



The Seminole Tribune

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Tribe's energy goals advance with Brighton funding

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Hurricane Irma had a big impact on the tribe's communities across South Florida in 2017. Government operations were affected and electrical outages particularly plagued residents in Big Cypress and Brighton. The hurricane's aftermath came with a monetary cost, too, as the tribe spent significant funds on propane and diesel to power electric generators.

Tribal officials have said the rural nature of Big Cypress (52,338 acres) and Brighton (35,805 acres) makes its electrical grids vulnerable even when significant storms are not involved – to the tune of about 100 events per year or about 20 hours or more per week.

Months after Hurricane Irma, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and the Tribal Council formed a renewable energy committee staffed with key personnel across the tribe to address such issues. One of its goals was to identify opportunities that would allow the tribe to move toward more self-sufficiency in its energy demands. It launched a study on the feasibility of operating a tribal utility and began an evaluation of electrical use for more than 600 tribal-owned facilities. The committee also embarked on a "Seminole Rural Reservation Resiliency Initiative."

♦ See ENERGY on page 4A

Team effort makes calf shipping run smoothly

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Hurricane Elsa and other scattered thunderstorms didn't stop calf shipping in Brighton and Big Cypress from July 5th to July 15th. Every year, rain or shine, the calves get shipped out to feedlots around the country.

The annual two-week shipping event marks the end of a year in which cattle owners cared for the calves and kept them healthy and well fed. After a year of hard work, tribal owners sold 3,744 calves, which will spend a few months eating with the express purpose of putting on weight. When they reach about 1,350 pounds, the cattle will be sent to market.

This year, about half of the animals were sent to one buyer in Kansas, the rest went to lots in Florida, Iowa, Nebraska and Ohio. It took 38 truckloads to ship the animals. The average weight of Brighton calves was 483 pounds; in Big Cypress the average was 467.

The tribe's Natural Resources director Aaron Stam was involved with calf shipping during his years as a livestock/4-H extension agent and federally recognized tribal extension agent for the tribe, but this year he was the one in charge.

"Calf weights were down," Stam wrote in an email. "The averages were 30-40 pounds less than last year. It was a bad winter for grass and forages, translating into lighter calves."

♦ See SHIPPING on page 4A



Makayla Torres herds calves into the pen leading to the cattle hauling truck during Big Cypress calf shipping July 14.

Beverly Bidney

Erica Deitz painting chosen to represent NICWA at Orlando conference

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

A watercolor painting by Seminole artist Erica Deitz was chosen to be the visual centerpiece at the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) conference April 3-8, 2022, in Orlando.

Deitz's "Homecoming" painting depicts a Seminole camp scene complete with chickees, women cooking over the fire, grinding corn and living camp life as it used to be.

Deitz described the painting when she submitted it to NICWA's call for artists.

"Before cars, Seminole families would travel by foot from camp to camp, while canoes were used for longer travels and hunting. Because of this, it was a blessing to have a family member visit you because they made the time. This Seminole Indian camp scene shows how it would have

been in the past. The art depicts an elder Seminole woman on the left forefront of the painting. She is just returning from visiting another camp. Walking was our form of transportation prior to the introduction of vehicles. Now, vehicles take us everywhere. We still have Seminole craftsmen who make canoes and camps remain that are visited by families today. I enjoy capturing my Seminole past, culture, and traditions through my art, while sharing it with my children in the present. My watercolor is an appreciation piece for our ancestors' way of living and their dedication to family," her submission read.

An accomplished artist, Deitz's artwork offers an Indigenous perspective through a variety of mediums. The award-winning artist's work has been showcased in exhibitions around the world. The National Museum of the American Indian and the Lowe Art Museum have her paintings on

permanent display.

As NICWA's selected artist, Deitz will be awarded a cash prize of \$1,500 for the use of her work in promotional materials for the conference. The image will be published on the NICWA website and in printed materials.

The Seminole Tribe has been a member of NICWA since 2006 and served as the host sponsor of the virtual 39th annual "Protecting Our Children Conference" that was held in April.

"Our tribal family and child advocates work with NICWA and other partners for better outcomes for Seminole families. The Seminole Tribe of Florida firmly believes that Native American families require a Native American perspective and understanding," Shamika Beasley, advocacy administrator with the tribe, said in a statement in April.

'Live' is back at Hollywood's Hard Rock Live

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — It wasn't even five months after the new Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood and its massive Guitar Hotel debuted Oct. 24, 2019, that the Covid-19 pandemic would bring activity to a halt. The hospitality and entertainment industry was stopped dead in its tracks.

Adding to the pain was the closing of the brand new \$100 million Hard Rock Live venue – something concertgoers had been anticipating for years. The 7,000-seat, state-of-the-art theater-style environment features three levels of seats, VIP sections and wide concourses.

The new venue was poised to host 200 events a year, double the number of the previous Hard Rock Live that had been demolished. But while the venue was able to host some shows – including musical act Maroon 5, its first – the pandemic brought the momentum and excitement to an end.

"Because of the pandemic the Hard Rock Live didn't get an opportunity to enjoy the full honeymoon period most new venues get to enjoy," Keith Sheldon, president of entertainment for Seminole Gaming and Hard Rock International, said.

The situation has begun to noticeably change this year. Sheldon began in his position in June 2020 and his goal was to be prepared and ready to go when the world spun back on its axis.

"It's one of the most spectacular live entertainment venues in the world," Sheldon said. "The entertainment industry didn't get to fully understand how special the room is."

Sheldon and his team have been in contact with top promoters, managers and artists, aggressively marketing the message that Hard Rock Live is open for business.

"We wanted the [show] calendar to be as robust as possible when it became safe to fully reopen," he said.

One of the early successes was booking the Miss Universe competition in May, which pulled in an international viewing audience.

"That was certainly our calling card to the world that we were open to business, but still following safety protocols," Sheldon said. "Miss Universe ended up being what I believe was the number one most watched



Comedian and actor Bill Burr will perform shows at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood on Aug. 28 and 29.

Courtesy photo

program that evening. It sent the message."

The lineup for August has comedy fans salivating. It includes three nights of comedian Dave Chappelle, three nights of comedian Sebastian Maniscalco and two shows with comedian Bill Burr.

"That's three of the most coveted comedians in the business. The comedy box is firmly checked," Sheldon said.

The lineup starting this fall will begin to firmly check the live music box, too. Sam Hunt, Eric Clapton, two Guns N' Roses shows, Dan + Shay, Metallica and ZZ Top are all in the queue. That's just a taste, and Sheldon also teased that a "big announcement" was soon to come.

"This is the trend that everybody can expect to see moving forward," he said.

Sheldon is used to booking big artists. He was previously the executive vice president of programming and development at BSE Global, where he led the development of special events at Barclays Center, home of the NBA's Brooklyn Nets. He has helped secure musical acts like Bruce Springsteen, Barbra Streisand, Jay-Z, Ed Sheeran, Madonna and Justin Bieber.

More is at hardrocklive.com.



Seminole artist Erica Deitz's "Homecoming" painting.

Courtesy image

INSIDE:

Editorial.....	2A	Sports.....	5B
Community.....	3A	Education.....	1B

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Editorial

A more inclusive banking system in Indian Country is possible

• **Patrice H. Kunesch**

As Americans dig out from the economic distress wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. banks are making plans that could transform the credit and banking systems, create a more inclusive banking system, and help alleviate childhood poverty.

Indian Country could be transformed as well and has much to gain from this trio of pursuits with careful planning and collaboration with Native American financial institutions.

Transforming the Banking System

The Wall Street Journal recently announced that ten large U.S. banks (such as JP Morgan Chase, Wells Fargo and US Bankcorp) have agreed to launch a pilot program that would extend credit card services to people with low credit scores or no credit history, which are generally lower-income families and individuals.

Instead of using credit scores, banks will look at an applicant's bank balance and overdraft histories to increase their chances of getting a credit card. The main idea is to focus on customers who do not have credit scores but are deemed financially responsible.

This announcement comes at a time of unusual consumer activity, in which consumers have been paying off their credit card balances and not spending as much. In fact, credit card balances plunged \$49 billion in the first quarter of 2021, the second-largest decline in more than two decades.

This suggests that the CARES act stimulus checks, enhanced unemployment insurance, and perhaps consumer confidence is helping borrowers reduce expensive revolving debt balances. With the economy opening up, we're already seeing an uptick in consumer spending and we'll see whether this trend lasts over the summer.

Consumer borrowing drives two-thirds of the country's economic activity and is used as a general measure of the country's economic health. About 75 percent of Americans have at least one credit card, usually, a bank-issued general-purpose card, that equates to unsecured debt and comes with a high-interest rate on unpaid balances. About 45 percent of cardholders carry an average balance of \$6,000.

Access to such credit is a consumer mainstay. It facilitates an array of financial transactions, smooths household financial risk, and for many budding entrepreneurs, a source of business capital. It also is an important vehicle for consumers to establish a credit history, which can open the door to homeownership and long-term economic mobility.

About 53 million adults do not have credit scores. The credit industry and banking system's reliance on credit scores have created stark economic inequities—it locks out consumers otherwise worthy of credit and drives them into high-interest debt traps and cycles of financial hardship.

They cannot secure a mortgage to buy a house or get a loan for emergency needs. A more equitable view of creditworthiness, already employed by Native American financial institutions across the country, considers a wider range of consumer data, something as simple as consistent payment of rent and utilities. Such reform would help create a more inclusive credit system where all Americans have a right to affordable, safe, and sound financial services.

Banking the Unbanked

A good measure of whether the credit and capital needs of Indian Country are being met is the distance between the community and the nearest bank. Credit deserts, or areas with little access to credit, are an unfortunate reality for Native communities.

According to recent research, many reservation residents may have to travel more than 60 miles to reach the nearest bank or ATM, compared to an average 0.01 miles for off-reservation communities.

Limited access to banks is a persistent barrier to economic development throughout Indian Country. Currently, 18 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives are unbanked, higher than both Black households (14 percent) and Latino households (12

percent); only 2 percent of white households are unbanked. Given that most Native people have experienced long periods of asset deprivation born of colonization, these figures are not surprising.

Other strains on consumer credit for American Indians and American Indian communities include lower usage of credit cards within reservation communities and relatively limited or poor credit histories among reservation residents (varies over geographies); lower credit card limits; and discrimination and redlining both on and off-reservation. Being Native appeared to matter the most for card credit outcomes, according to these studies.

Credit card reform starts with a direct banking relationship. In Indian Country, the best credit outcomes are achieved when there is a meaningful cultural fit with the financial institution.

To bank the unbanked and serve Indian Country's credit needs, Native American financial institutions (NAFIs) such as banks, credit unions, and community development financial institutions (CDFIs), have emerged as significant providers of financial services to Native communities.

These financial institutions are well ahead of the major banks in using non-traditional data to make credit decisions. Beyond making loans and selling financial products, Native American financial institutions also help tribal citizens transition from being unbanked to traditional banking through credit counseling and financial education. They also focus on the customer's personal situation to establish a personal basis for "creditworthiness."

In particular, according to a recent Federal Reserve Bank study, Native community development financial institutions have demonstrated a direct and positive impact on an individual's credit score through more direct customer engagement and tailored financial services.

Major banks should take note of Indian Country's simple, successful model of providing credit to low or no credit consumers: the best way to create a more inclusive and successful banking system is to establish trusting relationships and to serve their needs.

Alleviating Childhood Poverty

Reforming the banking system and banking the unbanked could have an even bigger and lasting impact in alleviating childhood poverty. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, children were the poorest age group in America.

Nearly 73 percent of poor children in America are children of color: Native American, Black, and Hispanic children continue to face the highest poverty rates, all hovering around 30 percent. The poverty rate for white children is about 9 percent.

The American Rescue Plan, signed into law by President Biden in March, provides economic relief to Americans and businesses. For children and families, the American Rescue Plan also makes three major tax reforms: the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. These tax reforms will also help address the economic inequities exacerbated by COVID-19 and tackle head-on our nation's shameful child poverty crisis. Under the Child Tax Credit plan, for example, low and middle-income families with children will receive a yearly total of \$3,000 per child aged 6 to 17 and \$3,600 per child under 6 years of age.

Not only will the American Rescue Plan benefit millions of children and families, but it also will change the way we think about providing government assistance. For instance, the success of even the best policy innovations, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, will only be as effective as the strategies to implement them, which should incorporate a system of transferring these benefits in a way that is simpler, more cost-effective, and easier for families to navigate.

As the pandemic demonstrated, state and federal governments struggled to get the funds to many American families and businesses, sending out over 70 million paper checks and plastic debit cards. On the receiving end, people need quick access to the funds. But many unbanked households, including many in Indian Country, had to wait and figure out how to cash the checks. They often incurred service fees, diminishing the value of the benefits.

We can fix this bureaucracy and smooth the transfer of federal benefits through direct deposit of funds into individual bank accounts. In Indian Country, we already have many good examples of financial institutions supporting their communities with basic, low-cost bank accounts. We need many more Native American financial institutions and Native serving banks throughout Indian Country. Not only would they open up economic opportunities and expand credit capacity, they also would play a critical role in their communities by helping to reduce childhood poverty and enhance family well-being.

Reforms and opportunities come with potential unintended consequences along the way. For example, more lenient underwriting criteria will open up credit, but there will be a cost. For the unprepared borrower, the cost of credit cards and bank accounts could be realized in high rates and upfront fees or merciless collections on the backend, thus causing more distress to an already precarious situation.

New cardholders would benefit from some financial education on how to manage a card, especially a subprime card. Native community development financial institutions and other Native American financial institutions are perfectly situated to provide such services and have a proven track record of improving financial capabilities in Indian Country.

Vision for Long-Term Solutions

Vine Deloria, Jr. often framed the centuries' old Native American experience as a pull between pervasive negative experiences and inherent determination to repair and rebuild. He urged tribal leaders to conceive big visions for long-term solutions. The vision needed now involves much more than reforming the banking system and banking the unbanked—it encompasses fostering the well-being of our children and families for many generations.

Reducing poverty and enhancing creditworthiness will go a long way to alleviating further hardship and harm, but we need more economic reforms and deeper investments to really redress historic inequities and disparities that have held Native people back for generations. While we can turn to Native American financial institutions to help solve the bank account problem and get benefits to Native people faster, we need many more of them.

We need to encourage the development of these institutions throughout Indian Country and other banks to engage more closely with their native neighbors. As importantly, the federal government needs to fundamentally change the way it interacts with tribes on a government-to-government basis, particularly the manner in which it funds trust services and programs. This requires replacing the century-old discretionary and erratic budgeting process with a mandatory funding stream to tribal governments.

Finally, Indian Country's growing population, steady economic growth, and acute need for infrastructure development present a momentous opportunity for tribal communities, lenders, and the federal government to build better systems through a bold vision, distinctive cultural values, and inspired leadership. If we can land a spacecraft on Mars, we can—and should—alleviate child poverty.

Of Standing Rock Lakota descent, Patrice H. Kunesch is the founder of Pehin Haha Consulting, a social enterprise committed to fostering social and human capital and pursuing economic equity in Native communities. Previously, Patrice established and led the Center for Indian Country Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, and has held appointments as the Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and as the Deputy Solicitor for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior. In addition, she served as in-house counsel to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and on the faculty at the University of South Dakota School of Law. Patrice began her legal career at the Native American Rights Fund and recently returned to NARF as the major gifts officer. This opinion article appears on indiancountrytoday.com.

Tribe adjusts but stays active as phase two returns

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Just 12 days after moving to phase three of reopening, the Seminole Tribe returned to phase two protocols July 17 as Covid-19 cases began to rise in the U.S.

The tribe took the step to protect tribal members, the community and employees from the more contagious Delta variant of coronavirus. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on July 20, 83% of Covid cases are the Delta variant, up from 50% during the week of July 3.

During phase two, which originally went into effect April 5, all tribal programs remain fully operational. Tribal members are asked to wear masks and remain socially distanced when not at home.

Most events have been postponed until further notice, including tribe-sponsored travel for groups and individuals. Among the postponed events are all community meetings, movie nights in Hollywood, We Do Recover's annual celebration, the Chairman's office cornhole and horseshoe events, the Indian Day fishing tournament and a Center for Student Success and Services (CSSS) visit to Indian River State College.

No large indoor gatherings or meetings are permitted. Anyone with symptoms, or if anyone in their household has symptoms, are asked not to enter a tribal building and to call their clinic or doctor.

The tribe strongly encourages everyone who has not yet received a Covid-19 vaccine to get vaccinated.

Senior centers continue to provide deliveries of non-perishable items for disabled and homebound elders.

CSSS requires appointments to meet in person with staff members. Appointments must be confirmed at least 24 hours in advance.

All tribal casinos remain open. During the phase three opening, which began July 6, tribal departments opened their doors and began creating their calendars for activities. All of that has been put on hold for the time being.

Community culture centers

When phase three took effect in Immokalee the Community Culture department made plans to resume its community cooking class and luncheons on the third Wednesday of each month, starting in August. Site coordinator Juanita Martinez was also looking forward to starting beading and sewing classes again.

