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**Students head back to school**  
**EDUCATION ♦ 1B**

**Brighton girls compete in softball world series**  
**SPORTS ♦ 1C**



# The Seminole Tribune

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

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## Hard Rock, Dolphins sign stadium deal

### Super Bowl, Orange Bowl, international soccer will be played at Hard Rock Stadium

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**MIAMI GARDENS** — For nearly two decades, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola has been a loyal season ticket holder of the Miami Dolphins. He has seen the team's stadium go through a handful of name changes, but one potential name had always stood out in his mind.

"We always joked around that wouldn't it be cool if that was Hard Rock Stadium," he said. "When the Tribe acquired Hard Rock, we started saying that a long time ago, not thinking that would ever become a reality."

On Aug. 17, it became a reality when the Dolphins and Hard Rock International announced the stadium's new name: Hard Rock Stadium.

The 18-year naming agreement came with a glitzy news conference at the newly renovated stadium in Miami Gardens. Guests included Seminole Tribe leaders, current and former Dolphin stars, such as Hall of Famer Dan Marino, officials from the team and the stadium's other main tenant — the University of Miami football program — as well as an appearance from Miami native performing artist Pitbull and a videotaped message from soccer great Pele, who relayed his support for upcoming international soccer games at Hard Rock Stadium.

Hard Rock's name will now be associated with Dolphins and Hurricanes games, college football playoffs via the Capital One Orange Bowl, soccer matches, concerts and an upcoming Super Bowl.

"This really puts the Tribe out there," Councilman Osceola said. "One of the things we talked about was how much exposure the stadium gets. The fact that the Super Bowl is going to be here in 2020 with over a billion viewers and to have Hard Rock here and everybody knows the Seminole Tribe is behind Hard Rock, it does amazing things for our Tribe, not only in the community but throughout Indian Country."

Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola has fond memories of attending games in the stadium. He reminisced about watching Florida defeat Oklahoma in college football's national championship game in 2009 and seeing Hall of Famer Jerry Rice face the Dolphins.

"It's very exciting. It's a great opportunity for our brand name and the Dolphins," he said. "It's a great organization.



Kevin Johnson

Seminole Tribe leaders and Miami Dolphins players gather Aug. 17 during a ceremony to announce that the NFL team's stadium would be named Hard Rock Stadium. From left, Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola, safety Reshad Jones, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, wide receiver Jarvis Landry, President Mitchell Cypress, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., and defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh.

The two together is going to be something positive."

In addition to Councilmen Chris Osceola and Cicero Osceola, the Tribe was represented in the ceremony by President Mitchell Cypress, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Hard Rock International Chairman Jim Allen.

"This deal is not only a naming rights program, but it is designed to be a true partnership between two companies dedicated to providing world class entertainment on a global level," Allen said.

"To be a good brand, you have to be

around great brands, so to be around Hard Rock, Miami Dolphins and a Miami boy, man it looks like we're moving in the right direction," Pitbull said during the news conference.

The soccer aspect includes the stadium hosting Brazil national men's team matches and the return of Real Madrid for the International Champions Cup in 2017.

In a nod to the Hard Rock name, the conclusion of the ceremony featured 25 of the guests on a stage in an end zone where they simultaneously smashed guitars over other guitars. Pitbull joined Allen, President

Cypress and Dolphins wide receiver Jarvis Landry in the center of the stage while four new giant high definition video screens — 50 feet tall, 112 feet long — splashed the Hard Rock Stadium logo in each corner of the stadium that is now covered by a canopy thanks to the team's \$500 million renovation project.

Hard Rock logos are slated to be placed on top of the canopy, so airline passengers as well as a worldwide audience for the 2020 Super Bowl will see the name prominently displayed. As for inside the stadium, the partnership between a team that plays a rock

'em, sock 'em sport and a company with a rock 'n' roll identity will make its debut Sept. 1 in the Dolphins preseason game against Tennessee. The regular season home opener is Sept. 25 against Cleveland.

"I think the players are excited about it," Councilman Chris Osceola said. "I talked to a few of the guys and they're super stoked about it. Everybody is really excited. It's going to be a lot of excitement and a lot of energy to the stadium."

♦ See STADIUM PHOTOS on page 4A

## Cattle owners ship 4,000 calves in July

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Tribal cattle owners sold 4,000 calves and sent them to new pastures July 11-22 during the annual calf shipping in Brighton and Big Cypress. The calves will spend a few months in feedlots before going to auction in April.

It took 40 truckloads to transport the animals to points north and west. During the 11-day event, semitrailers departed filled with about 100 head at a time. Destinations included Zellwood and Okeechobee in Florida and pastures and feedlots in Georgia, Kansas, and Texas.

Natural Resource Director Alex Johns

coordinated the massive event, where each of the 67 cattle owners delivered calves and hoped they were all heavy enough to sell. To find out, calves were herded into the scale house, where each was weighed and sorted into pens filled with others of similar size. Cattle prod in hand, Johns stood like a maestro overlooking the maze of pens and directed each calf onto the scale.

"For the past two years, the calves have increased in size," Johns said. "We've had good weather and good management."

All the Tribe's cattle have ear tags equipped with a data-filled computer chip which makes it easier to track individual animals. Sheri Holmes, natural resources office manager, monitored each calf as it entered the scale and added its weight to the computer.

The calves, which were about seven and a half months old, averaged about 540 pounds, 30 pounds more than last year. Johns attributed the weight gain to the weather; less water means more nutrients in the grass. The calves' diet consists of about 99 percent grass. Supplements are given to ensure they get enough minerals. Johns said this has been a good year with an adequate amount of rain, but not too much to dilute the quality of the grass.

Like all the cattle owners, Moses Jumper Jr. and Naha Jumper rounded up cattle from their pastures, separated the calves, loaded them into a cattle trailer, and drove them to



Beverly Bidney

Naha Jumper helps to sort cows from calves at the pens in the Jumper Big Cypress pasture July 19. The calves were shipped out during the annual calf shipping operation July 19.

♦ See CALF SHIPPING on page 5A

## Sam Jones Trail sign unveiled

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**DEVIL'S GARDEN** — A white hot sun stirred humidity from the swamp. The breeze that left here a couple months ago was still on vacation. A blanket of air hovered just inches over the hot asphalt stretching between State Road 80 and the Big Cypress Reservation. Birds weren't flying, panthers were holed up in palmetto patches and the alligators were just eyes and snouts in the canals. Feels like, the radio said, 120 degrees. "Just another day in the Devil's Garden," people kept complaining.

Not quite. For on Aug. 13, a new historical sign was unveiled just south of the old Forestry fire tower where County Road 833 passes through this area. A hundred people leaned forward to read the inscription: Sam Jones Trail. A dream of Chairman James E. Billie, who remembered traveling this road when he was a young child. CR 833 was named after Sam Jones (aka Abiaki), the powerful medicine man and warrior who led Florida's last band of Seminole and Miccosukee via ambush and stealth, to hiding places up and down this Trail where frustrated soldiers could never find them and eventually gave up.

These were the unconquered Seminoles, ancestors of Florida's native Indians of today.

Chairman Billie carried a big smile on a day when Sam Jones was the chief topic of discussion.

"I've been up and down this road, flown over it in planes and helicopters hundreds of times and I always thought it should be named after Sam Jones," he said. "This is why we are all still here in Florida today."

A crowd gathered beneath tents in a Hendry County area near Alico Inc.'s ranch entrance on CR 833.

Chairman Billie's brief remarks (see editorial on page 2) described his boyhood experiences on the Trail when it was just a dirt road, and his theory on why Sam Jones and his accomplishments never received the notoriety of other Seminole leaders, such as Osceola.

Chairman Billie made a point to praise longtime friend and retired Florida Department of Transportation official Jerry Lawrence Bullard, of White Springs, for his help in getting Sam Jones Trail through the state government bureaucracy. Bullard, running for the District 10 State House, was unable to attend due to his commitment to campaign events that day.

Bullard acted as the project's liaison. He worked closely with a team of Tribal staffers from the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), the Ah-Iah-Thi-Ki Museum and Seminole Communications to acquire the necessary permits and permissions that made this historic day happen. The Hendry County Commission also provided cooperation and support, unanimously confirming the name. THPO data analyst Juan Cancel's expert maps, however, removed any doubt. Cancel overlaid aerial photographs of today's CR 833 atop aerials of the same area taken before

♦ See SAM JONES on page 9A

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**Discoveries made in wake of Egmont Key fire. Page 7A**

# Editorial

## Goin' down that road feeling Sam

• James E. Billie

I've been travelling down this road since about 1946 or '48. I've been seeing this road basically all my life. I'm 72 now, so it must've been before 1950 that I first saw that dirt road. Back in those days, it didn't look like it does today. You can see the ditches along side where they had dug up that dirt — it was sort of a brown rich-looking dirt. Now that I think about it, that really was a rich soil.

The way we had to travel on it is we kept boards with us, in case the vehicle got stuck. We'd stick the board underneath the tire, push it on, and off, and then take off ... all the way from the reservation to Highway 80 and back.

Back in those days it was exciting. I was only about 4 or 5 years old, and every time a car got stuck I thought, "Oh boy, I get to see this new excitement: getting the car out!" It was an art as to how you pull the car out, because sometimes you have to find a log or something to lift up the tire, and put the board up underneath. It came in handy later in Vietnam. When our jeep got stuck, we'd do the same thing. Today it still comes in handy.

Anyway, people would ask me. "Where were you born?" I'd tell 'em, "Over in Fort Lauderdale." They'd say, "I thought you were from here."

"No, I was born in that chimpanzee farm over on Highway U.S. 1."

"Wait a minute. Are you joking?" they'd say.

"No, I was born in that zoo they had over there." From the Chimp Farm we came on over to here. I was raised just about all over the place: along Highway 41, right here, Big Cypress, all over.

Anyway, I remember when I first heard the words Devil's Garden, the person I was standing with was my clan uncle, Morgan Smith. He was a Creek Seminole from the Brighton Reservation. How he wound up down here I don't know, but I understand that he was driving some cattle from Wauchula to Big Cypress.

Anyway, we were riding on this road one day and I said, "Why do we call this area Devil's Garden?" He gave me some made up thing that there used to be a guy by the name of Willie Frank. He said, "Somewhere down this road, maybe a little bit further up, is Tom Hall and Ray Hall's camp." There's a cow pen I think is still there. Their camp was just on the other side of that route that cuts across to 846. We were right about there when I asked that question.

Morgan says, "Right out here in that little slough there it was dark, and there was something that when we were driving by once, we saw these eyes bopping up and down, and Willie Frank stabbed one of them, but they disappeared."

Morgan said, "It's the devil!"

I said, "My goodness!"

I was kind of scared and I would never

try to wander off too far in this general area. Then years later, I'm talking about many years later, I'm talking about 1970. Early '70s. I started reading some books — yes I can read! I started reading some history books and this name kept popping up: Sam Jones. Abiaki. I didn't know Abiaki yet, but it was the name Sam Jones. This military man had written some documents in there that proved this man had been in this general vicinity.

They tried to capture the Indians around here because this was a nice, fertile land with a bunch of hammocks. If you're flying in the air or something and you looking down, you'll see different hammocks all over the place. When it dried up, the Seminoles would make little farms on different hammocks and there were little gardens.

When I read that, they said there were different forts for soldiers all over the place, like Fort Denaud, I think, somewhere around LaBelle area, another one, Fort Shackelford, right in Big Cypress. Fort Drum, Fort Myers, Fort Pierce, Fort Lauderdale. The minute they got set up, they would triangulate and try to capture all these Indians.

And Sam Jones was the prize Indian they wanted to capture.

Anyway, the military came south from LaBelle, pushing through to here, and they came upon a garden and the tools were still there. It looked like they had just left. From that point on, I guess ol' Sam evaded the military so much that they started calling him ol' rascal, or that ol' devil. "He must be the devil because there's no way he can escape us, even though we come upon him like this."

So they started giving him the nickname, The Devil.

One particular story from the way I can visualize it, is they came upon another garden and he escaped them again. The whole building disappeared. They used to have canoes laying, I guess there was a little more water here back in those days, and they just disappeared into the swamp.

about him, warrior or whatever, when he dies, you don't know if his spirit will come back in a mean manner or a good manner. Just like that "Pet Cemetery." Have you ever seen that movie? Somebody dies and they come back meaner than hell? Well, they don't know if it's kind of like that, so you never mention that name again.

To this day, for the ones that know, we generally do not mention the name when somebody passes away. If James Billie died over there, and there's my son standing there, someone might say "You all remember Micco's dad?" You would say it in a different matter, but you never say James Billie. If it was me, I will come back and haunt you!

It never came across the Seminoles' tongues again from the day he died till 1973. I don't know if I brought a curse back or something good back. I'm kind of glad we brought it back so everyone could know who he was; he was a great leader.

Anyway, it was those types of superstitions or whatever it is that we have in our culture that held his name at bay until I was reading that history book somebody wrote, and that's how he came forth today. I don't feel embarrassed about it, I'm glad to know that Sam Jones is still here.

When I was about 12 years old on the Big Cypress Reservation, tourists would come by and sometimes I'd be alongside the road with a fishing pole, and they would stop by and ask me, "Hey young man, do you know this spot," and they would show me some old Florida map, and in red it would say Sam Jones' Old Town. The people from Big Cypress would say, "Right off the reservation there used to be a bunch of pine trees." They would say, "That's where some man used to live that the white people are talking about."

I just took it for granted. That's the only way I knew about Sam Jones' Old Town. I never really knew where he was buried or anything, because, naturally, I wouldn't have known. Later on, somebody put a bunch of orange groves over there, wiped out that whole camp, so now it's a grove of orange trees.

Somebody called me in the middle of the night one day. It seems like people are always calling me in the middle of the night. He says, "We found some bones over here. You want to come check it out?" I said, "I've been down that road before with the Tampa Reservation. Somebody in the middle of the night told me they were digging into our graves." I used that and we got the Tampa Reservation. But this time I said,

"No, I think I'll let it slide." I wish to hell that I had said, "Let me go look at it." It could've been Sam Jones' burial ground for all I know.

Right off on the McDaniels Old Ranch, there is a marker there that says Sam Jones' grave, and I think we just got that piece of paper today.

Anyway, today, for me, is historic. I'm glad I was a half instigator of it. Now you know the story of who The Devil was. And how Sam Jones got his nicknames, right here along Sam Jones Trail in this area known as Devil's Garden.

James E. Billie is Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Taken from his remarks at the commemoration ceremony of the Sam Jones Trail, Aug. 14, 2016

## Sam Jones: Our war hero

• Mitchell Cypress

Today's ceremony honors our war hero.

You know, every year you hear people in this country talk about their heroes. Now, none of the Indians got a John Wayne, or Custer and all that stuff.



We've got our own heroes. Ours is Sam Jones, I'll be honest, that's our hero. The war

hero. We're so excited to have everyone here on this day we honor him.

I don't know what Donald Trump thinks about it but we honor our Sam Jones.

He's one of our leaders that brought us here. We're so glad you're here with us, enjoying it with us today. I'm happy to be a part of it.

Thanks for giving me the chance to say a few words.

Mitchell Cypress is President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. Taken from his remarks given at commemoration ceremony of the Sam Jones Trail, Aug. 14, 2016.

## Carrying the fire

• Patsy West

A moving moment in the Olympic Games has always been the carrying of the Olympic flame. In the recent Games, that torch was laboriously carried with great reverence and cheering crowds, watched by millions on TV and electronic devices, as the flame reverently was brought all the way from Greece to Rio. Then, the entire host country of Brazil, over 300 cities and in all 27 states, was included in the route without letting the flame go out, a seemingly marathon endeavor.

For the Southeastern Indians, a settlement's fire was also sacred. The Corn Dance of course was the catalyst, as a new fire was kindled at the New Year's ceremonies in May-June, a tradition that remains today. But did you know that in Sam Jones' day, when a town moved to a new location, live coals from the old settlement's fire were taken along to start a new fire to keep ceremonial continuity?

This tradition was made graphically poignant during the United States' Indian Removal program in the first half of the 19th century. The Tribes outside of Florida, beaten in war like the Creeks or rounded up peaceably, left their ancestral homes to be routed over the Trail of Tears to a new home west of the Mississippi. Imagine them carrying their fire all the way from Georgia or Alabama to Oklahoma, a distance of well over 900 miles, during the horrific trials of emotion, weather, and other hardships witnessed in this mass relocation of tribal peoples.

In his dissertation presented to Auburn University faculty in 2009, Christopher D. Haveman reported that during the forced removal over the Trail of Tears to the reservation west of the Mississippi, "Great care and ceremony accompanied the removal of the town fire and the re-consecration of new ground." This knowledge opens up a whole new chapter of awareness in traditional leave taking, concerning the hearth-fires of the town, and the strength of the consecrated council ground.

According to Haveman's sourcing of the Indian Pioneer History Collection of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Project, he located data collected from Creek descendant Mose Wiley, Nov. 22, 1937 in Oklahoma, "...the [Alabama] town of Fish Pond chose two men to care for the town fire prior to removal. Before their detachments commenced their march west, each man took a burning piece of wood from the town's fire and they were responsible for keeping it burning until they consecrated their new square ground in the west." Special social and food restrictions accompanied the honor of caring for the sacred town fire, while: "The Fish Pond embers were used to start a camp fire each night the party stopped. When camp was broken in the morning and their travels resumed, two more pieces of burning wood were taken by the two men and carried with them. This process was repeated until they re-lit their town fire in present-day Oklahoma."

Did this tradition of "carrying the fire" continue with the Florida Indians in their fierce resistance movement against such relocation during the Seminole War(s) (1817-1858)?

It is probable that the fulfillment of this tradition would have been attempted

whenever feasible, though I have not located any Florida War period reference to this tradition. However, we might assume that at least some of the Florida Indian detainees or prisoners who boarded ships on the long maritime journey to Indian Territory from Florida could have indeed managed to take coals from their last Florida fire with them. And, the possibility then equally exists that at least some of the Florida fires might have made it all the way to the reservation in Indian Territory.

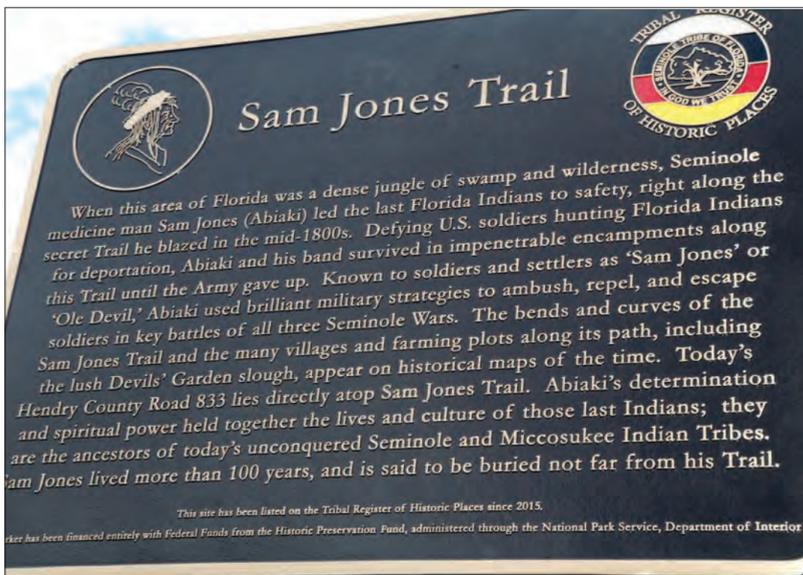
We do know that the tradition of "carrying the fire" was indeed retained by the Mikasuki-speakers, the *i:laponathi*: in the latter 19th and early 20th centuries (and doubtless the Creeks as well). Travelling from their Everglades camps to temporary camps near towns or on seasonal hunting and gathering trips by canoe, live coals from the home fire journeyed with the families.

