



BC cattle vaccinated  
COMMUNITY ♦ 5A



Michelle Ford retires after 31 years  
EDUCATION ♦ 1B



Native Soldiers win NAYO title  
SPORTS ♦ 1C

# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

www.seminoletribune.org • Free

Volume XLVII • Number 4

April 28, 2023

## Hard Rock Cafe opens in former Croatian monastery

STAFF REPORT

Hard Rock Cafe opened its first restaurant in Croatia on April 11, but it's not any ordinary location.

The cafe is located in a former monastery in the historic Old Town section of Dubrovnik, a city whose Medieval appearance attracted the filming of the "Game of Thrones" television series.

According to the cafe, the monastery was carefully refurbished "to ensure the unique building's features [were] kept, displayed and well preserved."

The arrival of the cafe was welcomed by city leaders.

"We know what the Hard Rock brand means in the world, and we are glad that our city has received this honor," Dubrovnik Mayor Mato Franković said during a press conference. "This is how this historically valuable space gained its added value, and there will also be something to see, from examples of guitars and other valuable exhibits."

The cafe features an indoor seating area, an atrium in a courtyard area and another outside patio.

♦ See PHOTOS on page 7A

## Tribe honors Will Latchford

Retires after decades of service in public safety

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Janet Jackson began a new tour April 14 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, but the star of the night for the Seminole Tribe was Will Latchford.

The tribe held a retirement dinner in a Hard Rock ballroom to honor Latchford, who served the tribe in public safety roles ranging from police officer to police chief to executive director of Public Safety for about 30 years.

Latchford announced in March that he would retire April 15.

During the celebration, the tribe's leadership, including Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie, Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall, Police Chief John Auer, Fire Rescue Chief Michael Mackey and Emergency Management Director Paul Downing praised Latchford's loyalty and service to the tribe in front of more than 150 people.

"I think folks are going to realize in a short time how blessed we've been to have a gentleman like this come work with us for so long and dedicate his life to the Seminole Tribe of Florida," Councilman Osceola said



Kevin Johnson

Will Latchford holds a sculpture of an eagle presented to him April 14 by the Public Safety departments as a symbol of his loyalty and service to the tribe. With him at the presentation are, from left to right, Seminole Police Chief John Auer, SPD assistant chief Forrest Jeffries and SPD assistant chief Kevin Tyrie. Latchford retired April 15 as the executive director of Public Safety.

to the audience as Latchford, his wife Amy Osceola and some of their children sat at a front row table.

In a letter to the tribal community earlier in the week, Chairman Osceola described

Latchford as a role model and inspiration to those around him.

"You have demonstrated exceptional professionalism and outstanding commitment to serving, leading and

protecting our community," Chairman Osceola wrote.

♦ See LATCHFORD on page 6A



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee junior Kadin Tommie explains how to repurpose items otherwise headed for the landfill during an Earth Day program at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on April 20.

## Earth Day – the Native way – and more celebrated in Big Cypress

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — With a focus on how to take better care of the planet, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum commemorated Earth Day on April 20.

The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970, when millions of Americans demanded something be done to improve the environment. Since then, the day has grown globally and is celebrated in about 200 countries to raise awareness about protecting the planet.

"Earth Day is about our responsibility for this land," said Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Gordon "Ollie" Wareham. "But that means you have to learn about the science of it and where we fit here on Earth. The big picture is that we are just a speck of dust floating in space, but this is all we have. We

have to take care of it."

The Big Cypress event featured plenty of hands-on educational activities and workshops, performances by Barry Big Mountain and the Iron Horse dancers, Seminole Rez Jamz musicians, poetry by Elgin Jumper, Seminole arts, crafts and fashions, vendors from area museums and organizations and plenty of Seminole food.

Under a large tent, the Ahfchkee School showcased students' efforts and results of caring for the school's culture garden. Students taught visitors about sustainable gardening with presentation stations inside the tent. Subject areas included how to grow food from seeds and roots, how to repurpose items that would have likely been thrown away, composting tips, how to grow food from the remnants of vegetables such as celery and potatoes, and how the garden supplies food to the school cafeteria.

Twelfth-grader Billie Cypress showed attendees that more potatoes can be grown from its eyes, sugar cane can be grown from an eye on the stalk, pineapples can be grown from the spiky part at the top of the fruit and aloe can be grown from cuttings.

Eleventh-grader Kadin Tommie manned a "garbage to garden" display where he talked about repurposing household items instead of throwing them away. On display were old laundry detergent containers used as planters, egg cartons to grow seedlings and plastic water bottles for small plants and herbs.

"I feel like we should have less waste and trash," Tommie said. "It's sad to see that this land is being littered like this. It's better to have more plants than waste."

♦ See EARTH DAY on page 6A

## Documentary shines light on Florida panther habitat

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Saving the habitat of the endangered and elusive Florida panther is the focus of "Path of the Panther," a new documentary which was recently screened on Seminole reservations.

Many tribal members live in close proximity to panthers and the tribe's largest clan is the Panther Clan, so it was a natural for the film to be shown to the tribe. It was screened in Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood, Immokalee and Naples in late March and early April. About 200 tribal members watched the film. The screenings, which were hosted by the Climate Resiliency department, featured a panel discussion with producers after the film.

The 90-minute film, from director Eric Bendick and executive producer Leonardo DiCaprio, also documents the effort to create the Florida Wildlife Corridor where the animals could thrive.

A significant discovery made during the production of the documentary was of a female panther north of the Caloosahatchee River, where one hadn't been seen for more than 40 years.

More than 200 panthers are in the wild, according to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimate, an indication that conservation efforts have helped boost the population since the 1970s when only 10 were estimated to be left in the wild.

"The goal of the project was to inspire

protection of panther habitat through the corridor," said Tori Linder, producer. "They depend on connected lands for survival."

Linder said the idea for the project began on the Big Cypress Reservation when National Geographic photographer Carlton Ward Jr. was photographing cattle and learning about panther predation in the area in 2016. Production of the film began in 2017.

Ward wanted to capture the elusive cat in its natural habitat. He set up remote cameras in wild areas of Southwest Florida, including the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. He said his goal has always been to protect panthers and other species that are integral to its survival.

"The panther is an umbrella species; if it and its habitat are protected, hundreds of other species will be as well," Ward said in an interview with the Tribune in 2016. "If we protect the land and provide habitat linkage, the animals will find a way."

Ward's remote cameras located at each site include infrared beams that trigger the camera when tripped by an animal, numerous strobe lights mounted in trees, still photography cameras and a video camera. All of the equipment is housed in waterproof boxes he designed and built.

Panthers weren't the only animals captured by the cameras; others included bears, alligators, turkeys, raccoons, bobcats and more.

♦ See PANTHER on page 6A



Carlton Ward Jr.

A female panther and kitten are photographed by a camera trap at night north of the Caloosahatchee River in Lee County.

### INSIDE:

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

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

# Editorial

## It's time for Cal to return Native remains

• Tony Platt

A recent year-long investigation by ProPublica and NBC News confirmed what is widely known on the UC Berkeley campus: Cal is the least compliant with the 1990 federal law that ordered the university to speedily repatriate thousands of Native American remains to their biological and cultural descendants. In response to this in-depth reporting, university administrators declined an interview and instead issued an unsigned, callously unreflective statement promising to comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) by 2033 — 43 years after passage of the federal legislation.

For the past three years, I have been doing research for the Berkeley Truth and Justice Project, trying to understand how a university that brands itself as an advocate of social justice sidesteps any controversial issues that might disrupt inspirational narratives marketed to prospective students and alumni. Its public relations strategy relies on damage control, procrastination, and diversion of system-wide issues into bureaucratic silos.

The university justified the plunder of Native patrimony in the name of scientific racism and preserving the culture of a “disappearing race.” It has since ignored the survivors of genocide and their descendants who have organized a fierce resistance,

ranking from polite petitions to rambunctious confrontations. Today, Tribes continue to speak out against what Sam Cohen of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians characterizes as “the number one bad actor” in the state: UC Berkeley.

Academia functions not just in the service of power but as a powerful institution in its own right. This is what has permitted the university — despite multiple state audits excoriating Berkeley’s noncompliance with NAGPRA — to continue to sit on the largest collection of unrepatriated Native American remains in the United States — possibly the largest in the world. Cal’s refusal to honor the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People is one of many examples of its callous disregard for the human cost of knowledge.

As I recently walked through the Berkeley campus — past buildings and plaques that celebrate the appropriation of Native homelands to finance the University of California; that dignify entrepreneurs who built their fortunes from the plunder of conquest; that erase Cal’s significant role in usurping tribal lands in New Mexico in order to build the first weapon of mass destruction against Japanese civilians; and that enshrine academics who made white supremacy respectable — I was reminded of Yurok Judge Abby Abinanti’s admonition that “the hardest mistakes to correct are those that are ingrained.”

March inaugurated UC Berkeley’s Big Give campaign to raise millions of dollars

in donations to a university dedicated to “making the world a better place.” How about a Big Give Back campaign, starting with compensating the tribes and native organizations whose land, blood, ancestors, cultural heritage, and traditional knowledge are inseparably tied to the university’s origins and rise to global prominence?

We also must do everything we can, in the words of Civil Rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer, to “bring this thing out to the light.” Cal cultivates a culture of forgetfulness reminiscent of Turkey’s officially mandated amnesia about the genocide of Armenians in the early 20th century and Spain’s “collective pact of forgetting” after the death of Franco. It applies its slogan “Fiat Lux” — let there be light — everywhere but to itself. The “greatest public university in the world” needs to illuminate its own dark past.

Whatever steps are taken to do justice to history, the reckoning must involve the active, substantial, and equitable involvement of Tribes and Native organizations whose ancestors’ lives and deaths constitute the university’s material and cultural foundations.

*Tony Platt is a distinguished affiliated scholar at the Center for the Study of Law and Society at UC Berkeley, a founding member of the Berkeley Truth & Justice Project and author of The Scandal of Cal: Land Grabs, White Supremacy, and Miseducation at UC Berkeley This opinion appeared at berkeleyside.org.*

## Illinois Senate should pass Native American repatriation bill

• The Daily Herald Editorial Board (Arlington Heights, Illinois)

Odds are pretty good that the first time you saw a dead person was at a museum. If not there, then a funeral.

Think about the different reactions you’d have to seeing a family member or a friend in a coffin versus seeing a mummified person in a display case under glass at a museum.

You’d express sorrow and reverence at the funeral home, whereas you’d view the body at the museum as a curiosity.

You would look in horror if it were your grandmother’s skeleton there for the world to inspect in a museum, perhaps a bit less so if it were your great-great-grandmother. You still might wonder under what circumstances someone dug her up to put her on display.

This is the reasoning behind a movement in Illinois to establish a Tribal Repatriation

Fund, which could be used solely for helping to rebury Indigenous ancestors and the stuff with which they were buried. The fund would be created through penalties paid by those who knowingly disturbed burial sites.

State Rep. Mark Walker, of Arlington Heights, introduced the bill after hearing concerns from leaders of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Walker holds a master’s degree in anthropology.

“These people were buried by their people with the goods they wanted to be buried with in spaces they wanted to be buried in, and (we) disturbed that,” Walker told ProPublica. “Just go repair it. It’s so simple.”

The proposed law differs from one already on the books for the past 34 years, in that the state of Illinois would no longer be the owner of Native American remains — the Native American nations would be. This is something tribal nations have been pushing for for three decades.

And it’s about time their wishes are honored.

ProPublica earlier this year revealed that

the remains of at least 15,000 Indigenous people who were exhumed in Illinois have not been returned.

“We’re grateful for the bipartisan support we’ve received from Illinois legislators who are working to right historic wrongs that have, put simply, diminished us,” Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Chairperson Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick told ProPublica in a recent story. “This legislation brings respect to our history and our ancestors the way they should’ve been respected centuries ago.”

Empathetic people should understand why this is so important. Every one of these people whose graves were dug up was a son or daughter, brother or sister, parent or grandparent.

For some of us, time has a way at chipping away at the emotional connections to our ancestors. For many Indigenous people, it’s quite the opposite. With unanimous approval in the Illinois House, it now goes to the Senate.

As Walker said, “I don’t know what right we have to dig up somebody’s grandmother.”

◆ See LIVES on page 3A

## Avangrid/Navajo deal has potential to change lives

• Albuquerque Journal Editorial Board

It can be hard to fathom in the year 2023, but it’s true: A third of the some 175,000 people who live on the Navajo reservation don’t have running water in their homes, and some 13,500 homes have no electricity.

Providing what many of us consider basic utilities throughout the sprawling Navajo Nation has been an unmet challenge for decades. But that could soon change, at least in terms of electricity.

Connecticut-based energy giant Avangrid and the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority signed a partnership last week that could be life-changing for many residents on the largest reservation in the country by bringing jobs, increased electricity and a strong revenue source.

The memorandum of understanding commits both parties to explore opportunities to develop up to a gigawatt of solar, wind and back-up battery storage on the reservation. If built out, that could mean enough juice for hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses on the reservation and in regional markets.

The Nenahnezad Chapter House, about midway between Farmington and Shiprock, could be one of the first beneficiaries. Avangrid and the tribal authority have proposed a new solar farm in Nenahnezad, a community hit hard from the closure of coal-fired power plants and mines in the Four Corners Region and the associated loss of thousands of good-paying jobs. It makes a successful partnership a double win.

“We want to pursue new economic development opportunities on lands there previously used for coal mining, and we want to create jobs in that area,” says NTUA Deputy General Manager for Generation Arash Moalemi.

The partnership has the potential to replace those lost jobs with hundreds of renewable energy jobs for Navajo workers and provide a new and continuing revenue stream for the tribal government to connect more homes to the electric grid. NTUA will maintain at least 51% majority ownership of each project to retain tribal sovereignty and control, and Moalemi says “revenue from these projects will go back to the utility to connect more homes to the grid to power them up.”

While the Avangrid-Navajo Nation partnership is exciting in theory, the proof will be in what actually gets built and

hooked up. Right now it’s an agreement on paper to explore renewable energy options, not a guarantee every — or any — home on the Navajo Nation will have electricity by any particular time frame.

It’s unclear at this early stage when the solar farm would be built in Nenahnezad and where and when other projects will be built, although Avangrid says development studies over the past year have identified potential projects that could harness the reservation’s wind and solar natural resources. Avangrid CEO Pedro Azagra says development could advance rapidly. We sure hope so. The Navajolands have waited long enough for one of modern life’s basic necessities.

Just as important, Azagra says the partnership is independent from Avangrid’s proposed merger with PNM, insisting it will move forward regardless of whether the N.M. Public Regulation Commission approves the merger. Avangrid had promised in 2021 during PNM-Avangrid hearings before the PRC to build at least 200 megawatts of renewable generation on the Navajo Nation and invest \$12.5 million in economic development projects in the Four Corners Region.

## NICWA’s Reno conference sets attendance record

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

It appears that a lot of people really have missed getting together for in-person events.

The National Indian Child Welfare Association’s (NICWA) annual “Protecting Our Children” conference — its 41st — took place in Reno, Nevada, April 2-5. Organizers were thrilled that attendance at the conference set an all-time record with 1,802 attendees.

“We beat the record by hundreds,” Sarah Kastelic (Alutiiq), NICWA executive director, said. “Before the pandemic, we were getting about 1,500.”

The Seminole Tribe was once again a lead sponsor of the event.

Kastelic thinks a string of three virtual conferences during the pandemic from 2020 to 2022 helped to keep people engaged with the organization, but feeling pent up in front of computers instead of meeting and socializing in person.

NICWA shifted to a virtual format in 2020 just two weeks before it was to meet in Denver, Colorado. In 2021, the conference was planned to be virtual and in 2022 the hope was to meet in person in Orlando, but those plans changed out of an abundance of caution due to the pandemic.

“Folks that come year after year could walk in a ballroom and see dear friends we haven’t seen in a long time,” Kastelic said. “People who have had incredibly difficult years.”

Kastelic said the conference has always focused on appreciation for those who work in child welfare, often with families in crisis. She said it can be an intense and sometimes isolating job.

“For people to come back together and have connection and support was very restorative,” she said.

Kastelic said she thought there was another reason why attendance was so high this year — the U.S. Supreme Court. The court is poised to hand down a decision

after a string of challenges to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). She said the anticipation is high as a decision could come as soon as the end of April.

“We’re hearing really conflicting things, and the Supreme Court holds everything close to the vest. We won’t get much of a heads up,” Kastelic said. “On the other hand, this court has been one of the slowest to churn out opinions. We’re in a position where everyone is trying to read the tea leaves.”

Kastelic said NICWA and its supporters are doing what they can in advance of a decision, no matter what it might be. She said it could range from validation of the law, an invalidation of it, or more likely, something in-between.

“It’s on the minds of tribal leaders and administrators as well as the front line workers,” Kastelic said.

Another reason for the robust attendance, Kastelic said, is that child welfare workers in Canada’s First Nations communities are also facing challenges to its version of ICWA, which just went into effect in January 2022.

“They’ve just been doing it for about a year. After a full year of implementation the court challenges started to come,” she said. “It’s the same kind of attacks as in the U.S.”

Even though many of the topics at multiple conference sessions and workshops involve intense subject matter, Kastelic said there were many happy moments.

Kastelic recalled walking up and down the halls at the Peppermint Reno Hotel Resort while 12 workshops were simultaneously underway.

“We were not only wanting to be together in person, but we brought our culture to the spaces,” she said. “There was drumming in one room and singing in another. There was always some of that, but it was more than ever before. Culture is foundation of the work we’re trying to do.”

The next two NICWA conference locations have been set — Seattle in 2024 and Orlando in 2025.

More is at [nicwa.org](http://nicwa.org).



Attendees were excited to be back together in person after three years.

## Arizona tribe will receive millions in federal payouts for water conservation

KUNC (COLORADO)

The federal government will send up to \$233 million to the Gila River Indian Community for water conservation. The tribe is among the first to receive federal payouts as part of a program to incentivize water cutbacks in Arizona, California and Nevada. Those three states make up the Colorado River’s Lower Basin, where water use remains steady in spite of shrinking reserves.

