public to send a letter to Oklahoma District Attorney John O'Connor to persuade him to reexamine the case.

"We want to bring more awareness to her murder," Latchford said on the webinar. "We encourage everyone to listen to the podcast and familiarize yourself with the case."

Latchford said the Seminole Police Department has been working on behalf of Roberta Osceola as a liaison to the Norman Police Department for years. He said he's confident that police have been on the right track and know who killed Osceola.

Latchford and Osceola are asking people to sign a form letter and send it through their personal email accounts or by regular mail to Oklahoma's attorney general. They are also asking people to spread the word so others can do the same.

"I want justice for my daughter. Please send your emails," Osceola said on the webinar. "The objective is to reopen the case due to all the evidence and change the cause of death from undetermined to homicide. Without that, I cannot get justice for my daughter. It's the only reason the murderer is still free today."

Latchford said he's seen the "voice of the people" impact the outcome in similar cases.

"Also, take the podcast and blast it out to your contacts – to people you know in Oklahoma – so the attorney general can see there's a lot of people behind this case," Latchford said. "The resilience that Roberta has shown to bring this case to justice – she's kept the fire lit. She has the passion to continue to push this to make sure the right thing is done."

To access the form letter (in order to copy and paste it to email) and to listen to the podcast, go to [thedeckpodcast.com/owachige-osceola](https://thedeckpodcast.com/owachige-osceola). In addition, officials said anyone with information about Osceola's death should contact the Norman Police Department at (405) 366-5208.

### ♦ TRADING POST From page 1A

"[The Trading Post] has been too small for years and years," Brighton Board Representative Helene Buster said. "We've talked about it several times. A lot of people in the surrounding area use it too."

Plans call for the existing 2,110 square foot Trading Post convenience store to be repurposed into offices for the RV Resort and house a laundry facility and a recreation room. A new 4,700 square foot Trading Post convenience store would be built facing Reservation Road – replacing the current RV Resort offices.

The Trading Post will also feature 10 double-sided fuel dispensers, a 6,000 square foot fuel canopy, three underground fuel tanks with 50,000-gallon capacities, as well as electric vehicle charging stations, new storm drainage and new utility, water and sewer lines. The Subway restaurant that used to be located in the Trading Post closed during the pandemic and there are no plans for its return.

"This project will not only benefit the local community, but will benefit the entire tribe as the Trading Posts have been a profitable operation for the Board," Golden

Johansson, executive director of operations for STOF Inc., said.

Johansson said while there's not a hard timeline for construction in place yet, a first phase could begin this fall with a second phase launching in the first quarter of 2023. She said under the grant requirements, the tribe has three years to complete the project.

"The increased square footage will allow for more storage on site to restock items needed for the community," Johansson said. "In the event of hurricanes and storms, this Trading Post also serves as an essential hub for community needs. This store will have a backup generator that will keep the community functioning in times of need."

The Brighton Reservation, with more than 500 tribal members, is also moving forward on plans for the construction of a new hotel and casino, which would generate more demand for an expanded Trading Post. The reservation is also in the midst of adding 50 new homes to its existing inventory.

Meanwhile, the Immokalee Reservation broke ground last year on what will be its first Trading Post. Plans include 10 fuel pumps, a 7,200 square foot convenience store and electric vehicle charging stations, among other features. It is expected to open sometime this year.



Beverly Bidney

The Brighton Trading Post, seen here in a 2012 photo, has been a part of the community since the 1960s.

## Sheridan St. bridge faces repairs

STAFF REPORT

Broward County's Highway and Bridge Maintenance Division was scheduled Aug. 28 to begin almost two months of major repairs to a county-owned bridge located on Sheridan Street over Florida's Turnpike in Hollywood. The bridge is located not far from the south

entrance to the Seminole Tribe's Hollywood Reservation.

Officials said in a news release Aug. 10 that the work is scheduled to be completed Oct. 14. The work is to be done during the nighttime hours.

The repairs are needed to "address structural issues caused recently by an over-height vehicle that struck the bridge's concrete

beams," the release said.

Officials said drivers should expect nightly lane closures on Sheridan Street and on Florida's Turnpike. In addition, one westbound and one eastbound lane on Sheridan Street will be closed for at least one week. Driveways and sidewalks in the construction zone are not expected to be affected.

### GENERAL TRIBAL ELECTION



**MAY 8, 2023**

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES WILL BE HELD ON THE RESERVATIONS OR VISIT THE TRIBAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE IN HOLLYWOOD OR BRIGHTON TO REGISTER

*UNLESS YOUR RESIDENCY HAS CHANGED, YOU DO NOT NEED TO RE-REGISTER*

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MARCH 1, 2023**

**VOTER REGISTRATION PACKETS WILL BE MAILED OUT ON  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2022**

**TO ALL ELIGIBLE TRIBAL MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT  
REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION**

**VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS AND PHOTO ID ARE DUE BACK TO  
THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS BY MARCH 1, 2023**

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# McDaniel Ranch achieves trust status

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The fee-to-trust process for the 3,980-acre McDaniel Ranch near the Big Cypress Reservation has been finalized and the property has moved into trust held by the U.S. government for the Seminole Tribe of Florida as sovereign land.

“We accomplished this in less than two years, and during the pandemic, which the Bureau of Indian Affairs thinks is a record of efficiency, certainly for a property of this size,” said Jonathan Levy, the tribe’s director of real estate.

The tribe purchased the property in 2019.

Attorney Ken Dodge, who helped to facilitate the fee-to-trust process, said when land owned by the tribe is put into trust as sovereign land, the tribe benefits in three significant ways: self-determination, economic development and housing. By putting land into trust, it is free from state and local regulatory jurisdiction.

In the past, getting land put into trust could take years. It took about nine years to get the tribe’s Lakeland property into trust in 2016.

To reach the finish line for the McDaniel property, Levy scheduled monthly WebEx meetings for all stakeholders, including BIA decision makers, to try to accelerate the process. Levy had to play hardball when some invitees didn’t attend the first meeting in April 2021.

“When one of the BIA decision makers missed the first scheduled call, I cancelled the call and rescheduled it for the following day,” Levy said. “I told everyone we would continue to reschedule it for every day until we had full participation. We never had any issues after that.”

About a year later, the transfer into trust



Beverly Bidney

The tribe's McDaniel Ranch features nearly 4,000 acres near the Big Cypress Reservation.

was complete and the BIA moved the land into trust.

The process’s detailed checklist included feedback from local governments. In this case, Hendry County had jurisdiction over the land, which they would relinquish if the land went into trust.

Before the BIA puts land into trust, state and local governments with regulatory jurisdiction over the land are given 30 days to provide written comments about the potential impact on regulatory jurisdiction, real property taxes and special assessments.

In a letter to the BIA dated Jan. 31, the county stated that it provided fire response, emergency medical services, law enforcement, emergency management, planning and zoning, code enforcement and collected taxes on the land. The county also had concerns that McDaniel Ranch is not

contiguous to the Big Cypress Reservation.

The BIA’s response to the county explained that the acquisition of the land was to facilitate tribal self-determination and that the tribe would provide those services. It also indicated that the taxes lost, 0.15% of the county’s total budget, was not significant enough to halt the trust process.

The McDaniel Ranch is 3.2 miles north of the Big Cypress Reservation and is within the geographic range of the tribe’s traditional and ancestral lands.

On June 14, the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to not appeal the BIA’s decision. The motion to approve was made by Commissioner Karson Turner, who spoke favorably about the county’s relationship with the tribe.

“We don’t have a partner like this; the Seminole Tribe of Florida, in my opinion, they’re our brothers and sisters,” Turner said before the vote. “In my opinion, they look out for us on a daily basis. They probably have about 250 people per day that go down there to work, that are gainfully employed and would not be earning the salaries they earn if the Seminole Tribe wasn’t the influential power player they are in the state. This is a good thing. I think we should work with our partners to the south and recognize it and be supportive of that.”

The tribe has four other properties going through the fee-to-trust process. They are Rio Ranch and St. Thomas Ranch near the Brighton Reservation, the Immokalee Indian Camp and about eight acres near the Lakeland property. The plan is to get all the land the tribe owns in Florida put into trust.

“The goal is to get everything we can [into trust] for the benefit of the tribe for generations to come,” Levy said. “It’s so thrilling to return the land to the hands of the caretakers who know it best and will care for it best and preserve it for generations to come. The rest of the country can take a lesson from that.”



Beverly Bidney

Cattle graze at McDaniel Ranch in 2020.

## ◆ PECS From page 1A

The idea to push for the addition of Native American heritage in the contests began in the spring of 2022 when PECS students in teacher Amy Carr’s sixth grade class read an article about Tribal Historic Preservation Office director Tina Osceola’s fight to bring ancestral remains of Seminoles home from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Inspired by Osceola’s determination, the students embarked on their own quest. They wondered why the program that recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month and Black History Month didn’t include Native American Heritage Month. They decided to make a video at school, create a petition to spread awareness and send emails to the governor, lieutenant governor and the tribe’s Heritage and Environmental Resources Office.

Osceola and Paul Backhouse, HERO senior director, helped the students turn the petition into a Tribal Council resolution titled “Designation of Indigenous Peoples Month and Establishment of a Native American Arts and Writing Contest.”

“We were just like a flashlight and shone the light on the path for the students,” Osceola said. “The resolution just memorialized their ideas.”

One clause in the resolution notes that “Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School desires to increase the recognition of Indigenous People as well as the knowledge and acceptance of Indigenous People statewide.”

The students – Joleyne Nunez, Sally Osceola, Hannah Platt, Brody Riley, Kiera Snell, Ilya Trueblood, Harmany Urbina and Timothy Urbina – presented the resolution to the Tribal Council on April 14. It passed unanimously.

“The students had an opportunity to see how their own government works and how they can make a difference in their community and protect their heritage,” Backhouse said. “We are all inspired by that.”

Carr said the process started with a simple conversation in class. It evolved into a petition that roused community involvement, an email campaign, virtual meetings, the presentation to the Council and finally the designation of November as Native American Heritage Month and an annual writing and arts contest.

“I never imagined that the entire state of Florida would be impacted,” Carr wrote in an email to the Tribune. “This group of students found passion in our readings and discussions and used their voices to successfully advocate for the recognition and celebration of their Indigenous heritage. I could not be more proud and inspired by the results. These students are standing out as leaders amongst their peers, showing them that age doesn’t matter. You can accomplish anything you set your mind to. They’ve benefitted from this experience and their efforts will impact future generations.”

In November 2021, PECS teacher Eduarda Lala Anselmo’s son, who was in kindergarten at the time, won the state’s art contest for Hispanic Heritage Month. Anselmo wondered why there was no contest for Native American Heritage Month. Downing credits Anselmo with putting it on the school’s radar, which got the process started.

In a Facebook post Aug. 26, Anselmo wrote, “This is amazing. So glad all that hard work paid off. So proud of our students. They are learning at a very young age that change can happen, that voices can be heard and that we can make things happen if we work together, advocate and appropriately fight for what we believe.”

“We couldn’t be more excited for the kids to see how the process works and to lead that process,” said PECS administrative assistant Michele Thomas. “This was a teachable moment. We are beyond ecstatic that the students were able to be a part of that.”

Osceola believes there is a practical outlook for how this could help the tribe in the long run.

“In terms of the state of Florida, I hope they will take the opportunity to focus on Indigenous issues for the first time and hopefully not the last,” Osceola said. “In some cases we may be able to inspire future tribal archeologists, museum professionals, curators, policy professionals and ultimately, allies and good neighbors. This is all because of the students at the charter school.”

Marcella Billie, assistant director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, was also involved in helping the students realize their objective. She was impressed with their determination to take the initiative, get the resolution written, go to Council with it and send it to the governor.

“Every step of the way, they did it themselves and that’s truly inspiring,” Billie said. “The school is creating the time and space for kids to focus on these issues. It is a testament to the tribe that all these entities [HERO, THPO, PECS] are working together to allow this space to happen. That is what’s most important for us; to work together for this bigger purpose not just for our tribe, but for all Native Americans.”

The essay contest is open to Florida students in fourth to 12th grade; the art contest is for grades kindergarten to third grade. Details about submissions for the contests, including dates and guidelines, have not been announced. For more information go to [fldoe.org/contests/](http://fldoe.org/contests/).

intensive process. Whereas conventional methods produce oil containing about 20 gigajoules of energy for every gigajoule used in extracting it from the ground, tar sands oil gets just four or five gigajoules.

“When energy consultancies produce a rundown of the most competitive projects, it’s tar sands (along with still-more marginal ones such as coal-to-liquids or gas-to-liquids) that typically occupy the costliest bit of the curve. When prices dip, the producers at the top start losing money first,” the analysis concludes. That’s Enbridge’s precious tar sands.

# Osceola Brothers win band competition in OKC

STAFF REPORT

Brothers Cameron, Tyson and Sheldon Osceola, who grew up on the Hollywood Reservation, have been playing music together for most of their lives as the Osceola Brothers band. Cameron plays guitar and is the lead vocalist, Tyson plays bass guitar and Sheldon keeps the rhythm on drums.

On Aug. 26, the band won the First Americans Museum’s Rock the Native Vote battle of the bands in Oklahoma City.

FAM partnered with Rock the Native Vote for Gen Z: Vote the Future, which hosted the competition featuring three emerging Indigenous bands. The bands were AJ Harvey (Ponca/Pawnee/Hidatsa), Olivia Komahcheet (Comanche/Otoe-Missouria) and the Osceola Brothers (Seminole/Kiowa).

The Osceola Brothers thanked their fans on their Instagram page.

“And thank you to all of you for voting us as the winners of the Battle of the Bands,” the post read. “We’ve never done anything like this, so it was a great experience.”

The Osceola Brothers, who live in Nashville, are a hard rock power trio. Their music combines glam punk, heavy metal and blues. The band’s bio states that the message of their music is hope, healing and power.

Rock the Native Vote aims to engage the 18-24 year old demographic. Organizers at the event held question and answer sessions.

Rock the Native Vote’s checklist of why every vote matters was posted on the



First Americans Museum

Drummer Sheldon Osceola performs at the battle of the bands in Oklahoma City.

FAM website with information about the concert. The group noted that Oklahoma is second in the nation with the highest population of voting-age Native Americans; 10% of eligible voters in the 2020 election were classified as Generation Z; in 2020 24 million eligible voters were between the ages of 18 and 23; and according to the National Congress of American Indians, 1.2 million Native Americans nationwide are not registered to vote.



First Americans Museum

The Osceola Brothers perform in a battle of the bands competition at First Americans Museum.



First Americans Museum

From left are Tyson (bass), Cameron (guitar) and Sheldon (drums) Osceola.

# American Indian College Fund lauds debt relief plan

STAFF REPORT

President Joe Biden announced Aug. 24 that college undergraduate and graduate students would soon receive forgiveness of up to \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for borrowers making under \$125,000 a year or couples making less than \$250,000 a year. Those who borrowed money under the Pell Grant program for low-income students would qualify for up to \$20,000 in debt forgiveness. Private loans would not be forgiven.

About 43 million Americans have federal student loan debt equaling an estimated \$1.6 trillion, according to recent federal data. Biden also announced an extension of the Covid-19 pandemic pause on student loan payments through the end of 2022. Those payments would resume in January 2023.

The U.S. Department of Education said nearly 8 million borrowers are likely to have their loans forgiven automatically because the agency already has information about their income. The remaining borrowers would have to apply for loan forgiveness, and the applications would become available no later than Dec. 31 when the freeze on student loan payments ends.

“The College Fund is pleased that

President Biden has announced a package of debt relief for current college students and graduates,” Cheryl Crazy Bull, president and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, said in a statement.

Crazy Bull said affordable access to higher education for Indigenous students was lacking until the 1960s and that “creating those pathways to higher education was the intention of the founders of the tribal college movement.” She said the creation of tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) led to the establishment of the College Fund in 1989 to provide scholarships for Native students.

“President Biden’s announcement bolsters their efforts to ensure that Native students who want a higher education can get one,” Crazy Bull said.

She cited the 2022 “National Study on College Affordability for Indigenous Students” that showed sufficient financial resources are still unavailable for Native students.

“It is clear college loans are a deterrent to the financial health and well being of Native students and graduates,” Crazy Bull said. “Native students share the main reason they pursue a college education is to give back to their families and their tribal communities.”

More information is at [collegefund.org](http://collegefund.org) and [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov).

liability is here in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

So, after all the police, all the frac-outs, all the clearcutting and prostituting of Minnesota’s regulatory and justice systems, we have a couple decades, maybe, of dirty oil. Let’s just hope their pipes don’t break.

*Winona LaDuke is executive director, Honor the Earth, and an Ojibwe writer and economist on Minnesota’s White Earth Reservation. This article is at the North Dakota-based website inforum.com.*

## ◆ LADUKE From page 2A

“I have two young children. They knew that I was facing the possibility of up to a year in jail,” Shanai told Minnesota Public Radio. “My mother and father who live here in Aitkin, they have people ask them, ‘What’s going on with your daughter? We heard some things that she’s a criminal.’

