



# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered



www.seminoletribune.org • 50¢

Volume XXXVIII • Number 5

May 30, 2014

## Brighton RV Resort open for business

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — It was a memorable Memorial Day weekend in Brighton when the newly renovated RV Resort opened to great fanfare with a ribbon cutting ceremony, barbecue, live music and a free night stay for folks who rolled in with recreational vehicles.

"I'm a firm believer in making money for the Tribe," Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard said. "This is another economic opportunity. It's been a long, hard journey getting this done, and we did it from the bottom up with new plumbing and utilities — everything was done right. A lot of people worked to help make this happen."

The resort features 56 campsites with full hookups and individual picnic areas, swimming pool, fishing area, wheelchair accessible bathroom, recreation center, laundry room and convenience store on-site. Three lake-front log cabins will be available in mid-June for guests without recreational vehicles.

Renovations began in 2012 and included new underground utilities and new landscaping. Juvenile live oak trees will grow to create a canopy of shade throughout the resort.

"Almost three years ago [the Board] made a list of things we wanted to do and this was near the top," Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank said. "We changed the culture of the Board and made it more enterprise oriented. This is for the future of the Tribe."

Originally built in the early 1960s, the 25-acre resort attracts both Florida residents and out-of-state customers. A unique aspect of the park, located just 3.2 miles down the road from Seminole Casino Brighton, is that customers can use their Players Club cards to pay for their stay, gas or items at the Trading Post.

♦ See RV RESORT on page 2A

## Spencer Battiest signs with Hard Rock Records

New single available on iTunes, Amazon.com

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Pop and R&B singer-songwriter Spencer Battiest recently made history as the first Native American artist signed to Hard Rock Records, a label owned by Hard Rock International. His new single, *Love of My Life*, debuted May 9 and is available on iTunes and Amazon.com.

"This is a very emotional song and it means so much to me as an artist. It's the first one I wrote on my own," said Battiest, who grew up on Hollywood Reservation and lives in Los Angeles. "[Signing with Hard Rock Records] is like going home; it's a perfect fit for me."

Hard Rock Records launched in 2012 to find, develop and promote new artists. The label produces records, prints copies, makes them available on iTunes and Amazon.com, and connects artists with management companies and booking agents. At the end of the one-year contract, artists retain ownership of their recordings and gain tools to move forward in their careers.

"Spencer has been on the radar — he's part of the Hard Rock family," said James Buell, co-head of artists and repertoire at Hard Rock Records. "Hard Rock is about every genre of music; working with someone like Spencer cements that. He is talented, and his drive and determination will set him apart."

♦ See SPENCER on page 4A

## Indian Country musters at Gathering of Nations

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** — Dozens of drums and thousands of voices filled "The Pit" arena floor at the University of New Mexico to reconnect ties that bind Indian Country peoples from Canada, the United States and Mexico.

"We look across this sea of people and see our colors of red, yellow, white and black ... the four winds, the four corners of our country, the four races and we are the strongest race of all," said announcer Dennis Bowen Sr., of Tuba City, Ariz.

More than 100,000 people from nearly 700 Tribes attended the 31st annual Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow April 24-26, which included the Miss Indian World pageant. Honor and pride echoed from the start of every grand entry ceremony through all dance and drum competitions and to each final award presentation.

Along Pow-Wow Alley, the 500-booth Indian Trader's Market offered authentic Indian arts, crafts and jewelry makers who showcased beads and stones in one-of-a-kind fashions. Hand-tooled leather, musical instruments, pottery, clothing and other Native American-made goods filled table after table. Information booths about Native schools, health programs, social groups and Tribal businesses rounded out the expo and sale.

Stage 49 — referring to the slang for singing party or all-night, after-pow-wow party — provided a continual music concert starring indigenous artists worldwide. The schedule embraced 54 acts that ran the gamut of music genres from First Nations traditional to reggae, rock, hip hop and soul, as well as a smattering of dancers, comedians and magicians. The intertribal comedy team 49 Laughs headlined.

Patricia Lopez, of the Pueblo Nation in New Mexico, was one of nearly 3,000 singers and dancers who turned out to participate in the grand entrances and in women's traditional dancing competitions.

"First, dance is a prayer and when many people dance together it is a very powerful prayer. Today, to be with brothers and sisters from Mexico, the U.S. and Canada makes it even more powerful," said Lopez, dressed in the Northern tradition with heavy embroidery and bead work.



Eileen Soler

A bald eagle, sacred and revered throughout First Nations, is displayed to crowds gathered April 26 for the final grand entry at the 31st annual Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow in Albuquerque, N.M.

♦ See POW-WOW on page 6A

## Hard Rock celebrates decade of success with 10 years of charity at Okalee event

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Elders, veterans, school children and an alligator slung around Billy Walker's shoulders opened festivities May 9 with a grand entry that marked more than a century of Seminole perseverance

and a decade of serious prosperity.

"It was beyond my expectations that we would be as successful as we are today," said Chairman James E. Billie at the start of the fourth annual Seminole Okalee Indian Village Pow-Wow. "Now we are on the map all around the world."

The three-day event featured Native

American dancers, drummers and art from Indian Country nationwide and brought scores to the Hard Rock Live to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood — A Decade of Rock.

After the grand entry but before pow-wow competitions began, five local charities were awarded \$10,000 annually for the next

10 years. The half-million dollar donation was made to the JDRF — South Florida Chapter diabetes research organization, Ann Storck Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Broward County, Make-A-Wish Southern Florida and Habitat for Humanity of Broward.

"We're seeing the Native spirit of generosity and love. They live it above and beyond," said Roz Perlmutter, second vice president of Ann Storck Center, a residential facility in Fort Lauderdale for children and adults with severe and multiple disabilities.

Ann Storck's CEO Charlotte Mather-Taylor said the Tribe has always been kind to the center. In April, Tribal members erected a chickee that serves as an outdoor classroom and meeting place. Annually, the Hard Rock sponsors the center's Celebrity Chefs fundraiser.

Hard Rock International Chairman Jim Allen was honored to award the donations but said he deserves no credit.

"Because I came from a challenged background, it's always rewarding to have an opportunity to help. But it's never about me. It's always about the Tribe and Tribal members," Allen said.

Chairman Billie gave the "hero" nod to Mitchell Cypress who was the Chairman in 2002 when the deal to build the Hard Rock was struck.

"People thought he was crazy to trust a bunch of white folk. It sure wasn't so crazy now that we are all happy and fat," Chairman Billie said.

Allen has led Seminole gaming operations since 2001. He was at the helm in May 2004 when the hotel and casino opened, and he was there in 2006 when the Tribe struck a deal to purchase Hard Rock International.

The numbers in a nutshell: In the past 10 years, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood has contributed nearly \$16 million in sponsorships and donations locally; regionally, the company has a direct

♦ See HARD ROCK on page 5A



Eileen Soler

The Seminole Okalee Indian Village Pow-Wow offers a big surprise for Seminole Tribe members young and old May 9 at Hard Rock Live.

## RV RESORT

From page 1A

Retirees Ted and Adeline Kasperek, of Hobe Sound, Fla., came to the RV Resort because of its proximity to the casino and took advantage of the opening weekend offer of a free night stay. They stayed two nights.

"We plan to do some gambling, fishing, swimming and relaxing," said Ted Kasperek, a Chicago native. "This is beautiful; they did a fine job. I just wish the casino was right next door. I like to play the poker machines. I lose, but I have fun and I love it. We'll definitely be back."

The resort's pool and deck were resurfaced, and a large chickee offers shade seekers a breezy place to relax between dips in the water. The adjacent recreation center is still under renovation, and a basketball court and playground are also planned for the site.

"I think this is awesome," said Joyce Piz, who attended the opening with her children. "Now people who travel have a place to stop and rest. It's a good facility."

Tribal members can reserve the recreation center and pool for birthday parties. For information, contact Darcey Barrows, Trading Post manager at 863-357-6644.

"I hope they fill up all the slots," Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. said. "It's been a long time coming and this is the product of their hard work. They should be congratulated."

An additional amenity at the RV Resort is the Brighton Up Your Day Spa, owned by Jeanne Billie, which features an array of services including hair, nails, tanning, massages and facials, to name a few.

"I love when I make people feel beautiful and wonderful about themselves," said Billie, who also has a tanning salon in Okeechobee. "I just want to share the love of life and make people feel good."



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, left, and Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard cut the ribbon May 24 at the opening of the newly renovated Brighton RV Resort.



Beverly Bidney

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard watches as siblings Tavis Jumper, 14, Corey Jumper, 9, and Deliah Carrilla, 16, are the first to enjoy the newly renovated pool at the opening of the Brighton RV Resort.



Beverly Bidney

A tranquil setting by the pond awaits the next camper to roll in.



Beverly Bidney

A guest camper settles in at the newly renovated Brighton RV Resort.

## Chairman's General Assembly

### STAFF REPORT

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Chairman's General Assembly, an annual event in which the Tribal Chairman and other Tribal principals address both the current state of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the concerns of Tribal members, went off as planned May 17 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

The all-day affair included speeches and presentations, a historical slideshow depicting Seminoles from the 1930s through the present, meals, gifts and a lengthy question-and-answer session with the more than 300 Tribal members

in attendance — many of whom bused in from Tampa, Brighton, Big Cypress, Fort Pierce and Immokalee.

A highlight was Hard Rock International Chairman Jim Allen's presentation of the latest data from Tribal gaming operations in the United States and across the world. The strength of the Hard Rock brand and the financial success of the gaming operations were proudly reported, by the numbers.

Following the close of the formal assembly, Tribal Chairman James E. Billie strolled through the casino, stopping and talking with casino guests sitting at the gaming machines.

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Letters/emails to the editor must be signed and may be edited for publication.

Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make checks payable to The Seminole Tribune, 3560 N. State Road 7 Hollywood, FL 33021 Phone: 954-985-5700 Fax: 954-965-2937

The following deadlines apply to all submissions to The Seminole Tribune:

Issue: June 30, 2014  
Deadline: June 11, 2014

Issue: July 31, 2014  
Deadline: July 9, 2014

Issue: Aug. 29, 2014  
Deadline: Aug. 13, 2014

Please note: Submissions that come past deadline will be published in the following issue.

Advertising: Advertising rates along with sizes and other information may be downloaded from the Internet at: <http://SeminoleTribune.org/Advertise>

Postmaster: Please send address changes to The Seminole Tribune 3560 N. State Road 7 Hollywood, FL 33021

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# Community



## Horseback riding lessons offered at Fort Pierce Chupco Youth Ranch

Lessons held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. for children and adults

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**FORT PIERCE** — Riding horses might not be a rite of passage, but Shamy Tommie wants to make sure Fort Pierce Reservation members have a chance to learn. Horseback riding lessons are given at the Chupco Youth Ranch on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. for children and adults.

"It's important for a kid to get to know an animal," said Tommie, the ranch director who teaches the program with ranch handler and professional horse trainer Nabor Sanchez. "It's more than just getting on and going for a ride; you have to know what it takes to care for the horse before you even get on. Out here, kids never had that training. I'd like to be the one to train them."

The program started about two years ago, but a new push is underway. The kids have shown enthusiasm for the animals.

"I like that I get to bond with the horses," said Sereniti Smith, 10. "I get to explore and learn about horses, and it's a lot of fun."

Kids stay in the ring to get the feeling of riding on a horse, while more experienced adults ride on reservation trails. Tommie would like to see inexperienced adults come out and learn along with their children.

"If they do it together, kids will spend



Beverly Bidney

Handsome Fanning guides a horse around the ring during a riding lesson May 6 at the Chupco Youth Ranch in Fort Pierce.

more time with their parents," Tommie said. The ranch's stable has enough stalls for 12 horses and a pasture. The ranch owns

a few horses and some Tribal members keep horses in the facility. The kids learn how to groom horses and learn about equipment, or tack, including saddles, stirrups, bridles, halters, reins, bits and harnesses.

"You have to get to know the horse, and let it get to know you by cleaning and grooming it," Tommie said. "If you take care of the horse, he will take care of you. It's important the kids know these things."

Learning to ride boosts confidence in children. When children learn that they can handle a 1,000-pound animal, it makes them feel good about themselves.

"Being able to control a horse makes a kid say, 'Wow,'" Tommie said, "but when they fall off, they have to get right back on or they will be afraid."

During a recent class, Sanchez and Kathreen Martinez, community property manager, led kids around the ring. Ready to ride without the lead, Handsome Fanning proudly rode a horse by himself.

Margaret Wilcox picked up her four grandchildren from school and brought them to the ranch for lessons.

"They look forward to it," Wilcox said. "I try to keep them busy, involved in the community and motivated. Idle time is the devil's workshop."



Beverly Bidney

Kathreen Martinez and Nabor Sanchez take a break leading the horses as Timothy Smith, 8, and Sereniti Smith, 10, remain in the saddle during a horseback riding lesson May 6 at the Chupco Youth Ranch in Fort Pierce.



Photo courtesy of SPD

Youth and Seminole Police Department officers pose for a photo with the Washington Monument in the background during National Police Week May 12-16.

## National Police Week full of experiences for Explorers

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Seminole Police Department officers and Tribal youth from the agency's Police Explorers program joined law enforcement from throughout the country May 12-16 for National Police Week in Washington, D.C.

"It was an opportunity for the kids to see us not just as they do every day in the community, but the different side of law enforcement — the struggles and concerns we all have," said Sgt. Angela Margotta, formerly of the department's Youth Services Division and now of the Homeland and Tribal Security Unit.

About 50 kids, 25 officers and 50 chaperones and family members attended the event, which included honoring 103 fallen officers who died in the line of duty during 2013. During a somber parade to honor the fallen, the SPD color guard marched and a Tribal police vehicle was driven in a cavalcade that featured dozens of agencies nationwide.

The trip also provided opportunities for Explorers to explore other facets of law enforcement, including civilian careers in the Federal Bureau of Investigation and U.S. Park Police.

Sgt. Tara Hardin, of Brighton, said about 150 Seminoles ages 6-19 are in the Explorers program tribalwide. Members attend meetings twice a month to learn various aspects of law enforcement and good citizenship. Occasionally, the Explorers lend police a hand with parking and traffic control at community events.

"For all of their hard work, the Explorers get the privilege of going to Washington and seeing the police in a different light," Hardin said.

They also squeezed in a hefty amount of sightseeing. Among the stops: the Washington Monument, FBI headquarters, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian's National Zoo and the National Museum of the American Indian.

"The D.C. trip is always a good experience," said Cameron Osceola, 17, of Hollywood, who attended for the fourth consecutive year.

Osceola, a guitar player in the Osceola Brothers Band, said he enjoyed the visit to FBI headquarters where an agent from Hawaii told the group how he grew up from being a guitar-playing teenager to a member of the U.S. military and then a full-time college student before being accepted into FBI training school. Explorers also observed an FBI training class during firearm qualifications.

The most compelling part of the trip for Osceola occurred right after the parade when a bag piper from Indiana suffered a heart attack.

Two police officers who didn't know each other — one from Orlando and one from St. Louis — rushed to save his life.

"That really opened my eyes to how close everyone in law enforcement is to each other. My uncle always said that the police force is like a family of brothers and sisters," Osceola said.

His uncle knows firsthand — he is Seminole Police Chief William Latchford.

# Hot-air balloons soar above Immokalee

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — Crowds gazed at the beauty of 30 hot-air balloons floating away together during an early morning breeze in Immokalee last month.

The sight was a highlight of the third annual Balloons Over Paradise festival sponsored by Seminole Casino Immokalee

April 26-27. About 35,000 people attended the event. Thirty additional balloons remained inflated on the ground so people could see them close-up, talk to pilots and take tethered rides.

Balloonists from as far as Ohio and Kentucky competed in a Hare and Hound race from Seminole Tribe Youth Ranch Immokalee to nearby Ave Maria University. The first balloon to take flight was the designated hare, which dropped a 50-foot, X-shaped target on the ground. The job of the hound pilots was to throw a marker on the target; whoever came closest to the center won. It took about an hour for the balloons to reach the site 7 miles away.

"The event started as a way for the casino to get more involved in the community," said Jim Gibson, director of marketing for the casino. "But it also drives tourism to the region; anything we can do to bolster the economy reaps benefits for the casino itself."

The event also showcased Seminole culture and heritage. Alligator wrestling, archery demonstrations, traditional cooking on the open fire in the chickee and plenty of arts and crafts for sale drew tourists to the cultural village.

The day before the public event, about 500 students from Naples, Fort Myers and Immokalee toured the grounds and learned about ballooning, aviation and flight.

Another highlight of the festival was a polo match. The balloon field was transformed into an arena-sized polo field — 110-by-55 yards — for the game.

Riding atop horses and using long-handled mallets, players attempted to hit the ball through



Beverly Bidney

Balloons show their shapes in various stages of being filled with hot air April 26 at Balloons Over Paradise in Immokalee.

the goal, 8 yards wide. Strategy includes body blocking, horse to horse.

A traditional match is between teams of four players; the demonstration game pitted two teams of three against each other. The players included two Americans, two Swiss and two Argentines, and they brought 30 steeds on which to play. Polo ponies

are thoroughbred horses of American and Argentinian lineage. After each 7.5-minute chukker, or period, players replaced tired horses with fresh ones.

"It's exciting because you feel the horses right on you," said Kris Kampsen, of Wellington, player and organizer of the match. "It's not like croquet."

Tito Gaudenzi grew up playing polo; his father was also a professional player.

"I like the interaction with the horse; you become one with the horse," said Gaudenzi, of Switzerland, who organizes polo events around the world with Kampsen.



Beverly Bidney

A balloon pilot fills his balloon with hot air to make it rise April 26 during the third annual Balloons Over Paradise event sponsored by Seminole Casino Immokalee.



Eileen Soler

Foster parent Moses Osceola, of Hollywood Reservation, is awarded a garden basket filled with goodies during the Family Services Department's annual Foster Parent Appreciation Luncheon.

## Foster parents merit standing ovations

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Gratitude was served in hefty portions of homemade meatloaf, armfuls of thoughtful gifts and plenty of applause May 13 at the Foster Parent Appreciation Luncheon on Big Cypress Reservation.

Hosted by the Family Services Department's Family Preservation program, the two-hour event was a welcomed midday break for 60 otherwise very busy foster parents.

"Today is for you who bring stability and love to the children of the Tribe and to entire families when they are at their lowest. We appreciate you for all your hard work," said Waitus Carter, a program coordinator who served as emcee.

Department director Helene Buster said about 75 children, from babies to teens, are always in some level of placement at any given time. Empowered by the Indian Children Welfare Act of 1978, the program enables Tribal members to open their doors to children of their extended family or other Tribal children.

"Without our foster parents we'd have to put our children in the outside foster system. We want them here, where we are, to grow up with Clan families and become part of our culture," Buster said.

But, while Buster celebrated an impressive gathering of loving and generous foster parents, she grieved that more help is needed.

"I hate to say that because it means we have more children in need. We have substance abuse and other problems that cause kids to be removed from homes even if it's just for a little while. That's a fearful time for parents and children," Buster said. "But that's when you step up at a moment's notice."

Guest speaker Tara Robbins epitomized the event theme: Hand in Hand, We Can Work Together. Formerly a parent in need, Robbins is now a full-time outreach worker for the department and a foster mother. Near tears, Robbins spoke from her heart.

"My life was once a shambles. I lost material goods, self-respect and my kids. To my aunt who stepped in and my family who gave me another chance ... today, I can be a better mother," she said. "I am honored to be able to give back the love that was given to me."

Buster said an eight-bed residential facility at Big Cypress will be open to youth tribalwide likely by the end of the summer. The building will provide shelter on a case-by-case basis and will be especially helpful for adolescents caught in bad domestic situations who may not require long-term fostering.

The facility may also be the answer to quelling adolescent behavior problems that can emerge when a parent, or both, cause family dysfunction.



Eileen Soler

Family Services Department director Helene Buster gives thanks and encouragement to foster parents.

"We have everything the child needs right here. School, a medical facility, a gym, community center, people who care. We have everything they need to become productive people and change the odds against them," Buster said.

Dubbed "Foster Parent Survival Kit," foster parents were given garden baskets filled with Band-Aids to mend hurt feelings; a toy bear to make life "bearable;" marbles for when foster parents lose theirs; Life Savers for all the times they are called to the rescue; and mints because they make the extra super commit-mint.

Family Preservation administrator Kristi Hill said the third annual luncheon, with food provided by members of the Seminoles in Recovery program, also marked National Foster Care Month.

"History shows that the Tribe takes care of their own children. Today, we honor that which is done in formal, legal placement but within a normal family life," Hill said.