The Gila River Indian Community will conserve 125,000 acre-feet of water and receive \$50 million from the Inflation Reduction Act in exchange. The tribe has the option to do so again in 2024 and 2025, receiving another \$50 million in each additional year. That water will stay in Lake Mead, the nation’s largest reservoir, where historically-low water levels threaten hydropower production within the Hoover Dam, and have raised concerns about the reservoir’s long-term ability to provide water to millions of people in cities such as Phoenix, Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

Those payments would break down to \$400 per acre-foot of water. An acre-foot is the amount of water needed to fill one acre of land to a height of one foot. One acre-foot generally provides enough water for one to two households for a year.

The tribe will also receive \$83 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to expand water reuse efforts. It will fund a reclaimed water pipeline that, when completed, will add up to 20,000 acre-feet annually for system conservation with a minimum of 78,000 acre-feet committed to remain Lake Mead.

The Gila River Indian Community is one of 30 federally recognized tribes that

use water from the Colorado River, and among the most prominent tribal voices in the regional conversations about water use.

“We want to be good actors,” said Gila River Indian Community Governor Stephen Roe Lewis in October, when the tribe first announced its intent to conserve water. “We want to make sure that the precious water supplies we have, that it’s going to go to a sustainable solution.”

Sarah Porter, director of the Kyl Center for Water Policy at Arizona State University, cautioned that funding sent to the Gila River Indian Community is not necessarily indicative that the federal water conservation program is working at a broader level.

“It doesn’t say as much as we might hope,” Porter said. “Because this program is competing with current commodity prices. I have asked a few growers who have the opportunity to participate if they will, and it’s clear that the high price of different agricultural commodities is getting in the way. The Gila River Indian Community is in a unique position to participate.”

Current guidelines for the Colorado River are set to expire in 2026, and states are expected to negotiate a new set of rules for how it’s shared. As climate change shrinks supplies, state and federal governments have assembled a patchwork of short-term conservation agreements to chip away at demand and prevent catastrophe before then.

The 30 tribes which use the Colorado River hold rights to about a quarter of its flow, but have often been excluded from negotiations about how the river’s water is used. At the same time, tribal communities often lack reliable access to clean water due to aging infrastructure and a history of underinvestment.

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

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

Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make checks payable to: The Seminole Tribune 6365 Taft Street Suite 1003 Hollywood, FL 33024

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

Issue: May 31, 2023  
Deadline: May 15, 2023

Issue: June 30, 2023  
Deadline: June 14, 2023

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

Postmaster: Please send address changes to: The Seminole Tribune 6365 Taft St. Suite 1003 Hollywood, FL 33024

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

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

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

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

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

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

© 2023 Seminole Tribe of Florida

# Community

## Rabies, microchip clinics return to tribe

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe's animal control program – part of the Health and Human Services Department – is scheduled to host a free rabies and microchip clinic on the Big Cypress Reservation on May 17. The event hasn't been held since 2019 due to the pandemic.

Jonathan Vasquez, the tribalwide animal control program supervisor, has worked at the clinics for many years, which are open to tribal members and tribal residents.

"We provide the service through the tribe – we will vaccinate the dogs for rabies, register them, and upon registering them we microchip them in order to identify the animal and the owner," he said.

Rabies is a viral disease that is most often transmitted through the bite of an animal, such as a dog, bat, coyote, fox, skunk or raccoon. Microchipping a pet provides a secure, reliable and permanent identification – which greatly increases the likelihood that a lost pet will be returned to its home.

"Animals are animals. Sometimes they find their way out and you might not realize it," Vasquez said. "When we get a call that a dog is at-large, we pick it up and hold onto them until we can hopefully reunite the dog with the owner."

Vasquez said rabies bites haven't been a big issue at the tribe, especially since the clinics were instituted.

"That's because we make it accessible to prevent it," he said. "You can't take care of a rabies issue unless you're proactive,

before it's an issue."

Vasquez said that animal bites do happen on the reservations, but are usually "known bites," meaning an animal bites someone while its playing, or when someone tries to separate animals that are fighting or being aggressive to each other. All in all, Vasquez said, those situations are rare.

Vasquez and his team of four animal control officers recently held a clinic on the Brighton Reservation where about 27 people showed up. He said the numbers are usually higher than that, but some tribal members sought out off-reservation veterinarians during the pandemic. He expects more people to come to the Big Cypress clinic.

"We are constantly busy," Vasquez said. "There are a lot of animals on all the reservations."

Vasquez is a familiar face to some tribal members, especially on the Big Cypress Reservation. He's worked for the tribe since 1999, when he was hired as an alligator wrestler for Billie Swamp Safari, where he also did venomous snake

shows. He eventually became the manager of Billie Swamp Safari for six years.

"In the park we'd get constant calls – there's an alligator here or an animal issue on the reservation," he said.

Vasquez, tribal member Jacob Osceola, and Big Cypress resident Kimberly Royal, who all worked at Billie Swamp Safari, helped form the tribe's animal control program in 2007. Osceola presented the proposal to tribal leaders, who approved it.

"It became more important than doing shows for public and provided a needed service – something that's expanded," Vasquez said. "It's a constant because so many have pets, and there's lots of wildlife."

Animal control relocates snakes, alligators, bears and raccoons. They take injured animals to wildlife care centers for rehabilitation and then return them to the same area where they were found for release.

"It's a really interesting job. There are never two days that are alike. It keeps you on your toes," he said. "Especially when someone calls about a rattlesnake in their garage."

The May 17 clinic in Big Cypress is scheduled to take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena. It is requested that cats be placed in a carrier and dogs be on a leash. Tribal member identification is required. The Immokalee and Hollywood reservations will also host clinics, but the dates have not been finalized. Questions can be directed to Vasquez at (954) 347-0712.



Wikimedia Commons  
Dogs on the Big Cypress Reservation can be vaccinated for rabies and micro-chipped at a clinic in May.

the Avangrid-Navajo Nation deal to be just a PR stunt to curry support for the energy giant's takeover of PNM.

The newly formed partnership could be the best news the Navajos and the Four Corners Region have gotten in years if it results in the dramatic new supply of renewable energy along with hundreds of new jobs.

*This editorial first appeared in the Albuquerque Journal. It was written by members of the editorial board and is unsigned as it represents the opinion of the newspaper rather than the writers.*

### LIVES From page 2A

Given how controversial the proposed merger is, the fact it is tied up in court and the clear need for reliable power on the Navajo Nation, it would be unfortunate for

## Broward & Beyond Business Conference

**INNOVATE | COLLABORATE | CELEBRATE**  
Friday, June 2, 2023 | 8AM - 5PM Check-in Begins: 7AM  
Signature Grand, 6900 W. State Road 84, Davie, FL 33317  
For Established Businesses, Nonprofits and Others Looking to Do Business with Local, State and Federal Governments & More!

Launch your business to new heights with peers and colleagues. Explore real opportunities, participate in engaging break out workshops and make connections that count.

**FREE ADMISSION**

### Fireside Chat

Listen in as Neki Mohan chats with Aisha Bowe for an out of this world luncheon experience.

**Aisha Bowe**  
Future Blue Origin Astronaut, Former NASA Rocket Scientist, and Founder and CEO of STEMBoard & LINGO

**Moderator Neki Mohan**  
Vice President of Multicultural Business & Community Engagement, VisitLauderdale

**Visit Broward.org/BizBeyond**

Scan the QR Code to REGISTER NOW

**BROWARD COUNTY FLORIDA**  
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
954-357-6400 | Broward.org/EconDev

#BBBC2023 @BCOESBD Broward County OESBD

## Brown & Company Realty

"Proudly Serving All Areas of Florida With Residential, Acreage and Commercial Real Estate"

**Emma Johns Brown**  
Licensed Broker/Owner/ Realtor®  
Seminole Tribal Member  
**(863) 634-3272**

221 NE PARK ST. OKEECHOBEE, FL. 34972  
www.browncandcompanyrealty.org

## SEMINOLE PETROLEUM

Seminole Petroleum is your premier petroleum distributor in Florida providing quality fuels, lubricants and related specialty products to meet your business' needs. With a state-of-the-art facility, bulk plant and large full-service fleet located throughout the state, we have the fuel to keep you and your business moving forward.

Multiple branded premium fuel options, lubricants, and related specialty products.

One of the largest fleets of vehicles with 15 Transport trucks and 8 Tankwagons to ensure delivery to you within 24 hours.

Access to ports in Ft. Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Orlando and Tampa giving us the ability to service customers across all of Florida.

From retail, commercial, construction sites, agriculture and marinas, we provide complete and comprehensive fuel solutions for almost any business.

Dedicated staff provides best-in-class service to every customer.

**(239) 262-4124 | sempetro.com**  
3170 Horseshoe Drive South, Naples, FL 34104



Robert Rosa of the American Indian Movement of Florida, second from left, and the Seminole Tribe's Martha Tommie, third from left, sit with others at Miami City Hall in opposition of development at the 444 Brickell site.

Christina Vasquez/Twitter

## Miami, developer find some common ground on Brickell site

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Miami's historic preservation board reinforced its intention to preserve a large portion of the prehistoric archaeological site known as 444 Brickell at an April 4 hearing, but delayed a vote on a formal historical designation. In a compromise with property owner and developer Related Group, it also stopped short on taking action for the portion of the site where two towers are to be built, with 1,400 residential units and office, hotel and retail space.

The 4-acre downtown Miami parcel is located on the southern bank of the Miami River, just minutes' walk from the Miami

Circle National Historic Landmark.

Archaeologists have known of historically significant artifacts at the site for several years. The list of discoveries include 7,000-year-old spearheads and stone points, nets and twine made of plant fiber, and a wooden device used to start fires, among many other artifacts. Human remains of Seminole and Miccosukee ancestors, including teeth and a gravesite with skeletal fragments have been found. Animal remains of fish, reptiles, deer, a now extinct Caribbean monk seal, and a Megalodon tooth have also been unearthed.

Among the parts of one patch surveyed, according to local archeologists, are artifacts that are suggestive of contact being made between Seminole and Miccosukee tribal ancestors and Europeans in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Under Florida law, tribes must be notified and consulted when ancestral human remains are found, in order to supervise their relocation, if necessary.

Last month, Tina Osceola, the director of the Seminole Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), said THPO has been involved with the site from the beginning and that it's been "a long and drawn out process."

"All we can do is to make sure the ancestors at that location are treated as the law requires," Osceola said. "Sometimes it gets very frustrating when you see an important site like that excavated."

Osceola said that state officials had been "very cooperative" with the tribe so far.

The five-hour April 4 hearing at Miami City Hall in Coconut Grove drew an overflow crowd. Local media reported that while there were some supporters

of the project in attendance, including representatives of the Related Group, there were many more – including archeologists and Indigenous activists like Miccosukee tribal member Betty Osceola and Seminole tribal member Martha Tommie – who were there to call for development to stop, or for a significant preservation of the site.

There have been calls to preserve the site in a fashion similar to the adjacent 2,000-year-old Miami Circle National Historic Landmark that was discovered in 1998. The land where it sits was purchased to prevent a high-rise development.

The Miami Herald reported April 5 that two 8-0 votes by the preservation board came after "a confusing and sometimes heated hearing that archaeologist and University of Miami professor William Pestle described as 'chaos.'" Pestle helped city staff draw up a proposal for historic designation of the property.

The Herald reported that the votes "appeared to provide the preservation board something that residents, activists and independent experts had been clamoring for: greater and more direct authority over what the Related Group does at the site."

The preservation board is now expected to make a decision about a formal historical designation in July. Representatives of the Related Group said they want a delay of any historical designation until after the ongoing archaeological dig is completed. The Related Group has also argued that artifacts should not be required to stay in the ground, but be sent to a museum for preservation.

If the historical designation is approved, Related Group could be required to preserve all or a portion of the site, and exhibit the artifacts in a public space while highlighting archaeological and historical significance, although those details were not discussed at the hearing.



Christina Vasquez/Twitter  
Miccosukee tribal member and activist Betty Osceola has led protests against excavation at the site.

## Q&A: Fire safety expo comes to Hollywood

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Hollywood Council Office sponsored a fire safety expo April 22 at the Hollywood Fire Rescue Station 108, located at 3105 N State Road 7. The event hadn't been held since before the Covid-19 pandemic began in 2020.

The expo offered tribal and community members a fire station tour, kitchen fire safety class, hands on safety demonstrations (including a chance to be "firefighter for a day" by spraying a fire hose), fire extinguisher training, propane safety, CPR training, training on how to stop a bleed, a meet and greet with "Sparky" the fire dog, and lunch that was provided by the Hollywood Council Office.

We asked the Seminole Tribe's Fire Rescue fire chief Michael Mackey a couple questions about the event. Answers have been edited for length and clarity.

**What was the goal of the expo?**

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

It's an event where we raise awareness about fire safety in our community through education and training. We organized several activities and a range of fun events for people of all ages. We are committed to building a relationship with the tribal member's families and creating a safer environment for everyone. Ultimately, our aim is to reduce the incidence of fires and to build relationships.

**How did the idea first come about?**

The concept was initiated by [Hollywood] Councilman Chris Osceola and his staff, who envisioned a community event that focused on fire safety. The Fire Rescue team worked together with the council member to bring his vision to life – various fun events that encourage community participation and engagement and are aimed at promoting fire safety awareness in the community.



Damon Scott

Fire Rescue lieutenant Charles Hershman helps Reign Hincapie operate a fire hose.



Damon Scott

Fire Rescue lieutenant Mackinley Pratt explains some of the equipment the department uses when responding to calls.

## Randy Singh brings Orange County experience to tribal role

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe has a new executive director of operations – Randy Singh. His first day on the job was Feb. 6. Singh oversees operations and services within government departments that fall under the Executive Operations Office. Those include Seminole Media Productions, Buildings and Grounds, the Heritage and Environment Resources Office, Building Inspector Office and more.

He comes to the tribe after almost 25 years of experience in Orange County government in Orlando.

Singh grew up in Queens in New York City, where he also went to business school at the City University of New York's Bernard M. Baruch College in Manhattan. He earned degrees in accounting and finance and audio engineering. He is a certified government finance officer and a certified public finance officer. The 1993 bombing in the basement of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan would be pivotal in his life and career.

"I was in tower one on the 69th floor when it happened," Singh said. "I walked down 69 flights of stairs and saw what happened and it scared the heck out of me."

Six people were killed and more than 1,000 were injured in the blast. Singh had been working in the building for a Wall Street firm as a junior executive at the time. His office operated out of New Jersey for two months while the World Trade Center was being repaired, but Singh never wanted to return. A few years later he left New York City.

"After the incident and the amount of attention it received, I realized it could happen again, just because of the global attention," Singh said. "It was an attack on U.S. soil of a magnitude that had never been seen at the time."

Not long after, a newly married Singh went on a honeymoon in Orlando and stayed at a Disney property.

"It was like paradise; especially coming from the hustle and bustle of New York," Singh said. "You come to a location with green space, beautiful landscape and pristine rows. There was a vibe, an energy in Orlando that wasn't in New York."

The family eventually moved to Orlando and Singh began to work for a hotel management company, but quickly landed a less travel-dependent job for Orange County government in the budget office as a budget analyst.

"Orange County government exceeded my expectations. I quickly realized how important government services are," Singh

said.

Orange County is the fifth largest county in Florida and its government has about 10,000 employees. Singh worked his way up from budget analyst to one of three deputy county administrators – the equivalent of an executive vice president in a large corporation. He oversaw a multibillion-dollar budget. In addition to budget and finance, he oversaw huge departments, like public safety 911 operations, social services, crisis assistance, real estate, parks and recreation, government facilities operations, risk management, human resources, information technology, economic development, marketing and promotions, procurement, capital projects, fleet services, arts, and more. He worked under five mayoral administrations.

"Everything involves the budget," Singh said. "I was involved in a lot of high level decisions and that's what propelled me up."

**'Listen, learn'**

While Singh said there were more good days than bad days at the job, he decided he was ready for something different, and the Seminole Tribe came calling.

In addition to large tribal departments, Singh oversees the SemFuel gas station and the shuttered Billie Swamp Safari on the Big Cypress Reservation. He's currently working on a proposal to "bring it back to life in a new way."

"The goal for me in this position is to work collaboratively with all the other executives," he said. "I'm a data driven person. Good decisions are based on good data or you're guessing, and I don't like to guess. My goal for the first three months is to listen, to learn, and to ask a lot of questions, and that's what I've been doing."

Singh said the vibe of the tribe's music-centric Hard Rock empire also resonates with him. He was in a band as a teenager and says music has been big part of his life.

"If I was to explain the music, it was like the Police or UB40 – some country rock," he said. "Every week we played gigs in big clubs; I played Central Park twice."

Singh played bass guitar for the most part, he said. The band's name was Haze Venom. He and his band mates signed a recording contract and spent many hours creating over 50 original tracks in a recording studio in New York.

Singh has two adult children. His wife is a chief financial officer. His daughter recently graduated with a Master of Business Administration from the University of Miami and works as an investment analyst. His son works in information technology and is launching his own startup company.



Damon Scott

Randy Singh in his office at Hollywood headquarters March 27.



Damon Scott

Firefighter and paramedic Rafael Diaz gives youngsters the experience of sitting on a fire truck.



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress cattle foreman Andre Jumper, at left, his father Josh Jumper, at far right, lead the cattle crew out to Moses and Naha Jumper's pastures to retrieve cattle for their vaccinations April 3.

## Big Cypress cattle owners herds vaccinated

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Cattle ranching is a lifestyle which requires a commitment of time, energy and resources. There are no time clocks, other than the needs of the cattle, and the job provides ample time outdoors and the satisfaction of raising and caring for the animals.

For Seminole cattle owners, raising cattle is daily endeavor that is broken up a few times each year with big events such as vaccinations, pregnancy checks and calf shipping.

From March 27 to April 6, about 2,175 cows belonging to Big Cypress cattle owners were rounded up, moved into pens and ultimately into a squeeze chute to get vaccinated. All cattle received six vaccines. Calves received vaccines, ear tags, were dehorned and the males were neutered.