Years ago, while locating specimens of dugout canoes for a contemplated project with Smithsonian Curator of North American Ethnography William C. Sturtevant, I examined a number of antique cypress canoes that resided in museum collections that had been made by *i:laponki*:. Some of them showed small areas of centralized charring, which was definitely not associated with their initial manufacture. This led me to believe that the charring was from "carrying live coals" for a fire, which was confirmed in the writings of Mary Barr Munroe, a writer and activist and her noted author husband Kirk Munroe from Coconut Grove, Florida. Mary wrote in 1909 that the Mikasuki-speakers with whom she was closely acquainted carried "a brand from the old fire" with them as they arrived by canoe from their Everglades camps.

The documented records that discussed the cultural phenomena of "carrying the fire" from Alabama to the Oklahoma Reservation are to be found in the collected oral history interviews of the WPA Project, Oklahoma Historical Society. The WPA was created by the U.S. government during the Great Depression to give employment to millions of unemployed people under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal program. Between 1935-1943, the WPA sent workers to various Indian reservations in Oklahoma to gather this valuable historic tribal data.

The New Deal also specifically aided the "Florida Seminoles." The WPA, Florida Writers' Project, (University of Florida, and Department of Agriculture) produced an early publication on the Florida Indians: "The Seminole Indians in Florida." And, another of Roosevelt's New Deal Programs, the Civilian Conservation Corps, established an "Indian Division" (CCC-ID) to hire tribal men to work on infrastructure projects across the nation. Here in Florida, the CCC-ID was focused on the newly acquired Brighton Reservation for the Creek-speaking Seminoles, which had been requested of the government by Sam Tommie and others in 1838. The New Deal also instituted the cattle program at Brighton, built Brighton's Schoolhouse and Red Barn, and through the U.S. Indian Service, hired William and Edith Boehmer as the teacher and housekeeper.

Ethnohistorian Patsy West is Director of the Seminole/Micosukee Archive in Ft. Lauderdale and author of "The Enduring Seminoles, A Seminole Legend" (with Betty Mae Jumper) and "Seminole and Micosukee Tribes of Southern Florida."



When they came to that garden, "This must be The Devil's garden and he escaped us again. They tried to chase him down but they could never find him. From that point on, the story or that word got stuck: The Devil's Garden. It's still a very fertile area, so to this day, there are farms and ranches all over here. I don't know who, but I thought I saw some marijuana plants going over here somewhere. Maybe it was hemp growing ...

This is a very nice area, so from that day forth it became known as The Devil's Garden, and today we stand here thinking about who started this stuff.

Now, the part that I don't know, Bobby Henry was just asking me, how did he get the name Sam Jones? I have no idea. Maybe Patsy will have the answer to that. Let me back up just a second. The reason why the Seminoles never really said anything about him until I brought it up in the 1970s is because when somebody dies that has some great stature about him, something good

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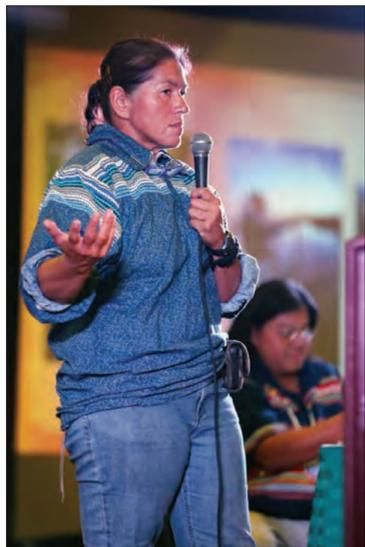
# Community



## Love the Everglades symposium focuses on conservation

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — Seminole and Miccosukee citizens joined about 100 environmental activists and politicians to raise awareness for the problems facing the Everglades at the



Beverly Bidney

Miccosukee citizen Betty Osceola educates the participants at the Love the Everglades Summer Symposium Aug. 6 about the importance of water in the Everglades as emcee Houston Cypress listens from the stage behind her.

third annual Love the Everglades Summer Symposium. The event at the Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center opened Aug. 6 with an invocation by medicine man Bobby Henry, who grew up in the Everglades.

"Water is the most important thing about the Everglades," Henry said. "It comes from up north and it used to flow every year. You used to be able to drink it, but today you're afraid of it."

Politicians at the symposium cited their efforts to restore the Everglades, ban fracking, and work for clean water. Topics covered by featured experts included pollution leaking from Florida Power & Light's Turkey Point nuclear generating station into Biscayne Bay, the effort to save the Miami Pine Rocklands, solar energy, oil drilling in the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee's discharges into the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries, and restoring clean water flow into Florida Bay.

Sam Tommie and Betty Osceola spoke about issues that could threaten the Seminole and Miccosukee way of life.

Tommie recently filed a lawsuit to shut down monkey breeding facilities in Hendry County, which he says interfere with traditional cultural practices and violate the zoning code for agricultural use. One of the primate facilities is six miles west of the Big Cypress Reservation, just a few yards from the Big Cypress National Preserve, he said.

In July, Hendry County won a lawsuit brought by landowners near the primate facilities who claimed the county violated the state's Sunshine Law when they approved the facilities without public hearings. Circuit Court Judge James Sloan ruled the farm was no different than a cattle ranch, so it was a routine matter for county staff to proceed and had no obligation to inform the public. Tommie's suit against the facilities claims they put sacred lands at risk.

"We are warriors for the environment," Tommie said. "If there is a hurricane, the monkeys can escape and start breeding in the wilderness. We came here years ago so we could live God's dream and experience the paradise out here. I'm thankful to find friends who will stand up with us."

Tommie also gave an update on Hendry County's plan to allow FPL to build an electrical generating facility on 3,127 acres next to the Big Cypress reservation. The comprehensive land-use plan was changed in April, from agriculture to electrical generating facility on the county's comprehensive future land-use map. The facility will be known as the Hendry Solar Energy Center.

Miccosukee citizen Betty Osceola's children call her a "professional protester," a moniker she is proud to carry since she has spent a significant part of her life educating people on humanity's connection to and dependence on the environment. Earlier this year, she walked 80 miles across the Everglades to raise awareness of the effort to protect and preserve it. Osceola believes the water is a living entity.

"Water is life," she said. "Since we were kids we were taught we are part of the natural world. When you connect with the elements, you can understand who you are. You are part of the water and it is part of you."

Osceola believes the decisions made that impact the water will impact everyone and by polluting the water, we are killing ourselves. The elders taught her that water flows south and branches out to the east and west.

"We have amputated its flow," she said. "The Creator meant for this to be a swampland; nature always tries to reclaim and heal itself but man keeps trying to cut and scar it."



Beverly Bidney

Bobby Henry, of Tampa, greets Tim Canova, a candidate for the U.S. Congress, at the third annual Love the Everglades Summer Symposium. A medicine man, Henry opened the conference Aug. 6 with an invocation.

After Osceola's presentation, leaders of the Love the Everglades Movement honored her with an award recognizing her advocacy of the Everglades, coalition building between communities, and dynamic multimedia outreach that has inspired people of all ages. The award was made from a cypress tree that is being carved into a canoe in Fort Lauderdale by Pedro Zepeda.

There is only one Everglades in the world. "The Everglades: River of Grass,"

the 1947 book written by Marjory Stoneman Douglas, helped attract attention to the need for conservation of the unique ecosystem. The symposium illustrated the need to continue the effort for conservation.

"We want the earth to go on, so we keep fighting and promise God it will go on," Henry said. "We have to keep working to save the earth for everyone; the animals, people, and water."

## Women of Seminole Gaming meet in Immokalee

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Women of Seminole Gaming, created in October by a group of Seminole Gaming senior executives to mentor, develop and educate gaming employees, held its first conference July 26 at the Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee.

"Our goal is to help the growth and development of future leaders in Seminole Gaming through a mentoring network and education," said Tracy Bradford, Seminole Gaming senior vice president of Purchasing. "We want women to know we appreciate them and want them to succeed and advance in the company."

Keynote speaker Sally Tommie kicked off the day by addressing the theme of the conference: empowerment.

"I know each and every one of you here are the reason we are able to be as successful as we are," said Tommie, owner of Redline Media Group. "You make that difference for our Tribe."

Tommie told the attendees she grew up in a Fort Pierce camp and as a child served as a translator for her mother, who spoke no English but still needed to navigate the federal government's bureaucracy of food stamps and welfare payments. Although she didn't know it until she was an adult, the skills Tommie learned as her mother's translator was training for her future as a business leader.

"Life allows us opportunities and experience," she said. "If you are paying attention, you will understand what they mean and apply that knowledge to other places and situations."

Tommie urged everyone to take advantage of opportunities — like the Women of Seminole Gaming conference — to expand their horizons, learn, and evolve. She gave some practical advice before leaving the podium.

"As women, we need to make our own priority a priority. Write a [career] blueprint and revisit it often. Have a winner's mentality and change when necessary. Enjoy

the harvest, but prepare for the famine. Be as loud as thunder and be your best self," she said.

With those words, the attendees adjourned to the educational sessions.

To ensure the conference would be relevant to its participants, surveys were sent to members asking what topics would be helpful to them. The response was greater than the organizers anticipated. The subjects chosen were public speaking, personal branding and financial wellness. The sessions were led by gaming employees with expertise in those areas. Approximately 100 employees representing every Seminole Gaming facility attended.

"We couldn't have anticipated the level of interest we got," said JC Ayers, Tampa vice president of Human Resources. "This is what they wanted to learn."

A personal branding class focused on communication style, social media, business writing, and best practices.

"We have to work for our next opportunity and promotion," said Meaghan Ryan, Seminole Gaming director of Talent Acquisition. "When is your interview scheduled for your next job? Every day. You are constantly evolving and need to establish your brand."

An apt quote from Jeff Bezos, chief executive officer and founder of Amazon, was projected on a screen: "Your brand is what other people say about you when you are not in the room."

Ryan asked the participants what qualities they liked about their most accomplished colleagues. Responses included confident, hardworking, good listener, and responsible. Additionally, she asked what they think people are saying about them.

"That is your brand," she said. "Make sure you have an idea of how you are perceived. Your brand identifies you."

A public speaking class focused on anxiety, preparation, skills and practice. Moderator Matthew Faciana asked the group what makes a public speaker ineffective. Responses included distracting mannerisms,



Beverly Bidney

Sally Tommie, owner of Redline Media Group, serves as the keynote speaker July 26 during a conference hosted by Women of Seminole Gaming on July 26 at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee.

rattling change in their pocket, saying "um" and "uh" and not looking at the audience.

Mark Twain once said, "There are two kinds of public speakers in the world; those that are nervous and those that are liars."

"Public speaking anxiety is very real," said Faciana, Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood training manager. "Public speaking is the number one fear in our culture."

He said fear is caused by not being totally confident of the subject matter, feeling ill prepared and being afraid of ridicule and failure.

A financial wellness session, led by Trevor Armstrong, Seminole Classic Casino vice president of Finance, focused on personal budgets and how to read a profit

and loss statement. He defined risk versus reward when investing; the more the return, the higher the risk.

"The top concern of financial planners' clients is outliving their savings," Armstrong said. "They fear running out of money more than they fear death."

He advised saving in a tax deferred 401K, which is matched by their employers. Armstrong suggested that every time they get a raise, take a portion of it and invest it.

"The facilitators did a great job of giving tips and skills," said Summer Raygor, Immokalee Casino director of Marketing. "We are meeting new people and sharing ideas. We are all on the same page and going in the same direction, which is up."

The opportunity to put a face with

a voice or email messages was not lost on many of the participants. Some met colleagues in person that they already knew from a distance.

"This is a fantastic opportunity and positions everyone to be a successful leader," said Kim Coker, vice president of Finance at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek. "That's our goal."

Edward Aguilar, Immokalee assistant director of Casino Operations, was pleased the inaugural program came to Immokalee and that many of his employees participated.

"This is a great program and it falls in line with who we are as a brand," he said. "I want our employees to connect with other women, become tomorrow's leaders. This is something to build on and share."

## Artistic collaboration results in Naples mural

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

NAPLES — Nicole Slavick used her talent and passion for art to create a mural in the Naples field office as part of the Summer Work Experience Program.

The Seacrest Country Day School junior was given the opportunity to create the 11-by-19-foot mural while also working with the youth camp program. Naples artist Jessica Osceola worked with and mentored Nicole.

"I was surprised I was put in charge of this giant mural; I've never done anything like it before," said Nicole, 16. "I'm inspired by my culture and want to recreate images and bring them to life."

Nicole learned to draw in sixth grade. She works hard to improve her skills and plans to pursue a career in art. She believes the experience will help her in her school's advanced placement art class this year.

For the mural, Nicole looked for old

photos depicting traditional Seminole life in the Everglades. She found an image that would work and then made it her own by adding more elements. When she was satisfied with the final image, she drew it on the wall freehand.

The result is a striking painting of three people in a dugout canoe surrounded by water, sawgrass, a hardwood hammock, and a man wrestling an alligator on the riverbank.

"She had a solid vision," Osceola said. "She didn't use a grid system. She could definitely see it."

Nicole was thrilled to work with Osceola, who is working toward her Master of Arts in Fine Arts in figurative sculpture from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

"She helped me out, and I learned from her," Nicole said. "She taught me to think about where the light comes from for shadows and taught me about horizon lines and the vanishing point."

A sculptor who had never painted be-

fore, Osceola enjoyed the challenge of the mural.

"Nicole has the painting experience, and I have the basic principles of art," she said. "We blended them together and advised each other. I think we mentored each other."

Osceola was impressed with Nicole and said she would have been intimidated by a project this size at age 16.

"I'm having a blast because it isn't due for any professor," she said.

Beverly Bidney

Jessica Osceola and Nicole Slavick work together to paint a mural at the Naples field office Aug. 4.



# Spencer Battiest earns two NAMA nominations

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Spencer Battiest's best birthday ever could come Sept. 17. The pop singer and songwriter has been nominated for two Native American Music Awards and will perform that evening at the 16th annual NAMA show at the Seneca Allegany Casino in New York.

"The best gift is to be able to perform on my birthday," he said, "but wouldn't it be cool if I win an award?"

Battiest received a phone call Aug. 16 with the news that he was nominated for the Best Male Vocalist and Best Pop Recording for his album "Stupid in Love." He said he is honored to be recognized by his peers.

Founded in 1998, NAMA is a music industry organization dedicated to Native American music. Its mission is to promote cultural preservation and renewal through new music initiatives. The annual awards ceremony is modeled after other national music awards shows.

Members of the non-profit association's nominating committee select nominees in 25 categories, but winners are chosen by votes cast by NAMA members and the general public, who can listen to nominees' tracks on the NAMA website at [www.nativeamericanmusicawards.com](http://www.nativeamericanmusicawards.com).

"That they have a category for Native Americans trying to make it in pop is really cool," Battiest said. "That's exactly what I am, a pop artist."

The release of his four-track EP in 2015 has kept Battiest busy and on the road. Last September and October he toured 25 cities to support the album and he's been traveling, writing and working on a new project all summer.

"You just keep going and pushing forward," Battiest said. "When you get a phone call like this that people appreciate what you are doing, it gives you more fuel to keep trying. You don't do it for the awards or recognition, but for the love of the art."

Battiest has been performing since he was a kid when he sang gospel music and

hymns in Mikasuki, Creek and Choctaw. He loves the standards sung by Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Barbra Streisand but his favorite artist is Stevie Wonder.

In 2014, he became the first Native American artist to sign with Hard Rock Records. The following year he performed at Hard Rock Rising in Miami Beach and Barcelona, Spain. But music isn't Battiest's only gig; in March he acted in an off-Broadway show that is seeking backers and a producer. "Distant Thunder" had a two-night run and played for audiences that included New York City producers.

"It was like a master class for me," Battiest said. "It was a great learning experience to work with all these established actors."

Battiest is proud to be part of NAMA and believes in the work it does for artists by giving them a national platform to be recognized and heard. The awards show gives the world a chance to hear independent and established artists and gives them a moment in the spotlight, he said.

"When you get these opportunities that



show people recognize what you are doing is great validation," Battiest said. "Especially when it comes from my peers and community of Native artists who are out there every day trying to do the same thing I am."

Voting for nominees is open until noon Sept. 17, the day of the show. Visit [www.nativeamericanmusicawards.com](http://www.nativeamericanmusicawards.com) to cast a vote.

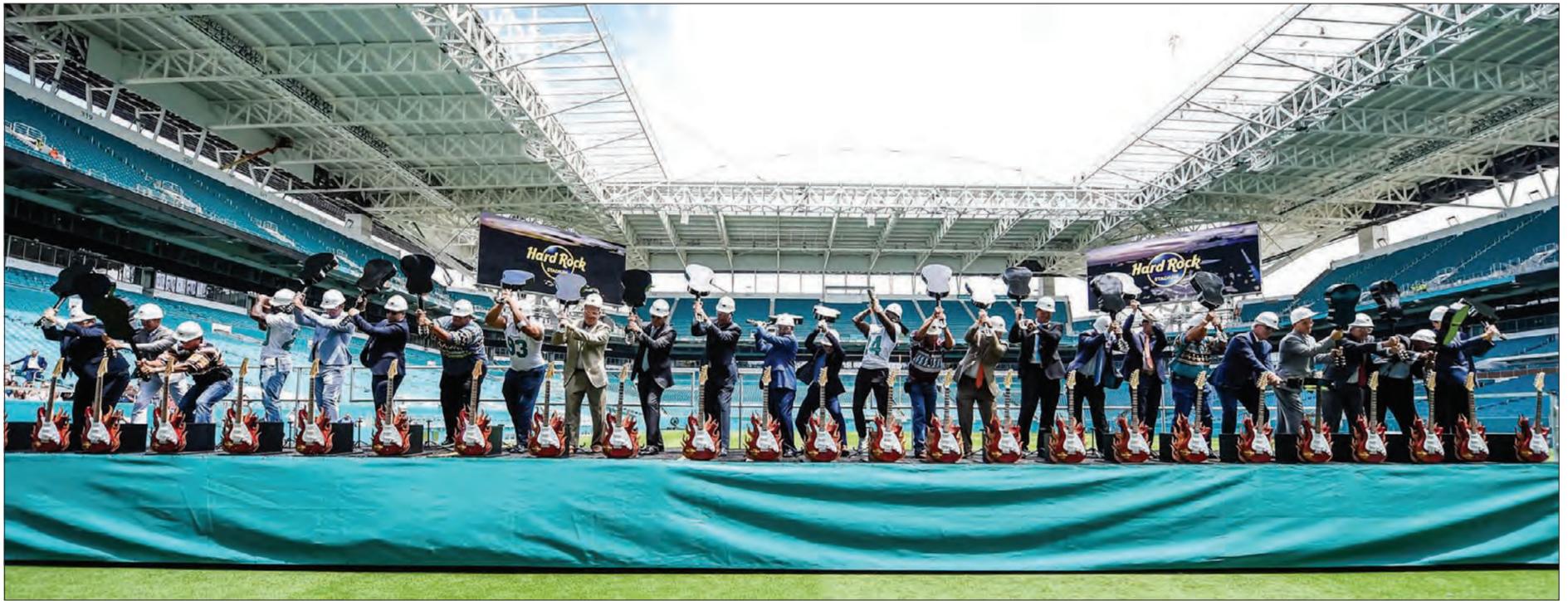


Photo courtesy Miami Dolphins

The smashing of cardboard guitars signals the end of the stadium naming ceremony for Hard Rock Stadium on Aug. 17 in Miami Gardens. President Mitchell Cypress, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola and Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. were among the participants.

