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The Seminole Tribune

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July 31, 2020

Fort Lauderdale woman hits Seminole Gaming record \$3.85M jackpot

BY KEVIN JOHNSON Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — After celebrating her 60th birthday just days earlier, a Fort Lauderdale woman had about four million more reasons to celebrate again. The woman, identified only as “Ms. Laurie,” hit a slots jackpot for \$3,854,682 just past midnight on July 23 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. “I am in absolute shock,” she said in a press release from the casino. “You like to dream big, but that’s really big. That’s not even in the ballpark of what you think you can win. That’s a lottery. It still feels like a dream.” The casino said the jackpot is the highest payout in history for Seminole Gaming’s six properties, two of which are located in Hollywood and the others are in Brighton, Coconut Creek, Immokalee and Tampa. The woman, who earlier had dinner with friends at Council Oak Steaks & Seafood, hit the jackpot on an IGT Megabucks game. As for her plans with the massive windfall: “We’re talking about hurricane windows. We talked about resurfacing the pool or maybe getting a nicer condo after retirement,” she said. After being closed for nearly three months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the casino reopened June 12 under new health and safety guidelines. Since the reboot, it has awarded more than \$74.8 million in jackpots.

Princesses step up to serve another year

Pandemic forces cancellation of this year’s pageant

BY KEVIN JOHNSON Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Princess Pageant — one of the most important and highly anticipated annual events on the Tribe’s calendar — won’t be crowning a new Miss Florida Seminole or Jr. Miss Florida Seminole this year. Pageant week was scheduled to be held during the last week of July culminating with pageant night on Aug. 1 at Tribal headquarters’ auditorium, but all activities have been cancelled as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to plague the world throughout 2020, including hard-hit South Florida. If there is a silver lining in the cancellation, it’s that the duties of the princesses will remain in good hands for the 2020-21 year. The reigns of current Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Aubee Billie have been extended for another year. “It is unfortunate that a decision like this needs to be made, but I couldn’t be more pleased to have both of these exceptional Seminole women represent the Seminole Tribe of Florida for another year,” said LaVonne Rose, director of the Princess Program. “They are truly a joy to collaborate with because they always bring a positive attitude and strong sense of self to their title. The remaining half of 2020 could be challenging, but my hope for them is to make virtual appearances. We have the ability to be creative with their reign through social media and virtual meeting applications. The Princess Program is very proud and excited to work with Durante and Aubee for the 2020-21 year.”



Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Aubee Billie, left, and Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais-Billie, shown here at the FSU homecoming football game Oct. 26, 2019, will serve another year as the Tribe’s royalty after this year’s Princess Pageant, which was slated to be held Aug. 1, was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Kevin Johnson

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Cheyenne Kippenberger speaks at Congressional hearing

BY JENNA KOPEC Special to the Tribune

Seminole Tribe member and Miss Indian World Cheyenne Kippenberger spoke alongside other United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) leaders on July 16 in a Congressional hearing entitled “Native Youth Perspectives on Mental Health and Healing.” Led by Arizona Congressman Ruben Gallego, chair of the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States, the virtual hearing was an opportunity for Native youth to share their experiences with mental health and what can be done to improve mental health in indigenous communities across the nation. Kippenberger was joined by three other youth leaders from different tribes: Marco Ovando, of the Shoshone Paiute Tribe; Laticia Gonzales, of the Bishop Paiute; and Robert “Scottie” Miller, of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. Currently, American Indians and Alaska Natives have disproportionately higher rates of depression, substance abuse, PTSD, intergenerational trauma and suicide. In fact, suicide is the second leading cause of death among Natives. Kippenberger has put mental health at the forefront of her reign as Miss Indian World, which has been extended an additional year due to this year’s MIW pageant being cancelled because of the pandemic. During her statements in the hearing, Kippenberger called for increased access to mental health services and counseling on the reservations, citing her own experience with the Center for Behavioral Health on the Hollywood Reservation. “I am aware of the privilege it is to have access to a therapist on my own reservation

and to have resources that prescribed me the antidepressants that I needed,” Kippenberger said, “but mental health care should not be a privilege. This type of access to support facilities should be available all over Indian Country.” Kippenberger called for mental health access for Natives living on and off reservations and within educational settings beginning at preschool and continuing through college. The services she suggested would provide Native youth with tools and coping mechanisms they need. Kippenberger stated the importance of having federally-funded programs to protect mental health, but that also provide “culturally competent care with treatment paths not limited to just therapy or medications.” She stated that it’s important that caregivers, at the very least, must understand the trauma that the Native population has withstood after years of genocide, broken treaties and persecution. If possible, she would like to see mental health workers that are part of Native communities and who can truly understand the struggles of Native youth. Finally, Kippenberger called for the U.S. government to fund research regarding mental health among Native populations. “How do we know what needs to be done or provided without understanding what is occurring in the lives of our Native people?” she asked. “We need accurate research and data to prove what we know has been occurring for decades in our community.” Kippenberger’s points were in line with the statements the other leaders gave. Her emphasis on the need to understand and embrace culture was in sync with Ovando’s primary message regarding the rediscovery and preservation of Native culture and spirituality. “My mental health is tied to my

NATIVE YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON MENTAL HEALTH AND HEALING

Panelists

- Mr. Marco Ovando
UNITY 25 Under 25 Youth Leader
Shoshone Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation
Owyhee, NV
- Ms. Leticia Gonzales
UNITY/OJJDP Peer Guide Ambassador
Bishop Paiute Tribe
Bishop, CA
- Ms. Cheyenne Kippenberger
UNITY/OJJDP Peer Guide Ambassador
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Hollywood, FL
- Mr. Robert “Scottie” Miller
Male Co-President, National UNITY Council
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
LaConner, WA

Miss Indian World Cheyenne Kippenberger speaks during a Congressional hearing about Native youth and mental health July 16.

spirituality and as for many back home, one cannot exist without the other,” Ovando said. Miller, who agreed that there is an urgent need for increased access to mental health care for reservations, stated that there is also a need to destigmatize mental health services, especially among tribes that he describes as less outwardly emotional. “Part of [solving this issue] would just be education and advocating that you don’t need to have a problem to go to a counselor. And that it’s normal,” Miller said.

All of the panelists acknowledged the added toll that COVID-19 is taking on reservations and Native communities. Native communities are considered a vulnerable population to the disease and some communities have struggled to keep members safe physically and mentally. Each panelist agreed that either limited access to basic necessities or the cancellation of important community events have impacted the mental health of the communities as a whole. However,

they agreed that Natives are able to “rally” through all of their strifes. Ovando cited a pen pal system between youth and elders, the two groups he says are struggling most, among the Shoshone and Kippenberger, mentioned weekly Zoom calls among members who are willing to do “whatever it takes” to support one another.

Historic win for tribes in McGirt v. Oklahoma case

BY JENNA KOPEC Special to the Tribune

In early July, the nation watched the Supreme Court of the United States make a landmark decision regarding the rights of Native American tribes throughout the country. On July 9, Chief Justice Neil Gorsuch authored the majority opinion, signed by four other justices, in McGirt v. Oklahoma, stating that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s reservation was never

disestablished by the U.S. government. In other words, potentially 47 percent of the state is still Native land. Native leaders and allies are praising the decision as a long-overdue step toward keeping the U.S. government’s promise to Native people. As the U.S. has a long history of violating the treaties made with Native Americans, Gorsuch definitively stated that only Congress has the power to extinguish the treaties made with tribes regarding their reservations and sovereignty.

“The Court is not going to be in the business of taking away tribal rights without Congressional intent anymore,” Riyaz Kanji, the lawyer who argued the McGirt case on the tribe’s behalf, told The Atlantic. “We will be quoting that decision for the rest of our lives.”

Background on the case

The case came to fruition when Oklahoma state court tried and convicted

Jimcy McGirt of rape. McGirt, who is a registered member of the Seminole Nation in Oklahoma, argued that he could not be tried by the state government for the crime because it would have taken place on land that belongs to the Creek Nation per an 1866 treaty. This information is important because according to the Major Crimes Act (MCA), “any Indian who commits” a crime “against the person or property of another Indian or any other person” is under “the exclusive

jurisdiction of the United States” if that crime was committed “within the Indian country.” In other words, only the tribal or U.S. government has jurisdiction over crimes that happen on reservations, not the state

Background on the treaty

Although the reservation was clearly

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Visit the Tribune’s website for news throughout the month at seminoletribune.org

Editorial

Hoping and expecting SCOTUS decision is one of many to follow

• Isabel Coronado Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Hesci, my name is Isabel Coronado, my tribal town is Thlopthlocco and I'm from the Wind clan. I am a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation from Okmulgee, Oklahoma. I am currently a Policy Entrepreneur at the Next100 where I focus on criminal justice reform policy impacting Indian Country.

When I woke up this morning the first piece of news I saw came from my mother, telling me that the Supreme court ruled that our tribe — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation — won its long-standing claim to the eastern part of Oklahoma. This means the Supreme Court recognized a treaty that gave parts of eastern Oklahoma to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation when they arrived from the trail of tears and they now have the legal authority along with the Federal government to convict Native people who commit a crime on their land. Leaving out state and local officials who in the past stepped in to prosecute those crimes, but now don't have the legal authority to convict Native people of crimes on Native land.

Naturally, I was filled with excitement. I mean how many times in a lifetime does one get to hear about white dominant systems doing the right thing for BIPOC? These last couple of weeks have been filled with surprising wins for Indian Country, from the Dakota Access and the Atlantic Coast pipeline being closed down, to sports organizations realizing the longstanding consequences of their racist team names.

While I was celebrating with memes and sharing the latest news articles I thought it wise to read the 86 page brief to fully understand the ruling of the case. There are several key takeaways:

1. The state of Oklahoma argued the Muscogee (Creek) Nation reservation was disestablished during the allotment era, but actually, only Congress has the power to take the land away from the Tribe. This argument was nullified through many legal documents. It was never about if the Tribe was a reservation; it was a power move for the state to maintain its jurisdiction and resources in eastern Oklahoma without compensating the Tribe.

2. The narrow issues that brought this case to the Supreme Court were about a man named Mr. Jimmy McGirt, and whether he could be prosecuted in state court for his crime. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation wrote



Isabel Coronado

an amicus curiae (a brief) not defending Mr. McGirt's responsibilities for his crimes. Meaning any argument that this case is simply to dismiss Mr. McGirt's crimes

is false and this case has much greater implications for the future of the Tribe.

3. The outcome from the court solely impacts the way the Tribe and Federal government have jurisdiction to prosecute Mvskoke citizens in criminal legal cases on Native land under the Major Crimes Act (MCA). It doesn't impact non-Native people living within the reservation boundaries.

I feel multiple connections with this case. I feel connected through my criminal justice work and my lived experience as being a former child of an incarcerated parent. I helped develop an organization in Oklahoma that worked to reintegrated Native people back into society and their Tribal communities. I know the deep-rooted issues Oklahoma has with mass incarceration especially when it involves Native people:

- Oklahoma tops the list as the state with the highest American Indian/Alaskan Native incarcerated.
- Native women are incarcerated at 3x the rate of their population.
- The court system in Oklahoma in the past and currently uses excessive sentences to keep people locked up longer although they have made strides by commuting 527 people's sentences last year.

So this gives me hope. I look forward to the new jurisdiction under the Tribe and

Federal government and the efforts for decarcerating our prison system and keeping Native families connected.

As a Native youth, a sort of retraumatization and physical visceral response happened when the Justice laid out the long-standing Federal policy to assimilate Native people. The language in the opinion laid out this country's step by step plan to eradicate Native Nations. This plan started with the removal from our ancestral homelands on the Trail of Tears and continued through the allotment era's land and power grab designed to phase out Native land ownership. Today's court decision is a win for Tribes and gives a huge opportunity to reclaim inherent rights that will strengthen the Nation and ultimately empower Native youth.

"On the far end of the trail of tears was a promise," said Justice Neil Gorsuch in his opinion for the court. Well, let me say: I'm tired of hearing the word PROMISE. It's never meant the same thing to your ancestors as it did to mine. We demand concrete policy changes. Today's court's decision is, I hope and expect, just one of many to follow.

This article is from the Center For Native American Youth at cnay.org.

COVID-19 could make 2020 Census a disaster for Native Americans

• Abigail Weinberg

You don't have to look far to see the devastating economic impact a community can face after the US Census screws up its population count. When the Treasury Department started doling out the funds from its mammoth CARES Act in March and April, it set aside \$8 billion for Native American tribal governments, who were hurting from the closures of casinos and the general economic downturn that resulted from the indefinite suspension of life as we knew it. Of that \$8 billion, \$4.8 billion was to be divided among the nation's 574 federally recognized tribes based on their populations. (Never mind that the rest, as my colleague Delilah Friedler reports, could go to corporations.)

In April, tribes, upon the Treasury's request, submitted the populations of their enrolled tribal citizens. But the Treasury allocated funds not by tribal citizenship, but by data from the US Census Bureau, which estimates that it undercounted Native Americans living on reservations by 4.9 percent in 2010. The result, according to a report compiled by researchers from Harvard, the University of Arizona, and UCLA, was a severe misallocation of federal funds that left some tribes severely underfunded. The Delaware Tribe of Indians (Eastern), for example, has more than 11,000 enrolled tribal citizens, which could have netted them \$24 million in CARES Act funding, according to the report; instead, because of the way the Treasury allocated money based on an Indian Housing Block Grant dataset derived from census numbers, the tribe received just \$100,000, or a little more than \$9 per person.

Now, the same coronavirus that highlighted the necessity of an accurate count is threatening to condemn the roughly one million Native Americans living on reservations to 10 more years of political underrepresentation and economic insecurity.

The Census Bureau has been overlooking the continent's original inhabitants since it started its decennial population count in 1790. The very phrase in the Constitution that mandates "counting

the whole number of persons in each State" explicitly excludes "Indians not taxed"—those who hadn't renounced tribal rule and integrated into white society. In 1860, the census began identifying Native Americans who lived within the general population—but not the many thousands residing on reservations. Only in 1900 were Native Americans living on tribal lands counted in the census and therefore represented in Congress, according to the Census Bureau. For myriad reasons that ultimately boil down to the US government's unwillingness to invest in the people whose resources it has squandered since the nation's inception, Native Americans have been regularly undercounted ever since—more than any other ethnic group.

The 2020 census website makes it easy to check localities' self-response rates; the national average, as of late June, is 61.8 percent. But select "Tribal Area" instead of "State" from the interactive map, and you'll see patches of red and orange representing areas with very low self-response rates. South Dakota's Rosebud Sioux tribe has a self-response rate of 9.3 percent as of June 29, down from a 2010 final self-response rate of 37.7 percent. The Crow Reservation of Montana is at 5.6 percent, down from 80 percent in 2010. And Navajo Nation, the most populous and vast of the tribal areas, and which by May had the highest per capita coronavirus infection rate in the nation, has a self-response rate of just 3 percent.

"If you want to have a worst case scenario on doing a census count in any state in Indian country, it's now," says OJ Semans, co-director of the Native American voting rights organization Four Directions and a member of the Rosebud Sioux tribe. "Everything that can actually happen to give us an undercount is happening now."

If 2020 had been a normal year, census workers would have begun trekking to rural households—which often lack traditional street addresses or rely on PO boxes for their mail—to drop off census questionnaires between March 15 and April 17 in a program called Update Leave. Then, from May 13 through the end of July, the census would begin its Nonresponse Followup (known in census parlance as NRFU, pronounced "nar-foo"), the ambitious operation that sends door-knockers to each residence across the

United States' 3.8 million square miles that has not returned a census form. The more people who self-respond, the less footwork the enumerators have to do.

But the coronavirus has thrown the Census Bureau's entire set of outreach operations into disarray. Update Leave began not on March 15 but on May 4, and NRFU is now scheduled to happen between August 11 and October 31. The Census Bureau is in a crunch: States rely on it to deliver their population counts and congressional apportionment data by March 31, 2021 so they can draw new district lines, and each delay in the count brings the Census Bureau closer to deadline. The Census Bureau and House Democrats have pushed for a four-month extension of this statutory deadline, but the idea has not gained traction in the Republican-controlled Senate.

Now, the census's door-to-door visitations represent not civic engagement but the potential spread of a harmful pathogen to some of the most vulnerable communities. This is particularly troubling for often-rural and chronically undercounted tribal lands that are facing myriad obstacles to an accurate count, from the cancellation of in-person community outreach events to the difficulty of focusing on a population questionnaire when the whole world seems to be spinning in reverse.

"There still exists on many reservations a distrust for government people come around asking you for all kinds of personal information," says Kevin Allis, CEO of the National Congress of American Indians. An accurate count "requires having folks that are employed by Census that had access to these communities, understood these communities, and, more importantly, would be recognized by these communities as reliable people to provide information."

One way to do this would be to reach out to Native communities in the languages they speak at home. This year, however, the Census Bureau cut language assistance for all Native languages except Navajo. Even though many (but not all) Native people speak English, Allis says, the failure to communicate with people in the language they speak most often further alienates them from a process they may be wary to partake in to begin with. "It should be no surprise that if you don't communicate with these

communities in a language that they're familiar and used to, they're not going to probably understand what you're trying to say," Allis says.

Another way to engage Native communities would be to hire more Native enumerators. But in 2020, the census shifted its job applications mostly online, making it difficult for people without internet access to find work with the Bureau. "There was a fundamental problem with that approach," Allis says, "and in making sure they have the right people in place to at least attempt to get an accurate count."

In fact, the census's digital-oriented approach to all of its 2020 outreach operations excluded the roughly 12 percent of Americans who don't have access to high-speed internet. This is the first year that the census is collecting forms online, and it has made a show of pivoting to digital and encouraging everyone with internet access to respond on their own. But what works for ultra-connected urban areas won't work in areas where wifi can't be found. "Going very digital when 90 percent of Indian Country does not have access to broadband and can't get PDFs, it was a disaster waiting to happen," says Natalie Landreth, a senior staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund.

It's not that people don't have digital devices, Semans says, but that they often can't afford the data plans that would allow them to access the census questionnaire online. "Internet access is little to none," he says. "Unless you're in a tribal building, which is closed down."

For the past 500 years, European diseases, especially smallpox, have ripped through Indigenous communities throughout North and South America, ravaging some tribes and obliterating others. The health disparities between Native peoples and their white counterparts persist to this day. American Indians and Alaska Natives have a lower life expectancy than all other races in the United States by 5.5 years, according to NCAI, and they are plagued by chronic illnesses like diabetes and liver disease at higher rates than other populations. All of these conditions place them at an increased risk of serious complications from the coronavirus.

In South Dakota, the Cheyenne River

Sioux Tribe set up checkpoints to ensure that no one infected with the coronavirus would enter their reservation. The state's Republican governor, Kristi Noem, threatened legal action against the tribe and even wrote a letter to President Trump to, in Semans' words, "complain about her Indians"—despite the tribe's legal status as a sovereign nation. None of this, of course, bodes well for the census. (The Cheyenne River tribe's self-response rate is 10.7 percent.)

The plan for enumeration in tribal communities still on lockdown is that there is no plan. Asked how it would endeavor to count the vast majority of people living on tribal lands who have not submitted self-responses, the Census Bureau directed me to its Operational Plan and NRFU plan, which have not been updated in light of the coronavirus. "Census Bureau officials coordinated closely with the Navajo Nation and tribal governments," the agency wrote in response to written questions from Mother Jones. "After their approval, we determined that it is safe to resume operations in the Window Rock, Ariz., Area Census Office on June 11, as well as other tribal lands." This hardly answers the question of when and whether the thousands of people living on tribal lands outside of Navajo Nation can expect a knock on their door.