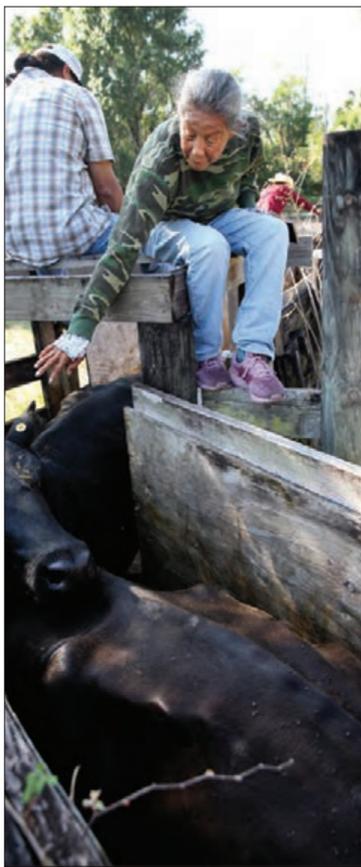
Janice Osceola watched as her herd was led from the pens to the chute for vaccines. Although she loves the work of a cattle

owner, Hurricane Ian hit on Sept. 28, 2022, and damaged some of her pasture and pens. She enlisted one of her sons, a daughter and a son-in-law to help with the repairs.

"I spent a lot of time before the vaccines mending fences," Osceola said. "The hurricane destroyed an old oak tree which destroyed one of the pens. We got it all fixed in time."

Big Cypress cattle foreman Andre Jumper and about six cowhands rounded up 23 cattle owners' herds and vaccinated them as Natural Resources Department office manager Sheri Holmes and administrative assistant Jennifer Hopper recorded it all in a computer data base.

Vaccination days were long and at times the cattle were elusive as they sought out the shade of the pastures' forested areas. Despite the challenges, the cattle crew got the work done. In the following days and for many months longer, the owners will get up early and take care of the cattle in their pastures without the tumult of a big event.



Beverly Bidney

Cattle owner Janice Osceola reaches out to touch one of her cows from the top of her cow pen.

Beverly Bidney  
A cow gets new ear tags and vaccinations while stabilized in the chute. Cattle crew members Pauletta Bowers, far left, and Josh Jumper, at right, make sure everything is completed properly.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, cattle from Moses and Naha Jumper's herd wait in a pen for vaccinations. Below, Janice Osceola's cattle are herded through pens into a squeeze chute for vaccinations.



## Obituary

### Daniel Travor Osceola

Daniel Travor Osceola, Ojibwe name is Makada Nimge Giniw "Black Thunderbird", age 47, of Onamia, MN passed away on March 16, 2023 in Onamia. A service of remembrance for Dan was held on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Baxter.

Dan was born on July 3, 1975, in Minneapolis, MN to (Jack) Mason Osceola and Diane (Pemberton) Osceola.

He loved a good game of golf, playing pool, loved four-wheeling and the outdoors including backyard bonfires. 'Bat-Dan' as he affectionately called himself, loved his children and was a very outgoing person with a great sense of humor. He was very mechanically inclined-able to fix pretty much anything.

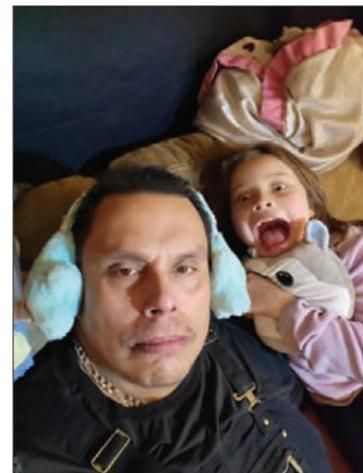
Dan belonged the Seminole Bird Clan (Crane). He was a proud member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

He is survived by his mother Diane (Pemberton) Osceola, his grandmother Charlotte (Bedeau) White, grandmother Gerri (Larson) Miller, his children Jack (Sabrina) Osceola, Elizabeth Osceola, Dominic Osceola, Jaidan Osceola and Danyele Osceola, his grandchildren Mason, Everley, and Sutton Osceola, sisters Cody Larson-Berg (Guy) and Justine Osceola, and brother Kyle Larson (Tessa), and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Dan is preceded in death by his stepdad John A. Larson, his father (Jack) Mason Osceola, his sister Candice Osceola, and his grandparents Jack and Maggie Osceola, and grandfather Robert Larson.

Thank you to the Seminole Tribe of Florida and to his Seminole Family for all their care and support.

Arrangements are entrusted to Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Baxter.



## Hard Rock Daytona hosts tribute band series

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**DAYTONA BEACH** — Hard Rock Daytona's Rock the Beach Tribute Band Series continues in the spring and summer. Upcoming tribute bands at the oceanfront Wave Terrace include:

- May 5 Tribute: A Day to Remember and Linkin Park
- May 12 Tribute: The Cure and Depeche Mode
- May 26 Tribute: Guns N' Roses
- June 2 Tribute: Foreigner and Journey
- June 9 Tribute: Led Zeppelin

- June 16 Tribute: Lynyrd Skynyrd
- June 23 Tribute: Aerosmith and Loverboy
- June 30 Tribute: Pat Benatar and Joan Jett
- July 29 Tribute: The Grateful Dead
- Sept. 1 Tribute: Sounds of Seattle
- Sept. 8 Tribute: The Rolling Stones
- Sept. 22 Tribute: The Cars
- Sept. 29 Tribute: Scorpions, Boston and Women in Rock

Doors open at 7 p.m.; shows start at 8 p.m. For more information visit [hardrockhotels.com/daytona-beach/](http://hardrockhotels.com/daytona-beach/).

## Comedy in Tampa

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**TAMPA** — Comedian Anthony Jeselnik's new tour "Bones and all" is scheduled for the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa on Nov. 19 at 8 p.m.

Tickets start at \$50 and are available at [seminolehardrocktampa.com](http://seminolehardrocktampa.com) and Ticketmaster.

Jeselnik has performed on Conan, The Tonight Show, Jimmy Kimmel Live and was a writer and the first ever stand-up comic to appear on Late Night with Jimmy Fallon.

Health & Human Services

**FLU PREVENTION**  
STAY SAFE FROM THE FLU

**FIGHT THE FLU**

RESERVATION CLINICS:

**Big Cypress**  
(863) 983-5151

**Brighton**  
(863) 763-0271

**Hollywood**  
(954) 962-2009

**Immokalee**  
(239) 867-3400

**This Flu Season Stay Prepared And Take Preventative Measures To Help Keep Yourself And Others Safe:**

- **Get Vaccinated**
- **Cover Your Cough or Sneeze**
- **Wash Your Hands**
- **Avoid Touching Your Eyes, Nose, & Mouth**
- **Stay Home If Your Are Sick**

Take the initiative today to contact your nearest clinic & schedule your flu shot now!

Contact Health & Human Services Hotline  
(833) 786-3458 (833 STOF-HLT)



**◆ LATCHFORD**  
From page 1A

Latchford received plenty of parting gifts, including his retired Glock sidearm, a wooden axe, a knife, a wooden display inscribed with the dates of his service to the tribe and an encased U.S. flag, an eagle sculpture for his loyalty and service, and a Florida State football helmet signed by members of Fire Rescue.

Chairman Osceola presented Latchford with a patchwork jacket. He also received a Seminole basket made by the chairman's wife, Trisha.

Latchford was the evening's final speaker. He became emotional when he mentioned the name of Don DiPetrillo, the tribe's fire chief who died from Covid-19 near the onset of the pandemic in 2020. Latchford, who served as interim fire chief after DiPetrillo's passing, paused and wept before he continued.

He stressed the importance of relationships. More than once, he urged tribal members and tribal employees to get to know each other for the good of the tribe. He even challenged everyone to meet three new people in the room before the end of the night.

"In my career, I've been laser focused with making sure I have relationships with everyone that I can," he said. "Those relationships I've built over the years are what molded me into me standing here today."



Kevin Johnson

Will Latchford wears a patchwork jacket and holds a basket that were given to him at his retirement celebration April 14. With Latchford are, from left to right, Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. The basket was made by Chairman Osceola's wife, Trisha.



Kevin Johnson

Will Latchford waves to guests at the end of a retirement celebration in his honor.



Kevin Johnson

Will Latchford holds a wooden axe, a gift from Seminole Fire Rescue. In the background are Emergency Management director Paul Downing, left, and Seminole Fire Rescue Fire Rescue deputy chief Evan Weiner.

**◆ PANTHER**  
From page 1A

"[Panthers] are like ghosts; it's so hard to show the story," Ward said in the film. "If we can show the world who that panther is, that's going to be a spark that will save this whole corridor."

The Florida Wildlife Corridor is comprised of nearly 18 million acres of contiguous wilderness and ranch lands. It is composed of hundreds of parcels of protected land from the panhandle to Everglades National Park.

The post-film panel consisted of Linder; Betty Osceola, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians; Meredith Budd, director of the Live Wildly Foundation; and Brad Cornel, Southwest Florida policy director of the Audubon Society. They discussed the film during a question and answer period after the screening in Naples on March 29.

"Only 10 million acres are conserved, eight million are not yet protected," Budd said. "This is an opportunity to protect it by advocating to officials for funding and protection."

In April 2021, the Florida Legislature unanimously passed the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act, which provides \$400 million to protect interconnected natural areas.

"The corridor legislation was monumental," Budd said. "We need to get everyone at the local level to get excited about this. This film is very important."

"It's important for people to see this film," Osceola said. "When people get behind a movement, we sometimes forget this is constant work. There is always someone on the other side trying to erode or change things. We always have to be mindful of that."

Osceola narrated a portion of the film in Elaponke. She also took the filmmakers to sites on her airboat.

"This is our home, just like it's the home to the deer, the frogs and the panther," Osceola said in the film. "The animals, they don't see these imaginary lines. They are trying to get to the areas that they knew."

During production of the film, the female panther found north of the Caloosahatchee River was filmed with kittens.

"To have new generations of panthers born here will bring the system back into balance," Ward said in the film. "This is it, this is nature's last stand. The panther is showing us that it's not too late."

"Path of the Panther" was released on Disney+ and the National Geographic Channel on April 22, Earth Day. It is also scheduled to be available on Hulu.



Carlton Ward Jr.

A Florida panther is photographed by one of Carlton Ward Jr.'s remote cameras. The cameras include infrared beams that trigger the camera's shutter and numerous strobe lights.



Beverly Bidney

National Geographic photographer Carlton Ward Jr. checks a remote camera in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge in 2016.



Courtesy photo

The "Path of the Panther" screening in Big Cypress on March 30 included a panel discussion featuring from left, National Geographic photographer Carlton Ward Jr., the tribe's climate resiliency officer Jill Horwitz, climate resiliency policy coordinator Krystle Bowers, documentary producer Tori Linder, Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation's Mallory Dimmett and Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie.



Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach

Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach's new revamped pool and lounge area.

## Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach celebrates anniversary with upgrades

### STAFF REPORT

In celebration of its fifth anniversary, Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach is highlighting recent renovations to the 200-room oceanfront venue.

An enhanced pool deck, refreshed guestrooms and youth club, and revamped memorabilia are among the recent upgrades.

The guitar pool has been converted to a full-size pool and an oversized hot tub has been added along with more lounge seating.

Inside, new memorabilia items include Madonna's limousine that the music star used for the Grammy Awards in 2001.

A new youth arcade, known as the Hard Rock Roxity Youth Club, features games and amusements.



Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach

Madonna's limousine adds to the lobby's ambiance.



Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach

A youth area with games and seats is part of the new additions.

## Hard Rock Tampa to host 'Fluffy' performance

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

**TAMPA** — Comedian Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias will perform at the Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa on Aug. 17 at 8 p.m. Tickets starting at \$110 are available

at [seminolehardrocktampa.com](http://seminolehardrocktampa.com) and Ticketmaster.

Iglesias is one of America's most successful stand-up comedians performing to sold-out concerts around the world. He is also one of the most watched comedians on YouTube.

## Hard Rock Tampa chef wins festival competition

### STAFF REPORT

Representing Seminole Hard Rock Tampa's Council Oak Steaks & Seafood, chef Matthew Zappoli won the best truffle competition at the inaugural Tampa Wine and Food Festival on April 14.

According to Hard Rock Tampa, Zappoli and his team served wild mushroom agnolotti with chives, parmesan cheese and shredded black truffle over a bed of puréed cauliflower. It wasn't Zappoli's first championship; he is a previous champion from the Food Network's "Chopped" show.

In June 2022, Zappoli was named creative culinary director at Hard Rock Tampa.



Hard Rock Tampa

Matthew Zappoli

## ◆ CROATIA CAFE PHOTOS

From page 1A



Hard Rock (2)

Hard Rock Cafe in Dubrovnik, Croatia, opened in April in a former monastery.



## Kevin Hart comes to Hard Rock Live in June

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Comedian and actor Kevin Hart will appear at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood on June 3 at 8 p.m. Go to [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) for tickets.

The Emmy and Grammy-nominated Hart was born and raised in Philadelphia, where he launched his career as a comedian

during an amateur night at a local comedy club. Over the years, Hart has become a box office powerhouse, opening 11 films at No. 1 at the box office and grossing more than \$4.23 billion in global revenue.

Hart is currently touring nationally on his "Reality Check" Tour. The tour was recently named the No. 1 Comedy Tour of 2022 by Billboard.

## Ted Nugent to play 3 Seminole venues

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

Rocker Ted Nugent will bring his high-octane live show to Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee on July 12. On July 14, Nugent will play at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood. On July 16, Nugent will perform at Hard Rock Event Center in Tampa.

All shows start at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) and [moreinparadise.com](http://moreinparadise.com).

"Performing my killer songs with this killer band for these killer music-loving audiences every night is an indescribable joyous musical celebration beyond words," Nugent said in a press release.

Nugent has carved a permanent place in rock and roll history as the ultimate guitar-shredding showman, selling more than 40 million albums and performing over 6,500 live shows.

## Hard Rock Digital joins responsible gaming coalition

### STAFF REPORT

Hard Rock Digital (HRD) has joined a group of other national online gaming operators with a shared goal of strengthening the industry's responsible gaming standards. HRD is Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming's platform for internet gaming and sports betting.

HRD joined Fanatics Betting and Gaming and PointsBet as the latest members of the coalition. Existing members include Bally's, BetMGM, DraftKings, Entain, FanDuel and MGM Resorts International. A March 30 news release said company representatives met in September 2022 to come up with a list of industry-specific responsible gaming standards to promote.

"Hard Rock Digital is pleased to have this opportunity to collaborate with our fellow operators to promote and maintain an industry-wide atmosphere of responsible gambling," Danny Crook, senior vice president of operations at HRD, said in the release. "We're committed to serving our players with educational tools, resources, and support – to ensure a safe and enjoyable online gaming experience."

Some of the standards that were compiled, according to the release, are:

- Launching a variety of responsible gaming tools and sites.
- Appointing responsible gaming ambassadors.
- Advocating for a unified, nationwide responsible gaming toll-free helpline.
- Establishing research partnerships with industry-leading institutions.
- Partnering with the National Council on Problem Gambling by serving as donors and advisory board members; helping to fund the organization's agility grant program; and supporting its state affiliates through a state council funding program.
- Receiving the "RGCheck" accreditation from the Responsible Gambling Council, a leading international authority on responsible gaming.

The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming. More is at [hardrockdigital.com](http://hardrockdigital.com).

## Ken Jeong to perform in Tampa

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

**TAMPA** — Comedian Ken Jeong is coming to the Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa on Oct. 8 at 8 p.m.

Tickets starting at \$75 are available via [seminolehardrocktampa.com](http://seminolehardrocktampa.com) and Ticketmaster.

Known for his scene stealing abilities, actor, producer, writer and comedian Jeong has established himself as one of today's top comedic stars.

## Plain White T's set for Immokalee

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

**IMMOKALEE** — The Grammy-nominated band Plain White T's will bring their live show to Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee on July 7 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$39 or \$69 and available from Ticketmaster or at [moreinparadise.com](http://moreinparadise.com).

## Hard Rock AC, band Chicago present \$10,000 contribution to charity

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

**ATLANTIC CITY** — In advance of their concert at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City on April 15, members of the rock band Chicago met with Hard Rock Atlantic City President George Goldhoff for a \$10,000 check presentation for the Community FoodBank of New Jersey.

On April 27, the Community FoodBank of New Jersey was scheduled to host "Night of 300,000 Meals" to raise funds necessary to provide 300,000 meals to the nearly 70,000 South Jersey residents who are food insecure, and to support other vital programs serving South Jersey including nutrition

education, diaper and feminine hygiene product distribution, resource access outreach and a college pantry program.

Hard Rock Atlantic City has been a longtime supporter of the food bank.

"Hard Rock Atlantic City is proud to highlight the important

work of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey and we appreciate the support of the members of Chicago, who have taken the time to understand the importance about the needs in our community," Goldhoff said in a statement.



Hard Rock

Hard Rock Atlantic City President George Goldhoff, holding check, and members of the band Chicago make a check presentation April 15 for the Community FoodBank of New Jersey.

Still Here After 35 Years,  
Guy Has Some Trustworthy Help.

"Great Reputation  
and Worthy of Trust"

Meet **Andy Coffey**  
Board Certified in **Criminal Trial**

If there is someone you love who needs help, contact us today.

GUY SELIGMAN, P.A.  
Attorney at Law

(954) 760-7600

GuySeligmanLaw.com AMCoffey.com

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA  
**AH-TAH-THI-KI**  
**M U S E U M**  
 A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

## Geneva Linda Beletso's basket on display at Disney

BY LAURA DELLO RUSSO  
 Registrar

**BIG CYPRESS** — As part of an ongoing loan with Walt Disney Imagineering, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum regularly rotates its objects on display at the American Adventure Pavilion at the Epcot theme park in Orlando. The objects are part of Disney's exhibit "Creating Tradition: Innovation and Change in American Indian Art," which aims to showcase both historic Indigenous artifacts alongside contemporary works by Native artists. The exhibit first opened in 2018, and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum has been a participant since that first year.