## ◆ STADIUM PHOTOS From page 1A



Kevin Johnson

Music star and Miami native Pitbull greets an audience Aug. 17 during the Hard Rock Stadium announcement.



Kevin Johnson

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola addresses the audience during the Hard Rock Stadium announcement Aug. 17 in Miami Gardens.



Kevin Johnson

Above, Miami Dolphins star and Pro Football Hall of Famer Dan Marino signs a Hard Rock guitar at the Hard Rock Stadium announcement. Below, soccer great Pele delivers a video message.



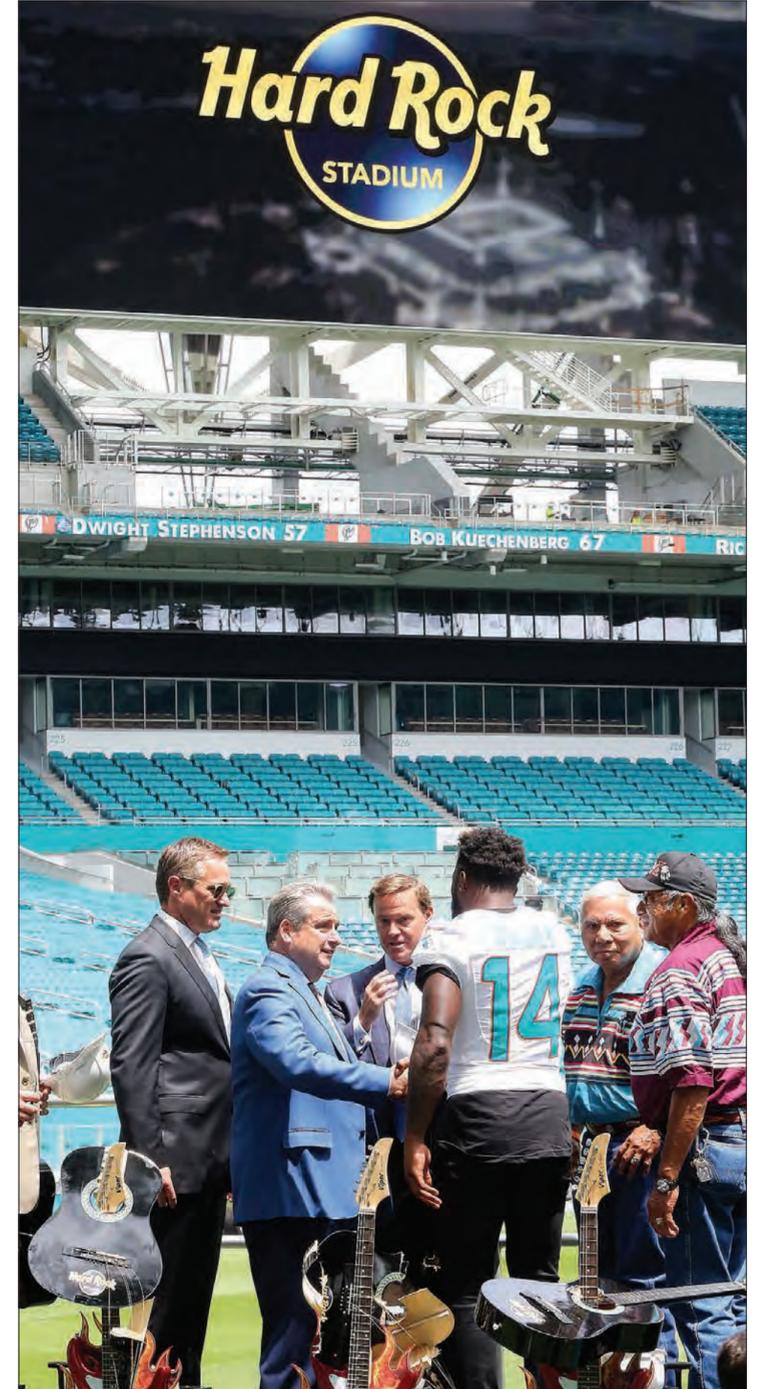
Kevin Johnson

From left, the Tribe's Kyla Davis, Treasurer Pete Hahn, Wanda Bowers, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, President Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Sue Cypress and Noella O'Donnell gather on the field of Hard Rock Stadium.

## Hard Rock Stadium football

**Miami Dolphins home games**  
Sept. 25 vs Cleveland, 1 p.m.  
Oct. 9 vs Tennessee, 1 p.m.  
Oct. 16 vs Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.  
Oct. 23 vs Buffalo, 1 p.m.  
Nov. 6 vs NY Jets, 1 p.m.  
Nov. 27 vs San Francisco, 1 p.m.  
Dec. 11 vs Arizona, 1 p.m.  
Jan. 1 vs New England, 1 p.m.

**Miami Hurricanes home games**  
Sept. 3 vs Florida A&M, 6 p.m.  
Sept. 10 vs FAU, 6 p.m.  
Oct. 8 vs Florida State, TBD  
Oct. 15 vs North Carolina, TBD  
Nov. 5 vs Pittsburgh, TBD  
Nov. 26 vs Duke, TBD



Kevin Johnson

After smashing guitars, Hard Rock International Chairman Jim Allen shakes hands with Miami Dolphins wide receiver Jarvis Landry while Seminole Tribe of Florida President Mitchell Cypress and Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. look on during the Hard Rock Stadium announcement Aug. 17.

## ◆ CALF SHIPPING From page 1A

the cow pens. The job was a challenge July 19 with some uncooperative calves that wouldn't be herded.

Moses usually works his cattle on an all-terrain vehicle with a few dogs to assist him. This day wasn't like others; unfamiliar people were in the pasture to help load them onto the truck.

"They are skittish of people," Jumper said. "But that's just the way it goes sometimes."

Naha and Moses worked smoothly together to sort the herd and separate the calves for shipping.

The Big Cypress cow pens are located in

an oak grove peppered with cabbage palms. The ample shade kept the cattle cool as teams of men moved them through the maze of pens, where they waited to be loaded onto trucks.

The large number of calves shipped is a sign of the cattle operation's success. Bulls from tribal-owned Salacoa Valley Farms provided superior genetics and increased the quality of the cattle and Seminole Pride Beef. About 25 outside ranchers produce calves with the Salacoa genetics and the Tribe buys back about 4,000 head each year from those ranchers, Johns said.

Those rebellious Jumper calves were rounded up the following day and shipped out.

"A cowboy's work is never done," Moses said. "That's just what goes into a day's



Beverly Bidney

Cowboys round up calves as they sort them into pens during the annual calf shipping in Big Cypress July 19. Some used cattle prods; others used their voices, feet and bodies to guide the calves into the proper holding pens.



Beverly Bidney

Naha Jumper and Moses Jumper Jr., each on their own ATVs, wrangle a herd of cattle into the pen so the calves can be taken to the Big Cypress cow pens July 19 for the annual calf shipping. The dog was one of many that helped gather the cows together to be sorted.



Beverly Bidney

Cattle owner Pauletta Bowers secures 59 calves in her trailer for the drive to Okeechobee during the annual calf shipping in Big Cypress July 19.

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# Kids enjoy horseplay at CCDT camp



Beverly Bidney

Orreste Perez, Caleb Burton and Lupe Lara, campers at the CCDT Equine Therapy mini-camp in Brighton Aug. 2, decorate Boo the horse with water-based paint before getting into the saddle in the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

**BEVERLY BIDNEY**  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Summer camp gives kids a chance to break away from the norm, kick back, and have some fun. The Children’s Center for Diagnostics & Therapy made that experience possible for a group of children of varying exceptionalities at its camp at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton Aug. 2-4.

They rode horses, played games, did arts and crafts, and competed in relay races like any other campers, but the activities also provided the children with important therapy outside of the treatment room.

“Leaving the therapy room helps them generalize their skills,” said Allison Mason, CCDT coordinator of therapeutic services. “They use them effectively and carry over what they’ve learned in therapy to the outside.”

The children used their social skills enthusiastically as they played together in the riding ring and in the arena. While two campers were on horseback, the others were occupied with other fun pursuits like horseshoes, art class, and bubbles.

Behavioral, speech, occupational, and physical therapists led the activities, which focused on physical and social skills. The campers were all familiar with Boo, Hawk,

and Bird, the friendly horses with patience to spare, who were enlisted for the camp.

Equine therapy was the cornerstone of

the camp. The practice of hippotherapy uses the horses’ movements to engage the patients’ senses. While they were on the horse, the



Beverly Bidney

Campers and CCDT staff pose for a photo in the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena during the Equine Therapy mini-camp Aug. 2 in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Jaylee Braswell concentrates on catching a beach ball while sitting on a horse during the CCDT Equine Therapy mini-camp in Brighton Aug. 2. Behavior therapist Corey Renken and occupational therapist Charlene Antonacci work with Jaylee in the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

children sat up straight and participated in activities, which required them to focus, communicate, and solve problems.

Surrounded by a horse walker and therapists, the kids had to catch and throw balls, track and pop soap bubbles with a net, fasten a colored clip to a paper, put rings on a post, and hit a tethered ball with a badminton racket. To succeed at the tasks, they listened and followed directions.

“Changing the environment stimulates them emotionally and physically,” said physical therapist Preston Olson. “They have to be attentive and work hard. It’s impressive to watch them interact and

improve cognitively.”

Before the equine therapy began, the campers got creative and painted the horses. Later, they were allowed to wash the paint off the animals. The activities were fun, but the kids also used their skills to listen to directions and complete the tasks.

“This is a way for them to be among other children with special needs,” Mason said. “It’s a unique way to provide them with what they will need to succeed. They get more confidence after being around the horses.”

## Fire Rescue welcomes new graduates

**BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ**  
Copy Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — Strength, endurance, and physical fitness comprise only a portion of a much larger responsibility of becoming a firefighter.

Seven dedicated men vowed their lives before the U.S. and Seminole flags July 28 as part of their commencement ceremony into the Seminole Tribe of Florida Fire Rescue team.

The recruits underwent five weeks of intense physical and mental training in order to keep Tribal members safer in the community and to help and rescue all Tribal members and visitors who should ever face any sort of fire dangers or emergency medical needs.

A limited amount of spots are annually open for the Tribe’s Fire Rescue team and only a handful are selected from a pool of hundreds of men wanting the jobs.

The seven chosen were hand-selected in order to meet the needs of the Tribe and the Tribal community.

“It means a lot to me. I’m just honored and grateful to be part of the organization,” said graduate and Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Soto. “My goal here is to be a team player and to be an asset to the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Seminole Fire Rescue Department.”

Soto has had ample experience in the industry, including special operations skills. He was part of the rescue efforts for the 9/11 attacks in 2001 in New York City at Ground Zero. Additionally, he has trained with the City of Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue’s SWAT team and the Special Operations unit.

Graduation took place in the Tribe’s headquarters and the class was sworn in by Fire Marshall Robert Brown after Chief Donald DiPetrillo delivered remarks and the audience watched a slideshow of the recruits’ experiences in training.

“We’re pleased to have these new members in our Fire Rescue family to help serve the Tribe. This is an exciting start for their hopefully long careers,” said Battalion Commander Art Bousquet. “They’ve earned it and deserve it.”

Chris Lebourveau, 30, the class leader, agreed with Bousquet and also hopes he will have a long and prosperous career.

“It was a great experience with an amazing group of classmates and knowledgeable

instructors,” Lebourveau said. “It’s going to prepare us all.”

Some graduates were just happy to be the chosen few.

“This is my first fire job, and I just want to thank the Seminole Tribe for training me,” said Kevin Suarez, 25. “Everyone I have come across has been very influential.”

Firefighting graduates were very supportive of each other and congratulated one another after the unveiling of a commemorative fire hydrant statue for the graduating class.

The men’s families and friends watched them receive their fire department badge before joining them for a light dinner and dessert.

“It’s [Seminole Fire Rescue] a family; it’s not like any other place,” DiPetrillo said.



Stephanie Rodriguez

From left, Alex Schele, Todd Martinez, Kevin Suarez, Robert Soto, Chris Lebourveau, Roberto Soto and Giovanni Cobielles stand with Battalion Commander Art Bousquet on July 28 in Hollywood.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Fire Honor Guard Nick Garcia marches with an ax for the presentation of colors at the beginning of the Fire Rescue graduation and employee recognition ceremony July 28 in Hollywood.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Fire Rescue Chief Donald DiPetrillo looks at the graduating class slideshow next to Battalion Commander Art Bousquet, Assistant Fire Marshall Ed Mullins, and District Fire Chief Douglas LeValley.

# Egmont Key fire opens landscape for radar search

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**EGMONT KEY** — Sometime in the dark, before sunrise, July 27, a vicious summer thunderstorm slapped a bolt of lightning on a tree at the south end of Egmont Key, an endangered 200-acre island just off Fort Desoto on the Gulf Coast of Pinellas County.

Florida State Park ranger Tom Watson, the island's only full-time resident, was first

buried, several houses used by Watson, the Tampa Bay boat pilots and marine biology students, the fire grew.

"Before you knew it, it became this," Watson gaped as he waved his arm over a vast burned-out landscape, nearly 100 acres of ashen ground and blackened palmetto stumps, roasted box turtles, and cooked snakes. At least 25 fire crew members from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection



Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry surveys a palm stump where firefighters used chain saws to create a fire break.

to see the flames.

"It was about the size of a basketball court," he told a contingent of visiting archaeologists and researchers from the Seminoles' Tribal Historic Preservation Office as he described how quickly the fire grew upon arriving at the scene.

As firefighters from multiple agencies gathered in emergency to fight a fire that threatened the historic Egmont lighthouse, the largest brown pelican rookery in the world, a cemetery where Seminoles are

and the Florida Forest Service fought the fire for three days using helicopters with 70-gallon water buckets and back-fire lines established by the ground crew.

Television news kept the fire constantly on the tube as it burned through the island, eerily sending billows of smoke into cloudless blue skies.

"It made me sick. It reminded me of watching the constant film of that Deepwater Horizon oil spill spewing out into the Gulf," said Ralph Heath, of the nearby Sun-



Peter B. Gallagher

Seminole THPO staffer Lacey Cofer and Rachel Perash take a golf cart tour of the burned Egmont Key landscape.

coast Seabird Sanctuary. "If that fire goes into the mangroves where the pelicans are roosting, that bird will go right back on the endangered species list."

Oddly, the rain that had plagued this area daily for more than two weeks had stopped abruptly when the fire started. In Tampa, Seminole medicine man/rainmaker Bobby Henry took note of the situation and six days after the fire started, promised he would work on "making some rain. Rain will put the fire out." The rains returned on day seven. And the fire went out. And the rains kept going another three weeks.

By the time the fire was completely out, the decades-old thick green jungle that was the interior of this island was transformed into a dramatic charcoal display.

"There was awhile there that I felt awfully lonely out here," Watson said.

But, as Tribal Museum Director Paul Backhouse pointed out, "This was a terrible fire, but sometimes from the bad, something good emerges. Without all that underbrush and thick jungle, we can now get ground penetrating radar in here."

The THPO staff knew that the island's main native vegetation can withstand this type of fire and will likely start greening and ground-covering back to jungle status in just a few months. Upon that realization, Backhouse quickly sent his THPO staff to tour Egmont on Aug. 3.

THPO Field Technician David Scheidecker began the laborious application

process for permission to radar-survey the island after the discovery of two entire buildings — a radio transmitter room and a morgue that were previously covered over by trees and bushes — as well as the safe from Fort Dade, which was built out during the Spanish American War and later used to hold captured Seminoles during the Indian Wars. Ancient bottle glass was also found.

Researchers and historians have long pondered the possibility of a mass grave near the lighthouse with several marked Seminole gravesites. Records kept by the military, however, indicate dozens of Seminoles brought to the island never left and remain unaccounted for.

The use of mass or unmarked single graves was common at the forts operating during the Seminole wars. A group of deported Seminoles led by Polly Parker escaped from the steamboat Grey Cloud, which left Egmont in 1858 headed for the Mississippi River to drop off Indians on the walking Trail of Tears. Polly jumped ship when the boat stopped for fuel (wood) in St. Mark's in the Florida panhandle. Somehow evading capture, despite a massive search of soldiers and dogs, she made it back to her family camp near Okeechobee, where she lived past 100 years old.

The fire crew was able to save all existing facilities on the island including historical structures and visitor and residential facilities. The fire did not impact the nesting and loafing pelican and other seabird colo-

gies and never reached the extreme southern and northern ends of the island where the colonial birds nests remained intact. Gopher tortoises were unaffected, hiding in the safety of their underground burrows until it was safe to emerge.

"One of the biggest problems since the fire has been Pokemon," said Richard Sanchez, of the Egmont Key Alliance, the non-profit spearheading efforts to protect and save the island. "Somebody put a Pokemon out there in the middle of a nesting colony of skimmers. You have people driving boats up there and walking through the nesting area scaring the birds off their eggs, which is against the law," Sanchez said. He also said government officials were trying to reach the Pokemon headquarters to have the image removed.

Stan Garner, visitor services manager of Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge, praised the firefighters and their supporting agencies.

"This effort is a prime example of the importance of multi-agency collaboration and efficient communication," Garner said. "The island's structures and wildlife were saved thanks to the immediate response by the fire crews from St. Marks and Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuges, Florida DEP, and Florida Forest Service."

## Elgin Jumper ready to tell history through art

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

When Elgin Jumper arrived at the Loxahatchee battlefield in Jupiter to paint a giant live oak tree that is known as the Tree of Tears, he not only saw the object he would

paint, but felt it, too.

"I got these kind of spiritual feelings from it," Jumper said. "I started painting and everything got real quiet. I heard the breezes going through the top of the trees. It was like [the battle] was taking place in the top of the trees while I was painting. It was sort of a surreal experience."