With self-response rates in the single digits for many tribes across the country, Native Americans will have to wait to see if the Census Bureau figures out a way to get them counted. "I understand none of us have ever been in this situation in our lifetime and I hope we're never in it again," Landreth says, "but I think it calls for an extension of the timeframe, some extra money, and some extra work."

This article is from MotherJones.com. Abigail Weinberg is a digital media fellow in Mother Jones' New York office. She previously wrote for amNewYork and her college newspaper, NYU's Washington Square News. Email her at aweinberg@motherjones.com and find her on Twitter @abigailweinberg.

Presidential task force to hold virtual consultations on missing and murdered American Indians/Alaska Natives

WASHINGTON — The Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives announced July 17 that 12 Tribal consultations will occur virtually across the United States.

Also known as Operation Lady Justice, the series of Tribal consultations under Executive Order 13898 requires the task force to "conduct appropriate consultations with Tribal governments on the scope and nature of the issues regarding missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska

Natives."

The sessions are regional, based on Bureau of Indian Affairs regions. The schedule, link to register, Dear Tribal Leader letter and framing paper are available on the Operation Lady Justice website, which can be found at OperationLadyJustice.usdoj.gov.

Sessions will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern via WebEx.

Aug. 17: BIA Eastern Region
Aug. 19: BIA Midwest Region
Aug. 21: BIA Southern Plains and Eastern Oklahoma Regions

Aug. 25: BIA Great Plains and Rocky Mountain Regions

Aug. 27: BIA Southwest Region – Virtual Consultation via WebEx.

Aug. 31: BIA Northwest Region – Virtual Consultation via WebEx.

Sept. 2: BIA Western and Navajo Regions

Sept. 4: BIA Pacific Region First session

Sept. 8: BIA Pacific Region Second session

Sept. 10: BIA Alaska Region First

Session

Sept. 14: BIA Alaska Region Second Session – Virtual Consultation via WebEx.

Sept. 17: Final session for any leader who could not make their scheduled regional session.

Some members of the task force include:

- Katharine Sullivan, principal deputy assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, designee for the attorney general;
- Tara Sweeney, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs, designee for the secretary

of the Interior;

- Terry Wade, executive assistant director, Criminal, Cyber, Response, and Services Branch, Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- Laura Rogers, Acting Director, Office on Violence Against Women;

The task force will present a progress report to the President by Nov. 26, 2020, and a final report detailing its activities and accomplishments by Nov. 26, 2021.

For more information call Lennea Montandon at (918) 382-2755.

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Community



Tony Sanchez Jr. named to advisory board of Vivera Pharmaceuticals

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Tony Sanchez Jr., a former president of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., has joined a California pharmaceutical company. Vivera Pharmaceuticals announced July 15 that Sanchez has been appointed to its advisory board.

"It is an absolute honor to be welcomed to the Vivera Advisory Board," Sanchez said in a statement. "I look forward to working with the staff to develop products that will help tribes address their health concerns."

Sanchez's role on the advisory board is listed as tribal government relations, including being a liaison between Vivera and tribal healthcare initiatives. During his tenure as STOFI president he also served as vice-chairman on the Seminole Tribal Council. He's also a former general manager of Seminole Casino Immokalee, where he spent 12 years. He was in office as STOFI president when the casino added a hotel that opened March 12, 2015.

"To see this dream come to fruition, I can't say anything but 'wow.' This property is like a diamond; we needed to shine it to bring out its luster and brilliance," Sanchez



File photo

Former Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. President Tony Sanchez Jr., shown here in 2015, has been named to the advisory board of California-based Vivera Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

said at the grand opening.

According to its website, Vivera is "an innovative, science-driven pharmaceutical company focused on opioid deterrence and cessation and non-addictive solutions for pain management."

Sanchez, who is a graduate of St. Edwards University in Austin, Texas, joins

an advisory board that includes former Los Angeles mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; Dr. Paul Nassif, a noted plastic surgeon and star of the E! series "Botched;" Rick Darnell, president of the National Basketball Retired Players Association's Los Angeles chapter; Sally Pera, co-founder of Legacy Tech charter high school in the Silicon Valley; and Salah Al Shamsi, a longtime prominent business leader in Abu Dhabi.

Vivera's director of government affairs is Greg Cervantes, who served as a special advisor for Sanchez when Sanchez was president of STOFI.

"It is with great pleasure that we welcome Tony Sanchez Jr. to our advisory board," Paul Edalat, chairman and founder of Vivera, said in a statement. "With his years of expertise and innovation in expanding the business arm of the Seminole Tribe, Vivera will be all the better for having his perspective as we further develop out tribal healthcare initiatives. Vivera is committed to meeting the treatment needs of tribal communities with a national focus on prevention resources while providing safe, effective therapeutics and programs. Mr. Sanchez will be an integral part of this mission."

Chairman Osceola issues Safer At Home Order

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Tribe Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. has issued a tribal-wide Safer at Home Order. The order went into effect July 21 and will remain in effect until further notice. The order, which comes as Florida deals with surging COVID-19 cases, highly recommends that everyone living on Seminole reservations remain at home and limit movement beyond their property. The order describes essential activities as including, but not limited to, trips to the grocery store and to get fuel as well as exercise, medical visits and work.

The order includes a mandatory mask requirement in public spaces on all reservations. The order also states that anyone who is on the reservations and tribal properties is required to wear masks in government buildings, commercial buildings and houses of worship.

COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 10. Five days later the Tribal Council declared a tribal-wide emergency closing. The

government's critical and essential services have remained operational.

As of July 28, some venues and businesses on the reservations remain closed while others are open with limitations. In Big Cypress, the Ah-Tah-Ti-Ki Museum, Billie Swamp Safari and Swamp Water Café are closed. Sadie's restaurant and The Landings general store are open.

The RV resorts in BC and Brighton are open with some amenity restrictions.

Also in Brighton, the Trading Post is open and the Subway restaurant next door is open with limited tables available for seating.

Hollywood's Trading Post and smoke shops are open.

The Tribe's gaming properties and hotels in Florida were closed March 20; all have since reopened except Seminole Hotel & Casino Immokalee. Guests and workers are required to wear masks as part of Seminole Gaming and Hard Rock International's Safe and Sound program, which includes temperature screenings, physical distancing and mandatory masks.

◆ MCGIRT From page 1A

given to the Creeks after the Trail of Tears in the 1830s, where Creeks were forcibly removed from their home and forced to travel to Oklahoma on foot leading to the death of thousands, the U.S. government reduced the borders of the land in a subsequent treaty in 1866. Since then, there have been several infringements on the Creek's treaty as is the case with many Native lands across the country.

For example, in 1893 the federal government began pressuring the Creeks to divide their land into small, privately-

owned allotments. Much of this land has since been sold to non-Natives. In fact, the land allocated to the Creeks is so large that it contains millions of residents, many of whom are non-Native, and many non-Native businesses. Thus, the Supreme Court was asked to determine whether the treaty still holds and the reservation still maintains sovereignty.

Which of course, it does.

Implications for the future

Oklahoma is home to the most populous reservations in the country. In addition to the Muscogee Nation, the Chicksaw, Cherokee, Choctaw, and Seminole Nation each have land granted to them through individual

treaties with the U.S. government. Together with Muscogee, these reservations make up approximately 47 percent of Oklahoma. Although Gorsuch wrote in his opinion that "each tribe's treaties must be considered on their own terms, and the only question before us concerns the Creek," the decision creates a promising precedent for future cases regarding Native sovereignty.

In fact, a similar court case, Sharp v. Murphy, was affirmed in favor of the inmate Patrick Murphy for "reasons stated in" the McGirt case after the decision was issued.

Moreover, the decision gives the Native nations more bargaining power when it comes to interacting with state governments. Despite critique from dissenters, there is no evidence to suggest that this decision will

negatively impact non-Native Oklahoma residents, if at all. In a joint statement, Oklahoma and the Native American nations stated that they "are committed to implementing a framework of shared jurisdiction that will preserve sovereign interests and rights to self-government while affirming jurisdictional understandings, procedures, laws, and regulations that support public safety, our economy, and private property rights."

However, the decision does reinforce and protect the Creek Nation, who elect government officials, run their own court system, house three hospitals, employ over 2,000 people, and command a \$350 million budget a year, would be threatened and potentially erased.

The decision affirms the U.S. government's responsibility to keep its word to Native nations, which it historically has turned back on. The decision could help back other movements and issues of Natives throughout the country.

"As we move forward addressing longstanding broken promises, this decision will serve as a marker to ensure the federal government honors its promises to Native nations," said New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland (Lauguna Pueblo).

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Milestone reached in construction of Hard Rock Hotel New York

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Hard Rock Hotel New York is one step closer to opening its doors in the heart of New York City.

A “topping out” ceremony was held this week on the 35th floor of the luxury hotel, marking the completion of the fundamental framework. Representatives from Hard Rock, Extell Development Company and the AECOM Tishman construction firm participated in the ceremony, which included the raising of the U.S. flag above Times Square. Cake cutting and a socially distant luncheon were also part of the ceremony.

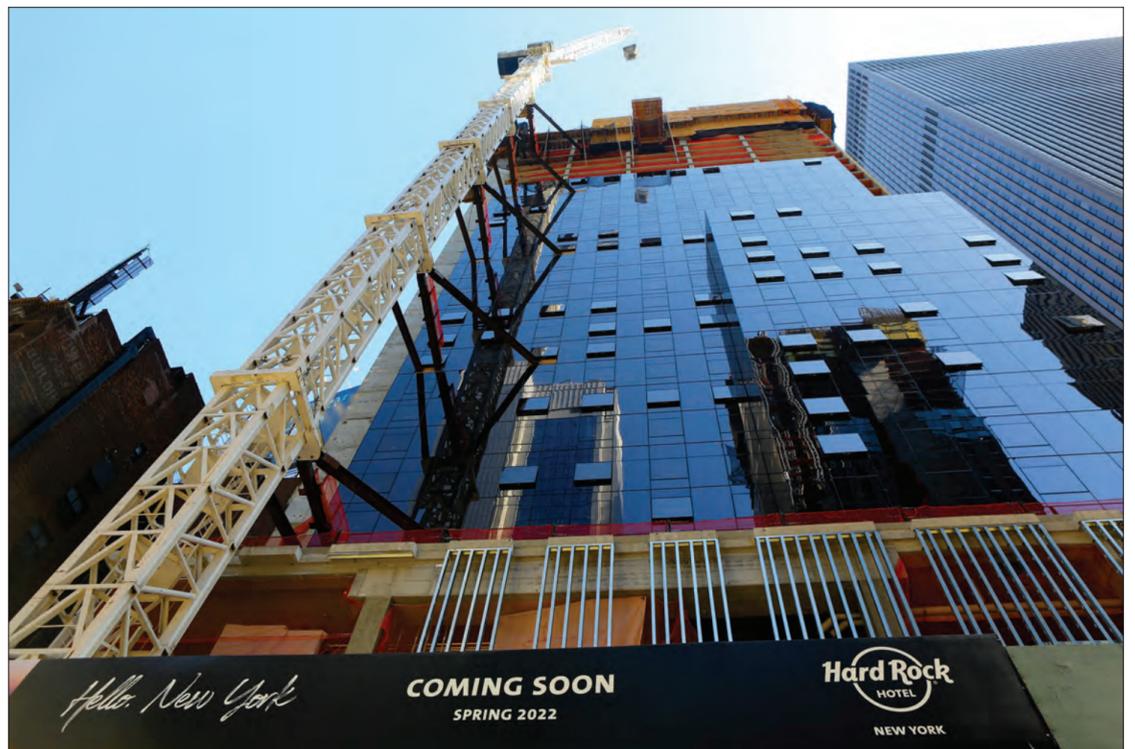
“While not the typical ‘topping out’ ceremony, we wanted to express our gratitude for the talent and expertise of our partners with this ceremony during these challenging

times,” Jim Allen, chairman of Hard Rock International, said in a statement. “We have no doubt Hard Rock Hotel New York will be a world-class destination in the heart of New York City.”

The 291,000-square-foot Hard Rock Hotel New York property will feature 446 rooms across 37 floors. The building will include two entertainment venues, meeting spaces, all-day dining options, a Body Rock fitness center and a rooftop lounge featuring views of the Manhattan skyline.

The hotel, which is scheduled to open in spring 2022, will showcase memorabilia that honors musicians who have been inspired by New York City.

The hotel is located at 159 West 48th Street between Sixth Avenue and Seventh Avenue, less than five blocks from the Hard Rock Café.



Lori Berkowitz (2)

At left, the construction team at the site of the future Hard Rock Hotel New York hoists the U.S. flag in late July to commemorate the completion of the fundamental framework of the hotel on the 35th floor terrace. The hotel, which is located in Times Square, is scheduled to open in spring 2022.

Seminole Hard Rock Tampa helping those on the front line

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

TAMPA — Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa has been doing its part to help the workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In late July, Hard Rock Tampa provided free meals to several healthcare workers in the area, including St. Joseph's Hospital and Advent Health Tampa.

“The amount of selflessness and sacrifice healthcare professionals have made for our community is immeasurable. We’re

humbled to show a token of our gratitude today, catering over 100 meals to various hospitals within the Tampa community. A special thank you to all of our front-line heroes. You are immensely appreciated,” Hard Rock Tampa posted on July 22 on its Facebook page.

Earlier in the month, Hard Rock Tampa brought lunches to Tampa Fire Rescue stations.

“Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Tampa swung by Stations 10, 13, and 16 to drop off lunch on (July 9). We felt like high rollers!,” Fire Rescue posted on Facebook.



Hard Rock Tampa
Above, workers at Advent Healthcare receive free lunches from Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.



Hard Rock Tampa

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa provided Tampa firefighters with complimentary lunches.

PRINCESSES From page 1A

“While it’s an unexpected opportunity, I’m grateful to have the chance to continue my dedication as Princess for another year,” Durante said in an email to the Tribune. “I’m honored by the offer to extend my reign and I’m committed to serve with responsibility, hard work, and accountability. I’m so glad to share this opportunity with Aubee, she’s like a sister to me and it’s been an honor to see her leadership grow. I’m thankful for another year as Princess beside her.”

Durante, 23, is a 2019 graduate of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, where she earned a Master of Arts in art history and management. Aubee, 17, is entering her senior year at The King’s Academy in West Palm Beach. She has starred in several of the school’s theatrical productions and plans to pursue musical theatre in college.

While the princesses gladly accepted another year of representing the Tribe, they expressed sadness that others won’t have the chance to compete for the titles this year and serve as princesses.

“I felt so bad for the girls who didn’t get this opportunity for the upcoming year. The experiences you know you will never forget, especially if you make the type of bond Durante and I made,” Aubee said.

“I’d like to tell the Seminole girls and women who planned to compete that your drive and dedication to your people will always be seen and appreciated by our Tribe, even when it can’t be showcased through a pageant,” Durante said. “The work and time

you and your loved ones have put into preparing for this pageant is an accomplishment that you all deserve to have been able to display on pageant night. It’s difficult to dedicate work and to prioritize the things in your life for something that can’t go as planned. I’m sincerely sorry that an opportunity not just to compete but to serve as Miss and Jr. Miss has been postponed.”

She encouraged those who planned to compete to do good work in their own communities and families.

“Know that you are all leaders in our community regardless of titles and crowns,” she said. “You already have so much to offer to our people that doing what is best for you this year, whether that means being involved in a youth council, starting your own community project, or helping your siblings with school, has so much power for the good of our Tribe.”

For contestants, the camaraderie that emerges each year during pageant week is a valuable part of the entire program. Although the pandemic has robbed the contestants of creating friendships in person, Durante said she and Aubee would like to organize connections virtually.

“I know one of the main draws of the pageant is to be able to spend time with the other girls and even meet new friends,” Durante said. “It’s a week-long event and by the end of it, all the contestants really feel like a group of sisters.”

The sisterly bond formed between Durante and Aubee has been remarkably strong as they represented the Tribe during the past 12 months at tribal functions, pow wows, Hard Rock openings and Florida State’s homecoming, to name just a few. Aubee said she had planned to attend the Miss

Indian World Pageant in New Mexico to support Durante’s bid to keep the MIW title in Seminole hands, but the pageant was called off in April. Former Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Kippenberger became the first member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida to win Miss Indian World crown in 2019.

“It was sad to see it cancelled. We wanted to see another Seminole Princess be where Cheyenne is right now. Durante is an amazing candidate for it,” Aubee said.

Similar to the Seminole Princesses situation, Kippenberger agreed to serve another year as Miss Indian World.

Despite the MIW pageant cancellation, Durante said she enjoyed the preparations.

“I was able to learn to dance Southern Cloth, which is definitely something that was prompted by the structure of the pageant,” she said. “Also I was still able to connect with the great Native women that would have been there competing alongside me, which I’m most grateful for. I’d also like to say thank you to the current MIW Cheyenne for taking the time to answer all my random questions about the pageant and offering to help when I was preparing.”

Durante and Aubee said one of their goals in the upcoming year is to continue their involvement in Tribal communities and getting to know more people, and, of course in these times, doing so safely.

“I hope everyone stays safe amid this pandemic,” Durante said. “Protecting our communities and elders must be a priority. Take the time to make sure you are well mentally, spiritually, and physically.”

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Kyle Doney appointed to FSU task force on anti-racism, equity and inclusion

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Florida State University alumnus Kyle Doney, from the Seminole Tribe, has been appointed by FSU President John Thrasher to a task force that will examine racial and equity issues, among others, on campus.

On July 6, Thrasher announced the creation of the President's Task Force on Anti-Racism, Equity and Inclusion for the 2020-21 academic year. The move came amid waves of protests throughout the country over race issues. Thrasher is seeking recommendations from the task force to address concerns at FSU.

"I have spent the past several weeks listening and learning from countless individuals within the FSU family who have experienced oppression and acts of

racism. Their expressions of anger, sadness and frustration are palpable. I also have been hearing from many others who want to be agents of change, part of the societal shift in recognizing and challenging racial injustices," Thrasher wrote in a letter to the FSU community July 6.

The names of buildings such as Eppes Hall and Doak S. Campbell Stadium will be addressed. A campus statue of Eppes, who was a slave owner in the 1800s and served as president of FSU's board of trustees, was removed by the school on the day the appointments were announced. Thrasher has also charged the group with identifying "racial and ethnic disparities on campus and to implement a range of initiatives."

Doney, who is the deputy executive director of the Native Learning Center in Hollywood, graduated from FSU in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in criminology. He serves on the FSU Alumni Association's national board of



Kyle Doney

Courtesy photo

directors.

Doney was among 30 people from the university community appointed by Thrasher to the task force July 23. The group is composed of faculty, staff, alumnae and a few current students, including FSU men's basketball player Malik Osborne.

The group is slated to have its first organizational session in mid-August.

Here is Thrasher's message to the FSU community in announcing the appointments of the task force members July 23:

Dear FSU Family,

As many of you know, I've been engaging in dialogue with students, faculty, staff, alumni and community leaders regarding recent acts of racism nationally, as well as historical racial injustices.

As a result of those conversations, in my message to you on July 6, I announced the creation of the President's Task Force on Anti-Racism, Equity & Inclusion for the 2020-2021 academic year. Today, I appointed 30 members of the university community to serve on that task force.

