



The

Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

www.seminoletribune.org • Free

## Tribe ‘pleased’ with latest sports betting decision

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe’s quest to launch mobile sports betting in Florida entered yet a new phase in September. A federal appeals court Sept. 11 denied a request from West Flagler Associates and Fort Myers Corp. (a corporation doing business as Bonita Springs Poker Room) to reconsider a ruling by a three-judge panel that found the tribe’s historic gaming compact with the state – which gives the tribe control over mobile sports betting – did not violate the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on June 30 had reversed a November 2021 decision by a federal judge that halted the provisions of the 30-year gaming compact, which had been signed just months earlier on April 23, 2021.

The compact’s opponents had challenged the June 30 decision and asked the full appeals court for a rehearing, known as an “en banc” hearing. But the court rejected the request without a detailed explanation.

While the tribe didn’t comment on the potential impact of the appeals court decision, which at least in the short term opens the door for mobile sports betting to move forward, it said it was “pleased” with the denial of a request for a rehearing.

♦ See BETTING on page 7A

## Tribe breaks ground for new Lakeland community center

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**LAKELAND** — The Seminole Tribe’s Lakeland community gathered Sept. 18 for the groundbreaking of its future community center.

“We have been looking forward to this since the tribe built the Hard Rock Tampa,” said Tampa Reservation administrator Richard Henry. “Getting people back together like this is the closest thing we get to a village nowadays.”

The state-of-the-art, 36,000-square-foot community center will be built on almost 3 acres and will include tribal offices and departments, a gym that will double as a hurricane shelter for 300 to 400 people, an outdoor pool, senior center and the Culture Department. Construction is scheduled to start in early October and is slated to be completed by mid-August 2025.

Construction began on the nearly 900-acre Lakeland Reservation in 2019 and its first residents moved into homes in early 2021. The property is located about 37 miles east of Tampa in a rural part of Polk County. The land is rich with forests and lakes and provides spacious residential lots. When it is fully built, the reservation will have 150 homes, each on a 1-acre lot.

In 1999, Seminole families in Tampa gave up their homes so the tribe could build the Hard Rock Tampa casino. According to Hard Rock International, it is one of the largest and most successful casinos in the world.

“We have been pushing for this community because of what they gave up in



Beverly Bidney

Members of the Lakeland community pose for a photo taken by Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie during a groundbreaking for a community center Sept. 18.

the past,” said Brighton Councilman Larry Howard. “Kids today will want to know the history of this place. Richard Henry has been

standing here for a long time; he fights for things and I appreciate all he’s done.”

♦ See LAKELAND on page 5A

## Naples artist donates paintings to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**NAPLES** — Tina Osceola spent a lot of her childhood visiting her grandparent’s camp in eastern Collier County. Naples artist Paul Arsenault also spent some time there in 1980, when he painted an image of the camp in oil on canvas.

On Sept. 15, Arsenault donated that painting and another one of Egmont Key to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. Osceola was at the artist’s studio to accept the paintings.

“I painted from life at the village, but I’ve revised it since then. That’s why it took so long to finish,” said Arsenault, who is originally from Montreal and Massachusetts and has called Naples home since 1974.

“You captured it all,” Osceola said. “There were so many good memories there.”

Osceola cherishes her memories of Cory and Juanita Osceola’s camp. Although she didn’t live there, Osceola went there almost every day.

“Life was so vibrant during those years,” she said. “My grandparents were amazing people. The life we had in the village gave me a sense of safety and also a keen knowledge of my tribal identity. My cousins, brother and I would play superheroes until dark. Life was

simple.”

Osceola was about 12 or 13 when the painting was made. She is depicted in the painting wearing a red cape as she sews patchwork with her aunt Tahama Osceola in the chickee on the left side of the painting.

“Miccosukee Village on the Tamiami Trail” measures 30 inches-by-60 inches and the Egmont Key painting, “Boarding the Steamer Grey Cloud, Voyage of Tears,” was painted in 2020 and measures 30 inches-by-24-inches.

The painting of Egmont Key looks almost idyllic with people walking on a picturesque beach with a steamship waiting at a dock. But upon further examination the people are Seminoles being led by a U.S. soldier wielding a large rifle.

Arsenault visited Egmont Key – an island at the mouth of Tampa Bay – to get an understanding of Seminole history. Egmont Key was used as a prison during the Seminole Wars. It held Seminoles before they were forced to go to Oklahoma, a journey that started on the steamship Grey Cloud, which went to St. Marks, Florida; New Orleans; and up the Mississippi River.

♦ See PAINTINGS on page 5A



Beverly Bidney

Tina Osceola and artist Paul Arsenault enjoy a lighter moment at the artist’s home in Naples with the two paintings he donated to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on Sept. 15.

## Tribe to receive second mobile command vehicle

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe’s Public Safety departments are set to receive a second emergency mobile command vehicle (MCV), adding to a growing ability to respond to a variety of situations on its reservations.

The acquisition of the first MCV in 2021 marked a milestone for the tribe and was a rarity in Indian Country. The 45-foot long, fully decked out vehicle with a 70-gallon fuel tank offers an array of capabilities used by the tribe’s police, fire rescue and

emergency management personnel. The tribe had previously operated its mobile command from a trailer pulled by a truck.

The second MCV will look different but have the same capabilities as the first – just at a smaller scale and with fewer amenities. It will be used in areas where the larger one can’t navigate as effectively.

“We had a couple instances where, while the [first] MCV is versatile and usable, it could not access the locations we needed to operate as a command center,” Office of Emergency Management director Paul Downing, said.

Downing (Passamaquoddy Tribe of

Indian Township) said while the tribe has a relatively small number of people living across Florida, its footprint is large and it’s difficult for one vehicle to cover it all effectively.

“We needed a reduced, off-road capable command center that could go on dirt roads, down canal roads and into a high water event like a major flood,” he said. “It’s very tall and has military style tires that don’t go flat. It can roll over trees.”

♦ See COMMAND on page 6A



Nomad GCS

Tribal officials said the new acquisition would look similar to this one by Nomad GCS.

### INSIDE:

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

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



# Editorial

## Governor has opportunity to strengthen relationships with NY tribes

• Levi Rickert

Leaders of the Onondaga Nation, near Syracuse, New York, were excited about New York Governor Kathy Hochul’s visit late last month. It was the first visit to the Onondaga Nation by a governor of the Empire State in more than 50 years. The enthusiasm of tribal leaders stemmed from the fact the governor initiated the visit to their homelands to discuss health care and education.

“We extend our gratitude in hosting Hochul, an occurrence that marks the first visit by a Governor of New York to our Longhouse in no less than five decades. Anticipating collaboration with both her and State officials, our focus rests on securing the educational and healthcare support that our treaties guarantee for our community members,” Onondaga Nation Tadodaho (Chief) Sid Hill, who was joined by representatives from the Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers, said.

Hochul called the visit a significant step in strengthening the relationship between the Onondaga Nation and the State of New York.

“This meeting follows the momentous event of returning over 1,000 acres of land to the Onondaga Nation,” Hochul said. “During our constructive and profound conversations, we delved into the distinct challenges that the Onondaga Nation faces.”

The meeting marks a significant shift in the relationship between New York tribal leaders and Hochul, who became governor when former Governor Andrew Cuomo resigned on August 23, 2021, over several sexual harassment allegations.

Up until her visit to the Onondaga Nation, Hochul has had a horrible record working with New York Tribes.

“I hope it’s the beginning of some meaningful dialogue with the governor who has been at odds with a number of tribes here in the state,” Lance Gumbs, ambassador for the Shinnecock Indian Nation on Long Island and vice president of the northeast region for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), said.

Perhaps the most significant rift between the New York tribes and the governor came whe, as the clock ticked down on 2022, she vetoed a bill called the Protection of Unmarked Graves Act that would have protected unmarked burials of Native American ancestors from unintentional excavation.

The law, which passed the state legislature unanimously in June 2022, would have implemented several measures to protect unmarked graves, including requiring construction be stopped on private property if human remains were encountered; creating a Native American burial-site review committee; and allowing tribes and individuals to seek injunctions against violators.

Hochul vetoed the bill because it failed to “balance the rights of property owners with the interests of the families of lineal descendants and other groups,” she wrote in her veto memo.

## Native Americans need voice in solving water issues

• Michael Roberts and Andres Jimenez

The Supreme Court’s recent 5-to-4 decision in Arizona v. Navajo Nation continues a legacy of restricted water access for Indigenous peoples and limits their access to abundant drinking water, clean drinking water, and adequately treated residential and industrial wastewater.

The Nation argues that under the Treaty of Bosque Redondo, the federal government has a duty to establish and secure water and water rights for the reservation under its trust. Writing for the majority, Justice Brett Kavanaugh argued the treaty only established property rights and did not obligate the government to assist in tribal requests.

Water, the key to life, is a fundamental right for all humans. However, Native American households are 19 times more likely than white households not to have indoor plumbing. For the Navajo Nation, that number swells to 67 times more likely not to have running water in our homes.

For many Native American communities, water access and water policy is determined by the U.S. government or by advocacy and funding mechanisms that are often piloted

According to proponents of the bill who negotiated with Hochul’s legal counsel daily for roughly a week leading up to her veto, Hochul’s staff added an amended clause to the bill that negated its intent.

“We were working up until the day that she vetoed it,” Tela Troke, a member of the Shinnecock Nation and the Shinnecock Graves Protection Warrior Society, told Native News Online in January 2023. “We were going through the hypothetical situation: what if the development of either a residential or commercial project unearthed a mass burial site of 250 individuals — what would the process be?”

New York tribes were angered by Hochul’s veto. At its first official meeting of 2023, the Seneca Nation Council unanimously approved a resolution condemning New York Governor Kathy Hochul’s veto.

And then, after five months of continued negotiations between the Assembly, the Senate, and representatives from five tribal nations of New York—Shinnecock Nation, Seneca Nation, Oneida Nation, Unkechaug Nation, and St. Regis Mohawk—a grave protection new bill was inserted into the state budget.

Hochul signed it without objection.

For decades, New York tribes have fought the state on a variety of fronts, including cigarette taxes and Indian gaming compacts.

Currently, the Seneca Nation is involved in negotiations with the State of New York for a renewal of a state gaming compact. The current 20-year agreement expires this December. So far, the talks have not gone well.

“Frankly, for New York’s negotiators to propose such outrageous terms, especially this far into the negotiation process, is absurd and an insult to the Seneca Nation,” Seneca Nation President Rickey Armstrong said in a YouTube video posted August 11.

At that time, Hochul had recused herself from any involvement in talks between the state and the tribe due to a conflict of interest stemming from her husband being employed as an executive in a gaming company that competes with Seneca Gaming. Since then, Hocul’s husband has left his position, and the governor has sent signals she may involve herself in the gaming negotiations with the Seneca Nation’s gaming agreement.

Hochul’s visit to the Onondaga is a step forward in the right direction. She needs to continue on this pathway of working to improve relationships with all New York tribes.

Thayék gde nwendëmen - We are all related.

Levi “Calm Before the Storm” Rickert (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation) is the founder, publisher and editor of Native News Online, where this editorial was published. Rickert was awarded Best Column 2021 Native Media Award for the print/online category by the Native American Journalists Association. He serves on the advisory board of the Multicultural Media Correspondents Association. He can be reached at levi@nativenewsonline.net.

by white-led environmental organizations. Often, these organizations operate from afar without adequately understanding or addressing the needs of Native communities.

First Nations Development Institute works to improve economic conditions for Native Americans through direct financial grants, technical assistance and training, and advocacy and policy. Green 2.0 works to build momentum for a stronger, more diverse environmental movement, striving to ensure the needs of communities of color are centered at environmental non-profits and in environmental grantmaking. The need for these two like-minded organizations is great, especially in light of the SCOTUS ruling and the status of Western water rights.

The 30 tribes of the Colorado River Basin are the hardest impacted by reduced rainfall and droughts linked to the climate crisis. Since the federal government holds reservation lands in trust, these tribes are unable to raise revenue through property taxes. The inability to raise taxes places a huge burden on Native communities to address inadequate and aging infrastructure, legacy contaminants from mining, and limited revenue streams.

♦ See WATER on page 5A

# Fort Lauderdale project has Seminole-related signage

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — One of the features of an almost completed \$28.4 million highway improvement and pedestrian plaza project in downtown Fort Lauderdale is signage that mention Florida’s Indigenous past and the Seminole Tribe.

The Tunnel Top Plaza project has been under construction since late 2021 and is scheduled to be completed this year. The plaza project and accompanying highway work is a collaboration between the city of Fort Lauderdale and the Florida Department of Transportation.

The plaza sits atop the Henry E. Kinney Tunnel — a highway that carries U.S. Highway 1 underneath the New River and Las Olas Boulevard. The historic Stranahan House is located to the plaza’s west, while the New River Inn is to its east. Las Olas Boulevard is located to its north, and the New River is to its south.

The plaza project features a 117-foot extension of the tunnel top on the north side of Las Olas Boulevard, shade trees and green areas, decorative sidewalks and walkways and pedestrian and landscape lighting. One of the features is four panels of signage that explain the history of the area, which includes the Seminoles and their ancestors.

The panels are titled “Stranahan Family History,” “Tunnel Construction History,” “Federal Aid Highway US1,” and “Laura Ward Plaza.”

The Stranahan House was the home of former Fort Lauderdale city pioneers Frank and Ivy Stranahan. In the late 1800s and early 1900s it also served as a trading post, general store and post office. Seminoles traded alligator hides and bird plumes with



Damon Scott

The Stranahans and Seminoles have a shared history.

Frank Stranahan for sugar, flour, beads and other commodities. Ivy Stranahan was a conservationist and is known to have held a special relationship with the Seminoles as a schoolteacher and supporter. The Stranahan panel features an image of Seminole children at the general store.

The “Laura Ward Plaza” panel contains information about the history of the Seminoles and their ancestors in the area of the New River, including the consequences of European contact. (Laura Ward was a Broward County public servant who died in 2006).

Paul Backhouse, the tribe’s Heritage and Environment Resources Office (HERO) senior director, said he has mixed feelings about the new signage, which mention the

Indigenous Tequesta and Jeaga people.

“While it is good to see the Indigenous inhabitants of Florida acknowledged, the reference to the Tequesta being the earliest is misleading as Indigenous groups have been in Florida for at least 10,000 years,” he said. “The Tequesta obviously predate European contact, but represent the group that Europeans met — a gap of millennia that conflates the timeline and makes Indigenous groups seem that they just got to Florida right before Europeans.”

Backhouse added that the Seminole context of the signage also reinforces the classic “empty Florida” theory that assumes the Seminoles largely came from somewhere other than Florida.



URBNPLANR/Facebook

The four panels of signage are located at the new Tunnel Top Plaza in downtown Fort Lauderdale.



Damon Scott

The Indigenous history of the area, including the Seminole Tribe, is mentioned in this panel.

# New map marks hundreds of boarding school locations

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) recently released a new interactive digital map of Native American boarding school locations, including one in Florida. The purpose of the three-year project is to provide more information about the schools and further the efforts of Canada’s National Centre on Truth and Reconciliation and those of the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI).

The map plots out the locations and basic information of 523 former boarding schools in the U.S. and more than 130 in Canada. Many of the schools — in particular those active between 1819 and 1969 — engaged in the forced and frequently brutal assimilation of Native American students, according to a 2022 report by the DOI.

The Minneapolis, Minnesota-based NABS, a nonprofit, supports boarding school survivors, their families and tribal communities with resources and opportunities to “heal the intergenerational trauma caused by Indian boarding schools.”

“I still get overwhelmed when I see the map. More than likely there’s cemeteries connected to these dots. There are graves next to these places. That’s what really saddens me when I look at it and think about that more,” Deidre Whiteman (Meskwaki/Dakota/Ojibwe/Hidatsa), director of research and education for NABS, said to Native News Online. “It’s a tool that’s going to be useful to all of our relatives and our communities and our families.”

NABS initial list in 2021 included 367 schools prior to a study by the DOI that bumped it up to 408. NABS staff later added another 115 through its research. The map represents NABS most recent data, but officials say the project is ongoing and the numbers will likely increase.

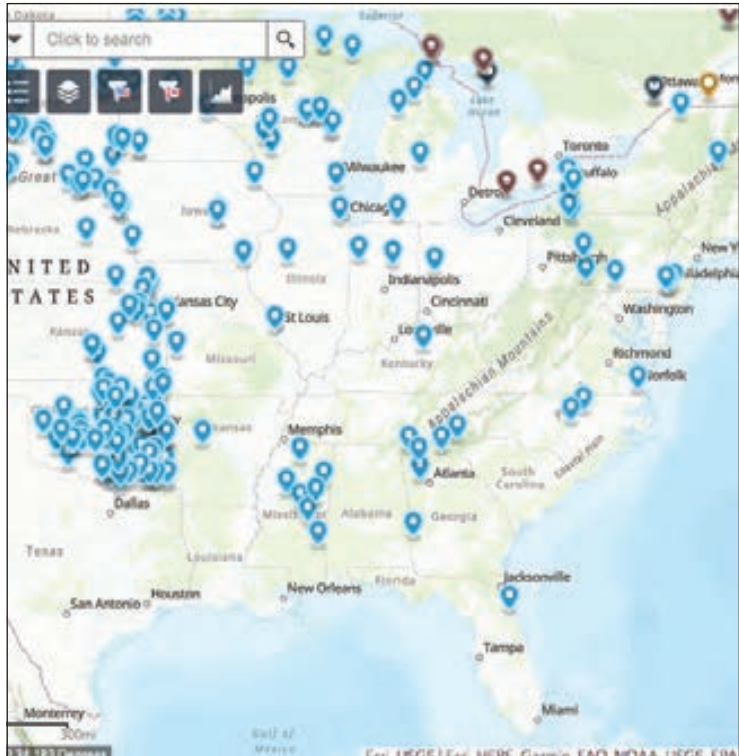
The map’s clickable entries provide a

short history of each school, including its years of operation, other names the institution may have used, as well as funding and management information.

The Florida entry concerns the St. Augustine School for Apache Children at Fort Marion in St. Augustine. It was also known as the St. Augustine Day School and has been referred to as the Castillo de San Marcos. It was operated by the federal government from 1886 to 1887 for various uses, including the incarceration of members of the Seminole, Apache and Plains tribes.

NABS officials added that it has plans to launch another database — hopefully by November — with nearly 50,000 boarding school records to assist family members in researching their relatives and their stories.