With a small crowd gathered around him at Loxahatchee River Battlefield Park, Jumper started a four-hour oil painting session in front of the 300-year-old living witness to key parts of Seminole history as the warriors battled the U.S. military in the Second Seminole War nearly 180 years ago.

Jumper's experience at the battlefield earlier this summer was just the first in a series of paintings he wants to do at Florida battlefields and historic sites, including Loxahatchee, Okeechobee, Dade, Ocala, St. Augustine and others.

"I had always wanted to do something at the historical sites in Florida. That's always been a dream of mine," said Jumper, 52, who started painting when he was 40 and has enjoyed every moment. "I never regret getting into painting. It's really changed my life."

From the historical perspective, Jumper said he was fortun-

nate to meet Andrew Foster from the Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationists during a presentation Jumper gave in Fort Lauderdale. The meeting led to Jumper being invited to paint at the battlefield and to be part of an upcoming battlefield reenactment.

"We should tell these stories so that the Seminoles or non-Seminoles later on are told about these things that happened, these battles," said Jumper, who painted both the tree and, in a separate piece, an area by the Loxahatchee River where he said Seminoles, who were trying to avoid being placed on the Trail of Tears, launched an attack on the military.

In August, Jumper reached his next historic site plateau when he painted the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine during an annual Seminole War commemoration event. He said his finished paintings of historic sites will likely accompany him and his assistant Stephanie Sneed to presentations and exhibits. Sneed helps Jumper with setting up and documenting what he paints.

Sneed's mother, Nilda Comas, a renowned master sculptor, is part of an impressive trio of artists — which also includes Jimmy Osceola and the late Guy LaBree — who have helped Jumper develop his painting skills.

"I've been pretty lucky on my teachers," Jumper said. "They gave me of their time freely and never asked anything in return. That stayed with me, so if I can get an opportunity to go back and share what I've learned with emerging, aspiring artists, I'd be there."

Jumper said painting the Loxahatchee battlefield has been beneficial to him in more ways than one.

"It's been gratifying and memorable and profound," he said. "I really didn't expect that going into it."



Carlos Fuentes

Elgin Jumper holds his oil painting of the live oak tree, known as the Tree of Tears, in July at the Loxahatchee River Battlefield Park in Jupiter.



Photo courtesy Stephanie Sneed

Elgin Jumper paints the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine in August.



Carlos Fuentes

Elgin Jumper paints a 300-year-old live oak tree, known as the Tree of Tears, at the Loxahatchee battlefield in Jupiter, site of battles in the Second Seminole War.



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Identifying the **Past**

# Exhibits receive repairs

**SUBMITTED BY REBECCA FELL**  
Museum Curator of Exhibits

One of the jobs for the exhibits team at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is to maintain the permanent exhibitions. The team takes particular care with the mannequins in these galleries because these are lifecasts of Tribal members. This means the Tribal member had their features cast in a mold – face, hands, and sometimes feet – to create the most honest and lifelike version of themselves.

Recently, the Exhibits staff undertook a process to replace some limbs because of age and discoloration. At 20 years old these mannequins are in relatively good shape, but like all of us, a few things are not quite as perfect as they once were.

Discoloration is the most frequent reason for needing new parts for the mannequins. This sometimes happens because of repeated and extended exposure to light. Other times, the person who painted the mannequins skin did not get the color mixture right. Some paint colors fade sooner than others, causing a ‘greening’ effect. This happens over the course of dozens of years. This second reason is the primary one for making changes to the gallery mannequins.

Nora Pinell-Hernandez, the exhibits preparator, worked with the company that made the original mannequins, Dorfman Museum Figures, to recast new pieces. Dorfman has retained the molds for all of the figures. This makes the process of making a new piece relatively quick and accurate.

Dorfman will reference their original pictures, as well as pictures Nora provides, to paint in little unique details, like freckles, as well as to get the skin tone of the person correct.

The Exhibits team will work on this project for the next several years. The reasons are there are several pieces in ‘okay’ shape now that may need replacement next year or the year after, and to spread out the cost over several years.

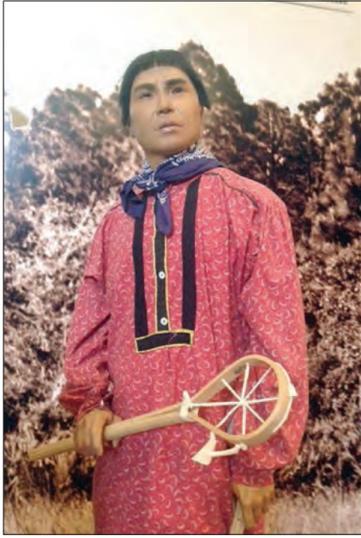


Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

**Who is the stickball player taking a moment's rest?**

Dorfman is able to do all of this remotely, in Maryland, and ship the items out to the Museum. This means none of the mannequins need to be taken down during this process. Once the Exhibit team verifies the new piece is an exact match to the old one (minus the flaws) the new piece is installed. Marlene Gray, the Museum's Conservator, assists with the installation once the pieces are verified. While in many museums mannequins are considered props and given lesser care than objects, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff recognizes the importance of these figures – and more importantly, the originals they represent and how they have



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

**This gentleman is the Silversmith in the camp. Who is he?**

played a role in the Seminole culture and community.

Through the years, the staff has kept a running list of who is represented by which mannequin, either through original documentation or from Tribal members sharing their knowledge. However, there are a few questions regarding some mannequins.

The photos in this article are a few examples of figures that need identification. If you or someone you know is represented by one of these figures, please let us know. You can reach Rebecca Fell, Curator of Exhibits, at 863-902-1113, ext. 12251.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

**Who is the gentleman on the far right, dancing with Mary Gay Osceola at the Green Corn ceremony?**

## Last month's photo identified



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

One of the photos that accompanied last month's article was identified as a 1965 summer trip to Cypress Gardens, with participants (back row, left to right): Billy Cypress, Leroy Billie, Solomon Cypress (wearing sunglasses), Lonnie Billie, William Jumper, and Don Osceola (far right). In the foreground are, left to right: Alvin Buster, Gene Coppedge, and an unidentified young man. Many thanks to Lonnie Billie for providing the identifications and traveling to the Museum to do so!

# Two options this year for Seminole Doll ornaments

**SUBMITTED BY REBECCA PETRIE**  
Museum Retail Manager

Sometime in April, just as our busy season was ending, the retail staff at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum began work with Mia Kaplan of DaPolonia on the 2016 Seminole Doll ornaments designs.

The first of these ornaments was offered in 2014 and from the beginning they have proven to be very popular. The ornament itself was designed in a months-long process throughout 2013. Images flew back and forth over the internet between our Museum, Mia's home in the Bronx, New York, and Poland where the ornaments are actually manufactured by DaPolonia, a company specializing in the best of Poland's handicrafts, including glass ornaments.

The concept was to create an iconic image of Seminole craft tradition: the Seminole Doll. Once the design was approved a mold was made. The mold, unique to the medium of glass, was made from an original clay sculpture. Once the reusable mold was completed, the intensive work of creating these works of art began.

The first step is to mold a molten glob of glass into the correct shape. To that end, the liquid glass is attached to a long pipette and inserted into the two piece mold. The artisan blows a puff of air through the pipette inflating the glass into the shape of the mold. The mold is then opened and the raw ornament is removed and set aside to fully harden and cool.

The next step is to pour a milky white liquid into the hollow ornament. The liquid is swirled to coat the interior and then the ornament is dipped in a bath of warm soapy water. Magic happens when the ornament is removed from the bath – the milky liquid has turned the interior chrome silver. Another drying period is needed before the painting can begin.

Each ornament is hand-painted in the approved design with more drying time as each color is allowed to dry. Once our doll is fully painted the final step is apply the glitter. Once again, each color is added layer by

layer with drying time between each coating. When looking at these ornaments it is easy to appreciate the many, many hours of hand work that goes into each one.

In 2014, our first year, the doll wore a red cape with a golden skirt featuring the Rain patchwork. It was followed by 2015's version with a blue cape, red skirt and Fire patchwork.

This year we will offer two options. The first was inspired by a cape and skirt in the Museum's collection in a limited edition of 250. This version is beautifully dressed in garnet, gold, black and cream – familiar colors of a certain state university – and decorated with the famous Man on a Horse patchwork pattern.

Our second option is limited to 200 and features a more fancifully colored outfit in turquoise and bold pink with a combination of Telephone Pole and Crawdad patchwork patterns. Either will look striking on a Christmas tree or hung on display year round. If past years' sales are any indication, customers will need to order this family heirloom soon as they may well sell out. Once gone, they are gone for good. As in past years, the ornament will retail for \$54.95.

For those who prefer a more traditional ornament (and less expensive at \$14.95), 2016 marks our sixth year of offering a patchwork-inspired round glass ornament. Once again we turned to the Museum's collection for inspiration choosing two very different patterns and colors. We left the final decision up to our customers by holding a contest throughout the month of August to determine this year's ornament. All those who visit the Museum or who saw the tribal-wide email throughout the month of August voiced their opinion. Will the 2016 ornament be candy apple red or rose mist?

At the time of this writing the final decision hasn't been made. Call the Museum store at 863-902-1113, ext. 12224 to learn the results of the voting and to place your order. Once the ornaments are in the store they will also be available online at [www.seminole-store.com](http://www.seminole-store.com).



The Man on the Horse patchwork doll ornament doll with colors similar to Florida State University, left, and the Telephone Pole and Crawdad patchwork pattern are this year's offerings by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's store.

# Joel Frank Sr. named VP of AIGC's board

**BY BEVERLY BIDNEY**  
Staff Reporter

Education has always been important to Joel Frank Sr. and his work on the American Indian Graduate Center Board of Directors gives him an outlet to ensure Native American youth have access to an undergraduate and graduate college education. In August, Frank was named vice president of the board and will continue the work he has done as a board member since 2013.

Headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, AIGC's mission is to provide educational assistance to American Indian and Alaska Native graduate and undergraduate students throughout the U.S. Founded in 1969, the organization has awarded more than 16,000 scholarships totaling over \$52 million to students in all fields of study.

Frank, who graduated from Miami

Dade Community College and St. Thomas University, has had a long and distinguished career promoting tribal self-determination, economic prosperity and community development throughout Indian Country. His leadership positions include having served as president of the National Indian Gaming Association, president of the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., board member of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, and member of the Florida Civil Rights Commission.

“To support up-and-coming leaders in Indian Country, we must involve the nation's current leaders in Indian Country,” interim Executive Director Joan Currier said. “Our newly-appointed board leadership and incumbent board members bring diversity in industry, geography and expertise to AIGC to ensure we continue to serve our students in the best ways possible.”



Photo courtesy of AIGC

The AIGC newly installed board consists of Rose Graham (Diné) as Board president, Joel Frank Sr. (Seminole), center, as vice president and Steve Stallings (Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians) as secretary-treasurer, Stacy Leeds (Cherokee), Danna Jackson (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes), Walter Lamar (Blackfeet, Wichita), Dana Arviso (Diné), and Holly Cook Macarro (Red Lake Band of Ojibwe).

## ◆ SAM JONES

From page 1A

the road went in. It was abundantly clear contemporary road builders followed Sam Jones Trail.

THPO Officer and Museum Director Paul Backhouse served as master of ceremonies. He introduced Chairman Billie, who gave short remarks, and Tribal medicine man Bobby Henry blessed the road and audience.

The group walked 200 yards to the historical roadside plaque site, where a white sheet was pulled off by the Chairman to reveal an explanation of Sam Jones' role in turning back the soldiers and saving the

Seminole Indians. The sign mentioned that the Sam Jones Trail has been on the Tribal Register of Historic Places since 2015 and includes the credit: "Funded entirely with Federal Funds from the Historical Preservation Fund administered through the National Park Service, Department of the Interior."

Then the group walked back to their vehicles for the 12-mile drive to Big Cypress, where they enjoyed a meal and songs of Seminole history and culture by Tribal citizen Rita Youngman and band in the Museum's back yard. Elected officials noted the importance of the day.

"I wouldn't miss this day," said President Mitchell Cypress. "This is a historic day for Seminole Tribe. I'll be honest (Sam



Peter B. Gallagher

Chairman James E. Billie addresses the audience at the Sam Jones Trail sign dedication ceremony Aug. 14.



Peter B. Gallagher

Rita Youngman and her band perform at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum after the Sam Jones ceremony Aug. 14.



Peter B. Gallagher

Chairman James E. Billie, President Mitchell Cypress and others gaze up at the newly unveiled Sam Jones Trail sign on Aug. 14.

Jones) is our hero. A war hero."

Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank told the crowd, "Let's remember that above all things Abiaki was a great leader for us. He enabled us to maintain our culture, our language, and our ways down here in the swamp."

Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola believes the Tribe's biggest asset is the elders.

"I would say tell the little ones, 'Go to your grandparents and ask them. Ask them to tell you the stories. Sometimes they like sitting around talking and telling stories.'"

Rep. Osceola supports the work of the Museum to document and preserve the past in order to teach future generations

"When people think about the Seminole wars and Seminole history, not many people would know the name Sam Jones. A name that's brought up is Osceola," said Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney "Today is a special day for Sam Jones. He was a legend. Today we open the tribal mark for him."

Doney was followed by Junior Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie, who was honored to attend the historic event as were others in attendance.

"Sam Jones is the most historical person that has ever lived in this area that we now know as Hendry County," said Butch Wilson, Clewiston Museum director. "He saw the birthing of our nation. The American

revolution. He saw the War of 1812. He may have even spoken with the Shawnee chief Tecumseh, as he came down and tried to persuade the five civilized Tribes to join his Indian Confederacy. The Seminole Indian Wars, he participated in that. Prior to that, were the Creek Wars, 1813 and '14. He may have been a partaker in that.

"In the Second Seminole Indian War, the American commanders recognized him as a force to be dealt with. They knew if they could capture Sam Jones, they could bring the war to a much speedier end.

"Sam Jones is known for his leadership. He was also a great spiritual leader. He was known for his bulldog tenacity."

Historian Patsy West has spent decades researching Sam Jones. She told the audience how Sam Jones received his name. West's research showed that Sam Jones would walk right into Fort King as if he was a fish seller, but actually take in the lay of the fort to help in his battle plans.

"In the officers mess, this guy was really important because he'd arrive every morning with this wonderful fish that they could have for their mess. He was a very, very popular guy around the camp. They started calling him Sam Jones the fisherman," she said.

"As the war against the Seminole escalated under the United States military, Sam Jones exhibited his great skill in creativity in carrying out his mission," she continued.

"Perhaps Jones' most difficult mission, however, was to literally -- in many cases -- force factions of Indians -- predominantly Calusa, Creek, and Seminoles -- to stay on the land against the U.S. orders. Abiaki was elected to the head of all the Indian factions.

"Abiaki's prowess, his military strategy, his orchestration of an unbelievable scenario, a personal acumen endeavor that held the tribal people together against all odds. Including supply networks, salvaging beach shipwrecks, even boarding floundering ship on the high seas. His secret inland waterways.

"Jones had become literally the most wanted person in the totality of the Second and Third Seminole Wars. For if he had been caught, it would have been all over and we wouldn't be celebrating today. Everyone would be in Oklahoma.

"That was Sam Jones's agenda; to save enough people, regardless of how."

After the end of the Seminole Wars, Abiaki married, had a daughter and died peacefully around 1866 in the area of Big Cypress.

A demonstration of authentic hand-to-hand combat, as it would have been fought in the Second Seminole War, by male and female Tribal citizens in the One Dragon Martial Arts group finished the day's program.

## Joe Dan Osceola, Suarez Museum participate in Bolivia summit

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Joe Dan Osceola's first visit to Bolivia proved to be a trip the former Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. president won't soon forget.

Osceola joined representatives from Miami's Suarez Museum of Natural Science & History on a goodwill venture to the heart of South America in mid-June. The group participated in the First International Summit of Culture, Nature and Commerce hosted by the Guembe Bio-Park & Resort in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

A panel discussion consisted of Osceola (Seminole Tribe of Florida); Dayamy Rodriguez (U.S.), president, founder and CEO of the Suarez Museum of Natural Science & History; Luis Suarez (U.S.), president of the International Museum Federation and curator of the Suarez Museum of the Natural Science & History; Rocio Solis (Costa Rica), president of the Costa Rican Commission of cooperation with UNESCO; and special guest Marko Machicao, the minister of the Department of Culture and Tourism from the Plurinational State of Bolivia.



Contributed photo

Joe Dan Osceola, left, with Luis Suarez, center, receives Bolivia's Native Tribes Flag from Johnny Mullisaca, vice minister of Culture, in June during an international summit in Bolivia.

The summit was designed to promote discussion about experiences and efforts surrounding the best practices for management of natural and sustainable resources. The summit also welcomed new perspectives as to the best ways to confront challenges when dealing with the business sector and to be able to balance the needs of both. Discussions were also held about how to sustain cultural heritage when approached by new alternatives.

"We want to create a link between our country and the institutions gathered here today in order to attain multilateral agreements to benefit all involved," Diego Urioste, one

of the organizers, said in a press release.

The Suarez Museum made a donation to the Guembe Museum to express the importance of protecting the flora and fauna and to promote education.

The sharing of culture was reciprocal among the attendees.

Rodriguez, Suarez and Urioste helped organize a meeting with Osceola and the Native Tribes of Bolivia, including Guarani, Aymara and Quechua. Discussions focused on cultures and customs of the different Tribes. Osceola said he was impressed with the Tribe officials who traveled to the summit from remote parts of the region.

"They reminded me of the Seminoles before the Seminoles were formed as a Tribe," Osceola said.

"They're able to adapt to most anything. They can survive just about anything. They adapt to the jungle and the wilderness. I told them the Seminoles have always been in the wilderness, too, like the Everglades."

Osceola received a Native Tribes flag from Johnny Mullisaca, vice minister of Culture. Osceola gave a Seminole patchwork jacket to Machicao.

"They've never seen a jacket like that. They were grateful," Osceola said.

Although more than 3,000 miles separate Florida from Bolivia, the South American Tribes want to learn more about the Seminoles.

"They were quite interested in the Seminoles," Osceola said. "They're in the jungle, so they don't keep up to date with the news about the Seminoles, but they knew of the Seminoles."

Osceola said the experience was educational and beneficial, and he's looking forward to joining the Suarez Museum on another interchange culture visit to Costa Rica and Bolivia in December.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the trip," he said.



Stephanie Rodriguez

The women of Native Voices sing Creek hymns together on stage Aug. 7 in the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton.

## A calling for Native Voices

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ  
Copy Editor

**BRIGHTON** — A female quartet, christened as Native Voices, performed for the first time on a stage with other Gospel performers Aug. 7 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton.

The ladies of Native Voices, known as Louise Gopher, Mary Jo Micco, Reina Micco and Alyssa Willie, are a group of Creek/English singers from the Brighton Reservation who sing Creek hymns with pianist Laurie Blomberg. The musical ensemble started in 2010 and is based with the All Family Ministries, whose purpose is to make the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ known to all nations.