I am grateful to each of these individuals for agreeing to contribute their time and attention to these topics during this crucial time in the nation's and university's history, and I'm confident they will help the university address racial and ethnic disparities on campus and accelerate our goal to strengthen FSU's diversity.

The task force will be led by a three-person executive committee, which I've asked Professor of English Maxine Montgomery to chair. This group's work will support our efforts to advance the third goal of the university's Strategic Plan — Realize the University's Full Potential of Diversity and Inclusion. We'll announce the group's first organizational session in mid-August.

We have a long history of addressing difficult racism and inclusion issues on this campus, and we know there is still much work to do. As the nation faces great unrest and an urgent call for change, we, as a university, will continue to listen, learn and evolve.

With the hope of fostering a stronger sense of trust, respect and good faith

within the university community, Professor Montgomery and I agree that the Francis W. Eppes statue should be immediately placed off campus as the task force begins its work. The panel members will make final recommendations on specific symbols and names of buildings on campus, including the statue, Eppes Hall and Doak S. Campbell Stadium, and will examine how to best reflect FSU's values in relation to its historical connections to race and ethnicity.

I've also asked the group to identify racial and ethnic disparities on campus and to implement a range of initiatives, such as developing mandatory diversity and inclusivity training for all campus employees and students and fostering the recruitment and retention of students, faculty and staff from underserved groups.

The task force members will produce bimonthly progress reports on actionable issues, as well as a final report at the end of the 2020-2021 academic year. As they forward me recommendations, I will consider action for each.

I'm looking forward to hearing input from the task force on a range of important items connected to racial inequity. This task force will be results-driven, and I know the work they do now — with the full support of the administration — will result in a stronger future for Florida State University.

Sincerely,
President John Thrasher

In Focus: Tribal gaming

Editor's note: This item is from a section in the American Gaming Association's State of the States 2020 report.

For more about the AGA visit americangaming.org. The 120-page report, which provides a comprehensive look at the casino industry in the U.S., is at americangaming.org/resources/state-of-the-states-2020/.

Tribal gaming saw further growth in 2019 as Indian tribes continued a trend of looking to export their expertise into the commercial casino gaming industry, while also dipping their toes in the waters of legal sports betting.

At the end of 2019, there were 524 tribal casinos operating in 29 states, according to data from the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC), compared with 465 commercial casinos in 25 states.

In September 2019, NIGC released a report showing tribal gaming operations posted record revenue of \$33.72 billion in 2018, an increase of 4.1 percent increase on the prior year.

While figures for 2019 will not be released until later in 2020, another record total seems assured given that previous years have invariably seen tribal gaming's revenue performance mirror or even better that of the commercial gaming industry.

Given the consistent revenue growth of tribal gaming, it is not uncommon for the success to catch the eye of states looking to balance their budgets.

As 2019 drew to a close, Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt (R), a member of the Cherokee Nation, was locked in a bitter legal dispute with tribes in the country's second largest tribal gaming state, including the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Citizen Potawatomie, and Muscogee Nations.

Since 2006, tribes have paid the state of Oklahoma \$1.5 billion for statewide exclusivity to operate table games and more limited exclusivity over Class III electronic gaming devices. In fiscal year 2019 alone, tribes in Oklahoma provided \$148.2 million to the state treasury.

In 2004, the state and the tribes agreed to a four to six percent graduated revenue-sharing rate on electronic gaming devices and 10 percent rate on table games. Gov. Stitt now wants to raise these rates to as high as 25 percent on all gaming. He claims the 2004 compact expired at the end of 2019, while the tribes maintain it automatically renewed. The industry will be watching this dispute closely in the coming months and possibly years.

"Oklahoma was a trouble spot for Indian gaming in 2019, with the Oklahoma governor threatening to return Oklahoma to the dysfunctional times in the early 2000s when so many state resources and tribal gaming revenues went to funding litigation instead of government services," said Kevin Washburn, the dean of the University of Iowa College of Law and former assistant secretary of Indian Affairs.

In another major 2019 tribal gaming controversy, the Seminole Tribe took the unprecedented step in May of ending gaming revenue share payments to the state of Florida totalling approximately \$330 million per year.

Frustrated by failed efforts to negotiate a new gaming compact with the state legislature since 2010, the Seminoles notified Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) they would cease making payments that had been used primarily to support Florida's educational system.

In his letter to the governor announcing the cut-off, Seminole Tribal Council Chairman Marcellus Osceola, Jr., charged Florida racetracks with continuing to violate a 2010 compact by offering lucrative designated-player card games, which a federal court has found fall under the Seminole Tribe's exclusive rights in the compact.

"There are highly-charged compact disputes in two out of the top three states in terms of tribal gaming revenue, and both disputes involve revenue-sharing payments to the state," Kathryn Rand, a law professor at the University of North Dakota School of Law, said of the conflicts in Florida and Oklahoma.

"These ongoing and high-stakes compact disputes show how politicized revenue sharing has become, particularly in those states that receive significant payments from tribes," Rand said.

Even in the midst of their battle with Gov. Stitt, Oklahoma tribes planned to expand their operations east into neighboring Arkansas, continuing a clear trend of Indian gaming tribes increasingly exporting their expertise into the commercial casino gaming sector.

In June, the Quapaw Nation of Oklahoma was awarded a license to operate one of two new commercial casinos in Arkansas. The tribe opened a temporary facility in Pine Bluff, Arkansas in October and plans to further develop the property into a \$300 million casino-resort.

The Cherokee and Choctaw Nations of Oklahoma were also among bidders for another commercial casino license in Pope

County, AR that had yet to be awarded by the end of 2019.

Beyond Oklahoma, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama in May completed its eye-catching \$1.3 billion acquisition of the Sands Bethlehem casino in eastern Pennsylvania from Las Vegas Sands. The tribe, which also recently bought several commercial casinos in the Caribbean, renamed the casino Wind Creek Bethlehem.

In Illinois, meanwhile, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians was joined by the Oklahoma Choctaw Nation, the Seminole Tribe of Florida plus two tribes from Wisconsin in submitting applications for one of the five new commercial casino licenses made available under a new state law passed in June.

As for federal oversight of tribal gaming in 2019, there was a changing of the guard in the nation's capital as Jonodev Chaudhuri stepped down after serving four years as chairman of the NIGC.

Chaudhuri, a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, was succeeded by E. Sequoyah Simermeyer, who was nominated by President Trump and unanimously approved by the U.S. Senate in November.

The three-member NIGC is expected to play a prominent role in regulating sports betting offered by tribes due to its oversight of management contracts agreed between tribes and private gaming companies.

During his confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in July, Simermeyer noted how the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 does not prohibit tribes from operating sportsbooks.

Simermeyer, a member of the Coharie Tribe of North Carolina, also told the committee how tribes in Nevada were already accepting wagers before the U.S. Supreme Court enabled sports betting to expand nationwide in a milestone decision in May 2018.

After tribes in Mississippi and New Mexico began taking bets in 2018, tribes in New York and Oregon launched sports wagering operations in 2019.

Waiting in the wings are tribes in Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, North Carolina, and Washington state.

"This is the first time in a generation where Indian gaming has begun importing outside expertise and partners from Nevada, Europe and New Jersey where sports betting markets already exist," said Chris Stearns, a former chairman of the Washington State Gaming Commission and a member of the Navajo Tribe.

Court halts Dakota Access Pipeline shutdown as legal fight goes forward

FROM NPR

The Dakota Access Pipeline may continue to pump crude oil through South Dakota after a federal appellate court on July 14 temporarily blocked a shutdown ordered by a lower court that was to begin in August.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued an administrative stay that will be in effect at least through next Thursday while the pipeline's operator, Energy Transfer LP, and its opponents file briefs. The company is appealing the lower court's shutdown order and asking it be blocked pending the final outcome of its appeal.

The company has been fighting over the project for years with environmentalists and Native American tribes, under whose land a small portion of the \$3.8 billion, 1,172-mile North Dakota-to-Illinois pipeline runs.

"The purpose of this administrative stay is to give the court sufficient opportunity to consider the emergency motion for stay and should not be construed in any way as a ruling on the merits of that motion," the court said in the order.

GAIN Coalition, a consortium of businesses, trade associations and labor groups that supports the pipeline, called Tuesday's temporary stay "a key step forward in reaffirming the Dakota Access Pipeline's critical role in the American

energy infrastructure network."

North Dakota Republican U.S. Sen. Kevin Cramer hailed the order as "common sense."

Members of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe contend a part of the pipeline that runs beneath Lake Oahe could contaminate the reservation's drinking water and sacred lands. In legal filings, they claim the Army Corps of Engineers improperly issued construction permits and failed to conduct adequate environmental analysis of the pipeline's impact.

"It's important to recognize: An administrative stay is not in any way indicative of how the court is going to rule — it just buys the court a little additional time to make a decision," Earthjustice attorney Jan Hasselman, who represents the tribe, said in a statement to the Bismark Tribune.

Months of sometimes violent protests against the pipeline took place in 2016 and 2017 during construction near Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, which straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border.

On July 6, U.S. District Judge James Boasberg ordered Energy Transfer to halt oil flow and empty the pipeline within 30 days. Boasberg ruled in March that the Army Corps had failed to address concerns about the risk of oil spills and ordered it to conduct a full environmental impact study. That study could take another year to complete.



File photo

In 2016, from left, Theresa Frost, Annette Jones and Martha Tommie display their support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in its battle against the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota.

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Vietnam War veteran Stephen Bowers fondly remembered for his dedication to family, veterans, Tribe, U.S.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — David Stephen Bowers lived a life full of service to the Seminole Tribe, Indian Country, the United States, veterans and his family.

From his highly regarded service for the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War to a lengthy career working for the Tribe to leading veteran causes to being a proud grandfather, he was often described by those who knew him as having an abundance of dedication and determination.

He last served the Tribe as its director of veterans affairs, a position he retired from in late May, just days before his passing on June 1 at age 71.

"Mr. Bowers diligently served the Seminole Tribe of Florida for 31 years in various positions, as well as providing his dedicated service to the United States Army. We appreciate his service and dedication, as he will be missed by all who knew him," Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said in a Tribal statement.

As a longtime member and a leader of the Seminole Tribe's Color Guard, Mr. Bowers represented the Tribe in the presentation of colors at several events throughout Indian Country, including pow wows. His cousin Paul Bowers Sr. was part of the group during its early years that also included President Mitchell Cypress.

"We used to go all over the U.S. to pow wows," Paul Bowers Sr. recalled. "We used to let [Stephen] be in charge of the whole deal. We called him 'The General.'"

Perhaps fittingly, in February of this year, "The General" was honored at the Seminole Tribe's own pow wow.

"He's one of the nicest, respectable gentlemen I've ever met in Indian Country," emcee Jaquin Hamilton told the audience during a ceremony on the floor of the pow wow where Mr. Bowers, in a wheelchair, was joined by his wife Elizabeth, sister Wanda Bowers, President Cypress and other Tribal representatives and friends.

During a powerfully poignant moment in the ceremony, a veteran who was participating in the pow wow approached Mr. Bowers, and before any words were exchanged, saluted him. Mr. Bowers, sporting a determined look, returned the salute before the men shook hands and talked.

As a national service officer to the Seminole Tribe, Marc McCabe, of the Bureau Chief of the Vietnam Veterans of America, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, worked closely with Mr. Bowers on veterans issues for the past 11 years.

"Stephen was a strong voice to advocate for all veterans in Florida and all Native American veterans nationwide, but especially veterans that served their country. He and others such as Billie Micco, Mitchell Cypress, Andrew Bowers helped establish the service officer program," McCabe said.

Mr. Bowers entered the U.S. Army on May 13, 1969. McCabe provided details about Mr. Bowers' impressive military service.

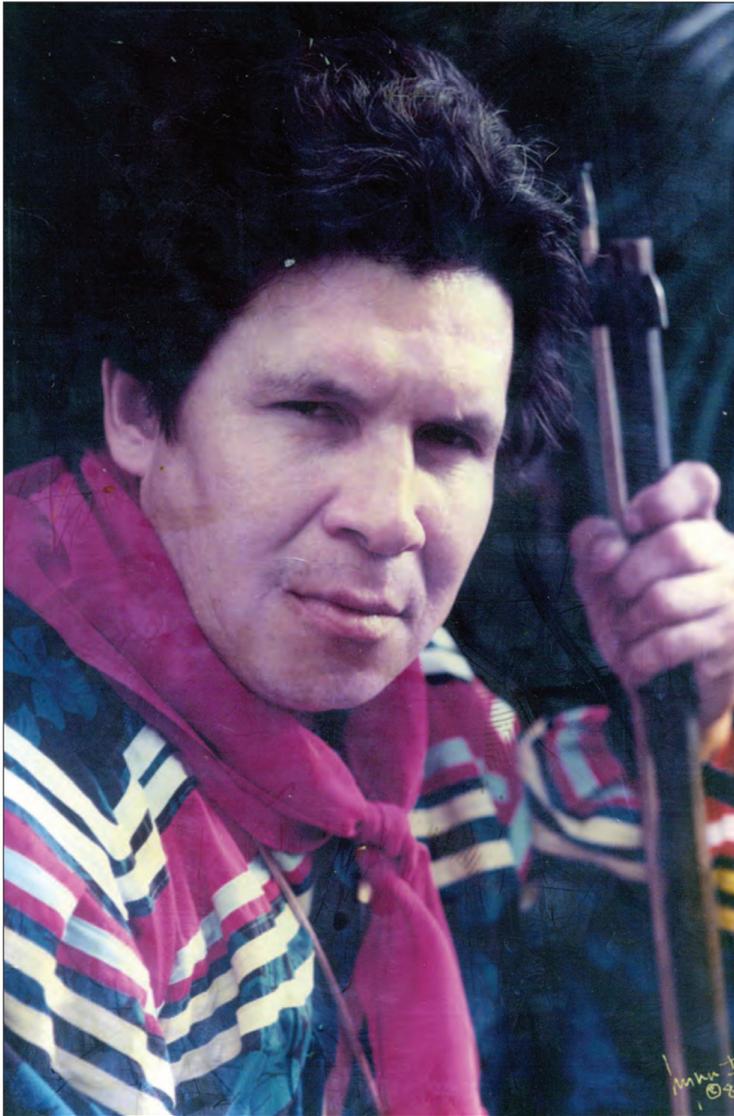
"Stephen, after attending Infantry Training School, NCO School, Airborne School, departed for Southeast Asia (Vietnam). Stephen was attached to the Company "A" 1st Battalion (Airborne) 503rd Infantry 173rd Airborne Brigade Vietnam, stationed at LZ Uplift and LZ English as well as Base Camp Long Binh Vietnam."

Mr. Bowers was awarded the following honors for his service:

- National Defense Medal
- Combat Infantry Badge
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal with 3 Bronze service stars

• Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
• Parachute Badge
• M16 Sharpshooter Badge
• Bronze Star for ground operations against enemy hostile forces 7th Day of December 1970.

For his service, Mr. Bowers received a citation that read:



Courtesy photo

Vietnam War veteran Stephen Bowers worked in various roles for the Seminole Tribe for several decades and served in the U.S. Army. He was a strong advocate for the rights of veterans from the Tribe and also non-Native veterans.

"David Bowers, you distinguished yourself by outstanding services in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. You consistently manifested exemplary professionalism and initiative in obtaining outstanding results. Despite many adversities, you invariably perfumed your duties in a resolute and efficient manner. Your loyalty, diligence and devotion to duty in combat were in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army."

While serving in the Army, Mr. Bowers was called home due to the death of his father in an automobile accident. Mr. Bowers wanted to return to service in Vietnam after the funeral, but at the urging of his mother, he was able to stay stateside and was discharged in 1971 having ascended to the rank of Sergeant E-5.

McCabe said Mr. Bowers was an advocate for veterans, widows and orphans of the veterans of all eras, but specifically Vietnam.

"On behalf of the members of Vietnam Veterans of America Daytona Beach Chapter 1048 (VVA 1048), we send our sincere condolences to the Bowers family," wrote Chapter President Rod Phillips in an online tribute. "Stephen, as I knew him, was a friend, a fellow Airborne Trooper, working together with the VVA Florida State Council for many years, he will be missed. God Bless you, Rest in Peace, see you on the other side. Airborne All the Way!"

In 2010, Mr. Bowers began a campaign to have a statue placed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to commemorate Native American veterans. Although the project didn't specifically pan out at the desired location, the hard work put in by Mr. Bowers and his wife Elizabeth helped pave the way for the National Native American Veterans Memorial that Congress approved in 2013. The memorial is scheduled to open on Veterans Day this year in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. Elizabeth and Mr. Bowers' sister Wanda are among the invitees.

Mr. Bowers served as president of the Florida Seminole Veterans Foundation Inc. and president of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 23, Fort Lauderdale.

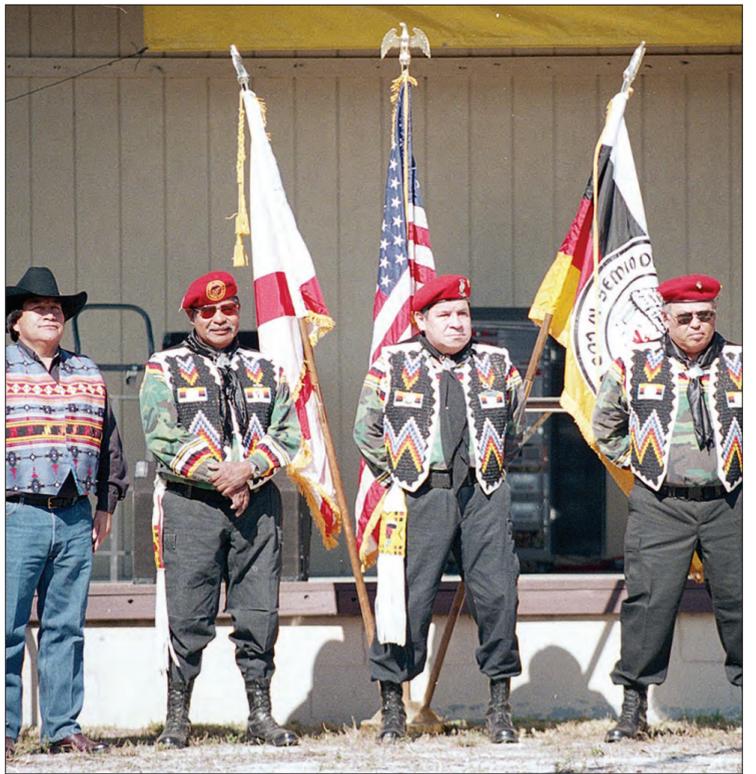
Before his successful military service, Mr. Bowers was an active student-athlete. He lettered in football and wrestling at McArthur High School, close to where he grew up on the Hollywood Reservation. As a youth, he was part of the powerful Dania Optimist football team that had three undefeated seasons. On Feb. 7, 2006, Mr. Bowers was inducted into the Seminole Sports Hall of Fame and his plaque is in a display case in the lobby of the Howard Tiger Recreation Center.

Mr. Bowers is survived by his wife Elizabeth; his daughters Jenice Anderson and Stephanie Bowers Hiatt; son-in-law Jon; and grandsons Tyler, Caleb and Lucas; his sister Wanda; his niece Christine and son-in-law Andrew, and grandniece Stella; and two Rez rescue cats, Scooter and Skyler.



Courtesy photo

Stephen Bowers led the Seminole Tribe's Color Guard for several years, performing the Guard's duties at events throughout the country.