“In a small town, those words are not forgotten. Some of us will be known as jailbirds for the rest of our days.”

In the meantime, after all this damage

to Minnesota and our waters, Enbridge’s oil pipeline empire is not a long-term win. Mother Earth doesn’t appreciate dirty oil. That’s why the world is on fire.

Tar sands is the dirtiest oil in the world, and some of the most inefficient oil to extract. Here’s how it works: The expenditure needed to extract crude from the Canadian tar sands is higher than anywhere else in the world, according to a recent energy analysis in Bloomberg. The heavy viscous crude must be broken up with steam and chemicals to produce something liquid enough to be pumped to the surface. That’s an energy-



# David Blackard regarded for love of Seminole culture, history

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Colleagues of longtime Seminole Tribe employee David M. Blackard say he had a passion for Seminole history and culture that showed both in his life, and through his work at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and the Education Department's library system. Blackard died of complications from cancer Aug. 11, according to his wife Donna



Courtesy Cecelia Vickers

David Blackard was an artist who often painted Native Americans.

Blackard. The lifelong Pompano Beach resident was 69.

Blackard helped plan and design the museum's first exhibits in the early 1990s. He would become its first curator under then-executive director Billy L. Cypress and go on to serve as museum director from 1997 to 2005. He was the program supervisor of the tribe's library system from 2007 until his death.

"I have known David for most of my life and not once did I ever hear David call himself an expert in my people's history or culture," Tina Osceola, the director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, said. "He loved the Seminole and he deeply cared for the Indigenous way of life in the United States. He always saw himself as a public servant to tribes. I don't know anyone else like him."

Blackard was also an artist, author and a leader with the Boy Scouts of America.

"The Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Education Department has suffered a great loss in the passing of Mr. David," Cecelia Vickers, a library assistant who worked with Blackard at the Dorothy Scott Osceola Memorial Library on the Hollywood Reservation, said. "He had a near-perfect photogenic memory with a wealth of information about tribal history that was unmatched."

Vickers said preschool children visiting the library loved to listen to Blackard when he hosted story time.

"They were always captivated by how he animated each story, and would tune in attentively to the sound of his rich baritone voice when he sang," she said.

Darian Cypress-Osceola, who is in

the tribe's Work Experience Program, said Blackard made an impression on her in a short time.

"He was a very kind, caring and knowledgeable person," Cypress said. "Mr. David got a chance to leave me impressed with his knowledge of the Seminole Tribe. His presence may be gone but the memories we have of him will live forever."

"He was the best boss I ever had," Claudia Doctor, who worked for Blackard at the Willie Frank Memorial Library on the Big Cypress Reservation, said. "He was a kind and patient man that knew a lot about tribal traditions. He was like family to me, I will miss him."

Blackard is survived by his wife Donna and two children, Cat Blackard and Jonathan West.

A memorial service is scheduled for Sept. 3 at 11:15 a.m. at the First Baptist Church-Pompano, located at 138 NE 1st St. in Pompano Beach.

"I encourage people to come – he always had a heart and a love for Indians. An early love," Donna Blackard said.



Damon Scott

David Blackard was the former director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and most recently the Education Department's library program supervisor. Here, he stands next to one of the summer reading program displays in the Hollywood library in 2019.

# 'Prey' features heavy Native American presence

BY CALVIN TIGER  
Reporter/Intern

Unlike its predecessors in the "Predator" series, the new movie "Prey" focuses on a more Native interpretation.

In a prequel to the Predator science-fiction series, the suspense thriller Prey features a nearly all-Native cast. Amber Midthunder (Fort Peck Sioux Tribe), portrays Naru, a Comanche woman in the Great Plains in 1719. Naru has experience in dealing with different Native medicines, however, she has a calling to become a great hunter in her tribe, which was extraordinary for a woman.

"Why do you want to hunt?" is a recurring question Naru faces. She wants to prove her doubters wrong, those who constantly underestimate her hunting skills.

Naru notices something mysterious in the distant sky, which she thinks is a sign of approval for her to hunt, however, it is the

disguised ship that the Predator descends from.

Naru, being highly observant, notices that local animals are being slain differently. She starts her search to find what is killing the animals, which brings her and her tribesmen into contact with the Predator. Naru's brother, Taabe (Dakota Beavers), comes to understand the Predator that is hunting them is not a typical adversary.

The movie sheds light on the technological differences between the Predator and the Comanche Tribe. Some early scenes show how the tribe uses its tools and weapons. Although the Predator's arsenal appears to be superior, Naru is able to even the battlefield.

Prey, directed by Dan Trachtenberg, is the only movie in the "Predator" series that features a wide range of Native actors and also a Native producer, Jhane Myers. It premiered on Hulu in early August. It can be viewed in English, but it also offers Comanche subtitles as an option.

The film, which contains some violent scenes, has received positive reviews. Cowboys & Indians Magazine praised Midthunder, noting the movie has launched her as a star. A review in Rolling Stone declared that "Prey" gives the "Predator" franchise its long awaited masterpiece." Jesse Ventura, a supporting actor from the original "Predator" movie, praised the movie on social media as a "thoughtful, creative and wonderful film."

*Tribal member Calvin Tiger is in the Education Department's Emerging Leaders Program.*



Disney

Amber Midthunder stars in "Prey," which recently debuted on Hulu.

# NASA astronaut Nicole Aunapu Mann set to be first Native American woman in space

BY CBS NEWS

When NASA launches its next crew aboard a SpaceX Dragon this fall, the mission commander, astronaut Nicole Aunapu Mann, will become the first Native American woman to travel to space.

Mann will be heading to the International Space Station, with liftoff currently targeted for Sept. 29. She will be joined on the Crew-5 mission by NASA astronaut

Josh Cassada, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Koichi Wakata and Russian cosmonaut Anna Kikina.

NASA says this will be her first spaceflight.

Mann was selected by NASA in June 2013 as one of eight members of the 21st NASA astronaut class intended to focus on space station operations before possible assignments to future

missions to the moon, near-Earth asteroids or, eventually, Mars.

In a recent interview with Indian Country Today, Mann said "it's very exciting" to be the first Native woman in space. "I think it's important that we communicate this to our community, so that other Native kids, if they thought maybe that this was not a possibility or to realize that some of those barriers that used to be there are really

starting to get broken down," she told the publication, which noted that she is an enrolled member of the Wailacki of the Round Valley Indian Tribes in Northern California.

While Mann will earn a place in the history books, NASA astronaut John Herrington, a member of the Chickasaw Nation, became the first Native American in space when he flew aboard Space Shuttle Endeavour in 2002.

Mann's NASA training includes intensive instruction in International Space Station systems, spacewalks, Russian language training, robotics, physiological training, T-38 flight training and water and wilderness survival training.

Mann has achieved numerous awards, including two Air Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.



NASA

Nicole Aunapu Mann



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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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◆ 65TH  
From page 1A

“Life was kind of more simple. If you wanted something to eat you’d go out there and hunt – there was no Publix or Walmart,” President Mitchell Cypress said.

The video featured former Chairman James E. Billie, Wanda Bowers, Paul Buster, Tribal Court Associate Justice Joe Frank, Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry, Tampa culture language director Herbert Jim, Scarlett Jumper, Tribal Court Associate Justice Moses “Bigg Shot” Jumper Jr., Joe Osceola Jr., Tribal Council’s general counsel Jim Shore and others. They recalled wearing old, worn out clothes to school, the constant worry about money, living in camps, using kerosene lamps for light and cooking food by fire under a chickee.

“We lived in a one-bedroom, one kitchen, one living room wooden house,” Bowers said of her family.

Even through the struggles there were positives, too. The elders said tribal members enjoyed a greater connection to nature, and families were bonded tightly.

“We were rich in family, culture and

history, but poor in cash,” Joe Osceola Jr. said.

**‘More opportunities today’**

The journey toward financial independence began in 1957 but wouldn’t start to be realized until 1979, when the tribe became pioneers of Indian gaming by opening the country’s first large stakes bingo hall – now the Seminole Classic Casino in Hollywood. Bingo became the biggest source of income for the tribe and would begin a through line to eventually buying the Hard Rock empire in 2007. In the ensuing years Hard Rock and Seminole Gaming would see enormous growth.

“I see many more great opportunities today than what we had back then – the kids can go to college and be whatever they want to be,” President Cypress said at the anniversary event.

Buster grew up in a camp on the Big Cypress Reservation and later became a language teacher, musician and pastor.

“The Seminole people have been strong and courageous,” he said before giving the invocation. “We’re looking to another 65 years of prosperity. That oak tree has branched out and made shade for the Seminole people that we could be prosperous throughout all

the struggles that we came through.”

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. asked tribal members sitting at tables in the ballroom to think of an early memory they had about what it was like to “simply live and survive.”

“Look at us today. All those sacrifices, the blood, sweat and tears from our ancestors,” he said. “We have this day to rejoice and give thanks for what they’ve done. I live the dream because I get to wake up every morning blessed to be alive, to have family, culture and people that love you. Don’t forget we’re all in this together, no matter what, no matter where, no matter how – we’ve always made it through and our ancestors have taught us very well.”

Chairman Osceola noted that at one time in the tribe’s history there were only 300 unconquered Seminoles. Today there are 4,351 tribal members.

“No one ever dreamed that there would be a [Guitar Hotel] standing on this property that we used to call home, where we used to forage,” he said.

**‘It didn’t just happen’**

One of Brighton Councilman Larry Howard’s early memories is when his family stayed in chickees and would get drinking

water from a pond in Fort Pierce so it could be heated to cook and drink with. He recalled his uncles making the long trek between Fort Pierce and Brighton on foot.

“Without our ancestors we wouldn’t be sitting in this building today,” he said. “The past leaders of this tribe did a lot of good things for us.”

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola recognized former Chairman Billie, who was at the event. He also recognized longtime former Hollywood Councilman Max Osceola Jr., who died in 2020, and the tribe’s first president, Joe Dan Osceola, who died in 2019.

“We’ve come a long way. We’ve been blessed. It didn’t just happen,” he said. “There were a lot of leaders that paved the way for us, that fought the fights and made a sacrifice. There’s always people that don’t get recognized, too – those are the families.”

Brighton Board Rep. Helene Buster said that while the tribe’s financial independence is important, it’s family, friends and community that are most important to her.

“Our ancestors heard that we were on the list to be terminated and they said ‘no, not us – we’ll fight to do what we need to do to remain a tribe and not be terminated,’” she said. “We became an entity that has become a force, not only in the state of Florida, but

in the whole country. We’re a force to be reckoned with.”

Rep. Buster, Big Cypress Councilwoman Marianne Billie, Big Cypress Board Rep. Nadine Bowers and Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall made history in 2021 when they were elected in a new wave of women leaders with positions on Tribal Council and on the Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc. Board.

“Our elders knew that nation-to-nation partnerships were essential in asserting our sovereignty,” Councilwoman Billie said. “We have shown that we are astute leaders not only in the global business environment, but also in securing our inherent rights.”

One of the youngest members of Seminole government is Rep. McCall, who is 35-years-old. She said she’d done some research on tribal history to prepare remarks for the anniversary event.

“Our very first chairman had a dream,” she said. “He knew that we would have to learn the white way for us to be able to survive, but also to honor our traditions so that we never forgot where we came from. Our ancestors dreamed that one day our people would be educated and running our tribe and making smart decisions.”



The Seminole Color Guard, with Curtis Motlow in front, marches to the front of the ballroom to present the colors as Hollywood Rep. Christine McCall and her daughter watch the procession.



From left, Rita Gopher, Reina Micco, Ila Trueblood and Carla Gopher, from First Indian Baptist Church of Brighton, sing at the anniversary celebration.



Brighton Councilman Larry Howard addresses the audience at the anniversary event.



Ahfachkee School students recite the Pledge of Allegiance in Elaponke.



Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. welcomes tribal members to the tribe’s 65th anniversary celebration at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Aug. 25.



Paul Buster sings original songs with the Cowbone Band



Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall gather for a photo after delivering speeches at the 65th anniversary event.



Members of the Big Cypress First Baptist Church sing at the anniversary celebration.



Esther Gopher and her granddaughter Daenerys Billie enjoy the festivities.



# Hard Rock lines up Las Vegas, Atlantic City leaders

STAFF REPORT

Hard Rock International (HRI) announced the leaders for two key positions in two of its high profile properties Aug. 3.

Joe Lupo is set to be president of the forthcoming Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas. Located on the Strip, the development – which is to feature a guitar-shaped hotel – will rise at the site of the Mirage Hotel & Casino, which HRI bought from MGM Resorts in Dec. 2021. Lupo’s position becomes official once the Nevada Gaming Commission completes its regulatory approvals for the property.

Lupo has been the president of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City since 2018. Before that, he was the president of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.



Joe Lupo



Anthony Faranca

Lupo has previously worked at properties in Las Vegas and Laughlin, Nevada, during a three-decade career in gaming.

Meanwhile, Anthony Faranca will take Lupo’s place as president of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City beginning Sept. 1.

HRI said the Philadelphia native is a seasoned casino executive with experience in managing large gaming properties in Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Faranca began his casino career in Atlantic City as a guest services manager

and was eventually promoted to regional vice president of national casino marketing for four Caesars Atlantic City properties.

Most recently, Faranca worked for the Cordish Cos. as vice president and general manager of the Live! Casino Hotel in Hanover, Maryland. HRI said he helped the property navigate the Covid-19 pandemic, launch a FanDuel Sportsbook, and open a 5,000-seat event center.

The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of HRI. More information is at [hardrock.com](http://hardrock.com).

# NIGC: Indian Gaming revenue hits record high

STAFF REPORT

After a dismal 2020 filled with pandemic-related closures, it appears Indian gaming revenue has rebounded in a big way – up 40% to a record high of \$39 billion. The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) reported the increase in its fiscal year 2021 gross gaming revenue numbers Aug. 10.

The previous record high was \$34.6 billion in 2019. In 2020, the NIGC reported revenue of \$27.8 billion – a 19.5% decrease compared to 2019.

The fiscal year 2021 revenue is calculated from the independently audited financial statements of 510 gaming operations owned by 243 federally recognized tribes. Indian

gaming operations are located on Indian land in 29 states. All of the NIGC’s eight regions reported revenue increases.

The Washington, D.C.-region, which includes Florida and six other states, reported the second highest fiscal year 2021 revenue at \$8.1 billion. The Sacramento region, which includes California and northern Nevada, reported the highest at \$11.9 billion.

“[The] NIGC recognizes this year’s rebound has not been felt equally by all tribes,” NIGC chairman E. Sequoyah Simermyer said in a statement. “Indian gaming’s regulatory community remains mindful that dramatic fluctuations – whether positive or negative – require time for the industry [to] return to more predictable trends.”

More information is at [nigc.gov](http://nigc.gov).

## Coconut Creek casino winner hits \$1.1M jackpot

FROM PRESS RELEASE

A \$25 bet landed a guest at the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek a jackpot of \$1.1 million.

The guest scored big Aug. 24 on an Aristocrat Dragon Link Golden Century progressive slot machine. A progressive

slot machine has a base jackpot amount that increases as guests play that machine.

This marks the third progressive jackpot over \$1 million on the Aristocrat game at the Coconut Creek casino and is the eighth \$1 million jackpot to hit on the Dragon Link slot game at a Seminole property in the past eight months.

◆ 65TH  
From page 6A



Beverly Bidney

Cyiah Avila wears the traditional hairstyle at the anniversary celebration. She taught herself to create the style by watching videos and said it took 30 minutes to complete.



Beverly Bidney

Jennifer Osceola with her granddaughter Juliana Rodriguez and son Manny Estrada at one of the many tribal vendor booths at the anniversary event.



Beverly Bidney

Students from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School recite the Pledge of Allegiance on stage in Creek.



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie speaks to the audience at the celebration.

## ‘Monster’s Ball’ comes to Tampa Hard Rock Cafe

FROM PRESS RELEASE

With Halloween on the horizon, Hard Rock Cafe in Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa has announced it will host the “Monster’s Ball” on Oct. 29 beginning at 11p.m.

The event will be hosted by Brian Fink

of 93.3FLZ and feature a \$10,000 costume contest.

Sickick, a masked producer, vocalist and songwriter, and MADDS, a DJ, electronic music producer, and songwriter, will perform.

For ticket information go to [seminolehardrocktampa.com](http://seminolehardrocktampa.com) or Ticketmaster.

◆ BIA  
From page 1A

The Seminole 4-H program feeds into the cattle program. Mendez and Stam toured the Big Cypress 4-H barn near the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena and talked about taking care of animals and pens.

“There is a lot of support in the tribe for 4-H,” Stam said. “The show and sale is always a huge event and we have more steers this year than since I’ve been with the tribe.”

From there, the men went to the Big Cypress cow pens, where owners recently shipped their calves to feed lots. Stam showed Mendez recent improvements to the old pens and said he patches and replaces wood every year.