The group shared the stage with singers and musicians from other reservations and communities.

Performers included Junior Battiest, Paul Buster, Wendi Bowers Riley, Luke Blomberg, Marcus Briggs and Pastor Cal Jones.

It was a Gospel singing celebration that called for participation from the audience and just about anyone who could sing and/or play an instrument.

Paul Buster and his granddaughters were a special treat to watch as they played about five songs for the audience after the Native Voices performed. Other highlights included solos by a couple of the Native Voices women: Alyssa Willie and Reina Micco.

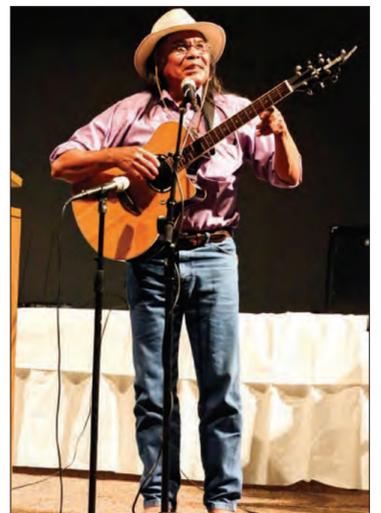
"I felt it was an exceptional time of fellowship," said Pastor Bill Blomberg. "They're [Native Voices] using Creek hymns as way to minister spiritually to others, and I feel they are gifted in that regard."

The Native Voices have been invited to many functions such as church revivals (tribal and non-tribal), tribal functions, and families have asked them to sing at funerals for their loved ones.

They performed at the 2015 Tribal Inauguration, church services at Brighton Field Days, the Florida Cracker Trail Riders in Kenansville, and at Battle of Okechobee Reenactment.

With ongoing buzz about their music and their increased performance demand, group has decided to kick it up a notch. The female musical ensemble is now working to record a CD with about 20 songs.

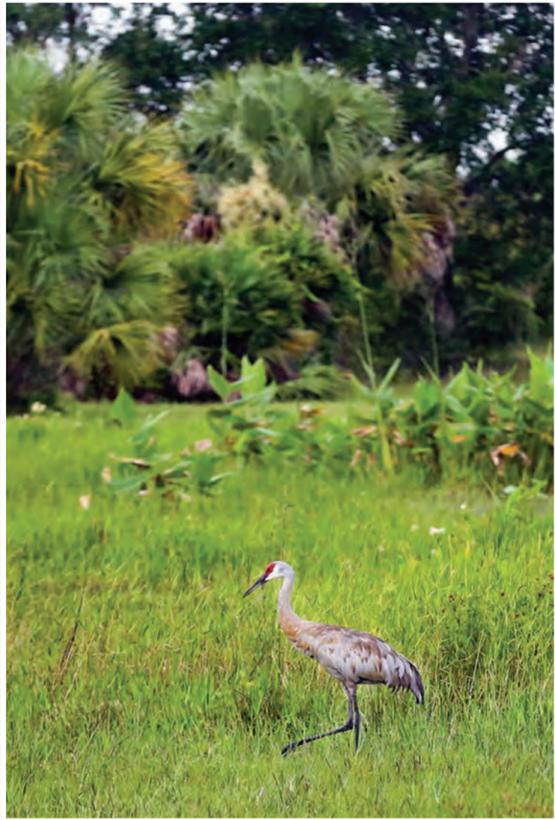
"They have a heart to perform and share Christ with everyone," Blomberg said.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Ben Yahola, of Oklahoma, who teaches the Creek language, plays his guitar in front of audience in Brighton's Veterans Memorial building.

# SEMINOLE SCENES



Stephanie Rodriguez

**BIRD IS THE WORD:** A Florida sandhill crane roams through land in the Brighton Reservation looking for its next meal.



Photo Courtesy Wanda Bowers

**ROYAL WHEELS:** Former Miss Florida Seminole Destiny Nunez looks comfortable in her new Sport Wrangler, a gift from the Princess Committee for a job well done during her 2015-2016 reign.



Photo Courtesy Wanda Bowers

**SAM'S SCENE:** Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney, left, and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie attend a ceremony for the Sam Jones Trail sign Aug. 14.



Peter B. Gallagher

**FIGHT ON:** Quenton Cypress gains the upperhand during a Seminole War reenactment scene in front of an audience at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum as part of the Sam Jones Trail ceremony Aug. 14 in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

**NAPLES FIELD OFFICE EXPANSION:** A 2,500-square-foot multipurpose room and a 2,500-square-foot gym were recently added to the back of the Naples field office. The air conditioned multipurpose room is used for the Culture Department, community meetings and dinners. There is ample room for all the sewing machines, fabric, rick rack, ribbon, beading supplies and plenty of work tables. "We kicked off our summer camp program here," said Sandra Osceola, community outreach specialist. "As soon as it opened, the community came together to use it."



Kevin Johnson

**AND THEY'RE OFF:** While older kids played nearby in the For the Love of the Game basketball tournament, these youngsters race on an open area Aug. 4 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center.



Kevin Johnson

**ROCK ON:** Guitars with the Hard Rock Stadium logo were front and center during a ceremony Aug. 17 for the newly named stadium in Miami Gardens.



Beverly Bidney

**END OF SUMMER FUN:** To cool the summertime heat, the Brighton Boys & Girls Club provided refreshing fun Aug. 2 at the 5th annual end of summer bash. Water slides and outdoor games kept the kids, including Neleah Billie, busy and happy as they prepared to say goodbye to the easy-going days of summer.



Beverly Bidney

**MOOD OUT OF THE WAY:** Calves wait in the shade of old oak trees for their turn to be loaded onto a truck headed west during the annual calf shipping in Big Cypress July 19.



Beverly Bidney

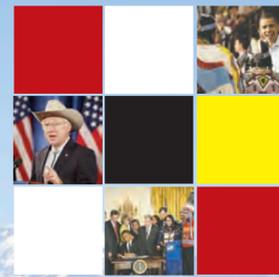
**UNDER CONSTRUCTION:** A construction crew works on the roof of a new home being built in Immokalee Aug. 12. The home is one of a few being built to help solve the housing shortage on the reservation.



Beverly Bidney

**IN PURSUIT:** Chris Green, Virgil (Shaggy) Birch II and a hard-working dog go after some runaway cows in the Jumper pastures July 19 during the annual calf shipping at the cow pens in Big Cypress.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



## Meth: A huge problem for Yankton Sioux

**CHARLES MIX COUNTY, S.D.** — Nearly three years after replacing BIA law enforcement with its own independent police force, the Yankton Sioux Tribe in South Dakota has identified a single issue that stands out from the rest: the prevalence of illegal methamphetamine use.

“There is a huge problem here,” Yankton Sioux Tribal Police Chief Christopher Saunsoci told the Daily Republic. “Our families are close together, and it makes it a huge problem because for us, it’s not just somebody we know, but it’s our own relatives.”

Saunsoci believes the drugs are being trafficked onto the reservation from larger cities like Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Sioux City and Omaha, with the smugglers taking advantage of the Yankton Sioux Tribe’s numerous parcels of land checkered throughout two counties, creating jurisdictional nightmares for the various Native and non-native law enforcement agencies; a suspect can easily find and cross the border and gain temporary immunity until he or she crosses the invisible line again.

Tribal police and the local Wagner Police Department have a close relationship. With a presence in the same town, one department can provide quick assistance to the other.

“It’s like having an extra set of eyes and an extra person that has your back. If something should come down to a life-and-death situation, it makes us feel better knowing that we do have somebody there to help us when it comes to those situations,” Saunsoci said, pointing out that, in most cases, local police cannot enforce laws or make arrests on tribal land and vice versa.

Tribal Police Lt. Willard Bruguier said it may be difficult to broaden that jurisdiction because it would require a tribal-wide referendum, and many Tribe members distrust state law officers, but he believes it is possible.

“That’s the ultimate goal, to educate our people and have them understand that just because these guys are wearing a different badge, a different uniform, they’d be down here acting under the color of tribal law trying to help them,” Bruguier said.

Bruguier has worked for Yankton Sioux Tribal Police for almost 10 years, though he left the area for a few years in 2009. Since returning, he said the methamphetamine problem on the reservation has gotten worse.

“When I left here in 2009, it was nowhere near the problem it is now. It’s very, very thick; very heavy every single day,” Bruguier said.

Earlier this year, South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley proclaimed South Dakota is under a methamphetamine epidemic, and the Department of Justice has reported that Native Americans have the highest rates of meth abuse in the nation.

— *The Daily Republic*

## Do state pot charges really trump tribal sovereignty?

**FLANDREAU, S.D.** — In 2014, the Flandreau Santee Sioux accepted a “deal” by the U.S. Department of Justice that gave American Indian Tribes authority to legalize marijuana on tribal land. They can farm and market marijuana as long as the herb is kept on the reservation and out of the hands of minors and criminals.

The Tribe didn’t have a deal, however, with South Dakota attorney general Marty Jackley, who recently brought criminal charges against two Colorado non-Indian consultants hired by the Flandreau Santee Sioux to help set up a marijuana operation on a reservation south of Brookings. Monarch America representatives Eric Hagen and Jonathan Hunt are accused of smuggling enough marijuana seeds into the country from the Netherlands to grow approximately 600 plants. The Tribe hired Monarch America, to help get a marijuana growing operation up and running on the reservation.

Jackley points to a 150-year-old U.S. Supreme Court decision he says gives him power to file the charges regardless of the fact the federally recognized Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe voted last year to legalize marijuana on its federal trust reservation. Jackley said the state has jurisdiction over non-Indian offenders who violate state law on reservations because of the 1881 U.S. Supreme Court case *U.S. vs. McBratney* and a 1991 South Dakota Supreme Court decision.

In the latter case, Matt Vandermy was arrested in July 1990 within the Pine Ridge Reservation for operating an overweight vehicle. The trial court dismissed the state’s case saying they had no jurisdiction over offenses which took place on highway within tribal territory.

The state’s highest court reversed the trial court decision, however, citing the long-standing precedent of the U.S. Supreme Court holding that the state courts have exclusive jurisdiction over crimes committed in Indian country involving only non-Indians, or “victimless crimes.”

— *Sioux Falls Argus Leader*

## EPA to pay \$1.2M more for Colorado mine spill

**DENVER** — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says it will pay another \$1.2 million to Tribes, states and local governments affected by a massive mine waste spill in southwestern Colorado.

The announcement came on the anniversary of the blowout at the Gold King Mine near Silverton. An EPA-led crew inadvertently triggered the spill during preliminary cleanup work on blowing out three million gallons of wastewater (carrying arsenic, lead and other heavy metals) into rivers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah and impacting three Indian reservations in Colorado and New Mexico.

The EPA has so far made \$465,000 available to New Mexico to address the spill’s aftermath. But that amount is just a fraction of the \$6 million that Environment Department Secretary Ryan Flynn says New Mexico needs for clean up and monitoring over a five-year period.

“They haven’t provided anywhere close to the funding that is necessary,” Flynn said.

The EPA swears water quality quickly returned to pre-spill levels — a point officials in New Mexico continue to dispute, saying the state’s independent monitoring still show high lead levels being detected in river sediment near Farmington. New Mexico did not receive money in the EPA’s latest funding round.

The latest EPA reimbursements will include the cost of field surveys, water sampling, lab tests and personnel.

Some agencies have complained that the EPA has been slow to repay their costs and has refused to cover some expenses. The EPA said that in addition to the money recently announced, it has already paid \$1.9 million in response costs and is giving the states and Tribes another \$2 million to monitor water quality. The EPA says it has spent more than \$29 million so far on spill-related costs.

Latest reimbursements include: Navajo Nation: \$445,000, Southern Ute Indian Tribe: 106,000, Utah state government: \$258,000, Colorado state government: \$161,000, La Plata County, Colorado: \$99,000, San Juan County and Silverton, Colorado: \$43,000, Durango, Colorado: \$43,000.

— *Coloradoan.com*

## Chippewa Cree Tribe celebrates 100 years

**BOX ELDER, Mont.** — With the help of Plain Green, the Chippewa Cree Tribe recently kicked off its 52nd annual Powwow celebration honoring the centennial anniversary of the establishment of the Rocky Boy’s Reservation.

An online lender wholly owned by the Chippewa Cree, Plain Green not only functions as the economic development arm of the Tribe, but also plays a critical role in making events like the Powwow possible. Plain Green has been a major financial backer of the annual Powwow for over five years, and continues to be a pillar of support for the community.

2016 marks 100 years since the establishment of the Rocky Boy’s Reservation, named after a leader of a band of Chippewa Indians. For the more than 7,000 members of the Chippewa Cree Tribe, the centennial celebration marks a monumental point in their tribal history.

Since 1916, when the Chippewa Cree settled on the reservation, they have worked to observe and pass their heritage from one generation to the next. Now, a century later, they continue to honor those who have positively impacted the Tribe and celebrate the traditions they have worked so hard to preserve and share.

“This celebration plays a key role in both preserving tribal culture and educating non-members about our values and customs,” Plain Green staff member, Steve Parker told nativenewsonline.com. “We are proud to be able to support this year’s powwow and make this event possible for our community and all those who will be in attendance.”

“This celebration is not only an important aspect of our way of life, but also plays an important role in keeping the traditions of our ancestors alive,” continued Parker. “Our goal at Plain Green is to provide financial, employment and business opportunities to the Chippewa Cree Tribe and Community. Whether it is providing scholarships to graduating high school seniors, mentoring students to guide them through the college entrance process, volunteering within our community, or supporting our 100th Annual celebration, Plain Green wants to see our community and our Tribe prosper.”

— *Nativenewsonline.net*

## Senate resolution aims to protect tribal items

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — A bipartisan group of U.S. Congressmen is supporting a resolution to condemn the theft, illegal possession and export of tribal

cultural items.

The Protection of the Rights of Tribes to stop the Export of Cultural and Traditional Patrimony resolution was introduced by Sen. Tom Udall and Sen. Martin Heinrich, both Democrats from New Mexico, and by Sen. John McCain, a Republican from Arizona. The Senate measure is a companion to a resolution introduced in March by U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce, a Republican from New Mexico.

“PROTECT Patrimony” calls on U.S. officials to stop illegal trafficking of cultural patrimony and secure the repatriation of tribal cultural items. It directs the Comptroller General of the U.S. to conduct a study on the scope of illegal trafficking in tribal cultural items and in consultation with Native Americans to identify steps to end it. It also supports the development of explicit restrictions on export of cultural patrimony.

In a news release, McCain said, “Year after year these artifacts, which have deep and historical and cultural significance for Native American Tribes, are transported and auctioned overseas. Congress must impose stiffer penalties to stop this illegal practice.”

In July, Heinrich introduced STOP, the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act, which would prohibit the export of sacred Native American items and increase the penalties for stealing and illegally trafficking in tribal cultural patrimony.

These actions come as the federal government is trying to recover an Acoma war shield that was listed for sale by a Paris auction house earlier this year. The pueblo pleaded with public officials and even called on the people of France to stop the sale before the item was eventually withdrawn. The U.S. is now seeking forfeiture of the ceremonial shield, stolen in a home burglary at Acoma.

Tribes say these items are needed to keep their cultural heritage alive. The resolution is supported by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the All Pueblos Council of Governors.

— *Santa Fe New Mexican*

## Native farmers’ settlement fund draws high interest

**BISMARCK, N.D.** — About 150 groups from around the country that provide services to American Indian farmers and ranchers have applied to receive grant money from a \$38 million fund, set up as part of the federal government’s \$680 million 2011 loan discrimination settlement with Native Americans.

The award settled a class-action lawsuit filed in 1999 by Indian farmers who said they were denied loans for decades because of government discrimination.

Most of the settlement money will go to farmers. Included is a \$265 million longterm trust, as well as a \$38 million “fast track fund” to get money to nonprofits more quickly.

An advisory committee will whittle down the fast track fund proposals and make a recommendation to a federal judge by Oct. 17 on which groups should get money.

— *Bismarck Tribune*

## CDC: Smoking rates decline except among Natives

**ATLANTA, Ga.** — Native Americans and Alaska Natives have the highest smoking rate of any minority group — a trend that has continued to grow as all other groups have declined — according to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The report discloses that cigarette use by Native Americans and Alaska Natives has increased from 37.1 percent (2002 to 2005) to 38.9 percent (2010 to 2013). Blacks came in at 24.9 percent; Asians smoked the least from 2010 to 2013 at 10.9 percent. Rates declined for all groups except Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

The higher rates of tobacco use are found in rural population and certain minority groups, said Dr. Daniel Derksen, director of the University of Arizona Center for Rural Health.

“Even though the overall cigarette-smoking rate is declining, disparities remain among racial and ethnic groups and within subgroups,” said Bridgette Garrett, associate director of the CDC Office of Smoking and Health.

Garrett has suggested that it is important to focus on these population categories and implement strategies that are known to work to reduce tobacco use. The strategies include cessation treatments in health insurance plans, policies that ban smoking indoors and in certain areas and taxes on tobacco products.

The report mentioned the lack of health insurance among many Native Americans, who are not exposed to quit smoking treatments. The CDC also mentions that certain standard strategies to curb smoking are not proving beneficial for certain groups.

Corinne Graffunder, director of the CDC Office of Smoking and Health, said that if strategies are implemented then they could help lessen tobacco use, especially

among racial and ethnic populations having higher rates of use.

— *Perfscience*

## Barton’s death leaves void for Lumbee Tribe

**LUMBERTON, N.C.** — When Bruce Barton, 74, died July 4, the Lumbee Tribe lost an historian and advocate who gave a voice to Americans Indians striving to overcome a history of discrimination. The longtime editor of the Carolina Indian Voice newspaper was an author, journalist and activist known throughout Indian Country.

“The newspaper was a voice for the Lumbee people at a time when our voice was not always heard. Bruce was a gifted writer and used the pen mightily to get his words and ideas across,” said his younger brother, Rick.

Barton started the Carolina Indian Voice, a weekly publication, in Pembroke in January 1973 and served as the editor until 1998 when he turned the newspaper over to his sister, Connee, and enrolled at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke to pursue a teaching career. In circulation until 2005, the newspaper carried the tag line “Dedicated to the best in all of us.”

“We hope ... to turn discrimination and poverty and other related ills inside out by honest, objective reporting of happenings in Robeson County,” Barton was quoted as saying in the 1975 book “The Only Land I Know: A History of the Lumbee Indians.”

Barton was known for his efforts to end the practice of double-voting, which prior to the merger of Robeson County schools allowed city residents to vote for members of both the city and county school boards. He also spoke out against police brutality, helped get Indian officials elected and worked to prevent UNCP’s historic Old Main from being demolished.

As an author, Barton was a scholar on Lumbee legend Henry Berry Lowrie and also wrote about American Indian basketball players in and around Robeson County.

“Bruce was the historian of the Lumbee Tribe and over the years had collected boxes and boxes of family information. His desk at home has stacks and stacks of papers containing Barton and Lumbee trivia that he had collected. His walls were adorned with hundreds of family photos,” Rick said.

