Precautions for Tribe, Indian Country continue in battle against COVID-19

STAFF REPORT

Although the coronavirus pandemic has taken a toll throughout Indian Country, the Seminole Tribe has been diligent in its efforts to protect its communities on every reservation.

Tribal Council’s March 16 declaration of an emergency closed Tribal offices and businesses until further notice, but the Public Safety Department – which includes the Tribal Police Department, Emergency Management – has been working meticulously to keep Tribal members and their loved ones safe.

SPD officials have been reinforcing the importance of social-distancing guidelines to Tribal members on each reservation. The guidelines are also posted on the reservations’ electronic message boards.

Police and fire personnel self-monitor twice daily and wear personal protective equipment (PPE) for every response through April 18. SPD officers have been reinforcing the importance of social-distance guidelines.

As of April 20, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Billie Swamp Safari and the Swamp Water Café in Big Cypress remain closed. Sadie’s café is open for pick-up orders only and its general store continues to restrict the number of customers inside at one time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shut down school campuses, but not education.

The learning process for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year continues from a distance in schools – including Pompano Beach Elementary School in Brightwater and the Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress – have settled into online coursework.

On April 13, Gov. Ron DeSantis announced all public schools in the state would remain closed for the rest of the academic year and continue operating online. PSCS students are supplied safely at home and adjusting to the school’s virtual instruction, which began March 16.

The Florida Department of Education prepared for the possibility of closing PSCS on March 13. The school was scheduled for March 16 but was extended until March 31. During that time, teachers created lesson plans for their classes using the distance learning plan developed by Downing. At the same time, computers were distributed to students who needed them.

According to Downing, things are going well.

“I couldn’t be happier and more proud to be working with a community of people who care. We care, and they are phenomenal,” Downing said. “I’ve been an educator, and I have seen first-hand the importance of our work as educators. There is no profession more noble than that of an educator, and I have seen first-hand the character of the people I work with. I’ve always said that our character is defined by the manner in which we conduct ourselves when faced with challenges and adversity.”

Downing wrote in an email to The Tribune.

Hard Rock, Seminole Gaming provide community support during pandemic

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on all aspects of life. From food deliveries, free meals and other charitable outreach, Hard Rock across the country and Seminole Gaming are supporting those on the front lines, including health care workers, firefighters, paramedics and police officers, as well as community organizations.

Here are some examples of how Hard Rock and Seminole Gaming have been helping communities:

• Hard Rock Cafe in Orlando shared its supply during these difficult times by supplying complimentary lunch for health care workers at AdventHealth Orlando.
• …we jumped at the chance to help XL 106.7’s (radio host) Johnny Magic when he asked if we could cook and serve hot meals for health care workers on the frontlines, Hard Rock Cafe posted on its Facebook page April 3.”
• We’d love to have the opportunity to serve 3,000 to-go meals at 25 locations daily during the COVID-19 crisis. The Hard Rock Tampa wrote on Facebook.
• We care. We share. We are proud to support The Pantry of Broward with a delivery of food and beverage items to support the homeless and those in need. Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood posted on Facebook.
• Thanks to Maryjane’s restaurant at Hard Rock Hotel San Diego, two meals were provided to first responders in San Diego on April 6.
• Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee donates food to the Community Cooperative in Southwest Florida.

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

See COVID-19 on page 5A

See SCHOOLS on page 28

See SUPPORT on page 4A

Seminole Casino Hotel/Facebook

COMMUNITY

Features

The Seminole Tribune
Voice of the Unconquered

April 16, 2020

www.seminoletribune.org • Free

Volume XLIX • Number 4

INSIDE:

Editorial......................2A

Health.............................9A

Education....................1B

Sports.......................48

See COVID-19 on page 5A

See SCHOOLS on page 28

See SUPPORT on page 4A

Visit the Tribune’s website for news throughout the month at seminoletribune.org
The world is reeling from an unprecedented global health crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused over 200,000 deaths and over 3 million infections worldwide.

The Indian Country's pandemic recovery plan

According to the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, tribal governments generate extensive gaming and non-gaming economic impacts per capita for their reservations with over $100 billion in output (2018 dollars). Their $37 billion industry (2020 dollars), collectively they produce 1.1 million jobs, paying out more than $35 billion in wages. Of that amount, 30% of tribal governments pay over $20 billion in taxes and direct payments to federal, state, and local governments through revenue sharing agreements.

Tribal gaming allowed tribes to return revenues to their communities through essential government services. These include resources eligible to be used at a variety of levels to provide health care, education, housing, public safety, and youth activities (a key goal of Tribal Renewal’s Appalachia Sustainable Community Agreements). A 1% rent on the Kaseliefuku tribal revenue to make significant payments to Native communities, to fund their support of essential health care, education, housing, and public safety programs. This rent is not trivial, and while Native communities may pay some costs, it is still significant.

To forgo additional funding and revenue is not small, and for the short-term future, this amount cannot be small. While gaming has boosted reservation economies, it has had a tremendous revenue growth in the past 30 years and currently is a $37 billion industry.

The creation of this crisis is the opportunity to re-examine the role and purpose of tribal governments. Those that have tested the resilience of even the most well-organized administration will need to be adjusted in the future.

Native American tribes are not just communities, but also are battling even more difficult issues. For example, wherever possible tribes have stepped up to protect their communities by closing casinos and other non-essential businesses and by maintaining neutrality at hotels and convenience stores. For tribal leaders, though, combating the virus came at a serious cost. Tribal governments are both the primary source of essential services to tribal citizens and major employers of thousands of people.

Closing casinos not only shuts down revenue, but it also impacts the social fabric of Native families, the shock will make them want to avoid financial situations of many Native communities. Moreover, given the slow forecasts for the industry, we will likely see more economic and social damage to our already vulnerable communities.

The creation of this crisis is the opportunity to re-examine the role and purpose of tribal governments. Those that have tested the resilience of even the most well-organized administration will need to be adjusted in the future.

Third, tribes must create an environment conducive to increasing the productivity of their communities. Moreover, given the significant costs of the pipeline project, they may be able to collaborate and ensure that these costs are not small. However, even if the tribes are able to collaborate, they may not be able to collaborate to ensure that the pipeline is safe and secure, tribes should ensure equality of development, and the project is designed to capture resources and promote prosperity.

Fourth, Indian tribes are way ahead of their federal counterparts in addressing the pandemic. In the future, tribes will need to be sufficiently prepared to address the implications of the pipeline project.

In contrast, federal agencies and philanthropic organizations have been slow to respond and have not been able to assist tribal communities. For example, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's experts. In other words, risks raised by the tribe could be mitigated through the USACE claims they are unscientifically based.

It is worth noting that these four factors — leak-detection system, operator safety record, winter conditions and worst-case discharges — are not small issues. For instance, as we move towards a more comprehensive pipeline system, the pipeline operators should be able to take the same steps to mitigate the impacts of the pipeline project.

For example, the pipeline operators should be able to take the same steps to mitigate the impacts of the pipeline project. In other words, risks raised by the tribe could be mitigated through the USACE claims they are unscientifically based.

It is worth noting that these four factors — leak-detection system, operator safety record, winter conditions and worst-case discharges — are not small issues. For instance, as we move towards a more comprehensive pipeline system, the pipeline operators should be able to take the same steps to mitigate the impacts of the pipeline project. In other words, risks raised by the tribe could be mitigated through the USACE claims they are unscientifically based.

It is worth noting that these four factors — leak-detection system, operator safety record, winter conditions and worst-case discharges — are not small issues. For instance, as we move towards a more comprehensive pipeline system, the pipeline operators should be able to take the same steps to mitigate the impacts of the pipeline project. In other words, risks raised by the tribe could be mitigated through the USACE claims they are unscientifically based.