In addition to agriculture programs, BIA funding also targets invasive species. The whitehead broom weed was introduced to

Florida in the 1940s or 1950s, according to the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences extension service. The weed is an important source of nectar for a wasp that was released as a biocontrol agent in the 1980s against the mole cricket, which damages pastures, forage and turfgrass. Since then, the weed has become a problem in many pastures in South Florida.

“The weeds are only about 1.3% protein,” Stam said. “The cows don’t eat it and now it’s everywhere.”

BIA funding, which increased this year, helps the tribe deal with these and other challenges.

“The BIA has been a partner with us for years,” Stam said to Mendez at the start of the tour. “We will see areas where we’ve been successful and areas where we have more challenges ahead.”



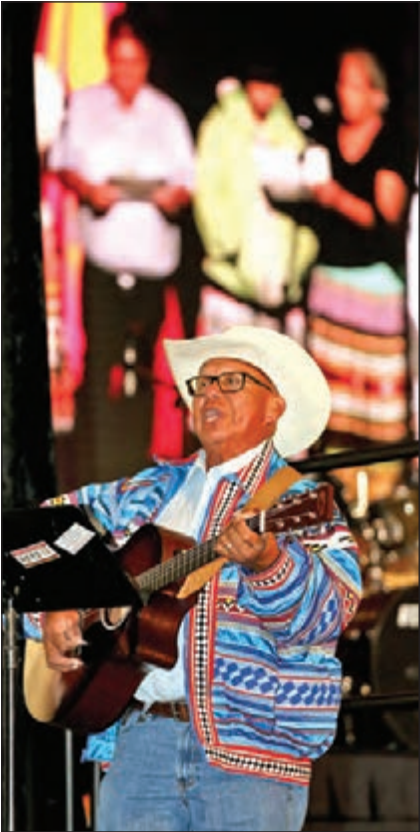
Beverly Bidney

From left, Brian Billie, Thomas Mendez, Big Cypress Board Rep. Nadine Bowers and Aaron Stam after having lunch at the Swamp Water Cafe in Billie Swamp Safari on Aug. 24.



Beverly Bidney

Former Chairman James E. Billie and Wanda Bowers were glad to see one another at the anniversary festivities.



Beverly Bidney

Jonah Cypress sings and plays guitar as the other members of the Big Cypress First Baptist Church choir are projected on the screen behind him.

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# Photos on the move! Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum’s photo binders provide wider community access

BY BARBARA BILLIE AND TARA BACKHOUSE

**BIG CYPRESS** — Here at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum there is a lot to see, but what many visitors don’t get to see is the behind-the-scenes activities. Staff members plan changes to several of the galleries throughout the year. Others work on educational programs that serve the groups that request a tour during their museum visit, or the outside institutions that request presentations and programs from our museum. Another thing that goes on behind



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum  
Iretta Tiger helps some visitors to our photo binder table at the recent Hollywood wellness event on July 26.

the scenes is the preservation of historic objects. We prevent damage to nearly 200,000 things by organizing and storing them carefully in special materials. We treat objects in the conservation lab to make them more stable and we repair damage from years of exposure to the environment, or from improper handling, display and storage over the object’s lifetime.

Approximately 150,000 of the museum’s historic objects are photographs. These are both black and white and color. They can be prints, negatives or slides, and they date from the early 1900s to the early 2000s. There are many parts to the preservation process and the Collections team works together on that process. Iretta Tiger starts the process by organizing and identifying people, places and events in the photographs. Then she houses each photograph in a specialized plastic sleeve. Then our digitization wizard, Graysun Billie, numbers and scans each photograph so it can be stored in the STOF computer system. From there, other team members enter each photograph in a database, where the photos are described with all the information we have at that time. After that, we can print paper copies of the pictures and the information we have. This is what we use to make the photo binders you can look through both in the museum library or at various events.

During July, the museum had the pleasure of joining in on the fun during the wellness fairs held on different reservations. The museum set up tables at the events with a variety of photo binders. Many binders were full of relatively recent photos from the Seminole Tribe. But some went back to the early and middle 20th century. We also had some binders of historic postcards, as well.

We travel with the photo binders to different tribal community events so the community members can get a chance to see the pictures and chat with museum staff. You



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum  
Looking for family members or a past event? Check out binders like this at the next community event.

may even find a family member or friend. You can request copies of the photos or even request that we look for specific people in our database. We do this work back at the museum and we can email or print and mail you the photographs. We understand not everyone can get to the museum.

But the other thing we are trying to accomplish is to “identify” the people, event, date and location of the photographs.

We usually know some information, but not always enough. Fully identifying the photographs would be awesome for our future generations. And we hope the community or employees can assist us.

Iretta Tiger, Laura Dello Russo, Alex Banks and Barbara Billie are usually manning the tables at the events. We are all part of the Collections team here at the museum and we do different things at the

museum. But at times we attend the events and staff the photo tables so we can meet the community members. So when you see the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum table at your next event stop by say hello.

## Diverse offering of films, events on tap for Sarasota Native American Film Festival

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**SARASOTA** — The 3rd annual Sarasota Native American Film Festival (SNAFF) takes place in a hybrid format from Sept. 9-15.

The mission of the free-to-attend event, based in Sarasota, is to present cinematic works related to the experience of Indigenous people in the Americas. The festival is produced by the Sarasota Film Festival and the Boxser Diversity Initiative, in collaboration with the Native Reel Cinema Festival.

Showcasing a diverse program, presented both in-person and online, this year’s SNAFF features over 25 films and experiences focused on Native American art and music, the history and culture of the Seminole Tribe in Florida, as well as the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Among the films are “Rez Metal,” the story of a Navajo heavy metal band, as well as “Seven Ridges,” the first feature drama ever to be produced in the Seri language, and “Changer: A Hand Telling” – an innovative film with deaf Native storytellers performing the Salish origin stories.

Among other programming highlights are feature documentaries “Bring Her Home” and “Somebody’s Daughter” about the plight of missing and murdered Indigenous women, and “Modoc Nation: An Untold Story of Survival” – the tragic and inspiring story of the Modoc people.

Rounding out the program are stunning short films from the 2022 Sundance Institute Indigenous Short Film Tour.

The festival’s live events spotlight a performance by Seminole musician Doc Native, an MTV VMA Award winner, writer, producer and rapper, as well as live painting by noted Seminole painter Wilson Bowers.

Conversations include a talk with Shaandiin Tome, an award-winning Diné filmmaker, whose films have screened at the Sundance Film Festival, SXSW. She’s the Marie Claire’s Top 21 Creators to Watch in 2022.

Also notable is the panel on the history of the Seminole Tribe with Everett Osceola, filmmaker, founder of the Native Reel Cinema Film Festival, and Uzi Baram, professor of Anthropology at New College.

The in-person screenings and live events will take place at New College of Florida’s Sainer Pavilion on Sept. 9 and Sept. 10, while online showcases will be available from Sept. 9-15.

“I am always excited about taking the amazing cultural plunge into all things Native American,” said Mark Famiglio, President of the Sarasota Film Festival. “This year we are especially enthusiastic about our dive into Florida’s native culture with in-person visits from Seminole Tribe’s filmmaker and cultural ambassador Everett Osceola, musician Doc Native and artist Wilson Bowers.”

“I am very honored to have Native Reel Cinema Festival collaborate with the



PBS  
“Bring Her Home,” a documentary about missing and murdered Indigenous women, is among the films on the line-up at the Sarasota Native American Film Festival.

3rd annual Sarasota Native American Film Festival, said Everett Osceola, Cultural Ambassador of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

“Together we are sharing the Beautiful world of Native/Indigenous culture through Art, Music, and Film for the people of Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Mvto, Thank you!”

“As a community who has limited contact with Native American culture, it is important to learn about their history, their lives, and their impact on Southwest Florida,” said Dan Boxser of the Boxser Diversity Initiative. “We are very fortunate to be able to cooperate with Native Reel and the Seminole tribe for the Sarasota Native American Film Festival to achieve this.”

“The Sarasota Native American Film Festival is an opportunity to explore and experience indigenous and First Nation culture through film, live performance and art,” added Judge Charles E. Williams of Boxser Diversity Initiative.

More information on the Sarasota Native American Film Festival and

how to register for free tickets is available through the website [www.sarasotativeff.com](http://www.sarasotativeff.com).



File photo  
Seminole Tribe musician Doc Native is scheduled to perform at the Sarasota Native American Film Festival.

## Digital solution aims to thwart counterfeiters of Native art

VOICE OF AMERICA

Counterfeit Native American art is a big problem in the U.S. and abroad. Jewelry, paintings and crafts falsely marketed as Native-made make big money for fraudsters but drive down the value of genuine Native art and denies Native artists a livelihood.

In one highly publicized case, federal investigators in 2015 raided 11 jewelry and Indian arts stores in New Mexico and California, seizing 350,000 pieces of Filipino-made jewelry with a retail value of \$35,000,000.

On Aug. 19, the art security registry Imprint announced it would partner with the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts to supply 800 Native American artists with permanently certified Imprint digital titles to their artwork.

Imprint gives artists and galleries permanent digital titles that allow them to officially register and create a digital certificate of authenticity that will be stored on a secure blockchain database — a digital “ledger” of all art transactions.

♦ See NMAI on page 4B

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## US Treasurer to speak at NAFOA conference

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Lynn Malerba, the lifetime chief of the Mohegan Tribe and the first Native American Treasurer of the United States, will address the opening general session at NAFOA's 2022 Fall Finance & Tribal Economies Conference on Oct. 3. The conference will run Oct. 3-4 at Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Connecticut.

Malerba's topics will include the Treasury's newly established Office of Tribal and Native Affairs. Malerba will also be honored as a NAFOA lifetime achievement award recipient during an awards luncheon Oct. 4.

For more information go to [nafoa.org](http://nafoa.org).



Lynn Malerba

## NCAI to hold convention in California

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The National Congress of American Indians will hold its 79th annual Convention and Marketplace from Oct. 30-Nov. 4 at SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento, California.

Attendees will have the opportunity to work collaboratively to protect and advance tribal sovereignty. Tribal leaders, NCAI members, Native youth, and partners from across Indian Country will gather in-person to discuss critical issues, develop strategy, and discuss a new era of nation-to-nation engagement. Attendees and the general public will be able to browse the marketplace, which features a variety of booths.

For more information go to [ncai.org](http://ncai.org).

## ♦ COUNTERFEIT

From page 8A

This means that buyers of Native artwork can be sure that they are getting works by legitimate Native artists, not fakes. Squeezing out the fakes means that genuine Native artworks retain or increase their value.

"When Imprint approached us to launch their blockchain-based art security registry with SWAIA artists, we immediately recognized the opportunity as one that will help combat theft and counterfeit within the Native American art world," said SWAIA Executive Director Kimberly Peone, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in Nespelem, Washington, and an Eastern Band of Cherokee descendant. "We are thrilled to be able to provide cutting-edge solutions to SWAIA artists."

The Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 was intended to protect Native American artists by imposing fines and prison time for counterfeiting. Any individual falsely selling or presenting work as Native American can face civil or criminal penalties up to a \$250,000 fine and/or a five-year prison term; any business selling fakes can face civil penalties or can be prosecuted and fined up to \$1,000,000.

# Health

## HHS receives new vaccine options

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe's Health and Human Services (HHS) Department has more vaccine options available for tribal members.

HHS executive director Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley said Aug. 24 that the tribe now has 100 monkeypox vaccines in stock. "There is a strict criteria about who can get the monkeypox vaccine," she said. "It includes people who have been exposed, have it, or have high risk sexual activity."

Kiswani-Barley said those in a high risk category include, but is not exclusive to, men who have sex with men. The vaccine is approved for those 18 and older.

"We have the vaccine in case anyone needs it. Monkeypox usually begins with upper respiratory symptoms and a rash develops within 24 to 48 hours after that," she said.

Kiswani-Barley said the monkeypox rash could sometimes be confused with an acne bump. She said three tribal members recently had bumps tested for the virus and all three were negative. However, she said it's always better to be safe and consult a

doctor if there's a concern.

Ten percent of monkeypox cases nationwide are in Florida, she said.

Meanwhile, the tribe's Covid-19 numbers continue to fluctuate, but Kiswani-Barley said hospitalizations have been rare in recent months.

The tribe has a new primary Covid-19 vaccine option — Novavax — in addition to Pfizer and Moderna. The Novavax vaccine is now approved for those 12 and older. Kiswani-Barley said the tribe would soon receive an updated Pfizer and Moderna booster that is expected to be more protective against the omicron variant.

"[Omicron] is quite a contagious strain," she said. It's been that way, but it's not too severe in general."

Kiswani-Barley said Covid-19 symptoms still typically present as similar to those of a common cold — most with a sinus-type infection — but that most symptoms are still resolving within five days.

For more information about Covid-19, monkeypox or vaccines, call the HHS hotline at (833) 786-3458. More information is also available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov).

## Meet the Harvard medical student fighting for Indigenous health access, representation

BY AMANDA SU  
ABC News

Growing up in Tucson, Arizona, around the Yaqui communities, Victor Lopez-Carmen said boys in his low-income neighborhood faced constant social pressure to use drugs and join gangs. Few of his classmates made it to college, he said. Many wound up in jail.

Now, Lopez-Carmen, who is Yaqui and Dakota, is a Harvard Medical School student fighting to break this pattern, advocating for Indigenous representation in medicine and greater healthcare access. In 2020, he co-founded the Translations for Our Nations initiative, which translated COVID-19 information into more than 40 Indigenous languages in over 20 countries.

Lopez-Carmen can trace his exposure to activism back to his early childhood on the Pascua Yaqui reservation, attending its Boys and Girls Club while his mother worked for the tribe's Yoemem Tekia Foundation.

He recalled being carried at Indigenous rights protests his parents attended and tagging along at International Indian Treaty Council meetings -- his aunt is the executive director.

"It was a lot of fun as a kid because I would just be able to run around with the other Native kids and have a good time," he said. "But I think it also stuck with me that we were doing something good for the community. And we knew that we were there because something was unjust."

Now, Lopez-Carmen is leading his own protests and movements, becoming a spokesperson for his generation as a recent co-chair of the United Nations Indigenous Youth Caucus.

But Lopez-Carmen said there was a time he almost shared the same fate as many of his grade school peers — had it not been for a visit he took in seventh grade to a Yaqui village in Sonora, Mexico, where a fireworks accident gave him severe third-degree burns.

"[My family] took me to the nearest hospital, which is about an hour and a half away. They couldn't treat me," Lopez-Carmen recounted.

Lopez-Carmen ultimately had to travel back across the border to receive the care he needed, ending up at a burn center in Phoenix. He was incapacitated in a hospital bed for over a month while he recovered.

Inspired by his own doctors to become a physician, Lopez-Carmen said his experience of having to travel far distances to receive vital treatment also brought the lack of healthcare in Indigenous communities within the U.S. and abroad into sharp relief.

Native American people have a lower life expectancy and higher rates of chronic

diseases than all other racial and ethnic groups in the U.S., according to the U.S. Indian Health Service.

These systemic health issues can be attributed, in part, to a lack of medical care access and the effects of colonization, which decimated tribes' healthy food sources, Lopez-Carmen said.

"What was the food [the U.S. government] gave us instead? It was mainly starch, flour, oil — really unhealthy things that caused a lot of disease, a lot of bad eating patterns," he said.

There are also only 3,400 Native American physicians nationwide, according to the American Medical Association. In 2021-2022, less than half of M.D.-granting medical schools in the U.S. enrolled more than five Native students, and 8% enrolled none, the Association of American Medical Colleges reported.

The absence of Indigenous faculty and physicians can result in a lack of culturally competent curricula in medical school classrooms and care in hospitals, Lopez-Carmen said. Only 11 percent of medical degree-granting institutions reported that they included Native American health content in their curricula, as of 2017.

This has manifested in hospitals prohibiting traditional practices like burning sage in Native patients' rooms, and patients being misdiagnosed because their ceremonial scars were mistakenly listed on their patient charts as self-mutilation, Lopez-Carmen said.

Native medical students like Lopez-Carmen versed in both traditional and Western medicine can play a critical role in promoting broader respect for Indigenous practices, according to Chief Arvol Looking Horse, spiritual leader of the Great Sioux Nation and 19th keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe and Bundle.

"In my position as a traditional medicine person, a spiritual leader, I believe in our traditional ways, our traditional medicine. But I did share [with him] that, 'I'm glad that you're in that position,'" Looking Horse told ABC News.

"We need Victor and people like him to succeed so our people can trust people like him," he added.

Last year, Lopez-Carmen penned an op-ed in the Boston Globe about the lack of Native Americans in medicine, which caught the attention of Harvard medical professor Dr. Valerie Dobiesz.

Together, they developed the Ohiyesa Premedical Program, which brings Indigenous students and graduates from tribal and community colleges to train at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

During the program, students received first-aid training, performed simulations, shadowed physicians, and scrubbed for real surgeries, accruing more than 50 hours of clinical exposure. They also delivered their own presentations to Harvard physicians on Indigenous health issues.

