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The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Delta variant takes toll on tribe

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The Covid-19 Delta variant has officials in overdrive to deal with new cases while encouraging those who haven't received a vaccine to do so.

The Seminole Tribe's Health and Human Services (HHS) executive director, Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley, said there's been a steep incline of those in the tribal community testing positive for the virus in the past several weeks. Since the beginning, more than 1,000 have tested positive.

"The Delta variant has done a number on the tribe," she said. "It's much more contagious."

Kiswani-Barley said that in the earlier days of the pandemic when a family member sharing a household with others tested positive, quarantine procedures worked well. It's not always the case with the Delta variant, however.

"Almost everyone in the same household has been testing positive," she said.

In addition, she said, hospitals are once again reaching capacity and critically ill people who require oxygen and a ventilator are being prioritized.

♦ See DELTA on page 9A

Tribal members' hard work reaps benefits during saw palmetto berry season

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The harvest season for saw palmetto berries, or bolitas, is underway and tribal members in Big Cypress and Immokalee lined up for permits to harvest them Aug. 16.

The permits, valid from Aug. 16-22, were granted on a first come, first served basis for just 15 sites in Big Cypress and two in Immokalee. Palmetto berries were put on the state's list of commercially exploited plants in 2018 and permits have been required ever since.

Under the hot summer sun at Big Cypress's old bingo hall site, Environmental Resource Management Department forester Grant Steelman was prepared with permits, a printer and maps of the harvesting sites. He started distributing them at 8:30 a.m.; within 90 minutes all the permits were gone.

The sites, or units, were mapped out using trail lines. Formerly a wildland fire management officer, Steelman is familiar with the land and its trails. He knows where the palmetto bushes are located on each site.

"A small area could have a lot [of berries]; a big area could have nothing," Steelman said.

The berries, which sell for just under \$2 per pound, can be lucrative since pickers can harvest thousands of pounds in just one morning's work. The riper the berries, the more they weigh.



Beverly Bidney

Gil Yzaguirre strips berries off a low to the ground palmetto bush Aug. 16 in Big Cypress.

♦ See BERRIES on page 4A

Native population soars in new Census count

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Data released by the U.S. Census Bureau on Aug. 12 shows the number of people who identify as Native American or Alaska Native alone grew by 27.1% to 3.7 million people from 2010 to 2020. The number represents 2.9% of the overall U.S. population, up from about 1.6% in 2010.

Another 5.9 million people identified as Native American or Alaska Native and another race group, such as white, Black or Asian American. The alone and in-combination population comprised 9.7 million people in 2020 — an increase of 160% since 2010.

At 15.2% (111,575 people,) Alaska had the largest percentage of its population identifying as Native American or Alaska Native alone; New Mexico was second with 10% of its population (212,241 people); and California had the largest population in total numbers with 631,061 people.

The new Census numbers mark the largest Indigenous population in the U.S. in modern history — astonishing when one considers that after decades of mass extermination efforts the population was fewer than 250,000 just before the 20th century.

The jump in the numbers also lines up with an increasingly diverse U.S. population. Census officials said the white, non-Hispanic population (without another race) decreased by 8.6%. The U.S. is now 57.8% white, 18.7% Hispanic, 12.4% Black and 6% Asian.

"America is more diverse than ever. Today's news is great news. It's a strength, not a weakness," Yvette Roubideaux, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and vice president for research and director of the policy research center at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), said during an online press briefing Aug. 12.

Numbers could be greater

Even with Indian Country's increased numbers, officials said there was still likely an undercount. Reasons include widespread pandemic shutdowns, a lack of broadband internet needed for what was the first all-digital Census, a general distrust in the U.S. government among some, online

♦ See CENSUS on page 4A



File photo

Seminole Tribe repatriation committee members Tina Osceola, left, and Domonique deBeaubien, went to Washington, D.C., in late 2020 to push for changes in the National Museum of Natural History's repatriation policy.

Tribe's repatriation efforts extend beyond Smithsonian

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Tribe's ongoing goal to recover ancestral remains and funerary objects from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History has gotten a lot of focus in recent years. It's for good reason — the NMNH has a vast collection of about 1,500 Seminole ancestors and tens of thousands of archaeological artifacts. While the effort has been described as frustrating, tedious and slow, it has also yielded results.

In late 2020 the tribe's eight-member repatriation committee, part of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), were successful in pushing the NMNH to revise its policy regarding human remains and other items. The updated policy includes provisions to repatriate that which was previously identified as "culturally unidentifiable," considered a significant breakthrough.

Domonique deBeaubien, THPO collections manager and member of the repatriation committee, said as important as the NMNH effort is, there's other outreach consistently in progress, too.

"So far in just this calendar year I've worked with at least 28 federal agencies on NAGPRA repatriation-related consultations," she said.

NAGPRA, the Native American Graves

Protection and Repatriation Act, was put in place in 1990 to protect the cultural and biological remains of Native Americans and their ancestors. While the federal law applies to museums, universities, the National Park Service and other institutions, it does not apply to the NMNH or other Smithsonian entities which are covered by a separate repatriation law. Every other federal agency or landowner falls under NAGPRA, and there are also state-level repatriation laws in play.

"On the state side, we've had 15 inadvertent discoveries throughout the state of Florida that we've consulted on," deBeaubien said. "This would include projects that come in from archaeological companies, developers ... where we have to consult quite rapidly and figure out how to protect remains that have been disturbed during construction."

For example, a contractor that is having a road built or a developer in work on a housing community might find remains. Those cases are a big percentage of the tribe's repatriation caseload, deBeaubien said, although such incidents tend to be resolved more quickly. The 15 inadvertent discoveries are relatively recent ones and don't include those from previous years that "roll over," she said, making it a time consuming and complex process.

♦ See NAGPRA on page 4A

THPO monitors FPL solar panel project near Big Cypress

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Since Seminoles have lived throughout the state for hundreds of years, preserving evidence of the past can be a challenge when faced with off-reservation construction projects in areas that are part of the tribe's history.

That's where the Tribal Historic Preservation Office comes in. THPO is responsible for documenting and preserving any historical evidence they can find, some of which is no longer visible. A recent example is the Florida Power & Light's solar panel project just north of the Big Cypress Reservation.

The FPL Sawgrass Solar Energy Center, under construction now, will cover more than 500 acres and contain about 250,000 solar panels. It is expected to be operational in the first quarter of 2022 and will generate 74.5 megawatts of energy at any given time, enough to power about 15,000 homes per year.

The tribe recently approved an alternative mitigation agreement with FPL to ensure culturally significant sites are respected and left alone when possible. The challenge is to preserve an area known only from oral histories and old maps but is no longer intact, such as an old trail on the property that THPO is researching.

"How do you find something from old maps and oral histories when nothing is physically there," pondered Juan Cancel, THPO assistant director. "A lot of stories are there; you can go back to hundreds of years of maps and find a road that has been used and sometimes still is. It's difficult to find where the road would have been historically."

THPO's tribal employees monitor the construction process. The monitors, with vast cultural knowledge, spot things others may miss. The goal is to protect historical sites while working within the bounds of the FPL agreements. The original agreement has been in effect since April 2016.

THPO has surveyed and investigated the site since 2014 using drones, metal detectors and maps. Before construction began, THPO also reviewed archeological surveys and set aside conservation areas which are protected from construction.

Cancel believes the likelihood of finding anything significant is low, but included in

the FPL agreement are some specific areas where old trails are thought to be located. There is a point in which the old trail crosses paths with a newly graded construction road in an area that is not in the conservation area. "You can't fully protect those areas because the trail is unique, transitory and not physical," Cancel said. "To offset any impact, we created the alternative mitigation agreement, which has some covenants and obligations."

For instance, all solar panels must be 50 feet from the center line of the trail to avoid and minimize disturbance of the cultural area. The access road was constructed before the agreement, but THPO took video of the site before the road was built.

Tribal monitors were present during the access road construction, but any new discoveries will be addressed by the tribe, archeologists and FPL through the unanticipated discoveries section of the first agreement.

During the next two years, THPO plans to create a website with a story map of the area and its history, including the old trail. Cancel said it will connect the oral history and maps with video clips of the site today and create a legacy of the cultural landscape.

"Tribal history goes beyond reservation borders," Cancel said. "[The tribe has] always been part of this landscape. If we can connect the history, we can tell the story for the community and the youth so we don't lose it. That's the goal."



Courtesy photo

The solar panels at FPL's Hammock solar energy center in LaBelle.

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Editorial

Congress needs to pass the Native American Voting Rights Act

• **Levi Rickert**

Late last month, one of Indian Country's leading legal scholars, John Echohawk (Pawnee), addressed the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) on the topic of Native voting at its quarterly meeting in Las Vegas.

Echohawk was part of a voting rights program that also included vice president of Fair Count Jeanine Abrams McLean, the sister of voting rights advocate Stacey Abrams. Echohawk's message was that Native people have to stay involved and persuade those who represent them in Congress to pass voting rights law.

Echohawk, who has served as the executive director of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) since 1977, recounted the many years of legal fights against voting discrimination towards Native voters.

"From Alaska, Montana and North Dakota, we have fought and won cases against discrimination cases that tried to suppress the Native vote," Echohawk said.

"Particularly up in North Dakota – it was very obvious. They knew most of our reservation residents did not have street addresses so they passed a law that said you cannot vote unless you have an ID with a street address, not a post office box number on it. Of course, that disqualified our people. That discrimination was very obvious. It was a violation of our rights under the Constitution," Echohawk said.

Echohawk referenced NARF's Native American Voting Rights Coalition that held nine public hearings among Native voters during 2017 and 2018. The group produced a 176-page Obstacles at Every Turn: Barriers to Political Participation Faced by Native American Voters report last June prior to the

2020 presidential election.

"Regardless of whether they live in urban or rural areas, members of the 574 federally recognized tribes face many contemporary barriers to political participation. Although many other American voters share some of these obstacles, no other racial or ethnic group faces the combined weight of these barriers to the same degree as Native voters in Indian Country," the report says.

The report cites several factors that discourage political participation in elections. Among the factors are (1) geographical isolation; (2) physical and natural barriers; (3) poorly maintained or non-existent roads; (4) distance and limited hours of government offices; (5) technological barriers and the digital divide; (6) low levels of educational attainment; (7) depressed socio-economic conditions; (8) homelessness and housing insecurity; (9) non-traditional mailing addresses such as post office boxes; (10) lack of funding for elections; (11) and discrimination against Native Americans.

While Echohawk was pleased with the court victories upholding the voting rights of Native Americans, he said he was troubled by the *Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee* decision by the U.S. Supreme on July 1, 2021 that overturned two Arizona laws that were deemed as restrictive against the Native vote in the state.

Echohawk said NARF represented the National Congress of American Indians in court by filing an amicus brief in *Brnovich* to address these issues.

On the same day the Supreme Court's decision was released, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez told Native News Online "the opinion ignores the unique challenges that many tribal nations face during every election and does nothing to protect our voting rights and increase voting access."

Echohawk says it is important for Congress to pass a comprehensive voting rights law to protect the Native vote. He said Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D—N.M.) plans to reintroduce the Native American Voting Rights Act (NAVRA) originally introduced by Sen. Tom Udall in 2019. The legislation that would ensure equal access to voting for all Native American voters living on tribal lands will empower tribal communities in their efforts to improve access to voter registration, education on voting procedure, and ensuring equal treatment of tribal identification at the ballot box.

"On top of geographic and linguistic barriers that make it harder for tribal members to vote, restrictive and burdensome voter registration requirements and I.D. laws are suppressing the Native vote across America," Lujan said in support of reintroducing the Native American Voting Rights Act while visiting the Navajo Nation in July.

"We really need the Native American Voting Rights Act," Echohawk said. We all have to get involved in the political process in Washington, D.C. This is our only hope. Congress needs to fix what the Supreme Court did. We need to get Congress to act on this now," Echohawk said to conclude his remarks at the COLT meeting.

Indian Country needs to heed the advice of John Echohawk and show our votes and our voices count.

Levi Rickert (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation) is the founder, publisher and editor of Native News Online (nativenewsonline.net). He can be reached at levi@nativenewsonline.net. This editorial was published Aug. 10 on nativenewsonline.net.

Indian Country would see \$12B from infrastructure bill

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The U.S. Senate passed a \$1 trillion infrastructure package Aug. 10, known as the "Invest in America Act." It is a major priority for President Joe Biden and one that has bipartisan support and broad public approval.

The bill now goes to the U.S. House of Representatives for a vote – set to arrive with a larger \$3.5 trillion companion budget resolution for efforts toward health care, climate change and tuition-free community college. It will likely be months before either would reach Biden's desk to be signed into law.

Rehabilitating the nation's roads, bridges, airports and waterways are the top goals in the infrastructure package, which has \$12 billion set aside specifically for Indian Country needs.

It includes \$6 billion for water, sewer and sanitation projects and \$4 billion for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) roads and bridges. BIA roads and bridges are corridors that provide access to tribal communities

(and often the general public) for medical, educational, commercial and recreational services.

The infrastructure bill also includes \$2 billion for more tribal broadband access. Tribes recently received \$1 billion for broadband expansion through Department of Commerce grants.

Indian Country has seen record levels of federal investment from the Biden administration so far this year – \$44 billion in all. The American Rescue Plan accounts for \$31 billion of the total, including investments in the Indian Health Service to help combat the effects of the pandemic and hundreds of millions of dollars for housing and housing assistance initiatives.

Much of Indian Country has been supportive of the Biden administration's overall efforts as it applies to Native Americans. Highlights include restarting and increasing tribal consultations, and the nomination and confirmation of Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) as the first Native American to run the Department of the Interior. She is also the first Native American to hold any cabinet-level position.

Newland confirmed by Senate to serve under Haaland

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Deb Haaland's historic run as secretary of the Department of the Interior has made inroads through Indian Country since her confirmation in March. She now has a right-hand man serving under the DOI at Indian Affairs – Bryan Newland.

Newland was confirmed Aug. 7 by the U.S. Senate as assistant secretary of the Interior at Indian Affairs. He is the former president of the Bay Mills Indian Community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Bay Mills is a reservation that forms the land base of one of the many federally recognized Sault Ste. Marie bands of Chippewa.

Newland was first nominated by President Joe Biden in April to serve in the position – it makes him the highest-ranking Senate-confirmed official in Indian Affairs at DOI. He was previously tapped by Biden in February to serve as the principal deputy assistant to the secretary of Indian Affairs at DOI.

According to the DOI, Newland is responsible for maintaining the government-to-government relationship with 574 federally recognized tribes. He also oversees Haaland's Indian boarding school initiative that was established in June to help uncover histories of the institutions where she said children endured routine injury and abuse.

"We must shed light on what happened at federal boarding schools," Newland said to *Mvskeko Media* in early August. "As we move forward in this work, we will engage in tribal consultation on how best to use this information, protect burial sites and respect families and communities."

More than 40 tribes and tribal organizations supported Newland's nomination.

"I have known Bryan Newland since he was an undergrad and his mother Vicki as a tribal leader in her own right before that," Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians chairperson Aaron Payment said

to Native News Online. "Bryan is a brilliant and pragmatic problem solver. As a former tribal leader and attorney expert in Indian law, he is uniquely qualified to be an excellent assistant secretary of Interior."

After his confirmation, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Chairman Bryan Schatz, D-HI, also noted Newland's experience as a tribal leader, his in-depth knowledge of tribal issues, his expertise in federal Indian law and his understanding of the DOI's role in fulfilling and enforcing federal trust responsibilities to Native Americans.

Newland previously served in the Obama administration as a counselor and policy advisor to the assistant secretary of the Interior at Indian Affairs, where he helped develop policies on Indian gaming, Indian lands and reforming the DOI's policy on reviewing tribal-state gaming compacts. He also led a team that improved Indian leasing regulations at Indian Affairs and worked with key officials to help enact the HEARTH Act of 2012 (Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership).

Before his federal service, Newland was an attorney with Fletcher Law in Lansing, Michigan. He represented tribal clients on the regulation of gaming facilities, negotiation of tribal-state gaming compacts, the fee-to-trust process and the leasing of Indian lands. Newland earned his law degree from Michigan State University College of Law.



Bryan Newland is assistant secretary of the Interior at Indian Affairs.

Saginaw Grant passes on at age 85

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Saginaw Grant, a distinguished Native American actor and hereditary chief and citizen of the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma, passed away from natural causes July 27 at age 85.

Grant's face may have been unmistakable from movies and television, but his acting career started accidentally more than 30 years ago. While attending a writing seminar near San Francisco, a director noticed him and asked if he would appear in a car commercial. He said yes and his Hollywood career began. His first movie was "War Party" in 1988. Since then he has been featured in television shows and movies, including "Breaking Bad" and "The Lone Ranger."

He received a lifetime achievement award from the Oceanside International Film Festival in 2014 and was the recipient of the American Legacy Award from the San Diego Film Festival. During a 2014 visit to the Seminole Tribe, he said the highlight of his career was meeting and connecting with people.

Acting was Grant's profession, but his passion was preserving and protecting Native American culture.

Grant spoke to tribal students at an education expo at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, but his words were meant for adults as well. His mission was to ensure the future is filled with Native Americans who are proud of their heritage and work to keep their culture alive.

"The responsibility of an elder is to pass on the traditions and culture of our people," Grant said in Hollywood. "Your responsibility is to listen to what your grandfather told you. Learn your language and do the things our people have done for centuries."

In 2016, Grant was presented the Living Legend Award by the Native American Music Awards (NAMA). In 2018, his album "Don't Let the Drums Go Silent" received the NAMA record of the year.

Seminole performing artist Spencer Battiest won a NAMA for



Seminole singer, songwriter, performer and actor Spencer Battiest and Saginaw Grant hold the NAMMY awards they won in 2016.

best pop recording in 2016 for "Stupid in Love" and spent some time with Grant then and when he won record of the year in 2018.

"It was an amazing night," Battiest

recalled. "His words attached to the music he presented was awe inspiring. The few times we've crossed paths over the years were always special to me. We were blessed to have him on this earth."

Although Grant planned to pursue an apology from the U.S. government similar to the one the Canadian government made to First Nations about Canada's past actions against Indigenous people, he didn't dwell on the negative.

"Say to yourself when you wake up, today's going to be a good day," he said. "Don't focus on the negative. We all know right from wrong, we just need to do the right thing."

Grant was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and served in the Korean War. He often participated in the National Gathering of American Indian Veterans and danced at pow wows throughout Indian Country.

Some of Grant's notable quotes were posted on his Facebook page after his death:

"Everyone on earth is born with spirituality."

"Remember to take your time. When you take your time, you'll take in everything that comes into your life and not just rush through it."

"If everyone used the philosophies that I talked about, this would be a completely different world."