It is worth noting that these four factors — leak-detection system, operator safety record, winter conditions and worst-case discharges — are not small issues. For instance, as we move towards a more comprehensive pipeline system, the pipeline operators should be able to take the same steps to mitigate the impacts of the pipeline project. In other words, risks raised by the tribe could be mitigated through the USACE claims they are unscientifically based.

It is worth noting that these four factors — leak-detection system, operator safety record, winter conditions and worst-case discharges — are not small issues. For instance, as we move towards a more comprehensive pipeline system, the pipeline operators should be able to take the same steps to mitigate the impacts of the pipeline project. In other words, risks raised by the tribe could be mitigated through the USACE claims they are unscientifically based.

It is worth noting that these four factors — leak-detection system, operator safety record, winter conditions and worst-case discharges — are not small issues. For instance, as we move towards a more comprehensive pipeline system, the pipeline operators should be able to take the same steps to mitigate the impacts of the pipeline project. In other words, risks raised by the tribe could be mitigated through the USACE claims they are unscientifically based.

It is worth noting that these four factors — leak-detection system, operator safety record, winter conditions and worst-case discharges — are not small issues. For instance, as we move towards a more comprehensive pipeline system, the pipeline operators should be able to take the same steps to mitigate the impacts of the pipeline project. In other words, risks raised by the tribe could be mitigated through the USACE claims they are unscientifically based.
Churches reach beyond the pews to connect with members

BY AARON TOMMIE
STOP Executive Management Trainee

The advent of the coronavirus has caused billions of people in the world to adjust their lives to what has become a new normal. Governments, schools and businesses have been drastically affected and have evolved with social distancing rules.

Since stay-at-home orders began tens of millions of Americans have filed for unemployment benefits. Schools have transitioned to online learning. Churches have had to adapt, too. Most places of worship have been forced to suspend services and activities as a precaution against the virus.

Big Cypress First Baptist Church Pastor Arlen Payne has been using Facebook and YouTube to broadcast services since mid-to-late March. Many churches, including some whose congregations include Seminoles, are reaching their members by streaming their services on Facebook or YouTube.

“Everyone is just kind of taking it one day at a time,” said Big Cypress First Baptist Church Pastor Salaw Hummingbird.

For the resurrection service on Easter morning April 12, Pastor Hummingbird led an outdoor sunrise gathering from the banks of a canal on the Big Cypress Reservation. Many in attendance wore masks and either stayed in their vehicles or stood next to them along a dirt road. The service was shared on the church’s Facebook page and drew hundreds of views.

In his sermon, Pastor Hummingbird provided assurance.

“Even in our moments of darkness, even in the moments of our life that we feel that there is no hope or we feel like we’re up against a situation that we can’t prevail against, but we’ve got to realize that God has never left anyone of us. He knows us in this very moment where we’re at, about this darkest moment that we’re in right now. He hasn’t left about us,” he said, adding that “God will rescue us from this tragedy that we are in.

The service included music from Jonah Cyprian on guitar along the canal banks. He sang “Jesus Paid It All” and “Were You There” with the sera according behind him.

At Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church, Pastor Arlen Payne has been using Facebook and YouTube to broadcast sermons on the Big Cypress Reservation. He also stays in touch with members via phone and wants the church experience to remain pre-coronavirus conditions.

“We miss everybody and miss the fellowship,” said Pastor Payne.

During New Testament’s resurrection sermon broadcast on Facebook, Pastor Payne and the choir’s singing didn’t change despite the conditions.

“We can still praise the Lord and give Him glory for that glorious day He rose from the dead,” he said.

On the Brighton Reservation, Pastor Billy Blomberg continues to call and text the congregation. He sends out daily updates and prayer requests for well-being updates, prayer requests and for sharing bible scriptures to help uplift them.

“We’d love to ask the Lord and trust Him to give us wisdom to deal with this,” said Pastor Blomberg when asked how he and his congregation were dealing with the effects of the coronavirus. “[The] money [reduced] to help us encourage and support one another.

In Immokalee, Pastor Josh LeadingFox said during Immokalee First Seminole Baptist Church’s Easter service on Facebook, that he spent part of the week gathering videos of worship music to share during the service. With empty pews behind him, Pastor LeadingFox emphasized peace can be attained during turbulent times.

“…even when life is crazy and all these things going on around us and the fear that this biggest moment of the event and all the things you’ve seen and heard from friends or on the news, whatever your situation is, I pray that you know that because He lives you can have peace, even in troubled times,” he said.

For communion, he suggested viewers use crackers and juice as substitutes for the usual communion wafers and wine.

Daniel Harris, the Chaplain for Public Safety, has worked with the Tribe since 1994. He, as is the case with all of the Tribal citizens.

“We are trying to be a positive influence,” said Chaplain Harris. “People feel authenticity and sense that.”

Senior Editor Kevin Johnson contributed to this story.
HOLLYWOOD — Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming are doing their part in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seminole Gaming donated 350,000 bars of soap to The Clean the World Foundation, a global hygiene organization focused on improving health by redistributing unused hospitality soap through resources, education and programs related to hygiene, sanitation and water.

"Soap is not federally subsidized, so individuals and families, especially those in transitional housing or experiencing homelessness, rarely have access to soap and other hygiene supplies to keep them safe," said Kerrie Bezzant, executive director of Clean the World Foundation, said in a statement. "Handwashing with soap is the most effective way to fight COVID-19, so it is crucial that we get supplies out to people in need."

The foundation said it plans to send an additional three million bars of soap in the next 90 days to areas hardest hit by the pandemic around the world.

"We are incredibly grateful to be able to help with this worthy cause especially right now," said Tracey Bradford, executive vice president of administration for HRI and Seminole Gaming. "Save the Planet is one of our founding core beliefs since 1971."

The foundation said it plans to send an additional three million bars of soap in the next 90 days to areas hardest hit by the pandemic around the world.

We are so blessed to have such caring partners that go above and beyond, especially in times of need," said March 27 on Facebook.

"The Clean the World Foundation provides soap to areas hard hit by COVID-19.

"We are incredibly thankful to Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood's Hard Rock Cafe Biloxi provides lunches to team members in March.

Hard Rock Cafe Biloxi/Facebook

Food from Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood is delivered to The Pantry of Broward in March.

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood/Facebook

The Clean the World Foundation provides soap to areas hard hit by COVID-19.

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood/Facebook

"A big thank you to Seminole Casino Coconut Creek for donating all of the perishable foods from your restaurant so we can make meals for our food drive-thru service had everyone in and out today! We had a couple loaves of bread and loaves of bread for its team members, and we know we will be back stronger than ever!"

"With your commitment, we know we will be back stronger than ever!"
Protective mask makers praised by Board

Describing the masks that were made for its employees as “awesome,” the Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc. showed its appreciation to the makers of the masks.

In a Facebook post April 17, the Board thanked Melissa Osceola DeMayo, Allison Osceola, Danielle Nelson and Holly Tiger.

The post included photos of Trading Post employees wearing the masks.

The masks will be used by employees at Board entities, including the Trading Posts in Brighton and Hollywood, Smoke Shops, Seminole Petroleum and Natural Resources.

From page 1A

In Brighton, Alice’s, Windmill and Subway are also open for pick up orders only.

The Brighton and Hollywood Trading Posts remain open with limited hours. Brighton hours are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Hollywood is open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Churches throughout remain closed, but some offer services online.

The health department is open in a limited way. Triage over the telephone is ongoing. Clinics are open for essential services, staff continues to monitor patients in local hospitals and clinic nurses are using open consultation rooms to ensure social distancing.

Elder services staff are distributing meals to seniors and disabled Tribal members daily.

The staff at the Center for Behavioral Health is on call should a need arise. The department is also continuing its remote crisis management and offers services through telehealth.

