

**Brian Zepeda  
receives award  
COMMUNITY 3A**



**PECS celebrates  
'A' status  
EDUCATION 1B**



**Youth enjoy life in the  
fast lane  
SPORTS 3C**



# The Seminole Tribune

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## Writers group hosts poetry reading, plans future events

BY TATUM MITCHELL  
Staff Report

**BIG CYPRESS** — Following its first poetry reading of the year Aug. 21, the Florida Indigenous Writers Group is putting pen to paper to lay out future goals for the group.

Elgin Jumper and Krystle Bowers run small group meetings about once a month, and they are aiming to get more events scheduled.

The next reading is scheduled for Sept. 18 at the Willie Frank Memorial Library in Big Cypress. Jumper said they are working to involve more participants.

Jumper and Bowers both shared poetry and short story readings at the Willie Frank Memorial Library. Bowers read a few poems from a book of various authors, and Jumper read some original work in addition to pieces from other writers.

"I think [the event] was pretty good. I got into the reading. I didn't realize I was going to read that much, but it was good. I haven't done a reading like that in a long time. I think I read like 30 minutes," Jumper said.

◆ See WRITERS on page 3A



Tatum Mitchell  
Elgin Jumper

## Illinois welcomes new Hard Rock casino

BY TATUM MITCHELL  
Staff Reporter

Hard Rock Casino Rockford opened in Rockford, Illinois, on Aug. 29 with a ceremonial guitar smash.

Prior to the doors opening to the public at 3 p.m., the opening event featured Rockford native and Cheap Trick guitarist Rick Nielsen, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Council members and Hard Rock International COO Jon Lucas.

During the ceremony, Geno Iafrate, president of Hard Rock Casino Rockford, thanked the property's nearly 900 team members and the tribe.

"I'd like to thank the Seminole Tribe of Florida because without them none of this is possible," he said.

The tribe's representation included Tribal Council Vice Chairwoman and STOF Inc. President Holly Tiger and Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie; both participated in the guitar smash.

The Rockford Park District was presented with a \$150,000 check from Hard Rock Casino Rockford during the ceremony. The donation will help support youth programs, according to the park district's Facebook.

"We can't thank Hard Rock enough for choosing us as a philanthropy partner and for investing in area youth. Already Hard Rock has enhanced musical opportunities offered at Sinissippi Park and Levings Park plus a brand new performance venue called Levings Unity Pavilion was built at Levings Park," the district posted on its Facebook page.



From left to right, Illinois State Sen. Steve Stadelman, Spencer Aguilar, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Stephen Tiger attend the opening of the Hard Rock Casino Rockford on Aug. 29 in Rockford, Illinois. Aguilar and Tiger are part of the Seminole Gaming/Hard Rock tribal career development program.

Jim Cornelison, who sings the national anthem for the Chicago Blackhawks, performed at the opening along with a tribute to World War II veterans.

◆ See ROCKFORD on page 7A

## Spencer Battiest, Aubee Billie to perform off-Broadway in NYC

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Spencer Battiest and Aubee Billie will star in an off-Broadway production of "Distant Thunder" in New York City from Sept. 25 through Oct. 27. Opening night is Oct. 3.

"Distant Thunder" is the first mainstream Indigenous musical to be performed in New York City and is produced by Amas Musical Theatre and Tall Tree Productions.

Battiest has been associated with the play since 2012, when he was cast for a reading in Los Angeles. The play had another reading in 2018, this time in New York. Battiest performed in the show's first stage production in Oklahoma City in 2022.

"I'm overjoyed to work with [Aubee]," said Battiest, who plays the role of Tonto/Thomas in the show. "To see another tribal member with the same kind of dreams I had as a child, and doing it well, gives me a different type of joy that I didn't know existed."

Battiest first heard Billie sing in the office of her father — former Chairman James E. Billie — when she was a child. He said he couldn't believe how good her voice was then. He went to see her in her high school's production of "Miss Saigon" and said he was "blown away" by her talent. After performing in high school, Billie has studied



(Lyric Theatre, left photo; Amber Loverland, right photo)

Spencer Battiest and Aubee Billie.

theater at Elon University in North Carolina. In 2018, "Distant Thunder" was the first

reading of a show Billie ever saw in New York.

"I went to the reading with my dad," said Billie, who plays the role of Aiyana Buck in

the show. "Spencer is the person I still look up to in the music and theater industry. To play opposite him is insane to me, I'm so thankful and grateful. I can't believe I'm allowed to live out my dreams, it's what I've wanted to do my whole life."

It took more than 10 years for the all-Indigenous musical to make its way to the stage at the First American Museum in Oklahoma City, where it ran for five nights with Battiest in a starring role. Over the years the play was expanded and original songs were added.

"Distant Thunder" tells the story of Darrell Water, who as a child left his Blackfeet Nation home with his white mother. He returns years later as a successful attorney with an opportunity for the tribe that sets off a firestorm. During the show, pop-rock music merges with Native drumming and dancing, fusing the cultures.

"Distant Thunder" was written by actor and writer Shaun Taylor-Corbett and his mother Lynne Taylor-Corbett, who is also the director and choreographer. Music and lyrics were written by Shaun Taylor-Corbett and Chris Wiseman.

Previews begin at 7 p.m. Sept. 25 at the Mezzanine Theatre at A.R.T./New York Theatres, with an official opening at 7 p.m. Oct. 3. Performances will continue through Oct. 27. For tickets go to [amasmusical.org](http://amasmusical.org) or call 212-563-2565.

## New clubs debut as 4-H starts its new year

BY TATUM MITCHELL  
Staff Reporter

With the 4-H year starting Sept. 1, there are some new additions — Garden Club and Rez Riders Horse Club.

Horse Club held its first meeting in August, and about 11 children attended. The next meeting will be Sept. 25 in Hollywood.

The club will be traveling reservation to reservation. Kimberly Clement, Florida cooperative extension 4-H special projects coordinator, said those who cannot attend can send an email to join virtually. She said things like Horse Club help teach patience and learning from the ground up.

"It grows them. I think being involved in 4-H and the industry growing up was what grew me," Clement said.

Environmental Resources Department will be working with 4-H for the Garden Club, and Krystle Bowers is starting a teaching garden in Hollywood. The first meeting is scheduled for Oct. 14. Clement said they "have high hopes" for the club.

Enrollment for livestock members closes Oct. 31 and enrollment for Horse Club and Pee Wees, the youngest age group club, closes Dec. 31. There is a \$10 membership fee, and enrollment is all online.

4-H in the Seminole Tribe dates back to 1955. It started out as cooking and sewing classes, and the first projects were cattle judging teams, according to Florida 4-H: A Century of Youth Success.

As of the 2023-24 year, 4-H has grown to 218 members. Clement said the goal is 250 this year. In 2019, they had 125 registered

members. The current clubs include swine, cattle, Pee Wee, Horse Club, Community Club and Garden Club.

There are livestock shows and competitions members can go to throughout the year.

"Right now, we're gearing up for our livestock club meetings, and that's the swine and cattle," Clement said. "The cattle kids got their animals in July, some of them a little bit before, so their club meetings have already started. September is when the swine kids will start in their club meetings, and then October, the Pee Wees will start their club meetings."

Currently, Clement said they are gearing up for National 4-H week, which is the first week of October. To wrap that up, there will be a 4-H showcase on Oct. 12 in Big

Cypress.

"That's where 4-H agents from across south Florida come in and showcase what's the most popular in their county," Clement said.

4-H is also hosting a cattle showmanship clinic Nov. 2 followed by a cattle costume show.

The 4-H team is comprised of four employees and a group of volunteers. Clement said they are looking for additional volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact the 4-H office at 863-763-4128.

Another aspect of 4-H is Community Club where people who may not have a lot of time to volunteer throughout the year, dedicate an hour or so to teaching a group about special interests and life skills. For

example, one club meeting is about sewing and making totes out of feed bags.

Clement said she is looking forward to increased participation across 4-H this year.

"I want to see the numbers go up. I want to see the number of volunteers go up. I want to see the number of youth enrollment go up, the participation and not just our local events. I want to see the number of our kids participating outside of travel events and going to other places," Clement said.

Traveling to shows and competitions helps the children involved make connections, learn about the industry and their passions, and step out of their comfort zones, she said.

◆ See 4-H on page 3A

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# Editorial

## California tribal leaders urge passage of law regarding gaming rights

• John Christman and Tracey Hopkins

Twenty-four years ago, California voters approved Proposition 1A, granting federally recognized Native American tribes the exclusive right to operate specific gaming operations, including slot machines and banked card games. This was more than a business opportunity—it marked a turning point for California tribes, creating economic lifelines, job prospects, and funds for essential services like healthcare and education.

It was also a public acknowledgment of the centuries of brutality and violence inflicted upon California's tribes, and an attempt to offer some measure of restitution via meaningful opportunity for self-reliance.

For generations, our tribes endured systemic genocide, forced land dispossession, and cultural erasure. Once California's electorate permitted this path for a stable economic future, tribes organized businesses that have made us self-sustaining and high-functioning financial partners in communities across the state.

Now, two decades later, our tribal nations find themselves fighting to defend our financial sovereignty once again—this time to ensure that California's promise of exclusive gaming rights has its day in court. California Senate Bill 549 (SB 549) allows tribes to seek a court decision on whether certain controlled games operated by California card clubs violate state law and infringe upon exclusive tribal gaming rights.

For more than a decade, tribes have sought legal recourse to hold card clubs accountable for hosting games that are legally exclusive to tribes. But the lawsuits have been consistently dismissed on procedural grounds—a technicality—without addressing the core issue of whether card clubs are breaking the law. SB 549 would finally allow the courts to examine whether card rooms are infringing on the rights of California tribes.

To be clear, there is no rational argument for denying tribes equal access to the court system. SB 549 is a remedy to a legal technicality that cardrooms and their high-paid lawyers want in place to keep them from being accountable to the people of California and to our tribes.

California's history is filled with deliberate efforts to at best marginalize—at worst eradicate—Native peoples. In 1851, California's first governor, Peter Burnett, declared that "a war of extermination will continue to be waged... until the Indian race becomes extinct." This wasn't empty rhetoric. Government-sanctioned violence led to the slaughter of 16,000 Native Americans, and California's Native population plummeted from 150,000 to 30,000 within a few short decades. Our ancestors were forced onto remote and undesirable lands, leaving them without economic opportunities and destabilizing our communities.

Gaming has provided a chance to rebuild what was stolen from us. Through gaming, we are able to create new jobs and invest in critical services for our people. Gaming has allowed us to rediscover the economic sovereignty that had been systematically undermined for generations.

We urge lawmakers in Sacramento to vote in favor of SB 549, ensuring that California's tribes have our rightful access to the courts and the justice we are entitled to. For over a century, Native American tribes have faced countless broken promises. SB 549 is about California lawmakers keeping their promises.

*This opinion is from the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians. John Christman is chairman of the VIEJAS Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and Tracey Hopkins is chairwoman of the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians. Danielle Cirelli, chairwoman of the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, and Erica Schenk, chairwoman of the Cahuilla Tribe, also contributed to this piece.*

## NARF provides Native American voter awareness video series

STAFF REPORT

With a goal of raising awareness, the Native American Rights Fund has a video series featuring Native voters and the challenges they face across the country. The second video in the Native Voice, Native Vote campaign, released July 31, revolves around Native American voters in Arizona.

The series is publishing throughout 2024 and covers stories from voters and tribal leaders impacted by U.S. laws and policies.

According to a NARF press release, voting is often difficult for Native Americans and multiple factors create obstacles to registering and receiving information. Some examples NARF outlines are off-reservation voting services, limited access to mail and racial discrimination.

The series started in January with Protecting Native Voting Rights at the Native American Rights Fund and aims to advocate for Native voters and communities. The next

video comes out later this summer and will detail Native American voters and Tribal Nations in North Dakota.

With an upcoming election this fall, NARF is trying to help Native Americans utilize their right to vote according to a release. With 574 federally recognized tribes and millions of eligible voters, multiple states have Native American voting populations. Sixty-six percent of the known eligible Native American population are registered to vote according to NARF.

"To fix relations and heal wounds, Native Americans must be able to participate in the American democratic systems, protect tribal sovereignty, and be heard on our own terms," a NARF release said.

To watch the series, visit [vote.narf.org](http://vote.narf.org) or the NARF YouTube channel. To learn more about voting in Florida and how to register, visit <https://vote.gov/register/florida> or <https://www.rockthevote.org/how-to-vote/florida/>.

## Field Day set for Feb. 13-16

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**BRIGHTON** — The 86th annual Brighton Field Day Festival — one of the longest-running Native festivals in the U.S. — will be held Feb. 13-16, 2025, at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena on the Brighton Reservation.

With arts and crafts, Native dancers and music, Seminole food, alligator wrestling,

PRCA Rodeo, concerts and more, attendees can expect an immersive cultural experience. Admission is free to all school on Feb. 14, "Kids Day." Gates open at 9 a.m.

Aiming to create a hands-on encounter with Seminole heritage, there will be Field Day events that will connect students with Seminole traditions. For more information, contact the Brighton Education Office at 863-763-3572 or [K12BR@semtribe.com](mailto:K12BR@semtribe.com).



Kashane Tiger discusses Eddie Van Halen's Lamborghini during a Hard Rock memorabilia warehouse tour for tribal seniors Aug. 26.

Calvin Tiger

## Hard Rock warehouse tour provides glimpse into stars' lives

BY CALVIN TIGER  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — A dozen seniors were treated to a tour of Hard Rock's extensive music memorabilia collection. Organized by the Hollywood Council's office and Senior Center, the Aug. 26 trip to the Hard Rock warehouse in Hollywood provided an opportunity to get an up-close view of stars' musical instruments, clothing, vehicles and various artwork that has been acquired by Hard Rock over the years.

Guided by Kashane Tiger, Hard Rock memorabilia database specialist, the seniors had a chance to see items such as Eddie Van Halen's blue Lamborghini, Alice Cooper's guitar, B.B. King's suit, Snoop Dogg's jersey and Ringo Starr's jewelry. Other items were from Michael Jackson, Tupac Shakur, Kiss, Alice Cooper, George Lynch, Aerosmith, Lady Gaga, Prince and Beyonce.

"I was able to enlighten tribal members on memorabilia and the processes and all the different many items we have," Tiger said.

The Hard Rock memorabilia team acquires different items from artists through private collectors, auction houses, and various charitable donations to specific Hard Rock properties around the world. Items can also be donated directly by the artists. Hard Rock can also make a charitable contribution through an artist's philanthropy project of choice in exchange for memorabilia items. Hard Rock can also purchase memorabilia directly if needed as well.

"Hard Rock's memorabilia design team select memorabilia based around local story telling. Artists or bands from the area or region are prioritized followed by items from bands or artists that are related to those locals or items used in performance in the area," Chase McCue, director of memorabilia, said.

After the tour concluded, Wanda Billie said that she enjoyed seeing memorabilia from Michael Jackson and KC and The Sunshine Band.



Calvin Tiger

The tour included motorcycles from Clarence Clemons and George Lynch.



Calvin Tiger

A U2 signed car from the Achtung Baby Tour.



Calvin Tiger

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, left, and Hard Rock memorabilia database specialist Kashane Tiger chat during the tour.



Calvin Tiger

Tour participants take photos of Tupac Shakur's long-sleeved camouflage shirt.

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# Community



## Ghost orchid photo earns Brian Zepeda silver award

BY TATUM MITCHELL  
Staff Reporter

A lengthy trek through the swamp paid off for Brian Zepeda with an award-winning photograph and a mystery.

Zepeda, Naples Council/Board liaison, took home a silver award for best photography in the single feature image category at the 2024 Charlie Awards on July 26. How he was nominated remains unclear.



Brian Zepeda

Brian Zepeda's "Ghost Orchid," which was anonymously nominated for the Charlie Awards and taken in the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park.

His photo, "Ghost Orchid," was published in FORUM - The Magazine of Florida Humanities in fall 2023. He said the magazine sent him a couple copies of that issue once it was published, and he "didn't think anything else about it."

Then, he got an email about four months ago from the Florida Magazine Association congratulating him on being a finalist for the Charlie Awards. He did not nominate himself.

"Then I looked at the process of the Charlie Awards. Somebody has to nominate you, pay \$70 to nominate you, and give whatever photograph or article ... to that organization, FMA. Then, they have panelists that narrow it down to three or four, and then those three or four are eligible for the Charlie Award," Zepeda said.

Zepeda asked who submitted his photograph, but it was anonymous, and the organization could not tell him. He was not aware he would be awarded silver until he attended the awards presentation gala in Orlando with his family and friends. He said it was the first award of this kind he's won.

When he took the orchid photo, Zepeda was on a small group trip through Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park in eastern Collier County.

"It was a long trek to get to it, because we had to drive a long way, get out of cars, and then walk a long way to get there," Zepeda said. "It was all in water [up to our chests]. So, we all had our camera equipment on top of our heads, walking through the water trying to get to it."

When the group finally reached the ghost orchid, which is an endangered species, it was high up in a tree. Zepeda got the award-winning shot while standing on a 10-foot ladder someone brought on the trip.

"I know there are people who call me crazy because I'll go into the swamp, but don't think twice about it. There's alligators, water moccasins, poisonous spiders and venomous insects - and I just go," Zepeda said.

To get to the level of an award-winning photographer, Zepeda said it takes "a lot of snaps, a lot of failures, a lot of learning, a lot of frustration."

He became serious about learning photography in 1997 when he was working at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. During his time there, he took photos of various items to send to interested collectors and institutes.

Zepeda credits some friends and mentors who have helped him learn photography. His talents don't end with his camera.



Corrine Zepeda

Brian Zepeda with his silver Charlie Award at the gala July 26 in Orlando.

His skills also include beadwork, woodcarving, silversmithing, leather smithing, building Chickees and more. Institutions and galleries have requested beadwork as well as photography from him.

Along with being a photographer and artist of various other crafts, Zepeda works his 8-to-5 job as the Council/Board liaison. He said he's in his office around 5 most mornings - after a workout - to spend a couple of hours on his art. He squeezes in time at lunch, in the evenings and on

weekends as well.

"I love photography, I really do. I mean, I like doing beadwork, and it's very calming. I've got all kinds of accolades for my beadwork, but I've always liked the photography. Ever since I've started, it's been fantastic," Zepeda said.

Some of Zepeda's work, along with fellow Seminole artist Erica Deitz, will be in an Art Basel gallery from Oct. 20, 2024, to Jan. 12, 2025, in Fort Lauderdale at the New River Inn.

### ♦ WRITERS From page 1A

Their first poetry reading this year was also their first meeting at the library. The group previously met at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

The two collaborated about three years ago to bring together their ideas for the group. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Bowers started a virtual book club that eventually merged with Jumper's ideas for a collaborative writing group.

Bowers said she was looking to do something in person, and Jumper was starting a group with the museum at the time, so they started working together. Jumper's inspiration for a group stemmed from wanting feedback on his writing.

"During the pandemic, I did a lot of writing. I think that's how I dealt with it, you know, being enclosed and not going anywhere," Jumper said. "I wrote a lot, and ... I sent it to some people, ... and I didn't get any feedback. One person gave me feedback. So that made me want to start a writing group for writers to share their work, if they want to share, if they want to get together and write. ... Here it is three years later."

Jumper and Bowers said there are a lot of benefits to meeting as a group and doing readings. Bowers said one of the goals is to "create better [and] more Seminole writers."

Sharing in front of a group helps with public speaking skills, gaining confidence and feeling appreciated, Jumper said.

"The main thing is to become better writers. That's all. That's the central idea, the

main goal," Jumper said.

Jumper said they are going to schedule more events in the coming months at the library, and they are hoping to get some guest speakers in the future to talk about writing.

