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COMMUNITY ❖ 3A

**Academic success recognized in ceremony**  
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# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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## Honoring history: Tribe celebrates anniversary

BY LI COHEN  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe of Florida has officially reached diamond status. A nation was born in 1957, and now 60 years later, the Tribe remembers what it has overcome and looks forward to what's next.

On Aug. 21, hundreds of Tribal members and friends gathered to celebrate Seminole sovereignty. The Tribal Council and Board, Miss and Junior Miss Florida Seminole and elected officials from neighboring municipalities joined the festivities under a giant white tent near the Council Oak on the Hollywood Reservation.

The event featured catered food, live music from Paul Buster, Ted Nelson and Spencer Battiest, traditional songs from the Brighton elders group of Emma Fish, Mable Johns, Onnie Osceola, Jimmy Smith and Alice Sweat, a poetry reading from Moses Jumper Jr. and a Seminole Wars reenactment.

"Celebrating 60 years as a federally recognized tribe is nothing but a small feat compared to what will be possible in the near future," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. "There's not anything that any of us can't say about how proud we are to be Seminole Tribal members and to be part of where we are today. We're a huge family, a loving family, a caring family."

Sharing in the festivities were officials from neighboring towns, including Cooper City, Dania Beach, Davie, Hollywood and Pembroke Pines, and the Broward County Commission.

"I think bringing everyone together is so important," said Davie Mayor Judy Paul, a retired social studies teacher who said that Native American history was a large part of her curriculum.

Being able to see the Tribe's culture shine through speakers such as Seminole



Kevin Johnson

Elders from Brighton sing traditional songs during the Seminole Tribe of Florida's 60th anniversary celebration Aug. 21 on the Hollywood Reservation. From left, Alice Sweat, Mable Johns, Emma Fish, Onnie Osceola and Jimmy Smith perform on stage.

medicine man Bobby Frank was a treat for Paul.

"I loved hearing the members speaking in their Native tongue knowing that part of

their culture is being retained," she said.

Highlighted during the celebration were the Tribe's significant moments throughout the past 60 years and beyond. This history

began in 1510 with the first recorded European contact with Seminole ancestors. As more explorers ventured to the U.S. and claimed land as their own, Native Americans

became enslaved, unofficially starting the fight for Native rights and sovereignty.

Leading to the Seminole Wars that

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### Marker ceremony commemorates Tribal Oak's impact in BC

BY LI COHEN  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — History is known for containing the greatest lessons needed for a nation to grow, and for the Seminole Tribe, these lessons are a symbol of good fortune and hope for the future.

On Aug. 10, Tribal members gathered at the Big Cypress Tribal Oak on the side of Josie Billie Highway to honor a location that has remained instrumental in Tribal affairs and culture since the 1950s. Where this tree has stood for decades is where countless community members and leaders have sat for shade, stood in arms and discussed the future of the unconquered Seminoles.

Originally used as a meeting point to discuss the Tribe's constitution, the tree is now a focal point of remembrance and appreciation for the Tribe's fight for sovereignty. In commemorating this tree, the community has made a statement that the past will never be forgotten and the future will always remain hopeful.

To mark the location's significance, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office unveiled a bronze plaque that explains the oak's impact in the Big Cypress community.

Written on the plaque is the memory of Frank Billie, of the Wind Clan, who previously owned the house built next to the tree, and Jimmy O'Toole Osceola, of the Panther Clan, both who served as representatives from Big Cypress on the Tribe's Constitutional Committee. It also acknowledges key leaders who helped shape the Tribe's future: Frank Billie, John Cypress, Willie Frank, Jimmy Cypress and Johnson Billie.

Nearly 100 people attended the unveiling. Speakers included Board President Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, Carol Cypress, Sue Jane Cypress and the Tribe's royalty — Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola.

President Cypress and Councilman

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## Spencer Battiest performs at Smithsonian museums

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**NEW YORK CITY AND WASHINGTON** — Spencer Battiest took New York City and Washington, D.C. by storm in a pair of concerts at both locations of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

Accompanied by his brother Zack "Doc" Battiest and bandmates, Battiest showed his flair for melody and lyrics as he performed original pop songs and a couple of covers during the performances.

"It was a beautiful tour," Spencer said.

"A lot of Indian artists have passed through here. It was such an honor to be called by the Smithsonian and having my family here made it even more special. My grandmother [Judy Baker] doesn't travel, but she came out for this."

Spencer rocked New York City's financial district during rush hour Aug. 3. Briefcase-toting commuters, locals and tourists alike stopped to listen on the cobblestone plaza and the steps of the museum. Several spectators in the estimated crowd of 600 stayed for the entire performance while others stopped and listened for a while.

Doc contributed to the energy of the concert with a solo rap performance and

a duet of "The Storm" with his brother. As usual, he brought his son Emery Battiest, 6, to the concert.

"This was the most fun I've had in a while," Doc said. "How many times do you get to perform in New York? The crowd didn't know us from anywhere, but they listened and were great."

"I love the challenge when people don't know who you are and they listen," Spencer added. "That's the ultimate. It reassures us that we're on the right track."

The Washington performance

❖ See BATTIEST on page 5A



Beverly Bidney

Spencer Battiest with his brother Zack "Doc" Battiest and the band perform on the plaza near the New York City's Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian on Aug. 3.

### Students, teachers return to school for 2017-18 academic year

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY AND LI COHEN  
Staff Reporters

After a few, seemingly short, months of summer, the time has come for students to return to school.

The excitement of the 2017-18 school started with back-to-school bashes and meet and greets a few days before classrooms opened at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Aug. 8 and Ahfachkee School Aug. 11, bringing students, parents and teachers together again. PECS' first day was Aug. 10 and Ahfachkee's was Aug. 14.

This year's transition to the first day incorporated some fun. The back-to-school festivities started the first week of August with informational parties in Hollywood and Immokalee. Elementary, middle and high school students, along with their families, enjoyed swimming, water slides, music, food and bounce houses. The Tribal Council also provided free backpacks to all Tribal students and the Center for Student Success and Services attended the Hollywood event to provide families with education information.

Tiawannah Calhoun, K-12 educational advisor, said CSSS helped distribute backpacks to students on every reservation, something the Tribe has done for the past few years. She said the initiative was developed to help excite kids for the school year and help reduce school supply costs for parents.

"Backpacks are expensive to purchase and we give out really good ones. At the end of the day, you need something to put supplies in that's of good quality and that will last a long time," she explained. "It just helps out the families a little more ... it's a little weight lifted off their shoulders."

Chelsea Mountain brought her 4-year-old son, who will attend pre-k this year, to the back-to-school event in Hollywood. Although she already purchased a backpack for her son prior to the event, she said the information CSSS provided and the event as a whole were beneficial. This was her first year attending the event with her son and said

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# Editorial

## NMAI's Cécile Ganteaume shares thoughts on Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki anniversary

• Cécile Ganteaume, National Museum of the American Indian



Vice Chairman Cypress, council members, representatives, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Backhouse, and ladies and gentlemen: It is my very great pleasure to be here today representing Kevin Gover, director of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), and indeed the entire staff of the NMAI, past and present, including our founding director, Richard West. We all share your joy in celebrating 20 years as a world-class museum, as well as an exemplary community and tribal museum. I had the good fortune of being present at the grand opening of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum 20 years ago because I played a small, but for me hugely memorable, role in helping to make the NMAI's historic collection of 19th and early 20th century Seminole clothing available to Billy Cypress, David Blackard and the many others who planned the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's groundbreaking inaugural exhibition.

Not everybody present may realize that the National Museum of the American Indian and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum share a highly collaborative history, not only in regard to

collections sharing, but also in regard to sharing professional expertise and growing up together as new and innovative cultural institutions. Opening in 1997, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum had a head start on the NMAI whose flagship museum opened on the National Mall in Washington, DC in 2004. Billy Cypress served eight years on the NMAI's board of trustees and, moreover, headed the board's immensely important repatriation committee. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's subsequent executive director, Tina Osceola, also served on the NMAI's board of trustees. But before either Tina Osceola or Billy Cypress served on the NMAI's board, well over a dozen Seminole Tribal members from Big Cypress, Hollywood and Brighton including, to name just two exceptional individuals, Sonny Billie and Lorene Gopher, helped the NMAI plan one of its three major inaugural exhibitions. At the same time, several NMAI conservators, including the head of our conservation department, Marian Kaminitz, helped the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum work out the specifications for its state-of-the-art collections storage spaces and install its inaugural and subsequent exhibitions which displayed NMAI historic Seminole textiles, jewelry and household items.

All of this is to say, that the National Museum of the American Indian has always had a very keen and, I might add, vested interest in the success of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. The NMAI has taken tremendous pleasure in watching the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum grow as an institution with an active, and hugely impressive acquisitions department that has quietly, but steadfastly built up a collection of important documents concerning the Seminole Wars, and with a

serious curatorial department and obviously talented exhibitions department.

Over the last 20 years, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's presentation of truly impressive art work and exceptionally important historic archival materials has testified superbly to the dramatic history of Seminoles, as well as to the richness and vibrancy of Seminole culture. As the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum celebrates its 20th anniversary, it is ideally situated to use its increasingly preeminent collections and expertise to play a critical role in engaging Seminoles of all ages, as well as non-Seminole visitors, in the lessons to be learned from Seminole history, culture and arts. On behalf of the National Museum of the American Indian, I wish you continued success in this great endeavor.

Congratulations on your 20th anniversary!

*Cécile Ganteaume is the associate curator at the National Museum of the American Indian. She presented the preceding speech at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's 20th anniversary celebration on Aug. 19.*



## President Trump bans transgender from military — Just the latest form of oppression in the USA

• Mark Charles, Indian Country Today

On Wednesday, July 26, President Trump tweeted: "After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military."

Four hours later he also tweeted: "IN AMERICA WE DON'T WORSHIP GOVERNMENT — WE WORSHIP GOD!"

Why does the President of a self-proclaimed "Christian" nation choose to oppress transgender people by specifically banning them from service in the U.S. military?

Because President Trump, and many Evangelicals, believe in the false notion of Christendom and its perverted role of enforcing the doctrines of the Church.

But they are incorrect. First of all, there is no such thing as Christendom. According to the model and teachings of Jesus, Christian Empire does not exist. Jesus came to make disciples, plant a church, and offer himself as a living sacrifice. He came here to lay down his life, not save it. And he warned his disciples that they should expect, and do, the same. But the Empire must save its life. The Empire must protect itself. The purpose of Empire is in direct opposition to the teachings and the model of Jesus. Thus, Christendom is the prostitution of the Church to the Empire.

And second, since the 4th century, beginning with the writings of Augustine of Hippo, Christendom has been used to justify creating theological categories

of "other" in order to "sanctify" their mistreatment and oppression. Throughout the centuries Christian Empire has provided the justification for the oppression of many groups, including heretics, Muslims, indigenous people, people with black skin and now the LGBTQ community.

As a Native man, someone from a group of people who have been oppressed, mistreated and ethnically cleansed from these lands because we were categorized as "other" by the Christian Empire known as the United States of America, I am deeply concerned by the words and actions of President Trump regarding transgender people. It is extremely difficult to govern a country, let alone claim to follow Christ, when you cannot even treat your neighbor and your fellow citizens as fully human.

I welcome you to read another article I recently published "Where Augustine Goes Off the Rails," which details how the church got from a message of mercy and grace in Luke 7 to the Doctrine of Discovery. How it got from following a savior who was persecuted and executed for his faith, to an imperial power that oppressed, persecuted and even executed those it determined to be "other."

Mark Charles is a speaker, writer and consultant from Fort Defiance, Arizona (Navajo Nation). He is a graduate of UCLA and the organizer of *A New Conversation: A Public Reading of the US Apology to Native Peoples*. He also consults as a Resource Development Specialist for Indigenous Worship at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and is the Primary Investigator on a study conducted through Brigham Young University on the Navajo perception of time.

## What's next? Schoolhouse Rock, funding inequity and making sure law is followed

• Mark Trahan, Native News Online

Senate Republicans campaigned against "Obamacare" for seven years. Yet there was never an alternative that had support from a majority of their own party.

The problem is simple: Many (not all) Republicans see health care programs that help people — the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, etc. — as welfare. Others look at the evidence and see these programs that are effective: Insuring people, creating jobs, supporting a rural economy, and actually resulting in better health outcomes. Evidence-based success stories.

Of course Indian Country is squarely in the middle of this debate. Congress has never even considered, let alone acted, to fully fund Indian health programs. But the Affordable Care Act basically defined the Indian Health Service (and tribal, non-profit, and urban operations) as health care delivery vehicles. And one way to pay for that delivery was by providing health insurance through an expanded Medicaid, no-cost insurance that tribal members could get through exchanges and employers. The ACA with all its faults sets out a plan to fully fund the Indian Health Service.

That's the challenge now. Making sure that every American Indian and Alaska Native has insurance of some kind. Because of what happened (or, more accurately, what did not happen) in the Senate this week the money remains on autopilot. If you are eligible, the funding is there.

Yet the uninsured rate for American

Indians and Alaska Natives remains high, as a Kaiser Family Foundation report noted a couple of months ago.

"The Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion provides an opportunity to enhance this role by increasing coverage among American Indians and Alaska Natives and providing additional revenue to IHS- and Tribally-operated facilities," The Kaiser report said. "In states that do not expand Medicaid, American Indians and Alaska Natives will continue to face gaps in coverage and growing inequities."

This is a problem that will grow because of congressional inaction. Nineteen states including Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Florida, and Maine, have rejected Medicaid expansion. So a tribal citizen in those states gets fewer dollars for healthcare than some Indian health patients in North Dakota, Montana, Alaska, Arizona, New Mexico, or any other state that took advantage of the expansion.

As Kaiser notes: "American Indians and Alaska Natives will continue to face gaps in coverage and growing inequities in states that do not expand Medicaid. In states that do not expand Medicaid, many poor adults remain without an affordable coverage option and will likely remain uninsured. Similarly, IHS providers in these states will not realize gains in Medicaid revenue."

This is the what's next? How does the country manage this divide, especially in Indian Country. (And, just as important, we also need to see the gap measured. What are the differences in treatment and outcome between Montana and Idaho or North Dakota and South Dakota? Data, please.) This is critical because under current law, third-party

billing (including Medicaid) remains at the local service unit. There is now a funding inequity that needs to be addressed by state legislatures. Recently Rep. Tom Cole, R-Oklahoma, said he knows these states and they won't expand Medicaid. (Back to the welfare, thinking.) I hope not.

The Trump administration recently made it easier for states to get a 100 percent reimbursement for Indian health patients (enticing South Dakota to reconsider joining the ranks of expansion states.)

So it's possible, and a challenge, to make sure that the law is implemented, and that innovation continues. The ACA gives much power to an administration to a state to change the rules. You will see a lot of that now. Indian Country needs to keep a sharp eye on that process and raise objections if the result is unsatisfactory.

So why did the Senate bill fail? Sure, full credit should go to the heroic stands by Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. From the very beginning of the debate they were the party advocates for a Medicaid system that does produce better healthcare outcomes. And Alaska is a great example of that because nearly a quarter of the state's population is served. This is how it should be across Indian Country and the nation.

And, of course, there was Sen. John McCain's dramatic late night thumb's down. The Arizona Republican was a no vote when it counted.

But that's not why the bill failed. Fact is it's remarkable that such nonsense got so far. It's inconceivable that a plan was written at lunch the day before the vote. The bill failed because the Republicans, as a group, do not know where they want to lead the

country on health care. They know they don't want Obamacare (even though it's based on conservative, market-based ideas). They sure as hell know they don't want universal health insurance, either Single Payer such as Medicare for All or a government health service like Great Britain's.

Yet when I listened to the debate yesterday so many of the complaints about insurance and costs could be solved by such a path. The problem here is that the United States made a huge mistake with employer-based insurance and that left out people who work for themselves or small businesses. The only way to fix that is a large pool of people spreading the costs, so that healthy people pay for sick people. The ACA tried to do that with mandates. Most countries accomplish that goal with universal insurance.

Another factor in the Republican plans — and another reason for the bill's failure — is their absolute certainty in a market-based solution. Healthcare delivery and free markets do not play well together. The proof of that is simple: How much is an empty hospital bed worth to a business? Yet that should be the goal. And how much is it worth to a hospital-as-a-business to help a patient not need surgery? What market incentives are there for people to eat better?

Seven years ago, when I started writing a lot about health care, I did so because I saw the Indian Health Service as a fascinating example of government-run and managed healthcare. As we began this debate, I thought, let's figure out what works and what needs work.

But I was way wrong. IHS is no longer only a government-run system. Much of the agency is now a funding mechanism for tribal, nonprofit, and urban operations). And

that's where so much of the innovation and excellence in Indian health exists. We need to move more about what's working and why. Yet Congress (and the public narrative) continue to think of an IHS that no longer exists. At least entirely.

This might be a moment to focus on the latter part of what the agency does, improving the flow of funds, and adding more of our people to insurance rolls. Here's the thing: We cannot do anything about universal health care. At least not yet. But we can have universal health care for Indian Country. It's a huge task, but the ACA remains the law and it's only a matter of execution (not a policy debate).

Third-party collections now account for about \$1.8 billion out of the IHS' budget. The dollars Congress appropriates is \$4.8 billion. The third-party portion can grow through more insurance coverage. The appropriations side will require hard fights in Congress and the outcome is uncertain.