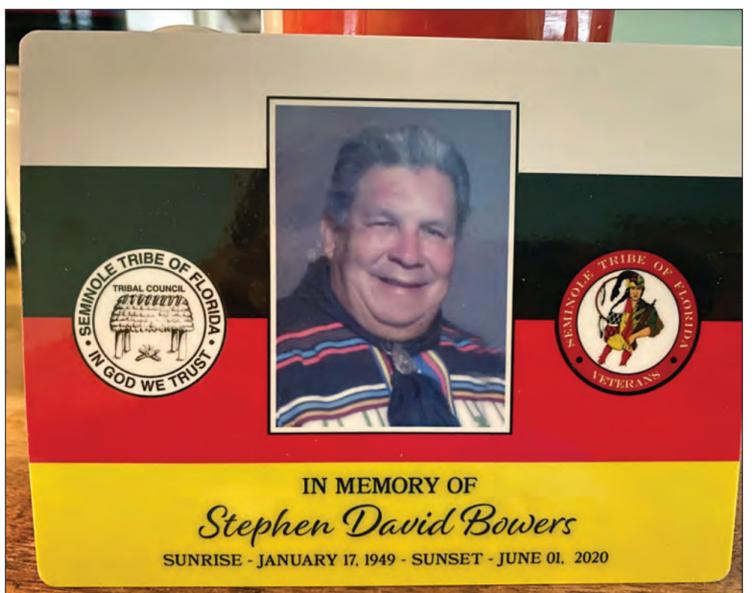
File photo

Stephen Bowers, second from right, proudly served the Seminole Tribe Color Guard for decades.



Kevin Johnson

On the opening night of this year's Seminole Tribal Fair & Pow Wow (Feb. 7), Stephen Bowers was honored in a ceremony on the floor that included his wife Elizabeth, sister Wanda Bowers, President Mitchell Cypress, Miss Indian World Cheyenne Kippenberger, Miss Florida Seminole Durante Blais Billie and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Aubie Billie.



Courtesy photo

A graveside service was held in early June for Stephen Bowers at the New Seminole Cemetery in Hollywood.

Father provided cherished memories

Stephen David Bowers. Son, brother, uncle, Seminole warrior, Vietnam veteran, father, grandfather and husband. Stephen David Bowers was my father and I loved him very much. My family always enjoyed our time spent with my dad. He made many trips to our home in South Dakota and we made many trips to Florida. Some of the highlights of our time with my dad include attending pow-wows with my dad and my three boys, trips to the west coast of Florida enjoying key lime pie on the beautiful white sand of Tampa Bay, snorkeling in Key Largo, and his support of my triathlon competitions. My dad loved his grandsons and we learned that if his grandsons wanted to be

adventurous, then, so did he! We have made many wonderful memories with my dad and my boys, but my absolute favorite memory of all time was our trip out west to the Black Hills of South Dakota. During the planning stages of our trip, we exchanged emails with my dad and discussed the possibility of hiking Black Elk Peak. We told him the hike was 3.6 miles uphill and the elevation was 7,242 ft. And we reminded him once you climbed up the peak, you had to hike 3.6 miles down the peak. I thought there was no possible way my dad would want to attempt to hike Black Elk Peak. But he did! Together, with our three boys and Stephen and Elizabeth, we made the trek up Black Elk! It was not easy, we

took many breaks, but he never gave up. As soon as our hike was complete, he did not waste any time and he went directly to the gift shop to buy T-shirts so he could tell everyone about his hike. It was that day on Black Elk Peak that I realized how much my dad loved spending time with his grandsons and I learned of his fearlessness, strength, determination and adventurous personality. My family will miss going on adventures with my dad. I am thankful for our memories and for all the time we spent together.

- Mrs. Stephanie Bowers Hiatt



Courtesy photos
At left, Stephen Bowers and his wife Elizabeth join Stephanie and her boys for a snorkeling trip in Key Largo in 2013. At right, Stephen and his grandson on the hike up Black Elk Peak in 2010.



Above left, Stephanie Hiatt Bowers, her husband Jon and their sons sit with a proud grandpa at the Tribal pow-wow in Hollywood in 2007. Above right, Stephen and Elizabeth enjoy the view atop Black Elk Peak in South Dakota.



Courtesy photos



Stephen and the grandsons show their support for Stephanie at a triathlon in 2012.

Celebrated hoop dancer Nakotah LaRance dies

BY KATHERINE LEWIN
Santa Fe Reporter

One of the globe's most accomplished and well known Native hoop dancers, Nakotah LaRance, has died, according to an announcement from family friends with the Lightning Boy Foundation, a nonprofit with which LaRance worked to teach dance classes for tribal youth in Northern New Mexico.

He died July 12, according to Felicia Rivera, founder and director of the foundation. A story published by Indian Country Today says LaRance had been "climbing on an old bridge in Rio Arriba County" when it happened.

LaRance, whose mother is Ohkay Owingeh, won his ninth world title in 2018 at the Heard Museum's World Championship Hoop Dance Contest in Phoenix. He has also been on several TV shows, acted in movies and mini-series, including Steven Spielberg's Into the West and performed for several years as a principal dancer for Cirque Du Soleil, according to the Library of Congress.

LaRance, who would have turned 31 in August, was the master dancer for the Lightning Boy Hoop Dance group, an extension of the foundation, started by Rivera and her husband, George Rivera, in the name of their son Valentino. Valentino also danced before dying in 2016 from complications after a car accident at 8 years old.

"Without Nakotah and his relationship with my son Valentino, there would be no Lightning Boy Foundation," Felicia told the Santa Fe Reporter. "We just all really love Nakotah as much as a person can love another person. He didn't have any enemies. He just was a kind-hearted, big-hearted person and we have all lost a best friend."

Felicia's son, Valentino, first became inspired to hoop dance at only 4 years old after seeing LaRance and his father perform at the Pojoaque Wellness Center as part of a suicide-prevention effort.

"His greatest love was being a mentor of Hoop Dance to the Native youth. He guided each child to find the beat of their own life path and the pride of their native culture," Steve LaRance, Nakotah's father, wrote in the news release. "Our family plans to send him home in our traditional Pueblo/Hopi way."

Donations made in Nakotah's honor can be made to the Lightning Boy Foundation.

Native Learning Center seeks proposals for webinar instruction

BY TRIBUNE STAFF

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Native Learning Center (NLC) is accepting written proposals from qualified individuals for delivering webinar instruction for the NLC. The NLC courses meet the primary objectives of NAHASDA, which are:

1. To assist and promote affordable housing activities to develop, maintain and operate affordable housing in safe and healthy environments on Indian reservations and in other Indian areas for occupancy by low-income Indian families;
2. To ensure better access to private mortgage markets for Indian tribes and their members and to promote self-sufficiency of Indian tribes and their members;
3. To coordinate activities to provide housing for Indian tribes and their members and to promote self-sufficiency of Indian tribes and their members;
4. To plan for and integrate infrastructure resources for Indian tribes with housing development for Indian tribes; and
5. To promote the development of private capital markets in Indian country and to allow such markets to operate and grow, thereby benefiting Indian communities.

To be considered as a potential instructor, an RFP form must be completed. An incomplete RFP will lose points based on NLC scoring guidelines. The NLC is looking for RFPs under these specific topics and welcomes new ideas and suggestions:

- Audit Review
- Conveyances of Indian Lands
- Creating Tribal Member Owned Businesses
- Effective Leadership
- Effective Practices for Writing and ICDBG
- Grant Acquisition and Funding Opportunities in Indian Country
- Grant Management: Designing Performance Metrics for Success
- Grant Management: What's Being Funded
- Handling Conflict with Difficult Employees
- How to Acquire Funding from Foundations and Grants
- IHP/ADR Process
- Indian Land Issues
- Laws Just for Indians
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits
- Mentoring Tribal Youth
- NAHASDA Essentials Series
- NAHASDA Refresher
- Prevention Model: Building a Youth Development Program
- Procurement Under NAHASDA
- Roberts Rules of Order
- Running Efficient and Effective Meetings Using Parliamentary Procedure
- Self-Monitoring Process
- Small Business Funding Opportunities in Indian Country
- Starting Your Tribal Small Business
- Tribal Housing Customer Service
- Tribal Housing Human Resources
- Tribal Program Management Skills:

Narrative Writing, Financial Writing
These webinars will be provided on a scheduled basis, from Oct. 1, 2020, through Sept.30, 2021.

The deadline is Aug. 10, 2020. For more information call 954-985-2315, email NLCinfo@seminoletribe.com or visit nativelearningcenter.com.



Kevin Johnson

Nakotah LaRance performs at the American Indian Arts Celebration in 2014 on the Big Cypress Reservation.

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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.

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

Museum redesign project to showcase objects from the historic and pre-historic collections

BY ROBIN CROSKERY HOWARD
Conservator
and
TARA BACKHOUSE
Collections Manager

The Seminole Tribe has always been proud of its museum. Nestled in front of a beautiful cypress dome in the heart of Big Cypress, it has protected Seminole history and shared the Seminole story for nearly 23 years. We're lucky to have amazing community-based exhibits created all those years ago. But there comes a time that even

a fantastic museum endeavors to undertake updates so that it can become even better. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is currently working on designing new gallery layouts, not only because our exhibits are over 20 years old, but also because we see an opportunity to tell a more complete Seminole story to all visitors.

Not only will we start telling the story thousands of years ago, we will continue to tell the story of the present and everything in between. From traditional lifeways, the Seminole War, STOF government, and Seminole art, our intent is to provide a comprehensive experience for our visitors.

Part of this plan includes displaying more of the historic objects in the museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) collections. Our visitors will now be able to see objects they have most likely never seen before.

Objects chosen for the museum's redesign represent a large cross-section of the collections. These objects will reveal a more holistic look at Seminole culture and traditions than what is currently represented in the Museum's permanent gallery spaces. Planned areas such as "Our Grandmothers' Grandmothers," "Strength and Survival," and "Being Seminole Today" provide an



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

This license plate from 1968-69 has several areas of corrosion built up across the surface that extends to under the paint. It will be reduced during the conservation process.

opportunity to delve into a larger variety of topics and highlight objects in both the THPO and museum collections.

The THPO's collection will primarily be highlighted in "Our Grandmothers' Grandmothers." The archaeological collection featured in this area includes pottery sherds, fish hooks, pounders, scrapers, and a bone pin. Mixed amongst these items will be collection items from the museum including turbans and beaded turban fobs, a ceramic Safki jar, woodworking tools and palmetto baskets. Altogether, these related objects carry the story from a previous moment in Seminole history toward the present.

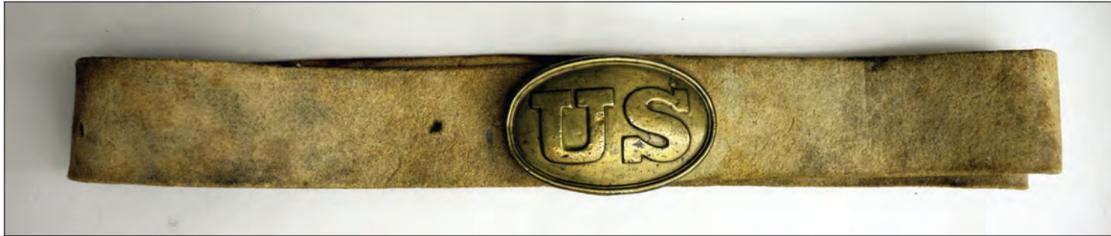
The majority of the objects that the museum places on exhibit after the redesign are considered structurally stable, meaning that they will hold up to long periods of exhibition without degrading or falling apart. However, some of the objects slated for exhibition will require conservation efforts to ensure that they are structurally stable and at their best for exhibition. For example, a leather belt worn by a U.S. soldier during the Seminole War period is not currently ready for any sort of exhibition. Though the leather is still relatively supple, it is distorted from years of being stored rolled up prior to coming to the museum. Before exhibition, the belt will need to undergo several treatments to flatten the object and attempt to remove staining that could prove detrimental to the continued museum-use life of the object.

Previously treated objects occasionally

need more work. A sash that underwent some conservation in 2011 now needs a bit more attention. There are a few areas of the backing wool textile that have developed holes large enough to make the baldric structurally unsuitable for exhibition. Using another textile, these holes will be mended in such a way that strengthens the overall object.

Another object that will undergo some level of conservation is a license plate from 1968-69. It is one of the earliest Florida 'Seminole Indian' license plates and has a moderate amount of rust damage. Before exhibition, the object will need to have as much of this rust removed and/or converted into a stable form of iron that will prevent further rust damage from occurring while keeping the original surface paint of the object. These treatments will help stabilize these objects so that they can continue to tell the Seminole story over a long period of time.

This is just a small piece of what the museum believes will be an amazing redesign; there is so much more to see. Currently, the original exhibits remain intact at the museum and will be there for some time and we continue to welcome the community's input. The museum wants the new exhibits to reflect the many community voices as the original installations, and we appreciate your valuable feedback. Please contact us if you want to see the plans and how they will help us tell more of the Tribe's history, culture, and life at the museum. We can be reached at Museum@semtribe.com.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

This belt worn by U.S. soldier from the Seminole War period will undergo major conservation efforts throughout the belt to ensure its long-term stability.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

This sash will undergo some minor conservation efforts on the reverse (non-beaded side).

Lauren Doctor among winners in NLC poster contest

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Artworks by three youngsters were selected as the winners in the Native Learning Center's "What Home Means To Me" poster contest. NLC, based in Hollywood, announced the winners July 2. The contest was open to youth in all tribal

communities throughout Indian Country.

Lauren Doctor, from the Seminole Tribe, won the 14-18 age division. Hayden Bahazhoni Conner (Navajo) won the 11-13 group. Imalah Knapp (Penobscot Indian Nation) won the 5-10 category.

Honorable mentions were also awarded, including to the Seminole Tribe's Jayden Henderson (5-10), Taina Billie (11-13) and

Daleen Osceola (14-18).

NLC created the contest "to bring our Native communities together by highlighting the household and how it brings comfort to our Native Youth" and "to take our communities minds off of the day-to-day crisis of Covid-19" while focusing on creativity, ingenuity and self-determination.



NLC

Daleen Osceola (Seminole Tribe), honorable mention in 14-18 group in NLC poster contest.



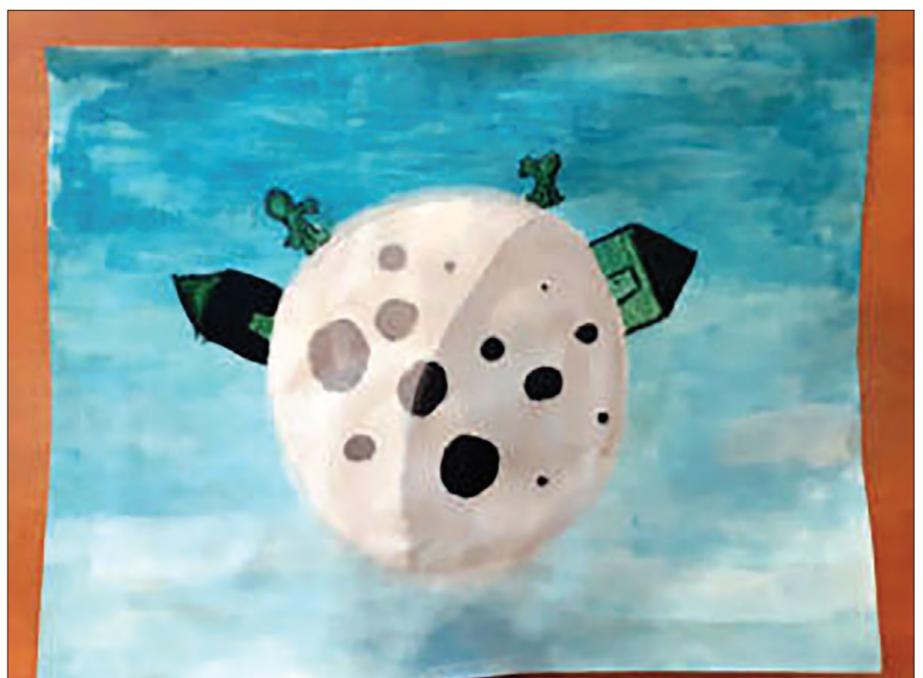
NLC

Lauren Doctor (Seminole Tribe) won the the Native Learning Center's "What Home Means To Me" poster contest in the 14-18 age category. The contest was open to tribal youth throughout Indian Country.



NLC

Jayden Henderson (Seminole Tribe) 5-10 age group honorable mention in the NLC poster contest.



NLC

Taina Billie (Seminole Tribe) NLC poster honorable mention, 11-13 division.

Health

How can America get Native health right?

FROM UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Michael E. Bird, a University of California Berkeley Public Health alumnus, has over 25 years of public health experience in the areas of medical social work, health care administration, and public health policy.

After growing up in New Mexico, California, and Utah, Bird received a bachelor's degree in anthropology and master of social work from the University of Utah and worked as a medical social worker for a number of years before gaining his masters in public health from UC Berkeley School of Public Health in 1983. Bird is the first American Indian and social worker to serve as president (2000-2001) of the American Public Health Association (APHA). He has been involved in numerous projects and programs on a local, tribal, national, and international level.

Following his term at APHA, he served as executive director of the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center in Oakland. Bird is the first American Indian to serve on the National Policy Council for AARP and is currently the public health programs director for Indian Health Council, Inc., a community health center serving nine tribes in rural north San Diego County.

Bird recently spoke with Elise Proulx, Berkeley Public Health's director of communications and marketing, about the biggest public health issues facing Native people in America today.

School of Public Health: When did you first become aware of the public health issues facing Native Americans?

Bird: With a degree in social work, I returned to New Mexico and worked at the Santa Fe Indian hospital. Being in that setting opened my thought process and my perspective. It was an introduction to what was really going on in our communities.

What I realized was that in that role, I wasn't able to have the kind of impact I wanted to have, and that no matter how good I was, or what I did, that it was sort of a revolving door for patients. Some people you can help, some you can't, and there's always someone in the queue, and it's never ending. The system ended up being reactive instead of proactive.

I had known some professionals who came through [the School of Public Health at UC] Berkeley who introduced me to public health, and it was an area I wanted to explore. It was really about prevention, intervention, and community.

The lack of opportunities for Native

people was contributing to their health conditions. Working for the Indian Health Service increased my awareness of some of the strengths and weaknesses of a bureaucratic system that was never adequately resourced, didn't provide enough support and leadership, and was not engaging tribal communities in a respectful,

Native people. We exchanged land that benefited this country and have never been fully compensated.

SPH: How has COVID-19 disproportionately affected Native Americans?

Bird: In New Mexico, Native Americans make up 11 percent of the general population but they make up 50 percent of the COVID-19 cases. That's just one example. The Pueblo tribes and Navajo Nation have been significantly impacted. You have high poverty rates, clearly marginalized populations. Some don't have adequate housing, water, or electricity, and COVID just compounds all these conditions. It's not just obesity, it's what creates obesity. You do see a correlation to other communities of color.

I think that because of our historical experience, which has brought us to this place, we continue to be marginalized by society because people don't see us; they don't recognize us; they don't engage us. This cuts across many sectors. And we are invisible. It just leaves us out of the conversation and we lack representation in the public and private arena.

SPH: Police brutality is of great concern to many Americans. How does that issue affect Native peoples?