"Such an important part of the program is [Victor's] ability to understand the students and their context. He informed pretty much all of our curriculum," Dobiesz told ABC News. "He is really an extraordinary agent of change."

The program was named after Ohiyesa, also known as Dr. Charles Eastman, the first Native American man to become a physician in the U.S. and Lopez-Carmen's great grandfather.

During the 1862 Dakota Uprising when many of Eastman's family members were killed, his father told him, "You need to learn our language. You need to help our people because everyone's dying. We need a doctor," Paula Looking Horse, a Dakota artist and Chief Looking Horse's wife, told ABC News.

Upon Eastman's graduation from Boston University School of Medicine, he worked at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. After the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre, Eastman was the only physician survivors trusted to treat them given their shared language, traditions and trauma, Paula Looking Horse said.

Like his ancestor, Lopez-Carmen said he hopes to eventually return home to serve his community, planning to work in pediatrics. This year, he is taking a break from medical school to focus on learning Lakota, his Indigenous language.

Pascua Yaqui Tribe Chairman Peter Yucupicio called Lopez-Carmen a "beacon" for other Native kids.

"He gets a chance to pursue modern medicine to help us live longer and be healthier," Yucupicio told ABC News. "I think it's beautiful that he wants to come back."



Courtesy photo

Victor Lopez-Carmen

## IHS names two to posts

FROM PRESS RELEASE

On Aug. 10, Indian Health Service announced Darrell LaRoche, an enrolled member of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, as the new deputy director for management operations, and Capt. Marcus Martinez, a member of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, as the new IHS Portland Area director.

As deputy director for management operations, LaRoche is responsible for providing management direction to IHS program offices, including implementing the IHS mission and agency goals; providing overall organization management to improve agency performance; developing strategic plans; and planning, directing, and evaluating operations of the headquarters functions, authorities, and responsibilities in support of the director.

As director of the IHS Portland Area, Capt. Martinez is responsible for overseeing comprehensive health care and environmental health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives throughout Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and part of Utah.

## Grant awarded to study dementia in Wash. tribes

FROM WSU INSIDER

Washington State University's Institute for Research and Education to Advance Community Health and Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness have been awarded a four-year, \$4.49 million center grant from the National Institutes of Health.

This center grant aims to estimate the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease-related dementias and mild cognitive impairment among Wabanaki tribal citizens aged 55 and older to determine current and future economic costs associated with these conditions.

Dr. Patrik Johansson, MD, MPH, and associate professor at WSU's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, will co-lead the center grant. Johansson has worked for over 20 years with the Wabanaki Nations made up of the Mi'kmaq Nation; the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians; the Penobscot Nation; and the Passamaquoddy Tribe, which comprises the Indian Township and Pleasant Point communities.

"Through our partnership we will learn about memory function of Wabanaki elders and create education programming for future generations of public health professionals and researchers who are Wabanaki Tribal citizens," Johansson said.



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# SEMINOLE SCENES



**TEAMWORK:** Members of Seminole Fire Rescue help each other to scale a wall as campers cheered them on at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida.



**WATER HELPERS:** The tribe's Preslynn Baker, left, Shyllynn Testerman, center, and Tahnia Billie, right, handle water duties for the Moore Haven High School football team during its game Aug. 18. All three girls play for the school's volleyball program.



**RETIREMENT NEWS:** In August, the Native Learning Center in Hollywood bid farewell to employee Vincent Franco, who retired. Franco served as NLC's compliance and resource development director, but was also recognized by NLC as its "Grants Guru, Internal Controls Standards Master, Nonprofit guiding light and good old Vince." "Vince has been an invaluable member to the NLC family and Indian Country as a whole. The NLC family will truly miss Vince; however, they know for certain that this is a see you later vs. goodbye. As for Vince's next adventure, he still plans on providing support to the Native Learning Center and Indian Country as a subject matter expert but through his own consulting firm titled Next Venture Consulting LLC. The Native Learning Center truly loves and wishes nothing but the best for Vince's Next Venture," the NLC said in an announcement.



**Bonnie Davis runs to the finish line of the approximately two-mile walk/run course to start the Immokalee Fun Day on Aug. 19.**

## 'Fun Day' in Immokalee

### STAFF REPORT

The Immokalee community enjoyed a hot summer day in the cool of its the gym for a day of bingo, cornhole, lunch and just enjoying each other's company. The day started with an early morning walk/run through the reservation, followed by breakfast and the rest of the day's activities. There was no holiday or event to celebrate on Aug. 19, but Immokalee Council Liaison Raymond Garza Sr. planned the event – known as "Fun Day" – to bring the community together with no real reason other than camaraderie. "I like seeing tribal members work on their health," Garza said before the approximately two-mile walk commenced. "We do it to keep our community coming together for fellowship. It's good for health and the spirit."



**Carol Pray, left, and Virginia Billie compete in the cornhole tournament in Immokalee.**



**From left, Juanita Martinez, America Martinez and Clarissa Garza enjoy a game of bingo.**

**Raymond Garza Jr., left, and Gary Frank play a game of cornhole.**



**Immokalee Council Liaison Raymond Garza Sr. calls the bingo game during the reservation's "Fun Day."**



# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## Some Native Americans say Pilgrim site is failing as a bi-cultural museum

**PLYMOUTH, Mass.** — Native Americans in Massachusetts are calling for a boycott of a popular living history museum featuring Colonial reenactors portraying life in Plymouth, the famous English settlement founded by the Pilgrims who arrived on the Mayflower.

Members of the state’s Wampanoag community and their supporters say Plimoth Patuxet Museums has not lived up to its promise of creating a “bi-cultural museum” that equally tells the story of the European and Indigenous peoples that lived there.

They say the “Historic Patuxet Homesite,” the portion of the mostly outdoor museum focused on traditional Indigenous life, is inadequately small, in need of repairs and staffed by workers who aren’t from local tribes.

“We’re saying don’t patronize them, don’t work over there,” said Camille Madison, a member of the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe on Martha’s Vineyard, who was among those recently venting their frustrations on social media. “We don’t want to engage with them until they can find a way to respect Indigenous knowledge and experience.”

The concerns come just two years after the museum changed its name from Plimoth Plantation to Plimoth Patuxet as part of a yearlong celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower landing.

At the time, the museum declared the “new, more balanced” moniker reflected the importance of the Indigenous perspective to the 75-year-old institution’s educational mission.

“Patuxet” was an Indigenous community near “Plimoth,” as the Pilgrim colony was known before becoming modern day Plymouth. It was badly decimated by European diseases by the time the Mayflower arrived, but one of its survivors, Tisquantum, commonly known as Squanto, famously helped the English colonists survive their first winter.

“They’ve changed the name but haven’t changed the attitude,” said Paula Peters, a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe who worked for nearly 20 years at the museum, most recently as marketing director. “They’ve done nothing to ingratiate themselves with tribes. Every step they take is tone deaf.”

Museum spokesperson Rob Kluin, in a statement emailed to The Associated Press, said the museum has expanded the outdoor Wampanoag exhibit, raised more than \$2 million towards a new Indigenous programs building and has “several initiatives in place” to recruit and retain staff from Native communities. He declined to elaborate.

The statement also cited a pair of grants the museum received to boost its Native American education programming. That included more than \$160,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to host a workshop this summer for teachers on how to incorporate Indigenous voices into their history lessons.

The museum also noted that its new director of Algonquian Exhibits and Interpretation is an Aquinnah Wampanoag who serves on his tribe’s education committee.

Carol Pollard, whose late brother Anthony “Nanepashemet” Pollard played a key role in the development of the museum’s Indigenous programming as a leading Wampanoag historian, was among those dismayed at the state of the site.

Last week, large gaps were evident in the battered tree bark roof of the large wetu, or traditional Wampanoag dwelling, that is a focal point of the Indigenous exhibit. Neither of the two museum interpreters on site was wearing traditional tribal attire. Meanwhile, on the Pilgrim settlement part of the museum, thatched roofs on the Colonial homes had been recently repaired, and numerous reenactors milled about in detailed period outfits.

“I know my brother would be very disappointed,” said Pollard, who also worked as a gardener at the museum until last summer. “I guarantee you, people dressed in khakis and navy blue tops was not my brother’s vision.”

Former museum staffers say museum officials for years ignored their suggestions for modernizing and expanding the outdoor exhibit, which marks its 50th anniversary next year.

That, coupled with low pay and poor working conditions, led to the departure of many long-standing Native staffers who built the program into a must-see attraction by showcasing authentic Indigenous farming, cooking, canoe building and other cultural practices, they say.

“For more than a decade now, the museum has systematically dismantled the outdoor exhibit,” the Wampanoag Consulting Alliance, a Native group that includes Peters and other former museum staffers, said in a statement late last month. “Many steps taken to provide equal representation to Wampanoag programming have been removed, and the physical exhibit is in deplorable condition. The result has been the virtually complete alienation of the Wampanoag communities.”

Kitty Hendricks-Miller, a Mashpee Wampanoag who was a supervisor at the Wampanoag exhibit in the 1990s and early 2000s, says she worries about what non-Indigenous families and students are taking away from their visits to the museum, which remains a school field trip rite of passage for many in New England.

As Indian education coordinator for her tribe, she’s been encouraging teachers to reach out to Native communities directly if they’re seeking culturally and historically accurate programs.

“There’s this unwillingness to acknowledge that times have changed,” said Casey Figueroa, who worked for years as an interpreter at the museum until 2015. “The Native side of the Plymouth story has so much more to offer in terms of the issues we’re facing today, from immigration to racism and climate change, but they went backwards instead. They totally blew it.”

- *NPR*

## Sask. First Nations organization calls for Dawn Walker to be released from custody

Several Indigenous women spoke in support of Dawn Walker at a Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) news conference in Saskatoon, Canada, on Aug. 26. They called for an investigation into the police’s handling of Walker’s domestic violence allegations and for her release from custody.

Walker was reported missing on July 24, prompting widespread ground, water and air searches and requests from the FSIN to help find her and her seven-year-old son, who had also disappeared.

Both were found in Oregon on Aug. 5, and Walker was arrested. She is facing charges of parental abduction and public mischief in Canada, along with U.S. charges related to using false documents to cross the border. Walker is accused of faking her own death.

Walker was back in Saskatoon in police custody as of Aug. 26 after a U.S. judge ordered her return.

The women at the Aug. 26 news conference reasserted claims that Walker was fleeing domestic violence, and criticized the legal and social systems meant to help victims of domestic violence.

“Until you walk the mile in the shoes of a woman who has to protect their children or themselves, you have no room to talk,” said Mary Culbertson, treaty commissioner of Saskatchewan, who recounted personal stories of domestic abuse.

“For you men out there, you have no room to talk, not a single one of you should be condemning Dawn or any woman who says they didn’t get help because these systems were built for you, not us.”

Walker is an acclaimed author and was also the executive operating officer of the FSIN, which represents Saskatchewan’s First Nations.

After her disappearance, the FSIN hosted events including a candlelight vigil.

Walker’s sister, Kathy Walker, cried as she began her statement, thanking those who supported their family. She said they are thankful that “she’s now back in her homelands and hopefully will be home with us soon and reunited with her precious son.”

When Walker was found, the FSIN released a statement that quoted FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron, who said “it is heart-breaking that Dawn may have felt she had no other choice.”

In a written statement to CBC News on Aug. 9, Walker said she “left Saskatoon because I feared for my safety and that of my son.”

She didn’t name the person she said she fears, but has previously made domestic violence allegations against her ex, who is the father of her son.

Police have said the allegations were investigated but no evidence was found to support them.

The father of Walker’s son has told Saskatoon radio station CKOM that he would never hurt her or the boy.

On Aug. 26, the FSIN called for an investigation into the Saskatoon Police Service and the RCMP’s handling of Walker’s case.

“We call for a reform for our broken colonial legal system that fails to keep our Indigenous women and children safe as well as our victims and survivors of domestic violence,” Heather Bear, an FSIN vice-chief, read from a prepared statement.

Bear also called for the release of Dawn Walker from police custody “under her own recognizance.”

When Bear was asked about the father’s comments that he would never hurt Walker or the boy, she got visibly upset and asked, “Why would we believe him over Dawn, the mother? That’s just that same attitude the justice system has,” pointing to race and gender before calling it a “foolish question.”

The organization has not publicly commented on Walker’s charges beyond asking for her release. After she was located in Oregon, the FSIN repeatedly declined requests for comment.

A spokesperson for the organization said on Aug. 9 that FSIN would not be commenting because “it is a criminal matter now.”

- *CBC News*

## Washington State Historical Society reviewing vintage monuments for ‘accuracy and inclusivity’

Monuments and roadside markers around the state, some dating back more than a century, are being examined for “accuracy and inclusivity” by the Washington State Historical Society.

It’s been a different world for some monuments and statues ever since the “Unite the Right” violence in Charlottesville in August 2017 and the murder of George Floyd a little more than two years ago.

Along with the destruction and removal of Confederate statues in the American South, the Pacific Northwest has had its own reckoning with stone, bronze, and concrete. Statues of controversial figures which have stood on public lands for decades have been questioned for their appropriateness;

geographic names have been challenged and changed, and even private Confederate memorials — such as the Daughters of the Confederacy monument to Robert E. Lee in Seattle’s Lake View Cemetery — have been vandalized and then removed.

Against this backdrop, the Washington State Historical Society (WSHS) began a project in 2020 to inventory markers and monuments that the publicly-funded institution was involved with installing and dedicating between about 1900 and 1950. WSHS identified a total of 43 such objects located around the state, such as a stone pyramid commemorating the 1858 Battle of Spokane Plain near Fairchild Air Force Base in Eastern Washington, and a simple column for the 1841 Wilkes Expedition at what’s now JBLM in Pierce County.

Most of the monuments identified by WSHS have been dormant, undisturbed, and essentially ignored for decades — just sitting by the roadside or in some out-of-the-way spot, silently commemorating a 19th century military engagement with Indigenous people, the exploits of an early explorer, or the domestic accomplishments of non-Indigenous settlers. Given the era when the markers were first created, the verbiage on the bronze plaque or carved in stone doesn’t necessarily reflect modern thinking and more balanced, more nuanced — and thus more accurate — storytelling.

WSHS has assembled an advisory committee, and recently was awarded a grant of \$142,000 from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. According to a press release from earlier this month, the grant money will support a multi-year process to engage with tribes and with the general public to address accuracy and inclusivity — whether or not the full story is represented — and, ultimately, a process to “determine the future of these monuments and historical markers.”

Polly Olsen is director of Diversity, Equity, Access, Inclusion & Decolonization as well as tribal liaison for the Burke Museum in Seattle. She’s Yakama, and is a member of the WSHS advisory committee for the monument project.

Olsen says the problematic aspect of the 43 monuments is that they only tell part of the big and often complicated stories they represent.

“There was not the process of consultation with other community members who have long deep-rooted, land-based experience or cultural practices [ . . . ] within those monuments’ spaces,” Olsen told KIRO Newsradio. “And so the stories were someone’s interpretation and narrative from their family’s experience, without including pre-contact consideration in how those stories were created.”

For the monuments directly related to Indigenous history — such as those that tell only one side of a battle, where the U.S. Army prevailed over Indigenous people defending their homeland — Olsen agrees that addressing the “accuracy and inclusivity” is difficult without having candid and difficult conversations about 19th century history, what some would call “truth and reconciliation.” Many modern historians believe that, though the policy wasn’t exactly stated in so many words, the goal in the treaty era of the mid 19th century was elimination of Indigenous people. Reservations were merely places for the Indigenous to slowly die, out of the way of Manifest Destiny and all it entailed when it came to real estate and natural resources.

“Reconciliation is very important [ . . . ] and words on monuments matter,” Olsen said. “And we need to change the erasure of communities and have these hard conversations, change the narrative.”

Either way, Polly Olsen is optimistic about the long-term impacts of the monument project.

“This is really exciting to be able to give a different interpretation and experience and perception to the young people to the next generation,” Olsen said, “as well as to the tourists who come and visit the state of Washington.”

There are no firm plans as yet for how to address specific monuments — whether to add new interpretive plaques or signage alongside existing plaques; completely replace plaques; or remove entire monuments, plaque and all.

Regardless of ultimate plans, Olsen told KIRO Newsradio that among the 43 monuments in the statewide inventory, there isn’t a single example that she believes should be left as is.

“These narratives weren’t created in consultation with the tribal people of the land,” Olsen said. “Again, this comes from a settler narrative of the first schools, the first church, these civilized practices or, you know, ‘civilization began here.’”

The statewide review of monuments and markers is expected to take several years, with civic engagement with the general public and consultation with specific tribes in areas near where specific monuments stand.

- *KIRO Newsradio (Seattle, Wash.)*

## San Manuel golf tournament raises \$400,000 for nonprofits

**HIGHLAND, Calif.** — The Yaamava’ Resort & Casino at San Manuel’s annual golf tournament, in partnership with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, raised more \$400,000 for nonprofit organizations.