"We are trying to get back on track," Martinez said.

During the first shutdown, which began March 16, 2020, the department helped with drive-thru events and cooked meals for traditional purposes as needed. During phase two, community members came to the culture room by appointment only and remained masked and socially distanced while there.

In Hollywood, the Culture Center reopened daily during phase three. Now it is open by appointment only. During the shutdown, the center organized fine arts and arts and crafts contests for the virtual Indian Day 2020 and Tribal Fair 2021 events.

"We had ups and downs, but Tribal Fair went well enough to be successful," said Bobby Frank, Community Culture Center manager. "Anything you venture into for the first time, you don't know. Indian Day was a daunting task, but we had some insight for Tribal Fair. It was tribalwide and we were able to promote the event's arts and crafts, clothing and fine arts."

The Hollywood center also created

an online virtual language class for tribal members, which they plan to continue indefinitely.

"We've been doing that for 12 months," Frank said. "It's grown beyond Florida borders. We have members throughout the country in New England, Washington State, Montana and Oklahoma. This is a silver lining."

"With that virtual platform we have been able to reach out to tribal members we never would have been able to reach," added Michael Cantu, office coordinator.

Classes continue to be held Monday through Thursday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The Brighton Community Culture Center got up and running quickly when the tribe opened up partially. During phase two, it held a few events for youth and adults. In June, a group collected fans for chickees and another group went to Yeehaw to pick sweetgrass. After the full reopening in July, a group harvested swamp cabbage on the reservation.

The department's plans for the full reopening were already in place when phase two was reinstated. Community Culture Center manager Diane Smith organized a schedule to keep tribal members focused and busy on projects. A new project was to be rolled out every two weeks and participants would learn as they created patchwork, baskets, carvings and beadwork. On Fridays, everyone would be free to work on any project they desired.

"We scheduled a new project for people to work on," Smith said. "They will make two, one that will stay at the center and one to take home."

Those items would be used for Council and Board giveaways and gifts.

The Big Cypress Culture Center stayed busy cooking for traditional purposes and for drive-thru events during the shutdown. It also made items for Council and Board representatives to use for donations or gifts. The department has assisted families in mourning throughout the pandemic and will continue as needed.

Like the other culture departments, the center is open by appointment only.

"When we opened, we started to make a calendar for classes," said Tonia Cypress, Community Culture Center manager. "We have to comply with social distancing and keep it to two students at a time instead of classes."

The center will continue to make traditional fry bread for seniors on Wednesday and make traditional meals for the community in a monthly drive-thru event.

Boys & Girls Clubs

Boys & Girls Clubs tribalwide have adjusted their capacity and rules to adhere to phase two procedures.

The number of kids allowed into the clubs has decreased for all three age groups: kids club, youth and teens. Social distancing guidelines are enforced, masks are required and temperature checks are done daily. Plexiglas dividers on each table and assigned seating help keep the children separated.

Additionally, the age groups in each club must stay separated from each other.

The schedule remains the same, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., but the drop off time is only between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. After that, the doors will be locked and no one else is allowed inside.

"We are taking precautions," said Patrick Shepard, Immokalee club director. "The pandemic is still out there. The kids who are late are disappointed, but they can try to get here early next time."

AT&T Mobility Services, LLC (AT&T) proposes to construct a 140' monopole tower (144' overall) at 500 Cypress Ln in Clewiston, Hendry County, FL (Job #50917).

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the 2005 Nationwide Programmatic Agreement, AT&T is hereby notifying the public of the proposed undertaking and soliciting comments on Historic Properties which may be affected by the proposed undertaking. If you would like to provide specific information regarding potential effects that the proposed undertaking might have to properties that are listed on or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and located within 1/2 mile of the site, please submit the comments (with Job #50917) to: Ramaker, Contractor for AT&T, 855 Community Dr, Sauk City, WI 53583 or via e-mail to history@ramaker.com within 30 days of this notice.

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Community



HERO forges ahead as it reflects on pandemic successes

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Tribe's Heritage and Environment Resources Office (HERO) is the umbrella for a variety of tribal initiatives — the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO). Each of those departments has a slew of goals and responsibilities. It's a lot to juggle and manage.

But HERO's senior director, Paul Backhouse, said tribal leadership, tribal members and his staff have juggled and managed well under the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic.

"We found ways to transform our work processes to do what needs to be done to serve the tribe," Backhouse said. "I'm proud of our staff across the HERO departments during an incredibly difficult time."

Backhouse noted the hire of the tribe's first climate resiliency officer, Jill Horwitz, in December. The tribe has made climate change a priority and Horwitz is tasked with engaging government officials and organizing outreach and education.

Another highlight, Backhouse said, is the speed at which THPO and ERMD issued cultural and environmental permits for new homes at tribal housing developments. New homes have been rising at a steady clip on the Hollywood Reservation and others in the midst of the pandemic.

"The team has been amazing — working in a safe and timely fashion. The turn around time was less than seven days for a permit — an all-time record," Backhouse said. We held that throughout the entire pandemic period making sure we're out there getting the work done so tribal members could move into these homes. Rain or shine, Covid or no Covid, we've worked that through."

Lake Okeechobee interests

A complex task that HERO manages is the tribe's relationship with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the decisions it makes about Lake Okeechobee, like water discharges and reservoir construction. The Corps' decisions have an affect on tribal agriculture and come with environmental and safety concerns. The tribe has water

rights to Lake Okeechobee, but its interests go beyond that.

"That's what the government-to-government consultation is for. They've got to listen to us," Backhouse said.

The Corps has been in the midst of updating its Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSUM), which affects water apportionment. The tribe's water compact assures a certain amount of water allocation.

"We've been working hard on how much the tribe will need in the future and a certain amount of it is through the compact mechanism," Backhouse said. "But what about 20 years, 50 years or 100 years from now? There's a massive difference between what the tribe will need in the future and what the tribe's got now."

Apportionment levels have an effect on agriculture, irrigation, cattle operations, orange crops and even new crops the tribe might embark on like raising palm trees. It affects projects like new housing and parks.

Backhouse is optimistic about the tribe's recent success in influencing the Corps to hold off on a proposed massive Lake Okeechobee reservoir project that would have been located near the Brighton Reservation.

"We've been pushing back on it a long time," Backhouse said. "Right now it's not authorized. That's good news."

The tribe's concerns about the reservoir, called an ASR well, include potential flooding and general encroachment on tribal lands.

"We have to be so, so vigilant," Backhouse said. "These projects could really affect tribal communities."

Repatriation policies

Meanwhile, the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is a law the tribe has worked to change for many years in order to expedite the return of human remains and funerary objects that are held by the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. The tribe and THPO, through its repatriation committee, saw success in pushing the Smithsonian to revise its repatriation policy last fall.

"We're making progress with the Smithsonian; I wish it would move faster," Backhouse said. "The collection is so vast,



Beverly Bidney

Monitoring the Army Corps of Engineers and its decisions concerning Lake Okeechobee are a big part of HERO's work.

we have to go through line by line. It's a very painstaking process. The remains should return back to where they should rest."

There's also a recent proposed change to NAGPRA's language that could broaden the scope of claims to non-federally recognized tribes. It's another development Backhouse and his staff are keeping tabs on.

"That could be a worrying precedent," he said.

Museum outlook

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is tentatively set to reopen August 21 — the same day that it marks its 24th anniversary.

Carrie Dilley, the museum's visitor and development manager, said while the

museum has been closed to the public for many months, work has continued behind the scenes.

"Although some things have been in a holding pattern, many areas have been operating as business as usual — like the collections and facilities team," Dilley said. "There haven't been visitors, but we've maintained an active presence on social media and have fielded educational requests and continue to preserve the collection."

Museum members continued to receive the AQ magazine (Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Quarterly) and tribal members have had access to facilities by appointment for special tours of the exhibits and access to vaults and archives. Staff has been working onsite and remotely through the pandemic, producing

virtual programming. And the museum's fundraising campaign for its forthcoming redesign has continued.

The goal, Dilley said, is for the redesign to be completed in the next couple years. It will be the museum's first redesign.

"The tribe had committed to a large [funding] percentage of the overall project and we're trying to raise millions more. We will be pursuing corporate sponsors for the remainder of the project," she said.

More information on HERO programs is at stofhero.com.

PROBLEM?

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◆ **CATTLE**
From page 1A

It takes more than just 64 cattle owners to ship the animals; it also takes plenty of help from family members and crews of cowhands to get the cattle in from the vast pastures. Once in the owner's cow pens, the calves are separated from the cows, loaded onto cattle trailers and taken to the pens in Big Cypress or Brighton.

The pens in Big Cypress were crowded with calves and cowhands July 14, including Summer Work Experience Program participant Makayla Torres, who wants to

have her own herd one day. "I want to follow in my papa's footsteps," said Torres, the granddaughter of Carl Baxley.

Torres, soon to be a senior at Ahfachkee School, was a natural in the pens and fearlessly herded the cattle into the pens for weighing and ultimately for shipping.

Once all the owners' calves were weighed and sorted, some were kept as replacement heifers for the herds; someone had to go retrieve calves from the Board's pasture. The task was left to Josh Jumper, Naha Jumper, Happy Jumper, a couple of kids and a few other men, who all mounted horses and galloped away with some dogs to

herd the cattle into a holding pen.

The Board's pasture is large and dotted with hammocks and none of the Jumper brothers had been in that pasture for about 10 or 15 years. Josh Jumper was hopeful but noncommittal about how many animals they would be able to corral. As the group of eight rode away, only the sound of hooves on turf, insects and birds could be heard.

As they tried to move the herd, a few animals broke away and fled into the woods. Shortly afterwards, Big Cypress cattle foreman Andre Jumper rode in to help find those cattle. By the end of the roundup, they brought about 90 animals into the Big Cypress cow pens for shipping.



Beverly Bidney

Emma Urbina, background, and Sheri Holmes, Natural Resources office manager, pause for a moment as they wait for more calves to be loaded into the cattle hauling truck in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Tiger Youngman herds a group of calves into the pen in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Todd Johns pets a cow before it is weighed and sorted for shipping.



Beverly Bidney

Natural Resources employees Julie Braddock and Sheri Holmes log each animal as it is weighed and sorted into pens for shipping.



Beverly Bidney

Natural Resources director Aaron Stam oversees the weighing and sorting of calves during the calf shipping in the Big Cypress cow pens.



Beverly Bidney

Ready to herd some cattle from the Board's Big Cypress pasture are, from left, Randy Rueda, Josh Jumper, Naha Jumper, Kayden Jumper, Talen Jumper and Happy Jumper. It took some time, but they were able to gather about 90 head for shipping.

◆ **ENERGY**
From page 1A

The resiliency initiative recently bore fruit as the U.S. Department of Energy announced July 13 that \$12 million has been set aside for 13 tribes for projects designed to reduce energy costs and increase energy security. The awardees, which included the Seminole Tribe, are also located in areas the DOE has identified as disproportionately affected by climate change.

The tribe is now set to receive an award of \$2.2 million to install solar PV (photovoltaic) panels and battery storage on the Brighton Reservation. The battery energy storage system (BESS) would be able to power four facilities in the case of an electrical outage – the health clinic, administration building, public safety building and the veterans building. A similar project is already underway in Big Cypress that would be available to power the Frank Billie Field Office, senior center, public safety complex and health clinic. Funds

from competitive grants and cost sharing negotiations with the DOE have been in the works for many months.

The renewable energy committee argues that such projects have an increased urgency for the tribe because it depends on off-reservation providers for the energy it uses for both government operations and economic development. The tribe has no authority over state-regulated utilities and is subject to rate increases and supply interruptions. Unknown, but typically rising, future energy costs also affect the tribe's

ability to plan long-term, the committee has said. In addition, the majority of outside utilities that do produce energy for the tribe do so through burning fossil fuels, which create greenhouse gases and other emissions that have negative effects on the climate and environment.

With the solar PV systems, the tribe's carbon footprint will be reduced in addition to millions of dollars it stands to save in local utility energy costs over the life of the project. Another added benefit is that tribal members can be trained on the construction,

operation and maintenance of the systems and it is expected to serve as a model for other Native and non-Native communities across the country.

"It's exciting to see the tribe moving through the process of energy infrastructure for energy resiliency for its future," Paul Backhouse, the senior director of the tribe's Heritage and Environment Resources Office (HERO) and a member of the renewable energy committee, said. "[Brighton and Big Cypress] are the first of big transformations that we'll see."

Tribal Court priorities include new efforts

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Tribal Court was affected by the pandemic like other branches of government. The system kept operating, but some meetings and hearings shifted online and others were postponed.

One of the biggest blows to the court and the tribe during the pandemic was when Chief Justice Willie Johns died of complications from diabetes Oct. 27 in Brighton. During a normal year, the system in place to find a replacement would move along more smoothly, but procedures have been more time consuming in the midst of Covid-19 protocols.

"It's a painstaking process," Stan Wolfe, Tribal Court's director, said. "Filling the position this year would be nice."

Amy Johns stepped in as the interim chief justice in the meantime and Wolfe said she has also shown interest in the chief justice position.

Wolfe said the way the system works is that the tribe's judicial commission vets potential replacements and then submits suggestions to the chairman — currently Marcellus W. Osceola. The chairman then makes the appointment of the new chief justice.

ICWA, 'healing-to-wellness'

Tribal Court consists of an appellate court and a trial court, which has broad civil jurisdiction to hear cases and controversies that end up before it. Managing Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) cases are one of its main responsibilities and the tribe has had a relationship with the 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida for several years — specifically its dependency division — to do that. Dependency cases include situations with children who are abused, abandoned or neglected and might be removed from parents. Outcomes can result in reunification with family members or adoption.

The court-to-court relationship began after Judge Jose Izquierdo — of the 17th Circuit — met then-Chief Justice Johns and Wolfe in 2016. There was a discussion about the hardships tribal families face in

navigating court systems outside the tribe, and going before judges who aren't familiar with Seminole culture or customs or ICWA provisions.

The partnership resulted in the first tribal family adoption to be finalized at tribal headquarters in 2019. (Another tribal adoption had previously occurred in Izquierdo's courtroom in downtown Fort Lauderdale).

While dependency cases are ultimately decided through the 17th Circuit, such cases could eventually be transferred exclusively to the tribe.

Wolfe said he's hopeful that in-person hearings will return to tribal headquarters with Judge Izquierdo sometime in September after a pandemic pause.

One of Wolfe's long-term goals is to forge relationships like the one with Izquierdo in other counties in the state.

"My big dream is to make sure we have an office in all the three major reservations so tribal members wouldn't have to come all the way down here for a hearing. We could have one in Big Cypress or Brighton," Wolfe said.

Meanwhile, Wolfe and his staff have also been involved with a grant to develop a tribal "healing-to-wellness court." The idea is to have substance abuse situations — whether alcohol or drug-related — be dealt with by the tribe instead of through state courts.

Wolfe, who is an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, said for such a system to work, tribal members need to be involved — including adults and youth who have experienced substance abuse issues.

"The healing-to-wellness system needs to be something different — something that's really going to get those individuals who are involved in drugs and alcohol and substance abuse to respect and abide by," Wolfe said. "And I think that's going to come more from the traditional side. So if we can somehow develop it to where that system can work in conjunction with the court that'd be great. But I don't see it as being just another court case."

Wolfe is hopeful that a resolution on the healing-to-wellness court will appear before Tribal Council in the near future.



Courtesy photo

A new Trading Post is under construction in Immokalee.

Immokalee Trading Post update

SUBMITTED BY GORDON WAREHAM

IMMOKALEE — On July 8, a site management meeting was held with the STOFI Board of Directors: President Mitchell Cypress, Brighton Board Rep. Helene Buster, Big Cypress Board Rep. Nadine Bowers, Immokalee Board Liaison

Ralph Sanchez, Immokalee Council Liaison Raymond Garza, Water Commission Chairperson Alfonso Tigertail and Hollywood Water Commissioner James Holt. Showing their support were previous Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, previous Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon O. Wareham and Immokalee tribal member Manual

Garza. A special thank you to Sue Jane Bert, Kyla Billie and Lucy Bowers.

Working with the ERMD and Water Management to keep the Immokalee Trading Post on schedule and moving forward.

Thank you to the Immokalee community for all their support.

Andrew Saunders named Seminole Gaming's VP of entertainment

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Andrew Saunders has been named vice president of entertainment for Seminole Gaming. He is responsible for live entertainment programming at all six Seminole Gaming venues in Florida. He coordinates with venues, ticketing operations and finance and production partners.

Seminole Gaming venues — owned by the Seminole Tribe — include the 7,500-seat Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, the 1,500-seat Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, the 836-seat Seminole Center at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee and event space at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek, Seminole Brighton Casino and the Seminole Classic Casino in Hollywood.

"Andrew Saunders joins Seminole Gaming with a wealth of entertainment experience and will be instrumental in advancing live events and entertainment



Hard Rock

Andrew Saunders

opportunities," Keith Sheldon, president of entertainment for Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming said in a statement. "As our extensive schedule of concerts and events gains even more momentum,

Saunders will identify additional one-of-a-kind entertainment experiences for our guests."

