



Jimmie Scott Osceola exhibit opens
COMMUNITY ♦ 3A

Preschoolers celebrate graduation
EDUCATION ♦ 2B

American Heritage wins state title
SPORTS ♦ 1C



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

www.seminoletribune.org • 50¢

Volume XL • Number 5

May 31, 2016

Fire Rescue welcomes new graduates

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Six new faces became part of the Tribe's Public Safety family May 5.

The addition of firefighter/paramedics Marvin Ayers, Alain Borges, Enrique Ferreira, Kevin Herrero, Machir Marsh and William Neunzig was celebrated with a graduation and employee recognition ceremony at the auditorium in Tribal Headquarters.

The importance of family — at work and at home — was stressed throughout the evening by speakers, including Fire Chief Donald DiPetrillo, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank and Executive Director of Public Safety/Police Chief William Latchford.

"Once you join the Tribe, you are part of one big family," DiPetrillo told the graduates. "The Tribal members count on us as a family and as co-workers to support them as much as we count on them to help us."

Those sentiments were echoed by Rep. Frank.

"... I think it's important to thank the families. The individuals that are entering this profession and that have been in it need strong family support," said Rep. Frank, who ran the Tribe's wildlands unit for several years.

As one of the newcomers, Neunzig said he's looking forward to being part of Public Safety's family.

"The family atmosphere will probably be the best thing," Neunzig said as he held his 9-month-old daughter, Alyssa, after the ceremony.

Firefighting runs deep in Neunzig's genes. His father and uncle served in Hallandale Beach Fire Rescue.

For fellow graduate Borges, firefighting is a new experience in his immediate family. The son of parents from Cuba, Borges grew up in Miami and said he is eager to start his career.

"First generation firefighter. I'm very proud to be here. I love everything about it. I'm willing to protect and serve everybody," Borges, 26, who also considered entering police before opting to take the fire route.

"I was indecisive between fire and

♦ See FIRE RESCUE on page 7A



Beverly Bidney

As members of the media photograph the event, Miss Florida Seminole Destiny Nunez competes in the Miss Indian World pageant dance competition in "The Pit" of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque April 29.

Destiny Nunez shines in Miss Indian World Pageant

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Miss Florida Seminole Destiny Nunez trained since November for the Miss Indian World Pageant and last month, she and 23 other contestants from throughout Indian Country vied for the crown. Although she didn't win the title, Nunez emerged as a winner in other ways.

"I'm really proud of myself," she said. "Before this year, I would have never put myself in this situation."

A naturally shy person, Nunez entered the Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant last summer to help her overcome anxiety. The strategy worked. Nunez is now comfortable speaking to people she doesn't know and in front of a crowd.

The Miss Indian World Pageant, part of the Gathering of Nations April 28-30, required contestants to present a cultural talent, speak extemporaneously in front of a crowd on the popular Stage 49 venue and dance competitively for the judges.

The pageant began April 28 with the talent presentation in the Albuquerque

Convention Center. Contestants showed expertise in their Tribe's culture by telling stories, demonstrating dance moves, sharing historical facts and explaining the significance of traditional garb. Some girls were comfortable on stage; others showed their nerves.

"These ladies are all awesome," said Miss Indian World committee member Beulah Sunrise. "You never know how it will turn out."

Nunez was confident as she told a story of survival and dignity from the time of the Seminole wars. She said a war party went

♦ See DESTINY on page 3A

Alex Tommie seeks St. Lucie County seat

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

FORT PIERCE — Alex Tommie was only 25 when he was selected to run a youth sports organization in Fort Pierce, his hometown.

He recalled that not many people thought he would succeed as leader of the Buccaneers, but a decade later he's still in charge of the non-profit that he said has grown throughout his decade of leadership.

"When I got elected, people said I wouldn't last more than one year. I've lasted 10," said Tommie, who oversees the basketball and football programs as commissioner. He is also a longtime coach.

Tommie, whose Seminole family roots in the area go back generations, has his sights set on another commissioner position: the District 5 seat on the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners. Tommie announced his candidacy on a Facebook video May 4.

"I've always had the passion of working with the people inside a community," he said.

Tommie works for Sylvia's Flower Patch II, a floral business owned by the Tommie family in Fort Pierce. Regardless of the race's outcome, Tommie said he plans to continue to serve the Buccaneers. Tommie said the program has grown from about 80 kids when he first started to about 200. The program's football teams are known as the Seminoles.

Tommie, 34, said he is well suited to serve in an elected role for county government having previously worked in the Tribe's government. He was a special assistant to Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and managed day-to-day operations at the Chupco's Landing Reservation in Fort Pierce.

"I have the experience. I worked with Chris hand-in-hand over lots of policy issues that went through Council. It gave me the experience what it takes to run the government," Tommie said.

Tommie also pointed to his role in the construction of Chupco's Landing Community Center. The 18,000-square-foot facility features offices, a conference

♦ See TOMMIE on page 3A

Pete Osceola III conquers Ironman competition in Texas

Completes 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride, 26.2-mile run

BY HAVILAH MALONE
Special to The Tribune

THE WOODLANDS, Texas — Everyone has that special list of all the

amazing things they want to do and see in their lifetime. What's on your bucket list? A romantic trip to Paris, a luxurious cruise down the Nile River in Egypt or maybe an all-expense paid NBA Finals courtside

experience with friends. For Pete Osceola III — a Miccosukee resident and Seminole Tribe citizen — one of his lifelong dreams became a reality on May 14 in Texas.