On April 25, during Child Awareness Month, Tribal members also gathered for simultaneous demonstrative walks against abuse at Big Cypress and Hollywood Reservations.

Buster congratulated the parents for always being the ones to take the extra mile for children. She recognized that giving homes to an extra child or two, or even more, requires more hours in the day, food to cook, beds to make, homework to check, baths to draw.

"Most people take those things for granted, but not you," Buster said. "You do it over and over so that children are not afraid to come home. You give them love."

## Cops prove mettle on motorcycles during 25th annual contest

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — To demonstrate their prowess with motorcycles, 168 motor officers from 40 law enforcement agencies competed in the 25th annual Southeast Police Motorcycle Rodeo at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

Four motor officers from the Seminole Police Department, including Lt. Mitch VanSant, competed and helped organize the May 3 rodeo.

"This is a great turnout," said VanSant, who helped start the event 25 years ago with other officers. "We do this to raise money for C.O.P.S. [Concerns of Police Survivors]. Over 25 years, we have given more than \$500,000 to the program, on top of having a really good time with other motor officers."

Every year a Harley Sportster 883 is donated by the factory or local dealers for a raffle. Chester's Fort Lauderdale Harley-Davidson donated the bike this year. The raffle raised about \$50,000.

"The officers prepared well to make the event a success," said SPD Police Chief William Latchford. "They volunteered their time and planned this year-round, along with their other duties. They represent the Tribe in a positive light in the law enforcement world; that's the kind of heart our officers have."

The Hard Rock parking lot was transformed into a maze of orange cones. Judges from the Wings of Gold motorcycle club stood at every turn to take notes on each rider, whose objective was to pass through the course as cleanly as possible without touching cones, putting a foot on the ground or dropping the motorcycle.

"You need to go slow and take your time because you get bonus seconds for a clean run," said SPD Officer Gregg Forsyth. "I hope to have a clean run and not



Beverly Bidney

SPD Lt. Mitch VanSant maneuvers his motorcycle through a difficult course May 3 at the annual Southeast Police Motorcycle Rodeo at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. Lt. VanSant helped start the event 25 years ago with other officers.

disappoint the team."

Wearing utility belts loaded with guns, handcuffs, radios, Tasers, flashlights and other necessities of the job, officers concentrated intensely as they slowly rode through the course. Police departments from Maryland, Louisiana and throughout Florida were represented.

"These are some of the best riders in the state and the southeast region," said Officer Joe Companion, who has worked 11 years for SPD. "If I remain vertical at the end, then I did great."

Nerves played a part for some

competitors, including Officer Erin Young, of Margate, who was happy to compete.

"I could have done worse; I could have done better," Young said. "It's nerve-racking the day of the competition. You put yourself in a zone and block off everything that's around you so your nerves don't show."

SPD officers finished in the top 15 to 20 teams overall.

"Everybody wants to win the 25th year," said Detective James Boudreaux, who has been an SPD motor officer for 10 years, "but there's a lot of talent out here."

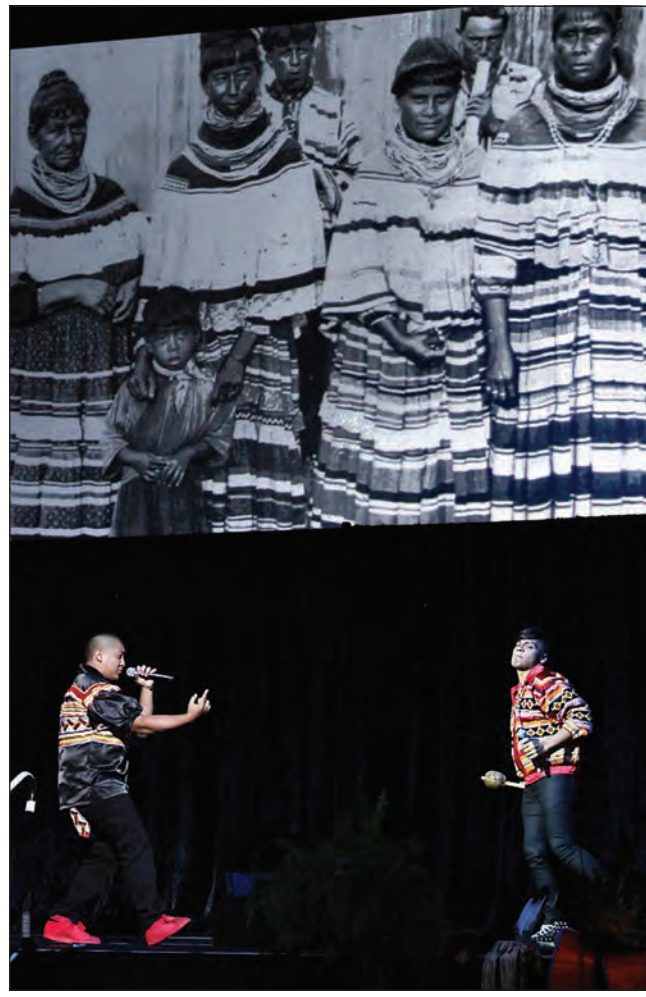
### ◆ SPENCER

From page 1A

Other accolades for Battiast include writing and producing *The Storm* with brother Zac "Doc" Battiast. The single won Best Music Video at the American

Indian Film Festival in 2011. As a teenager he opened for Aerosmith, Sting, the Police and his favorite artist, Stevie Wonder, in front of an audience of more than 100,000 at Hard Rock Calling in London.

Battiast's own life experiences, as well as those around him, inspired his latest single.



Eileen Soler

Spencer Battiast, right, performs with his brother Zac at the Decade of Rock celebration May 9 at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood.

"I grew up listening to elders; my favorite thing to do is listen to other people's stories," he said. "I listened and created this song. If people can relate to it, then I feel like I did my job."

Battiast also created a video for *Love of My Life* using a largely Native American crew and cast. Steven Paul Judd, of the Kiawa and Choctaw Tribes who also directed *The Storm*, was on board for this video. They filmed on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and other Los Angeles locations.

Shayna Jackson, Dakota/Cree, was the lead actress, Bulgarian dancer

Valentino Vladimirov was the lead actor and Pamela Peters, Navajo, produced the video. The music was recorded and produced in Zac's studio on the Hollywood Reservation by Los Angeles music producer B. Howard.

"Whether or not I become a huge success, my goal is to elevate Native Americans and encourage my people to go after their dreams in

whatever field they choose, to do it to the best of their ability and at the highest level they can," Battiast said. "It gives me great joy and pride to say it was an all-Native American production."

Battiast always carries his journal, in which he writes random sentences, paragraphs and ideas that ultimately wind up as lyrics put to music. He finds inspiration from his ancestors and displays Tribal colors during performances.

"I never forget about how they sacrificed for us so we can be where we are today," he said. "That's what led us to write *The Storm*; I can't help but feel the presence of my people who came before me. It reminds me to be humble and never forget where I came from."

Primarily a pop and R&B artist, Battiast enjoys pop standards sung by artists like Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra and Barbara Streisand.

"A lot of people my age don't know about them," said Battiast, 23. "I love the great American songbook and country music because that's where the stories are told that grab at your heart. People are hungry for a real story when they listen to a record."

Battiast said his family keeps him grounded and serves as his biggest supporters and critics.

"It all comes from a place of love," he said. "You can't buy that. They let me make my own decisions, which help me to grow as a man and as an artist. My career could be over tomorrow and I can come home to my family and they will just love me. That brings me the ultimate joy."

Battiast hopes to inspire other Native Americans. He is also grateful for the support and encouragement from the Tribe, the Council and the Board.

"Music is a tough business and the leaders have been behind me my whole life," he said. "That really drives me and pushes me to make them proud. The Tribe is my family, and I always try to make my family proud."

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# Tribalwide presentations reveal 7th Generation Project mission

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

Actor and former NFL player Jim Warne made careers of playing in front of cameras, but when the Oglala Lakota member stood in the Seminole spotlight recently, he revealed another passion.

"It's about enlightenment. Most people have no clue about Native American history or what is happening today," said Warne, founder and president of Warrior Society Development. "They are ignorant by design."

Historically, from the European invasion in 1492 up to today's Indian gaming, facts have been twisted or ignored to suit the non-Native agenda, he said.

From April 29 to May 1 in Hollywood, Big Cypress and Brighton, Warne exposed forgotten, misrepresented or hidden truths to help ignite Native American progress throughout Indian Country.

Co-sponsored by the Seminole Tribe's Native Learning Center (NLC) and Seminole Media Productions' (SMP) Native Driven Network, the presentation called 7th Generation Project emphasized Native sovereignty, language and cultural preservation and how decisions made by young warriors today should serve communities seven generations into the future.

"Our youth tend to get lost in where we come from. If it's not being taught in school or at home, it needs to be taught here. We must let them know why and how they should move us to the future," said NLC executive director Georgette Palmer Smith, of the Kiowa Tribe in Oklahoma.

Smith credited SMP videographer and producer John-L. Voth for Warne's appearance. Smith said Voth "started the dialog" while filming Warne's message at NLC's summer conference last year. Voth then produced subsequent videos that further explored Indian Country issues and the seven generations belief.

The movement is rooted in a prophesy made by Lakota Medicine Man Black Elk after the 1890 massacre at Wounded Knee, S.D. that left 300 Lakota men, women and children at the hands of the U.S. Army. Black Elk said it would take seven generations to heal the broken circle of life caused by

constant Indian oppression that reached a devastating climax with the massacre.

Many believe Black Elk referred to the Trail of Tears (1831-1839) as the first generation and that the seventh generation is the youth of today. When subtracted from the current decade, seven times 25 (the average span of a generation) dates back to the Trail of Tears era.

Smith said youth at Warne's presentation in Hollywood paid close attention when Native decimation was compared to the genocide of the Holocaust.

"The grandchildren (of Seminole Tribe founders) perked up when they heard about our genocide. Now, when they visit Washington, D.C. and see the (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum) they will know that it happened to our people, too," Smith said.

Historians disagree about how many Natives lived in North America before Christopher Columbus arrived, but estimates — from 1.5 million to 112 million — average about 37 million. In any case, only 237,000 American Indians were counted in the 1900 U.S. Census.

Under the heading "Ethnic Cleansing," Warne showed a Sept. 24, 1863 newspaper clipping from *The Daily Republican* in Minnesota that advertised "\$200 for every red-skin sent to Purgatory. This sum is more than the dead bodies of all the Indians east of the Red River are worth."

"It is shocking to some people. Some wonder, 'How could we not know this?'" Warne said. "It's my responsibility to never forget and to teach everyone."

In Big Cypress, about 25 people attended the presentation. Many were stunned when Warne said that Native Americans are the only population in the United States guaranteed federal health care but the last on the list when it comes to distribution — which falls below convicted criminals in prisons.

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"How is it that lawbreakers — who include pedophiles, thieves and drug dealers — get more health care allowance than we do? We're the only people with the legal right to health care but what we get is health care that ensures the highest diabetes rates and the lowest life expectancy," Warne said.

In fact, a 2013 Bureau of Prisons report blamed skyrocketing health care costs for catapulting annual prisoner medical allocations to nearly \$6,000 per inmate in 2012. Meanwhile, in a 2012 Indian Health Service National Tribal Budget Formulation report, only \$2,896 was provided for Native Americans per capita during the same year. Renee Tigertail was appalled.

"We need to have more teaching. I've been to school, but I never heard about most of this before," said Tigertail, who attended public schools in Clewiston.

Warne, a nationally recognized motivational speaker armed with college degrees that include a master's in post-secondary education, takes every chance to educate. The most frequent lesson he does out is Indian 101 — often unexpectedly.

He obliterates myths when non-Natives spout common misconceptions, explaining to them that Indians do pay federal taxes; Tribal profits are not distributed to every Native in Indian Country; all Natives do not speak the same language; and none of the languages are called "Indian" or spoken in broken diction, like Tonto in *The Lone Ranger*.

In 2011, while in Washington, D.C. to speak before a Senate committee about the use of Indians as sports mascots, Warne met a congressman in the hallway who commented that all Native Americans are getting rich off casinos. Warne asked the congressman if he received money from Donald Trump lately, since Trump is white.

"The majority of casinos (in Indian Country) are so tiny that when you know what Tribes are doing well, you know the answer is hardly any. People are kept ignorant by design," said Warne, who believes 30 percent of Congress has no care for Native interests because federally recognized Tribes exist in only 35 states.

"We're a quiet people," Tigertail said. "We're easily discounted."

Warne said much of the ignorance is perpetuated in American schools where the history, culture and philosophies of the country's first nation of diverse peoples are ignored.

For decades following the mass relocations, the same disregard occurred in reservation schools. Native children ripped from families were forced into boarding schools and told to forget who they were. Thousands were punished brutally, even to death, for uttering their language. Their hair was shorn and their clothing was replaced with English school uniforms.

"We need history written by our people, and we, all elders in training, have to teach it. Only through education can we counter the ignorance," Warne said.

Smith said she hopes Warne's presentation will inspire adults and youths to heed the seven generations philosophy.

"Hopefully, what people learn today will carry through to stronger, safer and sustainable communities tomorrow," she said.

**"It's about enlightenment. Most people have no clue about Native American history or what is happening today."**

**— Jim Warne, founder and president of Warrior Society Development**



Attendees learn about patchwork and other Tribal arts and crafts from Larry Mike Osceola II and Gordon Ollie Wareham April 30 at the launch of the Tribal Art Project at Stranahan House.

## Tribal Art Project takes first steps at Stranahan House

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — Seminole have traveled to Stranahan House in Fort Lauderdale since the early 20th century when they traded, learned English and stayed for days at a time. Tribal members gathered again at the historic site April 30 to promote Seminole art and culture at the launch of the Tribal Art Project.

The project, conceived by Upper Room Art Gallery owner Robin Haines Merrill, was a winner of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's Knight Arts Challenge in 2013. The event at the Stranahan House was held to raise money to meet the requirement of a \$30,000 matching grant.

"Robin is trying to start an art village and incorporate Seminole culture into it," said Pedro Zepeda, who will contribute his artistic skills by carving a canoe. "It's an interesting way to promote the arts district."

The Tribal Art Project will be held at Merrill's art gallery located on Las Olas Riverfront near SW First Avenue and the New River. Zepeda will carve a traditional 13-foot dugout canoe from a cypress log at the gallery. He plans to work on the project a few days a month and expects it will take a year or two to complete.

The project combines art and community. During an October event, called "Paddle Up," dugout canoes, paddle boards, kayaks and modern canoes will

make their way down the Himmarshee Canal in Fort Lauderdale to highlight the area's rich history. Because Zepeda's canoe won't be ready in time, Merrill plans to use replica dugout canoes, including one from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

The arts district will also feature other cultural aspects of the Tribe, including patchwork.

Larry Mike Osceola II displayed vintage and modern patchwork pieces along with traditional sweetgrass baskets and dolls made by his mother, Minnie Doctor, at the kick-off event.

"I hope to bring understanding of patchwork and its history," Osceola said. "It's one of the most iconic art forms in Florida, and it all started with Singer sewing machines and fabric, which Seminole women got from Stranahan."

Merrill, who has worked with the poor in the Philippines and has participated in cultural exchanges in China and Upper Mongolia, feels strongly about indigenous art. Once the canoe project begins, she will post video and stop-action photos of its progress in the window of the gallery.

"We want to broaden the scope of non-Native American people and integrate art and culture into activities in the community," she said. "It's important to be able to pass it down and let other people see it. Everyone can learn as they watch the canoe being carved. It's not just about saving the art that's being lost; it's also about the experience and the act of creating arts and crafts."



Eileen Soler

Jim Warne hosts the 7th Generation Project April 30 at Big Cypress Reservation. The educational event, co-hosted by Seminole Media Productions and the Native Learning Center and presented also in Hollywood and Brighton, included little known facts about Indian Country history and culture.

### ◆ HARD ROCK

From page 1A

annual economic impact of \$276 million including \$138 million for payments to employees and another \$138 million for in-state purchases of goods and services. Roughly 3,750 employees work for the hotel and casino complex.

"People gave us reason after reason why (Hard Rock Hollywood) would never work," Allen said.

Naysayers noted the inner city location a distance from the beach; the economy of the time which dashed plans for 750 rooms down to 500 rooms; record rains that consistently delayed construction; nonexistent street infrastructure; and no slot machines.

Annually, the hotel operates at 98

percent capacity. About 15,000 people come through on weekdays and about 40,000 show up on weekends to enjoy the hotel, casino, big-name concerts, fine restaurants, upscale shopping and Seminole cultural events.

Most important: The money stays at home through a compact deal with the state and dividends sharing with Tribal members.

According to a recent press release, the total annual economic impact to the community at large is \$516 million and 6,600 jobs.

The pow-wow event offered visitors a glimpse of Seminole culture with alligator wrestling and snake shows at the Okalee amphitheater, patchwork and bead jewelry in a vendor midway, and authentic foods cooked to order at a cluster of outdoor chickees.

People from many Tribes including

the Kiowa, Comanche, Lakota, Oneida and Cherokee participated in dance and drum contests.

Celebrities who have appeared at Hard Rock Live also popped in via a video broadcast before the event. International stars including Gloria Estefan, Jerry Seinfeld, Jason Taylor and Lady Antebellum offered good wishes for future anniversaries.

Allen said plans are in the works for improvements and expansions that will likely include a new hotel entrance, a lobby bar and the creation of several super suites.

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola remembers 2001 when only a "coming soon" sign stood desolate but hopeful on State Road 7.

"Now I know what they mean when they say, 'Time flies when you're having fun,'" Councilman Osceola said.



Beverly Bidney

John Williams and Jennifer Tyler, of Miami, learn about Seminole carving techniques from Pedro Zepeda at the launch of the Tribal Art Project at Stranahan House April 30.

### ◆ BALLOONS

From page 3A

The roar of hooves combined with the shouts of players made for an exciting match. During halftime, spectators were invited onto the field for the traditional stomping of the divots, or mounds of

earth torn up by hooves. Music played and people danced, pranced and stomped divots flat.

After the match, music by Rachel/Hughes Band, JJ McCoy Band and headliner Sister Hazel kept the crowd moving and grooving. As the sun sank in the sky, the glow of tethered balloons illuminated by propane filled the field.



Eileen Soler

Representatives of five nonprofit organizations display oversized checks for \$100,000 (over the course of 10 years) during the Decade of Rock celebration May 9 at Hard Rock Live.



Beverly Bidney

Polo players battle for the ball April 26 during Balloons Over Paradise in Immokalee.

**POW-WOW**  
From page 1A

years of her renowned youth ambassador program that inspires the young to maintain cultural beliefs while they take on the world on and off the reservation.

"We don't have to leave our values at the reservation or our home. You have to take them with you and be that person all the time wherever you are," Harris said in an interview with Tara Gatewood, of Koahnic Broadcast Corporation's Native America Calling.

For members of Danza Azteca Chichimela, just getting to the pow-wow

was a feat. Troupe dancers and musicians, all indigenous to South America but none affiliated with a recognized Tribe, traveled from Los Angeles, San Fernando and San Gabriel Valley in California.

Sergio Ruiz, of Los Angeles, said the Aztec troupe was allowed to dance in the grand entrance and on Pow-Wow Alley, but they were not sponsored by the Gathering of Nations organization.

"We are here through the grace of the Creator. Just to be here with our Native brothers and sisters is enough. It's about sharing our specific cultures, and regardless of how we got here, we came to share," Ruiz said.



Eileen Soler

Patricia Lopez, of the Pueblo Nation in New Mexico, is among thousands of dancers and singers who filled the University of New Mexico basketball stadium during the April 24 grand entry ceremony for the 31st annual Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow.



Eileen Soler

The Crazy Spirit drum group, of Michigan and Ontario, compete at the Gathering of Nations.



Eileen Soler

Darrell Hill, of the Oneida Nation, leads a grand entry ceremony.



Eileen Soler

Dancers give their all dressed in full regalia for the men's Fancy Feather Dance competition.



Eileen Soler

Thousands file in during the grand entry ceremony.



Eileen Soler

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie waves to thousands of spectators April 24 during a standing-room-only grand entry ceremony.



Eileen Soler

Stephen Bowers and wife, Elizabeth, share the latest news about the American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative (AIVMI) to festival attendees.



Eileen Soler

The new Miss Indian World 2014, Taylor Christianna Thomas, of Fort Hall, Idaho, is flanked by her court and contestants at the Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow in Albuquerque, N.M.

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# Miss Florida Seminole represents at biggest pow-wow in North America

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Twenty-three of Indian Country's most talented and beautiful young women vied at the Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow in Albuquerque, N.M. for the coveted title of Miss Indian World 2014.