The group "wears a lot of hats," Jumper said, since it also doubles as a book club on top of writing workshops and poetry readings. At the meetings, Jumper and Bowers said they read some of their work, discuss favorite authors, share their writing background and complete writing prompts and activities.

The events are usually once a month on a Wednesday, and there is a sign-up sheet in person. The events are open to anyone who wants to attend, he said.

"It's all good, sharing your writing with like-minded people," Jumper said. "I enjoy it. It's not work."



Tatum Mitchell

Krystle Bowers, co-founder of the Florida Indigenous Writers Group, looks over a book of poems before she reads at the poetry reading Aug. 21.

## Frontmen to headline Tribal Fair

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Country music supergroup The Frontmen will headline the 2025 Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow, scheduled for Jan. 31 to Feb. 2, 2025, at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Hollywood.

The Frontmen, considered one of country music's hottest new supergroups, is comprised of three former lead singers, Larry Stewart (Restless Heart), Richie McDonald (Lonestar)

and Tim Rushlow (Little Texas).

In addition to the concert set for Feb. 2, the three-day cultural festival will feature Native American dance and drum troupes, Native Reel Cinema Fest showcasing Native American films with meet and greets, live Native American musical performances, as well as Native arts, crafts, and foods. Event admission, including the concert, is free. For more information visit [semtribefair.com](http://semtribefair.com).



Frontmenlive.com

The Frontmen.

### ♦ 4-H From page 1A

"You don't realize you have that spot [where] you're helping kids. You just know I see the potential in you, and I'm not going to give

up on you. And you keep pushing them," Clement said. "But you know, just the fact that we believe in them and know that they can do it is something that they have to know definitely."

Clement has been with the tribe and 4-H for 10 years now.

"I love my kids, and I love

the job that we do here - fostering positive youth development across the tribe. And there's so many things that these kids are capable of," Clement said. "They just need somebody to love them and trust in them, believe in them. And I feel like that's us."

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# Immokalee community learns to make sweetgrass baskets

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — Sweetgrass may be hard to find on or near Seminole reservations, but tribal members interested in learning what to do with the traditional fiber are easier to find.

About a dozen folks turned out to learn how to make the iconic baskets Aug. 29 in the Immokalee gymnasium. The class was taught by Hali Garcia, who is also an apprentice for renowned basket maker and teacher Donna Frank. Garcia was impressed with the amount of people in the class.

“They all want to learn to do traditional basketry,” said Garcia, of the Hollywood Reservation. “I’ve been making baskets

since 2013, but I’ve been around them all my life. I’m a fourth-generation basket maker.” Garcia’s mother Virginia Garcia Sanders, grandmother Delores Jumper and great-grandmother Tommie Jumper were all basket makers.

The class consisted of some first-timers and some with experience. Sheila Aguilar learned to make baskets from her mother Elaine Aguilar and grandmother Lucy Johns, but she hasn’t done it in many years and was glad to pick it up again.

“This is my first time making a basket,” said Ozzy Garza. “It’s different. I came here to learn something new.”

By the end of the class, everyone had received one-on-one instruction from Garcia and left with a good start on a new basket and the knowledge of how to complete it.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, Jessica Osceola proudly shows off the basket she is making. Below, Ozzy Garza takes his time as he makes his first sweetgrass basket.



Beverly Bidney

Juanita Martinez concentrates as she uses thread to attach the coil of sweetgrass in the basket she is making.



Beverly Bidney

Sweetgrass basket instructor Hali Garcia, seated in front, shows Demi Garza the intricacies of starting a sweetgrass basket during the sweetgrass basket class in Immokalee on Aug. 29.

# 'Tis the season: Tribal members visit Dolphins training camp

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**MIAMI GARDENS** — Adam Osceola’s first visit to the Miami Dolphins training facility Aug. 14 with fellow seniors from Hollywood and Big Cypress served as a trip down memory lane.

Osceola became a Dolphins fan at a perfect time. In fact, it was just in time for their perfect season.

At about age 8, he started rooting for the Fins in 1970, the same year coach Don Shula arrived. Osceola remembers the ’72 season when the Dolphins lost to Dallas in the Super Bowl. But, like most longtime fans, memories from the following season are what sticks with him the most.

The perfect 17-0 season in 1973 hasn’t been matched; it was remarkable it happened at all.

“Bob Griese went down and Earl Morrall stepped in,” Osceola recalled.

Indeed, Griese, the starting quarterback, broke his ankle in week 5. Morrall guided the squad the rest of the way in the regular season before Griese returned late in the playoffs.

Even though more than 50 seasons have passed, Osceola still easily recalls the names on the team.

“Csonka, Morris, Warfield,” Osceola said as he began reeling off the names that became heroes in South Florida.

While he was growing up, Osceola said he attended some games with the tribe. He remembers the tribe taking people to the Orange Bowl on a school bus.

“One of them broke down. I think that was ours,” he said.

The seniors didn’t encounter any issues with the air-conditioned bus that brought them to and from the training facility with staff from the Senior Center and Elder Services aboard.

Regarding this year’s team, while some in the group yelled “Tua” hoping to catch the attention of popular quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, Osceola, perhaps remembering the importance of the “No-Name Defense” in 1973, was more interested in watching 6-foot-6, 300-pound defensive lineman Zach Sieler, who signed a big contract last year. He had 10 sacks last season.

“They got him under contract, so that’s good,” Osceola said.

Osceola isn’t predicting an undefeated season, but he does expect the team to make the playoffs again.

“I think they’ll be good. They were pretty good last year, they went to the playoffs. They just need to have a playoff game (at home),” he said.

The seniors had lunch under a tent in a VIP area in a corner of the practice field. Some hoped a few players would stop by at the end of practice, but that didn’t happen as the entire team went indoors immediately at the end of the session.

Dolphin fans will get a chance to see if what the team worked on in training camp pays off on the field. Week one is Sept. 8 when Jacksonville comes to Hard Rock Stadium for a 1 p.m. game.



Kevin Johnson

The group stops under the training camp sign.



Kevin Johnson

Chucky Osceola, left, and Adam Osceola enjoy their close-up view of the Dolphins training camp.



Kevin Johnson

Barbara Osceola, left, and Bonnie Motlow show their support for the team.



Kevin Johnson

Tribal members and staff hold up Dolphins T-shirts that were handed out at training camp.



Kevin Johnson

Charlie Tiger gives a thumbs up as he gets a preview of the 2024 Dolphins during camp.

# SWEP participants wrap up positive experience at ERD

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Lena Cypress and Aiyana Crespo spent the summer in the Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) at the Environmental Resources Department (ERD) and shared their experience with employees, family and friends during a presentation Aug. 9 at the Swamp Water Café. It was the first time ERD had SWEP participants.

During their tenure with the department, the Ahfachkee School 10th graders learned to fly drones, take water samples, set up trail cameras, identify native and invasive fish species and tried to find an itinerant crocodile seen somewhere on the Big Cypress Reservation. They were successful at everything except finding the elusive croc.

Of all the activities they did over the summer, Cypress liked fishing the most. They went out to various sites on the reservation to count fish and other water-based wildlife such as turtles and alligators. Some days they found more invasive fish than native ones, such as bream.

“One day we were looking for Mayan Cichlids, which we fed to birds or used as bait,” said Cypress, 15. “Another invasive fish is the African Jewelfish, which are aggressive, territorial and hog all the food. They guard their territory, eat everything and

out-compete the native fish.” With the help of ERD biological technicians Mandy D’Andrea and Maria Newsome, the girls learned the ins and outs of examining the environment scientifically. They tested canal water and labeled the bottles, replaced batteries in trail cameras and viewed images of bear, deer, panthers, possums and raccoons on the cameras.

They counted the highly sought-after palmetto berries in Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee and the McDaniel Ranch near Big Cypress. The count is done over a three-month span before the harvest. The collected data is compared to previous years and sent to Tribal Council so it can determine whether the berries may be harvested on tribal lands.

“I liked counting the berries because you got to go out on the ATVs, which cooled you down,” said Crespo, 16. “I also liked building relationships with my co-workers; that was cool.”

ERD forester Grant Steelman and biological technician Joe Andreoli taught the girls to use a drone to survey the land and make maps on the GIS (Geographic Information System) database. GIS is a computer system that analyzes and displays geographic information, collects data and is used to review the photographs taken by the drone cameras.

While using the drone, the girls learned about and used NDVI (normalized difference



Beverly Bidney

ERD employees who worked with the SWEP program are, from left to right, Christopher Self, Grant Steelman, Maria Newsome, Keith Morton, SWEP participant Lena Cypress, Sean McHugh, SWEP participant Aiyana Crespo, Hunter Howard, Mandy D’Andrea, Jed Redwine, Joseph Andreoli, Travis Haley and Craig Van Der Heiden.

vegetation index), a metric that quantifies the health and density of vegetation using sensor data. NDVI measures the health of vegetation and showed the areas treated with herbicide before and after the treatment. Crespo and Cypress made comparison charts of the data.

Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie attended the presentation and asked

a few questions afterward, including if they think ERD is important to the tribe, what technical aspect of the program they found most interesting and if they would participate in the program again next year.

“[ERD] ties into the tribe’s inner workings,” Cypress said. “It was really cool to use technology to find a lot of information from one picture. I hope to do this again next

year and would encourage others to come out, too.”

Crespo said she would consider joining the department after she finishes her education. Cypress is waiting to see where life takes her.

“This year was special,” said D’Andrea. “We did a lot of stuff and they did everything we did every day.”

# Tampa Museum of Art displays Corinne Zepeda’s work in Skyway 2024 exhibition

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**TAMPA** — Seminole Tribe of Florida artist Corinne Zepeda’s artwork is becoming a familiar fixture on museum walls around the state.

In the last two years, Zepeda has shown her artwork at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota and the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens in Winter Park.

The latest arts institution to display her art is the Tampa Museum of Art, which is hosting “Skyway 2024: A Contemporary Collaboration” from Aug. 28, 2024, through Jan. 5, 2025. Zepeda’s work is shown along with 17 other artists.

In past shows, Zepeda’s work focused on social justice issues from an Indigenous perspective, but for this show she displayed traditional Seminole patchwork, beadwork, dolls and baskets.

Zepeda recently started working with the Culture Department in Lakeland and said a lot of what she is doing is a deep dive into Seminole roots.

“I’m taking students all the way back in time; I try to make it engaging,” Zepeda said. “My aim is to educate and inform through art. I am thankful to have learned a lot from my family, tradition-wise.”

Her textile pieces in the show include two patchwork skirts, one with a cape, and a skirt and blouse made in the style from the 1880s before patchwork was created. Some of the patchwork designs include fire, traditional lightning, zig zag, diamonds and man on horse.

She also created a digital piece which is a throwback to the old-school style Florida postcards, prevalent in the mid-20th century that encouraged tourism.

“This is really my Native version of the classic ‘Welcome to Florida’ old-style map,” Zepeda said. “But in my version, I have the reservations and important landmarks and imagery from our people.”

Zepeda and 11 other artists attended the opening celebration at the museum and participated in an artists’ panel discussion. More than 200 art lovers attended the opening of the show.

“Skyway” is a joint exhibition held

every three years that celebrates the diversity of art and artists in the Tampa Bay region. This is the third iteration of the exhibition; the others were held in 2017 and 2021. The five museums in the area participating in the show are the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg; the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art; Sarasota Art Museum of Ringling College of Art and Design; the Tampa Museum of Art; and the University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum. The works of 63 artists make up the regional show.

According to its website, “Skyway 2024 embodies the theme of boundless exploration and unity, reflecting the limitless potential of artistic expression in the region. This collaborative effort will feature a diverse array of contemporary art, including paintings, sculptures, installations, and multimedia presentations by 63 artists and art collectives living and working in the Tampa Bay area.”

“It’s always weird to me, seeing myself in museums,” Zepeda said. “Growing up I never thought this is what I would be doing.”



Beverly Bidney

As part of the artists panel, Corinne Zepeda, with microphone, introduces herself to the crowd at the opening of the “Skyway 2024: A Contemporary Collaboration” exhibit at the Tampa Museum of Art Aug. 28.



Beverly Bidney

Corinne Zepeda stands between her beadwork and a patchwork skirt with cape at the “Skyway 2024: A Contemporary Collaboration” on display at the Tampa Museum of Art.



Beverly Bidney

Part of the crowd listening to the artists panel at the opening night of the “Skyway 2024: A Contemporary Collaboration.”

# Weekend of fun fishing on the Atlantic

STAFF REPORT

The fish were biting for the tribe’s Hollywood Reservation and Broward residents.

The Hollywood Council Office organized deep-sea fishing excursions on the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Pompano Beach. For two separate sessions, a vessel from the Starlight Fleet charter boat company brought the anglers out Aug. 24 and Aug. 25 for afternoons of fishing and fun.

Photos by  
Mayli Tommie



Anthony Osceola



Melissa Billie



Aaron Tommie



Tommie Osceola

# Seminole kids soak up sun, camaraderie at Camp Kulaqua

**BY BEVERLY BIDNEY**  
Staff Reporter

**HIGH SPRINGS, Fla.** — More than 170 kids from age 7 to 17 enjoyed a week away from their daily lives for a week of fun, friends and adventure at the Seminole Tribe's annual visit to Camp Kulaqua from July 29 to Aug. 2. The event was organized by Seminole Recreation.

The camp is nestled on about 600 acres of lush forest, open fields and rolling hills 20 miles northwest of Gainesville in High Springs. The camp schedule focused on fitness, sports and team building activities, which made for an active week and engaging week.

The kids lived in cabins with peers, some who they already knew and others who became new friends. Together, they learned to get along without having parents around.

"Camp is a good opportunity for the youth to grow, especially if they haven't been away from home before," said assistant camp director and Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club manager Vera Herrera. "They had a blast doing all sorts of challenges, both mental and physical."

There were more teens than youth at camp this year, 91 teens compared to 80 in the 7 to 11 age range. But the enthusiasm both groups showed for camp was the same; high energy and upbeat. Even between activities, the kids picked up balls and had their own impromptu games and ran from place to place.

Highlights of the week included horseback riding, a zip line, the always exciting box car race, Wacky Wednesday, Hornsby Spring and the infamous blob, tubing on the Ichetucknee River and, for the first time, the amazing race scavenger hunt.



Beverly Bidney

During the Amazing Race scavenger hunt, teams of campers rushed to get from one activity station to the next in order to complete the circuit of challenges first.



Beverly Bidney

Derrick McQueen and Emmit Alvarado run down the lanes during the box car derby. Alvarado's team won for best design for their microwave-inspired boxcar.



Beverly Bidney

Lenox Fudge holds on tightly as he swings across a muddy puddle at the low ropes course.



Beverly Bidney

Gia Garcia leads some enthusiastic friends from one camp activity to the next.



Beverly Bidney

Campers go on a trail ride through the woods, led by a Camp Kulaqua staff member.



Beverly Bidney

Teen campers try to sink the other team's canoe first during the Wacky Wednesday activities at Camp Kulaqua's River Ranch.



Beverly Bidney

Aliyana Posada and Kaidence Venzor show off the rocks they painted during an arts and crafts class at Camp Kulaqua on July 30.



Beverly Bidney

Allie Billie tries to fill the bucket with water as she swings over a muddy puddle at the low ropes course.



A rendering of the Hard Rock Casino in Rockford, Illinois, which opened to the public Aug. 29.

◆ **ROCKFORD**  
From page 1A

The Rockford Park District was presented with a \$150,000 check during the ceremony, which will help support youth programs, according to the park district's Facebook.

"I'd like to thank the Rockford community and State of Illinois for welcoming Hard Rock and our unique brand of world-class entertainment to the greater region," Jon Lucas, Chief Operating Officer at Hard Rock International said in a release. "The economic impact of this casino will provide hundreds of new jobs and boost the entertainment options for anyone living near or visiting Rockford. We are thrilled to welcome this new property to our global portfolio of over 300 Hard Rock venues."

Within the 175,000 square feet of the casino, there are 1,300 slot machines, 50 table games, a sportsbook, six restaurants and a 23,000 square foot entertainment venue. Hard Rock is hiring over 400 new employees for the casino.

"It's also great to be here because we get to recognize truly another major economic win for Rockford and the entire Winnebago

County," Pritzker said.

The casino is located immediately off the I-90 State Street exit at 7801 E. State Street in Rockford.

"It's an incredible feeling to finally welcome guests to Hard Rock Casino Rockford. The opening of this incredible entertainment powerhouse is the culmination of hard work, dedication, and a shared vision," Iafrate said in a release. "We've worked tirelessly to bring this world-class facility to life, and we're excited to offer guests a one-of-a-kind entertainment experience right here in Rockford."

The Rockford City Council voted on the plan in 2019, and the Illinois Gaming Board approved a license for Hard Rock Casino Rockford in 2022.

"Rockford is celebrating a huge win today with the opening of the long-awaited and much-desired casino. Hard Rock delivered on every promise from its initial bid nearly five years ago to the opening of its temporary location and its commitment to the Rockford community," Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara said in a release. "As the doors to the permanent casino open, I'm thrilled to welcome our residents and visitors to this incredible facility full of world-class gaming, dining and entertainment."



Tribal Council Vice Chairwoman and Board President Holly Tiger, left, and Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie smash guitars in Rockford.



The Rockford Park District was presented with a \$150,000 check during the opening ceremony.

**Reverb by Hard Rock to break ground in 2026 in Pensacola**

**STAFF REPORT**

**PENSACOLA** — Hard Rock International announced plans to break ground in 2026 on Reverb by Hard Rock, a hotel brand, at Maritime Park in Pensacola.

Expected to be open by 2029, the over 125-room hotel will include two restaurants, two bars, a fitness center, podcast recording studio for local creators and a conference space. The Hard Rock International press release said the hotel will have views of the water and Blue Wahoos Stadium, along with being nearby to popular sites.

"The project is expected to create an economic boost to the area and generate 500+ construction and 75+ permanent hospitality employment opportunities with competitive pay," the company release said.

This will be the second planned Reverb hotel property in Florida and sixth overall. Other locations include Tampa, Hamburg, Kalamazoo, Scottsdale and Atlanta.

"Hard Rock is thrilled to keep growing our Reverb hotel portfolio with what will be the second planned property in Florida, this time in the heart of Pensacola Bay. We have full confidence in our partner, the Dawson Company, to deliver a best-in-class hotel based on their four decades of proven experience executing complex and catalytic projects throughout the eastern United States, and their extensive knowledge of the Pensacola market," Todd Hricko, Senior Vice President and Head of Global Hotel Development at Hard Rock International, said in the release.

The 100-year ground lease passed the Pensacola City Council on Aug. 8.



Courtesy photo

The St. Pauli Bunker is where Reverb by Hard Rock is located in Hamburg, Germany. The bunker was originally built in 1942.

**Time's World's Greatest Places list includes Reverb by Hard Rock in Hamburg**

**STAFF REPORT**

**HAMBURG** — Reverb by Hard Rock in Hamburg, Germany, made it on Time magazine's list of the World's Greatest Places July 25, 2024.

The hotel, located in the St. Pauli Bunker, opened in early July and is in a popular neighborhood. The bunker was originally built in 1942 — during the Nazi regime and WWII — and was intended to be used as an air defense resource, according

to the Bunker St. Pauli website.

Now, the location includes Reverb by Hard Rock, thousands of plants and trees in its public garden and many other features. The 134-room hotel is designed as a place for connection with locals and visitors, according to a Hard Rock International press release. To compile the list of 100 locations, Time received nominations from correspondents and contributors of hotels, cruises, restaurants, museums and more.

"Reverb now occupies the top six stories of the restored St. Pauli Bunker,

offering panoramic views that extend to the Elbphilharmonie concert hall, which featured on this list in 2018. The Bunker's weathered gray facade is newly wrapped in a winding public garden flourishing with more than 4,500 plants and trees; inside, Reverb is jam-packed with guest amenities including private podcast-recording studios, a full-blown concert hall, all-day coffee shop Constant Grind, and tapas spot La Sala," the Time story read.