Known to his colleagues as a generous, devoted family man, Pete, a 30-year-old investor, husband and father of four, decided to become an Ironman.

"An Ironman triathlon is arguably the

most difficult one-day sporting event in the world," according to Ironman officials. This year at the Memorial Hermann North American Championship Ironman Texas, the triathlon began with a 2.4-mile swim, immediately followed by a 112-mile bike race and culminated in a 26.2-mile run through The Woodlands, totaling 140.6 miles.

Amid about 3,000 athletes, Pete finished 519th overall and 62nd in the men's 30-34 age division. He completed the swim in 1 hour, 28 minutes. His bike trek lasted 4 hours, 41 minutes. He crossed the finish line in the marathon run in 4 hours, 10 minutes. In total, he spent more than 10 hours swimming, biking and running in a single day.

"I wanted to see how far I could push my body physically," Pete said. "A few years ago my brothers and I talked about doing an Ironman. It was on my bucket list of things to do."

All of his family members can agree on one thing: Pete doesn't play small in anything he does.

"He picks big goals. When he sets a goal he goes after it and he is very disciplined," said Keiyale, his youngest sister. Discipline and determination were certainly qualities needed to accomplish this great feat. Ironman officials recommend beginning training approximately six months to a year in advance of competing in the triathlon. Pete began his training only 16 weeks prior to competing.

"I wanted to do a full Ironman and Texas was the next available one, and I figured the weather was similar to Florida," Pete said.

Preparing for the race became Pete's top priority, and through the loving support of his family and generous advice of fellow



FinisherPix.com

Pete Osceola III, center, emerges from the water while competing in the Memorial Hermann North American Championship Ironman Texas on May 14 in The Woodlands, Texas.

♦ See IRONMAN on page 5A

INSIDE:

Editorial.....2A
Community3A

Health9A
Education 1B

Sports1C
Announcements....6C

Chupco Youth Ranch hosts EIRA rodeo.
Page 6C for full coverage.

Editorial

Termination was/is real

• James E. Billie

In the 1950s, American Indian Tribes were facing termination of their sovereign rights and their identity as Tribes. The House Concurrent Resolution 108 of 1953 demanded the immediate termination of the Flathead, Klamath, Menominee, Potawatomi, and Turtle Mountain Chippewa, as well as all Tribes in the states of New York, Florida, California and Texas.

We, as the Seminole Indians in Florida, were among that group to be terminated. But, when we became the organized Federally Recognized Seminole Tribe of Florida, in 1957, our Tribal leaders asked for our termination to be reconsidered, to allow us time to get educated to the modern world. The U.S. government gave us an extension of 25 years to do so.

Twenty-five years later, in 1982, we made another request for a little time for us to get on our feet, and it was granted. Now it

has been 59 years!!!

What does it mean to be terminated? We as the sovereign Seminole Tribal government will not exist. The immediate withdrawal of all federal aid, services, and protection would come next, as well as the end of reservations.

We would become general public citizens of the United States. Whatever the general public must do to survive is what we will have to do.

If you, by chance, read this – it's no joke!

Ask yourself the question: if our Tribe is ever terminated, what will happen to you? There are a number of Tribes that were terminated back then who are still fighting to regain their recognition.

If you have any doubts about this article, Google: termination of Indian Tribes.

James E. Billie is Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida

The Seminoles nobody knows

• Patricia R. Wickman, Ph.D

History is a moveable feast. Each generation shapes and reshapes their history in their own way. This is not unusual, or unfair. I used to tell students that, if there were only one right version of history, a lot of us Historians would have to get other jobs.

In the case of today's Seminole Tribal citizens, however, this is less true than in non-Indian societies, where writing has taken the place of much memory. The "Old Ways," as the elders call cultural traditions, have survived through thousands of years. They're not passed down through the generations exactly the same over the years. Nevertheless, traditions are passed down and the fact that they are preserved is the core of life that keeps the people united.

For example, the Spaniards saw that the Native people of La Florida celebrated four major *bûsketa* each year. Now, only one remains, but it was, and is, the most important. Spanish and English and American observers noted that as many as 100 Clans existed over the years. Today, there are still nine Clans (or eleven, depending on how you count) still active in Florida. A couple of others still are remembered in Oklahoma, among the descendants of the prisoners who were forced out of their homes. But in Florida, two major languages still exist and are spoken

every day by most Tribal citizens: Hitchiti, which nowadays is called Miccosukee; and Maskókî, better known to English speakers as "Creek." Among the Oklahoma "Seminoles," Hitchiti has been forgotten, so Florida is the only place in the entire world where it is still a living language.

Among the non-Indians who have met Florida's Native people over the centuries, there is, however, a very different process, and it has been going on ever since the white foam of the ocean threw them upon these shores. The Spaniards, the French, the English, and the Americans have written down a great deal of what they observed, but very few of them actually understood what they were seeing. They wanted trade, they wanted military allies, and they wanted to convert the people to their own religious beliefs. As a consequence, they have written the Ancestors' stories in their own (non-Indian) terms. And the centuries of these misunderstandings have only continued.

