

The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered www.seminoletribune.org • 50¢

Much research, few answers as laurel wilt disease spreads

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

CORAL SPRINGS — A Jurassic-sized, tree-killing plague from tiny Asian beetles is spreading a peculiar ecological disaster called laurel wilt disease across the Southeast.

Dozens of scientists and concerned citizens saw the problem firsthand during a field trip through the Everglades as part of the “Conference on Laurel Wilt Disease and Natural Ecosystems” held June 16-18 in Coral Springs. The Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes were among the conference’s sponsors.

Thousands of acres of redbay, swamp bay, avocado and other trees in the laurel family have succumbed to redbay ambrosia beetles in Florida since 2005 when the bugs were first discovered in Duval County. Since then, blown south by trade winds and Florida storms and replenished by hiding in wood crates or firewood dropped off at ports and carried by trucks through all parts of North

♦ See LAUREL WILT on page 4A

Seminole Gaming promotes Eder to CFO position

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — John Eder has been promoted to chief financial officer at Seminole Gaming, operator of the Tribe’s seven Florida casinos. Formerly senior vice president of finance, Eder brings 13 years of Seminole Gaming experience with him to the CFO position.

“We will continue to grow our footprint here in our current locations, grow our revenue and our product,” said Eder, who joined Seminole Gaming in 2002. “Our focus today is to improve guest service, to provide a world-class product no matter which casino the guest is in and continue to grow our organization.”

Eder’s responsibilities include finance, accounting, payroll, risk management, compliance, banking/investor relations, planning and analysis, cage, credit and purchasing for the casinos. He also sits on several strategic steering committees for

♦ See EDER on page 4A

Luncheon lauds legion of tribal foster parents

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Family Services Department counselor Fred Mullins called the Foster Parent Appreciation Luncheon a “very special late morning for very special people.” He described the foster parents as the Tribe’s SEAL Team Six.

“You are the ones who, 24 hours a day, are there to go in and help no matter what,” Mullins said, comparing the room full of foster parents to the U.S. Navy’s heroic special operation mission unit.

Nearly 25 foster parents, dedicated to providing homes in a heartbeat to Tribal children removed for any reason from their biological parents, were honored at the May 28 event at the Big Cypress Community Center.

Helene Buster, the department’s director, said the annual luncheon provides an opportunity to thank the foster parents for keeping kids — often rescued from troubled homes — within the community and among loved ones.

♦ See APPRECIATION on page 5A

Tribe’s Jobe Johns shatters season calf roping record

Blevyns Jumper, Logan Hyatt also shine in high school rodeo meet

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

OKEECHOBEE — Before the Florida High School Rodeo Association’s (FHSRA) state finals reached the halfway point in its four-day run, Seminole Tribe’s Jobe Johns and Blevyns Jumper and Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s Logan Hyatt had already posted impressive wins.

In the first round June 11, nobody was faster in team roping than Jumper and his partner. And nobody all season in the FHSRA produced a faster time in steer wrestling than Hyatt on the first night at states.

Those strong runs proved to be a precursor for day two as Johns earned his time in the spotlight with a memorable victory in tie-down calf roping.

There was a good reason why his blistering time of 7.2 seconds evoked the loudest cheers of the night from the spectators at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center. Johns, 16, shattered the season’s previous best time by nearly a full second. FHSRA President Paul Albert said Johns’ time was the fastest in at least the past four years, and perhaps the fastest ever in the association.

Albert said record books, per se, are not kept by the association, but he researched and didn’t see a faster mark.

“I can’t find anything that says there is a faster time than 7.2,” Albert said. “It’s extremely fast. When you get below 8, that is unbelievable; everything has to be perfect. From start to finish, it was absolutely perfect.”

Wearing jeans, a black shirt and a black cowboy hat, Johns roped and tied up the calf in about as long as it takes to read this sentence.

“My game plan was to make sure I caught him around the neck,” Johns said. “I didn’t think I was going to be that fast. I knew I had a good calf, and I knew I could make a good run on him.”

Johns, the son of Tara and Billy Joe Johns, aspires to follow in his dad’s



Kevin Johnson

As the gate opens, Jobe Johns starts the chase during the steer wrestling portion of the Florida High School Rodeo Association’s state finals June 12 at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center. Later that night, Johns posted the season’s fastest time in tie-down calf roping in 7.2 seconds. He qualified in both events for the National High School Finals Rodeo from July 12-18 in Rock Springs, Wyoming.

footsteps and rodeo professionally.

Johns’ performance at states came after he won All-Around Cowboy honors for May. For the season, he finished third overall in tie-down calf roping and qualified for the National High School Finals Rodeo from July 12-18 in Rock Springs, Wyoming. He also qualified in steer wrestling.

Although his specialty is calf roping, Johns came within a whisker of being the state champion in steer wrestling, but that honor went to Hyatt, who lives with the Johns family in Lake Placid.

“He’s like my brother,” Johns said. “He’s lived with me for three years. He came down from Alabama, which is where

I grew up. I met him in junior rodeo and we’ve been best friends ever since.”

Hyatt decided to leave Alabama in order to pursue his rodeo career.

“There’s a lot more rodeos in Florida than there is in Alabama,” Hyatt said.

♦ See RODEO on page 2C

Washington’s Lummi sample Seminole life

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

A small contingent of Lummi Nation teens traversed the country to participate in a cultural exchange with the Seminole Tribe from June 15-19.

The 10 teens, all residents of a group home on the Lummi Reservation west of Bellingham, Washington, toured Billie

Swamp Safari and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress, learned about Seminole culture in Hollywood, dined with Chairman James E. Billie at the Hard Rock Café and enjoyed a day at the beach before heading home filled with enthusiasm for culture.

“It’s all about sharing knowledge about who we are and what we do,” said Bobby Frank, Hollywood Community Culture

center manager. “You take what you learn from the elders and pass it on; that’s what we do.”

The Lummi youth have traveled to New York, Washington, D.C., Hawaii, Oregon and California for cultural exchange trips, but this was their first foray into Florida.

“Some of the kids have always wanted to come to Florida, so they reached out to us,” said Trishanna Storm, executive assistant to Chairman Billie.

“They wanted to see the Everglades and alligators, so we thought Billie Swamp Safari would be a wonderful experience. Afterward, the Museum gave them the history of the Seminoles.”

In Hollywood, they were introduced to Seminole culture through crafts and food. Girls made pumpkin frybread and Seminole doll pins from palm fiber and beads, while boys crafted tomahawks from cypress branches and knees.

Madeline Benard, who works with children in the Community Culture Department, explained the matriarchal clan structure of the Tribe.

“You can’t marry in your same clan,” she said. “A woman’s role is to pass the clan to her children. You have to keep with your tradition; without it you’re nothing.”

The Lummi and Seminole women enjoyed an easy camaraderie in the culture room. They shared stories about their Tribes

and traditions as they fashioned dolls. The Lummi teens discussed going into the woods to collect bark from the cedar trees, which they use to weave hats, baskets, rope and fishing nets; they use the wood to make canoes and totem poles.

“Girls will bead and make cedar hats, but men do more work with cedar than girls,” said Eliza Julius, 13. “Women make a lot of beaded jewelry, regalia and moccasins.”

The Lummi boys gathered under a chickee as Morgan Frank taught them about the cypress trees and knees they would use to make tomahawks. He let them strip leaves from small branches and cut wood for handles.

“When you make something, you give it away,” said Frank, who has given most of his creations to family members.

While the boys stripped bark and created sharp edges on tomahawk heads with a two-handled draw blade, Frank sharpened another blade vigorously. He instructed them to use their back muscles when pulling the draw blade, not just their arms.

“My brother used to tell me if you are afraid of a blade, it will cut you,” he said. “You have to respect it.”

Simultaneously, girls made pumpkin frybread in the cooking chickee. Lined up at the work table, they learned that if they worked the dough too much it would make the bread tough. Most had never made frybread over an open fire; Lummi women make it indoors.

As they kneaded bread, the girls shared recipes for their own versions; Benard shared the Seminole’s version of Indian burgers. The group then enjoyed a lunch of Indian tacos, while Gordon “Ollie” Wareham shared a few Seminole legends

♦ See CULTURE on page 5A



Beverly Bidney

Lummi Nation teen Elijah Wilson holds a cypress branch steady as Arthur Felix saws off a piece to create a handle for the tomahawk he would make under the supervision of Morgan Frank, right. A group of 10 teens visited the Hollywood Community Culture Department June 16 for a cultural exchange.

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Native musicians push to place Native artists in national spotlight. See story on page 3A.

Editorial



Sleep with your head to the East

• James E. Billie

At an early age, my mother would get me out of bed in the morning to wash my face and rinse my mouth. She made me turn my body toward the rising sun. She would say, "Breathmaker has given you another day on earth. Be thankful and say *Sho-naa-bish* (thank you) as you wash your face."

As time went on, I fell into the habit. To this day I say my morning thank you prayer and also a prayer before I sleep. When I build a house for my family, I make sure the bathroom sinks are in such a manner that I face toward the East. When I wash my face or brush my teeth or comb my hair, I am already in position to say my morning prayer.

Another habit I have maintained

throughout all these years is I go to sleep with my head toward the East. Again, all the beds in my house are such that you must lie down with your head toward the East.

Why?

The old ones believed that when you cross over (die), your soul heads west toward the sunset or darkness, eventually getting onto the Milky Way and enter life eternal.

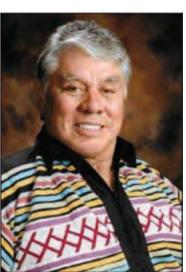
When you sleep, it is believed that your soul wanders away from your body and mingles with other souls. If you lie with your head to the East, your position repels souls from being near you. If you lie with your head to the West you will attract souls to come to you and influence your soul to go with them on their journey to other souls.

This will cause you to be without a soul in your body. You will be soulless

with no direction, confused and make those around you miserable. So to prevent this, you simply lie with your head toward the East.

This is the reason when we bury loved ones we lay them with their heads to the West. There is more, but this is all I will say today.

Sho-naa-bish.



James E. Billie is Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the first place winner of the 2015 Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) editorial writing award.

Back in the saddle again

• Mitchell Cypress

First of all, I would like to go ahead and thank everybody who gave me support for my return back to politics. Also I would like to congratulate all the seniors who graduated this year from school and remind them that no matter what field they choose, Seminole Tribe and Seminole Tribe, Inc. will support them.

Seminole Tribal Council and the Board of Directors will be working together in support of each other and try to improve service, as well as continue seeking other revenues besides the casino. This way, if something negative ever happens in Tallahassee regarding our gaming, we will have other revenues to fall back on and to continue the businesses and policies that have been working so well.

Our enterprises will be diversified to support the direction we are headed and the comfort and lifestyle that we are accustomed to. This office will have an open door policy for anyone with a new idea, problem or other issue that can benefit from the Board and the President's attention. In fact, the Board is always looking to support Tribal members who want to go into business and if there is a way the Board, and especially the President's office, can help make that happen, we will be here if you need us.

During my many years in office, I have witnessed an astounding increase in Seminole high school graduates and Seminoles attending college. Nothing can convince me more that we are on the right track for our next generation. You may notice a certain percentage return to work for the Tribe but not a whole lot. That is really by policy, especially from the Chairman's Office. His policy has been go to school, get educated, go to work on the outside, get

experience and then come back to work for us.

Sometimes just the book knowledge is not enough to really be successful. We need that work experience from you as well. Then when you come back to the Tribe, you will have what it takes to make this place better for all of us. I do support that policy.

Nowadays, instead of just the high school diploma, we even have college graduates. There was a time, not that long ago, where college graduates were mighty hard to find around Seminole Country. Now we have them coming back with degrees. They are not necessarily looking for a handout. They are wanting to go to work. To earn it. And that is good.

The Board will continue to promote the enterprises that they have already started and developed into revenue streams. But the people need to know that I am willing to listen and try to figure out how the President's office and Board can make it happen for anyone with an idea or dream involving economic development. A lot of things have changed even from just four years ago, especially in agriculture. Take a look at our cattle program!

The bottom line is we are looking forward to continue moving upward, while improving our service to the members of the Seminole Tribe.

Sho-naa-bish.



Mitchell Cypress is President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

All are victims of United States' bloodiest Native American War

• Joe Knetsch

The Second Seminole War is America's longest and bloodiest upon Native Americans, and the most costly – much more so than the statistics will ever reveal. One thousand five hundred American military personnel died in this war but how many Native Americans, African Americans, or civilian settlers, travelers or shipwrecked sailors lost their lives and became victims in this war?

We know from the records that 59 soldiers died in and around [Micanopy], Black Point, Welika Pond and others. It was a very costly and destructive war. It was a dangerous time for all concerned. It also brought Micanopy and Florida to the nation's attention but not in a very positive light. It gave the abolitionist press ammunition to tout the evils of slavery and the oppression of Native Americans who lived in the territory, which in turn helped fuel the flames of what became the American Civil War.

It made the name of Osceola famous throughout the world and made him a martyr to the cause of freedom, something not intended by Gen. Thomas Jesup who took him under a flag of truce. It also made the name of Gen. Zachary Taylor famous and helped pave the way for his later rise to the presidency. It did little for the reputation of the Army, which suffered defeat and disaster in front of the nation and failed to bring the war to an end after seven long years.

Seminoles, Miccosukee and their allies forced the Army to double the size of its force and to try various tactics to defeat them and almost every one of these failed. An army trained in fighting a European-style battle was not equipped mentally to fight a guerrilla-style of traditional Native American warfare. The Army did not understand fighting along these lines even though most of the earlier conflicts with Natives had been fought in this manner...

What they failed to realize was the Indians' need to fight such a conflict with tactics that kept casualties at a minimum and still allowed them to keep fighting and resisting until the end. The war was truly a war of cultures and misunderstanding brought on in many ways by our arrogance. The policy of removing Natives from the western part of the United States (i.e. the vacant lands of the old country and the old northwest) began with George Washington's administration, which sought to remove Native Americans from the Ohio Valley where [Washington] invested heavily. Thomas Jefferson strongly believed in moving Native Americans also and sending them teachers to make them acculturate to white culture and bring them back.

The now-hated Andrew Jackson did not believe in making Native Americans extinct. The main point of his Indian removal policy was to get the land the Native Americans had proved to be fertile and desirable for settlement. The Seminoles and Miccosukees have long proved that almost any part of Florida can be productive and grow commercial crops. They had already moved into the

Everglades in the late 1700s and harvested valuable coontie and other products of the land. The original settlers of this land around Micanopy proved to [explorer] William Bartram and many others that it was also a great place to raise cattle.

Any reading of the military records of this era show an immense amount of crops, cattle, horses and goods that the Seminoles and Miccosukees could produce. It allowed them to, of course, thrive in what whites considered a very hostile environment.

Once the hostile environment was tamed by the Native Americans it now became desirable for the whites to exploit and move them off. The Seminoles and Miccosukees did practice slavery just like their brethren throughout the Southeast, but it was not identical to the practice of the white population; [Indians] allowed their slaves a good deal of freedom unheard of in the southern states of Georgia, Alabama and the Carolinas where many blacks had fled for their freedom and they saw this as a less oppressive form of life. Free blacks also came to Florida in substantial numbers from that day seeking to remain free from the "blackbirders" – those slave hunters who came and re-enslaved people who had already been freed.

Family mattered, of course, to these immigrants, also, and the culture embraced and built by the Native Americans in Florida was attractive to blacks fleeing slave states of the South. Their presence in Florida was, of course, an attraction to slave hunters who tried to recapture and get the bounties that were offered for these escaped slaves.

A simple reading of any southern newspaper of the day will prove that point. However, it would be simplistic to say that the Second Seminole War was, as it has been often understood in the context of Gen. Jesup, a "Negro war." It was about slaves, yes, but also land, cattle, crops and even fishing – all those things that Seminoles enjoyed and used were desired by the whites moving south in larger and larger numbers.

How could, the white men of the frontier asked, government allow "savages" to enjoy these things and deny them to white settlers. These "savages" had wonderful crops raised on a three-crop rotation. They had numerous cattle. They also, of course, traded for European goods and utensils and many lived in homes of plank and cedar shake roofs, some of them two stories tall. Yeah, these are "savages," right? They also had extended families who supported each other when tragedy happened and the crops failed ... unlike many of the whites of the frontier who left their family connections behind.

The constant use of the word "savage" in the newspapers and the political speeches of that day tell us about the old tradition of making the enemy always appear brutal, unfeeling, devoid of morals, someone to be despised and hated. No matter what frontier you discuss, the conquering inhabitants must be justified in making them appear uncivilized in terms of the conquering nation. It is an old and very sad commentary on life from time immemorial.

When Micanopy's ancestors settled this land in this area, they were looking

for better pastures, fertile grounds, good hunting, plenty of wood and land from which to build their homes and provide for their families. From the time of the Cowkeeper, as the white man called him, through Micanopy's time as leader of the Tribal Council, the pressure for white settlement and steadily growing hostility toward Native Americans, the settlements knew little peace.

The constant raids on Native cattle led to retaliation that escalated the violence on the Florida frontier, already a pretty violent place. When the United States took possession of Florida in 1821 they brought with them their concept of English law, which is much more restrictive to the slaves and others. The loose form of slavery practiced by the Seminoles and Spanish had no place in American law. No land was common land as in Spanish law or practiced by the Native Americans in Florida.

The clash of cultural values was also part of the origins of the Second Seminole War. One of the trite truisms of war is the winners are always the ones who write the history and they always are shown in their best light. The losers seldom write history or at least that's what is assumed. The reality is all sides write or pass down their histories and these are rarely shared among the contesting groups. Americans, for example, are totally unfamiliar with the British side of the American Revolution, or the French involvement or Dutch assistance or other facets that led to that glorious war's conclusion.

The oral traditions in the history of the Seminoles and Miccosukees are unknown to white culture, and the blacks that survived have no written version of their history, of that time, either. Thus two sides of the mix are left out of the history of that bloody and costly war that saw more than 3,000 Seminoles, Miccosukees and blacks shipped westward to their assigned new homes. If these figures are roughly correct, the census of Native Americans prior to the war was 5,000. That leaves 2,000 people – men, women and children – unaccounted for in the Seminole nation alone. And these figures do not reflect the number of blacks who were known to have been with the Native Americans at that time throughout the territory. That is a significant number who are unaccounted for by these cold hard numbers. They are part of the reasons we are here today (at the Micanopy/Seminole Memorial Day event)...

All suffered in this war. The warriors, the women, the children and the traditions on all sides were altered greatly. They were combatants who believed their efforts would lead to a better life for their future generations. We should honor all sides in this tragic war, Native American, white and black. They fought and died believing in their cause and their ways of life. In a certain sense they were all honorable and they were all heroes. Let us remember them for what they believed and fought for in the tragic conflict we now call the Second Seminole War. They deserve nothing less.

Memorial Day 2015 remarks given in Micanopy, Florida by Joe Knetsch (Ph.D.), a leading authority on the Second Seminole War.

The Seminole Tribune earns 11 NAJA awards

Chairman wins best editorial

The Seminole Tribune earned 11 awards in the 2015 Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) Media Award competition. The awards will be presented during NAJA's National Native Media conference July 9-12 in Washington, D.C.

The competition recognizes excellence in journalism by Native publications throughout Indian Country across the U.S. and Canada.

Chairman James E. Billie won first place for his editorial about Abiaki (aka Sam Jones), and The Tribune placed third for general excellence against other monthly and semimonthly publications with circulations between 4,000 and 8,000. Staff reporter Beverly Bidney earned four awards for stories and photos, while staff reporter Eileen Soler and copy editor Kevin Johnson each won two awards for stories and photography. Special projects reporter Peter B. Gallagher won second place in the Best Environmental Story category.

The awards are:

Best Editorial
First Place
James E. Billie
The Seminole Tribune
Soldiers called him "Devil"

General Excellence – Print
Third Place
The Seminole Tribune

Best Environmental Story – Print
Second Place
Peter B. Gallagher
The Seminole Tribune
Redbay trees are dying

Best Sports Photo – Print
First Place

Kevin Johnson
The Seminole Tribune
Soaring Seminole

Third Place
Beverly Bidney
The Seminole Tribune
Lassoing the win

Best Sports Story – Print
First Place
Kevin Johnson
The Seminole Tribune
Forty years later, PGA Tour victory evokes fond memories for Rod Curl

Second Place
Beverly Bidney
The Seminole Tribune
Seminole suits up with FSU Seminoles

Best Feature Photo – Print
Second Place
Beverly Bidney
The Seminole Tribune
Family tradition

Third Place
Eileen Soler
The Seminole Tribune
Many nations, one Native beat

Best News Photo – Print
Third Place
Beverly Bidney
The Seminole Tribune
Free at last

Best News Story – Print
First Place
Eileen Soler
The Seminole Tribune
Task force takes aim at violence against Native children

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Community



Beverly Bidney

Debbie Johns is surrounded by her family during her May 22 retirement party in Brighton. From left are Calgary Johns, Jo Jumper, Norman Johns, SirMarcus Osceola, Debbie Johns, Holly Johns and Hannah Platt.

Debbie Johns retires as Brighton librarian

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — After a career of nurturing young minds and minding the books at Billy Osceola Memorial Library in Brighton, librarian Debbie Johns has turned the page and retired.

To mark the occasion, family, friends and colleagues lauded her during a retirement party May 22 at the festively decorated Veterans Building. A fixture in the library for more than 22 years, Johns said the best part of the job was the children.

"I've seen the generations grow. I have kids now whose grandparents came into the library," she said.

Johns became site supervisor at the library in 1999. She said she wasn't sure she could handle the job but later discovered it was a great confidence builder.

"It gave me the ability to stand up and talk to people," she said.

The first library was introduced to the Tribe at the Brighton Day School in the 1940s. Today the Tribe's four libraries — Billy Osceola Memorial Library in Brighton, Willie Frank Memorial Library in Big Cypress, Dorothy Scott Osceola Memorial Library in Hollywood and Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library in Immokalee — offer the latest technology, including computers with Internet access and a portal to the digital collections of the Florida Electronic Library.