The Ahfachkee School and Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students are attending classes and learning remotely. At Ahfachkee, classroom video conferencing through Zoom will be replaced May 4. Parents who want more information can find it at the virtual learning tab on the school’s website seminolewarriors.net.

PECS parents may log on Skyward to monitor their child’s progress, grades and assignments. After three weeks of at-home learning, students are now earning grades for the fourth 9-week grading period.

Around Indian Country

As of April 20, the Navajo Nation reported nearly 1,200 cases of COVID-19, which is the highest positive rate in the country after New York and New Jersey.

To help contain the coronavirus, the Navajo Department of Health issued an order on April 17 requiring everyone on the 27,000 square mile reservation to wear protective masks in public. So far, 44 Navajo tribal members have lost the battle with COVID-19, more than in 14 states.

Native Americans represent 10% of New Mexico’s population, but account for more than a third of the state’s cases of COVID-19. New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan-Grisham, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, U.S. Rep. Deb Haaland and other tribal leaders discussed how the pandemic is disproportionately affecting Native Americans during a PBS town hall on April 19.

One reason for the surge in cases is the outbreak in the Navajo Nation, which is more than half of the coronavirus cases documented by the Indian Health Service.

To help contain the coronavirus, the Navajo Department of Health issued an order on April 17 requiring everyone on the 27,000 square mile reservation to wear protective masks in public. So far, 44 Navajo tribal members have lost the battle with COVID-19, more than in 14 states.

Native Americans represent 10% of New Mexico’s population, but account for more than a third of the state’s cases of COVID-19. New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan-Grisham, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, U.S. Rep. Deb Haaland and other tribal leaders discussed how the pandemic is disproportionately affecting Native Americans during a PBS town hall on April 19. One reason for the surge in cases is the outbreak in the Navajo Nation, which is more than half of the coronavirus cases documented by the Indian Health Service.

Brighton health clinic staff show and wear some of the items being used in the battle against COVID-19.

Elder services employees shown working during the COVID-19 pandemic as they get food to seniors and disabled Tribal members on the reservations. At left, food is delivered to Trail.

Brighton health clinic.

Elder services.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Elder services continues to make sure food is delivered to seniors and disabled Tribal members.

Above, Elder services delivers food to Tampa.
Rie Kayano is greeted with her name in lights at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood in from Japan, and her determined effort to based 3Minute Inc. It explains the journey more than 1 million views on YouTube. Seminole Tribe last November, was posted thanks to a 20-minute documentary. global recognition across seas and continents established international footprint in the Seminole Tribe already has a well-background on Kayano, who explains the the documentary explained.

Before Kayano’s trip, which was sponsored by Hard Rock Japan, the documentary provides views with background on Kayano, who explains the mistreatment she suffered as a child because she is Ainu.

“When I was in elementary school, I was harassed as an Ainu. They made me hate my culture and assimilation. ‘When I was in elementary school, I was harassed as an Ainu. They made me hate my culture and assimilation. The government forced assimilation and language. Ainu culture faced annihilation,’” she said in the documentary.

Kayano knew plenty about the Seminole Tribe in part because Blais-Billie visited her from Japan weeks earlier. The two met again at Billie Swamp Safari, where they briskly glided through the Everglades on an airboat. "No English, only the Creek language," Brown told her. "It probably seems like a you can to express Ainu culture. I've been energized her efforts to continue to spread the culture.

"Up to about 10 years ago I was working hard on spreading Ainu culture, but it all felt useless. My heart was broken," she told Chairman Osceola. "My culture made me think I have to do something. That's when the opportunity to visit you arose." Kayano received encouraging advice from Chairman Osceola to continue to pursue her dream. "To become chairman of the Seminole Tribe is my dream," she told her. "You are right where we started," Kayano told her as they approach the Seminoles, what they have achieved, how much they have learned, and how we can hear from them. We as Ainu can rebuild our society in this way."

"Ainu My Voice" was directed by Daichi Tomida. The executive producer was Claus Broch and the producers were Kenta Shindo. "Ainu My Voice" is a 20-minute documentary that is on YouTube.
Calvin Harrison, who worked 28 years for SPD, passes away

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Calvin “Cal” Harrison, a recently retired police officer who spent nearly 30 years working for the Seminole Police Department, passed away April 17 at the Cleveland Clinic in Weston, he was 76.

William R. Latchford, the Seminole Tribe’s director of Public Safety, said Officer Harrison’s “passion and outlook on life was most admirable.” Latchford announced the passing to the Tribe in a statement.

“He always put people above and beyond the call of duty,” said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. “The whole Tribe was praying for him.

According to a press release from the Tribe, Harrison, who retired in February, had previously been hospitalized since March 27 due to COVID-19 symptoms and other complications.

Officer Harrison, who had been in law enforcement since 1983, was a resident of Pompano Beach. He is survived by sons Calvin J. Harrison, of Sunrise, and James Harrison, of Bryton Beach, and a brother, David Harrison, of Ohio.

“Officer of the Year” awards and lifesaving awards after they responded to a call at Hollywood Estates mobile homes, where they performed CPR and resuscitated a man who had stopped breathing and had no pulse.

Harrison, who had been in law enforcement since 1978, was a resident of Pompano Beach. He is survived by sons Calvin J. Harrison, of Sunrise, and James Harrison, of Bryton Beach, and a brother, David Harrison, of Ohio.

One of his books was “The Unconquered Seminole Indians,” published in 1957 by the University of Wisconsin Press.

By all accounts, Tribal members

through the 1970s. It was Peithmann who would eventually move from Illinois to St. Petersburg and spend considerable time writing about, visiting and taking many photos at several Seminole reservations.

One of his books was “The Unconquered Seminole Indians: Pictorial History of the Seminole Indians,” published in 1957 by the University of Wisconsin Press.

“Since I had studied and written about the Indians who had lived in the Midwest, my thoughts turned to the Seminoles and their past,” Peithmann wrote in the book’s foreword. “I returned to the Everglades in December 1955, to study these people and their way of life. I found these Indians, their culture, almost unspoiled by our civilization, still living in much the same manner as their ancestors over a century ago.

Peithmann wrote about his interactions with William McKinley Osceola, Charlie Cypress and the Rev. Billy Osceola, among others.

Records show he donated a collection of more than 1,000 Seminole photographs to the State Library and Archives of Florida.

Peithmann, who died in 1981, was born in Washington County, Illinois, in 1904. He grew up on a farm, learning how to search for artifacts left behind by Indigenous Peoples who used to live and hunt on the same land, according to the Randolph Society.

Glider was born in Franklin County, Illinois, in 1915. She was heavily involved in preserving the history of her adopted hometown of Chester, located in Randolph County.

Throughout her life, she served on numerous boards and committees devoted to the history of Illinois, according to the Randolph Society. Glider died in 2004.

“He and Ruth were really good friends. They did a lot of nursing around together and worked together at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale,” Marc Kiehna, chair of the Randolph Society Foundation said. “They were fascinated by the history of the Indians.

Kiehna said Peithmann’s collection was recently given by the family to the archives at Southern Illinois University’s archiology department.

For more information visit randolphsociety.org.

University of Wisconsin Press

Randolph Society
### First Native American Poet Laureate Unravels why is necessary

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people are spending more time reading books to take a break from the seemingly endless drumbeat of bad news.

For those who enjoy poetry, they might consider reading one of Joy Harjo’s books. Harjo is the 23rd poet laureate of the United States and the first Native American to hold the position. She is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Joy Harjo visited the Big Cypress Reservation in November 2019, after her official installation, as part of a traveling tour she took to perform both solo and with musicians.

She is an accomplished musician as well as an author with many awards and accolades to her name. "I wouldn’t be alive if I didn’t have poetry," Harjo says. "It’s the vehicle that helps me express the complex nature of my life."