Back to the Senate, Texas Sen. John Cornyn, a member of the Republican leadership, joked that perhaps it's time for a new way of doing business. "I guess we ought to go back to Schoolhouse Rock," he said. That's been a clear message from both Republicans and Democrats throughout this messy project. Get a bill. Hold hearings. Let a committee debate alternatives. Then let the bill come to the floor. Regular order. Schoolhouse rock.

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# Community



## Eyes point to the sky as Big Cypress embraces solar eclipse

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** – With well-protected eyes tilted skyward, Seminoles joined millions of other North Americans as they watched the first total solar eclipse to cross the continental U.S. from coast to coast since 1918.

Depending on which reservation it was viewed from, 76 to 82 percent of the sun was covered by the moon's shadow at the height of the eclipse a few minutes before 3 p.m. Aug. 21.

Many spectators wore International Organization for Standardization (ISO) compliant eclipse glasses; others used ingenious ways to view the spectacle through pinhole boxes or other similar apparatuses.

At the Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress, students made pinhole viewers from cereal, cracker and shoe boxes and watched the eclipse from the school grounds. Students who didn't have parental permission to watch the celestial show outdoors gathered in the cafeteria and watched a live feed from NASA as it documented the eclipse's journey across the nation. "Awesome" and "cool" were heard repeatedly as the students witnessed the start of the eclipse.

Principal Dorothy Cain treated students outdoors to a brief glimpse through ISO compliant glasses. Most jaws dropped at the sight of a sliver of the sun being covered by the moon's shadow.

Eclipses have been viewed by mankind throughout the millennia and many cultures have legends to explain the phenomenon. Seminole legend has it that a toad is trying to swallow the sun.

"My grandmother Willie Mae Cypress Billie taught me that if you were sleeping when it happened, you had to wake up or he would take your spirit with him," said Mary Jene Koenes, traditional preservation curriculum specialist at Ahfachkee. "There may be other stories from other clans that are all taught differently. Even in the same family there can be different versions."

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress held an eclipse viewing celebration that coincided with its 20th anniversary. More than 100 spectators, some from as near as the reservation and others from as far as Germany, witnessed the once in a lifetime event while enjoying appropriately-named snacks for the occasion such as Moon Pies, Sunny Delight, Sun-kist raisins and other sun and moon themed treats.

Jake Osceola demonstrated the Seminole legend of shooting flaming arrows at the toad trying to swallow the sun. "Different families have different details, but it is a consistent story of a creature that wants to swallow the sun," Osceola explained to the crowd. "Our legend believes it is a toad. People shoot arrows into the sky to scare it away. If I'm true with my shot, we should have the sun back."

With that, he shot four modern versions of flaming arrows, which were fit with an LED equipped night fishing bobbers instead of real flames. The arrows met their mark and the sun returned to normal shortly thereafter.

At the museum's village grounds, a crowd gathered to wait for the eclipse. Tribal Historic Preservation Office employee Bradley Mueller attached binoculars to a tripod and pointed them at



the sun. He used the binoculars to project an image of the eclipse on a white board underneath. The contraption drew a crowd of curious onlookers, who had an opportunity to see the enlarged version of the eclipse.

Guy and Francoise Bouchereau traveled from Clewiston to attend the museum's viewing party.

"We probably won't be around for the next one, so we wanted to see this one," Francoise said. "It's fabulous."

Families donned eclipse glasses and shared the experience together.

"I told my kids that their great-grandmother would have seen the last eclipse in 1918," Danielle Frye said. "I wanted to connect them to that and to hear the story of the toad."

Throughout Indian Country, many tribes have their own legends and traditions. The Crow Tribe in Montana believed the sun dies and comes back to life during an eclipse. The ancient Mayans believed an eclipse was an omen of bad tidings to come, which may have led them to study the sun, moon and stars in order to predict eclipses and other celestial events. The result was the Mayan expertise in astronomy and invention of the calendar.

The ancient Navajo tradition pointed to the sun's power as being weakened during an eclipse which could bring calamity to the tribe. To avoid that, they would stop all activities and go inside where they didn't eat, drink or do anything else to show respect to the sun and moon. Some Navajo still observe similar traditions and Navajo Nation schools were given the option to close Aug. 21.

The Temagami First Nation in Canada has a legend of a boy who set snares for a living and decided to snare the sun. When the sun didn't rise the next day, his people begged him to set the sun loose, but he refused to go that close to the sun. Instead, he tried to get animals to gnaw at the net; all failed except a small mouse. The sun escaped and life went on as normal. The Cree, Innu and Menominee Tribes all have similar legends.

A few tribes have stories that mimic the Seminole legend, but with slight variations.

The Choctaw believed eclipses were caused by a mischievous black squirrel who tried to eat the sun. They believed the only way to stop it was to scare him away. Women and children created a cacophony of noise by yelling, shrieking, clanging bells, pans and cups to confuse the squirrel. Even dogs joined the ruckus by barking and howling. The Choctaw warrior men, however, remained calm and shot rifles at the sky as if they were shooting game.

The Eastern Cherokee believed a great frog was trying to consume the sun, so they beat drums, fired rifles and made noise to scare it away. When the eclipse ended, warriors danced to celebrate the great frog's defeat.

"It's kind of weird to think about how long ago the last one was and that my [great-] grandmother saw it," said Charli Frye, 14. "I never knew they have a legend for this; it's different from the other legends and it's pretty cool."



Beverly Bidney (3)

On top, Ahfachkee principal Dorothy Cain gives Abbiegale Green a brief look at the eclipse. Bottom left, Jake Osceola shoots a 'flaming' arrow at the eclipse to release the sun from the legendary toad. Middle, Charli Frye takes a photo of the eclipse. Bottom right, THPO employee Bradley Mueller shows an enlarged view of the eclipse to spectators, including this family from Germany.



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◆ **HISTORY**  
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that occupied about half of the 1800s, the Seminoles experienced massive loss, but ultimately gained their sovereignty after

Congress established the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act. Just 23 years later, after years of meetings and establishing a fundamental political system, the Seminole Tribe of Florida became a federally recognized tribe and obtained its official sovereignty Aug. 21, 1957.

S.R. Tommie, host of the 60th anniversary celebration, explained that tribal elders led the Seminoles to the success the Tribe sees today. She expressed her gratitude for the Tribe's everlasting perseverance.

"Many moons ago, our elders made decisions that impact our lives today and we are living the dream they fought for us so long ago," she said. "There is much to say of the changes that have occurred over the last 60 years, but better than that, there are people here who saw those changes firsthand."

While the occasion proved to be a walk down memory lane for many tribal members, for others, it was a learning experience.

After she observed a timeline that was prominently displayed on walls, Miss Florida Seminole Rande Osceola said the Tribe's history opened her eyes.

"200 years ago was when we were in the Seminole Wars, we were treated like slaves and hunted like animals," she said. "But look at us now. We have come together as a nation."

Melissa Billie, originally from Big Cypress, took four of her children to the celebration. She wanted to show her children how far the Tribe has come and allow them to experience history for themselves.

"[Younger generations] need to know what's going on and how we got to this point," she explained. "We've come a long way. ... Even when I was little, we didn't have big events like this. I want my kids to know how things have changed."

Some significant changes the Tribe has made include: creating the first Seminole newspaper, then called "Smoke Signals" in 1964; opening the Ahfachkee School in 1965; Betty Mae Jumper becoming the first woman to serve as a chair of any tribe in 1967; fighting for high stakes gaming and winning, which led to Indian gaming nationwide in 1979; expanding the Big Cypress and Brighton reservations to include multi-purpose centers in 1987; setting up casinos in Hollywood, Immokalee and Tampa in 1988; opening the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in 1997; and acquiring the Hard Rock International franchise in 2007.

Speakers also noted past achievements are not all that the unconquered Seminoles have in store. Many current projects, including revamping the Seminole Hollywood Hotel and Casino, renovating the Ahfachkee School and creating new galleries within the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, are expected to make a positive impact on the Tribe.

While these accomplishments – past, current and future – were highly praised and many in attendance agreed that the Seminoles have made significant strides, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. stressed that it's important for the Tribe to preserve its culture.

"We must not forget who we are and where we come from," he explained to the audience. "There's something called culture out there and we all talk about it. Some of us still hang onto it, come join us."



Kevin Johnson

Moses Jumper expresses his love for the Seminole Tribe during the 60th anniversary celebration.



Kevin Johnson

Paul Buster performs during the Tribe's 60th anniversary celebration Aug. 21 on the Hollywood Reservation.



Kevin Johnson

Hard Rock International Chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO James Allen shakes hands with elected Seminole leaders, from left, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., President Mitchell Cypress, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, and Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola during the Tribe's 60th anniversary celebration Aug. 21 on the Hollywood Reservation.



Kevin Johnson

Soldier Andrew Wallin and Seminole warrior Jason Melton battle during a Seminole Wars reenactment at the Tribe's 60th anniversary celebration Aug. 21 on the Hollywood Reservation.



Kevin Johnson

Davie Mayor Judy Paul and Seminole Tribe Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. are joined by Miss Florida Seminole Rande Osceola, left, and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola at the Seminole Tribe of Florida's 60th anniversary celebration Aug. 21 on the Hollywood Reservation.

◆ **TRIBAL OAK**  
From page 1A

Tiger reflected on growing up in Big Cypress and the role the celebrated oak played in their childhoods. They recalled going to the tree to drink sodas and watch shows on the television set that Frank Billie set up for them on his porch, located next to the tree, in the afternoons. They also remembered attending Council meetings and learning from Frank Billie about the trials and tribulations the Tribe faced from when he arrived in Big Cypress in 1937 to when the Tribe ratified their constitution and bylaws 20 years later.

Retelling these stories and sharing information with those who didn't get to experience them is how, they said, the Seminole culture is preserved.

"This is a very historical place for us," Councilman Tiger explained. "Seminole culture is not written; it's told."

The story of the historic tree became clearer as the speakers described that trees were traditionally used for learning from the

Tribe's past and planning for the future. The shade provided by trees created a comfort many desired to come together, effectively communicate and create an impenetrable community bond. Councilman Tiger and other tribal leaders tried for years to have this message shared and preserved with the Tribal Oak, and THPO ensured this dream became a reality.

Victoria Menchaca, compliance review specialist at THPO, coordinated the event so the Tribe has a means of honoring the symbolism of the Tribal Oak. She explained that commemorating historical places gives tribal members a tangible connection to their past.

"It is something they can go to see, feel and experience. It is something they can take their children to and say, 'Look, this where we united to prevent termination,'" she said. "The Seminoles lost so much due to persecution and everything that we can do to preserve what history they have left and the things they have accomplished in the face of persecution is important in and of itself and for future generations."



Beverly Bidney

Following the Tribal Oak ceremony, Virginia Tommie, Esther Buster and Edna McDuffie look at photo archives from when the Big Cypress community originally met under the Tribal Oak.



Beverly Bidney

Tribal leaders and community members gather around the new marker for the Tribal Oak.

Along with honoring the tree with a historic marker, THPO also added the site to the Tribal Register of Historic Places. The Tribal Oak is the 19th site to be added to the list, which allows the Tribe to protect historical and cultural lands, as well as review and regulate federal projects that take place on tribal lands.

The Council Oak in Hollywood is also on the list. Menchaca said the Tribal Oak and Council Oak were important meeting places during the creation of the Tribe's constitution and charter. While the Council Oak represents the entire Tribe, the Tribal Oak is a local symbol for the Big Cypress Reservation.

"They are both symbols of how the Tribe united to avoid termination and were set on a path that has led them to the success that they have now," she explained.

While the two sites of the trees are full of memories

and appreciation for older generations, tribal members hope younger generations will look to them as symbols of community, strength and hope.

"I've lived long enough to see the Tribe change and see the way we're going. We've worked so hard," Carol Cypress said. "But it's important for us to keep going and show our history to the younger generations."

Rande Osceola agreed with Cypress and explained that it is up to her and her peers to learn from the history shared. She said learning and growing is as simple as reading books and asking the elders about their experiences.

"It's important for [younger generations] to see how we've grown as a tribe and as a nation," she said. "It's good to always come back to your roots and learn from them."



# Spencer and Doc Battiest win MTV Video Music Award with Taboo

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

(Editor's note: The MTV Music Awards ceremony was held Aug. 27 as this month's Tribune was close to publication. More extensive coverage about Spencer and Zack Battiest at the VMA will be provided in the Sept. 29 Tribune and the Tribune's social media.)

Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas, Seminole Tribe members Spencer and Zack "Doc" Battiest and a few other Native American artists dubbed the Magnificent Seven won an MTV Video Music Award on Aug. 27 for "Stand Up / Stand N Rock" music video.

Nominated in the Best Fight Against the System category, the song is a protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline construction near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation and serves as an opportunity for Native American artists to voice their opinions and show their support.

"A lot of indigenous artists trying to make it in the mainstream came together with no egos, just to support those out there protesting on the front line," Spencer said days before the awards ceremony. "It's a great opportunity to continue to voice struggles of indigenous people and stand up for what's right for all nations and tribes."

Winners in the category were announced at the VMA ceremony in Los Angeles by

Susan Bro, the mother of slain protestor Heather Heyer, who was killed during an anti-facism and neo-Nazi protest in Charlottesville, Virginia on Aug. 12.

"I want people to know that Heather never marched alone," Bro told the audience. "She was always joined by people from every race and every background in this country. In that spirit, MTV has decided to honor all six nominees for Best Fight Against the System. Through their diversity, these six videos show there are many ways to take action and many battlegrounds in the fight for social good."

The artists were hand-picked by Taboo, who produced the song in September 2016. The singers live throughout the U.S. and recorded their parts remotely, but Taboo brought them together in New York to perform as a group for the first time in March 2017 during the "Can't Drink Oil, Keep it in the Soil" climate justice event.

"It wasn't about advancing our careers, it was purely about what we can do to help," Spencer said. "The fact that we did it together is amazing. It was a great opportunity whether or not you win an award. We just wanted to stand together."

Taboo begins the song with a verse that includes the rap "We've been fighting for our freedom since the Niña, the Pinta and the Santa María."

Every artist sang or rapped a verse of the song, each with a similar theme. Spencer

sang, "To all my Native People, to all my Tribal people, keep your head up. Stand up, stand up," as Doc rapped "woke up and said we won't go quiet, we're ready for the battle and we ain't running."

The musicians gathered in Los Angeles to record the studio scenes of the video, but the Battiest brothers were performing in San Francisco at the time and recorded their part with Taboo later. Most of the video was filmed at the DAPL site in North Dakota and highlights Sioux culture and dance along with the water protectors on the scene.

"I am part Shoshone, but this issue is deeper than my Native American heritage," Taboo said in a statement. "The Dakota Access Pipeline is a shameless example of corporate interests being put ahead of human rights and our environment. This song is a 'thank you' to the protectors that have stood against the pipeline and a call to action for all native peoples to stand proud and unify for our human rights and to protect our land."

"Stand Up / Stand N Rock," which also features activist actress Shailene Woodley, was never released for purchase and is the only nominated song in the category that was produced and released without a record label. The Best Fight Against the System category was previously called Best Video with a Social Message, but was rebranded this year.

The nominees in the category are Taboo ft. Shailene Woodley for "Stand Up / Stand



Courtesy photo

Spencer and Zack "Doc" Battiest show off their Native pride with Taboo from the Black Eyed Peas.

N Rock #NoDAPL," Logic ft. Damian Lemar Hudson for "Black SpiderMan," The Hamilton Mixtape "Immigrants (We Get the Job Done)," Alessia Cara for "Scars To Your Beautiful," Big Sean for "Light," and John Legend for "Surefire."

Spencer and Doc attended the VMA less than a week after they performed at the Seminole Tribe's 60th anniversary celebration in Hollywood.

## ♦ BATTIEST From page 1A

Aug. 5 was held inside the Potomac Atrium, where museum goers took their seats, stood nearby or watched from the multiple levels overlooking the atrium. The music reverberated through the museum.

"Seeing him here in the Smithsonian is awesome," said June Battiest, Spencer and Doc's mother. "There is a lot of history here and they did a lot of research when they wrote 'The Storm.' That history isn't taught in books."

Spencer always wears something Seminole onstage. For these performances he wore a long thick strand of beads in medicine colors, carried a shaker made for him by medicine man Bobby Henry and donned a vintage patchwork jacket worn by one of the original founders of the Tribe.

"The jacket was given to June by an elder who helped organize the Tribe," Baker said. "That Spencer wore it here is meaningful. That jacket could be in this museum."

The concerts were part of the NMAI's summer showcase of Native American talent, an annual event held for 11 years in Washington and more than 15 in New York. Over the years, the museums have featured an eclectic mix of artists including Grammy Award winners Buffy Saint-Marie, Rita Coolidge and Bill Miller, as well as John Trudell, Indigenous, Martha Redbone, Dark Water Rising and A Tribe Called Red.

Concert organizers at NMAI had heard about Spencer, who was on their radar for a long time.

"Some of our staff saw him perform at a film festival in California and our Programs Department admired how professional and polished Spencer is as an artist," program manager Shawn Termin wrote in an email to the Tribune. "He has really developed himself into a multi-faceted artist with very good music."

The energetic performance and top-notch songs attracted a crowd of about 1,600 to the Washington concert. The audience was younger than usual for the museum, according to NMAI Social Media Coordinator Holly Stewart.

"Storytelling is part of our culture,"



Beverly Bidney

Spencer and Zack "Doc" Battiest perform "The Storm" for the crowd at the NMAI in Washington, D.C. Spencer is holding a traditional shaker made for him by medicine man Bobby Henry, which he brings to every performance.