Johns said she loves library science because of its organization.

During the retirement party, Johns' peers showered her with accolades. Words such as intelligent, well-read, kind and

nurturing were used in letters written to her and read aloud by Norman "Skeeter" Bowers.

"You were the go-to person at the library and you taught me so much," wrote library cataloger Robin Hayes. "At first you were my boss, but you became my friend."

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard thanked Johns for the work she performed in the community, and Chairman James E. Billie presented Johns with retirement gifts that included a paperweight with the saying "Live well, laugh often, love retirement" and a vacation to Hard Rock Hotel Cancun.

"You know the ins and outs of the library," said cultural events specialist Lewis Gopher. "You will be missed by co-workers and by the kids, too."

Bowers also thanked Johns for her dedication to the children and for keeping up with changes in technology.

"I have mixed emotions, joy and sadness," he said. "When you get to the crossroads of retirement it must be a tough decision. But I'm glad you made yours and hope you enjoy your retirement."

Natasha Hayes, library site supervisor at Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library, was near tears as she spoke. She told Johns that she was her "second mom" and that she will be missed. Hayes wished her the best during her retirement.

However, not everyone was so easy to let Johns go gently into years of relaxation.

"Happy retirement," said the Chairman's administrator Danny Tommie. "You have 30 days to change your mind."

But that's unlikely; Johns said she looks forward to spending time with her 11 grandchildren.

Brighton debuts public safety and administration buildings

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Employees in the Brighton administration and public safety buildings have been hard at work in their new offices since May, but tours were given June 5 to familiarize community members with the 111,000-square-foot facility.

The new home of 23 tribal departments, including Seminole Police and Fire Rescue, took slightly longer than two years to complete. Designed by Zyscovich Architects of Miami, the \$27 million project was built by Seminole Stiles.

The 11-acre parcel was constructed to feel like a campus, complete with chickees nestled among the ancient live oaks between the administration and public safety buildings. The buildings tout green features, including solar hot water, siding made from recycled wood and energy saving motion sensors on all office lighting.

The administration building features clean lines, high ceilings and tile floors. Historic Seminole photos, many of which showcase Brighton's involvement in the cattle industry, were made into large murals to adorn the walls.

The public safety building contains a lobby with a triage room so paramedics can treat small injuries that do not warrant trips to the hospital, while the other side of the lobby contains a police dispatcher, on duty 24/7 every day of the year. The lobby walls are bullet resistant.

With four hurricane-proof doors that can withstand 160 mph winds, the building's large bay houses three fire engines, three rescue trucks and a hazmat trailer.

"We always have a rescue on the reservation to provide the same level of service you find in Big Cypress and Hollywood," said Fire Marshal Robert Brown. "We use a helicopter for critical patients."

The public safety building also has a dormitory to house firefighters during their 24-hour shifts, but it can also be used for police personnel in emergency situations. In addition, a large communal kitchen and a gym are shared by firefighters and police officers.

"Firefighters have to have high-functioning lungs," Brown said. "The gym has weights and aerobics machines to keep them fit."

Seminole Police Capt. Victor Madrid showed off the law enforcement side of the building.

The emergency operations center is lined with large monitors on the walls to keep officers apprised of other agencies' actions during emergencies such as natural disasters, hurricanes, fires, chemical spills, floods or plane crashes.

"It's like a beehive in here during an emergency situation," Madrid said.

The SPD facility has an armory for surplus and confiscated firearms, an evidence room, intake area with a gated entryway and holding, and interview rooms outfitted with audio and video recording capabilities. Programs housed in the building include youth services, Government Grants Department and Police Explorers.

"This building was built with the future in mind," Madrid said. "It was intended for growth. They won't have to invest in another building for many years."

Native musicians push to place Native artists in national spotlight

Ted Nelson, Lee Tiger spearhead multi-tribe effort

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Musicians Ted Nelson, of Hollywood Reservation, and Lee Tiger, of the Miccosukee Tribe, are determined to crush the stereotype of Native American music and elevate its presence in the industry.

The two, recently off of a two-show gig at the Seminole Casino Classic in Hollywood, will triple bill July 17 with The Osceola Brothers at the Hard Rock Café in the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

"We want to have Seminole and Native American bands represented around the nation and the world," Nelson said. "Music keeps us going as a people."

Nelson and Tiger hope the Hard Rock show is the beginning of a Native American rock movement that will bring awareness and opportunity to Native American bands.

"We are Native Americans who happen to play rock 'n' roll and we are rock 'n' rollers who happen to be Native Americans," Tiger said.

Both want to kick off a series of showcase events that could catapult emerging Native performers into the national spotlight. Eventually, they envision hosting regularly scheduled Indian Night at the Hard Rock that could attract artists from across Indian Country.

"We want to make a pathway so other indigenous people can have a better chance," Tiger said.

Tiger acknowledged Gloria Estefan for blazing trails in the 1980s for Latin American artists and he credited the Berry Gordy Motown era of three decades prior for propelling African American artists to the tops of charts.

"But we've never seen an effort by a Native American... there's not been a record company or promoter to bring through Native American talent," Tiger said. "There is no Berry Gordy in Indian Country."

Though Tiger has nine CDs to his credit from his 30-year career in the Tiger Tiger band with brother Stephen Tiger, the band's best chance at stardom came from performing at the first Miami Pop Festival with Jimi Hendrix, Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention, and other bands of the day. Lee Tiger said the band was asked to sign with famed producer Larry Kerchner, but at the time it was under contract with another company.

"We missed a few more shots after that, but we kept on playing," Lee Tiger said. Through their career, the Tiger brothers opened for some of the greatest rock 'n' roll bands.

In 2000, the band's album "Southern Exposure" received a Grammy nomination. Six years later the band won the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native American Music Awards (NAMA). Sadly, 2006 also marked the passing of Stephen Tiger.

Ted Nelson and the Tee Pee Creepers band has been playing reservation-based gigs since 2008. His brother, Earl Nelson, and Joe Dan Osceola were the organizers of the Big Rock Pow Wow of 1969 that featured Tiger Tiger along with

the Grateful Dead, Johnny Winter, Muddy Waters and others.

Though the band boasts its strength in country rock music, Nelson said his Native American influences come through.

How Native inspiration becomes infused with mainstream music depends on the artist, Tiger said. Nelson said he simply brings his life experience.

"My writing is influenced by Seminole life, love songs, tradition," Nelson said. "But we are transcending generations and breaking down stereotypes."

For example, Tiger Tiger's 1996 release "Land Lords" opens with wind effects then moves into chants within a steady heartbeat rhythm — all the while keeping the hallmarks of rock 'n' roll persistent. The song's lyrics drive the Native message home: "You build a house that is not your own, you've taken everything and call it home ... the battle is never over for the Land Lord."

Nelson and Tiger hope to help bring artists who identify themselves as Native artists to the mainstream by giving them a chance to perform at venues that cater to diverse audiences.

"We're at the cutting edge of this community coming together," Tiger said.

Surely, Native American music artists have made a mark in the mainstream for many years, but not as identified Natives. It is not common knowledge that Jimi Hendrix and Elvis Presley were both part Cherokee. Redbone, of 1970s fame, though dressed in Plains clothing and wearing long hair, fit in with the hippie scene and named itself for the Cajun term that means "half-breed."

In modern music, Joey Belladonna, of the thrash punk band Anthrax, is Iroquois; and rapper Taboo, of the Black Eyed Peas, is Shoshone from his mother's side.

Nelson and Tiger seek to bring proud Native performers who purposely infuse and promote Native roots into their work into the spotlight and off the reservation.

Still, listed at No. 1 of 20 Native music artists by Ranker.com is the techno electric

band A Tribe Called Red that rages with pow-wow drums, jingles and vocals.

Meanwhile, the band Indigenous, second on the list, mixes pure rock, soul and blues with subtle hints of their Nakota roots. And yet, Indian Calling, coming in third with mellow flutes and chants, might fall within the realm of "mystic earth music."

"The goal of the project is to wake people up and to have a portal to help Native American artists get their music into the mainstream — as Native American artists," Tiger said.

Nelson said tradition compels them to help Native musicians achieve success.

"Like most other Indian people who get involved with tradition and culture, it's like that. We're doing it in the 'good way'; our way keeps to that," Nelson said.

Staff reporter Beverly Bidney contributed to this article.

"The goal of the project is ... to help Native American artists get their music into the mainstream — as Native American artists."

— Lee Tiger



Beverly Bidney

Ted Nelson plays guitar during a performance of his band Tee Pee Creepers at the Seminole Casino Classic June 13. The group is promoting a July 17 show at Hard Rock Café that will feature an all indigenous lineup.



Beverly Bidney

Lee Tiger, right, joins Ted Nelson and the Tee Pee Creepers on stage during a performance at Seminole Casino Classic.



Beverly Bidney

John Eder, who was recently promoted to chief financial officer of Seminole Gaming, poses in Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

◆ **EDER**
From page 1A

Seminole Gaming, including executive, benefits, investment, information technology and compensation. Gaming employs about 10,000 people statewide.

“John is the first employee I hired at Seminole Gaming,” said Jim Allen, Seminole Gaming CEO and Hard Rock International chairman. “I was aware of his amazing intelligence and work ethic. Seminole Gaming is one of the most respected organizations in the world, and he will do an excellent job to continue to enhance that reputation.”

One challenge facing Seminole Gaming is the future of the gaming compact between the Tribe and the state of Florida.

“We are still working with the state and have a good relationship,” Eder said.

◆ **LAUREL WILT**
From page 1A

Carolina to Florida and up the Gulf Coast around to Texas, the plague-carrying beetles have now reached the Everglades.

The interdisciplinary group of experts in entomology, pathology, dendrology, economics and law—known as the Emerging Threats to Forest Research Team—heard about the cultural significance of the redbay trees to Native Americans in Florida during a presentation by Lanette Sobel, a doctor of plant medicine student at the University of Florida. Sobel began with a short history of Florida Indians and their relationship with the swamps and Everglades.

“The swamps were a great place to hide. [The Florida Indians] are here today because they hid there from the soldiers,” she said.

During the past year, Sobel traveled through Seminole and Miccosukee Country, taking cuttings, identifying resistant trees and talking to Tribal members, including Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry.

Among her findings: “Both redbay and swamp bay are physically and culturally important plants [to the Indians]. Together they are collectively called *tu-lee* ... a key ingredient in over 90 percent of their traditional medicine ... also a key element in cultural activities. *Tu-lee* is used in everything from when a child is born to when something dies and everything in between. So it is a very, very important plant to these Tribes.”

During her research, she also became aware that “there is a debate internally within the Tribes as to whether we should do anything at all. It’s just something where the universe says, ‘Hey, this is what is going to happen; there’s nothing you can do without it, nor should we, or should we?’”

She also talked to Chairman James E. Billie in Brighton.

“I met him and he was like, ‘Let’s see what can be done.’” she said.

There was little hope or good news projected at the conference, which included participation by several staff from the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes. Participants included Grant Steelman, Seminole Fire Rescue forester;

“It’s been nothing but fruitful for the state. We’ve exceeded expectations and paid more than agreed to.”

If the Tribe retains exclusivity of table games and slot machines outside Miami Dade and Broward counties, expansion in Hollywood and Tampa could commence with Council approval.

Prior to joining Seminole Gaming, Eder worked with Allen at Kerzner International, which owns the Atlantis resort in the Bahamas. Eder served as vice president of finance.

He has also held management positions with Walt Disney World, Vesuvius USA and Coopers & Lybrand. Eder earned an MBA from the University of Florida, a BBA from Eastern Michigan University and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Eder and his wife, Andrea, live in Pompano Beach. Their children, Samuel and Hannah, attend the University of Florida.

Whitney Sapienza, Seminole tribalwide Environmental Reservation Protection specialist III; Paul Backhouse, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer; James Erskine and Amy Castaneda, Miccosukee Water Resources staffers; and Rory Feeney and Candice Allen, of the Miccosukee Fish and Wildlife Department.

“American forests are increasingly suffering from emerging invasive pests and diseases with important economic, ecological, aesthetic and cultural impacts,” stated the conference brochure. “Introduced tree diseases vectored and wood borers nearly eradicated a number of American tree species and are now threatening crops such as walnuts, avocados and mangoes. To curb the increasingly frequent establishment of exotic pests and diseases, a new approach is needed, one that is proactive and interdisciplinary.”

One speaker asked questions for which no answers exist yet.

“After all the bay trees die, what happens next? Will the beetle hang around? Will they go after other species of trees outside the laurel family?” asked Jeff Eickwort, a supervisor with Florida Forest Service’s forest health unit in Gainesville, who, along with Bud Mayfield, forest entomologist with the Florida Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry, first discovered the redbay ambrosia beetle in Florida. “What is going to happen when all these trees are gone?”

Several speakers spoke of the need to find resistant trees – bay trees that seem healthy, even though surrounded by the highly contagious laurel wilt on nearby dead or dying trees.

“We want to find out why some trees are not affected and others are,” said Jason Smith, an associate professor at the University of Florida’s School of Forest Resources and Conservation and the principal organizer of the conference. “Any citizen can help us. Just mark down the location and call us. We’ll go out and find it.”

Anyone with information about healthy redbays, swamp bays or avocado trees near trees marked by the dead, reddish-brown leaves that indicate laurel wilt should call 352-327-1742.

Town honors warriors, soldiers killed in Second Seminole War

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

MICANOPY — A crowd of more than 500 filled the field next to the Micanopy Historical Museum for a special ceremony May 25 that honored both the U.S. soldiers and Seminoles who perished in several of the most violent battles of the Second Seminole War, which occurred more than 180 years ago in and around the Alachua County town.

The Memorial Day remembrance was co-sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

“And so we are assembled here today to honor all the combatants who lost their lives regardless of which side they fought on,” Mayor Virginia Mance said in opening remarks.

Joe Knetsch, widely regarded as a leading expert on the Seminole Wars, also addressed the audience.

“The Second Seminole War, as the mayor has just told you, is America’s longest and bloodiest upon Native Americans, and even the most costly and much more so than the statistics will ever reveal. One thousand five hundred American military personnel died in this war, but how many Native Americans, African Americans or civilian settlers, travelers or shipwrecked sailors lost their lives and became victims in this war?” asked Knetsch.

The Seminole Tribe was represented by Chief Justice and longtime historian Willie Johns, who sat in for Chairman James E. Billie.

“I bring you greetings from the Seminole Tribe. We are 4,000 strong and we thrive,” Johns said. “We believe in honoring the veterans. One day if you ever go south and come to Brighton, we have a veterans center there that is shaped like a star and each branch of the military is represented.”

Johns said Seminole Tribe members have fought in World War I, World War II and Vietnam, and the Tribe always honors its veterans.

U.S. Army certified American military history instructor Maj. Richard Bustamante, a cadet instructor and operations officer for the Army ROTC program at the University of Florida and a veteran of two combat deployments in Iraq, said the Army’s mission is to conduct land-based combat and warfare operations at the request of the American government.

“It was in these nearby combat actions

that occurred in the mid-1830s that resulted in significant loss of life while trying to strive to meet the objectives established by Washington,” he said. “The soldiers assigned to the north central region of Florida endured immeasurable obstacles both from a harsh environment and a talented and skilled opposing force made out of hardened combat veterans fighting in territory that was both austere and favored the attacking forces that had a significant home-field advantage.”

Stephen Bowers, a Vietnam veteran and liaison for the Florida Governor’s Council on Indian Affairs, said this was his first visit to the town after many trips past the Micanopy area while headed to Gator or Seminole football games.

Bowers introduced Tribal members in attendance, including Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Agnes Motlow and Loretta Micco. Bowers then promoted a special project he has been working on for five years: the American Indian Veteran Memorial, which seeks to add a bronze American Indian/Alaskan Native soldier statue to the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

“After about two years of hard work, Congress finally approved our statue of the American Indian/Alaskan Native veteran and that goes back for all the wars, the Revolutionary War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and of course up to today’s war in Afghanistan,” Bowers said.

He said they are planning construction on a 22,000-square-foot facility to be built underground called the Education Center at the Wall. It has already been approved by Congress, and they hope to break ground in 2017 when they have secured the necessary funds for construction.

Then, while the Rev. Stanley Strobles rang the old Memorial Bell,

the names of 59 soldiers who died while stationed in Micanopy during the Second Seminole War were read aloud. No one knows how many Seminoles perished.

“No loss of life in service to our country comes free of charge. The names being read today each carry a story which was never completed, eternally interrupted, regardless of the manner to which death came,” Bustamante said. “Please acknowledge the service members which lost their lives did so not for personal gain but for collective advancement of a young nation. This Memorial Day please find the time to remember the past and present warriors associated with our great nation’s long traditions of military service.”



Peter B. Gallagher

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum community outreach specialist Reinaldo Becerra, right, demonstrates weapons and other artifacts from the Seminole Wars for attendees of the Micanopy Memorial Day commemoration.



Peter B. Gallagher

The Seminole Tribe Color Guard, led by Stephen Bowers, opens the Micanopy Memorial Day commemoration of soldiers and warriors who perished in the Second Seminole War.

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Guy LaBree honored at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Latest exhibit open through Nov. 15

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The life and art of a longtime friend of the Seminole Tribe were celebrated June 20 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Attendees agreed that Guy LaBree would have appreciated the camaraderie at the opening reception to an exhibit highlighting the work of the late artist. LaBree died suddenly on New Year's Day at 73.

"Guy would have loved this," Florida folk singer Mac Martin said as he waved his arm over a sea of LaBree's friends, family and fans who gathered at the Museum's grounds for the opening of "Guy LaBree: Painted Stories of the Seminoles" that launched a five-month run. "Guy loved these types of get-togethers — music, great food and all his buddies hanging out."

Martin, an Arcadia real estate agent, lives near the small country home where LaBree spent decades out in the DeSoto County outback.

"It's such a shame he went so soon, but I am so glad the Seminole Tribe has honored him this way," Martin said.

From a young age, LaBree was afforded an understanding of Seminole culture. He shared the Indians' love of the South Florida outback. He combined talents with storyteller Betty Mae Jumper to produce the book, "The Legends of the Seminoles."

Only a few months before his death, LaBree received the Florida Folk Heritage Award.

In a special area of the Museum, curator of exhibits Rebecca Fell, exhibits fabricator Nora Pinell-Hernandez and exhibits coordinator Siobhan Millar recreated the humble studio where the artist painted hundreds of brightly colored, distinctive oil pieces over his half-century career. Included was the rickety old easel, LaBree's old favorite cowboy hat and the enormous palette that contains oil paint droppings and brilliant mixtures from every painting he ever created, including those that hang in the Smithsonian and other museums around the world.

"That's the only [palette] he would use. It was crazy. It must weigh 70 pounds," said Pat LaBree, his wife and business partner of 53 years.

Longtime Seminole friends of the artist, including Alan Jumper, paid homage to the pal they first met in the 1950s at Dania Elementary School. Jumper was first to suggest to LaBree to paint the Seminole culture and history.

"He knew us. He hung out with us all the time. He knew our ways better than any white man," said Jumper, who, along with Chairman James E. Billie and President Mitchell Cypress, provided expert advice over the years as LaBree fashioned his paintings.

"I don't know what I'm gonna do now," said President Cypress, who owns a large LaBree painting depicting images of his dreams and family members. Each time a baby was born, President Cypress would bring the painting to LaBree to add another image to the canvas. "I know I'm sure gonna miss him."

Seminole poet laureate Moses Jumper Jr. recited his poem "The Barefoot Artist Guy LaBree" in the gallery, which includes LaBree's painting of a Seminole warrior (who resembles Moses Jumper Jr.) astride a horse. LaBree surprised many of his Seminole friends by including them as characters in his paintings, often in different historical periods. His specialty was the Seminole Wars of the 1800s.

Strumming her guitar and belting out her unique Seminole story songs, Rita Youngman led a lineup of Florida musicians — all friends of LaBree — who kept the music going outside, and later inside the Museum when the rains threatened.

"Guy was like a father to me. I felt very close to him," said Youngman, who is considered one of the top collectors of Guy LaBree artwork.

The Florida Boys sang the Pat Barmore classic "Billie Bowlegs" and Frank Thomas, reigning patriarch of Florida folk musicians, sang "Guy LaBree," a song he recorded with his wife, Lisa, years ago.

"But you know what, if Guy was here, he'd be uncomfortable with all this attention. He was a very humble man," Thomas said.

Paul Backhouse, director of the Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, arranged with Pat LaBree to display her husband's personal items. He said he believes the exhibit will be well-received, especially among Seminoles.

"Everyone knew Guy LaBree, or at least were familiar with some of his paintings. They are in government buildings and homes all over the Seminole Tribe," he said. "To think that he created all of those great works of art from that little studio is mind-boggling. I hope everyone gets a chance to see this exhibit."

"Guy LaBree: Painted Stories of the Seminoles" is open through Nov. 15 in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Nook Gallery.

For more information, call 863-902-1113.



Peter B. Gallagher

Chairman James E. Billie sports a traditional Lummi Indian fishing hat and blanket, gifts from the Lummi youth and chaperones, during dinner at the Hard Rock Café at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

CULTURE

From page 1A

with the teens.

"It seems like the Seminole Tribe has a lot of interesting ways of life," said Elijah Wilson, 14. "Chickees are great, but they wouldn't do any good for us; we have longhouses with fire pits inside."

Longhouses, large enclosed cedar structures used for communal activities, offer protection from the cold, damp Washington climate.

The teens were impressed by the Tribe's effort to maintain its culture. The Museum exhibit of student crafts from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School resonated with the Lummi youth.

"It's great that a lot of the Seminoles still know their language and how involved they keep their kids in the culture," said Cecelia Lawrence, 16. "It's amazing how talented the kids are at that young age."

Several kids said their Tribe is losing its culture and the visit motivated them to learn more about their heritage when they return home.

"We never stop learning, no matter how old you are, and you share it," Bobby Frank said. "That's the beauty of it."