Saunders has more than 10 years of experience in negotiating and booking entertainment, including relationship management with talent, booking agencies and production companies. He most recently booked acts for the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, part of the Staples Center complex. Saunders was also the director of booking for the Venue Coalition, a group of more than 70 arenas and 15 theaters in North America. He earned a degree in music industry and business from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

"I'm excited to continue bringing exceptional events and experiences to Hard Rock and Seminole Gaming guests as the entertainment industry begins to open its doors to in-person events," Saunders said in a statement. "It's an honor to be part of a team that focuses on unique guest experiences."

More information is at theseminolecasinos.com.

North Carolina film festival to feature Montana Cypress film

FROM PRESS RELEASE

PEMBROKE, N.C. — The 4th annual Lumbee Film Festival returns to the big screen with 18 new films directed by Indigenous filmmakers screening Sept. 17-18 at the Thomas Entrepreneurship Hub in Pembroke, N.C.

A special screening of The Transcenders, a feature film by Montana Cypress (Miccosukee Tribe), will be

screened immediately following an awards ceremony at 8 p.m. on Sept. 18. The film follows the struggles of two brothers who find a remedy that promises to "transform their primitive behavior" as they transition from life in the city which differs greatly from their upbringing on the reservation.

The festival opens Sept. 17 with an outdoor screening of "Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World," an extensive look at the Native American influence in popular

music — despite attempts to ban, censor and erase Indian culture. The film reveals how early pioneers of the blues and jazz had Native American roots, and how artists like North Carolina's own Link Wray helped to define its evolution and forever changed the trajectory of rock and roll.

For tickets, passes, and the full festival schedule visit cucalorus.org/lumbee-film-festival/.

Indian Affairs adds two top Native American directors

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) named two Native Americans to top positions in the department in June.

Bartholomew "Bart" Stevens of the San Carlos Apache Tribe is the deputy bureau director for field operations, located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Kimberly Bouchard, of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians in Wisconsin, is the regional director of the Eastern Regional Office in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Seminole Tribe and Miccosukee Tribe are part of the BIA's Eastern Region, with a field office in Hollywood. Bouchard has previously served as the BIA official during swearing in ceremonies for newly elected leaders during the Seminole Tribe's Inauguration Day.

"Their many years of experience from working at agency and regional office levels show how they have created effective and sustained tribal and employee relationships over time, which are invaluable as we work to meet the evolving demands of our employees and the important tribal priorities which they serve," BIA director Darryl LaCounte said in a statement.

Stevens was previously the regional director for the BIA's Navajo Regional Office in Gallup, New Mexico, where he served for more than two years. He also served as superintendent of the BIA's Uintah and Ouray Agency in Fort Duchesne, Utah. Stevens has also worked for the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) in various leadership positions overseeing BIE-funded schools in

23 states, including Florida.

"Throughout my career, I have pledged not only to uphold the federal trust responsibilities to the tribes, but to leave Indian Country a better place than when I joined federal service," Stevens said in a statement.

Stevens's Albuquerque office supports the BIA's 12 regions and 83 agencies to deliver program services to all 574 federally recognized tribes, as well as individuals, directly or through contracts, grants or compacts.

Meanwhile, Bouchard has 27 years of experience at the BIA. She's worked with the BIA's Great Lakes Agency in Ashland, Wisconsin, and was a BIA deputy superintendent where she advised on trust service programs such as forestry, natural resources, probate and real estate services. She has held many other positions throughout her career.

"I am committed to continuing the BIA's mission of supporting all tribes in their desire for self-determination while ensuring their economic development goals are realized," Bouchard said in a statement.

Bouchard's Nashville office serves 34 federally recognized tribes with a service area that includes 460,980 acres held in trust and 102,677 acres of restricted fee lands.

The BIA is the oldest bureau in the Department of the Interior. It provides services to approximately 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives and has 5,000 employees within its four main offices of field operations, Indian services, justice services and trust services.



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

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Tribe celebrates Fourth of July

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton community gathered to celebrate the Fourth of July for the first time since the start of the pandemic at a variety of events.

The first event of the long weekend was a community celebration July 2 that featured competitions, games, food and a kid's carnival at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena. A basketball tournament with six competing teams was held at the gym. There was a fishing tournament at Tucker Ridge on July 3 and the festivities ended, as most Independence Day events usually do, with a concert and fireworks on July 4.

"Since we have been dealing with Covid, everyone has been in the house for a year," said Brighton Councilman Larry Howard. "It's good to see everyone out here enjoying the festivities. Today is a whole new day; this is the light at the end of the tunnel."

Adult horseshoe and cornhole tournaments got the day off to a good start. Kids' egg and watermelon races, an adult pie eating contest and tugs of war for kids and adults rounded out the day's activities. Dinner and bingo were the evening activities.

Crowds gathered to cheer each other on during the friendly competitions. Some hadn't seen each other in more than a year.

"I'm glad we were finally able to come together," said Jaryaca Baker. "It's been especially hard on the kids. They are energetic and outgoing and they yearn for communication with their peers."



Cousins Xavion Lee Nunez and Indica Smith, both 2, carefully walk around together during the Brighton Fourth of July celebration July 2. Xavion shows off his new stuffed animal while Indica watches her every step.



Kids compete in the watermelon rolling contest at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

Beverly Bidney



From left, Daniel Nunez, Justin Gonzalez, Elianna Gonzalez and her mom Cheyenne Nunez, Joleyne Nunez and Edelyn Gonzalez enjoy the Brighton Fourth of July celebration at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

Beverly Bidney



Above, Bella Spencer concentrates as she rolls the watermelon to the finish line during the watermelon race. At right, Martha Tommie records the pie eating contest from the sidelines at the Brighton festivities.

Beverly Bidney



Jhennie Baker, 2, runs to her mom Jaryaca Baker, during the Brighton Fourth of July bash.

Beverly Bidney

Hollywood's Fourth



Damon Scott

Chairman's Office staff Blake Osceola, left, and Carlene Osceola hand out gifts to Hollywood residents who came out to Fourth of July events July 3.



Damon Scott

From left are Andrew Perkins, Stella Perkins, Tiffany Frank and Hollywood Board Rep. Christine McCall in the Board's special tote bag booth.



Damon Scott

Recreation's Courtney Osceola, left, and Erika Santiago helped supervise kids who were playing in the splash pad.



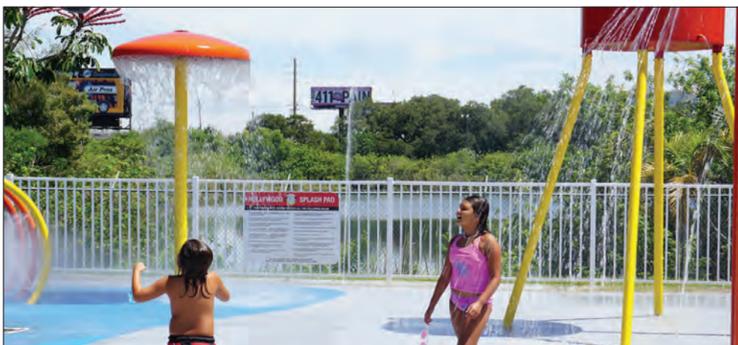
Damon Scott

From left are Melissa Billie and Hollywood Council Office's Francine Osceola and Tomie Motlow.



Damon Scott

Syveeta Cypress, left, and Ava-Jae Cypress take a break in the shade during a hot Hollywood day.



Damon Scott

Kids enjoy cooling off and playing in the water of the new Hollywood splash pad.



Damon Scott

Shenicka Ruffin was one of the lifeguards on duty at the splash pad.

NIGA convention marks back-to-business moment

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) returned to an in-person Indian Gaming Tradeshow and Convention from July 19-24 – this time at Caesars Forum in Las Vegas. Organizers said there were about 8,000 attendees and more than 350 vendors. While the event was sized down compared to previous years, it was considered a success coming off a devastating year for tribal gaming during the worst of the pandemic.

“To see our tribal gaming family come together again after so long was phenomenal,” NIGA chairman Ernie Stevens Jr. (Oneida Nation) said in a statement. “Indian gaming showed up, rolled up our sleeves and did the work, united in our efforts to bring our industry back after the pandemic stopped the world in its tracks.”

Indian gaming is a force in the U.S. economy. Before the pandemic, annual gross revenue was \$35 billion with another \$6.2 billion in ancillary revenue from hotels, entertainment, restaurants and retail. In addition, according to NIGA, Indian gaming ranks No. 11 in employment in the U.S.

Topics discussed among attendees, which included tribal and gaming leaders and officials, ran the gamut from post-pandemic recovery, gaming operations, cyber security and domestic terrorism and federal legislative advocacy. Officials said perhaps the most discussed topic, however, was sports betting and online gaming.

Many of the nation’s tribes, including the Seminole Tribe, are driving an expansion of sports betting across the U.S. According to a report by Eilers & Krejcie Gaming, the number of states that have legalized sports betting is now 32, although 10 of those are not yet operational. The gaming research firm said it was only three years ago when Nevada was the only state where legal sports



The convention included a tradeshow with a variety of vendors.

bets could take place.

But now states with large populations, like Florida, have seen legislative approvals. Tribal entities are already operating sports betting in Colorado, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York and Pennsylvania. Arizona and Washington State are expected to join the ranks soon.

The Seminole Tribe has signed a 30-year gaming compact agreement with Gov. Ron DeSantis that would put the tribe in charge of all forms of sports betting in Florida. The agreement still needs approval from the U.S. Department of Interior.

“We got blindsided by the pandemic but it’s created a lot of opportunities too,” conference chair Victor Rocha

(Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians) said in an interview with Tribal Gaming and Hospitality Magazine. “We all need to start getting prepared for the bump, for this rocket ride of the economy: recalibrate, redo your business plan, refocus, get ready, because it’s happening. I think that’s the message we’ve got to get to the tribes.”

2021 marked NIGA’s 35th show, originally scheduled to take place in San Diego. Officials decided to move it to Las Vegas because of remaining restrictions on large gatherings in California due to Covid-19.

Up next is the NIGA midyear conference at the Pechanga Resort and Casino in Temecula, California, from Nov. 15-17.

HRI, Seminole Gaming, STOF provide support for Surfside search teams

BY TAYLOR HOLATA
Advanced Career Development Program

HOLLYWOOD — Hard Rock Café in Miami lent its support to rescue teams leading search efforts at the site of the 12-story residential building collapse in Surfside.

In early July, employees of Hard Rock Café Miami at Bayside Marketplace began making and distributing 100 dinners each day to the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue team as workers continued efforts of recovering victims from the building’s debris of Champlain Towers South.

According to Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, as of July 21, 97 victims had been identified from the June 24 disaster.

“Our hearts and minds are always with those who we’ve lost and the families who are grieving, and those who are still waiting,” Levine Cava said.

In addition to the meal delivery initiative, Seminole Gaming and Hard Rock International have donated over \$250,000 through the multi-dimensional “Support Surfside Program” that launched June 30.

The initial donation of \$250,000 made by the Seminole Tribe entities was coupled with a public fundraising campaign that took place at all Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming locations. The

fundraising efforts incorporated support from both employees and customers of the establishments.

Customers were encouraged to donate any loose change or round up their bill to donate the difference to the relief fund. Additional donations made to the cause were also accepted.

Hard Rock and Seminole Gaming employees alike were encouraged to donate on the premise that the Seminole Tribe would match every donation made with no cap. Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming together employ 50,000 team members worldwide.

“In keeping with one of Hard Rock’s founding mottos of ‘Take Time to Be Kind,’ Hard Rock and Seminole Gaming team members want to do something meaningful to help people affected by this tragic event,” Jim Allen, chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming, said in a statement. “Our Support Surfside Program is about reaching out to our neighbors in need and extending a helping hand.”

As of press time the fund had reached over \$2,250,000.

For more information, or to donate to the relief fund, visit supportsurfside.org.



Miami-Dade Fire Rescue works at the scene of a condominium collapse in Surfside.

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood hosts Sports Illustrated swimsuit models

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Guitar Hotel and the other unique features at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood served as the photo backdrop for the latest issue of the iconic Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue.

Hard Rock International partnered with the magazine for its August 2021 issue – a first for both entities – and held launch party events July 23 and July 24 to create buzz for fans and visitors of both brands.

Many of the swimsuit models who appear in the edition were on hand to walk the red carpet in the particularly glitzy and glamorous way the Hard Rock is known for.

The photos for the issue were shot in 2020 under Hard Rock’s enhanced Covid-19 safety measures. The Hollywood Hard Rock was one of four locations that were used for the swimsuit edition. The others were the

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City and the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento.

“While 2020 presented many challenges, we came together with Sports Illustrated Swimsuit to create an issue that spreads the power of music and is sure to resonate with all of our fans,” Keith Sheldon, president of entertainment for Seminole Gaming and HRI said in a statement. “The ability to host the launch events ... [is] a fitting celebration of a year’s worth of combined efforts.”

“We are bringing together leaders in the lifestyle, hospitality, entertainment and music space to deliver innovative and unrivaled experiences to celebrate the launch of SI Swimsuit’s annual issue and continue the evolution of our game changing brand,” Hillary Drezner, general manager of Sports Illustrated Swimsuit said in a statement.

To access the edition, go to swimsuit.si.com. The Seminole Tribe is the parent entity of HRI. More is at hardrock.com.



Megan Thee Stallion, the first rapper to appear on the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue’s cover, poses during a red carpet event July 23 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

Hard Rock Hotel Madrid opens in Spain

STAFF REPORT

Hard Rock Hotels announced July 1 that its latest venture in Spain is open for business. Hard Rock Hotel Madrid is located at the Triangulo de Oro del Arte (Golden Triangle of Art) in the heart of Spain’s capital city. The new hotel is part of an expanding footprint in Europe for the Hard Rock brand.

“Hard Rock Hotels has always felt very in tune with the vibrancy and spirit of Spain,” Dale Hipsh, senior vice president of hotels for Hard Rock International, said in a statement. “It is one of the reasons we introduced the brand to Europe with Hard Rock Ibiza in 2014, followed by our Tenerife hotel shortly after.” Ibiza is an archipelago of Spain in the Mediterranean Sea while Tenerife is the largest of Spain’s Canary Islands off West Africa.

Officials said the new hotel caters to both business and leisure travelers, with 161 contemporary rooms and suites (from 194 square feet) with diverse views so “guests can take in the lights of Madrid or retreat from the city with a room overlooking the lush garden.”

The hotel has more than 21,000 square feet of event space including garden and rooftop venues. The property also features an outdoor swimming pool, fitness center and Rock Shop retail store. The lobby has a guitar sculpture on display and there is artwork showcased throughout the hotel, including a mural.

The more than 70 piece memorabilia collection includes notable pieces like an acoustic guitar from Madrid-native singer-songwriter Antonio Vega; a blue denim jean outfit worn by Elvis Presley during an NBC TV special in 1968; and platform boots worn by David Bowie.

Other amenities include Hard Rock’s signature restaurant Sessions, which overlooks the hotel’s garden and serves a unique take on classic Spanish cuisine. There is also a rooftop bar with 360-degree views.

Officials said restaurateur Maria Font Trabocchi played a crucial role in developing the hotel’s restaurants and food.

“The hotel is incredibly well-located and we are confident that it will soon become a social hub and meeting spot for residents in the city as well as visitors,” Trabocchi said in a statement. “The restaurants offer beautiful surroundings, the food is vibrant, and we look forward to the chef breathing his own



The Hard Rock Hotel Madrid features 161 rooms and suites.

emotion and energy into the restaurants now the hotel is officially open.”

Room rates start at \$150 a night.

HRI announces new beauty product partnership

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Hard Rock International announced July 7 a new partnership with Red Carpet Manicure, creators of the first at-home professional salon LED light activated gel polish system. Together, the brands will launch a new product line that will be available exclusively at ULTA Beauty stores and online starting in July.

“Hard Rock is thrilled to work alongside Red Carpet Manicure and bring this partnership to fruition on a massive scale that will see our products available to ULTA’s customer base,” Benito Mendez, vice president of merchandising, e-commerce and licensing at Hard Rock International, said in a statement. “The Hard Rock brand is legendary, cultivating a fan base stretching across the world, and this collaboration

brought to us by our agency partner Cronus Global, reasserts our brand’s love for unique, fun forms of self-expression.”

The Red Carpet Manicure & Hard Rock includes:

- Up The Volume: Burgundy Shimmer
 - Rhythm ‘N Rhapsody: Charcoal Green Crème
 - Purple Haze: Purple-Blue Pearl
 - Remix Red: Bright Red Crème
 - Let’s Get Into Treble: Concrete Grey Crème
 - Play It Again: Gold Metallic
- The Red Carpet Manicure & Hard Rock Fall 2021 collection will be available beginning in July 2021, exclusively at ULTA Beauty stores and ulta.com. For more information on the collection, visit www.redcarpetmanicure.com. For more information on the Hard Rock brand, please visit www.hardrock.com.