**Seinfeld to perform at Hard Rock Live in 2025 in Hollywood**

**STAFF REPORT**

**HOLLYWOOD** — Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood will kick off the new year with Jerry Seinfeld. The legendary comedian will perform two shows — Jan. 24, 2025, and Jan. 25, 2025 — at Hard Rock Live. Both shows start at 8 p.m.

Tickets will go on sale Aug. 29 at 10 a.m.

Prices start at \$81. Fans can access the venue presale Aug. 28 at 10 a.m. through Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood's Facebook, X and Instagram. All seats are reserved. Tickets are available at myHRL.com.

Seinfeld, 70, was the centerpiece of NBC's hit comedy show "Seinfeld" for nine years. He has been in the comedy industry since the 1970s.

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

**RICHARD CASTILLO**  
FLORIDA CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY  
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# August 21 through history: Resisting Colonial aggression

BY WILLIAM LOCASCIO  
Research Manager, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

**BIG CYPRESS** — August 21 is an important day for Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. It marks the museum's 27th anniversary and the 67th anniversary of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Constitution, which established the tribe's federally recognized status. Celebrating these anniversaries involves celebrating heroes of the past, like the Seminole ancestors who resisted U.S. military aggressions during the Long War in the 19th century and the Seminole tribal members who resisted threats of termination of tribal status by the U.S. government in the mid-20th century. If it were not for their resistance to the intrusive and hostile practices of the times, we could not celebrate these great achievements today.

It's interesting that August 21

also marks important anniversaries of independence and resistance in the histories of groups from around the world. The first such event recorded on August 21 occurred in 1169 when African forces of the Fatimid army, along with a several Egyptian emirs, revolted against Saladin, the powerful Sultan of Egypt and Syria.

Moving forward 500 years, August 21 once again marks an important act of resistance when in 1680 Indigenous Pueblo People took control of the Spanish city of Santa Fe during Po'pay's Rebellion, also known as the Pueblo Revolt, forcing colonial settlers to flee to Mexico.

A little over a century after Po'pay's Rebellion, on August 21, 1791, a religious ceremony led by Dutty Boukman, the leader of an enslaved community in Haiti, turned into a fervent anti-slavery uprising and initiated the Haitian Revolution. The revolution lasted 13 years, ending in Haiti's

independence in 1804.

Just 40 years after the Haitian Revolution, and perhaps inspired by it, Nat Turner organized a rebellion on August 21, 1831, leading enslaved people in the only sustained revolt against their oppressors to occur in the American South. The rebellion resulted in the capture and eventual execution of Nat Turner, but ended the myth that slaves were content and unlikely to resist their conditions. Turner's actions also later inspired abolitionists in their ultimately successful efforts to end slavery.

Some 21 years after Nat Turner's Rebellion, Tlingit warriors in the Yukon Territory attacked and destroyed Fort Selkirk on August 21, 1852. The fort served as a Hudson Bay Company trading post and interfered with traditional trading customs between the Tlingit and other Indigenous people in the region. Its removal from the region re-established traditional trading among the Indigenous people.

In the 20th century, August 21 is again associated with acts of resistance in 1961 when Jomo Kenyatta, the Kenyan anti-colonial activist who became the first president of Kenya, was freed from political imprisonment. Kenyatta oversaw independence of Kenya from Britain following his release from prison, earning him the title "Father of Kenya".

Resistance to acts of aggression and attempts to oppress cultures and ethnic groups has a fundamental role in survival and sovereignty. After resistance to colonial violence, political threats to tribal status, environmental degradation, and ongoing intrusions by outsiders into Seminole culture, the tribe is still here.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum recognizes

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



Grand opening of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. From left to right are Louise Gopher, David Cypress, Billy L. Cypress, Max Osceola, James E. Billie, Frank Billie and Mitchell Cypress.



Tribal members gather for a Constitution and Charter meeting in front of the Tribal Oak on the Big Cypress Reservation.

the importance of protecting and celebrating this heritage as a core component of modern Seminole identity. Seminole resilience is apparent in the traditions that persist through generations, and the ingenuity with which new practices have developed in response to change. As tourists flocked to South Florida, encroaching on Seminole land, Seminoles responded by developing arts, crafts, and performances that catered to the tourists' desire for the "exotic". As the U.S.

government sought, once again, to abolish tribal status for Indigenous American groups, the Seminole responded by forming their own government and drafting their own constitution, ensuring their survival and sovereignty.

Today, the Seminole Tribe of Florida is a leader in Indian Country and in the business world on an international level. Resistance takes many forms but marks the first step in survival and resiliency.

# Miccosukee Tribe, NPS sign co-stewardship agreements

BY TATUM MITCHELL  
Staff Reporter

The Miccosukee Tribe and the National Park Service signed two co-stewardship agreements for the Everglades and Biscayne national parks Aug. 27.

Co-stewardship is a term to describe collaboration between the government, tribal nations and Native Hawaiian Organizations to preserve federal land and waters, according to the Department of the Interior website.

"The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida has long been a steward of the Everglades and Biscayne Bay, pre-dating the establishment of the National Park Service," Chairman Talbert Cypress of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida said in a press release. "Since the battles in Biscayne Bay during the Seminole Wars and the subsequent creation of Everglades National Park and the eviction of the Tribal villages within it, the Tribe has worked with the Service to reestablish our role in the Everglades and the Bay. We are deeply appreciative of the National Park Service's commitment to restoring Tribal co-stewardship of these lands."

Wildland fire and prescribed burning, water resources and visitor services in the Shark Valley area are allowed

within the Everglades National Park agreement.

"The Biscayne National Park agreement acknowledges Miccosukee citizens' rights to traditional fishing and plant gathering within park borders. The agreement also establishes the intent to collaborate on fisheries management, vegetation restoration, resource protection and facilitation of traditional Tribal practices," the release said.

The agreements will stay in place for five years, with the opportunity to renew every five years for 25 years. The signing ceremony for the agreements was at the Miccosukee Reserved Area in the Everglades National Park.

"In 2022, the NPS issued guidance to improve federal stewardship of public lands, waters and wildlife by strengthening the role of Tribal governments in federal land management. This guidance followed from the Joint Secretarial Order 3403 ... which outlined how the two Departments will strengthen Tribal co-stewardship efforts," the release said.

The co-stewardship policy helps park managers have working relationships with tribes, the release said and aims to empower Indigenous communities.



Miccosukee Tribe Chairman Talbert Cypress signs the co-stewardship agreements with Superintendents Pedro Ramos and Sarah Hopson.

## ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

September 2024

Often times in archaeology, when excavating, the whole object cannot be recovered. Usually, only fragments of artifacts are found and collected, and if we are lucky, some of them can be put back together. The Gordon's London Dry Gin Bottle within THPO's collections is one such object. Three pieces of this bottle were found that we were able to refit. While we do not have the whole bottle, we luckily have more than enough to learn more about it.

While the gin in the bottle traces its origin back to the medieval period, the bottle itself is much more recent. This can be determined by the maker's mark; this bottle was manufactured in 1956 (Toulouse, 1971). Looking at the bottom of the bottle further, we can see other distinct features on it. One of which is the large boar's head impressed upon the base of the bottle. This boar's head is representative of the boar's head found on the Gordon's family coat of arms. Legend says that this was added to the coat of arms when a member of the Gordon clan saved the King of Scotland from a wild boar (*About Gordon's, n.d.*). Another mark of note is the "A", and while United Glass Bottle Manufacturers made the bottle, this denotes the factory that the bottle was made in, which is Alloa Glass Works (Toulouse, 1971).

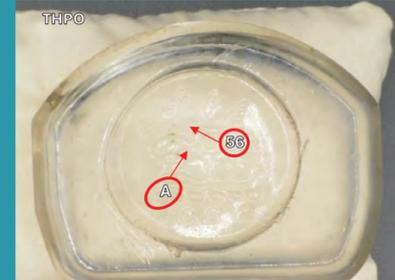


THPO Old Spirits Co. 2023



THPO House of Gordon USA

Alloa Glass Works did not start out supplying bottles to United Glass Bottle Manufacturers, the company that supplies Tanqueray Gordon and Co., but would go on to join them much later in its life. Alloa Glass Works was founded around 1750 by Lady Frances Erskine on the bank of the River Forth (*Clackmannanshire.scot, 2024*). From there, it would operate continually and eventually be acquired by United Glass Bottle Manufacturers in 1955, one year before this bottle would be produced (*Tweedie, 2021*). Even with only part of the original bottle remaining, we have more than enough information to learn quite a bit about it and its history.



About Gordons. (n.d.). <https://www.gordonsgin.com/en-row/about-gordons/>

Clackmannanshire.scot. (2024, February 21). Alloa Glass works. <https://clackmannanshire.scot/index.php/industry-and-commerce/alloa-glass-works>

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SEMINOLE HISTORY STORIES - SEPTEMBER 2024

## ADA TIGER, THE LONE CATTLEWOMAN



Twice a year in the 1920's, one lone Seminole woman would walk into the market at Indiantown, Florida, leading a herd of cattle. Accompanying her were two "cow-chaser" dogs, guiding the herd. In town she would sell some of the cattle, have the rest treated for ticks and fleas, and buy some essential goods. Then she would walk her herd the ten mile trip home to her camp out by Lake Okechobee.

Ada Tiger (Snake Clan) maintained her cattle on her own, her only aid coming from the two dogs she had raised and trained. She had no fences or pens to keep them in. Instead she kept them well fed with corn grown by the family, and worked the area around the camp to ensure it was a place the cattle would want to stay in.

Ada had become a cattlemoan in unfortunate circumstances. Her cattle had been inherited from her three brothers, each of whom had succumbed to tuberculosis or pneumonia within five years between 1914 and 1919. She took on the job of managing the family's stock, and by the mid-twenties her herd was the largest owned by any Seminole.

In 1928, conditions forced Ada Tiger, now mother to a five year old girl, to leave Lake Okechobee for the Dania (now Hollywood) Reservation. The cattle were sold to pay for the move. In Hollywood she took up making crafts and souvenirs for the tourist trade, and raised her two children: Betty Mae Tiger Jumper and Howard Tiger, both of whom would grow up to become leaders and elected chairs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

To see more Seminole History Stories, please visit the THPO website at [www.stofthpo.com](http://www.stofthpo.com)

To learn more about the history of the Seminole Cattle Industry, you can read Cowkeeper's Legacy: A Seminole Story <https://stofthpo.com/cowkeepers-legacy-a-seminole-story> Visit the Tribal Historic Preservation Office website at [stofthpo.com](http://stofthpo.com) or use the QR code on the right for more Seminole history resources



# Health

## Indigenous Pink campaign includes webinar, monthlong activities

STAFF REPORT

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** — The American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF) is launching its annual breast cancer awareness month campaign, Indigenous Pink, in October.

AICAF is hosting a webinar at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 18 via Zoom, and registration is available online.

"Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Native women and is the second leading cause of cancer death. However, all bodies have breast tissue and are at risk for developing breast cancer," a release from AICAF said.

Indigenous Pink Day is Oct. 17, and AICAF is planning a calendar of events to raise awareness and promote resources to educate Indigenous communities about early detection and cancer screenings.

AICAF is encouraging people to wear

pink and share on social media using the hashtag #IndigenousPink to raise awareness of breast cancer in Indian Country.

"Health, growth, caring for, learning, love, loss, strength, understanding...these are the words that come to mind when I reflect on AICAF's 10 years of Indigenous Pink breast cancer awareness education. It is a beautiful thing that we can collaborate with Tribes and Tribal communities to provide timely, accurate, and culturally responsible materials to help move the needle on awareness," AICAF CEO Melissa Buffalo said in a release. "I'm eternally grateful and humbled for the voices of survivors and those who are actively battling breast cancer, for the love and learning from those we have lost, and by the power shared by caregivers. At AICAF, we will continue to elevate these voices and work of American Indian communities."

To learn more, visit [americanindiancancer.org](http://americanindiancancer.org).

## Updated Covid-19 vaccines gain FDA approval

STAFF REPORT

On Aug. 30, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted emergency use authorization for an updated Noravax Covid-19 vaccine.

"(The vaccine) more closely targets currently circulating variants to provide better protection against serious consequences of Covid-19, including hospitalization and death," an FDA press release stated.

The updated version is for ages 12 and older. The Noravax vaccine joins other updated vaccines by ModernaTX and Pfizer that received approval eight days earlier.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, everyone age 6 months and older should get a 2024-25 Covid-19 vaccine. The CDC stresses getting vaccinated is especially important for ages 65 and older, are at high risk for severe Covid-19, or have never received a Covid-19 vaccine.

## Colleges' health program to be taught at site of Crazy Horse Memorial

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Black Hills State University (BHSU) and The Indian University of North America (IUNA) at Crazy Horse Memorial announced Aug. 29 a new undergraduate certificate program in Wichozani Health and Wellness. The semester-long program, offered on-site at Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota, will focus on public health and wellness education tailored for Indigenous communities, emphasizing traditional healing practices.

Crazy Horse Memorial is the world's largest mountain sculpture. The sculpture is of Crazy Horse, a legendary Native American (Oglala Lakota). The memorial's

stated mission is "to protect and preserve the culture, tradition and living heritage of the North American Indians."

The certificate is designed for individuals interested in Indigenous tribal healthcare services and health-related programs. It promotes cultural sensitivity, an understanding of traditional healing methods, and addresses unique health challenges faced by Indigenous communities.

Notable courses of the program include "Native American Public Health," "Ethnobotany of the Northern Plains," and "Native Food Systems."

The first cohort of the program is expected to start in spring 2025.

## Sault member named to IHS post

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Daniel Frye, an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, has been named director of the Office of Human Resources at Indian Health Services.

In an Aug. 16 announcement, IHS said Frye "is responsible for providing strategic guidance and leadership for all aspects of the human resources function and establishing a vision and direction for the full complement of core human capital programs, policies and services."

Frye, who had served as acting director since February, joined IHS in 2017 as the clinical services administrator for the White Earth Service Unit in the IHS Bemidji Area.

Prior to working for the IHS, Frye worked as a quality improvement specialist and data analyst for the Health Division of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians from 2010 to 2017. He holds a degree in psychology and a Master of Health Administration from Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

## Fitness challenge focuses on health, wellness for tribal community

BY TATUM MITCHELL  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Native Driven, a nonprofit organization, hosted its annual fitness challenge Aug. 31 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and continues to aim toward supporting the community through health and wellness.

Sunshine Frank is the founder of Native Driven, and she works alongside three board members of her organization. She said the event initially had 13 people registered, and the day of the fitness challenge, the number of people doubled or tripled.

She said her partner for the event, Jeff Garland, helped put together and organize the challenge pieces.

The event had three fitness challenges, with each station containing multiple exercises and movements to complete. After the challenge, there were demonstrations, including from a vegan chef, and raffle prizes.

"I think it's just being able to make a connection back to the people. I think that's

the most important," Frank said.

During the event, the participants and audience members supported the person doing the challenge with clapping, cheering and encouraging words.

Jessica Osceola said she trained for the event beforehand.

"I'm just glad to see everyone out doing everything at this competition without quitting [and letting it] beat you. It was good though, it was fun seeing everyone out here," Osceola said. "I was ready [and] mentally prepared for this."

Frank said she started the nonprofit with benefitting the community in mind and filling in spaces where she felt the tribe needed more support.

"I always remember, and I always go back to my dad, because my dad used to always tell me when I was younger, to go out, get educated, be successful, but always come back and support your tribe in some way," Frank said.

Native Driven revolves around bringing the community together and helping through health and wellness, life skill seminars and cultural exchanges.

"We do a lot of things with the nonprofit. Fitness and wellness is just part of it. We're also giving back to the community in various life school seminars. The first one we did was a few months ago," Frank said. "It was a financial literacy seminar. ... And now we're getting ready to take that seminar to another reservation, to Big Cypress, and the goal is to take all of our programs tribewide. So obviously, because I live in Hollywood, most of our events are going to be in Hollywood first, and then we're going to branch off."



Tatum Mitchell

Jessica Osceola completes "the beast" part of the challenge — a rowing machine as one of the last tasks in a fitness event Aug. 31 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Hollywood.



Tatum Mitchell

Brian Billie completes a challenge during the Native Driven fitness event.



Tatum Mitchell

Chef Mal, a vegan chef, demonstrates how to cook mushrooms to be similar to chicken.

## Lumbee Tribe receives NIH funds for substance abuse research

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**PEMBROKE, N.C.** — On Aug. 16, the Lumbee (N.C.) Tribal Council accepted an awarded contract from the National Institutes of Health's Other Transactions Division to research substance misuse and pain. The contract will cover 11 and a half months of work at a cost of \$608,042.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) launched the program that will support Native American communities to lead public health research to address overdose, substance use, and pain, including related factors such as mental health and wellness. Totaling approximately \$268 million over seven years, this effort will support research projects that are led directly by Tribes and organizations that serve Native American communities, and was established in direct response to priorities identified by Tribes and Native American communities.

The Lumbee project, entitled "Building iCRISP: Indigenous Community-Informed Research Infrastructure to address Substance Misuse and Pain Management," is part of a National Institutes of Health (NIH) collaborative contract with the Lumbee Tribe who will work with other organizations, including the UNC Chapel Hill, Wake Forest University and School of Medicine, UNCP, and CORE.

Dr. Ronny Bell, an active member of the Lumbee Tribe, was very influential in obtaining the award. Drs. Bell and Beasley will work with a multi-disciplinary group that will utilize existing community and academic research resources to understand and address the underlying factors associated with substance misuse and pain management among Lumbee Citizens. "We are honored to have this opportunity to collaborate with the Lumbee Tribe to help address these important health issues," said

Bell, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy's, Fred Eshelman Distinguished Professor and chair of the Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy (DPOP).

Lumbee Tribal Chairman John Lowery said drug use and drug abuse within the Lumbee community is prevalent.

He thanked the internal team who worked on receiving this first-time funding from the NIH.

"This first award from NIH will help us research the causes and look for ways to decrease and hopefully eliminate the use of drugs among our Lumbee People," Lowery said in a press release. "I am proud of this partnership with our Lumbee Health and Human Services Department, NIH and the collaboration with Dr. Ronnie Bell. We look forward to their findings. Drug use continues to destroy many lives and any opportunity we have to create programs to intervene and eliminate drug use is welcomed."

### Back to School

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# SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

**FAREWELL TO PALS:** Liz Epps, center, said goodbye to her job in August to home-school her young children. Epps, an Immokalee Recreation fitness specialist, started working for the tribe in 2008. She said she would miss everyone she worked with. From left to right, are the Culture Department's America Martinez, Juanita Martinez, Epps, and Cecilia Pequena. At far right is Recreation program coordinator Ruby Anzualda.



Tatum Mitchell

**FUTURE STUDENT:** Ahfachkee School principal Philip Baer greets a baby during the school's meet and greet Aug. 9, a few days before the start of the school year.



Hard Rock

**TEAM EFFORT:** In August, team members from Bristol Casino: Future Home of Hard Rock in Virginia donated two checks – each for \$7,845 – to local organizations. The recipients were the Boys & Girls Club of the Mountain Empire, and River's Way; the latter provides opportunities for young people with differing abilities to contribute to their community. The money was raised through the casino's team member dining room in July. The casino is operating in a temporary facility while a new Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Bristol is under construction. The grand opening is planned to take place later this year.



Beverly Bidney

**STAFF STROLL:** From left to right, Brighton Reservation staff Lillian Henry (fitness specialist), Kadince Ross (lifeguard) and Shyla English (lifeguard) walk with campers at Camp Kulaqua during the tribe's annual summer visit to the High Springs venue.