Beverly Bidney

Kurya Kippenberger, center, shows Lummi teen Cecelia Lawrence how to make pumpkin frybread as Raeschelle Washington waits her turn under the Hollywood cooking chickee June 16.

APPRECIATION

From page 1A

"Some of you have not only taken one child, you've taken two or even 10. You've given them direction and the love they need to grow," Buster said. "It really does take a village to raise a child."

Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola is a designated emergency shelter foster parent. "No" is not in his vocabulary when the call comes to serve. When he utters "yes," his life is instantly rearranged.

"We arrange our lives to serve. Only recently my world was turned upside down again but our children are most important," he said.

Rep. Osceola said the annual luncheon gives program participants a chance to meet and show each other support. Currently, about 55 children are cared for through the program. Since the program began, 114 adults have stepped up as foster parents.

Kristi Hill, the department's family preservation administrator, thanked the foster parents for enduring the program's acceptance process, which includes background checks, drug testing and home evaluations. When children are in their care, the homes are visited regularly and also spontaneously by Tribe and county caseworkers.

"You accept the children and us, DCF staff, therapists and so many more things, and you make every outside appointment. It's a lot and for that we are grateful and that is why you are honored," Hill told the group.

Foster mother Billie Tiger, who is the Sober House assistant on Hollywood Reservation, said her decision to become a foster parent was preceded by much thought and caution.

Tiger wanted to help, but with no biological children of her own, she was unsure about bringing a child home to live day in and day out.

As a Family Services employee, however, observing the work of the Tribe's foster system made her choice easy.

"I saw what they really do and as a Seminole, I saw the families — families that are ripped apart," Tiger said. "To take a child that needs love and support became certain."

For the past three months, Tiger has been a mother figure for an infant boy. Like any first-time parent, she came to understand what certain baby cries mean and, equally important, that a child's life is many times bigger than her own.

"I give him comfort and he helps me become a woman and a mother," Tiger said. "To provide for a child is amazing ... it's a challenge, but it's a great one."



Eileen Soler

New foster mother Billie Tiger provides other Seminole foster parents with heartfelt revelations about how and why she decided to dedicate her life and love to children who need her most.



Peter B. Gallagher

Seminole Tribe member Alan Jumper, who met Guy LaBree when they were children in Dania and later encouraged him to paint Seminoles, views the artist's work on display at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

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B24129	2006	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT (RWD)	173,880	Fair	\$1,580.00
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Superhero dads honored for Father's Day



Beverly Bidney

Billy Walker hugs his daughter Shylah Walker, 6, at the Big Cypress Father's Day luncheon June 19 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.



Kevin Johnson

Christopher Gore, 4, hugs his own Superman, father John Gore, at the Brighton Father's Day celebration June 16. The event featured a Superman theme.



Beverly Bidney

Antonio Timothy cuddles with his son Trenton, 1, at the Fort Pierce Father's Day dinner June 17 at the Chupco's Landing Community Center.



Beverly Bidney

James Grant, center, is surrounded by his sons Kyle Grant, 12, and Evan Grant, 9, at the Hollywood Father's Day brunch June 20 at the Council Oak restaurant at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

Shamy Tommie Sr. gets some love from his twin grandchildren Jarvis and Tamia Tommie Frierson, 7, at the Fort Pierce Father's Day dinner.



Kevin Johnson

Kane Bettelyoun holds his daughter Kanae Jumper, 2, during the Brighton Father's Day celebration at the Veterans Building.



Beverly Bidney

Alani Frank, 13, serves her father, Sunny Frank, some strawberries from the dessert table at the Council Oak restaurant during the Hollywood Father's Day brunch.



Beverly Bidney

Daniel Tommie gladly accepts the affection of his son Shemahyeh Tommie, 5, at the Big Cypress Father's Day luncheon.



Beverly Bidney

Clinton Ki Billie, 5, learns the finer points of playing bingo from his father, Clinton Billie, at the Big Cypress Father's Day luncheon.



Kevin Johnson

Anthony Kayda clutches his daughter Dyani Kayda, 4, at the Brighton Father's Day celebration. Fathers and their families feasted on burgers, chicken wings, shrimp and desserts from Hooters.



Beverly Bidney

Amos Frank, second from left, enjoys the Father's Day brunch at the Council Oak restaurant with his family. From left are Joyann Bad Bear, 6, Weston Bad Bear, Gunnar Bad Bear, 9 months, Ryder Bad Bear, 2, Fural Bad Bear, 10, and Erica Frank.

4-H end-of-year banquets honor dogged commitment

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The 4-H clubs from each reservation held annual banquets June 22-24 to recognize top youth for attaining champion, reserve champion and showmanship status at the Seminole Indian 4-H Show and Sale held March 27.

The banquets, which commemorate the end of another year raising steer, swine and small animals, also honored cattle owners and swine producers for their participation in the program.

Being a 4-H'er means making long-term commitments to animals through early morning feedings, daily walks and busy weekends working with the animals, while learning the business of raising livestock. At the Big Cypress banquet June 23, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank thanked the youth and their parents for participating in the program.

"Agriculture is what helped our people survive," he said. "It's important to keep that tradition alive. You all need to know that the Tribe is the second largest beef producer in the state and the fourth largest in the nation."

In addition to caring for the animals, the 4-H'ers tracked every expense for feed, grooming supplies and veterinarian visits in a record book. They also logged how often they fed and exercised the animals. The books, which were scored after the show and sale, were presented to the kids at the banquets along with a yearbook filled with photos from the year.

After they received their books, Harmony Cypress and Jaylee Wilcox poured over the photos.

"I found me," said Harmony, 11.

Children begin 4-H at age 5 when they learn to take care of small animals like chickens, rabbits, goats, puppies, piglets and calves. At 8, they qualify for hogs, and by 10 they can handle steer.

The show, the premier event of the year, featured 76 youth showing 52 hogs, 24 steers, two heifer yearlings and 19 small animals for the judges. At the sale on March 28, the youth sold their steer and hogs, sent them to market and kept the profit.

4-H coordinator Polly Hayes thanked the parents for their involvement and for helping teach their children how to care for the animals.

"4-H is a family affair," she said.

Although the kids are in charge of the animals, some parents assist with morning



Beverly Bidney

Crystal Wilcox, Jaylee Wilcox and Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank look at Jaylee's record book at the 4-H banquet in Big Cypress June 23. Jaylee earned junior showmanship award during the 4-H show.

feedings so children can get to school on time. Harmony's mother, Nancy Ortega, said the family spends weekends caring for the animals.

"It's a seven-month project," Ortega said. "Steers are hard work and we are about to start again."

The cycle begins anew when the 4-H'ers receive their next calves, which are available for pick up between July 6 to 17 from cattle owners in Brighton and Big Cypress.

Awards to cattle owners

- Grand Champion Steer: Polly Hayes
- Reserve Grand Champion: Naha Jumper and Moses Jumper Jr.
- Grand Champion Yearling Heifer: Beulah Gopher
- Grand Champion Bred Cow: Lola Gopher
- Reserve Grand Champion: Beulah Gopher

Awards to swine producers

- Grand Champion Swine: Buckeye Connection Show Pigs
- Reserve Grand Champion: Seminole Indian 4-H Hog Farm



Beverly Bidney

Harmony Cypress finds a photo of herself with her Reserve Grand Champion steer in the 4-H yearbook at the Big Cypress banquet.



Beverly Bidney

Justin Rodriguez enjoys the splash June 8 after sliding down the waterslide at the Hollywood Preschool summer fun party.

Children soak in fun at summer kick-off party

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Hollywood Preschool said hello to summer June 8 with a summer fun party. Kids frolicked in the bouncy waterslides, bubble machine and obstacle course on the Hollywood Ball Field. Pony rides, a petting zoo and arts and crafts were available for those who wanted to stay dry.



Beverly Bidney

Covered in soapy bubbles, Maddox Osceola is ready to jump out of the bouncy pit of bubbles, at least for a few moments.



Beverly Bidney

Kenna Osceola rides a pony around the Hollywood Ball Field filled with bounce houses.

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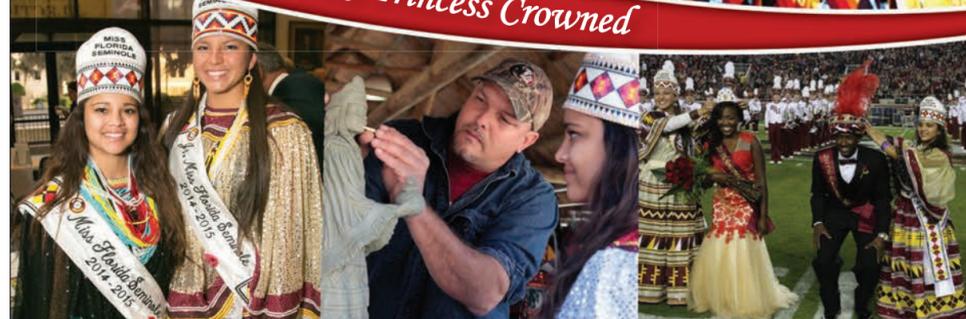




Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff Oscar Rivera, Nora Pinell-Hernandez, Siobhan Millar and Fermin Carranza move display cases to remove National Museum of the American Indian objects on loan to the Museum.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

National Museum of the American Indian conservation fellows, from right, Cathleen Zaret and Caitlin Mahony and conservator Susan Heald look at necklace and bracelets set while on the mount.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum says farewell to several treasures

SUBMITTED BY MARLENE GRAY
 Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

In mid-May, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) visited the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum to collect five objects as part of a long-term loan agreement between the two institutions. The objects included a plume, loom, necklace and two-bracelet set. Since 1997, the NMAI has loaned close to 70 objects to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki. These objects were displayed as an educational tool for sharing the Seminole story to visitors, while the Museum developed its own collection. Over the years, many of the objects were returned to the NMAI, and the Museum's own collection items have taken their place in permanent gallery spaces.

The objects have to be deinstalled from exhibition and returned to the NMAI so they can rest in a secure storage environment, away from the harmful effects of continuous light exposure. This enables them to last for

many years. As part of the loan agreement, NMAI's conservator Susan Heald traveled from Washington, D.C. to Big Cypress Reservation with three postgraduate conservation Mellon fellows to deinstall the objects, carefully pack them for transit and return them to NMAI's Cultural Resources Center.

A few months before the deinstallation, collections staff consulted with Heald about handling the objects, travel arrangements and necessary paperwork. Because of meticulous recordkeeping, Museum employees have condition reports, mount notes and loan paperwork throughout the decades, which acts like a medical record for each object on display.

The information helps NMAI conservators notice if any changes have occurred with the objects while on display. In preparation for the deinstallation, exhibits and maintenance staff prepared for the challenging task of moving the cases that held the objects and sequestering the

designated areas from visitors during the deinstallation.

Once the objects were safely outside the exhibit cases and brought back to the Conservation Lab, Heald and the NMAI fellows began carefully packing them for travel by plane to Washington, D.C. With the objects safely secured on pH-balanced blue board support with cotton twill tape ties, they were placed in a locked, padded briefcase and ready for transport.

The loan process is quite lengthy and isn't complete until all paperwork is signed and the objects arrive safely back at the NMAI. Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki visitors can still see silver accessories and a silver worker's toolkit, the remaining objects from the original loan agreement, which focused on the preservation and interpretation of Seminole history.

Visit the NMAI website at <http://www.nmai.si.edu/visit/washington/> or <http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/> for more information.

Hah-Pong-Ke: David James Stewart

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
 Special Projects Reporter

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Self-proclaimed “folktronica indie rock” songwriter David James Stewart — the songwriter and performer of the song “Osceola and Neon Yellow Cars” — is an independent musical artist and multi-instrumentalist who has been part of the Minneapolis music scene for years. On his website, Stewart describes his music as “storytelling indie rock ‘n’ roll with a touch of electronica and dash of folk.”

Born and raised in the western suburbs of Minneapolis, Stewart is an adjunct professor at St. Catherine University and a doctoral candidate in systematic theology at Luther Seminary. He specializes in philosophical theology and the intersection of theology and science, and he has published articles on Jung and Polanyi. An ordained pastor, he spent seven years working in leadership development and student ministry and most recently served as resident theologian at Awaken Community. He is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, and the Hegel Society of America.

Stewart is currently completing a dissertation on the relationship between Stephen Hawking's quantum cosmology and Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel's speculative account of the God/world

relationship, all while playing center field and batting leadoff for the New Market Muskies, a local amateur baseball team.

The song which references the great Seminole War leader, Osceola, appeared on his debut solo album, “Things That Make Us,” in 2009. He described his work on that CD as “I tell stories. Usually mine. But as I tell my story, I might tell yours, too; you'll see ... every note you hear, every lyric, every chord, every bit of humanity, is me, David James Stewart.”

“This album is the result of the last three years of my life,” he continued. “Heartbreak, failure, hope, new beginnings, struggle, triumph, transformation ... things that have made me ... things that are making me ... things that have made us. Things that make us.”

That line — “Things that make us” — is both the album title and the final kicker in the song-tale that spins around the line,



Photo courtesy of David James Stewart
 Songwriter David James Stewart.

“Osceola and neon yellow cars,” almost as if the familiar image of the Seminole war leader juxtaposed with the generic muse of a neon yellow sports car has given ironic strength and solace to the song's sad, desperate narrator.

“Osceola is the name of a small town in Wisconsin where I lived for a short time in my early 20s. When I lived there I drove this bright yellow Dodge Neon that I didn't particularly care for, but, you know, the things we do when we're in love,” Stewart wrote in a Facebook message to The Seminole Tribune. “Someone once said that if you want to insult people then tell them what your art is about, so I won't insult you with a play-by-play insight into each lyric, but I will tell you that driving that yellow Neon in Osceola is symbolic of a time in my life when I was being formed and shaped in one of the most painful, human ways possible: heartbreak. The title of the album comes from that song, ‘Things that make us,’ and Osceola and that Neon yellow car are symbols of things that have made me.”

Betty
 Mae
 Jumper

Wisdom from the past

First Seminole Baptist Church celebrates 57th anniversary

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the June 11, 1993 issue of The Seminole Tribune.

The 57th celebration was held at the First Seminole Baptist Church, Saturday, June 5, 1993.

I was asked to be on the program with Mary Bowers to tell what it was like in the beginning. As I told the church, I came from Okeechobee Lakes from a little city called Indian Town. There were only a few white and black people. I heard one time there were only Indians there before the non-Indian came and made their homes.

Back in the early part of 1900, my family became Christians and were outcasts from other Indians saying they had broken the rules of the Tribe. We were called all kinds of names; we were known as the Snake Clan. My great uncle Jimmie Gopher — we called him “grandpa” — became a Christian through Willie King, who was a Creek Indian Missionary from Oklahoma. He taught him about God, how Jesus came to save us and died for us on the cross so that we may be saved.

My great uncle Jimmie was a Green Corn Dance Leader who carried a pouch of a secret medicine of which was never to be seen by anyone and it was never to touch the ground. When uncle Jimmie learned all about Jesus and how he came to save him, that through him he will live forever in the beautiful mansion in heaven uncle Jimmie threw the pouch down and picked up the little black Bible and said, “I will trade for this” (the pouch for the Bible). He carried that little Bible throughout his lifetime. All worn and hardly could be read. He couldn't read a word of English, but he knew his Bible and what it says to him.

Through all of this we were threatened by all the other Medicine Men of his change because uncle Jimmie was a powerful Medicine Man and a Medicine Pouch carrier. Other Medicine Men knew he was a strong believer in anything he did; they didn't want to lose him. Off and on other Indians would come to our place and order him to do this or do that. Finally uncle Jimmie got mad at them and started shooting at their little Model-T trucks which they came in. Uncle Jimmie was put in jail in Miami as other Indians told different stories as to why he was shooting at them. After the Superintendent, Mr. Spencer, got him out of jail he asked him to move his family to Dania where we'll never be bothered again.

After moving to Dania, a few years later Christians started coming from Oklahoma preaching about God. A little church was built by the side of the road (which is now Stirling Road) and a little house was given and moved from Fort Lauderdale and sat beside the little church which Willie King's family lived in. He was a missionary from Oklahoma who talked Creek and taught at the church for a few years before he moved to Okeechobee. There was no preacher in this little church anymore after he moved.

My great uncle Jimmie and Willie

Jumper, who is an elder man from the Tommie Camp, was a friend to Jimmie and became a Christian; he helped Jimmie to open the little church. They had prayer every Wednesday night, Sunday morning and night church services. Sometimes my mother and my aunt Missy were there with them. The bell never missed being rang on the hours of the time for church services, Wednesday night, Sunday mornings and Sunday nights, never missed until they went home, to Heaven.



I was young then and I didn't understand much about things, but my great uncle Jimmie used to tell me to go to church and believe in Jesus. Both men used to sing Creek songs and pray for

hours before they went home. I used to hear my great uncle say, “One day this little church will be filled.” Willie used to walk to church from what is now the festival grounds and sometimes he would fall along the road and barely get up and make it to church. At nights he carried an old-fashioned lamp. Both men were faithful Christians. Then one day Willie Jumper went home to be with God. Left only Uncle Jimmie, but still he rang the bell and sat by himself praying in church. Then, one day he left to Oklahoma to find a preacher for this little church, but no one seemed to want to come, so he came back.

Another year or so he went back to Oklahoma visiting and telling churches he needed a preacher in this Florida church. When he returned he told my mother one church promised to find someone to come. In a year or so no one still had showed up and uncle Jimmie got sick. He called my mother to sit by his bedside and told her, “Have faith, someone will come, I'm leaving to that beautiful city which was promised to us; you must carry it on.” He made her promise him. That night uncle Jimmie left to be with the Lord. Sadness fell on my mother deeply and she didn't know what she would have to face, but she remembered him saying, “Someone will come, God will see to it. Have faith.”

After my great uncle left, three weeks later a man walked up to my mother who was standing in the yard. He said, “I am Stanley Smith, a preacher from Oklahoma, where is Jimmie Gopher?” She told him he already left. Both got on their knees and prayed. Jimmie's wish was fulfilled. She showed Stanley the little house where he would live and the little church where he would preach. This was the beginning of the second part into the next generation of the First Seminole Baptist Church.

Stanley Smith began to preach and teach the Bible and won many Christians. Stanley also met many who fought him, but he stayed and many people became believers. The road of a Christian was hard in the beginning; the demons worked hard to keep God's word out of Seminole Country.

Today, I thank God there are God's people like uncle Jimmie and Willie Jumper who fought to bring the word to their people. I wonder if they are looking down and smiling to see their work is being carried on, “For God is REAL.”

Emergency Management to host mitigation Q-and-A sessions

SUBMITTED BY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hurricanes and other disasters happen, and when they do, preparedness is key. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) describes mitigation as “the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters.” This includes projects like strengthening buildings and raising roads to avoid flood problem areas. Mitigation makes tribal communities safer, reduces how much money it takes to recover from a disaster and helps those affected by disasters recover more quickly.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Emergency Management Division, under Seminole Police Department Chief William Latchford, has put together a mitigation committee to develop the STOF Mitigation Plan.

The plan will allow the Tribe to obtain federal monies to help in times of disaster and to reimburse the Tribe for certain

expenses made as a result of disaster.

The mitigation committee will host four Q-and-A sessions to seek community input. Do you want to learn more about mitigation and the ways departments work together to keep the Tribe safe? Do you know of a specific project or area that could make the Tribe safer? Stop by and ask us a question. Representatives from Emergency Management and the Mitigation Committee will be available to answer questions on the following dates on the reservations below:

- Big Cypress: July 6 at the Public Safety Building from 9 to 11 a.m.
- Brighton: July 7 at the Veterans Building from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Hollywood: July 8 in the Tribe Headquarters auditorium lobby from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- Immokalee: July 6 at the Community Center from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, call Emergency Management at 954-967-3650.

‘Osceola and Neon Yellow Cars’

Lyrics by David James Stewart

If I've been talking in my sleep
 It's cause I can't seem to keep you off my mind
 But it's not like I'm trying
 I'd be just fine with you on my mind all of the time

I would have waited all of my days
 I meant what I said, I'd love you till I'm dead

I cannot let go, so please let me borrow
 Whatever you're taking, to bury the waking memories
 You know I'd come over, if you only lived closer
 We could talk about the weather, what tomorrow might bring
 Unless you think I've been talking in my sleep

You were the one, the one who woke my love

Opened my eyes
 But you've got to know I have let you go
 Though I'll hold on

To the ways you've helped me grow
 Now I can say well be better on our own
 Life didn't happen the way we planned
 Nobody sets out for a broken heart
 Osceola and neon yellow cars

These are
 Things that make us

Now I got that off my chest so I can finally rest

Now I can let go so I don't need to borrow
 Anything from you

Health



Beverly Bidney

Health educator Lauren Goas uses an Accu-Chek to record Kayden Warrior's blood sugar level May 28 as his Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School classmates wait their turns during the Brighton Health Festival at the Veterans Building.

Health Department festivals educate Hollywood, Brighton

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

More than 600 people learned about healthy living at health festivals May 28 at the Veterans Building in Brighton and June 9 at the Classic Gym in Hollywood. Sponsored by the Health Department, the events offered a comprehensive education about health to Tribal members and employees.

"Sometimes people don't come to the Health Department, so we do screenings here," said Suzanne Davis, Allied Health Program manager. "Sometimes we catch things. If you can alert them to it, that's a big deal."

Screenings included blood sugar, blood pressure and body mass index. More than 35 health-related vendors and tribal departments set up booths chock-full of educational activities, literature and giveaways. Passports to health, which had to be signed at each booth, were good for raffle tickets for prizes.

In Brighton, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students moved through the festival eager to experience each booth, including the finger prick at the blood sugar screening table.

They learned throughout the process. "Fat has more mass than muscle," Deagon Osceola, 10, said. "If you are fat, you can't do a lot of physical stuff and you'll be lazy."