The most recent rotation of objects, which occurred last month, consisted primarily of bandolier bags and baskets. Most notably, the display included an elaborate, three-tiered sweet grass basket made by Geneva Linda Beletso, who also works as a crafter in the museum's village. Made in 1993, the beautifully intricate basket is woven with green, black, and white thread, and it includes green and white feathers and the shape of an aninga bird on each tier. To add to the basket's magnificence, the lid includes male and female dolls, as well as a baby in the arms of the female doll. Ms. Beletso finished the impressive basket in just five months, and it went on to win second place in a tribal basketry contest that year. Unfortunately, over the past 30 years,



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Museum staff in front of the "Creating Tradition" exhibit.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Geneva Linda Beletso's three-tiered basket.

the weight of the basket's two upper tiers has caused them to sink downwards into the neck of the most bottom tier, therefore impacting the overall stability of the basket. It was important that the issue be remedied in order to preserve the basket, but it was especially critical to fix before the basket traveled to Orlando for its Disney debut.

One of the museum's conservators, Maria Dmitrieva, consulted with Ms. Beletso on the basket's treatment and sought to create a support structure which would ensure the object's safety while on exhibit.

The result was a multi-armed contraption of acid-free materials, the ends of which were tucked under the neck of the first tier to help cushion the weight pressing down on it. Empty spaces between the ends were then filled with elastic material to avoid their displacement and keep them from moving. This octopus-like structure, which will remain inside the basket even after it is exhibited, was successful in lifting and supporting the extra weight of the upper tiers.

On March 30, the basket was carefully



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

An insert was created to support the tiers of the basket.

packed and driven to Disney's Epcot, where it was installed in the front window of the park's American Heritage Gallery. Along with Ms. Beletso's basket, this current rotation of objects also includes two early 20th century saw palmetto baskets, a doll head basket made by Yolanda Ortero, a 19th century bandolier bag, and a modern bandolier bag made by Jay McGirt. These objects will be on display in the "Creating Tradition" exhibit until September when the next rotation of objects from the museum will be put on view for Disney's thousands of daily visitors to experience.

For more information about the "Creating Tradition" exhibit or the objects on the display there, please contact the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at [museum@seminoletribe.com](mailto:museum@seminoletribe.com) or (863) 902-1113.

## ◆ EARTH DAY

From page 1A

At the end of the display, guests were given seedlings to take home. The seedlings were grown by the students.

Students in Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's immersion program attended the event with teachers, including Jade Osceola who translated what they learned into Creek. At the organic Tree Amigos Growers tent the students mixed soil to make it more nutritious for plants.

"The soil is a microbiome," said Jason Long, of Tree Amigos Growers. "There are more microorganisms in a tablespoon of soil than there are humans on Earth. We try to mimic the ecosystem so we don't have to treat the soil with fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides."

Jumper, an artist and writer, brought a synthesizer for his poetry performance, on which he created sounds of nature. As he recited poetry, Jumper was accompanied by Wareham on his flute.

"Earth Day is about taking action and raising awareness about taking care of the

Earth," Jumper said. "Events like this are really good for that."

Canoe builder Daniel Tommie, who worked on his latest canoe and displayed finished ones, said every day is Earth Day for him.

The Iron Horse Dancers performed a variety of dances including men's grass, prairie chicken, fancy, traditional and women's fancy shawl, jingle and Southern traditional. Performers danced to a live drum group.

"Earth Day is that one day we need a reminder that the Earth doesn't belong to us," said Tina Osceola, Tribal Historic Preservation Office director. "We are temporary, but we can cause a permanent problem."

"And we've done that," added Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie. "We are supposed to protect Mother Earth. She has provided food, water and air, but we are seeing the effects of generations of damage. This event brings awareness of that so we can stop it. Progress shouldn't always mean more building; it should mean we protect the Earth."



Beverly Bidney

Martha Jones chooses a Meyer lemon tree to bring home, in addition to the pumpkin plant in her hand.



Beverly Bidney

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Immersion student Asaiah Efke Fludd studies the pumpkin plants on display at the Trees Amigos Growers tent.



Beverly Bidney

At the Big Cypress Earth Day celebration April 20, Ahfachkee senior Billie Cypress explains to a visitor how to grow new plants from part of the food already grown, such as using the eyes of potatoes, pieces of sugarcane and the tops of pineapples.



Beverly Bidney

Daniel Tommie explains how to make a dugout canoe to visitors at the Big Cypress Earth Day celebration.

# Health

## Q&A: Child advocates support tribe's vulnerable

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe's Advocacy & Guardianship Department is responsible for several programs, but each one has an overarching goal: ensure that tribal members and families are supported — especially vulnerable children and adults.

Joseph Hernandez is a child advocate on the Brighton Reservation. He and two others work child advocacy cases in Brighton, Fort Pierce and Tampa. There are child advocates assigned to the tribe's other reservations as well.

Hernandez has been in his position for two years, but has been working with children for many more, including as a therapist and forensic interviewer. As a child advocate, he works with the child protective investigators and dependency case managers at the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF).

The Tribune asked Hernandez about his work. Answers have been edited for length and clarity.

### What does a child advocate do?

Our goal is to do what's best for a child or vulnerable adult in the case of potential abuse or neglect. We work with families to ensure that they are aware of all the services and resources offered by Advocacy & Guardianship and the other departments within the tribe, including counseling assessment, mental health evaluations through the Center for Behavioral Health (CBH), and parenting classes. As a child advocate, we're there to support tribal families.

### How do cases come to you?

Sometimes someone will alert Advocacy & Guardianship. All of us are mandated reporters, so if we become aware of any potential abuse or neglect of a vulnerable child or adult, then we make a report to the DCF abuse hotline. Sometimes

we receive referrals from the Seminole Police Department, CBH or DCF.

### What typically happens next?

We are present either in person or by telephone for every contact DCF has with a vulnerable adult or child in the family if they're tribal. DCF will not proceed with an investigation without a tribal representative there. We ensure that DCF knows if a child is subject to the Indian Child Welfare Act and its protections — it also extends to descendant children and children that are eligible for enrollment.

### Is DCF always involved?

Sometimes we're able to assist families without DCF getting involved. We do supportive services; if somebody is having issues like keeping their home clean, we would probably just go out ourselves and assess the situation and see what we can do to help. The only time we would contact DCF is if there was any kind of suspected neglect or abuse.

### What typically happens when DCF opens an investigation?

DCF follows a timeline. If the case isn't resolved after 60 days, then more may need to be done. DCF might determine if the family needs more intervention, such as non-judicial, voluntary case management in the home — if it doesn't rise to the level of dependency court, but families still need some help.

Sometimes, unfortunately, cases do have to go to dependency court. DCF can take the family to court to remove the child from the home if evidence is found of egregious abuse or neglect. It's a bad situation in the home if a removal happens, because they're trying to keep families together.

### How does dependency court fit in?

The goal of dependency court is to achieve permanency for the child in the

timeliest way possible. We ensure that the child or the vulnerable adult is in their best place, or the best place possible. One of our primary purposes is to encourage tribal placement with family members within the Seminole Tribe if we can.

The court determines whether the child goes into foster care; first we look for family members to foster a child. Background checks are done on prospective foster families as well as drug screens and home studies to ensure the foster home is appropriate for the child.

### The tribe is currently looking for foster parents, correct?

Yes. It's really important for children to remain with family members if at all possible. If there isn't a family member that's able to foster the child, we try to keep the child in the same clan. It's also important to place the child with someone who's willing to work with a parent, because they're going to have to work together on visitation. Parents have the right to see their child when they're in foster care and we encourage them to communicate with each other. We're very thankful for the foster parents that we do have.

*Editor's note: Anyone who knows of or suspects the abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult should make a report to the DCF hotline, which is (800) 962-2873. A report can also be made online at myflfamilies.com. To contact Advocacy & Guardianship, call (954) 965-1338.*



Joseph Hernandez

## Okalee Indian Village's Earth Day event draws hundreds of school kids



Calvin Tiger

Korey Reed captures spectators' attention April 18 at the Okalee Village Earth Day event in Hollywood. The event drew hundreds of students from area schools who visited throughout the day.



Calvin Tiger

Visitors at the Okalee Village Earth Day event take photos with the Native dancers that performed.



Calvin Tiger

Seminole artist and writer Elgin Jumper, left, talks to a visitor about his artwork on display for the Earth Day event.



Calvin Tiger

Joseph Butler, Tribal Historic Preservation Office chief data analyst, interacts with attendees during a pottery making event.

## Postal Service honors Chief Standing Bear

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The U.S. Postal Service announced April 6 that it will honor Chief Standing Bear with a Forever stamp in his name.

In 1879, Standing Bear won a landmark court ruling that determined a Native American was a person under the law with an inherent right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

A first-day-of-issue ceremony, with Candace Schmidt, chairwoman, Ponca Tribe, is scheduled to be held May 12 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

In 1877, the U.S. Army had forcibly relocated some 700 Ponca to Indian Territory (what is now Oklahoma) after the federal government had given away the tribe's homeland in the Niobrara River Valley in what is now northeastern Nebraska.

In a landmark civil rights case, Standing Bear v. Crook, Standing Bear sued the government for his freedom after being arrested, along with 29 other Ponca, for attempting to return to his homeland. Lawyers filed a writ of habeas corpus to test the legality of the detention, an unprecedented action on behalf of a Native American.

After winning the case, Standing Bear and the members of the Ponca who had followed him were allowed to return to their old Nebraska reservation along the Niobrara River.

One issue that his 1879 trial had raised was finally resolved in 1924 when Congress adopted the Indian Citizenship Act, which conferred citizenship on all Native Americans born in the United States.

This stamp features a portrait of Chief Standing Bear by illustrator Thomas Blackshear II. Blackshear created the portrait based on a photograph taken of Standing Bear in 1877.



USPS  
Chief Standing Bear stamp.

## Honors for Indigenous storytelling projects

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Two Indigenous-made storytelling projects supported by Nia Tero have been honored by the 2023 Webby Awards. Seedcast, a podcast about Indigenous experiences of relationship to the Earth, is nominated for best podcast episode in the area of arts and culture. Reciprocity Project, a global storytelling movement supporting Indigenous creatives, is an honoree in the category of websites and mobile sites - diversity, equity and inclusion.

Seedcast's past episodes have centered on voices from around the world, including guests from Cherokee Nation, the Terena Peoples of Brazil and Baré Nation of Venezuela and Brazil.

Reciprocity Project's inaugural season of films screened at over 125 festivals and events, including Sundance, and have been seen by more than 150,000 people.

Nia Tero is a nonprofit dedicated to working in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples to strengthen guardianship of Earth and all beings.

## Travis W. Trueblood, LL.M

### Your Trusted Attorney for More than 20 Years

We Specialize In:

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

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

Call Us Today!

(855) 640-0794

Calls Answered 24 Hours  
Consultations Always Free

We specialize in Native American issues.

TRUEBLOOD

www.trueblood.attorney

Moore Haven, FL | Fort Lauderdale, FL | Washington, DC

# RICHARD CASTILLO

## 954.522.3500

HELPING THE  
SEMINOLE COMMUNITY  
FOR MANY YEARS

24 HOURS A DAY

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

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

RICHARD CASTILLO  
FLORIDA CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY

WWW.CASTILLOLAWOFFICES.COM

# SEMINOLE SCENES



Redline Media/Facebook

**EMPOWERING TALK:** The Seminole Tribe's S.R. Tommie, right, the 2022 recipient of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development American Indian Business of the Year award and founder/president of Redline Media Group, spoke at RES2023 on April 3 in Las Vegas. Tommie was part of a discussion about empowering and inspiring others, following along the summit's theme of "Empowering For Generations." "Many thanks to the nearly 4,000 in attendance that traveled from Indigenous communities throughout North America and beyond to support RES 2023 and the efforts to empower the generations of today and tomorrow," Redline posted on Facebook. RES2023 was held April 3-6 at Caesars Palace.



Kevin Johnson

**SOFTBALL SISTERS:** Former NCAA Division I college softball player Cheyenne Nunez, center, joined her younger sisters, Daliah, left, and Joleyne, at the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School softball team's eighth-grade parent night game April 19. Joleyne was among the eighth-graders honored.



Hard Rock Biloxi/Facebook

**DISASTER SUPPORT:** In the wake of deadly tornados that tore through Mississippi in March, a portion of the Rockin' The Coast fund, which is supported by the employees of Hard Rock Biloxi, was donated to Gulf Coast Community Foundation's disaster relief fund in support of community recovery needs.



Kevin Johnson

**BEST WISHES:** Former Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress signs a poster card at a retirement celebration for Will Latchford on April 14 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.



Courtesy photo

**WEIGH TO GO:** The Immokalee Recreation Department held a weight loss contest for adults from Feb. 6 to April 14. Of the 15 adults who participated, Lorraine Posada won the challenge. She didn't lose much weight, but added muscle mass to her frame. "My goal was to get stronger, not skinny," Posada said.



Calvin Tiger

**WARMING UP:** Hollywood Recreation's Kenny Bayon leads a group of Hollywood seniors in a series of stretches before the seniors embarked on an Easter egg hunt March 30 at the airnasium.

*20 years ago:  
Sam Jones statue  
installed*

File photos  
In early 2003, a statue of Sam Jones was installed atop the rock mountain at Billie Swamp Safari on the Big Cypress Reservation. The work of sculptor Brad Cooley featured separate parts, including Sam Jones and representation for each of the tribe's clans.



# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## Gov. says no to Salem tribal casino

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek threw cold water on plans for a new tribal casino in northeast Salem — but the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians say they're not giving up on the project.

In an April 13 letter to the chairs of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes, Kotek said she does not support an expansion of gaming, and intends to maintain the status quo from previous governors of "good faith bargaining between sovereign Tribes and the State on one gaming facility per tribe on reservation land."

The project is currently awaiting approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, where it's sat for over a year. Federal law requires both federal and state approval for the project.

"I wanted to provide this clarification of my Tribal gaming policy so that Tribes, the federal government, and local entities know where I stand. This helps all of us avoid confusion, use of resources, and advocacy for and against changing my stance in favor of one gaming facility per tribe on reservation land," the governor wrote.

The letter was first reported by Willamette Week.

The Siletz tribe has planned for years to build a 20-acre off-reservation casino on tribe-owned land at 4751 Astoria Street N.E. in Salem, off Interstate 5.

The proposed 180,800-square-foot casino would house 2,000 gaming devices and 45 tables. There would also be a 500-room hotel, nightclub and sports bar.

Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley said despite Kotek's letter, the tribe intends to move forward.

"She can't disapprove it until we get a decision from the bureau," Pigsley said in an interview Tuesday.

Pigsley cited the tribe's 1995 compact with the state, which says the tribe and state may negotiate a gaming compact to use the Salem land.

"We legally have the right since we negotiated our compact 20-some years ago. It does not have a sunset clause. We'll be looking at it carefully," Pigsley said.

If approved, the Siletz tribe would have a unique profit-sharing structure, with one-quarter of the casino's profits earmarked for state and local government, one-quarter for the tribe, and the remaining half to be split among Oregon's eight other tribes.

The Siletz tribe expects to generate \$185 million in its first year of operation and \$231 million by its third. It also said the casino would generate 1,200 full time jobs, according to a tribal fact sheet.

Pigsley said that revenue would allow the Siletz to support critical social programs, including providing housing to tribal members.

The tribe operates Chinook Winds Casino Resort in Lincoln City. Revenue from that casino pays for the tribe's cultural programs and supports higher education for tribal members, Pigsley said, but it's not enough to keep up with what the tribal government needs.

"On the coast, we don't enjoy the revenues that we would be able to enjoy in a city," Pigsley said.

High housing costs have challenged the tribe to support its members, and she said the Siletz need care homes for older members and struggling youth, as well as those who are homeless.

"We've had to buy land to build homes, and we've had to buy land we once owned at a pretty unreasonable price since it's on the Oregon Coast," she said.

City officials have not taken a position on the casino project, but said in 2022 comments to the bureau that its operations would necessitate additional police officers, and could negatively impact the restaurant and hotel business in downtown Salem.

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde oppose the project, which they've said would take business away from the tribe's Spirit Mountain Casino, located on tribal land about 40 minutes outside of Salem. City Councilor Jose Gonzalez, who represents north Salem, and Marion County Commissioner Kevin Cameron have also voiced opposition.

- Salem (Oregon) Reporter

## Nevada tribe appeals to the United Nations amid water contamination concerns

A decades-old water contamination issue in a remote Nevada town has drawn new attention.

The town of Owyhee sits under hydrocarbon plumes believed to be the cause of cancer-related death of more than 100 members of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.

Records show that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) owned a maintenance shop on the reservation where diesel and other oils were disposed of.

Over the years, contamination affected the local school's drinking water.

"Most of the reservation was not aware of this. That plume had been there since 1985," said Tribal Chairman Brian Mason.

Mason said he became aware of the plume when they made a request to the BIA to build additional greenhouses next to the school.

"We were denied the land because they told us that there was a hydrocarbon plume there," Mason said. "There are many cancer deaths that have resulted in this, we think, we don't know."

On April 18, Mason presented his concerns to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Since December, Mason has met

with the school district, state senators and members of the U.S. Congress in hopes of addressing the problem.

A new school is needed, Mason said.

A bill in the Nevada Legislature proposes one-time funding of more than \$60 million to build a new school in a different location.

- KUNR (Reno, Nevada)

## Colville Tribe takes first step toward casino in Pasco

**NESPELEM, Wash.** — The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation have submitted an application for a fee-to-trust transfer of property in Pasco, the official first step towards opening a casino on Tribal land in the city.

The Tribes have been working on the project since 2019 and submitted the application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in Portland according to a press release announcing the application.

"We're pleased to announce this important milestone in our efforts to enhance economic development for the Colville Tribes," Colville Business Council Chairman Jarred Michael Erickson said.