The tournament commenced on July 31 with a celebration and check presentation at Yaamava’ Resort and Casino at San Manuel. Eight local and national nonprofit organizations received \$50,000 each to provide support through health services, environmental conservation and cultural development for tribal communities.

Four Tribal and four local nonprofits were awarded for their commitment to education, health, economic and community development, or special projects. The tribal charity tournament recipients included Advocate for Indigenous California Language Survival (AICLS), Children of the Setting Sun Productions from Bellingham, Washington, National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition from Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Zuni Youth Enrichment Program from Zuni, New Mexico. The four regional nonprofit recipients were Desert Sanctuary, Inc., Miracles for Kids, Working Dogs for Warriors, and Youth Mentoring Action Network (YMAN).

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Business Committee Secretary Audrey Martinez, the tournament’s chair,

“These eight nonprofits are dedicated to improving the lives of so many Native Americans as well as local communities, and we are proud to be in a position where we can help. The tournament is just one of the many ways San Manuel embodies a culture of giving back,” said San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Business Committee Secretary Audrey Martinez, the tournament’s chair.

- *San Manuel Band of Mission Indians*

## Bill banning derogatory name used for Native American women as geographic name goes to governor

A bill to prohibit the use of the word “squaw” — or the S-word — for geographic features and place names in California by Jan. 1, 2024, has been approved by the state Legislature and is heading to the governor’s desk.

In February, Assemblyman James C. Ramos, the first California Native American elected to the state legislature, and Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, chair of the California Legislative Women’s Caucus, along with 13 co-authors introduced AB 2022.

The Legislature approved the bill on a 72-0-0 vote, Ramos’ office reported.

The bill now heads to Gov. Gavin Newsom’s desk for signing.

It bans the use of the S-word and establishes a process for renaming locations with that derogatory term in their titles.

The word is an idiom that came into use during the westward expansion of America, and it is not a tribal word.

For decades, Native Americans have argued against the designation’s use because behind that expression is the disparagement of Native women that contributes to the crisis of missing and murdered people in our community,” Ramos stated.

Ramos reported that more than 100 places in California contain the S-word.

The United States Department of the Interior has ordered the term “erased from the national landscape and forever replaced” on the almost 700 sites using the name on federal lands.

Montana, Oregon, Maine and Minnesota have already banned the word’s use.

AB 2022 requires every state agency, local governing body or political subdivisions to identify all geographic sites, public lands, waters, and structures under its jurisdiction containing the S-word.

These bodies shall file a report identifying those names with the California Advisory Committee of Geographic Names.

The advisory committee will establish a procedure to elicit input and rename locations that have been identified.

In selecting replacement names, local governments, state agencies, and shall solicit input from tribes maintained on the California Native American Heritage Commission list and prioritize their input, as well as the input of appropriate local communities and members of the public.

- *Lake County News (Lake County, California)*

## A federal appeals court says Wisconsin can’t tax tribal lands that once fell out of tribal hands

Wisconsin can’t force tribal members to pay property taxes on reservation lands as part of a recent federal appeals court ruling that involves four northern Wisconsin tribes. The decision is a victory for tribes while the state is reviewing next steps in the case.

A federal appeals court panel ruled [in August] that the state can’t tax tribal landowners on reservation lands that have changed hands without approval from Congress. The decision stems from a lawsuit filed by four tribes in 2018 against Republican former Gov. Scott Walker, the state and around a dozen towns over taxation of lands on their reservations. The case was brought by the Red Cliff, Bad River, Lac du Flambeau and Lac Courte Oreilles tribes.

The tribes argued tribal lands owned by their members can’t be taxed because the 1854 treaty that established their reservations provided immunity from taxation for all time. The state maintained it could tax lands on reservations if they were ever sold by tribal members to non-tribal members, surrendering any immunity to taxation.

“A tax that falls on Indians on Indian land, however, is presumptively invalid unless Congress has authorized it in ‘unmistakably clear’ terms,” wrote U.S. Circuit Judge Michael Y. Scudder, Jr. in the decision.

Tribes said the ruling underscores their rights to govern their own lands.

“This is a reaffirmation of our sovereign right over our land, including the land our tribe has reacquired that was taken from our people since the 1854 Treaty,” said

Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Chairman Louis Taylor in a news release.

Lac du Flambeau Tribal President John D. Johnson, Sr. said his tribe sets aside around \$1 million each year to buy back lands that have fallen out of tribal ownership.

“It’s a big milestone in our lives. But as we look in the future, too, the state’s going to have to recognize that we do have treaty rights and those treaty rights mean the world to us as Indigenous peoples,” Johnson told Wisconsin Public Radio. “Whether they like it or not, they still have to follow the federal rules that our reservations lie under.”

Bad River Tribal Chair Mike Wiggins told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that the tribe has spent more than \$3 million to reacquire land on the reservation, adding at least 50 residents at Bad River could have been taxed otherwise.

Red Cliff Tribal Chairman Christopher Boyd said in a newsletter that the tribe has reclaimed around 1,500 acres of land in the last five years.

“(We’re working very hard to provide enough space for our tribal members to live and exercise their treaty rights. A tax on our lands would put all of that in jeopardy,” Boyd said.

The case that began under the Walker administration has stretched years into Democratic Gov. Tony Evers term. Since he was elected, Evers has taken multiple steps to bolster the state’s relationship with tribes. As governor, he issued an executive order that reaffirmed the sovereign authority tribal nations have over their members and lands in 2019.

The same year he also issued an executive order recognizing the state’s first Indigenous Peoples Day. Last year, Evers also apologized for the state’s role in supporting Indian boarding schools that sought to eliminate tribal culture and language among Native American children. He has also signed gaming amendments with tribes to allow sports betting at tribal casinos.

At an event marking the return of tribal lands, Evers told WPR he’s begun discussions with the state’s legal counsel about the appeals court ruling.

“Certainly appreciate the understanding of the appellate court. We reviewed it, but a final decision has not been made,” said Evers, when asked whether the state would appeal the ruling.

Matt Lehto is the chair of the town of White River, which is one of 11 towns tribes sued over taxation of reservation lands. He said the town is awaiting further guidance on the ruling.

An attorney for the towns declined to provide any statements until the state decides next steps in the case, saying the state has 90 days to decide whether to pursue an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Howard Bichler is a recently retired attorney who helped represent the Bad River tribe when the case was initially filed in federal trial court. He said the imposition of taxes on tribal members would have been a burden for those landowners, noting reservations have historically struggled with poverty and high unemployment rates.

If the ruling stands, Bichler said the state and towns would draw in less revenues through property taxes.

“Their coffers will be somewhat less,” said Bichler. “Depending on the amount and specific programs, they’ll likely have to find other sources of revenue for that.”

Bichler noted that many cases are not accepted for review by the U.S. Supreme Court. However, he said the court, which boasts a 6 to 3 conservative majority, may be more inclined to accept cases involving state rights.

“It’s a conservative court, and they might be looking for cases that bolster state powers,” Bichler said.

- *Wisconsin Public Radio*

## Navajo Code Talkers Museum breaks ground, builds anticipation

On Aug. 14, the 40th annual celebration of Navajo Code Talkers Day was especially sweet, as the Navajo Code Talkers Museum (NCTM) broke ground in Tse Bonito, New Mexico.

“This whole program took a lot of work. And there was a team that put this program together,” NCTM president Peter MacDonald, Sr. said at the groundbreaking before listing contributors who helped make the museum possible.

The museum was established in 2019 with six board members, including two Code Talkers who led the group to build the museum. The Code Talkers program was first established by the U.S. Marine Corps in Camp Pendleton 80 years ago.

“Let’s not wait another three or four years,” said Seth Damon, speaker of the Navajo Nation Council. “Let’s build something now... And we [Navajo Nation] are introducing legislation right now to... build this initiative.”

Museum organizers still need to secure \$46 million in funding to create the museum, the Santa Fe New Mexican reported in mid-July.

In a statement, Damon expressed the Navajo Nation’s appreciation for Code Talkers MacDonald and the late Samuel Sandoval for “leading the charge to get us here today.”

“We were dragging our feet to get to this point,” Damon said at the groundbreaking. “This should’ve been done [a] long time ago... and I’m sorry.”

According to the museum, only three Code Talkers remain out of the original 400 after Sandoval walked on in late July. They are: MacDonald, Thomas H. Begay and John Kinsel, Sr.

- *Native News Online*



# SOUTH FLORIDA'S ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION



**SEP 4**  
**CARIN LEON**



**SEP 10**  
**AMY SCHUMER**



**SEP 11**  
**DPR LIVE**



**SEP 12**  
**SCORPIONS &  
WHITESNAKE**



**SEP 14**  
**SOUTHSIDE  
JOHNNY & THE  
ASBURY JUKES**



**SEP 16**  
**ALICIA KEYS**



**SEP 17**  
**RINGO STARR &  
HIS ALL STARR  
BAND**



**SEP 22**  
**GREEN DAY**



**OCT 1**  
**MAXWELL WITH  
FANTASIA**



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# Education



## Seminole youth attend summer program at FSU

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

A group of nine tribal youth attended the Florida Indian Youth Program (FIYP) at Florida State University in Tallahassee July 10 to July 22.

Kajir “Kai” Harriott, the Education Department’s student and professional development success coach, accompanied the group.

FIYP is a free, two-week, college preparation and exploration program available each summer to members and descendants of the Seminole Tribe who live in Florida or Georgia and are 14 to 19 years old. This year marked the program’s return after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

Those who participated this year were Carlise Bermudez, Iziah Billie, Lavin Billie, Luxie Billie, Tahniah Billie, Nikko Burgess, Billie Cypress, Ezekiel Hill and Brianne Oglin.

FIYP is designed to expose students to a range of educational and employment opportunities. Participants typically live in a residence hall on campus or nearby, and classes and activities usually take place between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Some students

take college site tours and explore academic programs they are interested in.

The Tallahassee-based Florida Governor’s Council on Indian Affairs Inc. is the nonprofit that sponsors the program.

“It was extremely fun – I recommend tribal members go and open up and get out of their shells,” Burgess said. “The ones that broke out of their shells enjoyed themselves and became brand new people.”

Burgess, 17, is from the Hollywood Reservation and is a senior at the American Heritage School. This was the fourth time he’d attended FIYP. He said people describe him as outgoing and one that helps the more shy students enjoy the experience.

“Especially the younger ones, because they are away from home. I spend time making them feel welcome,” he said.

Burgess, who lives with his mother and three younger siblings, plans to attend Nova Southeastern University and major in political science. He’d like to run for Tribal Council or the Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc. Board someday.

For more information about FIYP, contact the Education Department at [seminoleeducation.com](http://seminoleeducation.com).



Courtesy photo

The Florida Indian Youth Program took place in July. From left to right are Ezekiel Hill, Nikko Burgess, Lavin Billie, Iziah Billie, Carlise Bermudez, Kajir “Kai” Harriott, Tahniah Billie, Billie Cypress, Luxie Billie and Brianne Oglin.

## PECS accolades keep piling up

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The Seminole Tribe’s Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School (PECS) on the Brighton Reservation recently celebrated an accomplishment Aug. 2, adding to an impressive list of kudos.

Principal Tracy Downing said the PECS yearly assessment that is required by the state – called the Florida Statewide Assessments (FSA) – was the highest in the school’s 16-year history.

“This school has a history of performing very well,” Downing said. “That is attributed to the support – the kids come willing to learn and have family members helping them – not just parents, but the community.”

Out of 3,417 schools in Florida, PECS ranked No. 283 in percentage points earned in the FSA, placing it in the top 8% of all schools – an “A” grade. The score also places PECS as the highest performing school in the Heartland Consortium – which consists of 42 schools in six rural counties including Glades County where the school is located.

Downing said of the 42 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade schools in the consortium – there were three “A’s,” seven “B’s,” and 32 “C’s” and “D’s.” Of the three “A” grades, there was a 10% gap in points between PECS and the next highest school.

“All our teachers are highly qualified and we have resources, materials and curriculum provided by the tribe,” Downing said. “We have a large Culture Department and it’s common that these kids are around

their family and are encouraged.”

A new state assessment will be used next year – FAST – the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking. The results of the FAST assessment will come out in May 2023.

“We are experiencing some pivotal changes in our field, and we will embrace them by learning the new rigorous standards, aligning tasks and activities to the standard, and then assessing the students using FAST-type questions,” Downing said.

Downing said PECS is always up for a challenge – evidenced by the way the school navigated the Covid-19 pandemic.

“We had a lot of ground to make up because we were out of [in person] school for a year and nine weeks,” she said. “What impressed me the most is how willing the students are to learn and how excited they were to be back. They have grit and determination, just like the tribe.”

She said teachers stayed committed and participated in online professional development throughout the pandemic as well.

The FSA “A” grade is just the latest accolade for the school. In 2019, PECS fourth grade math teacher Joy Prescott was named the 2019 Florida teacher of the year. In addition, the National Indian Education Association recognized tribal member Jennie Shore in 2017 as its elder of the year. Shore helped start the school’s Creek language immersion program, which has earned state and national recognition and has been used as a model for other Native communities.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Christina Yzaguirre and her children Preeya, Clea and Hemchand Bhagwandin show off their backpacks at the Immokalee “Back to School Bash.”

## Tribe prepares students for new school year

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Seminole students had some help preparing for the new school year at the Education Department’s “Back to School Bashes” on reservations in August.

Tribal departments set up tables that overflowed with backpacks, notebook paper, pens and pencils, water bottles, cell phone accessories, cute stickers, markers, snacks and other necessities needed to get through a school day. Students examined the backpacks and chose carefully.

In Immokalee on Aug. 9, kids received what they needed for school, played in a few bounce houses, ate a hearty lunch of burgers and hot dogs and some sweet treats from an ice cream truck.

“Congratulations to everybody for moving on to the next grade,” said Immokalee

Council liaison Ray Garza Sr. “We want to show the kids we appreciate them and want them to stay in school. We are behind them every step of the way.”

Immokalee Board liaison Rafael Sanchez remarked that it was good to see everyone and encouraged parents to keep pushing their children to go to school.

Representatives from Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida SouthWestern State College gave presentations about their schools.

The Big Cypress Reservation held their bash Aug. 12 at the rodeo grounds, where most of the chickees were taken over by tribal departments giving out supplies and treats. Kids played in bounce houses and enjoyed burgers, hot dogs, fruit and ice cream.

“We want all the kids to get what they need for school to get their first day going and be prepared,” said Big Cypress

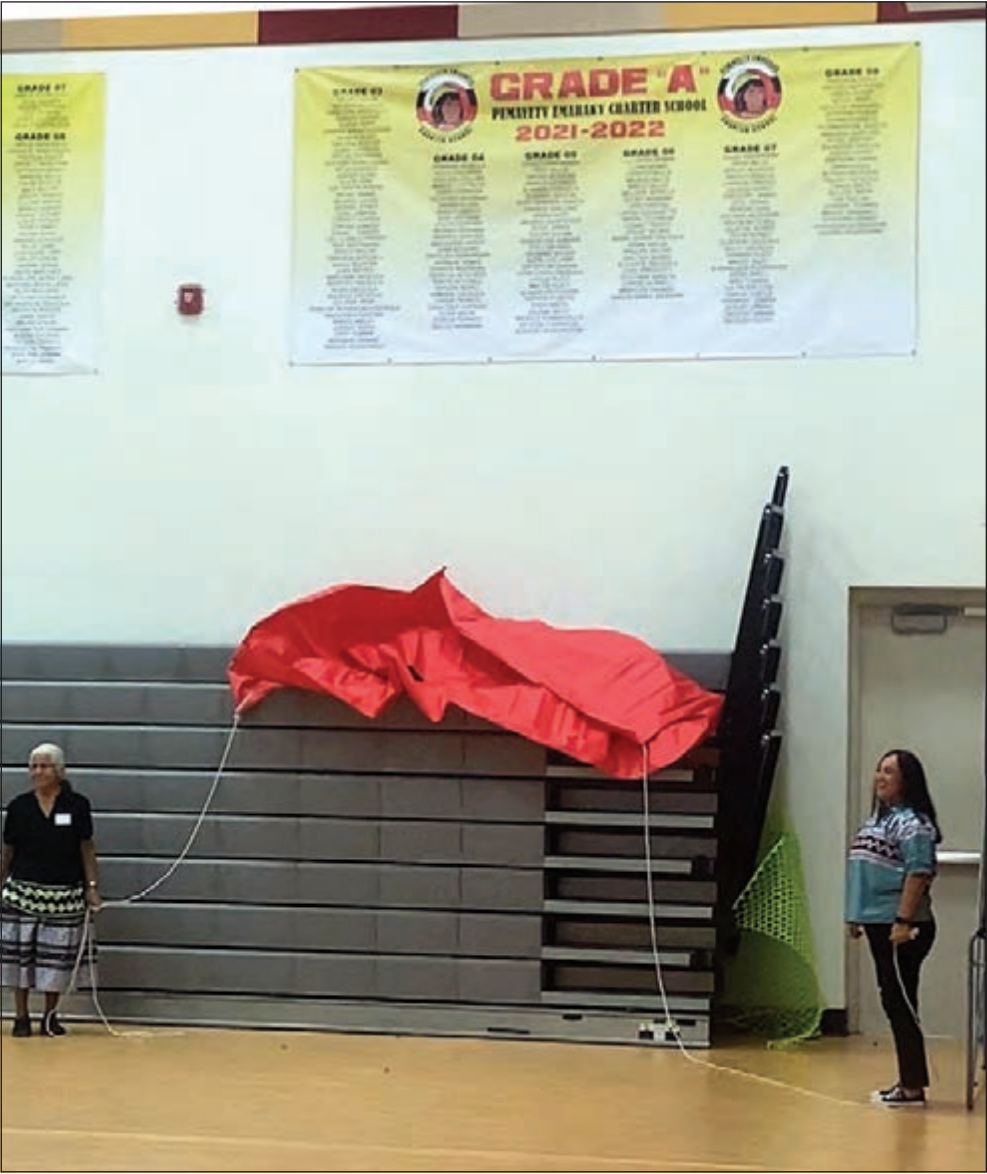
Councilwoman Mariann Billie. “Back to school is always stressful; we are trying to make it easier.”