Tatum Mitchell

**LATER GATOR:** An alligator takes an afternoon swim in a canal Aug. 22 on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Kevin Johnson

**STADIUM VIEW:** Spectators watch a 10U NABI softball game at the Hollywood Reservation's ballfield July 20. The Seminole Tribe hosted NAYO, which featured about 30 youth softball and baseball teams from the tribe, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.



Kevin Johnson (3)

**SIGNS OF SUPPORT:** The Moore Haven High School football season kicked off in August with signs of support from the Seminole Tribe on the fence at the school's Joe Brown Stadium. Banners from the Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc.'s Brighton RV Resort and Trading Post in Brighton and the Brighton Council office are on the southern side of the stadium.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

## Winnipeg serial killer handed four life sentences in murders of Indigenous women

Convicted serial killer Jeremy Skibicki has been handed four life sentences with no chance of parole for 25 years in the murders of four Indigenous women.

The 37-year-old man sat quiet and emotionless in the prisoner's box of a Manitoba Court of King's Bench courtroom Aug. 28. He spoke only once when Chief Justice Glen Joyal asked if he had anything to say.

"No," he said.

In July, Skibicki was found guilty of murdering four Indigenous women: Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, Rebecca Contois and an unidentified victim given the name Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe or Buffalo Woman.

The conviction carries with it an automatic life sentence with no chance of parole for 25 years. That sentence was imposed on Skibicki for each of the four counts of first-degree murder. Joyal noted due to rulings by the Supreme Court of Canada these life sentences must be served concurrently rather than consecutively.

Crown prosecutors said this means Skibicki will be able to apply for parole when he is 60 years old.

During the trial, court heard how Skibicki preyed on these vulnerable Indigenous women at homeless shelters, and invited them back to his apartment and abused them, often sexually. Skibicki then killed each woman before defiling their bodies and disposing of them in nearby garbage bins and dumpsters.

Before handing down the sentence, Joyal heard from the families of Harris, Myran and Contois, who told him of the living nightmare they have endured since the horrific murders two years ago.

"Do you know how many times I had to listen to how my mother was murdered in horrific detail?" Harris' youngest daughter Elle said. "And having to look at the monster who did it all — it's absolutely a horrific thing to go through."

She said this has left her with trauma, anxiety, depression and pain.

"Finally, I am left without my mother to help me get through it all," she said.

Among the victim impact statements, Grand Chief Cathy Merrick of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs told the court the killings have had a profound impact on First Nation communities in the province.

"The heinous crimes committed by Mr. Skibicki have left a deep scar on First Nations people and the reverberations of his actions will be felt for generations," she said, adding it has taken an emotional and psychological toll, leading to a profound distrust and sense of vulnerability.

"Despite the overwhelming challenges, the community remains resilient."

- CTV News (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada)

## Washington coastal tribe awarded \$3 million grant to move to higher ground

**TAHOLAH, Wash.** — For generations, Quinalt Indian Nation members have thrived on the Washington coast.

But the tribe said it's time to go.

The traditional villages, with homes just feet from the beaches of Taholah and Queets, are in danger, according to the tribe.

The risk of a tsunami and rising sea levels has tribal members looking to move to higher ground.

The tribe just received a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to build eight homes in a development several hundred feet above sea level.

"We're moving forward and we're making a change," said Mariah Ralston, Quinalt Housing Authority executive director. "It really rewarding and satisfying to see that happen today."

She said the tribe has plans to build 59 new homes in the upper village, along with relocating the school currently at sea level.

Costs could end up close to \$500 million.

Ralston said the tribe is in the process of applying for other state and federal grants to help offset expenses.

Ryan Hendricks, a tribal council member who lives in the coastal village, said he and his family will sleep better at night if they don't have to worry about the Pacific Ocean posing a threat.

"We have a family of nine, so we have a 'bug out' bag and we keep it right next to the door, and it's full of food and supplies and everything that we would need to survive with the basics for a few days," Hendricks said.

As part of the same HUD grant program, the Colville Indian Housing Authority got \$6 million to pay for the construction of 18 new homes in Omak.

- King5.com (Seattle, Wash.)

## Senators to Agriculture Department: Act swiftly to restore food deliveries to Indian reservations

A bipartisan group of senators is urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or USDA, to address severe delays and issues in a federal food distribution program that delivers food to eligible households on Indian reservations and other designated areas. The program is known as the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or FDIPIR.

"Families that participate in this program do so at the expense of being eligible to participate in other federal food assistance, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)," reads an August 23 letter

to Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack and signed by Senator Jeffrey Merkley (D-OR) and six Senate colleagues.

"Further, many Tribal households choose to participate in FDIPIR over SNAP because they do not have access to grocery stores so families have limited options for assistance, should they face delays in their FDIPIR deliveries."

In March, the USDA consolidated the food delivery contractors to a single contractor in Kansas City, Missouri, over the objection of tribal leaders. Since then, deliveries have been sporadic, at best.

A tribal program director on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota spoke to VOA on condition of anonymity.

"The program usually serves 1,100-plus people a month; about a hundred of them are elders," she said. "We usually get four to five trucks of food a month. But our May trucks were delayed, and by June, we ran out of meat and frozen foods. In July, we didn't get our trucks until the end of the month."

The FDIPIR is billed as a supplemental food program, but for many families on the reservations, these deliveries make up their entire monthly food supply.

"We normally receive ours the third Monday of every month," she added. "But in July, we didn't get our trucks until the end of the month, and we're still waiting on our August deliveries."

Some tribe members have the option of shopping off-reservation, using monthly, electronically-delivered SNAP benefits — that is, if they have transportation and can afford high supermarket prices.

"We also have a mobile vendor," she said. "They come around the day before SNAP benefits come out. They charge whatever they want."

Senate lawmakers have given the USDA until Sept. 9 to report and document reasons for the delays. The USDA says it is working with the Missouri contractor to fix the backlog but tribal leaders say they aren't working fast enough.

- Voice of America

## Expanded tribal authority over prosecuting crimes in Maine takes effect

The Wabanaki Nations have expanded authority to prosecute more serious offenses committed on tribal territory by tribal members under a law that took effect Aug. 9. However, the state [Maine] will still retain those responsibilities for the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Mi'kmaq Nation until the tribes have established full court systems.

The two larger tribes that make up the four tribes of the Wabanaki Nations, the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation, already have tribal court systems, so these jurisdictional changes will immediately apply.

"The judge and the court staff were very involved every step of the way with this bill," Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador Maulian Bryant said Aug. 8. "If something were to happen tomorrow with this expanded jurisdiction, we could be prepared."

The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians opened a wellness court earlier this year and hopes to have a full court system functional by the end of the year, said Chief Clarissa Sabattis. The Mi'kmaq Nation has also started planning for its own court system, including through the recent purchase of a building for the courthouse, said Vice Chief Richard Silliboy.

According to state statute, until the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and Mi'kmaq Nation notify the Attorney General that they have "decided to exercise exclusive jurisdiction set forth in any or all" of the parts of the law that pertain to them, "the State has exclusive jurisdiction over those matters." As of Friday morning, special assistant to the Attorney General Danna Hayes confirmed neither had notified the AG that they'd be doing so.

While expanded jurisdiction will not apply to the entirety of the Wabanaki Nations quite yet, the law marks the most substantive change to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act since it was signed in 1980. At the same time, it also represents the failure of the third attempt at sweeping reform. Democratic Gov. Janet Mills has opposed overhauling the Settlement Act and instead helped usher through legislation targeting specific aspects of the Tribal-State relationship.

Unlike the other 570 federally-recognized tribes in the U.S., the Wabanaki Nations are treated more like municipalities than sovereign nations under the Settlement Act, which has also made it so federal laws do not automatically apply to them.

Federal law generally limits tribes to sentencing for a maximum of three years for any one offense, which under Maine law falls roughly into Class C crimes and below. This is essentially mirrored in the new Maine law.

Existing law had largely already granted tribes jurisdiction over crimes with maximum sentences of less than one year, Class and D and E crimes, so the new law extends this jurisdiction to Class C crimes.

Tribal courts also have jurisdiction over domestic matters, such as marriage and divorce, and child custody proceedings — to the extent authorized by applicable state and federal law.

There are some exceptions. When a crime is committed against a person who is not a tribal member, tribes have concurrent jurisdiction with state courts. The state also maintains criminal jurisdiction over all crimes against the state entities.

The timing of this expanded jurisdiction has been seen as a natural transition by tribal leaders.

Last year, Congress amended one of the

federal protections the Wabanaki Nations had been excluded from under the Settlement Act, the Violence Against Women Act, providing the Wabanaki Nations expanded jurisdiction. Bryant said that provides a solid foundation for the Wabanaki Nations to again take on more responsibilities and expand court capacity under the new state law.

For the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Healing to Wellness Court that opened earlier this year has also helped provide a starting point for further expansion, Sabattis said.

The wellness court is focused on offering alternatives to jail for those who have substance use issues. The court has the same chief judge, Eric Mehnert, as the Penobscot Nation's similar court. Mehnert has also helped establish wellness courts in other parts of the country.

"This court has a lot of our own culture built into the structure," Sabattis said. "I just think the dynamics are so different from what you see going into a state court."

This is true in the way the court looks. "You don't have tables where everybody sits in front of the judge," Sabattis explained. "It's a talking circle. [The judge] hears each case individually and everyone who's in the room has an opportunity to provide some positive feedback."

This is also true in who is involved. People can self-refer without having criminal charges and the wellness court has a working group whose membership collectively help manage cases, including program directors and peer advocates.

"It helped us get our judge in place. It helped us get the structure in place, so now it's not so much of a lift to move forward with these things," Sabattis said. "The timing was perfect."

The Mi'kmaq Nation is also in the process of starting up its own court.

The Mi'kmaq Nation was not referred to in the 1980 Settlement Act and only received federal recognition later in 1991. Last year, the Legislature passed a law known as The Mi'kmaq Nation Restoration Act that put the Mi'kmaq Nation on par with the rest of the Wabanaki Nations.

Since then, the tribe has been laying the groundwork to establish a police force, its own hunting and fishing regulations and a tribal court. Vice Chief Richard Silliboy said the tribe has purchased a building for the court, located next to the tribal building, but that planning is still in the initial stages.

While the new law, LD 2007, largely involves expanding criminal jurisdiction to the Wabanaki Nations, part of the law also extended the period for the Penobscot Nation to certify another law passed last year that allowed the tribe a greater role in the management of its drinking water. Bryant said the tribe unanimously voted to certify the law in June.

Overall, Bryant described the certification process for LD 2007 as smooth.

"We've had gaps in that process before," Bryant said, as evidenced by the delayed certification of the drinking water law and another law from this past session that also takes effect today, now requiring the state to notify the tribes when laws pertaining to them need to be certified.

"It's been a great building of that relationship this time around," Bryant said, in particular referring to their work with the Secretary of State's Office.

Bryant, Sabattis and Silliboy each said that while the past legislative session did not provide the sweeping overhaul of the Settlement Act they'd hoped, they see the strengthened relationships with state entities and court changes as crucial steps toward the legal recognition of Wabanaki sovereignty.

The Legislature recognized a need to alter the Settlement Act in 2019 when it tasked a bipartisan group of state legislators and tribal chiefs to recommend changes. It remains to be seen which recommendations will be taken up in legislative proposals next, though amending laws related to land acquisition and adopting federal beneficial laws had been identified as priorities in earlier iterations of LD 2007.

"I think it sets us up for great changes to come," Bryant said of LD 2007. "We've shown that we can pull out some of these task force recommendations from that 129th Legislature and put them into motion and see them all the way through into reality."

- By Emma Davis, Maine Morning Star, mainemorningstar.com.

## Tribal enters co-stewardship for national refuge

On Aug. 18, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced an historic co-stewardship agreement for Dungeness and Protection Island National Wildlife Refuges in Washington. The day-to-day operations will now be led by the Tribe and the refuges will continue to be part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

"Our Tribe has a strong historical and cultural relationship with the Dungeness and Protection Island National Refuges since our original village was sitting at the mouth of the Dungeness River. This agreement recognizes our unique Tribal Sovereignty and the government-to-government relationships and symbolizes how these relationships have evolved into a very sophisticated level in the 21st century," said Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Chairman/CEO W. Ron Allen.

"This agreement is a significant milestone and demonstrates our commitment to foster co-stewardship opportunities that advance our shared interest in the conservation of these treasured natural and cultural resources for future generations," said Service Director Martha Williams.

The agreement establishes the terms and conditions under which the Tribe will manage

programs, services, functions, and activities at the refuge. The Tribe will implement the purposes, goals and objectives laid out in the Comprehensive Conservation Plans for the Dungeness and Protection Island National Wildlife Refuges, including habitat, wildlife and cultural resource management, visitor services, county and state partnerships and volunteer opportunities along with the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge Friends group and other partners.

Dungeness and Protection Island National Wildlife Refuges are part of the Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The four current Service employees will focus entirely on the other four refuges in the complex: Flattery Rocks, Quillayute Needles, Copalis and San Juan Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will be responsible for staffing Dungeness and Protection Island refuges.

At Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge, the graceful arc of Dungeness Spit protects nutrient-rich tideflats for migrating shorebirds in spring and fall; a quiet bay with calm waters for wintering waterfowl; an isolated beach for harbor seals and their pups; and abundant eelgrass beds for young salmon and steelhead nurseries. Portions of the refuge are closed to the public to protect wildlife, but others are open for a variety of public uses. The refuge has an active program of volunteers helping with public information, education, maintenance and wildlife protection. Other refuge management activities include wildlife surveys, invasive species mitigation, public education and marine debris clean-up.

Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge provides some of the last remaining undeveloped habitat for many burrowing seabirds in the Salish Sea. It supports thriving wildlife populations, including what is thought to be the third largest rhinoceros auklet colony in North America, a nesting pair of bald eagles, one of the last two breeding sites for tufted puffins in the Salish Sea, the largest glaucous-winged gull colony in Washington state, and the first location in Washington where northern elephant seals were observed to come ashore and give birth. The island's conservation partners include the 48-acre Zella M. Schultz Seabird Sanctuary managed by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Protection Island Aquatic Reserve. The refuge is closed to the public to protect wildlife and the island's resources.

- From Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

## Coharie Tribe honored with long-awaited symbol of state recognition: 'A million emotions'

**SAMPSON COUNTY, N.C.** — The Coharie Indian Tribe received an honor generations in the making.

"Our parents, our ancestors, they have been striving for this for over a hundred years," lifelong tribe member Valerie Sweatt told ABC11.

The tribe was officially honored with North Carolina Historical Markers along Highway 421, at the site of their historic tribal school.

The Coharie Tribe is believed to have descended from several local tribes living in Sampson County since the 1700s, pushed to the banks of the Coharie River because of the Indian Removal Act.

Their tribal school near Clinton was built in 1901, it served as an important piece of the tribe's history. Due to segregation, it was the only school their children were allowed to attend for decades.

After integration, the school now serves as their tribal headquarters. The tribe now being honored with the historical markers brings mixed emotions for so many.

"There's a million emotions circulating inside of me, and half of it's holding back tears of sympathy for those that were not as lucky as I am to see this day," Tribal Chairman Greg Jacobs told ABC11. "It's been a long time coming but the world is changing and the identity of Native American people as honorable people it's being spoken in books and magazines, on TV, here today at this dedication."

Jacobs emphasized that while this honor is not just a credit to him and his people now, but to all the tribal ancestors who came before them.

"By the grace of God, I've been given that opportunity to continue their legacy, from my passion I can feel their passion, and I hope they're looking down, and they're proud of me," Jacobs said.

- WTVD (Durham, N.C.)

## Oklahoma tribal casinos contribute to record year in Indigenous gaming revenue

Tribal nations in Oklahoma made a record amount of gaming revenue last year.

In a 2023 report published by the National Indian Gaming Commission, the Oklahoma City region saw the second-highest revenue increase compared to seven other areas listed. This 2.1% increase was worth over \$66 million.

Following closely behind was the Tulsa region, which saw a 2% increase of \$71 million.

Both markets added to the total gross revenue listed in the report of \$41.9 billion, which set a record in the Indigenous gaming industry.

Both regions are home to more than 149 operations and a total of \$6.8 billion in revenue; however, they also dip into other states.

The Oklahoma City region includes

Texas, while the Tulsa region also has Kansas.

In an annual report released by the Oklahoma Gaming Compliance Unit, tribal gaming exclusivity fees amounted to more than \$202 million in 2023, a 5.6% increase from 2022.

The exclusivity fees' funding is dispersed to the Education Reform Revolving Fund, the General Revenue Fund and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

This OGPU report also found that exclusivity payments made by the tribal nations with compacts have continually risen year over year since 2005, except for two exceptions in 2014 and 2020.

Currently, 35 tribal nations in the state have gaming compacts.

In accordance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the net revenues earned by tribal nations operating casinos must be used for specific purposes, such as tribal programs that promote the welfare of the community, charity organizations and local governmental agencies.

- KOSU (Stillwater Okla.)

## Crow Creek Sioux Tribe expands public safety partnership with South Dakota Highway Patrol

The Crow Creek Sioux Tribe has expanded state law enforcement's ability to assist federal officers on the central South Dakota reservation, agreeing this month to a unique partnership between the state and a tribal nation.

The agreement allows the South Dakota Highway Patrol to respond to calls on the Crow Creek Reservation upon the tribe's request, said Crow Creek Chairman Peter Lengkeek. The original agreement only allowed Highway Patrol to help with law enforcement over one weekend, for the tribe's annual powwow, or "wacipi."

Highway Patrol troopers will not "attempt to enforce or apply state laws" on the reservation while assisting tribal law enforcement, the agreement reads, but officers can assist with the enforcement of Crow Creek Sioux tribal law and federal law.

Officers are not allowed to serve state warrants, Lengkeek said. He envisions troopers performing sobriety checks or saturation patrols when there's a large event drawing people to the reservation.

"They're not able to take that person into custody, because they can't detain a tribal member," Lengkeek said. "They can stand there and make sure the person doesn't run off, but ultimately it's tribal law enforcement that will make arrests."

Although this is the only current law enforcement partnership of its kind between the state and a tribal nation, according to the state Department of Public Safety, there is precedent for cooperation at the county level. In 2022, the Oglala Sioux Tribe signed an agreement with the Pennington County Sheriff's Office allowing the office to provide mutual aid when requested.

The amended agreement comes seven months after Gov. Kristi Noem gave a speech to lawmakers linking illegal U.S.-Mexico border crossings to alleged drug cartel activity on reservations. Lengkeek and other tribal leaders pushed back on the speech and Noem's later comments suggesting that some tribal leaders are "personally benefiting" from a drug cartel presence on their lands. Representatives of all nine tribes in the state have since voted to ban Noem from their reservations.

Noem sent letters to all tribal leaders in February and March asking them to enter into a law enforcement agreement similar to the one Crow Creek has now signed, so South Dakota Highway Patrol officers could "assist in enforcing tribal law upon request" without encroaching on tribal sovereignty and jurisdiction.

Noem praised the new partnership. "This mutual aid agreement recognizes the sovereignty of the tribe and ensures cooperation between tribal and state law enforcement officers to work together to uphold tribal law and help make their communities safer," Noem told South Dakota Searchlight in a statement.

The amended agreement Lengkeek signed [in August] was something he began considering a year ago, he said, when he called a public safety state of emergency on the Crow Creek Reservation after the fatal shooting of a young man in 2023.

Crow Creek is one of the few South Dakota tribes that doesn't operate its own police force with federal funding. Officers with the federal government's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Justice Services provide law enforcement services for Crow Creek and the neighboring Lower Brule Reservation. But Crow Creek leaders have argued that BIA officers aren't always able to respond to calls in a timely fashion.

"It's not adequate," Lengkeek said. "We are undermanned, under-resourced, underfunded."