“I’ve learned more over the years about certain family members and their stories. It’s been heartbreaking in that aspect to be continuously reminded about what our relatives went through,” Whitehead said to Native News Online. “It’s also been healing to navigate that there’s nothing wrong with me, there’s nothing wrong with my family.



NABS

This screenshot shows boarding school locations on a portion of the NABS interactive map.

There were these systems that were pushed on us. But it’s just a good understanding that this was placed upon us.”

Meanwhile, the “Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the U.S. Act” has been filed in the U.S. Senate. To date, neither chamber in Congress has passed it.

To access the NABS map, go to boardingschoolhealing.org.

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

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

Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make checks payable to: The Seminole Tribune 6365 Taft Street Suite 3003 Hollywood, FL 33024

The following deadline applies to all submissions to The Seminole Tribune:

Issue: October 31, 2023  
Deadline: October 18, 2023

Issue: November 30, 2023  
Deadline: November 15, 2023

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

Postmaster: Please send address changes to: The Seminole Tribune 6365 Taft St. Suite 3003 Hollywood, FL 33024

Publisher: The Seminole Tribe of Florida Phone: 954-985-5700

Senior Editor: Kevin Johnson, ext. 10715 [KevinJohnson@semtribe.com](mailto:KevinJohnson@semtribe.com)

Staff Reporter: Beverly Bidney, ext. 16466 [BeverlyBidney@semtribe.com](mailto:BeverlyBidney@semtribe.com)

Staff Reporter: Damon Scott, ext. 10704 [DamonScott@semtribe.com](mailto:DamonScott@semtribe.com)

Staff Reporter: Calvin Tiger, ext. 10739 [CalvinTiger@semtribe.com](mailto:CalvinTiger@semtribe.com)

Advertising: Donna Mason, ext. 10733 [DonnaMason@semtribe.com](mailto:DonnaMason@semtribe.com)

© 2023 Seminole Tribe of Florida



# Community



## Q&A: ‘Siggy’ Jumper’s new book commemorates Jupiter gathering

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Sigfried “Siggy” R. Second-Jumper is a Chiricahua Apache descendent, but grew up in Miami and has had relationships with members of the Seminole Tribe and Miccosukee Tribe since he was a youth.

He’s written three books – all which contain histories and stories of learning more about his own Chiricahua Apache heritage (“Second Jumper: Searching for his Bloodline” and “Apache Trails of Tears”) – as well as accounts of his life in Florida and interactions with members of the Seminole and Miccosukee tribes.

Jumper’s latest book, “Seminole Trail of Tears,” commemorates a spring 2022 gathering that took place at the Loxahatchee River Battlefield Park with members of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and members of the Seminole and Miccosukee tribes, among others. Jumper, 63, served as an ambassador for the event, which is thought to be the first time members of the Seminole Nation, at least formally, had returned to the site of the 1838 Battle of Loxahatchee – the last standing battle of the Second Seminole War. Some Seminoles would be forced to

leave Florida for Oklahoma, others would stay in the area for many years, and others moved further south into the Everglades.

“[The book] is filled with emotions and revelations that were carefully gathered with consent and preserved by me, based on my firsthand involvement and participation [in the event],” Jumper said.

The Tribune asked Jumper more about his latest book and the event. Answers have been edited for length and clarity.

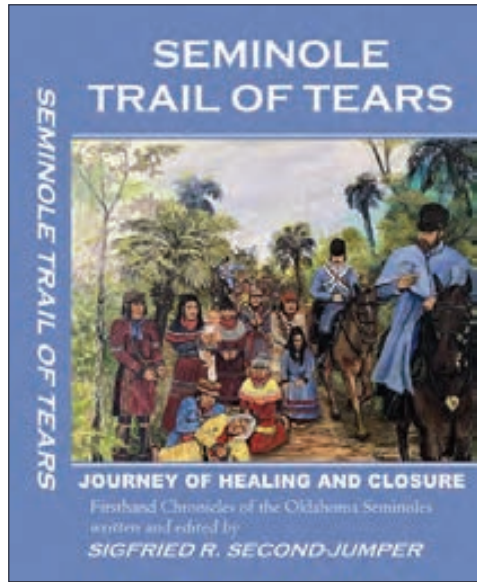
**Tribune:** The Jupiter gathering was important to you?

**Jumper:** I was well aware that history was being made when I greeted a delegation of Oklahoma Seminoles at the Seminole Inn in Indiantown. Looking back, I believe that the preparation for such a historical moment started half a century earlier when Buffalo Tiger (Miccosukee) began casting the man that I am today. I promised Buffalo that I was going to dedicate my life to gathering and preserving our stories.

**Tribune:** Your role as an ambassador seems to have come naturally.



Siggy Second-Jumper and his latest book, “Seminole Trail of Tears.”



Siggy Second-Jumper

**Jumper:** It happened while giving a tour of my exhibit at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum to a half dozen members of the Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationists – a nonprofit that takes part in various annual events [and] reenactments at the Loxahatchee Battlefield Park. Their events consist of commemorating historical conflicts that took place in 1838 at the Loxahatchee Battlefield during the Second Seminole War.

Members asked if it was possible for me to lend a helping hand with their fragile relationship with the Florida Seminoles. I met with the group at the Loxahatchee Battlefield Park, where I learned that that they had been misled by a group of non-Seminoles. It was during that meeting that the Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationists also expressed a lifelong desire to reunite the Seminoles; those whose ancestors were exiled to Oklahoma with those whose ancestors remained unconquered in Florida.

**Tribune:** Was the event was a success?

**Jumper:** The return of the Oklahoma Seminoles after a 184-year absence was no small feat, and I felt privileged to be part of it. Details of the emotions and the involvement

pertaining to the Miccosukees and Florida Seminoles that came to greet their kin are revealed in detail and preserved in my book.

**Tribune:** You see connections between your roots and those of other Natives?

**Jumper:** Our problems are identical; we are all losing our culture and language. Without the language, we lose our sovereignty and our land. In my opinion, the Seminoles have a lot to gain by maintaining and reinforcing the pillars of that bridge that was established in April of 2022. It can lead to the strengthening of their language and the restoration of their lost clans.

I want to express to my Florida Seminole friends my humble gratitude for all the privileges and memorable moments I’ve experienced and shared with them in the past 50 years. I also would like to send a message to our Native youth: stay traditional and make a hard effort to be an active speaker of your Native language. Ask the elders for stories. Educate yourself in your culture so that you can ask them the right questions.

To contact Jumper or order one of his books, email [warmsspringsapache@hotmail.com](mailto:warmsspringsapache@hotmail.com).

## Tribe celebrates Indian Day

STAFF REPORT

The Seminole Tribe’s reservations and communities were filled with activities and events in September for the annual Indian Day celebrations.

Big Cypress, Brighton, Fort Pierce, Hollywood, Immokalee, Lakeland and Trail each held their own celebrations. (Naples’ celebration was scheduled to be held Sept. 30 after being postponed Sept. 9).

Most locations featured clothing contests, an event that any age could participate in. For adults, hatchet throwing and log carry/peeling contests put a premium on precision and power, respectively.

Hollywood’s events covered four days and included arts and crafts, senior Elaponce bingo, a bread contest and a language contest.

Canoe races were held in Brighton and Hollywood; the latter was pushed back a day due to inclement weather.

Archery, cornhole, horseshoes, thatch runs and skillet tosses were among other popular events offered in most locations as were breakfasts, lunches and/or dinners.

See pages 3B-5B and 4C-6C for photos.



Beverly Bidney

Preston Baker eyes the target as he competes in archery during the Brighton Reservation’s Indian Day celebration Sept. 22.



Siggy Second-Jumper

From left to right are Gerald McKane, Chief of the Fushutche Band of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma; Rex Hailey, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma honor guard commander; Siggy Second-Jumper (Chiricahua Apache); Pedro Zepeda, Seminole Tribe; Naples Liaison Brian Zepeda, Seminole Tribe; Lewis Johnson, Principal Chief of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma; Jake Tiger, cultural technician for the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma; and Phillip Coon, Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The group met at the Jupiter Community Center in Jupiter on April 2, 2022.

# Bean to Cup

Coffee with Character!

- A perfect cup of coffee freshly brewed exactly when and how you want it
- Hot and Cold brew coffee options
- Fresh coffee beans ground-on-demand to give maximum taste and flavor
- Simple, easy-to-use machine makes everyone a barista

AVAILABLE IN ALL SEMINOLE TRADING POST LOCATIONS

**Immokalee**  
1100 S 1st St  
Immokalee, FL 34142

**Hollywood**  
3103 N State Rd 7  
Hollywood, FL 33021

**Brighton**  
14685 Reservation Rd NE  
Okeechobee, FL 34974

## Owachige Elice Osceola

10 years ago you were taken away. It broke my heart to lose you, but you didn’t go alone, A part of us went with you.

The fact that you’re no longer here will always cause me pain. How wonderful the gift of memories helps heal our aching hearts; also knowing that those we love, don’t go away; they walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard, still loved, still missed, and very dear to our hearts.

Owachige, you are not forgotten.  
Miss you and love you.

- Dana & Mom



# ‘Chehantamo’ exhibit debuts Oct. 22 in Fort Lauderdale

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — A new contemporary art exhibition in Fort Lauderdale, on display from Oct. 22 through Jan. 6, 2024, will feature the work of a group of artists from the Seminole Tribe. “Chehantamo: How are you?” is the 10th installment of History Fort Lauderdale’s annual Native American heritage exhibition, which is timed to begin just before National Native American Heritage Month in November.

The exhibit is curated by Tara Chadwick, curator of exhibitions at History Fort Lauderdale, in collaboration with officials at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress. The mixed media, textile and digital pieces are “from the perspective of contemporary Seminole artists juxtaposed with historic artistic context.”

Participating Seminole artists so far (Chadwick said more could be added) include Nicholas DiCarlo, Danielle Nelson, Victoria Osceola, Samuel Tommie, Corinne Zepeda, and the late Elizabeth Buster.

“We are at the beginning of an exciting new era for contemporary Indigenous art both locally and globally,” Chadwick said in an email to the Tribune.

Chadwick noted that the just ended “Reclaiming Home: Contemporary Seminole Art” exhibition featured the work of seven Seminole artists from March 18 through Sept. 4 at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota – a first.

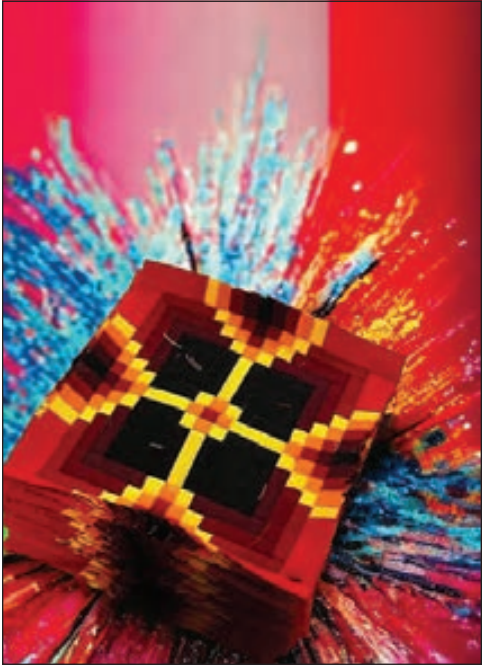
“Hosting the annual Native American heritage exhibitions and bringing these into the view of the global art market through institutions such as [Miami Beach’s] Art Basel has been part of a continent-wide effort to center contemporary Indigenous artists within their own ancestral homelands,” Chadwick said.

Last year, the History Fort Lauderdale exhibition was “Chono Thlee: Sparking a new era in Seminole art.” It featured 60 pieces by 20 Seminole artists.

History Fort Lauderdale also has Seminole-related content in its permanent exhibits. “From Dugouts to Dream Yachts: the story of boatbuilding along the New River,” traces a line from the Seminoles through the ever-changing use of Fort Lauderdale’s waterways for travel, commerce and tourism. Daniel Tommie loaned the museum a small dugout canoe for the exhibit – about five feet long by eight inches wide. Other exhibits include “Fort Lauderdale in the Seminole Wars,” and “Archeology of the New River.”

Opening day for “Chehantamo” on Oct. 22 includes a meet-and-greet with the artists. It begins at 2 p.m.

History Fort Lauderdale consists of three museums – the History Museum of



History Fort Lauderdale

“Patchwork,” by Danielle Nelson, is one of the pieces featured in the upcoming exhibit.



History Fort Lauderdale

“Taata and Waach,” by Corinne Zepeda, part of the new exhibit, features two Seminole characters.

Fort Lauderdale inside the 1905-built New River Inn, the 1907-built Pioneer House Museum and the 1899-built Ivy Cromartie Schoolhouse Museum. The Seminole exhibits take place in the History Museum.

History Fort Lauderdale is located at 231 SW Second Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, including tickets, go to historyfortlauderdale.org or call (954) 463-4431.

## New PBS offerings examine buffalo, modern Native life

STAFF REPORT

PBS is set to release a new two-part documentary and a four-part TV series in October on subjects that are relevant to and feature Native Americans.

“The American Buffalo,” by renowned documentarian Ken Burns, premieres Oct. 16. The four-hour film examines more than 10,000 years of North American history as it relates to the buffalo’s significance in Native culture and the landscape of the Great Plains. It also delves into the buffalo’s near extinction and the subsequent efforts to bring back healthier herd populations.

“For thousands of generations, buffalo (bison) have evolved alongside Indigenous people who relied on them for food and shelter, and in exchange for killing them, revered the animal,” a release about the documentary said.

The stories of Native people anchor the film, including the Kiowa, Comanche, and Cheyenne of the Southern Plains; and the Lakota, Salish, Kootenai, Mandan-Hidatsa, and Blackfeet from the Northern Plains, among others.

According to the film, the buffalo’s numbers were estimated at nearly 30 million in the early 1800s, until herds began declining due to a lucrative buffalo robe trade, the steady westward settlement of an expanding U.S., diseases introduced by domestic cattle, and drought. However, it was the arrival of the railroads in the early 1870s, and a new demand for buffalo hides to be used in the belts driving industrial machines on the East Coast, that brought thousands of hide hunters to the Great Plains. It would be just more than a decade before the number of buffalo collapsed to fewer than a thousand.

The film’s second episode traces the efforts of those who set out to save the buffalo from extermination and the current push to increase its numbers.

Native Americans are featured in front of and behind the camera. Julianna Brannum, (Quahada band of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma) served as consulting producer. W. Richard West Jr., (Southern Cheyenne) the founding director and director emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution’s National



Ken Burns/Facebook

“The American Buffalo” tells a sweeping story of the iconic animal’s significance in Native culture and American history. In addition, the second season of “Native America” will focus on contemporary Native life.

(Aaniiih), Dustin Tahmahkera (Comanche), and Germaine White (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes).

### ‘Native America’ season two

Meanwhile, the second season of “Native America” is set to premiere Oct. 24. While the first season, which premiered in 2018, explored the world created by America’s first peoples 15,000 years ago, the second season takes place in the 21st century.

Producers describe the four-part series as “a groundbreaking portrait of contemporary Indian Country.” The series features Native engineers, politicians, artists and others who draw on their Native traditions in the modern environment. The first episode, “New Worlds,” features Native innovators in music, building and space exploration. “Warrior Spirit” looks at Native athletes who channel their “warrior traditions” for success. Episode three, “Women Rule,” is about Native women who lead in innovation, the arts, politics and environmentalism. The final episode, “Language is Life,” “celebrates the power of Native languages and the inspirational people who are saving them.”



Beverly Bidney

Tribal members gather on stage Sept. 15 to model Seminole patchwork in Immokalee.

## Immokalee fashion show displays tribe's ‘love of our culture’

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — Seminole fashions graced an impromptu catwalk at the Immokalee Community Center on Sept. 15 as the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Immokalee Education Department hosted a tribal fashion show.

The partnership between the museum and the department came about through a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The goal of the grant is to support education through acquisition of projection equipment for educational presentations and promote lifelong learning by increasing tribal members’ knowledge of accessing digital information.

A workshop on how to use Excel spreadsheets was held Sept. 14 in Immokalee, but the fashion show was the flashier of the two events tied to the grant.

An enthusiastic group of tribal members modeled a variety of patchwork clothing. Through the fashions, the evolution of patchwork was shown. The models were Barbara Billie, Cypress Billie, Billie

Cypress, Carla Cypress, Chandler Demayo, Brandon Frank, Cher Osceola, Gheri Osceola, Randee Osceola, Toole Osceola, Iretta Tiger and Viola Tiger.

“Patchwork is supposed to be worn,” said museum director Gordon Wareham. “This fashion show – with traditional and contemporary patchwork and the tribe’s way of seeing it – is an expression of our love of our culture.”

From the 1850s to 1910, tribal clothing designs were simple fabric with some appliques. When the tribe got sewing machines in 1910, the clothing evolved from appliques to patchwork. Wareham didn’t want to just put the patchwork examples on display models, he wanted to bring it to life.

“Let’s show our colors, let’s show who we are in a fashion show,” Wareham said. “The Education Department ran with the idea.”

The models showed their fashions and their personalities as they walked the “runway.” At the end of the show, all the models took one final walk together as the audience applauded.



Beverly Bidney

Billie Cypress waves as she models patchwork clothing during the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Immokalee Education Department fashion show Sept. 15.



Beverly Bidney

Toole Osceola twirls her daughter Cher Osceola during the fashion show.



Beverly Bidney

Cypress Billie models a patchwork vest to the crowd’s delight.



Beverly Bidney

Randee Osceola models a traditional patchwork skirt and cape as Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Gordon Wareham records the moment.

## NLC offers financial program for teens, young adults

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Native Learning Center in Hollywood will host “Building Native Communities: Financial Empowerment for Teens & Young Adults” Dec. 5 to Dec. 7. The program will offer expert training from certified instructors with

firsthand experience in Native communities and who are committed to empowering Native communities throughout the country.

Training Objectives include developing a budget and spending plan, accumulating savings, paying bills, building a nest egg, paying for an education, buying a home and investing.

For more information visit [nativelearningcenter.com](http://nativelearningcenter.com).



◆ **PAINTINGS**  
From page 1A

Polly Parker and a few others escaped the Grey Cloud in 1858 when it was docked

at St. Marks. Parker made her way back to Lake Okeechobee near what is now the Brighton Reservation, where many of her descendants thrive.