Among them at the April 24-26 event was Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie, 18, a Hollywood resident and graduating senior at Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale.

"It was a great experience and it was fun to see everyone do well; we were rooting for each other," said Blais-Billie, who was accompanied to the pageant by her sister Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie and Miss Florida Seminole chairwoman Wanda Bowers.

The contest opened with the talent section. Blais-Billie — daughter of the late July Billie, of the Otter Clan, and hairstylist France Blais-Billie — displayed her flair for fashion with a lineup of handmade Seminole dolls decked in patchwork dresses.

Later, the contestants ages 18-25 proved individual forte for public speaking by answering impromptu questions. Blais-Billie was asked to describe the Seminole Tribe as she would to an outsider.

"We're a very proud, tight-knit community open to sharing our crafts and our language," she said.

iHeartRadio host Beulah Sunrise, of Albuquerque, who served on the pageant committee, said the competition was about empowerment, sharing cultures and networking. The women, mostly college students or recent graduates, represented diverse Tribes from New York to Alaska.

"It's important to be strong as Nations but when the contestants network, join together and help each other, they fulfill one of the main purposes," Sunrise said. "They learn from their differences and similarities which grows them to be future leaders."

Many women from the pageant's 31-year history have become leaders in different areas of Tribal society, including government. They all become sisters for life.

Bowers, a two-time Miss Florida Seminole princess, proved the sisterhood sentiment by honoring Miss Indian World coordinator Melonie Mathews with a Seminole patchwork skirt and cape.

"It's official. I am making Melonie



Eileen Soler

Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie participates in a grand entry ceremony, flanked by queens from other Tribes throughout the nation, at the Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow in Albuquerque, N.M.

Mathews a Seminole sister," Bowers said during a special presentation at the pow-wow.

The last segment of the competition highlighted Native dances.

Blais-Billie performed a modern Jingle Dress Dance, which has its origins in the Ojibwe Nation. She learned the dance just a few weeks before the pageant.

In the end, the panel of 25 judges chose Miss Shoshone-Bannock Queen Taylor Christianna Thomas, of Fort Hall, Idaho, to wear the Miss Indian World 2014 crown. Megan Leary, of the Native village of Napaimute in Alaska, took first runner-up; Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn, of the Standing Rock Sioux from Bismarck, N.D., placed third.

Blais-Billie was thrilled to escort the new court, flanked by all contestants, on their first honor walk. She said she learned much from the experience, especially about other Tribal cultures.

"It was really a supportive environment. There wasn't a real sense of competition. I came back a lot more confident," she said.

Staff Reporter Beverly Bidney contributed to this article.

**"It was a great experience, and it was fun to see everyone do well."**

— Tia Blais-Billie, Miss Florida Seminole



Eileen Soler

Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie performs a modern Jingle Dress Dance.

## Homegrown Hybiskus rocks Stage 49

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — All the way from South Florida, and in the midst of a New Mexico dust storm, the alternative rock band Hybiskus shook Stage 49 at the 31st annual Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, N.M.

Led by RC North Jr., of Hollywood Reservation, on lead guitar, with Gery K on bass and Alex Blue on drums, the band tore into a set of three original grunge metal tunes with lyrics reminiscent of Soundgarden, Smashing Pumpkins and Nirvana.

"I love the beats and I love that the lead is Native," said Troy Martza, of the Zuni Tribe in New Mexico — and a new Hybiskus fan.

The April 26 show marked North's third time playing at the annual pow-wow but the first with Hybiskus, which formed in the summer of 2013. The trio attended Hollywood Hills High School together.

North, who began writing and playing music at 14, has a degree in filmmaking from Full Sail University in Orlando. Of Winnebago and Ojibwe descent on his father's side and Seminole on his mother's



Eileen Soler

RC North Jr. plays lead guitar in Hybiskus, an alternative rock band, at Gathering of Nations.

side, North said the band was fortunate to land stage time at the pow-wow.

"We're hoping this will catapult us to

more opportunities," North said. "Getting to play here is great and representing my Tribe is an honor."



Eileen Soler

Grass dancers compete in a memorial Grass Dance special at Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow in memory of Seminole Tribe member Casey Dean McCall.

## Grass Dance contest held in memory of Casey Dean McCall

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Drums and songs swelled to deafening decibels while men cloaked in quills, bones, ribbons and brightly colored fabric swayed and stomped, furiously mimicking grass that catches the wind on the Northern Great Plains.

About 120 grass dancers filled the University of New Mexico basketball stadium April 26 during the Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow to honor the memory of Seminole Tribe member Casey Dean McCall and win championship grass dancing prizes.

"Our relative has gone on to the spirit world," said the announcer to a packed audience at the 31st annual pow-wow. "On Sept. 3, 2006, he went home to the Maker, the great Creator."

The competition, one of several specials at the largest pow-wow in North America, was sponsored by Casey's mother, Wanda Bowers, of Hollywood Reservation. At Bowers' side were Casey's sister, Christine McCall, and a cadre of loved ones including Stephen Bowers, Elizabeth Bates, Mary Jene Koenes, Christine and Sonny Nevaquaya, and Seminole Princesses Tia Blais-Billie and Brianna Blais-Billie.

"It makes me so proud because the dancers remembered Casey. It reminded me that they knew him and they loved him," Wanda Bowers said.

Casey was only 18 when he passed

away tragically just a few months after his high school graduation from Sheridan Hills Christian School. The Hollywood resident was a formidable football player who had earned a Gatorade Offensive Player of the Year award, the team's Most Valuable Player title and a spot on the Broward County All-Star team.

He was also a pow-wow fan who made grass dancing a passion since age 7. Per tradition, he learned the dance from watching others then earned permission from Tribal elders to perform. Casey's love for the powerful Medicine Dance was evident when he performed at the Seminole Tribal Fair in Hollywood and the Discover Native America in St. Petersburg.

But Casey passed away before he could compete with adults at national events.

"He never made it to the adult dance — that's why it was so important to have others dance for him," Wanda Bowers said. "I think I can let him rest now."

Koenes led a prayer for the nearly 15,500 spectators who stood in silence.

"We're given our children from the Creator but it is up to Him when He takes them home," Koenes said.

The crowd hooted and cheered as the dancers stomped in a frenzy of brilliant colors until all but two men were cut from the group.

An epic tiebreaker dance-off lasted three sessions and brought spectators to the floor laying down cash at the feet of Lakota Clairmont, of Denver, Colo., and Julius Not Afraid, of Rocky Boy, Mont. Clairmont left the victor.



Eileen Soler

Seminole Tribe members pose with Lakota Clairmont, of Denver, Colo., center, the winner of the Casey Dean McCall memorial Grass Dance special at the Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow in Albuquerque, N.M.



Eileen Soler

Dressed in full regalia and representing 700 Tribes throughout Indian Country in Canada, the United States and Mexico, dancers and singers stream onto the floor at the University of New Mexico's basketball stadium to mark the opening of the 31st annual Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow.

# Hurricane Season 2014

A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone that forms over tropical waters and rotates inward with high wind speeds. When it makes landfall it can bring high waves, tornadoes, damaging winds, torrential rains and floods, which can affect power, roadways, homes and buildings. Tropical cyclones in the Northern Hemisphere rotate counterclockwise. Types of tropical cyclones are:

**Tropical Depression:** A tropical cyclone with wind speeds up to 38 mph

**Tropical Storm:** A tropical cyclone with wind speeds from 39 mph up to 73 mph

**Hurricane:** A tropical cyclone with wind speeds 74 mph or higher is considered a Category 1 hurricane by the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

**Major Hurricane:** A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 111 mph or higher, corresponds to a Category 3, 4 or 5

## Watches & Warnings, Know the Difference

**Tropical Storm Watch:** Winds of 39 to 73 mph are possible within 48 hours

**Tropical Storm Warning:** winds of 39 to 73 mph are possible within 36 hours

**Hurricane Watch:** Conditions with sustained winds of 74 mph or higher are possible within 48 hours (two days) of anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. Watches are issued in advance of the storm to provide enough lead time to set response actions into motion for life safety. Purchase extra gas, food and water, close shutters, and relocate to a safe area.

**Hurricane Warning:** Conditions with sustained winds of 74 mph or higher are possible within 36 hours of the onset of tropical-storm-force winds. A warning is issued when conditions pose a threat to life or property.

## HURRICANE SAFETY

If the storm threatens any Tribal community, Emergency Management will activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to begin the process of notifications. To be ready and resilient this Hurricane season, follow these guidelines:

### During a Hurricane Watch

During this period you should focus on securing your home and property:

- Put your storm shutters up
- Bring in lawn furniture, garbage cans and other items that are not tied down and could become airborne
- Protect your electronics with surge protectors and water proof coverings
- Monitor the storm's progress by listening to the radio or watching television
- Get fuel in car and for generator
- Fill clean tub with water for washing and sanitary purposes

### Staying with Family During a Storm

Many Tribal members choose to stay with family during a hurricane. Remember to take your pre-packed Disaster Kit filled with important items from the Disaster Supply Checklist with you.

### During a Hurricane

If a hurricane is likely to impact your area, you should:

- Monitor your radio or TV for weather updates
- Follow instructions from Tribal officials
- Stay indoors, preferably in an interior room with no windows
- If flooding threatens your home, turn off electricity at the main breaker
- Use flashlights; do not use candles for light
- DO NOT GO OUTSIDE during the "eye of the storm." There is only a brief period of calm before the hurricane force winds return
- Stay calm and keep busy indoors

### Immediately After a Hurricane

Many injuries occur in the aftermath of a hurricane. To protect you and your family:

- Remain inside until the area is safe. If you must go outside, watch for fallen objects and downed power lines
- Wear shoes at all times
- Continue to monitor the radio or TV for information. Tribal authorities may also provide instructions door to door
- Inspect your home for damage. Check for gas leaks, broken glass and flood waters
- Do not operate charcoal grills, propane camping stoves or generators indoors
- Do not drive or walk through flood waters
- Stay away from downed power lines, and report them immediately to SPD and your electric company

### Cleanup After a Storm Takes Time

- Discard any food that has spoiled
- If you need help call Seminole Police Department or Emergency Management

## 2014 HURRICANE NAMES

Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, Wilfred



## KIDS' CORNER

Extreme weather can be scary for children. To calm their fears, talk softly, hold them close and tell them they are safe. Teach them what actions to take when storms arrive, such as staying indoors and seeking shelter in a small room with no windows. Children need to know the threat of lightning, strong winds and heavy rain. Have kids pack their own emergency bags before a storm with fun items to keep them busy during a storm.

### Kids, fill your own backpack with these emergency items:

- Toys
- Books
- Games
- Snacks
- Pillow and blanket
- Flashlight

## PET PLAN

Remember to include your pets in your emergency plan. Pets should shelter with you; be sure to bring enough supplies for them. Here is a storm checklist for your pet.

### Pet Storm Kit Checklist

- Water (1 gallon per day, for three days)
- Dry pet food for two weeks
- Food dish/water bowls
- Vaccination records
- Medications
- Collar ID and leash
- Crate
- Photo of your pet
- Garbage bags, newspaper, paper towels, litter
- Treats

## DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST

Disaster Supply Kits should include supplies for three to seven days

- Bottled water (at least 1 gallon per person per day)
- Medications (at least two weeks' supply)
- Battery powered radio
- Flashlight/extra batteries
- Canned goods/can opener
- Whistle
- Mosquito repellent/citronella candles
- First aid kit
- Items for a baby (formula, bottles, wipes, diapers etc.)
- Lighter
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container (insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, social security card, etc.)
- Cash for purchases after the storm
- Vehicle with full gas tank
- Cell phone charger
- Plastic tarp
- Cleanup supplies
- Plastic trash bags
- Paper goods (plates, cups, utensils)

## Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale Definitions

Category	Wind(mph)	Description
1	74-95	Minimal: Power outages.
2	96-110	Moderate: Power loss is expected with outages that could last several days to weeks.
3	111-129	Extensive: Power and water loss is expected that could last weeks.
4	130-156	Extreme: Power and water loss will last weeks to months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
5	157+	Catastrophic: Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

## TORNADOES

Tornadoes can occur at any time of day, any day of the year, and appear rapidly when conditions are warm, humid and windy. Monitor weather conditions and reports for severe weather watches and warnings. Stay safe by:

- Immediately seeking shelter inside a building
- Go into a safe room (with no windows), such as a closet or bathroom
- Cover your head with hard helmet, sit in a corner for protection and listen to the radio for weather updates
- Stay away from windows

The Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale is used by the National Weather Service (NWS) to assign a rating of a tornado based on the estimated wind speeds and related damage.

### EF Scale Rating - 3 Second Wind Gust (mph)

- EF 0 65-85 mph
- EF 1 86-110 mph
- EF 2 111-135 mph
- EF 3 136-165 mph
- EF 4 166-200 mph
- EF 5 Over 200 mph

**Tornado Watch** is issued when conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. During a watch, be ready to move to a safe room.

**Tornado Warning** is issued when a funnel cloud or rotation is detected by radar or sighted by a storm spotter. Seek shelter immediately. Stay tuned to your radio for alerts and information during the Watch period.

## FLOODING

Heavy rains can cause flooding. Flood waters can severely damage property and hold many hidden dangers, so remember:

- DO NOT walk, swim or play in rain water or standing flood water
- Infections can be caused by hidden sharp objects that can puncture your skin
- Contaminated water collects from pastures, sewage and car oils that can cause infections
- Electric shock may occur from downed power lines in the water
- Do not drive through floods. A car, truck, golf cart or ATV can be easily swept away or stall out
- Be careful of snakes, alligators and mosquitoes

**Hurricane season  
June 1 – Nov. 30**

## Contact Numbers

### Health Centers & Special Medical Needs

Hollywood/Trail: 954-962-2009  
Big Cypress: 863-983-5151  
Immokalee/Naples: 239-867-3400  
Brighton/Tampa/Ft. Pierce: 863-763-0271

### Pharmacy

954-961-7210 or 954-965-1331  
Toll-Free: 866-961-7210  
Fax: 954-967-6789

### Animal Control

954-965-1321

### Debris & Trash Pickup: Public Works

866-625-5376

### Generators: Construction Management

863-902-3200 ext.13014

### Police & Fire Rescue Communications

(Non-Emergency)  
Hollywood/Coconut Creek/Trail:  
954-967-8900  
Big Cypress/Naples/Immokalee:  
863-983-2285  
Brighton/Tampa/Ft. Pierce:  
863-763-5731

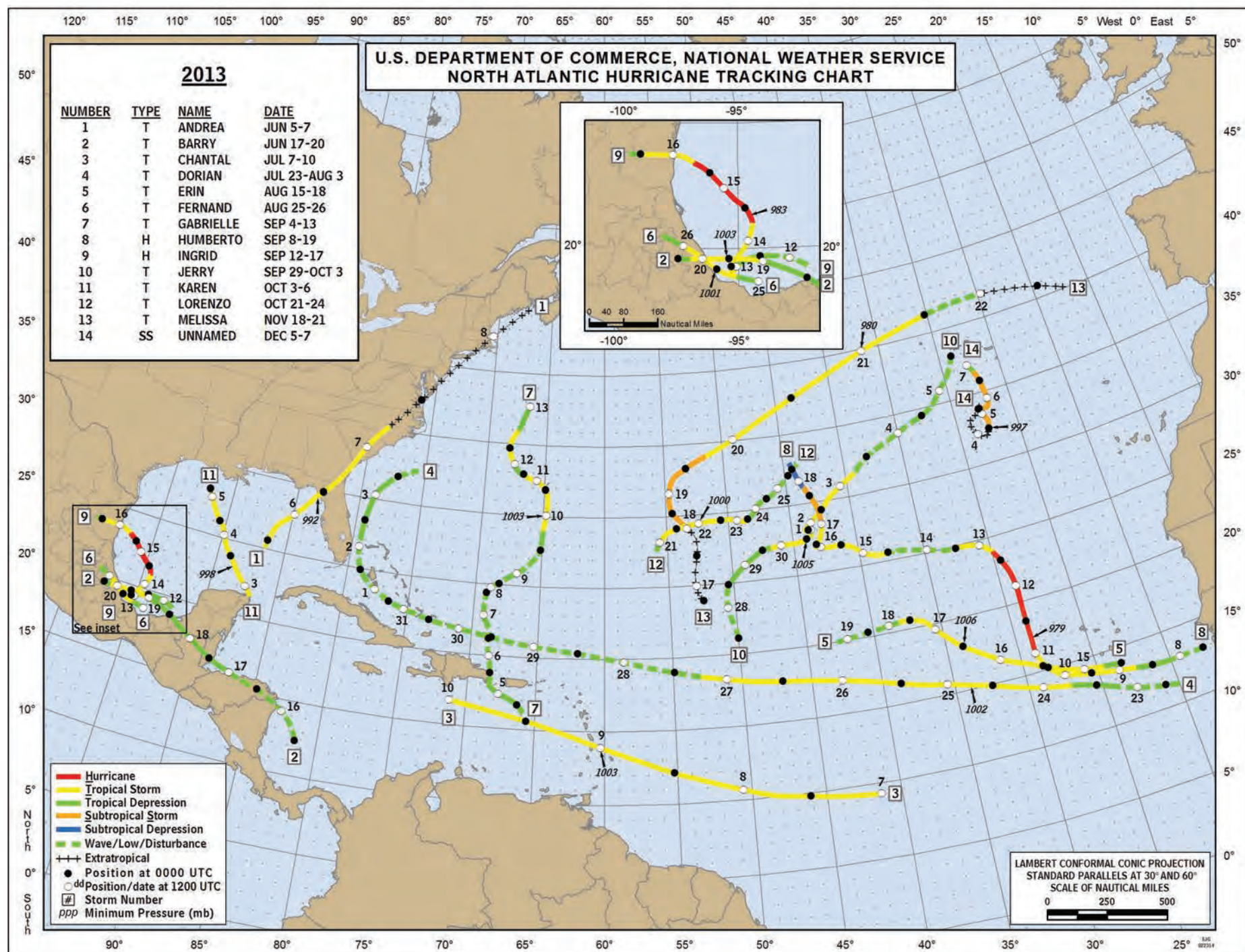
### Housing & Shutters Assistance

Hollywood: 954-985-2300 ext. 4  
Big Cypress: 863-805-2940  
Brighton: 863-824-6051  
Immokalee: 239-657-4509  
Fort Pierce: 772-466-1492  
Tampa: 813-246-3100  
Trail: 305-553-8245 ext.0  
Housing After-Hours  
800-617-7517

### Emergency Management

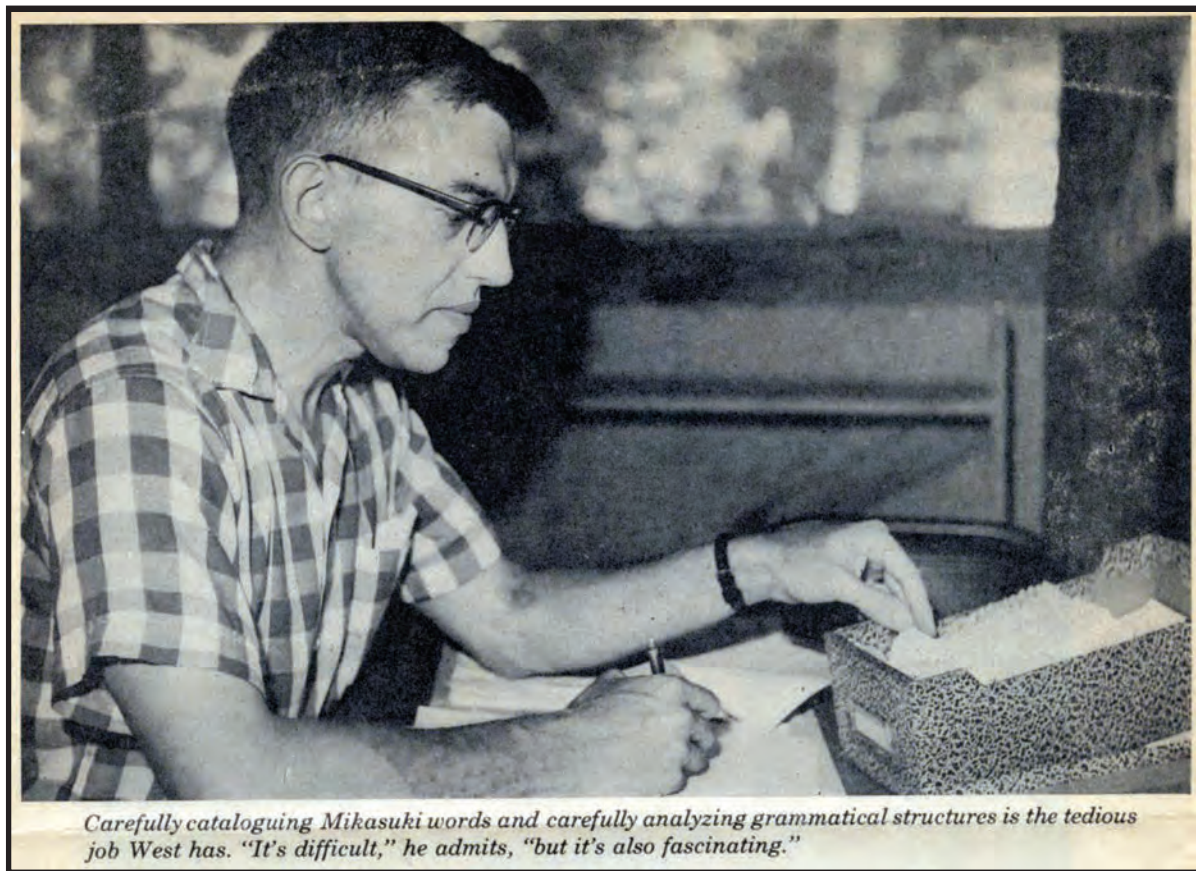
954-967-3650

For emergencies dial 911





# The David West Collection: A Mikasuki scholar's legacy at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum



Carefully cataloguing Mikasuki words and carefully analyzing grammatical structures is the tedious job West has. "It's difficult," he admits, "but it's also fascinating."