Crow Creek worked to take public safety into its own hands after the shooting last year, including establishing security checkpoints at reservation entrances, creating a public safety task force, and carrying out a gun buyback program. The task force was disbanded earlier this year.

Lengkeek said he worked directly with the Highway Patrol on the new agreement and did not work with the governor.

"We handled this on our own," Lengkeek said. "We don't need the governor to do this."

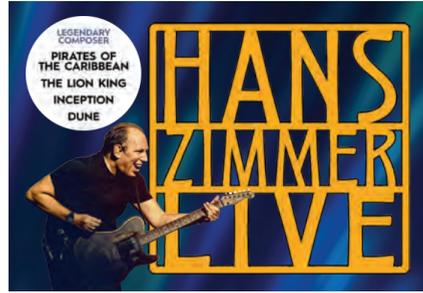
None of the eight other tribal nations within South Dakota have taken up Noem on her partnership agreement.

- Newsfromthestates.com

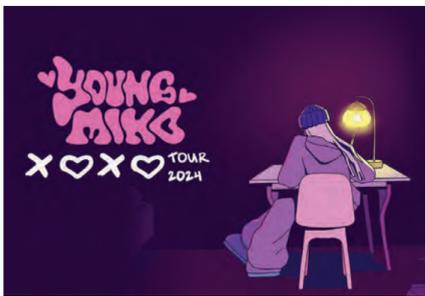
# SOUTH FLORIDA'S ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION



**SEP 1**  
**MEGHAN TRAINOR**



**SEP 8**  
**HANS ZIMMER LIVE**



**SEP 11**  
**YOUNG MIKO**



**SEP 13**  
**BKFC 66**



**SEP 14**  
**MAXWELL**



**SEP 15**  
**AKON**



**SEP 20**  
**BANDA MS**



**SEP 21**  
**WEEZER**



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# Education



## PECS celebrates first day of school, 'A' status

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Toward the end of the first day of school Aug. 12, Pema yetv Emahakv Charter School students, staff and teachers gathered in the gym to celebrate the school earning an "A" status, again.

PECS is no stranger to the high ranking; it has been an "A" school eight times since it opened in 2008 as an elementary school. In 2011 the middle school was added. From then through 2021, the school was graded as separate elementary and middle schools. Since 2022, PECS has two "A" grades in a row as a combined K-8 school.

The state's grades are based on achievement in English Language Arts (ELA), grade 3 ELA, mathematics, science and social studies. The grades are determined

annually by the Florida Department of Education.

Principal Tracy Downing paid homage to the school's founding mothers – Lorene Gopher, Louise Gopher and Jennie Shore – who had a vision for a school that would celebrate the rich Seminole heritage, culture and language. In her remarks, she congratulated the students for their hard work that helped earn the school its "A" grade.

"You will be ready for high school because of your education here," Downing said. "Whatever you choose to do after that, you will be ready because you did the hard work."

♦ See PECS on page 2B



Students in the gym's bleachers try to catch confetti as they celebrate the school's 'A' rating.



PECS teachers and staff surprise the students with golden confetti to celebrate the school's 'A' rating by the state on the first day of school, Aug. 12.

Beverly Bidney  
From left to right, Glades School Board member Jean Prowant, Superintendent of Schools Beth Barfield and Culture instructor Dixie Houston participate in the celebration.



## Ahfachkee welcomes back students for new

BY TATUM MITCHELL  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Students, teachers and parents came together Aug. 9 for the Ahfachkee School meet and greet – gearing up for the first full school year with their new gymnasium.

Along with a new gymnasium, principal Philip Baer is hopeful about bringing sports back to the school, which hasn't had teams since before the pandemic.

"They love it. They love the gym, so we're working on bringing sports back," Baer said.

Baer said he is going to check with the students to gauge the interest of the different grade levels.

In addition, sixth graders are moving into the middle school rotation. Baer said they were in the elementary rotation before due to space.

Baer said before the new gymnasium opened, they often had to seek other spaces and work around schedules. Now, they can host events, like the meet and greet, without being crowded.

"The kids just love the building. It's clean; everything is new. The gym is amazing because before they had to work outside – there was no place to go – or they went across the street to the (Recreation) gym. ... So, they're just thrilled with it," Baer said.

With the school year starting Aug. 12, parents and students got to meet with their teachers and find their classrooms on meet and greet day. Baer said he estimated about 200 students at the event. He expects enrollment to be around 225 this school year.

"It's nice for the community to come out here and see the faces...I try to be very, very visible," Baer said.

Students and parents filtered through



Tatum Mitchell  
Brenda Hummingbird welcomes students in her classroom and helps them find their desks during Ahfachkee's meet and greet Aug. 9.

various booths, like 4-H and the Boys and Girls Club, and received information and prizes from games. Big Cypress Councilwoman Mariann Billie was there as well.

The process of getting the new building up and running "was a challenge," but they got lucky with a good construction company, Baer said. The building was completed and ready for move-in by January 2024.

"Hopefully, eventually, we'll be able to hold community meetings here [and] all kinds of community activities. That's the ultimate goal," Baer said.

## Immokalee students treated to back-to-school bash



Beverly Bidney  
The Immokalee Education Department hosted a back-to-school bash Aug. 7. Various departments gave out supplies so all the students would be well prepared for the first day of school Aug. 12. Above, at the health department booth, nutritionist Alejandra Francis shows Aria Ortega and Adalynn Ortega examples of some healthy snacks. The items were plastic versions of the real things.



Beverly Bidney  
Syanna Escobar, left, mans the Boys & Girls Club booth, where pencil cases filled with supplies were given out to Immokalee students. Students from left to right are India Richardson, Talia Fuller and Caleigh Fuller.

## UNITY elects council leaders

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Peers in the Native youth organization UNITY elected Kaytlynn Johnston (Bishop Paiute Tribe of California) and Watson Whitford (Chippewa Cree/Navajo of Montana) as National UNITY Council Executive Committee co-presidents in July.

Ten area representatives elected are:

- Great Plains: Sophie Landin, Mandan/Hidatsa/Arikara of North Dakota
- Midwest: Marla Mesarina, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe/Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Sioux Tribe of Minnesota
- Northeast: Liliana Mars, Narragansett/Navajo of Rhode Island

- Northwest: Maize Countryman, Northern Arapaho/Navajo/Eastern Shoshone of Idaho
- Pacific: Ashley Johnson, Bishop Paiute of California
- Rocky Mountain: O'Shay Birdinground, Apsaalooke (Crow) of Montana
- Southeast: Kaylee Evans, Haliwa-Saponi/Lumbee of North Carolina
- Southern Plains: Mahiya Ramirez, Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
- Southwest: Jaime Crowe, Pueblo of Tesuque of New Mexico
- Western: Jalen Harvey, Navajo/Acoma Pueblo/Hopi of Arizona.

# Diné author writes Navajo Code Talkers book for elementary school readers

BY SHAUN GRISWOLD  
Source New Mexico

Danielle Burbank collected each and every book on Navajo Code Talkers that she came across in her nearly two decades of work as a librarian. She found paths to learn her own family history.

Her research process started at home in Crystal, New Mexico, where she wondered what her grandfather experienced in his time serving as a Navajo Code Talker.

"He didn't share his stories freely with me," Burbank said. "I know he shared a lot of stories with my dad and my uncles, but I don't know if it was because he just didn't think I needed to know about his experiences or to relive what he experienced during World War II."

More than 400 Navajo Code Talkers remained under orders after the war by a U.S. military program that was highly classified until 1968. The first Code Talkers Day was celebrated in 1982.

Burbank wrote "DK Super Readers Level 4: Navajo Code Talkers" with fellow Diné researchers that offered guidance and review.

The publisher sought writers like Burbank for its series geared toward giving fourth- and fifth-grade readers insight into Navajo Code Talkers as part of history and social studies classes.

She will debut the book Tuesday night as part of the Navajo Nation Library's celebration for Navajo Code Talkers Day that takes place Aug. 14 each year.

Former New Mexico Sen. Jeff Bingaman introduced the "Honoring the Code Talkers Act" in 2000, and the following year, the 29 Navajo Code Talkers were awarded a gold medal by President George W. Bush.

"That's what this book gets into, is sharing with kiddos that because it was a classified program they couldn't share it until almost two decades later. Then we came to celebrate these older gentlemen who did all of this," Burbank said.

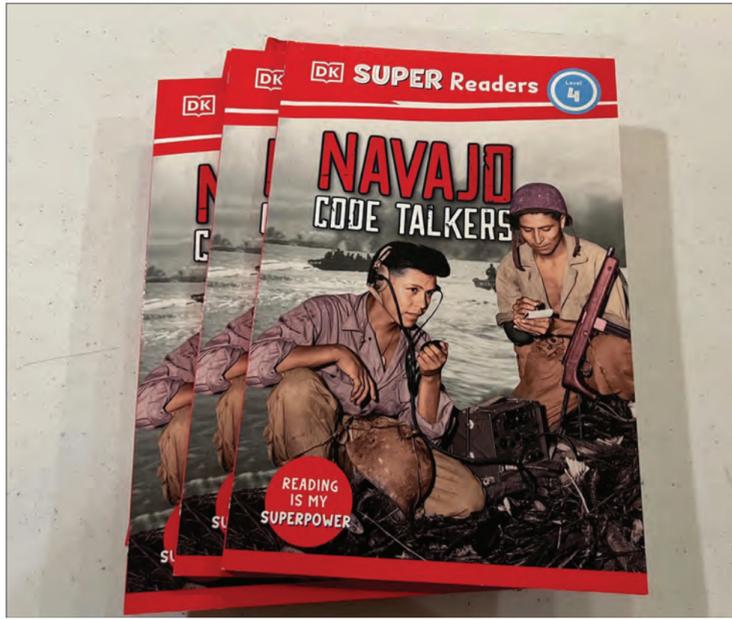
Navajo Code Talkers took their place in U.S. military history. John Woo directed a big budget Hollywood movie in 2002. Code Talkers began regular appearances in parade routes and at schools across the Navajo Nation.

Burbank recalls a visit by Dr. Samuel Billison to her high school that opened her eyes to understanding more of the Code Talkers' history. She said that led to research at the Library of Congress as part of its Veterans History Project.

Her book ties those experiences together and brings her family background to a better understanding that she hopes can connect with more readers, some who may be living with this history too.

"That's what I really get into in my book is how our Diné upbringing our schools on the reservation and a lot of those social aspects, how that made them stronger, to be Code Talkers and then also what it was like when they returned home, and have to celebrate them in their older age."

Burbank said she writes to educate children and sees her book as a tool that can be valuable for any classroom or student in



Courtesy photo

Copies of the new book by author Danielle Burbank gives elementary school readers insight into the Navajo Code Talkers.



Courtesy photo

Author Danielle Burbank.

military history as well," she said. "So that made it really exciting when I got the book in my hand."

Source New Mexico (<https://sourcnm.com>) is part of States Newsroom, the nation's largest state-focused nonprofit news organization.

the country.

"Sharing a story like this can be powerful for the kiddos that I envisioned when I was

researching this, like my own kiddo or my friend's kiddos who are interested in history, interested in Native culture, interested in

## Nearly 2,000 Native American students receive scholarships from College Fund

NATIVE NEWS ONLINE STAFF

The American Indian College Fund (College Fund) announced Aug. 30 its largest Full Circle scholarship cohort ever, with nearly 2,000 Native students receiving awards.

In total, students from 249 tribes from throughout Indian County received the awards. They are pursuing more than 450 majors at every level from associate to doctorate degrees.

The Full Circle Scholarship Program is open to any Native American U.S. citizen who is an enrolled member or descendant of an enrolled member of a state or federally recognized tribe. Applicants must have a minimum 2.0 grade point average, and plan to enroll as a full-time student at a nonprofit, accredited college or university.

This year's Full Circle scholars are using their scholarship awards to attend 34 tribal colleges and universities and 345 mainstream institutions. The median award amount per scholar is \$3,900. The College Fund is preparing thousands more scholarships for tribal colleges and universities to disburse to their awardees this fall.

The College Fund accepts online scholarship applications on a rolling basis each year beginning on February 1. Students are encouraged to apply by May 31 to receive priority consideration. To learn more, visit <http://collegefund.org/scholarships>.

## Hollywood kids ready to return to school



Tatum Mitchell

Aurora Osceola, left, and mom Whitney Cypress show off their raffle win from Hollywood's back-to-school bash Aug. 9 at the Estates. Sponsored by the Hollywood Council Office, the event featured backpack distributions, food and raffles.



Tatum Mitchell

The Native Sno N More food truck was a popular and tasty stop for attendees at the bash.



Tatum Mitchell

A youngster enjoys cotton candy while Thommy Doud emcees the program.



Tatum Mitchell

Tomie Motlow from the Hollywood Council Office hands out raffle prizes to winners during the bash.

## PECS From page 1B

The celebration in the gym featured special guests including Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, Glades County superintendent of schools Dr. Beth Barfield, county school board member Jean Prowant, representatives from the charter school company affiliated with PECS as well as family and friends.

After the speeches, teachers and staff turned the center of the gym into a dance floor and flash mob dance party. Clearly, they practiced their moves to Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk" and weren't distracted by the cheers from the students in the bleachers. After the dance, which included a large unicorn and shark, the adults in the room picked up gold confetti cannons and let loose on the students. The room went wild with delight as the students tried to catch the gold confetti pieces.

"This was all worth it. We have the best teachers," Councilman Howard said. "At the end of the day, they deliver."



Beverly Bidney

PECS teachers and staff dance together in a surprise flash dance mob during the school's first assembly of the new school year.



Beverly Bidney

Special guests, including Brighton Councilman Larry Howard, parade around the gym after the flash dance routine is complete

# Chickasaw author blends comedy, romance, own experiences in first novel

BY TATUM MITCHELL  
Staff Reporter

After years of brainstorming ideas for a story, Danica Nava (Chickasaw) wrote her first published novel while working full-time and pursuing an MBA at night. Nava's novel, "The Truth According to Ember," was published in August.

During this fast-paced romantic comedy, the main character is a Chickasaw woman, Ember Lee Cardinal, navigating work, life and love. She starts out working at a bowling alley, applying for other positions and getting rejection after rejection. After changing her job application strategy, to telling a couple of white lies, she finally lands an accounting job — and a crush on her coworker.

"It's funny and messy in the best way, and I was rooting for Ember even as she dug herself deeper and deeper," Olivia Waite wrote in *The New York Times*.

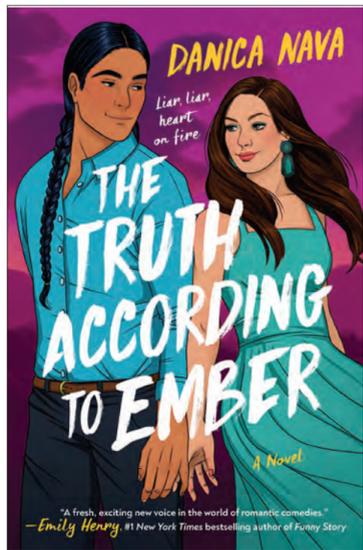
The Seminole Tribune spoke to Nava about her novel. Questions and quotes have been edited for clarity.

**Tribune:** Can you talk about your background and how you got into writing?

**Nava:** "I was born and raised in Southern California. I'm a Chickasaw citizen, and I did go back to Oklahoma a couple times as a kid. My mom is Chickasaw, and I grew up as this little nerd who loved to escape in reading and stories and especially *Star Wars* and all that. So, I was always a storyteller.

I love humor and comedy, so I call myself a comedy writer. First though, what I love to read is romance. Like, I really cannot watch any show, movie, or read any book that doesn't have at least a romance subplot that I can really root for.

I would not be who I am, I would not go to school, had the Chickasaw Nation not helped me, because the cost is so high. Everyone in the higher education office was so wonderful and encouraging. ... I'm just so blessed and grateful that I have this community and this connection and the people who are rooting for our success."



'The Truth According to Ember' by Danica Nava (Berkeley, paperback, romance, \$19).

**Tribune:** Can you talk a little bit about what that writing process was like while also being busy?

**Nava:** "I had to do it. I had this feeling that my life will never change, I'll never live this dream and realize it if I don't sit down and do it. I think you can give yourself any excuse not to do something. ... I was exhausted. I had a four-month-old baby. I had a job, ... and I barely made it home to start my online evening classes, and I barely got to hold my daughter. I stole every moment I could to write the story, because I believed in it so much.

I wanted to read a rom com where there were Native Americans and people who identified as I did. You know, there's no movies where we're these heroes, and ... that was just so frustrating to me. I think I used a lot of that fuel, those feelings of resentment. I was waiting for years. ... I believed this lie that everyone else is better than me because everyone was smarter and had more access to things. But I just did it, and I kept working.

Though I had a goal, if I wanted to query agents in November of 2022 because it's very hard to query. ... November's Native American Heritage Month, and I know that is when these agents are looking for Native Voices. ... And so that was my internal goal. I got the book written, revised in six months, and then I got my agent very quickly.

I'm just really happy with the story. I feel like it's the best thing that I have written. I'm very proud with the end product. ... I'm growing as a writer."

**Tribune:** What feedback have you gotten and what's next for you?

**Nava:** "People do tag me in reviews on Instagram, and most of it is just amazing. And I've gotten so many DMs of Indigenous women who send me photos of themselves crying to the dedication page, which, I cried when I wrote it.

So many Indigenous writers who said that since the book deal was announced and the cover reveal, that I've inspired them to finish their stories, because they never thought that they could do it. [Because] they haven't seen themselves, you know? And



Courtesy photo by Cindy Pitou Burton  
Danica Nava

there's this lie that like, because they haven't seen it, nobody wants it, and it's just not true. So, while it's the first, it's not going to be the last. And what I'm working on next is another native rom com.

I feel like we've gone through hard times, but we laughed through it, and comedy is such a unifier. While ... there's some jokes that only Indian Country will get, I wrote it so inclusive that it's universally funny."

**Tribune:** So you said you wrote it in six months, but were you working on it longer than that? Or was it an idea for longer?

**Nava:** "I got the idea in 2020 and ... I had a lot of false starts. The Muse hit me, and I know the exact date. It was May 1, 2022, after I'd done work and school. ... I was asking ... 'How'd she get the job?' And that's the question that started it all.

A lot of what Ember experiences, the microaggressions, things like that, has happened to me and worse. But I didn't want to sensationalize it and put like the worst of the worst, because people barely believe the few instances that are in the book, but it happens all the time. ... People don't even realize that these things are in our everyday vernacular, but I got to really talk about these issues. I didn't even set out for it to be an 'issue book.' ... I just wrote a girl who had an apartment like mine [and] is very much based on my first apartment. And I can relate. I love the rom com genre. I've read vastly, but the majority is, like, the rich guy for, you know, money's never an issue. ... So having it very grounded in reality and very relatable, and it just made sense.

And so, while she's telling these like white lies, she tells the biggest lies to herself, and it's that she's not good enough. And I just find that character arc of somebody really coming into their own and learning to love themselves so compelling.

Falling in love is the most, I feel like it's the closest will ever come to magic in real life, ... and everybody can experience that. You don't have to wait for the billionaire to come and sweep you off your feet. That's never going to happen. So, I just really wanted to focus on those everyday moments and everyday people, especially for Indigenous people, and have Indigenous joy, where we don't have to be qualified to be there.

Like, this world is so beautiful, and we are here for such a small amount of time, and it's really the connections we make that matter.

I guess I didn't intend to write work that touched on these but it's just it was inevitable with the character and the points of view, because you can't just write a book a rom com and have the characters be white and then decide I'm going to make them Native now and nothing will change, because that's not true. How we walk and encounter our life is so different than how others do. We have similarities, we're just like everybody else. But ... it's not just happy go lucky all the time.