“Boarding the Steamer Grey Cloud, Voyage of Tears” painted by Paul Arsenault is a depiction of Seminoles being boarded on the steamship that would take them to St. Marks.



“Miccosukee Village on the Tamiami Trail” painted by Paul Arsenault in 1980. Tina Osceola is depicted in the red cape in the chickee.

December 16 & 17

# Holiday Market

Friday & Saturday  
10am - 4pm  
Seminole Craft & Food Vendors

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA  
**AH-TAH-THI-KI**  
MUSEUM  
A PLACE TO LEARN. A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

For information call **239-675-6162**

◆ **WATER**  
From page 2A

For Native Peoples, accessing their given right to clean and healthy water is left to government. This means that tribal advocacy and ample foundation dollars must go directly to Native communities to advocate and fix water issues. This requires representation at tables where decisions regarding water, funding, and policy are made, challenging in light of current findings.

Green 2.0’s 2022 NGO and Foundation Transparency Report Card finds that there are no Native Americans on environmental foundation boards or in the executive suite. Most foundations that supply funding for Indigenous peoples and environmental groups seldom look like or employ Native Americans who are closer to the issues. From 2014 through 2019, foundations awarded little more than \$2 billion dollars to environmental causes. Forty-four percent of this funding went to non-Native-controlled organizations. But only one-half of one



Members of the Lakeland community and tribalwide elected officials break ground for the Lakeland community center Sept. 18

◆ **LAKELAND**  
From page 1A

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. acknowledged the sacrifices made by those tribal members in 1999 and said that promise is now being fulfilled.

“With the blessing of the Creator, we can do things we never dreamed of,” Chairman Osceola said. “Without those sacrifices, the Seminole Tribe wouldn’t be what it is today.”

In her first official event as president, Holly Tiger encouraged the community to use the buildings to continue tribal culture.

“I’m happy for the community,” President Tiger said. “There is a population boom here; it is already bigger than Fort Pierce and is almost as big as Immokalee. A lot of people want to live in this community because it is warm and welcoming. For those who want to live here, do it. It only makes us stronger.”

Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie said that the groundbreaking was a once in a lifetime event.

“It’s good that you are finally getting your homes here,” Councilwoman Billie said. “I’m excited for you all and am happy to be a part of it.”

“We keep on growing and are getting bigger and better,” said Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry. “We are filling the reservation up with people. That way we won’t lose our culture, we want to keep it



Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry, left, and Culture and Language coordinator Herbert Jim participated in the groundbreaking ceremony.

going by teaching our kids.”

After the speeches, tribal officials and Elders grabbed golden shovels and officially broke the ground on the future center.



A rendering of the entrance to the Lakeland community center.



A rendering of what the Lakeland community center will look like when it is completed, which is scheduled for mid-August 2025.



Brighton Councilman Larry Howard speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony.



Lakeland Reservation administrator Richard Henry addresses the audience at the groundbreaking ceremony.

percent of foundational giving went to Native-led environmental causes and organizations. Research indicates that a large amount of resources intended to support Native community-based work are actually awarded to white, legacy organizations with little to no Native people informing and leading decisions. First Nations and Green 2.0 find that there is frustration with non-Native-led organizations in Native conservation spaces. Non-Native organizations bring their own assumptions and values to environmental work, and there is no guarantee that Native

people are meaningfully involved.

The lack of representation and funding surrounding water rights in the West is not sustainable if we are to be committed to environmental justice as a movement. There is much work left to do if we truly want to make environmental justice a reality.

We applaud SCOTUS for finally holding up and honoring the confines of a Native Treaty, but the decision is wrongheaded and detrimental to Native communities. If Native Peoples are truly to find environmental equity and social justice, we must continue to fight

for them. We don’t merely deserve a place at decision tables, in policy discussions, or in funding decisions. We demand them.

*Michael Roberts is the executive director of First Nations Development Institute and Andres Jimenez is the executive director of Green 2.0. This opinion appeared in the Denver Post.*





SPD Officer Edward Woodberry, left, and Seminole Fire Rescue battalion commander Joshua Furman talk to tribal youth about the Public Safety Explorer program Sept. 5 in Hollywood.

# Tribalwide Explorer program teaches youth public safety topics

BY CALVIN TIGER  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The new season for the tribalwide Public Safety Explorer program, which gives youth opportunities to learn from the Seminole Tribe's Public Safety departments (police, fire rescue, and emergency management), started in September. The program is offered for youth from ages 6 to 17. It is open to tribal members, descendants and non-tribal youth who live on a reservation or with tribal members.

The program is being offered on all reservations.

"Each year we set goals to add more to the program so the members of the Public Safety Explorers get more out of the program," said Seminole Police Department (SPD) Lt. Arnita Garrison in an email to the Tribune. "This year we have changed some of the curriculum to offer insight into more options for future careers in the Public Safety Department. We look forward to another exciting and fulfilling year with great kids and great personnel."

The program is focused on educating and encouraging youth through classroom and hands-on experiences. SPD covers topics such as bullying awareness, active shooter safety/awareness, and living a healthy lifestyle. Seminole Fire Rescue focuses on environmental emergencies, life safety and

fire extinguisher training. Sessions from the Emergency Management Department will cover areas such as disaster science, resilience in emergency management and disaster exercises.

The Explorers will also be trained on the importance of 911 dispatch, emergency multitasking skills, listening skills/emergency scenarios, teamwork and problem solving.

Respecting tribal authorities and learning about additional youth programs are also among the program's goals. Organizers said the Explorers could also benefit through learning about life skills that could be used for potential future roles, such as being a leader in the tribe.

Accountability is also a part of the program. Explorers are expected to participate in at least 80% of all scheduled meetings and events unless they have an excused absence. Those who miss more than two meetings without an approved absence might be excluded from certain activities or events as determined by the coordinator.

The program coincides with the school year and runs September through June. Meetings are held twice a month on each reservation.

"We are trying to build that relationship with the parents and the kids," SPD officer Edward Woodberry said Sept. 5 at the opening night of the program in Hollywood.



Emergency Management coordinator Jonathan Urtecho awards Luciano Boyce with a certificate of completion for last year's Public Safety Explorer program. The certificate was presented Sept. 5, opening night for this year's program.



Gianni Boyce receives his certificate of completion for last year's Public Safety Explorer program.



Torin Frank receives his certificate of completion for last year's Public Safety Explorer program.

## Music benefit to be held in Everglades City

**EVERGLADES CITY** — The Music Festival will be held Nov. 4 at the Rod & Gun Club, 200 W. Broadway in Everglades City, starting at 12 p.m. The event will feature local musicians and arts and crafts.

The festival is a benefit for the

Everglades Society for Historic Preservation. Tickets are already available at eshp.org. For more information call Marya at (239) 451-0265 or email ESHPhotmail.com.

# Fire Rescue, SPD prepare for hazmat incidents

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Hundreds of Seminole Fire Rescue and Seminole Police Department (SPD) personnel recently completed hazardous materials (hazmat) training. For Fire Rescue it's an annual event; for SPD it marked a first.

Fire Rescue Division Chief Doug LeValley, who has worked for the tribe for 11 years, oversees the training. He came to the tribe after retiring from almost 30 years of service with Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue.

The Fire Rescue training was conducted for 75 of its personnel from Sept. 18 to Sept. 21 at the Public Safety Complex on the Big Cypress Reservation. It's a mix of classroom lectures and outdoor drills using hazmat gear, packs, props and simulated smoke. LeValley said the drills, or simulations, are organized by Fire Rescue's training division.

Personnel also learn about Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines and standards, and the contents of the U.S. Department of Transportation's emergency response guidebook. Trainees also receive a review of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) — chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive.



Fire Rescue personnel use a fire hose while participating in a hazmat simulation in September.

LeValley said one of the differences between Fire Rescue's training and that of SPD is that Fire Rescue's is an operational training. SPD, for example, might arrive to a hazmat situation initially, and be trained to recognize it as such and help secure a scene. But Fire Rescue personnel would be called to mitigate its effects, using fire hoses, pumps, water and structural firefighting gear to disperse chemical vapors, for example.

SPD's inaugural training included specialized hazmat response and a WMD awareness overview. It was conducted two days a week from June through August to accommodate the rotations of 152 police officers.

LeValley said the officers received a chem-bio (chemical-biological) kit with hazmat protection gear, splash protection, masks, gloves and boots.

"We got them in all their gear as part of the training," he said. "They were able to recognize and identify chemicals to assist us. We need extra bodies, so we trained them to assist us on a hazmat call."

### 'Plan of attack'

LeValley recalled a real hazmat event

that took place when he worked for Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue.

"We responded to the Publix manufacturing facility in Deerfield Beach for an anhydrous ammonia leak," he said.

LeValley said anhydrous ammonia is toxic and can be a health hazard if it's not handled safely. The effects of inhaling it range from lung irritation to severe respiratory injuries, with possible death at high concentrations. It's also corrosive and can burn the skin and eyes.

LeValley said after a long and arduous 16 hours of mitigation, the situation was brought under control without any injuries.

One of the props used in the tribe's hazmat training is simulated anhydrous ammonia tanks.

"We run air and smoke to it. When they roll the vapor looks the same as the real thing," LeValley said. "They have to stage accordingly — isolate it and come up with a plan of attack on how they will mitigate it."

Mitigation includes running hose lines from a fire truck to spray water to knock the vapors down. Firefighters then shut down the tank's valve, followed by backing up slowly and monitoring it to make sure the

leak is stopped.

"It takes a lot to get to that point," LeValley said.

Closer to the tribe, LeValley remembers a hazmat event — a natural gas leak — that took place during the early days of construction of the Guitar Hotel in Hollywood.

"A four-inch main [line] was cut," he said. "Natural gas is lighter than air, so it traveled up the floors of the [original Hard Rock] hotel," he said.

The hotel and part of the casino had to be evacuated until the leak was mitigated.

Other props used in the drills include compounds that personnel could encounter on the reservations. During one drill, two trucks were staged with four, 55-gallon drums that represented different hazardous materials.

"Two were leaking sulfuric acid — a product used on the reservations in water treatment facilities," LeValley said. "They had to dike the area and [block off] the storm drains. Meanwhile they'd shut off valves, upright drums and over pack drums — little things like that will mitigate the situation."



Members of the Seminole Police Department don full chemical-biological gear during summer hazmat training.



Fire Rescue personnel go through a simulated hazmat event in September

## COMMAND From page 1A

Downing said the smaller MCV would likely be headquartered nearer to the tribe's rural reservations outside of the Hollywood area.

One of the many benefits of both MCVs is a decreased response time for law enforcement and emergency services. Both vehicles have the ability to connect to dispatch services across the tribe, monitor the weather, and use surveillance cameras and drone footage. Each has multiple workstations and automated and state-of-the-art functions.

The vehicles can double as mobile crime labs and respond to events like flooding, wildfires, hurricanes, or active shooter and terrorism incidents.

For example, the first MCV was dispatched to the Brighton Reservation to provide assistance after Hurricane Ian in September 2022. It's also been used

at an Ahfachkee School career day in Big Cypress, and was the talk of attendees at the 2022 Governor's Hurricane Conference in West Palm Beach.

Uses are also not limited to emergencies. The MCVs can function as mobile medical treatment facilities, too, such as vaccination distribution.

Jonathan Urtecho, an Office of Emergency Management coordinator who oversaw the grant process for the second MCV, said the company that's building it for the tribe is Nomad GCS of Columbia Falls, Montana. He said while the grant funds

have been approved, the build out hasn't yet started. Downing said he's hopeful it will be available during the 2024 hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

Both vehicles have been primarily funded through Department of Homeland Security grants.

"We're always thinking about the future," Downing said. "The development of our programs is always forward looking. This will provide enhanced protection for the Seminole Tribe for many years."



The tribe's first mobile command vehicle has been in operation since 2021.





Pedro Zepeda, left, and Daniel Tommie work on the canoe at the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park in Macon, Georgia, in August.

# Seminole canoe carving extends beyond Florida

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Seminole culture is in the heart of Pedro Zepeda with every dugout canoe he builds, whether it's in Florida or elsewhere.

"Our traditional arts are an important part of the culture; it's not just a craft," Zepeda said. "They contain cultural elements, etiquette, language and protocol. If you lose those, you lose a part of the culture as well."

Zepeda has been carving cypress canoes for about 21 years. After first learning to carve at age 14 from Ingram Billie Jr., Later, at 19, Zepeda learned to carve canoes from his brother, Brian Zepeda, and uncle, Leroy Osceola. Since then, he has finished nine canoes.

Cypress is an ideal wood for making dugout canoes since the wood contains cypressene, a natural preservative that makes the wood resistant to decay and insect infestations.

The most recent canoe Zepeda made is at the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park in Macon, Georgia, which he started in August. It was scheduled to be completed at the park's Indigenous celebration in mid-September. It was the second canoe Zepeda made at the park; he did the first one last summer.

Zepeda, his son Kyle DeLand-Zepeda, 12, and fellow Seminole canoe carver Daniel Tommie spent 10 days at the park creating the canoe under the shade of large oak trees. They used a mix of power and hand tools to build a traditional dugout canoe from a



Daniel Tommie, left, and Kyle DeLand-Zepeda work on a canoe at the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park in Macon, Georgia, in August.

17-foot-by-22-inch cypress log. After using a chainsaw and an electric hand plane to get the canoe's basic shape, the trio used axes and adzes for the finer work.

Since it was one of the hottest summers on record, heat advisories put a stop to outdoor programming in the park for a few afternoons. The stoppage slowed them down

a bit, but by the time they left Georgia the canoe was 95% finished, Zepeda said.

John John Brown, a friend of Zepeda, arranged for them to carve a canoe at the Ocmulgee Mounds last summer. Brown, of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in Oklahoma, is a wood carver who taught himself how to carve canoes. Modern canoe carvers use a similar carving process, but shapes vary by region and cultural groups.

"John John's is a revised tradition," Zepeda said. "He doesn't have other canoe carvers or canoes to look at because there aren't any in Oklahoma. The Creeks left their canoe tradition behind when they were taken away during removal."

Zepeda has been teaching his son to carve since he was very young and said he can swing an ax really well and likes to whittle and carve.

"I feel compelled to perpetuate this," Zepeda said. "I am a carrier of the knowledge, not a keeper of the knowledge. Traditional knowledge is something you learn, not something you own. I'm happy my son is interested in canoes and carving."

# Potential reenactors tour museum vault

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Tylor Tigertail believes it is important for Seminoles to depict themselves in reenactments of the Seminole Wars around the state.

In his role as communications specialist, Tigertail asked tribal members what sort of events they wanted from the museum. He got a lot of feedback about having reenactments.

"It's an event that teaches our history," he said. "A lot of people don't know the history of how we battled."

In order to do authentically represent the Seminoles of the 1800s, Tigertail is holding monthly workshops where potential tribal reenactors will learn the history of the clothing, weapons and battle gear used during the Seminole Wars against the U.S. Army.

"At the end of the five workshops, they will have all they need to participate," Tigertail said. "They will know the different meanings behind the things we used like guns and clothing."

Participants at the workshops will learn how to make leggings, moccasins, short bags for ammunition, period clothing including long shirts, arm bands and weapons. The final workshop will focus on battlefield safety and the rules of reenactments.

Before participants attended the first workshop Sept. 14, they toured the museum's vault to see examples of leggings and moccasins from the mid-1800s.



In the museum's vault is a set of leggings from the mid-1800s that are probably Creek in origin, according to Tylor Tigertail.



Cypress Billie tries on the leggings he was working on during the workshop in Big Cypress as JoJo Frank observes.



From right to left, Tylor Tigertail, Nathan Billie and Derrion Faison tour the museum's vault where they saw leggings and moccasins circa the mid-1800s.

Tigertail has participated in reenactments since he was 13 years old and wants to encourage more tribal members to be part of them.

"There is no excuse," Tigertail said. "If they don't have the equipment, I will show them how to make it."

The next reenactment will be in Loxahatchee in January and Tigertail hopes to have some tribal members ready to join him to represent their ancestors on the battlefield.

Once the first series of workshops is completed, Tigertail plans to offer them again.

Participants at the next workshop will make moccasins. It will be held Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. at the To-Pee-Kee-Ke Yak-Ne Community Center in Big Cypress. For more information, contact Tigertail at (954) 612-4979.



Nathan Billie wears the leggings he made at the workshop.

# Seminole, Hard Rock venues receive 'best' honors

STAFF REPORT

Casinos, hotels and restaurants in the Seminole Tribe's Seminole Gaming and Hard Rock portfolio earned recognition in "best" categories as voted by USA Today readers.

In a top 10 list of "best casino restaurant," Seminole Casino Coconut Creek's NYY Steak was No. 3 and Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City's Il Mulino New York was No. 8.

NYY Steak is a fine dining steakhouse; Il Mulino New York serves "Old World" Italian fare.

Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati was No.

9 in the "best casino outside of Las Vegas" category. The downtown casino opened in October 2021.

Kuro at the Hard Rock Atlantic City in New Jersey earned the No. 3 ranking among "best hotel restaurants." The restaurant offers contemporary Japanese dishes.

Hard Rock Atlantic City was No. 4 in the "best casino hotel" category. The category also included Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood at No. 9.

The results of the lists, which were part of the 2023 USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice Awards, were released in August and September.

songwriter, performer, mogul, actor and producer. With more than two decades of a solo artist career and chief producer, and songwriter in the legendary group Aventura, Santos has developed a formula of infusing bachata, R&B, hip-hop and Latin urban.

Tickets start at \$95. All seats are reserved. Tickets are available at myHRL.com.

# Hard Rock AC team members set records in benefit walk

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**ATLANTIC CITY** — More than 750 walkers took to the Boardwalk in Atlantic City on Sept. 9 to raise more than \$270,000 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's "Out of the Darkness Community Walk."

Team members from Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City led the walk and broke records for the number of walkers and the amount of money raised.

The record-setting amount of funds raised included a \$50,000 contribution at the Machine Gun Kelly concert at Hard Rock Atlantic City. Hard Rock Hotels are planning an additional \$25,000 contribution to the American Society for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) as part of Hard Rock's sponsorship of the Audacy "We Can Survive" concert, set for Oct. 14 in Newark, NJ.

"I'm so proud of the many Hard Rock Atlantic City team members, along with our impressive community partners, who rallied behind this very important cause this year to make a statement and raise awareness for mental health and wellness. Together, we raised the highest amount of donations in the state, which will make a tremendous impact to help educate people and reduce the stigma



Participants in an American Foundation for Suicide Prevention benefit event walk past the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City on Sept. 9.

associated with mental health and suicide," said Hard Rock General Manager Michael Sampson.