"I learned they can use machines while you are asleep so you won't stop breathing," CeCe Thomas, 9, said, referring to a display that featured a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine used for sleep apnea.

Adults also learned how to stay healthy. John Huff, a diabetic with shoulder problems, learned ways to exercise without putting pressure on his shoulders and what food choices suit him best.

"I came to see what they had and how it could benefit my health," Huff said. "There are a lot of unhealthy things going on in our community and this can help make it better."

The Health Department hosts health fairs every few years.

"It's more interactive this year," said Health Department community outreach coordinator Edna McDuffie. "We try to make it informative. Our main objective is prevention."

In Hollywood, a chiropractic vendor checked the spine of Neil Baxley, who found out he has poor posture.

"I never get back pain, but I might as well take care of it now while I can," Baxley said. "I hope to get extra tools to help me in everyday life."

Healthy snacks were available at many booths, but health nutritionist Lance Vaz took snacking to the next level. He offered a buffet of healthy snacks where participants made their own "snackables" with quinoa and brown rice crackers, sliced chicken breast, cheese, carrots and apples.

"There are more ways to be healthy than just drinking a lot of water and over-exercising yourself in a workout," said Savannah Huggins, who attended the festival with her daughter Randelle Osceola, 16.

"I tried quinoa crackers for the first time; they were good," Randelle said. "I'm going to be a lot more health conscious now."



Beverly Bidney

Neil Baxley gets information at the health education booth June 9 during the Hollywood Health Festival.

Paul Buster said he is grateful for all the Health Department does for the Tribe.

"The health staff is teaching us so we can live and be in good health for our children and grandchildren," he said. "We need to take advantage of it, so we can live a better life."



Beverly Bidney

Hollywood preschoolers conduct a science experiment at the Children's Center for Diagnostics and Therapy booth at the Hollywood Health Festival in the Classic Gym.

Plan ahead for back-to-school immunizations

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA
Florida Department of Health in Broward

Summer vacation quickly flies by, so parents should start thinking about back-to-school immunizations for the kids.

Florida Department of Health (DOH) offices have stepped up immunization efforts to help parents who do not have their children vaccinated by family doctors or tribal clinics, which is the preferred way.

"Vaccines have helped us wipe out diseases that used to kill our children by the thousands. But a few cases are starting to appear among unvaccinated children," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of DOH-Broward. "Parents who want to protect their children fully should have them immunized."

Public schools open Aug. 24. Florida law states children cannot start school unless they are up to date on six vaccinations that protect against nine contagious and potentially fatal childhood diseases. The same is true at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School and Ahfachkee School.

Seminole clinics offer all required back-to-school immunizations. Parents can make an appointment for their children and be ready for school in advance. The DOH also gives free immunizations paid for by the federal Vaccines for Children program.

DOH-Broward: All recommended immunizations are offered at DOH-Broward health centers. In addition, free shots will be given from Aug. 10 to 25 at Lauderhill Mall, 1267 NW 40 Ave. For details, call 954-467-4705.

DOH-Hendry: For details, call 863-674-4041.

DOH-Okeechobee: For details and appointments, call 863-462-5819.

DOH-Collier: For details, call 239-252-7300 or 8207.

DOH-Hillsborough: For details, call 813-307-8077.

DOH-St. Lucie: For details, call 772-462-3800.

Immunizations are especially important for children entering kindergarten and seventh grade because different requirements kick in at those grade levels. Vaccinations required for school include:

- Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough): DTaP vaccine is given to babies and preschoolers in four to five doses. One additional dose, Tdap, is given before seventh grade.

- Polio: Vaccine is given to babies and preschoolers in three to five doses.

- Measles, mumps, rubella (German measles): MMR vaccine is given to babies and preschoolers in two doses.

- Chickenpox: Vaccine is given to babies and preschoolers in two doses. One additional dose is given by the start of seventh grade. In adults, the virus can re-emerge and cause the painful skin condition called shingles.

- Hepatitis B: Vaccine is given to babies in three doses.

In addition, federal health officials recommend several other immunizations not required for school. These include vaccines against flu (every year starting at age six months), rotavirus (three doses for babies), Haemophilus influenzae B (three to four doses for babies), pneumococcal disease (four doses for babies), hepatitis A (two doses for babies), human papilloma virus (three doses at age 11 or older) and meningococcal disease (two doses at age 11 or older).

Barbecue and food safety

SUBMITTED BY NICHOLAS PERSAUD
Environmental Health Program

Barbecuing is a year-round activity in Florida shared with family and friends, so it's important to follow food safety guidelines to prevent harmful bacteria from multiplying and causing foodborne illness. Follow these simple guidelines for grilling food safely.

Shopping: When shopping, buy cold food like meat and poultry last. Separate raw meat and poultry from other foods in the shopping cart. To guard against cross-contamination, which may happen when raw meat or poultry juices drip on other food, place the packages of raw meat and poultry into separate plastic bags.

Drive directly home from the grocery store, and possibly take a cooler with ice for perishables. Always refrigerate perishable food within two hours; refrigerate within one hour when the temperature is higher than 90 degrees.

At home, place meat and poultry in the refrigerator immediately. Freeze poultry and ground meat that won't be used in one or two days; freeze other meat within four to five days.

Thaw safely: Thaw meat and poultry before grilling, so it cooks more evenly. Methods of thawing include using the refrigerator for slow, safe thawing or thawing sealed packages under cold running water. For quicker thawing, use the microwave if the food goes immediately on the preheated grill to complete cooking.

Marinades: Marinades enrich the flavor of meats and poultry. To flavor or tenderize, meats and poultry should be placed in the refrigerator while marinating. This marinade should be thrown out and fresh marinade should be used as a sauce on the cooked food or during the cooking process. However, if the marinades are made in large batches for multiple uses, store them in small portion-size containers. Depending on type of marinade, reheating prior to use may be necessary.

Transporting: When carrying food to another location, keep it cold to minimize bacterial growth. Use an insulated cooler with sufficient ice or ice packs to keep the food at 40 degrees or below. Pack food right from the refrigerator into the cooler immediately before leaving home.

Keep cold foods cold: Keep meat and poultry refrigerated until ready to use. Only take out the meat and poultry that will immediately be placed on the grill. When using a cooler, keep it out of the direct sun by placing it in the shade or shelter. Avoid opening the lid too often, which lets cold air out and warm air in.

Keep everything clean: Be sure there are plenty of clean utensils and platters. To prevent foodborne illness, don't use the same platter and utensils for raw and cooked meat and poultry. Harmful bacteria present in raw meat and poultry and their juices can contaminate safely cooked food. If cooking away from home, find out if there's a source of clean water. If not, bring water for preparation and cleaning.

Cook thoroughly: Cook food to a safe minimum internal temperature to destroy harmful bacteria. Meat and poultry

cooked on a grill often brown very fast on the outside. Use a food thermometer to be sure the food has reached a safe minimum internal temperature. Never partially grill meat or poultry and finish cooking later.

- Meats: Cook all raw beef, pork, lamb and veal steaks, chops and roasts to a minimum internal temperature of 145 degrees as measured with a food thermometer before removing meat from the heat source.

- Ground meats: Cook all raw ground beef, pork, lamb and veal to an internal temperature of 160 degrees as measured with a food thermometer.

- Poultry: Cook all poultry to a safe minimum internal temperature of 165 degrees as measured with a food thermometer.

- Reheating: When reheating fully cooked meats like hot dogs, grill to 165 degrees or until steaming hot.

Keep hot foods hot: After cooking meat and poultry on the grill, keep it hot until served, at 140 degrees or warmer. Keep cooked meats hot by setting them to the side of the grill rack, not directly over the coals where they could overcook. At home, the cooked meat can be kept hot in an oven set at approximately 200 degrees, in a chafing dish, slow cooker or on a warming tray.

Serving the food: When taking food off the grill, use a clean platter. Don't put cooked food on the same platter that held raw meat or poultry. Any harmful bacteria present in the raw meat juices could contaminate safely cooked food.

Leftovers: Refrigerate any leftovers promptly in shallow containers. Discard any food left out more than two hours (one hour if temperatures are higher than 90 degrees).

Safe smoking: Smoking is cooking food indirectly in the presence of a fire. It can be done in a covered grill if a pan of water is placed beneath the meat or poultry on the grill or meats can be smoked in a "smoker," which is an outdoor cooker especially designed for smoking foods. Smoking is done much more slowly than grilling, so less tender meats benefit from this method and a natural smoke flavoring permeates the meat. The temperature in the smoker should be maintained at 250 to 300 degrees for safety. Use a food thermometer to be sure the food has reached a safe internal temperature.

Pit roasting: Pit roasting is cooking meat in a large, level hole dug in the earth. A hardwood fire is built in the pit, requiring wood equal to about 2.5 times the volume of the pit. The hardwood is allowed to burn until the wood reduces and the pit is half filled with burning coals. This can require four to six hours burning time. Cooking may require 10 to 12 hours or more and is difficult to estimate. A food thermometer must be used to determine the meat's safety and doneness. There are many variables, such as outdoor temperature, the size and thickness of the meat and how fast the coals cook.

For more information, call the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Health office at 954-985-2330.

Source: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

MOTHERLY LOVE: Cari Silva cuddles her baby Hendrix Osceola, 3 months, at the Hollywood Preschool's summer kickoff party June 8.



Beverly Bidney

PATTY-CAKE: Iverson Huggins, 1, sitting on the lap of his mother, Nauthkee Henry, delights in a game of patty-cake with his aunt Ayeze Henry during the Big Cypress Preschool graduation May 20.



Beverly Bidney

OOPS: Hollywood camper Dothan Osceola, 10, just misses the ball June 24 during a game of t-ball as part of recreation camp in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

RODEO RIDER: Marilee Ringer and her horse get ready to enter Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena for the 5-D Barrel Series on June 13.



Beverly Bidney

SPEEDSTER: Chade Osceola, along with 45 Hollywood campers, skates the day away June 18 at Galaxy Skateway in Davie.



Beverly Bidney

DOG PILE: Kids entertain themselves during the Fort Pierce Father's Day celebration June 17 by doing what kids do: acting silly.



Beverly Bidney

BALANCING ACT: A dragonfly rests on a twig in the Big Cypress National Preserve. Dragonflies, one of nature's most nimble predators, have excellent eyesight and two sets of transparent wings that allow them to hover, turn on a dime and catch those pesky mosquitoes and other insects in mid-air.



Gordon Wareham

STRIKES FOR SOBRIETY: From left, Alex Buck, JD Bowers and David Osceola take a break from bowling June 12 during the seventh annual Hollywood Clean and Sober Bowling Night at SpareZ bowling alley in Davie. About 40 participants of Seminoles in Recovery, family, friends and staff delivered strikes and spares during a celebration of sobriety.



Beverly Bidney

I DID IT: Devin Osceola, son of Marcella Billie, proudly waves to family and friends in the crowd during his high school graduation May 27 from Gulliver Preparatory School in Miami.



Beverly Bidney

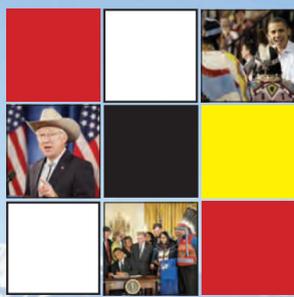
CLASSY CLASSMATES: Okeechobee High School graduates from the Brighton Reservation prepare to collect their diplomas during graduation June 6 at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center. From left are Braceton King, McKayla Snow, Layton Thomas, Daniel Nunez Jr. and Toby Gopher.



Beverly Bidney

SPLASHTACULAR: Mary Cypress, 10, spins into the refreshing water of the pool June 24 during recreation camp in Hollywood.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



U.S. largest multiracial group: white and Native American

WASHINGTON — A new Pew Research Center survey has found that by far the largest percentage of multiracial adults in the United States — 50 percent in fact — are non-Hispanic white and American Indian. Among the 1,555 multiracial adults surveyed, an additional 12 percent are non-Hispanic black and American Indian, while another 6 percent are non-Hispanic white, black and American Indian.

The same survey, however, revealed that only 22 percent of multiracial American Indian adults maintain connections or a commonality with the Native American side of their family, while 61 percent say they have a lot in common with whites. Only 19 percent say they have had a lot of contact with their relatives who are American Indian.

Biracial adults who are white and American Indian are among the least likely of mixed-race adults to consider themselves multiracial (only 25 percent do). Eighty-two percent say their multiracial background has been neither an advantage nor a disadvantage in their lives.

The Pew Research estimate of the multiracial population takes into account how people describe the races of their parents and grandparents. Using this approach, some 6.9 percent of U.S. adults could be considered multiracial. The U.S. Census Bureau counts people as multiracial only if they self-identify as more than one race. According to census estimates, 2.1 percent of adults were multiracial in 2013.

Americans were first allowed to choose their own racial identity on Census forms in 1960, rather than having government counters do it for them. Since then, the American Indian population has grown more rapidly than can be explained by births or immigration. Recent growth has been sharpest among the population that is American Indian and at least one other race; much of that growth has been in urban areas or other places that are not on Indian lands.

At the same time, the share of American Indians who report a tribal affiliation in census data has been falling. The percentage that does not provide a tribal connection is higher for multiracial American Indians than for single-race American Indians (37 versus 24 percent in the 2010 census). There are now more than 500 federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native nations that set their own criteria for membership. Although requirements differ, membership often is granted based on having proof of American Indian ancestry.

While adults with an American Indian background are currently the largest multiracial group, census data on babies (whose race is chosen by their parents) show a different story. In 2013, only 11 percent of multiracial babies were white and American Indian.

—Source: *PewResearch.org*

Angry Native women issue challenge to Adam Sandler

JOHN SAM LAKE, Wash. — Native Women in Film and Television has formed a board of trustees to monitor the film industry and advise it on current and future controversies. The move comes following a walkout on the set of Adam Sandler's film "The Ridiculous Six."

"Native American women in the United States are suffering at astonishing rates of domestic and sexual violence — violence which is further displayed throughout television and film," said trustee Deborah Parker, former vice chairwoman of the Tulalip Tribes, in a press release. "Demeaning portrayals of Native American women further diminish the cultural and historical importance of Native women in today's society. Further marginalization is exactly what we do not need in film and television. This next generation is looking for hope and inspiration and not sexual degradation of their sisters, mothers and grandmothers."

Poet, playwright and trustee Carolyn Dunn called objectification of Native women "a form of cultural and social genocide that still exists today. The demeaning of Native women is an ongoing violence against us that not only is immoral but illegal under the provisions of Violence Against Women Act. This needs to be addressed as not only a human rights issue but as an act that violates federal legislation, which is a prosecutable offense."

The group of five also includes Theda Newbreast (Montana Blackfeet), a founding board member for the Native Wellness Institute; Linda Tenequer (Muscogee Creek Nation), former global business development writer for a private Fortune 500 company; and Joanelle Romero (Apache), founder of the Red Nation Film Festival.

"When it comes to Adam Sandler's 'Ridiculous Six' movie depicting a Native American woman urinating while smoking a peace pipe, it is unholly," Romero said. "I am Apache, Cheyenne and Sephardic Jew, so I can say that it would be like me getting the Torah, throwing it on the ground and peeing on it for a scene in a film. I am using this kind of language because the picture really needs to be painted for these

guys to really get it; they need to get the seriousness and the desecration of the whole thing."

Romero mentioned another scene she feels is likely to have a detrimental effect. "The scene involving the alcohol, in which the woman comes out and all of these white guys pour alcohol on this Native woman, who is played by a non-Native actress, and she gets up and performs a crazy dance?" Romero said. "This will just perpetuate violence against our women. Adam Sandler is targeting our Native women. And not just Native women, but all women."

Romero said the movie should be changed. "We have an entire list of things they can do," she said. "The first thing they can do is rewrite it and reshoot it. The second is, if they don't do this, then do not screen or broadcast this. The third thing is to meet with our Native Women in Film and Television panel to discuss a truly phenomenal list of things they can do that would make them look good in the eyes of the community."

—Source: *IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork*

Tribes explore marijuana

SENECA, N.Y. — Leaders of the National Tribal Cannabis Association (NICA) expect to see the marijuana industry in full swing on some reservations within the next year, responding to the national push to get the medical marijuana industry up and running on Indian territories.

Robert Porter, former president of the Seneca Nation, helped organize meetings that about 75 tribal leaders from across the country attended. Leaders from 27 American Indian nations and Tribes met last March and formed the National Indian Cannabis Association (NICA) to ensure that tribal sovereignty is protected as federal and state government marijuana policies dealing with marijuana evolve.

In October 2014, the Department of Justice released a memorandum stating it would treat Tribes the same way it treats states, regulating marijuana as a low enforcement priority. Since the department's memo was released, tribal leaders have received many questions and concerns from Tribal members both in support of and in opposition to any change in long-held Indian Country marijuana prohibition policies. In addition, commercial interests looking to expand into the potential tribal marijuana market have aggressively sought out tribal partnerships and opportunities.

In forming the NICA, the leaders believed it necessary to start working together to protect tribal sovereignty and to ensure that Indian nations and Tribes have the same opportunity to set marijuana policy as state governments.

"As tribal leaders, we have a responsibility to protect our Tribes and serve our people as marijuana policies continue to change," said Henry Cagney, Council member and former Chairman of the Lummi Nation who convened the tribal leaders meeting. "I am very interested in understanding how marijuana may be used as medicine, since our people suffer from cancer, seizures and other illnesses that established medical treatment might not address."

The National Indian Cannabis Coalition (NICC), a separate association formed recently in Las Vegas, estimates that there is a 10-year time frame for Tribes to capitalize on marijuana.

"The cannabis industry has the complexity of high-tech agriculture and the regulatory pressure and profitability of the gaming industry," said co-chairs Jeff (Seneca) and Allyson Doctor (St. Regis Mohawk). "Through NICC, we hope to bring our collective experience in the cannabis and health care industries to benefit Indian Country in evaluating smart business opportunities in Nevada and across the country. We want to see our Tribes succeed. NICC will provide the education and resources necessary to ensure that they do."

NICC's mission is to educate tribal leaders on the emerging regulated cannabis market from an operations perspective. NICC will serve as a clearinghouse for information on the medical benefits of cannabis; economic development opportunities of building a self-sustaining cultivation project from seed to sale; and investing with consideration for public health and safety for the benefit of the community.

—Sources: *WGRZ.com, RedLakeNationNews.com*

Satellites reveal isolated Tribes in the Amazon

MANAUS, Brazil — Anthropologists, using remote high-resolution satellite image technology, confirm as many as 100 isolated indigenous Tribes exist today near the Peru-Brazil border — survivors of a continually worsening broken system of land ownership on Amazonia reservations for more than a century that has resulted in a highly uncertain future as modern society and industry push deeper into their dwindling territory along the Amazon face.

Even casual contact with outsiders can be tragic, putting these indigenous people

at risk of infectious diseases of which they have no natural immunity. Some scientists suggest their traditional way of life is unsustainable and the kindest approach is to bring them into contact safely. Indigenous advocates, however, maintain the Tribes have the universal human right to remain outside mainstream society and must be respected and their lands protected.

A recent study published by Britain's Royal Society shows where communities are located and how they are doing from year to year. According to the study, finding the small settlements and their gardens may be key to the Tribes' survival.

Only in recent years has the Peruvian government officially recognized the Tribes' existence. Previously, many, including former President Alan Garcia, claimed the groups had been dreamt up by anti-development advocates.

—Source: *PeruThisWeek.com*

Anger erupts at latest Paris auction of Native artifacts

PARIS — Several masks and statues from two Tribes — the Hopi and the Acoma — were among the latest batch of Native American artifacts sold at auction in Paris. The auction drew condemnation from the U.S. government and others, including Tribes from Arizona that traveled to Paris to protest. The Tribes use the items for religious rituals to invoke ancestral spirits.

"To me, it's something that can't be bought or sold. There is no price value on it," said Sam Tenakhongva, Hopi cultural leader. "Collections and collectors from museums within the United States came out and took some of the objects without permission. They took too many and there is no place for them to liquidate them, I guess, or get any money so they started seeking private buyers, private collectors."

"Hopi Indians are totally opposed to the trade of these objects and for these objects to be shown, (their images) published and scattered," said Jean-Patrick Razon, director of Survival International, which protects Hopi tribal interests. "According to them they are not marketable items, they are what they call 'friends,' 'spiritual beings,' which should be returned to their homeland."

Native American artifact sales are legal in France and have been carried out for decades.

Some experts counter tribal complaints with claims that thousands of masks have been sold by the Hopis themselves, arguing that no text says they belong to the Tribe.

—Source: *EuroNews.com*

\$54M offered for Fort Belknap tribal land

FORT BELKNAP AGENCY, Mont. — Nearly 20 years after Blackfeet Tribal member Louise Cobell demanded the federal government account for billions of dollars in revenues owed to Native Americans for the exploitation of reservation land across the United States, the checks are being written.

In a 1996 class-action lawsuit, Cobell alleged that for more than a century the U.S. government failed to collect or disburse revenues generated by mining, oil and gas development, timber harvesting and grazing on Indian reservations across the United States.

At stake is the distribution of more than \$54 million, the future control of 26,000 tracts of land allotted to individual Tribal members 94 years ago, and the transfer of these "trust lands" to Fort Belknap's tribal government. The \$54 million is only a fraction of the \$1.9 billion settled upon after 14 years of legal challenges between Native American interests and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI).

Investigations into DOI activities revealed that the agency had no accurate records for hundreds of thousands of Indian beneficiaries nor for the billions of dollars covered in the lawsuit. In an attempt to reform a broken system of land ownership that has been a continually worsening problem on reservations for more than 100 years, presiding U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth described the Interior Department's record of oversight as "fiscal and governmental irresponsibility in its purest form."

A \$1.9 billion settlement in the Cobell case was approved by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2012. A large majority of that settlement — \$1.5 billion — was set aside to purchase "Indian Trust Lands."