**Tribune:** Though this book is fiction, you write about very real issues Indigenous people face in daily life and issues that society has. What do you hope readers take away, or maybe aspiring Indigenous authors take away from the book?

**Nava:** "Being brave and trusting yourself and showing up for yourself. This book would never have happened if I didn't sit down and just show up for myself. Because I believe the book was bigger than me. I believe the dream was bigger than me, and the busy hardships that I was facing in that moment.

Even if you write for just 20 minutes a day, you know you're going to get to the end, and getting to the end, you're going to feel so proud of yourself like I was.

And for readers, Indigenous readers, I hope they see themselves. ... It's just one story and one person. So, this book can't speak for the entire demographic, but it's a start. I'm so excited for what the future holds for me and for all these aspiring writers to come after me -- who I hope are better than me. You know, it's not the end all be all and just seeing us without the qualifiers, without the justification of why we're there, because we just, we exist. We just do.

And then for readers at large, I hope they see the humor that we exist not to question, like, I really hope normal, everyday, non-Native readers will stop asking, like, 'Oh, you're Native. How much blood are you? Or I've never heard of that tribe, so that's not real.' Or, you know, I just hope that they eliminate that from their conscious, those questions that we get asked are so invasive, and nobody gets asked that in any other culture. But I hope they see the sense of community."

# Hollywood library to host artist spotlight

STAFF REPORT

**HOLLYWOOD** — An artist spotlight is starting Sept. 10, featuring Elgin Jumper's work, at the Dorothy Scott Osceola Memorial Library in Hollywood.

Jumper said it's a pop-up art show that will be set up for an afternoon and structured as a walk-through display where he can talk about his paintings.

"I'm looking forward [to it]," Jumper said.

Padmini Dukharan, library program supervisor, is organizing the event and potentially future spotlights with different artists, he said.

"It gives other artists exposure and a chance to go further with what they're doing," Jumper said.

Working with the library is good, Jumper

said, because they continue trying events and activities to "reach out to the people and bring them into the library."

He said he will bring about 10 paintings to the display.

Jumper does "a little bit of everything" and paints in various styles.

"I try to mix it up [and do] different kinds of things," he said.

He's been painting for 20 years with multiple inspirations and types of paint. He said he started getting serious about his work, which includes painting and writing, in 2004.

"That's when I was like 'I'm going to do it, and I'm going to go all out.' So, 20 years later, I'm still learning. I want to learn more painting techniques and write more," he said.

Jumper's work has been in multiple art shows over the years, and he currently has



Courtesy photo

Part of Seminole artist Elgin Jumper's 'Everglades Sunset Series' is featured at Blick's Art Materials in Fort Lauderdale. The art is scheduled to be at Blick's until mid-September.

an exhibit at Blick's Art Materials in Fort Lauderdale.

# Smithsonian to feature DY Begay's tapestry art

FROM PRESS RELEASE

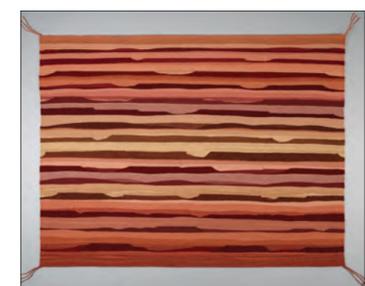
**WASHINGTON** — The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall opens "Sublime Light: The Tapestry Art of DY Begay" Sept. 20. The exhibition, which will be on view through July 13, 2025, celebrates more than three decades of innovation by fiber artist DY Begay (Diné [Navajo], b. 1953). The first major retrospective of her work, it highlights 48 of her most remarkable tapestries.

Begay's tapestry art is at once fundamentally modern and essentially Diné, each work an exploration of the artist's passion for experiencing and interpreting her world. The primary world that Begay explores is Tsélaní, her birthplace and homeland on the Navajo Nation reservation.

From this firm foundation, her innate and lifelong curiosity has motivated her to investigate the expressive power of color and design in developing her distinctive aesthetic.

Begay creates unique artworks that bridge her traditional Diné upbringing and experimental fiber art practice. Through her embrace of color, passion for design and innovative handling of fiber, Begay creates art that expresses a non-Western way of being to a contemporary audience.

"Sublime Light" was curated by Cécile R. Ganteaume of the National Museum of the American Indian; Jeanne Brako, curator, art conservator and scholar; and Jennifer McLerran, curator and art history professor emerita at Northern Arizona University.



Courtesy photo

DY Begay's "Intended Vermillion" is wool with plant, insect and synthetic dyes.

# Patrice Kunesh nominated to chair NIGC

STAFF REPORT

**WASHINGTON** — Patrice Kunesh (Standing Rock Lakota descendant) was nominated by President Joseph Biden on July 23 to become the next chairperson of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

Biden's announcement highlighted Kunesh's career path, including serving in positions on the tribal, state and federal levels. Kunesh currently serves as the deputy assistant secretary for Native American Affairs and the commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans in the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In addition to her current position, her background includes leadership roles in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian

Affairs. She served as in-house counsel for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and was a faculty member at the University of South Dakota School of Law. She created the Center for Indian Country Development, an economic policy initiative at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Kunesh earned a J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law and an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

The nomination received support from the National Congress of American Indians, which issued a statement saying Kunesh "will mark a significant step forward in strengthening the governance and oversight of Indian gaming, fostering economic development, and enhancing the sovereignty and self-determination of tribal nations."

If the nomination is confirmed, Kunesh will fill the seat vacated by the resignation



Patrice Kunesh

of E. Sequoyah Simermyer, who stepped down as NIGC chairman in February.

# Aussie band to perform at Hard Rock Tampa

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**TAMPA** — Australian band Chase Atlantic's 2024 North America tour includes a stop in Tampa. Atlantic Chase is scheduled to perform Oct. 21, 2024, at Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa at 8 p.m. Tickets starting at \$45 are available via [seminolehardrocktampa.com](http://seminolehardrocktampa.com) and Ticketmaster.

# Jason Bonham returns to Hard Rock Tampa

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**TAMPA** — Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin Evening is returning to the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa on Dec. 16 at 8 p.m. Tickets starting at \$75 are available via [seminolehardrocktampa.com](http://seminolehardrocktampa.com) and Ticketmaster.

Encompassing hits from the iconic band's career, the concert event celebrates the life and music of Jason Bonham's father, the legendary Led Zeppelin drummer John Bonham.

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# Market for EVs cools while hybrids heat up

BY CALVIN TIGER  
Staff Reporter

While the automotive market is heavily focused on getting more people into electric vehicles (EVs), there has been an increase in demand with hybrid vehicles gaining more market share than EVs during the past year. Currently, in the U.S., EVs have a market share of 6.8% for new EVs sold while hybrid cars have a market share of 8.7% for new hybrid vehicles sold, according to Edmunds sales data and S&P Global.

Many drivers on the road have been not fully sold on switching their internal combustion engine car to an EV just yet. One of the major issues currently facing EV adoption in the U.S. is current charging infrastructure and lack thereof. A lot of the public chargers that are being used currently operate via apps used from a cellphone, which can be inconvenient at times for consumers.

Another issue with the public charging infrastructure is that the public charging stations might not be operable at times, which in turn gives a negative experience to the consumer. Also, a study by the University of California-Berkeley showed that EV chargers do not work between 20 and 30 % of the time. These different experiences can dampen EV sales and can drive consumers to consider hybrid vehicles instead.

Another potential push towards more hybrid vehicles is that on average they cost less than EVs. According to Edmunds, the average cost for a new hybrid vehicle was \$42,381 compared to an EV average of \$59,400.

The increase in demand for hybrid vehicles has led to many automotive manufacturers to change their deep investments from EVs into hybrid vehicles while others have been more focused on hybrid cars from the start.

Back in 2021, Ford initially invested more than \$30 billion through 2025 to invest

EVs in the hopes that demand would keep steady and grow with consumers wanting to buy EVs. Now, Ford has shifted its investments to hybrid cars due to more sales compared to its EVs.

"We learned a lot ... about what customers want and value, and what it takes to match the best in the world with cost-efficient design, and we have built a plan that gives our customers maximum choice and plays to our strengths," chief executive Jim Farley said in a statement in a Washington Post story.

In contrast, other manufacturers like Toyota have had a different point of view of initially going all in investing with EVs compared to hybrid cars.

From a CNBC article in 2022, it was reported that while Toyota does have investments in EVs, the company's strategy also feels that not everywhere around the world is ready for massive EV adoption due to the high costs and lack of infrastructure to support EVs.

"We want to provide each person with a way that they can contribute the most to solving climate change. And we know that that answer is not to treat everybody the same way," Gill Pratt, Toyota chief scientist and CEO of the Toyota Research Institute, said according to a CNBC article.

As of August, Toyota's hybrid sales have grown 57.2% to a record of 473,000 units in North America during the first half of 2024 in North America.

"As global demand for battery-powered EVs has slowed, Toyota has cashed in by selling more hybrids, which come with relatively higher margins than regular gasoline cars," according to an article from Reuters.

Toyota is a contrasting example of how some manufacturers differ from heavily investing in EVs initially while not ignoring their hybrid sales market and being able to identify how there are still inefficiencies for worldwide EV adoption at this time.

# Tribes participate in western Everglades project groundbreaking

BY TATUM MITCHELL  
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe and Miccosukee Tribe joined multiple other groups July 10 to break ground on L-28 South Culverts, water distribution structures that are the first step to the Western Everglades Restoration Project.

The culverts will connect the water supply throughout the Everglades and Big Cypress National Preserve.

"It's really encouraging to see the district bring this project forward today, and it's great to be here with all of you as this moves ahead. We're really looking forward to work being approved and authorized, so that we can see real benefits from that overall project," Paul Backhouse, senior director of the Environmental Protection Office for the Seminole Tribe, said at the groundbreaking event.

WERP is a part of an overall project, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The project's purpose is to better "the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water needed to restore and reconnect the Western Glades to the overall Everglades ecosystem," according to the South Florida Water Management District.

More specifically, the culverts will reconnect Water Conservation Area 3A with Big Cypress National Preserve and Lostmans Slough. The project is located where multiple locations come together: Water Conservation Area 3A, Big Cypress National Preserve, Everglades National Park and the Miccosukee Alligator Alley Reservation.

"The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida is excited to see this project [...] moving forward after decades of Tribal advocacy. The State and Federal government are finally listening to the Miccosukee and Seminole tribes and have committed to cleaning the water and better balancing the flows between the east and the west of the Everglades to create holistic restoration for the entirety of the watershed," Chairman



SFWM

Representatives from the Seminole and Miccosukee tribes were among those who broke ground for the Western Everglades Restoration Project on July 10.

Talbert Cypress of the Miccosukee Tribe said in a release.

The Everglades water quality has degraded over the years and impacted many environmental factors, according to the EPA. Vice Chair of The Everglades Foundation Board of Directors Ellin Goetz said in a release the project will be beneficial since the area is lacking water and plant species went from marsh to forest.

"This project will bring much needed water flows into Lostmans Slough in Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park, it also benefits the Tribes, and in doing so, it benefits us all and the lands and marine areas we care so much about,"

Pedro Ramos, Superintendent of Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, said in a release.

Water management in the project should help the area by restoring landscape connections, reducing the risk of wildfires and restoring nutrients to the environment, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website.

Among the groups present at the groundbreaking were the South Florida Water Management District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Jacksonville District, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection, along with federal, state and local partners.

# Federal funding awarded to STOF for EV chargers

STAFF REPORT

On Aug. 27, the Biden administration announced \$521 million in grants for electric vehicle charging and alternative-fueling infrastructure, a portion of which is going to the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The grants span across 29 states, including District of Columbia, and eight tribes.

The Seminole Tribe will receive \$933,600 for electric vehicle charging. Chargers will be installed at seven locations within four reservations, according to the grant award document.

"The project will prioritize workforce development and job creation for Tribal members. The project will connect residents and visitors to the community by providing convenient access to EV charging at sites near local businesses, retail centers, and community sites," the document reads.

The new infrastructure aims to increase accessibility and affordability to electric vehicle charging, the press release announcement said. The grants are available because of the Charging and Fueling

Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program and a percentage from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program, according to the release.

"The awards also support the President's Justice40 Initiative, which aims for 40% of the overall benefits of federal investments to flow to disadvantaged communities, with over half of the funding going to sites located in disadvantaged communities," the release said.

The other tribes receiving grants are:

- Fort Independence Indian Community, Calif., (\$15.1 million)
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Calif., (\$3.2 million)
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Kans., (\$775,040)
- Standing Rock Renewable Energy Power Authority, N.D., (\$3.8 million)
- Oneida Indian Nation, N.Y., (\$12.8 million)
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Wash., (\$15 million)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation for partial use on tribal lands, Minn., (\$6.4 million).

# Miccosukee chairman urges senators to support Reserved Area bill

BY TATUM MITCHELL  
Staff Reporter

Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida Talbert Cypress testified in one of two U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs' hearings July 10 regarding the Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act.

The bill would amend the existing Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to include the Osceola Camp as a part of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and authorize \$14 million toward flooding prevention. The Osceola Camp — also in the Everglades National Park — faces potential flooding due to ecosystem restoration efforts.

"We strongly support [the bill], which would ensure appropriate governance for the Osceola Camp and authorize funding to elevate structures in the camp to protect it from artificial engineered floodwaters from the Central Everglades Planning Project,"

Cypress said in his testimony.

The Central Everglades Planning Project is a part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and its goal is to preserve the ecosystem and direct more water to the area.

The current act from 1998 outlines the Miccosukee Tribe's permanent residence within the Everglades National Park and ability to self-govern. In his testimony, Cypress said the act has been "a resounding success for the tribe and for Everglades National Park."

Prior to the Miccosukee Tribe Reserved Area Act passing, the tribe was managed through National Park Services special-use permits from 1964 to 1998. Currently, authorization to manage the Osceola Camp from the National Park Service is done through special-use permits, which require recurring approval.

Jason Freinage, deputy assistant secretary within Indian Affairs and U.S.

Department of Interior, said in a testimony at the same committee hearing that the department supports the bill. In addition to flood protection, expanding the boundaries of the current Miccosukee Reserved Area to include the camp would eliminate the need to renew the permits, Freinage said.

The bill was introduced in September 2023 by Sen. Marco Rubio (R). In a statement via Rubio's website, Cypress said the Osceola Camp has been "central to Miccosukee cultural and seasonal gatherings" and a traditional home to families.

"My ancestors have lived in the Osceola Camp for generations, but the camp continues to be subject to special use permit renewal by Everglades National Park. ... The bill under consideration today would finally complete the protection of the tribal communities in Everglades National Park," Cypress said.

# Everglades restoration conference to be held in Coral Springs

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Scientists, policymakers, stakeholders and the community interested in Everglades restoration, have the opportunity to come together in April 2025 at the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration conference in Coral Springs.

The conference, themed Restoration in a Changing Climate, revolves around the difficulties in

Everglades conservation efforts. With the climate influencing rainfall, sea levels and ocean temperature, restoration of the Everglades grows more complicated, GEER noted in a release.

The topics of the conference will mostly fall under water management, ecosystem biodiversity, policy, community engagement, and technology and research. GEER's website said participants will engage in various management and science-

related activities and discussion about Everglades restoration. In addition, there will be workshops, presentations and meetings.

The conference is in session from April 21-24, 2025, at the Marriott Fort Lauderdale and Coral Springs. The registration deadline to receive an early bird discount is March 7, 2025.

For more information go to <https://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/geer/index.php>.

# Tribe to host renewable energy, sustainability conference

**HOLLYWOOD** — The seventh Seminole Tribe of Florida Renewable Energy and Sustainability Conference is coming up Jan. 27-29, 2025, at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Hollywood.

To showcase products and services, registration for exhibitor and vendor slots are open now. Industry experts and Tribal representatives concentrated on energy development and sustainability will be in

attendance.

To register or learn more, contact Jasmine Rahming at [jasminderahming@semtribe.com](mailto:jasminderahming@semtribe.com) or call (954) 985-2331.

# Ho-Chunk Nation sovereign wealth fund invests in Minnesota complex

STAFF REPORT

Twelve Clans, the Ho-Chunk Nation's sovereign wealth fund, has partnered with two companies to develop a 303-unit multifamily complex in Golden Valley, Minnesota.

Twin Clans announced in August that it had closed on financing for the apartment complex, about seven miles west of Minneapolis,

marking the start of the final phase of development.

"We are committed to investing in the communities that we live in, and Ho-Chunk has many members in Minnesota, so it was a natural place for us to invest," Chairman Joe Brown Thunder of Twelve Clans said in a press release. "Golden Valley has excellent demographic fundamentals and a bright future which was appealing to us."

Twelve Clans was created in 2016 to focus on growing the Ho-Chunk Nation's non-gaming investments. According to the release, the company is seeking additional real estate investment opportunities in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The Golden Valley development is a partnership with Monarch Holding Company and Sentinel Management Company.

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# Operation: Make-Believe

BY ELGIN JUMPER

*Author's note: The inspiration for this story comes from reading, Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, respectively. I was also influenced by the films and books, "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" Now, the predicament Lyncoya finds himself in at the beginning of the story actually happened to me, but whereas the main character slips away, and enjoys some quality time on his own, I, on the other hand, was not as fortunate. Alas! Plans ran afoul, during the escape process, you see, and I was ultimately remanded to horrendous yardwork. Excruciating for an imaginative reservation kid, let me tell you.*

Youthful daydreamer that he was, all the boy, Lyncoya, (12 years old) ever wanted was to have fun.

It had rained earlier, and so a cool scent of the passing shower still lingered in the air. Pine-needles, strewn outside the family home, exhibited themselves in a splendid merger of burnt-sienna and various beiges, the yard arrayed in a natural varnish. Pine cones showed in a darker burnt-umber color, and imitated little pointy footballs. Lyncoya studied the scene, contemplating interests inside and outside the house. His aunt had just turned on the lamp in the living-room, where she created her patchwork designs.

It was Monday, and he remembered she had a sizable patchwork order to fill by Wednesday. She usually worked at a reasonable pace, humming an endearing little tune as she worked. His uncle, for his part, was out building chickees, as usual. And who knew when he'd return? Therefore Lyncoya believed he could make an abrupt solo mission, nay, a great adventure, to the undeveloped prairie, which lay a good ten-minute walk to the west. To him, it was well-worth the risk of getting caught loafing about, when he should've been hard at work. He stashed the rake and trash bag he'd been holding, and slipped away, all the while waving an imaginary Jedi Lightsaber.

"This was the formal weapon of the Jedi knight," General Kenobi had explained, in the movie, "An elegant weapon."

The oak prairie didn't have any real oaks to write home about, just some wild shrub oak, spanish berry trees, cactus, sticker patches, and other unruly vegetations, with which to play armies in. It was an ideal typography where kids could make-believe about all manner of interests. Little by little, they had constructed several "military" forts in the area, the green overgrowth with vines mixed in, acting as ramparts. The boy traversed the pathway that led deeper into

the prairie, slogging through tall elephant grass, his platoons in column. Soon he stopped, unleashed imaginary suppression fire, and then maneuvered under its cover, two or three times.

"Oftentimes," he thought, "taking on enemies and completing missions is much more rewarding than raking up yards."

The day was somber grey and dark blue in parts, the rains threatening still, but this in no way discouraged him from deploying his imaginative faculties. He paused at a clearing. There was an ancient rusted out frame of a truck, which had long ago been abandoned. The elements had reeked havoc upon it, as you can well-imagine. It was now employed as a stand for shrubs and bushes and vines. Suddenly, he descended to the ground and Commando rolled to the edge of the clearing. After all, his foes may've already taken up positions within the old truck. "Better to be safe than sorry," he calculated. The adolescent boy opened up on the old truck. He lowered his make-believe weapon, and then looked upwards.