Bird: The American Indian Movement got started in 1968 in Minneapolis and it was in response to police brutality directed at Indians. According to an analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention research, Indians have a higher rate [of dying at the hands of the police] than any group, even though we have a smaller percentage of the overall population.

SPH: What do you think can remedy these really serious problems?

Bird: What needs to happen is an honest accounting and an honest history. Representatives Deb Haaland (one of the first American Indians to serve in Congress) in New Mexico and Barbara Lee in California have been talking about the Truth and Reconciliation process that went on in South Africa to create a means to have those conversations.

I think that something like that needs to take place. There needs to be a real honest conversation based on the history of this country, starting with European contact some 500 years ago. Everyone needs to be part of the conversation. We've got to understand what happened, how it happened, and what we need to do to make it right. We need to seek the truth, and a new way forward together.

collaborative manner.

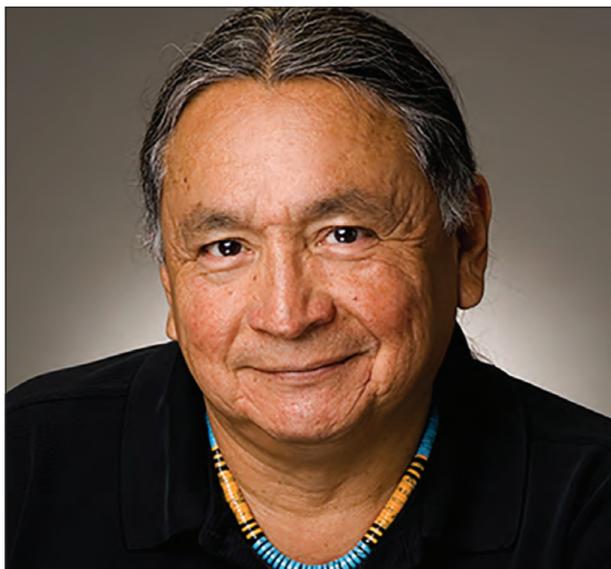
SPH: You were the first Native American to serve as APHA president. Do you think that affected visibility of Native health issues?

Bird: Yes, I do think it did. There were a couple of things we accomplished when I was president. For one, the American Journal of Public Health, for the first time in its history, did an issue that focused on Native issues. And wherever I went, I reflected the concerns of Native communities and tried to promote a better understanding of the extent and nature of health disparities, which are historically based.

SPH: What are some public health disparities that Native Americans face?

Bird: Now, people are talking about COVID-19 and co-occurring conditions like diabetes, obesity, and respiratory conditions. From my perspective, the comorbidities [for Native Americans] are poverty, racism, and the lack of access to resources. The fact of the matter is that Indian Health Service is funded at 50 percent of the level of need. There is more money spent per capita on federal prisoners than on Native communities.

The primary problems are political. Treaties were made with tribes and part of the government's commitment was to provide certain rights and resources to



Michael E. Bird, public health programs director for Indian Health Council Inc. in California.

Courtesy UC, Berkeley

Seminole Gaming upgrades its 'Safe and Sound' guidelines

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Gaming announced July 25 an upgrade to its "Safe and Sound" program guidelines, which have been in place since five of its six casinos reopened over the past two months. Effective immediately, all guests must be stationary when lowering their masks or face coverings for eating, drinking or smoking. The change prohibits guests from walking in all public spaces without protective face coverings.

Seminole Gaming also announced the immediate closure of PLA, an interactive golf and games restaurant tenant, for failure to adhere to "Safe and Sound" program guidelines. PLA is a tenant in the retail area of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

In addition to the program enhancement, Seminole Gaming is expanding the COVID enforcement teams at its casinos and will outfit them in distinctive uniforms to create greater guest awareness of this important issue. Guests will be informed of the program upgrade and required to adhere to it, or they will be asked to leave the property.

The program upgrade applies to all guests at Seminole Gaming venues.

"Safe and Sound" guidelines include:

- Temperature checks for all guests

and team members prior to entry. Any guest or team member with a temperature above CDC guidelines of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit will not be allowed entry.

- A requirement that all guests wear masks or cloth face coverings that meet CDC guidelines, without exception. Masks will be provided to guests as needed.

- Alternating slot machines will be turned off to help ensure social distancing on the casino floor.

- New Plexiglas barriers will divide players at table games and customer service areas.

- Signs will be posted throughout the casino complex to encourage social distancing and help ensure adherence to Safe and Sound Program guidelines.

- Team members will be part of a new "Safe and Sound Clean Team" to focus on cleaning and disinfecting surfaces throughout the casino complex, with special emphasis on high-touch surfaces and common areas.

- Hand-sanitizing stations will be available on the casino floor, at the entrances and throughout the casino complex.

- An overall 50 percent reduction in guest capacity throughout the casino complex.

IHS audiologist wears clear face covering to better communicate with patients

BY LT. APRIL WALLER, Pawnee Indian Health Center audiologist

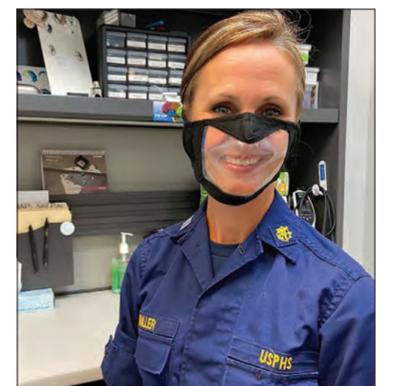
As an audiologist working for the Pawnee Indian Health Center in the Oklahoma City area, I recognize the tremendous benefit of wearing a face covering to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Our facility encourages the wearing of face coverings whenever we are in public to protect ourselves and others from the virus which is easily spread through talking, singing and generally, breathing in close proximity. However, the wearing of face coverings in a clinical setting presents a problem in communicating with patients who may have a hearing impairment or communication disorder.

Initially, I noticed the struggle with my daughter who has single-sided deafness, which is the loss of hearing in one ear. When we are out in the public wearing our masks, communicating with her is very difficult. Having the same struggles with patient care in my clinic I decided I had to do something. In order to improve my discussions and interactions with my patients, I created a solution. I recalled an episode of Grey's Anatomy featuring a deaf surgeon. In that episode, the surgeon and the surgical team used clear masks to talk during surgery.

According to CDC guidance, the use of clear face coverings is recommended for use with patients who are deaf or hearing impaired. I researched clear face coverings and found that they were out of stock with multiple vendors so I reached out to a friend to make a special clear face covering that I could use while communicating with my patients. My face covering is adapted from CDC instructions on face coverings and it is constructed from Kona cotton and a new shower curtain liner. Since using the

clear face covering, I have received positive feedback from my patients. It has completely changed the dynamic of the visit to one where patients engage more and can communicate clearly with me.

Lt. April Waller, Au.D. CCC-A an enrolled member of the Cherokee Tribe, is a licensed audiologist who received her Doctorate in Audiology from Wichita State University. She has worked at Pawnee Indian Health Center in the Oklahoma City Area IHS for three years. She joined USPHS Commissioned Corps in 2019. Her professional interests include hearing and vestibular diagnostics as well as hearing aids and assistive technology for children and adults with hearing loss.



Courtesy Indian Health Services
Dr. April Waller, a licensed audiologist and member of the Cherokee Tribe, wears clear face covering to better communicate with her patients.

White House task force calls for changes in Indian Health Service to help child-abuse victims

BY DAVE BOYER
The Washington Times

WASHINGTON — A White House task force on July 23 called for extensive changes in the Indian Health Service to protect children from abuse at the agency that oversees care for 2.6 million Native Americans in 37 states.

Task force members told first lady Melania Trump in a meeting that IHS employees are frustrated by institutional inefficiencies, red tape and a lack of reporting of chronic child abuse.

"Although many IHS employees knew they had 'some sort' of duty to report, they were unaware of what they were to report, when they were to report, to whom they were to report, or how to report," the task force said in its findings.

IHS Director Rear Adm. Michael Weahkee said that the agency had cooperated fully with the task force's investigation, and that the agency acknowledges "there is always room for improvement."

"Sexual assault and abuse will not be tolerated in the Indian Health Service," he said.

Mrs. Trump praised the task force's efforts, saying "I know that this work will help to keep children safe."

"Systematic problems put children at risk," she said, adding that Native American children, like all children, deserve to live in safe, nurturing environments.

Santee Lewis of the Navajo Nation greeted the room in Navajo, and said protecting Native American children requires more work, especially considering that many of them live in a system that does not necessarily lead to the same opportunities that non-Native American children enjoy.

President Trump created the task force in March 2019 after an investigation by The Wall Street Journal and Frontline disclosed the IHS had mishandled the case of a pediatrician who sexually abused patients on Native American reservations for two decades.

Among the task force's recommendations is to provide better training for staff on how to handle suspected child abuse, publicizing a child-abuse hotline for more streamlined reporting of cases, and implementing a "zero tolerance" policy for failure to report child-abuse cases.

IHS, tribal, and urban Indian health centers take protecting your health seriously.

As the world reopens, we will continue to provide trusted, quality care. We're open and ready to serve you.

Contact your local Indian health care provider for more information, visit [Healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov), or call 1-800-318-2596.



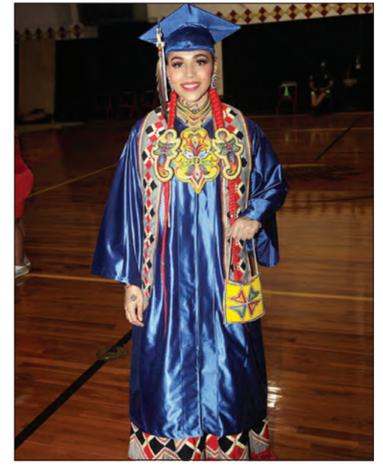
SEMINOLE SCENES



IN ALL HER GLORY: The Guitar Hotel is lit up in red, white and blue to celebrate the July 4 holiday. Hard Rock Hollywood



Collier County Public Schools
PERFECT START: 2020 Golden Gate High School graduate and Seminole Tribal member Serena Zepeda helps start the school's virtual graduation ceremony by playing the National Anthem on violin. The ceremony can be viewed at collierschools.com/graduation2020.



Kevin Johnson
CON-GRAD-ULATIONS: Talia Rodriguez, a 2020 graduate of H.D. Perry Education Center, is dashingy decked out at a graduation event hosted by the Hollywood Council Office on June 18. In addition to her Tribal clothing and graduation cap and gown, her attire also recognizes jingle dancing, which she does.



Seminole Casino Immokalee (above)/Seminole Media Productions (right)
LEGEND PASSES ON: Legendary entertainer Charlie Daniels died July 6 at Summit Medical Center in Hermitage, Tennessee, from a hemorrhagic stroke. He was 83. Daniels played many shows at Seminole Gaming and Hard Rock venues. One of his last performances in front of a live audience came March 7 when he performed at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee (above). The Charlie Daniels Band's Charlie-palooza was often held at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, including in 2013 (at right). The performances served as fundraisers for the Hudson, Florida-based The Angelus, a place for severely handicapped residents to call home.



Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood
GIGANTIC JACKPOT: This is what a \$3.85 million payout looks like on a slot machine. A Fort Lauderdale woman hit the big payday July 23 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, marking the largest jackpot in Seminole Gaming history.



Hard Rock International
FREE FLOATS: As part of a summer celebration, participating Hard Rock Cafes around the world gave guests free signature ice cream floats for a limited time in July. The floats featured vanilla bean ice cream finished with classic Coca-Cola in a signature cup. "We are thrilled to mark the start of the summer season by offering fans a way to beat the heat with a complimentary Signature Ice Cream Float at Hard Rock Cafe locations around the world," said Stephen K. Judge, president of cafe operations at Hard Rock International.



Carlos Fuentes/Seminole Media Productions
MEDICAL COMPLEX OPENS: The new Betty Mae Jumper Medical Complex recently opened in Seminole Estates on the Hollywood Reservation. As of July 1, the complex was the new home for several departments, including Advocacy & Guardianship, Center for Behavioral Health, Children's Center for Diagnostics & Therapy, Health & Human Services Administration, Tribal Health Clinic - Non-Clinical Services and Tribal Health Plan Administration. COVID-19 tests have been conducted in the front entrance area. Behind the facility is the Seminole Estates clubhouse and pool, and further in the background are the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino and the Guitar Hotel.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Ivanka Trump says feds will help solve cases of missing and murdered Native American women

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — Pledging to bring justice for Native American families afflicted by higher rates of violence, homicide and human trafficking, Ivanka Trump announced the opening July 27 in Minnesota of the nation's first Indian Affairs task force office dedicated to solving cold cases of missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Trump, a senior White House adviser who is the president's daughter, joined Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to promote the office and the launches of six other task force locations next month in Rapid City, South Dakota; Billings, Montana; Nashville, Tennessee; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Phoenix; and Anchorage, Alaska.

But Trump's arrival in Bloomington, a Twin Cities suburb, drew rebuke from Democratic lawmakers and dozens of protesters, including Native American women who remain skeptical of the Trump administration's commitment to resolving the root causes of violence against Indigenous women and providing adequate federal resources.

Many asked where Trump and the administration had been the past few years, as various reports have highlighted the underreporting of violence against Indigenous women and as the murder of a 22-year-old pregnant woman in North Dakota in 2017 brought rare bipartisan interest from members of Congress.

"We, in Minnesota, had worked so hard for a genuine, community-led task force to address our missing and murdered Indigenous women," state Rep. Mary Kunesch-Podein, a member of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party who is a descendant of the Standing Rock Lakota tribe, said in a statement. "This sudden interest and visit by Ivanka Trump feels disingenuous and smacks of manipulated political showcasing."

Trump, however, told reporters that she was concerned by federal data that showed higher rates of violence and homicide in tribal communities. Native American women, she said, make up less than 1 percent of Minnesota's population, yet they have been killed at a rate seven times that of white women.

"ndian Country enriches the fabric of our great nation on every level ... yet a dark pattern is plaguing tribal communities across the country," she said.

"They do not just represent a problem — they're proof of an epidemic," she continued, adding that the federal government's initiative, known as Operation Lady Justice, was formed in November as a way for the Justice Department to partner with tribal governments and combat violence and human trafficking.

In a series of statements, Minnesota Democrats blasted Trump's appearance as a "campaign photo op" and a "cheap media stunt" and said President Donald Trump hasn't shown himself to be sincere about helping tribal communities. They accuse him of supporting energy projects and environmental policies that don't protect sacred lands, repeating a nickname for Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., in a derogatory manner and failing to appropriately recognize systemic racism and racial injustices, particularly in a place like Minneapolis, where police brutality protests raged over the spring.

"Donald Trump made a career demonstrating and celebrating behavior that perpetuates violence against Native women and girls," Minnesota Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, a member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, said in a statement.

Kunesch-Podein tweeted that she was blindsided by the opening of a federal office in Minnesota, given that she is chair of the state's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force, and she called the announcement a "dog & pony show."

- NBC News

Massachusetts senators form panel to suggest new state seal, which would replace version Native Americans call racist

BOSTON — Massachusetts senators unanimously agreed July 28 that a panel should suggest a new state seal to replace the 122-year-old version that Native Americans largely view as symbolizing white supremacist violence.

The Senate voted 39-0 to approve a Sen. Jason Lewis resolve forming a special commission tasked with designing a new seal and state motto and with studying ways that the existing version, which depicts a Native man standing beneath a disembodied arm and sword, "may be unwittingly harmful to or misunderstood by the citizens of the commonwealth."

Tribal leaders and activists have pushed for decades to replace the state seal, warning that the individual pictured reinforces stereotypes against Native Americans and that the inclusion of the overhead sword implies violent subjugation of the Indigenous people. Their protests gained traction in recent weeks.

"This flag and emblem has long been viewed by indigenous people and others as symbolizing white supremacy and ethnic cleansing perpetuated against the Native populations," Lewis said on the Senate floor.

The commission created by the resolve (S 2848) would include the executive director or designee of the state Commission on Indian Affairs, five members who are descendants of tribes with historic presences in Massachusetts, four members appointed by the governor with "relevant

cultural and historical expertise," chairs of the Legislature's State Administration Committee, and executive directors or appointees from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Gov. Charlie Baker said last week that he is "open" to discussions about changing the state seal, though it is not clear if the House also plans to take up the resolve.

- State House NewsService

After 250 years, Big Sur land finally returned to Native American tribe

As part of a \$4.5 million land deal, the ancestral homeland of the Esselen Tribe has been returned to its people after being landless for a quarter of a millennium.

"We are back after a 250-year absence — because in 1770 our people were taken to the missions," Tom Little Bear Nason, chairman of the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, told the Monterey County (Calif.) Weekly. "Now we are back home. We plan on keeping this land forever."

The 1,200 acres of undeveloped private property near Big Sur in California, known as the Adler Ranch, are being transferred to the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving tribal heritage.

The property, on the Little Sur River, is home to old-growth redwoods and endangered wildlife such as the California condor and red-legged frog, which will be protected as part of the deal.

Working on behalf of the tribe, Portland-based environmental group Western Rivers Conservancy secured a \$4.5 million grant from the California Natural Resources Agency to cover the land purchase.

"We are going to conserve it and pass it on to our children and grandchildren and beyond," Nason told the Santa Cruz Sentinel. "Getting this land back gives privacy to do our ceremonies. It gives us space and the ability to continue our culture without further interruption. This is forever, and in perpetuity, that we can hold on to our culture and our values."

In the 18th century Spanish colonists built a military outpost in Monterey and founded missions in the region where tribal members were captured, baptized and "converted" to Catholicism. By the early 1800s, nearly all of the tribe had been wiped out by disease.

Nason said the now 214-member Esselen tribe will share the land with other tribes originally from the area, including the Ohlone, the Amah Mutsun and the Rumsen people.

"We're the original stewards of the land," Nason told the Sentinel. "Now we're returned."

- SFGate

Judge rules Oklahoma's casino compacts automatically renewed, Cherokee Nation reacts

TULSA, Okla. — The fight over the renewal of Oklahoma's casino compacts seems to be over, with a federal judge ruling July 28 that the agreements automatically renewed for another 15-year term at the beginning of this year.

Gov. Kevin Stitt and several Native American tribes that operate casinos have been embroiled in a legal dispute over the renewal provision of the original deals. Stitt claimed the compacts didn't automatically renew, and he sought to renegotiate for a larger slice of casino revenues.

Tribal leaders previously said they were willing to renegotiate the fees they pay the state but first wanted Stitt to acknowledge their position that the compacts renewed under the original terms.

Here's the part of the original agreement that's been under debate by the state and the tribes:

"This Compact shall have a term which will expire on January 1, 2020, and at that time, if organization licensees or others are authorized to conduct electronic gaming in any form other than pari-mutuel wagering on live horse racing pursuant to any governmental action of the state or court order following the effective date of this Compact, the Compact shall automatically renew for successive additional fifteen-year terms; provided that, within one hundred eighty (180) days of the expiration of this Compact or any renewal thereof, either the tribe or the state, acting through its Governor, may request to renegotiate the terms of subsections A and E of Part 11 of this Compact."

The judge's full decision can be read below. But, in short, he determined that because a state agency issued licenses to two horse racetracks — Remington Park and Will Rogers Downs — last October for this year, the automatic renewal requirements of the tribal casino compacts were satisfied.

The judge told both parties to file written notices by Aug. 7 "regarding what issues remain for decision, if any, under the existing pleadings."

"We'll keep doing this, which is \$1.5 billion to the state, a tremendous opportunity for rural economic development, thousands and thousands of jobs, those opportunities will continue," said Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. when reached for comment.