“They should get all their supplies, enjoy and have fun before school starts and they get their heads in the books,” said Big Cypress Board Rep. Nadine Bowers. “It’s good to see tribal kids and watch them grow up.”

Students were looking forward to the new year with anticipation and perhaps some trepidation.

“I’m looking forward to being with my friends again,” said Kallie Yzaguirre, 13, a ninth grader. “Immokalee High School is a much bigger school, but I’ll get used to it after a while.”

♦ See BASH on page 2B



PECS

At a faculty meeting in the PECS gymnasium Aug. 2, a banner showcasing the schools “A” grade in the statewide assessment was unveiled.



Damon Scott

Hollywood Council community affairs specialist Francine Osceola, left, gives backpacks to Ciara Billie, right, and her kids.



# Haskell lands \$20M for Indigenous science hub

STAFF REPORT

Haskell Indian Nations University has received a \$20 million National Science Foundation research award to launch an Indigenous science hub project. The Bureau of Indian Affairs announced the award in a news release Aug. 3.

Haskell, located in Lawrence, Kansas, is a tribal school operated by the Bureau of Indian Education.

The release said the research award is the largest ever granted to a tribal college or university by the National Science Foundation. The five-year “Rising Voices, Changing Coasts” award was funded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

The hub is expected to research and address climate change-related coastal hazards in tribal communities in four regions: Alaska (Arctic), Louisiana (Gulf of Mexico), Hawaii (Pacific Islands) and Puerto Rico (Caribbean islands).

“This is an exciting and much needed opportunity for scientists and Indigenous knowledge keepers to collaborate on how Indigenous people in coastal areas can build resiliency to the dynamic forces resulting from climate change,” Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland said in the release.

The nonprofit Haskell Foundation secured the project’s funding.

“This research hub is a significant part of the growing recognition that traditional ecological knowledge and Indigenous knowledge should be a part of the science that is being done today regarding global climate change,” Daniel R. Wildcat, Haskell faculty member and the hub’s lead investigator, said in the release. “It is a game changer for Indigenous peoples. We have been advocating for years that we need a seat at the table in scientific discussions regarding climate. I think the funding for this hub allows Indigenous knowledge holders to build their own table and invite leading academic trained scientists to take a seat.”

More information is at [haskell.edu](http://haskell.edu).

## IRSC to host ‘Soaring: Turning Challenges into Success’ with former Lockheed executive

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**FORT PIERCE** — The public is invited to join Lee E. Rhyant, former executive vice president and general manager for Lockheed-Martin Marietta, on Sept. 22 at 5:30 p.m. for a community conversation about his new book, “Soaring Eleven Guiding Principles on the Path from Segregation to Success,” co-authored with Dr. Catherine Lewis. Fort Pierce is Rhyant’s hometown.

The program will take place at the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies, Room V-110, on the Indian River State College Massey Campus, 3209 Virginia Ave. in Fort Pierce. The talk will be followed by a meet and greet and book signing with the authors. The event is free and open to the public.

The book offers leadership advice, business lessons, and tips for career and personal success mined from Rhyant’s 40 years as a corporate leader. Born into poverty in the postwar South, Rhyant was the fourth of eight children raised by a family of sharecroppers struggling to survive the last decades of segregation.

As a child, Rhyant’s family moved to Fort Pierce, and with help from his family, teachers, clergy, and local community, reached the executive ranks at General Motors, Rolls-Royce Aeronautics and Lockheed-Martin.

Rhyant and Lewis will share Rhyant’s guiding principles and tips for success to demonstrate the transformative power of perseverance.

“I cannot think of a better place to launch the publication of this book than in my hometown,” Rhyant said a statement. “Fort Pierce shaped me into the person I am today, and my family and I owe so much to this community. Indian River State College helped change the trajectory of my life, and I hope that by sharing my story, I can inspire and motivate a new generation to strive for success.”

## NIEA convention, language summit to be held in OKC

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The National Indian Education Association will hold its 53rd annual Convention and Trade Show in Oklahoma City from Oct. 5-8.

Prior to the start of the convention, a Native language summit will be held Oct. 4 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Oklahoma City Convention Center. The summit will focus on preservation and revitalization of Native languages. For more information go to [niea.org](http://niea.org).

## ◆ BASH From page 1B

Other students had more specific goals for the year. Dakota Mariscal, 12, a seventh grader at Immokalee Middle School, wanted to master multiplication. Lynn Osceola, 9, a third grader at Stirling Elementary, is ready to tackle science this year and plans to succeed.

“I’m focusing on my grades, getting better at reading and math and trying not to fail,” said Alice Billie, 14, an eighth grader at the Ahfachkee School. “I look forward to seeing my friends and teachers.”

“I can’t wait to go back to the art room,” added Jaylee Jimmie, 16, an 11th grader at Ahfachkee. “I’m going to try to maintain a good GPA and be more involved in my community.”

The Hollywood Reservation’s “Back to School Bash” was held at the Seminole Estates on Aug. 9.

The Hollywood Council Office sponsored the event.

Students and parents visited about a dozen booths staffed by various tribal departments, including the Boys & Girls Club, Housing, Education, Human Resources, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Health Education, the Hollywood Board Office, the Chairman’s Office and more.

The goal was to give out backpacks, school supplies and other goodies, as well as provide information for interested students and parents. Families also enjoyed a catered lunch and a DJ who was spinning tunes while the kids cooled off in the pool and at the waterpark.

One student, 15-year-old Maddox Motlow, assisted the staff at the Boys & Girls Club booth as part of a Hollywood Education Department community service project. Motlow attends the NSU University School in Davie.

Staff reporter *Damon Scott* contributed to this article.



Damon Scott

Neil Baxley, right, directed his kids from booth to booth at Hollywood’s “Back to School Bash.”



Beverly Bidney

Lovely Carter helps her children Sienna, Braylen and Zhane Carter choose backpacks at the Big Cypress “Back to School Bash.”



Beverly Bidney

From the piles of colorful backpacks in Immokalee, Talia Fuller chose this pink camo backpack to get her through second grade at the Ahfachkee School.



Damon Scott

Maddox Motlow, in foreground, helped at the Boys & Girls Club booth as part of the Education Department’s Hollywood community service project.



Beverly Bidney

Alice Billie learns to do CPR chest compressions from Seminole Fire Rescue firefighter Kevin Sayles at the Immokalee event.



Damon Scott

Kenny Tommie and his stepdaughter Ariana visit the booths at the Hollywood event.



Beverly Bidney

Kids in Immokalee enjoy some late summer fun as they slide in bubbles before heading back to school.



Damon Scott

Malari Baker, left, and Indra Fredericks, from the Chairman’s Office, gave each attendee a bag with a pair of Seminole branded flip-flops.



# IRSC elects new board chair, vice chair

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**FORT PIERCE** — Indian River State College in Fort Pierce announced Aug. 25 that Martin County resident Tony George has been elected chair of the college's district board of trustees.

George has been a Florida Bar member since 1989. He owns a Stuart-based law practice focusing on elder law. George has served on the board since 2014 following an appointment by former Gov. Rick Scott. George took classes at Indian River Community College as a high school student, earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and was awarded his Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law.

Additionally, the board unanimously elected Christa Luna as vice chair. A fifth-generation Okeechobee resident, Luna is an owner of Gilbert Family of Companies with her brother and father, which include Gilbert Oil Co., Gilbert Outdoors and Line-X, Gilbert Ford, Gilbert Fleet and Commercial, Gilbert Collision Center and Gilbert Chevrolet, where she is also the dealer operator. Luna earned a degree in business administration from the University of Central Florida. She has served on the IRSC District Board of Trustees since 2012.

Other members of the board are Susan R. Caron, St. Lucie County; José L. Conrado, Indian River County; Vicki Davis, Martin County; Dr. Melissa D. Kindell, Okeechobee County; J. Brantley "Brant" Schirard Jr., St. Lucie County; and Milo Thornton, Indian River County.



Tony George



Christa Luna

# Tony Orlando to perform at Immokalee casino

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**IMMOKALEE** — Tony Orlando's Christmas Show will be at the Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee on Dec. 2 at 8 p.m.

For tickets, phone at 1-800-514-ETIX go to [moreinparadise.com](http://moreinparadise.com). Attendees must be 21 years of age.

The show offers a wide range of holiday classics from Orlando, including "White Christmas," "Silent Night," "Jingle Bell Rock," "Mary, Did You Know?" and many more.

Orlando has sold millions of records, including five number one hits: "Tie A Yellow Ribbon 'Round The Ole Oak Tree," "Knock Three Times," "Candida," "My Sweet Gypsy Rose" and "He Don't Love You (Like I Love You)."



Tony Orlando

# Valentine's Day in Immokalee to feature Temptations, Four Tops

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**IMMOKALEE** — Legendary musical groups The Temptations and the Four Tops will perform on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2023, at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee. Advance tickets are on sale now \$129 and are available online at [moreinparadise.com](http://moreinparadise.com) or 1-800-514-ETIX. Attendees must be 21 years of age.

The Temptations, throughout the group's evolution, have produced 53 Billboard Hot 100 Hit singles, including four that became #1 Pop singles: "My Girl," "I Can't Get Next to You," "Just My Imagination," and "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone."

The Four Tops had their first Motown hit, "Baby I Need Your Loving" in 1964. Their commercial peak was a romantic trilogy: "Reach Out I'll Be There," "Standing In The Shadows Of Love" and "Bernadette."



An electric vehicle residential charging station powers a car.

Courtesy Chargepoint

# EV vs gas: here's what to consider

BY CALVIN TIGER  
Reporter/Intern

With the automotive industry focusing on producing more electric vehicles, electrification appears to be on a path to someday become the new norm. Government mandates, such as California's that will require sales of all new passenger vehicles to be zero emission by 2035, are helping steer the industry toward EVs.

Environmental impacts are the main drivers of electrification in the industry. According to an article by the solar energy company Energysage, in the United States natural gas provides the cleanest source of electricity and is considered to be the cleanest fossil fuel. Natural gas produces 50 to 60 percent less carbon dioxide than coal.

The highest selling automotive manufacturer of EVs is Tesla. However, the market has become more crowded with EVs being rolled out by Chevrolet, Ford, Kia, Hyundai, Toyota, Volkswagen, Porsche and others.

Affordability remains a hindrance for some potential EV buyers. The average price of an EV in the U.S. is \$54,000, according to Business Insider. The average price of a gas powered vehicle came in at \$47,148,

according to Kelley Blue Book. Federal tax credits are available as an incentive and to help alleviate some of the upfront costs of purchasing an EV. The tax credits are up to \$7,500 for specific new EV models and \$4,000 for used EVs. The new Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 includes stipulations to qualify to get a tax credit for an EV, such as income requirements and battery requirements as of Jan. 1, 2023. The tax credit will be capped at \$150,000 in income for a single filing taxpayer and \$300,000 in income for joint filers. Battery requirements need to be at a minimum at 40 percent materials sourced in North America or a U.S. trading partner to be eligible for the tax credit.

Vehicle maintenance costs is another factor to consider. According to AAA, the average maintenance cost per year for an EV is \$250 less compared to a gas powered vehicle. However, there are some similar parts that need to be maintained regardless if it's an EV or gas powered vehicle, such as tires, brake pads, brake rotors, suspension, and interior electronics. Even if the vehicle still has a warranty from its own manufacturer, those parts are typically not included in the powertrain warranty.

It hasn't been all smooth riding for the EV charging station infrastructure. Some EV

drivers are unable to charge their vehicles at their home. Living in an apartment complex that isn't equipped with a station or somewhere where an EV cannot be plugged in can present obstacles. There have been ongoing issues with charging stations from third-party companies not working properly. EV owners who want to go on long distance trips need to plan carefully and make sure charging station networks are working properly.

"If you have at-home charging (in your garage, in your driveway, in your condo/apartment complex) and you don't take a lot of trips beyond the range of your EV, you're fine. Unfortunately, this is only a reality for people who have shorter commutes and who don't usually take trips further than their car's range," Kristen Lee, deputy editor of The Drive, said in an email to the Seminole Tribune. The Drive is an online publication that focuses on the automotive industry. Lee added that improvements in battery technology over time will increase range and decrease charging time.

*Tribal member Calvin Tiger is in the Education Department's Emerging Leaders Program.*

# Poker tournament to benefit veterans

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**COCONUT CREEK** — Seminole Casino Coconut Creek will host a charity poker tournament to benefit Irreverent Warriors on Sept. 11, at 11 a.m. in Coco Poker.

The tournament will feature \$10,000 in prizes as well as surprise bounties and special guest appearances. There is a \$150 buy-in.

To reserve a spot in the tournament,

guests should see a poker supervisor at the casino. Tournament registration will begin at 9 a.m. in Coco Poker on Sept. 11.

The mission of Irreverent Warriors is to bring veterans together using humor and camaraderie to improve mental health and prevent veteran suicide.

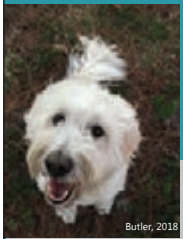
"We're honored to host this charity poker tournament for such a great organization," said Kelly Mautner, Director of Poker. "Irreverent Warriors is doing terrific things to support our veterans."

"We are thankful that Seminole Gaming

and Seminole Casino Coconut Creek are partnering with us to create an amazing poker tournament where past and present service members as well as supporters can come together and further our mission. That mission provides a 'safe' place for veterans to let their walls down, connect with warriors who have had similar experiences, and enjoy a day of camaraderie and laughter without feeling like they have to perform or be judged," said Cindy McNally, president/CEO, Irreverent Warriors.

## ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2022



Butter, 2018



Mahogany, 2018



Cusp

THPO 2018.8.743



Cusp

Wolf

Coyote

shadyofu.tumblr.com



Dan Drunish

Do you have a dog? Have you ever tried to gently look inside of its mouth? Did you notice its teeth?

Canines (canids), like dogs, coyotes, and wolves all have specialized teeth that allow them to eat food that needs to be torn and is tough to get into. These specialized teeth are called carnassials which allow the canine to both pull and twist bone, muscle, and tissue in order to feed. Situated behind this tooth, are molars which, similar to the carnassials need to have large and sharp cusps in order to help the canine chew tough meat.

Our pets no longer need to hunt for their food and tear it apart to eat it immediately in the wild. They can turn their noses up at whatever is put in front of them for something they deem more tasty. But what has this done to their teeth? After centuries of having cooked foods, table scraps, or kibble, these specialized teeth have gotten smaller, less sharp, and are more prone to infections and cavities.

In 2020, the Archaeology team found one of these molar teeth (top left) while in the field. During the cataloging phase, the Collections team realized they were going to have a hard time identifying which canine this tooth belongs to. Why? Because its size and shape sits in between two species: dog and coyote. The Collections staff know for certain that the tooth is too small for a wolf (bottom left), but was this canine the transitional animal between wild coyote and domesticated dog? That could certainly explain the size and shape of the tooth.

We recently sent this canine tooth out for testing to determine just how old it might be so check back in a couple of months for an update.

The two photos of dogs at the top are the pets of some of the staff here at the THPO. If you're interested in learning more about the artifacts we catalog and curate at the THPO, check out the THPO website at [www.stofthpo.com](http://www.stofthpo.com).



## SEMINOLE HISTORY STORIES - SEPTEMBER 2022

# ABIAKA, THE DEVIL, AND SAM JONES

Abiaka, one of the most significant leaders of the Seminole War, was a Miccosukee elder, a spiritual leader, and a passionate voice against removal. His words rallied warriors such as Coacoochee and Osceola to fight for the Independence of the Seminole people.

Before the Indian Removal Act was signed in 1832, The soldiers at Fort King knew Abiaka only as an "eccentric old Indian", a fisherman who visited the fort to sell his catch. Already over 60 years of age, the soldiers regarded him as a harmless old man and welcomed his presence. There was a popular song at the time called "Sam Jones the Fisherman", and the name soon stuck for him.