James Locklear, editor, publisher and owner of Pembroke-based Native Visions Magazine, called Barton the “godfather” of Lumbee journalism and “a true Lumbee warrior” who never wavered in his dedication to his people. Locklear said although Barton was best known for his journalistic pursuits, he was “probably an even better historian.”

“He defened the rights of our people with a flame-throwing pen that spewed words of napalm,” Locklear said. “... Bruce knew more about the Lumbees than anybody I ever knew. Anytime I had a question on something I did not know, I could count on Bruce for an answer.”

Kim Pevia, past president of the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce, said she learned about Barton’s reputation as a child living in Baltimore. “My parents subscribed to the Carolina Indian Voice and after they read each issue I read it. This is the way we kept up with the news from back home.”

An Army veteran, Barton was a founder of the UNCP Braves Club, the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce and the Indian History Museum at the Public Schools of Robeson County’s Indian Education Resource Center. In addition to his degree from UNCP, Barton held a master’s of Education from the University of Southern Mississippi. He taught at Pembroke Senior High and taught the Upward Bound Program at UNCP, then called Pembroke State University.

— *Robesonian.com*

## First Native woman named to Minnesota high court

**MINNEAPOLIS** — Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton announced June 29 the appointment of Judge Anne McKeig to the Minnesota Supreme Court. Justice McKeig (White Earth Band of Ojibwe) is the first American Indian woman to be appointed to the state’s highest court.

A graduate of the College of St. Catherine and the Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, McKeig replaces retiring Justice Christopher Dietzen upon his retirement at the end of August. She previously served as district court judge in the Fourth Judicial District and worked as an assistant Hennepin County attorney specializing in Indian Child Welfare cases.

In an emotional press conference, McKeig recalled attending the swearing in of Justice Robert A. Blaeser, the first — and longest serving — Native American judge appointed to the Minnesota District Court Bench. Blaeser retired in 2012 after serving 17 years on the bench.

“I didn’t know him, but he was a White Earth member,” she said, choking back tears. “And I, a proud descendant of White Earth Nation, knew that if he could do it, that maybe I could ... It’s people like him who led the way, [who] have allowed for

others like me to dare to dream.”

In his remarks, Gov. Dayton thanked Justice Dietzen for his “dedicated service to the State of Minnesota,” and said that in appointing McKeig, he had looked for experience, excellence, proven commitment to public service and compassion.

“Judge Anne McKeig has served the people of Minnesota admirably throughout her distinguished career, including as presiding judge of the Family Court in Minnesota’s Fourth Judicial District. [She] has worked honorably to ensure justice for some of Minnesota’s most vulnerable people, with her strong dedication to Indian Child Welfare and her work leading the Fourth District Family Court,” Dayton said.

“I trust that her commitment to justice, and her concern for the wellbeing of all Minnesotans will bring a unique and valuable perspective to the Court. I am confident Judge McKeig will continue the same exemplary commitment to fairness and excellence that Justice Dietzen has displayed throughout his distinguished career.”

— *ICTMN*

## Court battle continues over North Dakota pipeline

Resolution of construction issues involving the Dakota Access pipeline near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation has been postponed as a U.S. District Court judge announced at a hearing Aug. 24 that he would need until at least Sept. 9 to deliver a decision on a motion filed by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Earth Justice, an environmental law group.

More than 4,000 people have gathered in camps along the Missouri River in an attempt to stop Dallas-based Energy Transfer from piping Bakken oilfield crude underneath the Missouri River, the main source of drinking water for the Tribe.

As hundreds of protesters rallied outside U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., Judge James E. Boasberg said he would need until Sept. 9 to weigh all the evidence presented at a hearing on the lawsuit brought by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Tribe sued over the Corps’ approval of the pipeline without a comprehensive environmental and archeological review.

Sept. 8 is the day that Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairman David Archambault and other defendants are scheduled to appear in court to answer a lawsuit filed by Dakota Access Partners against the water protectors. Dozens, including Archambault, were arrested last week during demonstrations at the construction site near the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota. Dakota Access brought a lawsuit against Archambault soon after.

The Aug. 24 hearing hinged on whether the Tribe had been adequately consulted during the permitting process, and whether due diligence had been performed. The corps approved permits for the project at the end of July despite written objections by three federal agencies, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Construction has started in all four states that the 1,172-mile-long pipeline will run through amid protests from citizens opposing the project.

“Out of 359 miles of pipeline, we only had an opportunity of two sites to look at,” argued EarthJustice Legal Defense Fund attorney Jan Hasselman on behalf of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, referring to the consultation process. “That was not enough, and the scope was too narrow.”

Further, he said, Dakota Access’s archaeologists did not know enough history to even identify what constituted a sacred site.

“The site could be registered right now as a historical site with what they have found,” Hasselman said, quoting the Tribe’s archaeologist. “Meanwhile, the Dakota Access archeologist had walked right over it.”

Dakota Access attorneys said the Tribes had been given ample opportunity to visit pipeline sites and that since the company wants to have oil running by January of 2017, any halting of the construction would be unfair to people with vested interests. Construction is continuing elsewhere along the route.

But history and culture must transcend such concerns, Archambault said in a statement read during the hearing by one of the Tribe’s attorneys.

“Our history connects us, and all of our spiritual connections are lost when sites are destroyed, even when they do not have access to them.”

— *Indian Country Today Media Network*

Compiled by Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher



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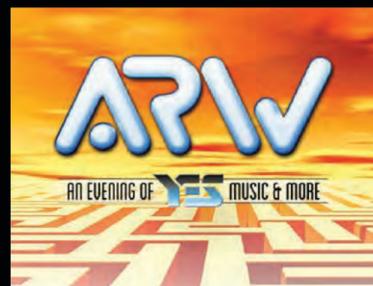
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# Education

B

## Ahfachkee School among national finalists for XQ multi-million dollar grant

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Ahfachkee School is one of 50 finalists in a groundbreaking contest that could change the way students are educated nationwide.

XQ: The Super School Project invited educators to create a new approach to high school for the 21st century and will award \$10 million grants to the winning schools. Thousands of schools submitted proposals but only five will receive funding. Winners will be announced in mid-September.

Led by XQ Board of Directors Chair Laurene Jobs, widow of Apple founder Steve Jobs, the Super School Project was launched in September 2015. The organization's mission is to create a new way of learning that doesn't only rely on measurement of intelligence (IQ) or emotional capabilities (EQ). The organization dubbed the nimble and flexible intelligence needed to navigate through modern life as the X quotient, or XQ.

"We've gone from the Model T to the Tesla and from the switchboard to the

smartphone. Yet high school has remained frozen in time," states the XQ website.

A team from Ahfachkee and Florida International University worked on the proposal to reinvent the school's traditional standardized curriculum and attract more Tribal students. Classrooms without walls, a schedule with no bells and collaborative learning while solving real-world problems are the cornerstone of the school's XQ proposal.

"The idea was to provide students with top notch, innovative and creative ways they can learn in hope they will come back to Ahfachkee," said FIU Liaison and XQ project coordinator Brenda Gillis. "Other tribal schools are also struggling and this is something that can be replicated nationwide."

The Ahfachkee team opened the process to the community, teachers and students and together they came up with a plan based on Project Based Learning. Once XQ accepted the concept, the team completed other steps during the six-month application process, each of which met with success. Most applicants were rejected but Ahfachkee's

comprehensive proposal led it to the finals.

Gillis and the team met with students to find out what their interests are and what they wanted to learn about. The goal is to inspire students to think outside of the box while the school prepares them for college and careers.

Project Based Learning allows students to explore real world problems for an extended period of time, during which they investigate, acquire deep knowledge and respond to problems with a solution. At Ahfachkee, students' schedules will be defined by the project and will combine education, community needs and individual career goals.

The community presented ideas for projects such as land and water management, agriculture, cattle, climate change and designing smart phone apps. While students work on projects, they will learn core curriculum skills including English, math, social studies, science and culture.

Gillis said students can explore ways to address worldwide issues such as irrigation, agriculture and hunger; they won't be limited to matters only within the bounds of the

reservation. FIU could play an important part of the academics as well, with a possible dual enrollment option.

Non-traditional teachers such as Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum employees, cattle and range experts and others may also have a role in the implementation of the projects.

"What the school can provide is leaders who are motivated to take over the Tribe and leave something to make it better," Osceola said.

Students will still take the Florida State Assessment test and should do well since project-based learning increases cognitive thinking skills. Standardized tests don't just test rote learning and memorization; they also test critical thinking and problem solving skills.

"Students will get a great way of learning," Gillis said. "It will open their eyes. By solving problems in their community, the learning will be more applicable to them. When you pick what you learn, it resonates. By being more engaged, students learn more."

## Living the ACD experience: As video improves, so must justice

BY AARON TOMMIE  
Contributing Writer

The advent of the Internet has allowed information to be shared in ways modern civilization has probably never seen. Through social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube and news outlets such as CNN and Fox News, breaking news can be filmed by anyone with a smart phone or any other camera, and be seen by millions in a matter of minutes, whereas 100 years ago, it would take much longer for people to receive news.

In the Broadcasting Department, our jobs are to record people's lives and moments through video. As a videographer, a huge responsibility is given to us because, although on a smaller scale, we are documenting history. The story can vary based on the way we film and edit the video. For that reason, it has been difficult for me to observe the events occurring within our country and not be affected by them.

Our country is in the midst of dealing with the aftermath of its past transgressions. Historical calamities such as the forced enslavement of Africans and the genocide of Native Americans have created a breeding ground for many of our country's present social problems, including the prevalence of police brutality.

*"Whether you're Native or not, these events affect everyone."*

As of Aug. 22, 753 people have been killed by police this year in the United States, according to the website killedbypolice.com that tracks media coverage of such incidents.

Viral footage of incidents involving the deaths of Philando Castile in Minnesota and Alton Sterling in Louisiana, and more recently of Korryn Gaines in Maryland, has caused outrage as people realize that antiquated laws and policies need drastic modifications. Although there have been more whites killed by police, it is an unfortunate fact that minorities are killed by police at a higher rate.

Since Native Americans account for approximately one percent of the US population, there isn't much national news coverage of issues concerning the Native American community. For example, Mahi-vist Goodblanket, a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, was killed by police in December 2014 in Oklahoma. This has been one of the more talked about police killings of a Native American, but hasn't garnered the attention of other high profile cases.

As a fellow Seminole, this is disheartening. Whether you're Native or not, these events affect everyone. The Blacks Lives Matter movement has led to the Native Lives Matter movement and others which aim to convey the importance of the lives of people of color, especially during the times when the justice system doesn't seem to balance in their favor.

The bulk of the outrage from people of all communities comes because of the instances – and there seems to be plenty – when the cops who have been proven to have broken protocol are only given minor punishments, if any, while the victims' family members have to deal with the effects of losing a loved one.

Hopefully in the future, as video's technology continues to improve, so would our laws and policies which lead to more stringent punishments for those who do wrong, police officer or not. When millions of people see these videos, they spark something within them and force people to hold those doing wrong accountable. Change has to happen in order for these issues to dissipate, which undoubtedly can occur with video as the catalyst.

## Schimmel sisters share their success story

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ  
Copy Editor

**DAVIE** — Before the new school year started, the Schimmel sisters provided inspiration to Seminole students during the Seminole Education Department's Education Expo on Aug. 5 at Signature Grand in Davie. Known throughout Indian Country for their success on the basketball court, Shoni and Jude Schimmel shared how they rose to fame and have used their education to continue striving for goals, all while remaining humble and appreciative of their Native heritage.

"It's an honor. I'm only 22, and I had no idea that I can say we've been on the same stage with President Obama," Jude said. "We don't take all of our blessings for granted."

After Chairman James E. Billie spoke to attendees and urged them to stay away from drugs and pursue their education, the Schimmel sisters took the stage as the keynote speakers. Both sisters starred on the University of Louisville women's basketball team before embarking on professional careers in the WNBA. Shoni plays for the New York Liberty; Jude played with the Dallas Wings in the spring.

"No matter what you dream, no dream is too big," Jude said.

At 5-foot-5, Jude explained to the students that she is not the typical height that the WNBA looks for, but said that anything is possible if you set your mind to your goals and work hard enough to achieve them. She also encouraged the students to seek higher education.

"Whatever kind of college, just go out and get your education," Jude said. "I'm not going to lie to you; there will be times that will be tough, but you must keep moving forward and stick it out."

The Schimmel sisters are the second and third oldest kids of eight siblings in their family. Making the decision to leave their hometown in Oregon and go away to college was hard for them, especially because they grew up with a big family and in a Tribal setting. However, their decisions paved the way for them to achieve things they had never imagined possible.

Shoni mirrored her sister's thoughts and told the audience to not take being Native American for granted. She focused on talking about how both she and Jude did not grow up privileged.

"Don't settle. Just go out and find your motivation," said Shoni, 24. "We're beautiful

people, and I'm thankful for being Native American."

Students took photos with the sisters and had the opportunity to purchase autographed books of Jude's autobiography "Dreamcatcher."

Tribal members and other attendees lined up to buy the book that tells the story of Jude growing up on a reservation and what it was like for her to succeed in the world outside of reservation life.

The expo featured representatives from several colleges and universities, learning workshops and networking with educational advisors.

"There's a lot of schools that I never even thought of looking into, not just for college but for my small daughter and three sons, and I didn't even know they're right down the street," said Erica Frank-Bad Bear, 29, who attends Sheridan Technical Center in Hollywood for Computer Sciences.

Other presentations included help with credit scores and credit reports, college survival skills and resume writing.

"I think it's a great event. Education is really important to the future of our youth, so this type of environment shows a lot of options," said Joshua Arce, acting dean of Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas. "I'm proud to be the only tribal college here and know that Haskell has had a long history with the Tribe and its members."

Arce wasn't alone in being proud of Haskell's legacy.

"Haskell is the hub for Indian Country. On average they have 150 tribes represented annually," said Tribe Treasurer Peter Hahn, a Haskell alum. "Not only is it a great place to make connections and friends, but it's also a great first step in education."

Attendees who visited the Haskell booth were given information about how they could pursue their education and prepare for their futures by enrolling in the university whose enrollment is about 800 Native Americans per semester.

The expo was also filled with booths and representatives from several Seminole departments that provided information about their services.

"We have a lot of opportunities in our Tribe alone and they [Schimmel sisters] didn't have much," said Anissa Billie, 17, who attends Paul R. Wharton High School in Tampa. "It was really cool that they got to be on the stage with Obama; if they can do it, we can do it."



Stephanie Rodriguez

Pro basketball players and sisters Jude and Shoni Schimmel give speeches about their triumphs and tribulations at the Educational Expo on Aug. 5 to motivate young Tribal members to have goals and reach for their dreams.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Joshua Arce, acting Dean of Students for Haskell Indian Nations University, gives information to Erica Frank, 29, about scholarships, campus life, and the application process at the Education Expo.



Stephanie Rodriguez

The Schimmel sisters pose with this year's Miss Florida Seminole, Kirsten Doney, and Junior Miss Florida Seminole, Thomlynn Billie, at this year's Educational Expo held at Signature Gardens in Davie.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Chairman James E. Billie speaks about the importance of education and staying away from drugs during the Education Expo on Aug. 5.

# Lego program provides learning experience for Ahfachkee students

**SUBMITTED BY ALYSSA BOGE**  
Museum Education Coordinator  
and  
**JUAN CANCEL**  
THPO Chief Data Analyst

**BIG CYPRESS** — Legos, wrecking balls and measuring tapes were some of the tools students used during a Tribal Historic Preservation Office and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Lego program as part of the Ahfachkee School's 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant which helped fund the summer school program.

In only 11 weeks, 14 fourth-to-sixth-graders constructed a scale model of the Ahfachkee science building using Lego building blocks. Students not only had fun

playing with the Legos, but they learned about math concepts, engineering, problem solving, and teamwork.

Students began the program by learning about mapping and scaling using Google Earth to travel within the Big Cypress Reservation and around the world. The students then measured both the inside and the outside of the science building using measuring tapes and even a laser distance meter. They reviewed multiplication and division as they calculated the dimensions of their scale model.

As the program progressed, the students learned about engineering by scientifically testing the strength of different walls using a miniature wrecking ball. Students learned basic problem solving skills and worked as a

team to piece together their model one Lego at a time.

In the end, students completed the scale model, including the classroom interiors. They thoughtfully and creatively designed water coolers, eye wash stations, fume hoods, desks, chairs, tables, and even whiteboards.

On the last day of the project, they presented their work to their peers at the Ahfachkee School and exhibited the scale model. Fellow students curiously explored the mechanics of the Lego doors and learned about all of the work that goes into creation of a model.

The model was recently exhibited at the Big Cypress' Back-to-School Bash and students who participated in the program proudly showed off their work to the school and community.

Piloted in 2015, this was the second year of the program and the Museum and THPO plan to continue to carry the program into the future. The goal is to have the students recreate the reservation in miniature while they build their math skills and learn problem solving techniques and teamwork. The project has provided the students with a stronger connection to the THPO and Museum as they work with staff members and visit the Museum throughout the project. Through the fun of playing with LEGO blocks, kids can take away important skills and make lasting memories.

*Interested in supporting the Lego program? Do you have any unused Legos looking for a new home? We would love to put them to use in our program. Ask for Alyssa or Juan at the Museum at (877) 902-1113 or via e-mail at alyssaboge@semtribe.com or juancancel@semtribe.com. You can also feel free to come by the Museum anytime to drop them off.*



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Ahfachkee students built this Lego replica of the school's science building.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Ahfachkee students construct a scale model of the school's science building during a summer program with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and THPO.

# Big Cypress hosts bash before it's back to the books

**BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ**  
Copy Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Big Cypress Reservation's annual Back-to-School Bash not only provided a fun time for students before they returned to school, but it also served as an introduction to Ahfachkee School's new principal.

The bash featured a variety of activities, food, music, and giveaways to accompany the announcement July 28 in the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola introduced Ahfachkee's new principal, Dorothy Cain, with an upbeat tone as the Tribe had been waiting for a new principal since 2014. Cain said she hopes to make a difference in the school in her new role and wants to make sure that all the students are achieving their goals.

"I thought it was a very successful event for the community. I met a lot of students that attend Ahfachkee," Cain said. "I look forward to a successful year at the school."

Cain wasn't alone in her excitement about the new school year. Councilman Osceola said he couldn't be more thrilled about the outcome of the bash and how many students attended the event at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

"I hope everyone has a great school year," Osceola said. "I want to thank everybody who came out for the 2016 Back-to-School Bash."

Students of all ages and from different reservations attended the event that gave away JanSport backpacks, Bass Pro Shop gift certificates and a variety of school supplies, including composition notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, and folders. Additionally, students enjoyed musical entertainment by DJ MCI and Supaman, the master of ceremony, throughout the day.

Supaman, the hip-hop sensation from the Crow Nation, showcased his talent with his authentic traditional tribal dance and back-to-school jokes.

With more than 10 years of experience in the music industry and about five years combining tribal music with hip-hop, Supaman was happy to contribute his talent and rap for the students.