During normal business days when she was the poet laureate, Harjo says her job was "to celebrate the American experience, which is a constant drumbeat of bad news."

"I think one of the most important things about poetry is that it’s an intimate way of knowing who you are and why you are. It’s a tool for communication."

She also says that even before the COVID-19 pandemic, poetry book sales had increased.

"The audience for poetry has grown dramatically since the last national elections four years ago."

In the interview, she talks about how poetry helps "heal the world" and how she uses her place among other Native poets as a way of being a "force for change."

"I am one of many gifted poets, one of many Native poets, one of many voices who have something to offer in these times when we need all the help we can get."
NICWA transitions in-person conference to virtual one

BY DARRON SCOTT

The Native American Child Welfare Association did what many organizations have done during the coronavirus pandemic: make a quick switch from in-person conference to virtual event.

The child welfare nonprofit had just concluded its first-ever virtual session of its "Protecting Our Children" conference, which ran from March 30 to April 1.

"COVID-19 is a direct threat to the safety and wellbeing of Native families everywhere," Sarah Kaneful, NICWA executive director and conference organizer, said prior to the event’s start. "Now more than ever, we need to rely on our culture and teachings.

"Conference organizers said there were 1,557 registrations in all, an increase by 70% over the 2019 conference.

"As a staff, we had two and a half weeks working from home to transition our in-person conference to a virtual, presented format. That timeline was the greatest challenge," Kaneful said. "We worked hard to make it a meaningful experience for our stakeholders, who embraced it and ran with it."

NICWA is a nonprofit based in Portland, Oregon, whose mission is to protect Native children and keep them connected to their families, communities and culture.

"In work includes helping tribes prevent child abuse and neglect, in addition to being an advocate for pro-Native American child welfare charter; trained, and robust systems of government. NICWA is a strong partner of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)."

The conference lineup included keynote presentations, breakout sessions and a mentoring session, similar to what would have taken place in Denver, Colorado, where a four-day in-person conference was previously scheduled to take place.

Conference topics included child welfare and ICWA, family "healing" and "wellness," court, substance abuse, tribal child welfare collaborations, and how to provide culturally based programs, recruiting and engaging foster and adoptive families, intergenerational trauma, and more.

The second day, NICWA featured a keynote presentation by Cindy Blackstock (Glowan Cree) executive director of First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada.

"COVID-19 is a direct threat to the health of Native Americans. With the many projects within her position at the Indian Country to meet with tribal leaders to address the health of Native Americans. Chairperson Victoria Kitcheyan (Winnebago Nation) added in her statement.

"This is so much a part of who we are as a people. I welcome the opportunity to support our citizens and members of Indian Country through these unprecedented times."

"IHS is employing an "all hands on deck" approach, which includes opportunities for virtual internships to work on projects that have an immediate impact within tribal communities," Kitcheyan added in her statement.

"IHS offers remote intern program

BY MADALYN GRASS

This year, the Indian Health Service welcomed a new group of intern students to work remotely on projects throughout the entire year.

The Virtual Student Federal Service, formerly known as the Virtual Student Foreign Service, was managed by the U.S. Department of State, which is the largest virtual internship program in the world. IHS became the 31st federal agency to participate, joining agencies like the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Peace Corps, NASA, Central Intelligence Agency, and the U.S. Department of Education in connecting with students across the globe on developing innovative ideas and projects across the presentment.

The Virtual Student Federal Service is available to U.S. students from the undergraduate and graduate levels. IHS is seeking students who are interested in learning more about the graduate-level program. Because it exposes them to the Office of Urban Indian Health programs at Indian Health Service.

"This provides an opportunity for people to apply their skills and knowledge to the needs of Native people. She is looking forward to participating in the internship from anywhere in the world."

UNITY provides update on conference status

UNITY REPORT

The United Native Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) remained in planning mode about the 2021 Unity National Conference slated to be held July 7-9 in Washington, D.C. In a letter April 6, Mary Kim Trih, UNITY executive director, explained that the organization’s top priority is the health and safety of attendees. "This goal is to move forward with an in-person conference, but there’s also a possibility of a hybrid event.

"As we continue to monitor daily updates and news regarding COVID-19, our goal is to have final discussions and direction confirmed by the first full-week of May. This includes a possible postponement of the conference to August 2020," Tolle said.

"Although the conference is well underway, Sommerfield said. Last year’s conference was held in Orlando and featured several Seminole culture-related sessions, including broth, demonstrations and speaking engagements. Registration for the 2021 conference is open, with a cancellation policy in place through June 30. The organization said if anyone wants to cancel their conference registration and request a refund, a $25 per person fee will be assessed.

"Another option is to sign up for virtual internships with Tribal leaders,” Kitcheyan added in her statement.

"Don’t forget to take care of your mental and emotional health, too.

Contact your local tribal health care provider for more information, Healthcare.gov, or call 1-800-318-2596.

UNITY offers remote intern program

BY MADALYN GRASS

The Virtual Student Federal Service, formerly known as the Virtual Student Foreign Service, was managed by the U.S. Department of State, which is the largest virtual internship program in the world. The 31st federal agency to participate, joining agencies like the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Peace Corps, NASA, Central Intelligence Agency, and the U.S. Department of Education in connecting with students across the globe on developing innovative ideas and projects across the presentment.

The Virtual Student Federal Service is available to U.S. students from the undergraduate and graduate levels. IHS is seeking students who are interested in learning more about the graduate-level program. Because it exposes them to the Office of Urban Indian Health programs at Indian Health Service.

"This provides an opportunity for people to apply their skills and knowledge to the needs of Native people. She is looking forward to participating in the internship from anywhere in the world."

UNITY provides update on conference status

UNITY REPORT

The United Native Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) remained in planning mode about the 2021 Unity National Conference slated to be held July 7-9 in Washington, D.C. In a letter April 6, Mary Kim Trih, UNITY executive director, explained that the organization’s top priority is the health and safety of attendees. "This goal is to move forward with an in-person conference, but there’s also a possibility of a hybrid event.

"As we continue to monitor daily updates and news regarding COVID-19, our goal is to have final discussions and direction confirmed by the first full-week of May. This includes a possible postponement of the conference to August 2020," Tolle said.

"Although the conference is well underway, Sommerfield said. Last year’s conference was held in Orlando and featured several Seminole culture-related sessions, including broth, demonstrations and speaking engagements. Registration for the 2021 conference is open, with a cancellation policy in place through June 30. The organization said if anyone wants to cancel their conference registration and request a refund, a $25 per person fee will be assessed.

"Another option is to sign up for virtual internships with Tribal leaders,” Kitcheyan added in her statement.

"Don’t forget to take care of your mental and emotional health, too.

Contact your local tribal health care provider for more information, Healthcare.gov, or call 1-800-318-2596.

UNITY offers remote intern program

BY MADALYN GRASS

The Virtual Student Federal Service, formerly known as the Virtual Student Foreign Service, was managed by the U.S. Department of State, which is the largest virtual internship program in the world. The 31st federal agency to participate, joining agencies like the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Peace Corps, NASA, Central Intelligence Agency, and the U.S. Department of Education in connecting with students across the globe on developing innovative ideas and projects across the presentment.

The Virtual Student Federal Service is available to U.S. students from the undergraduate and graduate levels. IHS is seeking students who are interested in learning more about the graduate-level program. Because it exposes them to the Office of Urban Indian Health programs at Indian Health Service.

"This provides an opportunity for people to apply their skills and knowledge to the needs of Native people. She is looking forward to participating in the internship from anywhere in the world."