Chief Hoskin says while the compact remains the same, there has been a loss through all this.

"This was an unnecessary dispute. This was a dispute that cost Oklahoma \$1.5 million, but the cost was steeper than that," he said.

Hoskin says the relationship between the tribes and the state has been damaged. In a statement, the Governor said he was disappointed in the court's ruling, going on to say "It confirms my fears and the fears of many fellow Oklahomans that the state

entered into a poorly negotiated deal and now we must bear the cost of this mistake."

"I don't think Oklahomans agree with him," said Hoskin. "There's no need to be afraid of Indian tribes. Ask county commissioners, ask mayors of small towns how we've been there with economic development."

The Governor also said this decision, along with the Supreme Court ruling on McGirt leaves questions about who pays taxes and who doesn't, and called it a "question of constitutional proportions about what it means to be the state of Oklahoma."

"We can find solutions to these difficult problems. We don't need to tell the world the sky is falling, because it's not," said Chief Hoskin. "The governor just needs to realize he was wrong on this issue, it's okay to be wrong. What we need to do is get together and build a better Oklahoma, we can all do that."

- KTUL

COVID-19 undercuts tribal access to free wireless spectrum

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Tribal entities across the country have a unique opportunity to obtain unassigned spectrum licenses for free to build out broadband connectivity on their lands — but the coronavirus is impeding efforts to submit applications before the federal offer ends on Aug. 3.

Prominent tribal organizations filed an "emergency motion for stay" on July 21 urging the Federal Communications Commission to extend the deadline by six months to February 2021, but so far to no avail, said Irene Flannery, director of AMERIND Critical Infrastructure, which assists tribes in deploying high-speed broadband.

Under the FCC's Rural Tribal Priority Window, which opened on Feb. 3 and closes Aug. 3, tribal applications for licenses to unassigned spectrum in the 2.5 gigahertz band will be granted for free for the first time, greatly boosting the ability of Native American governments and entities to take control of broadband deployment in their own communities, Flannery told the Journal.

"It's the first time the FCC has created a priority tribal window for spectrum licenses," Flannery said. "It's a once-in-a-generation opportunity."

But with tribal territories hit hard by the coronavirus, most Native American governments and entities are struggling to contain the pandemic in their communities, disrupting ability to respond to the FCC offer.

"The priority window sounded great, and then COVID-19 hit almost at the same time," Flannery said. "Pueblo borders and governments closed as health and safety became their priority. We're concerned many tribes will miss this opportunity because they're dealing with COVID."

All unallocated spectrum in the 2.5 GHz band will go to open auction after the priority window closes, meaning commercial entities will likely win those licenses.

"The highest bidder wins at auction, and tribal communities have not historically been successful there," Flannery said. "They get outbid by commercial providers."

The problem is, commercial licensees have done little to build broadband connectivity in tribal areas, where the digital divide is immense. FCC data shows only 45.5% of residents in rural tribal areas have access to purchase broadband, and only 38% of people in those places can actually afford to subscribe, according to Voqal, a nonprofit working to advance connectivity.

"Big providers hold many licenses, but they haven't brought broadband to tribal lands," Flannery said. "If they hold the licenses, they control provision of service."

By obtaining their own licenses, tribal governments and entities can work to build their own broadband networks on their own or in partnership with commercial providers. They can also sublease spectrum to providers who commit to do projects.

- Albuquerque Journal

First Nations in Canada province stay firm on stance to seal off communities from tourists

BRITISH COLUMBIA, Canada — Indigenous First Nations along the British Columbia coast in Canada say their borders will remain closed to tourists and non-residents despite the economic impact, as they work to raise awareness about the threat COVID-19 poses to their communities.

The Nuu-chah-nulth, Heiltsuk Nation and Haida Nation have all closed or restricted access to their territories and reserves.

"Of course, it's negatively impacting. But our directors have said, our chiefs have said, people before economics," said Judith Sayers, president of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, in an interview. "I think everyone is slowly realizing the impact economically, but right now we just really feel that we want to protect the members first."

Members of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, made up of 14 First Nations along the west coast of Vancouver Island, have deployed a variety of tactics to help ensure their borders are kept sealed from non-residents.

Members of the Ahousaht First Nation, who live in the remote area of Flores Island, have deputized citizens to act as peacekeeping officers, Sayers said.

The Ahousaht issued a notice on July 2 that their territory, which covers a large area of land and water north of Tofino, B.C., including provincial parks, will remain closed to tourists and non-residents as there "is still no vaccine, no anti-serum and no

cure for COVID-19."

Others, like the Tla-o-qui-aht in Tofino, had been stopping cars in an effort to convince them to turn around.

The concern, Sayers says, lies in the ability to test and contain any potential COVID-19 outbreak.

"A lot of our communities are remote and testing is not easily available," she said. "If you're in Port Alberni, or Nanaimo, or Victoria, or somewhere [else], you can get testing and get results in 24 hours. It's not the same with our communities."

The closures have resulted in disputes between Indigenous groups and local businesses.

The Haida Nation in Haida Gwaii have turned away non-residents at the ferry terminal, discouraged leisure travel and called on two local fishing lodges to rethink their reopening plans.

"We're such a close-knit community, I think that once we get a case of COVID, I think it'll spread like wildfire," said Duffy Edgars, chief councillor of the Old Massett Village Council in Haida Gwaii.

Edgars said many local fishing lodges are respecting the Haida Nation's state of emergency, but is frustrated by others who want to open up.

"It's disrespectful," he said. "These bigger [lodges] are coming in and just doing whatever they want."

Leaders and representatives from the Nuu-chah-nulth, Heiltsuk and Haida all say they would like to see more co-operation from the provincial government in working with Indigenous communities.

"It's really frustrating," said Marilyn Slett, chief councillor of the Heiltsuk Nation. "We have a limited amount of time here, we think, before that anticipated second or third wave [of infections], so right now is the time for us to be sitting down and having those discussions so going forward we're all working collaboratively together."

- CBC News

Tribes want to keep sovereignty bid on Mainers' minds as it remains stuck in Legislature

Maine tribes are launching an advocacy effort to keep their push for sovereignty on voters' minds as the future of a wide-spanning bill before the out-of-session Legislature looks uncertain.

That bill was introduced last session as a vehicle for sweeping changes to a 1980s agreement between the Penobscot Nation, the Passamaquoddy tribe and Maine. Wabanaki leaders say the agreement reduced them to the status of municipalities in the state. The state has separate, but similar laws governing the Houlton Band of Malisee Indians and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs. The latter tribe never ratified the agreement.

The bill was supported by the Legislature's top two Democrats, racial justice and environmental advocates, but faced heavy resistance from gaming, municipality and textile industry groups. Gov. Janet Mills, who made improving the state-tribal relationship one of her administration's goals after eight years as attorney general, raised concerns about the scope of the bill.

Like the hundreds of other bills the Legislature left on the table when they hastily adjourned in March due to the coronavirus pandemic, the future of the bill is uncertain. It is unclear if the Legislature will reconvene in 2020 and any session could be abbreviated. A bill with as many moving parts as the omnibus sovereignty bill might struggle in such a session.

In June, Maine's four federally recognized tribes founded the Wabanaki Alliance, which hearkens back to the Wabanaki Confederacy that united tribes in present-day Maine and eastern Canada in 1602. They were allies of the colonists during the American Revolution under the Treaty of Watertown, the first U.S. treaty after declaring independence.

The idea behind the Wabanaki Alliance is to keep the tribes' issues on Mainers' minds, with the hope that the bill will not be left for 2021. It plans to do mostly online outreach efforts on the history of the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act and its effects on the tribes.

Maulian Dana, the Penobscot Nation ambassador and president of the alliance, said the current political climate — particularly the concerns around racial disparities raised by the pandemic — makes the timing more important than ever.

"It's a really natural flow to have issues like tribal sovereignty be seen as a public health concern, as having economic ramifications," she said. "It fits into the idea of responding to the pandemic and gives a sense of urgency."

The virus has ravaged indigenous communities around the country, but Maine's tribes have avoided that so far. The Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribes — the two tribes with the biggest populations — closed their borders to outside visitors, and community public health efforts have ensured medical and cleaning supplies reached vulnerable members.

Mills made some strides with the tribes, signing into law legislation that banned Native American mascots from public schools and renamed Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. She signed a critical domestic violence bill giving tribes jurisdiction over those crimes committed on their land into law this session after months of discussion. Mills spokesperson Lindsay Crete said the governor shares in the tribes' desire to continue to improve the state-tribal relationship.

Dana said the alliance hopes to build on that momentum this year, before a

November election that could change the electoral makeup of the State House. Gideon is running to challenge incumbent Susan Collins for a U.S. Senate seat and is terminated. The bill "is most likely to happen with current leadership," Dana said.

Supporters feared the bill being broken into sections because it would make the package more vulnerable to political pressure. But both skeptics and supporters say that may need to occur if any of it is going to survive.

"I would never vote on it as one bill," said Sen. Lisa Keim, R-Dixfield, who sits on the Judiciary Committee and whose district includes the Oxford Casino.

Keim has been wary of the scope of the bill since its introduction and maintained that more outside input on its myriad issues is needed, despite two days of testimony in the 2020 session. That is not possible given the limited nature of legislative hearings at the State House, she said.

Sen. Mike Carpenter, D-Houlton, who co-chairs the Judiciary Committee, agreed, saying Democratic leaders gave lawmakers a "short leash" on leftover legislation. He said a Friday work session on the bill would give the committee the chance to decide what could be salvaged.

But Carpenter, who faces a November challenge for his seat from Assistant House Minority Leader Trey Stewart, R-Presque Isle, in a deeply Republican district, said he doubted the Legislature would change so drastically next session that work could not continue.

"I don't think the Legislature will fall into the hands of people opposed to making changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act," he said.

- Bangor (Maine) Daily News

Osage Nation to build new casinos near Bartlesville, Pawhuska

OKLAHOMA CITY — After years of waiting, the Osage Nation has finally received federal approval to put land into trust that will enable it to build new tribal casinos near Bartlesville and Pawhuska.

Near Bartlesville, the Osage Nation is planning to build a 57,400-square-foot casino and a hotel with 150 rooms and about 11,800 square feet of meeting space, according to a news release issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The casino will be built on 125 acres about 2 miles west of Bartlesville along U.S. 60.

In Pawhuska, 63.1 acres along Oklahoma 99/U.S. 60 were placed into trust for gaming and other purposes.

- The Oklahoman

Crow leaders request federal support for law enforcement, health care

Crow tribal leaders met with Montana U.S. Senator Steve Daines on July 17 to request support for the new tribal police department's operations and novel Coronavirus surge planning.

Senator Daines toured a closed Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) jail in Crow Agency with members of the Crow Executive Branch, Crow Tribal Police, BIA Police and high ranking local judges.

The new Crow Police Department, which was formed June 27, is seeking to reopen the Crow Agency Jail.

Crow Tribal Police Chief Terrill Bracken says the time and expense of transporting detainees to Hardin's Two Rivers Detention Facility is significant and restoration of the jail is critical to the new department's efficacy moving forward.

"From a boots-on-the-ground perspective, our inability to detain has been debilitating and this really ripple effects out into so many directions, even fuel. The amount of money we would save on fuel alone for not having to transport people to further distances. Drain on the officers, drain on employees, things like that," Bracken said.

BIA Lieutenant Clarice Miner ran the facility from 2006 until it closed in 2014 after a flood. She says it's currently inoperable due to extensive water damage, black mold and asbestos. The tribe estimates that repairs will cost half a million dollars and are in the process of trying to obtain the title or lease to the facility from BIA.

During the tour, Associate Criminal Judge Michelle Wilson said arrests on the reservation were down to one or two per week, a drastic drop from about fifteen arrests per week before the pandemic.

Dennis Bear Don't Walk, the chief judge, says the decline in arrests could also be due to a lack of coordination between federal BIA officers and the new police department.

"I don't believe that the crimes aren't still happening, I believe that the crimes are happening. However, because of the lack of cooperation, these people are not being held accountable, not being taken to jail, detained. I feel like it's becoming a huge safety risk for our community and our tribal members," Bear Don't Walk said.

Chairman A.J. Not Afraid and Chief Operating Officer Karl Little Owl also requested Daines' support in following up with the federal Indian Health Service (IHS) agency to allow more funds to local IHS. Public health officials say Big Horn County and the Crow Reservation have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Little Owl says the clinic needs funding to hire more health workers and develop a surge plan if COVID-19 cases continue to rise.

- Montana Public Radio

HARMONY HAS TAKEN SHAPE.



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THE GUITAR HOTEL



HOLLYWOOD, FL



Education



Okeechobee High School bids farewell to class of 2020

BY JENNA KOPEC
Special to The Tribune

Okeechobee High School celebrated the graduation of the class of 2020 in a special ceremony at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center on May 30. It was unclear whether a ceremony would be possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic which caused schools to shut down across the nation and forced many ceremonies to be held online only.

Ginger Jones, the mother of graduate and Tribal member Edward Gaucin, was grateful that the administration found a way to let parents attend the ceremony.

"I'm just really thankful that I'm able to witness this graduation and even though we are in these situations, this is a special day for them," explained Jones. "Considering that two days ago we were only going to be watching it on Facebook, to me, I'm just really happy to be here as a part of the ceremony."

The class was celebrated with a socially distanced ceremony that included family members in the stands. All participants were required to wear masks except when they were on stage to speak or accept their diploma. Graduates and their families in the stands were required to sit six feet apart from one another. The ceremony was both live-streamed on Facebook and filmed by Black Bull Media Films for family members who could not attend the ceremony.

The ceremony was facilitated by Principal Lauren Myers and featured several student speeches focusing on the celebration of their accomplishments, their gratitude for



Kamani Smith gets ready to instruct his classmates from Okeechobee High School's class of 2020 to turn their tassels near the end of the graduation ceremony May 30 at the county's Agri-Civic Center.

their community, and their desire to keep persevering.

Tribal member and former Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School student Kamani Smith led his class in the turning of the tassels to mark the official transition from high school student to graduate. During the

ceremony, Smith emphasized the symbolism of a diploma and reminds students to be thankful for those who support them.

"The diplomas that we receive today represent the fulfillment of the commitment that we made to ourselves and the commitment that our friends, family,

and teachers have made to us," Smith said. "Whatever we have accomplished thus far and whatever success we may find in the near future we owe in great measure to them."

Jenna Brown, another former PECS student, followed Smith with a speech encouraging students to remain hopeful

despite the circumstances the virus may have caused.

"Today we say goodbye to high school, say goodbye to everything that was familiar during the past 18 years, and say goodbye to our childhoods," Brown said. "But today is the start of the rest of our lives"

The ceremony closed with words from class delegate Edwin Reyes who, like many students in the crowd that day, felt a deep connection to his classmates as they move forward during these uncertain times.

"Regardless of what you do, regardless of where life takes you," said Reyes. "Never stop believing in yourself. Never stop dreaming, and never stop being a Brahman."

The Seminole Tribune congratulates the following Seminoles for their graduation from Okeechobee High School:

- Waylynn Bennett
- Brianna Brockman
- Madison Busbin
- Silas Madrigal
- Araya Youngblood
- Keira French
- Edward Gaucin
- Malcom Jones
- Jacee Jumper
- Justina Martinez
- Janessa Nunez
- Ozzy Osceola
- Julia Smith
- Kamani Smith
- Kaleb Thomas
- Dante Thomas
- Mallory Thomas
- Oscar Yates
- Billy Yates
- Morgan Yates



2020 OHS graduate and former Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School student Aubrey Pearce speaks to the class during the graduation ceremony.



Behind the masks are graduates of Okeechobee High School's class of 2020.

Moore Haven graduation celebrates student achievement despite COVID-19

BY JENNA KOPEC
Special to The Tribune

Moore Haven High School in Glades County celebrated the class of 2020 in a private graduation ceremony on June 26 on the school's football field.

The ceremony looked a little different

than "normal" graduation proceedings due to safety concerns related to COVID-19. Students, including some Tribal members from the Brighton Reservation, sat with their parents in groups that were 6 feet apart while the ceremony was live-streamed for additional loved ones to watch from home. Participants were required to wear masks except when on stage to speak or take photos.



Brianna Bowers, above, and Jarrett Bert, below, receive their diplomas during Moore Haven High School's graduation ceremony for the class of 2020 on June 26.



Davin Carrillo receives his diploma during Moore Haven High School's graduation ceremony for the class of 2020 on June 26.



Despite the difficult circumstances the pandemic has caused, Moore Haven Principal Janice Foster encouraged students and their families to put aside their worries and use the evening to celebrate the accomplishment of graduation. The remainder of the ceremony was led with student speeches that reflected on the unique year.

"This has been a long journey with the past few months seemingly being the hardest," student Kerri Hines said in the invocation. "We have had to overcome distance learning, separation from our family and friends, and numerous cancellations of milestones such as prom, celebrations, and open graduation. Nevertheless, we have survived, coming out stronger and more determined than ever."

Like the rest of the country, Glades County has been battling the coronavirus for months. The city of Moore Haven has been hit especially hard by the virus. According to Lake Okeechobee News, 368 of the 383 COVID cases from the rural Glades County

were located in the city. The resulting shut down led to a very different closing chapter for high school students completely different than tradition. This year had no prom, no senior trip, no farewells from teachers on the last day of school.

Of course, the Glades County community did its best to support students during this difficult transition. Salutatorian Kiyah Coco used her speech to show her appreciation for the efforts of many to support students who had to end the year from home due to the quarantine.

"You felt our pain, stepped up, and showed us love in a major way. You celebrated us by planting signs in our yards or donating money toward yard signs that line Highway-27 within Moore Haven City limits," Coco said. "You gifted us with custom automobile magnets, planned a parade to honor us, and started the adopt-a-senior initiative. Your thoughtfulness is a gift we will treasure forever."

Valedictorian Horacio Pereira

encouraged his fellow classmates not to lose hope during the pandemic and to not forget the strength that we may find in one another.

"Although we are in the midst of perilous and particularly uncertain times," Pereira said. "I would like to implore you all to maintain optimism and focus on the precious and meaningful matters of life. Uplift one another, help one another, love one another, and appreciate one another."

The Seminole Tribune congratulates these Seminoles from the class of 2020 on their graduation from Moore Haven Middle-High School:

- Jarrett Bert
- Brianna Bowers
- Davin Carrillo
- Lucy Cypress
- Sheldon Garcia
- Jathan Tommie
- Luzana Venzor

Class of 2020



Kamani Smith
Okeechobee High School
Next: Louisiana State University to major in communications/public relations. Wants to work for the Tribe.



Alena Stockton
The Ahfachkee School
Next: Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers, where she'll play basketball with hopes of moving on to a Division I program. Plans to study sports medicine.



Justina Martinez
Okeechobee High School
Next: Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas. Plans to study tribal law.



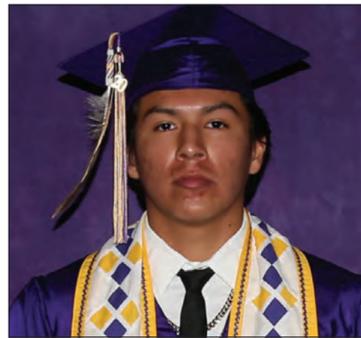
Chasyn Yescas
Fork Union Military Academy (Va.)
Next: Miami Dade College. Will study graphic art design. Wants to be a pro soccer player.