As tensions increased and war appeared inevitable, Sam Jones continued his trips. But he listened and learned as he did, carrying his catch while he watched the troops, counted men and supplies, and gathered invaluable intelligence. He watched the build-up that meant war was coming, and he prepared his people.

Abiaka was a fierce opponent in war. He and his followers were known for guerilla tactics, seeming to appear out of nowhere, striking, and disappearing into the wetlands. While he could not fight on the front lines, he was known to fire the first shot, before guiding the battle and tending to the wounded. Within a short time the Americans had new names for the fisherman. He was called "Sam Jones-Be-Damned" and "The Great Rascal", but most popularly he was simply "The Devil."

Abiaka, Sam Jones, The Devil, would continue to be a leading voice in the Tribe through the end of the War and after. He led his people deep into the wetlands, never surrendering. He lived until 1867, passing away in his camp in Florida, and said to have been at least 111 years old. Thanks to his perseverance, the Seminole in Florida remained unconquered.

*"In Florida I was born. In Florida I will die. In Florida my bones shall bleach."* - Abiaka (Sam Jones)



This sketch of Abiaka, drawn by US Army Doctor Ellis Hughes in 1837, is the only known image of him.

The lyrics for 'Sam Jones the Fisherman' were a parody of the popular song 'Dunois, the young and brave'

*"It was Sam Jones, the fisherman,  
Was bound for Sandy Hook,  
But first upon his almanac  
A solemn oath he took—  
"And grant a streak of fishing luck"—  
So ran this prayer of Sam's—  
"That I may have good sport to-night,  
And catch a load of clams,""*

If you're interested in more Seminole History, The STOF Tribal Historic Preservation Office is creating a new site with more stories, historic resources, and more. Visit [stofthpo.com](http://stofthpo.com) soon!





◆ **CAMP**  
From page 1A

“We want them to have fun and get to know each other,” said camp director and Big Cypress Recreation Department site manager Cathy Cypress. “I want them to have good memories and pass them on to their kids.”

Activities in groups were geared toward helping the kids’ growth now and in the future.

“This is where they learn teamwork, collaboration and acceptance. They can use those skills all through life. We hope they each leave here a better person,” Cypress said.

Carlise Bermudez, 18, worked as a junior counselor for a group of 12-year-old girls from Brighton, Immokalee and Tampa who didn’t know each other before attending camp.

“They are an interesting group,” said Bermudez, from Immokalee. “They’re all different and still figuring out who they are. It’s fun at night to see how they talk together. They all interact easily with each other.”

**Activities**

At Kulaqua’s stables, a group of 24 girls watched a video about horses and waited patiently to mount one for a trail ride through part of the 600-acre camp. For some, such as Dalvina Buster, 9, it was their first time on a horse. She rode a horse named Amigo.

“I almost fell off, but I caught myself,” said Buster, from Hollywood. “Amigo stopped for me. He’s a really cool horse.”

Those who mustered the courage to ride the zip line were rewarded with a close-up view of the tree canopy as they passed over a creek to the landing area on the other side.

The “blob” was the most popular feature at Hornsby Spring. One camper waited on the large inflatable as another jumped onto it, launching the first camper high into the air and into the crystal clear, 72-degree spring.

Culture, educational and wellness activities were part of the daily schedule.

Girls culture classes included sewing and beading while boys made model chickees and learned to carve using bars of soap. Culture Department staff from every reservation helped the young Seminoles learn the skills properly.

After completing her first row of patchwork, Arhinna Rodriguez, 12, of Immokalee, was pleased with it.

“Sometimes I thought it would be crooked, but it’s not,” Rodriguez said.

**Presentations**

During a Health and Human Services Department presentation after dinner, Ernie Tsosie (Navajo) – a comedian, actor and motivational speaker – spoke to the campers about the importance of culture in health and wellness as he entertained the group with a slide show and anecdotes from his career. Then he got to the point.

“Culture is comprised of values, beliefs, behaviors and material objects that together form a people or way of life. As Indigenous people, you are unique. Having pride in that is healthy for our spirit,” said Tsosie, whose screen credits include “Better Call Saul” and “Longmire.”

He stressed the importance of language. He said Native American language saved the world during World War II thanks to code talkers from tribes. They used their Native language to send secret messages for the Allied forces.

“Culture gives you an identity and a sense of belonging,” Tsosie said. “It affects all aspects of health and wellness spiritually, physically, mentally and socially.”

The Center for Behavioral Health gave separate presentations about bullying, one for the 7 to 11 age group and another for 12 to 17.

“One day you may find yourself being bullied,” said Salina Dorgan, Brighton Recreation Department site manager. “Find someone you can trust and talk to. Tell the Elders in your family. They are always there to help. This is very important. You have to be serious about it. We can get you help and be your support system.”

CBH therapist Valerie Kline echoed Dorgan’s advice.

“Elders are wise, they know everything,” Kline said. “They are the ones you need to go to. But we are also here to help you; we’ve been through everything you are going through.”

Kline encouraged the teens to be kind and respect each other. She led the kids in role playing scenarios and answered their questions.

**Friendships**

As camp progressed, campers became more comfortable with each other, which led to good-natured teasing. A group of young teens described their relationship.

“Everybody’s annoying in their own way, but they’re all cool,” said Thelma Tigertail, 13, from Big Cypress.

“We have fun with each other and know how to get along,” added Remey Rodriguez, 13, from Immokalee.

The “Wacky Seminole Sports Challenge” tested the older campers in the slip and run, paddleless canoe relay, water balloon battleship, gummy bear picnic and Kajabe Can-Can. The events pitted teams of teens against each other in friendly competition.

After the games, a group of boys talked about what it was like to make new friends.

“They are like all rez kids,” said Dyani Koenes, 16, from Big Cypress. “Every rez kid is the same.”

“Camp is a good place to be,” added Taven Edwards, 13, from Big Cypress.

While concentrating on beading, Kanyia Lee shared some thoughts on her first camp experience.

“It’s fun. There are multiple activities you can do to keep busy all day,” said Lee, 12, from Tampa. “It’s cool that you get to meet your other family.”

◆ See **CAMP** on page 5B



Teamwork helped this camper walk across a void on a balancing board during the tribe's week at Camp Kuluqua.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

Hollywood Culture instructor Shannon Gopher teaches Jessica Yzaguirre how to sew patchwork.



Beverly Bidney

Finding gummy bears in a plate of whipped cream, without using hands, was the challenge in the “Wacky Seminole Sports Challenge.” Here Madison Martinez searches for the gummies as Talen Jumper looks on.



Beverly Bidney

Brighton Culture instructor Johnnie Jones helps some younger boys make their model chickees.



Beverly Bidney

Dalina Rodriguez, in front, and Jakiya Johns decorate their boxcar.



Beverly Bidney

A group of 24 girls mounted horses and went on a trail ride through woods at Camp Kulaqua.



Beverly Bidney

Kids compete to see who the last one standing will be during the Kajabe Can-Can in the “Wacky Seminole Sports Challenge.” The goal is to avoid touching the garbage cans in the center while being pulled by the opposing team members.



◆ **CAMP**  
From page 4B

A summertime rainstorm kept the campers in the cafeteria for hours. They participated in a game of “Simon Says” with Preschool director Thommy Doud serving as the host. At the end, only two avoided elimination from the game: Kenneth Frank and Gia Garcia. Doud couldn’t fool either one with any of his antics or word play so he declared a tie. The room erupted in cheers for the winners, whose reward was a place at the front of the line for breakfast the next morning.

The second to last day of camp included a float on the Ichetucknee River on tubes and rafts. Lifeguards, counselors and staff accompanied the large group.

A group from Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and Tampa vowed to continue their friendships throughout the year.

“You don’t get as close to kids at school as you do here at camp,” said Jaelee Weimann, 12, from Brighton.

“Kids here are basically family,” added Thomas Johnson, 14, from Tampa.

The boxcar derby and s’mores over a campfire were held after dinner that evening.

The next day, campers loaded buses and headed back to the reservations.

“We want the kids to have fun, enjoy each other’s company and interact with kids from other reservations,” Dorgan said. “They need to learn to get along and bond now since they are the future of the tribe. As future leaders, they will have that bond to keep the tribe going.”



At left, Thommy Doud leads a game of Simon Says for the last two campers standing, Kenneth Frank and Gia Garcia. They bested the other 193 kids at camp to earn the shared win.



Arhinna Rodriguez proudly displays the first patchwork she ever made during a Culture sewing class.



A camper takes a spill from “the blob” and into the water.



Kanyia Lee, left, and Spirit Johnson work on beading during a Culture class.



From left, new friends Jaelee Weimann, Dylan Jones, Thomas Johnson, Sahara Robbins and Asah Jumper pose with their tubes after floating down the Ichetucknee River during the tribe’s week at Camp Kaluqua.



Aniyah Billie hangs onto a rope as she swings across a pond while filling a bucket with water.



Daniel Tommie, second from left, helps a camper add decorations to a boxcar.



Campers embark on an hours-long journey down the Ichetucknee River propelled by nothing but the current.



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# Sports



## Moore Haven eyes strong season

*New look  
Terriers feature  
two Seminoles*

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**MOORE HAVEN** — If its preseason kickoff classic and week 1 opener are indications of the type of season that lies ahead for the Moore Haven High School football team, then Terrier fans won't be disappointed.

With a new coach and several new players, the Terriers routed Atlantic High School, 50-22, in the season opener Aug. 26 in Port Orange near Daytona Beach.

One week earlier, a similar display of explosive offense and solid defense led the Terriers to a lopsided shutout victory against Berean Christian-West Palm Beach on Aug. 18 in front of packed stands at Joe Brown Stadium.

The Terriers' home opener is scheduled for Sept. 9 against Kenswick Prep from St. Petersburg.

"We've got a very good team. The kids are excited; that's the biggest thing because last year was a bit of a rough year for them," said coach Jack Garrett.

Indeed, 2021 was a brief and rocky one for Moore Haven, which went 0-3. This season the team has about 45 players on varsity, which includes a few key additions who previously played at Clewiston High School. The nine-game regular season includes a trip to Georgia to face Appling County on Sept. 16. A tour of the University of Florida is on the Terriers' itinerary.

The squad features plenty of athleticism, which Berean got a taste of on the game's first play from scrimmage when Kenari Wilcher caught a perfectly thrown bomb from quarterback Henry Boyd for an 80-yard touchdown. It was the first of three TD catches for Wilcher, who is also a defensive back and has committed to the University of Illinois in the Big Ten Conference. Garrett said he believes Wilcher would be the first



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven takes the field for its preseason kickoff classic Aug. 18.

Moore Haven player to play for a Power Five college since the late 1990s.

Preston Thompson is another highly regarded DB who has committed to Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. Garrett said offers have come in for other players, too.

Junior running back Zailin Jackson, listed at 5-foot-8, 220-pounds, displayed a combination of power and speed against Berean and proved to be tough for defenders to take down.

Two Seminoles are on the team. Senior linebacker Corey Jumper and freshman defensive end/offensive tackle Waylon Yates will start the season in backup roles.

Jumper, who did not play in the Berean game, provides depth and versatility.

"He'll backup at linebacker and he'll play a lot of special teams. Great kid. He works hard. He'll get a lot of playing time," Garrett said.

The 224-pound Yates, who is the team's tallest player at 6-foot-4, maybe even 6-5, brings vertical size that's ideal for defensive ends. Yates saw playing time in the second half against Berean and made a few tackles. He recently joined the team.

"I decided to do it because it's better than doing nothing," said Yates, who is a former Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School student.

This season marks the debut of a new FHSAA playoff format that should help teams in rural areas such as Moore Haven. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, the Terriers' season ended with playoff losses to Miami-area powerhouse Champagnat Catholic. Champagnat went on to win two state titles with enrollment numbers similar to its rural and suburban playoff opponents, but a pool of players to draw from in Miami-Dade County that is vastly greater than areas for schools such as Moore Haven. Under the new format, schools from the state's biggest population areas — such as Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Orlando and Tampa — will compete for state titles in the

Metro section while schools in rural and suburban areas vie for state championships in the suburban classification.

"It definitely benefits us because you're playing more schools like yourself," Garrett said.

Moore Haven is in the newly-formed Class 1S. Its three-team district includes two Christian schools in Fort Myers.

Future varsity Terriers will be back in action this season. Moore Haven will have a junior varsity/middle school team. Middle school students from PECS have played on the team in recent years, although there was no team last year.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven High School freshman Waylon Yates warms up before the Terriers faced Berean Christian-West Palm Beach in a preseason kickoff classic Aug. 18 in Moore Haven. Yates is one of two Seminoles on the team.



Kevin Johnson

Jack Garrett is in his first season as head coach of the Moore Haven High School football team.

## Soccer superstar Messi expected to play at Hard Rock Stadium

STAFF REPORT

Before it competes in the World Cup, Argentina will play two friendlies, including a match against Honduras on Sept. 23 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens.

Organizers said in a news release that they expect Lionel Messi to be in the lineup for Argentina.

"The games are expected to mark the beginning of the end of an illustrious international career for global icon Lionel Messi. The 35-year-old Paris Saint-Germain forward, widely considered the best player in the history of the game, is preparing to make his fifth World Cup appearance for Argentina this year in Qatar," the release stated.

Messi has hinted at retiring, although reports have linked him to joining Inter Miami after his contract with Paris Saint-Germain ends next year.

Messi is Argentina's all-time leading scorer. He's also a brand ambassador for Hard Rock International. In June 2021, HRI signed a five-year partnership with

Messi, which includes merchandising.

"I am honored to partner with such a renowned brand as Hard Rock, and even more so at this historic moment - its 50th anniversary," Messi said in a statement last year.

Hard Rock's Messi collection includes a pin and hoodie featuring both Messi and the anniversary.

Tickets for the friendly at Hard Rock Stadium are available at ticketmaster.com.

The World Cup starts Nov. 20.



Hard Rock

Soccer star Lionel Messi is shown in a promotional photo after he signed a partnership with Hard Rock International in 2021.



Hard Rock

A pin honors Messi and Hard Rock's 50th anniversary. The pin is available at Hard Rock's Rock Shops.

## Haskell volleyball to play in Tampa

STAFF REPORT

The Haskell Indian Nations University women's volleyball team is scheduled to be in the Tampa area for four matches.

Haskell will play in the Continental Athletic Conference Classic at Florida College in Temple Terrace. On Oct. 21, Haskell will face Florida National University (1 p.m.) and Florida College (4 p.m.). The next day Haskell will meet Crowley's Ridge College (11 a.m.) and Iowa Wesleyan College (5 p.m.).

In other Haskell news, the school has been selected to host the 2022-23 Continental Athletic Conference men's and women's basketball conference championship tournament.



# Chairman's tournament a big hit at Clewiston Golf Course

STAFF REPORT

**CLEWISTON** — The tribalwide Chairman's Golf Tournament was held Aug. 13 at Clewiston Golf Course. Eight groups teed off in the morning. It was an own ball tournament; each golfer played their own shots from start to finish. One of the day's highlights came on

the ninth hole, a 137-yard par 3. Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Bryan Arledge and Mitch Osceola -- playing in the same group -- hit their tee shots to within about five feet of the cup. Arledge was the closest at three feet, 10 inches. Each made their putts for birdie. A lunch was planned for after golf, including prizes for contest winners.



Kevin Johnson

Marc Macias chips onto the ninth green at Clewiston Golf Course during the tribalwide Chairman's Golf Tournament on Aug. 13.



Kevin Johnson

Elliot Young chips onto the green during the tribalwide Chairman's Golf Tournament.



Kevin Johnson

From left, Richard Osceola, Jimmy Wayne Holdiness, Miguel Mata and Trey Boone.



Kevin Johnson

Jimmy Wayne Holdiness hits a chip shot over a sand trip on the ninth hole.



Kevin Johnson

From left, the foursome of Kevin Osceola, River Osceola, Immokalee Council Liaison Ray Garza Sr. and Elliot Young.

Kevin Johnson

From left, James Mitchell, Mondo Tiger and Ricky Doctor.



Kevin Johnson

Trey Boone watches his tee shot on the seventh hole at Clewiston Golf Course.



# Summer of winning for Unconquered

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

If Indian Country wasn't aware of the Unconquered youth basketball team before this summer, it is now.

Coached by Gary McInturff and Kelvin Huggins Sr., and featuring a roster comprised entirely of Seminole and Miccosukee players, Unconquered produced a summer to remember out West. The team won national Native tournaments in the 15 under/8th grade category in Arizona and Oklahoma and finished runner-up in a tournament in Washington State.

"They've been playing together since fourth grade, so it was time for them to shine," McInturff said.

Unconquered started fast by winning the Battle of the Plains in Edmond, Oklahoma, in June.

The next trip came in July when Unconquered captured the Native American Nationals in Mesa, Arizona.