In my next column, I'll discuss some of the ways in which the view from the "outside" has misinformed and shaped the non-Indians' view of the "Seminoles."

Patricia R. Wickman, Ph.D. is an Ethnohistorian and former Director of the Tribe's Department of Anthropology & Genealogy.

End the circle of violence against Native women

• Albuquerque Journal

The statistics are numbing: Four of five American Indian and Alaskan Native women have experienced violence.

More than half have experienced sexual violence, and they are 2½ times more likely to be sexually assaulted than women of all other races.

More than one in three have experienced violence in the past year.

Young Ashlyne Mike wasn't a woman yet, but at the tender age of 11 she suffered the same sexual violence those statistics represent. The sexual assault she endured and her violent death early this month on the Navajo reservation are heartbreaking.

Federal investigators said Tom Begaye Jr., 27, a Navajo man who also lived on the reservation, admitted offering Ashlyne a ride with the intention of having sex with her, then sexually assaulting her before delivering fatal blows to her head with a tire iron.

The incidence of domestic violence and sexual abuse visited upon Native American women and children, especially those who live on tribal lands, is staggering.

There are many intertwining contributing factors: poverty, lack of jobs, too much time filled too often with alcohol or drugs, close tribal ties that discourage

reporting offenses, vast rural areas lacking modern amenities, limited social services, poor communication between law enforcement agencies and a checkerboard of jurisdictions that allow offenders to slip from one to another to avoid capture or prosecution.

In 2014, San Juan County had the seventh most rape cases per capita in the state, but that doesn't include offenses committed on the Navajo reservation. The county has 266 registered sex offenders, but that number does not include the Navajo tribe's own registry. Still, that's 132 more than in Santa Fe County and 100 more than in Sandoval County.

"I like to think it's because we're catching more (sex offenders) than other places, but I have a suspicion that it's not," San Juan County Sheriff's Office Detective Jimmy Dearing said of the high number. He said he believes there's "probably a higher rate of incidents here."

Eleana Butler, executive director of Sexual Assault Services of Northwest New Mexico, also believes assaults on children are more common than the state crime stats indicate. She said the agency has already performed 31 sexual assault nurse exams on minors this year, 22 of them on children under 12 years old.

Kevin Washburn, a member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma and a

♦ See VIOLENCE on page 9A

Happy Mother's Day to the women of the Seminole Tribe of Florida

• Mitchell Cypress

Women are the silent strength of our Seminole people who carry on the Clan system of our Seminole history.

Through the love and hardship, you have endured the pain as well as the happiness. From your pain you have gained the strength and knowledge to help one another and become the matriarch of the Clans.

I am proud and honored to be the son of Mary Frances Cypress, Otter Clan.

Thank you, God Bless and Sho-nah-besh.

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



Mary Frances Cypress
1923 - 2011

'Dances With Wolves' spoke through the words of Doris

• Tim Giago

The movie "Dances with Wolves" was aired on the Encore/Starz Channel recently. It brought back a lot of memories to me. It made me remember the day my friend Doris Leader Charge died. She journeyed to the Spirit World on Feb. 20, 2001.

For those who never heard of Doris Leader Charge let me repeat the headline in an article written by David E. Thigpen for People magazine in January of 1991. His headline read, "Kevin Costner said the words but Doris Leader Charge made the Dances dialogue truly Sioux."

Thigpen was referring to the role Leader Charge played in making the movie, "Dances with Wolves," an Academy Award winning film.

Doris was born on the Rosebud Reservation on May 4, 1930. She attended St. Francis Indian School before she was sent to St. Mary's School for Girls at Springfield, South Dakota. She was raised in a Lakota-speaking family and did not learn to speak English until she was sent to the boarding school.

"Dances with Wolves" producer Jim Wilson was driven to make his movie as authentic as possible and found that many of the actors and extras, some of them Lakota and some from Tribes other than Lakota, spoke little or no Lakota. He said, "Someone recommended Doris Leader Charge, a fluent Lakota speaker and teacher of the language, and we set out to get her on board."

Leader Charge was a Lakota language instructor at Sinte Gleska (Spotted Tail) University on the Rosebud Reservation when Wilson sent her a script to translate from the English to Lakota. Three weeks later she sent the script back to him fully translated. Then Doris and a cousin

translated each actor's lines on tape, first in English and then in Lakota and Wilson mailed the tapes to the cast members.

Doris approached teaching the Lakota language parts to the two main characters, Kevin Costner and Mary McDonnell, a little differently. To her, Costner was a recent arrival to Lakota country so his knowledge of the language was limited and so she felt he did not have to speak as fluently as McDonnell, who in the movie had been a white captive of the Lakota, had married a member of the Tribe and

from Doris. When he won the Academy Award for best screenplay I was amazed and thrilled to see Ms. Leader Charge walk on the stage with Michael and translate his English acceptance speech into Lakota for the folks back home on the Rosebud Reservation. I believe a lot of Hollywood stars in the audience were shocked and surprised by her elegance, grace and charm.