Submitting the application begins a 16-step federal process for the transfer of off-reservation tribal fee property to trust status according to today's press release. Additional processes and regulations are also required by the BIA and the Department of the Interior because the land in Pasco is intended for a gaming facility.

- Fox 41/11 (Yakima, Washington)

## Tribe approves \$64 million for cannabis enterprise

Following more than an hour of discussion capping off months of debate, the Cherokee Tribal Council voted April 6 to fully fund its cannabis enterprise's eight-figure startup funding request.

"We cannot go borrow the money from a bank," said Qualla Enterprise General Manager Forrest Parker. "It's federally illegal. That's why nobody can provide anybody a cookie-cutter letter from NIGC [National Indian Gaming Commission] that says, 'Hey, everybody's good to go. Don't worry about it.' That's why we have this opportunity, is because of that. If it was just cookie-cutter easy, then everybody would be [doing it]."

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has been talking about various forms of legalized cannabis use since 2015, when Tribal Council approved a resolution funding a feasibility study for marijuana legalization on tribal lands. Then-Principal Chief Patrick Lambert vetoed the resolution, but Tribal Council approved another, similar resolution in 2018, and Principal Chief Richard Sneed signed it. In 2021, the tribe legalized medical marijuana and decriminalized possession of small amounts of the drug.

That same year, the tribe created an LLC to sell and produce medical marijuana products and an advisory commission to recommend a regulatory framework for a medical cannabis program. The LLC, now called Qualla Enterprise, has so far received \$31 million from Tribal Council to launch the business but told the body it needed an additional \$64 million to get off the ground.

"What matters is number one, how many customers can legally walk into that store and purchase. Number two, how much product do we have to sell them?" Parker said. "That's the only two things that drive revenue here. And I don't have the product without the infrastructure."

There is little resistance around the horseshoe to supporting the tribe's burgeoning medical cannabis industry, with most Council members enthusiastically in favor. Parker expects the enterprise to be extremely lucrative, supporting 400-500 local jobs while getting the tribe well ahead of the curve in an industry that — for the moment — is still illegal in North Carolina outside the Qualla Boundary. However, for months Tribal Council has hedged on giving Qualla Enterprise its full start-up funding request for fear of running into trouble with the NIGC, which oversees the tribe's fattest cash cow — Harrah's Cherokee Casinos.

Revenues from the casinos in Cherokee and Murphy fund about half the tribe's budget and give each tribal member roughly \$15,000 in direct payments each year.

In December, when Qualla Enterprises asked for \$63 million to prepare for its first year of retail sales, Tribal Council appropriated \$10 million from the funding sources it could identify that were not tied to gambling proceeds but said the LLC would need to find a loan for the rest, with the tribe serving as guarantor. Due to cannabis' continued designation as illegal under federal law, securing a loan proved impossible, causing Parker to return month after month to continue the conversation with Tribal Council.

"If we were to say that we're going to use gaming revenues to fund this, then what we put at risk is being shut down at our gaming operation by NIGC for being out of compliance with federal law," Principal Chief Richard Sneed told Council during the December discussion.

That concern led Council to amend the December 2022 resolution to stipulate that funding above the \$10 million available from non-gaming revenues should come from a loan.

Qualla Enterprise came back in January to report that the loan avenue was not successful and to renew its request for funding, but Tribal Council tabled the request, and it remained tabled until the April 6 session.

By this time, the \$53 million request had

grown to \$64 million. According to Carolyn West, chair of the Qualla Enterprise board, this was to cover operational expenses incurred since the original December 2022 request. The need for funding had also become more urgent as deadlines loomed for contracts and other commitments to move the business forward. Council members worried that if they didn't find the money now, they'd lose the \$31 million they'd already invested.

"The hesitancy here I see is going to cost us \$31 million," said Big Cove Rep. Teresa McCoy. "I do not understand it."

Qualla Enterprise made its case for why Tribal Council could appropriate the \$64 million without endangering its casino enterprise. Attorney Darian Stanford of Sovereign Solutions Carolina gave a recap of all the allocations Tribal Council had previously made to Qualla Enterprise, pointing out \$14 million — nearly half — was initially appropriated to Kituwah LLC from the tribe's investment accounts before being transferred to the medical cannabis enterprise. The rest came from various non-gaming revenues.

"We're not trying to reinvent the wheel here," Stanford said. "We're simply using the language that this Council and the principal chief's office has approved in the past and applying it just the same as it had been in the past to the future."

When the tribe's general fund balance exceeds 50% of the annual budget, the excess goes into its investment accounts, so those accounts contain some funds that originate from non-gaming revenues like the tribal levy. Yellowhill Rep. T.W. Saunooke said investment accounts are also a valid source of non-gaming revenue due to their function as interest-earning accounts.

"Every dime that we take and we get from gaming that's in Endowment II or Sovereign Wealth Fund, wherever it is, it's not just sitting in the bank," Saunooke said. "For the most part, it's invested into the stock market. Anything that is earned is earned off that other business. Anything that is left available of interest earned is no longer a gaming dollar."

Other Council members argued against the idea of having to categorize its funds as gaming or non-gaming dollars at all.

"I want to make it very clear to everybody here and the viewing public and whoever else is watching — we're not asking Harrah's Casino for any money," said Vice Chair Albert Rose. "When that money leaves that casino up there and comes over to the tribe, the identity is lost. Now this fear mongering of 'it's still gaming money sitting in our bank account' — it's not. It's tribal money."

During his comments on the floor, Parker pledged that Qualla Enterprise would view the \$64 million as a loan rather than an appropriation, eventually paying the tribe back.

"If the tribe goes and gets a loan, a line of credit or anything, however y'all want to give it to us, we will pay it back," Parker said. "We will sign on that dotted line right now."

The resolution Tribal Council voted on was a substitute for the document attached to the agenda, and the substitute was not available as of press time. But based on West's summary to Council of changes from the original, language treating the appropriation as a loan does not appear to be in the document Tribal Council voted on. No amendments were made during the discussion.

- Smoky Mountain News (Waynesville, North Carolina)

## Illinois bill requiring schools to teach Native American history heads to Senate floor

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill.** — Lawmakers advanced a measure that would require public elementary and high schools to include a unit of Native American history in their social studies curriculum, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

House Bill 1633 passed out of a Senate committee [in April] with a 10-3 vote after passing the House 75-32 last month. It now heads to the full Senate for consideration before it can head to Gov. JB Pritzker.

The measure also requires the State Education Equity Committee, which provides recommendations for advancing equity in education, include a representative from an organization that works for "economic, educational, and social progress for Native Americans."

According to Andrew Johnson, executive director of the Native American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, the lack of Native American representation on the committee was a "serious oversight" that didn't reflect the state's diversity.

"This is one of the many examples where the lack of proper education has deprived our citizens of discovering the full extent of the complexity, interrelations and impact of the people who originally inhabited this land and who continue to live here today," Johnson said in committee.

While the legislation does not actually create curriculum for the history course, it does specify the unit should include Native American contributions in "government and the arts, humanities, and sciences, as well as the contributions of Native Americans to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of their own nations and of the United States."

The bill also requires the unit of instruction to include descriptions of large urban Native American populations in Illinois and, for grades 6 through 12, a section on the genocide of and discrimination against Native Americans.

While the Illinois State Board of

Education would provide instructional materials and guidelines for the development of the curriculum, each school district would be required to develop it on their own. Additionally, each school board will have to determine the minimum amount of time that qualifies as a unit of instruction.

It was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton, who said in committee that teaching the subject matter has been "overlooked for far too long."

Joseph Rupnick, chairman for Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, said in committee that Native Americans experience higher suicide rates because of cultural disconnection, alienation and pressure to assimilate. He added the inclusion of their history in school curriculum may help them feel further connected to their community and history.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. suicide rate increased 33 percent from 1999 to 2017. Over the same period, the suicide rate for American Indian or Alaska Native women increased by 139 percent and 71 percent for men.

"Integrating Native history in our education system will help discriminatory myths about Native Americans in an inclusive environment free of caricatures of our families, parodies of our tradition and words that diminish our worth," Rupnick said.

- Capitol News Illinois

## Indigenous groups going to court over Quebec's French language reforms

Two Indigenous groups are going to court over the reforms passed last year to Quebec's French-language law, with lawyers filing a request for a judicial review on April 20.

The Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador and the First Nations Education Council are asking Quebec Superior Court to look at 14 articles in the Charter of the French Language, which was amended by Bill 96 last June.

They have argued the provisions infringe on their rights to self-determination and to teach children their ancestral languages, as stipulated in the Constitution Act of 1982.

"The provisions reinforce, perpetuate and accentuate the disparities between Indigenous students and non-Indigenous people in education, deepened by policies and assimilationist laws implemented historically by the state and the education system towards Indigenous Peoples," read the request for judicial review.

The groups have accused the government of failing to consult them before adopting the law, which reinforces the use of French across several institutions, including the education and justice systems.

"There is no nation on the planet that is going to impose legislation on another nation and their language," said Chief John Martin, of the Mi'kmaq community of Gesgapegiag and a member of the education council.

Martin said First Nations are best suited to choose which measures are necessary to ensure culturally appropriate education.

He said the province's language law reform "promotes the exodus of our learners outside of the province."

The provisions, which include more stringent French requirements at the junior college level, create another obstacle for those Indigenous communities where the most common non-Indigenous language spoken is English.

"The culture in our communities is not francophone," Martin said. "Indigenous languages are very present and the second language is English (so) when we face a language that we do not hear, to which we are not exposed, it is extremely difficult for our students."

A request from Indigenous communities to be exempt from the language law was refused by the Quebec government.

Chief Ghislain Picard of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador said the Quebec government is using methods of assimilation that date from another century.

Sipi Flamand, chief of the Atikamekw Council of Manawan, said the law is a direct attack on the languages and cultural identities of the First Nations and Inuit and that it creates "multiple systemic and discriminatory barriers in the educational pathway of Nations youth and jeopardizes the transmission of our languages."

The Quebec government has said it wants to introduce a law protecting Indigenous languages, but Indigenous groups are opposed to the idea.

- CBC

## Bills recognizing Native American tribes in RI being discussed

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** — For years Native American tribes have been fighting for state recognition across the United States.

As of now, Rhode Island doesn't recognize any, but two bills are being discussed at the State House.

Rep. Camille Vella Wilkinson said these bills could make for a historic moment by letting Rhode Island "step up to the plate."

One of the bills would officially recognize the Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe while the other would establish a procedure for tribes to petition for state recognition.

"We're not invisible. I am concerned and I do feel racially discriminated against by Rhode Islands' authority. Going to the legislature is an opportunity to get a fair deal," said Chief Darrell Waldron, Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe.

Rep. Wilkinson has been working with the Seaconke Wampanoags for the past three

years, saying the bill will protect and preserve the tribe's history while also recognizing the original inhabitants of the land.

"The bill itself says they don't want money, they don't want land, and they don't want a casino," Rep. Wilkinson said. "I see this not only as a healing moment but a historic moment, let Rhode Island step up to the plate."

Chief Waldron said there has been immense support, but the Narragansett Tribe — the only federally recognized tribe in Rhode Island — is against both pieces of legislation.

"While the federal government has recognized and acknowledged us, the state of Rhode Island still hasn't, so how can you not recognize the original habitants and recognize some splinter group of someone trying to come into our territory, we don't think that's proper or correct in any fashion," said Chief Sachem Anthony Dean Stanton, Narragansett Tribe.

Chief Stanton added he has nothing against the Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe, but said it took decades to obtain recognition at the federal level and wants them to go through the same process.

"I think that it is due to historical trauma," Chief Waldron said. "And just the way we have been treated for centuries and what we have we want to protect, right you know everything was taken away and you want to protect that."

Gov. Dan McKee's office sent a letter to the committee citing in part, "neither of these bills set up a process that would include the necessary input from anthropologists, historians, genealogists or anyone else with the requisite expertise to make these determinations."

Chief Waldron pushed back saying they "did not use any methodology, genealogy, or anthropology to detribalize them, they just did it."

"Putting people against each other is old it's from the colonial days, it's time to heal," he continued.

For now, the bills are being held in the state government and elections committee for further study.

- WPRI (Providence, Rhode Island)

## 1,000-year-old Indian canoe raised from North Carolina Lake

A team of archaeologists, assisted by members of the nearby state-recognized Waccamaw Siouan Tribe, raised an ancient Native American canoe out of a lake in southeastern North Carolina [in April].

State archaeologists say the canoe is about 1,000 years old, dating to a time when a number of tribal groups lived in the region.

Two teenagers discovered the canoe while swimming in Lake Waccamaw in 2021. They notified state archaeologists, who moved the canoe closer to the shore and stabilized it.

VOA reached out to John Mintz with the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology for details.

"We submitted [a sample] to a lab for carbon-14 dating. The numbers came back between 960 and 940 BCE, so we rounded it up to about a thousand years old," Mintz said.

He explained how the 28-foot dugout canoe survived so long underwater without rotting.

"Wood, once it's immersed in water or mud or a combination thereof, can reach a certain equilibrium where there's no more degradation, no more rot. It can just stay that way — obviously for a thousand years or more," he said. "But once wood is brought up out of that medium and begins to dry, it will rot before your eyes."

Archaeologists placed the canoe into a specially designed tank full of water. Over time, Mintz said, conservationists will draw the water out and replace it with a chemical bonding agent to hold the wood together.

- Voice of America

## Mohegan Tribe chief named citizen of the year

**WATERFORD, Conn.** — Lynn Malerba, the first female chief of the Mohegan Tribe in modern history, is the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut's Citizen of the Year.

Malerba's position is a lifetime appointment. She is also the first Native American Treasurer of the United States, meaning that her signature appears on paper money.

The award goes to a citizen who has made outstanding contributions on behalf of the civic and business community.

- WTNH (New Haven, Conn.)

## White House honors 'Native America Calling,' Henrietta Mann

On March 21, President Joe Biden hosted a ceremony at the White House, presenting medals of honor for arts and humanities.

Sharing the stage with the president and celebrities like Sir Elton John and Julia Louis-Dreyfus was Shawn Spruce, host of the public radio program "Native America Calling." The show was one of two Native American recipients of a National Humanities Medal.

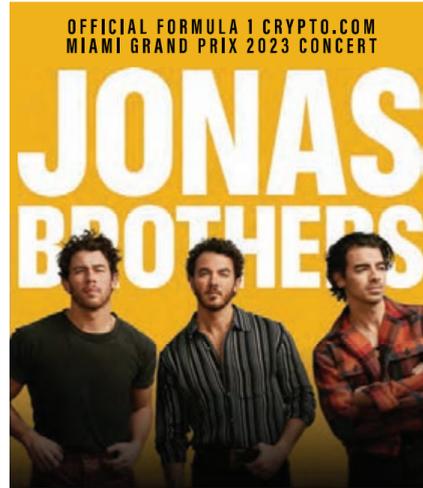
Cheyenne elder Henrietta Mann received a medal for her work in education. She's credited with creating many of the country's Native American Studies programs at both tribal and state universities.

- Alaska Public Radio

# SOUTH FLORIDA'S ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION



**MAY 4**  
**WISIN & YANDEL**



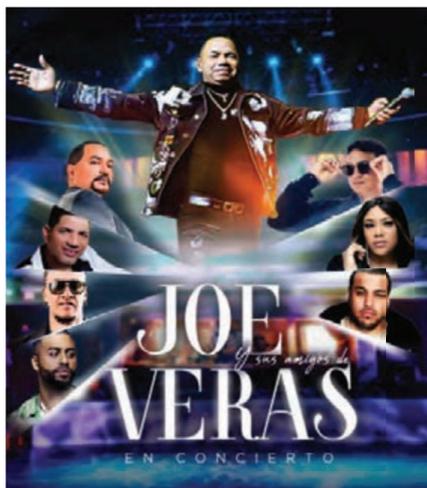
**MAY 5**  
**JONAS BROTHERS**



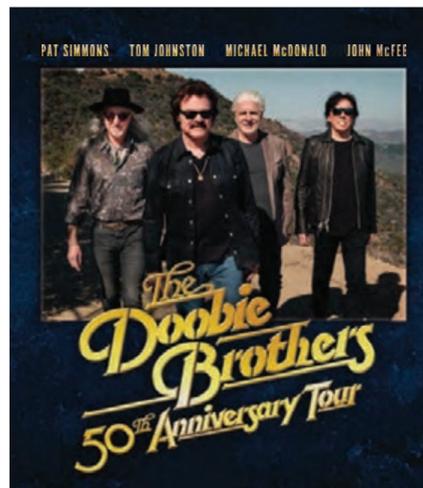
**MAY 11**  
**ONE REPUBLIC WITH BEBE REXHA & JAX**



**MAY 12**  
**TOM JONES**



**MAY 13**  
**JOE VERAS**



**MAY 25**  
**DOOBIE BROTHERS**



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



HOLLYWOOD, FL

# Education



B

## Sunny Frank, Jonathan Urtecho graduate from FEMA Academy

BY DAMON SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Tribal member Sunny Frank and tribal employee Jonathan Urtecho recently graduated from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Emergency Management Basic Academy (NEMBA).

Frank and Urtecho are Emergency Management coordinators within the tribe's Public Safety Department, which includes the Seminole Police Department and Seminole Fire Rescue.

Frank said he is the first tribal member to graduate from the NEMBA program, or any other professional program offered by FEMA.

NEMBA is designed for those pursuing a career in emergency management fields. According to FEMA, the program is similar to basic academies operated by the fire service and law enforcement communities and provides a foundational education in emergency management. Trainees are typically newly appointed emergency managers with less than three years of experience on the job.

The pair completed the training at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The duration was three weeks – one week in January and two weeks in March. There were about 30 people in their class. Frank said he was the sole tribal member in his class and that the Seminole Tribe is only the eighth tribe to be represented at NEMBA.

The courses that Frank and Urtecho completed at NEMBA include foundations of emergency management, the science of disaster, planning: emergency operations, a

Department of Homeland Security exercise and evaluation, and public information basics.

