

Gumball goes from Hard Rock to Mexico
COMMUNITY 7A



Ewanteke Roberts wins state art contest
EDUCATION 4B



NBA dunk champion visits Big Cypress
SPORTS 1C

The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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July 2026

Native American concert opens Bruce Springsteen Center for American Music

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

LONG BRANCH, N.J. — It took nine years and \$53 million to make it happen, but the Bruce Springsteen Center for American Music celebrated its June 13 opening with a series of concerts called “Music America: the Songs that Shaped Us.”

The first concert, the Native American Music Experience concert, was held June 3 in Long Beach, N.J., on the Monmouth University campus, where the center is located. Seminole tribal members Spencer Battiest, Doc Native and the Osceola Brothers performed at the concert.

Two other concerts featuring headliners in genres including country, blues, bluegrass rock, hip-hop, folk and jazz were held June 4 and 5. Springsteen performed at those concerts.

The Boss attended the Native American concert and listened, just like every other audience member.

“It was great, being able to do what we do and throw down in front of Bruce Springsteen and get a standing ovation was a highlight for me,” said Cameron Osceola, of the Osceola Brothers band.

“It was a great to be out there performing for this diverse crowd,” Doc Native said after the performance. “Some people have never been to a hip-hop concert before so I gave them a little taste. It was great to see their reaction. It was moving; I was surprised by the response we got. The concert was a celebration of different genres of Indigenous music.”

As a child, Cameron Osceola was inspired by Native American musician Levi Platero and learned to play guitar.

“We had 20 minutes to show everybody who we are and what we are all about,” said Cameron Osceola after the performance.

“We executed it well,” added Tyson Osceola. “It was fun seeing everyone playing and being part of this.”

“It was so cool, I have no words,” Sheldon Osceola said. “There was so much

talent there. Backstage we were networking, sharing moments and so much excitement.”

Other Indigenous musicians included Gary Farmer and the Dish and Spoon Band, Pura Fe’, Levi Platero and the Julia Keefe Mildred Bailey Project jazz ensemble. Former U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo delivered a poetry reading and played saxophone.

◆ See SPRINGSTEEN on page 5A



Spencer Battiest, left, and Doc Native perform at the Native American Music Experience concert June 3 in New Jersey.



Tyson Osceola performs with his brothers at the Native American Music Experience concert.

Immokalee Reservation welcomes new recreation center

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Reservation cut the ribbon on its new recreation center June 24.

The 25,248-square-foot spacious and bright facility located at 820 Complex Drive is the new home of the Immokalee Recreation Department and Boys & Girls Club.

The Recreation Department has plans for the gym’s flexible space, which can be configured into two short basketball courts with a divider between them or one regulation sized court. Additionally, the nets can be lowered to accommodate the youngest athletes.

“Wherever I go, I look for the gym,” said Immokalee resident Gary McInturff. “When I see kids playing inside, I know it’s a healthy community.”

The Boys & Girls Club, located on the second floor, has separate rooms for different age groups. The largest space has a panel divider that can be opened for larger gatherings.

Features outside include a large infinity edge pool, a kiddie pool, gazebos to provide shade, a barbecue grill pavilion with two sets of grills, two shaded playgrounds, restrooms with showers and an office. Throughout the space are numerous misting fans to keep the temperature cool.

The gym is 8,479 square feet and the Boys & Girls Club is

6,252 square feet. The pool, pavilion and playground area is 15,188 square feet. The pool contains approximately 25,000 gallons of water and is 2,165 square feet and can hold 44 people. The inside and outside of the building features colorful tiles that pay homage to traditional Seminole patchwork.

◆ See IMMOKALEE CENTER on page 4A



The exterior of the new Immokalee Recreation Center.



Tribal officials and members of the Immokalee community cut the ribbon at the recreation center June 24.

New princesses to be crowned July 25

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — The annual Miss Florida Seminole and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole pageant will be held July 25 at the Hollywood executive building auditorium at 7 p.m.

The deadline for prospective contestants to apply to compete in the pageant is July 10.

Applications may be picked up at the secretary’s office at 6300 Stirling Road, Room 115 or Room 405, in Hollywood, or in the Brighton Administrative building at 650 Harney Pond Road NE, or a prospective contestant may request an application by sending an email to STOFFPrincess@seminoletribune.com.

Miss Florida Seminole contestants must be from age 18-25 by the July 10. Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestants must be from age 14-17 by the July 10 deadline.

Other qualifications are the contestants must be single, never been married, must not co-habit with their significant other and must submit a negative drug and pregnancy test. If enrolled in school, a 2.5 GPA average must be maintained and supported with school documents.

The current Miss Florida Seminole Bailey Marie Latchford and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Chaka Yani Smith will crown the next princesses. Latchford is a student at Florida State University in a dual degree program for social work and criminal justice with a minor in psychology.

Smith is a recent graduate of Okeechobee High School who will attend Howard University in Washington D.C. where she will study political science.

For more information contact the Secretary’s office at STOFFPrincess@seminoletribune.com.

Editorial

The US Army said they were exempt from NAGPRA: A federal court disagreed

• Victoria Sutton

NAGPRA, or the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act, is a law that requires the human remains of Native Americans to be returned to their families and Tribes and criminalizes the trade in Native American human remains. The statute also requires the repatriation of certain sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony that were collected under specific circumstances. The remains of Native American children who were taken from their families, died while in the custody of the Carlisle Indian School staff, and were buried on the school grounds are at issue in this case.

I wrote in February 2024 about the case filed by the Winnebago Nation against the U.S. Army for failing to comply with NAGPRA in returning the remains of two children buried in the Carlisle Indian School cemetery, which is located on U.S. Army property.

The title, "A Chance to Right Wrongs," predicted the opportunity the U.S. Army ultimately missed by continuing to refuse to comply with NAGPRA and instead insisting that Tribal Nations follow an Army policy requiring a living descendant to claim the remains. Of course, children who died at the school had no descendants. The cruel irony of that policy apparently raised no moral or ethical red flags for the U.S. Army. Too clever by far.

One has to wonder what the lone dissenting Judge Rushing was thinking when he wrote that the U.S. Army agreed the human remains should be returned and "merely dispute how." Perhaps he had not fully considered the paradox of "how" the Army believed that should happen.

Who is managing the Carlisle Indian School cemetery?

The U.S. Army has an Office of Cemeteries that manages military cemeteries. Here is its description of the Carlisle Indian School cemetery, which it refers to as the Carlisle Barracks Main Post Cemetery:

The Carlisle Barracks Main Post Cemetery was established in 1880 after the opening of the Carlisle Barracks Indian Industrial School in 1879. According to current historical research, at least 187 Native American and Alaska Native children died while attending the school and were interred at the Carlisle Barracks Main Post Cemetery, not including unknowns. Military members and their families were also interred at the cemetery. The Office of Army Cemeteries oversees the Carlisle Barracks Main Post Cemetery, including administrative support and cemetery operations. The Carlisle Barracks Directorate of Public Works provides daily care and maintenance for the cemetery.

Unlike other military cemeteries, the Carlisle Indian School was not established as a cemetery. It was a school operated by the U.S. Army on military property during a period when the United States had only recently transitioned from being formally at war with Indian Nations. The federal policy of the era was "kill the Indian, save the man," implemented through cruel assimilation practices that removed children, some as young as three years old, from their families. This historical context makes it all the more troubling that the cemetery remains under the care of the U.S. Army.

How did the court find that NAGPRA applies to the U.S. Army?

The underlying case turned on one of the criteria in NAGPRA that must be satisfied to trigger the statute's repatriation obligations:

whether the Carlisle Indian School cemetery constitutes a "holding or collection."

To answer that question, the U.S. Army argued that this case was analogous to litigation involving the burial place of Jim Thorpe, which concerned a dispute among family members and Tribal interests following his death. However, the question in that case was whether the municipality qualified as a "museum" under NAGPRA. Although the legal issue was different, the district court relied on its reasoning. The appeals court explained:

Thorpe turned on whether Mr. Thorpe's gravesite qualified as a "museum" under NAGPRA and thus presented a legal question different from the one we confront. But the district court found its reasoning instructive.

The facts of the Thorpe case also made clear that NAGPRA was never intended to govern family disputes over the burial place of a deceased relative.

The Fourth Circuit held:

The district court dismissed the Tribe's action for failure to state a claim, concluding that the Act requires repatriation only of previously excavated remains and not of remains buried in cemeteries. We disagree. As alleged in the Tribe's complaint, the boys' buried remains are subject to the Act's repatriation obligation as part of a "holding or collection" under the Army's control. We therefore vacate the judgment of the district court and remand for further proceedings.

The court further addressed the meaning of "holding" by finding that "a cemetery that serves, in the Army report's own words, as 'a repository for the remains of Indian School students' would seem to qualify as 'something that holds.'"

The Fourth Circuit therefore concluded that NAGPRA applies to the U.S. Army and to the Carlisle Indian School cemetery.

Final thoughts

The federal government defended the U.S. Army against the application of NAGPRA to the remains of Native American children who were, in most cases, taken from their families against their wishes during a period in which the United States pursued policies that supported the genocide and forced assimilation of Native peoples and had only recently ended declared war against Native Nations.

Only a few years ago, several state governments also challenged the constitutionality of another law intended to remedy historic injustices in *Brackeen v. Haaland* (2023). That statute, the Indian Child Welfare Act, was enacted to reverse the longstanding practice of removing Native American children from their homes through misguided assimilation policies.

This entire expenditure of taxpayer money to defend the indefensible in both cases suggests that the next time the U.S. Department of Justice hires attorneys, it should seriously consider applicants whose law school transcripts include coursework in Federal Indian Law.

To read more articles by Professor Sutton go to: <https://profvictoria.substack.com/>

Professor Victoria Sutton (Lumbee) is a law professor on the faculty of Texas Tech University. In 2005, Sutton became a founding member of the National Congress of American Indians, Policy Advisory Board to the NCAI Policy Center, positioning the Native American community to act and lead on policy issues affecting Indigenous communities in the United States. This guest opinion was published on nativenewsonline.net.

Army Corps to hold public virtual meeting on southern Everglades project

STAFF REPORT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Jacksonville District will hold a virtual Project Delivery Team (PDT) meeting for the Southern Everglades Restoration Project feasibility study on July 15 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The virtual meeting is open to the public.

According to the Corps, the restoration project is intended to improve the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of freshwater in an area of South Florida known as Water Conservation Area 3B and the eastern part of Everglades National Park. Area 3B includes the southeast corner of the Everglades in western Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

The Southern Everglades team will discuss the hydrologic and hydraulic modeling results for the final array of alternatives, and present evaluations for plan formulation, ecological performance measures, and Restoration, Coordination, Verification (RECOVER) system-wide analyses.

Microsoft Teams meeting information:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/join/259786000109355?p=UPXYCqyidK7hdpVqu>

Meeting ID: 259 786 000 109 355

Passcode: NB377oD7

Dial in by phone: +1 561-437-5958

Phone conference ID: 522 005 003#

Egmont Key fire leaves historical structures undamaged

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

A fire erupted on Egmont Key May 24 and spewed a lot of black smoke but burned less than an acre of land. The fire did no damage to the historic buildings on the island, including the fort, lighthouse and museum.

The fire did little harm to the historic island at the mouth of Tampa Bay, which was used by the U.S. Army to hold Seminoles captive in the 1850s before they were removed to Indian Territory in Oklahoma.

A picture of Polly Parker, the Seminole woman who escaped while enroute to Oklahoma and made her way south to what is now Brighton, hangs on the wall of the museum. Many of Parker's descendants live in Brighton.

"One of the pilot houses that was wrecked by the hurricanes caught fire," said Dave Scheidecker, Tribal Historic Preservation Office historian and senior research coordinator. "It was pretty localized and well away from the museum and lighthouse. It looked far more dramatic than it was with all the black smoke, but the standing sites are good, and anything buried



Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

Fire burns on Egmont Key on May 24.

is unharmed."

Egmont Key is home to a federal wildlife refuge and a state park with the historic lighthouse. Erosion and hurricanes have damaged the island which was about

580 acres in when the Seminoles were held captive and is about 200 acres today. In 2020, THPO completed a digital 3D laser scan of the island and its remaining structures.

National Native American Hall of Fame names six inductees for class of 2026

FROM PRESS RELEASE

OKLAHOMA CITY —The National Native American Hall of Fame announced its class of 2026 inductees June 15. The six inductees' contributions to Indian Country span disciplines such as government, law, education and athletics. They will be honored at the induction ceremony gala on Nov. 21 at the Okana Resort and Hotel in Oklahoma City.

The 2026 inductees are:

Tom Cole, Chickasaw Nation. Cole has represented Oklahoma's 4th Congressional District as a Republican since 2003, previously serving in the Oklahoma Senate and as the state's 26th Secretary of State. An enrolled Chickasaw Nation member, he is Congress's longest-serving Native American and chairs the House Appropriations Committee since April 2024. Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, Cole holds advanced degrees from Yale and the University of Oklahoma in British history. His early career included congressional staff work and chairing the Oklahoma Republican Party. In Congress, he maintains a conservative record while advocating for Native American issues, particularly protections for Native American women.

Carol Juneau, Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation. Juneau, an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, is a distinguished educator and politician who served in both chambers of the Montana Legislature from 1998 to 2011. She is best known for sponsoring Montana's landmark Indian Education for All legislation. Born in White Shield, North Dakota, Juneau holds degrees from Eastern Montana College and the University of Montana. Her early career focused on tribal higher education, including leading Blackfeet Community College. She continues serving through education consulting, the Montana Indian Democrats Council, and community leadership advocacy.

Arlinda Locklear, Lumbee Tribe. Locklear is a leading authority in federal Indian law who began her career at the Native American Rights Fund. In 1983, she became one of the first Native American women to argue before the Supreme Court, successfully defending Sioux tribal jurisdiction in *Solem v. Bartlett*. She later secured a landmark ruling protecting Oneida tribal lands wrongfully taken by New York. Locklear also championed Lumbee Tribe federal recognition for over two decades. Her honors include the 1987 Outstanding Woman of Color award and the ABA's 2012 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award.

Richard Milanovich, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Milanovich was a prominent leader of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, serving as tribal chairman for nearly 30 years beginning in 1984. Under his leadership, the tribe transformed into one of America's most prosperous Native American communities through major developments including the Spa Hotel, Spa Resort Casino, and Agua Caliente Casino. These ventures funded education, cultural preservation, housing, and healthcare programs. A strong advocate for tribal sovereignty, Milanovich served on numerous boards and challenged opposition in Washington. He is remembered as a courageous, humble, and visionary leader who elevated his tribe to national prominence.

Ernie Stevens Jr., Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. Stevens was a transformative



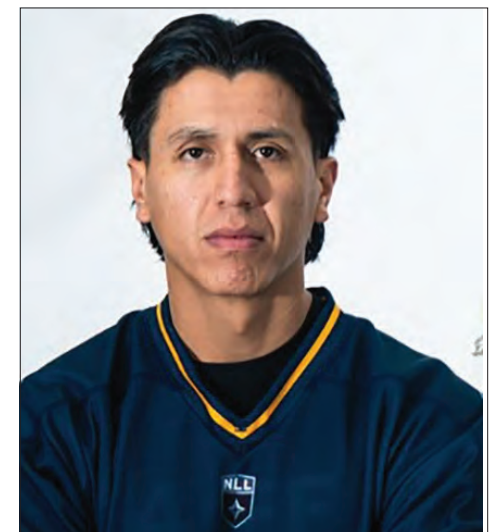
Arlinda Locklear



Carol Juneau



Ernie Stevens Jr.



Lyle Thompson



Richard Milanovich



Tom Cole

leader in Native American gaming, serving over 24 years as head of the Indian Gaming Association. Under his leadership, tribal gaming revenue grew from \$11 billion in 2000 to upwards of \$49 billion in 2024, becoming the largest segment of the U.S. gaming industry. A citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, Stevens fiercely defended the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act while ensuring gaming revenue funded essential tribal services. Inducted into the Gaming Hall of Fame, he was also a cultural practitioner and mentor who embodied Native leadership traditions of humility and service.

Lyle Thompson, Onondaga Nation. Thompson, of the Hawk Clan of the Onondaga Nation, is widely regarded as one

of the greatest lacrosse players of all time. At the University of Albany, he became the first male player to win the Tewaaron Award in consecutive seasons (2014–2015), forming the legendary "Thompson Trio" with his brother and cousin. Professionally, he earned NLL MVP honors in 2017 and the 2022 PLL Attackman of the Year award. Internationally, he won three World Lacrosse Championship bronze medals. He co-founded Thompson Brothers Lacrosse, promoting the sport's Native roots and community development.

For more information about the National Native American Hall of Fame, please visit nativehalloffame.org or contact CEO James Parker Shield at james@nativehalloffame.org.

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Community



Seminole cattle business, history attracts national media attention

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

CLEWISTON — The Seminole Tribe's McDaniel Ranch was ready for its close-up June 8 when National Geographic magazine and ABC came to film a segment about the seven wonders of America. One of those wonders is the Florida Everglades, which includes the Big Cypress Reservation and the ranch.

The 3,980-acre McDaniel Ranch, just north of the reservation, hosted ABC "Good Morning America" co-anchor Robin Roberts, an ABC camera crew and National Geographic Society photographer Carlton Ward Jr. as they took video and photos of the sprawling land. ABC's "Seven Natural Wonders of America" is scheduled to air July 4 in celebration of America's 250th anniversary, according to its Facebook post.

Ward, who comes from a cattle ranching family in central Florida, contacted Alex Johns, the tribe's executive director of Agriculture, so the network could show an aspect of the Everglades other than its

sawgrass prairie.

"We wanted to show them the Everglades is more than just sawgrass," said Johns, who was interviewed for the segment. "It's also cattle and Seminole culture. We shared the history of where the first cows came from and our ancestors, who made a living on the land. We are still ranching and have been doing it for 500 years."

Johns and a few ranch hands herded a group of about 110 cattle from one pasture to another about two or three miles away. The film crew needed footage and the cows needed to be in the pens where they would get vaccines the following day.

Johns said ranching provides green space for wildlife and cleans the water as it flows across the land. The cows eat the grass containing the nutrients from the water and turn it into protein-laden meat.

"People don't realize how important it is to eat a hamburger," Johns said. "It supports ranching and wildlife."