SUBMITTED BY TENNILE JACKSON  
Collections Assistant

The native languages of the Tribal community play an important part of Seminole culture, history and identity. They serve as distinct representations of the Tribe.

Because of its significance, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is always interested in obtaining language-related materials to help preserve Seminole culture and history.

The Museum is currently processing a donation of research materials on the Mikasuki language. The collection consists of an estimated 4,000 documents compiled by Christian missionary and linguist David West.

It includes technical notes, newspaper clippings, scholarly publications, personal letters, worksheets and a number of other materials related to the Seminole Tribe and its languages.

The Museum was thrilled to acquire this addition, which the Summer Institute of Linguistics International donated in 2008. The faith-based organization works to promote language development throughout the global community.

The collection was established in the late 1950s as part of efforts to produce a Bible in the Mikasuki language. This undertaking was organized by the Wycliffe Bible Translators Inc., whose global initiatives aim at translating the Bible into minority languages.

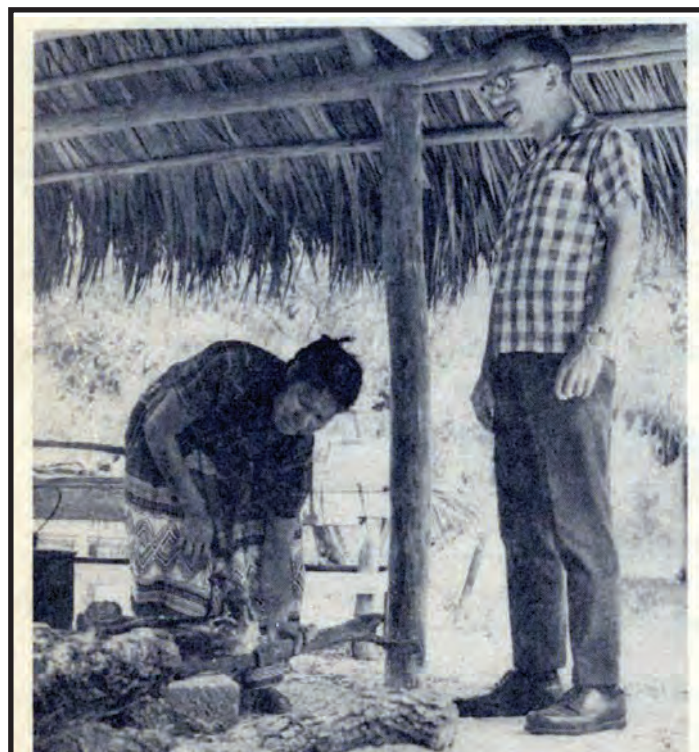
Under the auspices of the organization, David West and his wife, Virginia, worked as missionaries to create a Bible in one of the native tongues of Seminole Tribal members. This type of academic work was not typical of missionaries.

In fact, the Museum recently acquired an article from a 1967 *All Florida* magazine, in which West refers to himself as more of a scientific missionary than an evangelical one.

Regardless of this fact, his religious interests and background as a trained linguist made him a perfect candidate to complete the assignment.

Because Mikasuki had not been formally studied by non-Native speakers, the project required West to conduct exhaustive research on every aspect of the language, including those that are unique to Mikasuki and do not exist in English.

To grasp a better understanding of the language, West immersed himself in Seminole culture by living among Tribal members on the Big Cypress Reservation for several years.



Even casual conversation is invaluable in preparing a dictionary and written form of Mikasuki. David West (right) chats with Mrs. Mary Coppedge as she cooks for a tribal meeting.



Mrs. Harley Jumper explains the menu to David West as she helps prepare the native Seminole dishes for the evening meal at a tribal meeting.

During that time, he reached out to Tribal members such as Nellie Smith, Frances Osceola and Betty Mae Jumper who, among several others, served as Native informants.

His interactions with Tribal members were a valuable and important part of his research.

While his missionary duties were not traditional, his faith-driven efforts led to the creation of a Mikasuki alphabet, which created the foundation for developing the written language.

Items within the collection include a Mikasuki dictionary, an educational booklet for instructors teaching Mikasuki and a set of vocabulary flash cards.

As part of its cataloging process, Museum staff are thoroughly documenting each page of the collection, which will include names of Tribal members who worked with West and scanned images of each document. Cataloging will take several years.

Because of the cultural sensitivity of the materials, access to the collection will be limited to Tribal members and will not be made available online.

Seminole Tribe members are invited to view the collection. Call the Museum to make an appointment in the Library at 863-902-1113 ext. 12246.

Note: All photographs are taken from the 1967 *All Florida* magazine (ATTK Catalog No. 2014.19.3) article about David West's work, and they retain the original captions.

Betty Mae Jumper

## Wisdom from the past

### The Big, Bad Wind

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the Sept. 4, 1992 issue of *The Seminole Tribune*.

I can say the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes are lucky to go through the "Big, Bad Wind," as the Indians called it.

The Hollywood Seminole Reservation had trees knocked down and some damage to the houses but not as bad as the Miccosukee Tribe out on the Tamiami Trail. Many homes were destroyed and there is no water or electricity. The Hollywood Seminole Reservation had no electricity for two days and two nights but never lost any drinking water, as most places did.

The edge of Miami, Homestead and other areas of Miami, the Big, Bad Wind took almost everything as it ripped across the edge of Florida. You don't know what it's like unless you've been through it, many people are finding out.

The first bad hurricane I went through was when I was around 2 years old. My great-uncle Jimmy Gopher cut down swamp cabbage palm trees and nailed boards across the plant logs, about six logs. Then he tied or chained it to big oak trees and covered canvas over it, forming a platform. He nailed it down in front of where he thought the storm was coming.

He then put a 4-foot long pole to stand in the middle of the flat barge he made. When the high winds started getting bad, he made us all get on it. I don't remember, but, my mother said, "We was on it." They cut the chickens down and put the dogs, chickens or whatever they had under it. My aunts, my grandmother, my mother and us kids were under this tent on this barge-type platform.

Uncle Jimmy was sitting at the edge telling us to sit still or lie down. My mother said in an hour or so the wind started blowing hard and the water started to get higher and higher. We started swinging back and forth. My great uncle said that if the chain broke we'll only be floating until we land on higher land, so don't be afraid.

It rained hard all night, but the Big, Bad Wind passed over, breaking soft trees and some chickees. I don't know how my great-uncle knew the storm was coming, but he got things ready for his family to stay in.

The water got real high, about 3 feet, my mother said, but at daylight the water went down to about a foot deep. So when the sun came out she said the old rooster would fly to a table where they used to eat and start crowing away. No chickiee on top.

A few days later when the news came to them, they heard across the Okeechobee Lake thousands of people died and the water went into some places as high as 8 feet and the houses were carried off into broken pieces.

My great uncle told his family: "God knows we were here." We were on the southeast side of Okeechobee Lake. No Indians lost their lives, but, many, many non-Indian people did.

My mother said it was a sad story to have gone through the strongest and worst storm she had ever been through. They lost most of their clothes and food, but what little they buried in the lard cans were safe, the few clothes they took with them under the tent they made out OK.

When I was a teenager I went through another hurricane storm making wind around 100 miles per hour. We all went to a rock pit which was near our home. Then in 1947 we went through a 125 mile per hour hurricane wind storm, which put Davie under water. The only way we all got out of town was to go to Hallandale Road.

There have been more storms, but we've been getting only the edge of the storms, so I guess we had it coming. I hope the rest stay out in the water and don't come out on the land again.

Another thing my great-uncle Jimmy did was, he would put two big axes in the ground, turned down so they would be facing the storm coming. My mother used to tell me that all Indians would know how strong the winds were going to be.

My prayers for the people who went through the storm and lost everything. Help will reach them and hopefully some way they'll get some place to stay.



Seminole Tribune archive photo

One little house was completely destroyed during a hurricane.



Seminole Tribune archive photo

Bridge down in Brighton.

## Hah-Pong-Ke: Jak Kelly

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

SPRING HILL, Fla. — Swampwood recording artist Jak Kelly is a legend among Florida songwriters, having penned such classics as *The Old Gunfighter*, *Road Dog*, *Mis' Amigos Perdidos*, *The Last First Kiss* and *Right on the Tip of My Heart* — all performed with Kelly's signature fingerpicking on the guitar.

Then, a few years ago, while contemplating the colorful words from the traditional Mikasuki language that he saw on road signs while driving around Florida, he came up with a nonsensical rhyming ditty.

He called it *Semi-Seminole Love Song*, and it enjoyed a short run on the SoundClick charts, reaching No. 90 among 153,201 songs on the

Acoustic register and No. 23 among the 35,696 hits in the sub-genre of Acoustic General.

Over his half-century career, Kelly has opened for and performed with the likes of the Kingston Trio, Gordon Lightfoot, Cat Stevens and other American folk icons. Semi-retired, he lives in Spring Hill, Fla., where he plays regularly at The Farm, a Pasco County outdoor venue.



Peter B. Gallagher

Jak Kelly

### 'Semi-Seminole Love Song'

Come on I Opa-Locka  
I'd really Ope-lika  
And I wish you would Kissimbee by the shore  
I promise I won't Tampa  
If you were in my-campa  
But I Withlacoochee-coochee even more

Miami, Miami  
Please let me Wachula all night long  
I'd beg, steal or borrow, Sarasota till tomorrow  
And you know If I Apopka, it ain't wrong

Well I ain't no Homosassa  
I like my Chelsea whiskey  
Please don't Okeechobee on the floor  
Don't give me Ichetucknee  
I'm not that loose-a-hatchee  
Or I will Alafyah to the door

If you get to Tallahassee  
In that sweet Sopchoppy chassis  
We can just Satsuma all night long  
Oh, give me some Palatka  
And please don't cry Wimauma  
We will Weeki Wachee to the core.

# Moms primped, pampered, praised for Mother's Day



Beverly Bidney

Close-knit cousins enjoy the Brighton Mother's Day luncheon May 7. The group of aunts, mothers and grandmothers includes Monica Johns, Claudia Olivarez, Joyce Piz, Micki Burton, Grace Koontz and Suraiya Smith.



Beverly Bidney

Trenton Timothy, 9 months, is happy to be enveloped in Mary Tommie's arms at the Fort Pierce Mother's Day celebration May 7.



Beverly Bidney

Leandra Mora snuggles with her children Alizayah Alvarado, 20 months, and Delilah Hall, 8 months, at the Hollywood Mother's Day party May 8.



Beverly Bidney

Louise Gopher celebrates with her daughters Carla Gopher and Rita McCabe at the Brighton Mother's Day luncheon May 7.



Eileen Soler

Moms get treated like royalty with manicures and pedicures May 7 during the Big Cypress Mother's Day lunch catered by Benihana restaurant.



Eileen Soler

Moms, grandmothers and children of the Billie family on Big Cypress strike a pretty pose May 7 during the Big Cypress Mother's Day lunch featuring a tasty buffet from Benihana restaurant.



Beverly Bidney

Melissa DeMayo, left, and Allison Osceola take a selfie in the Hollywood Mother's Day spa after getting pampered all afternoon with hair, makeup, manicures and massages.



Beverly Bidney

Sheena Cypress and her son D'maryon Timothy, 5, pose for a photo May 7 at the Fort Pierce Mother's Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Samantha Frank gets her makeup done by a professional May 8 in the spa area of the Hollywood Mother's Day event.



Beverly Bidney

To the delight of diners, Texas de Brazil serves an abundance of meat tableside at the Hollywood Mother's Day party in the new Seminole Medical Building May 8.



Beverly Bidney

Loretta Peterson and Martha Jones peruse the salad bar at the Brighton Mother's Day luncheon May 7. The Veteran's Building was decked out in pastel colors and lighting for the occasion.



Beverly Bidney

Analis Stockton, 10, and her brother Antillis Stockton, 4, color a Mother's Day card at the Fort Pierce Mother's Day celebration May 7.

# Health

## Health Department provides experience for medical students

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The Tribe's Health Department partnered with the Florida State University (FSU) College of Medicine in 2000 to have students work alongside physicians in clinics tribalwide. Starting in the fall, medical students from Nova Southeastern University (NSU) College of Osteopathic Medicine will also learn in the clinics.

The FSU program allows two students between their first and second year of medical school to work in the clinics for three weeks. The NSU program offers third- and fourth-year medical students the chance to work in the clinics for two months.

"They get a sense of a community practice," said Dr. Christopher Mavroides, the Tribe's chief medical officer. "The idea is to get students to go into more rural areas."

Nursing students nearing graduation from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) have worked rotations at Tribal clinics for at least 10 years. Mavroides looks at the students as potential employees; Melanie Mello, a nurse practitioner in the Brighton clinic, came out of the FAU program.

Practicing medicine for the Tribe requires more than attending to medical needs; it is a medical home, Mavroides said.

The clinics have case workers, nutritionists, fitness programs and nursing care, and they offer referrals to specialists, transportation arrangements and house calls.

"We are a full-service department," Mavroides said.

Pediatrician Dr. Ashley Bayer, an NSU graduate, initiated the partnership with the NSU program, which requires students to complete a rotation in a rural area. The Health Department will take one or two students at a time, and the program will run eight months during the year.

"The students will get exposure to all the reservations, including Hollywood, so they can see the contrast between the populations," said Bayer, a member of the Mohegan Tribe in Connecticut. "The rural reservations have to have more flexible treatment plans because we can't always get the medication or the transportation. You have to think outside of the box and maintain the standard of care."

The Tribe benefits from the program by increasing awareness of the Health Department to the larger medical community. It also brings health care professionals to a group of people with unique needs.

"It's a good opportunity for the providers and the students," said Pauline Good, ARNP/nurse practitioner in Hollywood. "They add to our knowledge and keep us up to date."

Cultural awareness is an important component of the program.

Students learn to respect Tribal traditions, which may affect medical treatment.

"We don't want a new young doctor to tell a parent of a newborn baby to take off the four moon ceremony beaded necklace and bracelet because it's a choking hazard," Bayer said. "We have to be culturally sensitive to the purpose."

Instead of advising parents to remove the

necklace, she advises them to count the number of beads so they will know if any are swallowed.

"Culture is integrated into the program by having the students learn to listen to the patient and not just go straight to their medical training," Mavroides said. "For any treatment to be successful, the patient has to buy into it."

Seniors and elders who see numerous specialists are prescribed several medications. Mavroides knows they don't take them all, so students and physicians need to determine what is acceptable to them and then create a plan to treat the most important ailments.

"In other communities, people are more amenable to taking multiple medical regimens," Mavroides said. "They are more in tune with Western medicine. Some elders in the Tribe are leery of taking a lot of medicine, so you have to minimize that as best you can."

The Health Department has a staff of five doctors — three are internists, one is a family practice physician and Bayer is the only pediatrician — and seven nurse practitioners tribalwide.

The FSU College of Medicine aims to develop physicians who will serve rural, elder, minority and underserved populations. The school has campuses in Daytona Beach, Fort Pierce, Immokalee, Marianna, Orlando, Pensacola, Sarasota, and Thomasville, Ga. FSU medical student Jason Lesnick worked with Mavroides in May and looked forward to gaining experience with patients.

"I feel it's important for physicians to try to help underserved people, and rural populations are very underserved," Lesnick said. "The most common things we see are obesity, diabetes and hypertension. We need a lot more preventative medicine to keep it from affecting the next generation."

Mavroides thinks the experience will help students decide on their future careers with more knowledge. He said that patients have the option of allowing the medical students into the examination rooms.

"Well over 90 percent of them are cooperative," Mavroides said. "They treat the students great, are very open and wish them well."

Bayer said working for the Tribe is different than working off the reservation.

"The Tribe never ceases to amaze me in their culture and community," she said. "They demonstrate a very supportive network with each other and make efforts to maintain the culture through the generations to preserve it. It's an honor to work for them."



Dr. Christopher Mavroides, of the Health Department, left, and FSU medical student Jason Lesnick examine Mike Tiger's knee at the Hollywood clinic. Tiger had knee surgery a year ago and went in for a checkup.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

Children and adults walk from the Big Cypress skate park to the Boys & Girls Club during the second annual Stand Up for Children walk April 25. The walk commemorated National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

## Kids take to the streets for Stand Up for Children walk

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Pinwheels and push-up pops were the rewards for children who braved the 90-degree heat during the second annual Stand Up for Children walk April 25 in Big Cypress.

The group of about 25 kids and adults giggled their way from the skate park to the Boys & Girls Club, where they celebrated with an ice cream social. The event commemorated April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, which Congress decreed in 1982.

"The best thing to come out of the walk is more awareness, fellowship and education," said Arthur Malone, Big Cypress case manager. "A lot of families don't know about child abuse. Education is key."

The Family Services Department sponsors the event to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect within the Tribe. The department works year-round and offers weekly parenting classes, 24/7 intervention services and information for parents, grandparents and families.

Once a case is reported, Family Services works as a liaison between agencies and Tribal members. Those agencies include the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), Family Preservation Services of Florida in Fort Myers and ChildNet in Broward County.

"We are the front line," Malone said. "If you feel like you want to lash out at the child, we recommend you just walk away. That will keep DCF out of your life."

National Child Abuse Prevention Month acknowledges the importance of families and communities working together to prevent abuse and neglect and promotes the social and emotional well-being of children and families. Congress passed the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act in 1974, which provided federal assistance to states for prevention, identification and treatment programs, and created the National Center on Child Abuse and



Beverly Bidney

Tuff Hought, 5, proudly displays his festive glasses at the Boys & Girls Club after completing the second annual Stand Up for Children walk April 25 in Big Cypress. In the background, Thelma Tigertail, 5, enjoys her push-up popsicle.

Neglect (now known as the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect).

This year marked the 40th anniversary of the act.

## Take the test, take control

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA  
Florida Department of Health in Broward

Getting an HIV test is an easy way to take care of your health, the health of your family and the health of the people. And getting an HIV test is never easier than it is in June.

Few Native Americans in Florida have HIV/AIDS, but Tribal members get the virus at about the same rate as the rest of the population, according to the Florida Department of Health (DOH). HIV advocates urge Seminole Tribe members to get tested during the week of activities surrounding the 20th annual National HIV Testing Day on June 27.

"What our ancestors wanted was a healthy community, and understanding your health status is a very important part of that," said Alexander White Tail Feather, executive director of the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center.

Health officials say that one out of every six people who have the virus don't know they have it, and they are the most likely to give HIV to others. Once people learn they have the virus, they become much more likely to take precautions — such as using condoms during sex — that can prevent the virus from spreading to others.

"Getting tested is the responsible thing to do. Protect your spouse, protect your children, protect your community," said Marlene LaLota, HIV prevention director for the state DOH. Her office works to promote the need for testing.

HIV tests are given at Seminole Health Department locations, as well as in many community locations near Hollywood, Immokalee, Big Cypress and Brighton. The test takes only a few minutes and often is free. It's painless and as simple as a mouth swab (you get the results in two weeks) or a finger-stick blood test (results

in 20 minutes).

The annual theme of HIV Testing Day is "Take the Test, Take Control." Knowing one's HIV status helps people take control of their well-being, health officials say.