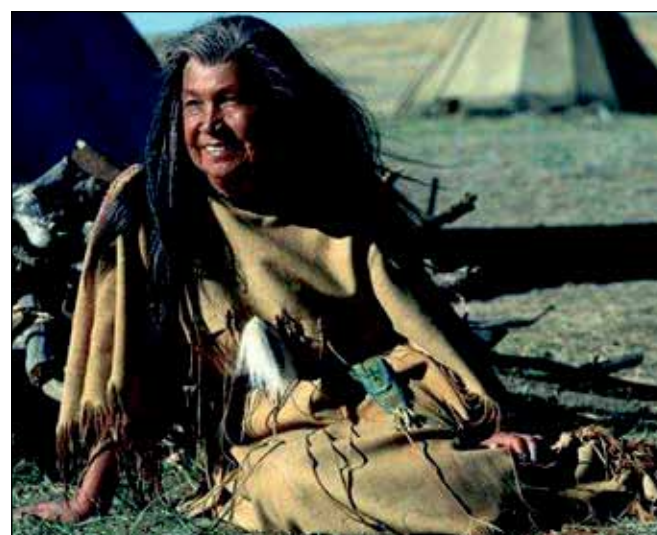
Doris went back to teaching at Sinte Gleska University without missing a beat. She used most of the money she earned from the movie to repair her home in Parmelee on the Rosebud Reservation. She earned \$23,800 for her teaching and acting (she played Pretty Shield in the movie) and with that sum she purchased a new stove, refrigerator and a washer and dryer, and that was the extent of her Hollywood money splurge.

Leader Charge said of her movie role, "The kids are so proud that I'm their teacher and that I did all of those things. I hope the film shows young people on our reservation, where self-esteem is low, that you have to do the best you can and be proud of yourself."

Doris is buried at the Holy Innocents Cemetery near her home at Parmelee. To the very end she was a leader and she did love to take charge, but above all she was a traditional Lakota woman who brought great pride to her oyate (people).

So if you ever get a chance to see "Dances with Wolves" again as I did this weekend, think about Doris: I did.

Tim Giago, (Nanwica Keji, Stands Up For Them) an Oglala Lakota, was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard with the Class of 1991. His weekly column won the H. L. Mencken Award in 1985. He is the founder of The Lakota Times, Indian Country Today, Lakota Journal and Native Sun News.



Doris Leader Charge

therefore needed to be much more fluent in the Lakota language.

When the actors began to rehearse outside of Rapid City, Wilson asked Leader Charge to be on hand as a dialogue coach. Wilson soon realized he needed her on the set 90 percent of the time. Wilson said, "If any of the extras were late or had not studied their parts, she scolded them and because she was an elder a lot of the younger Indians looked up to her and she smoothed things out a lot."

I worked with Michael Blake on the script of the movie with a lot of input

The Seminole Tribune is a member of the Native American Journalists Association.

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

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

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

Issue: June 30, 2016
Deadline: June 15, 2016

Issue: July 29, 2016
Deadline: July 13, 2016

Issue: August 31, 2016
Deadline: August 17, 2016

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

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

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

Publisher: James E. Billie

Senior Editor: Kevin Johnson
KevinJohnson@semtribe.com

Staff Reporters: Peter B. Gallagher, Beverly Bidney

Contributors: Eileen Soler, Aaron Tommie, Gordon Wareham, Havilah Malone

If you would like to request a reporter or would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem, please contact Senior Editor Kevin Johnson at 954-985-5701 ext. 10715 or by fax at 954-965-2937

© 2016 Seminole Tribe of Florida



Community



Chairman holds Tampa meeting

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TAMPA — Responding to questions from Seminole Tribal citizens in this part of Florida, Chairman James E. Billie brought a roadshow of pertinent details about Tribal government — and the state of the peoples' money — to the Sheraton Tampa East on May 24. Chairman Billie spoke to a ballroom full of Tampa Seminoles who gathered for dinner and fact-finding.

"The overall thing about the Seminole Tribe is you are probably in one of the best positions you will ever be. The Tribe is doing great," said Chairman Billie in front of a screen that listed current overall Tribal population at 4,088. "Hard Rock is still doing real good. The monies that we make from there is what we are spending and that is what I want to talk about."

Looking healthy, Chairman Billie, assisted by Chairman's Assistant Danny Tommie, Tribal Executive Director of Finance Suresh Geer, and Tampa Maintenance Supervisor Paul Simmons, spent the better part of an hour guiding the audience through all sectors of the current Tribal budget.

"We don't anticipate cutting the budget any more," promised Chairman Billie, anticipating a typical question he receives at such events. "Right now the most important thing in your book is your dividend. We want to make sure we maintain that money you get every month."

Simmons had good news for the crowd. He announced that the Lakeland property had passed its next-to-last hurdle in the Tribe's quest to put the land in Federal Trust as a reservation.

Simmons said he escorted a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Inspector around the property "and he was very positive. As far as the BIA is concerned, we were doing everything right out there," said Simmons, who explained that the last step is publication of a public notice in local newspapers announcing the action. "If there are no objections in 30 days — and I don't see why there should be — we could be a reservation real soon."

The Chairman complained about "young people, real smart, went to college or got their GED and they come in and say 'Hey, you are spending too much money on public safety.' What they don't realize is there are thousands of people coming to that Tampa casino and over in Hollywood. There are a lot of people coming on our reservation — you have to have a police department that can handle that."