Spencer said, "Music is our way of storytelling; we put them [songs] out into the universe and hope people hear them. My career is about empowering, embracing and connecting with other Natives and non-

Natives alike. We're all human and we're all struggling with something."

Battiest's cousin Bobbi Osceola, who traveled to New York for the first time, said it was awesome seeing him perform at

both concerts. Long-time friend Joni Josh said Spencer worked long and hard for his success and she is proud of him.

"If I can brighten up someone's day then I've done my job," Spencer said. "It's all about

the love. We're all looking for the same thing; love. That's my message."



Beverly Bidney

Spencer Battiest performs with his band at fresco at New York City's Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian Aug. 3.



Beverly Bidney

Spencer Battiest signs autographs for a group of youth from the local YMCA after the New York concert at the NMAI.



# Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki celebrates 20th anniversary

BY LI COHEN  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — When the Seminole Tribe opened the doors of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in 1997 to commemorate the Tribe's federal recognition, nobody imagined the museum would transcend to the status it claims today.

The museum, now celebrating its 20th anniversary, has transformed into a nationally accredited affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. With halls filled with artifacts, intricate displays and lesser-known facts about the Tribe, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki has become more than a tourist attraction, but a historical treasure.

To honor this story and the goals met in the past two decades, the museum held a celebration Aug. 19. Museum staff, community members and Tribal leadership gathered to learn about the museum's history and see what plans are in store, all while listening to live music, enjoying catered food and seeing the story of the unconquered Seminoles unfold throughout the museum.

Clifford Murphy, folk and traditional arts director for the National Endowment of the Arts, said that attending the 20th anniversary

for the museum is a remarkable opportunity. He said that the upkeep of the facilities and preservation of artifacts is commendable and is a great example of how to safeguard heritage in a community.

"In order to know where we're going we need to know where we've come from," he said. "We can't know where we come from if we don't have institutions and individuals who are enabling that to happen, like this museum and the leadership here."

The museum contains hundreds of thousands of objects that preserve the Seminole culture, according to Paul Backhouse, director of the museum and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, all of which help connect visitors to the Tribe's roots and share the unwritten Seminole story.

"In a world that's increasingly homogenized, the Seminole Tribe has stood for its cultural integrity and identity throughout," he said. "The culture, the language and the traditions of the tribe are still going strong. ... [The museum is] an opportunity for the tribe to tell the story the way they want the story told."

Future plans for the museum will include a more in-depth look at the Tribe's history. Upon entering the museum, guests will

learn about trading posts and tourist camps, Seminole crafts, arts and expression, cattle and rodeo, removal and resistance, obtaining sovereignty, the Seminole Wars, present-day Seminole culture and more. The layout will also feature a more modern look and more artifacts and exhibits.

Sandy Shaughnessy, director of cultural affairs at the Florida Department of State, said that the 20th anniversary is a well-deserved celebration.

"We have to protect [heritage] for our future generations, just like our ancestors did," Shaughnessy said. "What is history without the arts and what are the arts without history; it's a progression of storytelling and passing it down."

Backhouse said some of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki's most notable accomplishments are the museum's representation of defending sovereignty, visitor diversity and the museum's accreditation with the American Alliance of Museums, which was certified in 2009.

"In 1997 [the museum] was just an idea and today it is an accredited museum and one of the leading museums in the country," Backhouse explained. "It led Indian Country into a new era of how they're perceived by

colonial folks who wanted to write their history for them. The tribes wanted to write their own history. ... We have the opportunity

to show people the Seminole story of where the Tribe came from, where they're going and what their identity is today."



Li Cohen

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum rolled out the red carpet to celebrate its 20th anniversary.



Li Cohen (2)

Left, President Mitchell Cypress and Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola look at a photo of the museum's original groundbreaking. Right, Ewa Bandura listens to speakers discuss the significance of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



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# Jimmy Osceola wins statewide Native art competition

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

An oil painting created by artist Jimmy Osceola depicting Seminoles at Lake Okeechobee won the Natural Resources Conservation Service poster contest in August. The theme of the competition was "Water is the Essential Element."

Osceola's painting, titled "Big Water of Life", will be printed on posters and distributed to the United States Department of Agriculture's NRCS offices throughout the U.S., Indian Country and the Pacific Islands for American Indian Heritage Month in November.

"Being a tribal member and Native American is the most inspiring thing to me," said Osceola, of Plantation. "When I was painting it I wasn't thinking about winning, I just thought that as a Seminole of Florida, showing the lake would be good for heritage month. I think water is an important subject."

Osceola painted the scene from memory, having spent countless hours at the lake over the years. Per contest rules, he incorporated cultural elements into the piece, including a dugout canoe, chickee, traditional clothing and an alligator lurking near the shore.

A self-taught artist who discovered his passion for painting about 20 years ago, Osceola is inspired by other tribal artists. His artwork provides a window to the past

and portrays traditional camps, warriors and stomp dancers. Osceola's pride and respect for the land and the Tribe are reflected in the paintings

Eight paintings from five Native American artists living in Florida were submitted to the contest. Seminole students Precious Jimmie and Carly Billie from the Tampa area submitted pieces. The artwork was judged on creativity, originality, portrayal of heritage and culture of American Indians in Florida, incorporation of title and theme, artistry and skill.

"There

were some close votes between the entries, but overall Jimmy's stood out in artistry and skill, as well as the portrayal of the heritage and culture of American Indians in Florida," NRC American Indian/Alaska Native Special Emphasis Program manager Katy Greene wrote in an email to the Tribune.

Artists were required to write a narrative of their work with their submission to the contest.

"As in the beginning of our being as

Seminoles in Florida, water was essential to our survival for food, shelter, clothing, travel. Today water still is and always will be essential for the survival of all mankind," Osceola wrote.

The poster contest, which began in 1991, showcases Native American talent in one state each year. To date, 20 states have been featured.



Photo courtesy NRCS

Jimmy Osceola's painting depicts a family at Lake Okeechobee.



Photo courtesy Renee Bodine/NRCS

Jimmy Osceola poses in front of his artwork.

# Summit brings conservationists together to discuss climate change

BY LI COHEN  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Climate science is more than an academic subject; it is a route that defines the future for people in numerous ways. To shed some light on the subject, the Florida Public Archaeology Network, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Florida International University's Global Indigenous Forum hosted the Tidally United Summit Aug. 4 and 5, gathering people from throughout the world to learn about a common cause.

The summit, held at the Seminole Tribe's Native Learning Center in Hollywood, focused on the impact of sea level rise on Florida's archaeological and cultural resources. Sponsors and speakers highlighted indigenous groups, climate science, historic and cultural site planning and the role cultural heritage plays within climate science.

The first day of the summit, researchers presented papers and posters they wrote about various aspects of climate. More than 25 scientists and conservationists — some

from nearby, others from as far as Scotland — presented their papers, posters and abstracts that focused on climate's impact on the world. Specific topics included archaeological sites, agricultural production stability, maritime cultural resources, natural-cultural realities, site monitoring, preservation and protection, and more.

The second day of the summit consisted of a guided walk through Everglades National Park and a tour of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum to learn about site and cultural preservation.

Maureen Mahoney, a tribal archaeologist with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, attended the event and said it's important to see how the Seminole Tribe uses cultural resources and how climate affects people living in Florida and around the world.

For the Seminoles, history is essential, which is why many of the discussions and presentations explained how to identify culturally significant areas and why their survival is crucial to the Tribe. For Mahoney, the presentation about Egmont Key and the impact climate change has on that area was particularly impactful.

"The talks have been really interesting and showed the effects of climate change if we don't do something about it," she said. "Like some of the talks have really shown, climate change can impact cultural resources, land mass, the environment and people. If areas are eroded away, what does that mean for history?"

As multiple presenters explained, Egmont Key and other archaeological and cultural sites that are part of the Tribe are the only records of various parts of history. Much of the land mass surrounding the island of Egmont Key has already been lost and as erosion continues, more of the Seminoles' story of imprisonment goes with it.

Despite the huge archaeological and cultural losses already suffered, however, presenters encouraged the community that steps can be taken to prevent further loss. Included in the list of preventative activities includes critically noting and evaluating environmental changes, finding a political voice to advocate for change, and coordinating volunteers to map and monitor significant sites.

While the majority of the summit

tailored to climate change's impact on Florida's coast, coordinators made sure to demonstrate global implications. Joanna Hamby from the SCAPE Trust in Scotland discussed how sea level rise is taking away Scotland's coasts and much of the country's cultural heritage with it.

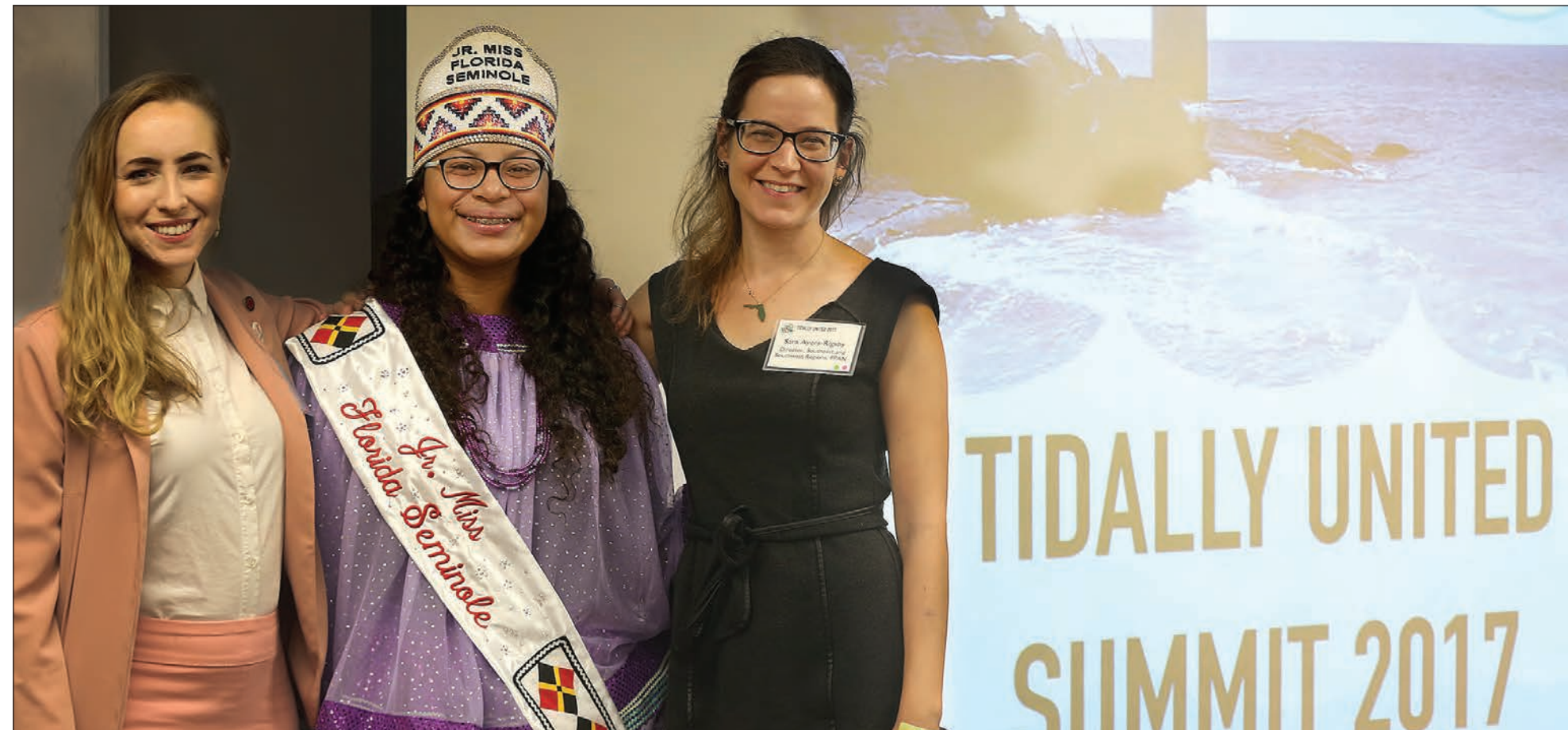
"The methods and our approaches [of addressing eroding coastlines in Scotland] are applicable to heritages everywhere," she said, adding that transparency and active civilian involvement is what allows them to flourish in combatting the coastal issue. "You will work with different conditions and I hope this is an eye-opening example of how another place in the world is responding to the issues and opportunities presented by climate change."

Regardless of where the issues are taking place throughout the world, all presenters made sure to get one crucial point across: The only way to preserve lands and their significance is to collaborate to protect lands, preserve history and push for a better future.

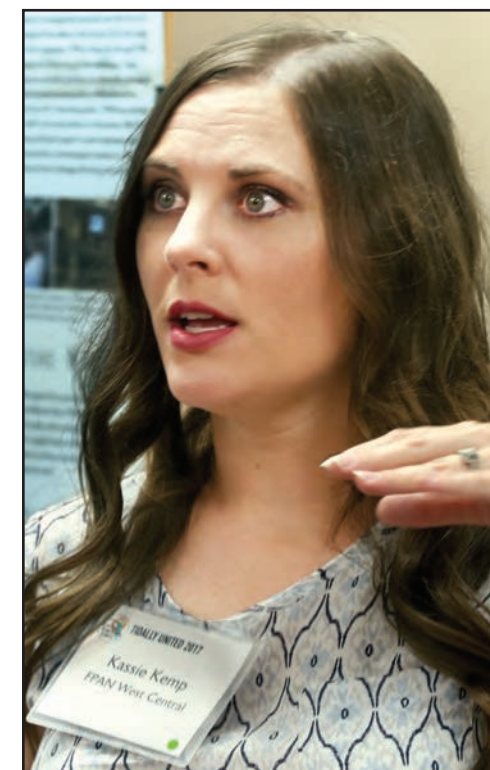


Li Cohen

Joanna Hamby travelled from Scotland to present the impact climate change has on Scotland's shore lines.



Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola meets with Summit coordinators Mallory Fenn, left, and Sara Ayers-Rigsby, right.



Li Cohen

Kassie Kemp explains the importance of protecting Maximo Park in St. Petersburg.



## The Tribal Historic Preservation Office investigates the Augustina Gore Camp

BY RACHEL MORGAN  
THPO Archaeologist

In February 2017, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) completed an investigation of the historic Augustina Gore Camp on the Brighton Reservation. This investigation endeavored to determine the camp's eligibility for the Tribal Register of Historic Places (TRHP). Investigations of historic Seminole camps represent a critical part of the Tribe's Cultural Resource Ordinance, which strives to actively protect cultural resources throughout the development process.

The Augustina Gore Camp sits in the southeastern extent of the Brighton Reservation along a long Reservation Road and is now partially inundated by a modern dam. Through interviews with Donnie and Arnie Lou Gore, Augustina's children, the THPO was able to develop a picture of life at this historic camp.

Augustina Gore was born Aug. 12, 1940 to Willie Gopher Sr. and Arnie J. Gopher Sr. She grew up with her family at the Gopher camp as part of the Brighton community, but upon her marriage to Arthur R. Gore, a white man, Augustina and her family moved to a new camp. This marked the foundation of the historic Augustina Gore Camp. At the time many believed the Gore Camp to be off reservation; however, in reality the



From left to right, Augustina Gore, Arnie J. Gopher Sr., and Willie Gopher Sr. (Florida Memory)

family remained inside the reservation boundary and never actually left. Instead, Arthur and Augustina created a lively home environment at their camp on the outskirts of the reservation with their eight children – James, Randy, Tommy, Donnie, Arnie, Linda, Sidney, and Claudette.

Based on descriptions by Donnie and Arnie Lou Gore, the camp consisted of a two-bedroom trailer. Their camp was a warm and lively place where the children found many ways to amuse themselves. The children busied themselves trapping animals and mimicking the cowboys that visited their father who trained wild horses for rodeos. In particular, Arnie Lou recalls that one of her brothers wore his mother's red heels around the camp and pretended that they were cowboy boots, becoming so excited that he ran into an oak tree. Despite many happy memories, the family eventually moved to a home on Short Street in the early 1970s.

Recording historic Seminole camps is a valuable way for the THPO to document memories and experiences of Tribal members. Interviews with community members ensure that future generations will have access to culturally significant stories and that these stories will be told from the community's perspective. To contribute to ongoing efforts to record historic camps, please call the Tribal Historic Preservation Office at 863-983-6549 or visit the offices.

## Uniting cultures: Spanish Days in Big Cypress

BY LI COHEN  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — In an effort to bring Hispanic and Seminole cultures together, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum developed programming for Spanish-speaking visitors.

The programming, which consists of a guided tour through the museum's gallery and boardwalk, as well as making crafts, began after the museum realized it was neglecting the large Hispanic community in South Florida. The museum reviewed and compared its visitor demographics to the demographics of the area and noticed that the Spanish-speaking audience was lower than expected.

"We're trying to make sure we reach as diverse an audience as possible," said Paul Backhouse, director of the museum. "Our audience is now global, so it's particularly important to make sure we're engaged with everyone that's out there. To do that you need to engage with different language groups, cultural areas and geographic areas."

The museum offered Spanish Days for the first time last summer, and since then, has

offered it multiple times – including Aug. 13 – as part of the Summer Fun event series.

Martina Dawson, a museum tour guide, led the Aug. 13 tour which consisted of four visitors from Puerto Rico. They heard about the event through family members and said they were impressed with how well the museum preserved the Seminole Tribe's history and how they felt connected to it.