The tribe's history includes conservation and stewardship of the land. The ranch is part of the Florida Wildlife Corridor which

gives wildlife space to survive and thrive throughout the state. The corridor consists of 18 million-acres of forests, rivers, ranches and farms that connect the Everglades to the Georgia and Alabama borders.

Ward founded the Florida Wildlife Corridor project in 2010 and with his company, Wildpath, spearheaded the campaign to create the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act in 2021. He launched the Connected Planet project in 2025 to accelerate the protection of wildlife corridors worldwide.

"Our first audience is lawmakers, who can help designate and protect these places," Ward said. "My mantra is: name your corridor and tell your story. You need to name it for people to connect with it and ultimately protect these places."

In the last five years, 500,000 acres have been saved for the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Ward said the goal is to reach 1 million acres by the end of the decade.

The Florida Forever program helps to support the corridor by purchasing development rights from ranchers so the land remains green space in perpetuity. Ranchers can use the money to expand their ranches or for other purposes; Johns believes it is the only way to keep the interior of Florida in a natural state.

"The tribe is buying land to keep agricultural lands intact and keep green space in the interior of the state as a wildlife corridor," Johns said. "There is a large cattle



Beverly Bidney
Executive Director of Agriculture Alex Johns, left, and National Geographic photographer Carlton Ward Jr. on horseback after driving about 110 cattle from one pasture to a pen as ABC filmed it June 8.



Beverly Bidney
Alex Johns and the McDaniel Ranch crew move about 110 cattle from a pasture to a pen, where they were scheduled for vaccinations the following day.

industry in Florida and its important for people to understand this is where ranching started and it is still thriving here. I want the public to understand the importance of conservation easements and the ranchers who support the habitat. If we are passionate about keeping land intact, we have to keep these programs. If not, the rancher will sell out to a golf course or condos."

The tribe aims to acquire land that is

contiguous or near its reservations when it is for sale.

"We are banking our money in land we will always have for future generations," Johns said. "Cattle and wildlife go hand in hand; they benefit each other. We use cattle as a management tool to maintain the land."



Beverly Bidney
An ABC videographer reaches for a drone after recording the herd of cattle being driven into a pen on the McDaniel Ranch.

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◆ **IMMOKALEE CENTER**
From page 1A

Tribal officials spoke before cutting the ribbon.

“As youth, we were swimming in the lake behind my mama’s house,” said Immokalee Council Liaison Jaime Yzaguirre. “Now we have a pool. I hope it brings the community even closer with gatherings. I hope we can invite other reservations over and host tournaments and other things.”

“You guys waited a long time for this,” Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said. “I hope this is a focal point for people to get together. We’ve come a long way to provide something like this so we can have a better way of life on the reservations.”

“This will feed this community for years to come,” President Holly Tiger said. “Take care of it and it will take care of you. A place like this builds community.”

After the ribbon cutting, the community broke bread together in the new gym.



Playgrounds behind the recreation center are shaded and have misting fans to keep children cool in the Florida heat.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

Immokalee Council Liaison Jaime Yzaguirre.



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie.



Beverly Bidney

Immokalee resident Gary McInturff.



Beverly Bidney

The Immokalee Recreation Center’s 2,165-square-foot pool.



Beverly Bidney

At far right, Immokalee Boys & Girls Club manager Steven Alvarado leads a tour with President Holly Tiger, third from left, of the club’s spacious second floor rooms at the recreation center.



Beverly Bidney

Susan Davis and her daughter Denise Gonzales tour the Boys & Girls Club area of the recreation center.



Beverly Bidney

Gary Yzaguirre works out in the spacious and bright weight room



Beverly Bidney

The gym during the opening day festivities.

Thousands attend gaming summit in Fort Lauderdale

BY DANIELLA HAKIM
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — SBC Summit Americas connected worlds through gaming, bringing the entire iGaming industry from North, Central, and South America together from June 9 to June 11 at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale.

The summit welcomed over 10,000 delegates for a six-stage conference, offering stakeholders a comprehensive view of how regulation is redefining the North American gaming landscape and what it takes to stay ahead in an increasingly complex market.

On June 10, the program brought together the industry’s leading marketing voices across five panels to guide stakeholders to move beyond traditional tactics.

To navigate the shifting demand in a changing gaming landscape, land-based leaders Bobby Soper of Sun Gaming and Hospitality, Laurel Pittman of Desert Diamond Casino, and Joe Nayquonabe of Soaring Eagle Gaming shared how they’re rethinking pricing, loyalty, entertainment, and tech to adapt.

“From a behavioral standpoint, the level of volatility that players are chasing is at an all-time high as we look at players from across the gaming floor,” said CEO of Soaring Eagle Gaming Joe Nayquonabe. “Dopamine is another factor. We’ve been the king deliverers for dopamine hits for a long time—I think we’re going to continue to be that.”

“If the whole goal is to get visitors in front of a screen playing a slot machine at your brick and mortar, that’s just never going to survive in the long run,” Nayquonabe added. “Something’s got to be fun about why they’re going to make a trip to your destination.”

Hard Rock Digital’s Director of Affiliate Partnerships Joseph Sancio spoke on a panel alongside affiliates Andrew Garven of Bet99, Sarah Sabo of BetMGM, and Bill Pascrell from Princeton Public Affairs Group to discuss the balancing act that is creating content that feels personal and relevant to local audiences while building a brand that resonates across state lines.

◆ See SBC on page 7A




SBC

Hard Rock Bet Casino, which won SBC’s Casino Operator of the Year award, had a display area at the summit.



Daniella Hakim

At SBC Summit Americas, from left to right, Joe Nayquonabe of Soaring Eagle Gaming; Bobby Soper of Sun Gaming and Hospitality; and Laurel Pittman of Desert Diamond Casino discuss keeping brick-and-mortar gaming competitive and primed for growth.




CLIMATE RESILIENCY
STRENGTH, COMMUNITY, SURVIVAL

2026 SUMMER BOOK CLUB

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BY DARCY LITTLE BADGER

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◆ **SPRINGSTEEN**
From page 1A

The 32,000 square foot center is an archive of Springsteen's life in music and features the history of many genres of American Music.

The displays include items from the Hard Rock International vault as well as items from Seminole musicians. Battiest donated a jacket he wore to the White House and to perform at the Global Citizens Festival in New York City in 2025, as well as the shaker he uses in his performances. Native donated the jacket he wore at the Global Citizens Festival.

The Osceola Brothers donated a guitar, a bass and a drum head with their logo on it. Cameron Osceola gave the museum a leather jacket he had made for the release of the album "Remember to Remember."

Before the Native American concert, Seminole musicians and their families toured the museum, which was still hanging artifacts on the walls.

"Being there with Prince and Elvis and all those influences on me was very special," Cameron Osceola said. "I'm honored to be there."

"It's awesome to have our tribe there," said Loretta Micco. "I enjoyed it very much."

Regina Jumper said the museum was interesting and was glad she got to see it.

"The museum is really educational and inspirational," said Lealea Tiger. "The handwritten letters and lyrics were a nice touch, they made it so personal."

Robert Santelli, founding executive director of the Springsteen Center, is a Grammy-winning music historian, producer and educator who was also the founding executive director of the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles, the author of more than a dozen books including one on Springsteen and his E-Street Band, and a longtime music

museum curator, including at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

While working at the Grammy Museum, a friend and colleague Eileen Chapman told Santelli about a fan-based collection being stored in the basement at the Asbury Park Public Library. At the same time, he got phone calls from the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress who were interested in Springsteen's archives and thought he could make an introduction.

"They were interested in securing his memoirs and his papers," Santelli said. "Bruce is synonymous with New Jersey and I don't want to be the one that has his life legacy go down to Washington, D.C., where it would be put in a vault."

Santelli had just finished working on the Woody Guthrie Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and thought they could do something similar in New Jersey. He and Springsteen's manager, Jon Landau, talked to Springsteen about the idea and he listened intently.

"He said he was honored and humbled but wasn't really interested in it being about him," Santelli said. "If you would expand it and make it so that it is the story of American music and me being a chapter in that, I'd be interested."

Springsteen always felt that Native American music got shortchanged in the story of American music, according to Santelli.

"Native American music did not have the impact or influence that African American music and European Western European music had, but it played a part," Santelli said. "It was here first. I wanted to make sure that story was told. With exhibition space and a performance theater, I wanted to make sure it was represented."

A conversation with Jim Allen, CEO of Seminole Gaming and Chairman of Hard Rock International, led to a relationship with the museum, including financial contributions, memorabilia donations from Hard Rock's collection and a partnership in



Beverly Bidney

Cameron Osceola shreds on guitar during the Native American concert.

the entertainment space.

The official ribbon cutting was held at the museum June 6, where Springsteen thanked those who helped support the creation of the center and said he was thrilled to share the building with other artists, teachers, mentors and heroes of his.

"I look at my work life as a very small link in a mighty chain," Springsteen said. "And those who visit here will get a sense of that chain through the lives, work, and vision of all these historic, historic artists. I'm also glad and relieved that fans will now have another place to go instead of my house."



Springsteen Center/Facebook

From left are New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill, music legend Bruce Springsteen, musician Patti Scialfa and Native American poet and musician Joy Harjo at the June 6 opening ceremony held at the Bruce Springsteen Center for American Music.



Courtesy photo

Indigenous Enterprise dancer Dominic Pablo, who danced during Spencer Battiest and Doc Native's performance, with Bruce Springsteen during the Native American concert.



Beverly Bidney

At a display at the Springsteen Center, Spencer Battiest points to his shaker and the patchwork jacket he wore to the White House.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Spencer Battiest, Doc Native, Cameron Osceola, Sheldon Osceola and Tyson Osceola stand next to the display of their stage items in the Bruce Springsteen Center for American Music on June 3.



Beverly Bidney

Doc Native, center, raps with Spencer Battiest in background and guitarist and music director Matt Beach.



Beverly Bidney

Joy Harjo plays saxophone with the jazz band at the Native American concert.



Beverly Bidney

Touring the Springsteen Center June 3 are, from left, Loretta Micco, Coral Battiest, Spencer Battiest, Lealea Tiger, Petra Battiest and Regina Jumper.



Beverly Bidney

The Osceola family tours the Springsteen Center, from left are Cameron, Tammy, Tyson, Theron and Sheldon Osceola.



Beverly Bidney

At the Native American Experience concert finale, all the performers came onstage and sang the hit song "Come and Get Your Love" by the renowned Native American band Redbone.



Cypress Billie shares a loving moment with daughter Sabal Billie at the Big Cypress Father's Day party June 13.

Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress celebrates its dads

BIG CYPRESS — Fathers and their families rustled on over to the Herman Osceola gym in Big Cypress for a hootenanny celebrating Father's Day June 13. Dressed

in their finest western wear, dads showed their fashion sense at the "Boots & Bowties" party as they enjoyed some country music by Ricky Valido and the Hialeah Hillbillies. For

those needing a new 10-gallon hat, plenty were available and could be personalized with a choice of bands and other finery.



Beverly Bidney

Damien Fish holds daughter Emrys Osceola at the Father's Day party.



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachke Billie and her dad Brian Billie enjoy each other's company at the Father's Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Brothers Ronnie Billie and Thomas Billie pose at the Boots & Bowties Father's Day soiree.



Beverly Bidney

Three generations of the Osceola family celebrate Father's Day together. From left are Maverick Osceola, Aero Stone Osceola and Jimmy Osceola.

THPO book explores and explains Indigenous life on Tamiami Trail

BY DANIELLA HAKIM
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The construction of the Tamiami Trail in 1919 did not just reshape the geography of Seminoles and Miccosukees—but altered their once sustainable landscape without conscience.

In collaboration with the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress, the Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) published "Tales From the Tamiami Trail," a conversation between several generations of Seminole and Miccosukee who grew up along the trail. The 50-page book captures Indigenous life on Tamiami Trail for Seminole and Miccosukee to learn more about their families' lives on the Trail and for non-Natives to better understand why tribal sovereignty and Indigenous-led conservation of lands is important.

To commemorate the launch, THPO held a panel discussion and book signing at tribal headquarters on June 12.

"The unrelenting force, which is alive and well, in communities like the Tamiami Trail, needs to be told, read, and written about," said editor, contributor and THPO Director Marcella Billie.

Over the course of a year and a half, excerpts of nearly 12 hours of recorded conversations became the foundation of this book.

"This project started with the idea to tell the story of Egmont Key," said THPO research coordinator and historian Dave Scheidecker. "Egmont Key is an island off the coast of Tampa. During the Seminole War, it was turned into a concentration camp to hold Seminole prisoners. It's a story that we almost lost but got the chance to tell."

In 2019, THPO began its Seminole Story series. "Tales From the Tamiami Trail," the third book in THPO's seven-part series, ensures the continuous spread of Seminole history as the Seminoles tell it.

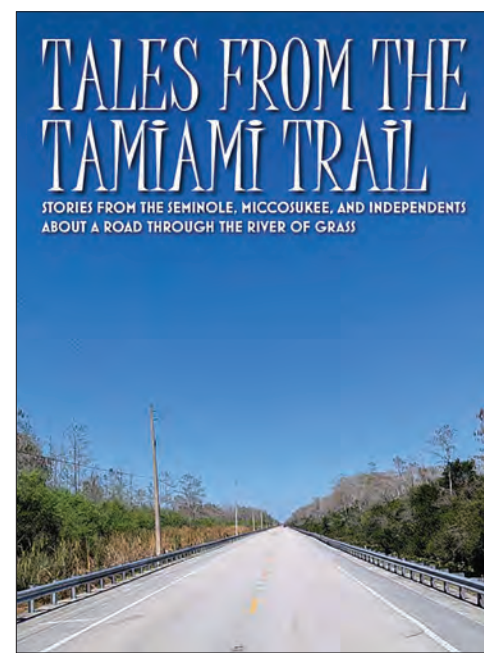
Leilani Burton emceed the evening's panel discussion. Q&A storytellers and contributors included Executive Director of Operations and THPO Officer Tina Osceola, Barbara Osceola and Angie Jimmie. Rev. Houston Cypress, Pete Osceola Jr. and Popeye Osceola were also among the book's storytellers, interviewed by Billie, Scheidecker and Gladiz Velez.

The Tamiami Trail was completed in 1928. According to THPO, presence of the highway eventually brought unlawful state game wardens who confiscated their fish and deer to sell their meat and deer skins for profit. As families had their food sources stolen and experienced their land rights being ignored, Natives came together to be federally recognized as the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

Over the decades, urban development from the east and west has encroached on the Everglades, making it smaller every year.

"We used the development of the Tamiami Trail as a catalyst to reestablish an unwavering fortitude," Billie said. "The plan was simple—construct a road connecting the east and west coast of Florida with no regard for the families living in hammocks. This is not a story of the trail itself, but of the first generations who grew up on the trail, their children today, and of those whose lives would be forever changed. These are the tales of the Tamiami Trail."

Panelists recalled their experience interviewing for the publication, learning



'Tales From the Tamiami Trail'



Daniella Hakim

THPO Director Marcella Billie, one of the publication's editors and contributors, opens the panel discussion and book-signing event.

about their upbringings and ancestors, and reflecting on memories they would relive. Samples from the contributors' interviews were shared with the audience for a behind the scenes glimpse at the process and audio snippets of stories that did not make it into the book.

"If I had to do this again, I would have plenty of more stories to tell," Barbara Osceola said.

"So many books that are written by historians, anthropologists, and archeologists, are written from their perspectives," Tina Osceola added. "They all fit us into an outline—this book doesn't have that. In this book, we've shared our stories so that when we read it, we can relate to it."

These stories revealed how important role models and educational pioneers were in placing them on the path that they are on today.

Publications from THPO's Seminole Story series include "Egmont Key" and "Cowkeeper's Legacy." These stories can be accessed for free on stofthpo.com.



Daniella Hakim

Storytellers Tina Osceola, left, and Barbara Osceola, reflect on fond memories growing up with their grandparents and the stories that make up "Tales From the Tamiami Trail."

Machines seized, arrests made in illegal gaming probe

STAFF REPORT

Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier announced the results of a multi-day operation targeting illegal gaming operations in June. According to the AG's office, the operation spanned Lee and Collier counties and resulted in the seizure of 479 illegal machines and \$294,150 in illicit proceeds, which resulted in 11 arrests.

"Illegal gambling operations pose a threat to public safety and undermine our compact with the Seminole Tribe, which provides billions of dollars to the state to protect our environmental resources," Uthmeier said in a press release. "These illegal casinos fuel

larger criminal enterprises that contribute to drug and human trafficking. We will continue working with our law enforcement partners to shut down all illegal gaming operations across the state."

The joint operation was led by the Gaming Control Commission, the Office of Statewide Prosecution, Collier County Sheriff's Office, and Lee County Sheriff's Office.

Since the beginning of 2026, Uthmeier and the Florida Gaming Control Commission have led a statewide crackdown on illegal gaming operations, seizing 3,114 illegal machines and \$1.7 million, and arresting 81 individuals.

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Kevin Johnson

Participants in the Gumball 3000, including Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, kneeling lower left, gather at the Seminole Tribe's Guitar Hotel before the start of the rally June 5.



Gumball 3000

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola hands out Hard Rock hats to spectators on the famous Bourbon Street in New Orleans as Gumball 3000 arrived.

◆ **SBC**
From page 5A

"Content is where we try to push as much of our affiliates as possible," said Joseph Sancio. "Casino influencers, I think, are just getting started. Affiliates can use that to build out their brands more and reach more users."

On June 11, panelists addressed the rise of unrelated gaming formats and how operators are responding to new state regulations. They examined the regulatory pressures and compliance challenges facing the gaming industry.

Tom McDonald, senior director of Cage, Credit, and Digital of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was joined by Nayquonabe, and VP Advisor of Tribal Council Jacob Coin, to discuss working together to safeguard sovereignty, drive policy discussions, and define their own digital future.

"I've been concerned for the last five years or so about how close we're getting to crossing this line from being tribal nations, governments, and sovereigns—to being corporations," said Jacob Coin. "Instead of focusing on protecting tribal government gaming rights and tribal gaming exclusivity in their respective states, we are now focused on how we can offer better games or products compared to our neighbors. We should save some of our energy and our commitments to focusing on those issues that ultimately unite tribes."