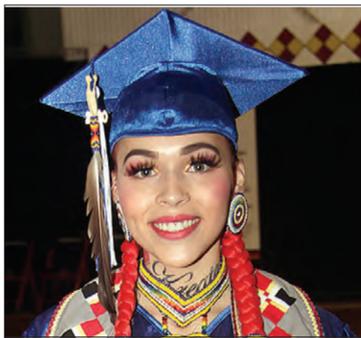
Ricky Garza
Riverside Indian School (Okla.)
Next: Plans to attend one year of prep school before attending college. Would like a career in sports medicine or be a chiropractor.



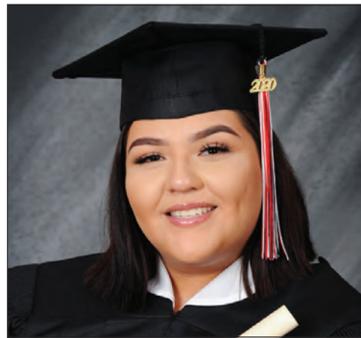
Echo Billie
The Pine School
Next: U.S. Navy with aspirations to become a SEAL.



Silas Madrigal
Okeechobee High School
Next: Considering various college options. Plans to major in marine biology or sports management. Hopes to play basketball or run cross country/track.



Talia Rodriguez
H.D. Perry Education Center
Next: Hollywood Institute of Beauty Careers to earn a full specialist license. Wants to open her own beauty bar business and help increase Native American employment.



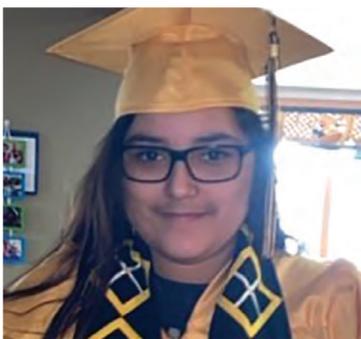
Priscilla Alvarado
The Ahfachkee School
Next: Celebrity School of Beauty in Hialeah to study to be an esthetician for skin and makeup. Would like to own a beauty shop.



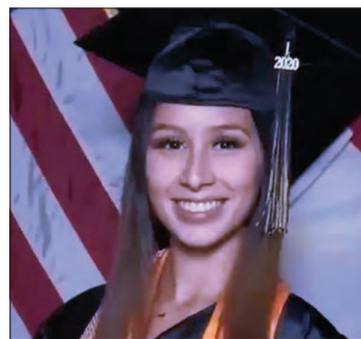
Patsy Veliz
The Ahfachkee School
Next: Grand Canyon University in Arizona to major in pediatrics.



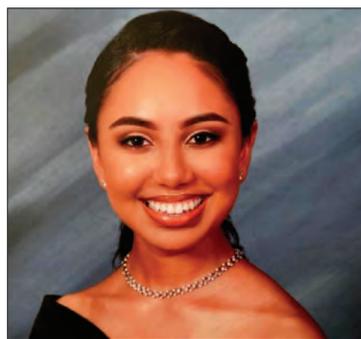
Julia Smith
Okeechobee High School
Next: Indian River State College. Plans to study psychology and perhaps pursue a career in therapy.



Jalycia Billie-Valdez
American Heritage School
Next: Nova Southeastern University in Davie for general studies and perhaps a major in art.



Serena Zepeda
Golden Gate High School
Next: University of Vermont with a major in elementary education and a minor in Spanish studies. Wants to be a teacher.



Kaiya Drake
NSU University School
Next: Nova Southeastern University in Davie for human service administration. Undecided on a career, but wants to help and inspire people.



Tiana Stubbs
American Heritage School
Next: Hillsboro Community College and will play basketball and study sports medicine.



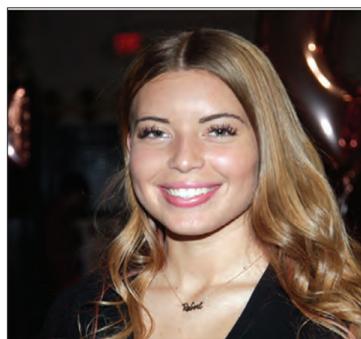
Jarrett Bert
Moore Haven High School
Next: Universal Technical Institute in Orlando. Will start in the Nissan program with plans to work his way to the BMW or Ford Diesel programs.



Brienna Brockman
Okeechobee High School
Next: Dental Assisting Academy of the Palm Beaches. Would like to attend University of Florida and become a dentist.



Katrina Huggins
Know It All Prep
Next: Cosmetology school with hopes to start a business from what she learns.



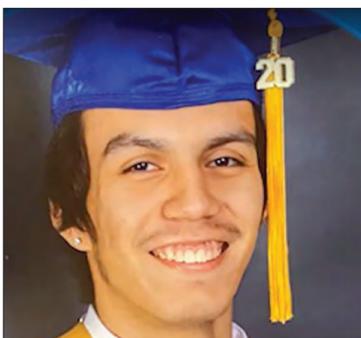
Cachalani Frank
NSU University School
Next: Colorado State University to study health and exercise. Wants a career in sports medicine.



Cedric Martin
American Heritage School
Next: Considering various college options. Wants to own a clothing design company.



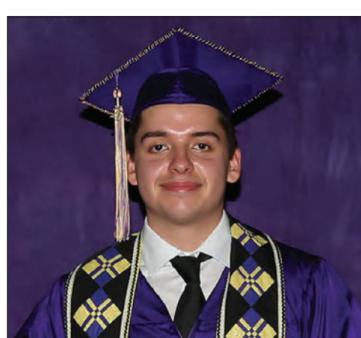
Dominic Osceola-Lugo
Palmetto Ridge High School
Next: Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers. Plans to major in business administration and hopes to work for the Tribe after college.



Chayse Billie
Know It All Prep
Next: Considering various college options. Would like to continue to play basketball in college.



Osianna Crespo
The Sagemont School
Next: Barry University in Miami Shores. Her major will be biology animal science.

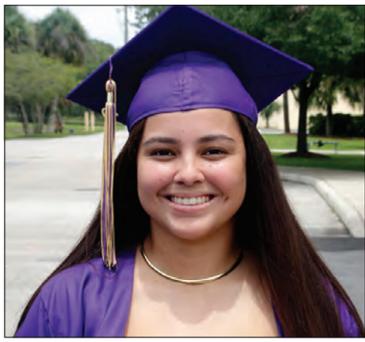


Dante Thomas
Okeechobee High School
Next: Indian River State College. Undecided on major and career.

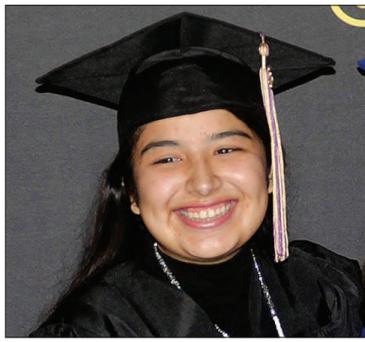


Abigail Tigertail
Calvary Christian School
Next: Florida State University

Class of 2020



Janessa Nunez
Okeechobee High School
Next: Indian River State College. Undecided on major and career.



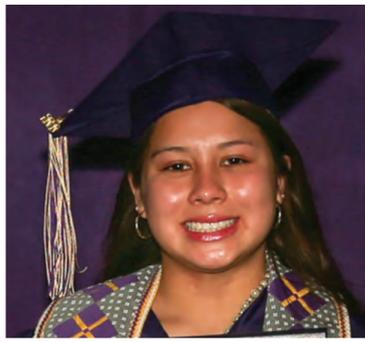
Italia Sisto
Calvary Christian Academy
Next: Johnson & Wales for baking and pastry arts. Undecided on a career.



Krishawn Henry
NSU University School
Next: Florida State University to study business management. Wants to be CEO of Hard Rock International.



Chandler DeMayo
NSU University School
Next: Wells College in New York for museum studies. Plans to pursue a career as a museum curator.



Madison Busbin
Okeechobee High School
Next: Cosmetology school to become a hair/nail technician.



Mallory Thomas
Okeechobee High School
Next: Indian River State College. Undecided on a major, but perhaps would like to be a police officer for the Tribe.



December Stubbs
American Heritage School
Next: University of North Florida in Jacksonville to study exercise science. Plans to have a career in athletic training



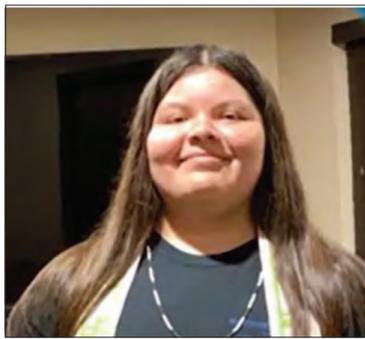
Kaleb Thomas
Okeechobee High School
Next: Clarks Summit University in Pennsylvania, where he'll study Bible and counseling and play baseball. He plans to get a master's degree in pastoral studies and become a pastor.



Destiny Diaz
NSU University School
Next: Southeastern University in Lakeland for TV film and production. Plans to be a film director.



Jessalyn Osceola-Gumbs
NSU University School
Next: Jacksonville University to study business management. Wants to get involved in real estate for a career and perhaps become a Realtor.



Marcie Osceola
Know It All Prep
Next: Kaiser University for general arts. Undecided about a career.



Alycia Cypress
American Heritage School
Next: Syracuse University in New York to study broadcast journalism. Wants to work for ESPN.



Ozzy Osceola
Okeechobee High School
Next: South Florida State College in Avon Park, where he'll major in business marketing and plans to play baseball.



Luzana Venzor
Moore Haven High School
Next: Paul Mitchell School for cosmetology with a focus on hair.



Lance Howard
Know It All Prep
Next: Trade school with a focus toward business.



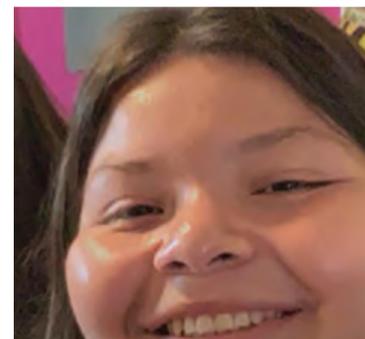
Madelyn Osceola
Riverside Indian School



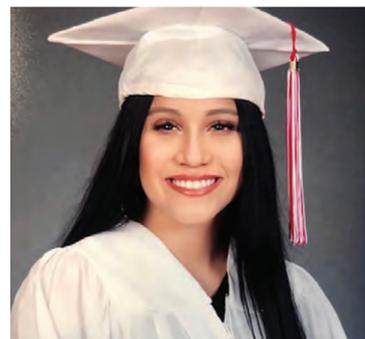
KJ Davis
LaBelle High School
Next: School for marine technician in Key West. Plans to pursue a career in the marine industry.



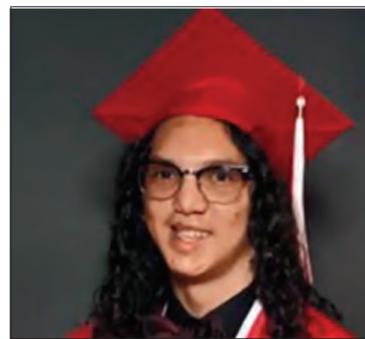
Tyree Jimmie
Know It All Prep
Next: Plans to pursue a business associate degree at Keiser University and would like to opening a video game company.



Rubie Osceola
Know It All Prep School
Next: Kaiser University for general arts. Undecided about a career.



Lauren O'Donnell
LaBelle High School
Next: Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers with plans to major in accounting.



Kegan Orion Sanchez
Immokalee High School



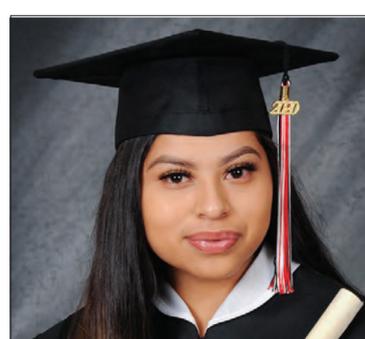
Redheart Billie
The Sagemont School



Toby Johns Jr.
Cherokee High School (N.C.)



Aldrice Cummings
Immokalee High School



Leilani Gopher
The Ahfachkee School

Class of 2020



Davin Carrillo
Moore Haven High School



Richard Billie Jr.
The Ahfachkee School



Kylen Jumper
The Ahfachkee School



Analyse Jimenez
American Heritage School



Edward Gaucin
Okeechobee High School



Cailou Smith
Okeechobee High School



Morgan Yates
Okeechobee High School



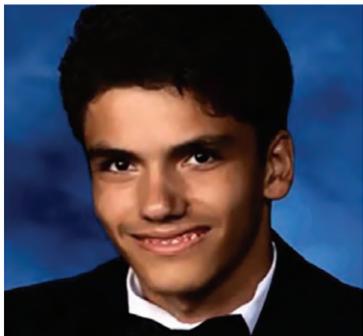
Jathan Tommie
Moore Haven High School



Malcom Jones
Okeechobee High School



Araya Youngblood
Okeechobee High School



Sheldon Garcia
Moore Haven High School



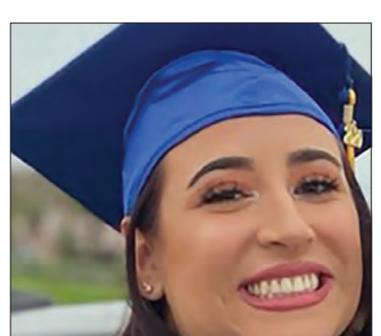
Keira French
Okeechobee High School



Jacee Jumper
Okeechobee High School



Brendan Latchford
NSU University School



Shana Balentine
Clewiston High School



Brianna Bowers
Moore Haven High School



Lucy Cypress
Moore Haven High School

Additional 2020 graduates

(The Tribune did not have photos of these graduates)

Janae Bankston – GED
Waylynn Bennett – Okeechobee High School
Carlee Billie – Clewiston High School
Hunter Billie – Black Mountain Academy
William Cypress – Newsome High School
Geneva Garcia – The Ahfachkee School
Sovann Gonzalez – Vanguard School
Alexis Gore – GED
Ca'Renn Huggins – Miccosukee School

Xiora Osceola – NSU University School
Liberty Robbins – Beacon Alternative
Thoya Robbins – Beacon Alternative
Joseph Sanders – The Devereaux School
Tanner Shore – GED
Taran Shore – Thornton High School
Tash-Sho-Tah-Che Jumper – Clewiston High School
Tyee Thorpe – Vanguard School
Ray Tubby – Riverside Indian School
Billy Yates – Okeechobee High School
Oscar Yates – Okeechobee High School



Teijo Smith
Hollywood Hills High School



Jaielyn Mowatt
South Plantation High School

NAJA awards \$50,000 in total scholarships to five Indigenous journalism students

FROM PRESS RELEASE

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Native American Journalists Association partnered with the Facebook Journalism Project to establish the NAJA Facebook Journalism Project Scholarship in 2018 to support quality journalism that strengthens and connects communities. For the 2020-2021 school year, NAJA will award five scholarships of \$10,000 each to Indigenous students pursuing careers in media. The students are:
 Taylor Bennett-Begaye, Diné, University of Denver in Colorado
 Chad Locklear, Lumbee / Tuscarora, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
 Thomas Manglona, Northern Mariana Islands, Stanford University
 Miranda Stiles, Muscogee (Creek)

Nation, Oklahoma State University
 Zane Gosaduisga Meyer-Thornton, Cherokee Nation, Western Kentucky University
 The 2020 NAJA-Facebook Scholarship recipients were announced via livestream on the NAJA Facebook page hosted by NAJA Education Committee member and Native American Journalism Fellowship mentor Darren Brown (Cochiti Pueblo) on July 10.
 NAJA will award a total of \$250,000 in scholarships through the Facebook Journalism Project. Students that applied but were not selected in 2020 are encouraged to re-apply in the future.
 Scholarships are one way NAJA supports Indigenous journalism at every stage of members' careers. NAJA student members can also apply for the annual Native American Journalism Fellowship,

NBC News Summer Internships and other training opportunities throughout the year.
Taylor Bennett-Begaye
 Taylor is full Diné (Navajo) and her hometown is nestled in the northwest corner of New Mexico where she graduated from Kirtland Central High School in May 2011. She received her bachelor's degree in communication graphic design and minored in sociocultural anthropology at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado in April 2016. Prior to that, she graduated from Mesa Community College in Mesa, Arizona, with her associate degree in digital arts and the general studies program in May 2013. Since obtaining her degrees, she has worked with local elementary schools as a substitute teacher and coach for girl's high school soccer. Starting in Fall 2020, she will

attend the University of Denver in Colorado to obtain her Master of Arts in media and public communication.
Chad Locklear
 Chad is enrolled in the Lumbee tribe and also has Tuscarora ancestry. He is a writer, graphic designer and marketing specialist. He is the director of marketing for the Givens Performing Arts Center at UNC Pembroke. Over the last two years, he has worked as a co-founder of the Lumbee Film Festival. In 2015, Chad organized the 4th River People Music Festival, which highlighted local and national American Indian musicians. He also performed at numerous venues as a member of the traditional Native group, the Deer Clan Singers. His previous work was at UNC Wilmington and the Fayetteville Observer. Chad double majored in mass

communication and art studies at North Carolina State University. He is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in digital communications at UNC-Chapel Hill's Hussman School of Journalism & Media.
Thomas Manglona
 Thomas is a journalist from Rota in the Northern Mariana Islands with experience in regional and local newsrooms and a body of work comprised of print, radio, television, and digital mediums. He is a recent University of California-Berkeley alumni and incoming journalism graduate student at Stanford University. He is passionate about telling stories from and for Oceania.

Sports



Iroquois Nationals lacrosse fights for right to be at 2022 World Games in Birmingham

BY JOHN CHIDLEY-HILL
Canadian Press

The Iroquois Nationals are, once again, fighting to be included in international competition for the sport they invented.

More than 25,000 people have signed a petition demanding that the Iroquois Nationals be permitted to play in the 2022 World Games in Birmingham, Ala., after the team learned it had not been invited to the multisport competition as the sport of lacrosse tries to be included in larger events like the Olympics.

"We represent Indigenous communities around the world to some respect. Not just Haudenosaunee, not just First Nations," said Leo Nolan, the executive director of the Iroquois Nationals. "Indigenous people around the world see this as a banner and we carry that responsibility."

"We are serious about making sure that banner is carried in a respectful, diplomatic way."

World Lacrosse is pushing to be included in the Olympics and, to help build its case, has started participating in the World Games, a smaller multisport event.

Women's lacrosse's first appearance at the World Games was in Wroclaw, Poland, in 2017. Men's lacrosse will be contested at the upcoming Games in Birmingham that were originally scheduled for 2021 but were delayed a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic postponing the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The Haudenosaunee — a group that includes the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora First Nations — are also known as the Iroquois or the Six Nations and are primarily located in New York, Ontario and Quebec.

The Haudenosaunee invented lacrosse centuries before Europeans arrived in North America and in recognition of that contribution they participate in international lacrosse as an independent team, the Iroquois Nationals.

Their men's field team is ranked third in the world and their indoor team is second. The World Games' tournament is an eight-team pool, but the Iroquois Nationals are not invited.

"We're being very diplomatic about it, but at the same time we have to have a very aggressive voice," said Nolan.

Aidan Fearn, a player on the Iroquois Nationals, started an online petition to demand the team's inclusion in the World Games. Failing that, he called on the lacrosse teams of other countries to boycott the event.