At the end of the 19th century, Congress enacted a series of land acts that divided the reservations into individual allotments for Indians and sold unallotted land to non-Indians — a misguided attempt to force Indians to abandon their nomadic ways and to hurry their assimilation into American society.

Tribal members were given restricted title to individual parcels of reservation land but were not allowed to partition or sell the land without the permission of the federal government. Indians were held to be "incompetent" to handle their own land affairs, so the land was held "in trust" by the DOI for the benefit of their heirs.

The Allotment Act for the Fort Belknap Reservation was passed in 1921, dividing nearly 580,000 acres of trust land among 1,189 original allottees. Today, title

to that same land is divided among more than 26,000 tracts — some amounting to only a few square feet in area — perhaps the most fractionated reservation in the U.S.

More than 3,500 buy-back offers were mailed to tribal landowners at the beginning of June. Some amounted to less than \$100, others total tens or even hundreds of thousands. With each offer accepted, the land remains in federal trust, but control is transferred to the Fort Belknap tribal government; its land base could triple in size.

Trust land owners only have 45 days to accept the DOI's offer. If they decline or miss the July 18 deadline, there is no guarantee the offer will be extended or repeated.

—Source: *Great Falls Tribune*

7 bills to watch as Native education goes to Congress

WASHINGTON — Congress has before it seven bills that could have major impacts on the education of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian children.

1) Exemption from budget cuts (S.1497) would exempt Bureau of Education, among other federal agencies dealing with Native American interests, from further cuts under sequestration. It was referred to the Senate Committee on the Budget.

"Across-the-board budget cuts presented a major setback for Indian Country, forcing cuts to vital programs that New Mexico tribal communities depend on," Rep. Tom Udall said in a news release. "We have a trust responsibility to uphold to Tribes, and I'm pleased to work with Sen. Jon Tester on this legislation to ensure that important health care, education, public safety and housing programs that support economic growth in Indian Country won't be subject to future disastrous sequestration cuts."

Sequestration has already meant a \$42.2 million cut to the Bureau of Indian Education and an \$11.9 million cut to Tribal Head Start, impacting 25,000 American Indian children.

2) Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act (S.1948) would allocate \$5 million in grants each year for the next five years, available for pre-K through college programs in awards to Tribes, tribal organizations and public and private schools to establish new Native American language grant programs under the Department of Education.

The intent of the legislation is "to establish a grant program to support schools using Native American languages as the primary language of instruction of all curriculums taught at the schools that will improve high school graduation rates, college attainment and career readiness," Sen. Tester said. "Native languages connect students with their culture, history and heritage. This bill increases access to critical funding for language immersion programs and ensures the survival of Native languages before it is too late."

3) Native American Languages Reauthorization Act of 2015 (S.1163) would reauthorize the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Program, established in 2006, until 2020. The legislation would continue to provide grants to Native American language educational organizations to preserve disappearing Native languages.

The reauthorization includes improvements to expand the program's eligibility to smaller-sized classes (from 10 to five enrollees in Native American language nests, and from 15 to 10 enrollees in the Native American language survival schools) and allow for longer grant periods of up to five years. The act expired in 2012, but the program has continued to be funded pending reauthorization. This legislation has been referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4) Building Upon Unique Indian Learning and Development Act (S.410) would "establish an in-school facility innovation program contest in which institutions of higher education, including tribal colleges and universities, are encouraged to consider solving the problem of how to improve school facilities for tribal schools and schools served by the Bureau of Indian Education for problem-based learning in their coursework and through extracurricular opportunities." It will also increase support for teachers and administrators of schools attended by Native American students and enact other provisions that would involve amending the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to better serve Native American students.

5) Native Hawaiian Education Reauthorization Act of 2015 (H.R.895) would change the composition, duties and responsibilities of the Native Hawaiian Education Council, and give grant priority to certain programs that benefit Native Hawaiian students, including those that "meet the unique cultural and language needs of Native Hawaiian students in order to help them meet challenging state academic achievement standards."

6) Native American Indian Education Act (S.1390) would provide states with the funding to fulfill the federal mandate that the state's colleges and universities

cover the cost of tuition for out-of-state American Indian students. The mandate was a condition under which the college or state received its original grant of land and facilities from the United States. Similar legislation was introduced in 2010 but failed to pass then and in subsequent years.

The out-of-state land-grant tuition waiver applies to Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, which had an American Indian student enrollment of about 800 in 2012, or 20 percent of its total student population, and to the University of Minnesota, Morris. Both schools offer tuition waivers to American Indians who live in-state. Other schools that offer free tuition to American Indian residents include the University of Maine and the University of Massachusetts, as well as public institutions of higher education in Michigan.

7) American Indian Teacher Loan Forgiveness Act of 2015 (H.R.386) would give up to \$17,500 of loan forgiveness to borrowers who "are a member of an Indian Tribe and have been employed as a full-time teacher for five consecutive complete school years in an Indian school or in a local educational agency that serves at least 10 Indian students or whose schools have an enrollment of students at least 25 percent of which are Indians." The bill, which has 11 co-sponsors, was referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training in late April.

—Source: *IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork*

Mille Lacs Band protests Sandpiper Pipeline

EAST LAKE, Minn. — Nearly 100 members of the Mille Lacs Band attended a public hearing recently to listen to tribal experts, leaders and elders offer testimony against a proposed \$2.6 billion oil pipeline that would move 225,000 barrels of crude oil per day through 299 miles of an ecologically sensitive Minnesota watershed considered vital to the Anishinaabe of the Mille Lacs region.

Still, as the meeting continued, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in St. Paul unanimously voted granting one of two permits required for the Sandpiper Pipeline to move forward. While the pipeline itself was approved, the route it will take was not.

"This hearing is important because our voices are critical and powerful," Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin said during her opening remarks. "This is not just about the rights of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; this is about the rights of Band members to live, work and raise our children in an environment free from pollution."

Benjamin stated the proposed route cuts through the Big Sandy Lake watershed, potentially impacting precious environmental resources, such as wild rice, growing throughout the region.

A press release issued by the PUC regarding the granting of the certificate of need to the North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC, a division of Canadian-based Enbridge, stated, "the Commission and the Minnesota Department of Commerce conducted seven public meetings in six different counties along the proposed route in March of 2014. The ALJ assigned to hear this part of the matter held a series of public hearings in St. Paul and in northern and central Minnesota during the first week of January 2015. These public hearings were attended by more than 1,000 people."

Mille Lacs Band officials said they were never part of these discussions or public hearings. Carolyn Beaulieu, secretary-treasurer and speaker of the Band Assembly, gave her testimony at the public hearing:

"Last August, the PUC began a series of public hearings. When the Band inquired about government-to-government consultation, the informal answer our staff received was that our Band could submit a letter to the PUC outlining the Band's position, just like any private citizen or landowner."

"Treating a federally recognized tribal government the same as an individual private citizen offends Minnesota public policy, Gov. Dayton's Executive Order and our sensibilities. It violates government-to-government consultation. As a long-accepted rule, tribal consultation cannot be fulfilled merely by including tribal governments among the members of the general public through the notice and comment process. Otherwise there would be no need for the president's tribal consultation policy or the governor's executive order to strengthen tribal relationships."

According to the Star Tribune newspaper, an alternative route would avoid the region of wetlands and lakes protested by the Band but would put the pipeline closer to the headwaters of the Mississippi River, an alternative dismissed as too costly, longer and too close to people and water supplies. So far, the PUC has made no determination of a specific route for the Sandpiper pipeline.

—Source: *MilleLacsMessenger.com*

Compiled by *Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher.*

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Florida history comes alive in Brighton

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Florida history recently came to life for Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School and Okeechobee's North Elementary School fourth-graders as they reenacted the era of the book "A Land Remembered" and saw the past through each other's eyes.

The 1984 book, by Patrick D. Smith, tells the tale of white Florida settlers in the mid-19th century and their encounters with Seminoles. The book explores the symbiotic nature of their relationship.

Dubbed A Land Remembered Day, the event served as a culture exchange between the two groups of students. One hundred Okeechobee students spent June 2 at PECS, where they made and ate frybread, tasted

sofkee, created traditional beaded necklaces and learned about the Seminole Wars and Seminole legends to understand Seminole culture and history. PECS students had previously tasted the cowboy lifestyle during a May 26 trip to Williamson Cattle Ranch in Okeechobee.

"The book has some really good things related to Florida's history," said PECS teacher Joy Prescott, who helped organize the PECS event. "The book has two main groups, the MacIveys and the Seminole Indians. One group without the other wouldn't have worked."

In the book, which covers the period from 1858-1968, the Seminoles taught the MacIveys how to graze cattle and fatten them for market. PECS mimicked the mutually beneficial relationship at the school's culture camp where culture staff taught Okeechobee children how to make frybread. In culture teacher Jade Osceola's classroom, they learned about the Seminoles' place in Florida from the Tribe's perspective.

"Native Americans always say, 'Keep your hearts in the past, your head in the present and one foot in the future,'" Osceola said. "That's what we teach here, to be aware of history. You need to know where you come from to know who you are."

Osceola explained that the Seminoles derived from other Tribes, which were named the Creek people by Europeans because they lived by creeks. After a civil war between Creek factions in 1814, about 3,000 fled south to Florida. The Spaniards called them the Cimarron, or runaway slaves, which evolved into the name Seminole.

She told students that the Seminole Wars against the U.S. Army — from 1816-19, 1835-42 and 1855-58 — began when slave owners tried to retrieve their runaway slaves, who found safe harbor with the Tribe. The U.S. also wanted the land that the Seminoles called home. With the passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, Tribes in the Southeast were moved to Oklahoma. The Seminoles resisted.

By the end of the wars, only 300 survived.

"We are all descended from the 300 who didn't go to Oklahoma," Osceola said.



Beverly Bidney

Culture instructor Jenny Shore divides frybread dough for students June 2 during A Land Remembered Day at Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School.



Beverly Bidney

Ysla Gopher helps Zarina Judilla, from Okeechobee's North Elementary School, with the necklace she crafted during A Land Remembered Day.

In Prescott's classroom, students saw period clothing worn by non-Native Americans. With skirts, crinolines, hoops, corsets, bloomers, wool jackets and hats, the attire was not conducive to comfort in the hot and humid Florida climate, Prescott said.

"Before they came to Florida, Indians wore buckskin clothing," Prescott said. "When they got here, they traded the skins for fabric. It was very common to see men

in long shirts to their knees with a belt."

In the early 1900s, sewing machines were introduced to the Tribe and the tradition of patchwork began. Okeechobee students learned the patchwork they saw PECS students wearing was all handmade in the same tradition.

"I wanted them to learn about our Tribe and that the Indian Removal Act was bad, but they fought for their land," said PECS student Jarret Huff.

Okeechobee students said they learned a lot and that the history, Creek language and frybread were among the highlights of the day.

While at Williamson Cattle Ranch in Okeechobee on May 26, PECS fourth-graders learned the perspective of the cowboys' lifestyle in the book. They ate pole beans and dried beef, used a cow whip and branding iron, and learned to square dance, Prescott said.

PECS ends academic year with abundance of awards

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School's academic honors for 2014-15 culminated June 2 with the President's Education Awards Program.

Students whose efforts and performances met the program's criteria throughout the year received academic achievement and excellence awards from PECS staff on behalf of President Barack Obama.

Principal Brian Greseth praised students for their accomplishments.

"These awards are earned, not given," Greseth said. "These kids did their work in class, did their homework, studied for tests

and did extra reading. Their hard work and effort speak to how well they will do in school and after."

Founded in 1983 and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, the President's Education Awards Program honors elementary, middle and high school students for achievement and hard work. The program's Educational Excellence award is given to students with grade point averages of 3.5 to 4.0. The students must have high achievement in reading or math on state or nationally normed tests and/or receive recommendations from a teacher plus one other staff member reflecting outstanding achievement in core curriculum classes.

The program's Educational Achievement

award acknowledges students who show outstanding educational growth, improvement, commitment or intellectual development in their academic studies. The award encourages and rewards students who give their best effort in school, often despite personal obstacles.

In other areas, students received awards for effort, citizenship, improvement, honor rolls, culture and physical education.

"Success is not all about being smart; it's about working hard," Greseth said. "Students do well when they work hard, but parents need to make sure they get their homework done, practice and study. When kids work hard, so do the parents."

♦ See more AWARDS photos on page 7B



Beverly Bidney

Angelie Melton poses June 2 as her father, Rodney Melton, takes a photo of her with her Mighty Miller award for completing 29.8 miles throughout the year during P.E. class. Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School doled out dozens of awards to students for their efforts throughout the school year.

Cory Wilcox graduates Florida SouthWestern State College

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

FORT MYERS — Cory Wilcox believes in leading by example.

For example, the newly minted graduate of Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers has shown his children they, too, can achieve great things.

"I can tell my kids I graduated college," he said. "It was stressful, but once I finished, it was an accomplishment. Now that I can say it's done and over with, is awesome."

Wilcox hadn't always planned to attend college but a 2011 boating accident, in which he nearly lost a leg, changed his life. He worked as a hunting guide at the Big Cypress Wildlife Department since 2003 and was promoted to director in 2010.

"I was always one of those workers who liked to sweat," Wilcox said. "I like being outdoors."

Faced with the prospect of working indoors for the rest of his life because of his injuries, Wilcox made the decision to educate himself.

"If I did have to work in an office, I didn't just want to answer phones," he said.

He enrolled as a full time student in 2012 shortly after landing a job in the Tribe's Executive Operations Office, just a few months after the accident.

His bachelor's degree in supervision and management suits his job as a program supervisor. He supervises businesses at Big Cypress Reservation, including Billie Swamp Safari, the RV Resort and Campground, rodeo, Rock Pit and Wildlife. His aims to continue working for the Tribe and learn everything he can.

His degree has already positively impacted his job.

While studying ethics, leadership and accounting at school, he saw examples of them at work and implemented what he learned right away.

"My education allowed me to be more confident in my job as I try to do my best for my Tribe," Wilcox said. "As a Tribal member, you have two pressures on you; you want to do your job to the fullest because it is for your family and you want to be productive and effective."

His biggest challenge during college was commuting to and from Fort Myers — more than 60 miles each way — for class after a long day at work in Big Cypress.



Photo courtesy of Cory Wilcox

Cory Wilcox, program supervisor in the Tribe's Executive Operations Office, graduates May 8 with a bachelor's degree in supervision and management from Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers.

While keeping up with his studies, Wilcox learned to juggle work and family time, including coaching his daughter's softball team and competing in rodeos as a team roper. He found a way to make it all work and made the A/B honor roll every semester.

Wilcox said his family was the motivation and inspiration for his success.

"I just wanted to be able to provide for my family," said Wilcox, who lives in Big Cypress with his wife, Crystal, daughter Jaylee, 9, stepson Jacob Cotton, 17, and foster daughter, Illiana Robbins, 10.

Wilcox said he is grateful for the Tribe giving him the opportunity to pursue higher education.

"I'd like to give back and speak to the younger generation and let them know they can go to school and do the same thing," he said. "I'd like to encourage them to get an education and then come back to work for the Tribe."

High School Graduates: Class of 2015

Andre Jumper, 19 American Heritage School

Post-secondary plans: Andre will attend Florida State University, where he plans to be a walk-on linebacker for the football team and study economics.

Aspirations: Andre is interested in economics, but, similar to other college students, he knows that his academic interests could change. He thinks he'd like to work for a bank after college and eventually work for the Tribe.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: Keeping up with schoolwork, no matter what else is going on. Memory: "After we won the state championship in my junior year, there were so many other teams at my school that won at states that year. One day, we all got together and hung out all day. It made everyone closer."

Inspiration: Andre wants to give back to the Tribe in some way. "I look at my Tribe and see they aren't hurting financially, but they need someone to guide them through stuff. I want to help people make smarter decisions. My goal is to leave the reservation for college, get away and explore the world and then come back and give back to my Tribe."

Tous Jumper Young Jr., 18 American Heritage School

Post-secondary plans: Tous will attend Seattle Pacific University and study business and economics.

Aspirations: He wants to start an apparel business touting the straight-edge philosophy, which is centered on self-control and abstinence from alcohol, drugs, tobacco and promiscuity. "I want people to become more positive. Making someone else happy will make me happy."

High school lessons learned/best memory: Tous worked hard to overcome personal and academic obstacles. He did so by having a positive outlook and taking responsibility for himself.

Inspiration: "Myself, Christianity and my beliefs. I'm a straight-edge kid who doesn't drink or do drugs. I want to be the opposite of my family who all do it. The straight-edge life doesn't give you the keys to life, but I'm proud I can belong somewhere. I tell myself not to give up."

Brianna Blais-Billie, 18 Pine Crest School

Post-secondary plans: Brianna will attend the University of St. Andrews in Scotland where she will study business management. She plans to get a master's degree in business administration after she earns her bachelor's degree.

Aspirations: Brianna would like to work for the Tribe's hospitality business or for The Walt Disney Co. "I really want to get involved in the Tribe's international business and you can only do it by experience."

High school lessons learned/best memory: Brianna didn't go to school with other Tribal members, so she often taught Seminole culture at school assemblies. "During homecoming, Native Americans were portrayed in a negative manner. I got the school to make an official apology for it. Months later they held a multicultural assembly where I made a presentation about the sensitive issues and the principal apologized on behalf of the entire school."

Inspiration: Brianna gets inspiration from Greek classical literature, where the "characters are strong, devoted and dedicated to their cause."

Cameron Osceola, 18 University School

Post-secondary plans: Cameron will attend Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he plans to study audio engineering.

Aspirations: Cameron's goal is to make it in the music business, preferably as a performer, but he is willing to work behind the scenes as well. "I want to make music that I love and dig. I want to share my music with anyone I can."

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: Cameron believes it is important to be in the moment. "Everyone's so worried about their future that they get blinded and don't worry about what's in front of them. Cherish every moment while you have it." Memory: Making music with his brothers Sheldon and Tyson and opening for famous bands.

Inspiration: Cameron gets inspiration from everyone, including his parents and his teachers. "My mom is the strongest woman I know. She never complains about anything and is always willing to give everything for her children. And she does it all with a smile."

Darryl Billie, 18 Ahfachkee School

Post-secondary plans: Darryl will attend Full Sail University in Orlando to major in music production with minors in recording arts and artistic writing.

Aspirations: Darryl wants to be a music producer. "Through my whole life I've been around many types of music. But in 2007 I heard a specific song that made me want to really do music." The musical piece was a techno instrumental with LA Headspace. "Ever since that day, I built on my interest more and more."

High school lessons learned/best memory:

"There is so much that happens and new things that go on moment to moment that it's hard to choose a favorite time. I could say something about today and then something tomorrow will blow me out of the water. But I guess, most of the great memories are with my family."

Inspiration: "A lot of people could say that I am my own role model. I'm self-conscious about myself and I know my limitations. It's important that my inspiration comes from myself." But Darryl also acknowledged his family. "I spend most of my time with them."

Kaitlin Osceola, 17 Ahfachkee School

Post-secondary plans: Kaitlin has been accepted to Florida SouthWestern State College.

Aspirations: "My idea of who I want to be changes almost every day. I can't say who I want to be because I don't even know."

High school lessons learned/best memory: Rediscovering her love of reading. "I have not stopped reading since then. I have read so many good books I can't even decide on a favorite."

Inspiration: Kaitlin's inspirations are too many to count or list. "Many of which people would not understand unless they have my mind along with my perspective and insight."

Delaney Osceola, 18 Moore Haven High School

Post-secondary plans: Delaney hopes to attend Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina to play softball. Her second choice will be to attend Indian River State College. Either way, she will study sports management.

Aspirations: She wants to come back after college and work for the Tribe.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: "Never let people tell you what you can and cannot do, just go where your heart tells you and never give up on anything." Memory: Making it to the final four in the state softball tournament.

Inspiration: Delaney is inspired by her mother, Dana Osceola. "She is the one I go to for everything. She tells me what's right for me and to do what my heart tells me. I get everything from her."

Joshua Boromei, 18 Moore Haven High School

Post-secondary plans: Joshua plans to enroll at Indian River State College, earn an associate degree and then transfer to Florida Gulf Coast University. He plans to study psychology or business.

Aspirations: He isn't sure yet, but Joshua thinks he may start his own business or go into psychology, which fascinates him.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: "People change; everything changes from freshman year to senior year. I only talk to a handful of people from freshman year; everyone else is just ghosts." Memory: When he scored 27 points in the first half of a basketball game against Glades Day School.

Inspiration: Joshua's inspiration comes from the women in his family. "I do everything I do for them because if it wasn't for my grandmother, Alice Johns Sweat, I wouldn't have made it through my senior year. My sister, Stevie Brantley, helped to raise me on the rez when I was young. My mom, Theresa Frost, there is a strong bond between us - that woman is the only woman on the planet I can talk about everything with. She showed me how to be a man."

Darlah Cypress, 18 Moore Haven High School

Post-secondary plans: Darlah wants to play softball in college and will likely play for a community college for the next two years and would like to attend school out of state.

Aspirations: She wants to major in sports management and come back to work for the Tribe.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: "To be organized and keep up with the things you need to do." Memory: Making it to the final four in the state softball tournament this year. "We didn't win but we accomplished some of the goals we had."

Inspiration: "My mother, Eileen Cypress. She always makes sure we have everything we need and that we get done what we have to do. It makes me feel like I owe her something, which makes me work as hard as I do."

Jennie Eagle, 18 Okeechobee High School

Post-secondary plans: Jennie will attend Indian River State College now that she has graduated from Okeechobee High School.

Aspirations: She plans to pursue a career as a physical therapist.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Playing powder puff football is Jennie's best memory from high school.

Inspiration: Jennie is inspired by the memory of her younger sister Nezaeh.

Jennifer Tommie, 18 Okeechobee High School

Post-secondary plans: Jennifer will stay at home and take care of her 5-month-old daughter, Nedaeh, for the next seven months before attending Indian River State College.

Aspirations: She wants to be an ultrasound technician.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Jennifer learned things aren't always easy, particularly

in her senior year.