Other subjects Chairman Billie commented on before an event-ending raffle:

CULTURE: "The best culture program in the Seminole Tribe is right here. You do a great job. You tell stories, you teach the language. Seminoles have to speak the language. Pass it on to your kids." He described the "language immersion" program supervised by Culture Language Instructor Marcus Briggs-Cloud. "Speak to your kids when they are babies. Once they are older it may be too late."

TRIBAL DEBT: "The Tribal debt will be paid off on 2027. Hope you will all be standing here talking. I know I will."

COMPACT: "Compact? It's status quo. We are not out of the game. You got a good brand that makes money for you."

Guests were shown a power point slide show that filled a large screen with photos, most from the early days of the Tampa Reservation, which received federal recognition in 1979.

Two-hundred dollar gift certificates were won by Tommy Henry Jr., Miguel Mada, Maggie Garcia, April Simmons, Linda O. Henry, Christina Clark, Kaylin Henry, Laurie Billie, Chris Tiger and Curtis Mattios.



Peter B. Gallagher

Bobby Henry addresses the audience during a meeting for the Seminole community in Tampa May 24 at the Sheraton Tampa East.

Museum exhibit evokes fond memories of talented Jimmie Scott Osceola

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — By all accounts, the late Jimmie Scott Osceola was a talented artist, gifted storyteller and renowned horse whisperer. An exhibit of his artwork opened May 16 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and will be on display through Oct. 16. At the opening reception May 20, family and friends gathered to remember the man and his work.

"Today I'm glad we made time to appreciate his work," said Osceola's brother Joe Dan Osceola. "He was self-taught and had God-given talent."

As a child, Jimmie Scott Osceola drew pictures of what he saw around him, which included his family's camp in Brighton, horses and loved ones. He once sent a drawing to an advertisement in the back of a comic book that sought people who could draw well.

"One day a white man came into our camp and asked who drew this picture," recalled his sister Lawanna Osceola-Niles. "But my mother wouldn't let him see the man. He was a natural talent and we just took it for granted. We didn't realize how valuable all this art would be."

Osceola-Niles was left in her brother's care when their mother Annie Tiger Osceola went to work in the fields. She remembers going quail hunting with him to get food for dinner and the flapjack breakfasts he prepared for her every morning.

"He was a special guy," Osceola-Niles said. "He was a quiet man of few words, but he could tell tall stories. He is still special in my heart."

Born in 1939, Osceola grew up in Brighton and graduated from Okeechobee High School in 1959 with Edna McDuffie, Geneva Shore and Fred Smith. He was always known as a talented artist and created detailed pen and ink drawings of chickee camps, horses and the cowboy culture.

"Everybody just loved Jimmie," McDuffie said. "He used to draw back then, but he got much better later on."

Osceola was generous with his art and gave a lot away. As they looked at the exhibit of seven pieces, McDuffie and Willie Johns discussed the drawings they each have and other pieces they know are in the hands of other Tribal citizens.

Osceola was also a compelling



Beverly Bidney

Edna McDuffie and Willie Johns reminisce about Jimmie Scott Osceola and his artwork during the opening reception of the exhibit at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum May 20.

storyteller. In 2006, the city of Okeechobee honored him with Jimmie Scott Osceola Day to bring Seminole history to the community.

To commemorate his life, Connie McAdams, owner of the Dust Collector antique store in town where Osceola spent a lot of time telling stories, wrote a book "Ah-Ho-Ne-Ce" which was Osceola's Indian name and means to awaken. McAdams also called the book "The Seminole Horse Whisperer." Published by the Tribe, only 20 copies were printed. Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki has one copy; the Smithsonian's National Museum of

the American Indian in Washington, D.C. has another.

"Jimmie Scott was looking for someone to tell his stories to and we became fast friends," McAdams said. "People came in every day to listen to him, they wanted to know Seminole stories and he was always willing to share them."

During the reception, Tribal citizens shared their memories of Osceola. Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, who only knew him for his reputation breaking horses, didn't know he was an artist and was amazed with

the work.

"It's nice to see his artwork again," said his niece Lavonne Rose. "He was a renaissance man. Who knew the horse person could be such an artist? It's nice to know his memory is living on in art and horses. He was truly a special man and I'm proud to be part of the family."

Stephen Bowers regaled the crowd with a story about working with Osceola delivering bales of hay in Davie and Miami. After work

♦ See EXHIBIT on page 7A

♦ DESTINY From page 1A

out of the village and didn't return, leaving a boy to wait for his father. Finally, the boy ventured out to look for him and found his father burying the victims of a massacre in a nearby village. Despite the threat of more soldiers coming to destroy the Seminole people, the man honored the dead and left a lasting impression on his son.

All the contestants exhibited pride in their heritage.

"I may not be rich with money but I am wealthy with my language, history and culture," said Edith Starr, San Carlos Apache, who spoke while showing her expertise at a hoop dance.

Junior Miss Florida Seminole Skylla Osceola attended Gathering of Nations to walk in the Grand Entries with royalty from other Tribes and to get a feel for the pageant in case she decides to compete next year. According to Sunrise, contestants do not have to be Tribal royalty but many Tribes send their princesses to represent them.

"If I ever do compete, I'll know what to expect and have an advantage," Osceola said. "I'm also looking forward to the Grand Entries."