"Every culture needs to learn about the history of Native Americans," Dawson said. "It's important that us in Spanish cultures know about other cultures, especially Seminoles, because if you don't go out and learn about other people, you won't know what they experienced."

After experiencing the museum and crafting keychains comprised of traditional Seminole colors, the visitors said they are recommending the site to their loved ones.

The museum plans to discuss more opportunities for Spanish Days and other culturally-diverse events. If Spanish-speaking individuals wish to visit the museum and need accommodations, they can contact the museum at 877-902-1113.

## Lee Tiger album release party to be held Sept. 7

**HOLLYWOOD** — Rock artist Lee Tiger will host an album release party for his upcoming album "One Earth, One People, Come Together" on Sept. 7 at Hollywood's Hard Rock Café. The album was inspired by Tiger's belief that saving the earth and joining humanity are one in the same, just as his father, Buffalo Tiger, taught him. Event doors will open at 9 p.m. and the show will start at 9:30 p.m.

Tiger's original music is expressed from his past music influences, including The

Beatles, Rolling Stones, Animals, Kinks and others from the British music invasion in the mid-1960s. His influences have also come from American funk, soul music, Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and others. The Tiger brothers started writing original music in 1969. Elements of Latin percussion and the Native American sounds are interwoven along with his spiritual enlightenment in all compositions. This is Tiger's third solo release.



Lee Tiger will debut his new album Sept. 7 at Hard Rock Cafe in Hollywood.

Courtesy photo

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

## Florida Seminoles and world history

BY ERIC GRIFFIS  
Oral History Coordinator

Housed within the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's collection is an obscure old book about Florida and the Seminoles that not many people seem to know about, but it was immeasurably influential in shaping the course of human events. In 1773, botanist William Bartram set out on an exploration of the Southeast of what would become the United States. He turned his notes into the 1791 book, "Travels through North & South Carolina, Georgia, East & West Florida, the Cherokee Country, the Extensive Territories of the Muscogulges, or Creek Confederacy, and the Country of the Chactaws; Containing an Account of the Soil and Natural Productions of Those Regions, Together with Observations on the Manners of the Indians."

Bartram was the first to conduct a popular multidisciplinary survey of the interior areas of the Southeast which were then considered "wilderness" and "Indian Country." At that time, settlers established ports at places such as Cow Ford (present day Jacksonville) and Charles Town (Charleston), and trade with the tribes in those places was big business. While the Europeans and the Native Americans had a relatively respectful relationship worked out with the trade system, the two groups largely kept their distance. Bartram was advised not to go into the interior because of the possibility of hostilities between the two groups, but he went anyway.

Bartram was a pacifist and a Quaker. He stayed with the Seminoles at the Alachua Savannah (Paynes Prairie). Amused at Bartram's preoccupation of sketching flowers, Cowkeeper nicknamed him 'Puc Puggy,' which meant "flower hunter." He documented soil types, cataloged the abundant plants and animals and developed good relationships with the Native Americans.

Bartram's book became very popular in the U.S. and throughout Europe. The book's influence would end up becoming both terrible and great. Bartram was

interested in developing settlements in the South, but he envisioned them to be like the small family farmsteads he was familiar with in the Quaker country of Pennsylvania. Industrialists, however, inspired by his descriptions of fertile soils from Mississippi to South Carolina, envisioned large scale plantations. This, of course, led to the invasion of Indian lands, wars, genocide, the rise of the slave economy on a massive scale, and the destruction of the natural landscape.

Meanwhile in Europe, the Romantic writers and poets were all reading Bartram's adventures as if he was the modern Marco Polo. His colorful writing style combined with his love of nature led to his descriptions of lush landscapes being places of Paradise. One of the most published poems in history, "Kubla Khan," directly borrows Bartram's descriptions of Florida's Blue Sink, Manatee Springs and Salt Springs to describe the mythical river Alph in the paradise garden of Xanadu.

Bartram's accounts of his interactions with the Seminoles in Florida would go on to directly inspire the meditations of Henry David Thoreau, the science of Charles Darwin, the explorations of Lewis and Clark, the "land ethic" of Aldo Leopold, and the



art and conservation efforts of John James Audubon. Before this, wilderness and forests were considered bad places that needed to be conquered and tamed. While capitalists seized the science in Bartram's writings and utilized it in unintended ways in the early days of the American experiment,

his and the Seminoles' long term humanitarian influence can be seen in the ways that Western society is currently re-evaluating its own relationships with the natural world in a more holistic way.

To view this book or one of its many incarnations, visit or call the Museum library at 863-902-1113, ext. 12252.

## Q & A with Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.

*This year, 2017, is an important year of anniversaries for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. It marks the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the Seminole Wars, in 1817. It is the 60th anniversary of federal recognition of the Seminole Tribe of Florida as a government and a business enterprise. During the year, this column will alternately explore key events of the so-called First Seminole War and highlight the great advances of the Tribe during the last 60 years. This month we asked Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. to reflect on how far the Tribe has come and what the future may hold for the Tribe.*

**What does the 60th Anniversary of the Tribe's organization and federal recognition mean to you?**

This milestone that we are celebrating brings a ton of pride to all Seminoles and especially my family since my grandfather William "Bill" Osceola, worked tirelessly to see that our tribe was not eradicated as the Government hoped to achieve with their termination agenda.

**As the Chairman of the Tribe what do you plan to achieve in your tenure?**

My plans during my tenure are to ensure the Tribe's financial stability and growth for generations to come and to maintain our direct tribal service programs for every tribal member even those that have yet to be conceived. Creating fiscal responsibility and accountability are the cornerstone of my administration.



**Where do you hope to see the Tribe in another 60 years and in another 200 years?**



Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.

I know that our Tribe will continue to prosper and grow, as for the next 60 years or even 200 years, only time will tell. If we can continue to educate our youth to prepare them to take over and transition into new administrations smoothly we will never lose a step, and our Tribe will live on with no deadline of ending.

**What of your ancestors' achievements are you most proud of?**

All of our leaders that fought for our existence makes me proud, not just the ones that made sacrifices during our battle against removal, but those that made sacrifices along the way when obstacles have been placed in front of us.

**What do you think has been the key to the Tribe's success today?**

Putting the people first, never wavering in the face of adversity. Knowing that our culture and heritage provide the foundation for our strength and using that understanding and knowledge every day.

## National Museum of the American Indian seeks entries for Veterans Memorial

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian is conducting an international design competition to build the National Native American Veterans Memorial slated to open in 2020. The Veterans Memorial will be located on museum grounds on the National Mall.

A blue-ribbon jury of Native and non-Native artists, designers, scholars and veterans will judge the design submissions. Don Statsny, architect, urban planner and community facilitator, will oversee the competition.

The international competition is open to all; students, architects, designers and anyone else who wants to can submit a design. The design will be selected through a juried, two-stage process. Stage I will be an open call to submit design concepts. The jury will select up to five finalists to participate in Stage II. The second stage will require finalists to refine their concepts.

At the conclusion of Stage II, the jury will review the submittals and select a design concept for the memorial.

Stage I opens Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2017, and closes Jan. 9, 2018. Finalists for Stage II will be notified shortly after submissions close.

The museum was commissioned by Congress to build a National Native American Veterans Memorial that gives "all Americans the opportunity to learn of the proud and courageous tradition of service of Native Americans in the Armed Forces of the United States." Working with the National Congress of American Indians and other Native American organizations, the museum is in its second year of planning for the memorial.

To help guide this process, the museum formed an advisory committee composed of tribal leaders and Native veterans from across the country who will assist with outreach to Native American communities and veterans. From 2015 until the summer of 2017, the advisory committee and the museum

conducted 35 community consultations to seek input and support for the memorial. These events brought together tribal leaders, Native veterans and community members from across the nation and resulted in a shared vision and set of design principles for the National Native American Veterans Memorial.

More information on this competition will be available on the museum's site Nov. 11. In the interest of fair and equal access, the museum and advisory committee will not respond to phone calls or email inquiries regarding the application process.

The National Museum of the American Indian is located on the National Mall at Fourth Street and Independence Avenue S.W. The museum is open each day from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (closed Dec. 25).

For more information about the museum and the competition visit [AmericanIndian.si.edu](http://AmericanIndian.si.edu).



# Health



## A patient's perspective on colorectal cancer screening

BY CHRIS MANDREGAN  
Director of Alaska Area, Indian Health Service

American Indians and Alaska Natives are uniquely vulnerable to colorectal cancer. That's why in Alaska, Alaska Native patients are now recommended to get their first colonoscopy — an examination of the gut for suspicious growths — at age 40. Across the Indian health system, both in federal government operated facilities and in tribal facilities, Tribes and IHS are working together to educate our communities about the benefits of screening to detect any issues while they are easier to treat. I believe that this prevention and outreach is some of the most important work we are doing.

In 2013, I went in to get my first colonoscopy. After my primary care doctor and I talked about why it was necessary and what to expect, Southcentral Foundation's Anchorage Native Primary Care Center (ANPCC) scheduled the appointment for me in an operating room at the Alaska Native Medical Center — the beautiful, state-of-the-art hospital run by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. There was some dietary preparation to clean the intestinal tract a day before the procedure. Then for the procedure, I was mildly sedated, much like a gentle nap,

so I don't remember all that much about it. In terms of pain and inconvenience, it was painless and much easier than I had expected. My spouse was there with me, which made me much more comfortable.

When I was fully alert, I was surprised to learn that they had found and removed nine precancerous polyps in my intestine. Not one or two, but nine. Imagine if I had delayed a few years instead of following my doctor's recommendation to get screened.

Thankfully, my issue was caught early



Chris Mandregan

so it has not affected me much. I took it easy for a few days after the procedure but was able to return to work the next day. Less than a year later, the ANPCC contacted me to schedule a follow-up colonoscopy. I'm glad to report that the second colonoscopy was completely clear and I do not need to get another for five years. I have shared my experience with my family members, convincing at least one who was unsure about the procedure to go in and have a colonoscopy.

I encourage you to read more about the Indian Health Service's strategic plan to increase colorectal cancer screening and our work to increase access to lifesaving colorectal cancer screening. IHS also recently launched a partnership with the Roswell Park Cancer Institute to reduce cancer's impact in Native communities.

Please talk to your family and friends about cancer screening and whether you get care directly from IHS or in a tribal facility. Ask your doctor, mid-level provider or community health aide if you are due for a colonoscopy.

Chris Mandregan, a tribal member of the Aleut Community of St. Paul, Alaska, serves as Director of the Alaska Area IHS.

## Quick response helps eradicate New World Screwworm in Florida

SUBMITTED BY JONATHAN VAZQUEZ  
Animal Control Program Coordinator

New World Screwworms (*Cochlimyia hominivorax*) are fly larvae (maggots) that can infest livestock and other warm-blooded animals, including people. They most often enter an animal through an open wound or, in the case of newborns, the navel. They feed on the animal's living flesh and, if not treated, infestations can be fatal. While the New World Screwworm has not been widely present in the United States since the 1960s, it is still found in most of South America and in five Caribbean countries.

In the fall of 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of New World Screwworm for the first time in the Florida Keys. The presence of the screwworm was confirmed in Key deer from a wildlife refuge on Big Pine Key in Monroe County and in a stray dog in Homestead in Miami-Dade County. It had not been found in Florida in 50 years and the last time it was present, it devastated the livestock industry. Concern for it to reach the mainland was real.

The USDA quickly reached out to all county agencies, including the Seminole Tribe of Florida, to help eradicate the New World Screwworm. How would they be able

to eradicate it? Well the process is amazing. The USDA Research Service developed a new method to eradicate the pest using a form of biological control called the sterile insect technique. Infertile male flies are released in infested areas. When they mate with local females, no offspring result. With fewer fertile mates available in each succeeding generation, the fly breeds itself out of existence.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of all agencies to implement an aggressive eradication program, as of March 2017 the New World screwworm is successfully eradicated in Florida. The swift response and efforts prevented the spread of the screwworm to the mainland.

Unfortunately, 20 percent of the Key deer population in the Florida Keys was lost to the invasion. In all, more than 200 million sterile flies were released to eradicate the New World Screwworm and save Florida's \$10 billion livestock industry and our critically endangered Key deer.

Remember to keep a close eye on your pets and address any wounds that may be of concern. Keep your pets vaccinated and remember to register your pet with the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Animal Control and Wildlife Services.

## Don't be overcharged for quality eyewear

SUBMITTED BY DR. PAUL ISAACS  
Executive Director of Health and Human Services

When you visit an optometrist for a routine eye exam and need eyewear, you do not have to purchase your glasses or contacts from that same optometrist. You may obtain your prescription from the optometrist and take it with you so that you can shop around and compare prices on the eyewear. Many times you can find the same designers eyeglasses or contacts at a much lower cost.

You do not have to use a network optometrist for eyewear. However, if you go to an out of network provider, you may be required by the provider to pay for the charges and then you will need to submit the bill to the STOF Health Plan for reimbursement to you. Eye exams are covered at 100 percent and eyewear (eyeglasses or contacts) are covered up to a maximum of \$600 per calendar year.

For additional information, contact Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Plan Administration 866-505-6789 or 954-981-1671.

## Women's meetings

A women's group meeting is held the last Tuesday of each month from 12-1 p.m. at the Brighton Sober House, 17320 Short St., in Okeechobee. For more information call 954-651-8296.

Also, a women's group meeting is held every Tuesday from 12-1 p.m. at 6365 Taft St., Hollywood. For more information call 561-939-9687.

## Free dental service available for children

SUBMITTED BY ROBERT LAMENDOLA  
Florida Department of Health in Broward County

The Florida Department of Health in Broward County has launched another free dental service for children — fluoride treatment to prevent cavities.

Hygienists from DOH-Broward are offering a free dental exam and tooth-strengthening fluoride varnish to clients of the department's Women, Infants & Children (WIC) family nutrition program.

Last year, the department began providing free dental sealant treatment to students at Broward County elementary and middle schools. More than 25,000 received sealants during the past school year.

The fluoride varnish is a flavored gel that is gently brushed onto a child's teeth to soak in for several hours or overnight. Studies show the varnish can strengthen tooth enamel and help prevent cavities.

So far, the service is being offered at WIC offices in Lauderdale Lakes and Hollywood, but will be expanded later this year to WIC offices in Coral Springs, Fort

Lauderdale, Pembroke Pines, and Pompano Beach.

The treatment will be offered to kids on hand for the family's normal WIC visit, so no additional appointments are necessary.

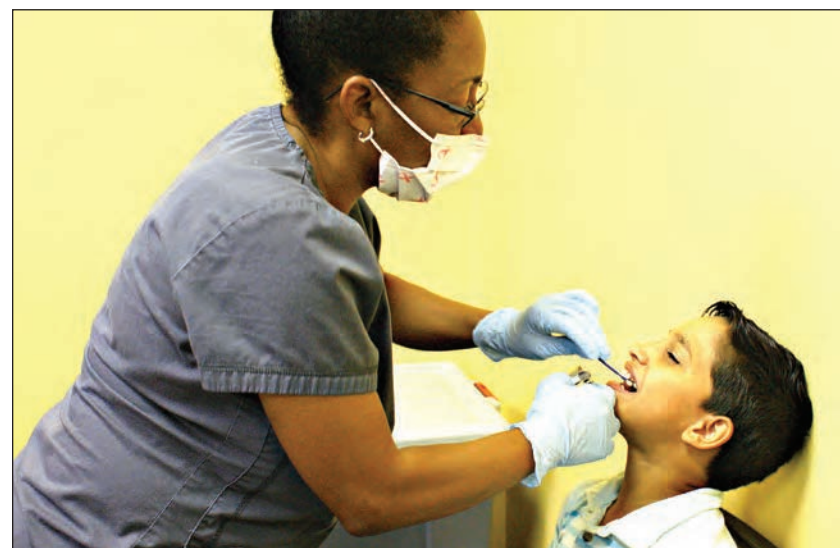
"For parents, it's like killing two birds with one stone," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of DOH-Broward. "It's like going for a dental appointment at the same time you are at WIC."

The treatment is available for kids ages 1 to 20, and takes just a few minutes. Hygienists give the children an exam, toothbrush, toothpaste and floss, and explain the proper way to care for their teeth. Then they paint on the varnish, which comes in caramel, mint and fruit flavors.

All children who are seen are offered a free or low-cost appointment at DOH-Broward dental practice offices. There, they can see a dentist for more extensive dental care.

The fluoride service has treated about 3,000 children.

For more information call 954-467-4700, ext. 5174.



## Crevier named NCUIH executive director

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Council of Urban Indian Health announced July 31 that its executive director position has been filled by Francys Crevier, who previously served NCUIH as the director of Governmental Affairs.

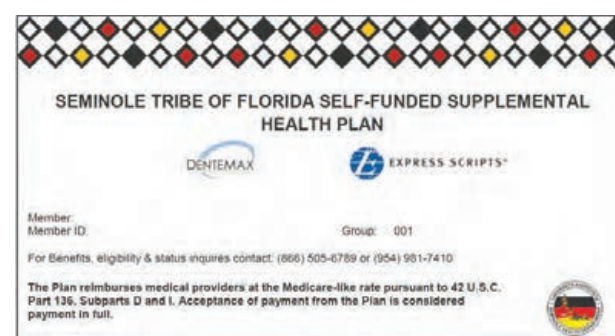
Crevier (Algonquin) has been serving Indian Country for more than a decade. She has served in various capacities from clerking for tribal supreme courts and working for the United Nations Special Rapporteur for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to representing tribes as in-house counsel and special prosecutor. She joined the Indian healthcare field in 2015 to advocate for better healthcare in Indian Country as well as educate tribal members and communities on their alternative healthcare options.