Grant died peacefully in his sleep at a private care facility in Hollywood, California, according to his publicist and longtime friend Lani Carmichael.



Beverly Bidney

Saginaw Grant met with tribal students in 2014 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

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Community



Busy year of development coming for reservations

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Development plans currently underway on paper are scheduled to emerge physically in 2022. According to Tribal Community Development, ground will be broken for large projects on the Big Cypress, Brighton and Immokalee reservations. Here's an update on several projects.

Big Cypress

A senior center, preschool and event facility that can also be used as a hurricane shelter will break ground in March at the site of the old bingo hall on Josie Billie Highway.

The next phase of the Ahfachkee School expansion is scheduled to begin construction in March. The building will be similar to the existing two-story building, which opened in 2019. The new building will house the lower school and a gymnasium. Plans for the new building are under review by the Bureau of Indian Education.

A new community center and pool will be built next to the existing Boys & Girls Club. The pool will have an infinity edge on one side and the deck will be sloped for accessibility. At its deepest point, the pool will be seven feet.

Brighton

The Pemahtv Emahakv Charter School immersion program will get its own building, which will begin construction in 2022.

A new complex of three buildings located just west of PECS will include a new culture center, library and Boys & Girls Club. The design phase is underway and construction should begin in early 2022.

A splash pad and sunshades at the community pool are under construction now

and should be completed by September.

An agricultural complex, which will include a 4-H building and barns, has been approved and is in the conception phase. The site has not been chosen yet and no date has been scheduled for construction.

Immokalee

Phase one of the recreation center, which includes a pool and playground, will break ground late this year or early in 2022. Phase two, which will contain the recreation center building, parking lot and Boys & Girls Club, is slated to break ground in late 2022 or early 2023.

The designs for the clinic and public safety buildings are complete. Ground clearing is scheduled to begin in October or November with construction to occur around January.

Residential projects

Residential projects underway or in development include The Groves development in Big Cypress, which will have 57 rental homes and a playground. The neighborhood, which will be similar to the rental homes in the Mabel T. Frank development, will break ground early next year.

Brighton's Knots Landing is taking shape with nine homes completed and nine more to come. Flowing Well, which will have 40 rental homes and 30 homeowner lots, is under construction. The first rental homes should be complete in early 2022.

In Immokalee, eight more homes are scheduled to be built on Alice Jimmie Circle. The Otter Trail development, north of Alice Jimmie Circle, is about to start the design phase for 14 additional homes. Construction could begin in late 2022 or early 2023.



The next phase of the Ahfachkee School expansion in Big Cypress.

Rendering courtesy TCD



Brighton's culture center, library and Boys & Girls Club complex.

Rendering courtesy TCD



The Immokalee recreation center.

Rendering courtesy TCD



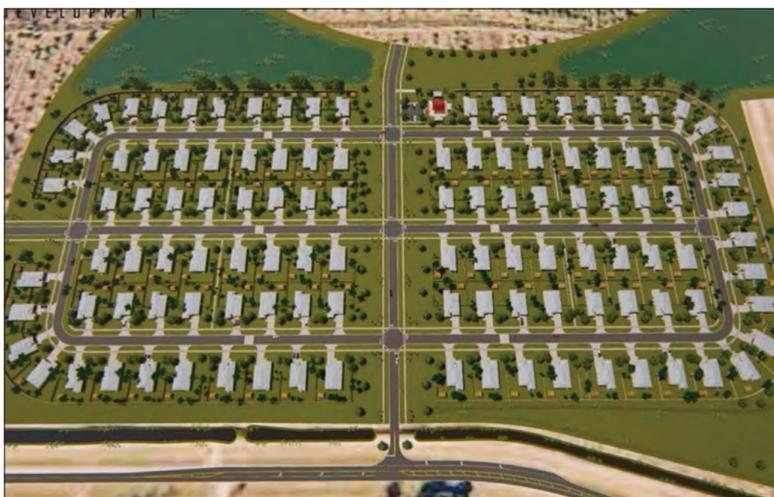
Pemahtv Emahakv Charter School's immersion program building in Brighton.

Courtesy TCD



Immokalee's public safety building.

Rendering courtesy TCD



The Groves residential development in Big Cypress.

Rendering courtesy TCD

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◆ BERRIES
From page 1A

Maverick Osceola scoped out some sites before he chose one. He started harvesting berries three years ago with his mother and is carrying on her legacy.

“It’s a good way to make some money,” Osceola said. “It’s a good side job. The challenges are snakes, animals and stuff.”

This was Sam Caldwell’s first year picking the berries.

“I don’t know too much about it, but I’ll find out today,” he said.

Florida black bears eat a lot of the berries since 80% of their diet consists of plants, nuts and berries. Gary Frank, who collects palmetto fiber for dolls from the plants, wants to see if harvesting the berries will have an impact on wildlife and the growth of more palmetto plants.

“We want the fiber to last and the bears to have a good food source,” Frank said. “Why not let the berries drop so we get more sprouts? It’s the process of nature; how do things flourish if you’re taking the seeds?”

With this harvest, Steelman will begin a research project on the possible production of saw palmetto berries. The research may be able to answer some of Frank’s questions, but Steelman won’t know until they have more information.

“Palmettos are highly variable,” Steelman said. “What can look good in March can be a bust in August. We are trying to figure out the basic ecology and how it relates to plants and animals.”

The research will consider rainfall, moon phases, fires, droughts and floods. The research could take years.

“To get a pattern, you almost need to be generational,” Steelman said. “Like most research, one answer leads to multiple questions. Tribal member insights can help tremendously since their insights are generational.”

Those who have lived on the reservations for decades can relay what they saw in the past as compared to what is happening today. Steelman said that knowledge can be helpful to the research, in an ad hoc and informal way.

The weight of the harvest at each site



Beverly Bidney

Berries grow in clusters and these were about to be harvested from a palmetto bush on the Big Cypress Reservation.

will comprise the data collected for the research. Poundage from each site will be logged.

Some berry processors in the state are row planting the bushes. Steelman said anything that makes money is usually researched.

Palmetto berries are dried and used in the production of dietary supplements such as saw palmetto or used in livestock feed, cosmetics or shampoos worldwide. The international market is estimated to be more than \$130 million per year, according to a manufacturer in the state. Europe is the largest market for the berries.

Tribal members who have harvested

the berries in the past have some interesting stories. The work is hot, hard and a bit dangerous. Snakes are sometimes found and insects, such as wasps, are plentiful in the brush where the plants thrive.

In 2017, Ignacia Garza was eight months pregnant and went out to harvest berries with her husband. The land was very wet and their vehicle got stuck in mud. It took several hours for someone to arrive and free the vehicle, but everything worked out well.

“It was worth it. We got a lot of berries,” Garza said. “A couple of days later I had the baby. The day I went into labor, my husband was out picking again. There was no cell ser-



Beverly Bidney

From left, Maverick Osceola, Sam Caldwell and Gary Frank look on as Grant Steelman points out the locations on Big Cypress available to pick palmetto berries.

vice, so someone went and got him out.” This season was Krystal Rodriguez’s third year picking, but the first for her sister Amy Garza.

“I have a daughter in her senior year of college in Missouri and another is a senior in high school,” Garza said when asked why she was picking berries.

Picking the berries may be lucrative, but it is back-breaking work. The plants grow in a haphazard fashion among thorny vines, bushes and pine trees. It can be treacherous to reach the plants, which may or may not have berries.

Gil Yzaguirre, who has been picking berries for about 20 years on and off, didn’t seem to mind the trek. He was well equipped with sturdy waterproof boots and a bright, long-sleeved shirt to keep away stinging insects.

“There is a lot of competition now, a lot of people are picking,” said Yzaguirre, who also builds chickees. “Some years you could get \$5 or \$6 a pound.”

Bags for the berries come in various sizes, which can hold from 100 to 300 pounds

each. A buyer met the pickers at the bingo hall site in the afternoon to weigh the berries and make offers to purchase them. Other buyers work in Immokalee, so tribal members could choose to sell on the reservation or travel with their haul to Immokalee.

The price between staying put and traveling to Immokalee was negligible, about a couple of cents per pound difference. But with thousands of pounds of berries, every cent counts.

Chris Briscall and his picking partner Reno DeLeon were the first ones in from picking. In just a few hours they had 2,139 pounds of berries. They had a friend in Immokalee who wanted to purchase them, so after they weighed in they hit the road.

Palmetto berry picking in Brighton was held from Aug. 23-29.

The palmetto berry season is a short one; by mid-September they will all be harvested. The harvest in Big Cypress went smoothly. As of Aug. 18, 15,123 pounds were picked, giving Steelman the first bit of data to study.



Beverly Bidney

ERM forest ranger Grant Steelman calculates the amount of berries harvested by Chris Briscall in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Gil Yzaguirre holds a handful of palmetto berries, or bolitas, as he picks the berries in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Chris Briscall helps to haul a bag of berries onto his pickup truck as picking partner Reno De Leon and a worker help.

Summit to focus on tribal broadband issues

STAFF REPORT

A group of federal agencies have come together to help address internet access issues across Indian Country. The 2021 National Tribal Broadband Summit is scheduled to take place Sept. 17, Sept. 24 and Oct. 1 in a virtual format.

The event is designed to serve as a platform for leaders to share best practices, new ideas, and lessons learned from their real-world experience of bringing high-speed internet to tribal businesses, governments and homes, according to an Aug. 16 news release.

“Tribes have been left further behind in the digital divide than most areas of the country due to the consistent lack of infrastructure investment in Indian Country,” Interior Secretary Deb Haaland

(Laguna Pueblo) said in a statement. “This summit represents an opportunity to leverage the Biden-Harris administration’s all-of-government approach to help ensure the federal government lives up to its responsibilities to tribal communities by bringing broadband to Indian Country, fueling economic development, and ensuring everyone has opportunities to succeed.”

Tribal lands are some of the most digitally disconnected areas in the U.S., where 1.5 million people lack basic broadband and wireless services, according to the Federal Communications Commission. The pandemic further exposed Indian Country’s lack of reliable broadband as students were forced to shift their learning online and others needed to transition to remote work.

Those expected to attend the summit

include tribal leaders; representatives of tribal organizations, tribal colleges and universities, and schools and school districts serving under-connected Native students; tribal libraries, museums and cultural centers; private sector stakeholder organizations; and federal program managers and policymakers.

Participants are also invited to submit best projects, programs, or initiatives in planning, constructing, delivering and using tribal broadband networks.

Agencies participating in the event are the Department of the Interior, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce. The summit is free. For more information and registration options, go to doi.gov/tribalbroadband.

When remains or funerary objects are released to the tribe, a very intentional process is followed. Legal paperwork is completed and there are approvals that come from senior tribal leadership. Travel arrangements are made that are “very secure and very private,” deBeaubien said.

The repatriation committee consults with cultural advisers on a location for reburial as close to an original site as possible. If an area

has been bulldozed or it has a development on it, often a state or federal park is used. Nothing is ever collected or put on display and funerary objects are buried together with the respective ancestor.

For more information, go to stothpo.com. On social media, follow #NoMoreStolenAncestors on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Tribal Nations worked really well with Census officials,” Evans, who spoke at the media briefing, said.

Evans said NCAI would be analyzing the Census data in more detail in the coming weeks and would release its own report.

“The results we saw today with the increase compared to 2010 was a pleasant surprise,” she said.

The Census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution to take place every 10 years. The data affects much of American life and is used to determine political representation and the distribution of hundreds of billions

of dollars in annual federal funding. The data released Aug. 12 is meant to inform the official redistricting process at the state and local levels.

“We are encouraging all Tribal Nations to participate in their local and state redistricting efforts to ensure that Tribal Nations are fairly represented and have access to the resources they need and deserve,” NCAI president Fawn Sharp (Quinalt Indian Nation) said in a statement.

Census officials said more data is scheduled to be released Sept. 30 in an easy to use format for the general public.

Feds take next steps to implement ‘Not Invisible Act’

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Two federal agencies are working together in an effort to reverse the scourge of missing and murdered Indigenous people and violence toward Native Americans.

The Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior announced Aug. 4 its next steps toward implementation of the “Not Invisible Act.” Interior Secretary Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) was the sponsor of the bill while serving in Congress. It passed and was signed into law by President Donald Trump on Oct. 10, 2020.

The DOJ and the DOI are now soliciting nominations for a minimum of 28 people to serve on a joint commission and are planning a schedule of consultations with tribal leaders.

According to the agencies, the commission will consist of federal and nonfederal members, including representatives of tribal, state and local law enforcement; tribal judges; health care and mental health practitioners with experience working with Native American survivors of trafficking and sexual assault; urban Indian organizations focused on violence against women and children; Native American survivors of human trafficking; and family members of missing and murdered Indigenous people.

Indigenous women and girls have been particularly affected in Indian Country. For example, as of 2016, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) National Crime Information Center reported 5,712 cases of missing Native American women and girls, but the DOJ missing persons database listed

just 116 cases. Stakeholders also point out that non-Native people commit the majority of the murders on reservations. They say the lack of communication with federal agencies combined with jurisdictional issues involving law enforcement makes it extremely difficult to begin investigative processes.

“The Justice Department is committed to working with the Interior Department to address the persistent violence endured by Native American families and communities across the country,” Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, head of the DOJ, said in a statement. “The membership of this joint commission must represent a diverse range of expertise, experience and perspectives, and we will consult with tribal leaders who know best what their communities need to make them safer.”

Haaland said the law provides a unique opportunity for the agencies to marshal resources in the effort.

“Doing this successfully means seeking active and ongoing engagement from experts both inside and outside of the government; incorporating Indigenous knowledge, tribal consultation and a commission that reflects members who know first-hand the needs of their people will be critical as we address this epidemic in Native American and Alaska Native communities,” Haaland said in a statement.

Once the commission is formed, hearings will be scheduled to receive testimony and evidence to develop recommendations for the federal government to act upon.

More information is available by searching “Not Invisible Act” at bia.gov.

◆ CENSUS
From page 1A

misinformation and new privacy measures that may have caused problems with the quality of data in small, rural and remote populations.

Gwynne Evans-Lomayesva (Hopi Pueblo), a researcher at the NCAI policy research center, said that despite multiple challenges, Indian Country showed resilience throughout the Census process. “We had wildfires and hurricanes and

Climate Conversations

Food for thought

BY ROLLIE GILLIAM AND CODY MOTLOW

This interview was supported by the Seminole Tribe's Climate Resilience Program. Rollie Gilliam is a tribal member and serves as quality assurance analyst through the Center for Student Success and Services. Cody Motlow is a tribal member and serves as sustainability coordinator through the Heritage and Environmental Resources Office. Both Cody and Rollie volunteer on the tribe's Food Sovereignty Committee, a multi-departmental climate action planning committee. This "Climate Conversation" was held virtually Aug. 17. Here is a summary of the conversation. (A longer version appears on seminoletribune.org).

Rollie: All right. So hello. This is Rollie, and with me is Ms. Cody Motlow. We're doing this interview about our perspective on food sovereignty and why it is important to the both of us. So Ms. Cody, can you give some insight of what food sovereignty means to you?

Cody: Yeah. You know, it's all about reclaiming. I feel like it's about reclaiming our land, our culture, our ancestral ways of diets. That all ties back into climate change and taking care of the land and putting time and money back into our own people instead of relying on big corporations. To me, it's all about just taking it back and being in control, the way it was supposed to be. Because I feel when commodities were given to us, it was like another form of colonialism. It was designed to ruin our diets, and in a way, was another form of genocide, to you know, get rid of us. And so by taking this back, we're building ourselves stronger, and that's what it means to me.

Rollie: That's beautiful. Thank you for that. What made you as a young adult to want to get into food sovereignty? If you could go back to a time, a memory, maybe Grandma and Grandpa had a garden. What senses did that pick up, take you back to? Because you know, we often relive things in the present, because of what comes back to us from the past.

Cody: Yeah. I feel like, my grandparents might have been the last generation to really know what it was like to be sustainable and take care of yourself. I feel like my dad's generation knew traditional ways, but also was being introduced to modern ways. And it was no fault of his own or to his generation. He couldn't help that. That was something that was just forced upon them.

I feel like my generation didn't grow up with a garden or anything traditional. So in a way, I'm trying to reclaim it for myself, bring that back. It's something I want to give it to my kids so they can give it to their kids.

Rollie: That's beautiful. Most definitely. Like you said, "reclaim it." We went to the Miramar Food Garden and it was a phenomenal experience. It was very inspiring to see different types of tribal members come together. Those who look like me, those who look like you, staff members, those from the Miramar community. It was powerful. That's a memory I know that I will have, future wise. Just being reacquainted to the science of food, how serious a lot of people take it. Why do you think this is an issue that is important for the tribe?

Cody: The number one thing would definitely be health, because I do feel like we had a generation that had commodities forced on them. And then we kind of lost our way of healthy eating. I mean, we've lost so many tribal members recently due to sickness and Covid, and it's because we have such poor health. The more people we lose, the more of our culture and our tradition that we're going to lose. If we don't try to fix that and hold onto it, what are we going to be? We're not going to be here.

Rollie: Definitely, this comes into livelihood and the overall function of the tribe. Because without proper health and foods in our diets, how are we going to be able to make decisions? Food is a healer. We heard testimonies of people, you know, who have high blood pressure, diabetes, things of



Rollie Gilliam

Damon Scott



Cody Motlow

Courtesy photo

that nature, and how food counters that and gets rid of it.

Cody: Rollie, we're all tribal members, but we don't all have the same stories growing up. We don't all have the same background. I want to know what did you grow up with and what inspired you?

Rollie: I'm Afro-Indigenous. My other side is African-American. So I grew up eating pig feet, ham hocks, collard greens, mac and cheese, and all those things. When I got a little bit older, maybe 19 or 20, I came to the clinic here and got a checkup. They were like, "Do you eat a lot of bread?" and I was like, "Yeah." And they was like, "Be careful, because you're at risk for celiac disease." I was eating a lot of hamburgers and sandwiches-type stuff, and not knowing I'm gluten sensitive. Then I started noticing other things. I said, "Hold on. Right." Let me tap into this dairy, I was like, so we lactose, too. I said, "What else am I?" I started going a little bit further, and I was like, "Oh. I see what's happening. Like, I'm not even in my original body." Because I'm not eating the original foods.

I come from that household, my Pops is a tribe member, so I don't have a clan, but I'm Bird [Clan] affiliated.

But my mom, she's Black. I come from government cheese. I come from food stamps and WICs. I'm used to unhealthy eating. The system, telling you what to eat because your appearance. They give you a list of what you can buy in the store, but none of that stuff is health conscious. No apples and no oranges, nah.

But I had to understand my why, too. "Why do I love bananas?" When I heard the story of Billy Bowlegs, everything started connecting. Because I want to be closer to Earth. I don't want to be far away from Earth when it comes to this food thing.