An accomplished basketball player, Osceola competed in the Princess Pageant last summer because of a knee injury which required surgery. Being royalty has been a new and exciting adventure for her.

"Playing sports and being a princess are so different," she said. "As Junior Miss, I have to make appearances and be ready to speak. When I play basketball, I just play. Both are fun and I love doing them both equally. It's been a great experience."

Next on the Miss Indian World contestants' busy schedule was the impromptu speaking event on Stage 49. Although the day was cold and blustery with rain and some hail, the contestants spoke confidently from the heart. Nunez described the best thing about the Seminole Tribe.

"We are unconquered and never gave up," she said. "That is why I'm proud to be a Seminole."

The Miss Indian World contestants had an honored place in all four Grand Entries. They came out smiling and waving right behind the head dancers and before the rest of the 3,000 participants filled "The Pit" arena floor at the University of New Mexico.

Prior to the dance competition April 29, announcer Sunrise explained to the judges that the contest was meant to be an interpretive dance and could be in typical pow-wow or their Tribal styles.

"Judge them on the expressiveness of the dance," she said.

The 23 hopefuls demonstrated their skills in a variety of dances such as shawl,



Beverly Bidney

Miss Florida Seminole Destiny Nunez waves to the audience April 28 during the talent competition at the Miss Indian World Pageant in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

jingle and traditional styles. Dressed in a time-honored patchwork skirt and cape, Nunez did a quietly dignified stomp dance.

The new Miss Indian World was crowned April 30 after the evening Grand Entry. The contestants showed grace and camaraderie as prizes were awarded for Miss Congeniality, best essay, public speaker, interview, talent, dance, second and first runners up.

Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn, Standing Rock Sioux, from Porcupine, North Dakota, won the title to rousing applause from the other contenders. They all took a victory lap around the floor, while waving to the crowd.

"All the girls are really nice and everyone is united," Nunez said. "It's been empowering to be around these strong Native women."

♦ TOMMIE From page 1A

room, gymnasium and outdoor pools. Tommie was a key figure in the project. He organized and led a series of community meetings with officials, builders and residents throughout the process.

"I was the point person getting the community members together," he said.

Tommie served as the emcee for the center's grand opening Sept. 25, 2014. The event drew dignitaries from the Tribe as well as elected officials from Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie and the county.

Tommie no longer works for the Tribe but he still lives in Chupco's Landing, which is in the county's District 4 and within a brief walk to the borders of Districts 1 and 5. Tommie said he recently found an apartment

to move to in District 5, which is the district where he grew up.

District 5 covers the largest land area in St. Lucie's five districts and includes northern, western and southern sections of the county.

As a candidate, Tommie said his top issues are creating jobs, protecting the county's natural resources and forging better cooperation within the commission on both sides of the aisle as well as improving relations between the commission and community.

"The community has lost trust in some of our elected officials," he said.

Tommie stressed that working with small businesses to foster job growth is a primary focus.

"The city of Fort Pierce has been going through such a hardship in jobs. We have one of the highest unemployment rates anywhere in the entire state of Florida," he said during his candidacy announcement.

Tommie describes himself as a "moderate Democrat." His opponents on the Democrat side in the District 5 race include incumbent Kim Johnson and Cathy Townsend. A primary is scheduled for Aug. 30.



Alex Tommie

Traditions highlight Gathering of Nations Powwow

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Thousands of Native Americans, including 32 seniors from the Big Cypress Reservation, flocked to Albuquerque, New Mexico last month to celebrate culture and heritage at the 33rd annual Gathering of Nations Powwow and Miss Indian World pageant.

About 3,000 drummers and dancers representing 700 Tribes from the U.S., Canada and Mexico attended the April 28-30 event to compete, reconnect with old friends and, for some Seminole seniors, soak in the diverse Native American culture.

"I usually come here to join other Nations, meet old friends, make new ones and have a good time at Powwow," said President Mitchell Cypress, who brought his wife Amy and daughters Nichele, 5, and Mitchellanie, 3, to the event for the first time. "I want them to leave Florida and find out there are hundreds of recognized Tribes out there."

Many of the seniors had been to the Powwow before and looked forward to buying beads and fabric that can't be found in Florida. But the primary reason for their visit was to participate in the enormous Indian Country assembly.

"It's amazing to see all the dancers, it feels like you're part of it," Paul Bowers said.

"We are, and that makes it extra special," added his wife Charlotte Bowers.

It took almost an hour for thousands of dancers of all ages to descend to the bottom of "The Pit" arena floor at the University of New Mexico for each of the four Grand Entries, the traditional start of the Powwow. Dressed in colorful regalia embellished with feathers, beads and bells, the dancers moved down the steps from all sides of the arena until the floor was so full, dancers could only bob up and down to the beat of the drums. The pit was organized chaos as the throng moved clockwise in a slow spiral.

Powwow announcer Dennis Bowen Sr., of Tuba City, Arizona, encouraged the dancers as they made their way down to the floor.

"Keep it going dancers," he said. "It's Powwow time, dance proud. As a nation we are nothing but greatness. Honor your nation and love your people."

When all the dancers were finally in place, drum groups played, prayers and invocations were read and Navajo Nation president Russell Begaye addressed the crowd.

"The wind is what carries our spirit together," he said. "The Earth unites us and water protects us. All this combines us into one great nation. We didn't come from Asia, we are from the Americas."