Even in the small chance that someone tests positive, newer medications allow people to live healthy lives for decades without progressing to AIDS, which can be fatal if untreated. Today's HIV drugs are easier to tolerate and carry fewer side effects than in the past.

What's more, research shows that HIV-positive people who take their medications faithfully can lower the amount of virus in their bodies to almost zero. If they do so, they reduce the chance of spreading HIV to others by 95 percent.

"Taking your medications properly is a good way to combat HIV in the community," LaLota said.

Many organizations that give HIV tests in June also offer other kinds of health screenings, such as for diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol, LaLota said.

"It's an opportunity to get yourself checked and make sure you are OK,"

LaLota said.

An estimated 130,000 people in Florida and 1.2 million in the nation are living with HIV/AIDS. About 400 Native Americans in Florida are known to carry the virus, but officials note that the true number may be larger.

"There is still a lot of stigma about HIV in Indian Country," White Tail Feather said. "The more people who get tested, the more people talk about HIV, the less there will be stigma out there about HIV."

For more information, call the Health Department at 954-962-2009 or visit [www.SemTribe.com/Services/Health.aspx](http://www.SemTribe.com/Services/Health.aspx). For other locations, visit [www.WeMakeTheChange.org](http://www.WeMakeTheChange.org) or [www.HIVtest.org](http://www.HIVtest.org).



## Tips for ensuring payment of medical and dental bills

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE WHIDDEN  
Health Director

• Show your STOF Member Health Plan card to medical, dental and pharmacy providers prior to receiving services.

• If you are also covered under another primary health insurance plan, such as Medicare, show that card as well. The STOF Member Health Plan is always the payer of last resort.

• If you do not have a new Health Plan card that looks like this, contact a STOF Health clinic to request your new card.

• Check your Health Plan book or call the Health Plan office to ensure your health care is covered by the Health Plan. Some services are limited or excluded from coverage.

• If you receive an incident report from the STOF Health Plan, please complete the form and return it to the STOF Health Plan office to ensure timely processing of your bills. Make sure to indicate whether care received was due to an accident on the form.

• If you receive a bill or a statement for health care services in the mail, call the service provider and have them mail a copy of the itemized bill to STOF Health Plan Administration, P.O. Box 173129, Tampa, FL 33672 to process your bill. This address is also on the back of your Health Plan card. In addition, bring the bill to a STOF Health clinic.

• If you receive a notice from a collection agency for an unpaid health care bill, call the collection agency and ask that they submit an itemized bill to STOF Health Plan Administration to process your bill.

In addition, please bring the bill to a STOF Health

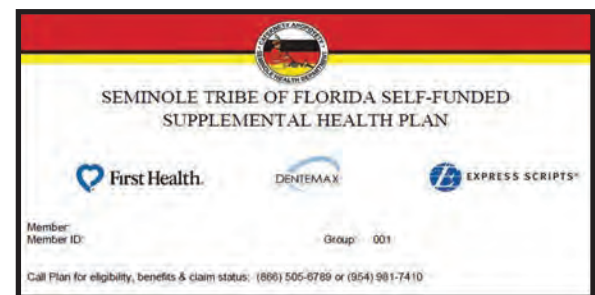


Photo courtesy of Connie Whidden

Pictured is the STOF Member Health Plan card.

clinic. We may ask you to sign a release form to allow the collection agency to speak with us about your bill and to obtain a copy of the itemized bill if necessary.

• Review the biannual explanation of benefits statement which provides detailed information about each medical and dental bill processed on your behalf. Please note that you are responsible to pay the service provider the amounts listed under the patient responsibility column.

• If you currently have unpaid health care bills on your credit report, the STOF Health Plan office will attempt to resolve these debts for you. Contact the STOF Health Plan office at 866-505-6789 for assistance. The office will need a copy of your credit report listing the unpaid health care bills and a signed release form allowing them to contact the collection agency on your behalf to discuss your account and obtain an itemized bill, if necessary, for processing.

• For all other question, call the Health Plan office.

# SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

**SWEEPING SKY:** Cumulus and cirrus clouds gathering over the Everglades near the Trail community foretell the coming of summer when much larger cloud formations will bring in the predictable daily drenching.



Eileen Soler

**THATCH A WRAP:** Workers labor under the searing sun May 20 to rethatch a series of chickees on the grounds of the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress. The area boasts more than a dozen small chickees surrounding one supersize chickee.



Eileen Soler

**LIVING DOLL:** Avahny Jim is super proud of her fashionably unique doll clothing designs made of Play-Doh during after school play time at Big Cypress Reservation.



Eileen Soler

**PROPHETIC PREDICTION:** A sign at New Testament Baptist Church on the Big Cypress Reservation promises a sunny Sunday.



Eileen Soler

**SHARING WISDOM:** Girls and grown-ups clean cooking bowls and utensils at a wash table in the Brighton chickee village on Fred Smith Rodeo Arena grounds during Culture Camp Days.



Brandon Demonbreun/Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

**FLEET WEEK:** U.S. Marines and Sailors salute as the Seminole Tribe of Florida Color Guard presents the colors April 28 during a Fleet Week welcoming party at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.



Ralph Notaro/Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood

**SINGING SANTANA:** Multi-platinum world music icon Carlos Santana brought The Corazón Tour to a sold-out Hard Rock Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood May 2. The superstar captivated fans with hits including *Toussaint L'Ouverture*, *Maria Maria* and *Oye Como Va*.



Photo courtesy of Wanda Bowers

**MOTORCYCLE MANIA:** Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie and Jr. Miss Brianna Blais-Billie pose with Seminole Police Department officers May 3 during the 25th annual Southeast Police Motorcycle Rodeo at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.



Eileen Soler

**HAPPY FORE GOLF:** Leighton Jim, the youngest golf student from Big Cypress Reservation, loves learning the art of the swing during an after school golf lesson at Big Cypress Rodeo Arena grounds.



Eileen Soler

**ROCKING DECADE:** Chairman James E. Billie welcomes Tribal members, friends from Indian Country and spectators to the Decade of Rock celebration May 9 at Hard Rock Live.



Eileen Soler

**GATOR BAIT?:** Tourists glide across the River of Grass in an airboat at Billie Swamp Safari.



Beverly Bidney

**GATOR GRAB:** Alligator wrestling in the cultural village holds spectators' attention April 26 during Balloons Over Paradise in Immokalee.



Kevin Johnson

**GOT IT:** Brighton first baseman Bryson Smith reaches for the ball May 10 during the second annual T-Ball World Series on Brighton Reservation.



Photo courtesy of SPD

**EXPLORING HISTORY:** Members of the Seminole Police Department's Explorers program gather outside the Capitol in Washington, D.C. during National Police Week May 12-16.



Beverly Bidney

**CITY STICKS:** Jake Osceola catches a ball using traditional stickball sticks at the Tribal Art Project launch at Stranahan House April 30.



Eileen Soler

**HOME SWEET HOME:** Construction continues on the Big Cypress townhome project. The eight townhomes, which broke ground Nov. 20 at Eloise Osceola Street and Cypress Lane, are on track for completion this August.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



## Senate confirms first Native woman federal judge

**PHOENIX, Ariz.** — Diane Humetewa, a former U.S. Attorney for Arizona (2007-2009) and appellate court judge for the Hopi Tribe, will be the first Native American woman to serve on the federal bench.

Humetewa currently serves as special counsel at Arizona State University. She easily won confirmation in May in the U.S. Senate by a 96-0 vote to fill one of six vacancies in the federal District Court of Arizona.

The National Congress of American Indians praised the confirmation, saying Humetewa has dedicated her time to serving the interests of Native peoples.

—Source: *Grand Island Independent*

## Fire chief, county fight over Seminole Casino revenue

**IMMOKALEE** — Paul Anderson, chief of the Immokalee Fire Control District, wants a share of the money collected by Collier County from the Seminole Tribe of Florida's successful Seminole Casino Immokalee gaming operation.

More than \$1 million in Seminole gaming dollars has gone into the county coffers, monies meant to offset costs of local government in lieu of taxes. Anderson told the *Naples Daily News* that some of that money — none of which has been spent yet — should come back to Immokalee for fire protection and other services: "The whole purpose of the gaming impact revenue is to offset the impact casinos have on local governments. But Immokalee has received zero dollars since this compact has been in place.

"The casino is expanding and just broke ground on a hotel," Anderson said. "And what they're saying is, the gaming revenue was intended to go toward helping to provide fire protection. Well, Immokalee Fire Control District is a local governing body, but the county controls that money and they're not willing to give us any."

County officials, worried that neighboring Lee County's economic development fund would lure business away from Collier, earmarked \$500,000 for economic development initiatives over the next two years on a business incubator program that would serve aspiring technology companies or startups in urban Collier County and would encourage startup food businesses in Immokalee.

Local shares from the three Seminole casinos in Broward County are split among the Broward County government and several cities that house and surround the casinos. But because Immokalee isn't an incorporated city, the local share goes entirely to Collier County.

Anderson, who heads a cash-strapped fire department that has struggled to keep a full staff since 2011, wants the county to set aside a chunk of the local share for Immokalee Fire.

—Source: *Naples Daily News*

## State senator arrested by Blackfeet cops

**HELENA, Mont.** — Shannon Augare is a Blackfeet Tribal Council member, as well as a Montana senator. He is also in a jam.

Blackfeet Tribal law enforcement officers arrested Sen. Augare for not paying his fine after pleading guilty to DUI and fleeing a Glacier County Sheriff's Deputy in May 2013, Blackfeet Tribal attorney Dawn Running Wolf told the *Great Falls Tribune*.

Augare says the charges are false and politically motivated.

But there are troublesome political implications: Augare is a member of one side of a divided Blackfeet Tribal Council at war in a lengthy power struggle that has led to government shutdowns, employee layoffs and payroll being withheld for workers who remain.

Augare told the *Associated Press* he paid the fine in December 2013. Receipts proving that, however, are filed in a Tribal building that the opposing Council faction — led by Chairman Willie Sharp Jr. — controls and won't allow Augare to access.

Officials at BIA offices in both Browning and Washington, D.C., hung up the telephone on reporters without speaking when contacted for comment.

Attorney Running Wolf said Augare won't receive special treatment because of his positions on the Tribal Council and in the state Senate.

—Source: *Great Falls Tribune*

## Seneca great-grandmother earns Ph.D. at University of Buffalo

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** — Seneca Tribal citizen and great-grandmother Nancy Napierala, 78, has received her Ph.D. in American studies from the Department of Transnational Studies at the University of Buffalo (UB).

"You know, on my last day, I felt a little sad as I walked out of Clemens Hall. I found myself thinking, 'Well, now maybe a master's in English ...'"

Napierala said. "The department and my professors have always acknowledged my abilities and contributions and respected my work and the other students welcomed me as a colleague and a friend."

A wife and mother of two, grandmother of three and now a great-grandmother, Napierala is a lifelong learner who received a Bachelor of Arts in early childhood development in 2000 and a Master of Arts in American studies in 2005 from UB. She previously studied business at UB in the 1970s and worked as a bookkeeper and office manager for 38 years.

—Source: *University of Buffalo News Center*

## Cherokee-Lumbee couple discover ancient stone circles

**BLUEMONT, Va.** — A Paleo-Indian site in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Clarke County that an expert has dated to about 10,000 B.C. has been found by Chris (Cherokee) and Rene (Lumbee) White, who own the property where several concentric stone circles weighing more than a ton — apparently aligned to mark solar events — were discovered last month.

Though still under study, the site appears twice as old as England's Stonehenge and one of the oldest man-made structures in North America still in existence.

The Whites contacted retired archaeologist Jack Hranicky, of Alexandria, who realized the rocks in and outside the circles aligned with special features on the Blue Ridge.

A line from a center rock, over a specific boundary rock, intersects the feature called Bears Den Rocks on the mountain. Standing on that center rock, looking northeast, a viewer can see the sun rise over Bears Den on the day of the summer solstice in June.

Moving around the circle, another set of rocks points to Eagle Rock on the Blue Ridge, and also to sunrise on the day of the spring and fall equinox in March and September.

Yet a third points to a saddle in the mountain, where the sun rises at the winter solstice in December.

Hranicky's digging exposed several artifacts — a thin blade of quartzite, a small piece of jasper and another piece of the rock that had been shaped to be used as a small scraper. Hranicky was able to connect the rocks to the Thunderbird Archaeological District, an intensely excavated Paleo-Indian site on the Shenandoah River in Warren County, where, 9,000 years ago, Paleo-Indians quarried jasper from the river's west bank to make tools.

Hranicky suggests that after quarrying jasper for tools at Thunderbird, Native Americans walked down the Shenandoah River and held cultural ceremonies at his property. Rock engravings in the shape of footprints may mark where to stand to observe an equinox.

A section of jasper from the site was sent to the Luminescence Dating Laboratory at the University of Washington in Seattle, which found it had been burned about 10,470 B.C.

—Source: *Roanoke Times*

## NPS desecrates sacred American Indian site in Iowa

**IOWA CITY, Iowa** — National Park Service (NPS) officials directed \$3 million in illegal construction projects over a decade that damaged one of the nation's most sacred American Indian burial and effigy mound sites.

It was a bureaucratic crime of enormous dimension.

Few of the bureaucratic culprits have been punished. Though the violations were discovered in 2009, it took until last February for the chief perpetrator — superintendent Phyllis Ewing, of Effigy Mounds National Monument — to finally get fired.

Ewing oversaw "a stunning pattern of cultural resource desecration," Jeff Ruch, executive director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, told the *Star Tribune*.

Ewing and subordinate Tom Sinclair repeatedly bypassed laws requiring archaeological input and Tribal monitoring before building boardwalks, trails and a maintenance shed at the federally protected site in northeast Iowa, according to investigation documents posted recently on the NPS website.

The Mississippi River Valley site contains 200 mounds and is affiliated with 12 Tribes. The National Monument was created by President Harry Truman in 1949 to preserve "a significant phase of mound building culture of prehistoric American Indians."

Effigy mounds — man-made earthen mounds in the form of a bird or animal — appear in five basic forms. Some look like birds in flight and are called bird mounds; another group are shaped like animals and are usually called lizard or turtle mounds; a third set of mound type are called panther, wildcat or elephant mounds and resemble a tailed animal lying on its side. The fourth group is shaped like a tailless animal lying on its side and is called bear buffalo or wildcat mounds; and a few are

shaped like humans.

Some animal-shaped mounds have ears while some do not; some have tails that point up and some down; some have longer legs and some shorter; and some have more features on their faces than others. Most seem to be lying on their right sides with heads positioned downstream to the closest major waterway; their feet usually aimed toward the river the builders were following downstream.

A misguided effort to make the site more accessible to the disabled led Ewing and Sinclair to pursue the illegal developments. Lack of oversight allowed construction workers to remove stone artifacts and impacted scenic views.

Still, known desecration remains unaddressed.

"The park service may have set a new record in dithering by waiting five years to take any kind of formal action in a case that's this outrageous," said Ruch in the *Star Tribune*. He uncovered this through records accessed through the Freedom of Information Act: The agency hasn't removed two of three boardwalks, years after acknowledging they wouldn't have been built had employees followed the National Historic Preservation Act and other laws.

—Source: *StarTribune.com*

## Indian Country status could help Alaska villages

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska** — Indian Country may be coming to Alaska soon.

That's right. The complex group of United States laws categorized under the general title of "Indian Country" that provide for limited Tribal sovereignty — but excluding Alaskan Natives — is being heavily scrutinized.

A combination of a U.S. District Court case (*Akiachak v. Salazar*) and findings of the bipartisan Indian Law and Order Commission, has sent the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) back to the drawing board with plans to alter regulatory language now preventing Alaska's Native communities from putting their lands into BIA trust and enjoying the same Indian Country limited sovereignty as Tribes in the Lower 48.

All presidents since Roosevelt have supported the limited sovereignty concept afforded American Indians throughout Indian Country. Some legal analysts contend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) extinguished Indian Country sovereignty in Alaska in favor of the regional and village corporate model in place today.

"When Alaska villages work, they are beautiful places. I have been in villages where children treat adults, including teachers, with respect and elders with a kind of reverence. Adults are cordial. The land is respected and fish and game are hallowed," wrote Alan Boraas, professor of anthropology at Kenai Peninsula College in Alaska. "But I've also been in villages that don't work and they are hell on Earth. Drug and alcohol abuse and physical abuse of all types are everyday experiences. Some are numb to yet another suicide. Most villages, of course, are somewhere between this nirvana and hell. The function of Indian Country laws is to provide limited sovereignty so local people can create their unique legal structure to solve social problems."

Boraas points out that many limits exist within Indian Country legislation beyond the supervision of the BIA, which must approve all laws. In most civil cases, Indian Country laws apply to both Natives and non-Natives but criminal law enacted by a Tribal process only applies to Natives.

"I believe Indian Country in Alaska will give extra tools for villages to deal with abusers, rein in bootleggers and run bullies out of their villages," Boraas said. You have until June 30 to comment; go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and search for "Alaska Natives."

—Source: *ADN.com*

## North Dakota Natives push for new census data

**BELCOURT, N.D.** — North Dakota's American Indians are asking the U.S. Census Bureau to add a question to its Census surveys — Are you an enrolled member of a federally recognized Tribe? — as part of a statewide campaign to increase the accuracy of Indian population numbers.

"If they ask that, they're not going to get all these other Indians who come in from other countries," Pete Davis, executive director of the Turtle Mountain Housing Authority, said to the *Williston Herald*. Davis said confusion among non-enrolled Indians, including persons from India and South America, caused incorrect listings in the enrolled category. The miscout affected an estimated \$400,000 in federal funding received by North Dakota Tribes, threatening education and health care needs.

American Indian Reservations were first included in the Census in 1930; still, many Natives are undercounted and not reporting their own population.

"There's a hesitancy to answer the door when feds come knocking," said U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp.

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians recently joined four South Dakota Tribes in the Dakota Pilot Project which strives to collect and study statistical housing data. The project found many Indians — unknown to the Census — living in multi-family situations in overcrowded single family units and refusing to participate, fearing getting cut off from services. In fact, the project found 1,401 people who fit the definition of "homeless" in the Turtle Mountain service area alone.

With seven or eight people residing in two-bedroom homes, people sleep on the floor and in the closets. That's because, Davis said, the Native American culture doesn't recognize family as being homeless.

"They won't say they're homeless, but they don't have a house of their own," he said. "We're never going to kick them out. That's just our culture."

—Source: *Williston Herald*

## Michaud moves back to Ultimate Fighting Championship

**PINE RIDGE, S.D.** — The Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) has offered Pine Ridge's David "Bull Dawg" Michaud a contract to step in the cage with former Legends champion Jingliang Li, of China, on the sport's largest stage.

"I had been working hard for years to get back to the UFC, and there is no way to explain how ready I am," Michaud told *Indianz.com*.

Rising to the top of the local ranks while still in high school and college, Michaud became the Ring Wars champion in Rapid City, turned pro in 2009, quickly compiling a 7-0 record. During an appearance on the reality TV show *The Ultimate Fighter*, he competed with a torn ACL that caused his defeat and elimination in the first episode, dropping him off the UFC spotlight.

"There were definitely times where I was thinking twice if I wanted to keep fighting. There were definitely times where I thought this wouldn't be happening," he said.

—Source: *Indianz.com*

## Farmer sues lawyers representing Native Americans

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The founder of the National Black Farmers Association has filed a federal lawsuit seeking "reasonable compensation" for the time, effort and resources he says he used in helping D.C.-based lawyers earn almost \$100 million in legal fees.

John W. Boyd Jr., a fourth-generation farmer and the nation's leading black farmers advocate, alleges he worked "tirelessly" on behalf of the law firm of Kilpatrick, Townsend & Stockton LLP and Washington lawyer Dennis M. Gingold, who represented Native Americans in their case against the United States Department of the Interior that sought damages for the mismanagement of Native American trust assets. The Claims Resolution Act of 2010 was resolved in December 2009 with a \$3.4 billion settlement agreement.

Boyd's lawsuit alleges that Kilpatrick Townsend and Gingold were unjustly enriched because they received \$99 million in legal fees as a result of Boyd's efforts to help pass the legislation that funded the settlement.

—Source: *FCourier.com*

## Cavern Club asks Seminole Chairman for help

**LIVERPOOL, England** — Owners of the iconic Cavern Club, where the Beatles got their musical start in the 1960s, have appealed to Seminole Tribal Chairman James E. Billie for help in ending a long-running trademark dispute with the Hard Rock Co.

Still operating as a music venue based on the city's Mathew Street, the Cavern Club wants Hard Rock to stop using the club's name. Much to the annoyance of the Cavern Club, however, the Hard Rock group in the U.S. acquired the trademark for the iconic name in 1974 and has been using it ever since.