At this year's SBC Awards Americas, Hard Rock Bet Casino was named Casino Operator of the Year, in the second annual ceremony honoring the best in North and Latin American gaming.

Hard Rock Bet Sportsbook was also a finalist for Sportsbook Operator of the Year and nominated in the Social Gaming Operator of the Year category.

"Winning Casino Operator of the Year at the SBC Awards Americas is a tremendous honor and a real testament to the talent and dedication across our entire team," said Rich Criado, vice president of Casino at Hard Rock Digital in a statement published by Hard Rock Bet. "We've had a fierce focus on building a best-in-class casino experience for our players—from the games we offer to the rewards and promotions that keep them coming back—and to have that work recognized on a stage like this means a lot. I'm incredibly proud of everyone who has contributed to getting us here, and this is great motivation to keep raising the bar for our players."

Gumball 3000 roars from Hard Rock to Mexico City

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Four years ago, the Guitar Hotel at Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood served as the next-to-last stop for the Gumball 3000 on its way from Toronto to Miami.

This year, the hotel served as the starting point with a final destination of Mexico City for more than 100 participants who were given a loud sendoff celebration June 5 as hundreds of spectators lined the front of the hotel. Former heavyweight boxing champion Lennox Lewis waved a white flag to start the rally. Hundreds of spectators screamed to have free gifts tossed their way and see celebrities.

The annual rally features supercars such as Ferrari, McLaren and Porsche, all plastered with logos, including Hard Rock, a major sponsor. To a degree, the event is modeled after the 1976 movie "Gumball Rally," but officials emphasize the modern-day version does not involve racing. It's more of a casual drive, which this year brought the drivers and cars to festive stops in Fernandina Beach, New Orleans, Austin, San Miguel de Allende, and the "finish line"

in Mexico City, where tickets to the World Cup's opening match were waiting.

Before embarking on the journey, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola revved up the spectators in Hollywood by heaving Gumball T-shirts into the crowd. He said the rally annually provides a lot of favorable exposure for Hard Rock on an international basis. Last year, the rally was held in Europe.

"This ride is all over the world every year. It hits all different kinds of countries and it brings a lot of positive energy to the Hard Rock brand," Councilman Osceola said. "It introduces the Hard Rock brand to a lot of positive, influential people along the way. It's great to be part of this."

The rally has a charitable component, too. According to a Hard Rock press release, the Gumball 3000 Foundation raised \$2 million in 2025 for youth projects around the world.

"A lot of this stuff goes to charity. Everything Hard Rock stands for is incorporated into this ride, so it's really good to be part of it," Councilman Osceola said.

Gumball 3000's 2027 rally will head to eastern Asia for a Seoul to Tokyo trek.



Calvin Tiger

A Porsche 911 Turbo S departs the Guitar Hotel at the start of Gumball 3000 on June 5.

Hard Rock Cafe in Miami, Pigeon Forge to close

STAFF REPORT

Just days apart, Hard Rock filed notifications that Hard Rock Cafes in Miami and Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, would permanently close in August 2026.

According to a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notifications (WARN) filed June 20 with Florida Commerce Department's Rapid Response Program, Hard Rock stated the café located in downtown Miami at 401 Biscayne Boulevard will close effective Aug. 19. The closure will affect 117 employees, according to the notification. The café has been at Bayside Market, which overlooks Biscayne Bay, since 1993.

On June 22, Hard Rock filed a WARN with the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development stating the Hard Rock Café in Pigeon Forge will close effective Aug. 23. The closure will affect 61 workers, according to the notice. Pigeon Forge is a popular tourist destination in the Smoky Mountains. The café is located five miles from Dolly Parton's Dollywood theme park.



Gumball 3000

Gumball 3000 makes its way through the streets of Mexico City with spectators lining the route.



Gumball 3000

Gumball 3000 on Bourbon Street in New Orleans.

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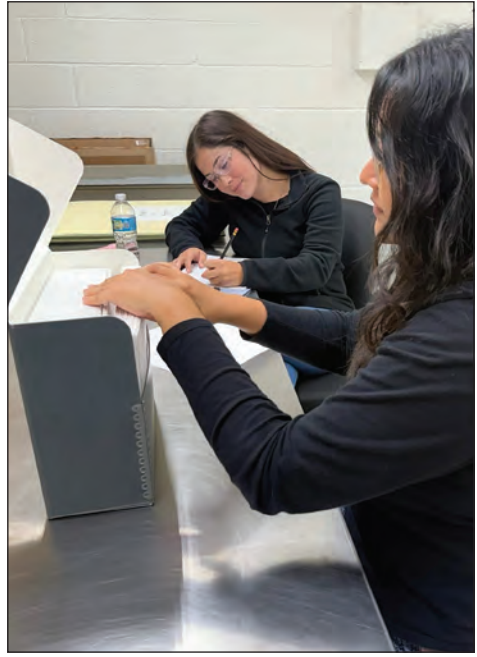
Since 1990 I have protected rights like yours. My office defends DUIs, drug offenses, suspended licenses, domestic violence, and all felonies and misdemeanors throughout Florida and the United States.

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.

Research at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

BY ROSA MARTINEZ
Collections Assistant

BIG CYPRESS — There are many ongoing projects for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Collections team. These projects include the processing and cataloging of



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
Collections Assistant Rosa Martinez, right, and Objects Conservator Jessica Rusch work together to count the contents of a document storage box at a worktable.

new objects, as well as maintaining and preserving the current collection objects. Maintaining a collection includes a variety of tasks, such as regular cleaning of the vaults, monitoring temperatures and humidity, performing conservation treatments, and completing other preventative care measures. One project the Collections team began in March of this year is the inventorying of the museum's archival vault. The archival vault houses roughly 80% of the museum's entire collection, and it contains document-based and other archival-based objects. Examples of these objects include photographs, maps, letters, drawings, unframed artwork, newspapers, rare books, audio-visual material, and more. With over 150,000 objects to account for, the process of inventorying is a long-term, yet essential, project.

What does inventorying look like? Typically, it requires two staff members to cross-check the counting of objects and to ensure there are no errors. One staff member will look through containers, envelopes, or sleeves where an object is housed, then call out the unique catalog number. Meanwhile, another staff member checks off the items on an inventory tracking report or references the collection database for object-specific information, as needed. It can be a long and repetitive process, but it is necessary. Inventorying any collection is important in order to manage the location of objects, monitor their condition, and compare or update information within the database. This also supports the museum's goals to maintain accreditation standards for the institution,

which include the responsible stewardship of the collection.

This inventory is especially important because, once completed, it will better prepare Collections staff for the museum's redesign period. With the closure of the main museum building where the archival vault is located, this project will ensure all archival objects are accounted for during the time of construction and renovations. Many objects will also be moved and placed in another vault on campus, so that Collections staff may continue the cataloging, transcribing, and digitizing of these archival materials while constructions occurs. Completing this inventory allows staff to gauge what objects from this collection will need to be moved, in order to support the continuation of projects without interruption.

Since the collection inventory project began a few months ago, staff have encountered many interesting objects. One object that stood out was a newspaper clipping from the Miami Herald, published on October 15, 1961. The clipping features an article titled "Seminole Scoop", along with an image of Betty Mae Tiger and Alice Osceola smiling while holding the first edition of the newspaper, "Seminole Indian News".

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

As inventory continues, staff will no doubt come across more objects like this that capture snapshots from the Tribe's history. This is just one example of the types of significant materials found and cared for within the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's archival vault.

For more information about the museum's archival collection, contact Rosa Martinez at rosamartinez1@semtribe.com or call the museum at 863-902-1113.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
A newspaper clipping from the Miami Herald published on Oct. 15, 1961.

104th Santa Fe Indian Market takes place in August

FROM PRESS RELEASE

SANTA FE, N.M. — Nearly 1,000 Native American artists juried in 10 classifications, representing more than 200 tribal nations across the U.S. and Canada, will line the historic downtown Santa Fe Plaza from Aug. 14-15 for the 104th Santa Fe Indian Market—the oldest Native American art market in the world.

This year's theme is "Empowered Resilience—Centuries in the Making", which honors the traditions inherited,

reimagined, and carried forward by the contemporary artists defining the Native American art world today.

Additional events during the week include a film festival, the Best of Show Ceremony & Luncheon on Aug. 14, sneak peek and general previews, a gala and live auction Aug. 15, a roundtable discussion, a tribal leaders dinner, regalia showcase, and fashion show.

For more information go to swaia.org.

'Osceola' author receives award from Florida Historical Society

BY DANIELLA HAKIM
Staff Reporter

Thomas Gallaher's newest historical fiction novel, "Osceola: Passion for Freedom," was awarded the Florida Historical Society's Patrick D. Smith Award on May 28.

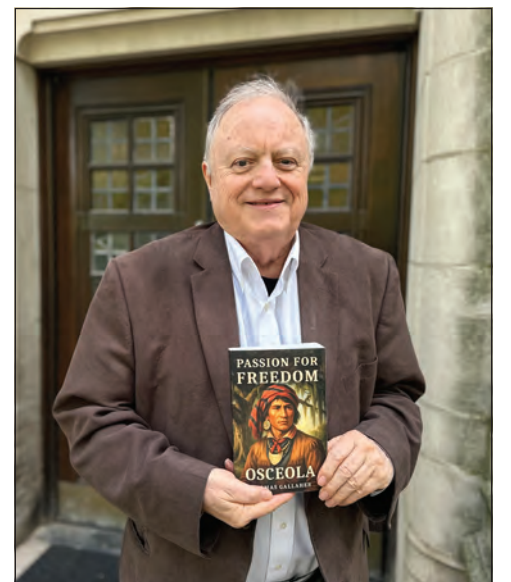
The Florida Historical Society's Public History Forum is an extensive honors program that recognizes significant contributions to the knowledge of our state. This year's awards were presented at the Shores Resort and Spa in Daytona Beach.

The award was named in honor of author Patrick D. Smith, whose novel "A Land Remembered," and other Florida-related books have stimulated great interest in the literature of Florida, according to the society. This category is open to authors who've published a Floridian historical fiction novel the calendar year preceding the award ceremony.

Gallaher's "Osceola: Passion for Freedom" follows the fictional story of a manuscript penned by George Catlin, a 19th century Pennsylvanian artist who specialized in portraits of Native Americans, titled "My



The award from the Florida Historical Society presented to author Thomas Gallaher.



Thomas Gallaher

said Gallaher. "Ossinawa, Otulke Thlocko, and Halleck Tustenuggee..."

"I dedicated 'Osceola' simply 'To the Children,'" Gallaher added. "To the innocent children who died during the Seminole wars, whose names we'll never know—to the innocent children who are dying every day in various wars and genocides throughout the world. And to my children, Kevin and Matthew. Thank you so much."

"Osceola: Passion for Freedom" is available for purchase on Amazon.

G2E opens registration for fall expo

FROM PRESS RELEASE

LAS VEGAS — Registration is open for G2E 2026, presented by the American Gaming Association (AGA) and organized by RX. Global Gaming Expo returns to The Venetian Resort Las Vegas from Sept. 28 to Oct. 1, convening gaming leaders, innovators and decision-makers from around the world.

Highlights include the debut of the Business Solutions & Tech Zone, showcasing the technologies and enterprise solutions powering today's integrated resorts on and off the casino floor. The G2E Dealer Championship will return, expanding to include dealers from Canada and Mexico

to compete for the best dealer in North America.

According to a press release, the event will feature thousands of industry professionals from more than 120 countries, regions and territories and nearly 400 exhibitors showcasing the latest global gaming technologies.

"What has always set G2E apart is the show's ability to bring together people from across the gaming ecosystem for meaningful conversations that shape the future of the industry," said Maureen Beddis from AGA.

For more information go to globalgamingexpo.com.

July 2026

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

During surveys, archaeologists often find artifacts resting on the surface that have remained undisturbed for years. This month's artifact of the month, an Ancient Age Bourbon bottle, recovered by the Tribal Archaeology Section (TAS) on the Big Cypress Reservation, is one of many examples.

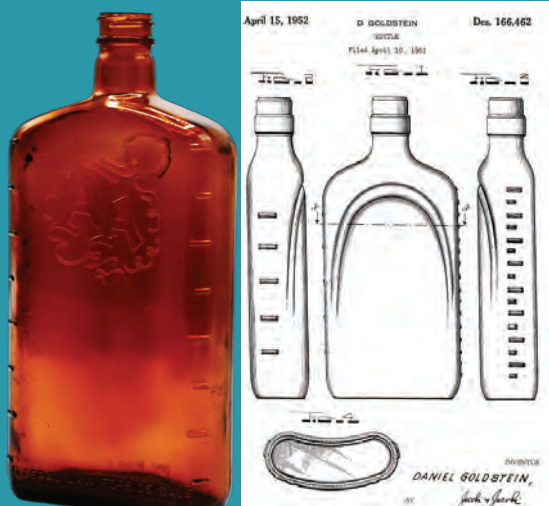
Although the bottle was recovered in South Florida, the story begins much farther north. Ancient Age Bourbon was produced at Buffalo Trace Distillery in Kentucky; one of the oldest continuously operating distilleries in the United States (Distillery Trail, 2022). The bottle itself was manufactured in Indiana before being distributed across the country. Artifacts like this show how communities in South Florida were connected to larger American markets during the twentieth century.

At first glance, the old liquor bottle may not seem especially interesting. However, the markings molded into the bottom of the glass can help identify who made the bottle and when it was produced.

One of the easiest markings to spot is the phrase, "Federal Law Forbids Sale or Reuse of This Bottle." This warning was required on liquor bottles sold in the United States between 1935 and 1964 (Lockhart et al., n.d.). Introduced after the end of Prohibition, the law was intended to discourage people from refilling bottles and selling homemade liquor. Because this phrase appears on the bottle, we know it was made before 1965.

Another important marking is the "F" inside a hexagon on the base of the bottle. This was the maker's mark of Fairmount Glass Works, an Indiana company that manufactured glass containers for breweries, distilleries, and other industries (Lockhart et al., n.d.). The company used this logo from 1933 to 1971, giving us another clue about the bottle's age.

Several other codes molded into the base help narrow the date even further. Together, these markings indicate that the bottle was likely manufactured in 1964. The inscription "DES. PAT. 166,464" refers to a bottle design patented in 1952, which supports that date.



This bottle is a good reminder that artifacts do not have to be rare or hundreds of years old to be important. Everyday objects can provide information about when a site was used, the products people purchased, and how goods moved across the country.



THPO

Lockhart, B., Schriever, B., Bill Lindsey, B., & Serr, C. (n.d.). Fairmount Glass Works - Society for Historical Archaeology. <https://secure-sha.org/bottle/pdfs/FairmountGlass.pdf>

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Liquor bottle permit numbers. GLASS BOTTLE MARKS. (2026, March 23). <https://glassbottlemarks.com/glass-industry-liquor-bottle-permit-numbers-numerical-list/>



SEMINOLE HISTORY STORIES - JULY 2026

THE ANCESTORS' LESSONS TO BEAT THE HEAT

Whether you mark it by the calendar, the beginning of afternoon storms, or the exodus of snowbirds, summer has arrived to south Florida. Nearly every day we hear warnings about the heat, and we're cautioned not to spend too much time out of our air-conditioned comfort zones.

But how did the ancestors handle the heat? How did generations of Seminoles stay safe and comfortable before electricity? By observing the natural world and how it worked, they developed resourceful solutions to challenges.

What gives us relief from heat? Cooler air! But how can air be made cooler without electricity? Indigenous science came up with several ways to do it. First, Seminole ancestors observed that winds followed particular patterns during different seasons. In the winter, winds in south Florida come from the north and northeast. In the summer, prevailing winds come from the south and southeast. Tribal citizens have shared childhood memories of summers in their families' camps watching adults cut back vegetation

on the south and east sides to allow the winds to blow through. They recalled sleeping soundly on platforms in the chickees, where they enjoyed a steady, cooling breeze.

But when things really heat up in south Florida, even the breezes bring little relief. To overcome these conditions, ancestors had a couple of ingenious strategies. Simply raising surfaces off the ground, like platforms in chickees, allowed air to circulate around them and prevented warm air from accumulating.

Yet, the truly innovative technique for cooling air that the ancestors developed was a form of evapotranspiration – the same principle that cools our bodies by absorbing heat into beads of sweat, which then evaporate into the air carrying the heat with them. Ancestors learned that splashing water on walls and mats around structures cooled the air as it moved in by absorbing heat into the water that then evaporated away. While this was less effective in humid conditions, it still offered relief from stagnant hot air, and in dryer times, this method cooled homes by as much as ten degrees Fahrenheit!



To see more Seminole History Stories, please visit the THPO website at www.stofthpo.com
Photo: A Chickee under construction in the Everglades, photographed by Julian Dimock in 1907.



Health

Your weight, your health: What the numbers are telling you

BY TERESA SNOW

Maria felt fine at 45. No major complaints, no warning signs. Then her doctor ran a routine blood panel and everything changed. High blood pressure. Pre-diabetes. Cholesterol out of range. She had no idea. She felt normal right up until she did not.

That is how extra weight works. It is quiet. It builds slowly. And by the time most people notice something is wrong, the risks have already been stacking up for years. If you have been putting off that checkup or brushing off a few extra pounds, this article is for you.

What the numbers actually mean

Doctors use a measurement called BMI, or body mass index, to screen for weight-related health risks. You do not need to be a math whiz to figure yours out. Just multiply your weight in pounds by 703, then divide by your height in inches twice. Or better yet, Google "BMI calculator," plug in your numbers, and you are done in 10 seconds. No pencil needed.

Here is where your number lands:

BMI Number	What It Means
Below 18.5	Underweight
18.5 to 24.9	Healthy Weight
25 to 29.9	Overweight
30 and above	Obesity

Why it goes beyond the scale

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, too much body fat triggers inflammation and causes long-lasting changes in how your body works. Your blood pressure, blood sugar, hormones -- all of it gets affected. And the longer extra weight is carried, the higher the risks climb.

People who are overweight or have obesity face a much higher chance of developing heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, osteoarthritis, several types of cancer, and mental health conditions including depression and anxiety. You can feel completely fine one year and get a serious diagnosis the next. That is why routine checkups matter even when you feel okay.

None of this is meant to scare you. It is meant to give you a heads-up before things get harder to turn around. Knowing is half the battle. The other half is taking one small step.