With that, the 41 drum and dance competitions began. Northern, Southern and hand drums filled the arena with their rhythmic songs. Dancers in the Northern, Southern, Fancy, Grass, Chicken, Jingle, Shawl and Traditional styles made colorful swirls on the floor as they tried to keep the beat of the drum and stop precisely on the last note. Tiny tots, elders and every age group in between showed off their skill as they vied for prizes in their categories.

Marty Pinnecoose, of the Southern Ute and Jicarilla Apache Tribes, has been dancing for 45 years first as a fancy dancer, then a grass dancer. He recently had a hip replacement and sat out this powwow.

"I dance for the love of dancing and for those who cannot dance, who are sick and need prayer," he said. "Dance is medicine and everyone has their own. It's very powerful when all these people are out there dancing together."

Medicine isn't the only powerful force at Gathering of Nations. Last year traditional Northern dancer Josh Atcheynum, Plains Cree, got engaged to a jingle dancer. They plan to marry in August.

"I dance because it feels good," he said. "I do traditional powwows to get that good energy; it makes your spirit feel whole again and it lifts you up."

Some dancers learn the art as soon as they can walk. Grass dancer Therien Paskamin, 17, Plains Cree Tribe, has been dancing since he was a toddler.

"It's an activity and a way to keep our traditions alive," he said. "I also like socializing, meeting new people and reconnecting with old friends."

"It's good stress relief and rejuvenating," added jingle dancer Kayana Begaye, 19, Navajo Tribe. "It clears your mind."

High School student Matthew Sheka, 18, who has lineage from the Ho Chunk, Zuni, Cheyenne, Arapahoe and Navajo Tribes, has put education above powwows for the time being. The high school senior plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University in the fall, so this was one of his last before college. His parents raised him going to powwows often.

"It's important to start out young and keep the traditions, culture and beliefs alive," he said. "I'm glad to have the opportunity to continue these traditions. They were all taken away from us and we fought for that right ever since. Now we have power over our own traditions."

Tommy Gonzales, Tejon Tribe, attends about one powwow each month with his wife and children. They dance but don't compete.

"I get healing prayers from the dance," he said. "It isn't about competition; it's about the ceremony. We pray while we dance and represent our Tribe. We are here to dance for our people and those who cannot dance."

The Gourd Dance and its emotional song honors warriors, past and present. Participants included, but were not limited to, veterans. During the dance, the announcer asked everyone to honor the dancers by putting money on a blanket to say thank you. Piles of cash quickly accumulated as people lined up to give during the non-competitive dance.

"There are no spectators in a powwow," the announcer said. "Everyone participates, so come down and give. Honor our drums, show your gratitude and appreciation for those who fight for us every day."

Other attractions at the Gathering of Nations included the Miss Indian World Pageant, in which Miss Florida Seminole Destiny Nunez competed. The 500-booth Indian traders market offered Indian arts, crafts, jewelry, beads and food. Stage 49, a non-stop concert, starred indigenous artists who played traditional music along with hip hop, pop, rock, reggae and soul.

The Gathering of Nations cultural celebration was a proud commemoration of all things Native American, past and present.

"To see this many people makes you feel even prouder to be Native American," said Sue Jane Cypress, of Big Cypress.



The head dancers at the April 29 Grand Entry of the Gathering of Nations dance in the center of "The Pit" at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. At left, Jr. Miss Seminole Skyla Osceola, who participated in the Grand Entry with royalty from other Tribes from Indian Country, watches the festivities.



A man competes in the Elder, age 70 and up, category during the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque April 29.



Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Skyla Osceola descends into "The Pit" to walk in the Grand Entry April 30 at the Gathering of Nations. It was her first time at the event and said she was proud to participate in the Grand Entries every day.



A gourd dancer chants during the dance honoring warriors at the Gathering of Nations April 29.



A teenage boy competes in the fancy dance during the teen dance competition at Gathering of Nations April 30.



A dancer holding the Eagle Staff leads 3,000 dancers at the Grand Entry.

♦ IRONMAN
From page 1A

triathletes he was able to create a system of training that set him up for success.

"It was strenuous on my family life. I owe a lot to my wife (Miranda Tiger). I was training 10 hours and my family made a really big sacrifice. It's because of them that I was able to compete," Pete said.

Another obstacle that Pete faced was the uncertainty if his knee would hold up under the strenuous pressure of the competition, due to four previous knee surgeries he sustained during his high school basketball career.

"My son is a self-starter," said Pete's father, Pete Osceola Jr. "Not too many people have the stamina, the will or the discipline required to compete. He never gives up. It's an extension of his Native spirit from our Seminole culture."

As the triathletes from more than 50 countries gathered to compete, Pete referred back to his tedious physical training and meditating practice to get himself ready. Along the sideline his family cheered as he began his 140.6-mile journey.

"At some point I was honestly thinking 'please don't die out here' but as I neared the end of the race I felt joy and relief, even euphoria," he said. "I learned that the human body is capable of just about anything and the human spirit might not have any boundaries."

It all starts with belief in yourself and having a plan of action that aligns with your goals and dreams. What Pete did was not only a huge win for himself but his example has touched the lives of those closest to him.