Hard Rock Hotels earns top spot in J.D. Power guest satisfaction study

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Hard Rock Hotels landed at the top of a guest satisfaction survey among upper upscale hotels in North America. Hard Rock was ranked number one in the J.D. Power study that analyzed approximately 33,000 guest responses to survey questions.

The study’s results were released July 14.

Based on a 1,000-point scale, Hard Rock topped the list with 895 points, 21 points ahead of runner-up, Hyatt Regency (874). Omni Hotels & Resorts (873), Marriott Hotels (872) and Wyndham Grand Hotels (871) rounded out the top five.

“We are honored that our dedication to our guests has been recognized by J.D. Power again and we are grateful for the commitment of our hotel teams,” Dale Hipsh, senior vice president of Hard Rock Hotels, said in a statement. “Since we were founded 50 years ago, Hard Rock has been committed to creating experiences that delight our fans. With each new destination our hotels emerge in, we create an authentic and thoughtfully designed journey.”

Hard Rock received the highest score in categories such as arrival/departure; guest rooms; food & beverage; services and amenities; hotel facilities; and costs and fees.

The following hotel brands ranked highest in guest satisfaction in their respective segment:

- Luxury:** The Ritz-Carlton
- Upper Upscale:** Hard Rock Hotels
- Upscale:** AC Hotels
- Upper Midscale:** Drury Hotels
- Midscale:** Tru by Hilton
- Economy:** SureStay by Best Western

Upper upscale hotel scores in overall customer satisfaction in the J.D. Power 2021 North America Hotel Guest Satisfaction Index Study (based on 1,000-point scale)

1. Hard Rock Hotels 895
2. Hyatt Regency 874
3. Omni Hotels & Resorts 873
4. Marriott Hotels 872
5. Wyndham Grand Hotels 871
6. Hilton Hotels & Resorts 864
7. Kimpton 858
7. Le Meridien 858
7. Sheraton 858
10. Renaissance Hotels 857
11. Embassy Suites by Hilton 853
12. Westin Hotels & Resorts 851
13. Hotel Indigo 836
14. Autograph Collection 831
15. Curio Collection by Hilton 822

Metallica is coming to Hard Rock Live

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Legendary heavy metal band Metallica will perform at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Nov. 4 at 8 p.m.

Tickets went on sale July 30. For more information go to www.myhrl.com.

Marshall Tucker Band to play Immokalee

FROM PRESS RELEASE

IMMOKALEE — The Marshall Tucker Band will perform their classic Southern rock hits live in concert at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee on Jan. 27, 2022, at 8 p.m. Advance tickets are on sale for \$69 and are available at 1-800-514-ETIX or at moreinparadise.com. Attendees must be 21 years of age.

The Marshall Tucker Band, which

formed in Spartanburg, S.C. in 1972, has racked up multi-platinum album sales many times over. MTB’s indelible hits including “Heard It in a Love Song,” “Can’t You See,” “Fire on the Mountain,” “Long Hard Ride,” and “Ramblin.”

New hires at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

FROM PRESS RELEASE

COCONUT CREEK— Seminole Casino Coconut Creek announced three hires July 16.

Brent Cook, who most recently was VP of food and beverage at New York-New York Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, has joined the Coconut Creek venue as its Vice President of Food & Beverage. He most recently held the same position at New York-New York Hotel & Casino Las Vegas. Previously, he spent 19 years with Caesars Entertainment. He has more than 25 years of experience in the hospitality industry.

Jason Stephens has been named Seminole Casino Coconut Creek’s director of Food & Beverage. His background includes 20 years of experience in the

industry, including Las Vegas at New York-New York Hotel & Casino and MGM Grand where he was director of Food & Beverage.

Chef James McNulty has been appointed the new executive chef.

His culinary stints include the Monte Carlo, Treasure Island, Bellagio, and Venetian, all in Las Vegas.



Executive chef James McNulty

A year's progress means thousands more community images

BY TARA BACKHOUSE
Collections Manager

BIG CYPRESS — One year ago the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum started a project that is being funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services award program. We embarked on scanning, housing and cataloging approximately 9,000 photographic negatives originally created by the Seminole Tribune. The images feature events from the 1970s to the early 2000s. They celebrate recent Seminole history, private lives, and public events. You can relive moments and share them with others by browsing our online catalog. You can search for people, places, subjects and dates. If you find pictures you would like to add to your personal collection, you can request copies directly from our site at semtribe.pastperfectonline.com. During the past year we have cataloged over 4,000 of the negatives. Cataloging is the way we track photographs in a database where they are described and organized. The more images we catalog, the more we will be able to upload to our website. One thousand of

the project's 9,000 photographic negatives are already online, specifically records 2015.6.32000-33000. Over the next year, the rest of the negatives will be cataloged and added to the online collection. As you browse the collection you may notice that some records lack details. Should you recognize a person, location or event and wish to share that information you can submit feedback through the website, or contact Collections Manager Tara



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
Several unidentified people, including a woman wearing novelty glasses, participate in a costume contest. This photo was taken on October 31, 2001, during a Halloween party hosted for Hollywood seniors.

Backhouse at tarabackhouse@semtribe.com. Another way we gather information about the photographs is to match images to the Tribune articles that originally featured the photographs. We often find articles from 20 to 30 years ago, and these articles provide dates, locations and names. The more information we have in the database, the easier it is to find the images that people request. However sometimes, the original newspaper article only provides some of the information. Dozens of photographs were often taken for each article, when only one might have ended up in the published article. Therefore, we could still use your help to identify faces and places. For example, one series of photographs was taken at a Halloween party hosted for seniors at the Hollywood Hot Meals Center in 2001. This event was covered in the November 30, 2001, edition of the Seminole Tribune, Vol. 22 No. 15. The article, titled "Hollywood Seniors Spook Hot Meals", was written by Robin Osceola. Despite this great background information, many of the costumed people in the photographs remain unidentified. Of course, costumes make people harder to recognize. If you think you might be able to help with photographs like this one, please

let us know. This and other similar photographic projects at the museum are being done in order to help preserve memories for the Seminole community now and in the future. The museum hopes that the growing online catalog will help people feel connected to their past and each other. Please let us know if you would like some assistance in learning how to use the online collections. And we're always happy to do the searching for you. You can reach out by emailing museum@semtribe.com, or call (863) 902-1113. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Service FY20 Program.



Pulitzer Prizes recognize work of three Native Americans

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

When the winners and finalists of the 2021 Pulitzer Prizes were announced in June, the list included three Native Americans. The prestigious awards are named after newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer. There are 21 categories and the board is comprised of 19 members.

Novelist Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain band of Chippewa) won the prize in fiction for her novel "The Night Watchman." Natalie Diaz (Mojave/Gila

River Indian Tribe) won the prize in poetry for her collection "Postcolonial Love Poem." In addition, one of the finalists included cartoonist Marty Two Bulls Sr.'s (Oglala Lakota) work about current events.

Erdrich's novel follows a Chippewa councilman and a young plant worker who embark on a dangerous trip to find her older sister, according to the book publisher's description. The story takes place during the Indian termination period of the 1950s and is based on the life of Erdrich's grandfather who "carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C.," the description

said. The Pulitzer board described "The Night Watchman" as "a majestic, polyphonic novel about a community's efforts to halt the proposed displacement and elimination of several Native American tribes in the 1950s, rendered with dexterity and imagination."

Erdrich has written 17 novels and has been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize once before. She is only the second Native American novelist to receive the fiction prize. The first was Kiowa writer N. Scott Momaday's "House Made of Dawn" in 1969. Momaday was the first Native American to win a Pulitzer Prize in any category.

Meanwhile, Diaz's book publisher described her "Postcolonial Love Poem" collection as one that "demands that everybody carried in its pages – bodies of language, land, rivers, suffering brothers, enemies, and lovers – be touched and held as beloveds." The Pulitzer board called it "a collection of tender, heart-wrenching and defiant poems that explore what it means to love and be loved in an America beset by conflict." She is the first Native American to receive the Pulitzer for poetry.

While the Pulitzer board declined to award a prize for editorial cartooning this year, Two Bulls Sr.'s cartoons about politics, policing and the Covid-19 pandemic were nominated as a finalist "for innovative and insightful cartoons that offer a Native American perspective on contemporary news events," the board said.

In addition, the Pulitzer board also recognized two books about Native Americans by non-Native authors.

Journalist Sierra Crane Murdoch's "Yellow Bird: Oil, Murder, and a Woman's Search for Justice in Indian Country," was nominated as a finalist for general nonfiction.

The book follows Lissa Yellow Bird's search for a missing young and white oil



Novelist Louise Erdrich

Via Facebook



Cartoonist Marty Two Bulls Sr.

Via Facebook

worker on the Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota amidst a community and environment reshaped by the Bakkan oil boom, the book publisher's description said. The Pulitzer board said the book is "a richly-layered story with an imperfect yet memorable protagonist battling corruption, greed and intergenerational trauma when a fracking oil boom collides with reservation life in North Dakota."

Historian Megan Kate Nelson's work "The Three Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West" was nominated as a

finalist in the history category. The book examines conflicts in the West through the story of how nine individuals, including a Chiricahua Apache chief, a Confederate soldier and a Union army wife, "fought for self-determination and control of the region," the book publisher's description said. The Pulitzer board said the book was "a lively and well-crafted Civil War narrative that expands understanding of the conflict's Western theaters, where pivotal struggles for land, resources and influence presaged the direction of the country as a whole."

More is at pulitzer.org.

NMAI repatriates 2 objects to the Siksika Nation

FROM SIKSIKA NATION

Leaders from Siksika Nation (Alberta, Canada) met with representatives from the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in early July to repatriate a Prairie Chicken Society Headdress and a Weather Dance Robe, sacred items that were taken over a hundred years ago after the Canadian and American governments banished ceremonial practices and property in an effort to eradicate Indigenous peoples and their way of life.

In a ceremony July 7 in Suitland, Maryland, Siksika Nation Chief and Council representative Councillor Kent Ayoungman and Ceremonial elder Herman Yellow Old Woman attended the historic occasion and were delegated to collect the Natowa'piists (sacred items) on behalf of Siksika Nation and return them home. "The repatriation of our cultural property is necessary to the revitalization of the Siksika way of life and remains a top priority for Siksika Nation Chief and Council, who work with various public and private collections on repatriating Natowa'piists back to Siksika. It is a special thing to see these items coming home and to be a part of this process," said Councillor Ayoungman, who credits the work and persistence of Yellow Old Woman, who began the process over 30 years ago, and to leadership, both past and present.

Siksika Nation was notified in May 2021 that the repatriation request was approved and that the sacred items would be returned back to the Nation. The headdress was accessioned into the Museum of the American Indian in 1908 and the collector is unknown. The Weather Dance Robe was acquired by William Wildschut from Yellow Old Woman, a noted Siksika Weather Dancer in 1924. This journey has been a personal one

for Yellow Old Woman, who is the great grandson of the Weather Dance Robe maker, Yellow Old Woman. He was known as a Weather Dancer — a medicine man who maintains a spiritual connection with Natosi (the sun) and whose primary function is the control of the weather during ceremonial occasions, such as the Sundance. The Weather Dancers' ceremonial responsibilities also include providing blessings for community members.

Yellow Old Woman, a Weather Dancer like his great-grandfather who received his transferred rite in 2016, is extremely honored to be included and excited to see these sacred ceremonial items return home and be utilized once again in Siksika ceremony. "These items have been gone for almost 100 years, so the thing that is amazing for us, is these materials (Natowa'piists) are going to go right back into action. There are transfers that will take place, sweats that will take place when we get them home. The Sundance is coming up in the next two weeks and they will be transferred and put right back into circulation, so today is an honour. It is very emotional," explained Yellow Old Woman, who participates in the annual Akoka'tsin in Siksika.



Weather dance robe.

NMAI

Tribal artists Erica Deitz, Elgin Jumper finalists for FSU student union installation

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

When Florida State University reached out to contemporary artists to submit proposals for art that will be on permanent display in its new student union, Seminole artists Erica Deitz and Elgin Jumper rose to the challenge.

The open call for artists document stated "While the selection committee will consider all submissions, priority will be given to works that represent and celebrate the Seminole Tribe of Florida's culture and history. Preference will be given to artists with Seminole ancestry."

On July 16 Deitz and Jumper were named finalists in the competition.

FSU asked for large-scale wall-based works, installations or murals for the under-construction student union. The winning

artwork will be installed in a space by the main staircase that measures 26 feet high by 14 feet wide. FSU may choose one or more pieces for the new building.

"It's an immense honor, to be sure, of the highest level," Jumper wrote in an email. "I'm grateful for the opportunity. It's wonderful to be named one of the finalists. I didn't think I would make it this far, truth to tell."

To apply for consideration, artists had to submit an artist statement or video, resume, links to their website and social media and 10 to 20 images of representative artwork.

Now that four finalists have been chosen- the other two

are Roberto Delgado and Cecilia Lueza- the next step in the process is for the artists to submit a description of the proposed piece, up to 250 words, a sketch or rendering, a detailed budget and a timeline for completion. The final artwork is due Oct. 1 and a selection will be made by Oct. 16. "I have several options, but I have as yet not rendered a presentable study," Jumper wrote. "What do



A rendering of the area in the new FSU student union where art will be displayed on the stairway wall.

FSU



Beverly Bidney

Elgin Jumper participates in a program at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in 2019.

I have in heart and mind? I've been going over it, Lord knows, and I keep coming back to poetry. This piece has got to be Seminole and it's got to have its own poetry. I believe this work calls for ... Seminole poetry in its imagery; moving, uplifting, soul-stirring."

Health

Tribe encourages vaccine as phase two returns

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Gatherings and events were being scheduled in a big way during the first two weeks of July as the Seminole Tribe moved forward on phase three Covid-19 reopening protocols. The return of smaller gatherings like community meetings and family movie nights to larger events like Indian Days signaled a move toward a post-pandemic way of life for tribal members and their families.

However, activities were abruptly postponed July 17 as the tribe returned to a phase two of Covid-19 prevention. Phase two also includes a directive for tribal members to wear masks and social distance outside their homes. Phase three remained in place for tribal government operations — which includes masks to be worn inside tribal buildings.

“As precaution we are asking anyone with symptoms or anyone in their family with symptoms to not enter a tribal building, but call their clinic or doctor,” a Health and Human Services directive states.

The reason for the return to phase two, Dr. Vandhana Kiswani-Barley said, is an increase in positive Covid-19 cases and the recent deaths of three tribal members to the virus.

“The tribe’s numbers have significantly increased just like the nation’s,” Kiswani-Barley, executive director of HHS, said. “We are hoping more tribal members will come out and get tested and vaccinated.”

As part of the encouraging more tribal members vaccinated, Seminole Media Productions distributed a Department of Interior-produced YouTube video of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) carrying a message to Native Americans.

“The Covid-19 pandemic has taken a heavy toll on Native communities across the country. I have mourned with and shared stories with members of my own community who lost multiple family members to this terrible virus,” Haaland said in the video. “We’ve done so much to keep our people healthy — closed the gates to our tribal lands; social distanced from friends outside our families; worked and attended school from home; and limited our traditional gatherings. There’s one more thing we can do to help Indigenous communities recover from the



Deb Haaland, Interior Secretary, speaks about the importance for Indian Country to get vaccinated.

impacts of this virus so that we can gather again, practice our traditions and enjoy time with those we love. Get the vaccine. We can do this. Let’s get vaccinated for our elders, for our traditions and for our people.”

Tribal clinics are offering the Moderna and the Pfizer vaccine. Tribal members can

call their local clinic or the HHS hotline at (833) 786-3458 to determine eligibility and be placed on a waiting list. Tribal employees can call the hotline to determine their eligibility as well.

Public service campaign urges Indian Country to get vaccinated

BY DR. CHARLES TY REIDHEAD

In partnership with the American Lung Association, I was recently featured in a public service announcement urging Indian Country to heed the wisdom of our elders and encouraging careful consideration of protecting our cultures and our way of life by getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

Through their Better For It campaign, this PSA series is part of a larger national vaccination initiative that creates dialogue around science-based information to inform communities about the safety, availability, and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines.

With the availability of authorized vaccines to protect us from COVID-19, we are charged with making a critically important decision about our personal health and the health of our families. I got my COVID-19 vaccine as soon as I could, my family has received theirs, every tribal leader I know has received theirs, and I encourage you to do the same.

You can visit the American Lung Association’s website to download their campaign toolkits, which include guides for families and individuals to explore concerns, answer questions, and start a conversation about vaccination. Together, we can help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by promoting vaccine confidence, encouraging prevention, and supporting our partners’ efforts to reach our American Indian and Alaska Native communities by sharing fact-based information about COVID-19 vaccines.

Dr. Charles Ty Reidhead, a member of the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota, is the director of the Phoenix Area Indian Health Service, overseeing the delivery of healthcare to over 170,000 patients in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. He previously served as the chief medical officer for the Phoenix Area from 2010-2016, where he provided clinical leadership to over 200 medical providers.