"Them rains up yonder tryin to infiltrate," he said to himself. "Few-tile, hello!" He nodded, then smiled.

He proceeded on with his little Odyssey through the oak prairie. He noted some cactus and dubbed the small-scale area, "Cactus Land." Boyhood battles had been "fought" across that land. Indeed the Seminole kids had battled much here, ancient, modern, and some history in between. Just like other kids in other neighborhoods. To varying degrees. Sometimes he dreamed he was, Evel Knievel, jumping across and over cars and canyons, and all on his humble "mo-sheen." He dissolved into momentary laughter.

He jogged on and in a short time, he became aware that the greenery was growing thicker. Oak shrubs and a canopy of greens. Hot. He raised an opened hand, to an imaginary platoon, and closed it into a fist. "Danger, Will Robinson," he thought. There really wasn't any danger, he was merely bringing make-believe into play. Just then, like a gazillion incoming rounds, the sound of more falling rain entered from stage-right, a magnificent, moving performance, and then exiting into thin air.

He halted, thinking of home. His mouth salivated for his aunt's frybread, pumpkin bread, and ohk-thi, the best cuisine in all the land, without exception. Seminole Style. "Soon," he thought, "Very soon." He walked on and came to a fort built by other kids. It was half dug into the earth and half out, like a WW2 Pillbox, with a dented aluminum roof, held up by weathered 4X4s. Kids commandeered all types of building

materials from construction sites.

But the roof looked fairly-new, and the winds were picking up, almost howling, and it reminded him of a novel he'd read in school once. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" It was about a ghastly, ghostly hound running wild near a country home and a great detective called, Sherlock Holmes, who, along with his best good buddy, Watson, solve a mysterious crime therein. Shortly, Lyncoya envisioned himself as a great detective, solving a great howling mystery. "Ah-hoo. Werewolves of the rez again," he kidded.

When that particular "staring off into space interlude" as his dear aunt referred to it, had subsided, he shook off the bits of dreams yet remaining in his mind's eye, and moved like a jungle soldier from oak shrub to spanish berry bush, and on into the wild untamed foilage of the prairie. The feeling was delightful. His uncle had been a soldier, too, you see, who went to war, serving in Vietnam, in the elite forces, and so, the boy long-ached to be a soldier as well. Seminoles embraced the warrior-image, in numerous instances, volunteering for the most dangerous missions. Such was the boy, Lyncoya, in his own way, in spite of his flaws. And what an imagination!

He had a relentless make-believe foundry going on up there, and going at quite the clip, too, one might say. He could see it. He could actually see it, the scenes, the characters, everything. Lo! Now he was imagining himself as a world-renowned traveler, and preeminent Everglades explorer, and the little oak prairie had dressed itself up, rapidly, as the most deepest, most darkest wilderness on earth, never before explored.

All at once, he was there, stepping off any maps, gathering knowledge, in another time, a young, beautiful Timucuan princess, around Lyncoya's age, leading him through ancient villages, presenting him to illustrious leaders. Now they were moving in jewel-adorned canoes, on aggressive battle horses, and she was guiding him and his entourage across wild, arduous lands, mighty rivers and throughout ominous mangrove swamps, and grim sawgrass marshes. Snakes, Alligators, and Wildcats, assailed them, as did other menacing wildlife and insects. They were fascinated by the exotic plantlife, as well as, the wading birds, silver osprey and golden eagles, among other majestic wonders. And yet it wasn't always the story.

The tribes that came out to greet them were wealthy and powerful, formidable warriors and sage poet/chiefs, showing great knowledge. Yet it was hard going, in some realms, for this epic trek into a sub-tropical abyss, but they were unshakable in their resolve. Turning back was not an option.

The youthful Timucuan princess had the best hunters in the land, accompanying the columns, supplying them with the best game at every turn, an incredible enterprise.

Sometimes, Lyncoya felt like an absolute emperor, keeping journals, basking in a warm peninsula sun. Such was his present reverie, you see. Extraordinary. At other times the elements conspired against the expedition, as did various illnesses. Two hurricanes were unleashed upon them. Their canoes were battered, but they continued on in a forced march, on horseback, combative, hot-blooded chargers, fighting three running battles, against overwhelming odds, with fierce, marauding tribes, who fired arrows and spears from concealed positions in the perilous sawgrass. Lyncoya and his companions returned fire with crossbows, and bows and arrows. He'd read all the time and had checked out books constantly from the Education Building's Library, so . . .

There was rolling thunder in the distance which sounded like some prehistoric monster, announcing its momentous arrival, it rumbled across the grey sky, and then, it fell silent. Only the sounds of evening crickets remained. Then Lyncoya sensed a mysterious murmuring, it was the lovely Timucaun princess imploring him to action. "You must return to your own time," she whispered, in a soft reassuring voice, as thunderclaps and bolts of lightning attacked the forlorn earth! The hammer of God had struck! snatching him from his daydreams. Then he remembered she had saved his life on more than one occasion, and he, hers. They'd lived through such thrilling times. All of sudden, a kaleidoscope of visions, set forth in wondrous reflections and multi-colored patterns, conveyed him softly back into the present.

Lyncoya didn't know how long he'd been out in the prairie, but he immediately realized, as great captains often do, that he must at long last head home. He looked upwards, and sighed. He felt the surge of a chill, because of his rain-soaked clothes. In the growing darkness, intermingled with the orange-red-yellow of sunset colors, he sensed his uncle's return. The older man would be winding down now, putting away thermoses, work coolers, hammers, nails, saws, and other important tools, and materials. He proceeded on towards home, and in no time flat, he was there.

He heard the cars on the turnpike behind the house. He came to some bushes and the rake and trash bag he'd stowed away. He noted his uncle's chickee work truck in the backyard, just as the last light of day was dancing its way offstage. Thus he noticed his uncle carrying bags of groceries into the

house. Lyncoya quick closed in on him.

"Here, hold on, unc," he said, reaching for the bags. "I-I don't mind."

The boy, Lyncoya, tried to play it off. It seemed that all the world was a stage for him.

"Ah, I didn't see you, boy," his uncle said, "Your aunt tells a likewise tale, as well."

"I-I was conducting scientific experiments, out to the prairie, for school."

"I see."

Lyncoya took thought. "I coulda done better."

He didn't like being untruthful to his aunt or to his uncle. It was shameful, shameful indeed, and though it was no excuse, he was merely a boy, this Lyncoya, trying to survive and have fun, simultaneously.

He could see his uncle was tired from work. And, he knew, chickee-building was not for the faint of heart. But the old man always made a point to be nice, genuinely sincere, with the boy.

"Okay, so spill the beans, boy," his uncle said, "You was playin' armies again, weren't you?" His uncle nudged him gently with an elbow. "Star Wars?" They broke out in laughter.

"S-Something like that, heh-heh," he allowed.

"Ah, yes," his uncle divulged, "I remember, I was once a youngun, too. Yep, you're just a kid, and I know you just want to do kid things . . . But you know what I'm sayin'."

"Yeah," he said in a low voice.

His uncle smiled, and nodded, a twinkle in his eye. "I can still cypher things," he said.

His aunt was standing in the doorway. She was back-lit by warmth and brightness. She said, "Y'all come in and get cleaned for supper now. Everything's ready. And its all good." Thus they entered the warm, pleasant home, to the inviting aromas of the kitchen.

It was definitely all good. Lyncoya pressed on into the house, feeling the bright warmth of belonging. He vowed to himself he would get to his chores on the morrow. He felt an incredible joy within his heart. He looked to his beloved aunt and uncle, smiling, cheerful.

He thought to himself, "Lyncoya, great explorer, valiant soldier, among other things, remember these times. Take them to heart. Cherish them. For when times get tough, they'll help to see you through."

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



## September schedule

BY NATIVE LEARNING CENTER

**HOLLYWOOD** — The NLC offers free Training, Technical Assistance, and Kerretv Online Webinars to Native Americans and those working within Indian Country. The NLC's housing-related training opportunities and resources focus on areas that are critical to the growth and improvement of Tribal Communities. Stay informed about the latest trainings, webinars, and podcast episodes.

**Webinar: FLSA: What Managers Need to Know**

Instructor: Lisa Perez, SPHR, SHRM-SCP,

Human Resources Consultant  
Founder & CEO,  
HBL Resources, Inc.  
Date: Sept. 5  
Time: 2-3:30 p.m.

Training Description:

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) is a fundamental piece of legislation in the United States that establishes minimum wage, overtime pay, and recordkeeping requirements for employers. For supervisors, understanding the fundamentals of the FLSA is essential to ensure compliance with labor laws and protect both employees and the organization from unnecessary claims or litigation. This course provides supervisors with a clear understanding of their responsibilities and best practices in ensuring compliance with the FLSA's provisions as it relates to their managerial responsibilities and their employee's rights under the FLSA. By the end of this course, supervisors will possess the knowledge required to effectively manage their workforce while adhering to FLSA regulations.

Training Objectives:

-Gain a comprehensive understanding of the Fair Labor Standards Act and its significance for supervisors

-Identify the importance of differentiating between exempt and non-exempt employees according to FLSA guidelines

-Comprehend the FLSA's minimum wage, overtime pay, timekeeping, and record keeping requirements relating to Department

of Labors definition of "Hours Worked"

-Learn about child labor laws and the specific provisions that apply to minors in the workplace

**Webinar: Mastering the Side Hustle**

Instructor: Russ Seagle,  
Executive Director,  
The Sequoyah Fund, Inc.  
Date: Sept. 6  
Time: 2-3:30 p.m.

Training Description:

It used to be that, if you wanted additional income, you needed a second job. Today, the time you could spend working a second job for someone else could be spent creating a small business of your own. You'll learn how to come up with a great idea, carve out time to create and operate your side hustle, manage it effectively, and recognize if and when it's time to turn your side hustle into your MAIN hustle.

Training Objectives:

-These objectives aim to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to successfully launch, manage, and potentially scale a side hustle into a full-fledged business venture, enabling them to create additional income streams and pursue their entrepreneurial aspirations

-Understand the evolving landscape of income generation and the shift towards entrepreneurship and side hustles as viable alternatives to traditional employment

-Explore strategies for generating innovative business ideas and identifying market opportunities that align with personal interests, skills, and goals

-Learn techniques for time management and prioritization to carve out dedicated time for planning, launching, and operating a side hustle alongside existing commitments

-Develop skills in effective business management, including budgeting, marketing, customer acquisition, and operations, to maximize the success and sustainability of the side hustle

**Webinar: Executive Directors Trainings Days 1-5**

Instructor: Cheryl A. Causley,  
Principal,  
Cheryl A. Causley and Associates  
Date: Sept. 9-13  
Time: 2-3:30 p.m.

Training Description:

This 5-day Executive Director Training will cover the key roles and responsibilities of Executive Directors of TDHEs or Tribal Housing Departments and the administrative requirements necessary for Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) Implementation and Program Oversight to assure compliance. We will discuss how to Navigate HUD resources: the NAHASDA Statute, the Regulations at 24 CFR Part 1000 and Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements and Program Guidance Documents, and PIH Notices.

Training Objectives:

-This class will provide a basic summary of the NAHASDA program rules and key elements to webinar participants, thereby enhancing overall capacity to oversee the Tribal Housing program and ensuring on-going compliance with the array of NAHASDA Federal requirements

-Multiple sessions will hopefully provide a thorough understanding of Indian Housing and NAHASDA which is a critical element fundamental to the success of a Housing Authority

-Additional training in the areas of Organization and Structure are to strengthen the administration in the key areas of authority, appropriate lines of reporting, and adequate controls to ensure that Housing assets are safeguarded

**Podcast Release: In Honor of National Life Insurance Month: Planting Seeds of Prosperity**

Instructor: Chantay Moore, MBA  
(Navajo / African American)  
Investment Advisor Representative  
Transamerica Financial Advisor, Inc.  
Release Date: Sept. 11  
Time: 12 p.m.

This month is National Life Insurance Month, and we're diving deep into the world of financial planning and protection for Native American communities. Joining us is Chantay Moore, a seasoned investment advisor representative with a deep understanding of the unique financial challenges and opportunities facing Native Americans.

Together, we'll explore the importance of life insurance as a cornerstone of financial security, discussing how it can protect your family and legacy. We'll also delve into investment strategies that can help you build wealth and achieve your financial goals.

Tune in as we discuss topics such as estate planning, protecting assets, and creating a strong financial foundation for generations to come.

**Webinar: Rental and Homeowner's Insurance 101**

Instructor: Marie Bonville, MPA,  
C2EX, ePRO, REALTOR®,  
Tribal Housing and Education  
Consultant  
Sunlight Armour Training, LLC  
Date: Sept. 18  
Time: 2-3:30 p.m.

Training Description:

Insurance costs are on the rise. This webinar will provide renters and homeowners with the essential knowledge needed to choose the right insurance policies for their new homes and belongings. Understanding insurance is an essential tool used to protect generational wealth. This webinar aims to define the terms, coverages, and benefits to help you make informed decisions. Whether you are renting your first apartment or owning a home, this course will provide the tools to assess risks, understand policy details, and ensure that you are adequately protected in case of unexpected events.

Training Objectives:

-Understand insurance basics

-Explore rental & homeowner's insurance

-Learn how to evaluate policies and providers

-Review the claims processes

**Webinar: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) for Tribal Housing**

Instructor: Lisa Perez, SPHR, SHRM-SCP,  
Human Resources Consultant  
Founder & CEO,  
HBL Resources, Inc.  
Date: Sept. 19  
Time: 2-3:30 p.m.

Training Description:

This session will provide a fundamental understanding of Indian Tribes' Tribal Employment Rights Offices (TEROs) including their jurisdiction and coordination with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) in employment discrimination cases involving Tribal Preference. A review of the legal framework, enforcement mechanisms, and key concepts surrounding TERO and Indian preference laws are also discussed.

Training Objectives:

-Gain a basic understanding of the legal basis and purpose behind TERO ordinances and Indian preference laws

-Exploring TERO Jurisdiction and Requirements in coordination with the U.S. EEOC

-Learn about the enforcement approach of TERO and how it ensures compliance with Tribal Employment Rights Ordinances

-Understand the sanctions for violations of TERO requirements and the due process rights of employers

**Webinar: Is Your Company Outgrowing You?**

Instructor: Russ Seagle, Executive Director  
The Sequoyah Fund, Inc.  
Date: Sept. 24  
Time: 2-3:30 p.m.

Training Description:

It's tough to let your kids go. You've enjoyed raising them and watching them grow, but when it's time for them to fly on

their own, you realize there's no guidebook for parents on stepping back and letting them go their own way. The same can be said for a small business. Too many business owners fall asleep in a canoe and wake up on a cruise ship, realizing too late that they lack the skills to manage it effectively. This webinar will help you prepare yourself and your organization for life after you. You'll learn how to determine when it's time to bring in professional management, how to identify future leaders within your organization, and pave the way for fresh leadership that will allow the business to propel to the next level.

Training Objectives:

-These objectives aim to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary to navigate the challenges of leadership succession and transition in both parenting and small business contexts, fostering continuity, growth, and long-term success for the organization

-Understand the emotional challenges and transitions involved in letting go of control and stepping back from active involvement in parenting or managing a small business

-Recognize the importance of preparing oneself and the organization for leadership succession and the transition to new management

-Identify key indicators and milestones that signal when it may be appropriate to consider stepping back from day-to-day operations and bringing in professional management

**Webinar: Positive Interdepartmental Communication**

Instructor: Marie Bonville, MPA,  
C2EX, ePRO, REALTOR,  
Tribal Housing and Education  
Consultant  
Sunlight Armour Training, LLC  
Date: Sept. 25  
Time: 2-3:30 p.m.

Training Description:

This interactive webinar is designed to enhance collaboration and efficiency across departments by improving communication skills. Participants will learn practical strategies for fostering a positive communication environment that encourages understanding and cooperation among different teams. By addressing common communication barriers and introducing effective communication techniques, this training aims to transform interdepartmental interactions and boost overall organizational productivity.

Training Objectives:

-Identify common communication barriers

-Enhance communication skills to increase cooperation

-Learn about tools and practices that enhance collaboration.

# YOUR VISION IS OUR FOCUS



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# Sports



## 'Zae' Thomas shines in national TV game

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — In front of a national television audience, American Heritage and their visitors from Georgia produced an early season heavyweight classic Aug. 23.

Milton High School, the Peach State's defending class 7A champion, held off Heritage, 37-28, at St. Thomas Aquinas. The game was broadcast live on ESPN's main channel. It was part of the three-day Broward County National High School Football Showcase, which featured some of the nation's top programs.

The game also featured some of the nation's top college prospects, including the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Greg "Zae" Thomas. The four-star senior cornerback faced an intriguing match-up all night as he

went up against 6-foot-4 Milton senior wide receiver C.J. Wiley in a battle between two Florida State commitments.

Although Milton prevailed on the scoreboard, Thomas shined all night as he shutdown Wiley, who finished with only two catches for 21 yards. How impressive was Thomas's night? Consider nobody held Wiley to fewer reception yards all last season than Thomas did Aug. 23. Wiley racked up nearly 1,500 reception yards and 14 touchdown catches last year.

Although he had a quiet night stat-wise, Wiley provided a key block against Thomas near the goal line that paved the way for a Milton touchdown.

The two potential future FSU players said they don't know each other. Both complimented each other's play.

"It was a good match-up," Wiley said. "It was good competition," Thomas



American Heritage game captain Greg 'Zae' Thomas (No. 2) participates in the coin toss before the Patriots faced Milton High School on Aug. 23 in a game broadcast live on ESPN.



Kevin Johnson

Two players committed to FSU battle as Milton wide receiver CJ Wiley, left, faces American Heritage cornerback Greg 'Zae' Thomas.

said.

As for the overall game, Heritage's first three possessions produced points, but just not enough. They settled for three field goals despite being in the red zone each time. Meanwhile, Milton's offense was scoring touchdowns.

"We're trading 3 for 7 down there and you can't do that against a good football team," Heritage coach Mike Smith said.

Heritage pulled to within two points — 30-28 — with less than four minutes left, but Milton broke free for a long TD run to put

the game away.

Before the game, Thomas was one of four captains for Heritage in the coin toss at midfield. Smith said he's expecting an increased leadership role from Thomas this season.

"He's a senior and he's been here forever. Your senior year is your legacy year. They know that," Smith said.

Heritage rebounded the next week with a 51-12 win against Western.

September's slate will likely provide plenty of strong competition for Heritage as

the Patriots, including a stretch where they face Chaminade Madonna (Sept. 6), Naples (Sept. 13) and Miami Central (Sept. 20).

The game against Central marks the first meeting between the teams since the thrilling 2022 Class 2M state championship game, won by Central, 38-31.

## Tournament in Austria provides world of experience for Kashlynn Cooper

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

The upward trajectory for the young basketball career of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Kashlynn Cooper propelled her overseas this summer.

Before she began her freshman year of high school at Heritage Hall in Oklahoma, Cooper joined the PhD Hoops USA program for a memorable journey to Europe.

Cooper, daughter of tribal member Lorri Osceola, received a taste of international basketball experience at the United World Games in Klagenfurt, Austria. The four-day Olympic-style event in June featured thousands of young athletes from around the world competing in more than a dozen sports, including basketball, volleyball, soccer, tennis, golf, ice hockey and others.

Not only did Cooper get a chance to play with teammates from around the country (Arizona, Idaho, Indiana, New Mexico, Tennessee and others), she also picked up valuable experience playing against teams from several European countries, including Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Slovenia and others. She witnessed their style of play and how to play under international rules.

Cooper, a guard, played for both the 16U and 14U PhD teams, which wore USA jerseys and won all their games, mostly by lopsided scores. The 16s defeated a fellow team from the U.S. in the championship; the

14s beat a team from Czech Republic in their final.