AFSP is a voluntary health organization that gives those affected by suicide a nationwide community empowered by

research, education and advocacy to take action against this leading cause of death.

# BETTING From page 1A

After the gaming compact was signed the tribe launched its mobile sports betting app — now called Hard Rock Bet. But it stopped accepting wagers and deposits soon after the federal judge's November decision. Even though the tribe notched a victory with the latest court decision, tribal spokesperson Gary Bitner said it isn't yet commenting on whether it plans to start accepting bets on the app again.

The "hub and spoke" mobile sports-betting plan would allow gamblers anywhere in the state to place bets online, with the wagers running through servers located on tribal land. Opponents said the compact violates IGRA, which requires all betting to take place exclusively on tribal land.

The compact also allows the tribe to offer craps and roulette at its casinos and to add three casinos on tribal land in Broward County. In exchange, the tribe pledged to pay the state a minimum of \$2.5 billion over the first five years and possibly billions of

dollars more throughout the 30-year pact.

Meanwhile, according to media reports, attorneys for West Flagler Associates and Fort Myers Corp. have asked the Florida Supreme Court to strike down the sports betting portion of the compact. They asked the appellate court to issue a stay on its Sept. 11 decision to deny a rehearing, but the request was denied Sept. 28.

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

# 4th show added for Chappelle

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood has added a fourth show for comedian Dave Chappelle on Friday, Dec. 29 at 8 p.m.

Tickets start at \$115. All seats are reserved. Tickets are available at myHRL.com.

Chappelle's other shows are Dec. 26-28.



SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

AH-TAH-THI-KI

MUSEUM

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

# The Battle of Caloosahatchee; rallying cry for more destruction

BY JOSEPH GILBERT  
Research Assistant

**BIG CYPRESS** — War is written by the victors. Or is it? Sometimes it is just written by those who have the ability to spread their lies. This starts from the moment a battle begins and continues until historians start to think critically about the events. This is where places like the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum come in. The museum preserves Seminole history and culture so that events in the past can be analyzed and history’s lies can be exposed. One such event is the Battle of Caloosahatchee.

Through newspapers, letters, books, and reports from that time we can examine the story that has been created around the so-called “massacre.” According to the accepted narrative of the battle, after the Alexander Macomb’s peace negotiations, the U.S. decided to place a trading house in a newly created reservation without any input from Seminole leaders. They tasked William Shelby Harney with the command. He went with 27 Army men and a few civilians who wanted to profit from the trade to find a place along the Caloosahatchee River to set up shop. Not long after they arrived, they were approached by local Indigenous people who treated them nicely while they investigated what these white men were doing. The white men were in their newly defined territory and the Seminole people hadn’t been consulted about their actions. Therefore, this colonial



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum  
Guy LaBree's "Deep Cypress Engagement" shows what a battle during the Seminole War could have looked like.

effort constituted an invasion. The men established a camp. Harney left the camp to hunt wild pig and acquire rations for his men, and he returned on the night of the July 22, 1839, and promptly fell asleep from his journey. He was later woken up by the sound of gunfire and yelling. Harney, outside of the camp and without supplies, was able to escape down the river and went back the next day with eight men to scavenge for supplies. They found the bodies of around 16 men. What happened next is where historical accounts differ. According to the later reports and books written since then, Harney’s camp had been attacked by about 250 individuals including Holata Micco and Chakaika. However, a letter written by Harney himself, dated July

24, 1839, tells a slightly different story, one of a man angry and ashamed of his own incompetence.

The letter is in remarkably good condition considering it is 184 years old and is written in pencil. Time and light damage have caused much of the letter to be illegible. Despite this, the first page of text has been transcribed. It talks of how Harney was woken by the fire of guns and by men yelling while he was sleeping “60 or 70 yards from his men.” He claims that he felt he could have driven off the attackers if he had had a gun. These statements beg the question: if he was out hunting wild pigs (a dangerous creature to hunt) why did he not have a weapon? Also, why did he set up camp so far away from his men, and why would he think he could drive off so many attackers if there were really 250 men? In the letter he tries to glorify his potential achievements while shifting the blame for the ambush to dead men. Instead of admitting his mismanagement of the situation, he likely exaggerates the numbers of Indigenous people that attacked the camp. Harney would use this attack, which he called a massacre, as an excuse to rampage across Florida, hanging every Seminole man he found, eventually becoming one of the most notorious Indian fighters in the U.S. In fact, this “massacre” was a justified response to a colonial trading post that was planned for Seminole land.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum  
Harney’s letter, written July 24, 1839, is fragile and incredibly faded. Special storage and handling are required to prevent further damage. The letter has been digitally edited for newspaper publication and is easier to read compared to the original.

# Hybrid conference to be held on repatriation

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**SHAWNEE, Okla.** — The Association on American Indian Affairs will hold its ninth annual repatriation conference Nov. 7-9 at the Grand Resort & Hotel in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Hosted by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the conference’s theme is “Building a New Fire.” The theme invites participants to come together to build a new fire that will support new laws and regulations as well as more collaborative methods for undertaking the return of Ancestors, their burial belongings, and sensitive cultural heritage.

“Things have changed. The law has changed, and the public is calling out institutions around the world for their failure to return Indigenous bodies and sensitive cultural and religious items stolen in the name of science, conquest and war,” Shannon O’Loughlin, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the association’s CEO and attorney, said in a statement.

Keynote speakers include New York Times bestselling author Angeline Boulley (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians citizen) and S. James Anaya (Apache

descendant), who is a former UN special rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and professor of International Law at the University of Colorado Law School.

In May, Boulley published “Warrior Girl: Unearthed,” a high-stakes repatriation story that follows a young Anishinaabeg woman who uncovers a plot to sell her Nation’s stolen ancestors and sacred items.

The conference is also a training opportunity in repatriation of Native heritage and will center on providing training on current issues in repatriation, including the expected publication of the new Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act regulations, as well as illegal trafficking and the Safeguarding Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act.

Native officials and representatives can register to attend in-person for free, and registration scholarships are available for in-person and virtual attendance. There are also a limited number of exhibitor and vendor spaces. The hybrid conference will allow all registered attendees to access the recordings from the three days of training.

For more information visit indian-affairs.org.

Presented By Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

WE WANT YOU!

Seminole Tribal Members Sign Up Now For The Seminole Reenactors Workshop!

Learn & Create

Vault tour showcasing Moccasins 1800 circa

Hands on Workshop Create your own Moccasins

Thursday October 19<sup>TH</sup>

3PM

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Vault Tour

6PM

To-Pee-Kee-Ke Yak-Ne Community Center Workshop

For More Info Contact:

TYLOR TIGERTAIL

954.612.4979

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

AH-TAH-THI-KI

MUSEUM

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER

SEE YOU THERE

## ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

October 2023

Fishing is an activity that people have enjoyed throughout history. This month in Collections, we are choosing to highlight these garfish scales.

The garfish is a member of the Lepisosteidae family. There are seven species of gar in total, and four of them can be found in Florida (*Fishes in the Fresh Waters of Florida Gallery*, 2020). Those four are the spotted gar, longnose gar, Florida gar, and alligator gar. The alligator gar is the biggest of these species and can grow up to 8 feet long (*Alligator Gar — Not A Threat to Humans*, n.d.). Garfish have what are called ganoid scales, meaning that they have a layer of ganoin on the outside of their scales, making them very tough and protective. Their scales also interlock which makes them almost like natural armor (*Lepisosteus osseus*, n.d.)(Sherman et al., 2016). With its elongated snout and pointy teeth, a garfish may be an unsettling sight to see. However, when it comes to the alligator gar, there are no confirmed attacks on people. The only time they are of any danger is when fishermen try to catch and handle them (*Alligator Gar — Not A Threat to Humans*, n.d.). So maybe just cut the line if you accidentally reel in an alligator gar.

In an archaeological context, garfish scales are mostly interpreted as food refuse. Garfish remains appear in the archaeological record of the

www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu

THPO

Southeastern United States from the Archaic through the late prehistoric periods (8000 BC – 1450 AD). There were notched garfish scales found at Westmoreland-Barbers site in Tennessee that were interpreted as adornments (Peres et al., 2016). Also, some hypothesize that garfish scales were used for arrowheads by some populations, although more study is needed on this point. If this was the case, it would most likely be the alligator gar scale used for this purpose (Costa & Fox, 2016).

As far as the THPO Collections team is concerned, we have hundreds if not thousands of garfish scales, and they are noticeable throughout the entire archaeological collection. Indeed, they are not rare in the archeological contexts that we work with. Most of the scales that the archaeology team collects from the field belong to the smaller garfish species. They come to a size of about 1 ½ cm, while the alligator gar scales can get around 2 ½ cm (Costa & Fox, 2016). While garfish scales may be one of the more common artifacts to come through the archaeology laboratory, it is still compelling to have such a unique animal be a part of the record.

To learn more about Florida’s wildlife, check out the resources at [www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu](http://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu)

## SEMINOLE HISTORY STORIES - OCTOBER 2023

### THE ANCESTRAL TRAILS

The ancestors of the Seminole people first stepped onto the peninsula of Florida over 12,000 years ago, arriving in the north on foot, and in the south by sea. As they navigated the land, they created an expanding series of trails that became a network for travel and trade. With the shifting nature of the wetlands and the swift growing plant life, the trails required regular use to maintain, and would change over time as needed. Many travelers got around on foot, but in the wetlands canoes allowed for faster and easier transportation. Settlements in the interior were built to accommodate this travel, built on raised earthworks that provided places for docking canoes as well as a foundation for the community’s homes.

The trails proved invaluable when the colonizers from Europe arrived. The Spanish forces did not know how to maneuver in the wetlands, and were not able to venture into the Florida interior without heavy losses due to disease and the hazardous environment. This history repeated during the Seminole War, as American forces were confounded and regularly ambushed and outflanked by Seminole movements using the wetlands trails. Following the war, the Seminole remaining in Florida used the trails to carefully avoid American settlers and continue to move freely throughout the region.

For countless generations the trails were a part of Indigenous life in Florida, and they would remain so until the mid-20th century. However, as American settlement continued to spread throughout Florida, the trails became increasingly cut off. Roads, canals, and the draining of the Everglades slowly ate away at the trail network. The Seminole people adapted with the changing times as they always have, but the ancestral trails will always remain a part of the tribe’s Florida legacy.

#### TO LEARN MORE

Visit the Tribal Historic Preservation Office website at [stoffpo.com](http://stoffpo.com) to learn more about the history of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. For more information on the Ancestral Trails and their importance, check out the THPO page at <https://stoffpo.com/the-big-cypress-historic-trail>



# Health

## BC walkers, runners participate in 5K



Courtesy Edna McDuffie

The Big Cypress community gathered at the Canal Bank Road on Sept. 21 for an “Indian Day 5K” event. After registration at 6:30 a.m., Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie, in collaboration with the Culture Department, awarded prizes to the best-dressed adult female and male as part of a clothing contest. The 5K walk and run began soon after at approximately 7 a.m. The Integrative Health Department and Councilwoman Billie’s office sponsored the event.

## Grant aims to help recruit, support Native pharmacy students

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA NEWS

The University of Montana Skaggs School of Pharmacy recently was awarded over \$2.4 million in grant funding by the Health Resources and Service Administration. The award will help Montana’s only pharmacy school recruit and support Indigenous pharmacy students through the University’s Native American Center of Excellence.

NACOE, a HRSA-funded grant program housed at UM, aims to grow the number of Native American health care providers statewide and increase overall health care providers in rural areas across Montana.

The four-year grant will bolster continued efforts to increase Native clinical and campus-based faculty, support research to help alleviate health disparities, and provide cultural trainings relevant to health care and behavioral health. The grant is directed by Skaggs School of Pharmacy faculty members Lori Morin, Mark Pershouse and Cherith Smith.

With the support of federal grants, the school has graduated 85 Native American pharmacists. It ranks among the top five schools nationally for the highest number of American Indian and Alaska Native Doctor of Pharmacy students, including 11 students enrolled this academic year.

While the numbers are impressive, NACOE program coordinator Wilena Old Person credits the program’s success to the supportive, student-centered environment cultivated within NACOE. The center works with Native UM pharmacy or pre-pharmacy students and connects them with services like tutoring and mentorship, as well as a community of University staff and peers who share a spectrum of Indigenous identities.

“I think having Native people in Native-focused grants is really important,” said Old Person, who grew up on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning before graduating from UM with a history degree. “I work with students who look like me. I can help advocate for them.”

## Program provides STEM opportunities for Native American students

FROM ASU NEWS (ARIZONA STATE UNIV.)

Hannah Nockideneh grew up in Wide Ruins, a community on the Navajo Nation so small that its population was listed as 176 in the 2010 U.S. Census.

As a child, Nockideneh heard stories about the constellations from her ancestors. The stories fascinated her. She kept asking: Why? Why?

“I wanted to know more,” she said.

But when she started going to school, her questions went unanswered. The subject of science was an afterthought.

“A lot of us (Native Americans) live on reservations or in very rural communities,” Nockideneh said. “I feel like we shouldn’t be neglected, but we kind of are. We’re not exposed to what kids learn in other schools and towns.”

Nockideneh is talking about her childhood less than two months after completing a summer internship in the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley.

She was one of four Arizona State University undergraduate Native American students who took part in the eight-week ASU-Berkeley Lab STEM Pathways program out of ASU’s School of Molecular Sciences and led by Gary Moore, associate professor also affiliated with the Biodesign Center for Applied Structural Discovery.

The initiative develops and enhances educational pathways for undergraduate Indigenous students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields, while aiming to disrupt systemic racism, bias and discrimination in institutional policy and practice as it relates to STEM.

“Even though I come from what seems like a small background, I made it to a national lab,” said Nockideneh, a junior who is double-majoring in physics and mathematics. “It made me so much more confident.”

According to the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, of the more than 55,000 students who received PhD degrees in the United States in 2019, only 40 were Native American/Alaska Native in STEM-related fields.

“Investments in research and education and the public understanding of science and technology are all key drivers for our nation’s health and prosperity,” Moore said. “And in a sense, this really relies on having equitable and diverse participation in the studies.”

During their time at Berkeley, the students worked 40-hour weeks, received funding support to cover travel, stipend, housing costs and other materials, had access to a cohort of peers from across the United States, wrote a research paper with their mentor group, and presented a poster session during the final week of the program.

Moore personally understands the need for the Pathways program, which is funded by a \$250,000 Creating Equitable Pathways to STEM Graduate Education grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. His grandparents grew up on the Powhatan reservation back East.

“I can appreciate some of the additional struggles, but I can also appreciate the opportunities that come with these sort of summer internship programs,” Moore said. “I participated in a summer research program that was funded through the National Science Foundation. And it really changed my entire life, my career trajectory and convinced me that I was interested in pursuing a PhD.

“So it was that personal experience for me that made me say, ‘Wow, this is something that really can be a game-changer for people.’”

The four undergraduate students who worked in the Berkeley lab — Nockideneh, Hozhoo Emerson, Jordan Barriga and Kai-Se Toledo, who are all Navajo — said the experience deepened their love of science and made them contemplate pursuing a PhD in a STEM-related field.

“Honestly, I feel like in the STEM fields, if you’re thinking about graduate school, it’s important to have these research opportunities accessible,” said Barriga, a junior majoring in chemical engineering whose work at the lab consisted of researching membranes used in fuel cells, with an eye toward clean and renewable energy.

## HHS roundup: victim services, medical trucks

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

### Medical trucks

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Seminole Tribe’s Health and Human Services (HHS) Department recently received a recurring grant to help continue to fund victim services across the reservations.

The Office for Victims of Crime, one of six program offices within the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice, administers the grant. Funds are directed to the tribe’s Center for Behavioral Health (CBH), part of HHS, which has six employees who form a crisis response team.

The goal of victim services and crisis response, said HHS executive director Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley, is intervention and stabilization.

“We provide resources and try to mitigate the situation, whether it’s victims of domestic violence or burglary,” she said. “The crisis response team works to provide a continuum of care for victims — anyone exposed to a situation.”

Crisis calls could also involve mental health issues or substance use situations, Kiswani-Barley said. The crisis team’s aim is to deescalate, assess, and divert individuals to CBH for support when appropriate. Kiswani-Barley said that while the crisis response team is not part of law enforcement, it works with police when necessary.

Congress annually authorizes set-aside funds from the crime victims fund for a tribal victim services set-aside program, which provides support to tribal communities to enhance services for victims of crime, in line with the requirements of the Victims of Crime Act.

At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, HHS purchased four medical trucks — mobile medical units — for the primary purpose of responding to the high demand for Covid-19 testing. The idea was to use the trucks so tribal members wouldn’t have to wait in line to be tested in outdoor tents. But due to supply chain issues and delays, the trucks were never delivered.

The trucks are still on the way, but Kiswani-Barley recently asked Tribal Council to approve some modifications to the vehicles, since the need for Covid-19 testing has diminished with the widespread availability of home tests.

Kiswani-Barley said some of the updates would include the ability to transport those in wheelchairs or with other disabilities; the addition of Starlink Mobility (which gives the vehicle internet access); and onboard medical refrigerators among other features and services.

She said the trucks would be particularly valuable to those communities that don’t have medical clinics — like Fort Pierce, Lakeland and Trail. A firm timeline for modified trucks to be delivered is not yet known.

### New staff

Meanwhile, Kiswani-Barley said HHS has added two new nurse practitioners to its staff. The Immokalee health clinic hired Alisha Mattern (Cherokee) and the Big Cypress health clinic hired Sandra Gabriel. Kiswani-Barley said one of the tribe’s veteran nurse practitioners at the Brighton health clinic — Melanie Melo — recently retired, but has agreed to return part-time, two days a week, to fill in any gaps that arise.

AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM PRESENTS

# AMERICAN INDIGENOUS ARTS CELEBRATION

**November 3 & 4**  
Big Cypress Indian Reservation

Join us at the American Indigenous Arts Celebration and immerse yourself in the electrifying showcase of Indigenous Pride!