Dr. Charles Ty Reidhead

Virtual conference to focus on Native health in changing world

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The National Tribal Health Conference will be held virtually Oct. 4-8. Each day the conference will focus on the different topics relevant to this year’s theme, “The Future of Native Health in Our Changing World.”

Oct. 4: Health Equity and the Trust Responsibility: Be Heard, Make Change

American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) experience some of the worst health outcomes in the nation despite the fact that the United States has a legal obligation to provide health care to Tribal populations. In response to these disparities, Tribal Nations across the country are raising their voices and demanding health equity for their people. Monday’s sessions will provide attendees an opportunity to share their vision of health and formulate strategies to address inequities through advocacy and grass roots action. Participants will also have a chance to discuss the relationship between racial equity and health equity in light of the federal trust responsibility. Through listening sessions and institutes, attendees will have the chance to raise their voices, be heard, and put out a collective call for AI/AN health equity.

Oct. 5: Disruption, Governance, Politics in the Tribal Health Space

Tribes continuously advocate for the rights promised in hundreds of treaties with the federal government. Although the Supreme Court, Congress and the Executive Branch of the federal government have affirmed these treaty promises, these promises continue to be broken. Tribes recognize that disruption of the status quo may provide the best way to achieve meaningful progress. During the past five years, three AI/AN women have been elected to Congress, Tribes have challenged states laws impacting their health systems, and, for the first time, an American Indian woman holds a federal cabinet position. Tuesday’s conference sessions will explore how Tribes are exercising their sovereignty to make health gains for their people. We will also explore how the pandemic, despite so many devastating impacts, brought opportunities for Tribes in the areas of funding, data, coalition-building, and mobilization. Tuesday’s sessions will provide an opportunity for presenters to share how they have navigated politics and created meaningful change in Tribal public health.

Oct. 6: Transformational Approaches to Financing our Health Systems

The Covid-19 pandemic exposed the financial vulnerability of the entire Tribal healthcare system. It forced Tribal communities to re-evaluate how they conduct the business of medicine. It also forced providers to assess the role of third-party billing and reimbursements in supporting their health care systems. Wednesday’s conference sessions will explore new strategies to bolster sustainability, increase financial independence, and improve efficiencies related to referrals, reimbursement, and billing.

Oct. 7: Resilience During Periods of Sustained Crisis

Tribal communities understand resilience and are adept at standing while the ground shifts beneath them. However, the global Covid-19 pandemic created novel challenges. Tribal citizens were cut off from family, friends, community, and culture in a way that has not been seen in over a century. For many, the pandemic also reignited the experiences and pain of historical trauma. The isolation of the pandemic left many community members without the resources or support system to effectively manage them. In response to these challenges, Tribal communities had to adapt once more.

Thursday’s sessions will explore what Tribal communities did to maintain community and individual health and wellness during the pandemic, how delivery of service changed, and how the pandemic seeded longed for changes such as increased access to telehealth, broadband, and clean and potable water.

Oct. 8: The Rise of Technology to Revolutionize AI/AN Health

Indian Country has worked to modernize existing electronic health reporting systems to ensure that Indian health systems can keep pace with non-Native health systems. This work produced new products and initiatives, however, the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted a need for additional measures to create a reliable and robust telehealth program to make care accessible. Friday’s sessions will create opportunities to discuss the role that technology has played, and should play, in improving access to care, accelerating diagnosis and treatment, expanding treatment options, and reducing costs.

For more information and to register, visit the National Indian Health Board at nihb.org.

Scholarships aim to boost Native representation in health care field

FROM PRESS RELEASE

DENVER — A \$430,000 grant from the United Health Foundation (UHF) is aimed at providing scholarships for American Indian and Alaska Natives studying in the health and dental care fields. The pandemic and its disproportionate impact on Native communities highlighted the importance of access to culturally responsive health care for underserved populations. The goal of the United Health Foundation Tribal

Scholars Program is to increase the number of employable American Indian and Alaska Native healthcare graduates to work as primary care physicians, nurses, physician assistants, mental and behavioral health specialists, dentists, and pharmacists.

Studies have long shown that American Indian and Alaska Native people experience poorer health status and suffer from greater rates of chronic disease such as diabetes mellitus and heart and respiratory diseases, while also having shorter lifespans than other groups, according to the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health. Lack of dental care also leads to health problems in Native communities. Periodontal disease (gum infection) is associated with increased risks for cancer and cardiovascular disease.

By providing American Indian and Alaska Native students with scholarships to earn degrees in health care, Indigenous graduates can provide people in their communities with personalized, culturally competent care.

Scholarships will be offered to Native

students beginning in 2021-22 and are renewable throughout scholars’ academic careers. Scholars will be undergraduate or graduate students, with a preference for undergraduates who are rising sophomores or higher and pursuing degrees in the above-referenced fields at tribal colleges and universities or mainstream colleges and universities. Interested students can learn more and apply through the American Indian College Fund at collegefund.org/scholarships.

Hurricane safety info available on EM website

Hurricane season runs through Nov. 30. A hurricane safety guide is available through the Office of Emergency Management’s website. The guide features information regarding storm preparedness, shelters, contact information, emergency notification sign up, special medical needs, generators, debris and much more. Visit the website at em.seminoletribe.com.

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SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney (3)

OBSTACLES APLENTY: Kids at the Brighton Boys & Girls Clubs enjoy outdoor activities July 12. The kids club, for ages 5 and 6, did some faux emergency drills and showed off their skills on the obstacle course. Above, Alijah Osceola, in front, and Ellis Gopher, in back with hula hoop, navigate the obstacle course as counselor Diana Greenbaum watches. At center, Jaiden Gore crawls through a tunnel of mats. At far left, Diamond Jumper gets some help balancing from counselor Diana Greenbaum as Nohea Collins makes her way down the balance beam.



Courtesy photo

SAFETY WEEK: Immokalee Boys & Girls Clubs kids spent a week learning about safety in early July. A Seminole Fire Rescue truck came to the club, which drew a crowd.



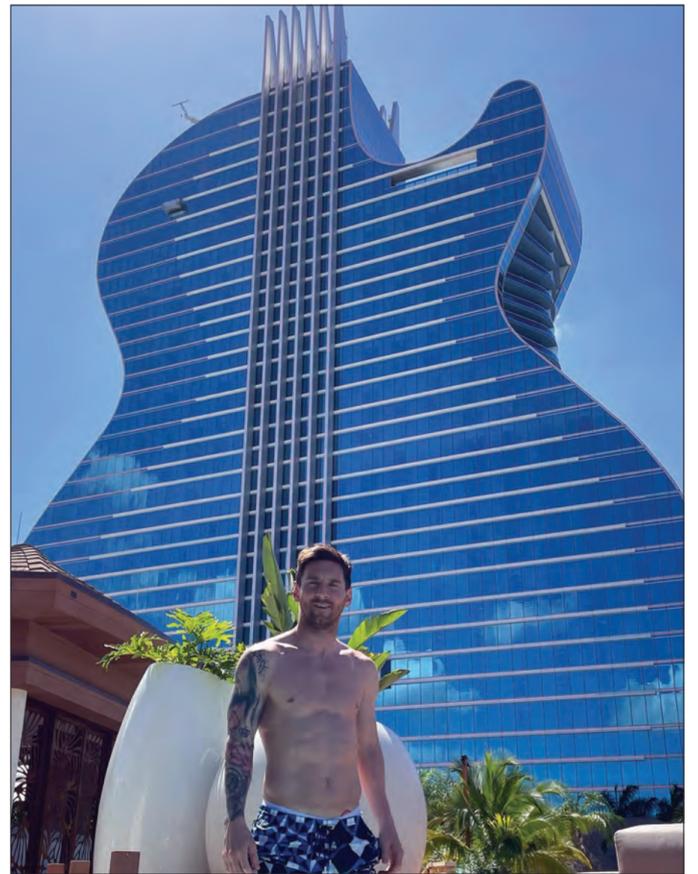
Darin Sicurello

NABI UNIFORMS: The Seminole Tribe's seal was among four featured on the front of all uniform jerseys at the Native American Basketball Invitational in July. The tribe has been a longtime major sponsor of the tournament that is held annually in Phoenix and attracts more than 120 youth teams from Indian Country. The tournament is planning to expand with an adult tournament.



Hard Rock Atlantic City (2)

HARD ROCK'S DAY: Above, Atlantic City public information officer Rebekah Mena presents Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City president Joe Lupo with a proclamation from the city recognizing June 28 as Hard Rock Day in Atlantic City as the resort celebrated its third anniversary. Below, Pastor Collins Days, chairman of Turning Point Day Center Board; Dan Brown, president and CEO of Atlantic City Rescue Mission; and Mary MacDonald, associate executive director of Covenant House, receive \$10,000 each from Lupo in honor of the anniversary.



Leo Messi Facebook

TOWERING STAR: Soccer star Leo Messi stands in front of the Guitar Hotel. This photo was posted on Messi's Facebook page in July. He recently was named a brand abassador for Hard Rock.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

RoseAnne Archibald elected 1st female national chief of Assembly of First Nations

After five rounds of voting over the span of two days, former Ontario regional chief RoseAnne Archibald has been named the new national chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

Archibald — the first woman elected to the role — won after Reginald Bellerose, chief of Muskowekwan First Nation in Saskatchewan, conceded following the fifth ballot.

"I am very grateful to be in this historic moment with all of you," Archibald said prior to her reading the AFN's oath of office.

Archibald is a member of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation (formerly New Post First Nation) in northern Ontario. She spent a three-year term as Ontario regional chief.

"The AFN has made 'her'-story today," said Archibald in her acceptance speech July 8.

"Today is a victory and you can tell all the women in your life that the glass ceiling has been broken. I thank all of the women who punched that ceiling before me and made a crack."

Archibald has had a long history of holding leadership roles. She was the first woman and youngest chief elected for Taykwa Tagamou Nation (TTN) in 1990 at age 23.

She was also the first woman and youngest deputy grand chief for Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), as well as the first female and youngest grand chief for Mushkegowuk Council.

- CBC News

Thieves hold Colorado Springs Native American man down, cut his ponytail off

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Chuck Sullivan says his long hair was everything to him.

"Cutting my hair, it takes a part of me as being Native American. That's very special to me."

When thieves attacked him and his fiancée July 26, they took more than just his wallet.

"One grabs my ponytail and cuts it off," he told 11 News reporter Julie Martin.

Sullivan is the promotion manager for Twisted Apes Bar and Grill off Platte near Circle. He and fiancée Amy stayed to sell bar furniture before leaving for the night.

Surveillance images show two men hiding behind a dumpster while the couple

get into their truck.

"We closed up. Walking Amy out to the truck, put her in the truck, and all of a sudden I turn around, there's two guys rushing me with guns. Telling me to get on the ground."

Sullivan says he had electronics, a wad of cash, and other valuables on him, but instead of taking those, one suspect held him down while the other cut off his hair.

"The other one yanked my wallet out. ... I had an iPad Pro in my hand, \$1,000+ in my pocket; they didn't do anything and then they ran."

Sullivan is thankful his fiancée was unharmed -- his main concern in the moment. But he says he feels violated by what the men took from him.

"To take that away from me, it's very personal. My wallet and all that stuff is replaceable, but my memories off my hair and my tradition and stuff like that -- it's not."

As well as being part of his heritage, Sullivan says his hair signified the moment nine years ago when he nearly died in an accident. He had been growing it out ever since.

"To take something I've been growing since 2012 ... to take that away from me, it's very personal," he said.

Sullivan told Martin police were at the bar all night collecting evidence, including fingerprints from when the suspects tried to break in through a back door earlier in the evening.

- KKTU (Colorado Springs, Colorado)

Crow Tribe files civil complaint against BIA K-9 Officer

The Crow Tribe announced July 27 that it is filing a civil complaint against a Bureau of Indian Affairs K-9 officer after video surfaced of an arrest at a traffic stop in Lodge Grass [in July].

The Tribe said in a news release that the civil complaint against BIA officer Steve Stallings stems from a violent abuse of power and excessive use of force during the traffic stop.

A video shot by the wife of Harris Red Star shows officers putting handcuffs on Red Star as the police dog bites his foot. Even after Red Star is handcuffed, the dog refuses to release its bite for another 55 seconds.

In the complaint, the Crow Tribe accuses Stallings of aggravated assault, criminal endangerment, and negligent endangerment — causing Red Star emotional and physical injury.

The Tribe is seeking to have Stallings excluded from the reservation.

In a statement, the Tribe said:

"Unfortunately, nothing in this video is surprising to anyone who has lived on the Crow Nation. Make no doubt that we need policing and more officers to cover 2.3 million acres, but we need quality, trained law enforcement. Excessive force against Crow people by a federal officer should never happen. The video clearly shows an officer who is not properly trained, who cannot control a K-9, and shouldn't be policing our people and tribal lands."

Red Star underwent three surgeries on his ankle and foot following the surgery. He is facing charges of resisting arrest, obstructing, and assault on a peace officer for his part in the incident.

- KTVQ (Billings, Montana)

Coquille Indian Tribe Chief Don Ivy dies

The chief of the Coquille Indian Tribe (Oregon) has died. Those who knew Don Ivy said he will be remembered as a tribal scholar, who worked to assemble historical materials and study the tribe's history.

Ivy had been undergoing cancer treatment for seven months before passing away at the age of 70 on July 19.

Bob Zybak, a doctoral researcher of environmental science, is among those mourning Ivy's death. He told KLCC that Ivy was a tribal scholar and the two of them had worked on a trails project.

"I've known Don for about 30 years, and yes, we did put out the Coquille trails report hoping to get it into local schools at some point," Zybak said.

"Don was just a really good guy and a great tribal leader. He loved to fish, we worked mostly on historical materials related to Coquille Tribe, and think his legacy will be the tribe's history and his efforts to assemble that."

- Jefferson Public Radio (Ashland, Oregon)

Cherokee Nation becomes first tribe to enter self-governance transportation program

Green Country (Oklahoma) can now expect more road repairs in the near future. The Cherokee Nation said that's their promise after the tribe entered into a self-governance program with the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The Cherokee Nation is the first tribe to ever have a self-governance program.

"The difference now is we will be more in the driver's seat in terms of crafting

federal policy on how tribes get funds," said Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr.

He said the new program gives the tribe the ability to plan and oversee road construction and projects on their land without federal permission and oversight.

"What we want to do is tailor our own projects to meet the needs locally - and who best to know the needs than local people?" Hoskin told News on 6.

Cherokee Nation Transportation Director Michael Lynn said the tribe wants to better prioritize rural roads once the program starts.

"We've got about 3,500 to 4,000 roads in our inventory across our reservation and having those roads in our inventory makes them eligible for those federal funds," Lynn said. "So, we can improve the county road system and primarily the roads our citizens drive on within the reservation."

Hoskin said the Cherokee Nation had to show audits for three years, including transportation management information, financial stability and transportation management and capability. Hoskin also said the tribe plans to go the extra mile and stretch Oklahoman's dollars even further.

"If you are an Oklahoman and you want more bang for your tax dollar, then you should be happy with this news, because it is good for everyone," Hoskin added.

The Cherokee Nation said the new program will also help fund their public transit system.

- News On 6 (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

LA County prepares to apologize to local Native American tribes

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted July 14 to craft an apology for the historic mistreatment of Native Americans in the region.

The motion highlights disproportionate health and economic burdens faced by the Gabrieleno Tongva, Fernandeno Tataviam, Ventureño Chumash, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Kizh and other local tribes as a result of discrimination.

Locally, the Hahamog'na [Editor: Commonly anglicized as Hahamogna and spelled Xaxaamonga in their Native language] tribe of the Tongva people lived in Pasadena and Altadena.

In 2019, Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an executive order apologizing for the genocide of 16,000 Native Americans in California.

Supervisor Hilda Solis said healing demanded telling the truth.

"The First Peoples of this land faced violence, exploitation and dispossession

at the hands of many government entities, including actions sanctioned or directly carried out by Los Angeles County," she said in a statement.

"Prior to the construction of the San Gabriel Mission, local tribes held 100% of this land. Today, they hold 0% of it. This did not happen by accident," Solis said.

Solis said the county would work together with local tribal leaders to develop a public statement that "acknowledges, corrects and disseminates the true historical record of the county's relationship with Native people."

Supervisor Janice Hahn, who co-authored the motion, said an apology would be just a first step.

"The crimes and atrocities committed against the Native American people here in L.A. County, in California and across the country are a dark stain on our nation's history," Hahn said. "An apology is quite literally the least we can do — but it is an important step to begin to heal the wounds of the past."

- Pasadena (California) Now

Haaland, Native American leaders press for Indigenous land protections

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland joined other Native American leaders and activists at the National Mall on July 29 to accept the delivery of a totem pole transported across the country as part of a push to protect sites that are sacred to Native Americans.

The event was the final stop in the "Red Road to DC," a two-week tour from Washington state to Washington, D.C., with visits to sacred locations throughout the U.S. Speaking at the event Thursday, Haaland called for greater inclusion of Native American voices in lawmaking in order to protect the sites.