By the time the third and final trip came, Unconquered was short-handed with just six players and lost another to injury, but still managed to finish runner-up at the Elite Players Indigenous Challenge in Centralia, Washington.

In addition to the team's accomplishments, there were individual achievements. Zeke Billie was named MVP in Arizona and Oklahoma and All Tournament in Washington. Draycen Osceola earned All Tournament in Arizona and Randal Huggins did the same in Oklahoma.

McInturff made sure his players proudly represented their heritage. Their uniforms featured a logo with Seminole Warrior Osceola on the front and patchwork on the side.

"I'm proud of them. I want them to know the [younger] kids look up to them. They've done special things. They represent the tribe in a positive way and they lead by example," McInturff said.

The trips provided some valuable time away from the courts, too. The team visited a tribe in Arizona, went into the mountains in Washington and toured the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City.

McInturff thanked Paula and Tony Sanchez for their support, which included paying for the uniforms and covering entry fees.

McInturff hopes to take the team to the North American Indigenous Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia, next summer. For now, Unconquered can look back and enjoy its success.

"I wanted them to be known across Indian Country," McInturff said.

## Unconquered U15/8th grade boys basketball team

Coach: Gary McInturff  
Coach: Kelvin Huggins Sr.  
Louie Billie  
Kingston Billie  
Zeke Billie  
Kelvin Huggins Jr.  
Randal Huggins  
Jordan Johnson  
Draycen Osceola  
Christian Shaffer



Courtesy photo

The Unconquered basketball team celebrates in July after winning the Native American Nationals in Mesa, Arizona. From left, coach Gary McInturff, Kelvin Huggins Jr., Jordan Johnson, Randal Billie, Zeke Billie, Draycen Osceola, Christian Shaffer, Kingston Billie and coach Kelvin Huggins Sr. (in back).



Courtesy photo

The Unconquered champions of the Battle of the Plains in Edmond, Oklahoma.



Courtesy photo

The team got second place at Elite Players Indigenous Challenge Tournament in Centralia, Washington.



Courtesy photo

Zeke Billie



Courtesy photo

Louie Billie



Courtesy photo

Draycen Osceola



Courtesy photo

Randal Billie



Courtesy photo

Kelvin Huggins Jr.



Courtesy photo

Battle of the Plains Tournament MVP Zeke Billie, left, and Randal Billie, All Tournament.



Courtesy photo

Kingston Huggins



Courtesy photo

Draycen Osceola, left, All Tournament, and Zeke Billie, MVP, at the Native American Nationals in Mesa, Arizona.





Seminoles on the Moore Haven High School varsity volleyball team are, from left, Preslynn Baker, Saniya Rodrigues, Miley Jimmie and Summer Gopher.



Seminoles on the Moore Haven High School junior varsity volleyball team are, from left, Halley Balentine, Marley Jimmie, Shylynn Testerman, CeCe Thomas and Tahnia Billie.

# Loaded with tribal players, Moore Haven looks to ride momentum

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

A year after she turned the Moore Haven High School volleyball program in the right direction, coach Mona Baker hopes her team will continue to improve this season.

“I’m not having to teach as many fundamentals this year because I did all that last year, so we’re learning plays...which

will benefit us when we play those stronger schools like Community School,” Baker said.

Community School of Naples is one of the tougher teams on Moore Haven’s schedule, which Baker said is tougher than a year ago.

“We have a lot of good teams on our schedule this year, so I expect it to be a little bit of a struggle,” she said.

Moore Haven had struggled in recent years to put up victories, but not last season when the team turned a lot of heads with a 9-4 record.

“We went from struggling at first to winning games,” Baker said. “It helped a lot. It gave us a lot of confidence.”

Those good vibes have carried over to the early part of the season. Moore Haven

won two of its first three matches.

The Terriers feature four Seminole juniors: Summer Gopher and Saniya Rodrigues, sophomore Preslynn Baker and freshman Miley Jimmie. Gopher and Baker are coming off strong seasons a year ago. They have taken on leadership roles this season; both are captains.

“They just kind of stepped in and took

over the lead role without being asked,” coach Baker said.

Jimmie is the only freshman on varsity. The tribe is well represented on the junior varsity, too, with Tahnia Billie, Halley Balentine, Marley Jimmie, Shylynn Testerman and CeCe Thomas.



Preslynn Baker reacts to a winning point by Moore Haven against Glades Day.



Summer Gopher sets the ball during Moore Haven's varsity game against Glades Day on August 25 in Belle Glade.



Moore Haven varsity gets ready to take on Glades Day.



Miley Jimmie makes a service return against Glades Day.



After Moore Haven won a point, Shylynn Testerman (22) is congratulated by teammates, including CeCe Thomas, background, and Tahnia Billie, right.



With her teammates looking on, including CeCe Thomas (75) and Marley Jimmie (77), Moore Haven's Tahnia Billie keeps the ball in play in a JV match against Glades Day.



# Gabby Lemieux has best finish as a pro

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Ten weeks after becoming the first Native American to play in the U.S. Women’s Open, Gabby Lemieux (Shoshone/Paiute) produced her best finish as a professional golfer with a tie for second place in the Epson Tour’s Four Winds Invitational on Aug. 14 in South Bend, Indiana.

Lemieux shot an even-par 72 in the final round and earned a spot in a three-way playoff with China’s Yan Liu and Finland’s Kiira Riihijarvi. Liu won the tournament with a birdie on the first playoff hole.

Lemieux, 26, earned a \$16,000 paycheck, her top payout since she joined the minor league tour of the LPGA in 2018. She is 44th on the Epson Tour’s money list.

Lemieux entered the final day of the three-day tournament two shots behind Liu. With four birdies on the front nine, Lemieux surged past Liu and put herself in a solid position to win her first tournament as a professional. She led by two shots through 11 holes, but her momentum was halted with

bogeys on Nos. 12, 15 and 16. Birdies by Liu and Riihijarvi on No. 18 and a par by Lemieux set up the playoff.

“With 18 holes of being in the lead group, I’ve never been in that position ever in my professional career,” Lemieux said in a story on epsontour.com. “There were a lot of nerves, but I told myself one shot at a time, take it nice and slow and joke around as much as I can.”

After an opening round 71, Lemieux shot a 66 in the second round, which included seven birdies.

The tie for second came at an ideal time for Lemieux, who missed cuts in her previous five tournaments on the tour.

“I think this is a good momentum boost for the next two tournaments. I’m going to stay light and happy, and hopefully, maybe something will come out of it,” Lemieux said.

In her next tournament, Lemieux tied for 50th at the Circle Raven Championship in Idaho, her homestate.

In June, Lemieux qualified for her first U.S. Women’s Open. She shot 82-81 and did



Epson Tour

**Gabby Lemieux at the Four Winds Invitational in South Bend, Indiana. She finished in a tie for second place.**

not make the cut.

The Epson Tour Championship is scheduled to be held in Florida Oct. 6-9 at LPGA International’s Jones Course in Daytona Beach.



Epson Tour

Gabby Lemieux prepares to hit a tee shot in the final round of the Four Winds Invitational in South Bend, Indiana, on Aug. 14.

# Volleyball returns to PECS

STAFF REPORT

After more than two years of being on the sidelines due to the pandemic, the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School volleyball program has returned to the court.

PECS last played in the fall of 2019 before the pandemic shut down sports at the

school.

During the hiatus, some PECS players opted to play for other schools while still attending PECS.

PECS was scheduled to open its 16-match season Aug. 30 against Moore Haven. The team is coached by Elizabeth Tauchen.

2022 PECS VOLLEYBALL			
HEAD COACH - ELIZABETH TAUCHEN			
30 AUG	MOORE HAVEN 4:30 PM	27 SEP	CLEWISTON 5:00PM   6:00 PM
01 SEP	GLADES DAY 4:30 PM   5:30 PM	29 SEP	WEST GLADES 4:30 PM   5:30 PM
02 SEP	YEARLING 4:30 PM   5:30 PM	03 OCT	IMAGINE CHARTER 4:30 PM   5:30 PM
08 SEP	RENAISSANCE CHARTER 4:30 PM   5:30 PM	04 OCT	YEARLING 4:30 PM   5:30 PM
09 SEP	LABELLE 4:30 PM   5:30 PM	06 OCT	OSCEOLA 4:30 PM   5:30 PM
13 SEP	CLEWISTON 5:00 PM   6:00 PM	11 OCT	MOORE HAVEN 4:30 PM
15 SEP	OKEECHOBEE JV 5:00 PM   6:00 PM	12 OCT	WEST GLADES 4:30 PM   5:30 PM
20 SEP	GLADES DAY 4:30 PM   5:30 PM	13 OCT	LABELLE 4:30 PM   5:30 PM
Gray - HOME games Red - AWAY games		Playoff Tournament Oct. 15 @ PECS	



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# Tribe honors 100-year-old WWII female veteran

BY CHAD HUNTER  
Cherokee Phoenix

**TAHLEQUAH, Okla.** — A 100-year-old Cherokee Nation citizen was honored Aug. 15 for serving her country during World War II as part of the groundbreaking Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps.

“My great-grandmother came over on the Trail of Tears,” Winifred Dudley, of Owasso, said. “I’m just thankful to be part of the Cherokee Nation. We serve a great God. He will never leave us nor forsake us. He’s going to take care of me. I don’t care if I am 100 years old.”

The centenarian was dubbed a “Cherokee Warrior” and awarded the tribe’s Medal of Patriotism at the monthly Tribal Council meeting.

“She’s from what we refer to as the Greatest Generation,” CN Secretary of Veteran Affairs S. Joe Crittenden said. “In 1944 at the height of World War II, she enlisted in the newly-formed Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps. One year later, this auxiliary unit was changed to the Women’s Army Corps, which granted official military status to those women volunteers ... a groundbreaker for women in U.S. active service.”

Born and raised on her family’s allotment near Westville, Dudley served in the U.S. Army for nearly two years as a clerical worker, military postal worker and chaplain’s assistant.

“She was a forerunner for women,” her son, Wayne Dudley, 67, said. “Prior to World War II there were no women enlisted in the military of the United States. But they had already used up all of the boys in the U.S. basically. There was a need for certain jobs in the military operation they needed to fill, so they began enlisting women for the first time ever.”

According to the U.S. Army, the purpose of the WAAC and later WAC was to make available “to the national defense the knowledge, skill and special training of women of the nation.”

“The mission of the Women’s Auxiliary



Chad Hunter/Cherokee Phoenix

**Cherokee Nation citizen Winifred Dudley, 100, of Owasso, was honored with the tribe's Medal of Patriotism on Aug. 15. She served in the Women's Army Corps during World War II.**

Army Corps was to provide support to the Army by releasing men from administrative duties to serve in combat,” a historical recap from the U.S. Department of Interior states. “From the beginning, the WAAC bill met opposition. At this time, most women did not work outside the home, and a woman serving in uniform was unfathomable.”

In total there were 150,000 members of the Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps. Dudley, whose name was Winifred Whelchel at the time, was discharged approximately a month after the war ended, in September 1945.

“When the war was over, she returned home on leave for a couple of weeks and ran into my dad (Jess “Jay” Floyd Dudley), who was also born and raised in Westville,” Wayne Dudley said. “They had known each other, but not well, before that. They met each other on the main street and two weeks later were married.”

A year older than Winifred, Jay Dudley died in 2016 at the age of 95. He had served in the Army Air Corps during WWII and earned a Bronze Star for his involvement in the Normandy Invasion and Battle of the Bulge. They had been married for 70 years before his passing.

“My mom has lived a full life,” Wayne Dudley said. “She had four birthday parties

because she is so widely known and loved. At least three of those parties, there were well over 100 people at each one. Anywhere she has ever lived, she has been known well and loved because she’s been such a servant of others and has just been endeared to everybody.”

Growing up, he never saw his mother wear her military uniform, but “now she wears it every day,” he said.

“That is her identity,” he said. “At this stage in her life, she is a veteran, and over the years she’s belonged to multiple veterans’ organizations. She has volunteered for many years until just about two or three years ago at the veterans’ clinic. But growing up, that was not her primary identity. She was a mom. She was a wife. She was a community member.”

Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. also announced during the Medal of Patriotism presentation that Dudley would be receiving an additional award from the tribe.

“In addition to this award, we are going to present Ms. Dudley with the Patriotism Award at this year’s Cherokee National Holiday, so we hope she will come back and see us here in a few weeks,” Hoskin said

## Tribal boarding schools much improved, but legacy of old schools remains

BY MORGAN FISCHER  
Cronkite News

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Pope Francis apologized. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland called it a “heartbreaking” part of U.S. history. Congress is considering legislation to atone for the government’s actions.

Few dispute that Indian boarding schools led to more than a century of abuse, systematically seizing Indigenous land, separating children from their families, destroying communities and working to erase tribal languages, religions, cultures and economies. Poor conditions and harsh treatment at the schools are blamed for the deaths of untold numbers of Indigenous children who were supposed to be in the government’s care.

While the abuses were in the past, the schools are not, entirely. Arizona, home to 47 federal Indian boarding schools at one point, still has eight such schools today.

Advocates say the modern schools are not perfect. But they are a far cry from the horrors of the past.

“They’re not run the way the schools were run in 1925,” said Tsianina Lomawaima, of Mvskoke (Creek) descent and a retired professor of Indigenous studies at Arizona State University.

Today’s schools are no longer in the “historical assimilative model,” said Stephen Curley, the director of digital archives for the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, as the previous structure “doesn’t exist anymore.”

Five of the eight boarding schools in Arizona today are run by the Bureau of Indian Education and the other three are tribally controlled. Since BIE and Native nations took “the helm of operating” the schools, the curriculum has gotten more culturally competent with more of a focus on revitalization and cultural exchange, Curley said.

This was echoed by Haaland in June testimony to the Senate Indian Affairs Committee on the first volume of an Interior Department investigation of the schools. The report outlined abuses at the 408 federal Indian boarding schools that operated in 37 states between the early 1800s and the 1960s.

Haaland said of the modern schools, “A lot ... have Native teachers, Native principals, Native superintendents. There is a culturally relevant education for every Native student at every single one of those schools.”

That was not always the case.

Haaland, the first Native American to hold a Cabinet position, ordered the review of the schools, and has embarked on a cross-country listening tour to hear from boarding school survivors. Interior officials said this summer that her tour will stop in Arizona before the end of this year, but they could not say when.

Experts say the previous structure of boarding schools still affects Native communities. Students who attended the schools, and the families they were separated from, often experienced intense trauma, emotional and physical. This type of intense trauma does not just go away, said David Simmons, the director of government affairs at the National Indian Child Welfare Association.

“One generation, after another generation, after another generation, over 100 years of families experiencing this,” Simmons said. “And today, of course, what we see are people who have been separated from their communities and have relatives

who are living on tribal lands, but they themselves have never been there because they were removed and their families, their grandparents were removed.”

No matter the impact, however, the common factor “of separating families from children, was wrong,” Lomawaima said. Simmons said that 30% to 40% of the children who attended the schools never returned home because they died as a result of “disease or harsh working conditions or different kinds of abuse.”

The Interior investigation identified marked or unmarked burial sites at approximately 53 different schools across the country, a number department investigators expect will increase.

Despite the damage, native communities were resilient and survived. Lomawaima said there “was no one story, there was no one impact” on Indigenous children who attended the schools.

“It ranged from people who, because of their strength and resilience, and their own resources thrived at the schools at certain points in time and places to people who were effectively destroyed by them,” she said.

Lomawaima said there “is no question that they did damage, but they did not entirely succeed in that goal,” of destroying Native life.

Curley pointed to the Navajo Nation as an example of resilience. The Navajo reservation had the majority of federal Indian boarding schools in Arizona, a “strategic” decision by federal authorities who saw in the tribe’s large population a need for “a lot of institutions to assimilate them.” Despite that, he said, the Navajo Nation and its nearly 400,000 members is still vibrant today.

Arizona, with 47 tribal schools in the past, was second only to Oklahoma, which had 76, according to the Interior Department report.

Along with the listening tour and the first volume of the report, advocates hope the government continues to address the legacy of the boarding schools and works to deal with what Simmons called “this historic trauma that many families are living with on a daily basis that has not been addressed properly.”

The House and Senate are both considering bills to establish a Truth and Healing Commission that would investigate the impacts and ongoing effects of the Indian boarding schools and develop recommendations for federal government action.

“It’s righting a wrong and making sure that it never happens again,” said Rep. Tom O’Halloran, D-Sedona, a co-sponsor of the House bill, which passed out of committee in June. “This is our responsibility. I’m pleased to see the movement forward.”

Despite the reforms, Native enrollment in schools has shifted away from boarding schools and toward public schools, where around 95% of Native children are enrolled today, Lomawaima said. Even there, she said, Native students face many challenges, one being that many public schools do not have or require any type of education for Native students to learn about Native language or life.

“Many, many, many public schools don’t have any of those (Native cultural) programs in place,” Lomawaima said. “There’s no one single answer, there’s no one simple answer” on how to best educate Native children.

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Children at Havasupai Indian School in Cataract Canyon, Arizona, in 1901.

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