UNITY provides update on conference status

UNITY REPORT

The United Native Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) remained in planning mode about the 2021 Unity National Conference slated to be held July 7-9 in Washington, D.C. In a letter April 6, Mary Kim Trih, UNITY executive director, explained that the organization’s top priority is the health and safety of attendees. "This goal is to move forward with an in-person conference, but there’s also a possibility of a hybrid event.

"As we continue to monitor daily updates and news regarding COVID-19, our goal is to have final discussions and direction confirmed by the first full-week of May. This includes a possible postponement of the conference to August 2020," Tolle said.

"Although the conference is well underway, Sommerfield said. Last year’s conference was held in Orlando and featured several Seminole culture-related sessions, including broth, demonstrations and speaking engagements. Registration for the 2021 conference is open, with a cancellation policy in place through June 30. The organization said if anyone wants to cancel their conference registration and request a refund, a $25 per person fee will be assessed.

"Another option is to sign up for virtual internships with Tribal leaders,” Kitcheyan added in her statement.

"Don’t forget to take care of your mental and emotional health, too.

Contact your local tribal health care provider for more information, Healthcare.gov, or call 1-800-318-2596.

UNITY offers remote intern program

BY MADALYN GRASS

The Virtual Student Federal Service, formerly known as the Virtual Student Foreign Service, was managed by the U.S. Department of State, which is the largest virtual internship program in the world. The 31st federal agency to participate, joining agencies like the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Peace Corps, NASA, Central Intelligence Agency, and the U.S. Department of Education in connecting with students across the globe on developing innovative ideas and projects across the presentment.

The Virtual Student Federal Service is available to U.S. students from the undergraduate and graduate levels. IHS is seeking students who are interested in learning more about the graduate-level program. Because it exposes them to the Office of Urban Indian Health programs at Indian Health Service.

"This provides an opportunity for people to apply their skills and knowledge to the needs of Native people. She is looking forward to participating in the internship from anywhere in the world."

UNITY provides update on conference status

UNITY REPORT

The United Native Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) remained in planning mode about the 2021 Unity National Conference slated to be held July 7-9 in Washington, D.C. In a letter April 6, Mary Kim Trih, UNITY executive director, explained that the organization’s top priority is the health and safety of attendees. "This goal is to move forward with an in-person conference, but there’s also a possibility of a hybrid event.

"As we continue to monitor daily updates and news regarding COVID-19, our goal is to have final discussions and direction confirmed by the first full-week of May. This includes a possible postponement of the conference to August 2020," Tolle said.

"Although the conference is well underway, Sommerfield said. Last year’s conference was held in Orlando and featured several Seminole culture-related sessions, including broth, demonstrations and speaking engagements. Registration for the 2021 conference is open, with a cancellation policy in place through June 30. The organization said if anyone wants to cancel their conference registration and request a refund, a $25 per person fee will be assessed.

"Another option is to sign up for virtual internships with Tribal leaders,” Kitcheyan added in her statement.

"Don’t forget to take care of your mental and emotional health, too.

Contact your local tribal health care provider for more information, Healthcare.gov, or call 1-800-318-2596.
SIGNS OF SUPPORT: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, above, and Seminole Classic Casino, right, were among the Tribe’s gaming venues that put out montages that included team members showing signs of togetherness from a distance during the shutdown from the COVID-19 pandemic.

PEACEFUL MORNING: Jonah Cypress sings during the early morning service of Big Cypress First Baptist Church on Easter morning along the banks of a canal on the reservation.

BLUE SUPPORT: Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens is lit up in blue April 9 as part of a nationwide effort to show support for health care workers. Stadiums and buildings throughout the country showcased blue.

Seminole Scenes Rewind: Old photos from our files - Seminole Okalee Indian Village
...governments are “tremendously dependent” on the census. It has also had to cancel or delay events that worked to inform and encourage people to participate. "These are hard-to-count areas just got harder," said Samantha Biasca, engagement coordinator for the Na’ah Illahee Fund, a Native organization that has focused on historically undercounted groups in the U.S. Census Bureau. "These are people who feel a responsibility to care for this land, not just for themselves, but for generations to come," said Donna Chavis, a local Lumbee activist who has attended protests against the pipeline. "Our land is not just a space that we own, it is a repository of our cultural roots and a source of spiritual nourishment. It is a place where we find our identity and our purpose. It is a place where we find the strength to face the challenges of the world. It is a place where we find the inspiration to create a better future.

The stakeholders in the legal challenges to Keystone XL are numerous and diverse. In addition to the Native American tribes, environmental groups, and landowners, there are also a variety of other stakeholders, including the U.S. government, the oil industry, and the construction industry. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are complex and multifaceted, and require a comprehensive and nuanced approach. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are not just about the pipeline itself, but also about the broader issues of climate change, environmental justice, and indigenous rights. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are about the future of our planet, and the future of our communities. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are about the future of our world.

The stakeholders in the legal challenges to Keystone XL are numerous and diverse. In addition to the Native American tribes, environmental groups, and landowners, there are also a variety of other stakeholders, including the U.S. government, the oil industry, and the construction industry. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are complex and multifaceted, and require a comprehensive and nuanced approach. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are not just about the pipeline itself, but also about the broader issues of climate change, environmental justice, and indigenous rights. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are about the future of our planet, and the future of our communities. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are about the future of our world.

The stakeholders in the legal challenges to Keystone XL are numerous and diverse. In addition to the Native American tribes, environmental groups, and landowners, there are also a variety of other stakeholders, including the U.S. government, the oil industry, and the construction industry. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are complex and multifaceted, and require a comprehensive and nuanced approach. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are not just about the pipeline itself, but also about the broader issues of climate change, environmental justice, and indigenous rights. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are about the future of our planet, and the future of our communities. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are about the future of our world.

The stakeholders in the legal challenges to Keystone XL are numerous and diverse. In addition to the Native American tribes, environmental groups, and landowners, there are also a variety of other stakeholders, including the U.S. government, the oil industry, and the construction industry. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are complex and multifaceted, and require a comprehensive and nuanced approach. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are not just about the pipeline itself, but also about the broader issues of climate change, environmental justice, and indigenous rights. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are about the future of our planet, and the future of our communities. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are about the future of our world.

The stakeholders in the legal challenges to Keystone XL are numerous and diverse. In addition to the Native American tribes, environmental groups, and landowners, there are also a variety of other stakeholders, including the U.S. government, the oil industry, and the construction industry. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are complex and multifaceted, and require a comprehensive and nuanced approach. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are not just about the pipeline itself, but also about the broader issues of climate change, environmental justice, and indigenous rights. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are about the future of our planet, and the future of our communities. The legal challenges to Keystone XL are about the future of our world.
HARMONY HAS TAKEN SHAPE.

DISCOVER YOUR RHYTHM.

Escape the every day and indulge yourself in a truly extraordinary getaway with limitless possibilities.

1 Seminole Way, Hollywood, FL 33314 | HardRockHolly.com | #DiscoverYourRhythm
First comes graduation, then the Navy for Brighton's Eecho Billie

BY KEVIN JOHNSON

Just like any other high school senior, Eecho Billie has been preparing for the academic and professional lives that lie ahead. But with the COVID-19 pandemic shutting down schools across the country, the senior at Brighton's Pine School and member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida is facing a unique challenge.

"Just being part of the team," he said, "takes a lot to make it through." A 2017 article from the Independent Oklahoma News, which covered the time-traveling, eight-episode special in the world of 2077, reported that "many foreign militaries base their operations in the United States." The U.S. Navy SEALs were ranked No. 1, "The whole community has been involved in the educational process at PECS," Principal Dorothy Downing said in an email to the school's Google Group Facebook page.

"It didn't matter what branch it was; he always did it for the team," Billie said. "He was always the one to go and get the job done." Shooting is one skill Billie has excelled at, which should help him in the military. Whether he is free-range hunting or competing in international events, he's had success with his own golden medal in rifle shooting at the 2017 North American Indian Games in Idaho.