World Lacrosse held a conference in Peterborough, Ont., in 2019 which representatives of the Iroquois Nationals attended. Nolan said that at that event no mention was made to his delegation about organizing or playing in the World Games in Birmingham.

Rex Lyons, another member of the Iroquois Nationals' organizing committee, said he learned about his organization's exclusion from the World Games when a convenor from another national lacrosse organization forwarded him an email from World Lacrosse inviting the rival country to the Games.

"That was very sleight of hand, very deliberate," said Lyons. "Things are starting to come to light now. As you can see, there's a huge groundswell of support addressing this."

World Lacrosse issued a statement on Wednesday explaining that it recognizes and appreciates the contributions of the Haudenosaunee people to the sport but that the decision is out of its control.

"For events conducted outside the auspices of World Lacrosse, such as international, multisport events, World Lacrosse does not determine the eligibility criteria," read the statement. "That criteria is established by the governing body for those events — and, it is not uncommon for the eligibility criteria to be different."

The World Games have not yet issued a statement on the Iroquois Nationals being excluded.

The statement from World Lacrosse points to Great Britain as an example. Although England, Scotland and Wales all compete independently at World Lacrosse events, they typically compete as a combined Team GB at international, multisport events and will again at The World Games in 2022.

However, Hong Kong and Taiwan will both compete at the World Games independently of China. Nolan also points out that Puerto Rico, an unincorporated territory whose citizens use American passports, will also be competing at the World Games as a separate nation.

"When you see the medals that are won and Puerto Rico wins a couple they're recognized as Puerto Rico, not as the United States," said Nolan. "That's the moral dilemma before a lot of the powers that be that are trying to make these decisions without our input, without consultation."

The complex legal status of the Haudenosaunee has prevented them from participating in lacrosse events before.

Haudenosaunee passports are issued by tribal officials, with many people using them as their travel documentation as a show of pride in their First Nations heritage and to exert their own sovereignty. Travelling on a Haudenosaunee passport is especially common among players on the Iroquois Nationals' teams.

"We've always had issues with our travel documents and it's always been very challenging because we have territories in Canada and the U.S.," said Lyons. "Our problems have always been from Canada and the U.S., getting home. Where we're travelling to has always been welcoming."

"But since we don't have a barcode we have to get a visa and go down that road."

In 2010, although the U.S. cleared the Iroquois Nationals for travel on a one-time waiver at the request of then Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, the British government still refused the Iroquois Nationals entry for the World Field Lacrosse Championships in Manchester, England.

However, the passports have never stopped the Iroquois Nationals from being invited to an event. Crossing international borders has, until this point, been the issue for the team. The Iroquois Nationals had no issues competing in Denver in 2014 at the next World Field Lacrosse Championships after being unable to compete in Manchester.

As the 2022 World Games are in the continental United States, the Iroquois Nationals are surprised at their exclusion.

"I think that would be a really good question to ask World Lacrosse, ask them what is the problem here?" said Lyons.

Support for the Iroquois Nationals has poured in from the larger lacrosse community.

U.S. Lacrosse issued a statement on July 24 offering to assist in helping the Iroquois Nationals be included in the World Games. A statement from Lacrosse Canada was expected on July 27.

Nick Sakiewicz, the commissioner of the National Lacrosse League, has been outspoken in his support of the Iroquois Nationals.

"We have and will continue to dedicate time, effort and resources toward advancing the dialogue and finding a solution to create common ground," said Sakiewicz in one of several tweets where he advocated for the inclusion of the Iroquois Nationals at the World Games.

Curtis Dickson, a three-time world champion with Canada who plays for the NLL's Calgary Roughnecks, quote-tweeted the official statement from the Iroquois Nationals with the comment "Always in for a good old fashioned boycott."

This report by The Canadian Press was first published July 26, 2020.



Players and staff from the Iroquois Nationals lacrosse team in 2015.

Iroquois Nationals



Washington NFL

After facing decades of criticism and protests, the Washington Redskins have decided to change their nickname.

Washington Redskins declare name change: Is one enough?

BY ALCYIA CYPRESS
Special to the Tribune

For decades, the conversation of eradicating anti-Indigenous mascots in the sports world has reaped only a few benefits. In 2019, Maine banned public schools and universities from using Native American mascots, which was a major accomplishment and gave many tribes hope. But, even though Maine took this step forward, more than 2,000 Native mascots still exist, many of them representing negative stereotypes.

But on July 13, one of the most controversial organizations in the NFL, the Washington Redskins, finally agreed to change their infamous name.

Before 1933, the Redskins were named the Boston Braves. The original owner of the NFL team, George Preston Marshall, chose the Redskins slur as the team's new name in order to avoid confusion with the one of the city's pro baseball teams. A few years later, the team relocated to Washington D.C. and called themselves the Washington Redskins.

But for many years, the organization insisted the Redskins name was to "honor" a team coach, William Dietz, who claimed he was Sioux. It turns out that he may not have been Native American at all.

The Redskins held on to this allegation for many years before Native American leaders asked the team to change their name way back in 1972.

Fast forward to 2020. Since the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd, battles against injustices have sprouted up across the country. The national movement started as a way to bring light to the ill treatment Black Americans face daily, but it opened doors for BIPOC (Black and Indigenous People of Color) to speak on the many oppressive acts they've faced throughout history.

With the movement growing and many activists calling out the Redskins on their derogatory name, the team felt the pressure to finally change it.

This decision is considered a major win for Natives across the country. The name refers to the scalping of Native Americans,

so many citizens see this as a breakthrough to teach Native history and potentially change the other discriminatory team names across the nation.

Many advocates are suggesting if professional and school sports teams would rather face pushback and keep their names, they should at least have students and players attend mandatory classes on Native history. Classes like these could potentially lead students and teams to have a greater understanding of the rampant cultural appropriation seen at sporting events and in society.

Activists across the country hope that with the Washington Redskins' name change, others will follow suit and realize the dangers of stereotypical mascots and possible appropriation.

Alycia Cypress is a recent graduate of American Heritage School in Plantation. She is entering her first year at Syracuse University and will study broadcast journalism.



NFL Hall of Fame

Requests to change Washington's nickname date all the way back to the early 1970s.

NHL player honors Indigenous Peoples

FROM COMBINED REPORTS

An Edmonton Oilers jersey emblazoned in Cree with Ethan Bear's last name has sold out after the defenseman wore it during a game July 28.

Bear, who was raised in the Ochapowace Cree Nation, wore the jersey with Cree syllabics to honour his heritage while playing an exhibition game against the Calgary Flames.

"It's very honourable to the players that played before me and then to the young Indigenous kids who want to play in the NHL," said Bear after the game. "It's very honourable for me. I wore it with pride tonight. It was very awesome."

The jersey was made available to the public through the Pro-Am Sports store. Jack Cookson, owner of the local hobby store, said the jerseys have been selling faster than they can be printed. They are now only available through pre-order.

"Last night obviously makes it more official. Before it was something cool on a jersey, but now it's been on the ice," said Cookson. "We've had orders from Europe and Asia, all over North America."

Grand Chief Wilton Littlechild praised the young blueliner, the Oilers and the NHL for the historic gesture.

"As the International Chief for Treaties 6, 7 and 8, and a member of Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, I cannot express my gratitude enough to the Edmonton Oilers and the National Hockey League for this most positive act of Reconciliation," Chief Littlechild said.

"The Oilers continue to lead the way with the power of sport to build good relations among our Peoples, Tribes and



Edmonton Oilers

Edmonton Oilers defenseman Ethan Bear, one of only a few Indigenous players in the NHL, wore a jersey with his name spelled in Cree during a game July 28.

Nations. Coming from Maskwacis (Bear Hills), in our culture, we have a naming ceremony on which we rely for self-identity and positive self-esteem. It took us many years at the United Nations to secure the right to use our writing system Cree syllabics and to use our language for our own names for communities, places and persons.

"The spirit name in Cree for Maskwa is also one of our sacred teachings of courage

and that is what the bear represents. Ethan brings all of us great pride with his strength and natural ability to overcome challenges. This is significant and people everywhere will be reminded when they see the syllabics on Ethan's jersey to have courage, be confident and be brave."

Reports from the Edmonton Journal and NHL.com are included in this article.

Cornell professor earns Emmy nomination for film about Kiowa poet

FROM CORNELL CHRONICLE

ITHACA, N.Y. — Jeffrey Palmer, assistant professor of performing and media arts in Cornell University's College of Arts and Sciences, has been nominated for an Emmy award for his film, "N. Scott Momaday: Words From a Bear," as a part of PBS' "American Masters" series.

The PBS show was nominated July 28 for outstanding documentary or nonfiction series. The awards are presented by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences; winners will be announced Sept. 20 in a broadcast on ABC.

Palmer's first feature film, "N. Scott Momaday: Words From a Bear" explores the life and creative works of Momaday, a member of the Kiowa tribe and Native America's most celebrated author of poetry and prose, who won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1969. The film also was selected for the 2019 Sundance Film Festival.

"I am so thrilled to be a part of 'American Masters' Emmy-nominated season," Palmer said.

The film's release was celebrated on campus with an Arts Unplugged event in October 2019, which featured a film screening as well as talks by Palmer and his father, Gus Palmer, professor emeritus at the University of Oklahoma and one of the film's narrators.

Palmer, a Kiowa, centers his films on land, the creation of place, the diversity of people, the language, the music and the



The team behind "Words From a Bear" — back row, from left: Michael Kantor, executive producer; Jill Momaday; Shirley Sneve, executive producer; Gus Palmer Jr.; Jeffrey Palmer, director. Front row: N. Scott Momaday. The film is part of PBS' "American Masters" series, which has been nominated for an Emmy.

spiritual world. The "American Masters" series, including Palmer's film, can be streamed from the PBS website.

UNITY's first virtual conference inspires Native youth from across the country

FROM PRESS RELEASE

MESA, Ariz. — Native American youth from urban and rural communities across the nation gathered for United National Indian Tribal Youth's (UNITY) first-ever virtual national conference. Through three online gatherings held June 25, July 9, and July 23, Native youth and tribal leaders came together for cultural sharing, education, awards, music, and celebration relating to the conference theme "Healing Starts Here." For 44 years, UNITY has offered essential support to Native American and Alaska Native youth, ages 14-24, through various programming opportunities, instilling a foundation for youth leaders and advocates to activate and build upon being positive change agents in their communities.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges to our communities, so our theme of 'Healing Starts Here' was particularly meaningful for this year's conference," said Mary Kim Titla, UNITY Executive Director. "While we had hoped to meet in person, the virtual conference ended up being a wonderful alternative. We learned so much from this experience, and were able to incorporate some of our important traditions while creating new memories that will make a lasting impact."

More than 1,100 registrants participated in the UNITY Virtual Conferences, representing 228 tribal and indigenous communities from across 41 states and Canada. UNITY youth favorites like Master of Ceremonies Chance Rush, DJ Marcus Guinn (aka emcee one), UNITY Drum and UNITY Fire returned for the virtual conference, and attendees heard from many prestigious presenters. Speakers included the country's first two Native American congresswomen, Deb Haaland of New Mexico and Sharice Davids of Kansas; award-winning artists, actors and singers like Taboo, Takana Means, Jewel, Bunky

Echo-Hawk, Radmilla Cody, and Kyle Bell, entrepreneur, and author, Alyssa London; and Native youth leaders like Anthony Tamez-Pochel, Rory Wheeler, Lexie James, and Cheyenne Kippenberger, of the Seminole Tribe.

Attendees were able to participate in online workshops, a college and career expo, and live discussions on timely subjects like "Black Lives Matter – How it Resonates with Native Americans," moderated by Juanita Toledo. Through the Cultural Exchange and a "Music is My Medicine" virtual concert, which featured Native youth instrumentalists and vocalists, Native youth participants were able to share their talents.

Also, on July 16, a special session was held where Native youth leaders from UNITY participated in a congressional forum led by Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), chair of the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States. The subject of the hearing is Native Youth Perspectives on Mental Health and Healing. The youth leaders discussed the mental health impacts facing Native youth in the United States, education and safety, and ideas on how policy can reduce trauma and promote healing.

UNITY's key leadership training team included Robert Johnston, Chance Rush, Juanita Toledo, Lovina Louie, and emcee one/Marcus Guinn.

During the conference, several awards were presented, including winners of the business plan competition, sponsored by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) and the American Indigenous Business Leaders (AIBL). The winners were:

- **1st Place:** Montana State University Chapter of AIBL (Turtle Mountain Tales)
- **2nd Place:** Osni Ponca Youth Council of Nebraska (Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives 5K)
- **3rd Place:** University of Alaska Fairbanks Native Alaskan Business Leaders (ENA Southwest Contracting)

Also, UNITY's Council of Trustees presented the following awards:

Golda Cook \$1,000 Memorial Scholarships presented in partnership with the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC):

Greyson Palmer (Cherokee Nation)
Rebecca Whitney (Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma)

UNITY Youth Council of the Year:
Klamath Tribes Youth Council

J.R. Cook Youth Advisor of the Year:
Carlene Bullock, Advisor, Alabama-Coushatta Inner Voice Youth Council

Eddie Wadda Alumni of the Year:
Harlan McKosato (Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma), awarded posthumously

Sponsors included the Seminole Tribe of Florida, The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, with major support from Bank of America, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Gila River Broadcasting Corp., Arizona State University's Office of American Indian Initiatives and Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Common Counsel Foundation, The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and others.

NAJA From page 4B

Miranda Stiles is Muscogee (Creek) and a senior at Oklahoma State University, majoring in multimedia journalism and strategic communication with a minor in business marketing. She comes from the small town of Paden, Oklahoma. She is involved with O' State TV, the Association for Women in Sports Media, and the

Daily O'. Last summer, she had the opportunity to intern with Tyler Media and News on 6 in Oklahoma. She also completed the Native American Journalism Fellowship last fall through the Native American Journalists Association. When she's not at school, she loves hanging out with family, traveling and meeting new people.

Zane Gosaduisga Meyer-Thornton

Zane (Cherokee Nation) is a visual journalist currently living in Bowling Green, Kentucky. There,

he attends Western Kentucky University and is pursuing a degree in photojournalism with a minor in sociology, which he will complete by May 2022. He believes visuals are the most effective and immediate way to transfer and receive messages, and wants to use this power to document the world's joys, sorrows, and complex issues. He knows none of what he does would be possible without individuals giving him a glimpse into their reality. For that, he promises to always show them accurately depicted with pure authenticity.



From left, recipients of the Native American Journalists Association scholarships include Taylor Bennett-Begaye (Dine), University of Denver; Chad Locklear (Lumbee/Tuscarora), University of North Carolina; and Miranda Stiles, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Oklahoma State University. They are pursuing careers in media.

Big Cypress National Preserve seeks help finding new problem invasive plant

FROM PRESS RELEASE

OCHOPEE — In June 2020 along Upper Wagonwheel Road in Big Cypress National Preserve (BICY) a new and unwelcome invasive plant, Shoebuttan Ardisia was found. Shoebuttan Ardisia is especially bad due to its ability to invade and replace native plants in environments like hammocks and wetlands. Currently, BICY is treating and managing three other Ardisia sites within the Preserve. The observation along Upper Wagonwheel Road represents the presence of a new infestation site.

If you recreate in the areas around the intersection of Upper Wagonwheel and Turner River Roads, BICY Vegetation Management is asking that you be on the lookout for this invasive plant.

Shoebuttan Ardisia is an evergreen shrub or small tree that can be identified by its 1) mauve-tinged flowers, 2) reddish-pink new foliage, and 3) flower and reddish-

black fruit clusters hanging from leaf axils along the branches, rather than at the ends of branches.

If you see Shoebuttan Ardisia at the Wagonwheel site, report it.

Staff will treat the area and monitor for individuals that resprout. The area will be retreated as necessary. The accompanying weed alert document released by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has good information about this plant's potential for invasion, pictures and identifying characteristics.

If you recreate in Big Cypress National Preserve, familiarize yourself with the weed alert. If you spot Shoebuttan Ardisia or think you might have seen it, contact Billy Snyder at william.snyder@nps.gov. In your e-mail, please include photos and the site's geographic location so we can visit the site and treat the infestation. For more information go to www.nps.gov/BICY.

Burmese pythons to be radio-tracked in Big Cypress National Preserve and elsewhere in South Florida

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Conservancy of Southwest Florida announced in July that they have teamed up to radio-track Burmese pythons in Big Cypress National Preserve, Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge and other areas of Southwest Florida. This new effort marks the first time pythons are being tracked in so many different habitats to better understand python biology across the region and ultimately find ways to more effectively control this invasive species.

Invasive Burmese pythons are established throughout South Florida, but they are extremely secretive and difficult to find, even though they can reach 18 feet in length. Individual agencies and organizations have used radiotelemetry since 2006 to locate, remove, and study Burmese pythons, but those efforts have typically been intermittent and local. The year-round data acquired through these new unified efforts will help land and resource managers improve python management.

"Burmese pythons have established themselves as an apex predator throughout the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, and they literally are eating their way through native wildlife," said Rob Moher, president and CEO of the Conservancy of Southwest

Florida. "We have to stop their population growth and protect native animals before it's too late, but I'm encouraged that our research team and partners have identified a viable way to reduce the number of adult Burmese pythons in critical areas."

The Burmese python is now estimated to have a breeding population in Florida in the tens of thousands. These fast-breeding and long-lived constrictor snakes are highly adaptable to new environments and have already done tremendous ecological damage in the state of Florida where they consume a wide variety of prey, including mammals, amphibians, lizards and threatened and endangered bird species. In one study, scientists collected more than 300 Burmese pythons in Everglades National Park and found that birds, from the five-inch-long House Wren to the four-foot-long Great Blue Heron, accounted for 25 percent of the python's diet in the Everglades.

Department of the Interior researchers, with the help of many partners, implant pythons with radio transmitters and then track them to understand python movements, breeding behaviors, and many other characteristics. Adult male "scout" pythons are especially useful, as tracking males during the winter breeding season can lead biologists to breeding aggregations consisting of multiple males and a single large female that would otherwise be impossible to find.



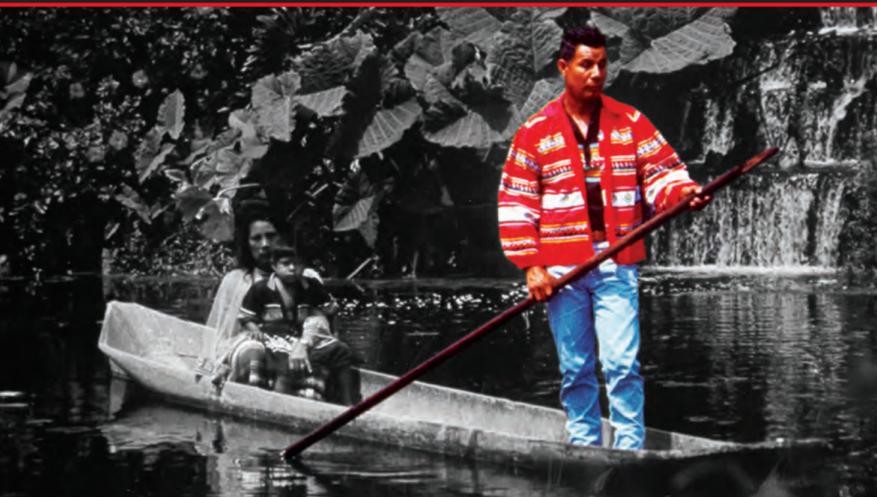
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