Crevier joined NCUIH in 2016 as the policy analyst and Congressional relations liaison and later became the director of Governmental Affairs. She received her J.D. from University of Arizona Law with a Certificate in Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy and her B.A. in Public Administration from Florida International University.

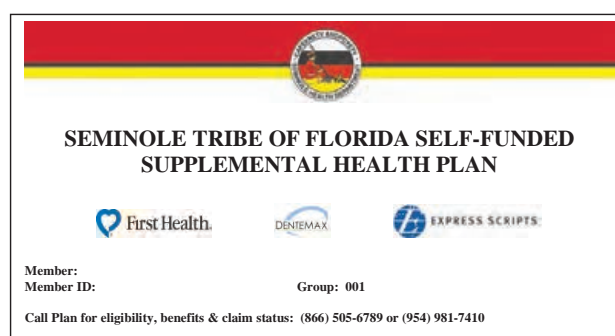


Francys Crevier

### NEW HEALTH PLAN CARD



### OLD HEALTH PLAN CARD



NEW CARD

OLD CARD

A new STOF Member Health Plan card and benefits book was mailed to you in July 2017. Please begin showing your new card to medical, dental, and pharmacy providers immediately. If you did not receive your new card and benefits book in the mail, please contact the STOF Health Clinic so that we can ensure you receive these important documents.

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(863) 763-0271

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Immokalee Health Clinic  
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# SEMINOLE SCENES



**DRESSED FOR SUCCESS:** Ronnie Billie Sr. wears more traditional clothing to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's 20th anniversary party.

LI Cohen



**ECLIPSE EXCITEMENT:** Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola stands in front of the historic Council Oak on the Hollywood Reservation as she uses protective glasses to gaze at the sun during the solar eclipse Aug. 21.

Kevin Johnson



**A BREAK IN WAR:** A reenactment of fighting in the Seminole Wars took a brief lighthearted turn when the rifle of Seminole warrior Tucomah Robbins snapped while he was battling soldier Andrew Wallin during a performance at the Tribe's 60th anniversary celebration Aug. 21 in Hollywood.

Kevin Johnson



**PROUD MOMENT:** Spencer and Doc Battisti are surrounded by family and friends who attended their performances in New York and Washington, D.C.

Beverly Bidney



**A STILL MORNING:** Big Cypress remains quiet and still during a sunrise while fog rolled through.

LI Cohen



**TAKING FLIGHT:** A wood stork flies off to another part of the Big Cypress Reservation after it spies some fellow birds doing the same.

LI Cohen



**TOURISM TAPING:** Above and below, Seminoles participate in the filming of a video at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on Aug. 3. The segment is expected to be part of a Greater Fort Lauderdale international video to promote tourism.

Photos courtesy Ellen Batchelor/Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum(2)



**EDUCATIONAL ECLIPSE:** Ahfachkee fifth-grade teacher Alicia Richards shows Ezekiel Billie, 11, how to use the pinhole viewer to see the eclipse Aug. 21.

Beverly Bidney



**SMILING IN THE RAIN:** Elizabeth Stubbs, 5, sports a smile while under a pink umbrella during a rainy Aug. 24 on the Hollywood Reservation.

Kevin Johnson



**EL ESPECTACULAR:** Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens rocks July 29 as singer Marc Anthony entertains a soldout stadium during the FC Barcelona and Real Madrid soccer match, dubbed El Clasico. Barcelona won 3-2 in front of more than 60,000 fans.

Courtesy photo El Clasico Facebook



# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



## Police find loaded gun in suitcase worker was carrying

On July 28, Kimberly Barber, 34, a member of the Navajo Nation and employee of the Navajo Nation Washington Office, was arrested and charged for unlawful possession of a weapon, a misdemeanor, according to an official statement from the U.S. Capitol Police.

However, Barber's lawyer, Charles Galbraith, said she was charged with failure to register a firearm, also a misdemeanor, which was confirmed by court records.

According to a statement by the Capitol Police, Barber entered "the northeast door of the Cannon House Office Building with two suitcases" in Washington, D.C.

When police screened the suitcases, they "discovered a loaded handgun in one of the suitcases."

Barber was then placed under arrest.

According to the Washington Post, a Navajo Nation officer, who is part of the security detail for Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez, had forgotten his two suitcases in his hotel room.

Nez was in Washington, D.C., visiting Rep. Tom O'Halleran, R-Ariz.

Barber was told by a supervisor to bring the officer his suitcases — one of them containing a loaded handgun he had left in his suitcase. Barber said she had no knowledge it was there.

"(Barber) was simply responding to a supervisor and had absolutely no knowledge of the contents of the two bags she was bringing to the Capitol complex," Galbraith said. "Likewise, her supervisor had no knowledge a gun was in one of the bags."

Mihio Manus, communication director for the president's office, said he would not release the name of the officer allegedly involved. Manus also said he had been "briefed on the situation" but couldn't make a comment.

Galbraith said Barber "was released the same day she was cited. She was charged by citation. She wasn't indicted."

Barber was arraigned on Aug. 2 where she pleaded not guilty to the misdemeanor charge. Her next court date is Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. for a status hearing in the D.C. Superior Courts.

Jackson Brossy, executive director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office, in a text message said, "... the bottom line is I take the issue very seriously and when all the facts are all out I am confident justice will be served and innocent people will be exonerated."

Brossy could not comment any further.

"Our lawyers advised I not comment as there are two ongoing investigations on the issue," Brossy said.

Barber has been working for the NNWO since 2014 as an administrative service officer. In an official statement, Galbraith said, "Ms. Barber has been a dedicated employee of the Navajo Nation Washington Office."

Galbraith said Barber and the Navajo Nation "will continue to fully cooperate with the Capitol Police and the District of Columbia to ensure this unfortunate incident comes to a quick and just conclusion."

Barber's clans are Red Running Into The Water, born for Gray Streak Ends. She is from Breadsprings, New Mexico, and is a graduate of Arizona State University.

- Navajo Times

## Remains of Northern Arapaho children buried in Carlisle to be returned to their tribes

**CARLISLE, Pa.** — A team of archaeologists began working Aug. 8 to excavate the remains of three Native American children buried in Carlisle and return them to their Northern Arapaho Tribe in Wyoming.

The children — Little Plume,

Little Chief and Horse — are buried in a fenced-in cemetery on the grounds of the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Cumberland County. The cemetery contains the graves of students who attended the former Carlisle Indian Industrial School, which between 1879 and 1918 served as a boarding school for thousands of Native American children. Officials suspect many of the children buried there died of infectious diseases.

Little Plume, Little Chief and Horse are the first three children to be returned to their tribe, but officials with the Office of Army National Military Cemeteries expect there will be more, similar efforts in the future.

- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

## Neligh holds memories for Ponca tribe

**NELIGH, Neb.** — Residents here still honor a promise they made 140 years ago.

The evidence is on a grassy hill overlooking this Antelope County community. The Laurel Hill cemetery isn't much different from any other, but on any given day, there is always one headstone more decorated than the others.

Because when the people of Neligh promised to care for the grave, they meant it.

White Buffalo Girl has been buried in the cemetery since she died in 1877, and her story is told at the Antelope County Museum here.

Levern Hauptmann, a director at the museum, said the museum is proudest of its collection of American Indian artifacts from the area.

Cases near the front of the museum showcase the work of Harry Marwood of Clearwater who collected arrowheads and arranged them for display.

What makes the exhibit special, Hauptmann said, are the three or four arrowheads with metal tips. These are rare finds because the metal often erodes, leaving only the stones to be found.

Experts have examined the arrowheads and concluded they're from several different areas, which is logical because of the trading Northeast Nebraska people did with other tribes.

Near the arrowheads is a wall roll, much like wall maps in schools. It was created and used by a priest in 1885. By putting pictures beside his best spelling of the Ponca language, the priest helped Ponca children re-learn their language.

And another display case has a collection of moccasins and similar items. Experts have examined these items as well and determined the most valuable is a small beaded bag because of its intricate beadwork.

"Most of our information comes from South Dakota colleges and Native American studies professors," Hauptmann said.

But by far the museum display that gets the most attention is the White Buffalo Girl exhibit.

In 1877, the Ponca people were forced to move to present-day Oklahoma, then known as "Indian Territory." Because of harsh weather conditions that killed nine people along the way, the tribe's journey is referred to as the Ponca Trail of Tears.

One of the people who died was White Buffalo Girl, the young daughter of Black Elk and Moon Hawk. According to her headstone, she was 18 months old at the time.

The marble stone in the cemetery was erected in 1913, replacing the original wooden cross.

Hauptmann said Black Elk gave White Buffalo Girl's body to the townspeople of Neligh, requesting a Christian burial and that they take care of her grave as if it was for their own people.

The townspeople agreed and for 140 years they've done so.

"It's a sign that a lot of people

know that the Ponca people got a really raw deal," Hauptmann said in reference to their being forced away from their home territory.

Now, the gravesite is decorated with bouquets, pinwheels, stuffed animals and toys. Hauptmann said the site is usually "absolutely loaded with gifts."

In addition, there is a metal silhouette piece depicting a black elk, a hawk, a moon and a white buffalo.

The Ponca people haven't forgotten either.

Six years ago, representatives of the Ponca and Omaha tribes came to Neligh to celebrate the memory of White Buffalo Girl and what she represents. Hauptmann said the tribes gathered with people in Neligh to have a cookout and to present plaques to honor and recognize the town that took care of her.

Starting in late April this year, more than 100 people, mostly Native Americans, started in Niobrara and retraced the steps of the Ponca to Barneston, traveling 285 miles. It was all to commemorate the struggle that took place 140 years ago and to celebrate the dedication of the 20-mile Chief Standing Bear trail.

On their way, not surprisingly, they stopped again in Neligh.

- Norfolk Daily News

## New bill will help Native Americans with higher education

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** — A bill by 2nd District Senator Mike McGuire will have a big impact on low income Native Americans looking to further their education. SB-164 was signed by Governor Jerry Brown and will take effect in January of 2018.

McGuire said that more than one in three Native American kids live in poverty and 22% of adults 25 or older have not finished high school. That is the highest of any ethnic demographic group across all schools.

The bill will provide easier access to community college and priority registration. McGuire felt this will lead to faster degree and certificate completions, more flexibility to balance work schedules and family responsibilities and garner a supportive college environment.

The State of California provides priority registration for veterans, disabled students, foster youth, and CalWorks recipients. Native American students who are on CalWorks were never granted this same access. This bill will remove the significant barrier. It also was a bipartisan success story not receiving any negative votes through every step of the legislative process.

- KIEM-TV

## New memorial will honor heroism of Native American veterans

Reflecting on the service of Native Americans in the United States military, one is likely to picture the embattled Navajo code talkers of World War II, whose decryption-resistant communications stymied the Japanese and proved instrumental in securing key Allied victories in the fight for the Pacific.

A sterling example of Native American warriors' composure and commitment under pressure, the code talkers' story is but a small piece of a much larger narrative. Too often forgotten, the depth of sacrifice of all manner of Native American peoples across American history cannot be overstated.

As of now, 140,000 living Native Americans are veterans of the U.S. military—more than 16,000 of them female. This in addition to the 31,000 American Indian and Alaska Native servicemen and women who are currently fighting on behalf of this country abroad.

"We have so much to celebrate," says Ben Nighthorse Campbell, an ambassador for the Cheyenne people

who has served his country as both a Korean War combatant and Colorado senator. "Like so many others, I was compelled to serve to honor the warrior tradition that is inherent to most Native American societies—the pillars of strength, honor, pride, devotion and wisdom."

The National Museum of the American Indian has announced that it will be soliciting designs for a Native American Veterans Memorial. The competition opens on November 11. Finalist submissions will be chosen by January 25, and the winning design will earn a prominent place on the National Mall.

Veteran's Day is an apt jumping-off point for the conceptualization of this tribute, which will honor Native American personnel who have served patriotically in all branches of the U.S. military dating back to the country's inception.

Congress has declined to apportion federal funds for the memorial, but Kevin Gover, director of the National Museum of the American Indian, is unbowed. Vocal and radically optimistic, Gover does not doubt the resolve of the Native American community to see this project through to completion.

Addressing the museum-going public, Gover exhorted supporters to "participate in this historic moment—for our country, for veterans, and for the Native American communities whose loyalty and passion have helped make America what it is today."

- Smithsonian.com

## Researcher seeks to boost Native Americans' STEM studies

The W.M. Keck Foundation has awarded a three-year, \$300,000 grant to the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement program at Stony Brook University to improve STEM teaching to Native Americans.

This is the second grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation that Stony Brook has announced in a few days, following a \$1 million grant to study how the nutrition of brain neurons affects cognition in aging human beings.

The STEM grant will be used to fund a program titled "Transcending Barriers to Success: Connecting Indigenous Knowledge to Science," designed to improve STEM education for Native American students and promote cultural understanding.

Stony Brook University President Dr. Samuel Stanley Jr. said the funds "will support unique research central to one of Stony Brook University's educational missions — to expand undergraduate education in STEM fields within the context of a diverse society."

The center is a national project within the Department of Technology and Society in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Eliza Reilly, the center's executive director, said she will use the funds to expand an educational model for advancing STEM learning in indigenous communities in Hawaii and extend it to Alaska and to "selected pilot projects in other states."

"We have well established projects with Alaska and Hawaii that we are developing further and extending to other states," she said, although she noted New York was not among those.

Forty-one courses being taken by 1,000 students in areas such as chemistry, biology and environmental science will be revised with the help of 37 Native American leaders.

The Keck Foundation, which has more than \$1 billion in assets, is one of the largest philanthropic organizations based in California.

Established by William Myron Keck, founder of The Superior Oil Company, the foundation focuses on making a difference in society, as well as in science.

- Long Island Business News

## Native American running for GOP lieutenant governor spot

Kelly Zunie, who served as Cabinet secretary of the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department for nearly three years before stepping down in July, will seek the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor.

Zunie, who was the first woman to lead the department, would make New Mexico history as the first Native American to run for lieutenant governor on the Republican ticket if she secures the nomination.

"It's always good when Native women step up to run for office," said Debra Haaland, former chairwoman of the state Democratic Party and the first Native American to become part of a major-party gubernatorial ticket when she ran for lieutenant governor alongside gubernatorial candidate Gary King in 2014.

"I definitely wish her the best of luck," said Haaland, who is running for Congress in Albuquerque.

Zunie, a member of Zuni Pueblo, so far is the only Republican seeking the party's nomination for lieutenant governor, and U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce of Hobbs is the only Republican seeking the nomination for governor. Pearce's campaign did not return messages seeking comment.

Brian Sanderoff, an Albuquerque-based pollster and political analyst, said it's not unusual for gubernatorial candidates "to seek out racial or geographic balance" to the ticket.

"With Kelly Zunie, you get gender, racial and geographic diversity compared to Steve Pearce, as an example, if he were to get the Republican nomination," Sanderoff said.

But at the end of the day, Sanderoff said, voters tend to vote for the top of the ticket. "Frankly, when push comes to shove, most people will ultimately decide who to vote for based on the gubernatorial candidate," he said, "and the lieutenant governor candidates tend to take a back seat in terms of visibility as the campaign progresses and you move toward election day."

Zunie did not return messages seeking comment. She has announced plans to kick off her campaign at a 5:30 p.m. Thursday event at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

Zuni Pueblo Gov. Val Panteah Sr. said Zunie appeared excited when she showed up at tribal offices Tuesday to invite the tribal council to her announcement.

"She's a very outgoing person," Panteah said. "She really believes in helping people. I know that when she was the secretary of Indian Affairs, I thought she did a lot for the pueblos and other native people within the state of New Mexico. As far as her people here, she's been a part of a lot of the events and just been a part of Zuni."

Zunie joined state government as deputy secretary of Indian Affairs in July 2014. Gov. Susana Martinez tapped Zunie to lead the agency in December 2014. Zunie had previously worked for Rocky Mountain Power in Utah as a disaster and risk intern, administrative assistant and then as a business analyst, according to her LinkedIn profile.

Zunie has a bachelor's degree from George Wythe University, a small liberal arts school in Salt Lake City, Utah, and a master's in public administration from Brigham Young University, as well as a certificate in massage therapy, according to her LinkedIn profile.

So far, four Democrats are seeking the party's nomination for governor. They are Albuquerque businessman Jeff Apodaca, state Sen. Joe Cervantes of Las Cruces, alcohol-abuse counselor Peter DeBenedittis of Santa Fe and U.S. Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham of Albuquerque.

- Santa Fe New Mexican



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HOLLYWOOD, FL



# Education



## Students honored for academic achievements

BY LI COHEN  
Staff Reporter

**DAVIE** — The school year may have just started, but recognizing academic accomplishments does not have a set term.

To bring in the new academic year and motivate students to pursue high academic standards, the Center for Student Success and Services honored students' academic achievements from the 2016-17 school year Aug. 8 at Signature Grand in Davie.

CSSS staff recognized recent high school graduates and students who maintained perfect attendance and/or maintained a 2.5 GPA or higher. Students from all reservations were included in the ceremony, where they received medals and certificates for their accomplishments.

Randall Budde, CSSS director, congratulated students on their hard work throughout the past year. He encouraged students to remain proactive in their endeavors and strive to improve every day.