♦ See FOOD on page 6A



Beverly Bidney

The Army Corps have said a new plan for Lake Okeechobee will include the interests of the Seminole Tribe.

Lake O plans said to include tribe's concerns

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The good, the bad, and the ugly concerning Lake Okeechobee has gotten a renewed focus over the past few years by the many entities that have a stake in it, including those directly responsible for its management – the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual, or LOSOM, is a new plan that has been in work since 2018. It is still being tweaked so that, ideally, lake conditions are improved, discharges are controlled and the interests of the Seminole Tribe are addressed. The plan is expected to go into effect in late 2022 and will guide the Corps' decision-making for at least a decade. Corps officials presented a LOSOM update at an Aug. 9 media briefing.

The tribe's interests are similar to others and include ensuring that water levels are high enough that current and future agricultural needs on the Big Cypress and Brighton reservations are met. The tribe has also long been concerned about proposed plans for massive water storage facilities that encroach on tribal lands and stoke flooding concerns.

The tribe has also sought to be treated as a sovereign entity when it comes to water allocations. During the briefing, the Corps' Florida commander, Col. Andrew Kelly, stated that LOSOM's goals did recognize the tribe as a separate and distinct water-supply user.

The Corps is faced with a juggling act to ensure LOSOM meets a variety of needs, from sending water south to areas of the Everglades National Park and Florida Bay, maintaining enough water in the case of drought conditions, and protecting estuaries from lake discharges that can set off toxic blue-green algae blooms.

Dozens of constituents representing counties, cities, utilities, farmers and chambers of commerce recently wrote to Gov. Ron DeSantis to express concerns that the federal government was attempting to "usurp" Florida's water rights by reducing Lake Okeechobee water levels. Officials in Glades County, which includes the Brighton Reservation, and Hendry County, which includes the Big Cypress Reservation, were among those concerned that water allocations promised by the state would not come to fruition under the proposed LOSOM plan.

The tribe sent a July letter to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) with concerns that if the lake gets too low it wouldn't be able to distribute water to the Brighton and Big Cypress reservations. The tribe did not challenge a reduction in water in 2008 because it had been assured the allocations were temporary and would be restored when dike repairs were complete. More than 12 years later, the proposed LOSOM plan is less allocation than what the tribe was getting before 2008. The tribe said in the letter that it doubts modifications would be enough to close the gap. The Corps based the new manual on the 2008 plan instead of allocations prior to that time.

The Corps said it would release more details about LOSOM's progress in September. It must also get approval under the National Environmental Policy Act, which will allow for additional public comment beginning in early 2022.

Kissimmee River restoration

Meanwhile, the Corps and the SFWMD celebrated a success July 29 with a ceremony that marked the completion of the Kissimmee River restoration project. The project restored more than 40 square miles of the river floodplain ecosystem, 20,000 acres of wetlands and 44 miles of the historic river channel, according to the Corps.

The south-central Florida river forms the north part of the Everglades wetlands area and runs from south of Orlando through Lake Kissimmee into Lake Okeechobee.

The restoration effort began in 1999 and was a partnership between the Corps and the SFWMD. It included backfilling 22-miles of canal; the reconstruction of remnant river channels; the removal of two water control structures; the addition of two gates; and the acquisition of more than 100,000 acres of land to restore the river and floodplain. The Corps said the effort also resulted in a recovery of the invertebrate community, a crucial food source for fish and birds.

The Corps said additional monitoring will be conducted to measure the project's success, and that other projects and restoration efforts in the region will support the river's continued restoration.

Tribe takes leadership role in climate resiliency compact

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The Tribal Council unanimously voted Aug. 6 to join the Southwest Florida Climate Compact in a leadership role.

The goal of the group, a voluntary consortium of 15 local governments and non-profit organizations, is to work together toward solutions to climate change issues.

"It's great for the tribe to be at the table and show our leadership in the climate change space," said Jill Horwitz, climate resiliency officer for the Seminole Tribe's

Heritage and Environmental Resources Office. "It's a prominent role. Hopefully it will translate into relationships across the state. We want to have a seat at every table."

The tribe has been added to the list of original members of the group, which includes Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties; the cities of Punta Gorda, Sanibel, Cape Coral, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Estero, Bonita Springs, Naples, Marco Island and Everglades City; and the Captiva Erosion Prevention District. The tribe is an equal and active partner in the compact.

The group will seek funding from the

Resilient Florida Grant Program, which directs millions of dollars for vulnerability assessments, resilience plans and critical projects. Local governments, universities working with local governments and regional entities are eligible for the grant.

The tribe's position on the leadership committee gives it a voice in how funds are spent. Since only regional entities and local governments are eligible for the grants, being part of the compact ensure the tribe will benefit from its work.

♦ See TRIBE on page 6A

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“Heenechatche, The Legacy of William Buffalo Tiger” is among the current exhibits at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum reopens to public for first time since pandemic’s arrival

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Tribe reopened its Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on Aug. 21. The date coincides with the museum’s 24th anniversary and the tribe’s 64th anniversary of federal recognition.

The museum, which had been closed to the public since March 13, 2020, due to the pandemic, welcomed 44 visitors during opening weekend, according to the museum.

The museum is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Masks must be worn to enter the museum. Hand sanitizing stations will be positioned throughout the campus.

The mile-long boardwalk is open to one-way traffic. Museum artisans were not in place for opening day, but will return to the Seminole Village soon, as will the traditional interpretation coordinator at the hunting camp.

“We have been carefully preparing

for the reopening of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, to ensure the safe return of our staff, visitors and community,” Kate Macuen, museum director, said in a statement. “We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the museum after 17 months of closure and offering a unique and safe place where our visitors can learn about and celebrate Seminole stories, history and traditions.”

In addition to the museum’s permanent exhibits and the alligator wrestling exhibit which opened in late 2019, visitors can experience two new exhibits.

Graffiti and Street Art: “Expressions of Community Pride” celebrates the art form and the tribal members who produce it. At the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdown, artist Alyssa Osceola used the abandoned Big Cypress Bingo Hall to make a statement about the resilience of the Seminole people. She recovered her 11 by 20 foot mural from the abandoned building, which now serves as an eye-catching centerpiece of the exhibit.

Artist Wilson Bowers is also featured in the exhibit. He has anonymously produced dozens of murals and iconic images at several locations in Big Cypress. Bowers’ commentary provides insight to the motivation, determination and thoughtful messaging these pieces provide.

The visuals are a means to encourage, educate and celebrate the history and culture of the Seminole people. The exhibit will run through November 2021.

Two Worlds: “Heenechatche, the Legacy of William Buffalo Tiger” will explore this influential leader, who was paramount in the independence of the Miccosukee Tribe. The exhibit will focus on Tiger’s contributions to sovereignty and education of Native people and his lead in the fight to protect the Creator’s gifts. The exhibit will open in September and run through spring 2022.

For more information about the museum, visit ahtahtiki.com.

NCAIED launches new magazine

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) published its first issue of a new magazine this summer, called NC Magazine.

The magazine, which will be published twice a year, will highlight the accomplishments of Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian businesses and entrepreneurs. The first issue features an interview with Congresswoman Sharice Davids of Kansas, an enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

The summer 2021 issue also includes a legislative update, a report on the 35th Reservation Economic Summit (RES) as well as feature stories about young Native leaders and entrepreneurs.

“The objective of the magazine is to share the story of the Indian Country economy,” Chris James, president and CEO of NCAIED wrote in an email to the Tribune. “We too often only hear the bad stories – the stories of economic challenges

and conditions for our people, both on and off the reservation. NC Magazine won’t shy away from these stories; we won’t be able to move forward unless we’re open and honest about the challenges. But truth be told, we need to celebrate our significant achievements and celebrate those who have accomplished great things – people like Congresswoman Sharice Davids. I hope NC Magazine fills this void and gives our community some needed good news.”

NCAIED is a nonprofit organization which assists American Indian tribes and tribal people with business and economic development. It is the largest Indian specific business organization in the country and works with about 1,200 clients, up from 200 a few years ago.

The magazine has a circulation of about 1,500, including clients, Native leaders, sponsors and partners. NCAIED said it also delivered about 2,000 copies at RES 2021, held July 19-21 in Las Vegas.

Tribal member Joel Frank Sr. is a board member of NCAIED and attended RES.

“We ran out of magazines, so I didn’t

get a chance to grab one,” Frank said. “The idea of the magazine ticked around for a long time, finally getting it implemented is fantastic. There’s a lot of talent out there in Indian Country, so why not promote it whether it’s a tribal business or an individual’s. That’s what the National Center is all about.”

Frank said RES was well attended, and he was pleased to be promoting Indian business again.

“We have so many great stories to tell,” James wrote. “Not just about the National Center, but about our clients and the work they are doing across a variety of fields.”

NCAIED shares the stories throughout the year, but the organization decided it would be a good idea to put them in one location and make it easily available to those interested in learning about the Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian economy.

The next issue will be published in December. To view the current issue visit ncaied.org and click on “About” and “News and Blogs.”

FOOD From page 5A

So I come from that, and a lot of my people forget that, because of the transformation that I went on. I’m a walking testimony. I’m a strict vegetarian, I don’t eat any meat, any dairy, and I limit the oils in my body. I started eating this way in 2017 and I see the benefits of it. I grew up on pumpkin bread, fry bread, sofkee, all the good stuff. On the other side, a lot of the food that we’re eating, if we’re being honest with ourselves, it’s not providing any type of healing. If anything, it’s hurting more.

Cody: You know how we’ve been talking about having community gardens?

One of my goals for the future is if we could have traditional foods as an option. So when events come at least we’ll have wild rice and squash. But at the same time, if people still want their fry bread and their pumpkin bread, we can have those options there. I want people to have the option. To be like, “Oh, hey. Let me try that.” Maybe they’ll like it. That’s my goal for the future. What’s your goal for the future?

Rollie: Honestly, my goal is to get us away from the bad eating, period. I understand that we all start at some spot. Everyone starts somewhere. My goal is in no way to force anyone of anything. First off, we’re sovereign as a whole, and then secondly, everyone’s individuals. Everyone’s grown. Whatever you select is

what you select. My goal is to bring over, full force, without the extra bad foods.

My heart is to get our people off of anything that’s not grown from the ground. I just found out that fry bread not even traditional, that’s from the Man, too. So if we gonna be tribal, let’s be tribal all the way. If we’re going to do this thing the right way, with the origins of it, let’s do it.

My views do not reflect those of the Food Sovereignty Committee. I’m giving my story and my testimony, not trying to recruit and make people feel bad or judge. I don’t do that, because I don’t want people doing it to me. But they do it to me, too. They say I eat rabbit food. But I say, “I’ll be a rabbit. I’ll be a rabbit, because it’s working for me.”

civic groups, business and civic leaders involved and the concept of being prepared spread.

“Compacts and alliances were becoming in vogue throughout the state,” Savarese said. “All of a sudden there was interest from local governments.”

The compact was created in 2020. Charlotte County was the first signatory, the tribe was the most recent.

Each member of the compact chooses one elected representative and one staff member to participate in the work. The goal is to have a working structure by the fall to qualify for the Resilient Florida grant, which acknowledges the value of regional resiliency alliances. The grant legislation, passed in May, guarantees \$100 million per year of continued funding by establishing the Resilient Florida Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection.

The compact sent two proposals for Resilient Florida grants. One is for administrative costs to get the compact up and running; the second is for vulnerability analysis tools for the compact’s entire region.

“The impact of and solutions for climate change go beyond any one jurisdiction,” Horwitz said. “They are regional in nature. Having an equal voting seat at the table of this new regional entity is good for the tribe, both for its reputation as a local leader in the climate space and to ensure that resiliency research and state-funded capital projects are equitable and of benefit to the tribe.”

The compact will be facilitated by the FCRC Consensus Center, a neutral third party nonprofit consultant located at Florida State University in Tallahassee. In the next few weeks, the leadership committee will meet with the facilitation team and develop the organizational structure of the group. Then the work of identifying climate change threats and responses can be crafted.

“This is a timely opportunity for the tribe to engage in meaningful collaborative partnership, research and decision-making with other local governments,” Horwitz said. “There is a lot to talk about and thank goodness we will have a forum to do it.”

Native film projects selected for funding, TV broadcasts

STAFF REPORT

LINCOLN, Neb. — Each year, Vision Maker Media funds media projects intended for PBS broadcasting that represent the cultures, experiences and perspectives of Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Films are reviewed by a panel of public media programmers and Native American filmmakers, and board approved based on Native involvement, topics of relevance that can garner a wide audience, guideline eligibility, and meeting technical standards of PBS broadcast quality. This year’s topics communicate social justice, climate and environment, health and wellness, democracy and arts.

Fourteen television projects were selected for 2021 funding and will be executive produced by Vision Maker Media for PBS television broadcasting. The filmmakers represent 23 different Native nations with a total \$841,522 in funding support.

The films funded are at all stages of the production process, with some still in research while others are nearing the end of production. The Vision Maker Media Public Media Fund offers up to \$150,000 in support for episodic programming and production, up to \$100,000 for post-production, and a range of \$5,000 to \$25,000 for research and development.

The purpose for research and development support is to fully develop a documentary or episodic program for television broadcast. The purpose for production support is to film, record and produce projects for television broadcast. The purpose for post-production support is to bring projects to completion and deliver a master cut for television broadcast.

“We’re elated by the variety of projects selected for the 2021 Public Media Fund,” Francene Blythe-Lewis (Diné, Sisseton-Wahpeton, Eastern Band Cherokee), executive director, said in a statement. “The group of projects represent an array of tribes, topics and impactful new stories that are vital to today’s dialogue. It is an honor for everyone at Vision Maker Media to be part of the creation of these important stories being told by and about Native Americans for public media.”

Projects selected for 2021 Public Media Funding and their Native staff:

“Tiny Tot Nation”
Animated Short
Producer/Director/Writer: Yvonne Russo (Sicangu Lakota Nation)
Associate Producer: Reuben Fast Horse (Standing Rock Lakota)
An adventure to find a lost moccasin in time for the Christmas Powwow.

“Navajo Doctors Project (working title)”
Feature Documentary
Director/Producer: Billy Luther (Navajo, Hopi, Laguna Pueblo)
Doctors on the Navajo reservation work through the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The Salmon People”
Feature Documentary
Executive Producer/Co-Director: Darrell Hillaire (Lummi Nation)
Story Consultant/Narrator: Jay Julius (Lummi Nation)
Lummi Nation confronts the drastic decline of wild salmon that is threatening their way of life.

“Kanenon:we – original seeds”
Feature Documentary
Director/Producer/Writer: Katsitsionni Fox (Mohawk)
Cinematographer: Jaiden Mitchell (Mohawk)
Cinematographer: Mateo Hinojosa (Bolivian-American)

Indigenous women seed keepers working to propagate and protect our seed relatives for future generations.

“Good Fire”
Short Documentary
Writer/Producer: Roni Jo Draper (Yurok)
Disputing the notion of fire as our enemy.

(Untitled Tuscarora Short Documentary)
Short Documentary



Courtesy photo

“Kanenon:we – original seeds”
director/producer/writer: Katsitsionni Fox (Mohawk)



Courtesy photo

“Navajo Doctors” director/producer Billy Luther (Navajo, Hopi, Laguna Pueblo)

Producer: Stacey Rice (Tuscarora)
The Tuscarora Nation faces an ongoing water crisis outside of Niagara Falls.

“Apache 8: Beyond the Fire”
Feature Documentary
Executive Producer: Heather Rae (Cherokee)

Producer: Katy Aday (White Mountain Apache)

Writer: Shepherd Tsosie (Diné)
Facing catastrophic fires on the west coast, Native women work to incorporate Indigenous burning rights.



Courtesy photo

“Drowned Land” director/producer Colleen Thurston (Choctaw Nation)

“And Knowledge to Keep Us”
Episodic Series
Producer/Photographer: Dr. Sven Haakanson, Jr. (Sugpiaq, Athabaskan)
Community Producers: Cheri & Speridon Simeonoff (Sugpiaq)
Elder Producers: Judy & Mitch Simeonoff (Sugpiaq)
Alaska Native kids gather to connect with and celebrate their Sugpiaq ancestral knowledge.

“The Land Returns”
Feature Documentary
Co-Producer: Kevin Abourezk (Rosebud Lakota)
Co-Producer/Director/Editor: Charles “Boots” Kennedy (Kiowa)
Opportune pathways whereby Indigenous nations are regaining their land.

“Indigenous Genders (working title)”
Episodic Series
Writer/Director: Raven Two Feathers (Cherokee, Seneca, Cayuga, Comanche)
Executive Producer: Ciara Lacey (Kanaka Maoli)
Producer: Eleni Ledesma (Indigenous Mexican descent)
This documentary-series explores gender norms through Indigenous lenses.

“#MMIW: Search for Truth (working title)”
Feature Documentary
Director/Executive Producer: Amanda Erickson (San Carlos Apache Nation)
An Indigenous woman’s search to uncover the details of her sister’s death.

“Alchesay”
Feature Documentary
Director: Dustinn Craig (White Mountain Apache)
The untold story of the first Apache Scouts.

“The Bears on Pine Ridge”
Feature Documentary
Executive Producer: Sonny Skyhawk (Sicangu Lakota)
A tribe’s suicide prevention team mentors young suicide-survivors.

“Drowned Land”
Feature Documentary
Director/Producer: Colleen Thurston (Choctaw Nation)
Editors: Gloria Shade (Cherokee, Diné) & Zach Litwack
Deep in the Choctaw Nation of rural Oklahoma, a group of water protectors fight to preserve the lifeline of their community.

TRIBE From page 5A

The compact is a result of the Water School at Florida Gulf Coast University, which has been working to organize the compact for about six years.

When FGCU began to explore the possibility of a climate resiliency compact, the subject of climate change was taboo in many city and county governments. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration proposed that FGCU and the University of Florida develop vulnerability assessment tools to explore what the future may hold. They held public presentations with local governments.

“They were willing to accept the fact that climate change was something they had to deal with when no one was willing to talk about mitigation,” said FGCU Water School professor Michael Savarese. “They were willing to talk about resilience.”

Hurricane Irma was a wakeup call in 2017. Savarese said they were able to get

Feds approve sports betting compact between tribe, state

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

When the Seminole Tribe and the state of Florida signed a historic gaming compact in April that would allow sports betting in the state, the Department of Interior had 45 days to approve, disapprove or take no action on the deal. The 45-day mark arrived Aug. 5 and the DOI took no action, which meant approval.

The tribe can now facilitate sports betting in Florida as early as Oct. 15. The compact also allows the tribe to add craps and roulette to its Florida casinos.

"Today is a great day for the people of Florida, who will benefit not only from a \$2.5 billion revenue sharing guarantee over five years, but also from statewide sports betting and new casino games that will roll out this fall and mean more jobs for Floridians and more money invested in this state," Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said in a statement Aug. 5.