"The fact that we are all here is not insignificant. When our nation's capital was established, its policies were intended to exclude us, to assimilate us. Laws and policies were written without considering Indigenous communities' challenges or their strengths, and we are working hard to undo so many consequences of these actions," said Haaland, who is the nation's first Native American Cabinet secretary.

Advocates warn that a number of sacred locations across the U.S. are threatened by government actions, which they say violate prior peace treaties.

- The Hill

IF YOU THINK YOU OR A DECEASED LOVED ONE WAS HARMED BY OPIOIDS LIKE HYDROCODONE, OXYCODONE, CODEINE OR ROXICODONE, OR IF YOU CARE FOR A CHILD EXPOSED TO THESE OPIOIDS IN THE WOMB, YOU CAN VOTE ON THE MALLINCKRODT BANKRUPTCY PLAN.



VOTING IS IMPORTANT. IT HELPS DETERMINE HOW OPIOID CLAIMS ARE TREATED. VOTE BY SEPTEMBER 3, 2021. SPECIFIC DETAILS ABOUT VOTING ARE SET FORTH BELOW IN THIS NOTICE AND AT MNKVOTE.COM.

VISIT MNKVOTE.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

Mallinckrodt is a manufacturer of opioid pain medication that filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy in October 2020. On June 17, 2021, Mallinckrodt plc and its affiliates (the "Debtors") filed their Plan of Reorganization (the "Plan") in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware and their related Disclosure Statement. You may have the right to vote on the Plan of Reorganization.

WHAT DOES THE PLAN PROVIDE?

Mallinckrodt's Plan channels claims based on harm or injury related to the Debtors' manufacturing of opioids and related activities to one or more opioid trusts. These opioid trusts will be established for the purpose of distributing money to individuals and corporate entities holding Opioid Claims and for abatement of the opioid crisis. If the Plan is approved by the Bankruptcy Court and you have an Opioid Claim, you will be entitled to assert your claim directly against the applicable opioid trust at a later time. **There is nothing you need to do right now to assert your Opioid Claim. Information regarding how to assert your Opioid Claim against an opioid trust will be made available at a later date.** The Plan, if approved, will forever prohibit any opioid claimants from asserting any Opioid Claim or seeking any money on account of any Opioid Claim against the Debtors, their officers and directors, or certain other parties specified in the Plan as the "Protected Parties."

WHERE CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLAN?

Copies of the Plan and related documents, including the Disclosure Statement and a letter from the Official Committee of Opioid Related Claimants (a representative of Opioid Claimants in the Debtors' bankruptcy cases appointed by the Office of the United States Trustee) setting forth its position regarding the Plan can be obtained free of charge at [MNKVote.com](https://www.mnkvote.com).

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

Vote on the Plan:

If you are eligible to submit a vote, your vote must be submitted so it is received on or before September 3, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time. Detailed instructions on how to vote are available at [MNKvote.com](https://www.mnkvote.com) or by calling **877.467.1570 (Toll-Free)** or **347.817.4093 (International)**. If you do not follow the detailed instructions, your vote may be disqualified.

Object to the Plan:

If you disagree with the Plan, you can object to it in writing so it is received on or before September 3, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time. Objections not filed and served properly may not be considered by the Bankruptcy Court. Detailed instructions on how to file an objection are available at [MNKvote.com](https://www.mnkvote.com) or by calling **877.467.1570 (Toll-Free)** or **347.817.4093 (International)**.

If the Plan is confirmed, everyone with a Claim against or Interest in Mallinckrodt plc and its affiliates will be bound by the terms of the Plan regardless of whether or not they vote on the Plan or file a claim against the opioid trust.

WHEN IS THE HEARING?

The Bankruptcy Court has scheduled the hearing to consider confirmation of the Plan to be held on **September 21, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time** (the "Confirmation Hearing"). The Confirmation Hearing will take place before the Honorable John T. Dorsey, United States Bankruptcy Judge, in the Bankruptcy Court, located at 824 Market Street, 5th Floor, Courtroom 5, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

THIS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE MALLINCKRODT PLAN OF REORGANIZATION. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Call: 877.467.1570 (Toll-Free) or 347.817.4093 (International) **Visit:** [MNKvote.com](https://www.mnkvote.com)

Write: Mallinckrodt Ballot Processing
c/o Prime Clerk LLC
One Grand Central Place
60 East 42nd Street, Suite 1440
New York, NY 10165

Email: mallinckrodtopioidclaimantinfo@akingump.com
- or - mallinckrodtinfo@primeclerk.com

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT PRIME CLERK, THE DEBTOR'S NOTICE AND CLAIMS AGENT, IS AUTHORIZED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT, AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE PLAN AND OTHER SOLICITATION MATERIALS, BUT MAY NOT ADVISE YOU AS TO WHETHER YOU SHOULD VOTE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PLAN.

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SAM HUNT



SEP 22
DARYL HALL &
JOHN OATES
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SEP 25
BANDA MS



OCT 1
TOM SEGURA



OCT 2 & 3
GUNS N' ROSES



OCT 15
MAJAH HYPE



OCT 22
TREVOR NOAH



OCT 23
HAVASI



OCT 24
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BIG TOWN
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Education



Tribe lauds Hollywood grads for their efforts

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — School can be tough enough in the best of circumstances. But for those students who happened to be high school or college seniors during the Covid-19 pandemic it meant negotiating even more challenges.

The tribe took note of those graduates July 8 at a dinner at the Hard Rock in Hollywood to recognize Hollywood, Fort Pierce and Broward County nonresidents who had recently received their diplomas.

The graduates were treated to a meal, received lots of gifts and many words of praise and encouragement.

“Whether graduating from high school, trade school or university, each one of you should be proud of how far you have come. Education is why we will always remain unconquered,” Hollywood Board Representative Christine McCall said.

Family members were there to support the graduates, as well as President Mitchell Cypress and staff from the Center for Student Success and Services department. Hollywood Councilman Christopher Osceola emceed the festivities throughout the night.

“We are proud of the new class of 2021,” President Cypress said. “Last year, 2020, was a rough year for everybody, but we survived.”

Councilman Osceola encouraged the graduates to take advantage of the support the tribe provides.

“The tribe always supports education, so you have an amazing opportunity in front of you, an opportunity that a lot of people don’t have,” he said. “You can take your education as far as you want to, as far as you can go, and the tribe will support you. We need educated people to come back and run this tribe. You will take us to the next level.”

Councilman Osceola said the tribe’s support isn’t only for graduates who decide on a more traditional route like college, but



2021 graduates including Arissa Cypress, left photo, and James Kyle Grant, right photo, were honored by Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and his office during a dinner July 8 at Seminole Hard Rock.

also for those who want to work within the Hard Rock.

“You can work in an executive position in Hard Rock someday, pretty much anywhere in the world where you want to go,” he said.

There were two featured speakers at the dinner, Miss Florida Seminole, Durante Blais-Billie, and NBA player for the Miami Heat, Udonis Haslem.

“The education system in the U.S., it wasn’t meant for us. It was meant for people who wanted us to assimilate to their education standards, but we made a way to survive in it. We made a way to make our presence have an impact,” Blais-Billie said.

“Thank yourself for the perseverance you had in the systems which are very difficult sometimes, even though they can be very fun. Thank yourself for the dedication and

the time you’ve put in.”

Haslem has been a guest speaker for graduates several times. He said he considers the tribe part of his extended family.

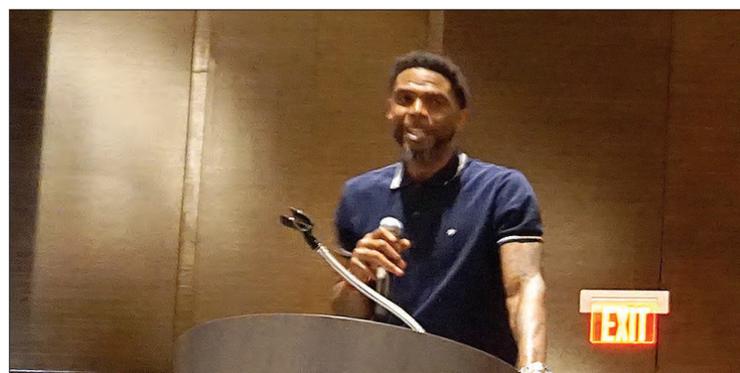
“I was supposed to come and inspire you guys, but you guys inspire me,” Haslem said. “One thing I do know about life is that regardless of where you’re going and what you do, you need good people around you and you need resources. And you have both.”

College graduates in attendance were Cameron Osceola, Skyla Osceola and Jay Holata. High school graduates in attendance were Arissa Cypress, Johnny Osceola, Lena Stubbs, Aden Cypress, Kyle Grant, Faith Johns and Lyle Osceola.

The Hollywood Council Office organized the event.



Damon Scott (2)



Damon Scott

Miami Heat forward Udonis Haslem served as guest speaker for the graduation dinner.

Colorado offers in-state tuition to 48 tribes with ties to the state

BY TAYLOR HOLATA
Advanced Career Development Program

On June 28, Colorado Gov. Jared Polis signed a bill which grants qualification for in-state tuition at all Colorado colleges and universities to Native Americans from 48 tribes whose origins tie back to the state. The enactment comes just four months after the bill, titled Senate Bill 21-029, was first introduced in the Senate, and less than one year after the University of Colorado Boulder proposed a new policy that would offer in-state qualifications to Native American students.

In November of last year, CU Boulder became one of only three higher-education institutions in the state to offer accommodations for members of federally recognized Native American or Alaskan Native tribes. The new policy encompasses all tribes Indigenous to the area, and acknowledges that the land surrounding

areas in which the school resides on were previously tribal reservations.

CU Boulder representatives believe that the change in policy is a step in the right direction toward honoring treaties between the U.S. government and Native American tribes, and they are not alone in that notion.

“I think access to education is part of the obligations associated with treaties,” explained Cheryl Crazy Bull, president and CEO of the American Indian College Fund.

The proximity of the new bill being introduced to the proposal made by CU Boulder suggests that the university’s change of policy was the catalyst for the state of Colorado’s law enactment.

“It’s long overdue,” said Alec Garnett, Speaker of the House and one of the bill’s prime sponsors. “And the fact that all of the other institutions of higher education got on board, I think it’s a testament to the fact that it’s good for Colorado; it’s good for higher ed.”

Crazy Bull, who attended the bill’s

signing ceremony, had similar optimistic remarks.

“I think when a state passes a bill like this as educational, it has important symbolism, and it does remove barriers,” she said. “Those are all positive things, especially if state institutions combine them with other efforts, like good recruitment.”

Prior to the bill’s introduction, only two of the original 48 tribes with historical ties to Colorado qualified for in-state tuition: the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of Ignacio and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe of Towaoc, both based in the state. They are the only tribes that remained in the state after the American Indian Wars when a majority of tribes across the country were forcibly removed from their reservations.

The bill acknowledges that the 46 tribes who were forced off their lands in the past rightfully deserve compensation for such actions. The bill will take effect in the fall 2022.

PECS ready to begin new school year

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School principal Tracy Downing sent a letter to parents and community members July 28 announcing the opening date for the 2021-2022 school year. It read:

Welcome to Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School where we are proud of our school, our students, our faculty and staff, and the outstanding community of parents and families who provide wonderful support to us. It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you as we begin the 2021-2022 school year!

I hope everyone had a relaxing and restful summer vacation with family, friends, and loved ones, despite our continued attention to the Covid-19 pandemic. This past school year, we successfully provided a rigorous, high quality education from a distance while we were “In School: At Home.” We certainly faced many challenges; however, we overcame them with grit, determination, and a spirit unique to our community.

If your children participated in summer school, then you know first-hand how committed to the safety of our students and staff we are. Our PECS Reopening Plan, which has been approved by our stakeholders, is firmly in place. We continue to wear masks, social distance at all times (six feet), clean off high-contact areas, and abide by all health and safety regulations.

The status of the Covid-19 situation is extremely fluid, and we are monitoring the progress of this matter thoroughly and consistently. Therefore, please help us by continuing to provide support to your children as they self-monitor their health each and every morning prior to coming to school. If your child has any symptoms, please keep them at home and consult with your local health care provider. We encourage parents and students to continue following the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention promoted safeguards, such as washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds, covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues, avoiding others who are sick, and staying home when ill. We have recently added some Phase II safety and health protocol. We are committed

to wearing face masks, socially distancing, and not gathering in large groups. Therefore, our Open House has been postponed with the intention of having a parent/teacher meet and greet at a later time in the school year. At this time, we are opting not to participate in soccer and volleyball this fall season. We intend on reassessing the situation in November to determine if we will participate in basketball.

Our Brighton community and our Seminole Tribe of Florida stakeholders support us by providing us with the materials, curriculum, supplies, and resources we need to provide a safe, high quality education. Their support is invaluable and so much appreciated.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School faculty and staff are dedicated to helping children develop academically, socially, physically, and emotionally. Our school strives to have a safe atmosphere where our children will learn and experience success on a daily basis. Creating a solid foundation for our future school success requires not only instruction in the basic skills, but also fostering a true love of learning in each child. Great efforts will be made each day to inspire our students’ naturally curious minds. Please help us by ensuring your children come to school on time each day with all their required materials prepared to do their best. Success is a team effort and every player, the students and the teachers and the parents, are all integral parts of that team. When every player does his or her best, everyone wins!

If you withdrew your child from school this past year and intend on returning to PECS, please come to the front office and complete an enrollment packet to re-enroll them in school for this upcoming school year. We look forward to seeing you prior to July 15th if at all possible. Please check the mail for a welcome letter from your child’s teacher prior to school starting.

We are so excited about our students returning on August 10th.

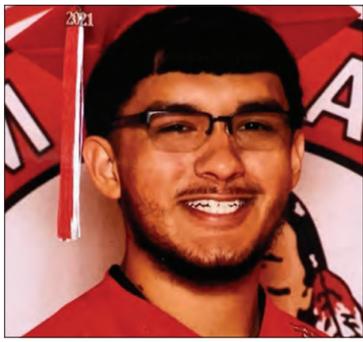
**Tracy Maxwell Downing, Principal
Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School**



Courtesy photo

A ceremony marked the signing of a bill in Colorado that opens in-state tuition to 48 tribes with ties to the state

Class of 2021



Carlos Bermudez
Immokalee High School
Carlos is thinking about attending Universal Technical Institute in Orlando for mechanics. In the future he would like to open his own auto repair shop and other businesses.



Alexis Foreman
Anadarko High School (Oklahoma)
Alexis, class valedictorian, will attend the University of Central Oklahoma on a basketball scholarship. She will major in biomedical science. After graduation, she plans to attend medical school in South Florida with a goal of becoming a pediatrician.



Tiger Youngman
Lake Placid High School
Tiger plans to get an associate degree from South Florida State College while he works in his family's citrus and cattle business and then get a bachelor's degree in agribusiness. In the future he would like to help run the tribe's cattle business.



Mari Veliz
LaBelle High School
Mari will attend Nova Southeastern University with a major in biology pre-nursing. She plans to be a plastic surgeon.



Dakoya Nunez
Okeechobee High School
Dakoya wants to go to business school, probably at Florida International University, then open his own business after he graduates.



Shaela French
Okeechobee High School
Shaela will attend Nova Southeastern University as a biology major on the medical track and go to medical school. She wants to have a career as an anesthesiologist.



Aubee Billie
The King's Academy
Aubee will attend Elon University in North Carolina, where she will study musical theater, business and communications. She would like to either star on Broadway or work for the tribe.



Julius Aquino
Vian High School (Oklahoma)
Julius will attend Oklahoma State University where he plans to pursue a business degree in marketing and a minor in political science.



Cameron Garza
Palmetto Ridge High School
Cameron will go to Universal Technical Institute in Orlando to study mechanics. He wants to get as many certifications as possible and then open his own repair shop.



Heith Lawrence
Moore Haven High School
Heith plans to go to a local college and then transfer to a university to study music education. He wants to write and publish music and be a music or regular education teacher.



Ramone Baker
Moore Haven High School
Ramone plans to work on a ranch in Okeechobee.



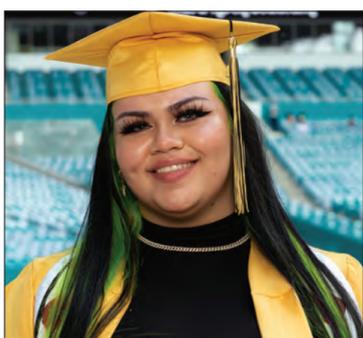
Hehchoo-Ye Isadora Jumper
Clewiston High School
Hehchoo-Ye will attend Seminole State College as a drama major.



Valholly Frank
The Sagemont School
Valholly will attend Broward College to earn an associate degree with a focus on zoology and then transfer to a university. She wants a career working with animals.



Haylie Huff
Okeechobee High School
Haylie will attend Florida Gulf Coast University. She hasn't decided on her major.



Alani Marks
American Heritage School
Next: Alani will be taking online painting classes at the Savannah College of Art and Design and may eventually attend the school in person. In the future she would like to paint portraits on commission.



Caylie Huff
Okeechobee High School
Caylie will attend Florida Gulf Coast University and isn't sure what she wants to study.