"Do well in school for yourself," he said. "By being a proactive person, nothing will get in your way."

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola told students that they should look to the successes of fellow tribal members to motivate them. Nearly 150 tribal members are pursuing higher education in college, vocational and technical schools. Sixty-five of those students graduated just this summer and he explained that is something to be

proud of.

"Those [students] who go all the way and graduate, you're setting a great example for the rest of the kids out there," Councilman Osceola said. "[Students] have a unique opportunity here at the tribe. You can be as educated as you want to be here. ... When you get out of high school you can go to any college you want to. There are bigger and better things out there."

One of those recent graduates, basketball standout Skyla Osceola, recalled how it was the motivation to succeed that helped her graduate from American Heritage School and obtain a full scholarship to Nova Southeastern University. Although she felt directionless for a brief time while recovering from a serious basketball injury in her junior year, she wanted nothing more than to succeed, even if that meant changing her direction.

"I knew God put me through that for a reason and I got through it," she said. "I'm going to major in exercise and sports science. I'm going to graduate college and I'm going to make my family proud."

As the ceremony ended and families congratulated students for their accomplishments, the words of Councilman Osceola continued ringing.

"One thing nobody can ever take away from you is your education. Once you have an education you have it for the rest of your life," he said.



McKenna Smith is congratulated by Elizabeth Shelby, education outreach advisor for Tampa, during an awards ceremony hosted by the Center for Student Success and Services on Aug. 8 in Davie.



Li Cohen

Madison Phillips gets recognized for a perfect GPA and attendance in elementary school.



Li Cohen

Christine McCall smiles after receiving an award.



Li Cohen

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola encourages students to pursue excellence in education.



Li Cohen

Annie Jumper leaves the stage with her well-earned academic recognitions.

## Preparations commence for SAT testing

BY LI COHEN  
Staff Reporter

Getting into college takes more than high grades and a substantial list of extracurricular activities. Students who plan to further their education are usually required to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test, more commonly referred to as the SAT.

To help students prepare for this exam, College Board, the organization that creates and grades the SAT, created a practice SAT site that personalizes training for students. The site includes eight official full-length practice tests with study and test taking tips, tailored practice suggestions based off of PSAT results, thousands of practice questions and video lessons, and constant feedback on progress. The opportunity was created in conjunction with Khan Academy, a non-profit only study resource.

Sarah-Joy Somarriba, higher education academic and career advisor at the Center for Student Success and Services, said the new training program will help 'even out the playing field' so all students can effectively

prepare for the SAT.

"One-on-one tutoring can be kind of pricy so not everyone has access to it," she explained. "[College Board saw] that people who devote at least 20 hours every week [to studying] increase their score by 100 points on average."

With the new site, students will receive personalized instruction that they can complete at times best for them, such as during study hall at school or on weekends. Students who are simultaneously being tutored by CSSS can take practice results to their tutors to further their test preparation.

Somarriba said students should take the SAT two to three times because most of the time, scores increase as students become more comfortable with the test's structure.

"The SAT is an endurance test; it's a couple of hours," she explained. "Most students are not used to testing for hours on end, so they have to train mentally. ... You need that coaching to help get you to that level."

She recommended that students start

practicing as early as possible, taking the PSAT during freshman and sophomore years to prepare for the official test junior year. Ideally, students should have their official scores for college applications by December of their senior years to meet college deadlines and qualify for programs and financial aid.

"The earlier you start, the less stressful it all is because by the time you're in your junior year, you know the drill," Somarriba said.

In addition to SAT practice, the new site also provides assistance for other subjects. Upon signing up, students can select different subjects, including math, science and engineering, computing, economics and finance, and more. They can even receive personalized instruction for other exams, including the MCAT, GMAT, IIT JEE, and NCLEX-RN.

Students can meet with advisors for further assistance. For more information or to sign up, visit [satpractice.org](http://satpractice.org) or contact CSSS at [HigherEd@semtribe.com](mailto:HigherEd@semtribe.com) or 954-989-6840.

## Upcoming college scholarship deadlines

### Moolah Scholarship

High schoolers 16 years and older who plan to attend any accredited college or university can apply for this \$1,000 scholarship. Apply by Aug. 31 at [moolahspot.com/scholarship/index.cfm](http://moolahspot.com/scholarship/index.cfm).

### Stokes Educational Scholarship

This \$30,000 scholarship and internship with the National Security Agency is for high school seniors interested in computers. Apply by Oct. 31 at [intelligencecareers.gov/icstudents.html?agency=nsa](http://intelligencecareers.gov/icstudents.html?agency=nsa).

### Bellhops Moving Forward Scholarship

Graduating high school senior or current college students with a 3.0 GPA can apply for the \$1,000 scholarship. Apply by Sept. 15 at [getbellhops.com/scholarship](http://getbellhops.com/scholarship).

### Craig McConnel Scholarship Program

Registered students at a college or university can apply for this \$500 scholarship. Apply by Dec. 1 at [craigmcconnel.com/scholarship](http://craigmcconnel.com/scholarship).

### JumpStart Scholarship

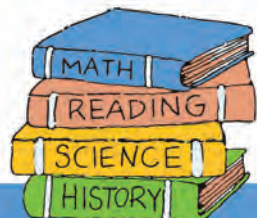
High school sophomores, juniors and seniors, as well as college and adult students who are using education to better their lives and their communities can apply to this \$1,000 scholarship. Apply by Oct. 17 at [jumpstart-scholarship.net](http://jumpstart-scholarship.net).

### Sales Training & Development Scholarship

\$1,000 for high school seniors or college freshmen/sophomores pursuing degrees in business or teaching. Apply by Dec. 31 at [salestraininganddevelopment.com/usascholarship.html](http://salestraininganddevelopment.com/usascholarship.html).



# Back to School



## BACK TO SCHOOL From page 1A

she will definitely bring him back next year. "It was a great event and the kids seemed to really enjoy it," she said. Sporting smiles, PECS and Ahfachkee students headed to their schools to learn what to expect for the upcoming academic year. The meet and greets were an ideal opportunity for students to scope out their seats, teachers to talk to their students and parents to get comfortable with the procedures of the schools.

"This is a time to get prepared for the coming school year," said PECS principal Brian Greseth. "Some kids are ready for school and some would like another week off, but most are excited to get back into the groove."

At the PECS open house, parents and students received all the information they needed about busses, classroom assignments, pick up and drop off details, sports teams, the Skyward online parent portal to the classroom and more. Then it was off to meet the teachers.

Classrooms were decked out in their first-day finery with tidy desks and plenty of information, and for some, candy treats. At least one classroom had words of encouragement posted on the walls, including the pearls of wisdom, "I'm not telling you it's going to be easy. I'm telling you it's going to be worth it," and "Try again. Fail again. Try again."

Sisters Joss and Nena Youngblood explored Nena's sixth-grade social studies classroom.

"I'm looking forward to people being more mature this year," said new middle-schooler Nena, 11. "That will help me focus on school; they used to be so loud."

The girls were accompanied by older sister Acealyn Youngblood, who had some useful advice for the eighth- and sixth-graders.

"Turn in your work on time, pay attention and be respectful to your teachers," said Acealyn, 21, a student at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Fifth-grader Kalissa Huff met her science teacher Renea Finney with her first-grade sister Jenna and parents Tracy and Chad. Kalissa likes science because of the hands-on experiments and activities and is

looking forward to the class. Finney gives students plenty of opportunities for group project work.

"I want the students to get a love of science," said Finney, who teaches third-, fourth- and fifth-grade science. "Girls tend to think it's a boy thing, but I want to make it fun and hands-on so it sticks in their brains. Science doesn't have to be intimidating."

Jade Osceola met with students and parents in her seventh- and eighth-grade Creek classroom and shared her expectations for the school year.

"I want students to be more organized," Osceola said. "Skyward can help them keep up and check what is missing. This class counts for high school credit so I expect them to be as organized as high school students."

Ahfachkee parents and students were welcomed by Principal Dorothy Cain and staff at the school's sneak peek. Cain wanted to make sure students knew exactly where to go on the first day. The school hired an assistant principal, guidance counselor and 14 new teachers over the summer.

Third-grade teacher Jennifer Soterakis answered questions from students and parents during the open house: Yes, there will be homework every day, including the first day and cursive will be taught much later in the school year. She told the inquisitive parents they have "bigger fish to fry", including multiplication, division, fractions, word problems, daily reading groups and novel reading.

"I will teach them the classroom procedures so they can learn. When a classroom is in chaos, there is no learning going on," Soterakis said. "During group work on projects it may be noisy but it won't be disorganized. I run a very tight classroom. When they follow procedures, we will get to have some fun."

Most of the new teachers are education veterans with many years of experience under their belts. Fourth-grade teacher Julie Armband taught in Broward County for 24 years before making the change to Ahfachkee and eagerly anticipates teaching children from a different culture than her own.

"I am excited about the adventure of learning a new culture," she said. "This is a fresh start and I look forward to seeing the children's shining faces every day."

Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade language, reading and journalism teacher Ingrid Isaacs is from Broward and is in her 25th year of teaching.

"I want to learn the Seminole culture," she said. "I'm elated to be here and to learn something new. You never want to become complacent."

While touring the middle school social studies classroom, eighth-grader Athena Bert, 13, gave her younger sister, sixth-grader Lania Bert, 11, a heads up on middle school.

"Know where you're heading and what time you have to be in your next class," Athena said.

Middle school social studies teacher Mike Daniels spent a dozen years teaching in Honolulu, Hawaii and made the move to Ahfachkee after meeting Cain at a teachers' event in the spring.

"The school has a sense of purpose, which is a nice to find in a school," Daniels said.

For teachers, the beginning of school brings the promise of a year to be spent engaging young minds and preparing their students for the future. At PECS and Ahfachkee, the foundation is set and the students are off and running.



Maverick and Myra Osceola walk their daughter, Cali, to her first day of school at Ahfachkee School.

Li Cohen



Kindergarten student Onnie Cypress, 5, looks through the PECS yearbook with teacher Missy Farless at the school's open house Aug. 8.

Beverly Bidney



Chelsey Motlow gives the first day of school at Ahfachkee a 'thumbs up.'

Li Cohen



Indiah Cypress shows her excitement for the first day of school at Ahfachkee.

Li Cohen



Signs of encouragement fill a board at PECS for the return of students.

Beverly Bidney





Li Cohen

Among the many activities at the Hollywood Back to School Bash was the giant waterslide that exited directly into the pool. Children instantly dubbed it a fan favorite and practiced various tricks and spins as they caught air.



Beverly Bidney

Science teacher Renea Finney talks to fifth-grader Kalissa Huff, 10, and parents Chad and Tracy Huff at the PECS open house. Kalissa likes science and looks forward to doing 'cool' activities and learning more.



Beverly Bidney

Immokalee girls enjoy some fun time before school starts at the Back to School Bash in Immokalee.



Li Cohen

Ahfachkee students get ready to head to class as they get off the bus on their first day of school.



Li Cohen

Mercedes Osceola and her son Braxton cool off in the shade at the Hollywood Back to School Bash.



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee fourth grade teacher Julie Armband gives a thumbs up to Shwayte Billie, 10, and his mother Lisa Billie at Ahfachkee's Sneak Peek Aug. 11.



Beverly Bidney

Fourth-grader Taycee Sanchez, 10, strings beads at the Immokalee Back to School Bash August 7. He likes math and reading and is ready to get back to school.



# Student ambassador program leads students to success

BY LI COHEN  
Staff Reporter

Figuring out a career path takes much time and advisement. With the help of the Center for Student Success and Services' new student ambassador program, however, this process has become a lot easier.

CSSS created the program to match up tribal college students and seasoned professionals with tribal members looking to pursue higher education or enter the work force. Many of the volunteers who serve as ambassadors will include college juniors and seniors, business owners and those who completed technical programs.

Tomasina Gilliam, who works in Advanced Career Development, said CSSS came up with the idea for the program after receiving feedback that tribal students want more personal guidance when figuring out

the next steps into adulthood. The volunteer program connects all students, regardless of age, to professionals so that they can succeed in their future endeavors while maintaining a sense of community.

"We saw that a lot of students took interest in the college world and said they would feel more comfortable talking to someone from their community who has been through what they're currently going through," Gilliam explained. "It's really about developing a relationship and helping each other grow in the community to cultivate leaders."

There is no limit for how long individuals can participate in the program.

Even though the program just started, the office has already received interest from community members who want to become ambassadors. To serve as volunteers, individuals must have established good grade point averages in college and show

good standing with the community. The department matches volunteers with tribal students based on the students' career goals and college interests. Gilliam said this is better for students because many of the employees who traditionally help them pursue higher education are not tribal members and therefore cannot always relate to issues or obstacles tribal students face. The program helps establish a more trusting and comfortable environment.

"This program is beneficial because it's more community based," Gilliam said. "You're talking to a tribal member who is successful in the route you're trying to go or who has insight ... you're establishing a relationship with another tribal member."

To sign up or learn more information, contact CSSS at 954-989-6840.

# Boys and Girls Club teaches kids kindness

BY LI COHEN  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** —The Boys and Girls Club in Hollywood is more than just an extracurricular venture for children; the organization aims to mold children into community leaders.

To celebrate the end of summer and kick off the new academic year, the club hosted Kindness Week from Aug. 7 to 11. During the week, members participated in service events that aimed to help various aspects of the community. Activities included making pillows to give to foster children through Project Linus, writing cards for military service men and women, creating care packages for Hollywood's Paws 2 Care Coalition, Inc., putting together small bags with snacks and goods for the Seminole Police Department and Fire and Rescue Department, and showing love for their families by crafting picture frames filled with photos of themselves and their siblings.

This is the first time the Tribe's Boys and Girls Club held a week of service. Valentina Arce, Boys and Girls Club youth coordinator, said they plan on hosting it again, as the children were clearly positively impacted by the projects.

"I just wanted to expand [the service the kids already do]. ... They did one act of random kindness event last year, but we stepped it up to do it for a week," Arce said. "[The students] started asking about more things. At first for example, with the pillows, they wanted to keep the pillows. They didn't understand why they were making them to give them to someone else ... then at the end they wanted to make more pillows to give away."

In just one week, 25 kids logged more than 200 service hours doing the kindness-oriented activities. The hours were submitted to Boys and Girls Club of America's Million Members, Million Hours program, a national effort to get kids throughout the country to put in 1 million hours of community service by 2020. Nearly 90 Tribal students participated in this program throughout the summer.

The initiative and the responsibility children learned is something that Arce said will contribute to a sustainable future for children and their communities.

"It teaches the members while they're young about giving back and dedicating a little bit of their time to others and the community," she said. "It helps mold them for the future. They're not just kids, they're our future leaders."

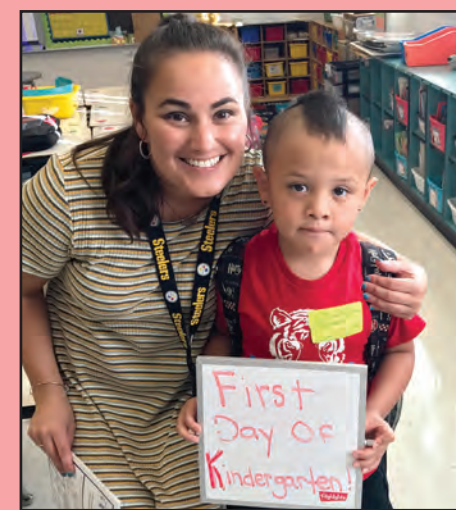
# Students attend Florida Indian Youth Program and Leadership Academy



During the summer, tribal students from around the country attended the Florida Indian Youth Program and Leadership Academy in Tallahassee. Thirty-six students participated in the program, including some from the Seminole Tribe. Pictured Mikayela Cypress, above, and Allegra Billie, below, both of whom attended the program.



# Kindergarten superstar



Chris Jimmie recently attended his first day of kindergarten. The occasion was a huge event for Chris and his family. Chris's parents are Michael Jean and Chris Jimmie of Valrico, Florida, who say they are incredibly proud of Chris and his siblings. Chris is attending Lithia Springs Elementary School along with several of his siblings for the 2017-18 school year.

# AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM Seminole Discovery Days



Bring your friends & family for summer fun!

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# Center for Student Success & Services

BELOW IS A LIST OF SOME OF THE SCHOOLS IN FLORIDA AND THEIR DEADLINES FOR THE FALL 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR.



JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ANY INDIVIDUAL LOOKING TO ATTEND A FOUR YEAR SCHOOL NEXT YEAR SHOULD KEEP THIS INFORMATION HANDY!