"It's something new for music itself and it combines our native culture into hip-hop," he said. "I really enjoyed the participation of the kids and to see their smiling faces."

As one of the biggest events of the new school year, parents, teachers, and students joined the fun and dancing.

"I had a really good time at the bash. I look forward to it next year," said Ahfachkee student Edie Robbins, 13.

American Heritage student Madison Jumper agreed with Edie and said she had a lot of fun, too.

"They had a lot of activities. I loved it," Jumper said.

The event was filled with educational booths from various tribal departments to help students, and there were also unique booths that offered services like manicures and haircuts.

The bash was not only a successful learning resource for new and returning students, but it gave multiple opportunities for students to get acquainted with each other.

"I think it's great for the kids to have something to come to before school starts," Billie Tiger said. "It's a great motivator to get good grades and to get the school year started off right."



Stephanie Rodriguez

Junior Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie stands between Halley Balentina and Tahnia Billie, both 8, as they get their manicures at the Back-to-School Bash in Big Cypress.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Issach Alafaro, 11, prepares to look good for his first day back to school by getting a haircut at the Back-to-School Bash on July 28.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Shonayeh Tommie was ready for her first day of school with her new pink bookbag that she received at the Back-to-School Bash in Big Cypress on July 28.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Students at the Back-to-School Bash enjoy their giveaways and pizza while sitting together and scoping out the activities.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Friends Amaya Solano, Justice-Ann Morrison, Abby Tigertail, Cyiah Avila, Edie Robbins, Shana Balentina, Madison Jumper, Leonell Edouard, Dontae Russell and Leon Edouard gather for a photo at the July 28 Back-to-School Bash.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Christian Parrish, also known as rapper Supaman, performs his traditional dance from the Crow Nation at the Back-to-School Bash before he started his hip-hop performance.

# Boys & Girls Club kids show their appreciation

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ  
Copy Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — Kids from the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club want to make sure good deeds never go unnoticed. They showed their appreciation for public safety employees by baking cookies and other baked goods for the Tribe's firefighters/paramedics and police officers.

The youngsters delivered their treats to Fire Rescue headquarters Aug. 11 as part of the 'Summer of Service' program.

"We appreciate that they appreciate us, and we're here to serve the community," Battalion Commander Roberto Vega said.

The program, which includes random acts of kindness, is structured so children volunteer their time toward a project to better the community, themselves or the club. In this case, the children chose to show their appreciation to firefighters and police officers for the jobs they do.

"The firefighters are nice, and all of

the stuff I got to see was fun," said Swan Kemble, 8.

After they presented poster boards that displayed their gratitude, the kids were given a tour of the fire station and sat in fire trucks and a police car. The kids tested sirens, played with gadgets, moved the stretcher on an ambulance, watched a timed gear and suit demonstration by a firefighter, and rode on a former U.S. military truck dubbed the Green Monster and/or the Beast, which is shared by police and firefighters for heavy loads, rough terrain, and to haul trailers or oversized cargo.

"It was fun giving back to the firefighters and police officers because they always help us in so many ways," said Nakai Alex, 12.

Nakai wasn't alone in his thoughts as his 8-year-old sister agreed.

"I want to thank the police, firefighters, and first responders for keeping our community safe," Kayle Alex said.

Fire Marshall Bob Brown said firefighters and first responders have a safety

program every month for the Boys & Girls Club.

"I think it's great that the children on the reservation understand what services we provide," said District Fire Chief Douglas LeValley. "From the medical aspect of it to the paramedic level; we also provide services at the fire level, and we go out into the community. We even provide healthcare screenings at the Senior Center."

LeValley spoke to the kids and asked them questions about what they know about fires and fire prevention.

"We train today for the victory of tomorrow," LeValley said.

Youth from the Boys & Girls Club also participate in the program's other projects, including cleaning up the club, an anti-bullying project, a selfie exhibit to promote self-confidence, and an international day celebration, which incorporates the education of different cultures.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Lt. Jeff Maslan stands by Kimora Alex, Swan Kimble, Franklin Primeaux, Kayle Alex, Nakai Alex and Gabe Billie as they gather to present poster boards they created for firefighters and police to show their appreciation.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Kids from the Boys and Girls Club give firefighter Kevin Herrero a high-five after his timed gear and suit demonstration.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Swan Kemble and Amare Alex test gadgets on the police cruiser as Officer Galarza explains the importance of handling equipment with care.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Kimora Alex and Amare Alex check out a fire engine as Battalion Commander Roberto Vega discusses the most important features of the truck.

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# MBA grad Anthony Frank makes the most of education, career chances

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — Thirty years ago Anthony Frank was about as far from a master's degree as a person could get. Frank, who is now 57 and works for the Tribe through the Advanced Career Development program, admits he hit rock bottom when he was in his mid-20s.

"Sometimes you have to go through the valley to get to the top of the mountain," Frank said while remembering the six months he spent living on the streets of Albuquerque, New Mexico with no home and no job after his first marriage crumbled.

Despite being in a seemingly hopeless situation, Frank never lost hope. While on the streets, the boost he needed arrived in a divine way. Frank met a Christian man who helped him get back on his feet. The man provided his car for Frank to sleep in and he later paid for Frank to stay at a motel while searching for a job.

Soon after, Frank landed that first job and first paycheck when he started working at a local Burger King. It proved to be just the start Frank needed to get his life back on track. Since then, he's made the most of his opportunities, not only from a personal standpoint — he has been married to Valerie Glee-Frank for the past 19 years and he has three children and one stepchild — but also with the Tribe and education.

Just how far has Anthony Frank come since that rough stretch in Albuquerque?

This summer, he completed his Master of Business Administration degree.

"Sometimes I look back and say, 'How did I get here?' From a gentleman on the streets of Albuquerque to where I am now," said Frank, whose undergraduate studies were spent in previous years at Broward College and Florida Atlantic University.

In August, the latest chapter in Frank's ascension came when he started working in the Tribe's Accounting Department through ACD, a Human Resources Department program that places Tribal citizens with on-hands job experience in multiple areas geared toward their career interest. Ironi-

cally, Frank spent 14 years working for the Tribe in Human Resources, but in 2014, he decided it was time to pursue a different career interest.

With the Tribe's blessing, Frank left his job and returned to college as a student in his mid-50s. He excelled in the classrooms at Nova Southeastern University in Davie, where he earned all A's and B's and even finished in first place in an online stocks and options competition against other students. At age 56, he emerged with an MBA degree in finance.

Frank could have taken his MBA and sought employment in the private sector, but he considered the Tribe paying for his education as "a blessing" that he didn't take for granted.

"My first obligation is to give back to the Tribe because I know this is something they didn't have to do, but they did support me all the way," he said. "Giving back is out of gratitude and respect, and that's what my mom and my grandparents taught me. They were the driving forces in my life."

The impact his mother, Ethel Frank Marrero, and grandparents, Willie Frank and Lena Frank, had on Anthony is still very much part of his life today.

"They also instilled in me the work ethic that if you receive a gift you should give something in return, and I say the education is a gift," said Frank, who grew up in Immokalee.

With those parameters in mind, Frank is in the midst of a two-year stint in the Accounting Department. His first year will include working three months each in Fixed Assets and Accounts Receivable and six months in Accounts Payable. He said his first week on the job in Fixed Assets included dealing with the modules, entering and changing tag numbers and transferring assets between departments.

"There is still much to learn," he said. Frank plans to stay in the program for the full two years.

"If I start something, I'm going to finish it. That ethic I got from my mom," he said.

When he finishes the program, Frank would like to work with the Tribe's Board of



Kevin Johnson

Anthony Frank is in the early portion of a two-year stint working in the Tribe's Advanced Career Development program. After recently earning a Master of Business Administration degree from Nova Southeastern University, Frank started work in the Accounting Department in early August.

Directors in finance.

Frank said he never forgets where he came from nor how far he has come.

"I am proud to be a Seminole; I am

proud to have an MBA; and I am proud to be employed," he said.

Seminole Tribe of Florida citizens who

would like more information about the Advanced Career Development program can contact Human Resources at 954-966-6300 ext. 11205.

# Open house welcomes return of Pemayetv Emahakv students

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students got a jump start on the new school year at the school's Aug. 11 open house, where teachers welcomed students and their parents a few days before classes began.

Principal Brian Greseth introduced parents and students to teachers and staff, who lined the walls of the gym, before he shared important information such as school hours, drop-off and pick-up procedures, tutoring, after-care, and Boys & Girls Club schedules.

Greseth explained the Skyward portal, where parents can check students' grades, view team and club activities, see if homework was turned in, read teachers' notes, and receive email alerts when new grades, school, and class information are posted.

Enrollment at the PK-8 grade school is expected to be about 310 students. The average class size for primary grades is 10 to 11 students per teacher plus an aide; for middle school the average is 12-13 students per teacher.

Students, with parents in tow, sought out their new classrooms and teachers. Teachers manned each freshly decorated classroom and were ready with small treats for the students and packets of information for the parents. Teachers went over classroom procedures and had the students find their assigned seats.

Second-grade teacher Lisa Clements told parents they need to sign the student's agenda daily. Clements' students will sit on big bouncy exercise balls instead of chairs "if they have ants in their pants and need to jiggle."

Seventh- and eighth-grade science teacher Kelly Bass-Gould greeted returning students with a smile and advised them not to be afraid to ask questions.

PECS has an impressive academic record. Last year more than 95 percent of third-graders passed the Florida State Assessment Reading Test, and the middle school had the overall highest FSA scores in the six-county Heartland Consortium.



Beverly Bidney

Ana Solis's kindergarten classroom is filled with activity as parents fill out forms and children check out their new classroom during the PECS open house Aug. 11.



Beverly Bidney

PECS middle school science teacher Kelly Bass-Gould greets seventh-grader Leilani Burton and her mother, Micki Burton, during the open house Aug. 11.



Beverly Bidney

As language arts teacher Angie Snyder looks on, sixth-grader Shylynn Testerman holds up her schedule during the PECS open house Aug. 11.

# Time to head back to school



Genesis Pagan, Brian Billie Jr., Darrell Jackson, Ivory Vasquez, Franklin Primeaux, and Darnell Jackson all participate in a game of Family Feud on the first day of school at the Boys and Girls Club on Aug. 23.

Stephanie Rodriguez



Beverly Bidney

Aries Serrano, 3, builds a house with magnets during the first week of preschool Aug. 11 in Brighton. The preschool has 44 infant to 3-year-old students enrolled.



Students and teachers wait in the shade for after school pick up on Ahfachkee's first day Aug. 15.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

A young student rushes onto the new Big Cypress bus after the first day of school at Ahfachkee Aug. 15. The count for the first day of school was 152 PK-12 grade students.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Jamylah Wilson and Kenneth Tommie Jr. smile for the camera right before they engage in the next afternoon activity at the Boys and Girls Club on their first day of school Aug. 23.



Beverly Bidney

Alayna Rodriguez, 8 months, curiously explores the baby's room at the Immokalee Preschool Aug. 12 as center manager Michelle Ford watches. The preschool has 46 children from infancy to 4 years old.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Siblings Darnell and Darrell Jackson along with Ivory Vasquez pick out school supplies that the Boys and Girls Club was giving away as part of a back to school incentive for the kids.



Beverly Bidney

Brighton preschoolers enjoy circle time in teacher Erin Deel's three year old classroom Aug. 11. At right, Deel holds a puppet that helps get the children settled down for the alphabet song, which they sang robustly.

# Last blast of summer for Fort Pierce kids

**FORT PIERCE** — Four days before the 2016-17 school year kicked off in St. Lucie County, children at Chupco's Landing prepared with an afternoon of fun.

After participating in swimming, face painting, photo booth shoots and other games, each child received a backpack.

Staff from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and 4-H Club had tables set up for information and activities.

The first day of school was Aug. 15.



Kevin Johnson

Karla Timothy, left, and Ayanna Robertson use costumes and props at a photo booth set up for a back-to-school party Aug. 11 at Chupco's Landing Community Center in Fort Pierce.

Below, Naomi Griffin, 3, takes a break from the back-to-school party.



Kevin Johnson

Carter Stokes gets his face painted during a back-to-school party Aug. 11 at Chupco's Landing Community Center in Fort Pierce. The event also featured swimming, photos, games, Tribal department exhibits and lunch.



Kevin Johnson

Bryan Villegas, 3, carries props after having his photo taken during a back-to-school party Aug. 11 at Chupco's Landing Community Center in Fort Pierce.

Below, Delilah Stokes receives help from Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum exhibits coordinator Siobhan Miller during a drawing activity. The Museum's booth offered educational opportunities and information about the Museum.



# Youth Rally in Hollywood

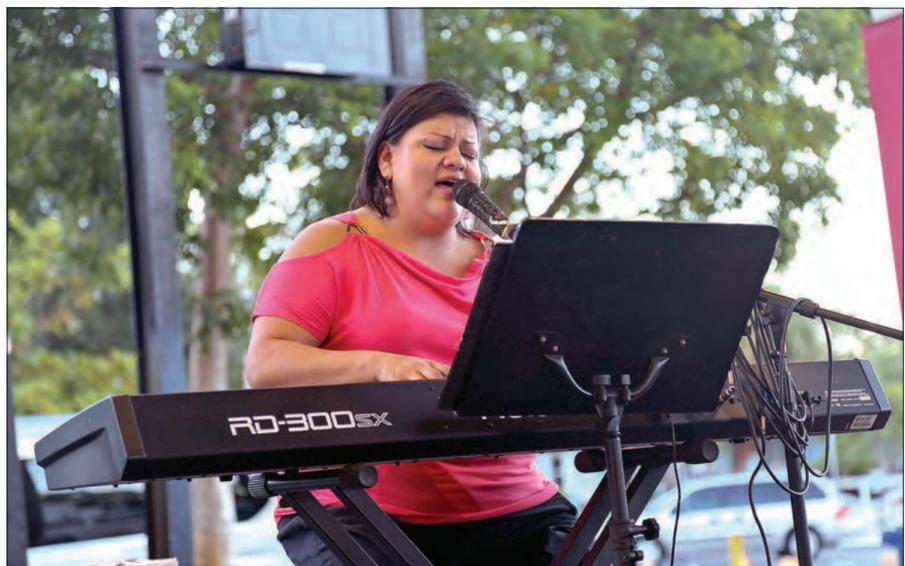


Stephanie Rodriguez

Above, hip-hop Christian artist Javier Cruz raps Christian lyrics in front of a large audience at a youth rally Aug. 12 at the Airnasium in Hollywood. The event was organized by the First Seminole Baptist Church.

At left, Jay Mule, of the Choctaw Nation, performs his hoop dance and a warrior fancy dance at the Youth Rally.

At right, Delana Ayers-Deere plays a melody on the electric keyboard and sings a Gospel song.



# Sports



## Brighton girls part of state championship, World Series run

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

For five girls from the Brighton Reservation, the summer of 2016 won't soon be forgotten.

Tiyanni Anderson, Lason Baker, Preslynn Baker, Merlelaysia Billie and Alyssa Madrigal played for the Okeechobee Darlings softball team that won a state championship in July and then finished runner-up in the Dixie Darlings World Series in Petal, Mississippi.

Before the girls headed back to school – four of them attend Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School – they joined the rest of their teammates on a memorable journey that began after they were selected to represent their Okeechobee Citizens Recreation Association league following the regular season.

The Seminole Tribe connections extended beyond the players with Preston Baker as the head coach and his wife, Mona, as an assistant coach and president of the OCRA.

“Those little girls played their hearts out,” Preston said. “We practiced hard, at least two or three hours a day, three or four days a week. They’re eager to learn.”

As state champions and World Series runner-up, the team’s accomplishments have led to a bit of fame for the players. The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners honored the squad with a proclamation at the commission’s meeting Aug. 25. The team has been invited to participate in the city’s Labor Day parade.

Mona said the entire community stepped up to support the team filled with a dozen girls ages 7 to 9.

“The community support in Okeechobee was overwhelming. Food, gas, lodging, all taken care of through local businesses with donations,” she said.

The Okeechobee Darlings didn’t disappoint their supporters. Hitting and confidence were keys as the team roared through the state tournament undefeated and notched wins in the World Series against host Petal and state champions from Louisiana, North Carolina and Texas.

“The whole lineup could hit,” Preston said. “We didn’t have one weak batter on the

team, not one weak player. That was a solid team.”

“It was a great experience,” Mona added. “They were all very confident. All our girls hit. That’s the advantage.”

Solid contact was made by Preston and Mona’s daughter, Preslynn, who blasted the ball out of the park for two home runs in the World Series, the most of any player in the tournament. Both dingers carried extra significance because the first one came when Preslynn was 8 and the second one, after she celebrated a birthday, came when she was 9.

Okeechobee, which was named Florida at the 11-team World Series, generated plenty of other highlights at the plate. The team opened with a 14-0 win against Petal which included an inside-the-park home run from Lason.

In its second game, Florida topped Texas 10-3 behind a 3-run home run from Preslynn, a 3-for-3 performance from Tiyanni and a catch in right field by Merlelaysia to end the game.

Florida’s undefeated run ended when they were sent into the losers’ bracket with a 6-3 loss to Tennessee.

Florida bounced back with a 10-7 win against North Carolina. All five Seminoles had multiple-hit games. Lason and Tiyanni scored two runs each.

A 3-1 win against Louisiana set up a rematch for Florida against their nemesis, undefeated Tennessee, in the championship. The teams were knotted at 6-6 after four innings before Tennessee pulled away with an 11-7 win to claim the title. Preslynn ended the tournament on a high note with her second home run. She was awarded the game ball in the championship game. Tiyanni had three hits and Merlelaysia, Lason and Alyssa each had two hits.

While its offense never slowed down, the team’s defense was also sharp, Preston said. Tiyanni, the leadoff batter, played shortstop with Preslynn next to her at third base. Merlelaysia, Lason and Alyssa handled outfield duties.

The team’s other players included: Janessa Arana, Carli Avant, Carley Bartels, Jessie Krall, Lilly Larson, Jayda Rochelle and Addison Smith. In addition to Mona, assistant coaches were Malcolm Edenfield and Danielle Larson.

Although they came up just short of



The Brighton Reservation was well-represented at the Dixie Darlings World Series in Mississippi in late July. From left, front row: Lason Baker. Alyssa Madrigal; back row: Preslynn Baker, Merlelaysia Billie, Tiyanni Anderson. The girls played on the Okeechobee team won a state championship and finished runner-ups in the World Series.



Photo courtesy Dawn Edenfield

Shortstop Tiyanni Anderson steps on the base for an out during the Dixie Darlings World Series.



Photo courtesy Dawn Edenfield

Lason Baker takes a big swing in a Dixie Darlings World Series game.

winning the World Series, the Okeechobee Darlings learned valuable lessons that should help them throughout their softball careers.

“They played together,” Preston said. “No arguing, no fuss. They were just there to play.”

The team’s success led to the players and parents becoming a close-knit group that celebrated three different birthdays, enjoyed barbecue food and went to the movies.

“We became one big family,” Mona said. “Second of 11 teams is awesome.