"As long as kids complete the work they do the schoolwork," Principal Dorothy Downing said. "I told our staff that when we see a parent that is really trying, that's our goal to support our Virtual Learning Program. And, they have been very successful." Some portions of the classwork are live, while students are called, telephoned, and Zoomed. The school uses Google Docs to ensure that all students are tracking the same time.

"We are a high performing school (A middle school and B secondary), so our students are able to complete rigorous assignments independently and with support," Downing wrote. "The PECS parents have been very engaged in their children's education and Downing appreciates their efforts. "All parents are communicating with us in and supporting their children. Many of our parents have asked to join our Google Classroom and they can see that our assignments are done and can help keep the students on track. We hope all of you understand that we are working to provide support, Downing wrote. "We are doing all we can to keep our students connected and engaged." Teachers post weekly schedules and announcements where Downing gives her announcements where Downing gives her announcements to students as well. PECS parents have been very engaged in their children's education and Downing appreciates their efforts. "We miss all of our students right now and support them in any way we can," Downing said. "They are our students and they are our children. We want them to have access to high-quality education even during this challenging time. We are a high performing school (A middle school and B secondary), so our students are able to complete rigorous assignments independently and with support," Downing wrote. "The PECS parents have been very engaged in their children's education and Downing appreciates their efforts. "All parents are communicating with us in and supporting their children. Many of our parents have asked to join our Google Classroom and they can see that our assignments are done and can help keep the students on track. We hope all of you understand that we are working to provide support, Downing wrote. "We are doing all we can to keep our students connected and engaged." Teachers post weekly schedules and announcements where Downing gives her announcements to students as well. PECS parents have been very engaged in their children's education and Downing appreciates their efforts. "We miss all of our students right now and support them in any way we can," Downing said. "They are our students and they are our children. We want them to have access to high-quality education even during this challenging time."
So far the program has been very well attended. In the first week, we have received over 150 letters, many of which have included pictures and games. The letters are sent to an elderly constituent, and the recipients are encouraged to read them and reply. The elderly person is then encouraged to send a letter back to the recipient. The letters are then collected and put together, creating a unique and meaningful experience for both parties. The program is expected to continue throughout the summer, with plans to expand to include more communities and individuals.
Land O’ Lakes products will forever change the image of a Native American woman on the packaging.

First Native American woman named to lead Southwestern arts organization

The Southwestern Association for Indian Arts (SAIA) in April named Kim Peone, an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes of Washington, as its first female Native American executive director.

A leading arts, economic, and educational organization headquartered in Santa Fe, New Mexico, SAIA can trace its origins to 1962 when a group of Native American men and women from across the country, representing tribes from throughout the United States, convened the session to “profile and chair the Natural Resources Committee, convened the session to ‘profile and scream and doing everything I need to do to make sure our people are safe.’

Speaking in the court room a long-standing complaint about the federal government’s lack of respect for tribal sovereignty, Neal said tribes are being forced to apply for grants, which shows the process. ‘Tribal leaders have been advocating for direct funding to tribal governments for a very, very long time,’ Neal said. ‘And this is an emergency, and so you would think the money would go directly into tribal communities … but chairman, it has been very slow.’

richard Chavarria, governor of the Navajo Nation, said the Navajo Nation recently received rapid test kits from the government, but it had to take many tests to calibrate the machines correctly and his tribe is only getting a finite number of tests.

The play-from-home slot machines are exclusive to a bank account that allows whenever you win, you get a virtual invite from a natural evolution for Hard Rock fans can already play those.

The unique Atlantic City slot machines are located in a locked room without public access. The devices receive a virtual invite from a natural evolution for Hard Rock fans can already play those.

Just like the in-person ‘Lock It Link’ slot machine, the unique Atlantic City slot machines are located in a locked room without public access. The devices receive a virtual invite from a natural evolution for Hard Rock fans can already play those.

The Southern Association for Indian Affairs (SAIA) in April named Kim Peone, an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes of Washington, as its first female Native American executive director.

The “Americans” exhibit looks at how the visual representation of American Indian peoples has changed through the years. Examples include food products like Land O’ Lakes margarine and the Calumet baking powder can, motorcycles (Indian Motorcycles) and even U.S. military weapons systems (the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile, Apache helicopter and Black Hawk helicopter).

Land O’Lakes removes image of Native American woman from packaging

The unique Atlantic City slot machines are located in a locked room without public access. The devices receive a virtual invite from a natural evolution for Hard Rock fans can already play those.

The Southern Association for Indian Affairs (SAIA) in April named Kim Peone, an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes of Washington, as its first female Native American executive director.

The “Americans” exhibit looks at how the visual representation of American Indian peoples has changed through the years. Examples include food products like Land O’ Lakes margarine and the Calumet baking powder can, motorcycles (Indian Motorcycles) and even U.S. military weapons systems (the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile, Apache helicopter and Black Hawk helicopter).

Land O’Lakes products will forever change the image of a Native American woman on the packaging.

First Native American woman named to lead Southwestern arts organization

The Southwestern Association for Indian Arts (SAIA) in April named Kim Peone, an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes of Washington, as its first female Native American executive director.

The “Americans” exhibit looks at how the visual representation of American Indian peoples has changed through the years. Examples include food products like Land O’ Lakes margarine and the Calumet baking powder can, motorcycles (Indian Motorcycles) and even U.S. military weapons systems (the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile, Apache helicopter and Black Hawk helicopter).

Hard Rock Atlantic City sees biggest winner yet on its ‘live’ slots

The unique Atlantic City slot machines are located in a locked room without public access. The devices receive a virtual invite from a natural evolution for Hard Rock fans can already play those.

The unique Atlantic City slot machines are located in a locked room without public access. The devices receive a virtual invite from a natural evolution for Hard Rock fans can already play those.

The unique Atlantic City slot machines are located in a locked room without public access. The devices receive a virtual invite from a natural evolution for Hard Rock fans can already play those.

The Southern Association for Indian Affairs (SAIA) in April named Kim Peone, an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes of Washington, as its first female Native American executive director.

The “Americans” exhibit looks at how the visual representation of American Indian peoples has changed through the years. Examples include food products like Land O’ Lakes margarine and the Calumet baking powder can, motorcycles (Indian Motorcycles) and even U.S. military weapons systems (the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile, Apache helicopter and Black Hawk helicopter).

Land O’Lakes removes image of Native American woman from packaging

The unique Atlantic City slot machines are located in a locked room without public access. The devices receive a virtual invite from a natural evolution for Hard Rock fans can already play those.

The Southern Association for Indian Affairs (SAIA) in April named Kim Peone, an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes of Washington, as its first female Native American executive director.

The “Americans” exhibit looks at how the visual representation of American Indian peoples has changed through the years. Examples include food products like Land O’ Lakes margarine and the Calumet baking powder can, motorcycles (Indian Motorcycles) and even U.S. military weapons systems (the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile, Apache helicopter and Black Hawk helicopter).

Land O’Lakes removes image of Native American woman from packaging

The unique Atlantic City slot machines are located in a locked room without public access. The devices receive a virtual invite from a natural evolution for Hard Rock fans can already play those.

The Southern Association for Indian Affairs (SAIA) in April named Kim Peone, an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes of Washington, as its first female Native American executive director.

The “Americans” exhibit looks at how the visual representation of American Indian peoples has changed through the years. Examples include food products like Land O’ Lakes margarine and the Calumet baking powder can, motorcycles (Indian Motorcycles) and even U.S. military weapons systems (the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile, Apache helicopter and Black Hawk helicopter).