"It was eye-opening to work with professional and military people with 20 years of experience and having classes with police chiefs and fire chiefs," Frank said. "The knowledge that everyone shared gave me a better perspective of how Emergency Management can help the community during disasters or blue sky days."

Frank, from the Hollywood Reservation, has been in his position since December 2022, but has worked for the tribe for many years. He was previously a juvenile justice supervisor at the tribe's youth centers before there were Boys and Girls Clubs, and has also worked in an office staff position for the chief of the Seminole Police Department. When he was 18 years old, Frank was a paymaster for the tribe's former bingo hall in Hollywood.

Urtecho, who has lived in South Florida for most of his life, has been in his position at the tribe since September 2022. Ironically, during his first week on the job, Hurricane Ian – a Category 5 storm that hit Southwest Florida particularly hard – made landfall at Fort Myers. Previously, Urtecho worked in emergency management for about three and a half years as a contractor and grant manager for the Florida Division of Emergency Management – a combination of administrative and in-the-field experience.

"The tribe has a strong infrastructure and requires a strong Emergency Management agency for the continuity of government," he said. "At the training, you could see the creativity it takes to assist a community during a disaster, and we offered a tribal perspective for those who have tribes in their areas but never have worked with them."



Courtesy photo

Sunny Frank, right, receives his graduation certificate from Kelly Garrett, a FEMA branch chief.



Courtesy photo

Jonathan Urtecho, right, receives his graduation certificate from Kelly Garrett, a FEMA branch chief.

## Language Conservancy unveils Native language learning materials

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Language Conservancy (TLC), a nonprofit dedicated to Indigenous language revitalization, unveiled the world's largest collection of Native American language learning materials April 18 at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). The event took place against the backdrop of The United Nations' International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032), designed to raise awareness of the urgent need for Indigenous language revitalization. Out of the 6,700 languages spoken worldwide, forty percent are in danger of disappearing, according to TLC. At this rate, 90-95 percent of all languages will become extinct in the next 100 years.

TLC presented a display of dictionaries, children's books, e-learning platforms, and other materials produced and published in 47 Indigenous languages. This included the historic 3rd Edition New Lakota Dictionary, the largest Native American dictionary in the world. To meet the urgent need for language revitalization, and in recognition of The UN's International Decade of Indigenous Languages, in 2023 TLC and its partners are planning to release 187 new Indigenous language learning materials.

The first International Conference on Indigenous Language Documentation, Education, and Revitalization will be held Oct. 12-14 in Bloomington, Indiana, where TLC is headquartered.



Beverly Bidney

Michelle Ford is surrounded by children from the Immokalee Preschool.

## Immokalee Preschool manager Michelle Ford retires

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — Michelle Ford wonders where all the time went. She will retire May 5 after 31 years working at the Immokalee Preschool.

"I'm the type of person that when I find something I like, I stay there," said Ford, the Preschool manager. "I love kids. They make me happy. That's why I've been here as long as I have."

Ford has a daughter and stepdaughter, but she considers all the students a part of her family.

Ford said it seems like yesterday that she began her career as a teacher's aide at the Immokalee Head Start program in 1991. Ford was working at McCrory's department store in Immokalee when her mother, Elaine Aguilar, who knew Ford loved children, told her about an open position with Head Start.

When the Head Start program transitioned to a tribal-run preschool program, she was the only full-time employee. The preschool operated out of a building that is now the home of the Immokalee Housing Department, and had

room for only 12 children.

Eventually a modular building was added along with more staff. The preschool remained there for more than 20 years until a new building was built in 2014. Ford helped with the design of the school and made sure the adjacent community center had a stage for school programs, performances and graduations.

Today, the preschool has 100 students. Each of its five classrooms has 20 students, a teacher and a teacher's aide. The building also has a large cafeteria and playground.

Ford has seen the students grow up and have families of their own. She cherishes the memories she has from her time at the preschool.

"I remember all of their laughs and giggles and how they played in the classroom," she said. "I'm happy for them when I see their achievements and I cry at every graduation. Now they are parents. I had so many of them and now their children come through our doors."

During her years at the school, Ford worked under four directors and has worn many hats. She got a commercial driver's license so she could drive the bus, worked

in parent involvement and taught in the classrooms when the school was short staffed.

"I'll miss my kids and the people I work with," she said. "I made a lot of friendships with the staff, administration and other departments we work with."

One thing Ford won't miss is setting an alarm and waking up early. Her retirement plans include travel and taking care of her father, Pedro Aguilar. His doctors' appointments have taken her away from work more and more, so she made the decision that it was time to step away.

"I didn't want to wait until retirement age to retire," said Ford, 54. "My mom waited and didn't have time to enjoy her retirement; I didn't want that. I want to travel and see what's out there in our country and beyond."

Ford's first destination will be a cruise to the Bahamas, but before then she hopes to help find a qualified replacement.

"I don't want to leave a gap. They need a center manager here," she said.

## Preschoolers get to 'be a hero'

STAFF REPORT

**HOLLYWOOD** — Staff members from the tribe's Advocacy and Guardianship Department visited the Hollywood Preschool on April 12 for a "Be a Hero" program and came appropriately dressed, wearing Batman and Superman shirts. The kids got into the spirit, too, by dressing up in superhero costumes. The staff members read books to the students, including "Pete the Cat."

Calvin Tiger (2)

At right, Advocacy and Guardianship's Vanessa Golaub, left, and Valencia Rumph join Hollywood Preschool students April 12 for the "Be A Hero" event. Below, Golaub reads a story to the students.



# E a s t e r

## Tampa/Lakeland



Tampa Recreation  
Kinsley Briggs and Lanna Little work together painting an Easter egg at the Tampa/Lakeland community Easter egg hunt.



Tampa Recreation  
Isabella Santiago and Randy Santiago participate in a painting activity.



Tampa Recreation  
A group of young participants receive instructions from Tampa Recreation site manager Allen Pettigrew in a contest at the Easter egg hunt April 7 on the Lakeland Reservation.



Tampa Recreation  
Enjoying the Easter egg hunt activities are, standing, from left to right, Jeni Nelson, Nancy Frank, Susie Doctor, Peggy Cubis, Colleen Henry, Linda Henry, Barbara Henry and Joanie Henry along with Brighton Councilman Larry Howard.



Tampa Recreation  
At left, Mia Patten, Ava Patten and Alana Henry work on an activity. At right, Mason Foret shows his art.



Tampa Recreation (2)  
Above, kids get ready to fill their baskets and bags at the Easter egg hunt. Below, the hunt begins.



## Immokalee



Beverly Bidney (2)  
At left, Becky Martinez carefully balances an egg on a spoon as she competes in the race at the Immokalee Easter celebration March 31.

At right, Cheyenne McInturff (left) and Deidre Hall compete in a tie-breaker in the Easter egg hunt. Hall took the title with just one more egg.



Beverly Bidney (2)



At left, from left to right, Cecilia Pequeno, America Ramirez, Kim Alvarado and Juanita Martinez compete for the eggs as they scoop up as many as they can to win the Easter egg hunt.

At right, Dennis Gonzalez helps America Ramirez, left, and Juanita Martinez adjust their eggs on spoons for the egg race at the Immokalee Easter celebration.



# E a s t e r

## Tribalwide seniors



Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola gives an Easter hug to Nettie Stewart as Loretta Micco, at left, looks on during the tribalwide seniors Easter luncheon April 6 in Big Cypress. Beverly Bidney



Maggie Porter is resplendent in her Easter bunny ears and beadwork jewelry at the tribalwide seniors Easter luncheon. Beverly Bidney



Carla Cypress, left, shops at Victoria Osceola's booth during the tribalwide seniors Easter celebration. Beverly Bidney



Members of the Bowers family pose together at the tribalwide seniors Easter celebration in Big Cypress. Beverly Bidney



Mary Sanchez is embraced by her son, Tony Sanchez, at the luncheon. Beverly Bidney

## Hollywood seniors



Above, Vince Billie, left, and Naomi Fewell, center, search for Easter eggs April 3 during the Hollywood Senior Easter egg hunt at the airnasium. It was sponsored by the Hollywood Council office. At right, Agnes Billie-Motlow looks to fill up her bag. Below, Moses Osceola plays cornhole, which was part of the event's activities. Calvin Tiger (3)



## Hollywood



The Easter bunny was a popular guest for children at the Hollywood Easter egg hunt March 30. The event was sponsored by the Hollywood Board office. Children had an opportunity to have their photo taken with the bunny and search for hidden eggs in the Classic Gym. Calvin Tiger (3)



# Construction continues at Ahfachkee



Beverly Bidney

Construction of the Ahfachkee School's elementary school building, shown here April 24, is on track for completion in January 2024. The building will house all kindergarten to fifth grade classrooms along with a gym, two collaboration rooms, a computer room, music lab, clinic and administrative offices. The gym will have a stage for presentations and assemblies, a fitness room, restrooms and locker rooms complete with showers.



Beverly Bidney

Workers construct the steel frame for walls on the ground floor administrative offices.



Beverly Bidney

The construction equipment gives perspective to the size of the school's gymnasium.



Beverly Bidney

The location where the new building meets the existing middle and high school building is on the second story breezeway.

## Tribal leaders, lawmakers want new 1.1 million acre monument in Arizona

FROM CRONKITE NEWS/ARIZONA PBS

WASHINGTON — Tribal leaders joined state lawmakers April 11 to call on President Joe Biden to set aside more than 1.1 million acres around the Grand Canyon as a new national monument.

Environmental groups and a dozen tribes in the region say the proposed Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument is needed to protect the area's water, wildlife, sacred spaces and ancestral homelands from uranium mining and other projects.

"It is our home, it is our land, and our water source, and our very being," said Havasupai Vice Chair Edmond Tilousi. "Designating these areas as a national monument will protect them from contamination, destruction, or exploitation and the other harmful effects of mining."

But critics say that banning mining would cripple the region's economy, and that creating another national monument in a state with large tracts already under federal control is just another example of Washington overreach.

"We want the ability to use the resources that we have in our county to be self-sufficient. We're not looking for handouts from the government," said Mohave County Supervisor Buster Johnson, who claimed uranium mining could be worth billions to the region's economy.

"We're saying hey, we have these minerals (that) are in the ground that's here, and we'd like to mine them and become prosperous, you know, like everybody else would," said Johnson, a longtime critic of the expansion of federal lands in the region.

The call for a new national monument comes just three weeks after Biden used the Antiquities Act of 1906 to set aside more than 500,000 acres in southern Nevada as the new Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. The White House said that site, also known as Spirit Mountain, is historically sacred to a number of tribes in California, southern Nevada and northern Arizona, as well as being home to important geologic features, archeological site and threatened wildlife.

"I think that (Avi Kwa Ame) has started the momentum for ... this century, so that we can start building and designating all those religious sites and parts of origins to all Native people," Colorado River Indian Tribe Chairwoman Amelia Flores said during Tuesday's press call on the Grand Canyon proposal. "It's, you know, long overdue."

Flores and others on the call said Biden should again invoke the Antiquities Act, which allows presidents to set aside lands to protect cultural or natural resources.

"Luckily for the administration, we've already done the hard work," said Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, I-Ariz., during the call. "We proposed a framework that we'll use to work with the administration and our coalition over the coming months to create the monument under the Antiquities Act."

Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-Tucson, said he and Sinema have had informal discussions with the Biden administration about this designation, and he expects more formal talks to follow the April 11 announcement. Grijalva said he is optimistic, given the administration's focus on tribal sovereignty issues and the recent designation of Avi Kwa Ame.

## Senators press for faster repatriation of Native American remains

BY GRAHAM LEE BREWER AND MARY HUDETZ ProPublica

More than a dozen senators are pressing for the museums and universities that hold the most Native American remains to explain why they've failed for decades to return thousands of them to tribes as required by federal law.

Members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and other senators singled out for scrutiny the five institutions identified in a recent ProPublica and NBC News investigation as having the largest collections of Indigenous remains — including powerful and prestigious universities with long legacies of delaying repatriation requests.

"It's inexcusable, it's immoral, it's hypocritical, and it has to stop," said committee chair Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii.

In letters sent April 20 to the University of California, Berkeley, Harvard University, the Ohio History Connection, the Illinois State Museum and Indiana University, the senators called the slow pace of repatriations of Native American remains and belongings under the 1990 federal law "unacceptable."

"For too long, Native ancestral remains and cultural items have been unconscionably denied their journey home by institutions, desecrated by scientific study, publicly displayed as specimens, left to collect dust on a shelf, or simply thrown in a box and forgotten in a museum storeroom," the senators wrote.

More than 30 years ago, Congress passed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or NAGPRA, requiring federally funded museums, universities and government agencies to identify human

remains they believe to be Native American and then work with tribal nations to repatriate them.

Lawmakers expected the process would be completed or nearly completed within five years, the senators said in the letter, yet "a daunting amount of work remains."

Hundreds of institutions nationwide still hold a total of more than 100,000 ancestral remains, according to the news organizations' analysis of federal data. None has more than UC Berkeley, with 9,000, followed by the Illinois State Museum and the Ohio History Connection.

The senators wrote that Congress "continues to receive troubling testimony" about institutions' poor compliance with the law, including insufficient consultation with tribes, poor tracking and misidentification of items, disrespect for traditional knowledge and allegations of avoiding or slowing repatriation efforts.

In response to the news organizations' request for comment on the senators' letter, UC Berkeley said in a statement that it will cooperate in a "fully transparent manner" with the Senate's requests. It apologized for the harm caused by its inaction and said repatriation is now a top priority.

"We accept responsibility and accountability for the university's past failings and errors in so far as repatriation and tribal relations are concerned," it added.

A spokesperson for the Ohio History Connection said it welcomed the senators' attention to NAGPRA, adding in a statement: "This work requires many resources and time commitments — for both institutions like ours and the federally recognized Tribes — to undertake repatriation on such a large

scale." Fred Cate, Indiana University's vice president for research, said the school had assigned six staff members in recent years to work on NAGPRA compliance. "The whole point is to get to a consensus point with the tribes we're working with," which takes time, he said.

Harvard and the Illinois State Museum did not comment April 20; Harvard has previously issued an apology for past collection practices, and the Illinois museum said it developed plans to speed compliance with NAGPRA.

In the letters, the senators asked the universities and museums to respond to a list of written questions within two months, including how they decide whether to grant or deny tribes' requests and how long they take to make decisions.

The senators cited an expert's recent estimate that it could take 70 more years for institutions to complete the repatriation process. "This is simply unacceptable," they wrote of the estimate by Chip Colwell, who as curator of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science oversaw its repatriation efforts.

Meanwhile, the Interior Department recently estimated the process could take 26 more years, based on institutions' progress in the past decade. Schatz said he wants it done much sooner. "It can't take another decade or two for this to get fixed," he said.

The Interior Department this year is reviewing proposed regulations that would push museums and universities to finish the work within three years, which some institutions have argued is not feasible.

◆ See REMAINS on page 6C



### GENERAL TRIBAL ELECTION

## MAY 8, 2023

You must have been registered by March 1, 2023 to participate in this 2023 Tribal Election

**POLL SITES OPEN FROM**

**8:00 am - 7:30 pm**

**Big Cypress - Herman L Osceola Gymnasium**

**Brighton - Seminole Veterans Building**

**Hollywood - Headquarters Auditorium Lobby**

**REGISTERED VOTERS REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

ELECTION QUESTIONS OR ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUESTS CONTACT: SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS (954) 966-6300 X 11461



You look after everyone else. Look after yourself, too! Check out these health care resources for Native women at all stages of life.

For more information, visit [go.cms.gov/womenshealthchecklist](http://go.cms.gov/womenshealthchecklist)



## Native-owned aerospace company wins business of the year award

FROM PRESS RELEASE

S&K Aerospace, LLC was named the 2023 Native/Tribal Business of the Year by the National 8(a) Association and HUBZone Contractors National Council. The award was announced at the Small Business Industry Awards Gala on Feb. 15 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

S&K Aerospace is a subsidiary of S&K Technologies, Inc. and owned by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). The company is a graduate of the Small Business Administration's 8(a) Program which offers business assistance

and services to firms that are owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

S&K Technologies, Inc. was established in 1999, and through its many subsidiaries, supports federal and commercial customers in many industries, including aerospace, information technology, engineering, security, space technology, environmental services, construction, and more. The company is headquartered on the Flathead Reservation in Northwest Montana, with offices throughout the Contiguous United States and worldwide.

# 'Flight to Big Cypress'

BY ELGIN JUMPER

*Author's note: "Flight to Big Cypress" is semi-autobiographical. Along with some fictional components. My mother, Eva Billie, and I really did sojourn in BC for a time. We really did spend a day fishing and picnicking, prior to our eventual return to Hollywood. In fact, it's one of the fondest memories of my mother, who sadly passed a day or two after Mother's Day, 2022. With all my love, I hereby dedicate story and painting to her.*

School was over for the day, as Ethan walked passed the front office, with the intent of boarding the long yellow tribal bus back to the reservation, which was just east of the school. Yet before he could reach it he heard the familiar voice of his mother, calling out to him. He turned and saw her. She was behind the wheel of a light green pick-up truck.

"Ethan!" she yelled again.

"Oh, hi, mom!" he cried. "Hey, did you see that? I was almost to the bus. I thought you had to work today."

Ethan, just turned twelve the week before, skinny, like a sawgrass blade, boarded the truck on the passenger side, setting his red backpack on the floorboard of the truck. He automatically secured his seatbelt. He turned to smile at his mother, and vice-versa. They hugged, happy to see one another.

"Well, that's what I want to talk to you about," she said. "Let's take a drive and talk, shall we?"

"Okay." He sat back and surveyed the neighborhood zipping by. He patted fingers on the armrest.

His mother cleared her throat. "W-What do you say we grab a bite to eat first. Are you hungry?" She smiled.

"Yeah!" He rubbed his palms together. Soon they came to a drive-thru, ordered two meals and parked. They ventured in to the food, and eventually his mother said, "We're going to stay in Big Cypress for a while, just you and me. We're going to stay with Granma and Granpa."