- Native Pride Dancers -
- HAKA Māori Cultural Experience -
- Seminole Fashion Show -
- Native Craft Vendors -
- Alligator Wrestling -
- Whakairo Wood Carving -
- Raranga Basket Weaving -
- Mau Rakau Weaponry -
- Cultural Displays -
- Taa Moko (Tattoo) Presentation -
- Seminole & Māori Live Art Expo -
- MMIP Tribute -
- Live Music & Native Food -

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA  
AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM  
A PLACE TO LEARN. A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

ahtahthiki.com

**Travis W. Trueblood, LL.M**  
**Your Trusted Attorney for More than 20 Years**

**We Specialize In:**

- Criminal
- Litigation
- Wills & Prenuptial Agreements
- Probate & Guardianship Matters

Choctaw Tribal Member  
Veteran - U.S. Navy and Air Force

**Call Us Today!**  
**(855) 640-0794**  
Calls Answered 24 Hours  
Consultations Always Free

We specialize in Native American issues.

**TRUEBLOOD**

www.trueblood.attorney  
Moore Haven, FL | Fort Lauderdale, FL | Washington, DC

**RICHARD CASTILLO**  
**954.522.3500**

**HELPING THE SEMINOLE COMMUNITY FOR MANY YEARS**

**24 HOURS A DAY**

Since 1990 I have protected rights like yours. My office defends DUIs, drug offenses, suspended licenses, domestic violence, and all felonies and misdemeanors throughout Florida and the United States.

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

**RICHARD CASTILLO**  
FLORIDA CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY  
**WWW.CASTILLOLAWOFFICES.COM**



# SEMINOLE SCENES



**TREETOP ADVENTURE:** Kids in trees always make their own fun. Fom left to right are Cash Gopher, Miguel Estrada and Storm Osceola in a large live oak tree during the Brighton Indian Day celebration Sept. 22.

Beverly Bidney

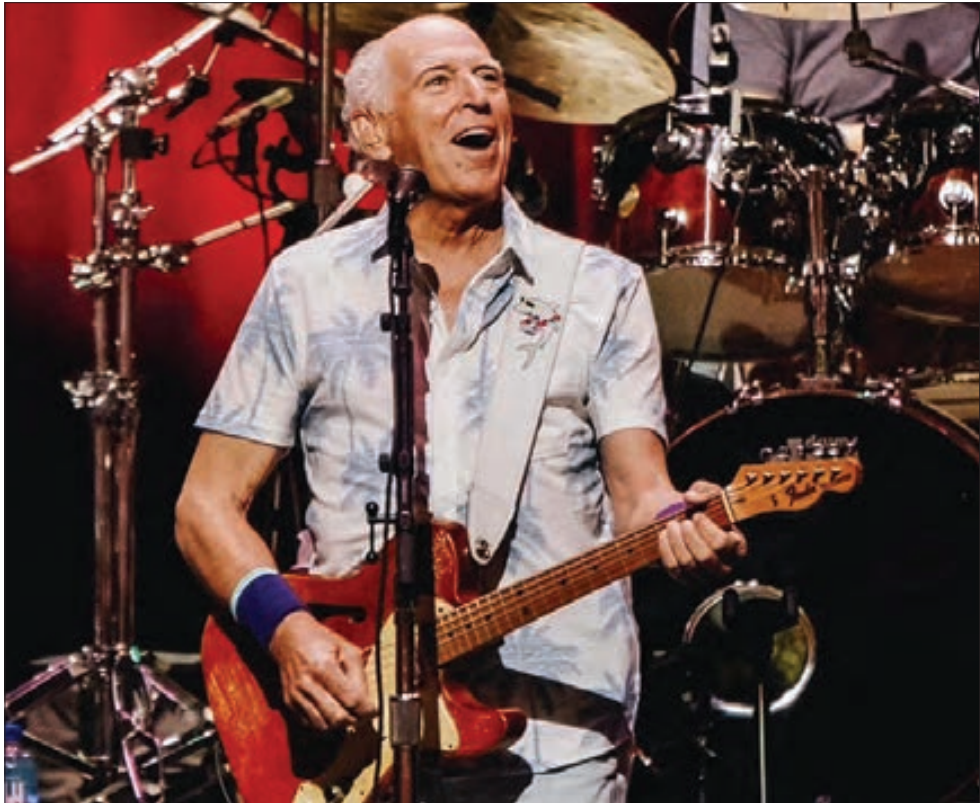


**LAKELAND VISIT:** Candy Osceola, 9, left, and Alexa Tosca, 16, enjoy their visit to the Lakeland Reservation on Sept. 23.

Beverly Bidney



Kevin Johnson  
**SEEKING SHELTER:** A trio of horses gallops for cover Sept. 21 as rain begins to fall on the Fort Pierce Reservation.



Hard Rock

**LEGENDARY MUSICIAN:** Jimmy Buffett, shown here performing at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood on Feb. 15, died Sept. 1 at age 76. Buffett, who had a legion of loyal followers known as “Parrotheads,” mastered the tropical rock music genre with hits such as “Margaritaville.”



SMP

**FIRST MEETING:** Holly Tiger, the tribe's first female president, attends her first Tribal Council meeting as the Council's vice chairwoman Sept. 25 at a business briefing in Hollywood. President Tiger was elected Aug. 10 and sworn in Aug. 28.



Beverly Bidney

**YOU BE THE JUDGE:** Tribal members and employees were invited to judge the entries in the Immokalee Indian Day arts and crafts contests. Immokalee Recreation employees Dennis Gonzales and Ruby Anzualda make their picks Sept. 14.



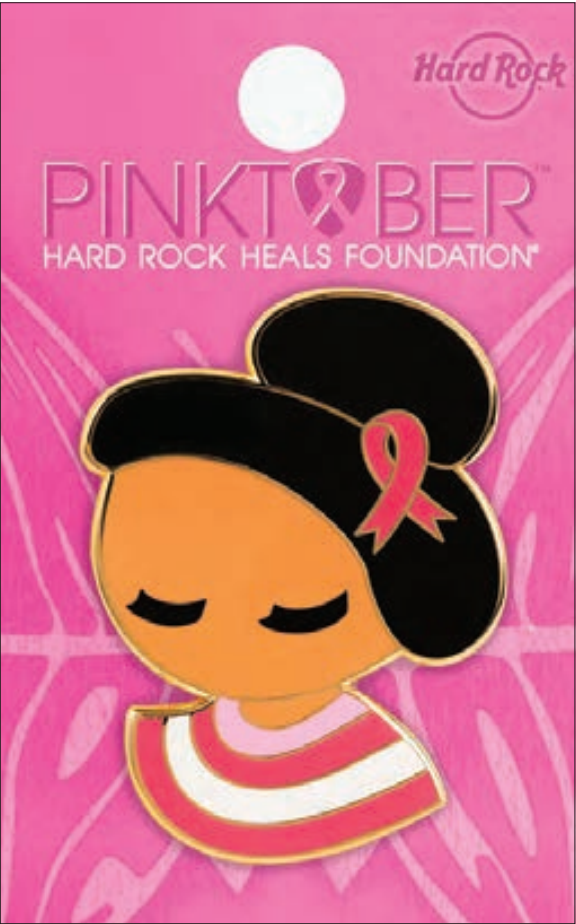
Beverly Bidney

**SOFTWARE UPDATE:** Education Department Tribal Professional Development program supervisor Kerlande Patterson teaches a class on the Microsoft Excel program to tribal members and staff from the Immokalee and Big Cypress reservations Sept. 14. The training was part of a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to increase tribal member and employee skills at accessing digital information.

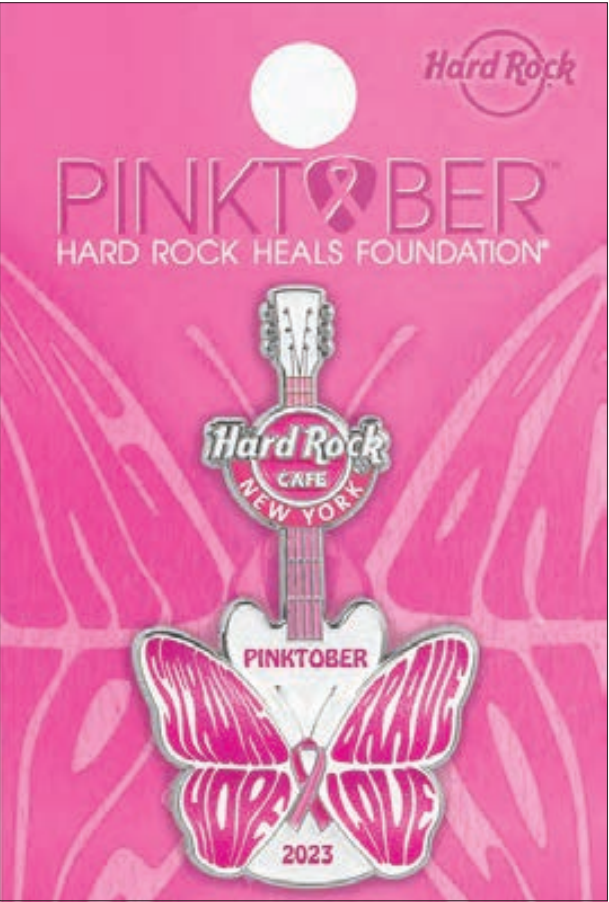


Beverly Bidney

**PLAYFUL PARTNERS:** Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School second graders Sadie Groover, left, and Arianna Mond play a game of Rock, Paper, Scissors as other students take their turn in front of the judges during the school's clothing contest Sept. 21.



Hard Rock (2)  
**PINKTOBER:** Pins commemorating Hard Rock Heals Foundation's Pinktober campaign are available through the Rock Shop (shop.hardrock.com). The pin on the left is described on the Rock Shop's website as the Hard Rock Tribal Pinktober Pin. Other Pinktober items for sale include T-shirts and a bag. Throughout October, Hard Rock venues across the globe will “go pink” by participating in fundraising efforts supporting the foundation, the charitable arm of Hard Rock, with proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society and local charities.





# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans reclaims 351 acres of sacred homeland

**STOCKBRIDGE, Mass.** — The Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans, whose original homelands stretch through the Berkshires and beyond, is reclaiming several hundred acres of sacred land that Massachusetts is now giving back. With a \$2.26 million state grant, the tribe is poised to purchase 351 acres at the northern tip of Monument Mountain — a move that will restore tribal ties to this land once again after nearly 200 years of separation from it.

Tribal leaders say they are grateful to again hold the land within their culture and spirituality. It is a stewardship they say will fortify and heal the landscape amid a changing climate.

“It’s sacred to us, and we’re so grateful for the opportunity to be able to return home and have a place to call our own,” said Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans President Shannon Holsey.

Nearly 100 town and city officials, residents and members of the Stockbridge-Munsee attended the Aug. 30 official announcement of the purchase in the gym at Stockbridge Town Offices.

The grant is part of a total \$31.5 million in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grants to 84 different towns and cities. The awards include about \$3 million to 28 municipalities for pilot programs directed at struggling communities. The rest — \$28.5 million — is for various projects in 56 cities in towns.

- *The Berkshire (Mass.) Eagle*

## Eastern Band of Cherokee vote to legalize recreational marijuana

Cherokee tribal members in a historic vote have said yes to recreational marijuana, paving the way for the reservation to become the only place in North Carolina legalizing its use.

The Sept. 7 referendum showed overwhelming support for the change with 2,464 voting yes and 1,057 voting no.

The recreational cannabis referendum is not technically binding and would have to be followed by legislation, though the Tribal Council has already signaled its support for the change.

The move is a much bigger step than the 2021 decision by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to allow medical marijuana. The medical system is now in place and is on the verge of opening sales to qualifying patients.

Leaders of the body created to run the tribe’s for-profit medical marijuana business, Qualla Enterprises LLC, say broader legalization would generate “extraordinary revenue” as well as 400 well-paying jobs in a place that needs employment.

“The demand to work with Qualla is both overwhelming and humbling; Qualla has received hundreds of job applications, and that number grows each week,” the group said in a Sept. 6 opinion piece in the Cherokee One Feather, the tribe’s official newspaper.

Opponents, though, say legalization of marijuana has been linked to declines in young people’s mental health.

“Today’s commercial marijuana products are associated with depression, suicidality, IQ loss and most recently psychosis and schizophrenia, especially for young people,” said Smart Approaches to Marijuana Action President Dr. Kevin Sabet in a Sept. 1 news release from the office of Rep. Chuck Edwards.

The Republican congressman represents most of Western North Carolina and says the federal government should take action to stop tribal legalization. His proposed bill, the Stop Pot Act, would withhold 10% of federal highway funds from the Eastern Band and other tribes and states that permit recreational marijuana.

Edwards said the act would “prevent even greater access to drugs and ease the strain placed on our local law enforcement and mental health professionals who are already stretched thin.”

The Citizen Times reached out Qualla Enterprise officials, a tribal government spokesperson and Richard Sneed, the Eastern Band chief.

In the Sept. 6 editorial, Qualla Enterprise leaders pushed back on contentions about negative effects.

“Numerous studies have identified several other ways that Adult Use Cannabis actually decreases crime and promotes public health and order,” they said.

Those include 2021 findings from the National Bureau of Economic Research that there is “little evidence” that recreational legalization encourages use of harder drugs or violent criminal activity. Other studies showed actual declines in crime and use of other drugs, they said. According to the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health, the four states where recreational cannabis was legal in 2021 experienced “a 6% reduction in opioid-related emergency department visits for six months” after passing the law, compared to states that did not legalize.

- *Asheville (N.C.) Citizen Times*

## New Native American casino planned in North Dakota

**WHITE SHIELD, N.D.** — The Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation along with 4 Bears Casino, DSGW Architecture and Woodstone Inc., on Sept. 21 announced the ground blessing for the new Son Of Star Casino in White Shield.

The 37,000-square-foot casino, which

is set to open in 2026, will be just south of the powwow grounds. It will feature 230 slot machines, six table games, a sports book, poker room, restaurant, gift shop, campground and coffee shop. Future phases include a convenience store, hotel and event center.

The casino is designed to reflect the culture and traditions of the MHA Nation.

The exterior of the building will feature a traditional Native American design, and the interior will be decorated with Native American art, timelines and artifacts. The casino interior design will feature four quadrants of natural elements representing fire, water, earth and wind.

“We are honored to have worked with the MHA Nation to create this new casino,” said DSGW Principal Erik C. Wedge. “The casino is a beautiful and welcoming space that will provide both entertainment and economic opportunities for the MHA Nation and the surrounding community.”

DSGW, an architecture and interior design firm, specializes in Indigenous architecture. For more than 40 years, the firm has worked on more than 400 tribal projects across 14 states, with more than 40 indigenous communities to plan, design and build facilities from community centers, clinics to casinos.

The new casino is expected to create jobs and generate millions of dollars in revenue for the MHA Nation. It is also expected to attract tourists from all over the country, which will boost the local economy.

“Having a casino in White Shield offers the framework to generate and foster economic growth, achieve sustainable employment, and promote tribal tourism. It’s a win-win for the tribe and the surrounding area,” said East Segment Councilman Fred Fox.

- *Minot (N.D.) Daily News*

## Tunica-Biloxi Tribe chairman launches Bid to become NCAI president

The charismatic leader of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, Chairman and CEO Marshall Pierite, launched his bid to be president of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) on Sept. 22.

The election will be held during NCAI’s 80th Annual Convention and Marketplace in New Orleans, Louisiana from November 12 - 17, 2023. The new president will take over the leadership of NCAI that was founded in 1944 from current President Fawn Sharp, who is term-limited. NCAI is the largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native national organization serving the broad interests of tribal governments and communities.

Pierite, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, brings over thirty years of experience in Tribal administration, economic development, community development, and elected leadership.

His campaign focuses on prioritizing the needs and voices of all tribal nations, with a focus on supporting Tribal women and youth, protecting Tribal lands and waterways, and upholding treaty rights.

“I am passionate about finding solutions to problems that have plagued Indian Country for generations, but I believe our Native people have always had the solutions to these challenges, and they have always been rooted in our unique cultures, traditions, and communities,” Pierite said in his announcement. “If elected NCAI president, I will work every day to strengthen tribal sovereignty, which I believe starts with protecting our future by focusing on strengthening support for our women and youth.”

Pierite’s campaign seeks to strengthen tribal sovereignty, support and provide opportunities for tribal women and youth, protect the environment and traditional lands, address climate change, and promote responsible renewable energy development in collaboration with affected tribes.

Pierite’s impressive tenure as the leader of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe is marked by his exceptional ability to secure substantial grants, totaling over \$70 million. His dedication to the tribe’s expansion and welfare is evident through initiatives such as affordable internet access, new housing construction, and elderly care.

Beyond his local efforts, Chairman Pierite has made significant contributions at the regional and national levels. His advocacy for the interests of Indian Country led to his involvement in the historic signing of the Inflation Reduction Act in Washington, D.C. His achievements garnered him the title of the Native American Finance Officers Association’s Tribal Leader of the Year in 2022, and his recent appointment to the Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee highlights his ability to strengthen the relationship between tribal communities and government agencies.

“Marshall Pierite’s exemplary leadership has yielded profound transformations throughout his community, the state of Louisiana, and Indian Country, leaving an indelible imprint,” remarked Principal Chief of the United Houma Nation Lora Ann Chaisson said. “As an extraordinary visionary and catalyst, Marshall possesses the ability to assume the role of NCAI president, effectively championing the rights and aspirations of indigenous people nationwide.”

Pierite is the only declared candidate for the NCAI presidency to inform Native News Online.

- *Native News Online*

## 2 Washington tribes report spike in fentanyl-related overdoses

**TULALIP, Wash.** — Tribal authorities, on two different western Washington reservations, confirm a spike in fentanyl-related overdoses and deaths, and are now warning a new pill has entered the black market likely targeting kids.

“We put out an alert to our community letting parents and all citizens know that if they come across a multicolored pill, it’s most likely going to be a very deadly lethal fentanyl pill,” said Tulalip Police Department Chief Chris Sutter in an interview with KOMO News Friday.

He said detectives seized more than 50 of the pastel colored fentanyl pills from a suspicious car in the Tulalip Resort Casino parking lot this week. It alarmed local law enforcement because of the potency and candy-like appearance.

“It’s imprinted with the M-30, as it would be with the blue pills or the other pills that we’ve been seeing on the streets,” said Det. Haison Duong, who made the bust. “Especially since they’re multicolored. I believe they’re targeting younger people.”

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has also issued warnings about the “alarming emerging trend of colorful fentanyl” in the country.

It also comes as Sutter said the Tulalip reservation saw another person overdose from fentanyl [in September], and that they are not expected to survive. He also said the Lummi Nation is grieving after a series of fatal overdoses this week.