Land O’Lakes removes image of Native American woman from packaging

The unique Atlantic City slot machines are located in a locked room without public access. The devices receive a virtual invite from a natural evolution for Hard Rock fans can already play those.
Ready to rebound again, Skyla Osceola focuses on staying positive and healthy

BY KENN JONESH
Senior Editor

Skyla Osceola launches a 3-point shot during a game in the 2019-20 season.

Nova Southeastern University guard Skyla Osceola calls a play during a game from the 2019-20 season. Osceola’s season was hampered by injuries, but she’s determined to return in good health for next season.

Hollywood — When Skyla Osceola is healthy and playing a lot of minutes, she can be a force on the floor.

"Proof of that came in her freshman season on the Nova Southeastern University’s women’s basketball team two years ago when she was the standard guard from the backcourt. Osceola played in every game, led the Sharks in assists and finished second in the Atlantic Sun Conference in assists per game with 4.3.

Then the clock started ticking, and at first, the promising future wasn’t in her immediate future. She was less than halfway through her regular seasons when play was halted in March.

"The Florida High School Athletic Association, which oversees high school athletics, announced the cancellation of all FHSAA-affiliated spring sports April 20, two days after Gov. Ron DeSantis decided schools will continue distance learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year.

"It is with heavy hearts that the FHSAA has decided to cancel all FHSAA-affiliated spring events, inclusive of the state series and all championship events, for spring sports. The safety of our student-athletes, coaches, officials, and fans is our top priority. With the current COVID-19 (COVID-19) pandemic, we must ensure that we do not contribute to the spread of the illness. We are deeply saddened for our student-athletes who have worked so hard to get to this point in their careers," the FHSAA stated in a statement.

Skyla Osceola, who is majoring in exercise and sports science and on track to graduate next spring, doesn’t take for granted the support she has received from her section coaching staff.

"Just want to say thank you to everyone who has supported me throughout my collegiate career so far," she said. "It’s been a bumpy ride, but nobody said it was easy trying to be great, not right? My faith is very strong, and I’m not happy about this season, but I know what I’m doing. It’s not my greatest moments," Osceola said in an email to the Tribune.

"The key for me to staying positive is knowing the impact and role high school athletics have had on my life. High school basketball and softball constitute who I was and who I am today. They taught me the value of teamwork, time management, loyalty and determination to be healthy come opening tip of next season as a redshirt junior."

"The positive moments, Osceola said in an email to the Tribune."

"I know the impact and role high school athletics have had on my life. High school basketball and softball constitute who I was and who I am today. They taught me the value of teamwork, time management, loyalty and determination to be healthy come opening tip of next season as a redshirt junior.

"I know that I can win games and help the team by being healthy and being a positive and strong leader for my team and myself," she said.

"The Sharks struggled with injuries and inconsistency, posting a 14-14 record that included an early exit in the Sunshine State Conference tournament."

"Overall, our season was disappointing due to the number of injuries our players sustained throughout the season," NSU coach Lynne Froelich-Curry said in an email to the Tribune. "In her limited action, Skyla did impact the game very positively. We are all hopeful that you can get healthy and be a very positive with your plus-minus statistic."

"I am so in the game, we usually collect a lead or take the lead back."

"Having cut out a couple of seasons due to injuries in her career, Osceola is all too familiar with how minimizing game amounts of playing time makes that much more difficult to bounce back, but she determined to be healthy coming open tip of next season as a redshirt junior."

"Conditioning is going to play a huge factor in how great I want to be," she said.

"Since the injuries is how hard to stay in shape and that’s what I lack the most right now, I just need to get in the best shape I can right now and that’s what I’m doing."

"The team is eager to have a healthy Osceola back,

"We are optimistic that Skyla will be healthy for next season, Froelich-Curry said. "She is very positive with her plus-minus statistic."

"I am so in the game, we usually collect a lead or take the lead back."

"The team is eager to have a healthy Osceola back,

"We are optimistic that Skyla will be healthy for next season, Froelich-Curry said. "She is very positive with her plus-minus statistic.

"I am so in the game, we usually collect a lead or take the lead back."

"The team is eager to have a healthy Osceola back,

"We are optimistic that Skyla will be healthy for next season, Froelich-Curry said. "She is very positive with her plus-minus statistic.

"I am so in the game, we usually collect a lead or take the lead back."

"The team is eager to have a healthy Osceola back,

"We are optimistic that Skyla will be healthy for next season, Froelich-Curry said. "She is very positive with her plus-minus statistic.

"I am so in the game, we usually collect a lead or take the lead back."

"The team is eager to have a healthy Osceola back,

"We are optimistic that Skyla will be healthy for next season, Froelich-Curry said. "She is very positive with her plus-minus statistic."
Angel Goodrich goes from lighting up scoreboards to putting out fires

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

After several years as a basketball standout, Angel Goodrich (Cherokee) has found a new team and a new career. Goodrich recently became a member of the Tulsa Fire Department in Oklahoma. “It was crazy and tough to imagine what EKU once basketball was officially over. I'll always be grateful I had the chance to play with people who believed in me and gave me the opportunity to go out there and play,” Goodrich said. “It's a beautiful thing to see how far you can go and all the things that come your way.”

NABI cancelled for 2020

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The Native American Basketball Invitational, an annual powerhouse for some of the best young players from the Seminole Tribe and the rest of the Native American Country, has been postponed for 2020. NABI announced its decision on April 13. “It is with a heavy heart that we are saddened to announce the postponement of the 13th Annual Native American Basketball Invitational due to the coronavirus pandemic,” the NABI Foundation has stated. “NABI hopes that the postponed 13th Annual Native American Basketball Invitational will be an annual event in the future.”

Gabby Lemieux misses cut by one shot

Native American pro golfer Gabby Lemieux (Seminole-Pascola tribes in Idaho) missed making the cut by one shot at the Symetra Tour’s season-opening tournament in Winter Haven. Lemieux shot 73-78 for a 151 total, which was one shot shy of the cut at the 12th annual Florida Natural’s Charity Classic held March 4-8 at the Country Club of Winter Haven.

“Today [hardhat and caddy Jared] and I are back to the drawing board,” Lemieux, 25, posted on Twitter a few days after the tournament. “We had a little step back last week in Winter Haven. Honestly, it wasn’t for the stroke penalties, we would have made the cut by a long shot! We didn’t think we had the best ball striking that week but we fought hard and analyzed it back. Besides having to take four strokes and struggle a little bit and still ‘make the cut’ (in our heads) that’s what that’s like when you’re ‘shaking out your year and in the right direction.”

Lemieux’s opening round on the par-72 layout featured two birdies, five bogeys and an eagle on the par-5 10th hole. Her par four second round included five birdies, five bogeys, one double bogey and a quadruple bogey 8 on the par-4 10th hole. The field featured 112 players with the low 60 and ties making the cut. It was a 54-hole event.

The Symetra Tour is the minor league of the LPGA. The purse was $125,000. Winner Jamie Junik, of Alabama, took home $18,700. The Symetra Tour has postponed tournaments through mid-June due to COVID-19.

Lemieux’s season debut came a month after she played with 4-time PGA Tour winner Phil Mickelson in the Chairman of the Greens Charity Golf Tournament in Panama City Beach.

By Kevin Johnson

Honorables mention honor for Silas Madrigal

STAFF REPORT

OKEECHOBEE — Some of the key players in Okeechobee High School boys’ basketball’s memorable 26-3 season this winter have been honored by the Treasure Coast News. The senior guard averaged 10.8 points per game. He also led the squad in field goal percentage (59%) and 3-pointers (45%). Ch邠heehoke brothers Macklin and Marketh Kelly were named First Team. Goodrich, 30, starred at the University of Kansas, where she holds the school record for career assists and was named Big 12 First Team. As a pro, she played on 13 different teams in the WNBA for the Tulsa Shock, which drafted her in 2015, and the Seattle Storm. She also played for pro teams overseas.