"The best part of the games was winning of course," Cooper wrote in an email to the Tribune. "But also going overseas to see how they play the game of basketball in Europe. It was a great experience; learning new culture also."

Away from the games, Cooper enjoyed the opportunity to soak up the European culture and views in Austria as well as visits to Italy and Germany. Some of her highlights off the court included flying over the Alps, visiting the Dachau Concentration Camp in Germany and shopping in Venice.

Cooper plays for the Heritage Hall varsity basketball team, whose season starts later this year. Until then, she's focused on excelling on the court for the school's volleyball team, where she is the leader in hitting percentage. The team won five of its first six matches.



Courtesy photo

Kashlynn Cooper holds the championship trophy her team won at the United World Games in Austria.



Courtesy photo

Wearing the USA red, white and blue, Kashlynn Cooper eyes the basket.



Courtesy photo

Kashlynn Cooper, second from left, and her teammates celebrate a championship victory in Austria.

# Football season starts for Greg James, Moore Haven

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**MOORE HAVEN** — If the first half of Moore Haven's kickoff classic exhibition game is any indication, Greg James should be in for strong sophomore year.

"He's doing amazing," Moore Haven first-year head coach Emmanuel Hendrix said at halftime of the Terriers game against North Port on Aug. 16. "He's got five or six tackles. I couldn't be happier with what he's doing right now."

Hendrix has high hopes for the 6-foot-3, 270-pound James, who plays both offensive tackle and defensive tackle.

"I expect for him to be very dominant on both sides of the ball," Hendrix said.

James is the only Seminole tribal member on the squad this season. Thaddeus Johns, a descendant, is playing wide receiver in his first season. Both players are standouts for the Terriers basketball team.

Hendrix replaced Jack Garrett, who guided the Terriers the past two seasons to an 15-8 record. This year's squad doesn't appear to have as much depth as recent years, but Hendrix has high hopes.

"I expect to be really good. We've got a lot of playmakers. We've got to stop making mistakes," he said.

Moore Haven lost its season opener, 18-14, to Nova in Davie.



Greg James carries the Terrier flag as Moore Haven takes the field for its preseason game against North Port on Aug. 16. At right, James, a two-way player, plays on the offensive line.



Kevin Johnson (2)

# Okeechobee outlasts Moore Haven in 5-set volleyball thriller

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**OKEECHOBEE** — The spectators who packed the Okeechobee High School gymnasium Aug. 29, 2024, were treated to a five-set thriller in a varsity volleyball match that featured several tribal members.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida was represented on both sides of the net as Okeechobee edged Moore Haven, 3-2.

The Brahmins, who feature Yani Smith and Alyssa Madrigal, continued their impressive early season start. They upped their record to 4-1, but it came with a fierce battle against a vastly improved

and frustrated the Brahmins' defense in the first set. Thanks to Baker's serving, Moore Haven jumped out to an 11-1 lead. Miley Jimmie delivered a kill for the final point in the Terriers' 25-21 win.

Okeechobee seized momentum and won sets two (25-23) and three (25-11) — with Smith providing a boost with a strong presence at the net and serving.

Moore Haven showed plenty of determination and battled back to win the fourth set, 25-21, with Anderson delivering some big hits from the left side.

In the winner-take-all fifth, Okeechobee found its rhythm again and won, 15-5.

The match was the first time Okeechobee faced its former head coach, Jerry Veloz,

but this year is different. Several football players were in the bleachers cheering for their schoolmates.

"We've been having about 150 people come watch volleyball. We've got a lot of support. Football has been real supportive," Baker said.

Before she departed the gym, Baker said her team was going to beat Cape Coral the following night, and indeed the Terriers did, in five sets. Moore Haven entered September with a 3-2 record.



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee's Alyssa Madrigal receives a serve during the Brahmins 3-2 win against Moore Haven on Aug. 29 at OHS.



Kevin Johnson

Yani Smith, third from right, and her Okeechobee teammates celebrate a point late in the match.

Moore Haven squad which includes Tiyanni Anderson, Preslynn Baker, Tahniah Billie, Kulipa Julian, Marley Jimmie, Miley Jimmie and Truley Osceola.

"I've played with every single one of those girls. I knew what I was expecting from them," Smith said.

Baker was the star early in the match as she hammered a series of powerful serves — including several aces — that handcuffed

who is now an assistant coach with Moore Haven. Veloz has made an immediate impact on the Terriers.

"They're learning to run plays sooner than what we were [before]. We were able to have open gyms this year," said Moore Haven head coach Mona Baker.

The match also featured plenty of good-natured jawing between student sections from each squad. Moore Haven volleyball



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Kulipa Julian, left, and Tahniah Billie keep their eyes on the ball.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Tiyanni Anderson delivers a big hit against Okeechobee.



Kevin Johnson

The Seminole Tribe is well represented on the Moore Haven varsity volleyball team with, from left to right, Miley Jimmie, Marley Jimmie, Truley Osceola, Preslynn Baker, Kulipa Julian, Tahniah Billie and Tiyanni Anderson.



Kevin Johnson

The top finishers in the younger division at the Seminole Tribe's kart racing night Aug. 2 are Caden Jumper (1st), Prince Wilcox (2nd) and Ishmael John (3rd). The event was held at K1 Speed in Hollywood and sponsored by the Hollywood Board Office.



Kevin Johnson

Kingston Billie (1st) was the champion driver in the older division followed by Leanne Diaz (2nd) and Tristen Wilcox (3rd).

# Kids enjoy big night of indoor kart racing

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — Kingston Billie doesn't have his driver's license yet, but the 16-year-old from Trail said he plans to get it soon.

In the meantime, Billie displayed his driving skills at the K1 Speed indoor kart race track in Hollywood.

Billie and dozens of other kids were treated to an evening of racing and food thanks to the Hollywood Board Office, which sponsored the back-to-school event.

Billie won the older kids division despite being a first-time kart racer.

"Really fun," he said after he received his first place trophy, finishing ahead of Leanne Diaz (2nd) and Tristen Wilcox (3rd) in the championship race.

Winning wasn't the only highlight of the evening for Billie; he said just being able to get together with everyone was what he really enjoyed.

At age 11, Caden Jumper, from Hollywood, has a handful of years to go before he can get behind the wheel of an automobile, but he stays busy with several other activities, including bull riding, football and basketball.

Jumper finished first in the younger division.

"It was a lot of fun. I liked the racing," he said.

Jumper finished ahead of Prince Wilcox (2nd) and Ishmael John (3rd) in the championship race.

The top three finishers in each final received trophies on a platform in a similar fashion to the professionals.

## Championship race results

- Older Division  
 1 – Kingston Billie  
 2 – Leanne Diaz  
 3 – Tristen Wilcox  
 4 – Skyla Wilcox  
 5 – Italia Sisto  
 6 – Destiny Diaz

- Younger Division  
 1 – Caden Jumper  
 2 – Prince Wilcox  
 3 – Ishmael John  
 4 – Morgan Frank  
 5 – Jaylen Navarro



Kevin Johnson

Jaylen Navarro keeps the cart close to the wall in a curve.



Kevin Johnson

Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall joins a group of drivers as they prepare for their next race.



Kevin Johnson

Martin Williams handles a corner with no problems.



Kevin Johnson

Aiyana Lanier (75) leads a pack of drivers during one of the races.

## OHS JV notches shutout

STAFF REPORT

**OKEECHOBEE** — The three tribal members on the Okeechobee High School's JV volleyball team saw plenty of playing time as they helped lead the Brahmans to a 2-0 win against Moore Haven on Aug. 29. Okeechobee features Melaine Bonilla, JoJo Nunez and Tehya Nunez. The trio handled the backcourt defensive duties at times in the match.

The victory came two days after the Brahmans edged John Carroll High School, 2-1.



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee's Tehya Nunez sends the ball to a teammate in a JV match Aug. 29.



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee's JoJo Nunez keeps a point alive as Tehya Nunez (22) and Melaine Bonilla (3) look on.

# Seminole teams soar in Phoenix



**Coach Skyla Osceola** led her Native Soldiers team to a 7-1 record and the semifinals at the Native American Basketball Invitational in June. Native Soldiers won all their games until the semifinals where they lost to Rezblers. NABI, which features some of the top high school Native American players in Indian Country and beyond, set a record this year with 196 teams.



The Native Soldiers girls team featured players from a variety of tribes, including Seminole (Tatum Billie, front row, center), Mayli Tommie (front row, second from right), and Betty Osceola (back row, far left), and Miccosukee (Aubrey Montalvo, back row, third from left).



The Seminole RezBallers with coaches Eric Osceola, far left, and Ivan Billie Sr., far right. The team finished with a 2-2 record.



Unconquered's Ezekiel Billie lines up a shot.



Seminole RezBallers' Zaiden Frank battles for position.



Unconquered's Chanon Frye soars above a defender at NABI.



Louie Billie smiles during warmup shooting for Seminole RezBallers.



The Unconquered boys team with coach Charlie Frye. The team went 4-1.



Draycen Osceola leads a fastbreak for the Seminole RezBallers.

# Tyler Hiatt earns NCAA 2nd team All-American honors in shot put

**STAFF REPORT**

University of Sioux Falls track and field standout Tyler Hiatt ended his junior season on a high note. Hiatt, the son of Seminole Tribe of Florida tribal member Stephanie (Bowers) Hiatt and grandson of the late Seminole Tribe veterans leader Stephen Bowers, earned 2nd team All-American honors in May at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Emporia, Kansas. Hiatt earned the 2nd team honor by placing 11th in shot put with a 17.27 meter toss.

Hiatt's strong showing at nationals concluded a season in which he also earned All-Region honors for the second time in his career. Hiatt also won the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference championship in shot put and finished second in discus throw.



Tyler Hiatt competes in shot put for the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota.

# Tampa Bay Buccaneers 2024 schedule

Sun, Sep 8 vs Washington 4:25 PM	Mon, Nov 4 @ Kansas City 8:15 PM
Sun, Sep 15 @ Detroit 1:00 PM	Sun, Nov 10 vs San Francisco 1:00 PM
Sun, Sep 22 vs Denver 1:00 PM	
Sun, Sep 29 vs Philadelphia 1:00 PM	
PM	
Thu, Oct 3 @ Atlanta 8:15 PM	Sun, Nov 24 @ New York 1:00 PM
Sun, Oct 13 @ New Orleans 1:00 PM	Sun, Dec 1 @ Carolina 4:05 PM
PM	Sun, Dec 8 vs Las Vegas 1:00 PM
Mon, Oct 21 vs Baltimore 8:15 PM	Sun, Dec 15 @ Los Angeles 4:25 PM
Sun, Oct 27 vs Atlanta 1:00 PM	Sun, Dec 22 @ Dallas 8:20 PM
	Sun, Dec 29 vs Carolina 1:00 PM
	Sun, Jan 5 vs New Orleans TBD

# Tickets on sale for Miami Grand Prix

**FROM PRESS RELEASE**

MIAMI GARDENS – Grandstand tickets and luxury hospitality spaces for the 2025 Formula 1 Crypto.Com Miami Grand Prix went on sale Aug. 29.

Next year's race and events at the Miami International Autodrome on the campus of Hard Rock Stadium will be held May 2-4, 2025.

In addition to the races, fans can enjoy areas such as the Hard Rock Beach Club, the dry-docked Marina and Boathouse, and the Hard Rock Stadium upper decks, providing grandstand and general admission fans the opportunity to watch all the happenings of the paddock.

Additional premium seating options are available. For more information go to [flmiami.gp.com](http://flmiami.gp.com).

# Beach volleyball coming to Hard Rock Stadium campus

**FROM PRESS RELEASE**

MIAMI GARDENS – The Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP) Beach Volleyball is coming to the Hard Rock Stadium campus Sept. 21 and Sept. 22. The league will play its week 2 schedule at the property's tennis center. For tickets go to [hardrockstadium.com](http://hardrockstadium.com).

# Jim Thorpe home sold to Thorpe Family Foundation

**FROM PRESS RELEASE**

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) sold the Jim Thorpe Home in Yale, Oklahoma, to the Thorpe Family Foundation on July 25. Thorpe, a Native American who is considered one of the greatest athletes of the 20th century, bought the home in 1917 and lived there until 1923.

The OHS has owned the Jim Thorpe Home since 1968. Over the years, the funding and resources to operate the home have dwindled, and deferred maintenance issues have grown. Since 2005, the site has been an OHS affiliate site. The OHS continued to own the home and property while the Jim Thorpe Memorial Foundation provided staffing and covered other daily operational expenses with some financial assistance from the OHS.

In 2023, Thorpe's grandchildren took a renewed interest in the home. On July 25, the two parties signed paperwork to officially sell the Jim Thorpe Home to the foundation.

The mission of the Oklahoma Historical Society is to collect, preserve and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people. Founded in 1893 by members of the Territorial Press Association, the OHS maintains museums, historic sites and affiliates across the state. Through its research archives, exhibits, educational programs and publications the OHS chronicles the rich history of Oklahoma. For more information about the OHS, please visit [www.okhistory.org](http://www.okhistory.org).

# INFR takes place in October

**FROM PRESS RELEASE**

The annual Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) will be held Oct. 22-26 at South Point Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. For more information and a link to tickets go to [infr.org](http://infr.org).

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# 2024-25 PECS Volleyball

**2024-2025 Lady Seminoles Volleyball Team**

**JV**



**Team Managers**

Miranda Tommie  
Jaelle Weimann



**Varsity**

Jamelynn Anderson	Dalyse Baker
Okalani Collins	Amalia Estrada
Ianna Cypress	Jaiden Fludd
Onnie Cypress	Kaliyanita Hodge
Sincere Faircloth	Jalaaya Hunsinger
Jaiden Fludd	Kanae Jumper
Naylahnie Hardy	Caysie Platt
Ameliana Osceola	Mattie Platt
Grace Osceola	Ciani Smith
Cassie Pearce	Jalene Smith
Macayden Sardina	Azariah Washington

Varsity Coach - Monica Koger  
JV Coach - Suraiya Smith

**2024 PECS VOLLEYBALL**

Varsity Coach - Monica Koger  
JV Coach - Suraiya Smith

<b>28</b> AUG	<b>WESTGLADES</b> 4:00PM   5:00 PM	<b>17</b> SEP	<b>WALKER MEMORIAL</b> 4:30PM   5:30 PM
<b>29</b> AUG	<b>GLADES DAY</b> 4:30PM   5:30 PM	<b>18</b> SEP	<b>WEST GLADES</b> 4:00PM   5:00 PM
<b>30</b> AUG	<b>LABELLE</b> 5:00PM   6:00 PM	<b>24</b> SEP	<b>CLEWISTON</b> 4:00 PM   05:00 PM
<b>03</b> SEP	<b>CLEWISTON</b> 4:00PM   5:00 PM	<b>26</b> SEP	<b>OSCEOLA</b> 4:30 PM   05:30 PM
<b>05</b> SEP	<b>YEARLING</b> 4:30PM   5:30 PM	<b>30</b> SEP	<b>GLADES DAY</b> 4:30 PM   05:30 PM
<b>10</b> SEP	<b>WALKER MEMORIAL</b> 4:30PM   5:30 PM	<b>01</b> OCT	<b>LABELLE</b> 5:00PM   6:00 PM
<b>12</b> SEP	<b>MOORE HAVEN</b> 4:30PM   5:30 PM	<b>03</b> OCT	<b>SEBASTIAN CHARTER</b> 5:00 PM   6:00 PM

**Tournament @ OHS**  
September 14th  
**VARSITY ONLY**

**8th grade Night**  
Sept. 30 @5pm

**Gray - HOME games**  
**Red - AWAY games**

## Dolphins 2024 schedule

**STAFF REPORT**

The Miami Dolphins will be home three of the first four weeks of the season, starting Sept. 8 against Jacksonville at Hard Rock Stadium.

**Regular season**  
 Sept. 8 home vs Jacksonville  
 Sept. 12 home vs Buffalo  
 Sept. 22 at Seattle  
 Sept. 30 home vs Tennessee  
 Oct. 6 at New England  
 Oct. 20 at Indianapolis  
 Oct. 27 home vs Arizona

Nov. 3 at Buffalo  
 Nov. 11 at LA Rams  
**Nov. 17 home vs Las Vegas**  
**Nov. 24 home vs New England**  
 Nov. 28 at Green Bay  
**Dec. 8 home vs NY Jets**  
 Dec. 15 at Texas  
**Dec. 22 home vs San Francisco**  
 Dec. 28 at Cleveland  
 Jan. 4 or 5 at NY Jets

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Native junior golfers competed in the NB3 Foundation's Native Youth Golf Championship in New Mexico.

## Seven Native junior golfers advance to nationals

**FROM PRESS RELEASE**

**SANTA ANA PUEBLO, N.M.** — The NB3 Foundation's Native Youth Golf Championship made its return to the Santa Ana Club July 21-23. Over 60 Native youth golfers competed in this year's event with seven Native youth ages 9-17 securing their spots to play in the NB3 Junior Golf Championship in November. In its fifth year, the Native Youth Golf Championship continues to be popular event amongst Native youth across the country.

"That is the best thing about this tournament is that we are getting to meet different players who are Native and have the same passion," Peyton "Beans" Factor said.

This year's event winners include:  
 Braxton Thomas, Cherokee Nation, 10-11 years old  
 Santana Parraz, Navajo Nation, 10-11 years old  
 Harlow Gregory, Choctaw Nation, 12-13 years old  
 Wyatt Basford, Cherokee Nation, 12-13 years old  
 Emma Cunningham, Oneida Nation, 14-15 years old  
 Preston Ross, Navajo Nation, 14-15 years old  
 Beans Factor, Seminole, Chickasaw, Choctaw 16-18 years old  
 Talan Gover, Navajo Nation, Pawnee, Choctaw 16-18 years old

Talan Gover and Santana Parraz will not be competing in Coushatta come November. Parraz won the division, but the 10-11 age group didn't meet the minimum number of golfers to qualify a winner for the national championship.

Gover, a recent high school graduate, has accepted a golf scholarship at the University of Northern Colorado making him ineligible to play in the 2024 NB3

JGNC. Gover knowing if he won he could not compete in the national championship still chose to attend and play in the Native Youth Golf Championship for more personal reasons.

"It's bigger than the game," he said. "It's about getting to play with my people, that's what that meant to me."

Second place finisher in the 16-18 age division, Zachary BlueEyes (Navajo

Nation), will take Gover's place and play for his third time at the NB3 JGNC.

Other repeat champions include Beans Factor, Harlow Gregory, Wyatt Basford, Preston Ross and Emma Cunningham.

The NB3 Foundation was founded in 2005 by Notah Begay III (Diné/Pueblos of San Felipe and Isleta), a four-time PGA Tour winner.



A Native junior golfer follows through on her swing.



The top three finishers in the boys 16-18 division.

**◆ NLC**  
From page 5B

**Podcast Release: In honor of National Literacy Month- Read to Succeed: Financial Literacy for a Brighter Future**  
 Instructor: Chantay Moore, MBA (Navajo / African American)  
 Investment Advisor Representative  
 Transamerica Financial Advisor, Inc.  
 Release Date: Sept. 25  
 Time: 12 p.m.

This month is National Literacy Month, and we're turning our attention to financial literacy, a crucial skill for everyone. Joining

us is Chantay Moore, an investment advisor representative who will be discussing the empowering book, "How Money Works for Women." While this book is geared towards women, its principles can be applied to anyone seeking financial independence.

We'll explore how understanding money can empower individuals and communities, and how it relates to overall literacy. Together, we'll discuss key financial concepts, strategies for building wealth, and the importance of financial planning for long-term security. Whether you're a seasoned investor or just starting your financial journey, this episode offers valuable insights and practical advice.

Tune in as we break down complex financial topics into easy-to-understand

terms and discover how financial literacy can be a powerful tool for achieving your goals.

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