Conchade Osceola
University School
Conchade plans to major in exercise science at a college in the Philadelphia area and continue to play lacrosse.



Madisyn Osceola
Penn Foster High School
Madison will travel to continue doing rodeos in Oklahoma, Missouri, Nevada and Texas. She hopes to go to veterinary school.



Aleah Ray Turtle
Moore Haven High School
Aleah plans to travel and hasn't decided about a future career to pursue.



Mariah Billie
Moore Haven High School
Next: Mariah will attend Florida Southwestern College in Fort Myers to study massage therapy. She plans to have a career as a massage therapist.



Elijah D. Cook
Moore Haven High School
Elijah will attend Palm Beach State College and major in automotive service and technology. He plans to own and operate his own automotive shop.



Jagger Gaucin
Okeechobee High School
Jagger will attend Northern Michigan University and major in medicinal plant chemistry, where he will study how marijuana can help the human body as an alternative to prescription pills. In the future he plans to open his own shop in a legal state, where he will grow and sell his crops.



Charli Frye
IMG Academy
Charli will be headed to St. Thomas University where she will plan to study psychology or a related degree and play basketball. She would to work in the mental health field.



Randeane Osceola
The Sagemont School
Randeane will attend Florida International University in Miami and pursue a degree in English education. Her goal is to start her career in education at the elementary level and eventually go to law school.



Leo Osceola
The Ahfachkee School
Leo hopes to pursue a career in computer science.

Class of 2021



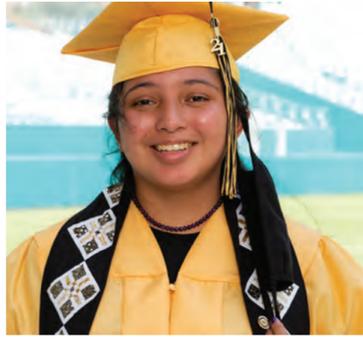
Brandi Osceola
The Ahtachkee School

Brandi would like to go to culinary school. Her goal is to open a restaurant with recipes that are a modern take on traditional Native foods.



Mahala Billie Osceola
Florida Virtual School

Mahala plans to attend college and study psychology and agriculture and eventually attend law school.



Arissa Cypress
American Heritage School



Leila Bennett
Okeechobee High School



Ko'Oshee Henry
Moore Haven High School



Josephine Grasshopper
Tahlequah High School (Oklahoma)



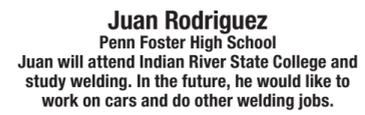
Juli-Anne Jumper
Sequoyah School (Oklahoma)



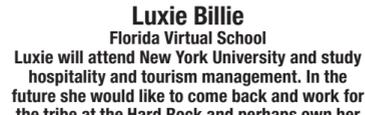
Lena Stubbs
American Heritage School



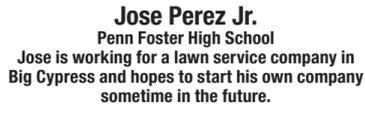
K. Brook Yescas
Vanguard School



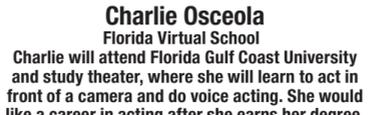
Juan Rodriguez
Penn Foster High School
Juan will attend Indian River State College and study welding. In the future, he would like to work on cars and do other welding jobs.



Luxie Billie
Florida Virtual School
Luxie will attend New York University and study hospitality and tourism management. In the future she would like to come back and work for the tribe at the Hard Rock and perhaps own her own hotel one day.



Jose Perez Jr.
Penn Foster High School
Jose is working for a lawn service company in Big Cypress and hopes to start his own company sometime in the future.



Charlie Osceola
Florida Virtual School
Charlie will attend Florida Gulf Coast University and study theater, where she will learn to act in front of a camera and do voice acting. She would like a career in acting after she earns her degree.

Additional high school students

(The Tribune did not have additional information or photos of these students who were scheduled to graduate in 2021).

Janae Bankston
Eden Billie
Mariah Billie
JaySean Bowers
Zackary Buster
Aden Cypress
J'Forrest Cypress
Mercedes Davis
Julian Dillon
Celena Doctor
Kyle Grant

Know It All Prep
Know It All Prep
Moore Haven High School
Lincoln High School
Shining Star Academy
Everglades High School
Cooper City High School
Immokalee High School
Interactive Education Acad.
PACE
Know It All Prep

Faith Johns
Dar'rick Nelson Williams
Alice Osceola
Dionah Osceola-Bert
Elijah Osceola
Joshua Osceola
Norman Osceola
Vennabella Sisto
Martin Slavik
Martha Tiger
Helesi Two Shoes
Jaela Stewart
Araya Youngblood

Xceed
Perry Education Center
Penn Foster
Miccosukee Indian School
McArthur High School
Perry Education Center
Penn Foster
Calvary Christian Academy
Seacrest Day School
Oklahoma
Conservatory Prep
Intl. School of Broward
Okeechobee High School

Higher education graduates

Student
Kathlyn Anderson
Tana Wind Bear Pruitt
Marcella Billie
Thomasina Chupco
Darien Cypress-Osceola
Brent Frank
Pedro Fuentes Jr.
Alexander Garcia
Rollie Gilliam
Lewis Gopher
Jay Holata
Levi Harmon
Robert Hunter O'Donnell
Delphine Jimmie
Amy Johns
Ahnje Jumper
Braecton King
Zechariah Lacey
Mya Langston
Brady Latchford
Ranee McDonald
Cameron Osceola

Institute
Hollywood Inst. Of Beauty
Penn Foster
Miami Dade College
Florida State University
Beacon College
Florida Gulf Coast University
Lincoln Technical Institute
Penn Foster
Broward College
Florida Gulf Coast University
Broward College
East Tennessee State Univ.
SW Florida Public Service Acad.
Penn Foster
Univ. of Montana, Blewett School of Law
Florida Gulf Coast University
State College of Florida
College of Southern Nevada
Boca Beauty Academy
Florida State University
Nova Southeastern University
Belmont University

Degree
Certificate
High school diploma
B.A.
Certificate
B.A.
B.S.
High school diploma
Certificate – Green Belt
B.S.
A.A.
B.S.
Certificate
High school diploma
J.D.
B.SW
A.S.
Certificate
Certificate
B.A.
M.S.
B.A.

Major
Skin Care & Electrology/Laser

General Education
Trauma & Resilience Professional
Humanities
Management
AC, Refrigeration and Heating

Lean Six Sigma
Business Management
General Education
Kinesiology
Law Enforcement

Law
Social Work
Business Management
EKG
Makeup and Skin Care
Criminology
Educational Leadership
Audio Engineering Technology/
Music Business
Mass Communications/Broadcasting

Business Administration
Business Admin./Entrepreneurship
Exercise Sports Science
MDS Assessment Coordinator

Public Health and Social Work
HR Management
Business and Lean Six Sigma

Political Science

Curtis Osceola
Emmitt Osceola
Kaitlynn Osceola
John Osceola
Skyla Osceola
Megan Otero
Christopher Root
Chloe Smith
Sheree Sneed
Aaron Tommie
Mardravious Tommie
Cleofas Yzaguirre

Oklahoma City University
Penn Foster
Univ. of Science and Art of Okla.
Nova Southeastern University
Nova Southeastern University
Relias Academy
Penn Foster
Florida International Univ.
Florida Atlantic University
Univ. of Florida-Broward College
Penn Foster
University of Miami

B.A.
High school diploma
B.A.
B.S.
B.S.
Certificate
High school diploma
B.S.
Certificate
MBA and Cert. Green Belt
High school diploma
B.A.

NAJA selects fellowship recipients

FROM PRESS RELEASE

NORMAN, Okla. – The Native American Journalists Association has selected six students, including three returning fellows, for the Native American Journalism Fellowship (NAJF) class of 2021.

With the cancellation of NAJA's national convention due to Covid-19, the 2021 class

will participate in a virtual curriculum with selected veteran mentors. This innovative experience will be designed to leverage the advantages of online learning and hands-on professional experience while promoting the health and wellbeing of all Indigenous student journalists.

The fellows selected are:
-McKenzie Allen-Charmley
(Dena'ina Athabaskan) Arizona State

-Meghanlata Gupta (Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa) Yale
-Sarah Liese (Chippewa/Navajo) Ohio University
-September Morning (Yup'ik) Texas A&M
-Zane Meyer-Thornton (Cherokee) Western Kentucky
-Jarrette Werk (A'anih/Nakoda) Univ. of Nevada-Reno.

Moore Haven Lock And Dam renamed in memory of fallen FWC officer

Julian Keen Jr. was also a former alligator wrestler at Billie Swamp Safari

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor



FWC Officer Julian Keen Jr.

The late Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Officer Julian Keen Jr. was honored June 18 with the renaming of the Moore Haven Lock and Dam in his memory. The dedication came four days after the announcement of a new youth mentoring program named in Keen's memory through a partnership between the Collier County Sheriff's Office, Collier County Public Schools and the Julian Lee Keen Foundation.

Keen, 30, was shot and killed a year ago after following a hit-and-run suspect while off-duty in LaBelle. Soon after, Eliceo Hernandez, 20, was charged in connection with the shooting.

Keen served FWC for more than six years. He was also a former worker at the Seminole Tribe's Billie Swamp Safari, where he learned to wrestle alligators. His training led to him wrestling alligators in front of spectators.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, and FWC hosted the renaming event.

"He represents the best in all of us. He was a young man of outstanding character, deeply beloved by his community. The Corps is honored to rename the Moore Haven Lock and Dam as the Julian Keen Jr. Lock and Dam in his memory," Col. Andrew Kelly, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, said in a statement.

"Law enforcement officers are dedicated public servants who are never really off-duty. Officer Keen showed immense courage and bravery the night he was tragically killed and will forever be remembered by his FWC family and the citizens of LaBelle," Rodney Barreto, FWC chairman, said in a statement.

The renaming of the lock and dam was made through the Water Resources and

Development Act (WRDA) of 2020, assisted by Congressmen Mario Diaz-Balart and Greg Steube. Diaz-Balart described Keene as "a pillar in his community, a loving friend and family member, and a driving force for good."

A news conference June 14 – one year to the day of Keen's death – provided details about the Julian Lee Keen Cadets Mentorship Program. The program will offer mentoring to students from Immokalee Middle School with plans to expand to other schools. Five students have been selected so far. Sheriff deputies, teachers from Immokalee Technical College and Immokalee firefighters will be mentors to the Julian Lee Keen cadets.

"The Collier County Sheriff's Office is proud to partner in this positive and proactive program that honors Officer Julian Keen by building upon his legacy mentoring young people in his hometown of Immokalee," Undersheriff James Bloom said. "This is a great opportunity to form a bond with Immokalee's young people, the impact of which will last a lifetime."



The Moore Haven Lock and Dam has been renamed the Julian Keen Jr. Lock and Dam.

Sports



North American Indigenous Games to resume in 2023

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The North American Indigenous Games, which attracts thousands of young Indigenous amateur athletes in an Olympics-style format, will resume in 2023, six years removed from its previous competition.

The NAIG Council announced July 12 that the games will be held July 15-23, 2023, in the Canadian Atlantic maritime province of Nova Scotia. Halifax and Millbrook First Nation will be the main hubs. The region was originally scheduled to host the games in 2020, but the pandemic forced it to be postponed.

"In light of recent events around the continued history of residential schools, we hope the announcement of NAIG 2023 and the lead-up to the games will uplift and inspire youth and families across Turtle

Island (North America) in a good way, and they can look forward to celebrating their cultures and stories in Kijipuktuk," Shannon Dunfield, council president, said in a statement.

In recent weeks, news has emerged about the discovery of hundreds of graves, many containing remains of Indigenous children, uncovered at sites of former residential schools in western Canada.

Halifax is the ancestral territory of the First Nations' Mi'kmaq, which call the city Kijipuktuk.

The Canadian government will provide up to \$4.5 million (CDN) in incremental costs due to the postponement of the 2020 games in addition to the \$3.8 million it already committed, according to the council's announcement. Also, the Province of Nova Scotia will contribute \$2.5 million in addition to the \$3.5 million it already

committed.

"The North American Indigenous Games play an important role in the development of young Indigenous athletes, coaches and artists by providing them with valuable training, competition and artistic experiences," Honorable Steven Guilbeault, minister of Canadian Heritage, said in a statement.

The council provided the following age eligibility for the 2023 Games:

- 19U: 2004 and later
- 16U: 2007 and later
- 14U: 2009 and later

NAIG hopes to bring together more than 5,000 participants from more than 750 Indigenous nations.

"The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia are very pleased and honored to host all nations of Turtle Island in 2023," Chief Norman Bernard, president of Mi'kmaq Sport

Council, said in a statement. "The games will inspire our youth to reach goals and dreams that will change their lives forever."

NAIG's athletes compete on teams that are named for the province or state they come from. About two dozen athletes from the Seminole Tribe represented Team Florida in the last NAIG, which was held in 2017 in Toronto and other parts of Ontario. Three Seminole athletes won gold medals (Echo Billie – two gold medals in rifle shooting, Sammy Micco Sanchez – wrestling, Conner Thomas – archery).

NAIG's sports are: archery, athletics (track & field), badminton, baseball, basketball, canoe/kayak, golf, lacrosse, rifle, soccer, softball, volleyball, swimming and wrestling.

The six-year span between games is the longest gap since the games' inception in 1990. Here is a list of where and when

previous NAIGs were held:

- Edmonton, Alberta (1990)
- Prince Albert, Saskatchewan (1993)
- Blaine, Minnesota (1995)
- Victoria, British Columbia (1997)
- Winnipeg, Manitoba (2002)
- Denver, Colorado (2006)
- Cowichan, British Columbia (2008)
- Regina, Saskatchewan (2014)
- Toronto, Ontario (2017)

Meanwhile, the council announced Brendon Smithson as the CEO of the 2023 NAIG. Smithson, who has served NAIG as an executive director, was recently named to the board of directors for the Aboriginal Sport Circle, which is Canada's governing body for Indigenous sports.

Native Soldiers' girls earn runner-up at NABI

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The Native Soldiers girls basketball team, coached by Skyla Osceola of the Hollywood Reservation, came within seconds of capturing the Native American Basketball Invitational.

But New Mexico Elite, which featured mostly Navajo players, proved to be a tough opponent to put away. NM Elite rallied from a 10-point deficit in the second half to force overtime, where they emerged with a 63-55 win in the championship game July 17 at Camelback High School in Phoenix.

The game was livestreamed on the new NABI Network. During the broadcast, Osceola, who starred as a player at American Heritage in Plantation and Nova Southeastern University in Davie, received praise for her coaching from commentator Brent Cahwee.

"Head coach Skyla Osceola knows how to use her talent," he said. "She's a phenomenal coach."

Young Guns (Washington State) won the boys title, 61-56, over the Oklahoma Runners.

The championship games for NABI's 18th annual tournament were originally scheduled to be held at Phoenix Suns Arena, but shifted to Camelback because the Suns and Milwaukee Bucks needed the arena for Game 5 of the NBA Finals. One reward for winning the NABI championships was that the winners were provided tickets to see the Finals thanks to local construction firm owner Robert Shippy.

The girls game didn't disappoint the audience in a packed gymnasium.

Native Soldiers built a 14-6 lead midway through the opening quarter, but NM Elite clawed back to tie 30-30 at halftime.

Led by Seminole Lexi Foreman, Native Soldiers controlled the first 14 minutes of the second half and appeared to be on their way to winning the title. Early, Foreman completed a fast break with a layup. Later, after making a steal, Foreman hit two free throws that gave Native Soldiers a 50-40 lead with seven minutes left, but NM Elite went on a 13-0 run to take a lead with less than three minutes left.

Tied at 53-53 with less than a minute left, Foreman made a play that wouldn't show up in the stats, but was a key move. On defense, she alertly swatted a loose ball to a teammate that led to Staillee Heard hitting a jump shot to give Native Soldiers a 55-53 lead.

NM Elite hit two free throws with 36 seconds left to force overtime, which is when NABI MVP Lanae Billy took over. She hit a 3-pointer and went 4-for-4 from the line to give NM Elite the championship.



Darin Sicurello

The Native Soldiers girls team gathers at midcourt at Camelback High School after finishing runner-up in the Native American Basketball Invitational on July 18 in Phoenix. The Seminole Tribe's representation included head coach Skyla Osceola, third from left, her father and assistant coach Marl, second from left, and Lexi Foreman (#5).



Darin Sicurello

Lexi Foreman handles the ball during the NABI girls championship July 18.



Darin Sicurello

Native Soldiers head coach Skyla Osceola gives direction during her team's appearance in the championship game.



Darin Sicurello

Native Soldiers' Carly Keats drives toward during the NABI girls championship July 17.

Foreman, who will be playing for the University of Central Oklahoma starting this fall, had a strong all-around game with seven points, seven rebounds, two assists, two steals and one block.

Native Soldiers featured balanced scoring from Hama'ya Fielder (14 points), Heard (12), Carly Keats (11) and Jordan Gann (11).