Speaking to the *Liverpool Echo*, Cavern Club director Bill Heckle said: "We are sure that as a musician Chief Jim Billie will see the history and the right to our claim. This trademark row began long before the Seminole Tribe took ownership of the Hard Rock, so we don't consider it's of their making. If Chief Jim Billie instructs the Hard Rock to try to see it our way not only will right be done, but we'll put him and his band on at the Cavern Club as part of the deal."

No comment yet from Chairman Billie.

—Source: *CompleteMusicUpdate.com*

## Racism alive and sick: 'Siouxper Drunk' T-shirt

**GRAND FORKS, N.D.** — The newest racism icon surfaced here recently. It's a T-shirt depicting the old North Dakota Fighting Sioux logo "chief" drinking out of a beer bong next to the words "Siouxper Drunk."

"Racism is alive. Racism is well and

alive, unfortunately," said Navajo Nation member Duane 'Chili' Yazzie, who said he was shocked to see the shirt, which first appeared at a non-college Spring Fest event and is currently making the rounds of campus. "It's very disturbing to think that there are people that would stoop so low to take advantage of people that are already disadvantaged."

Two-hundred University of North Dakota (UND) Native American students and supporters protested "inaction" by UND leaders in what was called, "A Walk for Change." UND president Robert Kelley released a statement calling the shirts derogatory and harmful but didn't mention any action that might be taken by the school or against any students that wore them.

Organizers of the protest walk said the shirts are just the latest example of people using UND's former nickname in an offensive way. They are now calling on UND officials to denounce the Fighting Sioux logo, ban it from academic settings, select a new nickname and logo as soon as possible, and require racial sensitivity training for incoming students.

—Source: *Kob.com, Valley News Live*

## Tribes start petition after delays in settlement pay

**CARNEGIE, Okla.** — Following a federal settlement worth billions, Tribes across Oklahoma are actively battling to receive payment for their lands, which was promised last year.

The Cobell v. Salazar class-action trust case, over government mismanagement of Tribal lands and accounts, engineered the \$3.4 billion Claims Resolution Act of 2010, which involves Native Americans throughout the country. The legislation, which preceded the settlement, was passed by Congress and signed by President Barack Obama.

"That's not your money, it's our money, and we want to be paid now," Katherine Ware-Perosi, owner of Indian Country Land Service LLC in Anadarko, told Oklahoma's Channel 9 News. "This settlement is for all the Native Americans who were mistreated. So we feel that the attorneys are getting rich off of this settlement and putting us on the backburner."

In the suit, \$1.4 billion of the settlement was allocated to the plaintiffs and up to \$2 billion is for the repurchase of lands distributed under the Dawes Act of 1887.

"It's just been too long for our Indian people to have to beg, to have to wait," said Marcy Davilla, a full-blooded Kiowa who said she's been waiting all her life to reap the value of her family's land.

—Source: *www.News9.com*

## Mohawk chops off Brooklyn pub's name

**BROOKLYN, N.Y.** — A new pub in the Windsor Terrace neighborhood of Brooklyn was christened as "The Mohawk Tavern" in April.

A week later the name was dropped when locals and American Indians cried foul.

"Once we heard the comments and people of Native American ancestry come in and say it was offensive, we figured it would be best to change the name out of respect for them," owner Paul Hamill told the *New York Daily News*.

The pub was renamed "Adirondacks" in honor of the park and mountain range.

The firestorm over the pub erupted following its April 29 opening, which spurred dozens of locals to call for the name to be axed on a local website. Many said that naming a bar after an Iroquois Tribe that has endured centuries of alcoholism was insensitive.

"One in 10 Native American deaths are alcohol related," wrote commenter Danielle Oakes on the website Kensington BK. "Do I need to say more?"

Cliff Matias, the cultural director of the Red Hawk Native American Arts Council in Brooklyn, said he received several calls from outraged locals about the bar last week.

"The name Mohawk is not offensive, but using it to promote your establishment, which is a bar, is offensive to indigenous people," Matias said.

—Source: *NYDailyNews.com*

## Marine jet crash-lands on Gila River Tribal land

**SUN LAKES, Ariz.** — A Marine Corps pilot ejected just before his AV-8B Harrier aircraft crash-landed recently in a desert area on the Gila River Indian Reservation near Sun Lakes, authorities said.

The pilot was found safe and conscious with only a nose injury. No community members were injured or property damaged in the accident. An investigation is ongoing to find why the pilot had to eject from the plane, which was based out of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma.

—Source: *AZCentral.com*

Compiled by Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher.

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July 25  
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WITH EMILY KING &  
HANNAH GEORGAS



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WITH TOAD THE WET SPROCKET



July 30  
GAVIN DEGRAW  
& MATT NATHANSON  
WITH ANDREW MCMAHON



June 13  
MOVE  
JULIANNE &  
DEREK HOUGH



August 1  
YES



June 16  
STEVEN SEAGAL &  
THUNDERBOX



August 15  
WAYANS BROTHERS  
DAMON, KEENAN,  
MARLON & SHAWN



July 6  
THE GO-GOS,  
PATTY SMYTH OF  
SCANDAL & MORE



August 20  
MICHAEL MCDONALD  
& TOTO



July 12  
CHRIS TUCKER



August 29  
SLASH  
FEATURING MYLES  
KENNEDY AND THE  
CONSPIRATORS



July 13  
DANA CARVEY &  
DENNIS MILLER



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# Education

B



## Kids cook up food, fun at Culture Camp

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — There's an art to learning culture at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School and for the youngest students, the art of culture is delivered in baby steps.

"*Tapexicet. Tapexicet.*," said Seminole history teacher Jade Braswell Osceola as a half-dozen first-grade girls flipped, flopped and punched flour and water into dough — and all over their hands, faces and clothes. "For good frybread, you have to get mad with it."

Nearby, at the chickee village on Fred Smith Rodeo Arena grounds, first-grade boys put butter knives to work on soft bars of green soap to carve palm-size alligators, fish and canoes under the watchful eyes of adult men. Sometimes, when all was done, piles of discarded soap chips were larger than the sculptures.

"When they get older and better, and not until then, they will get to use real knives and cypress wood," culture consultant Joe Osceola Jr. said.

Children in kindergarten through eighth grade spent half or entire school days from April 30 to May 2 at PECS' annual Culture Camp Days. As a bonus to the school's intensive cultural curriculum, the camp allowed students to turn classroom lessons into practical applications. For the tiniest kids, that meant hours of outdoor fun using their Creek ancestral language to play *akopunkv* (games) that paid off in *cvmpoce* (candy).

Creek nouns like *lucv* (turtle) and *fuswv* (bird) drawn on cardboard were "fished" from behind a lake-blue tarp. Other paper illustrations of creatures and things burst from balloons during balloon-popping races. A life-size, hand-painted board game required little ones to count numbers and name colors in Creek.

Cultural language instructor Myra Gopher said the camp is cultural

reinforcement cloaked in fun.

"Every activity builds on speaking more words and then full sentences," Gopher said. "Then, we encourage them to go home and teach their parents so our language does not die off."

Gopher said the reservation-wide push toward speaking Creek begins with toddlers at Brighton Preschool. After school programs at Brighton Community Culture Center further bolster the language.

Kindergarten student Ben Purvis said he most liked the camp's story time with storyteller Billy Walker, who invoked legends of the past.

"The best part I learned was birds were flying on the Earth even before the whole world was made," he said. "And I liked eating frybread."

Learning to cook Seminole style added flavor to culture camp.

Kids up to third grade kneaded dough into frybread, carefully placed the dough into pots filled with oil and then washed utensils at the communal water faucet. Adults manned the cooking fire and removed the bread from the oil.

The fruit of their labor was served during lunch — topped in jelly or honey.

Fourth- and fifth-graders learned how to make more complicated recipes like spam and tomatoes. On the last day, the oldest girls grinded corn and boiled sofkee, while the boys slayed a hog. Later, boys and girls cut the hog and cooked it in a vat of hot oil.

Both older age groups also competed in Indian sport activities, including tomahawk and skillet tossing.

"It's like using building blocks to make us stronger," said Braswell Osceola. In the end, children understand teamwork, family and community responsibility.

"In the old days, this is where the lessons were taught — in the outdoors and together with young, old and everyone in

◆ See CULTURE CAMP on page 3B



Eileen Soler

Jennie Shore helps PECS first-graders drop frybread dough into boiling oil April 30 during Culture Camp Days on Brighton Reservation.

## Criminal justice students get peek at Hard Rock security

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood became part of the Johnson & Wales University (JWU) criminal justice curriculum April 24 when 14 students toured the casino's Security Department.

Classroom work and frequent field trips ensure students get a glimpse of their future careers, said JWU professor Enid Conley.

"I want them to get a well-rounded education," said Conley, a member of the Arawak Tribe and former police officer. "I teach a lot of things that aren't in the books. It's important for me to bring my experience into the classroom."

Tribal member Jim Osceola, a JWU culinary alumnus and member of the Seminole Gaming Tribal Career Development Program, led the tour that included a visit to the back-of-the-house training room.

"We are a casino," he said. "We have a hotel, but we are a casino. The hotel is full year-round because of the casino."

The job is 95 percent customer service, added security investigator Greg Leonatti, who works at each Seminole casino in Florida.

"The best thing we can do is have a good, safe day. If you come here healthy, we want you to leave here healthy," he said.

The Security Department oversees the public spaces, indoor and outdoor areas and back-of-the-house areas using hundreds of cameras. The Surveillance Department watches the casino floor.

Technology and equipment are continually updated in the Security Department, and staff training is ongoing.

◆ See JWU on page 3B

## Superheroes, robots to rule at fun summer youth program

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**TALLAHASSEE** — Teenagers interested in building robots, creating superheroes and forming Tribal governments can forgo the great outdoors this summer and instead sign up for the Florida Indian Youth Program (FIYP) in Tallahassee.

Since 1981, FIYP has taught Native American teenagers communication job and life skills. The program, which takes place from July 12-26, is open to 50 students ages 14-19. Descendants, children and grandchildren of Tribal members are all eligible for the program.

Applications are due June 13. The program aims to motivate students to finish high school and continue on to post-secondary programs, college or the military. FIYP is the longest-running Indian youth program in the country, said Robert Kellam, Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs employment and training director who runs the program.

"It's a summer program that prepares them and nurtures them until they are ready to go to college," Kellam said. "Probably 98 percent of students have continued with school."

Students learn about Tribal government and create their own Tribe complete with a constitution and elected Tribal Council during the program.

FIYP has a strong focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). In addition to creating superheroes and solving crimes, students will be introduced to robotics by teacher Timothy Hinchman. They will design, build, interact and remotely control their robots.

"When you build robots, they look unnatural," said Hinchman, a middle school teacher in Alachua, Fla. "I want them to build the infrastructure and an exoskeleton. I want them to look good."

Hinchman ordered a 3-D printer to help build the exoskeletons. He wants students to get comfortable interacting with computers and robots because they will be part of their everyday life during adulthood, he said.

◆ See YOUTH PROGRAM on page 3B

## Honored by FAU, Louise Gopher shares love of education at commencement

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

**BOCA RATON** — If the hundreds of new graduates from Florida Atlantic University's College of Business wanted to see a fellow alum making the most of her education, they only needed to look straight ahead during their commencement ceremony May 1 at the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium.

Shortly after acknowledging modern times by prompting a massive cell phone selfie with graduates, first-year FAU president John Kelly honored the school's

past by presenting Louise Gopher, class of 1970, with the President's Distinguished Service Medallion.

The award recognizes individuals for service of great value to FAU or the larger community.

On a stage filled with school dignitaries and officials, Kelly draped the medallion around the neck of Gopher, whose bachelor's degree earned 40 years ago made her one of the first Seminole Tribe members to graduate college.

"At the time I graduated, Billy Cypress — the late Billy Cypress from the (Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki) Museum — he was the first, I

believe, to graduate with a four-year degree. Then I was probably the second, and the first woman. Then I think Max Osceola and other people (graduated)," Gopher said.

Gopher, the Education Department director for the Seminoles, emphasized the importance of learning, including educating youngsters about the value of the Tribe's culture, customs and language. She helped create Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School, which opened in 2007 and now boasts more than 200 students from kindergarten through eighth grade on the Brighton Reservation.

"Florida Atlantic University is proud to claim her as a graduate and applauds her

dedication to her important mission," Kelly said.

In her address to the graduates and their families and friends, Gopher, who retired seven years ago, brought the audience along on a journey through her remarkable past as she explained how her "love affair with education" blossomed.

The roots of being a pioneer in education within the Tribe started at an early age for Gopher, who was just 6 and didn't speak English when she and her siblings were enrolled in a public school by their father, a move that wasn't customary among Tribal families at the time.

"The school officials had no idea what to do with us," Gopher told the audience. "This was during the days of racial segregation, and they couldn't figure out if we were white or black. Eventually, they assigned us to a white school, the Fairlawn Elementary School, west of Fort Pierce."

Raised in a chickee, Gopher had to adapt to a different environment at school, which included indoor bathrooms.

"The bathroom conveniences mystified me. We had no indoor facilities or running water in our home," she said.

She learned English at Fairlawn and became fascinated with books, absorbing the pages that helped open her life's future chapters.

"I loved opening books, looking at the pictures that were inside them and eventually learning to read what was printed on their pages," she said. "I remember going home after school and playing school with my mother, teaching her new words that I learned that day. I loved acquiring new skills, like the ability to do arithmetic, and I especially loved the library because it was there that you could read fascinating stories and get information on anything you were curious about."

After graduating from Dan McCarty High School, Gopher tested uncharted waters for female Tribal members by becoming a college student. She earned an associate degree from what is now Indian River State College and then spent two and a half active years at FAU, where she was a member of Phi Gamma Nu business sorority, served on a governing board for student organizations and received a bachelor's degree in business.

◆ See LOUISE on page 5B



Kevin Johnson

Louise Gopher addresses graduates at Florida Atlantic University's College of Business commencement ceremony May 1 in Boca Raton. Gopher, a 1970 graduate of FAU, received the President's Distinguished Service Medallion for service to the larger community.

# Prom hits jackpot with Mardi Gras fantasy fun



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School teens dance under sparkling lights May 17 during the 2014 Ahfachkee prom at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Jesters and a man on stilts shimmered in purple, green and gold but the entertainers were no match for teens dressed in evening gowns and tuxedos May 17 at the 2014 Ahfachkee School prom. The Big Cypress gym turned hot nightclub pulsated to DJ spun top rock, hip hop and R&B tunes, while disco lights flashed myriad colors.



Eileen Soler

A Soul Train inspired line dance puts Nashoba Gonzalez and teacher Douglas Knitt on center stage at the prom.



Eileen Soler

Prom King Quenton Cypress and Prom Queen Malari Baker pose for photos at the 2014 Ahfachkee prom.



Eileen Soler

Sabre' Billie and Dayra Koenes are in a dancing groove.



Eileen Soler

Students, teachers and entertainers pose for a wacky group photo at the 2014 Ahfachkee prom.

## 2014 Florida Indian Youth Program



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**CULTURE CAMP**

From page 1B

between. Even today, we can turn to the elders and get a taste of what it was in the day," Braswell Osceola said, pointing to more than a dozen parents and grandparents who volunteered for the day.

At the center of culture camp was senior Jennie Shore who has been on the front line of the PECS Culture program since before the school opened in August 2007. Shore had been helping teach Seminole culture during Friday "pull-out" classes on the reservation. Then, Tribal students were plucked from public schools for all-day immersion classes.

Shore said PECS' non-fluent Tribal

staff and non-Native teachers not only learn to how to teach Seminole culture, they also pick up Creek.

"They may never be fluent, but they develop the teaching material, so they also learn the language. They learn it along the way," Shore said.

Braswell Osceola said Culture Camp provides "stepping stones" to the future.

"The young ones play, play, play and have fun while learning. By the time students get to seventh and eighth grade, it's work, work, work for them while we stand back and guide them," she said.

For Chaka Smith, of kindergarten, camp is spelled F-U-N.

"It's fun and great. We get to be with our friends, do activities, learn stuff and eat frybread," she said.



Eileen Soler

Kindergarten student Steel Gopher catches a *cesse* (mouse) during a make-believe fishing game at Culture Camp.



Eileen Soler

Culture consultant Joe Osceola Jr. teaches first-grader Waylon Yates how to carve during Culture Camp.



Eileen Soler

Kindergarten student Jayleigh Braswell puts her best foot forward to break a balloon and reveal an illustration of a Creek noun stashed inside.



Eileen Soler

PECS children dance and sing in Creek a children's game similar to *London Bridge is Falling Down*.



Eileen Soler

First-grader Serenity Lara wonders what a mess she is during a frybread making class at Culture Camp Days.

**JWU**

From page 1B

Leonatti, who worked security in Las Vegas for 25 years, told students to put their heads on "a 360-degree swivel" to pay attention to their surroundings.

"Security equals loss prevention," he said.

Seminole Police Department then conducted an interactive video training session for casino security officers as JWU students observed. The security officers, who stood before a 10-by-20-foot screen as various scenarios unfolded, responded to the video.

Their responses affected the outcome of each situation.

Nicole Cary, a JWU senior, participated in the training session with two Coconut Creek Casino security guards.

The video showed a man who behaved in an incoherent and threatening manner. The security officers did their best to keep him talking instead of acting out.

"It was an adrenaline rush," said Cary, of Maryland, who wants to be a crime scene investigator. "I didn't know what was going

on, but I was ready."

Students also had a chance to meet employees behind the scenes. Edwin Claudio, executive steward, told students to make sure they enjoy what they do.

"If you do that, it's not a job - it's fun," he said.

The students had a rare opportunity to watch as a security officer observed two walls filled with video monitors showing live action from the cameras on property. They were quick with questions.

"I didn't know we would be behind the scenes," said Shawna Sowell, a sophomore from Virginia. "It gave us a very good perspective. The training scenes were very realistic; I never saw such realistic technology."

The students had previously visited police departments but not a private security operation before the trip to Hard Rock. On the casino floor, they received another perspective from a senior member of the Seminole Gaming team.

"Our job is to create the wow, to pull the rabbit out of the hat, to give guests the best experience," said Henry Pisano, vice president of player development. "It takes all of us to do that. That's our business."



Beverly Bidney

Jim Osceola talks to a group of Johnson & Wales University criminal justice students April 24 during a tour of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

**YOUTH PROGRAM**

From page 1B

"It will be a different world," Hinchman said. "I'm trying to give them a heads-up, an introduction, and get them used to programming."

Fun outings - including a day at the Florida State University Reservation, an outdoor adventure camp with zip lines, swimming, sailing and canoeing - are also on the agenda.

To apply to the Florida Indian Youth Program, call 800-322-9186, email info@fgcia.com or visit www.fgcia.com.

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# Announcements



## Ball Hawgs take all at NAYO



Photo courtesy of Alta Johnson

Pictured are the Ball Hawgs, the 2014 NAYO 18U champions. From left, front row: Alta Johnson, assistant coach; Cara Osceola, Seminole Tribe of Florida; Meona Feather, Eastern Band of Cherokee; Gianna Wargolet, Seminole Tribe of Florida; Alea Tisho, Eastern Band of Cherokee; Bree Jumper, Eastern Band of Cherokee; Bree Stamper, Eastern Band of Cherokee; and Trent McInturff, head coach. From left, second row: Jordan Brooks, IAC; Tate Tsingine, Navajo; and Tannon Tom, Navajo.

I would like to thank all the girls who played for the Ball Hawgs 2014 NAYO 18U Champions. We had a mix of different Tribes who represented their Tribes fantastically and should be recognized. These young ladies played hard and went undefeated throughout the tournament.

– Submitted by Alta Johnson

## Junior counselors wanted

The Family Services Department needs junior counselors for the Youth Camp at Camp Kulaqua from Aug. 3-8.

Students with at least 2.5 GPAs and good attendance who will be juniors or seniors during the 2014-15 school year may apply. Responsible sophomores will also be considered.

Junior counselors will supervise youth ages 7 to 12 in a variety of activities, including cardboard box car races, canoeing and poster contests, and will have the opportunity to earn community service hours for school. Junior counselors last year earned 80 hours of service.

"It's about more than the community service hours," said Brighton Education adviser Vickie Stuart. "It's about giving back to the community and the next generation of Tribal youth. It's an awesome experience."

Owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the 600-acre camp in the High Springs, Fla. woods includes several villages of rustic cabins, a water play

and swim park, challenge ropes course and tower, 72-degree spring lagoon with diving dock and rope swing, theater, gymnasium, horse stable, sports fields and mini-zoo.