Did you know?

Sleep apnea is twice as common in people with obesity. Many people do not even know they have it. If you snore loudly, wake up exhausted after a full night of sleep, or your partner notices you stop breathing while you sleep, talk to your doctor. It is more common than most people realize --

and very treatable.

How common is this?

Very. More than two in five American adults have obesity -- that is over 100 million people. It costs the U.S. healthcare system close to \$173 billion every single year. And it is not just adults. Children who carry extra weight are more likely to carry it into adulthood too, which makes healthy habits built early one of the best investments a family can make.

Small steps that actually stick

You do not need a gym membership or a strict diet plan to start moving in the right direction. These five things make a real difference:

- Check your numbers. Ask your doctor for a BMI check and basic bloodwork. You cannot fix what you do not know about.
- Move more every day. A 20-minute walk after dinner counts. Take the stairs. Park a little farther away. It all adds up.
- Eat more real food. More vegetables, whole grains, and water. Less packaged and processed.
- Protect your sleep. Aim for 7 to 9 hours. Poor sleep drives hunger hormones up and makes every healthy choice feel twice as hard.
- Ask for help. A doctor, a nutritionist, or even a trusted friend can make the journey easier. You do not have to figure this out alone.

3 things you can do this week

1. Walk around the block after dinner -- just once. That is enough to start.
2. Drink one extra glass of water before each meal. It takes 30 seconds.
3. Schedule a checkup if you have not had one in over a year. Ask your doctor to check your BMI and blood pressure.

The bottom line

Your body is more resilient than you think. Small, consistent changes, not perfection -- are what actually move the needle. If your BMI is in the overweight or obesity range, that is not a life sentence. It is a starting point. Talk to your doctor, take one step this week, and keep going. That is really all it takes.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov).

Teresa Snow is a nurse with more than 30 years of experience in pediatric and geriatric care. She enjoys writing clear, practical health articles for everyday readers and has a personal connection to the Seminole community through her family.

Steps in the right direction as Naples program promotes healthy challenge

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

NAPLES — Each year, in the weeks and months leading up to Rez Rally, there tends to be an emphasis tribalwide on health and exercise aimed at getting ready for the big day of competitive walking and running, one of the tribe's most popular events on the calendar.

In 2021, the tribe's Naples community took the Rez Rally preparation a step further, literally. An idea emerged to do a healthy challenge year-round, a notion that led to the birth of the Naples Step Challenge.

"It got the community up and out, and walking," said Marlain Weeks, Naples Liaison's office manager, who oversees the program. "We wanted something to promote healthy living throughout the entire year."

The Naples community started walking and tracking their numbers; five years later, they haven't stopped. They've racked up more than 200 million steps.

The program is for Naples community tribal members age 18 and up. (Kids are welcomed, too, but they are not eligible for prizes). Participants use devices or phones or watches that track the number of steps they take. Every Friday, the walkers text Weeks screenshots from their devices that show how many steps that person walked in the week. Weeks has big binders on the shelves in the Naples office that have kept track of the steps every year.

Weeks pays close attention to the numbers. If someone's steps increase significantly, she'll ask what are they doing differently. In one case, it was a participant who started to play pickleball, which caused her steps to spike.

The constant movement involved in pickleball provides a boost to the numbers. "Easy 18,000 steps a day running all over the court," Weeks said.

Weeks also inquires if someone's steps decrease suddenly. She'll check in to make sure that person is doing OK healthwise.

Participation is just one part of the program; there's a competitive aspect, too. With the results and standings that Weeks compiles each week, walkers can see how they are matching up against the rest of the community.

"We have a very competitive community," Weeks said.

In the past few years, those who finish in the top 10 have been rewarded with trips to places like Nashville, Disney and Busch Gardens. This year's destination is Halloween Horror Nights at Universal in Orlando.

Additional incentives have included free shoes, devices, water bottles...items that help walkers hit their stride.

The steps accumulate with everyday



Courtesy photo

Angelina Osceola, one of 34 participants in the Naples Step Challenge, with Joaquin Velasco Osceola.



Kevin Johnson

The overall winners' trophy at the Naples office.



Courtesy photo

2025 champion Jessica Osceola with Karie Osceola, Dominic Osceola and Joaquin Velasco Osceola.

life, such as chores around the house and going to the grocery store, as well as more health-related endeavors such as walking with a baby in a stroller or with a dog or at a park.

"It's really fun for what they do. It seems everyone is enjoying it. We're in our sixth year and we have our most number of participants," Weeks said.

The program started with 20 walkers five years ago; this year it has grown to 34.

Last year, trophies were awarded to the 11 participants who have been with the program since it started, such as Jake Keyser. Keyser's trophy shows the number of steps he's taken in five years: how about 13 million.

"It's going great. It motivates you do something. We're always doing something,

but it makes it into a little bit of a competition," Keyser said.

A large trophy sits near the entrance of the Naples office. It has the names of all the overall winners. Guy Robert Osceola Jr. won it the first year in 2021. Corinne Zepeda earned the top honor for three straight years (2022, 23, 24).

Jessica Osceola won it last year and she's in the lead again this year, although it's a close race. Through April, Osceola had 1.49 million steps. Those right behind her in second to fifth place included Hilary Patterson, Corinne Zepeda, Maggie Porter and Michael Leo Onco.

"It's a healthy competition," Keyser said.

White House nominates Mark Cruz as IHS director

FROM NIHB

On June 1, the White House announced the nomination of Mark Cruz (Klamath) of Oregon to serve as director of the Indian Health Service at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Cruz currently serves as the first Tribal Senior Advisor to Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Robert F. Kennedy Jr. He was sworn into the newly created senior advisor position in June 2025, becoming one of the highest-ranking Native officials within HHS.

In his current position, Cruz has helped to secure \$1 billion in funding to address the 1993 facilities construction list backlog at the IHS.

Prior to HHS, Cruz previously served at the U.S. Department of the Interior during the Trump administration as Deputy Assistant Secretary--Indian Affairs for Policy and Economic Development (DAS-PED), a role he assumed on Sept. 24, 2018, after being appointed by then Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Tara Mac Lean Sweeney.

The IHS director role has been vacant since January 2025. The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) supports the appointment of a permanent IHS director. To serve as the director, Cruz must first be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

BRAIN CORNER



SCRAMBLED WORDS

Unscramble each word below. All words are related to health and wellness.

HOW TO PLAY: Rearrange the letters to spell the correct health word. Write your answer in the answer box.

#	Scrambled	Answer
1	THEWGI	
2	THEALH	
3	BETSIDAE	
4	RECEXISE	
5	LESPE	
6	RATEH	
7	KGINLWA	
8	YHTLAHE	
9	STORCOD	
10	YOIBSET	

♦ See ANSWERS on page 6C

Blue Oyster Cult to perform in Brighton, Immokalee

Legendary rock band Blue Oyster Cult, whose classics include 1970s hits "(Don't Fear) The Reaper", and "Godzilla", will perform concerts at

Seminole Tribe of Florida casinos in December.

The band will be at Seminole Hotel Casino Immokalee on Dec. 4 and

Seminole Casino Brighton Bay Hotel & Casino Dec. 5. Both shows start at 8 p.m. For the Immokalee performance, attendees must be 21.

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SEMINOLE SCENES



Courtesy photo

COW HAND OF THE YEAR: Emma Brown was presented with the Florida CattleWomen 2026 Cow Hand of the Year Award at the group's annual meeting June 25. The meeting took place during the annual Florida Cattlemen's Association annual convention in Marco Island. From left, Michele Thomas, Connie Whidden, CattleWomen Secretary Emma Brown, outgoing CattleWomen President Lucy Bowers, Jade Braswell and Kay Braswell.



Kevin Johnson

NAMES OF THE GAME: Guided by coach Howard Jimmie, the Florida Seminoles, wearing green uniforms and their last names on the back, compete in the Native American Junior Nationals basketball tournament June 26 in Mesa, Arizona. They played in the boys 7th and 8th grade division.



Courtesy photo

U.S. OPEN DEBUT: Wearing a shirt with sponsorship from Hard Rock Casino Tejon, professional golfer Manev Shah finishes his round at the U.S. Open on June 19 at Shinnecock Hills Country Club in New York. Shah is from Bakersfield, California, just up the road from Hard Rock Casino Tejon. He earned a spot in his first U.S. Open through qualifying tournaments. He played collegiately for UCLA and has played in one PGA Tour event. He speaks four languages: English, Hindi, Spanish and Gujarati. Shah shot 73-74 at the U.S. Open and missed the cut by three shots. Harry Hall, another pro golfer who wears Hard Rock on his golf shirts, also did not make the cut.



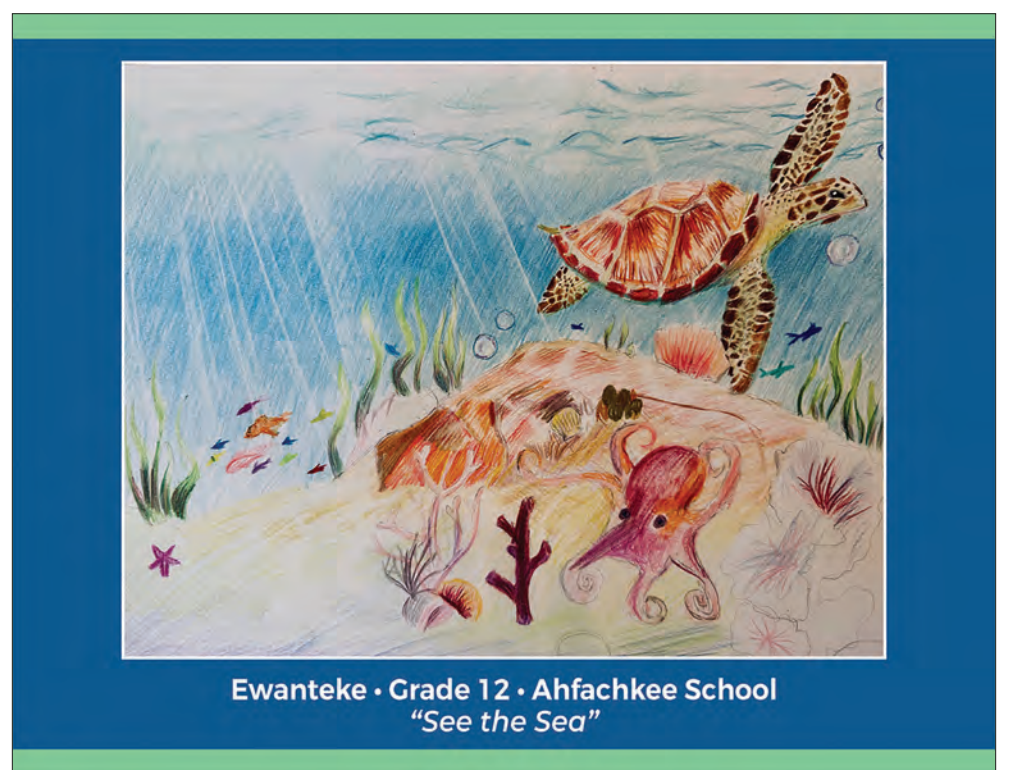
Courtesy photo

ROCKING LADIES: Loretta Micco and Lealea Tiger admire some historic rock 'n' roll memorabilia, including one of Elvis Presley's jackets and Chuck Berry's guitar, June 3 at the Bruce Springsteen Center for American Music in New Jersey. The women were there for the Native American concert that started the festivities leading up to the center's opening day June 13.



Daniella Hakim (2)

SOCCER SCENE: Seminole Hard Rock Casino is an official Miami World Cup 2026 Host City Supporter, with Seminole Hard Rock Casino Hollywood serving as a premier destination for visitors and residents during the tournament. At left and right, Miami's World Cup festivities kicked off on June 13 with the FIFA Fan Festival at Bayfront Park. From music and movement to interactive activations, the program is designed to showcase the energy and spirit of Miami while welcoming fans from around the world. Seminole Hard Rock Casino Hollywood is hosting an immersive pop-up experience at the festival, where fans can engage with the brand through photo opportunities featuring their favorite team's jerseys, get a glimpse of exclusive Messi memorabilia, and join UNITY, Hard Rock's global loyalty program.



Ewanteke • Grade 12 • Ahfachkee School
"See the Sea"

Daniella Hakim

STATE WINNER: In May, Ahfachkee School senior Ewanteke Roberts won the the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's statewide poster contest for grades 9-12. The contest was held in celebration of Earth Month. Its theme was "See the Seafloor: Discover Florida Beneath the Waves." See more about Roberts' "See the Sea" art on page B5



Kevin Johnson

SENIOR SCENE: Here's a look at Hollywood's new senior center on June 18 as the building continues to take shape.



Kevin Johnson (2)

CLASSY RECEPTION FOR 2026 CLASS: Above, staff from Big Cypress Family Medical Center are ready to cheer for 2026 graduates in the reservation's annual graduation parade June 5. Below, graduates' vehicles drive on Josie Billie Highway, receiving applause. A celebration was held later that night at the rodeo arena grounds.



NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Tohono O'odham sue DHS over border wall that would divide tribal land along 62-mile frontier with Mexico

WASHINGTON — The Tohono O'odham Nation has filed a lawsuit to stop the Department of Homeland Security from building a border wall across its territory, claiming that would violate tribal sovereignty.

The nation, which straddles 62 miles of Arizona's border with Mexico, has long opposed construction of a wall on its land.

Tribal leaders say they have long worked with DHS both to secure the border and to identify alternatives to a physical barrier that would cut off thousands of tribal members on either side.

"We have tried to work with the department on the border wall issue, but it insists on rushing forward with construction. We have been left with no other choice but to file suit to protect our land, our culture, and our rights," Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Verlon Jose said in a statement June 17 announcing the lawsuit, which was filed the previous day in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Jose highlighted the tribe's uses of vehicle barriers, technology and personnel in coordination with federal immigration officials.

The Trump administration struck a conciliatory tone but made no indication it would back down. The DHS issued a response noting Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin's Indigenous heritage.

"Secretary Mullin is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and made clear during his confirmation hearing that he respects tribal sovereignty," the statement said. "DHS is committed to ongoing coordination with stakeholders, including tribal nations, throughout planning and construction activities. DHS values its relationship with the Tohono O'odham Nation and remains focused on open communication and minimizing impacts."

Until about 20 years ago, the federal government focused construction of fencing around urban areas, such as San Diego and El Paso. President Donald Trump made building a border wall a central campaign promise in 2016.

The remote span covered by the Tohono O'odham reservation was relatively low priority, and not a huge magnet for smuggling of drugs or migrants.

The push for a new section of wall across the tribe's land comes despite the Trump administration's boasts that illegal border crossings per month have dropped by as much as 95% in the last year.

When Trump signed the Secure America Act on June 10, providing Homeland Security funding through the end of his term, he asserted that his administration has created the "most secure border in history."

The Tohono O'odham emphasized in its court filings that, thanks in part to its own efforts, border detentions have dropped on tribal land by 95% as well.

The Gadsden Purchase of 1854 placed about half of the tribe's territory south of the border, without the tribe's input.

Until the creation of the Border Patrol in 1924, tribal members were able to move freely across the border on tribal land.

The lawsuit notes that thousands of members live on tribal land south of the border, in 17 communities.

"Nation members regularly cross the border at multiple points (with the Department's knowledge) for important religious, family, and practical reasons," it says.

The lawsuit asserts that a wall would reduce the tribe's territory, and offers details about the many measures the tribe has taken to support border security.

Since 1974, the tribe has allowed federal border authorities to operate from permanent installations on its land.

Customs and Border Protection has installed 160-foot towers at 10 sites since 2012 with surveillance cameras, night vision, thermal sensors and ground sweeping radar.

CBP also operates all-terrain pickup trucks on tribal land. Federal authorities maintain vehicle checkpoints on the main highways between the reservation and Phoenix and Tucson.

"In 2006, the Nation agreed to the construction of vehicle barriers and a patrol road along the vast majority of the border, with the exception of those areas where vehicle access is impossible due to mountainous terrain," the lawsuit says. "The vehicle barriers have eliminated unauthorized vehicle transit across the border. More generally, the measures that the Nation and Border Patrol have put in place on the Reservation have proven to be highly effective in preventing, deterring, and intercepting illegal crossings and smuggling within the Reservation."

The chairman called the lawsuit a last resort.

"We would prefer to be using our precious resources to improve the lives of our Nation members," he said.

At a 2024 congressional hearing on cartel operations in Indian country, Jose cited the \$3 million in funds the tribe spends annually on border security.

"Working in concert with CBP, our own Tohono O'odham law enforcement officers are regularly involved in drug interdiction and immigrant apprehension actions," he testified. "We have supported CBP efforts on our reservation by providing lands for a checkpoint, forward operating bases, and integrated fixed towers to facilitate critical electronic surveillance efforts."

In its lawsuit, the tribe told the court it has taken such measures in part to preclude the need for a wall.

"We are hopeful that DHS will reconsider moving forward with a border wall and instead implement modern border protection measures," Jose said. "But if they insist on an illegal wall, we will stand up for what is right."

- Cronkite News (Phoenix, Arizona)

Bill Anoatubby, the longtime leader of Chickasaw Nation, to retire

Bill Anoatubby, the award-winning Chickasaw Nation governor known for improving government services and facilitating economic growth during his almost 40 years in office, announced on June 8 his retirement.

His son, Lt. Gov. Chris Anoatubby, will take over as governor starting June 26.

"After much thought and prayer, it is time to transition to the next generation of capable Chickasaw leaders," Bill Anoatubby said. "Serving the Chickasaw people has been one of the greatest honors and privileges of my life. I am deeply grateful for the trust and support our citizens have placed in our administration as we worked to strengthen opportunities and enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw people."

Anoatubby began working for the tribe in 1975 and became the nation's first lieutenant governor in 1979. Since being elected governor in 1987, Anoatubby has served an unprecedented 10 terms.

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said Anoatubby's leadership shaped not just Chickasaw Nation, but Indian Country as a whole.

When he first took office, the nation heavily depended on federal money to fund tribal programs. Anoatubby is credited with leading the nation as it made investments that now fund housing, education and more.

The nation's government has grown from 250 employees when Anoatubby took office to 15,000, according to a press release. It operates over 100 businesses in fields like energy, healthcare and hospitality that fund over 400 tribal programs.