Inspiration: "My parents, Mandy Huff and Maxie Tommie, have been there for me and pushed me through my whole life."

Braceton King, 18 Okeechobee High School

Post-secondary plans: Braceton will study business at Indian River State College. After he earns his associate degree, he plans to transfer to a university, possibly Florida State University or Florida Gulf Coast University.

Aspirations: "I want to be a business owner and be my own boss."

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: Not to procrastinate and do the work on time. Memory: "The late night wood hauling with my friends; it's a senior thing."

Inspiration: Braceton is inspired by his parents, Gilbert and Tammy King.

Lewis Gopher Jr., 18 Okeechobee High School

Post-secondary plans: Lewis plans to attend Indian River State College or Florida Gulf Coast University and then transfer to the University of Miami, where he will study law.

Aspirations: He wants to be an attorney.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: "No matter who you are or what you have or how you represent yourself, everyone is a person and deserves to be treated equally." Memory: He was suspended for two days for skipping his Advanced Placement calculus class, even though his teacher told him he wouldn't get in trouble. "I thought it was kind of funny since I was told I wouldn't get in trouble, but I did."

Inspiration: "My dad, Lewis Gopher Sr. Even when we had our rough times, he always told me what I needed to do and gave me guidance."

McKayla Snow, 17 Okeechobee High School

Post-secondary plans: McKayla will attend Indian River State College and work toward her degree in practical nursing.

Aspirations: As a licensed practical nurse, McKayla would like to care for children with cancer.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: "Don't slip up in your last year or you'll end up with really bad grades." Memory: Performing in the color guard at the last home football game.

Inspiration: "I get my inspiration from my mom, Dawn Marie Snow. She was a nurse. I used to go to the hospital and saw her at work. My uncle J.R. Entry had cancer and that inspired me to be a nurse."

Daniel Nunez Jr., 18 Okeechobee High School

Post-secondary plans: Daniel wants to enlist in the Army but plans to wait a few months. He also wants to be an auto mechanic.

Aspirations: He wants to be a good dad to his son, Daniel, I, which is why the Army will have to wait.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Daniel's fondest memories are from being a running back and linebacker on the football team. "There is a practice I won't forget after we lost a big game. The coach counted all our missed tackles and made us do a hundred 100-yard dashes during that practice and the next one. I learned to get them down no matter what."

Inspiration: Daniel gets his inspiration from his father, Daniel Nunez Sr. "He's not real pushy like my mom; he's more laid back about it. But my mom always wants me to do well in school."

Toby Gopher, 18 Okeechobee High School

Post-secondary plans: Toby will attend Indian River State College and take care of her baby, Esteban.

Aspirations: When Toby got her braces, she became interested in orthodontics and would like to be an orthodontist.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "Never give up and keep pushing forward no matter how hard it is."

Inspiration: "I inspired myself because I never had great support from my mother. I live with my aunt Emma, who has helped me and given me support."

Layton Thomas, 17 Okeechobee High School

Post-secondary plans: Layton will attend Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers to play baseball. After he earns his associate degree, he plans to transfer to Florida State University.

Aspirations: "I would like to become a professional baseball player and then come back to the Tribe and become a Councilman or a Board Representative."

High school lessons learned/best memory: "The biggest lesson I learned is to always pay attention to the feelings of others and treat them how you want to be treated."

Inspiration: Layton is inspired by his parents, Jason and Laverne Thomas. "They have pushed me and

told me from a young age to do better for myself by getting a higher education and to be the best person I can be."

Vanessa Billie, 18 Immokalee High School

Post-secondary plans: Vanessa will attend Valencia College to study special education.

Aspirations: Vanessa plans to work for the Seminole Tribe's speech pathology program. She said learning about her nephew Josiah's autism sparked her interest in special education and helping individuals affected by the disorder.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Vanessa learned how to lead by example. "You don't see many Tribal members graduate. I want to be an example for the younger kids, for them to say, 'She did it; I can do it, too.'" She said that regardless of how people perceive Native Americans, "we have to put that aside and get an education and do what's right for our community."

Inspiration: Vanessa is inspired by her mother, Maria Billie, and sister, Esmeralda Billie. She said they encourage her to work hard, stay in school and pursue college.

Christian Alexander, 19 Odyssey School; Austin, Texas

Post-secondary plans: Christian plans to study motorcycle mechanics at Austin Community College in Texas.

Aspirations: Christian hopes to open his own shop, where he can design, build and customize motorcycles in his own style. He said doing so would mean "doing something I really like." He already owns a custom Harley Davidson motorcycle.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Meeting his best friend, Immie, is the best memory Christian has of high school. "She is the nicest person I met out here." Christian learned to focus on his goals and try hard to accomplish them, which he encourages his peers to do as well. "Don't sit around and don't be a quitter."

Inspiration: Christian found inspiration to follow his passion of motorcycles from movies such as "Captain America," "The Wolverine" and "Ghost Rider."

Jonathan Idle, 18 The Miami Valley School; Dayton, Ohio

Post-secondary plans: Jonathan will leave his home in Dayton, Ohio to attend the University of South Carolina and study chemical engineering.

Aspirations: While he is not exactly sure where his degree will take him, Jonathan said he may work for the Tribe in the future to "return to my roots and give back to my community."

High school lessons learned/best memory: Jonathan said high school taught him how to deal with high-pressure situations. Through his teachers and basketball, golf and tennis coaches, he learned how to work hard. His best memory of high school is traveling to Ghana to help people in an impoverished village. He and his classmates helped start construction on a hospital, planted a garden and installed a clean water tank, among other things.

Inspiration: Jonathan finds inspiration from his mother, Jennifer. He said she pushes him to do his best and never takes "no" for an answer. Jonathan encourages other students to never quit. "Just keep going. It's tough, but just keep at it."

Johnny "Trey" Boone III, 19 The Vanguard School, Lake Wales

Post-secondary plans: Trey plans to attend IMG Academy in Bradenton where he'll take college classes from the University of South Florida while receiving professional-level training for golf. After IMG, he would like to transfer to an elite university on a golf scholarship.

Aspirations: Trey's goal is to become a professional golfer.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "Biggest lesson would be not to procrastinate on any schoolwork, which basically applies to all aspects of life, and my best memory of high school would be graduation day and how proud I made my parents."

Inspiration: "My inspiration would be from grandmother Louise Motlow and how she has always instilled in me to pray and trust in the Lord and go to Him in good and bad times. Her love for God is undeniably amazing and that has taught me to do my best and work hard for my goals in life."

Eliza Mora, 18 The Vanguard School, Lake Wales

Post-secondary plans: Eliza will attend Keiser University in Fort Lauderdale to study nursing. She also plans to help in the Hollywood Community Culture Department.

Aspirations: "I plan to go to medical school to be an obstetrician gynecologist because I love helping people and I love babies."

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: "Never give up on yourself; whatever you put in your mind to do, you can do it." Memory: Eliza enjoys being part of the Vanguard family.

Inspiration: Her inspiration comes from having a goal and wanting to do something other members of her family didn't do.

High School Graduates: Class of 2015

Christopher Briscall, 19
The Vanguard School, Lake Wales

Post-secondary plans: Christopher would like to pursue his dreams of riding bulls professionally. He would like to compete with the PBR – Professional Bull Riders.



Aspirations: In addition to becoming a professional bull rider, "I would like to own my own bucking bulls and travel to the PBR events to supply them with bulls. I would also like to start a bull riding school for kids that have the same dream as I do."

High school lessons learned/best memory: Christopher's best memory is playing high school basketball and making it to the regional playoffs. The biggest lessons he learned are to follow his dreams and never give up.

Inspiration: "I grew up watching [bull riding] on TV and always wanted to try it. However, my mother would not allow me to try it. Now that I am old enough, I did it."

Jade Tapia, 18
The Vanguard School, Lake Wales

Post-secondary plans: Jade plans to begin community college in the fall to "get some of my college credits out the way so I can start what I really want to do."



Aspirations: Jade would like to become an orthodontist and a dental assistant.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "My best memory of high school is probably going to grad bash and having fun with some of my friends and family." Jade said every senior should attend grad bash before graduating.

Inspiration: Jade said she wants to pursue dentistry because of always seeing the tools neatly set up when she went to the dentist as a child.

Katherine Jim, 18
Florida Christian School, Miami

Post-secondary plans: Katherine is going to Methodist University in Fayetteville, North Carolina, where she will play basketball and study either forensic science or psychology.

Aspirations: "I want to be a counselor for girls and women who have been abused or a children's counselor; I'm still debating."

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: "Get your foreign languages done early in high school." Memory: When her basketball team won

the district championship this year and went on to the regional semifinals.

Inspiration: "I go to a Christian school, so I get inspiration from God, the Bible and the people in it and the trials they went through. I try to compare it to my life."

Daija Baxley, 18
John Carroll High School, Fort Pierce

Post-secondary plans: Daija will attend Florida State University and study business.

Aspirations: She would like to own a business in the Hard Rock, but she also wants to be an example for Tribal youth who may not think they can graduate. "I want to help the Tribe run better and make sure its people are better educated."

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: "Keep trying. It gets hard, but it's worth it in the end." Memory: Daija will always remember her graduation bash field trip to Universal Studios Orlando.

Inspiration: She gets inspiration from her grandfather Carl Baxley, who didn't go beyond eighth grade and always told her to do better than he did; from her father, Luke Baxley Sr., who never graduated high school, and her stepmother, Jody Certain. "I want to make them proud. They helped me become the person I am now."

Airianna Nunez, 18
Home-schooled

Post-secondary plans: Airianna is taking classes online at Grand Canyon University and working toward her associate degree in building construction management.

Aspirations: She hopes to be a general contractor and has been working at her parents' company, Seminole Design Build in Okeechobee. "I enjoy the job. All around it seems like it's for me. There is always something for everyone. You have to venture out and try things."

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: Airianna was home-schooled by her mother, Anita Nunez. "It taught me responsibility and it prepared me for college. I'm truly grateful to her." Her best memory was from playing volleyball, flag football and tackle football, which she found exhilarating.

Inspiration: Airianna is inspired by her mother. "She motivates me so much, taught me to make more of myself and gave me my work ethic. I would never want to disappoint her since she gave me so much; that's the

best motivation a teenager or young adult could have."

Esyra Frank, 18,
Auldern Academy; Siler City, North Carolina

Post-secondary plans: Esyra would like to pursue a career in the medical field.

Aspirations: "I would like to become a child psychologist and come back to work for the Tribe."

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: As a student at a boarding school, Esyra learned about the struggles of life and independent living. Her best memory is hanging out with her friends.

Inspiration: Esyra is inspired by her elders.

Ellyse Frank, 18
Timbersong Academy; Weaverville, North Carolina

Post-secondary plans: Ellyse will attend the University of Miami.

Aspirations: She aspires to become a family therapist.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Going to rehabilitation was her biggest lesson. Ellyse's best high school memory was hanging out with her friends.

Inspiration: Ellyse is inspired by her father, Joel Frank.

Brittany Oakes, 18
Orlando Science High School

Post-secondary plans: Brittany will attend Valencia College in Orlando for two years and then transfer to the University of Central Florida for her bachelor's degree in business and finance.

Aspirations: She wants to open a coffee shop and continue volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, possibly in their international program.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: Always hand your homework in on time. Memory: "My math teacher made me coffee one morning. Math was my first class and I missed my coffee one day, so I was moody and unreasonable."

Inspiration: Brittany gets her inspiration mostly from books and the people around her. She is a history buff and wants to make the world a better place. "I want to make a difference."

Devin Osceola, 19
Gulliver Preparatory School, Coral Gables

Post-secondary plans: Devin is joining the Marines and will report for basic training on Sept. 21.

Aspirations: "I want to become a Marine and serve my country."

High school lessons learned/best memory: Lesson: Devin learned the value of time management and the importance of sacrificing to complete his work. Memory: Playing football and making good friends.

Inspiration: "My family; my mother, Michelle, who passed away when I was young; and my grandfather, Joe Cypress, who taught me to do good things when no one is looking and to be responsible."

Imillakiyo Osceola, 17
GED

Post-secondary plans: Imillakiyo plans to work in the Culture Department in Brighton.

Aspirations: He would also like to attend culinary school.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "Just don't give up."

Inspiration: Imillakiyo gets inspiration from his daughter, Ameliana, 1. "You can do anything if you put your mind to it."

Seminole Tribe of Florida's additional graduates:

- Katherine Bert
- Leauna Billie
- Caitlyn Cypress
- Kaitlin Osceola
- Tarra Boone
- Ricky Dillon
- Joelli Frank
- Courtney Osceola
- Brianna Bilodeau
- Luis Escobar Jr.
- Hannah Kippenberger
- Silver Wolf
- Brooke Osceola
- Denise Osceola
- Tristen Wilcox
- Baylee Micco
- Alana Roberts
- Neyom Osceola
- Ashton Beer
- Cameron Youngblood
- Deandre Osceola
- Nicholas Aron Jumper

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Hollywood tots bid farewell to preschool



Brett Daly

Kurya Kippenberger shows Jahcelin Lysandra Calisce, left, and Nahki Santana Billie how to use a sewing machine during the culture skit, as part of the 'I am a Seminole' Preschool Graduation ceremony June 2.



Brett Daly

Hollywood preschoolers take turns telling the audience what they want to be when they grow up during the Hollywood Preschool graduation at the Tribe Headquarters auditorium.

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Fourteen youngsters in Hollywood donned pint-sized caps and gowns June 2 and marched toward big futures during the Hollywood Preschool graduation ceremony at the Tribe Headquarters auditorium.

Following the theme "I am a Seminole," students first showcased their language skills by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in Mikasuki for family and friends in attendance. A "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" rendition, culture skit and "I am a Seminole" performance led by Fred Mullins, of the Family Services Department, on guitar further displayed what students learned in culture classes throughout the school year.

"Our mission is to instill the culture and language in the students," said Preschool Center Director Thommy Doud. "We work closely with the Culture Department. We need to get kids fired up about education at this age because this is just the beginning for them."

After a quick wardrobe change, students dressed in costumes depicting what they want to be when they grow up. Some, like Redfeather Robbins, want to

be firefighters, while others want to be construction workers (Justin Rodriguez), cheerleaders (Jenesys Ta'Lacey Stewart) and nurses (Jahcelin Lysandra Calisce).

"It's never too young for a child to have a dream," Doud said. "With curiosity, knowledge, encouragement and love, they can be anything they want to be."

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola helped Doud and Hollywood Community Culture Center Manager Bobby Frank distribute diplomas, congratulate graduates and encourage parents to stay involved in their children's educations.

"Embrace them; time goes by fast," said Councilman Osceola, who added that his daughter, Hailee, would graduate high school June 3 and attend Florida State University. "When they go out in the real world, all they have is what you gave them."

The 2015 Hollywood Preschool graduates are Major Deanton Anderson, Nahki Santana Billie, Osceola McKinley Billie Jr., Jahcelin Lysandra Calisce, King Jaaziah Calisce, Jayden Enrique Macelroy, Keion Cediq Martin, Eli Dwayne Odem, Bill Jax Osceola, Redfeather Robbins, Justin Rodriguez, Arturo Eduardo Ruidiaz Jr., Devin Charles Stewart and Jenesys Ta'Lacey Stewart.



Brett Daly

King Jaaziah Calisce shakes hands with Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola before receiving his preschool diploma during commencement exercises at Tribe Headquarters. Hollywood Community Culture Center Manager Bobby Frank looks on.



Brett Daly

Bill Jax Osceola stops for a quick picture while walking down the aisle before receiving his preschool diploma.



Brett Daly

Devin Charles Stewart, right, adjusts his graduation cap while Justin Rodriguez stoically poses for pictures after receiving their diplomas during the Hollywood Preschool graduation.

Dr. Seuss greets Immokalee preschoolers

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

IMMOKALEE — Dr. Seuss turned up in nearly every aspect of the Immokalee Seminole Preschool graduation. Cat in the Hat, Thing 1, Thing 2 and other things adorned the walls May 6 at the Immokalee Community Center. Graduates used Seuss' work to rhyme their way through skits. He even made it into speeches.

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose," Preschool Center Director Thommy Doud told the graduates in a passage from "Oh, the Places You'll Go!"

Kindergarten is the next place the 10 graduates will go but not before their first academic steps culminated with a ceremony in front of school officials and families.

Immokalee Seminole Preschool Center Manager Michelle Ford urged the youngsters to "take on challenges, be loving, be kindhearted, love learning, be a part of the tribal community, laugh, have fun, be all that you can be and never believe

that you cannot achieve anything."

Students entertained the audience with brief performances related to Seuss' books. Fred Mullins, of the Family Services Department, played guitar and sang a Seminole song with the class.

The graduates have plenty of years to decide their career paths, but they provided early glimpses. Doctors, scientists, construction workers, cowboys and cowgirls topped their lists. No matter when they begin to carve their niche in the workforce, the preschool Class of 2015 will always be remembered by their teacher, Kimberly Denetdale, who said this class carried extra meaning because it was the first she taught by herself.

"I'm very proud of the accomplishments each graduate has made, and now it is time to say goodbye," Denetdale told the audience. "They are ready for bigger things now. It's bittersweet to see them go."

The 2015 graduates are Evelyn Frank, Ashton Garza, Carly Garza, Haloma Jimmie, Siya Osceola, Aaron Rodriguez, Arhianna Rodriguez, Isis Rodriguez, Jezabel Yzaguirre and Riley Yzaguirre.



Kevin Johnson

Immokalee Seminole Preschool graduates grasp their diplomas in front of family and staff May 6.



Kevin Johnson

Preschool teacher Kimberly Denetdale adjusts the cap of Arhianna Rodriguez while Ashton Garza toys with his tassel and Carly Garza smiles at the start of the Immokalee Seminole Preschool graduation at the Immokalee Community Center.



Kevin Johnson

Riley Yzaguirre walks past a balloon display as she is introduced during the preschool graduation.



Kevin Johnson

Ashton Garza is ready to take on his next challenge as he performs a brief skit during the graduation ceremony.

Ahfachkee kinder grads step up to big kid school

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Prayers and pledges helped usher 13 of Ahfachkee School's tiniest students into the next level of learning May 28 during the kindergarten Class of 2015 graduation.

"The book of Proverbs says we should train these children up the way they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it," said the Rev. Salaw Hummingbird, of Big Cypress First Baptist Church.

But the grads, typical for most 5- and 6-year-olds, could barely sit still in chairs along the stage where their feet scarcely touched the floor. And when the school's

cafeteria manager delivered a three-tiered sheet cake decked with obviously delicious white and red frosting, several children pointed and giggled.

Each had spent the last year studying the alphabet and numbers up to 30. They learned elementary school etiquette like standing in line and raising hands to speak. The group served hours toiling in the traditional garden and learned enough language of the ancestors to sing the "Chee-han-taa-mo" song to family members.

When the children rose to their feet and sung with gusto "I am a Promise," the audience knew it was true.

"I can climb mountains ... I am a possibility ... I am a promise with a capital 'P,'" they sung as loud as they could.

After speeches and more songs, students received certificates of completion and then proudly displayed them.

"The children worked really hard and we are so proud of them," said acting principal Jillian Wilson.

Ahfachkee's kindergarten graduates from the Class of 2015 are Gage Billie, Silas Billie, Logan Covarrubias, Emily DiCarlo-Billie, Adryan Garcia, Dallas Garcia, Clayton Green, Tuff Haight, Gene Jimmie, Virgil Motlow, Jessie Osceola, Thelma Tigertail and Shylah Walker.



Ahfachkee School's littlest graduates, the kindergarten Class of 2015, serenaded the audience with the song 'Chee-han-taa-mo' at their graduation ceremony in the school cafeteria.



Ahfachkee School kindergarten graduate Tuff Haight proudly displays his diploma May 28 during graduation.



Ahfachkee School kindergarten graduates Gage Billie, Thelma Tigertail, Shylah Walker and Jessie Osceola get a kick out of their new diplomas during the kindergarten graduation.



Ahfachkee acting principal Jillian Wilson presents valedictorian Kaitlin Osceola with her high school diploma during the May 29 Ahfachkee School graduation.

Ahfachkee high schoolers graduate with flying colors

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Small in numbers but rich in memories, Ahfachkee School's Class of 2015 graduated May 29 in front of family members, friends, alumni and staff.

With the flags of the Seminole Tribe, United States and Florida unfurled in the background at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium and the iconic symbol for Ahfachkee School emblazoned on a large projection screen, Kaitlin Osceola and Darryl Billie, the school's only graduating seniors, sat proudly on the stage.

"Education is everything as you move forward in life," former Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger told the graduates. "It's something no one will ever take away from you."

Alumnus Bradley Osceola, who graduated in May with an automotive technology certificate from Universal Technical Institute in Orlando, offered personal advice.

"The first day of college will be scary. You will be nervous and stressed out ... but as days turn into weeks and weeks into months, you will find that you are fine," he said.

Alumni Tequesta Tiger, who attends The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, and Quenton Cypress, a current trainee at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, also provided guidance for success after high school.

"This is your own journey. Only you can lead you," Tiger said.

"This isn't the part of life where you stop learning; this is where you start to do great things," Cypress said.

Recently accepted to Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers, Kaitlin Osceola delivered the valedictorian address. She began by shooting a Polaroid photograph of the audience.

"It's so sad that so many pictures go undeveloped," she said showing the still blank image and launching her speech.

Osceola proceeded to review the highlights of her high school experience, thank her family and teachers and assure everyone that she had goals to make and promises to keep. Before closing, she showed the photo that had developed clearly to reveal the faces of an audience eager to



High school graduates from Ahfachkee School's Class of 2015 Kaitlin Osceola and Darryl Billie soak in the spotlight during commencement ceremonies.

applaud the 17-year-old's accomplishments — so far.

"Remember, we are all just capturing moments that need development," she said.

Billie, 18, who will attend Full Sail University for music production, recording arts and writing, gave an emotional senior farewell speech. Funny at times, he shared memories that he aptly recalled and described as an emerging artist would.