Junior counselors will each oversee their own group of youths.

"We try to let junior counselors be the team leaders because the kids look up to them," Stuart said.

Students who attend the Teen Camp the week prior from July 27 to Aug. 1 may still apply to serve as junior counselors. Stuart said they will be able to experience both the fun aspects of camp and the responsible side of it.

Applications are due July 11.

For more information, contact your local Education adviser. Hollywood: Nicole Wilson, 954-989-6840 ext. 10595; Big Cypress: Renee Morales, 863-902-3200 ext. 13133; Immokalee/Naples: Victoria Soto, 239-867-5303 ext. 16484; Brighton: Vickie Stuart, 863-763-3572 ext. 14616; and Tampa: Frank Birts, 813-246-3100 ext. 14604.

## Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs  
ACTION: Notice of Availability

**SUMMARY:** The Seminole Tribe of Florida (Tribe) is currently evaluating a business lease for Tribal member Joanie Henry on the Big Cypress Reservation in Hendry County, Florida. The business site will consist of a modular structure (double wide trailer) and 25 parking spaces from which Ms. Henry will sell cultural arts and crafts. The business site and access road will be constructed on an undeveloped parcel located off of Josie Billie Highway. To move forward with the project the Tribe will need a business lease approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Due to the need for federal approvals, this project was reviewed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act.

The BIA has reviewed and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated March 2014, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department, to determine the environmental impacts that may result from the project. The EA is well written and considers all potential impacts to the human environment that

may be associated with the project.

Based on review of the EA and supporting documentation, the BIA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed project.

**NOTICE:** This is a Notice of Availability that the EA and FONSI for the project are available for public review. This FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore cannot be appealed. You may obtain a copy of the EA and FONSI from the BIA Eastern Regional Office or the Environmental Resources Management Department of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, 6365 Taft Street, Suite 3008, Hollywood, FL 33024, telephone (954) 965-4380.

For further information please contact Chet McGhee, Regional Environmental Scientist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6830.

Johnna Blackhair  
Acting Director, Eastern Region  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Date: May 15, 2014

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**WHERE:** Billie Swamp Safari

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123742	2004	FORD	CROWN VICTORIA (POLICE)	81,924	Fair	\$1,003.00
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## Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Students of the Month



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Elementary Students of the Month: Jessie Martinez, Greyson Johns, Hilowah Garcia, Deanthony Torres, Bryson Smith, Valentine Martinez, Nena Youngblood, Zach Riley, Gabe Williams, Dakota Fish, SirMarcus Osceola, Kobe Jimmie, LaShae King, Landon Goodwin, Heath Lawrence, Morgan Yates, Jacey White and Josiah Garcia. Not included in photo, Jessie Martinez, Hilowah Garcia, Bryson Smith, Nena Youngblood.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Middle School Students of the Month: Echo Billie, Billy Yates and Morgan King.

# PECS staff recognized during Teacher Appreciation Week

BY EMMA JOHNS  
Freelance Writer

**BRIGHTON** — Very few professions impact as many people as teaching does. Educators give to communities every day in many different ways.

During Teacher Appreciation Week, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School hosted an appreciation banquet May 6 at the Brighton Veteran's Building to honor teachers and staff for their dedication and commitment to the educational success of students.

Among those recognized were this year's teachers of the year: Heather Dobbs, elementary teacher of the year; Kelly Bass, middle school teacher of the year; Jennie Shore, cultural employee of the year; and Holly Sheffield, non-instructional employee of the year.

"It is my pleasure to be part of a fantastic school that does wonderful things," said principal Brian Greseth as he presented their awards.

At Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School, staff members pride themselves on the level of camaraderie shared and contribute to the school's success.

"We are a group, a family and team, and people are taking notice," said Dobbs, a fifth-grade teacher.

"Teaching is a passion, love for children and those moments when you know you have made a difference," added middle school language arts teacher Malissa Morgan. "Sometimes those moments do not occur immediately and take a few years to realize. Teaching is a family and the students and staff at PECS are the epitome of a family."

Middle school ESE and reading teacher Melodie Smith said she commits herself to PECS and education because it has been a



Emma Johns

Heather Dobbs, elementary teacher of the year; Kelly Bass, middle school teacher of the year; and Holly Sheffield, non-instructional teacher of the year, pose with Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Parent Teacher Student Organization president Lewis Goper and Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School principal Brian Greseth during a teacher appreciation banquet May 6.

lifelong dream. She said she's wanted to be a teacher since the second grade.

"Teaching at PECS is a blessing in itself. I am able to teach students and continue to be an integral part of their life for several years. It is so exciting to see their faces as they grow and mature and to know that I was fortunate enough to be a small part of that process," Smith said.

PECS recently received an award for

being one of the top charter schools in the state. It is because of the leadership and dedication of teachers and staff on a daily basis that the school earned the award.

"Even though it may not be shown on a daily basis, the hard work, enthusiasm and love for the students is greatly appreciated by the Brighton community," said Lewis Goper, Parent Teacher Student Organization president.

### ◆ LOUISE From page 1B

"When I enrolled at FAU in the late 1960s, it was a revolutionary thing for a Seminole Indian to go to college," Gopher said. "It was even more revolutionary for a woman to become a trailblazer. But I had loved the world of education for as long as I could remember, dating back to my days as an elementary school student in the St. Lucie County public school system."

After working for state agencies,

Gopher's ultimate career goals remained based in education within the Tribe.

"The answer was that I needed to stay in the world of education to bring that great gift to the members of my Tribe, especially young people," she said.

In addition to helping educate youngsters during her tenure as Education director, Gopher is also credited with boosting participation tribalwide in the Education Department's programs and increasing the number of Tribe members who pursued college education.

In March, Gopher was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame.

She explained to graduates that her degrees and recent honors were possible because her father recognized the importance of education.

"...I want to thank my dad, Willie Jones, for the value he placed on education and for instilling that value in me and his other children. Like all parents, he wanted us to have a better life," she said.

Gopher urged graduates to treasure their heritage, learn as much about it and share the knowledge with their children.

"We move most confidently into the future when we are grounded in the lessons of the past," she said.

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# Sports



## T-ball World Series a big hit for Tribal kids

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

**BRIGHTON** — Youngsters battled for a trophy that was taller than most of them in the Tribe's second annual T-ball World Series on the Brighton Reservation.

"It's as big as me," exclaimed Quaton (Mater) Billie as she and her teammates from the Brighton White team gazed at the champions' trophy they won May 10 at Ollie Jones Memorial Park.

Organized by the Seminole Recreation Department, the four-team, double-elimination tournament featured about 55 kids ages 4-7, who belted balls off a tee at home plate, ran the bases, played defense and used their spare time to have additional fun on rock climbing walls and a bungee trampoline activity.

Recreation staff served as coaches and provided guidance in the field and at the plate. Teams included Brighton Red, Big Cypress All-Stars 1 and Big Cypress All-Stars 2, but it was Brighton White that emerged with the big prize.

"A lot of kids on this team play on our league teams in Moore Haven. Half of them were coach pitch; a majority of them were T-ballers, so we combined them," said Brighton White coach Dallas Nunez.

A strong start in the championship game helped Brighton White prevail against a mixture of players from the Big Cypress teams. Brighton White produced a rare feat in T-ball by retiring the side in

order in the top of the first inning. Hillowa Garcia, Jordan Johnson, Bryson Smith and Kayden Warrior were among the defensive standouts in the inning.

Brighton White's TT Anderson provided a spark with a leadoff hit in the bottom of the first. Anderson scored the game's first run on an RBI single from Miley Jimmie. Quaton (Mater) Billie delivered an RBI double.

Brighton's defense continued to shine in the second inning, which turned out to be the final inning. Garcia and Warrior combined for a double play.

Blaze Cypress delivered Big Cypress' first hit of the game. Alex Rodriguez had the team's first RBI hit.

Players from Big Cypress didn't depart empty-handed. They received a runners-up trophy, which was only slightly smaller than the champions' trophy. Individual trophies were awarded to all players in the championship game.

### Brighton White 2014 T-Ball World Series Champions

JB Anderson, TT Anderson, Keanu Bert, Naleah Billie, Ukiah Billie, Quaton (Mater) Billie, Jayleigh Braswell, Adarius Fish, Hillowa Garcia, Marley Jimmie, Miley Jimmie, Jordan Johnson, Jaliyah Kropelin, Tehya Nunez, Bryson Smith, Kayden Warrior.

♦ See more T-BALL photos on page 5C



Kevin Johnson

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University basketball player DeForest Carter gives final instructions to youngsters May 8 at the DeForest Carter Basketball Camp on Big Cypress Reservation.

## College hoops standout DeForest Carter gives back to community

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** — The contributions DeForest Carter made on the basketball court last winter were significant. The numbers don't lie. He led Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in several categories, including assists.

But perhaps his most important assist came May 8 when Carter lent his expertise and knowledge to about 35 Seminole youngsters at the first DeForest Carter Basketball Camp.

The Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium — where Carter spent much of his youth — was filled with kids who performed dribbling, passing and shooting drills while wearing white T-shirts adorned with DeForest Carter Basketball Camp 2014.

"Every time I come back in here it's awesome, so many memories in this place," Carter said. "It's a great feeling."

After helping run drills, Carter spent

most of the dinner break signing autographs for the players, some of whom were given basketballs with his signature at the end of the evening.

"The whole rez is proud of him," said Gianna Wargolet, 17, who recently concluded her high school basketball career at Ahfachkee School. "That's good that he's giving back to the community."

"He's a role model to me. I look up to him," said aspiring point guard Ricky Garza, 12, a cousin of Carter. "This camp is amazing. He's helped us out a lot."

Big Cypress Recreation Department hosted and organized the free, three-hour camp. Site manager Josh Jumper said he wanted to kick off the department's summer basketball season with something special. He knew Carter would be a big hit with the kids.

"We support him," said Jumper, who started the camp by introducing Carter to the kids sitting at midcourt. "He's doing a great thing. We want kids to go on and

excel in their sports and especially in their education. He's a fine example for the kids here on the rez. He's a great role model."

Carter's outstanding junior season last winter in Daytona Beach earned him postseason accolades, including All-Conference first team in the Sun Conference and All-America honorable mention in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

For a versatile player who thrives in so many areas on the court, it's no surprise that Carter tackles a variety of academic endeavors off the court. He is working toward a degree in interdisciplinary studies with minors in business, homeland security and psychology.

An offseason injury prevented Carter from showing the kids the athleticism and moves that helped the 6-foot-1, 200-pound guard average a league-high 5.9 assists per game last season along with team-high

♦ See DEFOREST on page 4C



Kevin Johnson

Youngsters from Brighton and Big Cypress compete on the ball field May 10 during the second annual T-Ball World Series at Ollie Jones Memorial Park on Brighton Reservation.

## PECS students shine with fast runs and long throws

*Twelve athletes qualify for Hershey state meet June 21 in Miramar*

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

**OKEECHOBEE** — The Hershey district track and field meet was more than three hours old and past lunch time for its young participants, but four girls from Pematv Emahakv Charter School still had enough fuel left to capture one of the day's most exciting races.

Sixth-graders Jenna Brown, Janessa Nunez, Aubrey Pearce and Julia Smith combined to win the 4x100 meter relay in the girls 11-to-12-year-old division May 16 at the Okeechobee High School football and track stadium. By winning the race, the foursome qualified for the Hershey state meet June 21 at Ansin Sports Complex in Miramar. Eight other PECS students also qualified with first- or second-place finishes in their events.

The district meet featured hundreds of students ages 9-14 from schools throughout the Okeechobee region.

The PECS girls entered the homestretch of the 4x100 in second place, but Smith overtook the leader in the final few meters with a stirring sprint in front of bleachers filled with cheering athletes.

"The girl was ahead of me, but I didn't want to lose. So I went faster," Smith said.

The PECS girls said their strategy was to use their fastest runners for the first and final legs. The game plan paid off. Nunez put the team in front with a strong leadoff run. Brown and Pearce handled the second and third legs, respectively, and kept the team in the lead or close to it before Smith closed with her impressive dash. The winning time was 1 minute, 5 seconds.

Another key was all four runners made clean handoffs with the baton. The crisp exchanges came despite having limited practice. Their only previous run as a relay team was in the school meet earlier in the month when they provided a glimpse of what was to come.

"We had to go against the boys, and we still beat them," Nunez said.

The relay victory wasn't the only triumph for Smith, who had an outstanding day by winning all four events she entered. Smith's other wins came in the 100- and 400-meter runs and the softball throw. She

won the 100 in just under 15 seconds and the 400 in 1:18. She hurled the softball 137 feet, 4 inches.

Justin Gopher flashed plenty of speed on the track as he won the 400-meter run and finished runner-up in the 100-meter run in the boys 11-to-12 division.

PECS students also thrived in field events. Donovan Harris (11-to-12 boys), Lucas Osceola (13-to-14 boys) and Raeley Matthews (13-to-14 girls) won their softball throw competitions. Harris fired the ball 183 feet, 4 inches. Osceola launched it 222 feet, 2 inches. Matthews' winning throw

covered 175 feet, 7 inches. Chandler Pearce captured the 13-to-14 boys standing long jump with a leap of 95 inches.

The two youngest state qualifiers from PECS came in the 9-to-10 girls division. Angelie Melton finished second in the 50- and 100-meter runs. Ysla Meras was runner-up in the softball throw.

In order to reach the district meet, all participants had to finish first or second in their school meet. PECS held its meet May 5. Winners on the boys side included: Deagan Osceola, Creek Gopher, Justin Gopher, Jason Sampson, Gabe Williams, Kai Osceola, Morgan King, Dathan Garcia, Dalence Carrillo, Donte Thomas, Landon Goodwin, Ramone Baker, Lucas Osceola, Corey Jumper, Donovan Harris, Silas Madrigal and Alyke Baker. First-place finishers for the girls were: Angelie Melton, Julia Smith, Raeley Matthews, Tammy Martinez, LaShae King, Camryn Thomas, Aubrey Pearce, Jalynn Jones, Melina Steve, Sunni Bearden, Sydney Matthews, Ysla Meras, Janessa Nunez and Jenna Brown.

### Hershey state qualifiers from PECS

Justin Gopher (11-12, 100 meter, 400 meter); Donovan Harris (11-12, softball throw); Chandler Pearce (13-14, standing long jump); Lucas Osceola (13-14, softball throw); Angelie Melton (9-10, 50 meter, 100 meter); Ysla Meras (9-10, softball throw); Julia Smith (11-12, 100 meter, 200 meter, 4x100 relay, softball throw); Aubrey Pearce (11-12, 4x100 relay); Janessa Nunez (11-12, 4x100 relay); Jenna Brown (11-12, 4x100 relay); Raeley Matthews (13-14, 200 meter, softball throw); Sunni Bearden (13-13, softball throw).

Note: Some long jump results were not available as of press time.

♦ See more TRACK photos on page 3C



Kevin Johnson

Pematv Emahakv Charter School's Angelie Melton, center, starts the 50-meter dash May 16 at the Hershey district track and field meet at Okeechobee High School. Melton qualified for the state meet in June.



Eileen Soler

Rangers batter Mariah Billie keeps her eyes on the ball during an at-bat May 6.

# Brighton's Rangers finish undefeated

*Team defeats Moore Haven Cubs 14-2 to conclude perfect softball season*

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

**MOORE HAVEN** — The season finale was business as usual for the Rangers girls softball team from Brighton Recreation.

Just as they did all season, the Rangers racked up impressive numbers at the plate and dished out outstanding pitching May 6 as they finished with a 14-2 win against the Cubs in the Moore Haven town league for ages 9-12.

"We went undefeated. We ended up 8-0," Brighton coach Kelly Smiley said. "They did really well."

Having a pitching staff that rarely allowed runs and an offense that was tough to keep off the base paths proved to be a winning combination this season.

"We scored way more than (our opponents). Our pitching is really awesome and we have really good hitting," Smiley said.

The perfect season was compiled thanks to Aubee Billie, Mariah Billie, Alliana Brady, Caylie Huff, Haylie Huff, Jacee Jumper, Janessa Nunez, Julia Smith, Melina Steve, Alaina Sweat, Mallorie Thomas and Chyler Villarreal.

With strong pitching from Aubee Billie, Caylie Huff, Nunez and Thomas, opponents in the three-team league seldom crossed home plate.

"They rarely put it in play. Our pitchers do good work," Smiley said.

The Rangers scored seven runs in each



Eileen Soler

Rangers pitcher Aubee Billie winds up against the Cubs.

of the first two innings against the Cubs. The game ended after the second inning.

Brighton also brought younger teams to Moore Haven in coach-pitch and T-ball leagues.

*Staff Reporter Eileen Soler contributed to this article.*



Eileen Soler

Rangers catcher Mallorie Thomas ends the Cubs chance for another score.



Eileen Soler

The undefeated Rangers, with coaches Kelly Smiley and Dallas Nunez, pose after their win against the Cubs.

# Positive seasons end for young Seminole volleyball squads

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

**BRIGHTON** — A young Seminole volleyball travel team picked up a few tournament championships and some valuable experience this season. Coached by Jo Jumper, the 12U girls battled their way into the top brackets in most of their tournaments.

"They're a young squad and there's not many of them. I was proud of them. They did good across the board. We ended up in the gold brackets, which is good," Jumper said.

Members of the team are: Bre Brockman, Jacee Jumper, Janessa Nunez, Lauren O'Donnell, Marci Osceola, Rubie Osceola, Julia Smith, Mallorie Thomas and Alaina Sweat.

Filled mostly with students from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School, the team began practicing in November. By the time the season ended May 4 at AAU Regionals in Orlando, Jumper said the team had made great strides, proof of which came with first-place finishes at four Up On Top tournaments in Port St. Lucie.

"They play well together for being so young," she said. "We have phenomenal servers. That's one of the things we work on, as well as passing."

Even when the Seminoles didn't finish first, they still generated strong showings, such as a pair of third-place finishes in gold brackets — the highest level — at AAU tournaments in Orlando. In both events, they won three of their first four matches.

Although they didn't reach the gold level in their final tournament, the Seminoles still capped a solid season on a decent note by finishing 21st out of 32 teams. The team opened with a 2-0 win against a squad from Winter Haven before encountering three straight defeats, two of which were decided by only a few points.

While some travel teams will continue to play year-round, the Seminoles will take



Photo courtesy of Jo Jumper

The Seminoles 12U girls volleyball team gathers for a photo at a recent tournament.

a break from volleyball to concentrate on other sports, such as basketball and softball.

One benefit that comes with a young team is that the squad won't lose anybody next season, which means the Seminoles should be even stronger next time they step on the court.

"They'll all be back next year," Jumper said.

## 10U girls show progress

The youth movement extended down to the travel program's youngest squad, too.

"We did really well," said Kelly Smiley, who coached the Seminoles 10U girls volleyball team with Dallas Nunez.

"We are a very young team. We have a lot of 6-year-olds and 7-year-olds on the team that are just starting. We had our troubles, but we actually came out with a couple wins

when we played in Orlando."

During its final tournament of the season at the AAU Regional Championships May 3-4, the Seminoles dropped their first three matches but showed plenty of determination in the fourth match against Ocala Power United. The Seminoles lost the first game but fought back to capture the match by winning the second game 25-19 and the tiebreaker, 15-3. The Seminoles finished eighth out of 10 teams.

Smiley said the team showed improvement this season from start to finish.

"They're catching on," Smiley said. "We got a lot better towards the end. Next year we've got to pick it up where we left off. It was basically a learning experience because our girls are so young. They had more fun than anything. That's what matters."

# Smallest hitters make coach pitch cool



Eileen Soler

Ashlynn Collins sets her stance for a hit against the Mets of Moore Haven.



Eileen Soler

Jordan Johnson, pitcher for the Nationals coach pitch team of Brighton (ages 6-8), snags a grounder near the mound May 6 during the first inning against the Mets of Moore Haven.



Eileen Soler

Kobe Micco of the Nationals coach pitch team from Brighton focuses on hitting the ball against the Mets of Moore Haven.



Eileen Soler

Nationals pitcher Jordan Johnson prepares to throw out a Mets player at first base.



Eileen Soler

Nationals coach David Coleman pitches to batters in a coach pitch game against the Mets.

# High school state softball finals filled with Seminoles

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**VERO BEACH**— Formerly the spring training home for baseball's Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers, historic Dodgertown welcomed softball players — including Seminole Tribal members — who vied for Florida High School Activities Association (FHSAA) state championships May 9-10.

Plantation's American Heritage, which features two Tribal members, and Moore Haven, which has five Tribal members, reached state finals in their classes.