The 30-year compact was signed April 23 by Chairman Osceola and Gov. Ron DeSantis. The Florida Legislature ratified it May 19 during a special session and Tribal Council approved it June 17. The compact guarantees the tribe will send an estimated \$6 billion to the state overall by 2030.

The DOI has jurisdiction over Indian gaming through the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and reviews all compacts between states and tribes. In a 12-page letter to the tribe and the governor, Bryan Newland, assistant secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, confirmed the compact would become effective upon its publication in the Federal Register.

"The tribe's gaming operations have resulted in an incredible success story," Newland wrote. "Through a mix of business savvy and shrewdness, the tribe has grown its gaming operations from limited class II facilities to globally-



The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino with the Guitar Hotel.

recognized class III gaming operations – and has been able to successfully negotiate class III gaming compacts with the State to facilitate that expansion. We considered these circumstances when conducting our review, and it informed our assessment of whether certain Compact provisions were the outcome of bilateral good-faith negotiations."

Class II gaming operations by tribes typically consist of bingo. Class III involves most casino-style gaming.

DeSantis said the compact would modernize the state's gaming industry through the authorization of sports betting through the tribe.

"The final approval of this historic gaming compact is a big deal for the state of

Florida," DeSantis said in a statement. "This mutually-beneficial agreement will grow our economy, expand tourism and recreation, and provide billions in new revenue to benefit Floridians."

The tribe's Hard Rock International business has a new sports betting entity in place. In December 2020, HRI launched Hard Rock Digital, a joint venture with a group of gaming industry veterans. With headquarters in Hollywood and offices in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and Austin, Texas, Hard Rock Digital was created to serve as the online sportsbook, retail sportsbook and internet gaming platform for Hard Rock and Seminole Gaming.

HRI names Kimberly Manna Sr. VP Of Retail and Licensing

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Kimberly Manna, former chief executive officer of Panama Jack, has been appointed senior vice president of Retail and Licensing for Hard Rock International.

"Kimberly's wealth of experience in brand strategy in the retail and licensing spaces will be a great asset to Hard Rock International as we continue to grow our retail footprint and expand our brand reach across the globe," Jim Allen, chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming, said in a statement Aug. 11.

Manna will report directly to Allen.

"It is an honor to work with one of the world's most globally recognized brands," Manna said in a statement. "I look forward to bringing new and exciting collaborations to Hard Rock's international fan base."

Manna served as CEO of Panama Jack for more than 18 years, starting in 2003, according to her LinkedIn page. Long known for its beach-related products, such as sun care, hats and sunglasses, Panama Jack also has resorts in Mexico through a partnership with Playa Hotels & Resorts. Manna oversaw resort development as well as global wholesale, retail distribution, brand strategy and extension.

Manna is also a former senior vice



Kimberly Manna, HRI's senior vice president of Retail and Licensing.

president for Sony Pictures Entertainment, where she assisted with the development of the brand's franchise properties such as "Ghostbusters," "I Dream of Jeannie," "Men in Black," "Godzilla," "Jumanji," "Jeopardy" and "Wheel of Fortune."

Manna earned a bachelor's degree in finance and marketing from the University of Miami Herbert School of Business. She serves on UM's School of Communication Dean's Advisory Committee.

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

Shelley Williams named to sales director position at HRI

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Hard Rock International announced Aug. 24 the selection of Shelley Williams as director of Global Sales for meetings and events. Most recently, Williams served as vice president of Sales at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City. She was responsible for the recruitment and ongoing training of the sales team while leading hospitality sales and convention services and serving as a key post-pandemic business recovery leader.

Williams' more than 25 years of experience in global hospitality includes working for Caesars Entertainment, the Westmont Hospitality Group and the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada. She will report directly to Danielle Babilino, senior vice president of Global Sales & Marketing.

Williams holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree with a specialty in International Business from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. Additionally,



Shelley Williams, HRI's director of Global Sales for meetings and events.

she has Executive Certificates in CRM/Business Strategies from the Universidad de Montevideo, Montevideo, Uruguay and Hospitality and Tourism Management from Florida Atlantic University.

Erica Deitz artwork graces cover of Indian Gaming magazine

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The June issue of Indian Gaming magazine features artwork by a familiar Seminole artist, Erica Deitz.

The 24-by-27 inch acrylic painting "Ghost Horse Guardian" was created in 2002 and remains in Deitz's personal collection. Inspiration for the painting came to her from various tribes' love of horses and how they honor the animals.

"They saw the horse as a symbol of motility, strength, power and as a blessing and had deep respect for it," Deitz wrote in an email to the Tribune. "They honored the horse with its own regalia. Some of the regalia were commonly utilized by Lakota/Dakota/Nakota people for a giveaway in honor or in remembrance of a relative, identification of a warrior society, in ceremonies such as a horse dance or simply to parade in celebration."

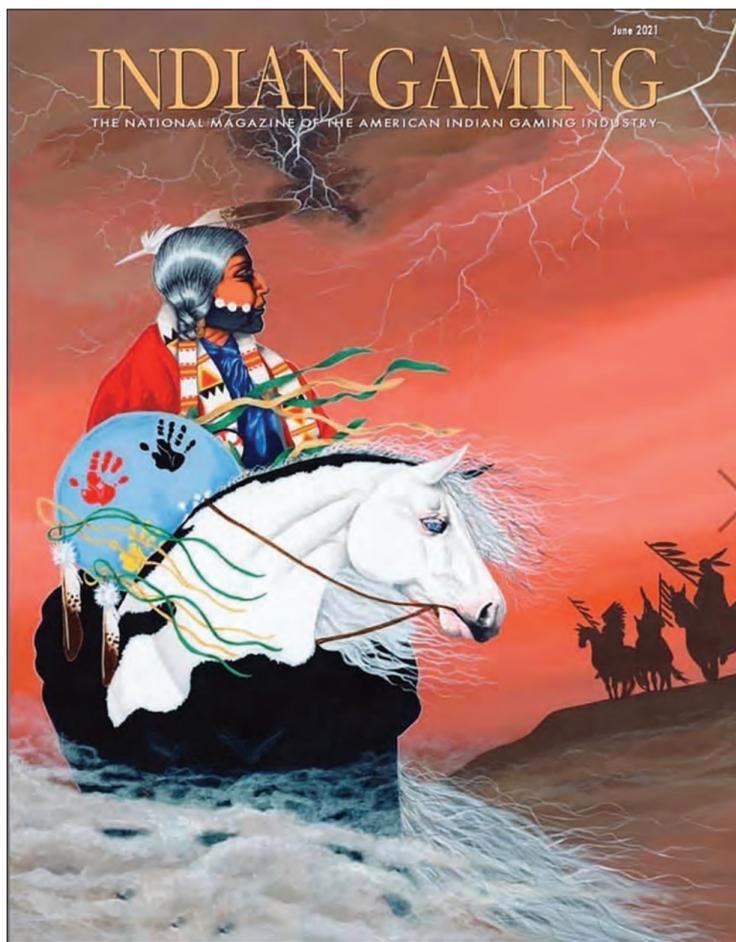
Deitz, who is Seminole, Winnebago and Ojibway, has been drawing since she was 3 years old and has been creating art ever since. Deitz comes by her talent naturally; her parents, Jo Motlow North and Robert North, met as students at the Institute of American Indian Arts and both of her grandmothers were artists.

Deitz's first one-person show was in elementary school at age 10. She continues to show her work around the world in solo and group exhibitions. She works in various mediums and offers an Indigenous perspective that is accessible to a wide range of audiences.

"Many tribes also saw the horse as a spiritual guide who would bring the fallen warrior to the afterlife when they died in battle," Deitz wrote. "This was known as the Ghost Horse, a beautiful horse that was a spiritual being and a conduit to the Spirit World. In my painting I honor the love, appreciation, and respect that all Indigenous Peoples have with their horses."

Deitz believes in teaching tribal children the knowledge, wisdom and lessons of the ancestors. She said her artwork is her way of keeping the spirits of her ancestors alive.

The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) recently chose another of Deitz's paintings as the theme for



"Ghost Horse Guardian," an acrylic painting by Seminole artist Erica Deitz, appears on the June 2021 cover of Indian Gaming magazine.

the April 3-6, 2022, conference in Orlando student union. (See page 9A). She is also a finalist for an art installation at Florida State University's new

Hard Rock's 50th anniversary items available

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — As Hard Rock continues to celebrate its 50th anniversary

this year, more memorabilia commemorating the achievement is becoming available. Here are just a few of the dozens of items available at shop.hardrock.com.



Plush teddy bear



Americana T-shirt



Cordial set of glasses

'Christmas with the Countess' comes to Tampa's Hard Rock

FROM PRESS RELEASE

TAMPA — Luann de Lesseps, an original cast member of "The Real Housewives of New York," will be at Hard Rock Event Center in Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa on Dec. 28 at 8 p.m. with her new "Christmas With The Countess" cabaret-style show.

Tickets are available at ticketmaster.com and seminolehardrocktampa.com.

In 2017, de Lesseps made her cabaret debut with #CountessAndFriends selling out shows at Feinstein's/54 Below in New York City. The show has since received rave reviews from Vanity Fair and The New York

Times. Live Nation signed her to a multi-show deal for an expanded national tour.

She is involved in many charitable organizations, including The American Cancer Society, GLAAD, and ACE Partnership for the Homeless, and most recently partnered with The Fortune Society, which supports formerly incarcerated inmates by helping them build a successful life path as they reenter into society.

She's currently working on her next book after authoring the best-selling book "Class with the Countess: How to Live with Elegance & Flair."

Hard Rock Northern Indiana helps Salvation Army



Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana made a \$25,000 donation to the Salvation Army of Lake County on Aug. 20.

Summer acquisitions update from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

BY TARA BACKHOUSE
Collections Manager

BIG CYPRESS — In February we brought you an article about the collections acquisitions process at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. The museum's collection is full of historic and modern items that we preserve for present and future Seminole generations.

The collection helps the museum fulfill its mission. The museum takes responsibility for its collection and agrees to care for it using professional standards that help keep the collection safe for future generations. Since the museum was chartered in 1989, staff has worked hard to collect many different kinds of things that help tell the Seminole story. New pieces enter the museum's collection every year. They can be art or clothing;

decorative objects like beadwork, baskets and dolls; photographs documents and maps; and oral histories. All acquisitions are only acquired after a diverse committee votes



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum (2)

William Cypress's beautiful silver jewelry, above and right, now shines in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



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

with majority approval in each case.

This month we bring you an update about some of the newest additions to the collection. 2021 has brought us unique, rare and beautiful pieces of art. We are especially thrilled to welcome eight pieces of silver jewelry, crafted by noted artist William Cypress. Work such as the diamond cutout earrings show Seminole themes. He also draws inspiration from other sources. The dolphin pendant was inspired by Calusa culture and motifs. While the museum has a few historic silver pieces, Cypress's pieces represent the first modern Seminole silverwork in the collection.

The second summer highlight is a child's patchwork dress and cape that was purchased by a tourist in Miami in 1925. It is a charming pastel outfit in good condition for its age. It has two simple strips of patchwork, which is also common for early 20th century patchwork. The cape and skirt together measure just over 3.5 feet long, so we can assume it was meant to fit someone under 5 feet tall. While it's hard to tell from the picture, the small size of pieces like these make them special. Historic clothes made for children are much less common than pieces made for adults.

Next time you are able to visit the museum, you may not see our new acquisitions in the galleries. With nearly 200,000 pieces of Seminole history, we can only put a small percentage of our collection on exhibit in the galleries at one time. You can see much more on a behind-the-scenes tour of the rest of our collection in our world-

class storage vaults. I would be happy to set up a personal experience for you and your family to experience this part of the museum. Just let me know if you're interested. I can be reached at tarabackhouse@semtribe.com. Looking forward to it!



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

1920s child's patchwork cape and dress enhance the extensive patchwork collection at the museum.

Montana Cypress delivers taste of Native life to movie biz

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The Miccosukee Tribe is a relatively small one – tightly knit – with about 700 tribal members. It makes Montana Cypress fairly certain he's the only one to pack up and make his way from the reservation to Southern California to direct, produce and act in films.

"Growing up, I made Sasquatch movies with my brother with a VHS recorder and digital camera," Cypress said by phone from Burbank, California, where he lives. "I was always involved in making those kinds of things."

Cypress grew up in Ochopee and left at age 27 to attend the New York Film Academy in Los Angeles where he graduated with an associate of fine arts degree in acting for film. Now 33, he's found a niche and has increasingly made a name for himself in the industry after "hanging out playing rez ball for a good majority of my 20s with my brother."

His older brother, Talbert, is a Miccosukee tribal leader. His older sister,

Ashley, is a seamstress and Cypress said he has a "nice litter of nieces and nephews back home." His father runs a chickee business and his mother is also a seamstress.

But home in Ochopee was a world away from Los Angeles and Cypress said that while there were Native Americans around, it took some time to connect.

"That was a hard part of the process. There are Natives here but they are spread out – Lakota, Arapaho, the list goes on. I only knew [of] Miccosukee and Seminole and what was on 'Dances with Wolves,'" he said with a chuckle.

Cypress forged relationships through the Native Voices theater ensemble at the Autry Museum of the American West and his talents started to blossom.

"I [discovered during] acting school that I knew how to write," he said. "I started writing plays; all of the stories centered on living on the rez. It was sometimes drama, sometimes comedy."

Filmography

Cypress said he's made seven or eight movies in all, but three are more well known

– "Two Brothers," (2018); "Christmas in Ochopee" (2018); and "The Transcenders," (2020).

"Two Brothers" was Cypress's first short film where he served as actor, writer and producer. It was adapted from one of his short plays and shot in the Everglades. It follows two Native brothers who move from a reservation to Los Angeles.

"It has very interesting themes; one of the guys has a dream to be really educated and smart and becomes an art snob," Cypress said. "The other one is trying to write stories, screenplays and novels."

It plays on Alaska Airlines flights and is expected to be available on YouTube later this year.

His second 2018 film is the farcical (in Cypress's words) "Christmas in Ochopee." It's a 17-minute short comedy about a Native who brings his white vegan girlfriend to a reservation in the South. It's available to view on YouTube.

His latest film, "The Transcenders," was released last year and is scheduled to be screened at the Lumbee Film Festival in Pembroke, North Carolina on Sept. 18. It will be one of 18 new festival films that are



Courtesy photo

Montana Cypress



Courtesy photo

Montana Cypress, left, and cinematographer Cooper Shine, work on a scene for the 2020 film "The Transcenders."



Courtesy photo

Setting up a scene in the Everglades for the 2018 film "Two Brothers" are (from right to left) Montana Cypress, actor Joseph Adams and cinematographer Cooper Shine.

directed by Indigenous filmmakers.

"The Transcenders" follows the struggles of two brothers who find a remedy that promises to "transform their primitive behavior" as they transition to life in the city from their upbringing on a reservation.

If the plots sound familiar, Cypress said that's because the subject matter of his films are "somehow like an algorithm" of his life and experiences. He said he's also found it ironic that "you write more about a place once you've moved from there."

His current project is the film "Red Orchid." Its production was delayed in 2020 because of the pandemic but he's hoping to pick it back up this fall. The film takes place in an Indian camp in the Everglades in the late 1800s. It's a departure from the drama-comedy theme and is "psychological horror," Cypress said. He said about 70% of the film's dialogue will be spoken in the Seminole-Miccosukee language – Elapponke – and that some of the cast will consist of Miccosukee tribal members.

Native presence

Cypress's success comes at a time when Native Americans are being seen more frequently in front of and behind the camera. "I think there has been a slight shift and it's an exciting time," Cypress said.

He recently met Sterlin Harjo – the Native American filmmaker behind the FX comedy series "Reservation Dogs" – at a coffee shop in Burbank, where he also met

Lakota-Irish actor Zahn McClarnon.

"[Harjo] said he saw 'Christmas in Ochopee,'" Cypress said excitedly. "It's these things that inspire me to keep going."

He's also hopeful that Native American representation in Hollywood in general is improving. One example in his own career came when he was recently asked to appear on an episode about Natives in South Florida on the Nick Jr. learning app "Noggin," a spinoff of Nickelodeon.

Cypress said representatives were looking for Native Americans to help develop and act in an episode based in South Florida.

"They could have gotten any person that looked like an Indian with dark hair and dark skin but they wanted the actual thing," Cypress said.

The episode features Native history, airboat rides in the Everglades and alligators. He wore a vest with traditional Miccosukee patchwork for the episode.

Cypress said the Seminole Tribe's Everett Osceola was brought on the project to help with the script. Cypress said he's always seen the Seminole Tribe as neighbors. He also has a half-sister who is Seminole.

"On my rez you see Seminoles and on their rez you see Miccosukee," he said. "We're the same to a certain extent; we share the same language and clan system. When we go to Corn Dance we're all one."

Health

Editorial

Rep. Tom Cole: Get vaccinated

BY REP. TOM COLE

In recent weeks, our country has experienced an alarming uptick in COVID-19 cases due to the delta variant, which is more contagious than initial strains that spread widely and first caused the coronavirus pandemic last year.

Indeed, this variant seems to be rearing its ugly head across America, largely among those who are unvaccinated, with most cases of hospitalizations and deaths among those who have not yet received a coronavirus vaccination.

Considering how easily accessible vaccines are to Americans, this is not how it should be in our communities.

Remember, Operation Warp Speed, initiated by the Trump administration, allowed the United States to partner with talented researchers in private pharmaceutical companies to scale up development and deploy safe and effective vaccines, free to every American over age 12, in a matter of months by bypassing bureaucratic red tape that typically keeps medicines waiting for years for review.

By no means was this accelerated and record-time turnaround a result of cutting corners or ignoring existing safety standards required by statute.

Indeed, building on two decades of work in similar vaccine platforms, from research and development to clinical trials to granting emergency use authorization, the Food and Drug Administration remained compliant in every phase of research and development.

And now, both Pfizer and Moderna are seeking biologics licenses — or full FDA approval — for the vaccines they developed, demonstrating even more supporting evidence of their efficacy and safety.

Regrettably, however, even while these vaccines were under rapid development last year, some began spreading misinformation and causing public doubt about their efficacy and safety.

The unfortunate result of this misinformation is that millions of Americans remain unprotected from a disease that is now within our collective power to stop.

Throughout history, vaccines have played a vital role in ridding our world of dangerous and deadly diseases and viruses, such as smallpox and polio. When more

people choose to get vaccinated, they not only protect themselves, but also at-risk individuals, including our own families, friends and loved ones.

Put simply, vaccines save lives. A key and familiar example includes annual flu shots, which prevent thousands of hospitalizations and deaths every single year.