"Thanks to Mrs. [Naida] Cumbermack, who told me to write more, because I started with one journal, then one story, then more, and through her constant writing assignments, I saw the true power of the pen," Billie said.

Both graduates also recognized teacher Antonio Wright for his constant support and guidance. Wright called graduation night the happiest night of the year.

"But it is also the saddest night because it's time to let our children go," Wright said.

BC preschool grads show scholarly spirit

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Thirteen tiny tots in cheerful yellow caps and gowns were a sight to behold May 20 at the Big Cypress Preschool graduation.

The kids set a new bar for adorable as they performed a full-blown show — complete with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in Mikasuki, skits and songs — before walking down the aisle to receive their diplomas. The graduates did their

best to restrain themselves from waving and calling out to their parents while performing to a standing-room only crowd, but some found it hard to resist a shoutout from the stage.

During the community helpers presentation, students dressed as doctors, nurses, police officers, firefighters, pilots, postal workers and other professions.

"They are all excited to go on to the big school," said Preschool Center Director Thommy Doud. "We're all very proud of them."

The Big Cypress Preschool graduates are Camille Li Billie, Kylie Billie, Kylan Layton Bowers-Tiger, Ada Jo Bruised Head, Kalina Alice Cavazos, Orlando Chance Covarrubias, Chanel Karen Cypress, Jasmine Skye Cypress, Cody Jack Motlow Jr., Audrina Osceola-Turtle, Jeremiah Sharrod Robbins, Kaleb Drake Sanders and Little Tigertail Jumper-Garcia.



Kylan Bowers-Tiger gives a high-five as he heads down the aisle to accept his diploma May 20 at the Big Cypress Preschool graduation.



Little Tigertail Jumper-Garcia portrays a police officer as he points out someone in the crowd during the community helpers presentation.



The Big Cypress Preschool Class of 2015 eagerly proceed to their graduation.



Orlando Chance Covarrubias holds his diploma at the Big Cypress preschool graduation.

Eighth-graders say farewell to PECS



Emma Johns

Eighth-graders pose for a photo on their final day at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School. The school hosted a send-off celebration June 3 that included cake and a slideshow presentation for its graduating students.



Emma Johns

Michele Grindler poses with her son Andrew Fish on his final day of eighth grade.



Emma Johns

Mickie Burton and her daughter Krysta Burton celebrate her last day as an eighth-grader at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School.

Where do the eighth-graders see themselves in 10 years?

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School eighth-graders were asked where they see themselves in 10 years. Their responses, listed below, were presented during the farewell program June 3.

Oscar Yates: In 10 years Oscar will be in the United States Army serving his great nation. He will be stationed in California and feeling really good about life. He will have two children but is not sure who the mother is. He will spend money on music and Dr. Dre media apparel. His greatest accomplishments will be earning medal of honors for his bravery and dedication to the United States of America.

Billy Yates: In 10 years Billy will be 25 years old and living in Hollywood, California. He will feel like lying on a beach in Miami. He will be a successful business owner and will fall in love with all the women he meets. He will not have children but will travel frequently to Hawaii for vacation.

Krysta Burton: In 10 years Krysta will be opening her own pastry shop and living alone in Stuart, Florida. She will drive her Fiat down to the Keys at least four times a year for a quick vacay and to visit Mrs. Williams. She will spend her money on spa days for herself and her dogs. She will be a contributor to society by volunteering at elderly homes and delivering free cupcakes to those in need. She will spend her down time on the beach feeling happy, free, collected and cool.

Kyle Palmisano: In 10 years Kyle will be very rich and living in a condo in California with his one child. He will not have to do anything other than be "Kyle Palmisano" and people are going to pay him a lot of money. He will get so much for being "Kyle" that he will be able to donate some money to those in need. He will be an inspiration to his son, Kyle Jr., who will also want to grow up and get paid for being "Kyle."

Tyler Howard: In 10 years Tyler will be surrounded by water and money. He will go to work every day. He will not be sure what he is supposed to do there, but he will go and get paid. He will have 12 children and drive them all to the mall in his Honda to buy clothes at least twice a month.

Conner Thomas: In 10 years Conner will be feeling happy, happy, happy. His greatest accomplishment will be graduating college and becoming a marine biologist. He will spend his money on guns, ammo and rod and reels. He will go to the Keys as often as possible and contribute to society by educating young people on coral reef preservation.

Issac Urbina: In 10 years Issac will be

10 years older and living in his own house in Florida with his four children. He will take his family out to eat every day and go on vacation at least once a month. His greatest accomplishment will be finding a cure for cancer and providing the money for children with cancer to receive the treatment they need.

Alyke Baker: In 10 years Alyke will be living in Texas with his wife and three children. He will move to Texas after playing for the NBA. He will enjoy Texas because everything is bigger there. He will have a bigger Chevy truck and hunt bigger Texas hogs with his bigger Texas boys, while his bigger Texas wife cooks a bigger Texas dinner in their bigger Texas house.

Lucas Osceola: In 10 years Lucas will be living with his wife and two children in their mansion. He will be playing basketball for the Cavs and making more money than all his other classmates combined. He will drive a Lambo and take his hot wife out to dinner and a movie at least once a week. He will love his life, family and food.

Ridge Bailey: In 10 years Ridge will be feeling older than he does now. He will live in Brighton and be single with no children that he knows of. He will drive a BMW and spend most of his money on gas. He will keep himself surrounded by his family and always be there for his loved ones when they need him. He will get calls from PECS daily to help assist Ms. Emma in the office with unruly children.

Andrew Fish: In 10 years Andrew will be 24 years old and living in Oklahoma City with his wife and two boys. He will be feeling good as an NBA star and living in a huge house featured on "MTV Cribs." His greatest accomplishments will be graduating high school and college. Andrew will experience some failures over the next 10 years, but he will overcome them and become the MAN. He will surround himself with money and good women, not crackheads.

Aleina Micco: In 10 years Aleina will be 24, almost 25, years old living in Los Angeles, California with her husband and two children. She will be a responsible and well-dressed woman who contributes to society by picking up trash everywhere she goes. She will haul the trash to the dumpster in her G-Wagon on her way to the mall to buy things for her children. There will be no need to stay at home and clean because she will have a maid to do that. In her spare time she will be an inspiration to young softball and basketball players.

Raeley Matthews: In 10 years Raeley will be 24 years old and living with her Miami Heat basketball player husband in Miami, Florida. She will be rich and



Beverly Bidney

Proud parents Peggy and Daniel Nunez Sr. escort their daughter Daliyah Nunez down the aisle May 13 at the Brighton Preschool graduation.

Tiny students launch to big futures in Brighton

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Eighteen proud young tykes marked a milestone in their lives May 13 when they graduated from Brighton Preschool. Adorned in caps and gowns, the children were applauded by family and friends while walking down the aisle to receive their diplomas at the Veterans Building.

Prior to the main event, students introduced themselves in Creek and performed skits and songs, including "I am a Seminole," led by Fred Mullins on guitar. As a counselor in the Family Services Department, Mullins teaches drug and alcohol prevention tactics to children, starting in the preschools tribalwide. About two years ago, the preschoolers were learning about the letter "P."

"I thought 'I am a Promise with a capital P' could be the root of a good lesson on self-esteem and character education," said Mullins, who has been writing songs for years. The phrase made it into the song, which he later performed for Leona Tommie, the preschool director at the time, and staff. The song has been used as a de facto anthem for preschool graduations ever since.

The graduates sang the opening line — "I am a Seminole, unconquered and free" — at the top of their lungs.

After the performance, the kids changed backstage while the audience watched a slideshow of the youngsters' lives. Graduates then walked down the aisle



Beverly Bidney

Zooney Bowers waits backstage before walking down the aisle to receive her diploma at the Brighton Preschool graduation.

and held tightly to their parents' hands but received their diplomas all by themselves.

The Brighton Preschool Class of 2015 graduates are Liam Berry, J-Wayco Billie, Ringo Billie, Melaine Bonilla, Zooney Bowers, Lindi Carter, Layda Choquette, Khoal Cochran, Walnard Fortner, Kesha Osceola-Jenkins, Marley Jimmie, Dyani Billie-Kayda,

Ross Jones, Cherrish Micco, Daliyah Nunez, Karter Puente, Heidi Thomas and Jaeleejames Weimann.



Beverly Bidney

Graduates file past delicious-looking cupcakes during the Brighton Preschool graduation ceremony held at the Veterans Building. After performing skits and songs, the graduates enjoyed the tasty treats.



Beverly Bidney

Graduate Layda Choquette gets a big hug and kiss from her mother, Leta Micco, before receiving her preschool diploma.

have four beautiful children. Over the next 10 years her greatest achievements include getting a degree in law from FSU, playing volleyball for FSU and having four beautiful children. She will enjoy getting money and spending time with her four beautiful children. She will surround herself with money and her four beautiful children. She will contribute to society by turning off the water while she brushes her teeth and having four beautiful, rich children. Did we mention she will be rich with four beautiful children?

Cady Osceola: In 10 years Cady will be a school teacher living in California with her husband and children. Family is her main priority so she will cook dinner every night and only go to the clubs twice a month. She will be a great example for her children and the best aunt to Lucas' 19 kids. She will do some sky diving and climb some mountains. Three times a year she will go on vacation to Florida to see Raeley, Sunni,

Aleina, Vivi and Krysta. They will all meet up at Mrs. Williams's house in the Keys and stay in a chickee she will have built for her Indian babies.

Vivianna Gore-Martinez: In 10 years Vivianna will be 25 years old and living in a beach house with her two children near Cady in California. She will have achieved her goal of graduating college with a music degree and will have a successful career in the music industry. She will be a huge contributor to society because she will turn off the lights when she leaves a room. She will drive a Suburban and only go clubbing twice a month. She will enjoy spending money on going out to eat for lunch and dinner.

Aidan Tommie: In 10 years Aidan Tommie will be living alone with his F-350 truck and his dogs. He will have accomplished his goals of being a diesel mechanic. He will feel happy, free, and humble with his trucks and dogs. He will

save his money for fishing trips to the Keys at least three times a year and of course he will take his trucks and dogs along with him.

Elijah Billie: In 10 years Elijah Billie will be 25 years old and feeling happy and free with his Ford truck, video games and one kid. He won't spend a lot of money on clothes, but will rather go out to eat at nice restaurants and catch a couple of good movies a week. He will enjoy chillin' with his homies and his family and won't see the need to go on vacation. He will stay totally relaxed year-round.

Kano Puente: In 10 years Kano will wake up and be 23 years old. He will have two kids, a car and some stuff. When Kano is awake he will go shopping twice a month, to the movies twice a month and out to eat twice a month. He will contribute to society by being a part of a scientific sleep study. His greatest accomplishment will be being 23 years old.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School May students of the month



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Elementary students of the month: Myracle Tommie, Brody Riley, Serene King, Raylen Smith, Jovanny Torres, Trutey Osceola, Tiyanni Anderson, Kobe Micco, Quayton Billie, Valentine Martinez, Cakiyah Koger, Carriss Johns, Dwayne Billie, Lillian Garcia, Leviticus Berry, Lake Goodwin, Isaac Watford, Alliana Brady and Virginia Garcia.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Middle school students of the month: Bevyn Billie, Luzana Venzor and Krysta Burton.

◆ More AWARDS photos from page 1B



Beverly Bidney

Culture teacher Jimi Huff gives Jaytron Baker his shadow box containing the beadwork medallions and earrings he made throughout the school year during the June 2 awards ceremony at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School.



Beverly Bidney

Culture teacher Jimi Huff distributes awards for achievement in culture at the PECS award ceremony.



Beverly Bidney

Guidance counselor Jeanine Gran presents Aleah Pritchard a medal for extra reading as principal Brian Greseth looks on during the awards ceremony.



Beverly Bidney

Physical education awards are doled out during the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School awards ceremony.

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WORLDWIDE HEADQUARTERS
6100 OLD PARK LANE
ORLANDO, FL 32835

PHONE: 407-445-7655
HARDROCK.COM

June 17, 2015

Dear Seminole Tribal Member:

This letter acts as an official invitation to all adult members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida (the "Seminole Tribe") who are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Managers of the Seminole HR Holdings, LLC ("Holdings"). Holdings is the legal entity that oversees all of Hard Rock International's worldwide business operations.

Hard Rock International is one of the world's most globally recognized brands with a total of 200 venues in 52 countries, including 154 cafes and 21 Hotels/Casinos. Hard Rock owns the world's greatest collection of music memorabilia, which is displayed at its locations around the globe. Hard Rock is also known for its collectible fashion and music-related merchandise. The long term strategy for Hard Rock is to grow through exploiting its strong intellectual property in gaming, hotels, restaurants, and entertainment throughout the world.

In addition to certain requirements set forth in the operating agreement governing Holdings, the minimum qualifications to be considered for the one vacant position on the Board of Managers include the following:

- Must be a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida in good standing
- Must have received a college diploma or have relevant business experience
- Must be a person of good character, honesty and integrity
- Must be able to obtain, on a timely basis and maintain, any gaming, video lottery, liquor and other licenses required in connection with any business of Hard Rock International

Please carefully review the attached letter from outside legal counsel which details applicant requirements.

Board Members will receive an appropriate level of compensation and will be required to attend all relevant Board and Committee meetings which average six (6) per year.

If you are interested in this opportunity to represent the Tribe on this board, please pick up an application at your Council Office, and submit your completed application to Mr. Jim Shore's office (Seminole Tribe Headquarters 6300 Stirling Rd. Hollywood Fl, 33024). All interested applicants must submit their application by **July 8, 2015**.

Sincerely,

James F. Allen, President & CEO



Sports



Barrel racing series a hit in BC

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor



Kevin Johnson

Loretta Peterson and her horse sprint at the end of their competition June 13 during the 5-D Barrel Series in Big Cypress. The next event in the series is July 11, and the season will wrap up in the fall.

BIG CYPRESS — It took less than 17 seconds for a former ranch horse from Wyoming to make a deep impression at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.

Cracker, an 11-year-old quarter horse, and his rider Julie Navin turned in the fastest overall time June 13 to win the 1-D division in the 5-D Barrel Series' third event of the season.

Cracker maneuvered around three barrels before making a final sprint through the center of the arena in 16.735 seconds.

"He was getting it today. He left deep marks around each barrel where he was coming in and turning," said arena director Ayeze Henry, who organizes the series with arena office coordinator Earleen Rimes.

A cast of about two dozen riders and their horses featured a mixture of adults, teenagers and a few aspiring riders younger than age 10. Last year the series started with four events; this season it's been bumped up to six.

"We're trying to build and hopefully it becomes one of the better-known series in South Florida," said Henry, whose young children usually compete in the series, although they didn't race June 13.

Prizes are doled out to top finishers in the five divisions after each race and at the end of the season. A membership fee is \$35; a non-membership fee is \$10.

"They don't have to join, but if you would like to run for the prizes we ask that you pay a membership fee and attend at least four out of the six shows," Henry said.

In addition to Navin, division winners included Natalie Holler (2-D and 4-D), Chris Caldwell (3-D) and Samantha Garcia (5-D). Caldwell was the only male rider in the competition. Seminoles who raced included Rande Osceola, Loretta Peterson and Marilee Ringer.

Navin, 31, of Davie, rode in Big Cypress as a youth. She was thrilled last year to return to the reservation for racing.

"They started the series up last year, so we started coming back because the Seminole Tribe does such a great job when they give us rodeos and barrel races," Navin

said. "They put up great money and they do the ground as best they can for us. They're always such a great pleasure to work with."

Navin has also enjoyed working with Cracker. The duo became a team eight months ago after one of Navin's horses was injured. A friend of Navin offered Cracker as a replacement and they've "clicked" ever since.

"He's a bit of a goof ball. He's got a little quirkiness, but he's pretty much all

business when he gets into the ring. I really like him," Navin said.

Being chock-full of personality is exactly what Navin seeks in a horse.

"You know when something's wrong with them; when they're frightened of something," she said. "He just really finds comfort in me. A lot of times he'll turn to me for comfort in order to relax and to focus. He trusts me, and I trust him. When we get in that arena, there's got to be a lot

of trust with each other in order to get the job done."

Navin and Cracker's winning time was just a fraction of a second ahead of Ringer, who finished second in 1-D with Pete, a quarter horse, on the day's 31st and final ride. Their time was 16.849.

"It wasn't a perfect run. We had some mess-ups. We were wide on some barrels,"

♦ See BARREL SERIES on page 5C

Haskell coach helps spike volleyball growth throughout Indian Country

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — Some volleyball drills might not be fun, but the one performed by about 20 young players brought smiles that stretched from the net to the baseline at the Brighton Gym.

At the start of the afternoon session geared for middle and high schoolers, participants in the Haskell Volleyball Camp formed teams of about five each for a race from one sideline to the other.

As part of the fun three-part drill, players like Krysta Burton and Janessa Nunez controlled the ball with their hands and lower arms while running; others such as LaShae King and Madsyn Osceola hopped with the ball between their knees; and in the final exercise, Cheyenne Nunez and Alicia Fudge were among those who dove to the floor practicing digs.

The drill took all of five minutes, but it served as an important camaraderie builder that the camp carried from Brighton to Big Cypress during the tour June 15-18 that was split between the two reservations.

"For us at Haskell, it's an opportunity for me to come out and create some relationships," said Haskell volleyball coach Nana Allison-Brewer (Navajo), whose entourage in past years has included either her entire team

or a couple current players. This year she brought former player Chamisa Edmo (Navajo, Blackfeet and Shoshone-Bannock) and former camper Heather Danny (Navajo) to assist with instruction.

Back when she was a player, Allison-Brewer had a blast competing in the North American Indigenous Games. Her teams won gold in 1997 and 2006. After she was hired to coach Haskell in 2011, she attended a scaled-back Indigenous Games in Wisconsin and was shocked to learn volleyball was canceled.

"There were not enough teams in the volleyball area," she said. "I felt like, 'Wow,

how did that happen?'"

Since then, Allison-Brewer has deemed growing the sport within Indian Country a primary objective.

"Now that I'm at Haskell, I'm trying to reach out to all the Tribes and help them foster the sport of volleyball," she said. "It's another option for girls. Not all the girls maybe want to play basketball; there are some girls that are dual-athletes, triple-athletes, so I just wanted to encourage and help. How do you keep this sport alive in Indian Country or increase the activity within Indian Country?"

Part of her response to the question is done through camps, such as the one in Brighton where she saw talented players even in the morning session for 10 and younger.

"You can see such great skill with the little ones; some that are 5-years-old and can already serve overhand and spike the ball," she said.

Whether those 5-year-olds or any other Seminole volleyball player someday plays for Haskell isn't the reason Allison-Brewer runs camps, but at least the kids know they have a familiar face in Lawrence, Kansas if that's their choice, she said.

"It's always nice for me to identify some great athletes who might want to come out to Haskell and build some relationships, and hopefully they're not so

fearful if they were to come out. They know me already; they know my coaching style; and they know more about who I am and what I stand for," Allison-Brewer said.

Regardless of college destinations, the coach is glad to play a part in their development. Case in point is Danny, the former camper who participated in Allison-Brewer's camps throughout high school and eventually played for Fort Lewis College, an NCAA Division II program in Colorado.

"It's neat to see her go through my program but then also continue on to that collegiate level," Allison-Brewer said. "A goal we have is to help them."

"I'm trying to reach out to all the Tribes and help them foster the sport of volleyball."

—Nana Allison-Brewer, Haskell volleyball coach

Trewston, Shae Pierce make All-Broward First Team

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

Led by a brother and sister, some of the Tribe's top high school basketball players earned postseason accolades for the 2014-15 season.

Fort Lauderdale High School forward Trewston Pierce and his sister Hollywood Christian School guard Shae Pierce were named All-Broward County First Team. Their younger sister Burgundy Pierce was named honorable mention as a seventh-grade forward for Hollywood Christian. American Heritage guard Skyla Osceola also earned honorable mention.

Trewston, who made First Team for schools in Class 6A through 8A, shined in his only season for the Flying L's. As a senior, he led the squad in scoring with an average of 21 points per game. Trewston scored a game-high 34 points in his final game, a district playoff loss to Boyd Anderson. His season high came in mid-December when he poured in 38 points against Monarch.

Similar to her brother, Shae, whose First Team honor came in the Class 2A through 5A group, also generated a memorable debut. In her first season at the school, Shae helped Hollywood Christian go from a team that won only three games the previous season to a 19-8 season and a Class 2A-District 14 title. The sophomore finished first in several categories, including points, assists and steals. Her 24.4 points per game included a season-high 42 points in early December against Highlands Christian. She scored 20 or more points in a game 17 times.

While Shae lit up the scoreboard, Burgundy excelled on defense, where she led the team with 8.5 boards per game. She was the top rebounder on both the offensive and defensive sides. She also demonstrated a scoring touch with 10.3 points per game.

Skyla's sophomore season included serving as a captain and helping a young Patriots team compile a 19-7 record. American Heritage finished runner-up in Class 5A-District 16 behind state champion Dillard and reached the 5A regional semifinals.

Football goes dormant at Haskell after more than a century

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

LAWRENCE, Kansas — Football's rich tradition at Haskell Indian Nations University extends back to the late 1800s, but there won't be any history made on the field this season.

The school announced in a press release in May that "the football program will be suspended for the upcoming season to determine the viability of the program for the long term."

Long ago — in the early decades of the 1900s — Haskell played against the big boys, including Alabama. Haskell faced coach Knute Rockne and Notre Dame in South Bend and notched wins against LSU, Nebraska and Texas. The team's home is Haskell Memorial Stadium, which the school lists as being on the National Register of Historic Places.

As a Haskell linebacker in the 1970s, Moses Jumper Jr. experienced the team's history firsthand.

"There's a lot of tradition," Jumper said. "It goes back 100 years. They played football through the Depression."

But to Jumper's disappointment, Haskell won't play football in 2015.

"It's sad," he said.