The Lummi Nation posted a statement on their Facebook page that “there has been a spike of overdose deaths which we believe may be due to a change in the supply.”

Lummi Tribal Chairman Anthony Hillaire offered “sincere condolences” to the impacted families and said the reservation is going through “dark times.” A planned celebration of Tokitae’s life, scheduled for Friday, was postponed, according to the Tribe’s Facebook account because of an “overwhelming amount of grief” this week.

Sutter said there is no direct connection yet between the deaths and overdoses with the rainbow colored fentanyl.

- *KOMO (Seattle, Wash.)*

## Virginia congresswomen propose federal recognition of Patawomeck Indian Tribe

Three Virginia congresswomen are pushing for federal recognition of the Patawomeck Indian Tribe, whose presence in present-day Stafford and King George counties can be traced back to the 1300s and was noted in some of European colonists’ earliest records.

“Our community has always been here, and we have been a strong part of the fabric of our Virginia home,” said Patawomeck Chief Charles “Bootsie” Bullock in a statement. “We are not only descendants of many centuries of our ancestors, but today we are neighbors, colleagues, friends, and proud Americans — and our heritage deserves to be recognized by the federal government like other Indigenous communities.”

The Patawomeck Indian Tribe won state recognition from Virginia in 2010 and today has over 2,600 enrolled members, most of whom live in Stafford County.

Legislation co-sponsored by Reps. Abigail Spanberger, D-Prince William, Jennifer Wexton, D-Loudoun, and Jen Kiggans, R-Virginia Beach, seeks to secure federal recognition for the tribe, which would extend sovereignty rights to the Patawomeck while also allowing them to access federal benefits, services and protections. Among those is the right to federal consultation, or the requirement that federal agencies seek input from tribal officials in developing regulations or policies that might impact Indigenous nations. The tribe announced it was seeking federal recognition through legislation in January 2022.

As of February, 574 tribes in the U.S. had received federal recognition, including seven in Virginia: the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Eastern Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Monacan Indian Nation, Nansemond Indian Nation, Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Rappahannock Tribe and Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe.

But while Virginia’s tribes are among the first Indigenous nations recorded by European colonists, none were able to achieve federal recognition until 2016; six won it through federal legislation rather than the typical administrative review process overseen by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The tough road to recognition for the tribes can be traced to a longstanding state law that officially erased the nations’ existence by classifying Virginia’s populace as either white or Black, as well as the widespread destruction of state and local records during the Civil War.

To obtain federal recognition, tribes must meet seven criteria, including demonstrating that they’ve been “identified as an American Indian entity on a substantially continuous basis since 1900” and that a “predominant portion” of their membership “comprises a distinct community and has existed as a community from historical times until the present.”

The “continuous” part of the criteria has been especially difficult for Virginia tribes. Because so much of the Civil War was fought in the commonwealth — more than 2,000 military engagements and 26 major battles — dozens of courthouses and official records repositories were destroyed or extensively damaged. Among those were the Stafford and King George courthouses, where records of the Patawomeck could have been found.

More recently, the state’s Racial Integrity Act of 1924 classified every Virginia resident as white or Black. One of its major supporters, former Virginia Bureau of Vital Statistics Chief Walter Plecker, for years ordered that the bureau alter the birth and death certificates of Virginia Indians to identify them as Black.

“Dr. Plecker has compelled an unestimated number of Virginians of mixed blood to be registered, willing or unwilling, as Negroes,” noted a 1935 profile of Plecker in The Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The state policy came to be known as a “paper” or “documentary genocide” that would prevent federal recognition for decades.

In a release Monday, Spanberger said the Patawomeck’s “long history, their rich traditions, and their centuries of contributions to Virginia deserve respect and recognition.”

“The federal government is long overdue to acknowledge what the Commonwealth of Virginia and the members of the Patawomeck Tribe themselves already know to be true,” she said.

- *Virginia Mercury*

## Leonard Peltier supporters arrested, fined during Washington protests

**WASHINGTON** — U.S. Park Police issued citations to more than two dozen supporters of imprisoned Native American activist Leonard Peltier during a rally outside the White House Tuesday.

The event was co-hosted by the South Dakota-based activist group NDN Collective and the human rights group Amnesty International.

As VOA reported in 2016, Peltier, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribe of Lakota and Dakota descent, was convicted in the murders of two FBI agents during a 1975 standoff at Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and given two consecutive life sentences.

His supporters say he was framed for murders he didn’t commit. Federal agents say evidence shows he was guilty of shooting agents at close range and that he has shown no remorse.

Peltier, 79 and in ill health, has spent 46 years in prison, losing multiple appeals for parole and White House clemency.

The U.S. Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 allows “compassionate release” for prisoners over 70 who have completed at least 30 years of their sentences. But because Peltier was sentenced before the law went into effect, he is ineligible.

“We come together here to remind the United States that Leonard Peltier is the longest-incarcerated political prisoner in the history of the United States,” NDN Collective CEO Nick Tilsen (Oglala Lakota) said Tuesday. “... We cannot let his fight for freedom go quietly. It’s time — 48 years is long enough.”

Park Police spokesman Sergeant Thomas Twiname said that officers issued citations to 27 demonstrators for the misdemeanor violation of “incommoding,” that is, crowding or obstructing a sidewalk.

“Nobody was put in handcuffs,” he said. “They were given citations, and then the individuals left.”

- *Voice of America*

## Tribe gives name to U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree grown in W.V.

**ELKINS, W. Va.** — The Shawnee Tribe has provided a name in the Shawnee language to the 2023 U.S. Capitol Christmas tree which was selected from West Virginia, the Monongahela National Forest announced Sept. 27.

According to a release, the tree has been named “wa’feem’tekwi”—pronounced as “wa thame tech we”—which translates to mean “bright tree” in English.

“We are grateful for the strong relationship the Eastern Region of the Forest Service has with the Shawnee Tribe,” said Regional Forester Gina Owens. “And we deeply appreciate the name they have bestowed on the tree that will be harvested from Monongahela National Forest this holiday season.”

On top of the naming, the tribe also contributed handmade ornaments and messaging for the educational exhibit that will accompany the tree on its November tour. Following the holiday season, the Shawnee tribe will use the wood from the tree at their ceremonial grounds in White Oak, Oklahoma, the release said.

- *WBOY (Clarksburg, W. Va.)*

## Artist who faked Native heritage sentenced in U.S. District Court

Lewis Anthony Rath, who pleaded guilty in March to falsely representing himself as Native American to sell his art, was sentenced Sept. 27 in U.S. District Court to 24 months of probation and 200 hours of community service.

Rath, 54, of Maple Falls, was charged in late 2021 with violating the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, a law aimed at eliminating counterfeits from the Indigenous arts and crafts market.

According to a news release from the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the investigation into Rath began in July 2018 when the Indian Arts and Crafts Board received a complaint that he was representing himself as an enrolled member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe to sell items such as totem poles, masks and pendants to Seattle retail stores, despite neither having tribal enrollment nor heritage.

Undercover U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents purchased Rath’s artworks from

Seattle retailers Raven’s Nest Treasure and Ye Olde Curiosity Shop, both of which represented Rath’s work as Native-produced art. Agents also executed a federal search warrant at Rath’s Whatcom County home and studio where they recovered feathers from birds protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, according to the news release.

In March 2023, Rath pleaded guilty to misrepresentation of Native American produced goods and products and unlawful possession of golden eagle parts, both punishable by up to one year in prison, and unlawful possession of migratory bird parts, punishable by up to six months in prison.

At the Sept. 27 sentencing hearing, according to the news release, U.S. District Judge Tana Lin heard from Yavapai-Apache jewelry artist Matagi Sorensen, who explained the importance of art to both the cultural and financial survival of his people. Lin also read aloud a letter from San Carlos Apache Tribe Chairman Terry Rambler, describing the harm that Rath’s misappropriation of his Tribe’s culture caused its 17,000 tribal members.

“Rath’s victims are real: they are Indian artists, many who struggle to make a living, who lost out on sales to those who seek authentic Indian artwork; and they are also consumers who were defrauded into purchasing fake Indian art,” Assistant U.S. Attorney and Tribal Liaison Tate London said in a statement to the court.

Rath’s actions also “undermine consumers’ confidence in the Indian art market in the Northwest and nationwide,” Meredith Stanton, director of the U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Arts and Crafts Board, which is responsible for enforcing the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, said in a statement.

Rath’s attorney, Gregory Geist, declined to comment on the record.

Jerry Chris Van Dyke (also known as Jerry Witten), 68, of Seattle, who also pleaded guilty to violations of the IACA in March, was sentenced on May 17 to 18 months of federal probation.

- *Seattle Times*

## Nebraska state senator from Oglala Lakota Tribe chosen for ‘courage’ award

**LINCOLN, Neb.** — State Sen. Tom Brewer of Gordon, a member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe, is being honored for his involvement in several Native American initiatives.

The Chief Standing Bear Project has chosen Brewer for its annual “Prize for Courage” to be awarded during a banquet on Indigenous People’s Day, Oct. 9, in Lincoln.

Larry Dwyer, a board member of the Project and an author who has written about Standing Bear, said that Brewer has been a “great leader” on Native American causes during his seven years in the Nebraska Legislature.

Those efforts include getting a Standing Bear statue installed in the National Statutory Hall at the U.S. Capitol and getting a state office building in Lincoln renamed after the Ponca chief. Brewer also assisted in designating a 22-mile segment of a hike-bike trail south of Beatrice as the “Chief Standing Bear Trail,” to mark the route of the Ponca Tribe when it was removed from its reservation in northeast Nebraska in 1877.

The courage award was established a year ago, when it was given to actor Wes Studi.

Brewer grew up near the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, graduating from Gordon High School and earning a degree from Doane College.

- *Nebraska Examiner*

## Ned Blackhawk’s landmark history of U.S. longlisted for National Book Award

The National Book Foundation has announced its longlists for the 2023 National Book Awards, tapping “The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History,” by Ned Blackhawk, for its nonfiction longlist.

Published by Yale University Press, “The Rediscovery of America” builds on decades of new scholarship in Native American and Indigenous studies to reveal a wide-ranging, overdue retelling of U.S. history — one that recognizes Native peoples are fundamental to understanding the evolution of modern America.

Blackhawk is the Howard R. Lamar Professor of History and American Studies at Yale University, where he serves as faculty coordinator for the Yale Group for the Study of Native America. An enrolled member of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, he is author or co-editor of three other books in Native American and Indigenous history.

In its announcement, the National Book Foundation said, “Historian Ned Blackhawk recontextualizes five centuries of U.S., Native, and non-native histories to argue that in the face of extreme violence, land dispossession, and catastrophic epidemics, Indigenous peoples played, and continue to play, an essential role in the development of American democracy.”

The finalists for the 2023 National Book Awards will be named on October 3, 2023. The winners of the 2023 National Book Awards will be announced live at the 74th National Book Awards Ceremony on Nov. 15 in New York City.

- *Yale University Press*



# SOUTH FLORIDA'S ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION



**OCT 1**  
**LOS FABULOSOS CADILLACS**



**OCT 3**  
**TITÃS**



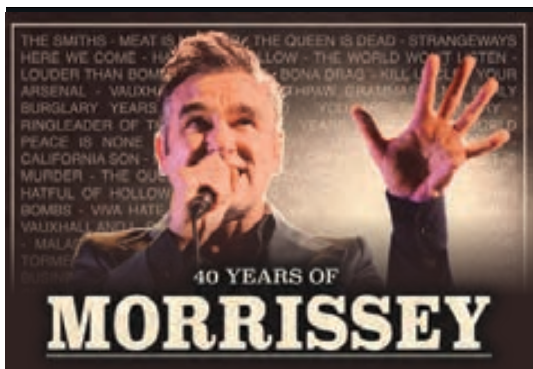
**OCT 4**  
**CHICAGO**



**OCT 5**  
**JON PARDI**



**OCT 6**  
**MATT RIFE**



**OCT 8**  
**MORRISSEY**



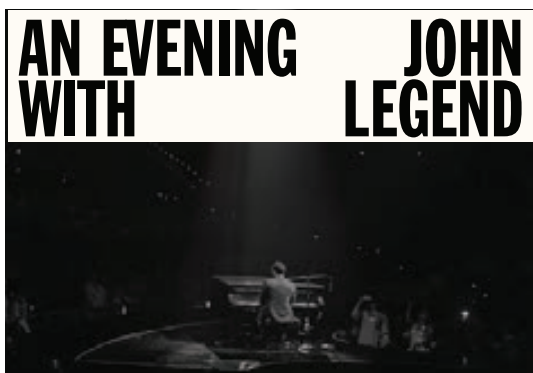
**OCT 12 & 13**  
**BRET KREISCHER**



**OCT 21**  
**KEITH URBAN**



**OCT 22**  
**ED SHEERAN**



**OCT 28**  
**JOHN LEGEND**



**OCT 29**  
**SAMMY HAGAR**



**OCT 31**  
**MANÁ**



**GET TICKETS!**  
**TICKETMASTER.COM**  
MYHRL.COM • HARDROCKHOLLY.COM





# Education

## Student Council inaugurated at PECS

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Dressed in their finest patchwork, the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School student body filled the gymnasium Sept. 21 for two of the school's annual traditions: a schoolwide clothing contest followed by the inauguration of the Student Council.

In front of a panel of judges, the clothing contestants walked one grade level at a time and turned to show the front and back of the clothing. After the judges made their picks, medals were awarded for first, second and third place.

The inauguration of the 2023-24 Student Council went off without a hitch. Each new representative raised his or her right hand and was sworn in by Brighton Councilman

Larry Howard.

The representatives are Aaliyah Howard (kindergarten), Maelynn Tommie (first grade), Ailynn Tommie Smith (second grade), Hendrix Osceola (third grade), Tommie Jackson (fourth grade), Makai Newkirk (fifth grade), Hayden Nunez (sixth grade), Milo Osceola (seventh grade), Daliyah Nunez (eighth grade) and Chairwoman Bobbi Johns.

After the swearing in, principal Tracy Downing told the students that they are the tribe's future leaders and the skills they will learn on the council will serve them well for many years.

"You are stepping into a role of great responsibility, but you are not alone," Downing said. "You have the unwavering support of your fellow students, your teacher and your families. The inauguration of our Student Council is a reminder that our



With her right hand in the air and her left on a Bible, Student Council kindergarten representative Aaliyah Howard takes the oath of office from her father, Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, as PECS culture teacher and Student Council adviser Suraiya Smith holds the Bible.



Beverly Bidney

Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, left, and Brighton Board Rep. Bryan Arledge, right, join the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School 2023-24 Student Council at its inauguration ceremony. The council representatives in the front row from left to right are Aaliyah Howard (kindergarten), Maelynn Tommie (first grade), Ailynn Tommie Smith (second grade), Hendrix Osceola (third grade), Tommie Jackson (fourth grade). In the back row from left to right are Makai Newkirk (fifth grade), Hayden Nunez (sixth grade), Chairwoman Bobbi Johns, Milo Osceola (seventh grade) and Daliyah Nunez (eighth grade).

school is not just a place of learning but also a place where young minds can be nurtured to become responsible, compassionate and proactive individuals who can make a positive impact on the world."

Brighton Board Rep. Bryan Arledge thanked the students for making the commitment to represent their grades and addressed those who ran for office but didn't get elected.

"Keep on running," Rep. Arledge said. "You can still be a leader every day even if you didn't win an election."

Councilman Howard encouraged all the students to stay involved with the school, not just the members of the council.

◆ See PECS on page 2B

Beverly Bidney

PECS' new Student Council receives congratulations from fellow students after the inauguration ceremony.



## Ahfachkee adds AP classes as new construction continues

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The Ahfachkee School is off to a good start for the 2023-24 school year with a record 216 students, a new elementary school building nearing completion and the addition of two Advanced Placement (AP) high school classes.

"Most public schools offer AP classes, which gives students an advantage," said principal Phil Baer. "Families realize that we are academically comparable or better than public schools because of our smaller class size, exposure to Seminole culture and we are community friendly."

The AP classes are in ninth grade English language arts and 10th grade biology. The students will attend the regular education classes in those subjects, but have

different instruction given by the AP certified teachers.

AP classes help students increase their grade point average and gives them some extra credit, but the work is more rigorous and moves at a faster pace than regular education classes. The students in the AP classes were chosen based on their GPAs and test scores, Baer said.

"We are trying to bring the school up to the next level as far as academics," Baer said. "Next year the students will move up in the AP classes and we will add additional sections as necessary. As the program grows, we will keep growing with it."

A potential new program for eligible students is dual enrollment with Florida SouthWestern State College in early 2024. Dual enrollment allows students to complete college courses and earn college credits while they are still in high school. All the

courses are college freshman level and held online. Baer believes if students take the class they will more likely attend college. He said he'd like to see an increase in the number of students who attend college.

"Dual enrollment will give them the opportunity to see what college courses are like," he said. "They can see it's not ridiculously hard and it may give them the incentive to continue since they already started on that path."

Meanwhile, interior work continues on the elementary school building and it appears to be on track to open after winter break. Construction crews are finishing the electrical and plumbing.

Sometime in the spring of 2024, officials said work would begin on a new Culture building and maintenance shed. Eight portable classrooms are set to be demolished as well.



Courtesy photo

From left to right, Ahfachkee School office manager Nohra Auriemma, assistant principal Nuria Suarez, principal Phil Baer and Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie visit the construction site of the new Ahfachkee elementary school building.

## Tribe's Boys & Girls Clubs celebrate 'Day for Kids'

STAFF REPORT

The Seminole Boys & Girls Clubs celebrated its annual "Day for Kids" event Sept. 15. More than 200 tribal youth and adults participated at all four of the tribe's clubs where the theme was "Let's Glow Crazy."

Several fun activities were available for the youth, such as black light mini golf, light up tic-tac-toe and jumbo skee-ball.

"Everyone was able to take pictures in the photo booth, get their face painted and enjoy airbrush footballs and hats," said Valentina Arce, the Boys & Girls Clubs youth events program manager. "They enjoyed refreshments such as pizza, ice cream and a custom popcorn station. Youth earned tickets and picked out various prizes and received glow T-shirts."

"Day for Kids" is a national initiative promoting the message that "just one day can change a child's future." According to the national organization, the day helps create opportunities for communities to get involved with the development of kids.



Calvin Tiger

Konstance Sanchez smiles as she gets her face painted for the "Day for Kids" event at the Boys & Girls Club in Hollywood.



Calvin Tiger (2)

Above, kids enjoy food and activities at the event in Hollywood. Below, Julian Castro plays a game.