This pandemic proves no different, and it requires each of us to fully eradicate.

Unlike some countries around the world, America has the means to fight and defeat this virus, including any variants that emerge.

While this process does not happen overnight, by getting vaccinated, we have the power to keep up the momentum toward normal rather than undo progress made over the last several months.

If you are able to receive a vaccine, like I did earlier this year, I urge you to do so. And if you have any lingering questions, please do not wait to schedule a conversation with your trusted health care provider.

Congressman Tom Cole (Chickasaw Nation) represents Oklahoma's Fourth



U.S. Rep. Tom Cole (Chickasaw Nation)

Congressional District. This op-ed written was originally published in early August in the *The Norman (Okla.) Transcript*.

DELTA From page 1A

"In some ways it's worse than the beginning of the pandemic because people are so tired of it. What people fail to recognize is that this one (Delta) kills people much faster," Kiswani-Barley said.

The tribe is offering an incentive for tribal members to receive the vaccine. Those who get a full two shot dose by Oct. 4 will receive \$500 and be entered into a raffle for a \$1 million grand prize. That means a first dose must be administered by Sept. 5 to allow enough time between shots. The grand prize drawing is scheduled to take place Oct. 5.

While it's true that the tribe has seen an increase in vaccinations, the number is still far below goals. As of late August about one-third of eligible tribal members had been vaccinated. The goal of HHS is to have at least 70% of those eligible be vaccinated.

Kiswani-Barley added that while vaccinated people can still catch the Delta variant, the vast majorities are not being hospitalized or dying. Further, she said booster shots would soon be available to those who are in "severely immunocompromised" categories and that eventually booster shots would be offered to the general population. For the general population a booster shot can be administered eight months after a second dose.

Meanwhile, tribal health clinics are open for essential visits only because of the surging numbers. In addition, Kiswani-Barley said clinics would soon administer a Covid-19 antibody treatment through Regeneron Pharmaceuticals for those who are eligible.

"I hope people will get vaccinated," she said. "It won't guarantee you won't get the virus, but it will give you a high probability to survive."

Tribal members can call their local clinic or the HHS hotline at (833) 786-3458 for more information. Tribal employees can call the hotline for more information as well.

NICWA's Orlando conference theme has Seminole connection

BY DAMON SCOTT Staff Reporter

National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) officials are hopeful that the next conference will be a marker toward some normalcy. The annual gathering has been a virtual one for the last two years due to the pandemic, but its 2022 version is scheduled to be an in-person affair in Orlando. There will also be online options for those who don't travel to the Sunshine State.

The Seminole Tribe has been a staunch supporter of NICWA for years — it is often the lead sponsor for the conference — and this year it has even more connections. A watercolor painting by tribal member and artist Erica Deitz was chosen to represent the conference theme — "Homecoming."

Deitz's painting depicts a Seminole camp scene with chickees, women cooking over a fire, grinding corn, and living a traditional camp life.

"Our ancestors, in their villages and camps, often traveled to neighboring places to visit relatives, replenish supplies, celebrate seasons and hunts, and visit to enjoy each other's company and share news," NICWA said in an announcement

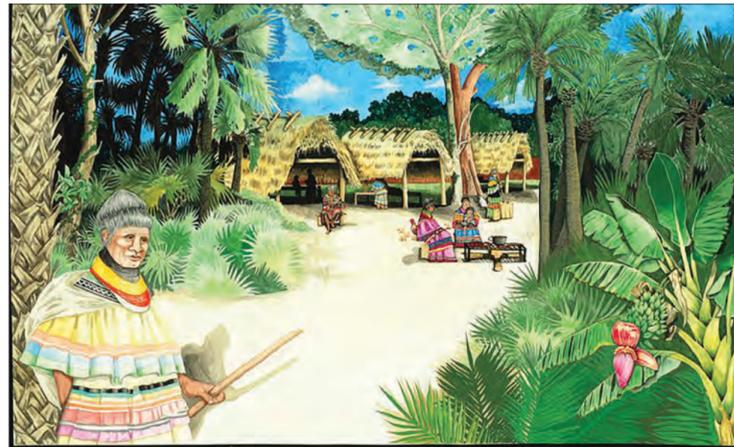
about the conference theme. "This physical movement was part of the cycle of their calendars, something to anticipate and look forward to. Through these relationships and interdependence, our peoples were sustained over generations. Similarly, today, no matter where we work, travel, or live, home remains the place where we feel connected."

The conference is a mix of general sessions, workshops, meetings and keynote speakers. Those who attend are often engaged in child welfare systems, including government officials, young people, mental health workers, juvenile justice service providers, students, those in legal professions, child advocates and tribal, state and federal leaders.

Topics include child welfare, adoption services, foster care, children's mental health, judicial and legal affairs, the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and more.

The conference also features an exhibition space with various vendors and an awards ceremony.

"This conference is an opportunity for reflection and stock-taking," the NICWA announcement continued. "We can observe where we are now, the characteristics of this place — both literally and figuratively, and the status of our people. This is a chance to affirm what we do and to adjust practices so



Tribal member Erica Deitz created the watercolor painting "Homecoming" that represents the theme for NICWA's 2022 Orlando conference.

that we may serve families better." The 40th "Protecting Our Children Conference" runs from April 3-6. The Orlando venue for the conference had not

been announced as of press time. For more information, go to nicwa.org.

James Driving Hawk named CEO of IHS's largest hospital

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Indian Health Service announced Aug. 25 the appointment of James Driving Hawk as the chief executive officer of the Phoenix Indian Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona. The center is the IHS' largest hospital, providing direct health care services to more than 150,000 patients.

Driving Hawk, an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, has served as director of the IHS Great Plains Area Office since 2019, where he provided leadership in the administration of a comprehensive federal, tribal, and urban Indian health care system.

Driving Hawk has more than 23 years of

experience in financial management, healthcare administration, purchased/referred care, business office operations and tribal budget consultation. Before joining the IHS Great Plains Area, he served as executive officer of the IHS Phoenix Area Office.

Driving Hawk led the IHS Great Plains Area as director and acting director for more than four years. During that time, he established a new governance structure for all hospitals and clinics and developed a division of quality and compliance for the area. Under his leadership, all IHS health care facilities in the Great Plains Area achieved full accreditation.

Driving Hawk holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Cardinal

Stitch University and is a current member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

The Phoenix Indian Medical Center provides primary care services to four Phoenix Service Unit tribes; the San Lucy District of the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Tonto Apache Tribe, the Yavapai-Apache Indian Tribe, and the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe. The center also works closely with the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, that have contracted operations of their primary care. Tribal members who receive care at the center are also often residents of the greater Phoenix area and hail from tribes throughout the country.



James Driving Hawk (Rosebud Sioux Tribe)

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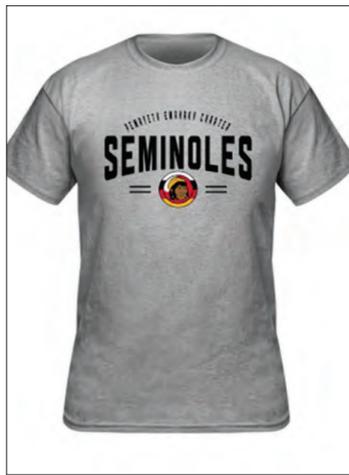
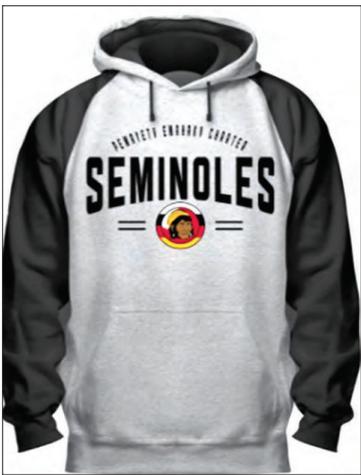
THE PATIENT AND ANY OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT HAS A RIGHT TO REFUSE TO PAY, CANCEL PAYMENT, OR BE REIMBURSED FOR PAYMENT FOR ANY OTHER SERVICE, EXAMINATION, OR TREATMENT THAT IS PERFORMED AS A RESULT OF AND WITHIN 72 HOURS OF RESPONDING TO THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FREE, DISCOUNTED, OR REDUCED-FEE SERVICE, EXAMINATION, OR TREATMENT.

SEMINOLE SCENES



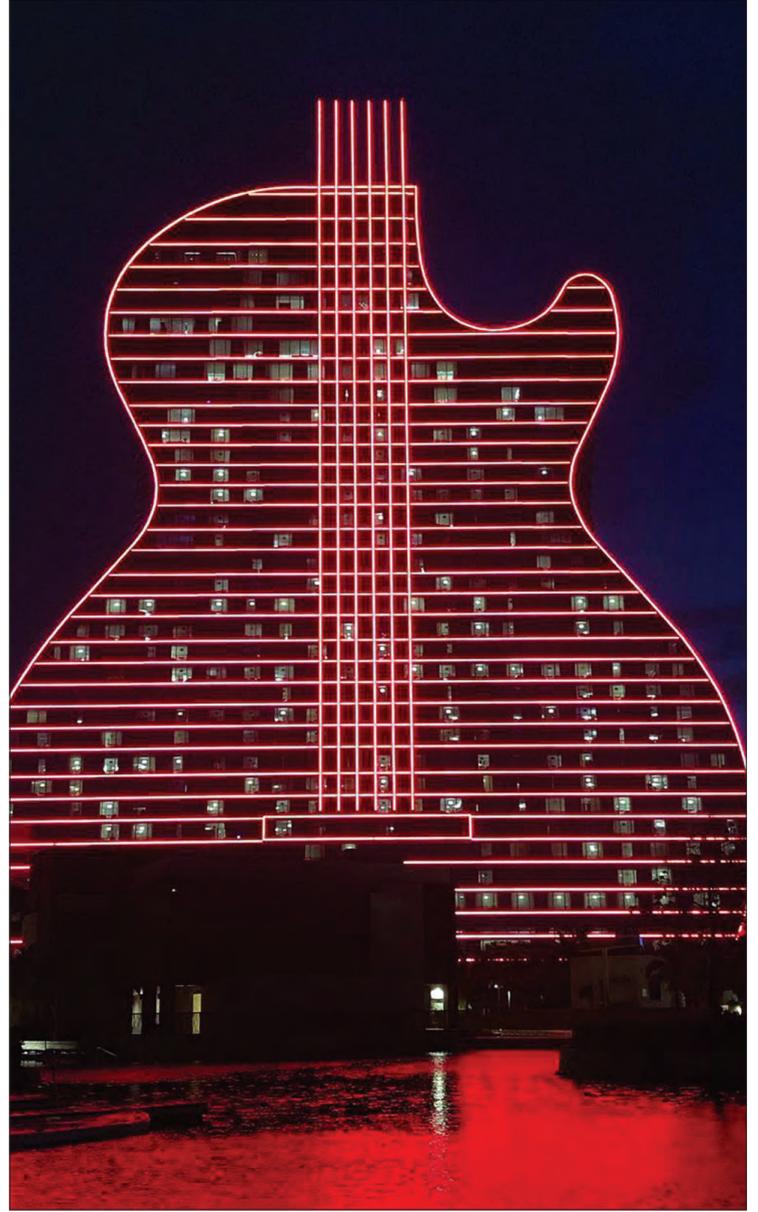
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

ANNIVERSARY DAY: Aug. 21 marked the 64th anniversary of federal recognition of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum posted this photo on its Facebook page showing a gathering of the first Tribal Council. From left are Frank Billie, Mike Osceola, John Cypress, John Josh, Billy Osceola (Chairman), Laura Mae Osceola (Secretary), Betty Mae Jumper, Charlotte Tommie Osceola and Howard Tiger.



Fan Cloth (3)

PECS PRIDE: Pemayev Emahakv Charter School gear, including chairs, hats, hoodies, jackets, shirts, shorts, tights and other items are available at fancloth.shop/PRQ3E. Purchase of items serves as a fundraiser for the school. The final day to order is Oct. 1.



Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

STONES TRIBUTE: The Guitar Hotel was lit in red in memory of Rolling Stones drummer Charlie Watts, who died Aug. 24 at age 80. Watts had been with the Stones since 1963. His final concert was Aug. 30, 2019, at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens.

Seminole Scenes Rewind: Photos from the past - canoes



File photo (2)

Above, Billy Cypress leads a canoe ride on the New River. Below, Bobby Henry, at left, steers a canoe on a lake.



File photo

John Henry poles his canoe on a lake.



File photo
The underbelly of a wooden canoe.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Shinnecock Tribe receives \$18M for new medical marijuana dispensary

The Shinnecock Indian Nation will receive \$18 million through a new partnership to build and help manage a medical marijuana facility on the tribe's territory in eastern Long Island.

Chanae Bullock runs Little Beach Harvest, the Shinnecock company that will manage the medical marijuana cultivation and dispensary. She said the facility is expected to open in early 2022 on tribal land in Southampton.

"The focus is usually where the money is going and how it's helping: 'Yay, everyone is happy because there's money being had.' No, it's bigger than that. We are talking the know-how. We are talking professional development. We are talking resources. I mean, intellectual property of a publicly traded company is huge," Bullock said.

The agreement is with TILT Holdings, an Arizona-based company that develops tribal cannabis projects.

TILT will receive over 11% of gross revenue generated by the Shinnecock medical marijuana facility, plus a sizable stake in their company for the first nine years.

Bryan Polite, the chairman of the tribal council, explained the importance of the project to the tribe.

"It's to provide diversified revenue streams for the Nation, so we can become economically self-sustainable — not only fund the government but also some of these social programs that we've been able to bring to fruition," Polite said.

The tribe is also considering a separate recreational marijuana proposal. It requires a full vote by its tribal members to create rules for local businesses to sell pot.

- WSHU Public Radio (Fairfield, Conn.)

Tribe sues Arizona over new sports betting law

TUCSON, Ariz. — Attorneys for the Yavapai Prescott Indian tribe filed a lawsuit against Gov. Doug Ducey and Arizona Department of Gaming director Ted Vogt, alleging state lawmakers illegally passed the state's new sports betting, event wagering bill in April.

The tribe filed the lawsuit Aug. 26 in Maricopa County Superior Court.

The tribe's attorneys argue the passage of the law violated the state's Voter Protection Act, as it permits non-tribal gaming operators to gamble outside of tribal land.

As a result, the tribe argues, the new law distorts the purpose of the "Indian Gaming Preservation and Self-Reliance Act," authorizing Native American tribes in the state to operate limited forms of gambling in tribally-owned casinos and violates the state's ban on special laws granting special benefits to specific entities, groups or individuals.

Lawyers also say the passage of the law as an emergency measure, under which it immediately took effect, was also unconstitutional.

The law grants 10 commercial sports betting licenses to professional sports team owners or franchises, the operator of the sports facility that hosts an annual Professional Golf Association tournament and the promoter of a NASCAR touring race. Additionally, the law grants 10 licenses to Arizona tribes.

"This means that only 10 out of 22 of the State's federally recognized Indian tribes will be granted this license," the news release from tribal lawyers reads.

- KOLD (Tucson, Arizona)

Coquille Tribe partners with state on salmon rescue

NORTH BEND, Ore. — State and tribal officials will collaborate on emergency action to rescue Coquille River fall Chinook salmon, the Coquille Indian Tribe announced Aug. 25.

"We're looking at a brief window of time and a tiny breeding stock returning to the river," said tribal Chairman Brenda Meade. "We need to act now and give these fish a future."

Meade reported successful discussions between the tribe and Curt Melcher, director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, on immediate steps to maximize this fall's salmon breeding cycle.

"Director Melcher has agreed with me that we must ensure a successful brood stock collection this year," Meade said. "The last few years, ODFW has released less than half of the juvenile Chinook salmon from the hatchery that their plan requires. The reason is that with so few adults returning over the last several years, it has been difficult to gather enough adults to secure the eggs needed to meet the hatchery plan objectives. We have agreed to meet and develop specific plans to collect the eggs needed to meet our goals."

The number of adult fall Chinook returning to the river each year has collapsed in the past decade — falling from more than 30,000 in 2010 to just a few hundred by 2019. Those returning fish provide the brood stock to begin a new life cycle of juvenile salmon — fish that will mature at sea before coming home to spawn.

In conversations over the past few weeks, the tribe urged ODFW to prioritize two key goals: First, ensure that enough returning adult chinook salmon are collected as brood stock this fall to ensure a full hatchery fish release next year. And second, reduce the Coquille River's infestation of

smallmouth bass, an invasive species that devours young salmon before they can reach the ocean.

The tribe approached ODFW Director Melcher and Gov. Kate Brown and her staff in recent weeks, offering to partner with the state on those immediate goals as well as other Coquille River salmon and watershed problems. According to the tribe, the initial reactions have been promising.

"Director Melcher and his staff have made the equipment needed to continue bass removals available to us and we are working together in an intensive removal effort over the next several weeks. We are collaborating on actions to secure the full brood stock needed this year and communicating on a daily basis. If these small steps indicate a willingness by the state to work together with the Coquille Tribe as a partner, and with urgency, the salmon in the Coquille River just might have a chance."

A particular concern is Ferry Creek, a Coquille River tributary where ODFW collects returning adult salmon for its hatchery program.

"We need to protect adult salmon from sea lions and ensure that the existing brood stock trap works effectively," Meade said. "We are pressing for a plan to collect brood stock in other areas of the basin if the Ferry Creek trap doesn't collect all the adults needed this year so we can have a full hatchery release. We are urging ODFW to advance actions that help the salmon that it has been considering for a while, and also to work with us creatively, applying good science, and not letting aging management plans or the status quo hamstring our joint efforts to get more of our salmon coming home now. And the Coquille Tribe is going to be there as a partner to help."

A plan released by ODFW in May calls for installation of a sea lion excluder at Ferry Creek. The excluder is basically a steel fence that blocks the predatory mammals from pursuing the salmon upstream.

The tribe has been assured that the device is nearly ready to be deployed, but they say speed is crucial.

"That fence needs to be in place now," Meade said.

State and tribal staff members also plan to meet in the next few days to discuss maximizing the Ferry Creek fish trap's performance.

Along with improved hatchery production, the tribe asked the state to step up electrofishing activities to reduce bass numbers. Electrofishing uses a special boat to stun fish and collect them in dip nets. The state deployed its boat recently for a bass population study, but the tribe asked the state to do more, and it has.

"We agreed that we are going to transition from gathering data about the bass, which we agree are a big problem, to actually removing as many of them as we can right now, with Coquille Tribal staff or joint ODFW/Coquille Tribe crews," Meade said.

Though these initial steps are small, Meade said the tribe is pleased to have made progress toward cooperative management of the resource. Meade called on sportsmen and the area's tourism industry to contact Gov. Kate Brown to express support for saving the river's fall Chinook run.