"Why?" he asked. "What's wrong?" Her eyes welled up with tears. "Well, sometimes grown-ups, uh, married grown-ups, I mean, go through their rough patches. These things just happen, for whatever reasons, in spite of the best of plans, and intentions. Your father and I need time apart. It's only going to get worse, otherwise. Listen, I've got our stuff in the back of the truck . . . We're heading out to Big Cypress right now."

"Okay, mom," Ethan said. "I'll go along with it, but only because you know what's best." Then he fiddled with the radio, but couldn't find anything he could abide by.

His mother sighed. "I'm glad," she said. They took Griffen to 27 and then drove for fifteen minutes or so, to Alligator Alley,

a two-lane highway that led to Snake Road, where they turned right, and wound their way through to the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation. It was raining as they traveled. The area was quite scenic, and filled with all manner of Everglades flora and fauna. It was the traditional home of the Florida Seminole people.

After twenty-minutes or so, now in the Seminole residential area, they turned left, and made their way down a dirt road, to Granma's camp. There was a small pack of dogs, who took on the job of a welcoming committee type. The dogs ran about and barked up a mini-storm, indicating the mother and son's arrival.

Granma with a smiling expression, and a white mug of coffee, opened the front door to the house and pointed out where they could park. There was another building not far from the living quarters. This was the kitchen, where the family took their meals.

"That's Granma," his mother said.

better, eventually.

Then, the next day, something wonderful happened! He made two new friends at school. Sterling, a Seminole boy who was built like a Mack truck, and Sheridan, a stylish Seminole girl who wrote poetry and drew all kinds of pictures in pen and pencil. They talked on and on about a wide range of subjects. The two kids both wrote and drew incessantly. And that was a-okay with Ethan!

Back home, that night in the kitchen/dining area, Ethan told his mother about these new developments. "I like them, mom," he said to his mother. "They're the coolest."

At supper, he told his mother about a story idea he had: "You know how it's been raining some days? Sterling and Sheridan told me about riding their bikes in the rain, through the puddles, and I started thinking of a story where the main characters race with other kids on hydrobikes, but without those

big plastic things on the bottom, that floats the whole thing.

"Yeah, mom, they raced on the ocean, too, not just rivers and lakes. Can you believe it? Somehow they figured it all out, the designers and engineers, whoever does that for these things. And they could go real fast, mom! It was so beautiful. The main kids, they get caught up in a mystery. They start investigating a crime at one of the races. I don't know how many pages it's going to be, a short story, I think, that much I know."

"Wonderful!" his mother declared. "I love your ideas! Please read it to me when you're done. I remember that one you wrote about T-Rex's, Mammoth's, and those Dino-wolves, as you called them, tearing into that little town, how they came outta the

ground. So imaginative! That young woman sheriff, and the townfolk, pulling together to save themselves. I thought that was a good one. Scary beasts wreaking havoc until your heroes showed up and saved the day!"

As she spoke, his mother worked at her latest sewing project. Sometimes she'd pause, and gaze up, as if she were peering into her thoughts:

"You keep on with your writing, your stories, your artwork," she'd urge. "No matter what. They're gonna take you places someday."

When he was back at school, happy as an Everglades wading bird, with plenty of little fish around the shores, his mother had a visit from his father. His father had taken her to lunch, and had tried to make amends for whatever misdeed he'd made. He hadn't stayed long, though, claiming he had to get back to a chickee jobsite in Tamarac.

"And he was sincere, I could tell," his mother had tried to explain.

♦ See FLIGHT on page 6C



Courtesy photo

Elgin Jumper's "At First Light."

## Trio of Native Americans receive academy honors

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Inductees in the 2023 class of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences include Métis author Maria Campbell, actor/producer Wes Studi (Tsalagi [Cherokee]) and Native American Rights Fund founder John Echohawk (Pawnee).

The academy announced 269 newly elected members April 19.

"With the election of these members, the academy is honoring excellence, innovation, and leadership and recognizing a broad array of stellar accomplishments. We hope every new member celebrates this achievement

and joins our work advancing the common good," David W. Oxtoby, academy president, said in a news release.

The newly elected members are drawn from academia, the arts, industry, policy, research, and science, and include more than 40 International Honorary Members (IHM) from 23 countries.

The academy's commitment to honoring excellence stretches back more than 240 years. The first members elected in 1781 included Benjamin Franklin and George Washington.

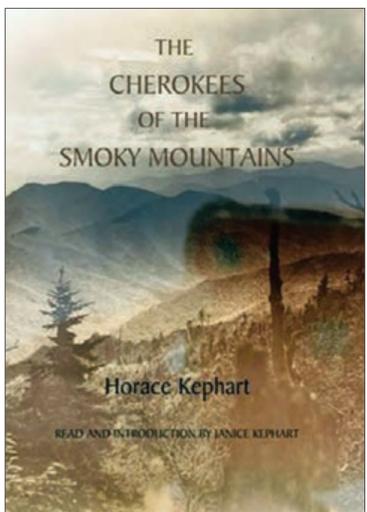
## Cherokees' story becomes available in eBook, audiobook

FROM PRESS RELEASE

A new eBook and audiobook version of "Cherokees of the Smoky Mountains: A Little Band that has Stood Against the White Tide for Three Hundred Years" has been released. Written by Horace Kephart in the early 1900s, and brought to life in its first narration by his great-granddaughter, Janice Kephart, the book is available for purchase on Amazon (Kindle/Audible), Storytel, Scribd, Google Play, Spotify and other audiobook retailers and libraries worldwide.

"Cherokees of the Smoky Mountains" weaves facts with commentary on the multitude of injustices committed against the southern Appalachia Cherokees that resulted in the Trail of Tears. The audiobook gives a voice to the outrage Kephart evokes at American imperialism and racism at some of its worst.

The book relates the powerful and dramatic history of Cherokees, who for 40,000 years thrived in the difficult terrain of the Great Smoky Mountains and its surrounding regions areas of what is now Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. With a constitution and organized government, a written language and no economic debt, the Cherokees sought to live in relative peace. However, President Andrew Jackson and the state of Georgia thought differently,



"Cherokees of the Smoky Mountains"

uprooting the Cherokees and their devoted Chief John Ross and forcing migration to Oklahoma in the Trail of Tears from 1837 to 1839, during which about one-quarter of the Cherokee population perished.

## ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

May 2023

*Cissus verticillata* or princess vine was originally discovered in tropical America. Within Florida, the climbing vine can often be referred to as seasonvine or possum grape vine. From the grape family Vitaceae, this flowering plant expresses a very unique characteristic of this family; the leaves are opposite the flowering part of the plant. This makes it incredibly easy to spot when there are no flowering parts. However, controlling this weedy vine is particularly troublesome for citrus growers in SW Florida. Preventative measures such as ditch banks help to stem the tide but once the vine has infiltrated a citrus grove getting ride of the plant requires either complete removal usually by hand or the use of chemical herbicides (Kanissery and McAvoy, 2018).



THPO

Further south, in Brazil, the vine is seen as a medicinal plant and called "vegetal insulin" often used by locals for ailments such as Type II diabetes and arthritis. In 2007, a study was conducted to test the plants effectiveness within diabetic rats, finding that the plants bioactive constituent, tyramine, did help to reduce hyperglycemia and hyperlipidemia (Pepato, et al. 2003). In 2021, the scientists conducted another study on the effects of the plant and its ability to reduce inflammation in gerbils (Kim, et al. 2021). The use of plants as medicine is not a new topic but it is interesting to recognize that while *Cissus verticillata* is considered a nuisance for citrus growers in the U.S., it is recognized as a life-save outside of the U.S. (WildSouthFlorida.com).



Kanissery and McAvoy, 2018

In 2019, the Environmental Resources Management Division of H.E.R.O went out into the field to gather the plants that make up the herbarium collection housed at the THPO office. In 2022, the ERMD team went back out into the field to gather even more plants. Keep a look out for more of these specimens (both native and invasive) in future artifact of the month posts!



## SEMINOLE HISTORY STORIES - MAY 2023

### TRIBAL REGISTER: THE COUNCIL OAK

On the Hollywood Reservation, just alongside US Route 441, stands an elder Live Oak tree, its twin trunks bearing the scars of over two centuries of life, including a long gash left behind by a lightning strike. It is not known exactly how old the Council Oak is. It is known that it stood here in the early 1800s, when the location was home to Tribal members who called it "Big City Island" and when it offered shelter from the front lines of the Seminole War. It was here in 1907 when the land was set aside for the Seminole people, and in 1926 when the Dania Reservation, now the Hollywood Reservation, was established.

It was under the branches of the Council Oak that the first Seminole Constitutional Council met, giving the tree its name as they discussed plans to organize the community and fight against the new United States policy of "Indian Termination", a policy that would have seen the Tribe disbanded and their land sold. Since that time it has become custom to inaugurate all newly elected Seminole leaders at the site. The Council Oak is now listed on both the Tribal and National Registers of Historic Places, a natural symbol of the long endurance of the Seminole People.



#### TO LEARN MORE

Visit the Tribal Historic Preservation Office website at [stothpo.com](http://stothpo.com) or use the QR code For more Seminole history resources



# SEE THE DIFFERENCE



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

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

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



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

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



**954.894.1500 | MYEYESURGEONS.COM**

4651 Sheridan Street, Suite 100, Hollywood, FL 33021

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

# Sports



## Native Soldiers dominate on way to NAYO title

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

IRVING, N.Y. — The Seminole Tribe's Native Soldiers completed their dominant run at the NAYO basketball tournament by capturing the boys 15-17 championship with an 81-68 win against the Choctaw's DBG on April 8 at the Seneca Nation's Cattaraugus Community Center in Irving, New York.

Channon Frye poured in a game-high 28 points to lead the Native Soldiers. Charles Osceola had 19 points. Bryce Osceola scored 14 points, including four 3-pointers. Juelz Billie (13 points), David Nelson (four points) and the Seneca Nation's Sky Sundown (two points) and Trace Hill (one point) rounded out the scoring for the champions.

The Native Soldiers, coached by Skyla Osceola and assisted by Marl Osceola, went a perfect 4-0 in the tournament, which they won last year, too.

"We have shooters; we have an inside presence," Marl Osceola said. "Take away the inside, we go outside. Take away the outside, we go inside. That's why it's good to have a complete team."

Earlier, in an all-Florida winners' bracket showdown, Native Soldiers defeated the Florida Warriors, 76-54. Billie (21 points), Bryce Osceola (19) and Nelson (13) led the Native Soldiers.

The team's additions from the Seneca Nation — Hill and Sundown — proved to be a good fit in the championship run.

"They were solid pickups," Skyla Osceola said.



Native Soldiers NAYO boys 15-17 champions, from left to right, Trace Hill, Sly Sundown, David Nelson, Charles Osceola, Juelz Billie, Channon Frye and Bryce Osceola. (Xavier Osceola was also on the team, but not in the photo).

Kevin Johnson

◆ See NAYO on page 2C



Bryce Osceola sets his sights on a 3-pointer in the NAYO championship game.

Kevin Johnson



Channon Frye slams down one of several dunks he made for the champion Native Soldiers.

Kevin Johnson

## 'Fresh' Walters scores TD in Charlotte spring game

STAFF REPORT

University of North Carolina at Charlotte wide receiver Roger "Fresh" Walters caught a touchdown pass in the team's spring game April 22.

Walters' 12-yard catch was the first score for Team Green, which rallied for a 16-15 win against Team White in front of more than 5,000 fans.

Walters is the son of the Seminole Tribe's Sheree Sneed. Walters spent part of his youth living at the tribe's Chupco's Landing community on the Fort Pierce Reservation.

After starring for St. Lucie West Centennial in Port St. Lucie as an honorable mention all-state player, Walters redshirted last season.

Charlotte is in its first season with head coach Biff Poggi, who came to the 49ers from the University of Michigan, where he served as associate head coach to head coach Jim Harbaugh.

Charlotte is coming off a shaky 2022. They finished with a 3-9 record.

The 49ers have shifted from Conference USA to the American Athletic Conference.

Charlotte's schedule includes two games in Florida: Sept. 23 at Florida in Gainesville and Nov. 25 at South Florida in Tampa.



Roger "Fresh" Walters scores in Charlotte's spring game April 22.

Charlotte Athletics

## Moore Haven softball enjoys solid season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

The Moore Haven High School varsity softball team stepped up to the plate when Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School was in need of an opponent for its eighth-grade parent night.

Terriers coach Preston Baker said he was glad PECS and Moore Haven were able to play, although he wasn't thrilled with the 8-1 loss.

Despite the setback, which didn't count in Moore Haven's record, the Terriers have been one of the area's stronger teams.

"The season has been good. We've been up and down, but mainly up," Baker said.

With one game left in its regular season April 25, the Terriers had an 11-5 record, which included a pair of four-game winning streaks.

The team features four Seminoles: Baker's daughter Preslynn, Halley Balentine, Tahniah Billie, and Serenity Micco.

Baker starred at the plate in the game against PECS. She hit the ball hard in each of her at-bats, including an RBI triple in the first inning. Later, she smacked a single and a double.

Baker, a sophomore, has a batting average over .500 and leads the team in homeruns with three and stolen bases with 40.

She's also the team's main pitcher with 81 strikeouts.

"Preslynn has done good. She had 16 strikeouts one game," coach Baker said.



Moore Haven's Preslynn Baker gets ready to deliver a pitch against PECS on April 19.

Kevin Johnson

◆ See MOORE HAVEN on page 4C

◆ **NAYO**  
From page 1C

**Florida Warriors 15-17 boys**

The Florida Warriors made some noise in the 15-17 boys division on the opening day of the tournament by winning both of their games. Their undefeated run ended on day two when they ran into some familiar faces – and the eventual champion – in a winners’ bracket game against Native Soldiers.

Native Soldiers prevailed 76-54. The Warriors received 20 points from Lucas Brown, 11 points from Randall Billie and seven points from Jordan Johnson.

“They fought hard, but they got tired at the end,” Warriors coach Isiah Billie said about his team, which consisted of players from Hollywood and Trail and one player – Brown – from the host Seneca Nation.

The Warriors finished in fourth place – one spot away from a trophy – with a 3-2 record.

In their second game on day one, Brown (17 points), Louis Billie (17 points), Randall Billie (16 points) and Moses Jumper (12 points) led the team.

Billie said he was glad he coached the team and the tournament was a good experience for his players.

“Me and my brother, Amos, wanted to make sure the kids had a chance to play,” Billie said.

Brown said he enjoyed playing with the Seminoles.

“I loved it. I had fun,” he said.

**Seminole 12-14 girls**

The only Seminole girls team started the 12-14 tournament on a positive note by winning its first game before dropping the next two.

Cruz Micco (18 points) and Tatum Billie (17 points) led the scoring in the first game, a one-point thriller against Native Legends.

In the second game, the Seminoles lost to the Cherokee Lady Braves, which went on to win the championship. Billie had a team-high 11 points.

“I think we could have placed in the top three. We had a good first game,” said coach Lindsay Sauls.

The team featured players from Brighton, Hollywood and Mississippi. Sauls said she would like to see the team stay together and play and practice.

**Southern Express 12-14 boys**

Nobody could question the heart of the Semionles’ Southern Express team in the boys 12-14 division. Coached by John Osceola, the Express showed plenty of hustle in trying to overcome a huge deficit in its final game.

Down 25 points in the second half, the Express rallied and surged to within a few points of the lead before their opponent pulled away for the victory.

“This team was recently put together. We had to do the best we could with what we had. I’m proud of my boys. They fought hard. They kept their spirits up,” Osceola said.

The team consisted of four players from Trail, one Choctaw from Mississippi and the rest from Hollywood.

In their second game of the tournament, King Hughes (11 points) and Zaiden Frank (nine points) were the top scorers.

“Everybody did good,” Osceola said.

**Seminole 12-14 boys**

The tribe’s other team in the 12-14 boys division was called Seminoles. They had an outstanding first day. They won both their games. Steven Brown poured in 16 points in the second victory.

Day two wasn’t as kind to the Seminoles, who were ousted with two losses.

In one of the losses, Draycen Osceola scored a team-high 18 points. Jared Billie had 10 points and Kalija Osceola had five points.

“Everyone was panicking. We did really good yesterday; today we came out slow and weren’t playing together,” said coach Vintin Santiago. “We got our feet wet in a big tournament against some competition. Now we know what we need to work on. I’d say it was a good experience.”

Santiago said he hopes the team remains together and plays travel ball. All the players are from Hollywood.



Amos Huggins

Kevin Johnson



Coach John Osceola

Kevin Johnson



Eri'Mya McQueen

Kevin Johnson



Christian Shaffer

Kevin Johnson



Jeremiah Johns

Kevin Johnson



Cruz Micco

Kevin Johnson



Zaiden Frank

Kevin Johnson



Tatum Billie

Kevin Johnson



Draycen Osceola

Kevin Johnson



Juelz Billie

Kevin Johnson



Moses Jumper

Kevin Johnson



Jared Billie

Kevin Johnson



Kingston Billie

Kevin Johnson



Louis Billie

Kevin Johnson

# PECS softball stays undefeated with win against Moore Haven

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BRIGHTON** — After honoring its departing eighth-graders on parent night, the Pemayetv Emahakv softball team kept its perfect season rolling by defeating Moore Haven High School's varsity, 8-1, on April 19 at Ollie Jones Memorial Park.

PECS showed no fear facing an older squad.

Pitcher Charisma Micco was sharp from start to finish. She tossed a complete game victory and struck out eight, including the side in order in the second inning.

"She's a real good kid. She works hard," said PECS coach Mary Huff.

When Micco needed defensive help, she received it in a big way from catcher Melaine Bonilla, who threw out three runners and tagged out another in a rundown, and from second baseman Cherish Micco, who made a remarkable catch just beyond first base.

Serenity Billie provided power as she smacked an inside-the-park home run.

The game featured two tribal member head coaches with Huff guiding PECS and Preston Baker at the helm for Moore Haven, which has four tribal members on its roster.

PECS (4-0) was scheduled to play its final game of the season April 26.