Jumper said he feels badly for the student-athletes who participated in spring practice and won't have a chance to play this fall unless it's somewhere else.

"That's 58 Native Americans that planned on playing for Haskell [this] year," he said.

The announcement to halt football surprised Jumper because it came about a week after he and other members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida — including

♦ See HASKELL on page 2C



Kevin Johnson

Elle Thomas participates in a drill June 16 during the Haskell Volleyball Camp in Brighton. Haskell volleyball coach Nana Allison-Brewer hosted the event to expose girls to another option in the sporting arena.

Seminole baseball, softball teams prepare for NAYO

Youth to compete July 16-18 in Alabama

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — As coach of the Lady Seminoles 12U softball team, Brighton Recreation site manager Dallas Nunez saw firsthand how much the Native American Youth Organization (NAYO) Softball and Baseball Tournament means to his players. Last year, the Lady Seminoles won the championship in their division.

Nunez said NAYO brings out the best in his players.

“They all really try to play hard to win that tournament,” Nunez said. “A lot of them play year-round, but knowing that they’re competing against other Tribes, it makes it a little bit more interesting for them. They want to represent the Tribe well. They play a lot harder for NAYO than for other teams. I can’t explain, but that’s how it is.”

And that’s how Nunez expects it will be again when the 12Us, with pretty much the same personnel as a year ago, will try to defend their title in Atmore, Alabama. Hosted by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, this year’s NAYO tournament runs July 16-18. The tournament features five divisions in both softball and baseball with age groups ranging from 8U to 17U.

Last year’s tournament in North Carolina drew more than 50 teams from the Seminoles, Poarch Band, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

The Choctaw won six championships followed by the Cherokee with three and the Seminoles with one.

The Seminoles are slated to bring five softball teams (two 12U and one each in 10U, 12U and 15U) and three baseball teams (8U, 10U and 15U). Practices began the week of June 15, which meant busy fields in Brighton.

“Everyone is practicing. We had all three fields going this morning,” Nunez said June 16.

Most of the Seminole rosters are filled with players from Brighton. A majority of the defending champion 12U softball players are from Brighton and a few come from Big Cypress and Hollywood.

Before the tournament even starts, the Seminoles already had good news. The drive to Atmore — close to the Panhandle border and about 560 miles from Brighton — is shorter than trips made in recent years to North Carolina and Mississippi.

“It’s a lot closer drive for us,” Nunez said.



Photo courtesy of Mike Rastelli/MikeRastelliPhotos.com

Blevyns Jumper, of Big Cypress, lassos his subject during competition this season in the Florida High School Rodeo Association.

◆ RODEO From page 1A

Hyatt set a high bar in steer wrestling at states that wouldn’t be touched when he posted a sizzling first round time of 3.6, more than 1.5 seconds ahead of that round’s runner-up.

“I was ready to get out of the 4’s,” Hyatt said. “I’ve been in the 4’s all year, and I’m finally a 3.6. I’m super excited.”

At 6-foot-3, Hyatt was among the taller riders at states but still an inch or two shorter than Jumper, a state champion from another sport.

After he and his brother Andre finished their football season on American Heritage School’s Class 5A state championship team last winter, Jumper shifted his attention to the high school rodeo season.

He joined Amery Bass, of Moore Haven, for the duo’s first season of team roping. They barely missed out on qualifying for nationals, but they nailed the first round at states with a victory in 8.3 seconds, more than four seconds faster than the runner-up team.

“It’s pretty fast. I’ve been in 6’s before, but 8.3, I’ll take it on fast steers,” Jumper said.

Because team roping is one of the last events, Jumper waited patiently for hours before he and his horse competed. He said the FHSRA is a good place to hang out.

“This is a good group of kids, nice kids. They’re good ropers, good rodeo kids,” he said.

Jumper, Johns and Hyatt are headed into their senior years of high school. All three plan to attend college.

Jumper, the son of Andrea and Josh Jumper, wouldn’t mind if his college plans include football and/or rodeo.

“I would like to do [rodeo] in college, but if I can get a chance to play football in college, I would most definitely do that,” he said.

Jumper’s 6-foot-5 frame could help him attract interest from college football teams. He said he’s received some interest from major colleges, but no offers yet.

He’ll likely be a defensive end this season and continue to handle long snapper duties. He plans to bulk up from his current 190 pounds.

“I think I can get to 215 by the end of the summer,” he said.

Johns wants to learn more about ranch management. His family owns a cattle ranch in Brighton. He said he’d like to attend college in Texas or Oklahoma before turning pro.

Hyatt, the son of Alicia and Mike Hyatt, said he aims to rodeo in college, preferably on a scholarship. He has his sights set on schools in the Southwest or West.

“I just spent a week in Texas and I loved it,” Hyatt said.

In addition to FHSRA, the trio also competes in the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association with aspirations of reaching the Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas this fall.

Come mid-July, the focus for Johns and Hyatt, who are home-schooled, will be on the national high school finals.

Johns knows what to expect. He competed at nationals as a freshman and sophomore.

“You’ve got to step up your game there and show them what you’ve got,” he said.

◆ HASKELL From page 1C

Tribe Treasurer and former Haskell quarterback Pete Hahn — traveled to the Lawrence, Kansas school and made a \$100,000 donation on behalf of the Tribe to help the football program. Combined with separate donations from other Tribes, Jumper said he believed the funding that the school sought was in place for the season to be played.

“It was a done deal. Our thought was we’d be looking forward to seeing football at Haskell,” said Jumper, who noted that the Tribe’s long history with Haskell football includes Chairman James E. Billie and Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr.

However, the school still pulled the plug, citing costs for maintaining a 10-sport athletics program, including equipment, facilities and travel; the dependency of its teams on university funding; and even

the impact of concussions as factors in its decision to suspend football and an “anticipated reduction” in other sports. The school also noted that it has received “occasional one-time donations,” but no long-term commitments from donors to support athletics.

The Tribe’s donation will remain in Lawrence.

“The Council decided to allow Haskell Foundation to continue to manage the donation it received,” Hahn said.

Hahn said the donation is still earmarked for football with hopes that it can assist the program if football resumes in 2016.

In its announcement, the school said it is seeking long-term external funding and donations that can be made through Haskell Foundation. Hahn said the situation will perhaps spur others to provide support.

“Maybe it will be a catalyst for friends and alumni of the program to support the program,” he said.



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- Brighton - Billy Osceola Memorial Library
- Hollywood - Dorothy S. Osceola Library
- Immokalee - Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library

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PECS sports banquet highlights achievements

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Student-athletes with good sportsmanship, great attitudes and the best examples of Seminole spirit were rewarded with cheers and trophies in the new gymnasium at the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School athletic banquet.

"You are a reflection of what is wonderful about our athletes, coaches and teachers," said the Brighton Reservation school's athletic director Aaron Suarez to nearly 30 students at the May 27 event.

Teachers and staff served up hearty plates of fried chicken, green beans, macaroni and cheese, and cake to mark the evening of celebration in honor of the school's volleyball, basketball, softball and baseball teams.

Head coaches and assistant coaches presented individual awards for players who represented the best in categories that included most valuable player, offensive and defensive players of the year, most

improved and rookie of the year. Seminole Awards went to a student from each team who went above and beyond the rest in exhibiting warrior strength of character, endurance and team spirit.

"Our Seminole Award goes to the player who gives all; you tell him to go, he goes; you tell him to stay in the game and he fights for the team," basketball assistant coach Harry Tewksbury said before he called winner Kamani Smith to the stage.

Kamani reciprocated by reading a poem for Tewksbury and basketball head coach Kevin Jackson that he wrote for the entire team.

"We practiced as a team, grew together as a team, even lost together as a team. But above all we became a TEAM," Kamani read from the poem.

Some teams had more to celebrate in terms of victories than others. The girls volleyball team, under head coach Kim Jackson and assistant coach Pam Matthews, went undefeated. The MVP award went to Raeley Matthews, who racked up 54 kills, 17 aces and 2 blocks during the season.

The loudest applause went to the 10 students who received Scholar Athlete patches for earning grade point averages of 3.5 and higher.

Principal Brian Greseth praised the group who faced opponents fearlessly though the odds, year after year, are stacked against them. PECS has only 78 middle school students while most of its opponents feature far larger enrollments.

Sometimes, as with the baseball team this year, opposing players were from high school junior varsity teams who towered over PECS players and who were already growing beards.

"But we still go out to Okeechobee, Belle Glade and other schools and whip it up year after year. That only happens because we have dedicated parents, students and the best coaches," Greseth said. "You never hear our players say, 'No, we can't win.' They only say, 'Let's go get 'em,' because they have the heart, the will, the gusto to go out there not just as a winning team but as a team that never quits."



Eileen Soler

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School principal Brian Greseth watches off stage at the school's annual sports banquet while athletic scholars pose with awards for earning 3.5 GPAs or higher.



Eileen Soler

Julia Smith and PECS athletic director Aaron Suarez pose for a photo May 27 during the school's annual athletic awards night.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School sports awards 2015

Boys Baseball
Offensive MVP: Dante Thomas
Defensive MVP: Lucas Osceola
Seminole Award: Connor Thomas and Kaleb Doctor
Most Improved: Alex Valdes

Defensive Player of the Year: Janessa Nunez
Rookie of the Year: Alyssa Gonzalez
Most Improved: Jenna Brown
Seminole Award: Krysta Burton

Girls Volleyball
MVP: Raeley Matthews
Offensive Player of the Year: Aleina Micco
Seminole Award: Cady Osceola
Defensive Player of the Year: Janessa Nunez
Most Improved: Aubrey Pearce

Boys Basketball
MVP: Lucas Osceola
Rookie of the Year: Ramone Baker
Seminole Award: Kamani Smith
Defensive Player of the Year: Robert Harris

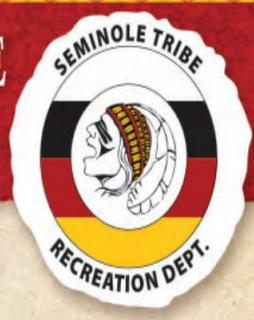
Girls Basketball
MVP: Aleina Micco
Defensive Player of the Year: Cady Osceola
Most Improved: Alaina Sweat
Seminole Award: Julia Smith

Scholar Athletes
Caylie Huff
Haylie Huff
Kamani Smith
Jenna Brown
Aubrey Pearce
Raeley Matthews
Kaleb Doctor
Silas Madrigal
Dante Thomas
Krysta Burton

Girls Softball
MVP: Aleina Micco
Offensive Player of the Year: Julia Smith



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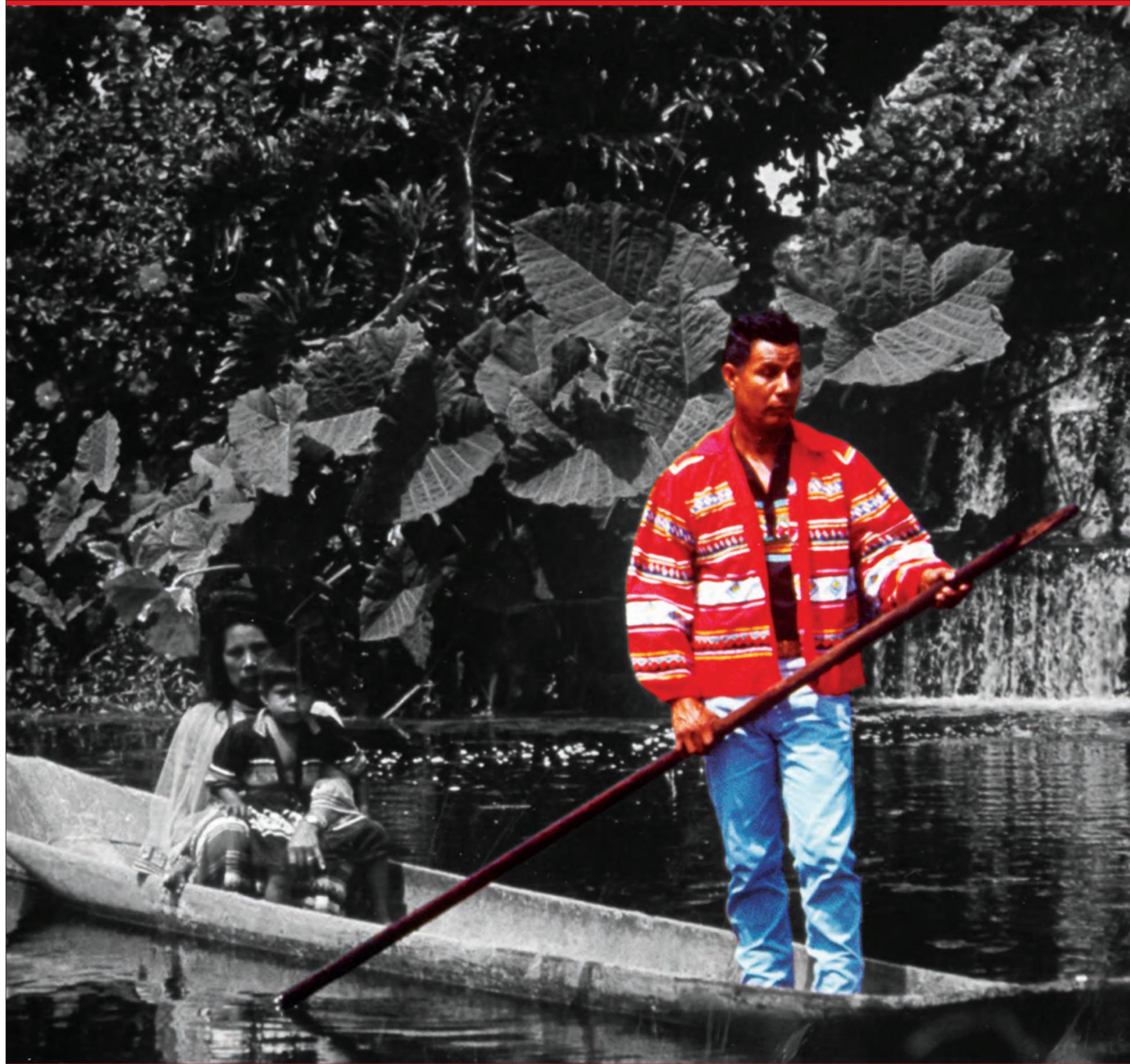
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Summer tournaments paying off for Tribe

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

The Native American Youth Organization (NAYO) Basketball Tournament concluded in April, but a few Seminole teams are still playing together.

Preston Baker, coach of two boys teams, said one reason to keep the squads together is to give the players opportunities to develop more unity and increase their chances in future NAYO tournaments.

"They play together, they learn together, they win together, they lose together. We're just trying to form a team bond," Baker said.

In that respect, it was mission accomplished for Seminole teams Lil Hustlers, Florida Natives and Seminole Wind during a Memorial Day weekend youth tournament in Pensacola.

"They bonded good up there," Baker said.

All that bonding is paying off. For example, the high-scoring Lil Hustlers, featuring Jaylen Baker, Jayton Baker, Jaytron Baker, Pherian Baker, Ramone Baker, Dalence Carrillo, Dathen Garcia, Tanner Gore, Dakoya Nunez, Todd Pierce and Chad Williams, shined the brightest among the Tribe's contingent by finishing runner-up in the boys sixth-grade division.

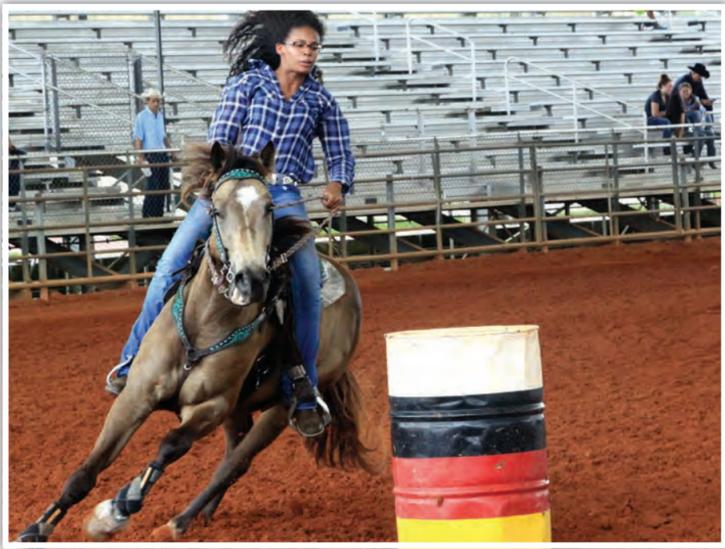
"They struggled on defense, but offensively they were on," coach Baker said.

Indications point to a championship win in the future for the Seminole players. Two weeks before the Pensacola tournament, Team Hustlers, which featured some of the Lil Hustlers players as well as Trace Wilcox, finished second in the SpringFest Shootout at Rollins College in Winter Park.

"They're getting closer to first place," said Baker, who is assisted by coach Steve Frost.

On the girls side in Pensacola, Seminole Wind, whose roster included eighth- and ninth-graders, finished fourth with the youngest team in the tournament. The squad consisted of BayRay Boromei, Alicia Fudge, Burgundy Pierce, Talia Rodriguez, Julia Smith, Alaina Sweat, Caroline Sweat and Luzana Venzor. Seminole Wind squared off against teams from Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

"They held their own. Their defense was good," said Baker, who said the teams plan to play in a few more tournaments in the coming months.



Kevin Johnson

Ranee Osceola and her horse maneuver past a barrel June 13 during the 5-D Barrel Series in Big Cypress.

BARREL SERIES

From page 1C

fastest time in 16.950. Navin rode another horse to the fourth fastest time.

Some riders used the event as a final tune-up for the National Barrel Horse Association state final that was held the following week in Kissimmee.

The next event in the 5-D Barrel Series is July 11. The season will wrap up in the fall.

said Ringer, who lives in Brighton and enjoys competing in Big Cypress. "This is really good ground. Once it's dragged, it's perfect."

Taylor Zbytek turned in the third



Kevin Johnson

Chris Caldwell and his horse lean into a turn during the 5-D Barrel Series at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress.



Photo courtesy of Theresa Nunez-Frost

Seminole Wind players are on the ball during a Memorial Day weekend tournament in Pensacola.



Photo courtesy of Theresa Nunez-Frost

Lil Hustlers players and coach Preston Baker take a break during a Memorial Day weekend tournament in Pensacola.

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Announcements



Congratulations, Shelby Rae DeHass

I'm very pleased to announce Shelby Rae DeHass graduated Troy University with a Bachelor of Science in marine biology.

Good results are attained through hard work. There are no shortcuts to any place worth going. The struggle was really REAL!

Congratulations on getting your bachelor's degree! FINALLY!!

I am SO proud of you and your phenomenal accomplishment! I can't believe it!!

XOXO Love, Mom

Submitted by Debbie DeHass



Photo courtesy of Jimmy Wayne Holdiness

Participants of the second annual Brickwood Memorial Golf Tournament pose for a group photo.

Congratulations, Joshua Boremei

Congratulations, Joshua. You make us proud. Great luck in all you do and always keep GOD first ... everything else will fall into place. We LOVE you. MOD & Momma

Submitted by Theresa Boremei



Tournament tribute

SUBMITTED BY JIMMY WAYNE HOLDINESS

On May 23, I was joined by family members and friends who drove from every reservation in Florida to honor my son Justin Campos by playing in the second annual Brickwood Memorial Golf Tournament.

Justin was killed on Oct. 1, 2013. At 28, he was my oldest boy. Although he died far too young, he always lived life to the fullest. Some of my fondest memories of him were days he and I spent on the golf course. We've played across the country literally from Doral to the Monterey Peninsula. Right here at Fort Myers Country Club we used to come out in the summertime when

you could pay \$15 and play until dark or in our case until the cart guy came looking for us.

This year we had six teams enter and it was a blast. On behalf of my son and my family, I would like to sincerely thank everybody who came out to play, and I would like to thank Tony Sanchez Jr., Paula Sanchez and my mom, Grace Holdiness, for putting up the prize money. I hope you all had fun and hope to see you all next year. I especially want to thank my wife, Brenda, for not only making everybody an awesome bag lunch on the day of the tournament but also for always looking out for Justin all the years he lived with us. I miss him dearly.



Photo courtesy of Jimmy Wayne Holdiness

The winning team poses for a picture. Not pictured: Jimmy Wayne Holdiness.

Second annual Brickwood Memorial Golf Tournament results:

1. Jimmy Wayne Holdiness, Ray Yzaguirre III, Trey Boone, Abe Rockwell - 54
2. Ray Yzaguirre Jr., Mondo Tiger, Mateo Jiminez, Amos Mazzant - 56
3. Cicero Osceola, Salaw Hummingbird, Marcy Osceola Jr., Jerry Willie - 61
4. Clarence Motlow, Richard Reyna, Raul Nunez Jr., Lozano, - 62
5. Anji Schreffler, Fred Schreffler, Ben Schreffler, Jason Davis - 72
6. Johnny Boone, Gale Boone, Adrian Valdez - WD

Men's long drive winner: Trey Boone
Women's long drive winner: Gale Boone
Men's closest to pin: Abe Rockwell

Congratulations, Nicholas Aron and Juli-Anne Delani Jumper



We would like to recognize our children in achieving their diplomas. Nicholas Aron Jumper graduated Keys High School, and Juli-Anne Delani Jumper graduated sixth grade at Cherokee Immersion Charter School.

Submitted by Melissa Jumper

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

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs
ACTION: Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Eastern Regional Office has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed federal approvals and funding of road improvement projects for Mable T. Frank Way (BIA B009) on the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation in Hendry County, Florida (Section 01 & 02, Township 48 South, Range 33 East). The roadway improvement projects are needed to provide safe access for tribal member to a new residential community being planned by the Tribe off of Mable T. Frank Way. The BIA has reviewed and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), titled Mable T. Frank Way, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department to determine the environmental impacts associated with the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability, that the EA and FONSI for the project are available for public review. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information in the EA. 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.

This FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore cannot be appealed.

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

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