Navy cancels for 2020

The Native American Basketball Invitational, an annual powerhouse for some of the best young players from the Seminole Tribe and the rest of the Native American Country, has been postponed for 2020. NABI announced its decision on April 13. “It is with a heavy heart that we are saddened to announce the postponement of the 13th Annual Native American Basketball Invitational due to the coronavirus pandemic,” the NABI Foundation has stated. “NABI hopes that the postponed 13th Annual Native American Basketball Invitational will be an annual event in the future.”

By Kevin Johnson

Angel Goodrich, center, with fellow members of the Tulsa Fire Department.

Angel Goodrich during her days as a member of the WNBA’s Seattle Storm in 2015.

Dread and Godrich, who also played in NABI, receives training as a member of the Tulsa Fire Department.

Honorables mention honor for Silas Madrigal

STAFF REPORT

OKEECHOBEE — Some of the key players in Okeechobee High School boys’ basketball’s memorable 26-3 season this winter have been honored by the Treasure Coast News. The senior guard averaged 10.8 points per game. He also led the squad in field goal percentage (59%) and 3-pointers (45%). Ch邠heehoke brothers Macklin and Marketh Kelly were named First Team. Goodrich, 30, starred at the University of Kansas, where she holds the school record for career assists and was named Big 12 First Team. As a pro, she played on 13 different teams in the WNBA for the Tulsa Shock, which drafted her in 2015, and the Seattle Storm. She also played for pro teams overseas.

Navy cancels for 2020

The Native American Basketball Invitational, an annual powerhouse for some of the best young players from the Seminole Tribe and the rest of the Native American Country, has been postponed for 2020. NABI announced its decision on April 13. “It is with a heavy heart that we are saddened to announce the postponement of the 13th Annual Native American Basketball Invitational due to the coronavirus pandemic,” the NABI Foundation has stated. “NABI hopes that the postponed 13th Annual Native American Basketball Invitational will be an annual event in the future.”

By Kevin Johnson

Angel Goodrich, center, with fellow members of the Tulsa Fire Department.

Angel Goodrich during her days as a member of the WNBA’s Seattle Storm in 2015.

Dread and Godrich, who also played in NABI, receives training as a member of the Tulsa Fire Department.

Honorables mention honor for Silas Madrigal

STAFF REPORT

OKEECHOBEE — Some of the key players in Okeechobee High School boys’ basketball’s memorable 26-3 season this winter have been honored by the Treasure Coast News. The senior guard averaged 10.8 points per game. He also led the squad in field goal percentage (59%) and 3-pointers (45%). Ch邠heehoke brothers Macklin and Marketh Kelly were named First Team. Goodrich, 30, starred at the University of Kansas, where she holds the school record for career assists and was named Big 12 First Team. As a pro, she played on 13 different teams in the WNBA for the Tulsa Shock, which drafted her in 2015, and the Seattle Storm. She also played for pro teams overseas.

Navy cancels for 2020

The Native American Basketball Invitational, an annual powerhouse for some of the best young players from the Seminole Tribe and the rest of the Native American Country, has been postponed for 2020. NABI announced its decision on April 13. “It is with a heavy heart that we are saddened to announce the postponement of the 13th Annual Native American Basketball Invitational due to the coronavirus pandemic,” the NABI Foundation has stated. “NABI hopes that the postponed 13th Annual Native American Basketball Invitational will be an annual event in the future.”

By Kevin Johnson

Angel Goodrich, center, with fellow members of the Tulsa Fire Department.

Angel Goodrich during her days as a member of the WNBA’s Seattle Storm in 2015.

Dread and Godrich, who also played in NABI, receives training as a member of the Tulsa Fire Department.

Honorables mention honor for Silas Madrigal

STAFF REPORT

OKEECHOBEE — Some of the key players in Okeechobee High School boys’ basketball’s memorable 26-3 season this winter have been honored by the Treasure Coast News. The senior guard averaged 10.8 points per game. He also led the squad in field goal percentage (59%) and 3-pointers (45%). Ch邠heehoke brothers Macklin and Marketh Kelly were named First Team. Goodrich, 30, starred at the University of Kansas, where she holds the school record for career assists and was named Big 12 First Team. As a pro, she played on 13 different teams in the WNBA for the Tulsa Shock, which drafted her in 2015, and the Seattle Storm. She also played for pro teams overseas.

Navy cancels for 2020

The Native American Basketball Invitational, an annual powerhouse for some of the best young players from the Seminole Tribe and the rest of the Native American Country, has been postponed for 2020. NABI announced its decision on April 13. “It is with a heavy heart that we are saddened to announce the postponement of the 13th Annual Native American Basketball Invitational due to the coronavirus pandemic,” the NABI Foundation has stated. “NABI hopes that the postponed 13th Annual Native American Basketball Invitational will be an annual event in the future.”

By Kevin Johnson

Angel Goodrich, center, with fellow members of the Tulsa Fire Department.

Angel Goodrich during her days as a member of the WNBA’s Seattle Storm in 2015.

Dread and Godrich, who also played in NABI, receives training as a member of the Tulsa Fire Department.
With nearly all professional sports shut down across the globe due to the COVID-19 pandemic, here are some photos from February of the Seminole Tribe’s Duelle Gore playing for Petroleros De Camargo in the Chihuahua State Basketball League in Mexico. Gore was a standout at Haskell Indian Nations University before he turned pro a few years ago. The photos are from Petroleros De Camargo team’s Facebook.

**Duelle Gore in action in Mexican professional basketball league**

**Notah Begay III emotionally describes the coronavirus plight of the Navajo Nation**

**The Golf Channel**

The call started out about golf. It turned into something bigger.

On a Golf Channel conference call on April 9 to discuss weekend programming, Notah Begay III described how members of his Navajo Nation community were being “decimated” by the coronavirus. The Navajo Nation, which stretches 27,000 square miles across Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, had seen 22 deaths and 558 positive cases as of Thursday among its population of more than 150,000, according to the Navajo Department of Health. In comparison, the entire state of New Mexico, which has a population 13 times larger, had 27 deaths and 969 positive cases as of April 9, according to the New York Times.

“It’s kind of with a heavy heart that I deal with that and try and push through, and you know, it’s been difficult but — I don’t know why I’m getting emotional,” said Begay, an analyst for Golf Channel who is half Navajo and 100 percent Native American. “I haven’t gotten emotional through this whole thing till now. I guess it’s just there’s a historical context here that’s just tough for me to deal with. What we have been working on is just getting supplies and food, as much resource.

At that point, Begay began to tear up.


Notah Begay III emotionally describes the coronavirus plight of the Navajo Nation.

The New York Times reported that several factors have led to the quick spread of the virus. Among them are a high prevalence of diseases like diabetes, a lack of running water and several generations of families living in one house.


Notah Begay III emotionally describes the coronavirus plight of the Navajo Nation.

At that point, Begay began to tear up.


Notah Begay III emotionally describes the coronavirus plight of the Navajo Nation.

With the PGA Tour on hiatus until at least the middle of May, Begay said “it’s boots on the ground for me” in doing work with his foundation, the NB3 Foundation. Through it, he said he has been donating food, water and resources to families in the rural areas of the Navajo Nation. Begay hoped to get more support.

“There are people out there that have zero internet access,” Begay said. “They don’t have mobile phone reception, that a lot of times aren’t — don’t know what’s going on, and so it’s just a matter of using the network and trying to connect, and you know, hopeful that we’ll be able to get through all this and hopeful that we’ll be able to get back into a regular golf schedule at some point.”

Notah Begay III emotionally describes the coronavirus plight of the Navajo Nation.

**Theodore Nelson Sr.**

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

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

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

Office: (754) 215-3113
6526 Osceola Circle, Hollywood, Florida 33024