These girls did a great job. I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

♦ See WORLD SERIES on page 6C



Photo courtesy Dawn Edenfield

After belting one of her two home runs, Preslynn Baker is greeted at home plate by her father and coach, Preston Baker, and her Okeechobee Darlings teammates during the Dixie Darlings World Series in late July in Mississippi.



Photo courtesy NHSRA

Miss Florida High School Rodeo Queen Courtney Gore competes in July at the National High School Rodeo Queen competition in Gillette, Wyoming.

## Brighton's Courtney Gore vies for National HS Rodeo Queen title

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Courtney Gore, 2016 Miss Florida High School Rodeo Queen, joined 43 other young ladies and represented her state in the National High School Rodeo Queen competition in Gillette, Wyoming July 15-23 during the National High School Finals Rodeo. Courtney competed against winners from 40 other states and three Canadian provinces.

Although the Moore Haven High School senior didn't take the crown, she left Wyoming with skills that will last a lifetime.

"It was a great experience; it changed me," Courtney said. "Before, I was the one back in the corner. But I learned to walk up

to someone I didn't know and start talking to them. It was awesome talking to strangers."

The competition took three days for the contestants to demonstrate horsemanship, model, give a speech about their states, take a written test about rodeo rules, and answer impromptu questions by the judges. They also participated in four rodeo grand entries, mingled with fans, and signed autographs.

As rigorous as the competition was, Courtney was honored to participate. Worried that the other contestants would act as "mean girls," she was pleasantly surprised when she realized how supportive they all were. She made some lasting friendships during the contest and is in touch with many of her new girlfriends every day.

"Everyone was friends," she said. "When Miss Montana was crowned, we were all so proud of her. It wasn't so much about the results, but the experience."

Going forward, Courtney is looking forward to her reign as Miss Florida High School Rodeo Queen, which will include appearances at monthly high school rodeos and some professional rodeos. During those appearances, she will ride in the grand entry, meet fans, and sign autographs.

"The Wyoming experience will make it all easier," Courtney said.

A component of serving as Queen includes implementing her ideas to improve the rodeo experience. Courtney plans to organize a rodeo for kids with special needs



Photo courtesy NHSRA

2016 Miss Florida High School Rodeo Queen Courtney Gore

and hopes to expand the social aspects of rodeo for all of its participants. She wants to make sure there are group activities after the rodeo to increase camaraderie and friendship among competitors.

"I want to make sure there isn't a kid who is left out and sitting in the corner alone after the rodeo," she said.

In addition to her duties as rodeo queen,

Courtney will have a busy senior year playing volleyball, basketball, softball, and rodeo, where she competes in barrels and breakaway roping. She has advice for those who may shy away from so much activity.

"There may be things you don't want to do, but do everything you get a chance to do because it's all a great experience," she said.

## Richest billiard tournament in U.S. to be held at Hard Rock

**HOLLYWOOD** — Some of the top ranked billiard players in the world will be at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood for the Tornado Open Sept. 28-Oct. 2. The tournament will offer a \$100,000 prize fund, which is the biggest payout of any billiard tournament in the United States in 2016, according to tournament organizers.

The five-day tournament will feature several professional and amateur events, in-

cluding four events exclusively open to Native Americans from the United States and Canada.

Players from throughout the U.S and beyond — including Korea, the Philippines and Austria — are expected to compete.

The tournament is being presented by professional player Vivian Villarreal, known as the Texas Tornado. Winner of national and world championships, the San Antonio-native, who turned pro in 1991, lists

her favorite memory as beating legendary Minnesota Fats when she was 8 years old. She has been featured in several magazines and television programs, including "Good Morning America" and is noted as one of the sport's leading personalities.

The tournament starts each day at 9 a.m.

For more information, including livestreaming and tickets, go to [www.thetornadoopen.com](http://www.thetornadoopen.com).

## 2016 PECS volleyball schedule

**BRIGHTON** — The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School girls volleyball team will try to keep the good times rolling this season when it opens the 2016 campaign Sept. 7 at home against Osceola Middle. PECS is 21-2 in the past two years, including an 8-2 season last year, which was the first season in the team's new gymnasium.

Eighth-grade parent night will be part of the Oct. 5 home match against Yearling.

**Sept. 7:** Osceola Middle at PECS (JV 4:30 p.m., varsity 6 p.m.)

**Sept. 13:** Clewiston Middle at PECS (JV 5 p.m., varsity 6 p.m.)

**Sept. 15:** PECS at West Glades Middle (JV 4:30 p.m., varsity 5:30 p.m.)

**Sept. 19:** PECS at Yearling Middle (varsity 4:30 p.m.)

**Sept. 21:** LaBelle Middle at PECS (JV 4:30 p.m., varsity 6 p.m.)

**Sept. 29:** West Glades Middle at PECS (JV 4:30 p.m., varsity 5:30 p.m.)

**Oct. 3:** PECS at Osceola Middle (JV 4:30 p.m., varsity 6 p.m.)

**Oct. 5:** Yearling Middle at PECS (varsity 4:30 p.m.)

**Oct. 6:** PECS at LaBelle Middle (JV 4:30 p.m., varsity 6 p.m.)

**Oct. 11:** PECS at Clewiston (JV 5 p.m., varsity 6 p.m.)



[www.vivianvillarreal.com](http://www.vivianvillarreal.com)

Professional billiard player Vivian Villarreal presents the Tornado Open from Sept. 28-Oct. 2 at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

FSU fans will have to travel to Orlando to see Justin Motlow (86) and the Seminoles season opener Sept. 5 against Ole Miss.

## Florida State opens season Sept. 5

**TALLAHASSEE** — The Florida State Seminoles football team, which features the Seminole Tribe's Justin Motlow, will open its season Sept. 5 against Ole Miss in Orlando. FSU is ranked No. 4 in the Associated Press preseason rankings; Ole Miss is No. 11. FSU will play nine games in the state

of Florida, including an Oct. 8 visit to Hard Rock Stadium in Miami to face the Hurricanes.

Motlow, a wide receiver and special teams player, is a redshirt sophomore from Tampa.

### FSU 2016 Football Schedule

(Game times that have been announced are shown)

- Sept. 5:** Ole Miss vs FSU (Orlando), 8 p.m.
- Sept. 10:** Charleston Southern at FSU, 12:30 p.m.
- Sept. 17:** FSU at Louisville, 12 p.m.
- Sept. 24:** FSU at USF
- Oct. 1:** North Carolina at FSU
- Oct. 8:** FSU at Miami
- Oct. 15:** Wake Forest at FSU
- Oct. 29:** Clemson at FSU
- Nov. 5:** FSU at North Carolina State
- Nov. 11:** Boston College at FSU, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 19:** FSU at Syracuse
- Nov. 26:** Florida at FSU

# Fastest short go helps Jobe Johns earn reserve national championship

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Jobe Johns made sure he made the most out of the final 8.92 seconds of his high school rodeo career. That blistering figure is all it took for Jobe to tie down the calf in his last event as a high schooler July 23.

Even though he was on his backup horse, Jobe managed to post a time nobody matched. The son of Tara and Billy Joe Johns couldn't have picked a better stage to exit.

In front of the crowd at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyoming, Jobe won the short go and finished as the reserve champion. He came within a whisker of winning the overall tie-down calf roping competition, but the top honor went to Wyatt Williams of Idaho, whose total of 29.79 was a fraction faster than Jobe's 30.84.

"I'm real happy. I did the best I could," said Jobe, who entered the short go in seventh place after times of 10.75 and 11.17.

Jobe's 8.92 in the short go was the

second fastest in the entire event out of 375 times; only Oklahoma's Justin Payne had a faster time (8.84), which came in the first go-round.

As a veteran of the NHSFR, Jobe entered this year's event with a different approach than his previous trips.

"I was more relaxed," he said.

But his calmness was tested early when his No. 1 horse Delilah was injured soon after Jobe arrived. With Delilah on the sidelines, Jobe was forced to use his back-up horse named Booty, a five-year-old with far less experience at shows.

"That was a big adjustment," Jobe said.

But the pair worked well together and produced the results that helped Jobe depart as the reserve champion.

"It means a lot," Jobe said.

After the 6,000-mile round trip, Jobe returned to Lake Placid for less than two weeks before he was back on the road with his horses, this time headed to Texas where he started his freshman year at Ranger College in early August.

Jobe, who was home-schooled in high school, will have at least one familiar face on campus. His team roping partner Blevyns Jumper, son of Andrea and Josh Jumper, is also a freshman at Ranger, about 115 miles west of Dallas. Jobe and Blevyns both plan to be part of Ranger's rodeo team, which competes in the Southwest Division of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. Last year Ranger sent five members to the College National Finals Rodeo in Wyoming.

Blevyns, a 2016 graduate of American Heritage in Plantation, competed at NHSFR in steer wrestling. His time of 11.46 was the 10th fastest of 15 in the morning performance July 19. He didn't reach the short go.

Logan Hyatt, who lived with the Johns family during high school, improved his times in each of his three steer wrestling performances. He started with 8.90, then 5.64 before finishing with 4.85, the fifth fastest time in the short go which boosted him to a 10th place overall finish.

Jobe, Blevyns and Logan earned their spots in their last NHSFR by qualifying through the Florida High School Rodeo Association.



Photo courtesy National High School Rodeo Association

Jobe Johns ties up a calf during the National High School Finals Rodeo in Wyoming.



Photo courtesy National High School Rodeo Association

This calf doesn't stand a chance at eluding Jobe Johns in July at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Wyoming. Johns finished as the reserve champion in tie-down calf roping.



Photo courtesy National High School Rodeo Association

Jobe Johns is a picture of concentration in July as he prepares for the gate to open at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Wyoming.



Photo courtesy National High School Rodeo Association

Blevyns Jumper competes in steer wrestling in July at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Wyoming. Blevyns and Jobe Johns, left, were the only two Seminoles from Florida in the boys competition at NHSFR.

# Players show their 'Love of the Game' at tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — More than 20 basketball teams competed in the For the Love of the Game Tournament in early August. None of the squads made a longer journey than the Plainzmen from North Dakota.

With nearly his entire roster comprised of Standing Rock Tribe players, mostly from Solen High School, coach Russell Archambault guided the Plainzmen to a championship victory in the boys 18U division at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood.

"This is probably the best team I've been around in terms of shooting," said Archambault, whose squad also included his son Mason, who plays high school ball in Rapid City, South Dakota, and Ezekiel Tiger from the Miccosukee Tribe.

The Plainzmen played in tournaments in California and Las Vegas in the preceding weeks. When Archambault found out about the Hollywood tournament, he helped gather the squad together to head east.

With sharp shooting from inside and outside the arc, the Plainzmen soared through the tournament undefeated, including an 83-53 win against Florida Boys in the championship game. The Plainzmen's Brayden Uses Arrow was named the division's most valuable player.

The tournament featured 10U, 14U, 18U and adult divisions.

Young Justice won the 10U coed championship. Coached by Byron Billie Sr., the team included the coach's son Byron Billie Jr. as well as Sarafina Billie, Ezekiel Billie, Aaliyah Billie, Tatum Billie, Louis Billie and Xavier Osceola.

The Cave Women defeated the Lady Warriors, 66-32, in the the 18U girls division, which featured just two teams.



Lucas Osceola (24) soars to block a shot by a Plainzman player during an 18U boys division game Aug. 4 in the For the Love of the Game Tournament at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood.

Kevin Johnson

♦ See BASKETBALL on page 5C



Kevin Johnson

Corbin Billie controls the ball during the For the Love of the Game tournament in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

Aldricia Cummings-Cypress looks for an open teammate on inbounds pass.



Kevin Johnson

Marquise Fudge tries to take a shot against the Plainzmen in an 18U boys game.



Kevin Johnson

Tiana Stubbs wins an opening tip for the Cave Women team during the For the Love of the Game Tournament on Aug. 4 in Hollywood.

**◆ BASKETBALL**  
From page 4C

The championship marked the end of busy summer stretch for players from the Cave Women such as Burgundy Pierce, Tianna Stubbs and December Stubbs, a trio who played at NABI in Phoenix and the Jim Thorpe Games in California.

December was named the 18U girls tournament most valuable player.

Unconquered won the 14U coed division with a 62-59 win against Cedric's Team.

In the adults division, Skyla Osceola led the Sharp Shooters to a 77-32 women's championship win against Wide Open. Skyla was named MVP.

On the men's side, the Plainzmen outlasted GMTC, 89-68, in the championship. The Plainzmen's Malcolm Moore earned MVP honors.

Tournament prizes handed out by Hollywood Recreation's Courtney Osceola included tournament shorts (MVP winners), pullovers (champions) and long-sleeve shirts (runner-ups).



Kevin Johnson

Young Justice: 10U coed champions



Photo courtesy Courtney Osceola

Skyla Osceola: Adult women's MVP



Photo courtesy Courtney Osceola

Brayden Uses Arrow: 18U boys MVP



Photo courtesy Courtney Osceola

Unconquered: 14U boys champions



Photo courtesy Courtney Osceola

Cedric's Team: 14U boys runner-ups



Photo courtesy Courtney Osceola

Malcolm Moore: Adult men's MVP



Photo courtesy Courtney Osceola

December Stubbs: 18U girls MVP



Photo courtesy Courtney Osceola

The Sharp Shooters: adult women's champions



Photo courtesy Courtney Osceola

The Cave Women: 18U girls champions



Photo courtesy Courtney Osceola

Florida boys: 18U boys runner-up



Photo courtesy Courtney Osceola

The Plainzmen: 18U boys champions

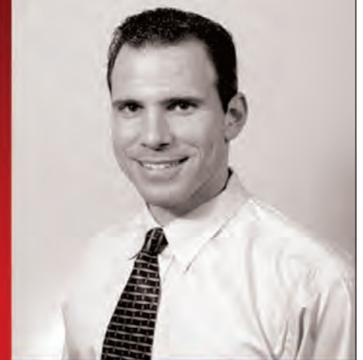
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THE PATIENT AND ANY OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT HAS A RIGHT TO REFUSE TO PAY, CANCEL PAYMENT, OR BE REIMBURSED FOR PAYMENT FOR ANY OTHER SERVICE, EXAMINATION, OR TREATMENT THAT IS PERFORMED AS A RESULT OF AND WITHIN 72 HOURS OF RESPONDING TO THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FREE, DISCOUNTED FEE, OR REDUCED FEE SERVICE, EXAMINATION, OR TREATMENT.

**WORLD SERIES**  
From page 1C

- Dixie Darlings World Series**  
 Game 1: Florida 14, Petal (Miss.) 0  
 Game 2: Florida 10, Texas 3  
 Game 3: Tennessee 6, Florida 3  
 Game 4: Florida 10, North Carolina 7,  
 Game 5: Florida 3, Louisiana 1  
 Game 6: Tennessee 11, Florida 7



Photo courtesy Dawn Edenfield

Lason Baker with her family: parents Jason and Billie Jo, brother Bryce and sister Tawnee



Photo courtesy Dawn Edenfield

Alyssa Madrigal with her family: parents Howard and Letty, and brother Silas



Photo courtesy Dawn Edenfield

Merlelaysia Billie with her family: parents Merle and Roshella, and sister Serenity



Photo courtesy Dawn Edenfield

Preslynn Baker with her family: parents Preston and Mona, brothers Pherian, Ivess, Alyke, Ramone and sister Lanie



Photo courtesy Dawn Edenfield

Tiyanni Anderson with her family: parents John and Amanda, and brothers JB and Charlie

# Announcements



Photo courtesy Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa

Kira Jefferson

## Hard Rock Tampa names Jefferson director of restaurants

**TAMPA** — Kira Jefferson has been named Director of Restaurants at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

Having most recently been the general manager of Haven in Tampa Bay, Jefferson is making a return to Seminole Hard Rock Tampa where

she was room manager of Council Oak Steaks & Seafood in 2012 and assistant director of Food & Beverage in 2013.

In her new role, Jefferson will oversee eight dining venues at Seminole Hard Rock Tampa to include Grey/Salt, Council Oak Steaks &

Seafood, Hard Rock Cafe, Fresh Harvest, Rise Kitchen & Bakery, Rock & Raw, Jubao Palace Noodle Bar and a food court.

Jefferson will report to the Vice President of Operations Bill McNulty.

## Poem - Chachaaye

Chachaaye keep your spirits up and let that Panther pride shine, do not get discouraged you will rise again it's just a matter of time.

I always looked up to you and that hasn't changed at all, my loyalty is second to none with my dog rope staked I always stand tall.

I want you to know if I could I would put myself in your shoes and handle that, because you are breeze throughout the sawgrass in our Panther habitat.

You are far better deserving to be amongst the unconquered Seminole, for Chachaaye I write this with all my heart and soul.

You have set the bar high that I will always uphold, just as our Cheyenne and Lakota brethren counting coup is better than gold.

True warriors stand strong for our own kind. We are all Native whether you're Comanche, Apache, Nez Perce or mine.

Thomoshomo we unconquered warriors ride with you so hold your head high, put your faith in Feeshakeomeche and let your prayers soar with Hachetalame to the sky.

Chachaaye you are loved and respected for which you stand, you have a great heart so make a difference like I know you can.

Ike T. Harjo  
Koowaathi

## Upcoming athletic events

The Tigertail Brothers ninth annual Memorial Basketball Tournament will be held Sept. 15-17 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.

The Legends division for ages 40 and up will start Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. Adult divisions will be played Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. and Sept. 17 at 9 a.m.

Registration deadline is Sept. 14. For more information call DeForest Carter at 407-864-8766 or

Big Cypress Recreation at 863-983-9659.

\*\*\*

The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association will hold its regional finals Sept. 16-17 at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.

\*\*\*

The Pink Panther Prowl will be held Oct. 8 in Big Cypress. The Seminole Hard Rock Half Marathon will start at 6 a.m. from the Junior Cy-

press Arena. The 5K and 10K races will begin at 7:15 a.m.

For more information and registration go to [www.splitsecondtiming.com](http://www.splitsecondtiming.com).

\*\*\*  
The Miami Dolphins' home opener in Hard Rock Stadium will be Sept. 25 against the Cleveland Browns at 1 p.m.

## FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
013758	2006	SOUTHEAST MODULAR MFG. BUILDING	DOUBLE WIDE- RAMPS INCLUDED	N/A	Fair	\$17,345.00
B38086	2007	FORD VAN CARGO VAN	F350 (RWD) STAND UP UTILITY BED	219,800	Poor	\$1,151.00
035066	1987	HUMVEE- AM GENERAL	M-998 (Project Vehicle)	33,462	Poor	\$2,000.00
217446	N/A	CASE BULLDOZER	850G	27,678	Poor	\$8,238.00
237320	2006	FOREST RIVER TRAVEL TRAILER	WILDWOOD	N/A	Poor	\$1,920.00

Note - Previously advertised items are not reflected on this advertisement, only new listings. For more information contact Fixed Assets Dept. 954-966-6300 ext. 20034.

NEW!! - Tribal Members only- access this information at the website: <http://semtribe.com/FixedAssets>. (Registration required)



## Theodore Nelson Sr.

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