The Chickasaw Nation has an economic impact over \$8 billion, according to the release.

Oklahoma State Chamber President and CEO Chad Warmington applauded Anoatubby's leadership and business accomplishments during his term.

"During nearly four decades as Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw people have experienced tremendous economic growth, expanded opportunity, and an extraordinary strengthening of Chickasaw culture, heritage, and identity," Warmington said. "His leadership helped build bridges across Oklahoma's business community, and his example has shown what visionary, steady, and values-driven leadership can accomplish."

Officials applauded Anoatubby for not just his accomplishments, but also his friendly and unassuming personality.

Trait Thompson, the executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, gave Anoatubby a tour of the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture, dubbed OKPOP, in Tulsa, where the tribal leader spent over an hour perusing the exhibits and asking questions about the facility, which is set to open in 2028. He didn't bring an entourage and came alone, Thompson said.

Thompson called him a "breath of fresh air."

"He was just there to be with us, and he was just completely present," Thompson said. "I was so impressed with him."

The tour led to a \$1 million donation from the Chickasaw Nation to the museum, Thompson said.

Gentner Drummond, Oklahoma's current attorney general and a Republican candidate for governor, called Anoatubby one of the greatest governors in all of Oklahoma's history.

"Oklahoma is a better place because of Bill Anoatubby's service," Drummond said. "His legacy will endure long after this chapter closes."

In his statement, Anoatubby applauded his son for his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and through the nation's expansion of its criminal justice infrastructure following the 2020 Supreme Court McGirt ruling.

"The leadership of our tribe is strong and extensive, and I look forward to celebrating the many milestones achieved by the Chickasaw Nation in years to come," Bill Anoatubby said.

- Oklahoma Voice

U.S. House passes Albuquerque Indian School Act

A measure to return three tracts of land from the former Albuquerque Indian School campus to a trust for New Mexico's 19 Pueblos passed the U.S. House [in June] and advanced to its first U.S. Senate Committee.

The federal legislation, titled the Albuquerque Indian School Act, would transfer 10 acres of a former boarding school to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, which provides a museum, cultural programming and events serving the state's 19 Pueblos. Monique Fragua (Jemez Pueblo), the president and CEO of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, said the land would be used for an entrepreneur complex, and would also include light industry and manufacturing spaces.

U.S. Rep. Melanie Stansbury, who represents New Mexico's 1st Congressional District and carried the legislation in the House, issued a statement noting that this week's congressional actions brought the delegation "one step closer" to making the transfer "a reality."

The bill received a hearing June 3 in front of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, during which co-sponsor U.S. Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) expressed his support for the bill. The committee has not yet scheduled a vote on the bill.

Albuquerque Indian School was part of a network of federally run schools that removed more than 18,000 Native American children from their families between 1819 and 1969. Children faced forced labor, assimilation, abuse and death. Zuni, Navajo and Apache children were buried in unmarked graves in Albuquerque. The Albuquerque Indian School closed in the 1980s.

Members of New Mexico's U.S. Congressional delegation said the return of land is more than just a land transfer.

"It is about putting a small but important piece of land back where it belongs — with New Mexico's 19 Pueblos," lead sponsor and bill author U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) said in a statement. "The development of these under-utilized parcels of land will create jobs, foster entrepreneurship, and expand business services for Pueblo communities and the broader public."

In a statement, co-sponsor U.S. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández, who represents New Mexico's 3rd Congressional District, said the land transfer transforms "a painful history into a future built on cultural sovereignty, opportunity, and respect."

- Source New Mexico

New Mexico AG Torrez sues Kalshi for allowing allegedly illegal sports betting

New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez on June 4 announced he was suing online betting platform Kalshi for allegedly evading state gaming laws by allowing sports gambling.

The lawsuit filed in New Mexico's First Judicial District Court alleges the Delaware-based company's operation in New Mexico creates a "public nuisance" by contributing to compulsive and addictive betting in a state that already has nearly four times the national rate of problem gambling. The company is also upending "carefully negotiated" statewide gaming compacts or other gambling allowed through strict state regulation, the suit contends.

"Kalshi has ignored that framework entirely while offering online sports betting within the state," Torrez said in a statement announcing the lawsuit. "We are filing this lawsuit to protect the integrity of our laws, our regulatory system, and most importantly, consumers."

In May, three New Mexico pueblos and one tribe sued Kalshi in federal court, arguing that the company allows sports gambling on tribal land, which undermines the Indigenous governments' rights to raise revenue for schools and other institutions. That lawsuit is still pending, but followed a favorable ruling for a Wisconsin tribe in a similar lawsuit against Kalshi.

Mescalero Apache Tribe Vice President Duane Duffy, who represents one of the plaintiffs in the New Mexico suit, did not immediately respond to Source NM's request for comment on how the AG's suit might complement their legal action.

Torrez's lawsuit June 4 alleges all sports gambling that the app enables across the state constitutes a violation of a 1953 law that has broadly criminalized all forms of gambling except those regulated through the state's Gaming Control Act.

"We respect and support the separate action filed by tribal governments in May to protect their sovereign interests," New Mexico Department of Justice Chief of Staff Lauren Rodriguez told Source NM in an emailed statement. "And we view these efforts as separate but complementary tracks that together defend both the State's interests and the integrity of tribal gaming in New Mexico."

Torrez's lawsuit contains screenshots of what it alleges constitutes sports gambling on the app, including allowing New Mexico users to place bets on the number of points scored by the winner in the May 30 NBA conference final game between San Antonio Spurs and the Oklahoma City Thunder.

According to a 2025 study cited in the lawsuit, 3.9% of New Mexico adults the study surveyed screened positive for problem gambling. The national average is 1%, according to the study.

Kalshi officials did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment from Source NM on June 4.

- Source New Mexico

Makah Tribe in Washington state waits on approval to hunt a grey whale

The Makah Tribe in Washington state is waiting for a decision on a permit that would allow the community to hunt grey whales, exercising the tribe's treaty right.

The Makah Tribe is located at Neah Bay on the northwest coast of Washington state, about 95 kilometres west of Victoria.

The tribe is trying to revive a culturally significant tradition of whaling and applied to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in March 2025 for a permit to hunt grey whales from July 1 to October 31.

The 1855 Treaty of Neah Bay between the U.S. and the Makah Tribe states that the Makah would maintain their whaling rights.

NOAA has not made a decision on the permit. In a statement to CBC Indigenous, NOAA said it is still considering the application and has no expected date for a decision.

In its application, the Makah Tribe proposes to land (successfully capture) one grey whale in the summer-fall hunting season in 2025, and another whale in 2027.

Since a decision was not made on the permit in time for the 2025 hunting season it is unclear if NOAA will grant the tribe the right to hunt in 2026, if the application is successful.

The Makah Tribe did not respond to a request for an interview by time of publishing.

The 40-page application describes the 1,500 year-old tradition and the cultural significance of whaling to the tribe.

"Makah customs embody deep respect for and recognition of the sacrifice of a whale's life to sustain the Makah people," says the application.

The application says the hunt would be for "ceremonial and subsistence purposes," and describes a hunting plan the Makah say is the most humane approach.

The application says the whale would be approached first by a traditional canoe with paddlers and a harpoonist who would strike the whale and attach buoys to ensure it doesn't sink after it is killed. A second motorized chase boat would use a high-powered rifle to shoot the whale in the brainstem or cervical vertebrae to ensure a rapid death.

"This method of taking [grey] whales is demonstrably humane and practicable under the conditions and circumstances of a Makah hunt," says the application.

The last time the Makah conducted a hunt was in 1999. It was met with controversy and protesters took to the water by boat during the hunt.

In that hunt the Makah killed the whale within eight minutes, according to the application.

After the 1999 hunt, environmental groups fought the Makah in court, winning a ruling in 2002 that ordered the tribe to not carry out a hunt until it received a waiver from the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which bans whale hunts in the United States.

In 2024, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the NOAA waived the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow the Makah Tribe to hunt grey whales with a hunting permit.

"We support [Makah Tribe] in what they hope to achieve over the next little while, knowing that our people have a proud history of whaling as well," said John Jack, the elected chief councillor of the Huu-ay-aht First Nation.

The Huu-ay-aht First Nation, on the west side of Vancouver Island about 136 kilometres northwest of Victoria, and about 60 kilometres from Neah Bay, is a Nuuchah-nulth community that shares family lineage with the Makah Tribe.

Huu-ay-aht First Nation has a deep whaling tradition with one of the nation's hereditary leaders being the whaling chief.

"It was so central to our culture that we had an entire subset of our people devoted to whaling in such way that they had their own culture, their own stories, their own ways and means," said Jack.

But the Huu-ay-aht haven't practised whaling in many years. The Huu-ah-aht and five other First Nations of the Maanulth Treaty Society agreed to a 25-year moratorium on whaling starting in 2011.

Part of the moratorium agreement was to ensure funding to study the grey whale population and track its health and abundance, said Jack.

- CBC (Canada)

Oregon governor approves first request to return civil jurisdiction to a tribe

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is on track to regain control over civil legal matters on its tribal land.

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek in late May signed a proclamation to return civil jurisdiction to the Tribes, aiming to undo a 73-year federal law that took away federal legal resources from most tribes located in Oregon without their consent. The U.S. Department of the Interior still has to approve the request.

"The state, under Gov. Tina Kotek, is retroceding civil jurisdiction back to the (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), and we are extremely happy that it has come to fruition," said tribal board of trustees chair N. Kathryn Brigham.

The U.S. Congress in 1953 passed a law withdrawing federal criminal jurisdiction on reservations in six states, including in Oregon, and authorizing those states to assume most criminal and civil jurisdiction over most tribal lands. The law was a part of a greater federal effort to shrink resources for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and assimilate Native Americans by moving them to cities, academics say.

The Warm Springs Indian Reservation was excluded in this law.

On the criminal side, it authorized state law enforcement to operate on tribal lands and prosecute crimes involving tribal members in state courts. And on the civil side, it gave state courts the power to hear private civil disputes, such as divorces, child custody cases and personal injury claims, happening within Indian Country. The law didn't give states the power to regulate tribal life.

The law was amended in 1968 to allow a state to return jurisdiction to the federal government through retrocession, and in the '70s and '80s, the state retroceded its criminal jurisdiction over the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Burns-Paiute Tribes.

Four decades later, Oregon lawmakers in 2025 unanimously passed Senate Bill

1011, a law creating a process for federally-recognized tribes in Oregon to request that the governor return legal jurisdiction to the tribes.

The proclamation represents reconciliation and affirms the sovereign status of tribal nations, Gov. Tina Kotek said in a statement.

"This action restores the Tribe's independent power to administer justice," Kotek said. "Moving forward, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and all sovereign tribes utilizing this path, can continue to determine their destinies on their own terms."

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is the first tribe in Oregon to request that the governor retrocede civil jurisdiction of tribal matters. The governor has not received additional retrocession requests from the seven other federally-recognized tribes that the law applies to in Oregon, according to a spokesperson for Kotek's office.

"This action by Governor Kotek reflects the state of Oregon's firm commitment to tribal sovereignty," said state Sen. Anthony Broadman, a Bend Democrat and the chief sponsor of Senate Bill 1011. "Strengthening tribal jurisdiction improves access to justice, public safety and our governmental ties with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribal nations."

- Oregon Capital Chronicle

Federal judge continues to bar Wisconsin tribe from enforcing restrictions on fishing

A federal judge ruled June 17 that officials with the Lac du Flambeau tribe must not enforce fishing restrictions for nonmembers while a legal challenge remains ongoing.

U.S. District Court Judge William Conley issued a preliminary injunction against tribal officials to keep them from restricting walleye and musky fishing among state-licensed anglers on 19 lakes within the tribe's reservation. The order essentially expands on a temporary restraining order issued against tribal officials [in May] ahead of the general fishing season opener.

In late April, the state of Wisconsin sued leaders of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in federal court after the tribe passed resolutions to enforce the restrictions, citing "critically low" populations of the two fish species.

In his June 17 order, Conley said the attempt to regulate non-members on lakes within its reservation infringes on the state's sovereignty.

"(A)side from the potential, though largely unsubstantiated, harm to walleye and muskellunge populations from non-member anglers, the Band has identified no risk of harm to itself or the public that would flow from a temporary injunction," Conley wrote.

"In contrast, the potential harm to the state and public arising from the conflicts, public confusion and legal uncertainty, let alone the harm to anglers from closing lakes to walleye and muskellunge fishing during the 2026 season, are significant," Conley continued.

Gov. Tony Evers had expressed safety concerns "caused by generations of tension and violence" surrounding tribal rights and fishing. The state argues previous case law found Wisconsin has "exclusive sovereignty over" navigable waters in the state, including on tribal lands. Meanwhile, the tribe argues it has "inherent sovereign authority" to regulate nonmembers on its reservation.

Lac du Flambeau officials have argued data compiled by the tribe's fish hatchery and natural resources department showed concerning levels of walleye and musky on multiple lakes. The tribe also said the restrictions existed on a small share of the reservation's more than 200 lakes.

"This decision is disappointing, but it does not diminish the very real concerns we have about the future of our fisheries," said Tribal President John Johnson Sr. said in a statement.

"The Tribe took action because we believe protecting these resources is critical for the generations who will come after us," Johnson continued. "We remain committed to defending our right and responsibility to steward the lands and waters of Waaswaaganing and will continue fighting for the future of our lakes."

A 2025 report shows tribal officials collected 59.6 million walleye eggs, of which around 56 percent survived. The tribe's hatchery manager Hunter Mayo added that crews collected only three adult muskies on Pokegama Lake and White Sand Lake, producing fewer than 2,000 young fish.

Staff with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources had questioned the tribe's data. And Joseph Hennessy, a natural resource staff specialist, said in court filings that the tribe's figures don't raise significant concerns or show that nonmembers caused any decline in fish populations. A DNR spokesperson did not immediately return a request for comment.

Sport fishing generates more than \$1 billion annually in economic activity for Wisconsin. Walleye is a favorite catch among state anglers. Walleye and muskies are also two of the most culturally significant species to the tribe, whose members spear and net the fish under their treaty rights.

- Wisconsin Public Radio

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RATONES PARANOICOS



JUL 2
MADISON BEER



JUL 10
GABRIEL "FLUFFY" IGLESIAS



JUL 24
LIONEL RICHIE AND EARTH, WIND & FIRE



JUL 25
DISTURBED



JUL 26
VISHAL-SHEYKHAR



JUL 31
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Education

B



Beverly Bidney

Novalee Ruiz, Namari Alvarado and Justin Davis race around the new playground at the Immokalee Preschool.

Immokalee Preschool kids have new playground

STAFF REPORT

IMMOKALEE —The Immokalee Preschool students are happily playing on brand new playground equipment, which was completed in April.

There are two play areas, one for the “littles,” or infants to 2-year-old children,

and another for the 3-5- year-old kids.

The preschool recently got a new roof and HVAC system. Preschool center manager Patricia Costa said there are also plans for a new sensory play area outside.

“There’s a lot of refreshing going on,” Costa said about the center which was built around 13 years ago.

Beverly Bidney
Jeremiah and Dakota Yzaguirre play on a little seesaw in the new playground.



Passion for cooking leads to culinary degree for Jerome Jumper

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Jerome Jumper graduated with honors in June from the Culinary Institute of the Carolinas at Greenville Technical College in South Carolina with an associate in applied science degree in Culinary Arts/Hospitality and Tourism.

Jumper and some of his friends at school regularly hosted dinners using the skills they learned and decided to start a competition barbeque team. The team entered a statewide barbeque competition, won the Smoked Meats category, and are ranked fifth in the state.

“I felt led by God to go into culinary school,” said Jumper, 48. “I leaned into it and found out I really enjoy it and am really good at it. I have a knack for doing this.”

Before he enrolled in culinary school, he worked in local school district kitchens as a cook and ascended to the role of training manager for kitchen staff.

“Working as a manager taught me I am capable of doing it all,” Jumper said. “It’s not something that’s enjoyable unless you really enjoy it, and I do. I loved serving the children in the school district. What we do is important; we are feeding the future and making sure they have proper nutrition and are not hungry in the classroom.”

Jumper’s favorite food to cook is barbeque, but he loves cooking anything to show love to his friends and family.

“Expressing love through cooking is so satisfying,” he said.

He isn’t sure what the future might bring, but he believes he is best suited to management. He’s thankful he learned it by working in the school district kitchens.

“I learned what it was to be a leader of a team and not just a boss,” Jumper said. “It was important to keep people doing the job and motivating them.”



Courtesy photo

After graduation, Jerome Jumper gathers with his daughters Molly Jumper and Kate Jumper and his mother Loretta Micco.

Jumper enjoys the pressure of food service, but one of his goals is to come back to the reservation— he is from Hollywood—and learn how to cook traditional Seminole fare.

“I want to learn some of the meals our tribe has lived on for generations and elevate it to something beautiful we can share with the world,” Jumper said.

Jumper is also appreciative of his mother Loretta Micco, who has stuck with him throughout his life.

“I really hope I make her proud every day doing what I do, being a good human being,” he said.

“Needless to say, I am very proud of him,” Micco said in an email. “He has always been a hard worker and has always succeeded in his efforts in all that he does.”

Hollywood honors 2026 graduates

BY DANIELLA HAKIM
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Projected across the grand ballroom at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, photographs of this year’s high school graduates showcased each student’s educational journey as families gathered for a celebration dinner.

In recognition of this year’s graduates, the Hollywood Council Office celebrated the 23 diploma recipients in both Hollywood and Broward County on June 2, treating them to dinner, gifts, and special guest appearances. Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola emceed the festivities.

“You all are the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s greatest resource,” said Councilman Osceola. “You all are the future of this tribe. Education got us to where we are today.”

Councilman Osceola encouraged graduates to take advantage of the opportunities and support the tribe provides, while motivating students to step outside of their comfort zone.

“Growing up, I was scared to leave the reservation,” he said. “Once I got a little bit older, I got more confidence. Get off the reservation. Get out there, learn something,

and bring back everything you’ve learned.”

Marisa Schnirman, the tribe’s assistant director of Education, spoke to the graduates.