- KCBY-TV (North Bend, Oregon)

Dedication held for first Wyoming veterans memorial honoring Native American-Indigenous veterans of the Wind River Reservation

FORT WASHAKIE, Wyo. — The dedication of the first memorial in Wyoming honoring Native American-Indigenous Veterans and their military service was held Aug. 12. Several state and local leaders were in attendance to commemorate this momentous occasion.

"It was an honor to serve the United States of America. It is the most respected position in Shoshone culture and at the forefront of many tribal activities and ceremonies," said Gulf War Veteran, and Chief Washakie descendant Kristen Washakie.

The Path of Honor - Wind River Veterans Memorial is located in Fort Washakie on the Wind River Reservation. The Path of Honor is a tribute to all military service members who live within the boundaries of the reservation. The memorial is a collection of stones representing four-eras of service; Pre World War Era Service and World Wars I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and finally the Post- Vietnam & Gulf War Era.

"The Path of Honor project at its core seeks to unify, include, and inspire. Encouraging us all to come together to learn about, preserve, and honor the incredible courage, commitment, and sacrifice of all veterans who have lived on the Wind River Reservation," said Commander Wyman H. Weed, Sr of Richard Pogue Post #81.

- From press release

Charles Sams III nominated for National Park Service leadership position

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The White House announced Aug. 18 the intent to nominate Charles F. "Chuck" Sams III, an enrolled member of the Cayuse and Walla Walla of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, as director of the National Park Service. The nomination will be considered by the U.S. Senate.

"The diverse experience that Chuck brings to the National Park Service will be an incredible asset as we work to conserve

and protect our national parks to make them more accessible for everyone. I look forward to working with him to welcome Americans from every corner of our country into our national park system. The outdoors are for everyone, and we have an obligation to protect them for generations to come," Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said in a statement.

Sams has worked in state and tribal governments and the non-profit natural resource and conservation management fields for more than 25 years. He currently serves as a council member to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, appointed by Oregon Governor Kate Brown.

He has held a variety of roles with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, most recently as their executive director. He has also had roles as the president/CEO of the Indian Country Conservancy, executive director for the Umatilla Tribal Community Foundation, national director of the Tribal & Native Lands Program for the Trust for Public Land, executive director for the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, executive director for the Community Energy Project, and president/CEO for the Earth Conservation Corps.

Sams holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in business administration from Concordia University-Portland and a Master's of legal studies in Indigenous Peoples Law from the University of Oklahoma. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

- From press release

Colorado Native Americans: Repeal of state proclamations that led to Sand Creek Massacre a step toward healing

DENVER, Colo. — Dozens of Native American and Indigenous people from Colorado and Oklahoma gathered Aug. 17 to celebrate the repeal of two 157-year-old proclamations by former Territorial Governor John Evans that harmed their ancestors before the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864.

Gov. Jared Polis signed an executive order outside of the Capitol to mark the occasion, rescinding Evans' decrees issued June 27, 1864, and Aug. 11, 1864. The first required "friendly Indians" to go to certain camps while Indigenous families who fought "the whites" had to be kept away "until they are all effectually subdued." The second called on Coloradans to pursue "hostile Indians" with weapons; they would get paid for doing it and could keep all stolen property for themselves.

Evans ultimately was forced to resign because of the Sand Creek Massacre where U.S. soldiers attacked and killed Native people, including Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, in southeastern Colorado territory. The soldiers spent seven hours killing and mutilating hundreds of people, despite a peace deal that had been brokered.

Tribal leaders who gathered with Polis, Lt. Gov. Dianne Primavera and other state leaders said the move was a step toward healing generational trauma and an acknowledgement of their history. They shared their experiences, sang traditional songs and prayed together.

"To me, hundreds of years later, the fact that we're finally taking away those hateful words and we're also making a place where we're all safe is a big step," Northern Arapaho Tribal Chairman Jordan Dresser said. "We have a long ways to go in terms of race relations and us as Native people and people of color to feel safe at all places at all times. But these are the right steps that are going to ensure that those things continue in a good faith."

Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Treasurer Alston Turtle said Native people have been resilient throughout history and this is a time to make things right. He encouraged people in other states to advocate for similar reforms, and said the next step should be renaming Mount Evans.

Last year, Polis created a state geographic naming board to consider changing the names of mountains and bodies of water with racist ties, including Mount Evans.

Ruth Gardipe of the Southern and Northern Cheyenne tribes said her parents came to Colorado through the relocation program in the 1950s, and she and her sister were born in Denver. Gardipe said they used to hear stories from her mother about her mother's great-grandmother, a survivor of the Sand Creek Massacre.

"I feel very blessed," Gardipe said of being part of the event, years after her parents were active in their Native communities. "I feel very honored."

- The Denver Post

Native-led solar organization receives grant from MacArthur Foundation

LAME DEER, Montana — Covenant Tribal Solar Initiative, a Native-led nonprofit organization that empowers American Indian tribes to replace extractive energy systems with clean, regenerative energy has received a \$775,000 grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for its work supporting Native American tribes as they pursue energy sovereignty and a return to self-determination.

"The MacArthur Foundation is making significant investments to combat climate change, placing a new emphasis on its impacts on BIPOC communities," Cheri Smith, founder of Covenant Tribal Solar Initiative, said in a statement. "We are honored that the Foundation has recognized the importance and urgency of our mission

to empower Native American tribes to develop and deploy renewable energy to restore their self-reliance. Like the MacArthur Foundation, we are committed to supporting the reinvention of systems that foster just, equitable, and resilient Native communities. Replacing extractive energy systems with clean, regenerative energy is a transformational solution to a dire problem," Smith said.

"As we emerge from this moment of crisis, we have an opportunity to improve the critical systems that people and places need to thrive. Our systems and structures must be rebuilt," MacArthur Foundation President John Palfrey said in a statement. "We are committed to ensuring that our response to the pandemic is focused on supporting the reimagining of systems that create a more just, equitable, and resilient world."

Globally, solar energy has the potential for significant positive effects on economic, social, and ecological systems, according to the Covenant Tribal Solar Initiative. It also stated that in American Indian communities — where a smaller electric bill means more money for food, medicine, and other essentials — solar makes an exponentially greater impact, and aligns with Native belief systems.

"For eons, my people were self-reliant. The earth provided for all of our needs. The devastating effects of colonization, westward expansion, manifest destiny, and the deliberate extermination of the buffalo by colonists stripped us of our ability to provide for ourselves, causing us to be reliant on outsiders for survival," Otto Braided Hair, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Member and co-founder and executive director of Covenant Tribal Solar Initiative, said in a statement. "This funding supports critical efforts to ensure that the regenerative results of solar energy deployment will ignite a systems-level change in the economic and social conditions in our Native communities, leading to a restoration of our self-reliance, and of hope. Coming out of a pandemic, this is more important than ever," said Braided Hair.

Leveraging U.S. Department of Energy funding, philanthropy, and impact investment, Covenant Tribal Solar Initiative's scope of work in the next 12 months includes the development of residential, commercial, and utility-scale projects totaling more than three megawatts on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, and more on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. As more funding is secured, Covenant Tribal Solar Initiative plans to expand to additional tribes.

- From press release

COVID-19 in Indigenous communities: Active cases in First Nations communities on the rise

The number of outbreaks of COVID-19 in First Nations communities has spiked, following a steady drop in the rate of active cases since January.

The rate of reported active cases of COVID-19 in First Nations communities is currently 1.9 times the respective rate in the general Canadian population.

As of Aug. 23, there were 609 active cases of the virus in First Nations across the country, according to the latest data from Indigenous Services Canada.

The majority of new infections in First Nations reported the week of Aug. 23 were in Saskatchewan. First Nations in Alberta and British Columbia also experienced outbreaks of the virus.

The data from Indigenous Services Canada does not include outbreaks in the territories, but the N.W.T.'s Sahtu region has been grappling with spread of the delta variant of COVID-19 in its communities.

Since the pandemic began, there have been 34,175 cases in First Nations communities. A total of 389 First Nations people living on-reserve have died from the virus, with four deaths reported in the last week.

Total hospitalizations have risen to 1,631, and the number of First Nations people who have recovered from the disease is now at 33,177.

- CBC News

Boston Marathon organization apologizes for race coinciding with Indigenous Peoples' Day

BOSTON, Mass. — The Boston Athletic Association on Aug. 28 issued an apology for its decision to hold the Boston Marathon on the same day as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

The association will hold the marathon on Oct. 11. The race was postponed from its usual April slot due to the pandemic. Oct. 11 is recognized as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

"In selecting the fall date for the Boston Marathon, the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) in no way wanted to take away from Indigenous Peoples' Day or celebrations for the Indigenous and Native American Community. We extend our sincere apologies to all Indigenous people who have felt unheard or feared the importance of Indigenous Peoples' Day would be erased. We are sorry," the B.A.A. said in a statement.

The B.A.A. said it would take the following actions:

- Prior to the start of the Boston Marathon, a land acknowledgement will take place to recognize that the race travels through Indigenous homelands. The B.A.A. is better understanding the trauma experienced over centuries by the Indigenous People who lived on these lands, and we will work with the Federal and State Recognized Tribes on this land acknowledgement.

- The B.A.A. will donate to the Indigenous Peoples' Day Newton Committee working through its fiscal agent, Newton Community Pride, and intended to support the work of the Indigenous Peoples' Day Newton Committee, to fund their first-ever Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration.

- The B.A.A. will celebrate Indigenous runners, Ellison Brown (Narragansett, champion of the 1936 and 1939 races) and Patti Catalano Dillon (Mi'kmaq, three-time runner-up), through its banner program across Boston. The B.A.A. will also recognize another champion, Tom Longboat from 1907, as well as other top Native American finishers in race history, through campaigns, features, and programming.

- The B.A.A. will recognize Indigenous athletes participating in the 125th Boston Marathon over race weekend and on Indigenous Peoples' Day.

- Staff report

Ryerson University to change its name amid reckoning with history of residential schools

TORONTO, Ontario, Canada — Ryerson University's board of directors has voted to change the Toronto school's name over concerns about the man the institution is named for and his links to Canada's residential schools.

In a post on the school's website Aug. 26, President and Vice Chancellor Mohamed Lachemi announced the change is forthcoming as part of 22 recommendations made by the university's Standing Strong (Mash Koh Wee Kah Pooh Win) Task Force.

Egerton Ryerson is considered one of the primary architects of the residential school system and, in recent years, staff and students had been calling for both the removal of his statue and for the university to change its name.

The statue of Ryerson that once stood on the school's campus was toppled earlier this year, amid the discovery of unmarked grave sites on the grounds of former residential schools.

In response to the growing controversy, the university formed the task force to reconsider the school's name, Egerton Ryerson's legacy and other commemorative elements on campus.

The group's 22 recommendations included renaming the institution, sharing materials to recognize the legacy of Egerton Ryerson and providing more opportunities to learn about Indigenous history and Indigenous-colonial relations.

Student activist Sam Howden, who is Red River Métis and uses they/them pronouns, was one of a group of students who began referring to the university as "X University", after publicly calling for the school to change its name for years.

"We got what we wanted," they said, calling the name change "pretty incredible."

"But I really want to emphasize that this happened because of student action, because we were on the ground, because it was a direct action and because we were bringing awareness and education to community members and making sure that we centred experiences on Indigenous people."

- CBC News

Bill creating paid holiday for state workers on California Native American Day will go to governor

A measure to grant state judicial branch employees the first-ever paid state holiday on California Native American Day will head to Gov. Gavin Newsom after the Assembly concurred in Senate amendments on a 73-0 bipartisan vote Aug. 26.

The bill, AB 855, was introduced by Assemblyman James C. Ramos (D-Highland), a member of the Serrano/Cahuilla tribe and the first California Native American lawmaker elected in state history.

Judiciary employee holidays are set in the Code of Civil Procedure and a change requires legislation. Other state employees are covered in the Government Code.

AB 855 amends the Code of Civil Procedure to recognize California Native American Day as a judicial holiday to provide proper recognition for the state's First People and celebrate their history.

It does not create an additional paid holiday for court personnel because Columbus Day would be exchanged for another state holiday, California Native American Day, which is celebrated on the fourth Friday in September.

Court personnel are currently the only state workers receiving the existing Oct. 12 holiday as a paid day off.

The Judicial Council, a sponsor of the proposal, voted in January to seek authority to ensure California Native American Day is designated as a paid holiday for court employees.

AB 855 is sponsored by the Judicial Council of California. It is also supported by the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations, California Tribal Business Alliance and the Nashville-Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinan Tribal Council.

- Lake County News (Clear Lake, California)

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SAM HUNT



SEP 22
**DARYL HALL &
JOHN OATES**
WITH SPECIAL GUEST SQUEEZE



SEP 25
BANDA MS



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TOM SEGURA



OCT 2 & 3
GUNS N' ROSES



OCT 15
MAJAH HYPE



OCT 22
TREVOR NOAH



OCT 23
HAVASI



OCT 24
**LITTLE
BIG TOWN**
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Education



Cheyenne Nunez graduates from USF, gets right to work

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Cheyenne Nunez graduated from the University of South Florida on Aug. 21 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology.

"The graduation was amazing," said Nunez, 23. "I am the first generation in my family to get a bachelor's degree."

After spending two years as a student athlete at State College of Florida, Bradenton, Nunez transferred to the University of South Carolina Upstate where she played softball for the NCAA Division I school. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, she transferred to USF for her senior year to finish her degree.

"College was a great experience, it changed my life," Nunez said. "You don't even realize how big the world can be. If I would have stayed at home, I wouldn't have known who I was as a person. It made me come out of my shell, it raised my confidence."

After transferring to USF, Nunez got engaged to Eddy Gonzalez, became pregnant and prepared to give birth during her last semester's midterm exams. She notified her teachers, who wished her the best, but Nunez knew she still had to take the exams. She gave birth to her daughter, Elianna Gonzalez, shortly thereafter.

"It was hard, but worth it in the end," she said. "I slowed down, but I didn't give up. Elianna was my motivation to keep going."

Nunez believes everyone should at least try college, including her two younger sisters, Joleyne and Dalayah, both students at Penayety Emahakv Charter School in Brighton. She wants to be a role model and

motivate them to achieve success.

"I always knew when you are good at something, you just have to keep going," Nunez said. "There are a lot of people who look up to you even if you don't know it. I want to leave a really big legacy."

A strong work ethic got Nunez through college and her collegiate softball career. She believes in trying to get 1% better at something every day.

"Focus on one thing and over time, you will be a completely different person," she said. "One thing we can't stop or get back is time, so you might as well use the time we have to get better."

Nunez learned a lot more than playing the game during her years as a softball player. She learned plenty of life skills, such as working with people and being resilient.

During her sophomore year on the SCF Bradenton Manatees, Nunez broke the college record for stolen bases in a season. The record was 24, so she wanted that 25th steal. To this day, she doesn't remember what team they were playing, but she broke the record and her team won the game.

"We were hot that year," Nunez recalled. "It was the hardest I ever ran in my life. I broke the record at the college level; that was so unreal to me."

By the end of her career, Nunez notched 39 stolen bases. She said it is still a record. Nunez used to practice sliding and reading balls from the catcher's hand.

"Sliding isn't as graceful as it looks, it hurts sometimes," she said. "I was the first batter; my goal was to get on base. I didn't get home runs. Once I got on base, then it was me against the catcher."

Before she graduated, Nunez spoke to her former head coach, Mandy Schuerman,



Courtesy photo

Cheyenne Nunez and her family celebrate her graduation from the University of South Florida on Aug. 21. From left are Justin Gonzalez, Eddy Gonzalez, Edelyn Gonzalez, Joleyne Nunez, Peggy Nunez, Elianna Gonzalez, Cheyenne Nunez, Dalayah Nunez and Daniel Nunez Sr.

at SCF Bradenton about her post-collegiate plans. Schuerman offered Nunez a job as an assistant coach for her old team and she accepted.

"She is bringing a special type of knowledge to our program as she has played for us in the past," Schuerman said in an email to the Tribune. "She is able to transition her role from player to coach seamlessly. She is also young and relatable to our current athletes' needs."

Nunez started her job a few days before she graduated.

"I'm excited to coach these girls,"

Nunez said. "I'm excited to take everything I learned from the Division I level and bring it back to the junior college level. I haven't been out of the game too long, I'm still fresh. I tell them I was in their shoes not too long ago. I am ready to give them tips on how to be successful and become more organized, because they will have to study a lot."

Nunez believes courage and resiliency are the most important things to learn and she plans to teach them to the student-athletes she coaches.

"You shouldn't be afraid to take a chance, in life you should always be willing

to take a risk," she said. "Don't be afraid of the unknown; if you do are then you already lost half the battle."

Nunez's family, including her father Daniel, mother Peggy and her sisters attended the graduation along with her fiancé Gonzalez, his siblings Justin and Edelyn, and daughter Elianna.

"It's been a long four and a half years, but she has accomplished a lot in these years," said Peggy Nunez. "We are very proud of her."

Hollywood preschoolers get special graduation gift

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Hollywood preschoolers received a unique graduation gift from the office of Hollywood Board Representative Christine McCall on Aug. 13.

Board Rep. McCall and her assistant, Tiffany Frank, collaborated with volunteers in the We Do Recover program — Jay Holata, Kenny Tommie and Charlie Tiger — as well as Vince Billie (who is not in the program) to assemble 14 Disney-themed bikes for the graduates. Frank formerly worked as an

assistant at We Do Recover.

"It's really been a community effort that will hopefully make them smile," Board Rep. McCall said.

Board Rep. McCall said she wanted to do something memorable for the kids after their drive-thru graduation was canceled due to the recent surge of the Covid-19 Delta variant among tribal members.

Some graduates had been able to hold events before new restrictions were instituted across the tribe. For example, Hollywood, Fort Pierce and Broward County nonresidents had a graduate dinner July 8 at the Hard Rock in Hollywood for those who

had recently received their diplomas.

"We wanted [preschoolers] to know their accomplishments are just as important," Board Rep. McCall said.

Board Rep. McCall said when she and Frank were kids they received bikes as a graduation present from former Hollywood Board Representative Carl Baxley.

"That's always been a fond memory for me," Board Rep. McCall said.

She said she wanted to restart the tradition and thought it was also positive to give kids something that wasn't technology-related — something they could use outside for the last weeks of summer.



Damon Scott (2)

At left, Tiffany Frank and her son Gianni Boyce took bikes out to the vehicles of preschool parents. Above, Hollywood Board Representative Christine McCall and her office gave the bikes as graduation presents.