Name of School	Priority Application Deadline	Regular Application Deadline	Essay Required	SAT/ACT Required	Average GPA	25th-75th percentile range
Florida State University Tallahassee, FL	11/01/2017	02/07/2018	Yes	Yes	3.25-3.75	SAT: 1200-1340 ACT: 26-30
University of Florida Gainesville, FL	NA	11/01/2017 —after is space only	Yes	Yes	3.5-4.0	SAT: 1250-1440 ACT: 27-31
University of South Florida Tampa, FL	11/01/2017	03/15/2018	No	Yes	3.0-3.5	SAT: 1190-1320 ACT: 27-31
University of Central Florida Orlando, FL	01/01/2018	05/01/2018	Encouraged but not required	Yes	3.25-3.75	SAT: 1150-1330 ACT: 29-34
University of Miami Coral Gables, FL	11/01/2017	01/01/2018	Yes	Yes	3.5-4.0	SAT: 1280-1460 ACT: 28-32
Florida International University Miami, FL	11/01/2017	05/01/2018	For SAT/ACT only	Yes	3.25-3.75	SAT: 1120-1280 ACT: 22-27
Nova Southeastern University Ft. Lauderdale, FL	NA	04/01/2018	Optional	Yes	3.0-3.5	SAT: 1000-1290 ACT: 22-29
University of North Florida Jacksonville, FL	10/31/2017	Rolling admission deadline	No	Yes	3.5-3.5	SAT: 1060-1300 ACT: 22-27
University of West Florida Pensacola, FL	11/01/2017	06/01/2018	Optional	Yes	3.0-3.5	SAT: 1020-1200 ACT: 20-26
Florida Gulf Coast University Ft. Myers, FL	11/15/2017	05/01/2018	No	Yes	3.0-3.5	SAT: 1060-1220 ACT: 22-26

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# Summer fun with a splash

## Students spend the day at Splash Dash in Big Cypress, Immokalee

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Kids in Big Cypress and Immokalee spent a hot summer's day June 28 cooling off with some wet and wild activities thanks to the health department, recreation, Boys & Girls Clubs and the Seminole fire department.

The dash part of the program was intended to get the kids moving, which they did with abandon as they played in the slip-n-slides, participated in relay races and obstacle courses and gathered like moths to a flame to the continual soaking of the fire hoses.

"Normally we have a Fourth of July Walk, but this year we tried something different to get them active," said Andrea

Kuzbyt, Immokalee health nutrition counselor. "Hydration and overheating are real issues during the summer. We try to make physical activity fun."

The fire department set up a truck and doused the kids, who couldn't get enough of the water in the 90-plus heat of the day. In Big Cypress, the kids took over the veterans park with water features just about everywhere. If the water didn't do the trick, cold watermelon and snow cones were available in the shade of the pavilion.

"We like to change it up so the kids can continue to enjoy our events," said Jamie Diersing, Big Cypress health educator. "We want them to play outside and have fun with their friends. It helps them get the one hour of daily physical activity recommended by the American Heart Association."



Ariel Concepcion enjoys the thrill of a slip-n-slide at the Immokalee splash dash June 28.

Beverly Bidney



Jayde Billie enjoys the mist from the fire hose manned by firefighter paramedic Roberto Soto.

Beverly Bidney



Smeegle Sanders creatively cools off.

Beverly Bidney



Joe Don Billie finishes a dash around the Big Cypress Veterans trail and is rewarded with a refreshing soaking from a fire hose.

Beverly Bidney



Kids in Big Cypress complete the dash part of the splash dash June 28.

Beverly Bidney

## NIEA to host convention and trade show in Orlando

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**ORLANDO** — The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) will host its 48th annual Convention & Trade Show in Orlando at the Caribe Royale from Oct. 4-7. This year's theme, "Building Education Nations by Amplifying Innovative Voices," brings together Native educators, students, and advocates focused on improving the

academic achievement of Native students.

"The NIEA Convention creates a unique opportunity for educators, advocates, and tribal leaders to share successful teaching strategies and seek solutions for challenges faced in school systems. We offer a meaningful space for stakeholders to discuss, network, learn, and guide policy and advocacy at a national level," NIEA Executive Director Ahniwake Rose said in a

press release.

"Our Convention is a focal point of Native culture and community, and will shape the future of Native education by allowing attendees to immerse themselves in tradition and learn about innovative teaching strategies," added NIEA President Yatibaey Evans.

NIEA Convention attendees will have opportunities to engage in participatory

workshops, research presentations, poster sessions, and keynote addresses from prominent educators and advocates — all focused on advancing educational programming, opportunities, and results for Native students.

The event also offers a trade show, which attracts exhibitors from across the United States including: Native arts and crafts vendors, college and career opportunities,

education resources, and nationally recognized agencies and non-profits.

Registration is currently open for NIEA members and non-members. Also, space is still available for trade show exhibitors.

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



# Hard Rock Stadium unveils phase III upgrades

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**MIAMI GARDENS** — The Miami Dolphins unveiled their latest phase of a \$500-million plus renovation at Hard Rock Stadium on Aug. 8.

Privately funded by Dolphins and stadium owner Stephen Ross, the phase III renovations include a new partnership with Aston Martin Residences, new food and beverage offerings, luxury and party spaces and redesigned landscaping and parking.

The renovation brought additional luxury to the midsection of the stadium, renovating the BankUnited Club Level. Hard Rock Stadium's 147 suites were completely renovated, with the suites varying in size from 10 to 50 seats with air conditioning and multi-feed sound systems, refrigerators, ice-makers and private telephone services.

Unveiled in the latest phase, Hard Rock Stadium features theatre boxes on the BankUnited Club Level. These 4 to 6 person individual boxes are located in a shared suite environment with inclusive food and beverage. Hard Rock Stadium also debuted four new corner clubs — including the new UHealth, University of Miami Health System Cornerstone Club — giving suite members access to the corner's interior space and bar.

The latest renovations brought new party terraces on the 300 level of Hard Rock Stadium. These party terraces have a bar that services guests on the concourse, as well as a double-sided bar with awesome views of the field. Each corner includes two semi-private spaces that each can hold up to 100 people — creating a new experience for a total of 800 guests per event. The Dolphins additionally have made a commitment to donate a party terrace of 100 military tickets each game to local U.S. troops.

Throughout phase III of the renovation,



Guests check out the new 300 level party terrace at Hard Rock Stadium on Aug. 8. The new space is part of the most recent phase in the facility's upgrades.

Miami Dolphins

the exterior of the facility saw enhancements in the redesign of the parking lots and landscaping bringing nearly 37,000 new trees and shrubs.

Celebrity chef David Chang will make

his first foray into Florida with the debut of Fuku at the venue. Hard Rock Stadium also will serve new offerings from Coyo Taco, Los Ranchos, Jackson Soul Food, O-B House and Shorty's BBQ.

In 2017, Hard Rock Stadium will introduce three additional premium craft offerings within the Tap Rooms on the north and south sides of the 100 level at the stadium. These selections are in addition

to 16 Florida craft selections in bottles, along with another 18 domestic craft brews, including two Gluten-free craft beers.



Newly renovated suites are part of the BankUnited Club Level.

Miami Dolphins



The UHealth, University of Miami Health System Corner Club is one of four new corner clubs at Hard Rock Stadium.

Miami Dolphins

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# Sports



## Brighton well represented as Moore Haven High football season kicks off

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**MOORE HAVEN** — It didn't take long for players from the Brighton Reservation to make an impact on Moore Haven High School's varsity football season.

On the team's first offensive play in a preseason game against Gateway Charter on Aug. 18, linemen Andrew Fish, Robert Harris and Conner Thomas helped pave a hole for quarterback John Cox to gallop 60 yards.

That trio — which brings the Terriers plenty of size and strength up front — are only half of the Brighton contingent on this year's squad. Robert's brother Richard started at defensive end, freshman Jaylen Baker made an immediate impact on special teams and defense, and defensive lineman Jarrett Bert saw brief playing time before a storm forced the game, which Moore Haven won 41-0, to end after three quarters.

"Those kids from the Tribe do a heck of a job. They're hard workers," said Moore Haven first-year head coach Max Manin.

In his third year, Thomas is the veteran of the group. The junior started at right guard right next to 6-foot-5, 320-pound right tackle Robert Harris with 6-foot-4, 300-pound Fish on the other end at left tackle.

"I like it," said the 6-foot, 290-pound Thomas, who also handled center duties on extra points. "We finally have some big guys on the line this year. From what I saw tonight, I think we're going to be very good."

Baker, one of 10 freshmen on the Terriers roster for the game, made the most



Moore Haven defensive end Richard Harris, center, puts pressure on Gateway Charter quarterback Nickolas Windisch during a preseason game Aug. 18 at Moore Haven High School. With six players from the Brighton Reservation on its roster, including Harris, Moore Haven won 41-0 in a game shortened to three quarters due to poor weather.

Kevin Johnson



Kevin Johnson

Conner Thomas, left, and Andrew Fish comprise two-fifths of Moore Haven's offensive line.

of his opportunities. He made a solo tackle on a kickoff return in the first quarter. Later on defense, he made a few tackles in a series, including one that kept the shutout intact when he brought down a runner as the last defender. Late in the second half, he notched another special teams tackle on a kick return.

Overall, Manin was pleased with his

team's performance, but saw plenty of room for improvement.

"I still think we look like a 7-3 football team. We don't look like a 10-0 football team," he said. "There's still a lot we have to work on."

Moore Haven started the regular season off on a positive note with a 35-0 win against St. Petersburg Catholic on Aug. 25.

Similar to the varsity squad, Moore Haven's JV team features some players from the Tribe, including David King, Corey Jumper, Deagan Osceola and SirMarcus Osceola. The JV's home opener is Sept. 14 against Jupiter Christian at 6 p.m.

### Moore Haven High School

#### 2017 varsity football schedule

- Aug. 25 at St. Petersburg Catholic
- Sept. 1 vs Lake Placid
- Sept. 8 Bye week
- Sept. 15 vs St. John Neumann
- Sept. 22 at Comm. School of Naples
- Sept. 29 vs Glades Day
- Oct. 6 at Southwest Florida Christian
- Oct. 13 at Oasis
- Oct. 20 vs Mulberry
- Oct. 27 vs First Baptist Academy
- Nov. 3 at LaBelle



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven offensive lineman Robert Harris gets ready to face Gateway Charter in a preseason game Aug. 18 at Moore Haven High School.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Jaylen Baker makes a tackle during the Terriers' 41-0 preseason win against Gateway Charter on Aug. 18 at Moore Haven High School. Baker was one of the leading tacklers in the game.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's 6-foot-4 offensive lineman Andrew Fish proves to be a tough match for Gateway Charter.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Jaylen Baker, right, and Jarrett Bert watch action in the Terriers' 41-0 preseason win against Gateway Charter.



# Nationz squad battles to third place finish in Kansas tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

A trip halfway across the country proved to be worthwhile for some Seminole basketball players and coaches.

The Nationz team, which was guided by head coach Preston Baker of Brighton and featured his son Alyke Baker, and Ricky Garza, of Big Cypress, finished in third place out of 60 teams in the 11th and 12th grade division at the Mid-American Youth Basketball's Nationals held Aug. 3-6 in Wichita, Kansas.

Nationz was the lone squad from the Eastern U.S. Most of the teams came from Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming.

Nationz's squad also included players from Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

The team lost its first two games in pool play, but shrugged off the slow start to win four straight before falling in the semifinals in its fourth game of the day Aug. 5.

"I was proud of them. They played good ball. They played good

all-around ball," said coach Baker.

After losses to teams from Kansas and Texas to start the tournament, Nationz found its groove and churned out a pool round win against KC Swish (Missouri) and playoff wins against the Texas Rebels Elite (82-72), Missouri's SWMO Suns (72-60) and the Texas Blue Devils (74-69). The Oklahoma Honey Badgers finally cooled off Nationz with a 77-66 semifinal win.

"We sort of ran out of gas," coach Baker said.

Central Kansas Elite won the tournament.

A Nationz team in the 8th grade division didn't fare quite as well as the older group. The team, which included Brighton's Nakai Alex, Ramon Baker, Dathen Garcia and Donovan Harris, went 0-4 with setbacks to teams from Illinois, Kansas and Texas.



Courtesy Photo

The Nationz team gathers around the third place trophy it won at the Mid-American Youth Basketball Nationals held Aug. 3-6 in Kansas. Florida was represented by head coach Preston Baker, players Ricky Garza and Alyke Baker along with assistance from Mona Baker, Theresa Frost and Steve Frost. The team also included players from Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

# Hollywood hosts For the Love of the Game tournament

STAFF REPORT

**HOLLYWOOD** — Young basketball players showed their love for the sport at the For the Love of the Game Youth Tournament. Fourteen teams – boys, girls and co-ed – vied for championships in early August at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center.

"I hope this tournament continues to grow and teams from all over Indian Country come down to participate," said tournament director Courtney Osceola, "and also a special thank you to Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola for his gracious support of this tournament and his dedication to the youth of the Seminole Tribe of Florida."

In the 10U division, Lil Dribblers, coached by Cassandra Jones, won the championship. Rising Stars, coached by Issiah Billie, finished runner-up.

Guided by former college star DeForest Carter as its coach, Unconquered captured the 14U division. McDonalding, coached by Paul Buster, took runner-up.

Lady Native Soldiers, coached by Nova Southeastern University player Skyla Osceola, won the 18U girls division. Runner-up was Swoopz, coached by Claudia Gore.

Plainzmen, coached by Russell Archambault, took home the 18U boys title for the second straight year while Canes, coached by Ethel Huggins, finished second.

The tournament's top individual accolades – the MVP awards – went to Jayce Archambault on the boys side and Jolie Woods on the girls side.

The adult section of the tournament will be held Oct. 6-7 in Hollywood. Registration deadline is Oct. 2.



Giovanni Mejia

10U champions Lil Dribblers



Giovanni Mejia

14U champions Unconquered



Giovanni Mejia

Tournament MVPs Julie Woods, above, and Jayce Archambault, below.



Giovanni Mejia

Action from the 18U girls division.



Giovanni Mejia

Action from the 18U boys division.



Giovanni Mejia

18U girls champions Lady Native Soldiers



Giovanni Mejia

18U boys champions Plainzmen





The Lady Seminole have plenty of reasons to smile after they finished second in their pool group and reached the Gold division playoffs at the Native American Basketball Invitational July 9-15 in Arizona.

Courtesy Theresa Frost/Facebook

# Seminole teams shine brightly in Arizona desert

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

A fast start for four Seminole teams helped pave the way to a solid showing at the Native American Basketball Invitational.

The teams – STOF and the Seminole in the boys division and Lady NS and Lady Seminole in the girls division – all made the Gold bracket playoffs after they racked up a 10-2 record in pool play in mid-July at the annual tournament in Arizona that attracts 64 teams in each division.

The Seminole and Lady NS each went 3-0 in the pool round. The Seminole cranked out wins against teams from Alaska, Arizona and New Mexico.

Lady NS dominated all three of their games, winning by an average of 45 points. They beat teams from Arizona and South Dakota.

In the boys playoffs, the Seminole Tribe was guaranteed at least one win in the Gold bracket because STOF and Seminole squared off against each other. STOF won bragging rights thanks to a 59-35 win.

STOF stayed alive the following morning with a 67-51 win against the Cheyenne Dogmen (Montana), but in the afternoon STOF was eliminated in an Elite Eight game with a 69-64 triple overtime loss to Assist Outbreak (Arizona).

Cheyenne Arapaho (Oklahoma) won the boys championship with a 75-71 win against Lower Sioux (Minnesota).

On the girls side, Lady NS won their fourth straight game, 41-35, in a playoff opener against Pueblo Elite (New Mexico). Lady NS's impressive run came to an end in the next game with a 45-39 loss to A1 Elite (Arizona).

Meanwhile, the Lady Seminole fell to Team Legacy (New Mexico), 50-42, in the first playoff round.

Yakama Nation (Washington) won the girls Gold championship, 64-50, against NN Elite (Arizona).



Courtesy photos

Above, Shae Pierce takes a free throw during the NABI in Arizona. Below, the Seminole, which went 3-0 in pool play, gather for a photo.



# Florida State starts season vs 'Bama

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

A championship-worthy tilt will start Florida State's football season when the Seminoles meet Alabama on Sept. 2 in Atlanta.

FSU is ranked No. 3 and Alabama No. 1 in the Associated Press and Coaches' preseason polls. Two Sports Illustrated writers predict those teams will meet again in the national championship game.

As usual, expectations are high this season in Tallahassee, where the Seminoles return 20 starters – including 11 on defense – from last year's team that went 10-3 and edged Michigan in a thrilling Orange Bowl at Hard Rock Stadium.

FSU should be solid at quarterback with Deondre Francois at the helm. The redshirt sophomore threw for 3,350 yards and 20 touchdowns last season and captured the Atlantic Coast Conference Rookie of the Year award.

"He's a big-time player," FSU coach Jimbo Fisher said. "He's tough, accurate and can throw the ball."

Standout defensive back Tavarus McFadden, who was a teammate of the Tribe's Andre Jumper and Blevyns Jumper on state championship teams at American Heritage, tied for most interceptions in the country last season with eight.

Justin Motlow, the first Seminole Tribe of Florida member to play for FSU, returns for his fourth season. Motlow redshirted his freshman year. He appeared in two games in 2015. Last season he did not see any game action. In this year's spring game, the 5-foot-11, 183-pound wide receiver from Tampa

## FSU football

### 2017 schedule

- Sept. 2 vs Alabama (in Atlanta) 8 p.m.
- Sept. 9 vs UL Monroe 7 p.m.
- Sept. 16 vs Miami 8 p.m.
- Sept. 23 vs NC State TBD
- Sept. 30 at Wake Forest TBD
- Oct. 14 at Duke TBD
- Oct. 21 vs Louisville TBD
- Oct. 27 at Boston College 8 p.m.
- Nov. 4 vs Syracuse TBD
- Nov. 11 at Clemson TBD
- Nov. 18 vs Delaware St. (homecoming)
- Nov. 25 at Florida TBD

caught two passes.

FSU's home games are against Louisiana-Monroe, Miami, North Carolina State, Louisville, Syracuse and Delaware State.

The Delaware State game on Nov. 18 is homecoming, which will feature the Tribe's Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola.

The Friday night block parties before FSU home games have shifted this season to the College Town entertainment district located a couple blocks from campus.