“You have already proven that you can do hard things,” said Schnirman. “There’s only one way to achieve and everybody in this room has done so—you see a problem or a challenge, and you make the next best decision before taking action. You already know how to show up for yourself, and you already know how to face an unknown future, so just go for it.”

Schnirman announced that more 90 students have been enrolled in the tribe’s Summer Work Experience Program. The annual program provides enrolled Seminole students with an opportunity to gain hands-on professional experience, build new skills, and explore potential career paths—all while earning money over the summer.

At the dinner, featured guest speakers Tatanka Means and Steven Paul Judd inspired students with personal stories of the experiences and decisions that shaped their career journeys.

“The world will sometimes make you feel as though being native, where you come from and what you’ve seen, is something to get past,” said Judd, a writer and producer on AMC’s television series “Dark Winds.” “It’s the opposite. Your stories, your world, the

things that you’ve seen—they’re not things you need to overcome.”

Judd’s first successful script came after a frightening late-night encounter with a hitchhiker.

“I can trace where I’m at today back to that night,” Judd added. “I had no idea I was sitting inside one of the most important nights of my career. When people tell you to follow your dreams, they make it sound like there’s going to be a big glowing sign that says, ‘This is your break!’ That usually isn’t what happens. Which means you have to show up for the ordinary days too, because you’ll never know which one is going to be your day.”

“If you stay at it, your great things are going to happen,” said Means, an actor and comedian best known for his roles in Martin Scorsese’s “Killers of the Flower Moon” and CBS’s newly released television series “Marshals.” “We give up too quickly. I’m guilty of that. Sometimes things get hard, but if we stick it out, good things will happen.”

Among the graduates in attendance were Sarafina Billie, Maya Bowers, Angel Stewart, Mayli Tommie, Jay Stewart Jr., Levi Tommie, Jordyn Tomatis, Jayde Billie, and Brian Billie Jr.



Daniella Hakim

2026 graduate Sarafina Billie speaks at Hollywood’s graduation celebration June 2 at Hard Rock.



Daniella Hakim

Councilman Chris Osceola speaks to graduates, encouraging them to remain curious and go after their goals.



Daniella Hakim

Guest speakers Steven Paul Judd, left, and Tatanka Means, right, share a laugh during the graduation event.

Class of 2026



OB Osceola III
St. John Neumann Catholic School
OB III will attend Florida State University. He'll be the first Seminole Tribe tribal member to play baseball for FSU. His major is sports management.



Swan Kimble
Leon High School
Swan will attend Montana State University. She plans on pursuing a medical-related major and would like to be a pediatrician.



Angel Stewart
NSU University School
Angel plans to major in environmental science at Broward College and transfer to FIU to continue her studies. Angel aspires to work for the Seminole Tribe as an environmentalist.



Benjamin Purvis Jr.
Florida Atlantic University High School
Benjamin plans to major in research and development at Florida Atlantic University. He's thoroughly all things physics.



Angelina Yzaguirre
Evangelical Christian School
Angelina is attending Florida State University where she is majoring in elementary education.



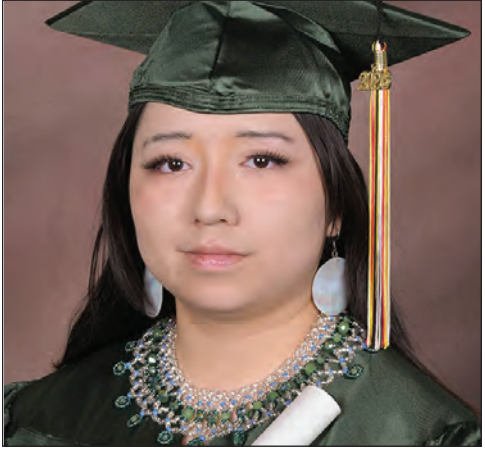
Curtis Smith
Ahfachkee School
Curtis, who was dual enrollment in Ahfachkee and Florida State College, will attend Tallahassee State College. He plans to transfer to FSU where he will study nutrition. He plans to be a dietician.



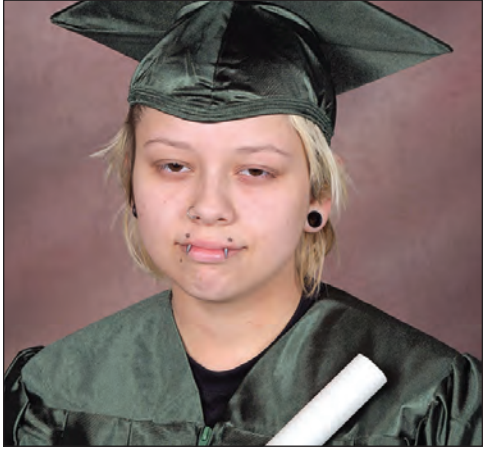
Donald Cypress
Ahfachkee School
Donald wants to continue kick boxing to see where it may take him, but he also wants to attend college for business and finance to create a business that will benefit other people.



Alice Osceola
Ahfachkee School
Alice plans to attend the Ringling College of Art and Design where she will study illustration. Alice performs in her school's band and would like to make her own music.



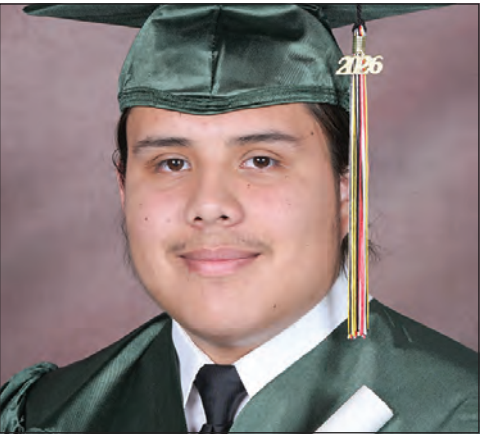
Ewanteke "Kiki" Roberts
Ahfachkee School
Kiki will attend the American Indian Arts Institute in Santa Fe, New Mexico where she will study painting and fine arts. After she graduates, she plans to continue making art.



Kaydence Green
Ahfachkee School
Kaydence loves to create digital characters and plans to attend the Ringling College of Art and Design where she plans to study animation.



Landell Osceola-Turtle
Ahfachkee School
Landell wants to work at something he enjoys, which is collecting cards and other collectables. He hopes to one day own his own shop.



Lavin Billie
Ahfachkee School
Lavin loves animals and wants to work in the tribe's cattle program and eventually have a herd of his own.



Louise Cypress
Ahfachkee School
Louise plans to go to cosmetology school and also have a career in real estate.



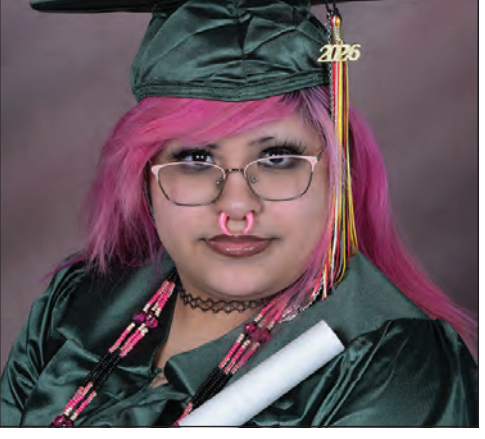
Takoda Howard
Ahfachkee School
Takoda plans to attend school in Orlando to study mechanics.



Zechariah Stockton
Ahfachkee School
Zechariah will attend Sheridan Technical College's automotive school where he will learn to be a master technician. Eventually he would like to have his own shop.



Tommi Stockton
Ahfachkee School
Tommi plans to learn welding and architecture at McFatter Technical College in Davie and then travel the world and learn to be an F1 race car driver.



Shaniah Correa
Ahfachkee School
Shaniah plans to attend college to pursue her interest in art. She would like to have a career related to character design.



Nicholai Cypress
Ahfachkee School
Nicholai said he's undecided about what he plans to do after high school.



Mayli Tommie
American Heritage School
Mayli plans to major in photography at Pace University in New York City. Mayli's career aspiration is to be a photojournalist.



Wyatt Carvalho-Osceola
Wellington High School
Wyatt will attend Florida Atlantic University, majoring in English literature and minoring in communications with a specialty in film. He has a career aspiration to direct his own film.



Mary-Sally Osceola
NSU University School
Mary-Sally will be attending Florida SouthWestern State College, where she will major in political science. In her time at university, she plans to play volleyball. She hopes to work for the tribe in the future.



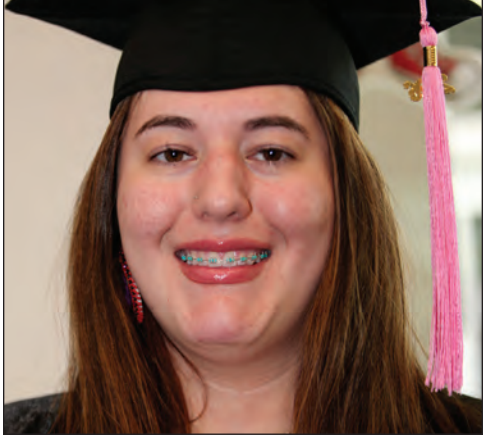
Maya Bowers
NSU University School
Maya plans to major in hospitality at Florida State University. Maya's career aspiration is to work within the industry and continue doing art as she completes her bachelor's degree.



Savannah Cypress
AEF School
Savannah's immediate plan is to begin her studies at the SAE Institute in Georgia this August, where she will major in music production for animation. Savannah plans to pursue a career as a DJ.



Ty Martinez
Penn Foster High School
Ty wants to go to Florida Gulf Coast University for agricultural business and environmental studies.



Jetta Osceola
Penn Foster High School
Jetta will attend Keiser University where she will study radiology. She would like to work in a hospital.

Class of 2026




Greyson Johns
Moore Haven High School
Greyson will attend iTech where he will study diesel mechanics.



Josiah Hardy
Moore Haven High School
Josiah will attend Universal Technical Institute where he will study electronics.



Leylah Billie
Moore Haven High School
Leylah will attend Lynn University in Boca Raton and pursue a master's degree in business management, and then continue her education in cosmetology. She wants to run her own business.



Halley Balentine
Moore Haven High School
Halley will attend Montana State University and major in nursing. She would like to further her education by studying accounting and communications. Her goal is to work for the tribe.



Miley Jimmie
Moore Haven High School
Miley will attend the Savannah College for Art and Design where she will study animation and illustration. She is hoping to ultimately get a job in a design studio.



Tahnia Billie
Moore Haven High School
Tahnia plans on attending Tallahassee State College and then transfer to Florida State University. She wants to earn a degree in hospitality and tourism management.



Raylen Smith
Moore Haven High School
Raylen hasn't decided what he wants to do after high school.



Shakur Williams
Moore Haven High School
Shakur plans to attend Valencia College in Orlando for two years and then transfer to University of Central Florida. He wants to study sports journalism.



Keanu Bert
Moore Haven High School
Keanu will attend Universal Technical Institute where he will learn to be a diesel mechanic.



Hayzen Balentine
Moore Haven High School
Hayzen is undecided about his plans for after high school.



Saria Alvarez
Okeechobee High School
Saria will attend Indian River State College and will study radiology.



Alyssa Madrigal
Okeechobee High School
Alyssa will attend Florida Atlantic University where she will study health science. She would like to be a dermatologist.



Chaka Yani Smith
Okeechobee High School
Yani will attend Howard University in Washington D.C. where she will study political science. She would like to work in government or be a lawyer.



Truley Osceola
Moore Haven High School
Truley would like to attend cosmetology school and learn to style hair.



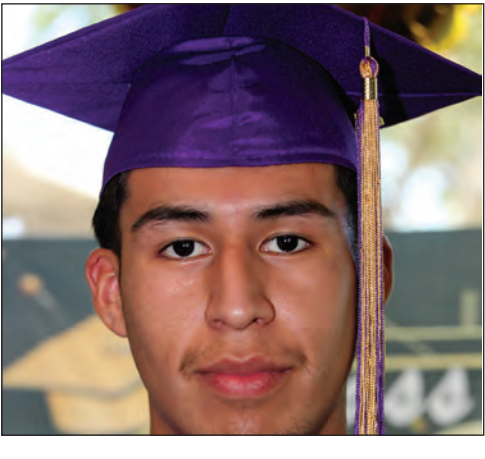
Jaylissa Brunette
Moore Haven High School
Jaylissa wants to attend Haskell Indian Nations University to study Native American studies and then possibly attend cosmetology school.



Teena-Maree Covarrubias
Xceed Preparatory Academy
Teena-Maree will attend Concordia University Chicago, where she plans to study history and play for the college softball team. Her career aspiration is to work for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum with a goal to someday be director.



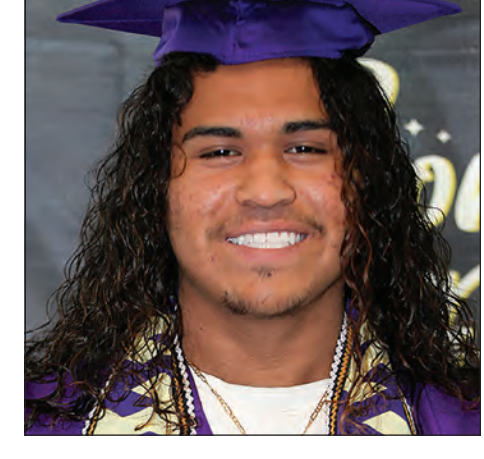
Julissa Hardy
Okeechobee High School
Julissa would like to go to cosmetology school.



Hilowa Garcia
Okeechobee High School
Hilowa will attend trade school and learn diesel mechanics.



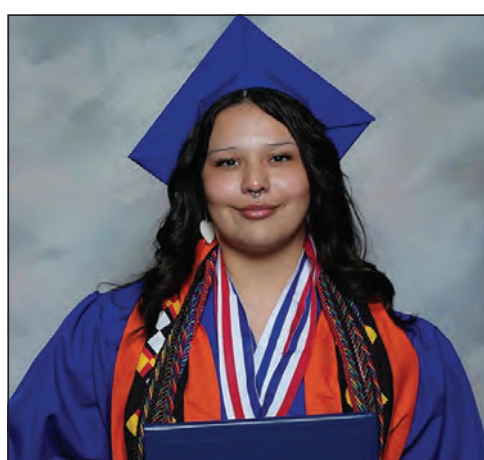
Jayleigh Braswell
Okeechobee High School
Jayleigh will attend Indian River State College for two years and then transfer to a four-year university to study animal science. She would like to become a large animal veterinarian.



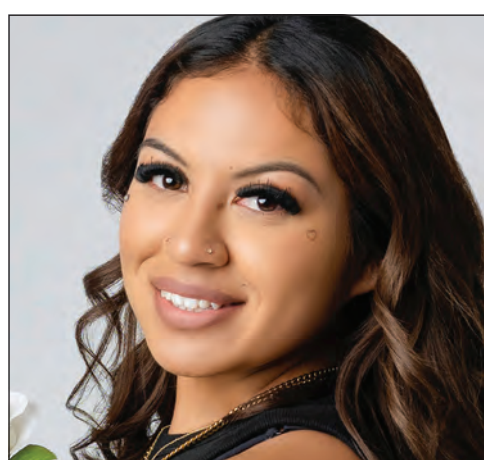
Malakai Garland
Okeechobee High School
Malakai will attend Stetson University and study real estate.



Emmitt Alvarado
Riverdale High School
Emmitt will attend Universal Technical Institute in Orlando where he will learn diesel mechanics. He hopes to one day have his own auto repair shop.



Sahara Robbins
Gregory-Portland High School
A straight-A student the past four years, Sahara plans to major in biology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Her career aspiration is to be a medical examiner.



Kimora Jumper
LaBelle High School
Kimora plans to start substitute teaching at Country Oaks Elementary school in LaBelle in the upcoming school year. She is also looking forward to starting a family of her own.



Jace Keyser
Gulf Coast High School
Jace will attend Florida Gulf Coast University and pursue a degree in art and a minor in entrepreneurship. She hopes to start a business associated with various mediums of art.

Hollywood Preschool celebrates graduating class

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Hollywood Preschool's class of 2026 celebrated their graduation in style on May 21 on the Hollywood Reservation. They recited pledges, performed songs

and dances, and walked the stage in their caps and gowns. President Holly Tiger attended and spoke at the ceremony; Tiger handed each student their diploma. After the ceremony, friends and family gathered for lunch and photographs to honor the students' memorable feat.



Daniella Hakim

Hollywood Preschool valedictorian Kyzen Osceola introduces himself to friends and family in the crowd.



Daniella Hakim

Kaelen Wiggins crosses his arms in dance, marking the end of the boys' graduating performance.



Daniella Hakim

Takaius Osceola points at the crowd, dancing alongside his graduating classmates.



Daniella Hakim

Hollywood Preschool graduate Salem Gore receives a diploma from President Holly Tiger.

Hollywood Preschool class of 2026

Kyzen Osceola
Salem Gore
Soul Maclean
Kaelen Wiggins
Skye Osceola-Smith
Zara Stewart
Jail'a Osceola
Phoenix Tommie

Carson Dixon
Esiah Snell
Daenerys Billie
Nylani Ortega
Amaru DeGuevara
Takaius Osceola
Draco Mctier
Royale Mercea



Beverly Bidney

Mahaila Henderson waves to her family during the Brighton Preschool graduation May 20.



Beverly Bidney

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. gives a high five to Brighton graduate Kylen Osceola. In back is his mother Rubie Osceola and at right, his father Jakhious Cooper.

Brighton Preschool class of 2026

Hartlee Baker
Kasiah Buck
Tobi Cabrera
Havilah Harvey
Mahaila Henderson
Jahni Hernandez
Kassi Jackson
Leilani Jones
Layton Kayda
Dileau Kennedy
Gilbert King Jr.

Jaycee Macias
Dallyn Nunez
Carter Osceola
Kylen Osceola
Raylo Osceola
Jorge Ponce III
Micho Santibanez-Gopher
Cyleigh Smedley
Thunder Snow
Tatum Thomas
Cannon Tommie
Karsen Tommie-Romanik

Brighton preschool graduates ready for kindergarten

STAFF REPORT

BRIGHTON — The Brighton

preschool class of 2026 walked down the aisle of the Brighton gym May 20 to receive their diplomas for successfully completing preschool. Students held their parents'

hands as they made their way to the officials awaiting a handshake



Beverly Bidney

The Brighton Preschool graduates make their way around the gym for their grand entrance to the graduation.