Ahfachkee School 2021-22 safety protocols

The Ahfachkee School principal Dorothy Cain announced in a letter to parents, guardians and students the updated opening date for the 2021-2022 school year will be Aug. 30 and outlined the Covid-19 precautions that will be taken. The letter read:

Due to a recent surge of Covid-19 cases, we have returned to the Phase II level of Covid prevention for the Community. As a result, we have made changes to our reopening plan. These changes are being made to ensure the safety of our students, families and staff members. We will be implementing a hybrid model of both face-to-face instruction and virtual instruction, limiting the amount of students and individuals on campus. Exceptional Students in Mr. Hernandez's class will be excluded from the hybrid model and will receive full time face-to-face instruction every day. Google Classroom will be used for our virtual model. The first day of school is scheduled for August 30, 2021. Please see the chart below for the schedule of classes.

Week of Aug. 30
Week of Sept. 6
Week of Sept. 13
Week of Sept. 20
Week of Sept. 27
Week of Oct. 4
Week of Oct. 11
Week of Oct. 18
Week of Oct. 25

Grades K-6
Face to Face
Virtual
Face to Face
Virtual
Face to Face
Virtual
Face to Face
Virtual
Face to Face

Grades 7-12
Virtual
Face to Face
Virtual
Face to Face
Virtual
Face to Face
Virtual
Face to Face
Virtual

We will re-evaluate this model as we receive guidance from the STOF Health Department. If you have not received a registration packet for the upcoming year, please contact Melanie Byers in the front office at 863-983-6348.

For new students to Ahfachkee, please contact the office to set up an appointment to register your child. The following documents will be required to register a new student:

1. Birth Certificate
2. Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB Card). If the parent does not have a CIB card please contact the Tribal Clerk's Office for a letter.
3. Health Physical and Immunization form (680)
4. Guardianship and/or court orders documents as applicable
5. Valid physical address and a PMB
6. Two emergency contacts with phone numbers
7. Report cards/transcripts from previous school.

A student's registration will not be complete until all documents are submitted. We look forward to the upcoming school year and seeing our students again!

Best Regards,
Dorothy Cain, Principal
Ahfachkee School

\$10M in grants earmarked for helping increase the number of Native educators

STAFF REPORT

The training of Native Americans for education-related professions received a financial boost Aug. 3. The U.S. Department of Education awarded \$10 million — dispersed in 29 grants — through the Indian Education Professional Development program. The department stressed that the funding addresses a "significant gap" in the number of qualified Native educators who

serve Native students.

"Representation matters," U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said in a statement. "All students deserve the opportunity to be taught by educators who are diverse and who reflect their backgrounds and experiences—and we know that far too few Native American students have the chance to engage with Native American teachers in their schools and as education leaders and mentors in their communities. That must change. I am heartened that this

program will help to create a more diverse educator workforce for students across the country and support efforts to recruit and retain more talented Native American teachers and administrators for our schools."

Ranging from \$98,000 to \$400,000, the grants are earmarked for mostly higher education institutions in Arizona, California, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is also among

the recipients.

The goals of the program are:

- Increase the number of qualified Native individuals in professions that serve in school districts, including charter and Bureau of Indian Education schools, that have a high proportion of Native students;
- Provide pre- and in-service training and support to qualified Native individuals to become effective teachers or education administrators;
- Improve the skills of qualified

Native individuals who serve in the education field; and

- Develop and implement two-year induction services initiatives to promote retention of effective Native teachers, principals, and school leaders who have a record of success in helping low-achieving Native students improve their academic achievement, outcomes, and preparation for postsecondary education or employment.

Three TCU graduates receive Harvard degrees

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Three of Harvard's 2021 graduating students hail from Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs).

Harvard University's May 27th commencement activities celebrated the 7,640 degrees awarded to their 2021 graduates, of which 6,161 were advanced degrees given to candidates completing masters, doctoral, and professional programs. Among those are three TCU graduates who now have Harvard degrees.

Connor Veneski (BA, Haskell Indian Nations University) received a Juris Doctorate (JD) from Harvard Law School. Veneski (Cayuga Nation of New York – Bear Clan), the first TCU graduate to be accepted into Harvard Law School, served as the co-president of the Harvard Native American Law Students Association during his second year.

Heidi Brandow (BFA, Institute of American Indian Arts) received a Masters in Design Studies (MDes) degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. While at Harvard, Brandow (Diné/Kanaka Maoli), co-founded the Harvard Indigenous Design Collective which hosted a number of virtual events focused on housing, Indigenous design, and the role of museums in presenting Indigenous histories.

Lorissa Garcia (AA, Southwestern

Indian Polytechnic Institute) received a Master's in Education (EdM) degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Garcia (Acoma Pueblo), began her educational career with an Associate of Arts degree from the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in Albuquerque, NM. She would later receive her bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University. Upon earning her Harvard degree, Lorissa reflected on her TCU pathway.

"I got my start at a TCU, and it was one of the best decisions of my educational journey thus far. Being at a TCU gave me a sense of comfort because the campus was smaller, but more importantly it helped give me a better sense of self because I was encouraged to embrace my Indigenous heritage and its importance of who I am and where I come from and why my degree was important to my home community and Indigenous Country."

There are currently 32 TCUs in the United States. In or around tribal communities, TCUs are tribally controlled institutions of higher education offering a variety of apprenticeships, certificates, and degrees programs. They also provide a unique opportunity to pair cultural and Indigenous values into their studies. For many tribal students, TCUs serve as the closest institution for higher education.



From left, Connor Veneski (Cayuga Nation of New York), Lorissa Garcia (Acoma Pueblo) and Heidi Brandow (Diné/Kanaka Maoli).

PECS students delve into tasty experiment

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

When Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School science teacher Renea Salzwedel Finney teaches, she thinks out of the box; the cookie box in this case.

Finney combined science with milk and cookies to teach about scientific methods, tools and safety for one tasty experiment Aug. 19.

Dubbed the "Great Cookie Dunk Lab," Finney's second, third and fourth graders had to predict whether a Chips Ahoy, Nilla Wafer, Nutter Butter and Oreo cookie would sink or float when dropped into a cup of milk.

The methods they used were very specific. First students had to pose the

question: do cookies sink or float in milk? Second, they examined the cookies using a magnifying lens and brainstormed their observations about the cookies; did they have holes, cracks, were they heavy, small, filled?

Students then formed their hypothesis and made predictions about the cookies' fate in the milk; would they sink or float? Then came the fun; students performed the experiment by dropping the cookies into milk and collected the data. They drew pictures that showed what happened to each cookie in the cups of milk.

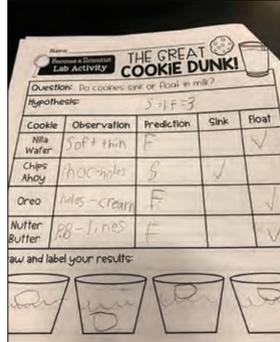
Analysis was the next step. They logged what occurred on a lab activity form. From the analysis, students drew their conclusions and restated their hypothesis into a results

statement.

The results told the story of the day's scientific work. Nilla Wafer and Oreo cookies were the floaters, the Chips Ahoy sunk right away and Nutter Butter started out floating, but then in some cups started to sink very slowly.

But the best was yet to come. "The students were then given the opportunity to eat their cookies and drink their milk," Finney wrote in an email to the Tribune. "We even gave them some extras as those were pretty mushy. We shared as a class what we found out and discussed what they thought made some cookies float while others sunk."

Finney conducted the lab with all nine of her classes during a very sweet day.



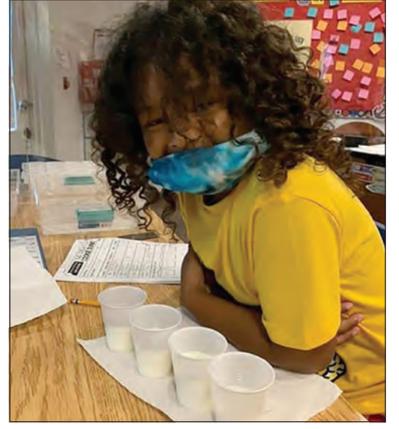
Courtesy photo

This lab activity worksheet is where PECS second, third and fourth graders speculated which cookies would sink and which would float during the sweetest lab experiment, the "Great Cookie Dunk Lab" on Aug. 19.



Courtesy photo

Jaiden Fludd



Courtesy photo

Iverson Huggins



Courtesy photo

Ameliana Osceola



Courtesy photo

Serenity Bishop



Courtesy photo

Tate Matthews

Amber Garrison named to graduate center's board

FROM PRESS RELEASE

American Indian Graduate Center announced Aug. 16 that Amber Garrison (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) has been named to its board of directors. Garrison is senior vice president and global general manager for the hair care brand, Bumble and bumble. For more than eight years, Garrison has worked for The Estée Lauder Companies, the parent company of Bumble and bumble, where she has held roles of increasing responsibility with a focus on strategy, growth and business development.

Since inception, the American Indian Graduate Center organization has awarded more than \$350 million in scholarships to over 16,000 Native scholars representing over 500 tribes in all 50 states.



Courtesy photo

Amber Garrison (Choctaw)

Native language bill advances in U.S. Senate

BY PUBLIC RADIO TULSA

A U.S. Senate committee advanced a pair of bills last week to help preserve Native languages, including one named for a renowned Cherokee linguist.

Hawaii Sen. Brian Schatz is a co-author of S.1402, the Durbin Feeling Native American Languages Act. It would direct the president to keep tabs on agencies' compliance with existing law recognizing Native's right to use their own language and implement surveys of revitalization programs every five years to see where resources are needed most.

"S.1402, which I introduced along with Vice Chairman Murkowski, makes the federal government more accountable by setting clear goals and asking for direct input from Native communities about how federal resources can be more effectively used to support and revitalize Native languages," Schatz said.

The Senate Indian Affairs Committee also advanced S.989, the Native American Language Resource Center Act. It would better coordinate and offer support to culturally based language programs.

"This is an effort that we all want to continue, which is to preserve and revitalize Native American languages, given how critical they are to sustaining Native culture and philosophy," Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski said.

Durbin Feeling, who was a Vietnam veteran, has been called the most important contributor to the Cherokee language since Sequoyah, who developed a syllabary making reading and writing possible.

Feeling wrote the first Cherokee-English dictionary and translated the language into Unicode for computer applications. Cherokee Nation named its language institute after him. He died last August at age 74.

Indigenous land curriculum focus of online program

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) and Teaching for Change will host a day of online conversation, curriculum sharing, and ideas exchange Sept. 25.

The Indigenous Peoples' Day Curriculum Teach-In, this year dedicated to "Indigenous Land: Stewardship, Relationships, and Responsibility," will run from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. NMAI education experts, Teaching for Change, and K-12 teachers will share curriculum and teaching strategies and explore the NMAI's Essential Understandings for teaching about Indigenous peoples' histories and their experiences around land justice today.

Guest speaker Dr. Kelsey Leonard (Shinnecock Nation) will explore the emerging area of Earth law, explain its connection to Indigenous law, and chart a path forward for our shared sustainable future. Leonard will discuss land rights issues and the relationship between Indigenous knowledge and the land.

Leonard is a water scientist, legal scholar and policy expert. She is the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Waters, Climate, and Sustainability and Assistant Professor in the School of Environment, Resources, and Sustainability at the University of Waterloo. Her work focuses on Indigenous water justice and its climatic, territorial, and governance underpinnings for a shared sustainable future.

Cost of the program is \$10. For more information visit teachingforchange.org.



Courtesy photo

Dr. Kelsey Leonard

Roseanne Archibald sees historic win as 'victory for all women'

BY TAYLOR HOLATA
STOF's Advanced Career Development Program

In a historic accomplishment for Indigenous women, Roseanne Archibald, of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation of Ontario, became the first female elected National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations in Canada on July 8.

"You can tell all the women in your life that the glass ceiling has been broken," said Archibald as she addressed the media in a virtual press conference July 9. "My election as the first woman is a victory for all women – First Nations, Indigenous, and women everywhere."

Archibald's legacy as a trailblazer for Indigenous women, however, did not start with this win. Her reputation for making history dates back to 1990, when she was 23 years old.

Archibald comes from a long line of chiefs, with her grandfather serving as the second chief of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation for nearly 30 years. His time in office was later followed by Archibald's uncle and father, in succession.

With political leadership and community activism rooted deep within her family's history, it made sense that Archibald would later choose to follow a similar path. In 1990, Archibald continued her family's legacy to become the youngest and first female chief of her tribe, and this is where her reputation for "breaking the glass ceiling" first began.

Archibald's list of achievements continued with her time serving as the youngest and first female deputy grand chief of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, and later as the youngest and first female grand chief of the Mushkegowuk Council.

After a brief departure from political leadership, Archibald was called to return to politics in 2018 when she was elected as Ontario's Regional Chief. Yet again, Archibald was the first woman to ever hold this position.

Now, Archibald will bring to her new role more than 30 years of prior political experience, and a mission to bring about positive systemic change for Indigenous women and people alike. Archibald recognizes the influence she holds as one of very few Indigenous women in power. She also realizes the importance of being a role model for future generations of Indigenous women and girls.

"It's absolutely essential that women and girls everywhere can see themselves represented at the Assembly of First Nations in a leadership role," Archibald said. "While my gender is important, it is not why I was elected. It is the 31 years of experiences at

every political level that has gotten me here. Women are worthy. Women are capable. Women are highly skilled. Our colonial and patriarchal systems need to be deconstructed and dismantled so that women and gender-diverse people can find a space in the leadership positions. The systems must be able to recognize women based on our ability to hold positions of authority and influence. Taking on this role gives women hope everywhere, not only that they can strive to be the National Chief, but they will also know that they can pursue their own dreams, and create their own 'her story.'"

Archibald's lifelong mission of restructuring the political system is not just for the benefit of Indigenous women, but for all underrepresented people. Archibald believes that a system that directly serves a specific community should continuously strive to adequately represent those people.

"I will be revitalizing and evolving the Assembly of First Nations organization to reflect the people that it serves by making the AFN a more responsible organization that reflects regions and nations," Archibald said. "I am going to make the AFN a safe, healthy, and welcoming space for women and two-spirited, LGBTQIA+ plus peoples and all of our citizens."

Archibald plans to begin her term by instilling a new strategic plan in which Assembly of First Nations members can find comfort in a more unified community. She plans to initiate positive change that will strengthen First Nations members by ensuring that inherent and treaty rights be respected and implemented.

"I want to heal the path forward by creating a national consensus-based agenda for action that includes the principles of peace-making through strengthening our connections and relationships across Canada," Archibald said. "Anytime we are in an election, we always have to figure out how to come back together, and I've always said, 'peace begins with me,' and I will work to strengthen all of these connections and relationships across our country."



Courtesy photo

Roseanne Archibald, National Chief of First Nations

Broward to hold redistricting sessions

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Broward County will hold six community meetings to educate the public on the political redistricting process and receive community input. The 2020 census data will provide the basis for the drawing of political district boundaries.

The schedule is:
Sept. 23 at Miramar Town Center – City Hall, 7 p.m.
Sept. 27 at Broward County Library – Hollywood branch, 7 p.m.

Sept. 28 at Broward County West Regional Library in Plantation, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29 virtual meeting through Broward.org/redistricting, 7 p.m.

Sept. 30 E. Pat Larkins Comm. Center, 7 p.m.

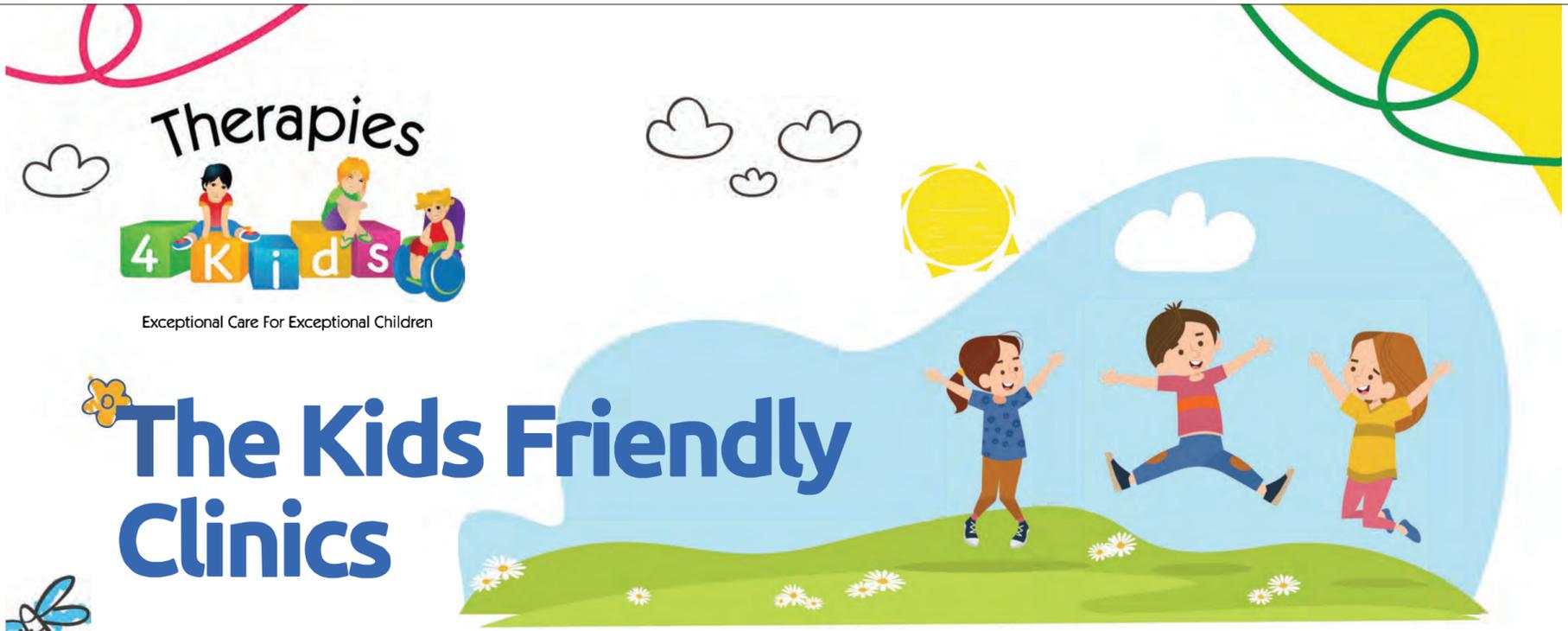
Oct. 16 at Champions Hall Comm. Center, N. Lauderdale, 10 a.m.

For more information visit Broward.org/redistricting.

NIEA convention to be held in Nebraska

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The National Indian Education Association will hold its 52nd annual Convention and Trade Show from Oct. 13-16 in Omaha, Nebraska. The theme is "Native Control of Native Education: A Time to Lead." For more information visit niea.org.