The win against Moore Haven marked the second victory for PECS against a high school team. The Lady Seminoles cruised past Okeechobee High's JV team earlier in the season.

Similar to all sports teams at PECS, the softball team didn't field teams the past two years due to the pandemic. This season figured to be a full slate of about 10 games, but it turned out to be only a handful for a variety of reasons, namely due to rainouts and opponents who canceled due to lack of players.

When the Lady Seminoles played, they dominated, piling up about 50 runs and

allowing only a few. The Moore Haven game marked the first full, seven-inning game for PECS, which run-ruled opponents in its other games.

The eighth-graders and the talented players coming up behind them helped make Huff's first year at PECS one to remember.

"Being a tribal member and coming back here to coach other tribal members is really special for me because I was them once," said Huff, who previously coached the varsity team at Okeechobee High School. "It's a big deal for me to try to instill in them a little bit of things that I can for them, not just softball-wise but the tools for a successful life."

The eighth-graders honored in a ceremony with family members before the game were Serenity Billie, Charisma Micco, Joleyne Nunez, Hannah Platt, Kiera Snell and Ila Trueblood.



Kevin Johnson

The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School softball team's eighth-graders were honored April 19 on parent night in Brighton. From right to left are assistant coach Danny Bonilla, Joleyne Nunez, Charisma Micco, Ila Trueblood, Hannah Platt, Kiera Snell, Serenity Billie and head coach Mary Huff.



Kevin Johnson

PECS' Amalia Estrada dashes out of the box as the ball lies on the foul line.



Kevin Johnson

PECS pitcher Charisma Micco delivers a warm-up pitch.



Kevin Johnson

PECS shortstop Ila Trueblood tags out Moore Haven's Hayden Davis at second base.



Kevin Johnson

PECS' Kulipa Julian belts a base hit.



Kevin Johnson

PECS' Melaine Bonilla keeps an eye on Moore Haven first baseman Tahnia Billie during a rundown.

# PECS baseball 8th-graders honored



Kevin Johnson

The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School baseball team's eighth-graders were honored April 19 in Brighton. From left to right are Jace Johns, Jeremy Urbina, head coach Harry Tewksbury, Timothy Urbina, Landon French and Brodie Riley. The team only played a few games this season due to rainouts and lack of opponents. Some of the eighth-graders said their favorite memory was defeating Moore Haven.

## ◆ MOORE HAVEN From page 1C

The other tribal members have been contributing, too.

Billie, a freshman, is among the team leaders in batting with a .400 average and she's second on the team with seven doubles. Balentine, also a freshman, is batting .280 with seven hits and nine RBIs.

Micco, a sophomore, is fairly new to softball, but has put up solid numbers at the plate with a .385 average, five hits and six RBIs.

"Halley and Tahnia have been doing good. Serenity has never played before. She hits the ball pretty good," coach Baker said.

After its final regular season game, which was set for April 25, the Terriers will shift their focus to the district tournament.



Kevin Johnson

Players from the Seminole Tribe on the Moore Haven High School varsity softball team are, from left to right, Preslynn Baker, Tahnia Billie, Halley Balentine and Serenity Micco.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Halley Balentine makes solid contact in an at-bat against PECS.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven head coach Preston Baker, left, and Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School assistant coach Danny Bonilla shake hands at the plate meeting.

# FSU football debuts new look



FSU (2)

The patchwork design remains on the collar for Florida State football's new uniforms. The school's Seminole logo has been added to hip of the pants.

### STAFF REPORT

The Florida State Seminoles football team unveiled what it describes as "refreshed" uniforms for the 2023 season at its spring game April 15.

The design symbolizing Seminole Tribe patchwork remains around the collar, but it also now appears on the sleeve cuff. The shoulder cap that featured patchwork design in the previous uniform version now features the player's jersey number.

Also new is the hips of the pants now feature the school's Seminole logo.

In a press release, FSU stated "The tribal pattern incorporates meaningful symbolism from the Seminole Tribe's patchwork patterns into the program's jerseys. The patchwork decorative technique dates back to the early 1900s among Seminole Tribe women and was adopted by the Tribe as a standard means of embellishing their traditionally vibrant clothing. The pattern on the jerseys is designed using the Seminole symbols for arrow, man on horse and fire from top to bottom in a repeating arrangement."

FSU's season starts Sept. 3 when the Seminoles will host LSU in Orlando.



Miami Grand Prix

Hard Rock signage lines the track during the 2022 Miami Grand Prix at Hard Rock Stadium.

# Hard Rock figures prominently in Grand Prix weekend

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Global pop icons Jonas Brothers will help kick off the Formula 1 Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix race weekend with a concert at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on May 5 at 8 p.m.

As a founding partner of the race event, Hard Rock is bringing globally recognized superstars to celebrate race week in South Florida at both the Miami International Autodrome and at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. The Jonas Brothers are the first of several A-list entertainers announced who are scheduled to perform during race weekend.

For ticket information visit myhrl.com.

The inaugural Formula 1 Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix – recognized as Best New Event of 2022 by Sports Business Journal – made its debut in May 2022. The Miami International Autodrome is located within the complex of Hard Rock Stadium and features 19 corners, three straights and has top speed of 320km/h.

In addition to the name of the stadium and events at its hotel and casino, Hard Rock's presence during race weekend includes being the official viewing partner of Oracle Red Bull Racing. When the partnership started last year it was also announced that Hard Rock branding would be featured on Oracle Red Bull Racing's RB18 car and on the race suits of its drivers, Max Verstappen and Sergio Perez.

Other areas with Hard Rock's presence at the track include signage and the Hard



Miami Grand Prix

The Hard Rock Beach Club at the Miami Grand Prix.

Rock Beach Club, which offers live music, a pool, beach and cabanas trackside.

Practice sessions at the track will be held May 4. Qualifying takes place May 5 followed by the race May 6. For tickets go to [flmiamiGP.com](http://flmiamiGP.com).

# NABI anniversary uniforms unveiled at NBA game

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

PHOENIX — The Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI), presented by Ak-Chin Indian Community, revealed its 20th anniversary edition NABI uniform April 4 at a Phoenix Suns Originativ game. The 2023 uniforms will be self-produced by NABI's own brand, NABI Nation. The new design incorporates a theme that aligns with the Phoenix Suns community edition Native American-themed uniforms.

"Self-producing under NABI Nation brings both NABI and NABI Nation brands full circle." GinaMarie Scarpa, NABI president and founding member, said in a press release. "We are excited to reveal a new uniform designed by the Phoenix Suns

talented creative team under the direction of Sr. Marketing Director Graham Wincott, that coincides with the Phoenix Suns' celebration of our Arizona's 22 tribes.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has been a longtime major sponsor of NABI, which is the largest all-Native-American basketball tournament in North America. Its 20th annual tournament will take place July 17-23 in Phoenix. A record-breaking 144 teams representing over 150 Tribal nations have applied to participate. Two championship games will be played Sunday July 23 at the Footprint Center, home of the Suns and Phoenix Mercury, with ESPN+ returning to cover six semi-finals and both championship games live.



Phoenix Suns

During a ceremony at a Phoenix Suns game April 4, NABI unveiled its 20th anniversary uniforms. From left to right are Shawn Martinez, senior director of Live Presentation, presents new NABI jerseys to Mark West, Suns Ring of Honor member and NABI co-founder; GinaMarie Scarpa, co-Founder and CEO of NABI Foundation; and Gila River Indian Community Governor Stephen Roe Lewis with Graham Wincott, Suns senior director of marketing.



NABI

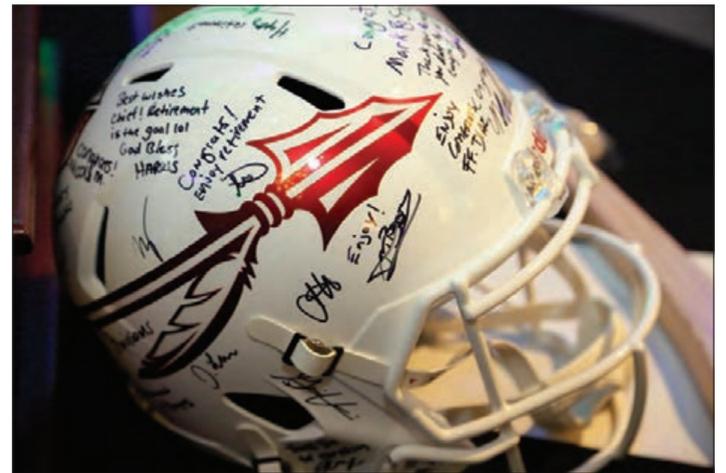
The new NABI uniforms.

# FSU helmet for Will Latchford, complements of Seminole Fire Rescue

Kevin Johnson

A Florida State Seminoles football helmet was among the retirement gifts given to Will Latchford at a celebration in his honor April 14 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. The helmet was presented to Latchford by Fire Rescue Chief Michael Mackey.

It was signed by Fire Rescue employees. Latchford retired April 15 after working decades for the tribe, including as executive director of Public Safety.



# Dr. Brian C. Rush

Chiropractic Physician  
Successfully Treating...

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

We accept your insurance plan, PPO's, POS, Medicare, Auto Insurance.

Dr. Rush Can Help You!

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

**954.432.5006**

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

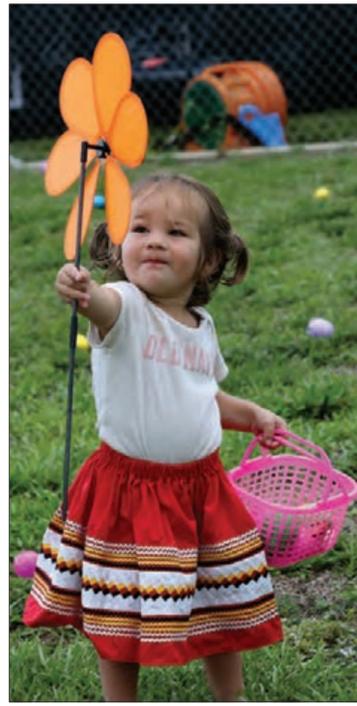


**Dr. Brian C. Rush**  
Chiropractic Physician  
10830 Pines Blvd.  
Pembroke Pines



Beverly Bidney

Kids love the thrill of an amusement ride that had their stomachs and hearts jumping every which way at the Big Cypress Spring Festival on April 24. The rain was fleeting and the fun went on as the community gathered at the ballfield for some old fashioned fun including an egg hunt, rides, games, bingo, burgers, hot dogs and camaraderie.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, although she was supposed to collect eggs, Sawyer Jumper was more interested in an orange pinwheel during the 1 to 4 year-old egg hunt. Above, right, egg hunt for ages 1 to 4 was a treat for this little boy.



# Springing into spring in Big Cypress



Beverly Bidney

The Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club brought some games to the party, including a heavy tug of war rope large enough for a crowd.



Beverly Bidney

A little rain didn't stop these kids from enjoying the festival.

## Eli Young Band to play Immokalee

### FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Eli Young Band is scheduled to play Seminole Casino Hotel's Seminole Center on May 19 at 8 p.m.

The musical band of brothers – Mike Eli, James Young, Jon Jones and Chris Thompson – play

their own instruments, write their own songs and cling fast to their Texas roots. The trailblazing group has always been unique in modern country music and has come a long way since their formation in 2000 at the University of North Texas.

EYB has amassed 14

Billboard charting singles, including four No. 1 hits.

For tickets visit ticketmaster.com.

## FLIGHT From page 5B

Ethan realized there were things he just couldn't control, and the situation with his parents might well work themselves out given time. All signs were converging on that very point.

For the present, he was content on getting to know his new friends. The three schoolmates were spending more and more time together now, writing stories, drawing pictures, and riding bikes on the backroads of Big Cypress.

Then, interestingly enough, Ethan took a job with a Seminole chickee builder. He had been telling Sterling and Sheridan of his desire to find some kind of part-time, after school job, so he could help out the household, and perhaps even purchase books and art supplies.

That was when Sheridan's ears pricked up, and she mentioned her uncle, who owned a chickee building enterprise, and was looking for someone to "tack fans," that is, to hammer nails into the stalks near the palmetto fronds, which thus made it easier to assemble the open-air hut on the job-site. Ethan was quite familiar with that type of work, what with his father being a chickee builder himself, and so Sterling arranged a meeting and Ethan was hired.

One evening, after they'd been in BC for a couple of months, the dinner conversation turned to Hollywood, and an impending return. Well, it was bound to happen, Ethan thought to himself, but he found himself struggling with the likelihood. His mother asked him what the matter was.

"Don't you want to get back to Hollywood?" she added.

Ethan replied, "We're doing good now, mom."

"I know, I know, son," she said, "but we can't rule out an eventual return. Just promise me you'll take some time, really give it some thought."

"Okay, mom," Ethan acquiesced, "I will."

"There now, that's the son I love."

That evening, as the day was winding down, his mother said to Ethan, "I'm thinking we can go fishing on Saturday"--She was pointing to a corner of the room, where his granpa kept his rods and reels--"just you and I. What do you say? Is that something you'd like to do? Maybe even take a picnic lunch?"

"Ooh, yes!" Ethan cried.

"Can we?"

"Yes, we'll have so much fun!"

Ethan's dreams that night were wandering, like an ancient wizard moving without direction, nor fixed plan. And some of those mindscapes seemed as if some dilettante had thrown something together, half-heartedly, on an uninspired low-budget.

But others involving his mother, new friends, and new job, were mint, memorable, and the precious time appeared to diminish all too quickly, though he would rather have had them to stay longer.

At first light, then, bright and early Saturday morning, mother and son were out fishing, though they were novices where that activity was concerned. Yet they weren't deterred in the least, as the yellow-orange sun grew warm in it's long march to the west.

There was a pond near Granma's camp, with cattails and waterplants on its banks. The air

was refreshing, rejuvenating. Water birds called out to the morning in the distance. There were ancient limestones, with deep yellows, and greys, that intermingled with the primordial wetlands. And all this spoke in a visual poetry from the past.

They stood with rods and reels in hand, now casting, now reeling in, now casting again - mother and son of the colorful, unforgettable dawn. Morning light glistened off the waters of the pond like fiery diamonds upon a sheet of silver.

Tiny swampbirds flittered and skittered through the scene, while Ethan felt an amazing peacefulness, for he could sense the singularity of the moment.

Indeed this performance of Nature was a one-time occurrence, he reasoned, a sacred gift from the very Hand of the Creator, a unique memory that would never leave him.

"I don't care if we never catch any fish, mom," Ethan conveyed. Then there was a catch in his voice. "I-I love this." Tears rolled down his cheeks.

"As do I," his mother agreed.

Right then and there, Ethan resolved to keep that memory deep in his heart of hearts, never to weaken, nor decline.

Several days later, Ethan and his mother, bid goodbye to his friends, and relatives, thanking them for helping them through their family crisis, and moved back to the Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation.

*Seminole artist and writer Elgin Jumper is a contributor to the Seminole Tribune.*

## REMAINS From page 4B

Edward Halealoha Ayau, the chair of the NAGPRA Review Committee, said museums have too often skirted the mandate to consult with Indigenous people. Many institutions rely only on their own records and do not review evidence rooted in tribal traditions and knowledge when they decide on claims, he added.

"You can't just sit in the corner twiddling your thumbs, saying, 'Oh, we don't know whose ancestors these are,'" he said.

Ayau said the senators' letter sends a message to the hundreds of other institutions that also must comply with NAGPRA.

The senators also asked the institutions what actions the government has taken against them

under the law and the steps they took in response. Penalties are rare, federal data shows. Only 20 institutions have been fined under the law — for an average of \$2,955 per institution, according to the latest available data from 2022. Of the five institutions that received a letter from the Senate, only Harvard and UC Berkeley have been cited, and they were not required to pay fines.

Schatz said he hoped the letter would encourage the institutions to speed up their compliance with the law.

"If there are deans and presidents and boards of trustees who are sitting around, trying to figure out how to live their values, this is a very practical, immediate way to start," he said.

Schatz added that he expects the institutions will respond to the senators' questions but that if they

do not, the committee has the power to subpoena them.

*ProPublica is a nonprofit newsroom that investigates abuses of power*

### NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To the Tribal Community at large, the Draft Control Schedule for Tribal and BIA Roads is available for review/comments at the office of Tribal Community Development of the Seminole Tribe of Florida located at 5700 Griffin Rd Hollywood FL 33314. Comments must be received no later than May 5, 2023. For additional information, contact Emran Rahaman of the Public Works Department at (954) 894-1060 Ext. 10924.

### FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
813808	2013	DODGE MINIVAN	GRAND CARAVAN SE (FWD)	64,408	Fair	\$6,045.00
173047	2010	DODGE MINIVAN	GRAND CARAVAN SXT (FWD)	101,503	Fair	\$3,600.00
564836	2009	DODGE MINIVAN	GRAND CARAVAN SE (FWD)	67,032	Poor	\$1,796.00
843720	2000	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F350 XL SUPER CAB (4WD) DIESEL KNAPEHEIDE BED	90,750	Poor	\$1,700.00
680598	2006	DODGE MINIVAN	GRAND CARAVAN SE (FWD)	98,012	Poor	\$804.00
102223	2010	DODGE MINIVAN	GRAND CARAVAN SXT (FWD)	92,363	Poor	\$3,203.00
181558	2010	DODGE MINIVAN	GRAND CARAVAN SE (FWD)	77,341	Poor	\$2,947.00
A37254	2005	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F150 XLT CREW CAB (4WD)	68,070	Poor	\$3,801.00
068858	N/A	SNAPPER PORTABLE GENERATOR	G56000 - 5600W	N/A	Poor	\$67.00
285541	N/A	SNAPPER PORTABLE GENERATOR	G56000 - 5600W	N/A	Poor	\$72.00
385532	N/A	GUARDIAN GENERAC PORTABLE GENERATOR	0045821 - 15000 WATTS	N/A	Poor	\$454.00
387304	N/A	GUARDIAN GENERAC PORTABLE GENERATOR	0045821 - 15000 WATTS	N/A	Poor	\$578.00

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

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

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