# Museum to host AIAC

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Seminole Tribe’s Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, on the Big Cypress Reservation, will hold its annual American Indigenous Arts Celebration (AIAC) Nov. 3 and Nov. 4 on the museum’s festival grounds. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

The AIAC features Seminole and other Indigenous art, dance, food and music.

Other highlights include adult and youth fashion shows, live alligator wrestling, Native American dance performances by Native Pride, and the return of New Zealand’s HAKA Māori Cultural Experience. Attendees can shop among the numerous

booths of Native artists, and craft vendors, while enjoying Seminole cuisine, including fresh fry bread.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$7.50 for seniors and students. Admission is free for tribal members, children four and under, and museum members. A special group discount of \$5 per person is available for parties of 10 or more who book in advance. Admission includes entrance to the event as well as the museum with its mile-long boardwalk. Parking is free.

AIAC takes place during Native American Heritage Month.

For more information, visit [ahtahthiki.com/AIAC/](http://ahtahthiki.com/AIAC/).

# First Indian Youth Service Corps grants awarded

STAFF REPORT

**WASHINGTON** — Eight projects involving more than 20 tribes and tribal organizations have been named recipients of Indian Youth Service Corps (IYSC) grants. The nearly \$3.5 million from the Department of Interior – the first IYSC grants awarded – is aimed at funding projects on federal and tribal lands.

IYSC was created by Interior Sect. Deb Haaland Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) with a goal to provide Indigenous youth with tribally-led public service opportunities. IYSC is geared toward helping fund programs that support the conservation and protection of natural and cultural resources.

“I launched the Indian Youth Service Corps to help empower the next generation of Native leaders as they engage in the co-stewardship of public lands and the application of Indigenous knowledge,” Haaland said in a news release. “The Corps will help these young people strengthen their connection to the lands and waters that their ancestors have cared for since time immemorial.”

The first grants awards focus on helping develop tribal capacity in conservation, natural resource management, and climate resilience. Training and recruiting a new generation of Indigenous skilled workers is also part of the objective.

The 2023 Indian Youth Service Corps grants were awarded to:

- Wood for Life (New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Colorado) - \$1 million awarded to expand the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps’ Wood for Life Program, engaging Native youth from the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Pueblo of Acoma, Pueblo of Zuni, and Pueblo of Isleta in reforestation efforts, wildland fire mitigation, and forestry, while also supporting local tribal fuel and firewood needs.
- Ahtna Cultural Heritage Youth Program (Alaska) - \$560,000 awarded to the Ahtna Cultural Center, located within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, to promote federal-tribal co-stewardship and expand job opportunities for Ahtna Incorporated’s Native youth.
- Wabanaki Youth in Science Program

(Maine) - \$528,119 to fund a corps comprised of Native youth from the Wabanaki Nations (Mi’kmaq Nation, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Passamaquoddy Tribe, Penobscot Nation) to promote the transfer of Indigenous knowledge, expose Native youth to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and careers, and bolster federal-tribal co-stewardship efforts.

- Traditional Farm Corps (New Mexico) - \$480,223 to fund new Native youth corps in collaboration with the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, Pueblo of Acoma, Pueblo of Isleta, and Pueblo of Zuni. Youth will work to restore local Indigenous food systems through agriculture, seed saving, and intergenerational knowledge-sharing. The project will revitalize traditional food sovereignty.
- Hopi Youth Service Corps Program (Arizona) - \$300,000 to fund a Native Youth corps comprised of Hopi Youth in collaboration with the Hopi Tribe and Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps to restore, protect and preserve the cultural landscape on the Hopi Reservation.
- 7Gen Service Corps (South Dakota) - \$300,000 awarded to Sicanu Co. to provide interdisciplinary and experiential learning internships for youth of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. Opportunities will center on Indigenous land and natural resource management, bison restoration, regenerative agriculture, cultural resource management, language revitalization, Indigenous knowledge, and community and workforce development.
- Connecting System Impacted Native Youth to Careers in Natural Resources (New Mexico) - \$250,000 awarded to the Urban Native Barrio Corps (Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps and La Plazita Institute) to engage Native youth and young adults from the greater Albuquerque area to provide restorative justice programming and technical training in environmental conservation and natural resource management.
- Intergenerational Natural Resources Summer Youth Camp at Coronado National Forest (Arizona) - \$48,400 to benefit Native youth from Tribal communities surrounding Coronado National Forest, including 12 federally recognized Tribes with ancestral ties to the forest.

# Children’s picture book focuses on two Native pro baseball players from early 1900s

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The true story of John Meyers and Charles Bender, who in 1911 became the first two Native pro baseball players to face off in a World Series, is the topic of “Contenders,” a children’s picture book written by Tracy Sorell with illustrations by Arigon Starr.

The book was published by Penguin Random House and released earlier this year.

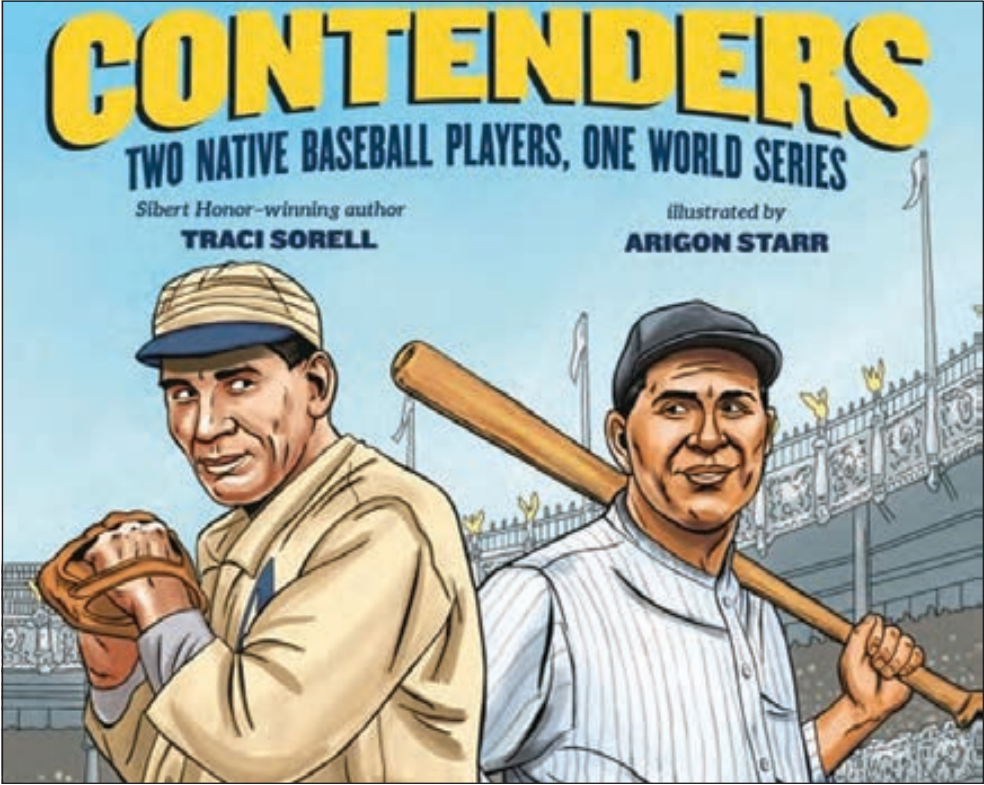
The book teaches lessons about resilience, doing what someone loves in the face of injustice, and the fight for Native American representation in sports.

Charles Bender grew up on the White Earth Reservation in Northwestern

Minnesota. John Meyers was raised on the Cahuilla reservation in Southern California. Despite their mutual respect for each other’s talents and their shared dedication to Native representation in baseball, the media was determined to pit them against each other.

However, they never gave up on their dreams of being pro baseball players and didn’t let the supposed rivalry created by the media or the racism they faced within the stadium stop them. They continued to break barriers and went on to play a combined total of nine championships.

“Contenders” is available through several outlets including Amazon, Target and Wal-Mart.



“Contenders” tells the story of two Native American baseball players who played against each other in the World Series.

# State offers fish art contest

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Students in kindergarten through grade 12 are invited to compete in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

# PECS From page 1A

“These students have a goal of what they want to do, but it takes a village to make it work,” Councilman Howard said. “Talk about your ideas to make the school better, never give up on your dreams of what you

can accomplish.”

“The Student Council represents you guys as a student body,” said culture teacher and Student Council adviser Suraiya Smith. “Tell your representative if you have ideas. They will tell me and I will take it to the administration.”

The ceremony ended with a receiving line comprised of the outgoing and new

council members. The entire student body, teachers and administrators lined up to meet the representatives and shake their hands.

A lunch featuring Indian tacos was served, thanks to the Culture Department, which cooked fry bread for the 330 students and staff in the cooking chickee of school’s the new culture camp.



PECS Student Council Chairwoman Bobbi Johns gives her acceptance speech after being inaugurated. Culture teacher Suraiya Smith held the mic.



PECS fourth grader Tommie Jackson takes the oath of office to serve on Student Council from Brighton Councilman Larry Howard.



Eighth grader Daliyah Nunez is sworn in as the eighth grade representative of the PECS Student Council by Brighton Councilman Larry Howard as Culture teacher and Student Council adviser Suraiya Smith looks on.



PECS kindergarten girls model their clothing in front of the judges as the rest of the student body watches from the bleachers.



Third grader Vincent McMiller, wearing a black turban, stands with his classmates during the PECS clothing contest.



Eliyas Fludd tells his grandmother Lillian Johnson that he got first place in the kindergarten boys clothing contest.

(FWC) annual Fish Art Contest.

One first place winner and one runner up will be selected for each grade bracket (kindergarten through third grade, fourth through sixth grade, seventh through ninth

grade, and 10th through 12th grade), one for illustrating the best freshwater fish species and one for the best saltwater fish species. Digital artwork will not be accepted this year, all submitted pieces must be created with a

traditional media. All first-place winners will advance to the national competition. The deadline to enter is Feb. 28, 2024.

For more information visit [wildlifeforever.org](http://wildlifeforever.org).



# Indian Day

## Lakeland



The crowd watches as Tiffany Foret competes in the fan run at the Lakeland Indian Day celebration.

Beverly Bidney



Megan Otero, center, teaches Shane Clay, left, and Azaria Perez how to make beaded earrings in the Lakeland Indian Day culture tent.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

Mason Foret holds his daughter Sunniva Foret as they prepare to compete in the clothing contest.



Tampa Culture and Language coordinator Herbert Jim demonstrates how to carry fans for the fan run event.

Beverly Bidney



Josh Smith bears the weight of a large cypress log as he makes his way around a cone on the log carry course.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

From left to right, Aaron Frank, Kevin Frank and Ronnie Doctor have a fun time during the 36-59 year old men's clothing contest at the Lakeland Indian Day celebration Sept. 23 in Lakeland.



Beverly Bidney

R.J. Briggs is ready for his close-up at the 0-6 year old clothing contest.



Beverly Bidney

Three generations of this family include Peter Foret, second from left, holding grandson Elan Little, along with Tiffany Foret and Ronnie Doctor.



Beverly Bidney

Aaron Frank helps his daughter Talia Frank as she competes in the 0-6 year old clothing contest.



Beverly Bidney

The 18-35 year old competition featured six ladies who modeled their modern patchwork creations.



# Indian Day



Brianna Nunez carries a large load of thatch as she races down the thatch run course during the Brighton Reservation's Indian Day celebration Sept. 22.



Johnnie Jones makes carrying two large cypress logs seem easy.



Joshua Madrigal, left, and Justin Gopher compete in the horseshoe competition.



Cheyenne Nunez is all business as she winds up to throw a large cast iron pan during the skillet toss competition.



From left to right, cousins Jaiden Fludd, Evianna Nunez, Jalene Smith and Daliyah Nunez enjoy a moment together at Brighton's Indian Day.



Salina Dorgan and eight others compete in the pumpkin bread competition.



Mary Huff, left, and Patricia Banda compete at horseshoes in Brighton's Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

## Brighton



One year old Jhettzyn Baker-Rosario gets a head start on his future log running skills with a baby sized log.



Diane Smith, left, and Rose Tiger display their skills in cornhole.



Brighton Councilman Larry Howard competes in the log carry competition.



Kaliya Hodge races to the finish of the thatch run.



In front at left, Leona Johnson poses with her niece Jana Johnson as friend Jamarie Davis photobombs between them.



Cyrus Smedley concentrates as he shoots an arrow during the archery competition.



# Indian Day

## Big Cypress



Damon Scott  
Melissa Ayulo, left, special events coordinator for the Big Cypress Council office, and Marlin Miller-Covarrubias, executive assistant to Councilwoman Mariann Billie, hold Big Cypress Indian Day T-shirts.



Damon Scott  
Barbara Billie participates in the skillet toss contest.



Damon Scott  
From left to right at the Big Cypress Indian Day celebration are Mohayla B. Billie, Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie, Allekeao Billie and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Tahnia Billie.



Damon Scott  
Big Cypress Board Representative Nadine Bowers prepares to toss a skillet.



Damon Scott  
Chief Billie and his family take a few minutes to rest in the shade.



Damon Scott  
Mary Tigertail works diligently at the log-peeling contest.



Damon Scott  
Jordan Vereen carries Cher to the Indian Day festivities.



Damon Scott  
Abigail Tigertail concentrates intently as she peels a log.



Damon Scott  
Pauletta Bowers participates in the log-peeling contest.



Damon Scott  
From left to right are Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Tahnia Billie, Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie and Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie.

See pages 4C,5C and 6C for more Indian Day photos.



# SEE THE DIFFERENCE



COME **SEE** THE TWO BEST IN THE EYE WORLD!



**Dr. Alan Mendelsohn M.D. F.A.C.S.**

Preeminent Laser Cataract Surgeon  
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Fellowship Trained  
Glaucoma Specialist including Glaucoma Lasers & iStents  
Considered “Doctor’s Doctor” in South Florida

**Dr. Nathan Klein O.D.**

Renowned Contact Lens Specialist, including Scleral Lenses  
Comprehensive Adult & Pediatric Care  
Expert in Diagnosis & Dry Eye Treatment  
Specialist in Myopia Management



**954.894.1500 | MYEYESURGEONS.COM**

**4651 Sheridan Street, Suite 100, Hollywood, FL 33021**

Hours: Monday 7:30am - 6pm • Tuesday - Friday 7:15am - 5pm • Sunday 7:15am - Noon



# Sports



Grayson Johns maintains his balance on top of a bull during the Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo on Sept. 15 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton. The bull fighter on the left is Josiah Johns, who has the same name as his great-grandfather, and Marty Johns, on the right, who is the son of Josiah Johns.

## Josiah Johns remembered for contributions to rodeo

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BRIGHTON** — The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association honored one of its founders Sept. 15.

The Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo – an annual event on the EIRA circuit – pays tribute to the man described by the Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) Hall of Fame as a “true all-around cowboy.”

Posthumously inducted into the hall of fame in 2012, Johns was remembered at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena on the Brighton Reservation for his dedication to the sport and the reservation.

“I appreciate everything he did for rodeo,” Moses Jumper Jr. told the audience before the start of the memorial rodeo. “I used to see him at rodeos, out there competing in calf roping, steer wrestling, he did it all. I’m glad we have a rodeo to commemorate his existence, his life.”

Johns earned all-around champion cowboy many times in his rodeo career and he also gave back to the sport by cofounding the Southeastern Indian Rodeo Association, which became the EIRA.

Forty years after his death, Johns’ legacy is still seen at all EIRA events with his family involved in a variety of aspects. Three generations of the family as well as other relatives were a part of the memorial rodeo, including son Marty (chute boss), granddaughter Mackenzie (EIRA vice president), granddaughter Taylor (barrel racer, flagbearer) great-grandson Josiah (bull fighter) and great-grandson Jace (calf roper).

Marty Johns said his father competed in rodeos throughout the Southeast and beyond.

“He went from Madison Square Garden (in New York City) to Oklahoma and all points in between. He went down to Puerto Rico. They put livestock on a plane and flew them down there,” Johns said.

Marty Johns was about age 12 when he started riding in Indian rodeos. He recalled his father pulling him out of high school one day to hit the road for a rodeo.

“I flew to Huntington, West Virginia, and got on the trail and started rodeoing,” said Johns, who competed in bull riding, steer riding and other events.

Now 61, Johns said he was fortunate to have his dad’s support during his rodeo career.

“For myself, looking back, it’s been a tremendous ride,” he said. “That’s how I got my start. I rode bulls better when my dad



Kevin Johnson

After a successful rope, Milo Osceola ties up a calf during the Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo.



Kevin Johnson

Kalgary Johns and her horse make the turn around an EIRA barrel.

was around because he’d take you, slap you on the back and say ‘ride up, boy.’”

Rodeo wasn’t the only way that Josiah Johns made an impact in Brighton. He was a driving force in the creation of a bingo hall in a red barn on the reservation. The bingo hall laid the seeds for what is now the

Seminole Casino Brighton – where Marty is the longtime general manager – and what is becoming an even bigger footprint on the reservation with the construction of a new casino and hotel, expected to open in late 2024.



Kevin Johnson

Marty Johns, third from left, and some of the other members of the Johns family who were at the rodeo gather at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena at the conclusion of the event.

## Seminoles help spark Moore Haven volleyball

*Terriers enter October with 6-2 record*

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**WEST PALM BEACH** — A “less is better” approach is benefiting the Moore Haven High School varsity volleyball team this season.

Terriers coach Mona Baker said she opted to go with just 10 players on varsity this season rather than larger numbers compared to previous seasons. It’s paid off with a 6-2 record.

“It’s much easier to control those 10 players versus trying to fit in 14,” Baker said. “They’ve been doing really good. They’ve given me everything.”

Half of the Terriers roster is comprised of players from the Seminole Tribe. They are Preslynn Baker, Ayana Fonseca, Summer Gopher and sisters Marley Jimmie and Miley Jimmie.

Moore Haven started its season with three straight wins before losing a hard-fought marathon against Berean Christian School on Sept. 7 in West Palm Beach. Berean outlasted Moore Haven, 30-32, 25-21, 21-25, 25-23 and 15-11 in a tight match that lasted nearly two and a half hours.

Moore Haven bounced back by winning four of its next five matches in September, including shutouts against Dunbar, Pahokee and Walker Memorial Academy.

At times, Moore Haven is at a disadvantage against more experienced opponents because the Terriers only have a few

players who play travel ball.