American Heritage claimed the Class 5A title with a dramatic 11-10 walk-off win against Belleview. It was the Patriots' sixth state title, but the first for Tribal members Ahnie Jumper and Kiauna Martin.

Jenna Goodrich's perfectly placed squeeze bunt scored a streaking Emily Rini with the winning run that capped a remarkable rally by American Heritage. The Patriots trailed by eight runs in the third inning, but they battled back with one run in the third, five in the fourth, one in the sixth and two in the seventh.

"The team wasn't making plays, which was uncharacteristic for us," said American Heritage coach Marty Cooper. "We were down 10-2, but our kids pulled it together, played hard and kept focused. I'm very proud of them."

"We were down until the last inning when we won it," Jumper said. "We never gave up. We fought the fight."

American Heritage finished with a 25-6 record. The Patriots, whose state titles have all come in the past 10 years, received medals and the championship plaque following the thriller.

"It was very exciting," Jumper said. "All our hard work during the whole season paid off. We always have energy on our Heritage team. There's never a dull moment. The team was very confident. We never gave up."

Heritage's victory came in front of



Peter B. Gallagher

Moses Jumper, left, and Ruggy Jumper, right, celebrate American Heritage's championship with granddaughters Ahnie Jumper and Kiauna Martin.

family members who joined players on the field for photos after the game.

"This is such a great experience for these girls," said Moses Jumper, proud of his granddaughter Ahnie. "Even those who didn't get to play a lot in the tournament, they got a rare chance to feel what it means to be the big winner. They know what pressure is at the highest level. That is something that is hard to teach. You got to get to the state tournament first."

Ahnie Jumper and Martin, both freshmen, saw limited playing time on the varsity level this season. According to varsity statistics from the FHSAA, Jumper played nine games and had three hits in

eight at-bats with one double and two runs batted in. Martin appeared in 11 games with two hits in six at-bats and seven runs scored.

Martin was used as a courtesy runner in Heritage's 4-0 state semifinal win against previously undefeated Ponte Vedra. It was the first loss in 29 games for Ponte Vedra, which was ranked No. 4 in the nation before the game.

Similar to American Heritage, Class 3A's Moore Haven enjoyed a memorable semifinal victory at Dodgertown. With Tribal members Skyler Burke, Darla Cypress, Sydnee Cypress, Calgary Johns and Jessie Osceola in the lineup, the Lady Terriers earned a spot in a state final for the first time in school history by winning a 15-10 state semifinal marathon in 10 innings against Carrollwood.

Seminole proved to be the difference, both in the field where the defense was super, and at the plate, where the Lady Terriers pounded 18 hits. In fact, it was freshman utility player Sydnee Cypress who broke open a tight game in the last inning with a bases-loaded, two-run double, one of her three hits for the day. Fellow outfielder Johns, a sophomore outfielder, had two hits, including a bases-clearing triple. She scored three runs and led all players with four RBIs. Darla Cypress, a junior third baseman, scored a game-high four runs and had one hit. Burke, a senior shortstop, had one hit.

The following day Moore Haven's bid for its first state championship fell short with a 12-0, five-inning loss against Westminster Christian School from Miami. Johns and Osceola notched Moore Haven's only two hits.

Osceola was among Moore Haven's top hitters all season, including the playoffs. The senior first baseman helped the team get to Vero Beach by going 6-for-12 in regional wins against Bradenton Christian, St. Stephen's Episcopal and St. Petersburg Catholic. Moore Haven finished with a 17-5 record.



Peter B. Gallagher

The Moore Haven High School Lady Terriers finish the 2013-14 FHSAA softball season with 17 wins and only 5 losses, as state runners-up in Class 3A. Tribal members Skyler Burke, Darla Cypress, Sydnee Cypress, Calgary Johns and Jessie Osceola were in the lineup.

## ◆ More TRACK photos from page 1C



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahkv Charter School's girls 4x100 relay team shows who is No. 1 after it won the 11-to-12 division at the Hershey district track and field meet May 16 at Okeechobee High School. From left, Janessa Nunez, Jenna Brown, Aubrey Pearce and Julia Smith.



Kevin Johnson

Pherian Baker heaves the ball in a softball throw event during Pemayetv Emahkv Charter School's Hershey track and field meet.



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahkv Charter School's Jason Sampson, center, sprints to the finish line during a 13-to-14 boys race at the Hershey district track and field meet May 16 at Okeechobee High School.



Kevin Johnson

Karey Gopher leads the pack in a sprint during Pemayetv Emahkv Charter School's Hershey track and field meet.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee School boys basketball coach Cicero Osceola and his players are recognized May 15 at the school's sports banquet.

# Ahfachkee athletes receive advice, awards at banquet

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** — Decorative lights made the ceiling at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium appear as if it was full of stars May 15.

A stage also featured stars, namely University of Louisville women's basketball player Jude Schimmel and student-athlete standouts who were recognized at the Ahfachkee School's annual sports banquet.

Schimmel, the younger half of the famed Native American sister duo that helped the ascension of Louisville basketball during the past few years, usually plays guard when she's on a basketball court, but this time she served as the evening's featured speaker in front of the student-athletes, coaches, school administrators and families. The words and advice from her eight-minute speech didn't go unnoticed, even by a University of Connecticut fan.

"Like she said, she's not the biggest or fastest, but she always goes out and plays with heart. She's a really humble person," said multi-sport student-athlete Dasani Cypress, who is a fan of the sisters and the national champion Huskies.

"I think it was really great to see her come here," added Leilani Gopher, a basketball teammate of Cypress. "I never thought she'd come to our rez. She said other people might not believe in you, but always believe in yourself."

Schimmel's message reached more than just the female student-athletes.

"I listened to everything she said, talking about sticking with school and using sports as something to get you by in life. I really think that's true," said golf captain Quenton Cypress.

Perseverance — be it in sports or elsewhere in life — was a constant theme of Schimmel's talk. She explained how her freshman year at Louisville was almost her last.

"I was just really upset with the way my freshman year went. Honestly, I almost didn't go back to college. (That summer) I cried to my parents and I cried with friends," she told the audience.

Schimmel, from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla in Oregon, didn't give up on college or the Cardinals. She returned for her sophomore season and helped lead the team to the NCAA championship game, which UConn won. She will head into her senior season this fall as one of the team's key returners.

"It takes a lot of hard work and a lot of practice," said Schimmel, whose sister Shoni made her pro debut in the WNBA with the Atlanta Dream the following

night. "Luckily, you can carry that over into anything that you do, especially when it comes to school and anything else you have to deal with in life."

Schimmel's father, Rick, also spoke to the audience.

During the awards portion of the evening, hard work and dedication were mentioned several times by Ahfachkee coaches, who praised their players. For example, the middle school boys basketball team only had the bare minimum of players, and at times even less, but head coach Cicero Osceola said there was no quit in his team.

"We ended up having four players and we beat (a team from) Tampa. They loved it. These kids play hard and they don't give up," Osceola said.

The middle school girls basketball team, coached by Amy Osceola, made the most of a tall, but small squad. With just five players, it finished with a perfect 9-0 record.

Volleyball coach Dessie Thomas noted that her middle and high school teams didn't have a home gym because of renovations but still enjoyed the season wherever it took them.

"They worked very hard. They had to overcome a lot, but through it all at least we had a great time going to games," she said.

The varsity girls basketball team was recognized for

advancing farther than any Ahfachkee team. With two seniors, one sophomore and the rest from middle school, the team went 15-4 and earned a trip to the Class 2A regionals as a district runner-up.

"A young team to go that far, all Native American girls, is amazing," said first-year coach Brandon Jones.

Dasani Cypress, the team's leading scorer with an average of 17.9 points per game and Ahfachkee's lone golfer to reach regionals last fall, received the school's Lady Warrior of the Year Award. Principal Lucy Dafoe said the award is made special each year for a student who exemplifies high academic standards, leadership and sportsmanship.

Devan Bowers from the boys basketball team was named the Warrior Award winner. Cypress and Bowers also won the awards in 2013.

Every team doled out certificates of completion along with other awards for most valuable players, up and coming, and hustle.

Cheerleaders from the early elementary school grades were also recognized. Peggy Sue Cypress received the Golden Megaphone Award and was mentioned by Dafoe as being the first in line to see Schimmel.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee School eighth-grader Dasani Cypress holds the Lady Warrior of the Year Award she received at the school's sports banquet. Dasani plays basketball, volleyball and golf.



Kevin Johnson

University of Louisville women's basketball player Jude Schimmel, second from left, is joined for a photo by Ahfachkee School student-athletes, from left, senior Malari Baker, sixth-grader Leilani Gopher, and eighth-grader Dayra Koenes. Schimmel was the guest speaker at the school's annual sports banquet May 15.

# May Madness engulfs Tribe

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — May Madness hit the Hollywood Gym May 16-17 in the form of basketball teams eager to win their divisions. The double-elimination tournament featured players ages 3-18.

The tournament gave kids a chance to get on the court and compete. The Hollywood Recreation Department plans to

offer players more competition and hopes to start monthly youth tournaments. Most players came from Hollywood, but a few from Brighton, Big Cypress and Trail also competed.

In the 9-to-12-year-old division, Todd's Squad beat Delray Waves # 1 for the championship. In the 13-to-15 division final, Nora's eked out the win against Delray Waves, 27-25. In the high school battle, Hollywood Boys defeated Rez Runners,

41-36. Winning teams took home trophies and medals.

Participating teams in the 9-to-12 division were Unconquered Lady Seminoles, Team Cedric, Delray Waves #1, Delray Waves #2 and Todd's Squad; the 13-to-15 division included Nora's, Delray Waves, Team Jordan and Cisco Squad; the high school teams were Hollywood Boys, Rez Runners, The Knights and Delray Waves.



Beverly Bidney

A Team Cedric player takes a shot against the Unconquered Lady Seminoles in the 9-to-12-year-old division at the May Madness basketball tournament in Hollywood May 16.



Beverly Bidney

The Unconquered Lady Seminoles and Team Cedric battle for the ball during the May Madness basketball tournament.



Beverly Bidney

A Cisco Squad player dribbles past a player from Team Jordan.



Beverly Bidney

A Team Cedric player eyes the basket as he makes his way down the court during a game against the Unconquered Lady Seminoles in the 9-to-12-year-old division.



Beverly Bidney

Daniel Rodriguez, of Cisco Squad, dribbles down the court while being pursued by a member of Team Jordan.



Beverly Bidney

In the 13-to-15-year-old division, a Cisco Squad player tries for the basket as a Team Jordan player does his best to block the shot.



Kevin Johnson

Youngsters practice their dribbling skills at the DeForest Carter Basketball Camp on Big Cypress

## ◆ DEFOREST

From page 1C

averages in points (14.4), steals (2.7) and blocks (1.3), but the more important aspect of the evening for Carter was to teach drills, offer advice and positively influence Tribal youth.

"I want to inspire someone to have something that I had. It's a great feeling overall that you're doing something good," said Carter, who had surgery more than a month ago after he broke a bone in his foot in a pickup game. He said he will be healed long before the start of the upcoming season.

As a kid, Carter didn't have to look far for basketball inspiration.

He remembers sitting in the stands watching his mother, Myra Jumper, and grandmother, Mary Tigertail, play in tournaments. Carter, who started playing basketball at age 9 after trying football, also had his brothers, Greg and Josie, to shoot hoops with as youngsters. Greg and Josie helped their younger sibling run the camp along with friends and Recreation staff.

"A basketball family," Carter said.

"When we were kids and (attended) camps, we always said we wanted to do our own camp. I'm happy I can share this with my brothers and my old friends from back in the day."

The camp T-shirts made the event more memorable.

"(The Recreation Department) surprised me and made shirts for this. It's pretty awesome," Carter said.

Carter will enter his senior season with a good chance to become Embry-Riddle's all-time leader in assists. Ranked second, he needs 93 more assists to move to the top. Of course, those don't include all the helpers he dished out to his brothers when they were younger.

"When I was growing up, I wasn't about the points. I'd hear my brothers talking about 30 points. I'd say, 'Well, I had 17 assists. It wasn't just you. I helped you out,'" said Carter, who is also in the top six all-time in blocks, free throws made and steals.

Carter, who hopes to pursue pro basketball after college, said he was grateful for being asked to run the camp.

"I'm just thankful I got to do it one time. If I get another opportunity, I'm jumping at it," he said.



Kevin Johnson

DeForest Carter signs autographs for youngsters during the event.



Kevin Johnson

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University basketball player DeForest Carter, back row, seventh from the left, is joined by youngsters, Recreation staff and coaches at the camp May 8.

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# Indian Country profile: Forty years later, PGA Tour victory evokes fond memories for Rod Curl

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

*Editor's note: This is part of an occasional series of profiles of notable Native Americans making their mark on the world.*

**TAMPA** — Rod Curl doesn't remember every shot that earned him a victory at the Colonial National Invitation on a Sunday afternoon in May 1974, but he does recall everything that came his way as the tournament winner: the shiny trophy he proudly grasped; the colorful plaid winner's jacket he donned; the \$50,000 first-place check he deposited; and the instant recognition as a Native American golfer who won on the PGA Tour.

"That was a great feat. A lot of Native Americans over the years have followed me. I've met some nice Indians," said Curl, 71, a member of Northern California's Winnemem Wintu Tribe who plays and practices at The Claw at University of South Florida and TPC Tampa Bay, and enjoys evening poker at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

Also prominently imbedded in Curl's memory bank 40 years after his win at the Colonial in Fort Worth, Texas is the quality of the field he defeated at one of golf's most respected tournaments.

Curl, of Tampa, said people forget that the Colonial in 1974 was the first of that season's three so-called "designated tournaments," which meant the field was loaded because the Tour required its top names to be there, a mandate that no longer exists.

Although he never won a major — his best was a tie for 15th in the 1975 Masters — Curl conquered a field that was as strong as a major. His victory at age 31 came against golf's elite, including Raymond Floyd, David Graham, Hubert Green and, of course, Jack Nicklaus.

Notching a victory against Nicklaus, who finished second, remains a satisfying moment for Curl.

"I won one (tournament); he's won like 70," Curl said.

Late in the final round, Curl emerged from a three-way tie for the lead — which included Nicklaus — by making a lengthy birdie putt on No. 16. Curl notched pars on the final two holes to finish with a 68 and a 4-under-par 276 total for four rounds. After Nicklaus bogeyed the 17th, Curl had the comfort of being in the clubhouse with a two-shot cushion as the Golden Bear played the 18th.

"I was praying he would make birdie just so I could say I beat Jack Nicklaus by one shot," Curl said.

His prayers were answered. Nicklaus birdied to finish one shot behind the 5-foot-5 Curl, whose size and late start in golf at age 19 didn't hinder his unlikely metamorphosis from construction worker to PGA Tour winner.

Curl wasn't surprised he played well in the final round. He already had two runner-up finishes earlier that season in San Diego and Houston.

"At that period in my life, I knew I would have a good round. I had control of the ball," Curl said.

Born and raised in Redding, Calif. — 200 miles north of San Francisco — Curl learned valuable lessons about hard work from his parents that he carried into his golf career. He said both his parents were Wintus who lived on the Tribe's reservation, but before Curl was born the family moved off the reservation. He recalled his father, West, as being "a great worker" and his mother, Lala, as being an Indian activist who fought for land in California.

"My mom was so active. She was away a lot ... fighting for the cause," Curl said.

Sibling generosity helped Curl's pursuit of a career as a pro golfer. Esther Russell lent her younger brother \$12,000 so



Rod Curl, center, receives a check for winning the Colonial National Invitation in May 1974 in Fort Worth, Texas. Curl, a member of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, lives in Tampa.

he could chase his dream.

"A wonderful sister," Curl said. "She sponsored me. I had no money. I was a construction worker. Without her, I'd probably still be digging ditches."

When golf earnings started to make it into Curl's wallet — he earned a career-best \$116,753 in 1974 — he paid back his sister.

A self-taught golfer who also played baseball and pool, Curl made a rapid ascension from carrying shovels to hitting irons. In 1966, just four years after he started playing golf, he earned a spot in the U.S. Open at Olympic Club in San Francisco. Curl, 23 at the time, seized an opportunity to join Arnold Palmer in a practice round.

"That was one of the greatest highlights in my career. A little boy from Redding, Calif. playing with Arnold Palmer," he said.

Curl said he hooked the ball a lot in those days, so it wasn't too much of a surprise that his grip caught the attention of Palmer.

"Arnold said to me, 'Son, you better do something about that grip,'" Curl recalled.

As memorable as the practice round was for Curl, the tournament featured a notoriously harsh conclusion for Palmer, who surrendered a seven-shot lead with nine holes left and lost to Billy Casper in a playoff.

After the victory in Fort Worth, Curl was ready to hoist more trophies, but he never revisited the winner's circle on the PGA Tour. The momentum he built up in 1974 was derailed that summer because of

a wrist injury that never properly healed. The mishap occurred when Curl decided to remain on the practice range at the B.C. Open in New York after his caddie had taken Curl's car to do laundry.

"I hit too many balls on a hard ground. I must have hit 10 or 12 baskets. I wanted to get better," Curl said. "Ever since then, I've been hurt. It still hurts."

Curl still flirted with wins. He finished second to Johnny Miller at the Kaiser International Open in 1975 and tied for runner-up with Tom Watson and Bill Rogers in 1978 at a tournament in Japan. A two-under-par 70 had Curl tied for eighth after the first round of the Masters in 1976, but he missed the cut with an 82 the next day.

The Colonial and Fort Worth have always remained close to Curl's heart. His 31 appearances — second only to Ben Crenshaw — serve as proof of just how much the tournament and city mean to Curl.

"Once you win a tournament, they remember you. That's why I kept going back. They are really friendly in Fort Worth. It's a first-class tournament," Curl said.

Although it's been seven years since he last played in the Colonial, Curl is still having an impact on the tournament, albeit in a hereditary manner.

The Colonial's unique Champions Choice allows the tournament's previous winners to add two golfers from outside the PGA Tour to the field. Curl wrote letters to his fellow champions, lobbying for his son, Jeff, to be one of the choices. The champions

agreed to pick Jeff, 35, to play in this year's tournament, now known as Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial.

Jeff, who at age 3 performed in golf exhibitions with his father at tournaments, plays on the Web.Com Tour, a minor league breeding ground for players aspiring to reach the PGA Tour or return to it. Ironically, Jeff played in the 2012 U.S. Open on the same Olympic Club course that his father played in the '66 Open.

Another son of Rod Curl, Rod Jr., is the golf professional at Hammock Creek Golf Club in Palm City, Fla.

For Rod Sr., the benefits of playing on the PGA Tour in the 1970s and '80s extended beyond the ropes.

"At the Bob Hope Classic, here comes (actor) Jack Lemmon. He says, 'Hi, Mr. Curl. I really admire how you play,'" Curl said.

Thanks to an invitation from Hope, Curl attended a dinner with President Gerald Ford. When he finished runner-up at Andy Williams' tournament, Curl was invited to a small party hosted by the entertainer.

"It all adds up to a wonderful life," Curl said.

*PGA Tour winner and Native American Rod Curl welcomes a chance to teach golfers who are serious about becoming better. He said he's interested in helping golfers who are willing to put in at least 50 hours of practice with him. Curl can be reached via phone or text at 813-240-8512.*



Peter B. Gallagher

Former PGA Tour golfer Rod Curl, 71, stands next to a pin at The Claw at University of South Florida golf course in Tampa. Curl's lone victory on the PGA Tour came 40 years ago this month at the Colonial National Invitation in Fort Worth, Texas.

## More T-BALL photos from page 1C



Kevin Johnson

Teams from Brighton and Big Cypress exchange postgame handshakes May 10 during the second annual T-Ball World Series at Ollie Jones Memorial Park.



Kevin Johnson

Jayleigh Braswell takes a mighty swing.



Kevin Johnson

The Brighton White team celebrates after winning the Tribe's second annual T-Ball World Series May 10 at Ollie Jones Memorial Park on Brighton Reservation. Coached by Dallas Nunez, center, Brighton defeated a squad from Big Cypress in the championship game.



Kevin Johnson

Big Cypress youngsters pose with their runner-up trophy May 10 during the second annual T-Ball World Series at Ollie Jones Memorial Park on Brighton Reservation. Coaches from the Recreation Department included, from left, Ernest Jean, Kelvin Robinson and O'Bryan White.



Kevin Johnson

O'Bryan White, of the Recreation Department, provides guidance to Big Cypress infielder David Quincy Herrera, while Brighton base runner Kobe Micco rounds second base.



Kevin Johnson

Big Cypress' Aaliah Quintanilla, left, tags out Brighton's Greg James during the second annual T-Ball World Series.

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