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Sports



Tribal members fondly remember Bobby Bowden's special relationship with the tribe

Legendary FSU coach was appreciated throughout Seminole reservations

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

On his way to visiting the Hollywood Reservation in 2006 for the Seminole Tribe's sports hall of fame banquet, Bobby Bowden summed up why Florida State University's use of "Seminoles" as a name was so important to him.

"To adopt the name of a tribe of Native Americans who have struggled and withstood and survived against all odds, to me is an act of admiration and respect," the legendary college football coach told The Seminole Tribune on the jet ride from Tallahassee to Fort Lauderdale. "Not only do I appreciate the support of the Seminole Tribe, I get excited about it. I'm proud of it."

For decades, that pride has been reciprocal. Following the coach's death Aug. 8 at age 91, tribal members, especially those with ties to the university, expressed appreciation not only for what Bowden accomplished on the field — second most wins all-time in major college football — but also his involvement with the Seminole community.

"Throughout all Seminole reservations, regardless of what football team they like, they always respect Bobby," said Bryan Arledge, a tribal member from the Brighton Reservation who graduated from FSU in 2010, the year Bowden concluded his 34th and final year as FSU coach with a 33-21 win against West Virginia in the Gator Bowl on New Year's Day in Jacksonville.

Arledge, Richard Osceola and Norman "Skeeter" Bowers — three of FSU's biggest supporters from the tribe — fondly remembered Bowden while sitting in the backyard of Osceola's house on the Brighton Reservation in late August.

As a student in Tallahassee, Arledge met Bowden several times. Arledge said the coach made sure the university never took for granted its relationship with the tribe.

"He was very supportive in making sure the university reach out to the Seminoles here on the reservation, and they did ask for our approvals," Arledge said. "They [weren't] just making decisions on their own. I think he had a lot of involvement and he cared for the Seminole community..."

Throughout the country, as colleges, high schools and pro teams have dropped Native American names, the Seminole connection between the tribe and FSU remains strong.

"I love the name and I think they show respect," said Arledge, who is a regional manager in the tribe's Housing department. "Nothing is disrespectful in any way towards the Seminole name. I'm very appreciative that they have a university called Florida State University and it's the Seminoles. As a Seminole here in Brighton as well as an alumni, I got full support with the university."

Those sentiments were echoed by Osceola, who served as sort of an ambassador for the tribe with FSU during Bowden's tenure.

"They gave me the red carpet treatment," he said. "They would ask me 'Are you offended by us?' I said, 'No, we're proud of



FSU Photography Services

In a return visit to Florida State after retiring, Bobby Bowden talks with Kyle Doney on the field at Doak Campbell Stadium in 2015. Bowden passed away Aug. 8 at age 91.

what you do. It's like our own football team.' The students we got from the tribe [who] make it to the university, it's a privilege to have them there."

As a retirement gift in 2010, Osceola and former FSU player Floyd Smith gave Bowden a giant tomahawk made by Leroy Osceola. Two years later in Miami, Osceola presented Bowden with a bronze bust of the coach made by sculptors Bradley Cooley Sr. and his son, Bradley Jr., whose works are prevalent throughout the reservations.

Bowden guided FSU to a remarkable string of 33 straight winning seasons, including an eight-year stretch in the 1990s when the Seminoles won two national titles and lost just nine games.

Osceola described Bowden as a perfect gentleman who cared about the tribe and his players.

"Bobby was so humble. He was like a grandpa to us," he said. "I had sideline passes one game and I heard him tell his players, 'We might not win the national title, but I guarantee you all that you're going to get your degree. You're going to be a true graduate.' That's the way Bobby was."

Although there are University of Miami fans and graduates sprinkled throughout the tribe, FSU has the greater following, thanks in large part to Bowden.

"Everybody supports him everywhere within this community," Osceola said. "They love Florida State. They get the license plates. They raise their flags high and it's all because of Bobby Bowden. He intermingled with us and he's always reached his hand out to us. He would come and visit us."

Indeed, Bowden's relationship with the tribe directly or indirectly helped



File photo

In 2006, then-President Moses Osceola presented Bobby Bowden and Florida State University president T.K. Wetherell with new Seminole vests during their appearance at the tribe's sports hall of fame banquet in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

Richard Osceola presented Bobby Bowden with a bronze bust of the coach during a University of Miami luncheon at the Calder Race Course in Miami Gardens on Oct. 19, 2012. The bust was funded by the Chairman's office and made by Bradley Cooley and Bradley Cooley Jr., both longtime sculptors for the tribe.

forge further connections, including the sponsorship of a national award in his name, the princess program being prominently featured during homecoming week and the Renegade and Osceola tradition that revs up the crowd at Doak Campbell Stadium.

"To be in that stadium when they do that chant, it goes right through your body. Everybody is in sync. To me, that's like music to my ears," said Bowers while wearing a "Renegade Team" polo shirt.

Early in Bowden's career at FSU, the Renegade and Osceola tradition was born following approval from the tribe. It features a student portraying the great Seminole warrior Osceola riding a horse named Renegade. Bowers said the selection process for the student who portrays Osceola shows that the program respects the tribe and its history.

"It's not some Joe Blow off the street. They have to have the horseman skills. They have to know the history of the Seminoles. They totally respect the tribe," Bowers said.

The spiking of the spear at midfield by "Osceola" is often regarded as one of the top traditions in college football. In fact, in 2011, ESPN's SportsNation voted Osceola and Renegade the best NCAA football tradition in the country.



File photo

Moments after coaching his final game Jan. 1, 2010, Bobby Bowden clutches the Gator Bowl trophy following FSU's 33-21 win against West Virginia in Jacksonville.

◆ See BOWDEN on page 5B

BOWDEN
From page 4B

Bowers said Bowden played a role in making sure the program was done properly. "Bill Durham (the founder of the program) ran it by Bobby Bowden, who was like in his second season," Bowers said. "[Bowden] said that's what we need, we need that spirit. It was Bobby Bowden that insisted that they see if they could do it."

After meeting with then-Chairman Howard Tommie and the Tribal Council, the Renegade and Osceola program received its blessing from the tribe. Jimmy O'Toole Osceola made the first regalia used by "Osceola." As the tradition began to carve its niche at FSU, Bowers helped bring it to the Brighton Field Days celebration along with a portion of the FSU marching band.

'A genuine person'

It didn't take long for Kyle Doney to realize Bowden's admirable qualities as a person away from the field. While in high school, Doney and other students from the tribe met Bowden during a tour of colleges.

"From the first time I met him, I could tell from that experience that he was a genuine person because after competing for nationals championships almost four or five years straight he took the time out to meet with a group of our tribal students, myself included. You just don't see a person of his caliber taking time out to do that," said Doney, who graduated from FSU in 2007 and has remained active with the school, including currently serving on its alumni association's national board.

Doney developed a friendship with Bowden, especially after the coach retired. When the tribe sponsored the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' national college award – known for a couple years as the Seminole Tribe of Florida Bobby Bowden Award – Doney saw first-hand what Bowden meant to college football. The award was presented during the week of the BCS Championship



Bobby Bowden and Max Osceola take some practice swings on the tee at a charity golf tournament.

File photo

in California in 2014 near the site of the game. Prior to the game, which FSU won 34-31 against Auburn, Doney accompanied the retired coach on a golf cart as he did various media commitments.

"That gave [me] the opportunity to see so many people try to chase the golf cart wherever we'd go just to say hi to coach

Bowden. It was a pretty cool sight to see," Doney said.

Doney said Bowden had a strong connection with the tribe that he took seriously.

"He understood the unique relationship that the tribe had with Florida State," said Doney, who is deputy director of the tribe's Native Learning Center in Hollywood. "He definitely did his part to go above and beyond. He had taken time out of his schedule to meet with tribal students whenever he had the opportunity or whenever the tribe [brought] the students up to Tallahassee. I don't think there was a set amount of time, but he signed every piece of memorabilia or whatever was presented to him."

Bowden's interest in the tribe was evident when he visited the Big Cypress Reservation about 2014 while the tribe was a sponsor of the Bowden Award. Doney said he drove Bowden to the field office. Before heading back, Bowden said he wanted to see the tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, so he received a tour of the venue that is filled with Seminole history and culture.

Special relationship

Years earlier – back on that plane trip to South Florida in 2006 for the hall of fame banquet – Bowden talked about his desire to come to where the Seminole live.

"I've always wanted to visit the reservation. I've never been there before and I'm looking forward to it. I've played golf with Max Osceola in Orlando and was invited down once before, but I couldn't make it until now. We had a good time and I remember he is a Miami fan, but that's OK," he said.

Bowden also shared his recipe for success that he relayed to kids and players.

"I always tell them to get your priorities in order," he said. "I say list God first. Make God your number one priority. Next, it's family and then others, help others. Now if a kid will do that, I believe he will stay on track. He'll be doing things he ought to do. After I tell them those things I tell them football stories."

Before his final game as coach at the Gator Bowl, Bowden praised the relationship between the school and the tribe.

"They are so important to our university and we're thankful for them for letting us use their name and I think they've enjoyed us, too," he said. "I'm going to miss that really."



Kevin Johnson

FSU fans and Bobby Bowden supporters from the Brighton Reservation include, from left, Bryan Arledge, Norman "Skeeter" Bowers and Richard Osceola, on Aug. 25. Arledge is a 2010 FSU graduate.



File photo

Richard Osceola presents Bobby Bowden with a giant tomahawk the week of the coach's final game.



File photo

Bobby Bowden with Christine McCall, left, and her mother Wanda Bowers on the FSU campus.



File photo

Moses Jumper Jr. welcomed Bobby Bowden to the Seminole Tribe's sports hall of fame banquet in February 2006.



Courtesy photo

A group that included Seminoles Deloris Alvarez (third from left), Tony Sanchez (fourth from right), Thomasine Motlow (third from right) and Kyle Doney (second from right), joined Bobby Bowden in presenting the Seminole Tribe of Florida Bobby Bowden Award to Baylor University quarterback Bryce Petty in January of 2014.

Moore Haven volleyball loaded with Seminole connections, optimism

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

It didn't take long for Mona Baker to find plenty of reasons to be optimistic as she began her first season as head coach of the Moore Haven High School varsity volleyball team. Baker was thrilled with the number of girls who attended tryouts for the high school and middle school teams in August.

"Tryouts ran very smoothly," said Baker, who was an assistant varsity coach last season. "We had 46 girls come out in grades 6 to 12, an amazing turnout. The principal, athletic directors, superintendent and several parents sat in as well."

The numbers received a boost from some Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School students who are able to play for Moore Haven because PECS' volleyball season was cancelled for the second straight fall due to the pandemic. (Some other PECS students are playing for other middle schools in the area).

The impressive participation means Moore Haven has enough players to field four teams. Ten players each are on varsity, junior varsity and the middle school's "A" team while 13 players comprise the middle school "B" team.

All four teams have Seminole connections, starting with Baker, who is married to tribal member and Moore Haven varsity head boys basketball coach Preston Baker. The middle school "B" team is led by coach and tribal member Dallas Nunez.

"This year [we're] only two practices in and the girls already know how to move to base positions," Baker said. "We will work on running a 5-1 and 6-2 rotation. The varsity team is well rounded with eager players. JV is also catching on and have some eager, well rounded athletes. Our middle school A team is also going to be a force to face. And our B team will get all the fundamentals needed from coach Dallas."

As for players from the tribe, Baker's daughter Preslynn and Summer Gopher are both back for their second seasons on varsity while Ayana Fonseca also made varsity. Miley Jimmie is on the JV team, but Baker said she has the ability to play on the varsity level.

Both middle school teams feature Seminole players, including the "A" team's Tahnia Billie, Aaryn King, Joelyene Nunez, Tehya Nunez and Illa Trueblood, and the "B" team's Laylah Billie, Mohayla Billie, Marley Jimmie and Bobbi Johns.

Varsity and JV schedule (subject to change; JV starts at 5:30 p.m., varsity at 7 p.m., except where noted)

Aug. 26 at Clewiston
Aug. 30 at Glades Day
Sept. 6 home vs Sebring
Sept. 9 at Gateway Charter
Sept. 13 home vs Clewiston
Sept. 16 home vs Gateway Charter
Sept. 21 home vs Community Christian (5 p.m. varsity only)
Sept. 28 at Sebring
Oct. 4 home vs Glades Day
Oct. 5 home vs SW Florida Christian
Oct. 7 at SW Florida Christian
Oct. 12 at Community Christian School (5 p.m. varsity only)

Middle school schedule (subject to change)

Sept. 9 at West Glades 4 p.m. (B), 5 p.m. (A)
Sept. 14 at LaBelle Middle 4 p.m. (B), 5 p.m. (A)
Sept. 20 at Clewiston Middle 5 p.m. (B), 6 p.m. (A)
Oct. 4 home vs Clewiston Middle 4 p.m. (B), 5 p.m. (A)
Oct. 5 home vs West Glades 4 p.m. (B), 5 p.m. (A)
Oct. 7 home vs LaBelle Middle 4 p.m. (B), 5 p.m. (A)

With depth an issue for OHS, Carriss Chilsom-Johns fills multiple roles

Santana Alvarez earns starting spot on defense

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

JUPITER — There is no doubt that the versatility Carriss Chilsom-Johns brings to the football field will come in handy for Okeechobee High School this season.

With a young roster that is thin on experience and depth, Chilsom-Johns' ability to play multiple roles on offense as a running back, on defense as a linebacker and on all special teams, is a valuable asset.

Case in point came Aug. 19 when the Brahms visited Jupiter Community High for a preseason kickoff classic. Chilsom-Johns made his presence felt immediately by making a tackle on the opening kickoff. He also returned kickoffs, caught a 10-yard pass on a third down for a first down, rushed for 35 yards on a dozen carries and played outside linebacker.

"We try to do a lot of things with him because he is so athletic," said Okeechobee coach and athletic director Kenny Buckner.

With only about 30 players on its roster — and just eight seniors — Okeechobee doesn't have the luxury of being able to make a lot of substitutions. Chilsom-Johns played most downs in the first half, but received some breaks in the second half as Jupiter pulled away for a 37-6 win.

"We try to give him some breaks — offensive, defensive, wherever we can — but when it comes to crunch time, we want him in the game," Buckner said.

Chilsom-Johns saw plenty of playing time as a freshman last year when Okeechobee went 5-4, its first season above .500 since 2016.

"It was a good season last year. We really enjoyed it," Chilsom-Johns said.

This season Chilsom-Johns has been joined on varsity by fellow Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School graduate Santana Alvarez, who worked his way up to varsity after playing on JV last year as a freshman.

Alvarez started at cornerback and looked right at home on the varsity level. He made the game's final tackle, which was for no gain.

Buckner was pleased with what he saw from Alvarez and Chilsom-Johns.

"I expect a lot of good things out of them. I saw a lot of good things tonight and I saw some things they need to work on; nothing out of the ordinary because they are young," Buckner said.

Two players from the tribe that Buckner wishes he would see are the Edouard brothers — Lee and Leon. Both are impact players. Last season, Lee, a quarterback, earned All Area and was named the team's most outstanding player on offense. However, Buckner said neither player came back to the team this season.

"We will not have them [this season]; I'd love to, it would sure help the depth," he said.



Kevin Johnson

Former Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School students Santana Alvarez, left, and Carriss Chilsom-Johns are sophomores on the Okeechobee High School football team.



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee cornerback Santana Alvarez, left, sees his first varsity action in a preseason game against Jupiter Community on Aug. 19 in Jupiter.



Kevin Johnson

Carriss Chilsom-Johns (1) gets set to make a tackle on a kickoff during Okeechobee's preseason game against Jupiter Community.

Notah Begay III partners with PointsBet for golf offerings

STAFF REPORT

Four-time PGA Tour winner Notah Begay III (Pueblo of San Felipe and Isleta/ Diné) has been named a PointsBet ambassador. Begay, 48, will provide analysis for the sportsbook's golf offerings, including through its partners at NBC Sports and The Golf Channel, where he works as an analyst and on-course reporter.

Begay, a graduate of Stanford University where he was a 1st Team All-American and a teammate of Tiger Woods, won four times within a 12-month span on the PGA Tour in 1999 and 2000.

Begay will also work with PointsBet's diversity initiatives, including within tribal communities, according to the company. PointsBet said it will partner with Begay's NB3 Foundation, which strives to improve the health of Native American children.

"It's with great excitement and

anticipation that I pursue this new venture in collaboration with PointsBet. I look forward to standing alongside a company that truly understands the unique and intrinsic values of golf but also recognizes the importance of community," Begay said in a statement. "Creating new opportunities and making an impact in the communities we serve will be the benchmark of our team."

In recent years, Begay has helped the Seminole Tribe by holding a golf clinic for kids on the Big Cypress Reservation and by playing in the Chairman of the Greens Charity Golf Tournament.



Kevin Johnson

Notah Begay III

Basketball league's ambition is to grow, showcase Native American talent

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The American Basketball Association has launched an initiative to form a league comprised of Native American players.

The ABA announced Aug. 23 that the start of the initiative will be a northeast Arizona-based team named Native ABA.

The ABA is a professional league that features dozens of teams throughout the country.

"Showcasing the talents of Native American basketball players will allow more teams around the country and internationally to see the skills and abilities possessed by Native players," ABA CEO Joe Newman said in a statement. "By increasing the attention surrounding Native American players, more opportunities will arise. The more that is invested in Native American athletes, the more that can be developed and expanded by encouraging more Tribes and players to participate."

WarLance Foster (Lakota/Dine) has been named CEO of Native ABA. He played collegiately at Western State College and professionally in Europe. He also served as athletics director at Dine College.

"My goal is to give the same opportunity to other Native Americans that I got, to increase the number of Native American players playing in the NBA," Foster said in a statement. "With the growth and development of the first Native American team within Indian Country, additional teams and tribes can be added. The goal is to expand Native ABA to include 10 to 12 tribal teams which will allow more Native players to participate and allow each tribe to manage and operate their own team. We have put together a full expansion program and will actively pursue tribes nationwide. And we're also considering the same development for a women's Native ABA."

South Florida was briefly home to an all-Native ABA team. Native Pride, which featured some players from the Seminole Tribe, such as DeForest Carter and Jerome Davis, played in the 2015-16 season before disbanding. The team played in various gyms in South Florida, including Broward College and Hollywood Christian School.

For more information about Native ABA, contact Foster at warparty@iabasketball.org, (480) 628-0710 or visit iabasketball.org or abaliveaction.com

Indigenous players among those vying for IBLA championship in Lakeland

STAFF REPORT

LAKELAND — The International Box Lacrosse Association's Nationals will

be held Sept. 17-19 at RP Funding Center in Lakeland. Seventeen teams from throughout the country will compete for the national championship. Two teams are

all-Native run teams and some teams feature Indigenous players, coaches and staff.

The IBLA is the nation's largest adult box lacrosse league.

For more information visit iblalacrosse.com/nationals.

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