Baker said after the match against Berean that she would like her team to seize control of situations more often.

The Terriers were up 2 sets to 1 and had a 17-7 lead against Berean in the fourth set and a 4-0 lead in the fifth, but couldn’t finish off the

job as Berean rallied both times to win the match.

“They don’t know how to come out and whoop somebody...If they would just come out and put their foot on the (opposition’s) throats and keep it there, nobody would beat them,” she said.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven’s Ayana Fonseca controls the ball in a match against Berean Christian on Sept. 7 in West Palm Beach.



Kevin Johnson

Tribal members on the Moore Haven High School varsity volleyball team are, from left to right, Marley Jimmie, Ayana Fonseca, Preslynn Baker, Summer Gopher and Miley Jimmie.



Kevin Johnson

Marley Jimmie goes up for a block attempt in a match against Berean Christian.



Kevin Johnson

The Terriers celebrate after winning a point.



# Tigertail Brothers tournament brings in players, brings back memories

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** — The 14th annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament was the place to be for players in Indian Country and elsewhere.

The tournament is open, which means it draws Native and non-Native teams. Held Sept. 14 to Sept. 16 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on the Big Cypress Reservation, the tournament attracted 14 teams in the adult section and four in the legends division.

Teams and/or players came from as far as Arizona, California and the Bahamas. There was even a car in the parking lot with an Ontario (Canada) license plate.

“From all walks of life,” said DeForest Carter, the tournament organizer and nephew to the three Tigertail brothers for whom the tournament is named.

For years it has been held in memory of Duane and Malcolm Tigertail; this year a third brother – Jody – was added to the tribute. Carter said Jody passed away earlier this year.

The tournament T-shirts featured three otters on both the front and back; the brothers were from the Seminole Tribe’s Otter Clan.

All three brothers played a big part in Carter’s development as a young basketball player.

“They were all different types of basketball players. We looked up to them growing up,” said Carter, who blossomed into a record-setting college standout at Embry–Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach.

The brothers played basketball in the same gym that is home to the tournament. Carter said he hopes the tournament will be able to add a second gym – the new one being built across the street at the Ahfachkee School. He said the tournament could expand if it has two gyms and it would also make scheduling easier. The adult section of the tournament is always held on a Friday and Saturday, but sometimes fitting all the games into two days has led to late nights or early mornings.

“One time we were here until 2:30 (a.m.) or 3 (a.m.),” Carter said.

In addition to the memories of his uncles, the tournament also serves as an opportunity for visitors to see and experience the Big Cypress Reservation, Carter said.

“That’s what it’s all about, our community coming together and everyone from outside the community coming to see our community and expressing themselves on the court,” he said.

Those on the court this year included some former college and pro players, notably ex-NBA player Glen Rice Jr., who played for a team called Magic City; former WNBA player Angel Goodrich; and Jenna Plumley, who played in the NCAA Women’s Tournament for Oklahoma University and Lamar University. YouTuber Duke Dennis also played.

In addition to Carter, other former college standouts from the Seminole Tribe included Skyla Osceola (Nova Southeastern University) and Duelle Gore (Haskell Indian Nations University), who also played professionally in Mexico.

Carter’s team – the Seminoles – and Osceola’s team – Native Soldiers – each finished runner-up in the men’s and women’s divisions, respectively.

Carter’s team also featured fellow tribal members Jerome Davis, Bryce Osceola and Hunter Osceola (injured/did not play) while Native Soldiers included the tribe’s Charli Frye and the Miccosukee’s Saige Osceola.

Gore’s team – the Plainzmen – won the men’s championship. The Lady Ballers captured the women’s title.

*(Editor’s note: see the Oct. 31 issue of the Tribune for team photos from the tournament).*



Kevin Johnson

Native Soldiers’ Charli Frye, right, battles for position against Lady Ballers’ Mystee Dale during the women’s championship game Sept. 16 at the Tigertail Memorial Basketball Tournament in Big Cypress.



Kevin Johnson

Saige Osceola gets ready to pass the ball for the Native Soldiers.



Kevin Johnson

The Seminoles’ Jerome Davis fires a pass up court.



Kevin Johnson

Two of the Seminole Tribe’s all-time basketball greats, DeForest Carter, left, and Skyla Osceola shake hands after the women’s championship game. Carter is the tournament organizer.



Kevin Johnson

Former NBA player Glen Rice Jr. looks for an open teammate during the Tigertail Brothers Memorial Tournament.

# Charlotte keeps it close against Gators

STAFF REPORT

Family members of Roger “Fresh” Walters from the Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie area attended the University of North Carolina-Charlotte 49ers football game at the University of Florida on Sept. 23 to show support for Walters and his team.

Walters, a Seminole descendant, is a wide receiver for Charlotte.

The 49ers held their own against the Gators, who were ranked No. 25 in the nation at the time. Charlotte trailed 16-7 at halftime and limited Florida to just two field goals in the second half, but didn’t muster any more points in the 22-7 loss.

Walters did not play against the Gators. He hasn’t seen game action yet this season after redshirting last year.

Charlotte, which opened the season with a 24-3 win against South Carolina State, fell to 1-3 with the loss against Florida.

Walters is a former standout for St. Lucie West Centennial High School, where he starred in football and basketball. He is the son of tribal member Sheree Sneed.



Courtesy photo

Charlotte football player Roger “Fresh” Walters flexes with one of his biggest fans, his younger brother, after the 49ers game against the University of Florida on Sept. 23 in Gainesville.



Courtesy photo

Charlotte’s Roger “Fresh” Walters, far right, joins his family members who attended the game at Florida.

# Okeechobee High volleyball produces impressive seasons

STAFF REPORT

The Okeechobee High School volleyball program, which has Seminole players on each of its three levels, is thriving this season.

The varsity, junior varsity and freshman teams have a combined record of 34-4.

The varsity squad, which includes the tribe’s Lexi Thomas and Chaka “Yani” Smith, finished September in a flourish with five straight shutout wins. The shutouts came against Westwood, Sebastian, John Carroll,

Martin County and Sebring.

The Brahmans headed into October with an 11-2 record.

Similarly, the JV team has won nearly all its matches. The Brahmans have an 18-2 record. The tribe’s Alyssa Madrigal leads the team in kills.

The program’s depth is also evident on the freshman team, which includes tribal members JoJo Nunez and Tehya Nunez and descendant Hannah Platt. They reached the end of September with a perfect 5-0 record.



Kevin Johnson

Chaka “Yani” Smith (No. 6) celebrates a winning point with her Okeechobee High varsity teammates during a victory against Westwood on Sept. 18.



Kevin Johnson

A banner of Okeechobee High’s freshman team hangs in the school’s gym.





The Pemaityv Emahakv Charter School varsity volleyball team had plenty of reasons to smile after keeping its undefeated season alive with a win against Moore Haven Middle School on Sept. 18. From left to right are Ciani Smith, Amalia Estrada, Jalene Smith, Jaelle Weiman, Kulipa Julian, Melaine Bonilla, Azariah Washington, Dyani Kayda and Daliyah Nunez.

# PECS volleyball eyes another perfect season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BRIGHTON** — The Pemaityv Emahakv Charter School varsity volleyball team picked up where it left off last year, which is bad news for opponents. Coming off a flawless 15-0 season in 2022, the Seminoles are in position to tack another banner on the gymnasium wall. The requirement to earn a spot on the wall is to finish undefeated. So far, so good as PECS entered October with an 11-0 record. Coach Monica Koger said her team has played well in every aspect. “We should be undefeated again this year,” she said after the team’s eighth win – a 2-0 shutout against Moore Haven Middle on Sept. 18 in Brighton. “They should look to put another banner on the wall if they just stay focused.” Koger said she’s fortunate to have a team that has several players who play travel ball.

“A lot of them have been playing together for a long time and a lot of them know volleyball. They’ve got some skills,” she said. Koger is in her first year as the team’s head coach, but some of her players were familiar with her before the season began. “A lot of them I will coach in the travel ball season, so they kind of know my expectations, so that helps. Some of them know what I expect from them,” she said. Anchored by four strong 8th graders – Melaine Bonilla, Dyani Kayda, Daliyah Nunez and Eleanor Osceola – the team also features an impressive core of 7th graders. Koger said the team’s talent is deep and that some players on the junior varsity team – which is also undefeated – are good enough to play varsity. Not only is the team vying for the undefeated season, but it also has its sights set on winning the Around the Lake tournament, which will be held Oct. 17-19. PECS will likely be the top seed and have a bye on the first day of the tournament.



Azariah Washington sets the ball during the match against Moore Haven.



Kulipa Julian delivers a powerful serve for PECS.



Ciani Smith keeps the ball in play.



PECS’ backcourt gets ready to receive a serve. From left to right are Amalia Estrada, Kulipa Julian and Daliyah Nunez.



Anna Harmon

## Anna Harmon running for NCAA D-1 program in Texas

STAFF REPORT

After running for two years in the Valley of the Sun, the Seminole Tribe’s Anna Harmon is now lacing up her sneakers on an island. Harmon starred at Mesa Community College in the Phoenix area as a freshman and sophomore on the women’s cross country team. Last year, she led Mesa to a national runner-up finish thanks in part to her finishing second overall. This summer Harmon joined the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi team. The school is located on a tiny island in Corpus Christi and refers to itself as the “Island University.” It is on the western edge of the Gulf of Mexico, about 150 miles north of Mexico’s border. The team, which is an NCAA Division I program, has had two meets so far this year; one hosted by Rice University in Houston and the other hosted by the University of Minnesota. Harmon did not race in either meet. The team’s remaining schedule includes meets in October at Texas A&M’s main campus in College Station and at the Southland Conference championships in Arkansas. Harmon is the daughter of tribal member Donna Harmon and Edward Harmon.

## FSU to hold ‘Seminole Heritage’ games

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Florida State athletics announced in September that FSU games featuring the color turquoise will be known as “Seminole Heritage” games as a tribute to the school’s relationship with the Seminole Tribe. The color turquoise represents harmony, friendship and fellowship in the culture of many Native Americans. FSU is one of a handful of schools that have regularly worn Nike’s turquoise N7 basketball jerseys, which help provide sports and physical activity programs to youth in Native American and Indigenous communities. Florida State football coaches and sideline staff will wear gear featuring the color for the homecoming game against Duke on Oct. 21, which the tribe actively participates in every year. A portion of proceeds from the sale of Seminole Heritage fan jerseys and sideline gear will go toward FSU’s Native American and Indigenous Studies Center. For more information visit Seminoles.com/honoringseminoleheritage.

FOR SALE

| LAST SIX OF VIN# | YEAR | MAKE                   | MODEL                               | MILEAGE/ HRS | CONDITION | STARTING BID PRICE |
|------------------|------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 706897           | 2013 | DODGE SEDAN            | CHARGER POLICE (RWD)                | 147,092      | Poor      | \$933.00           |
| 226739           | 2012 | DODGE SEDAN            | CHARGER POLICE (RWD) BLACK          | 103,865      | Poor      | \$2,828.00         |
| 309206           | 2015 | CHEVROLET PICKUP TRUCK | SILVERADO 1500 WT REGULAR CAB (4WD) | 132,910      | Poor      | \$1,686.00         |
| 135676           | 2007 | CHEVROLET PICKUP TRUCK | SILVERADO CLASSIC (4WD)             | 111,369      | Poor      | \$7,486.00         |
| 021050           | N/A  | JOHN DEERE UTV         | XUV550 (4WD)                        | 196          | Poor      | \$1,045.00         |
| 237348           | 2015 | CHEVROLET PICKUP TRUCK | SILVERADO 1500 WT REGULAR CAB (4WD) | 110,344      | Poor      | \$4,013.00         |
| A72700           | 2007 | FORD PICKUP TRUCK      | F250 XLT SUPER DUTY CREW CAB (4WD)  | 90,023       | Poor      | \$6,705.00         |
| A85056           | 2014 | FORD CARGO VAN         | E350 SD EXT VAN (RWD)               | 211,661      | Poor      | \$4,793.00         |
| A90175           | 2015 | FORD TRANSIT VAN       | T-150 (RWD)                         | 200,964      | Poor      | \$11,306.00        |
| A04090           | 2010 | FORD PASSENGER VAN     | E350 XL (RWD)                       | 57,665       | Poor      | \$7,981.00         |
| A81254           | 2006 | FORD PASSENGER VAN     | E350 XL (RWD)                       | 59,004       | Poor      | \$2,981.00         |

Note - Previously advertised items are not reflected on this advertisement, only new listings. For more information contact Fixed Assets Dept.

954-967-3640, 954-966-6300 ext. 20034.

Tribal Members Only website: <http://semtribe.com/FixedAssets>. (Registration required)

## Ojibwe hockey legend Henry Boucha dies at 72

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Henry Boucha (Ojibwe), who is described in his U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame profile as the “most electrifying player in Minnesota hockey history,” died Sept. 18, according to media reports. He was 72. “He was the most colorful hockey player ever to come out of Northern Minnesota,” fellow hall of fame enshrinee Cal Marvin said in the profile. “When he played, it was so special that he brought people out of the old folks home to come and watch him play. He did it all. He was one of a kind” Boucha, from Warroad, Minnesota, played for the U.S. Olympic hockey team that won a silver medal in 1972. Shortly after, he embarked on a pro hockey career. He played 247 games in the NHL for the Detroit Red Wings, Minnesota North Stars, Kansas City Scouts and Colorado Rockies. Boucha’s career was cut short due to an eye injury he suffered in an NHL game in 1975 when Boston’s Dave Forbes hit Boucha with a stick. The highly-publicized incident resulted in an assault charge against Forbes and a criminal trial, which ended with a hung jury. Boucha retired at age 24. Boucha remained in Minnesota and worked as Indian education director in Warroad schools. Son Shaugabay (Ojibwe) played hockey

in Warroad. He told Minnesota Public Radio that Boucha was a role model for young Native Americans. “That’s a connection for all Native kids that came after him in our community, self included, that you can play this sport, you can do these things,” Shaugabay said. “Even if you’re Native or you think you can’t, Henry inspired us all.” Boucha was inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 1995.



U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame  
Henry Boucha



# Indian Day

## Hollywood



LeAndra Mora throws a skillet for the skillet throwing activity on Indian Day on the Hollywood Reservation.

Calvin Tiger



Patrick Doctor Sr. takes part in the log carry portion of the "Seminole Challenge" during the Indian Day activities in Hollywood.

Calvin Tiger



Calvin Tiger

Eric Osceola keeps a firm grasp on a log.



Calvin Tiger

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola takes part in the Indian Day field activities.



Calvin Tiger

Jessica Osceola throws a skillet for the skillet throwing activity on Indian Day on the Hollywood reservation.



Calvin Tiger

From left to right are Juanalupe Frias, Megan Yescas, Mercedes Osceola and Tasha Osceola at the Indian Day clothing contest in Hollywood.



Calvin Tiger

Marissa Osceola, left, and Talia Rodriguez participate in the Indian Day clothing contest.



Calvin Tiger

Leon Wilcox takes part in hatchet throwing activity that was part of the field activities on Indian Day on the Hollywood Reservation.



Calvin Tiger

Rebecca Osceola throws a skillet for the skillet throwing activity on Indian Day on the Hollywood Reservation.



Calvin Tiger

Zachary Battiest competes in the archery shooting event on Indian Day on the Hollywood Reservation.



# Indian Day

## Fort Pierce



Bianca Huggins prepares a gravy for meals at the Fort Pierce Indian Day event.

Kevin Johnson



Remus Griffin with his children, Anani, who is holding Mercy Love, and Gabriel.

Kevin Johnson



Analysse Stockton takes aim in the hatchet throwing contest at Fort Pierce's Indian Day event.

Kevin Johnson



Antilliss Stockton retrieves a hatchet after making an accurate throw that landed in the target's red circle.

Kevin Johnson



Michael Osceola tosses a cornhole bag before the games started.

Kevin Johnson



Racheal Phillips, left, and daughter, Aaliyah Phillips, prepare food for Fort Pierce's lunch.

Kevin Johnson



Josh Sneed focuses on the bullseye in the archery competition.


Kevin Johnson


### #Get Vaccinated

Protect your health and wellness! Help your family and community stay healthy by making sure you and your loved ones are up to date on vaccines.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), seasonal flu, and COVID-19 booster vaccines are available now.

For more information on vaccines, contact your Indian health care provider or visit [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov).





## Dr. Brian C. Rush

Chiropractic Physician  
Successfully Treating...

- Neck Pain
- Lower Back Pain
- Headaches
- Leg & Arm Pain
- Joint Pain
- Muscle Pain
- Auto Accident Pain

We accept your insurance plan, PPO's, POS, Medicare, Auto Insurance.  
**Dr. Rush Can Help You!**

**FREE SPINAL EXAM**  
& CONSULTATION  
TO ALL TRIBAL CITIZENS  
AND EMPLOYEES  
(\$150 Value)

**954.432.5006**  
(Located next to YouFit Gym  
in the Bahama Breeze plaza.)



**Dr. Brian C. Rush**  
Chiropractic Physician  
10830 Pines Blvd.  
Pembroke Pines



Trail

Indian Day

Immokalee



From left to right, Alivia Osceola, Jamie Osceola and Melody Osceola make frybread for the frybread contest at Trail's Indian Day celebration Sept. 14.



Susan Davis gives some encouragment to her tiny turtle in the turtle race at Immokalee's Indian Day celebration Sept. 16.



Trail council liaison Caryn Billie guides youngsters in a skillet throwing contest.



Virginia Osceola competes in the clothing contest.



From left to right, Gary Frank, Ray Yzaguirre and Dennis Gonzales keep their eyes on the turtle race. Frank was the overall winner.



Alayna Ortega, top, and Dannie Gonzales enjoy a wet ride down a water slide, one of a few giant inflatable options that kids bounced and slid on during the day.



From left to right, Julian Osceola, Janelle Osceola and Alana Sue Roberts take part in Trail's Indian Day skillet throwing contest.



At right, Sally Osceola (left) and Amos Billie Jr. display Seminole clothing in the clothing contest. Below left, Teegan Osceola-Bartlett (left) and Reylan Jax Osceola stand before a panel of judges in the clothing contest. At lower right, Lisa Billie takes part in the skillet throwing contest.



Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie, right, handles raffle duties with Immokalee council liaison Jaime Yzaguirre.



Above, Delaney Gonzales, left, and Katelyn Mariscal cool off on a water slide. At right, Ray Yzaguirre IV competes in the baseball throw contest.