Beverly Bidney

In a Brighton tradition, parents or guardians escort the graduates to the front to receive their diplomas. Nicole Platt and Davey Snow give their son Thunder Snow a ride on the way down the aisle.



Beverly Bidney

The family of graduate Kasiah Buck is congratulated by Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and Brighton Board Rep. Bryan Arledge.

Ahfachkee students showcase their creativity

BY DANIELLA HAKIM
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — At this year's Student Art Exhibit, students took in Zacheus Jumper's unique interpretation of rainbows across the entryway of Ahfachkee School's Hall of Fame.

Jumper's work was followed by origami, paintings, sketches, and ceramic plant pockets created by the school's middle and high school artists.

"This is a compilation of art the students have worked on the entire year," said Jennifer Brittingham, the school's art teacher. "We curated the show, picking the best pieces out of the students' portfolios. I give the students a lot of artistic freedom; their pieces are all so different. I love seeing that as an art teacher."

Indie Rock melodies resounded across the hall as Amos Frank played the electric guitar. Ahfachkee music instructor, Cesar Taveras, has mentored the student from the start of his journey with the instrument.

"I always like to say I teach backwards," said Taveras. "My method is the "modern band method," where the students get to choose their own music. With my guidance and approval, the kids select the music and learn the chords and theory along the way."

Among the art was Ewanteke Roberts's ballpoint pen and charcoal sketches. The senior's art piece, "See the Sea," won the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) statewide poster contest in recognition of Earth Month, observed every April.

Selected from each of DEP's six district offices, Roberts's work was highlighted alongside the artwork of two other finalists from the elementary and middle school grade-level categories.

"She's a real neat kid," Brittingham said.

This year's theme "See the Seafloor: Discover Florida Beneath the Waves," highlights the Florida Seafloor Mapping Initiative, a statewide effort to create complete, modern, high-resolution maps of Florida's coastal seafloor. Through this initiative, scientists use advanced tools such as sonar (sound navigation and ranging) and lidar (light detection and ranging) to better understand underwater landscapes. This inspired Roberts's work, a colorful penciled array of marine wildlife.

"I really enjoyed creating this piece for the competition," said Roberts. "I also enjoyed the process because of my brother. He loves the ocean and loves sea animals—I wanted to make something for him, too."

The Ahfachkee senior will continue to pursue her craft and study studio art at the Institute of American Indian Arts in New Mexico.

"My mom, she's a graphic designer, and my aunt, she's both a basket weaver and chef—seeing both of their work, that's what inspired me to pursue art," Roberts said. "I'd like to inspire other artists, kids from our generation, and represent the tribe."



With Ahfachkee School Principal Philip Baer, Ewanteke Roberts holds her winning submission titled "See the Sea," in the statewide Florida Department of Environmental Protection poster contest.



Athena Osceola showcases her award as district winner in the statewide poster contest.



Cali Osceola, above, showcases her colored sketch inspired by her lessons on ceramics and the art of orientalism; Gene Jimmie, below, plays rock melodies on an electric guitar.



Poems by Elgin Jumper

The Great Mystery

My eyes behold the glistening stars of the Great Mystery of the heavens, and I recall a peaceful escape from the drama panorama saga, to the quiet paths of Nature and Prayer, where I wandered without the cold world on my shoulders. I greeted the sun at dawn where the silver rays caress the ocean shores. I conversed with Nature and The Spirit and immersed in a landscape I had grown up in, eventually, revealing innumerable wisdoms in the multiplicity of the winds. I brushed the lovely patchwork and texture of the day, praying for a healing and a calmness within, and gifted with all the colors of the Everglades.

Prose Poem

As the inspirations flow like a mighty river, he peers out at all the lands written before him in poetry, which keeps building and building villages of golden words. "Rest not upon laurels, a gentle voice urges him, but strike out, my child, on yet another bold expedition to the heartland. He looks on further on beyond the cypress and the pine, at night, that stand as sentinels, watching over a scenery of sawgrass in an era long ago, facing the foe, their martial attire ominous, formidable, sprinkled with the charming light of fireflies and yearning for a magical morning. He takes hold a plumed pen of many colors and writes and does what makes him happy. Perhaps, he hopes, he can read the poem onstage somewhere.

Late in the Day

Late in the day, walking through a camp alone, I still yearn for the right path in my search for hope and belonging, which shall surely forth happiness, taken to heart, to hold there forever. I behold a vision and so, I journey into her eyes. She enlightens with the clear Light of Truth. She whispers, "Keep searching, you shall find, just keep going." Then someone paints a purple glow across the horizon. I can feel the connection to the land, but that particular scene dissolves into another scene from the past, where she glances at me and I can hear marvelous music heavenly choirs, which creates worlds within her eyes. And I can hear the narration of a story, an epic quest that leads me far from home and through many dangers and triumphs and then back home again, back to the lands I love. Endless sawgrass and Earth's colors all around. The all-mighty sky turns a rich blue and is as infinite as the sawgrass, lasting till the end of days. Then I stand in the embrace of the setting sun in orange, yellow, and red that perform a joyful lightshow and that's when I realize that the tide has turned.

Two Flash Fictions

Aftermath

Years ago, it had finally happened! Someone a few fries short of a Happy Meal had actually pressed the button, taking out civilization as we knew it. That was when lawlessness reigned over what was left behind, and battalions of marauders warred upon each other. It was a long drawn-out disaster which had never been seen on Mother Earth before, with no one ever gaining the upper-hand. A few of us survived on the margins of their madness, unwilling to go quietly into the night. Well, early one morning, we came under attack, but managed to get away, with only myself receiving a grievous wound. I was fading in and out of consciousness. In my nightmares I had witnessed the blazes of the wilderness after the collapse, over and over again. But my head and my side were like two dying cities, burning in ruins and rubble. From my head wound and aching side, to the rest of me, I experienced nothing less than Nuclear Fire. It seemed an evil wizard hurled a host of sparklers into my eyes and everything fell back into the Dark Ages. Then in time I was conscious once more and I could swear I heard an old native man at my bedside, chanting and praying through the long night.

My pain intensified. "Where am I?" I asked myself. "How did I get here?"

Thereupon I remembered the firefight! There had been a great noise and people had been shouting, intermingling everything together. Dense smoke hovered like an eerie fog of war. Outside the winds howled and moaned like nefarious spirits preparing to pounce on our position. I could hear the crude hum of some tyrannical machine. I saw a red light that blinked three or four times and then vanished away altogether.

When I came to hours later I rose from the bed and asked a member of the High Command, "When do we move out?" He answered, "Any minute now. We'll help you." "Are they close," I continued. "Yes."

I winced. The pain was a passing storm. "I'll survive this," I said. "I-I have to."

High-Tech Warpaint

The super high-tech warrior climbed through the broken window of the deserted structure, and entered the war-torn building. He was part man, part machine, this one. But in flashes he remembered his life prior to his extraordinary ordeal. He sat down to repair the wound to his arm. Suddenly a playful mixed-breed puppy, yellow in color, bounded up to the cyborg, unafraid,

and conveyed an inclination to have fun and play, the sounds of the raging battle outside, notwithstanding. The warrior promptly assessed the situation, seeing the puppy posed no credible threat, and returned to servicing his damaged arm. The puppy wagged its tail. The cyborg scanned

the area and paused, listening to the conflict outside. It was a moving battle. Action ruled the day

with a host of combatants and all manner of cross-purposes.

The startled puppy took shelter under the cyborg's legs.

The warrior reached down and comforted the puppy, and then went back to the concerns of his arm, which was almost repaired.

"Don't worry, little fella," the cyborg consoled. "They'll move on in no time."

The cyborg finished his work and put away his implements.

"Stay, you'll be okay," he said. "Once more unto the breach, dear friend."

Seminole Tribune contributor Elgin Jumper is an artist, writer and poet.

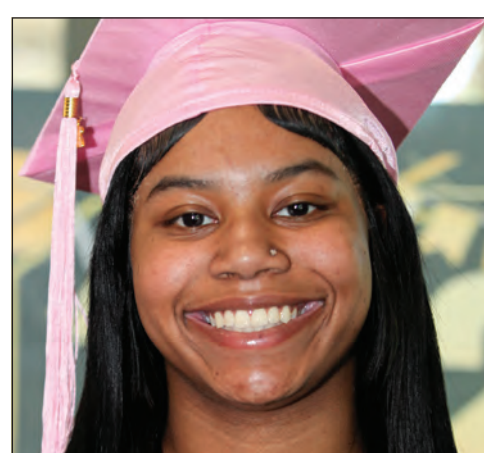
Class of 2026



Ky-mani Boyce
Hollywood Hills High School



Sarafina Billie
Know-It-All Prep



Aaryn King
Penn Foster High School



Erica Sanders
The Vanguard School



Brian Billie Jr.
Know-It-All Prep

(The Tribune was unable to receive additional information about these graduates who were scheduled to graduate in the 2025-26 academic year).

Tiyanni Anderson – Glades Virtual
Braydon Baker – Vanguard School
Nevaeh Baker – Glenn Home
Marissa Betscher – Penn Foster
Louis Billie – Miccosukee Indian School

Amirani Brooks – Xceed Prep
Felicia Buck – LaBelle High School
Camden Cypress – GED
Rain Cypress – The Cushman School
Janine Gentry – Calusa Prep
Aniah Gonzalez – Immokalee High School

Kelvin Huggins – Miccosukee Indian School

Mia Herrera – East Lee High School
Derrion Faison – Penn Foster
Ezekiel Hill – Real Life Christian Acad.
Waddie Jackson – Hollywood Hills High School
Samuel Josh – Calvary Christian Acad.
Relle Lebron – North Tampa Christian

Waddie Jackson – Hollywood Hills
Millie Jumper – GED
Jessie Martinez – Okeechobee High School

Amada Osceola – Penn Foster
Christian Osceola-Pulido – AEF
Teegan Osceola-Bartlett – Penn Foster
Elexia Ponce – Okeechobee High School

Jaslene Ponce – Penn Foster
D'Niya Pray – Palm Acres Charter School

Shane Roberts – Miccosukee Indian School

Alex Rodriguez – Penn Foster
Kynston Sanders – Know-It-All Prep
Christian Schaffer – Penn Foster
Jay Stewart Jr. – Know-It-All Prep
Devin Stewart – Penn Foster
Glenardo Stubbs II – Know-It-All Prep
Nula Tiger Guerrero – San Jose Cecil

Addison Tommie – Stone Coast Acad.
Levi Tommie – Hollywood Hills High School
Ka'shyra Urbina – Okeechobee High School
Frank Youngman – Lake Placid High

Elijah Scott set for Seminole Brighton Bay Hotel & Casino

FROM PRESS RELEASE

BRIGHTON — Country-Americana singer Elijah Scott will perform Aug. 22 at Seminole Brighton Bay Hotel & Casino. The concert starts at 8 p.m. For tickets, go to ticketmaster.com.

Scott, from Banning, California, possesses a distinctive voice and hybrid sound blend heartfelt storytelling with urban rhythm and soul. From the introspective spark of "Cigarettes" to the bold assertion of "Turnin Into Something," Scott is carving

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Nathan Klein O.D.
Alec Chaleff M.D.



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Sports



NBA slam dunk champion visits Big Cypress

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BIG CYPRESS — The third annual Seminole Sports Camp for ages 5-17 wrapped up June 18 with a visit from a Miami Heat player who earlier this year captured one of the NBA's most popular individual accolades.

Keshad Johnson, a 6-foot-6 small forward, dunked a couple times while visiting about 60 campers, mostly from the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress, Brighton and Immokalee reservations. Johnson's conventional slams at the Herman L. Osceola Memorial Gym in BC were nothing like his soaring acrobatic performance in February that won him the NBA Slam Dunk Contest at the all-star game weekend.

Johnson and a few members of the Heat's entertainment teams joined campers for activities and autographs. BC Councilwoman Mariann Billie presented Johnson with Seminole beaded necklaces.

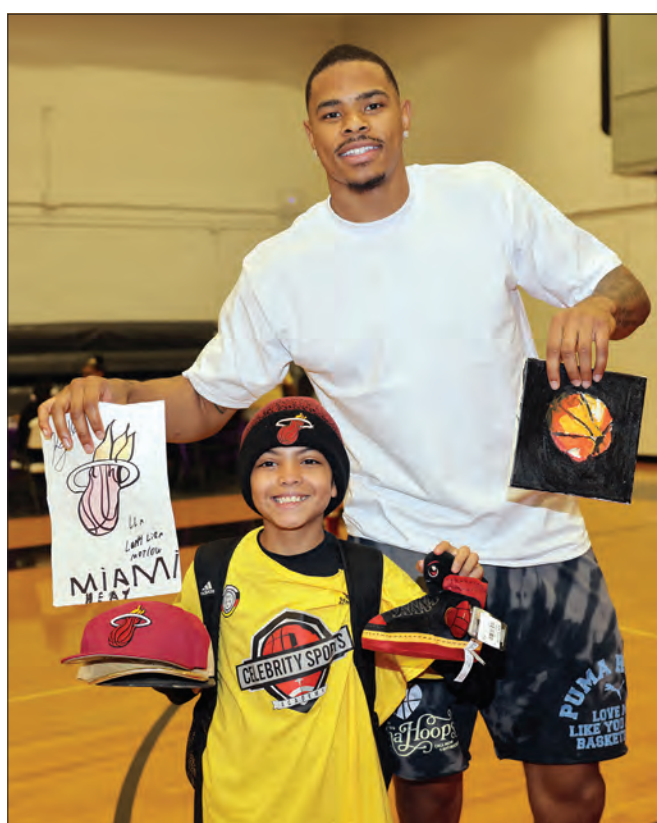
Johnson participated with a few campers in a team-relay basketball layup contest and an individual soccer showdown; he won the soccer contest.

The four-day camp, which is run by Celebrity Sports Academy, included sessions focused on basketball, soccer, agility, cheer, sportology and music production. The cheer participants performed for the guests and fellow campers.

One of the happiest campers was Larry Motlow, a big Heat fan who came prepared on the final day. He wore a winter Heat hat all day. He also brought three Heat hats, Heat plushie shoes and his Heat drawings, all for the slam dunk champion to sign. Motlow patiently waited at the back of the autograph line before bringing the items for Johnson to sign.

Motlow has seen the Heat play four times in person. When asked who is his favorite Heat player, Motlow immediately pointed to Johnson.

"Him," he said.



Kevin Johnson

Larry Motlow, a big Heat fan, is thrilled to meet Heat player Keshad Johnson on June 18 at the Big Cypress camp.



Kevin Johnson

NBA Slam Dunk champion Keshad Johnson slam dunks a ball at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.

See page 6C for camp award photos.



Kevin Johnson

Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie receives a hug from Miami Heat forward and NBA Slam Dunk champion Keshad Johnson after the councilwoman presented Johnson with Seminole beaded necklaces at the end of the Seminole Sports Camp June 18 at the Herman L. Osceola Memorial Gym in Big Cypress.



Kevin Johnson

Keshad Johnson and Zion Garcia compete in the final of the soccer skill showdown.



Kevin Johnson

Cheer participants show the entire camp and audience what they learned.



Kevin Johnson

After performing, the camp's cheer squad is joined by members of Heat entertainment teams.



Calvin Tiger

Heat mascot Burnie receives warm hugs from campers.

Seminole teams among nearly 600 at Junior Nationals

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MESA, Ariz. — The final game for the last team from Florida in the Native American Junior Nationals basketball tournament featured a dramatic ending.

Nine other Seminole and Miccosukee teams had been eliminated in the massive 580-team youth basketball tournament June 26-28 in Mesa, Arizona, but Renegadez, with some players who are teammates at Everglades City High School, won its first six games to reach the semifinals of the 9th-10th grade boys Diamond bracket (the Diamond bracket featured the top teams after pool play; the Platinum bracket featured teams that didn't qualify for Diamond).

With five minutes left in the game, Renegadez was seemingly on its way to a quiet exit, facing a 10-point deficit against GC3 Stars from Hawaii. But remarkably Renegadez didn't allow another point all the while showing plenty of heart to claw its way back.

First, it was a basket by Lavin Fairclough followed by a 3-pointer from Amos Huggins that sliced the deficit in half. Huggins sank a pair of free throws to make it 40-37 with two minutes left. Renegadez got the ball back with :47 left. Terrence Osceola made a layup with seven seconds left to make it 40-39. After a foul with three seconds left, GC3 missed the front end of a 1-and-1, but a battle for the rebound prevented any last-second shot hope for Renegadez.

Amos Huggins led the team with 14 points. Kyrie Huggins hit three 3-pointers and had 11 points, all in the first half.

The familiarity established through practices and games at Everglades City and other tournaments helped Renegadez go as far as it did, which included four wins by 17 points or more.

"Team chemistry is the main thing that got us to where we got to," said coach Amos Huggins Sr.

Huggins said next year the team will move up to the 11th-12th grade division.

Unconquered reaches 3rd-4th grade semifinals

The future looks bright for Unconquered teams considering the way the Unconquered 4th boys played in the 3rd and 4th grade division. Nobody came close to beating Unconquered 4th in its first five games; its closest win was by a 17-point margin.

The team perfected skilled, smart, fast basketball with fastbreak, passing and

dribbling performances beyond its years while winning its three pool round games and first two playoff games.

In the final minutes of one game, Tre Philmore drove toward the lane with one defender back. Instead of going for a layup, he alertly made the defender commit and then dished off to Jordan Hislaw for an easy layup. A minute later, Wildcat Billie stopped at the top of the arc, planted his feet and made a 3-pointer.

Those are examples of how Unconquered 4th beat teams inside and outside.

On defense, Unconquered 4th smothered opponents, including holding one team to only three points.

"They played with a lot of heart," said coach Lee Noah. "We yelled very strong. Overall, I enjoyed it; the kids enjoyed it."

In its final game, Unconquered 4th struggled in a 30-18 Diamond bracket semifinal loss to Warrior Nation from Wewoka, Oklahoma, which used its speed and relentless battle for rebounds to end Unconquered 4th's run.

Native Soldiers preps for NABI

Coach Skyla Osceola's Native Soldiers won its first five games before being ousted by Team Stronghold, 39-31, in a girls 11th-12th grade Diamond bracket quarterfinal. Team Stronghold, from Mesa, went on to win the championship in front of hundreds of its fans.