Brendan Carter and Renegade VI are back as Osceola and Renegade. The duo has served in those roles since 2014. Media outlets reported that Osceola and Renegade would not be with FSU in its opener against Alabama, which will take place in a new stadium, but rather make their season debut Sept. 9 in Tallahassee.



## BB JUSTIN MOTLOW

- WR, 5-11, 183, R-JR
- Tampa, Fla./Tampa Catholic

2016: Logged reps on scout team during his redshirt sophomore year.

2015: Played in two games contributing on special teams in wins over Texas State and Chattanooga...played on the scout team during his redshirt freshman season.

PERSONAL: Graduated from Tampa Catholic and became the first member of the Seminole Nation to play football for Florida State...grandmother is 100 percent Seminole Indian, and Motlow is 25 percent...played in the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl in Raymond James Stadium...also punted for Tampa Catholic.

FSU football media guide

FSU football's 2017 football media guide entry for the Seminole Tribe's Justin Motlow, who wears No. 86 for the Seminoles.

# High school rodeo season starts in Brighton

BRIGHTON — The Florida High School Rodeo Association will make three visits to the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena on the Brighton Reservation during the 2017-18 season.

The season, which runs from the fall to the spring, will start Sept. 9-10 in Brighton. Other dates scheduled in Brighton are Dec.

2-3 and March 3-4.

FHSRA will be in Okeechobee Feb. 10-11 and return for the state finals May 10-13.

Student officers for the new season are Rana Hilliard (president), Ariana Herrera (vice president) and Blake Crawford (secretary).

# Horseshoe tournaments to be held in BC, Immokalee

The Chairman's Tribalwide Horseshoe Tournament continues in September.

The event features adult, senior and co-ed categories. It will be held Sept. 9 at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress and Sept. 16 at the Immokalee ball fields. Sign-

up time is 9 a.m. for both days and start time is 10 a.m. Lunch, waterslides and music will be provided.

For more information call 863-902-3200, ext. 13324.

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# Opening ceremony highlights from NAIG

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**TORONTO** — Before Team Florida started competition in six sports at the North American Indigenous Games and before its Seminoles went out and captured four gold medals and one bronze along the way, athletes, coaches and parents were treated to a high-energy opening night ceremony July 16.

Thousands of indigneous athletes from throughout Canada and the U.S. filled Aviva Centre on the campus of York University in Toronto.

Early evening storms pushed back the schedule and altered the original plans which would have featured all athletes

parading on the stadium floor. Instead, a few representatives from each team did the honors for their entire squad. For Team Florida, Trevor Thomas and Conner Thomas, both from the archery team, and rifle shooter Eecho Billie walked in the team's colorful jackets while carrying Florida and Seminole signs and flags.

The weather cooperated for the rest of the evening, allowing for an electrifying performance from Native singer Taboo, of the Black Eyed Peas, who brought young athletes to their feet with a high-octane performance alongside dancers.

The next NAIG will be held in 2020. The host is expected to be selected later this year.



Kevin Johnson

Taboo performs on stage during the opening night ceremony for the North American Indigenous Games.



Kevin Johnson

The Team Florida trio of, from left, Trevor Thomas, Conner Thomas and Eecho Billie, parade through the Aviva Centre in Toronto during introductions of each team at the North American Indigenous Games on July 16.



Kevin Johnson

Team Nova Scotia shows its spirit during the opening ceremony.

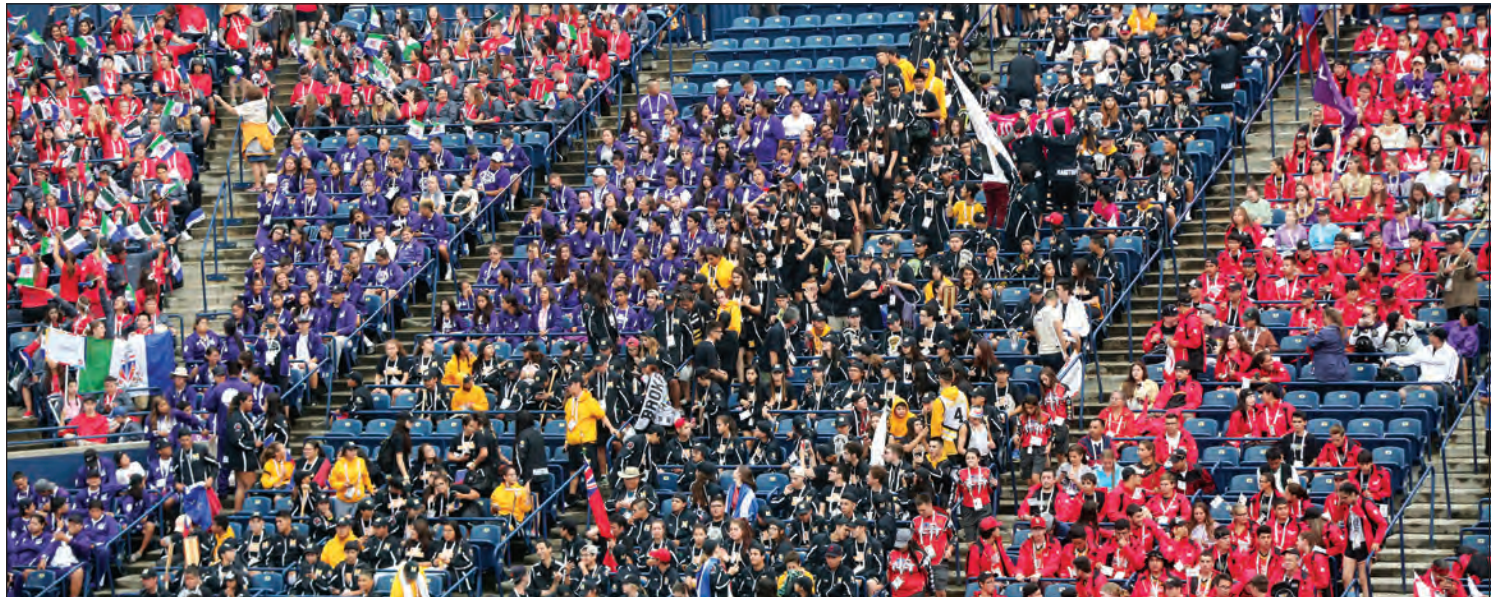


Kevin Johnson  
Team Florida's Kaleb Thomas trades pins before the start of the opening ceremony. The trading of pins among all the teams is a popular tradition at NAIG.



Kevin Johnson

Members of Team Wisconsin carry the Ho-Chunk Nation flag into the Aviva Centre.



Kevin Johnson

Above, Susan Davis shows her spirit in the Team Florida section. At left, the Team Florida contingent gathers for a photo before the start of the opening ceremony.





## 2017-18 Oklahoma City University basketball team includes Curtis Osceola Jr.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Former Anadarko (Okla.) High School multi-sport standout Curtis Osceola Jr. will be lacing up his sneakers for the Oklahoma City University men's basketball team this fall.

Osceola is now part of one of the top NAIA programs in the country. The Stars, as they are known, have won six national championships. Osceola, a guard, is one of just two freshmen on a squad that features eight seniors.

The Stars are coming off a 21-11 season and their third straight NAIA Tournament appearance. It was the program's first 20-win

season since 2008.

The 2017-18 season starts Oct. 28 with a home game against Manhattan Christian. The slate includes games against teams from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, New Mexico and Texas.

As an Anadarko senior last season, Osceola averaged more than 10 points per game and earned All-State honorable mention honors in Class 4A. He also excelled as a wide receiver and cornerback in football. He served as a captain in his senior year and finished second on the team in receptions and interceptions.

In July, he played on a team with his fellow Seminoles from Florida at the Native American Basketball Invitational in Arizona.



Courtesy photo Facebook

Curtis Osceola Jr. is a freshman on the Oklahoma City University men's basketball team.

## FGCU softball announces new recruits, including Ahnie Jumper

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Florida Gulf Coast University softball head coach David Deiros announced Aug. 7 the signing of six new players, including the Seminole Tribe's Ahnie Jumper of the Big Cypress Reservation.

The six newcomers – three freshmen and three transfers – join the five incoming freshmen and one transfer who signed in the fall with the NCAA Division I program in Fort Myers.

"We are very pleased to announce the addition of six talented players to our already strong 2017 recruiting class," Deiros said in a press release. "We believe this group will help us be even more potent at the plate and more versatile in the field."

Jumper, the daughter of Josh and Andrea Jumper, is a three-time state champion and a First Team All-Broward County selection in back-to-back years at American Heritage in Plantation. As a senior in the 2017 season, Jumper hit .488 with six doubles, a triple and a home run to help American Heritage to a Class 6A runner-up finish. Jumper was the team's primary catcher, but she also played other positions.

"Ahnies is a fantastic athlete who can play any position on the field. We love her strength behind the plate and her fearlessness at the hot corner," Deiros said.

Jumper also played volleyball in high school and was a member of the school's inaugural bowling team last winter. She was named American Heritage's Female Senior Outstanding Athlete of the Year in May. She also excels in rodeo and recently qualified for the Indian National Finals Rodeo that will be held in November in Las Vegas. Jumper's older brothers, Andre and Blevyns, won state championships as members of American Heritage's football team.

The five other newest Eagles are Bri Bennett (C - Jacksonville, Fla.), Ashley Biddle (1B - Trenton, Fla.), Farley Callaghan (OF - Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.), Brooke Clemens (C - Rotonda West, Fla.) and Addy Simpson (P/SS - Delray Beach, Fla.).

Deiros has been FGCU's only softball head coach in the program's 15-year history. The team compiled a 30-30 record in 2017 and reached the conference final. In the 2012 postseason, the Eagles notched the university's first NCAA Division I tournament victory in any sport with a 2-1 win against the University of Florida.

FGCU's fall exhibition slate includes seven games, starting with a home game against Miami Dade College on Sept. 30 at noon.



Courtesy photo

After helping American Heritage reach state championship games in four straight years, Ahnie Jumper will continue her softball career at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers.

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# Announcements

## Seminole Hard Rock Tampa steps up to the plate for Boys & Girls Clubs



Hard Rock Tampa /Facebook

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa donates \$10,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay. Hard Rock made the donation at a Tampa Yankees baseball game in late July.

## Hard Rock seeks charities

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**TAMPA** — Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa provides support to various 501 (c) (3) non-profit organizations throughout Tampa Bay and the property is looking for 12 charities to showcase alongside of the 2018 Seminole Hard Rock Girls Calendar.

This partnership will expose the selected charities to thousands of Tampa Bay residents as part of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa's philanthropic efforts, which will raise both funds and awareness for the charity.

During the duration of the charity's selected month, a customized memorabilia item will be created and sold throughout the property retail stores. Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa will donate 100 percent of the proceeds sales to the charity of the month.

To apply, visit [www.seminolehardrocktampa.com/philanthropy.htm](http://www.seminolehardrocktampa.com/philanthropy.htm). The deadline is Sept. 21.

## Seminole Casino Hotel to host Evening with Village People

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**IMMOKALEE** — An Evening with Village People, one of disco's most recognizable and energetic hit-makers, will be held Oct. 21 at 8 p.m. at Seminole Casino Hotel in Immokalee.

Known as the "Kings of Disco," Village People have sold more than 100 million records worldwide since the 1970s with such career defining hits as "Macho Man," "Y.M.C.A.," "In the Navy" and "Can't Stop the Music."

In 1979, the American Music Awards presented the group with the "Favorite Musical Group" award. They also won the American Guild of Variety Artist's Georgie Award, West Germany's Gold Lion Award for Music Excellence, and Brazil's Award for Best Act.

In 1980, Village People starred in their own major feature film, "Can't Stop the Music," co-starring Steve Guttenberg, Valerie Perrine and Bruce Jenner. It remains a popular cult film worldwide. Their music also can be heard in dozens of major motion pictures including "Down Periscope," "Wayne's World II," "Addams Family Values" and "In and Out." In 2008, Village

People received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Most recently, the group released "Let's Go Back to the Dance Floor," its first worldwide single in 25 years. The song was written and produced by KC and the Sunshine Band's Harry Wayne Casey.

Village People are Raymond Simpson (cop and lead singer), Felipe Rose (Native American), Alexander Briley (GI/military), Eric Anzalone (biker), Bill Whitefield (construction worker) and Jim Newman (cowboy).

Concert attendees must be 21 years of age or older.

Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased at the casino, online at [www.jaytv.com](http://www.jaytv.com) or by phone at 800-514-3849.

On Veterans Day Nov. 11, Seminole Casino Hotel will host The Charlie Daniels Band, The Marshall Tucker Band and the Jack Michael Band at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$55. A limited number of \$125 VIP tickets are available, with a private section directly in front of the stage with seating, private bar and two beverages.

Daniels, 80, has received numerous accolades, including his induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

## Unity

Unity is being together or at ONE with someone or something. It is the opposite of being divided.

At what point did we lose that?

Our ancestors didn't intend for our tribe to be where it is now, meaning spiritually.

Financially, yes, they would be proud of where we are today. Can we honestly say as a tribe, would they still be proud? Why would you think they would or not?

Has anyone given any thought to this? Are we content? Have we lost site of the value of our people? Do we not care?

At some point we need to put the unity back in our tribe. We are stronger when we stand together. Sometimes we all don't agree. But it doesn't make anyone right or wrong; it's simply disagreeing.

We need to let whatever it is go so we can work as ONE, to get the unity back into our tribe.

Yes, everyone is busy with their own life. How can we all work together? We can first start by finding every clan represented

on each Rez. Then we can decide on ONE person for each clan to represent them on whichever Rez they stay on. Form a committee. On the outside of tribal affairs, work together to construct a plan, to organize our own Tribal members, descendants' involvement, resources and find solutions to benefit any situation on an individual need.

Time for us to take care of our own people, not relying on non-Natives. This touches on only ONE thing: spiritual healing. Knowing who we are, what we stand for and most of all what was left to us by our ancestors. If any ONE person can read between the lines or can even see where this is going, don't be afraid to make a difference.

Food for thought. Let's put the value back into our people, and go back to how we were, before evil took over.

Your fellow tribal member and sister in Christ,  
**Claudia Gore**

## From Darkness 2 Light

From darkness 2 light through it all I stood strong, those tests of time were rough and that journey was long.

I had the patience that only an unconquered warrior can possess, so when I turned my back it was because there was no end to that miserable mess.

Confined to evil and negativity I still got my mind right, for someone in society to say they can't, they lie, they have no will to fight.

They make excuses and always blame others for their fault, they just don't know how to be grown when they get caught.

It is what it is and this Panther is on the rise, each day I seek knowledge in hopes of one day be wise.

The Creator has blessed me with the abilities to lead, yet the Creator knew I would need that special someone to finally succeed.

From East Los Angeles to the center of my heart, I have been able to correct "my mistake" and make a fresh start.

I'm a Panther, we cats always land on our feet, hashoobome because of that 5'0" tall treat.

I now have a future with no misery around, it will remain that way even when I'm buried in the ground.

From darkness 2 light I am thankful and grateful for this second chance, just as a rose may the blossom commence.

Warrior 4 Life,  
**Ike T. Harjo**  
**Koowaathi**

## Neil Sedaka to take the stage at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**COCONUT CREEK** — Legendary singer, songwriter and composer Neil Sedaka will take the stage in The Pavilion at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek on Friday, October 27, at 8 p.m.

Tickets priced at \$50/\$65/\$80 per person are on sale now via Ticketmaster locations, online at Ticketmaster.com, or by calling 800-653-8000. The Pavilion box office will also open at 1 p.m. on the day of the show for on-site ticket purchases and will call pickup.

Since his music career began in 1957, Sedaka has sold 60 million records and has written or co-written over 500 songs for himself and others.

A Brooklyn, N.Y. native, Sedaka catapulted to stardom after Connie Francis recorded his "Stupid Cupid." She then sang the theme song Sedaka and Howard Greenfield had written for the 1960 MGM spring break classic, "Where the Boys Are," which would be her biggest hit.

Rhythm and blues stars Clyde McPhatter and LaVern Baker also scored hits with his songs. As a result, Sedaka was able to sign a contract with RCA as a writer and performer of his own material, recording chart toppers "The Diary," "Oh! Carol," "Stairway to Heaven," "Calendar Girl," "Little Devil," "Happy Birthday Sweet Sixteen," "Next Door To An Angel," and "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do."

When the British Invasion made it difficult for male solo artists to succeed, Sedaka prevailed as a songwriter, penning hit songs for such artists as Frank Sinatra ("The Hungry Years"), Elvis Presley ("Solitaire"), Tom Jones ("Puppet Man"), The Monkees ("When Love Comes Knocking At Your Door"), and The Fifth Dimension ("Workin' on a Groovy Thing").

Elton John signed Sedaka to his Rocket Records label and began to re-introduce Sedaka to American audiences in the 1970s.

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## Theodore Nelson Sr.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, SW5813, Indian Child Welfare Consultant-Expert, Board Member National Indian Child Welfare Association, Licensed and Insured, Seminole Health Plan Provider

Are you unhappy with your current counseling/child welfare services? Now there are alternative services for you and your family. Philosophically, we all have difficulty balancing social life, culture, health, substance use/abuse, self-esteem, sense of belonging, emotions, our hopes and dreams.

I offer 20 years of professional experience as a qualified therapist working with children, teens and adults in a confidential, private setting in your home or my office. I am available for individual counseling, dependency/custody cases and tribal court; services are available for all reservations.

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