Native Soldiers, whose players came from various tribes who played high school ball in North Carolina, Mississippi and Oklahoma, made an impressive run throughout the tournament. They entered the final with a perfect 9-0 record. In their first eight games, the closest margin of victory was 28 points, but they overcame a strong

challenge in the winners' bracket final from NM Elite to reach the final.

Native Soldiers trailed by 10 points at halftime, but roared back to win, 64-62, and clinch a spot in the final.

"I was really proud of my girls," said Osceola, whose father Marl served as assistant coach. "Our defensive effort is what really won us the game."

Offensively, she attributed the second half comeback to "finding the best shot for ourselves."

The victory came a few hours after Native Soldiers opened their day with a 94-56 win against Legendary Elite (Oklahoma). On July 15, Native Soldiers cruised past Lady Thunder (North Dakota), 89-37, and

Run N Gun (Arizona), 83-40.

Native Soldiers girls finished first in Pool B with a 3-0 record. They walloped Kirtland X-Press (New Mexico) 101-29 in the morning on the first day. In the evening, they defeated HoopDreamz (Arizona) 65-37. They concluded pool play the following day with another impressive win, 94-39, against Girls on Fire (South Dakota). Later in the day, they opened bracket play by dominating So Paiute (Arizona), 81-26.

Native Soldiers girls road to NABI Final

7/12: Native Soldiers 101, Kirtland X-Press 29 (pool)

- Native Soldiers 65, HoopDreamz 37 (pool)
- 7/13: Native Soldiers 94, Girls on Fire 39 (pool)
- Native Soldiers 81, So Paiute 26
- 7/14: Native Soldiers 99, Lady Dream 23
- 7/15: Native Soldiers 89, Lady Thunder 37
- Native Soldiers 83, Run N Gun 40
- 7/16: Native Soldiers 95, Legendary Elite 56
- Native Soldiers 64, NM Elite 62
- 7/17: NM Elite 63, Native Soldiers 55 (OT), championship game

Strong showing in NABI boys division from N2Deep, Native Soldiers

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

N2Deep and Native Soldiers – the two Florida-based teams in the boys division at the Native American Basketball Invitational – didn't reach the championship, but they compiled impressive numbers in the 64-team tournament. Both teams were just a few points shy from perhaps playing in the title game.

N2Deep featured a roster that included several players from the Brighton Reservation. Coach Preston Baker guided the squad to a 7-2 record.

N2Deep won its first six games and was one of the last six teams remaining out of the 64 until being eliminated July 16. Just how close were they to getting to the final? Their two losses were by a combined three points.

N2Deep's first loss was a narrow 69-67



N2Deep's Ramone Baker goes in for a layup in a pool round game at NABI in Phoenix.

overtime setback against Northern Thunder (North Dakota). Scoring machine Roger "Fresh" Walters led N2Deep with 31 points. Donovan Harris scored 23 points and Nakai Alex had seven points. N2Deep regrouped and won later in the day, 54-43, against DBE (Mississippi). It began the day with a 62-49 win against Mahpiya Luta (South Dakota).

The following day N2Deep was eliminated with a 55-54 loss to Warrior Movement.

Some additional individual highlights in the tournament included a 46-point game from Walters, a 15-point game from Harris and a 13-point game from Nakai Alex. Also, Ramone Baker contributed eight points in a game and Andre Baker had seven points in a game.

Baker was assisted on the bench by Dallas Nunez.

Coached by Hunter Osceola, the Native Soldiers boys team finished strong after a slow start. Similar to N2Deep, Native Soldiers' losses in bracket play were razor

thin. On July 15, they won their first two games – 69-52 against FMD Nations (Arizona) and 68-50 against SMOQWE (Washington) – but were eliminated with a one-point loss, 62-61, to Omaha Warriors (Nebraska). It was Native Soldiers' second close loss in the bracket portion; their other loss came by two points against Rockhaws (Montana).

Earlier in the tournament, Native Soldiers dropped their first two games in pool play: 64-46 vs Northwind (New Mexico) and 57-45 vs AZ Warriors (Arizona). The following day Native Soldiers headed into bracket play with some momentum by wrapping up pool play with a 50-39 win against Intertribal CA (California).

Hunter's father Marl served as the team's assistant coach.

Native Soldiers finished the tournament with a 4-4 record.



N2Deep's Donovan Harris wins a battle for the ball.



After a pool round game at NABI, N2Deep gathers for a team photo. The team was led by head coach Preston Baker, far left, and assistant coach Dallas Nunez, far right.



N2Deep's Roger "Fresh" Walters soars for one of his several dunks at NABI, where he was a powerhouse on offense.



Aundre Baker lines up a shot



Above, Native Soldiers' boys coach Hunter Osceola talks to his players during a stoppage. At right, Osceola's brother, Grant, battles against Intertribal from California during a pool round game.



Milan Schimmel to play for FGCU

FROM PRESS RELEASE

FORT MYERS — Florida Gulf Coast University women's basketball head coach Karl Smesko announced July 30 the addition of Milan Schimmel (Umatilla Tribe) to the 2021-22 roster. The 5-foot-8 guard played at the University of Cincinnati last year and will have two seasons of eligibility remaining.

Schimmel started 12 of 14 games played last year, averaging 5.7 points, 4.6 rebounds and 3.6 assists per contest. She saved her best for the postseason, posting 15 points, seven rebounds and seven assists against Memphis in the first round of the American Athletic Conference (AAC) tournament. Overall, she shot .462 from 3-point range for the season. "Milan is a talented and versatile player," Smesko said in a statement. "She is a great shooter, has really good court vision and rebounds very well for her position. She fits in very well with our style of play."

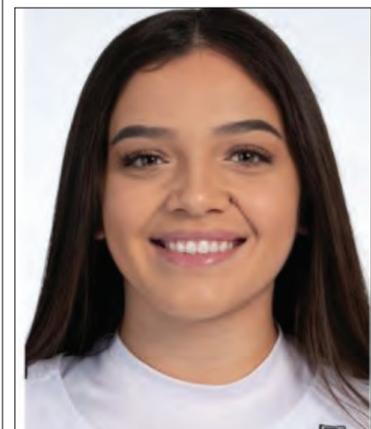
Schimmel tallied a season-high 11 rebounds against Houston on March 2 and finished the season with seven games of at least five rebounds, including each of the final five games. Among her 14 contests, she tallied nine games with at least four assists, including every one during a six-game stretch to close the season where she averaged 6.2 per contest.

Prior to Cincinnati, Schimmel spent one season apiece at Eastern Florida State College and Hutchinson Community College. At EFSC, she averaged 14.5 points, 7.2 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 2.5 steals per game while starting all 30 games and leading her team to a 23-7 record. She posted five double-doubles, scoring in double-figures 25 times and notching four 20-point outings. She recorded a season-high 25 points against Northwest Florida State and pulled down 18 rebounds against Hillsborough.

In the 2018-19 campaign, Schimmel led Hutchinson to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Final Four. Along the way, the Oregon native started eight of 37 games played, averaging 6.7 points, 3.8 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 1.4 steals per game.

Schimmel is a graduate of Nixyaawii Community School on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation near Pendleton, Oregon, where she helped her team to a state runner-up finish as a senior.

Schimmel's older sisters – Jude and Shoni – drew a big following in Indian Country when they starred at the University of Louisville. They helped the Cardinals reach the NCAA championship game in 2013.



University of Cincinnati

Milan Schimmel

Gabby Lemieux finishes T41 in Symetra Tour event

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Pro golfer Gabby Lemieux (Shoshone-Paiute Tribe) finished tied for 41st in the rain-shortened Symetra Tour's Danielle Downey Credit Union Classic in Rochester, New York.

Lemieux, 24, shot consecutive rounds of 69 on July 15 and 16. The tournament was abbreviated to two rounds rather than four due to rain.

Emma Broze, from France, led after two rounds (67-65) and was declared the winner.

Entering the week, Lemieux had not made a cut in her previous six tournaments. She has made four cuts in 12 tournaments this season.

The Symetra Tour is the main development tour for the LPGA Tour.



Courtesy photo

After an outstanding junior season - his first as a high school football player - Roger "Fresh" Walters has received interest from several Division I schools. The St. Lucie West Centennial High School senior wide receiver, cornerback and kick returner has verbally committed to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Rapid ascension lands 'Fresh' Walters a Division I scholarship

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

PORT ST. LUCIE — "One year, Division I scholarship."

That summation - in the words of Aaron Gluff - is all it took for Roger "Fresh" Walters, who grew up at the Seminole Tribe's Chupco's Landing in Fort Pierce, to achieve a football scholarship from an NCAA Division I program, something that eludes thousands of high school football players who play four years.

Gluff, the defensive coordinator and strength coach for St. Lucie West Centennial High School, describes Walters as an elite athlete.

"The sky is the limit for him. He's just scratching his potential," Gluff said. "This year I think is going to be huge for him. He should be starting on both sides of the ball and playing special teams."

Centennial's season starts Aug. 20 with a preseason kickoff classic game at Astronaut. The regular season begins Aug. 26 at home against West Prep Academy.

Walters is a 5-foot-9, 170-pound senior wide receiver, cornerback and kick returner who recently verbally committed to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The 49ers play in Conference USA, which includes teams such as Marshall, Southern Miss and Texas El-Paso as well as Florida Atlantic in Boca Raton and Florida International in Miami.

Being able to play perhaps once or twice a year in his home state and close to the Seminole Tribe is important to Walters.

"That's a big thing for me. More of my family will be able to come to my games," said Walters, who is a Seminole descendent.

That family includes his mom Sheree Sneed, a tribal member. He also has younger siblings and his aunt Crystal Sneed is the Fort Pierce Tribal Council liaison.

The nickname "Fresh" has been with Walters just about since day one.

"My teachers call me it, my coaches call me it, people that I don't even know call me it. I go with that name," he said. "I don't think there's a story behind it. I was just called it when I was born."

He quickly made his name known at Centennial and the area football scene last fall when he excelled as a junior in his first season of high school football. According to stats on the website Hudl, he scored eight touchdowns, including four as a kick/punt returner.

"My junior season was really me feeling it out. I did decent; I led the area in special teams, but this year is the year where I really know the game now. This is going to be my breakout year," Walters said.

His talent on offense isn't limited to receiver; he was involved in runs and even took a few snaps last year. Defensively, he was a shutdown standout at corner.

"I don't think he had a pass caught on him," Gluff said.

The development of Walters' athleticism can be traced back to Chupco's, where he lived from about age five to 13. The opening of a new gymnasium at Chupco's in 2014 made a huge impact for Walters, who honed his basketball skills there day and night.

"That gym was really important," Walters said. "If it wasn't a school day, I would be in there from 8 (a.m.) until the day was over. If it was a school day, when I'd get out of school, that's where I would be at. I wouldn't come home until the gym closed."



Darin Sicurello

Roger "Fresh" Walters

Although he no longer lives at Chupco's, the tribe remains an important part of his life. "Always represent the tribe. It's very important," he said.

He wears chains from the tribe. He goes hog-hunting and dirt bike riding on the Brighton Reservation with the Bakers, his cousins. He's played for tribal basketball teams in two NAYO tournaments, and in July was among the top performers at the Native American Basketball Invitational in Phoenix where he poured in 30-point plus games that included several dunks.

In high school basketball, Walters has been a starting guard since his freshman year. (He transferred to Centennial from Treasure Coast after his sophomore year). He's earned All-Area honors.

Football hasn't replaced basketball at the top of his agenda - he says he loves both sports equally.

"I still take basketball serious. I want to do everything 110 percent," he said.

But the gridiron is where Walters has attracted more recruiting attention.

Charlotte coaches watched him at a football camp at Mercer University in Georgia. When Walters visited Charlotte, he was offered the scholarship.

"I really liked the campus. It's like a calm campus," he said. "I really enjoyed not only the coaches and players, but the coaches really made me feel at home and to this day they still check up on me every day to make sure everything is going good with me. The players made me feel at home and welcomed, so I was like 'I love being around these guys.'"

In addition to Charlotte, Walters said he also received an offer from FIU. He said other schools that have shown interest in him include the University of Buffalo, FAU and Mercer. He said he's had talks with Florida State.

Gluff said recruiting interest in Walters would be higher had the pandemic not ruined the showcase camp schedules.

"I think he would have been a guy who had a lot more offers coming into this year, but Covid last year cancelled the camp season, so there were none of those exposure camps for him to go to and where his athleticism would have really shown people what he can do," he said.

Walters realizes that when he starts playing college football, he will not only be representing St. Lucie and Centennial, but also the tribe.

"That means a lot, to be able to represent; show the Division I colleges we've got some people here at the Seminole Tribe that can take it far as well," he said. "We're definitely overlooked in sports."

But as opponents and recruiters are learning, it's hard to overlook Walters.

Young Seminole Warriors show plenty of heart at NAYO

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Just when it looked like the young Seminole Warriors were headed for a quick exit from the NAYO softball tournament, they surprised a lot of people by fighting back to make the most of their trip to Choctaw, Mississippi, from July 22-24.

Hosted by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the first NAYO tournament of any kind held since 2019 due to the pandemic featured far fewer teams than usual. The Warriors were the only Seminole squad.

Comprised of players mostly from Brighton and Immokalee with a couple Cherokee and one Choctaw, the Warriors fielded the youngest team in the 18U division. Their roster included some players from the 12 and 15 age groups. Coach Eric Grimaldo said the team worked well together.

"One of the biggest things I saw in this team was the chemistry on and off the field, never negativity. I really enjoyed seeing that as a coach; it shows me what the future holds," he said.

After losing their first game and receiving a bye in their second game, the Warriors found themselves on the brink of elimination in game three as they trailed 10-1 before staging a stunning rally.

"We finally got hot and came back to win 11-10 in our final at-bat," said Grimaldo, who described the comeback as a huge win.

Having generated plenty of momentum, the Warriors shined in their fourth game with a 2-0 win.

"We played great defense," Grimaldo said.

In their fifth game, the Warriors were ousted with a loss.

"All weekend we struggled with being consistent at the plate. We left a lot of runs on bases in every game," Grimaldo said.

The team finished with a 3-2 record, good enough for third place. Giselle Micco and Mandi Marbry were the primary pitchers and Sandi Marbry was behind the plate.

With plenty of positive experiences generated from this year's tournament, Grimaldo said he's already looking forward to next year's NAYO.

"This was our third year and again I am very proud how we have worked hard to get better from the first year. I am very thankful to have the opportunity to coach this team and group of girls. Thanks to everyone who helped out with donations and fundraisers to make this possible and helping the girls," he said.

Seminole Warriors

Coach: Eric Grimaldo
Asst. coach: Carlos Estrada
Teena Covarrubias
Harlie Holloway
Mandi Marbry
Sandi Marbry
Amara Martinez
Keena Martinez
Madison Martinez
Giselle Micco
Adrianna Ramirez
Jada Sanchez
Angelina Yzaguirre



Deon Denson

Seminole Warriors' Angelina Yzaguirre fires a throw back into the infield while backed up by Kenna Martinez during a NAYO game July 22 in Choctaw, Mississippi.



Deon Denson

Seminole Warriors' first baseman Amara Martinez applies a tag during a NAYO U18 game.



Deon Denson

Giselle Micco delivers a pitch.



Deon Denson

Third baseman Madison Martinez gets ready to field.



Deon Denson

From left are Seminole Warriors' Mandi Marbry, Jada Sanchez, Madison Martinez, coach Eric Grimaldo and Angelina Yzaguirre.

Senior year full of highlights for Julius Aquino

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Before he turned his tassel at Vian High School in Oklahoma on May 28, Julius Aquino turned a few heads with his performance in track and field and football as a senior.

The speedy Seminole concluded his high school athletic career on a high note in May by qualifying for the Class 3A state championship in the 100 meter dash and 4x200 relay. Having been away from track for a couple years made the accomplishment

even more satisfying.

"It was a big deal for me to run track and make it to state since I haven't [run] track in two years," he said.

Aquino earned his spot in states in the 100M thanks to finishing second in regionals with a time of 11.73 seconds.

He bettered that time with a 11.47 showing at states, which was good enough for 11th out of 16 runners. His fastest time ever came in his freshman year with a blazing 10.92.

As for football, Aquino played a key role in Vian's 9-2 record as a tailback and safety.

Proof of his outstanding season on both sides of the ball can be seen on Hudl's website. His highlights as a tailback include touchdown runs and key blocks. Often he turned what would appear to be short yardage rushes into mid- to long-distance gains by fighting off defenders or darting through openings.

Vian reached the third round of the Class 2A playoffs before being ousted with a 36-24 loss to state champion Metro Christian, the same team which beat Vian in the 2019 state title game.

Aquino said his best memory from the season was "just being able to go out there

every Friday with my friends and soak up it being my last season."

Aquino, son of Alexandra Sanchez, would like to play college football - perhaps as a walk-on. For now, the next step in his academic career will be attending Oklahoma State University, where he plans to pursue degrees in marketing and political science.



Courtesy photo

Julius Aquino