Native Soldiers didn't have any Seminoles on its roster for Junior Nationals, but that it's expected to change for July's NABI tournament in Phoenix when Kashlynn Cooper joins the team.

Junior Nationals served as a warmup for NABI.

"Their hard work is paying off," Osceola said. "The past couple weeks we've been practicing. Being challenged, so we can get better. We want to play the best to see where we're at."

Point guard Yazzlyn Alex, from Choctaw Central High School, was a standout for Native Soldiers. Her presence was often felt all over the court thanks to her blazing speed and hustle. In the team's second win on day one, Alex sparked Native Soldiers in a come-from-behind win. The team was down eight points with 11 minutes left when Alex hit a 3-pointer, made a layup, and stole the ball for another layup within a matter of a couple minutes.

Native Soldiers went on to win by nine points.

"We like her. She does everything for

us," Osceola said.

Strong start for Rez Ballers

Another outstanding performance in the tournament came from Rez Ballers, which won its first four games in the boys 11th-12th grade division, all by double digits. Rez Ballers lost to Warrior Movement, 58-51, in the second round of the Diamond bracket.

On day one, Rez Ballers rallied for a 49-39 vs Zoongide'e after being behind in the first half. They looked like a different team compared to the first half; in the second half, a full court press defense provided a much-needed jolt of energy.

Some of the standouts that helped shift momentum by forcing turnovers with suffocating defense included Jeremiah Johns and Antonio Tosca. Johns is only 14 years-old yet he poured in a game-high 18 points. O'Hara Tommie contributed 14 points.

"It was mainly the guys picking it up, more hustle, playing harder, playing tougher, more passion," said coach Eric Osceola, whose team has been coming to the tournament for the past five years.

The tournament received praise from coaches and players.

"First thing is the opportunity to play together," coach Osceola said. "They hang out together. That's the best thing, giving them an opportunity to play together on a stage like this is big. This is the biggest tournament. Let them grow together."

"I love (the tournament)," Tosca said. "I love coming to these tournaments and seeing the different competition and the different Indigenous and Native people. It's just a real good environment."

Recaps

The Seminole Hoopers girls 7th-8th grade team went winless in three pool play games, but they didn't go home empty handed. They won their first game in the Platinum bracket against Nuumu Elite Girls. The Hoopers were knocked out the following game.

With a roster chocked full of players from Brighton, the Florida Seminoles started the 7th-8th grade boys tournament with a close win and ended it with a close loss. The Seminoles won their first game by three points, then lost their next two before suffering a hard-fought 42-39 loss to Three Stars in the Platinum bracket.

The Unconquered 7th-8th grade boys team rocked its opponents in the first four games to the tune of wins by 54, 40, 33 and 37-point margins. The party ended with a 48-25 loss to NN War Party in a second round Diamond bracket game.



Remy Griffin - Rez Ballers, 11th-12th grade boys

Kevin Johnson

Native American Junior Nationals June 26-28, Arizona Athletic Grounds, Mesa, Arizona

Seminole, Miccosukee results

Boys 11th-12th grade REZ BALLERS

W 74-13 vs FTC Elite,
W 49-39 vs Zoongide'e
W 70-37: vs Real Team

W 73-43 vs AZ Neph's (Diamond bracket)
L 58-51 Warrior Movement (Diamond bracket)

UNCONQUERED

W 42-31 vs CRIT
L 61-50 vs Tribal Elite
W 76-32 vs NorthWind
L 47-45 vs The River (Diamond bracket)

GIRLS 11th-12th grade NATIVE SOLDIERS

W 68-14 vs Lady Stars
W 42-33 vs Pueblo Elite
W 46-44 vs Run n Gun

W 34-21 vs SC Thunderhawks (Diamond bracket)
W 42-27 vs AK Native Elite (Diamond bracket)
L 39-31 VS Team Stronghold (Diamond quarterfinal)

BOYS 9th-10th grade NDI WARRIORS

W 26-21 vs Rio Grande Elite
W 51-24 vs The One's
W 29-21: vs CB Ballerz
L 56-48 (Diamond bracket)

RENEGADEZ

W 48-31 vs MazeRunner
W 65-41 vs NAZ Soldiers
W 58-23 vs Buckeye Nation
W 48-42 vs Tribe Hela (Diamond bracket)
W 38-35 vs Spartans (Diamond bracket)
W 61-41 vs Nextup (Diamond bracket quarterfinal)
L 40-39 vs GC3 Stars (Diamond bracket semifinal)

BOYS 7th-8th grade NATIVE SOLDIERS

L 71-30 vs Team Savage
L 48-26 vs Dulce Base Alienz
L 51-28 vs Westside Basketball
L 43-39 Puyallup/Mamba (Platinum bracket)
FLORIDA SEMINOLES
W 25-23 vs NM Spartan Elite
L 47-31 vs White Earth House
L 45-24 vs AZ Nations
L 42-39 Three Stars (Platinum bracket)

UNCONQUERED

W 82-34 vs Yavapai Warriors
W 78-38 vs Warriors (NV)
W 55-22 vs Enchantment Code Talkers
W 77-40 vs Taquan (Diamond bracket)
L 48-25 VS NN War Party (Diamond bracket)

GIRLS 7th-8th grade SEMINOLE HOOPERS

L 21-20 vs Native Dreamers
L 45-22 vs Native Fierce
L 34-27 vs Lady Storm
W 23-17 vs Nuumu Elite Girls (Platinum bracket)
L 36-24 Lady Aces (Platinum bracket)

BOYS 3rd-4th grade UNCONQUERED 4th

W 33-10 vs Flight 701
W 44-17 vs Mini Hoyas
W 57-3 vs Rezilient
W 40-9 vs River Hawks (Diamond bracket)
W 45-28 Hannali Otokloh (Diamond bracket quarterfinal)
L 30-18 Warrior Nation (Diamond bracket semifinal)



Unconquered 4th had plenty of reasons to cheer as they were one of the top teams in the 3rd-4th grade division.

Kevin Johnson



Alakai Bert - Florida Seminoles, 7th-8th grade boys

Kevin Johnson

Native American Junior Nationals



Coaches Hunter Osceola, left, and Jerome Davis, Native Soldiers, 7th-8th grade boys.

Kevin Johnson



Michael Osceola - Unconquered, 3rd-4th grade boys.

Kevin Johnson



Kanae Jumper, left, and, at right, Margaria Fudge and Madelynn Garza - Seminole Hoopers, 7th-8th grade girls

Kevin Johnson (2)



For some games at the tournament, stands were packed and other spectators stood 10-12 people deep on the sidelines to watch.

Kevin Johnson



Makai Newkirk, Florida Seminoles, 7th-8th grade boys

Kevin Johnson (2)



Kalijah Osceola - Rez Ballers, 11th-12th grade boys

Kevin Johnson



Braxton Osceola-Heart, Unconquered, 3rd-4th grade boys.

Kevin Johnson



Jeremy Smith, Native Soldiers, 7th-8th grade boys

Kevin Johnson

Slate Auto truck hits EV market

BY CALVIN TIGER
Staff Reporter

Electric vehicle startup Slate Auto has officially begun preorders for its \$24,995 bare bones pickup truck starting in June. According to Slate CEO Peter Faricy, every vehicle that is produced by the start up will gross margin positive. Slate Auto is backed by founders Jeff Bezos and Los Angeles Dodgers controlling owner Mark Walter.

Slate's flagship product is a barebones two seat rear wheel drive electric pickup truck, which includes crank windows and optional speakers, to keep costs low. Slate estimates the EV range for 205 miles and produces 181 horsepower and 195 foot-pounds of torque. According to Slate Auto, the pickup truck can be converted into a five-seat passenger sport utility vehicle for an additional \$5,000 if customers choose.

To keep production cost low, Slate vehicles will not be painted however they are meant to be vinyl wrapped in which customers can choose up to 100 different colors for under \$500. The flagship pickup truck will launch with more than 175 vehicle accessories, some of which include roof racks, stereos and light covers. Most of the accessories are priced to be under \$500.

Customers should also be aware Slate's vehicles do not have any modern connectivity. Meaning there are no big



Slate Auto

A design of Slate Auto pickup truck.

screens you would find in other modern EVs. Instead of a modern infotainment center screen, drivers can connect their own personal devices such as a smartphone, tablet for music or navigation. This is all in the attempt to keep manufacturing costs low.

"Whoever you are and whatever you like in life, you can now express that through your SUV or through your truck," said Faricy, who added that the Slate vehicle he wants is a metallic black fastback SUV. "I can't wait to create that vehicle." Slate Auto CEO Peter Faricy said in an article on CNBC.

Slate plans on delivering their flagship pickup truck directly to customers in late 2026. Slate will use a similar vehicle delivery process for customers like Tesla and Rivian, whereas customers do not need to go to a conventional automotive dealership to receive the vehicle.

"I think it's an important part," Faricy said, adding that he thinks it will lead to lower costs and better control over the customer experience. "We're definitely going to be a direct-to-consumer company." Faricy said in an article on CNBC.

World Cup comes to Hard Rock Stadium



Hard Rock Stadium

On June 15, Hard Rock Stadium hosted its first FIFA World Cup when Saudi Arabia and Uruguay battled to a 1-1 tie. Overall, the stadium will host seven World Cup games, including the round of 32 (July 3), a quarterfinal (July 11) and the third place game (July 18).

Messi, Hard Rock team up for soccer campaign

STAFF REPORT

As the start of the FIFA World Cup approached in June, Hard Rock International revealed its "All Teams. One Place" campaign in partnership with superstar soccer player and Hard Rock brand ambassador, Leo Messi.

The campaign brings fans together through a global sweepstakes that features a special Messi meet and greet grand prize and more than 300 additional prizes, including Hard Rock Hotel stays and Unity loyalty program points, exclusive Messi Legendary Suite experiences at Hard Rock Hotel New York and Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, a new Messi Legendary Burger crafted in collaboration with the legend himself, new globally inspired shareable menu items added for a limited time, World Cup countries apparel, and new additions to the Messi retail collection all part of one legendary lineup.

"This summer unites fans from around the world in their love for the game and pride for their country," Messi said in a press release. "I've always believed football is for everyone, and everything my friends at Hard Rock have created - hotel suites, cafe menus, country-inspired jerseys - help fans represent their team and watch the matches together."

"This is the ultimate celebration of sport and global community, and Hard Rock provides the energetic, inclusive atmosphere for fans everywhere," said Jim



Hard Rock

Special Hard Rock soccer jerseys are part of the new Hard Rock campaign.

Allen, chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming, in the release. "Whether you're staying in a Messi Legendary Suite at Hard Rock Hotel New York or Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, enjoying a Messi Legendary Burger at one of our Cafes and select Hotels around the world, or vying for a chance to meet Leo himself with our sweepstakes,

Hard Rock is the home for every fan, every team and every moment of this historic summer."

For more information on Hard Rock's "All Teams. One Place." programming, visit hardrock.com/allteamsoneplace.

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Coaches meeting will be Wednesday, Aug 5th 7:30 PM at Peaches Squirrel Sports & Recreation Center.

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July 23rd-25th

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Registration Deadline
July 10th at 3:00PM

Age Divisions for Boys and Girls:
8U Coach Pitch
10U
12U
14U
17U

Baseball Age as of May 1
Softball Age as of August 31

For additional information or to submit team entry forms contact:
Mary Huff- maryhuff@semtribe.com
Kelley Smiley- kellysmiley@semtribe.com
Brighton Recreation at (863)763-3866



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Indian Gaming Association addresses concerns about prediction markets

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The so-called prediction markets, which allow people to bet on future outcomes, continues to draw attention from the tribal gaming industry.

Here is a recap from the Indian Gaming Association about the recent Sovereignty Symposium:

A central focus of these discussions was the growing concern surrounding federally regulated prediction markets and provisions within the Digital Asset Market CLARITY Act that could undermine Tribal gaming rights and sovereignty. Tribal leaders across the country continue to raise alarms that sports-event contracts and prediction markets operating outside the framework established by IGRA could create a parallel wagering system that bypasses Tribal authority, Tribal-State compacts, and long-standing regulatory structures developed by Tribal governments.

“Indian Country is united on this issue,” said Chairman David Bean, Chairman of the Indian Gaming Association. “Whether we were in Oklahoma, Washington, or Tennessee, the message was the same: Tribal sovereignty is not negotiable. Tribal gaming was established to strengthen Tribal governments, support self-determination, and provide essential services to our citizens. Any effort to circumvent Tribal regulatory authority threatens the very foundation of what Tribal Nations have built over the last four decades.”

“While Indian Country is united, we must continue to impress upon all Tribes, gaming and non-gaming alike, that we cannot rest,” Bean continued. “Every Tribal Nation has a stake in this fight. Protecting Tribal sovereignty is not only a gaming issue; it is also a Tribal government and a Tribal rights issue. We all have a responsibility to be part of this effort to ensure that the rights our ancestors fought to preserve remain protected for future generations. Sovereignty is only as strong as our willingness to defend it together.”

The Indian Gaming Association has maintained that sports-event contracts offered through federally regulated exchanges are functionally indistinguishable from sports wagering and should not be permitted to operate outside the Tribal gaming regulatory framework established by Congress through IGRA. Tribal leaders have warned that unchecked expansion of these markets could divert critical revenues away from Tribal governments and the essential services those revenues support, including healthcare, public safety, housing, education, infrastructure, elder services, and cultural preservation programs.

“Gaming revenue is not simply business income for Tribal Nations,” Chairman Bean continued. “It funds governmental services, creates economic opportunity, and strengthens communities. When federal policy creates pathways that bypass Tribal gaming laws and Tribal-State compacts, it directly impacts Tribal citizens and weakens the government-to-government relationship that has long been recognized by Congress.”

IGA leadership also highlighted growing support among Tribal organizations nationwide for amendments to the CLARITY Act that would expressly prohibit sports-event contracts functioning as sports wagering and include protections ensuring the legislation does not preempt Tribal gaming laws or Tribal sovereignty. Tribal organizations have warned that, without these protections, the legislation could represent one of the most significant threats to Tribal governmental authority and gaming exclusivity in a generation.

“The Indian Gaming Association will continue working with Tribal governments, Congress, federal agencies, and our partners across Indian Country to ensure that Tribal voices are heard and respected,” said Bean. “Innovation should never come at the expense of Tribal sovereignty. We will continue advocating for meaningful Tribal consultation, protection of IGRA, and preservation of the rights that Tribal Nations have fought generations to secure.”

NABI to be held July 15-18

STAFF REPORT

The annual NABI basketball tournament, which attracts some of the top high school talent in Indian Country, will be held July 15-18 in Phoenix, Arizona. Pool play games will be played at local venues. The championship games June 18 will be played at Phoenix College.

Three Florida teams are registered for the tournament. They are Native Soldiers (girls), Rez Ballers (boys) and Unconquered (boys).

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is a longtime major sponsor of the tournament.

Two T-shirt autograph signings will be held with BYU basketball player Sydney Benally. Benally is a former NABI player and now serves as a NABI ambassador.

Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open starts July 29

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open (SHRPO) will celebrate its top tournament series at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood July 28 with the one-day \$300 Deep Stack No Limit Hold'em ‘Slater Scoops’ opener, featuring a \$100,000 guarantee. The \$400 Deep Stack No Limit Hold'em, featuring a \$1 million guarantee, begins July 29.

Unique to South Florida, SHRPO is known for its one-of-a-kind finisher –

The Big 4. The Big 4 is a collection of four-tournament finales with staggered structures, timed so the final tables are played simultaneously. Carrying combined prize pools of \$4.75 million. The Big 4 events include:

- \$5,300 SHRPO Championship (Single Re-Entry Per Day), \$3 Million Guarantee, starts Friday, Aug. 7 at 11 a.m.
- \$3,000 Deep Stack No Limit Hold'em (Re-Entry), \$500,000 Guarantee, Sunday, Aug. 9 at 2 p.m.
- \$1,100 Deep Stack No Limit

Hold'em (Re-Entry), \$250,000 Guarantee, starts Monday, Aug. 10 at 1 p.m.

- \$25,500 High Roller No Limit Hold'em (Re-Entry), \$1 Million Guarantee, Monday, Aug. 10 at 1 p.m.

Other events surrounding The Big 4 include the \$800 Platinum Stack highlighting a \$250,000 guarantee, starting Tuesday, Aug. 4 at 11 a.m., and closing it all out with a \$10,000 Eight-Handed event beginning on Tuesday, Aug. 11 at noon, with a \$500,000 guarantee.

SHRPO's footprint has a capacity for

more than 100 tables providing plenty of space for poker tournament players from around the globe. In 2025, SHRPO's The Big 4 total cash payout exceeded the guarantees, topping more than \$6.3 million. Last year, Jake Cody won the SHRPO Championship for \$510,850.

Poker hotel rates during SHRPO are available. For more information and to view the series schedule, future tournament details and make hotel reservations, please visit SHRPO.com.





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Big Cypress camp honors outstanding campers

BIG CYPRESS—Here are some of the award winners who were recognized for having an outstanding camp at the Big Cypress summer sports camp the week of June 15.



Allison Garcia - Most Improved Cheer Camper of the Year



Jason Billie - Best Sportsmanship Soccer Camper of the Year



Thomas Koenes - Most Improved Soccer Camper of the Year



Ariana Osceola - Agility Hustle Camper of the Year



Allie Billie - Sportology Camper of the Year

Kevin Johnson



Madelynn Garza - MVP Basketball Camper of the Year

Kevin Johnson



Wildcat Billie - Basketball Scoring Champion Camper of the Year

Kevin Johnson



Big Cypress Recreation Department receives an award from the camp company.

Kevin Johnson



Amiliana Guerrero - Best Sprit Cheer Camper

Kevin Johnson



The Brighton Recreation Department, above, and Immokalee Recreation Department, below, receive awards at the end of the week-long camp from Celebrity Sports Academy.

Kevin Johnson (2)



◆ BRAIN CORNER ANSWERS From page 9A

- Answer Key:
1. WEIGHT
2. HEALTH
3. DIABETES
4. EXERCISE
5. SLEEP

6. HEART
7. WALKING
8. HEALTHY
9. DOCTORS
10. OBESITY

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