"My brother found time to train and be a full-time dad. Before, I didn't think I could work out because I had kids, now I just take them with me," Jeanie Osceola said. "Pete inspires me as a full-time mom to do the things I want to do no matter what."

Although severe weather conditions created an added challenge during the triathlon, it did not sway Pete's determination to complete his dream of becoming an Ironman. After his son completed the race, Pete's father proudly expressed, "He has made me look like a good father, and in the long run he made himself a better man."

Havilah Malone is a bestselling author and international speaker who has been featured on TV shows around the world



At left, Pete Osceola III focuses during the 112-mile bike portion of the Memorial Hermann North American Championship Ironman Texas on May 14 in The Woodlands, Texas. Above, Pete crosses the finish line in the 26.2-mile run, capping his day that covered more than 140 miles in swimming, biking and running.



SEMINOLE BOARD CONSTRUCTION

Seminole Board Construction

The Board Construction team is one of The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.'s enterprises. We are a full commercial and residential construction service contractor, who's committed in providing each of our clients a superior product with exceptional service.

We can build, renovate or repair your beautiful home on any of the reservations Hollywood, Big Cypress, Immokalee, Brighton, Tampa or off the reservations. Our pledge is to establish lasting relationships with our customers by exceeding their expectations and gaining their trust through exceptional performance by every member of the construction team.

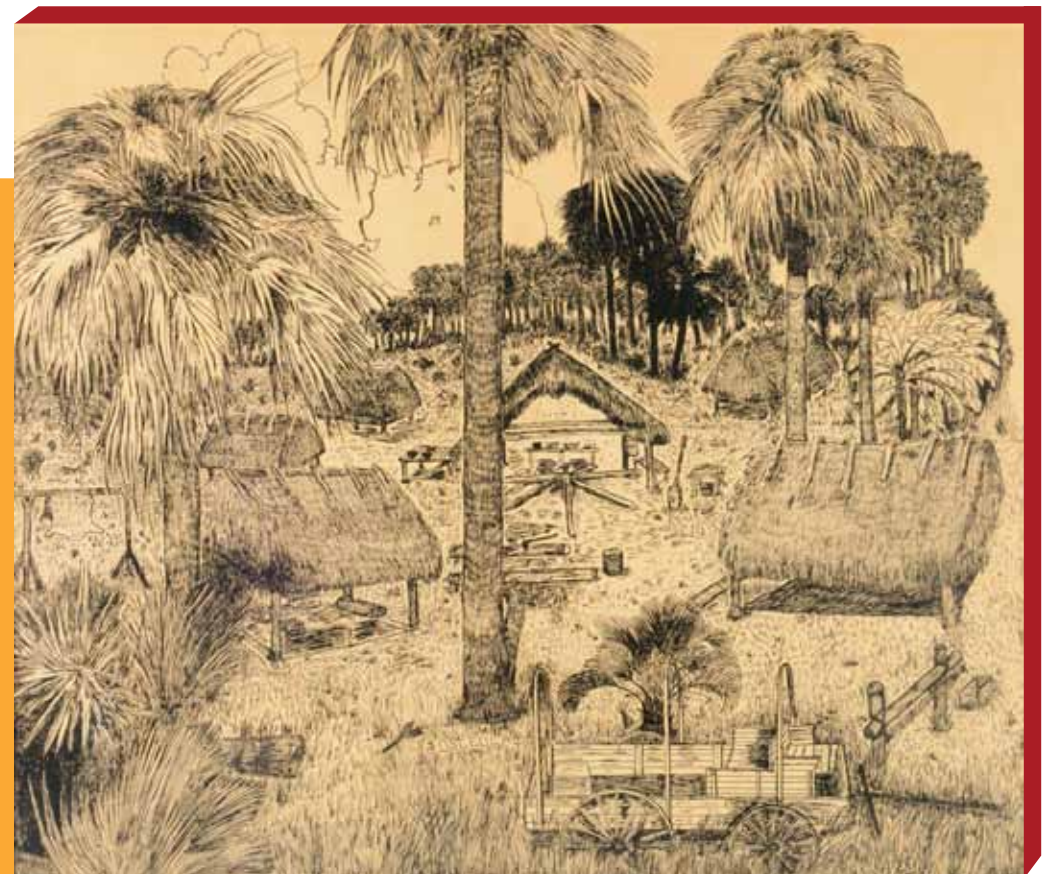


WWW.STOFINC.COM

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI
MUSEUM
A PLACE TO LEARN. A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

PRESENTS
IN THE SELECTIONS FROM THE COLLECTIONS GALLERY

DRAWINGS & PRINTS BY
Jimmie Scott Osceola



On Display: May 16th, 2016 - October 16th, 2016



Smithsonian Affiliate



34725 WEST BOUNDARY ROAD
CLEWISTON, FL 33440
877-902-1113

Seniors show their stuff at first tribalwide field day

BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE – Seniors showcased their expertise in feats of skill and agility at the first tribalwide senior field day April 22 in Big Cypress.

The event was the brainchild of Big Cypress Recreation Director Cathy Cypress, who sent a list of 15 activities to all senior centers and asked them to choose what they wanted to do. The top eight made the cut: softball throw, skillet throw, horseshoes, bowling, basketball throw, putt putt golf, corn hole and musical chairs.

"I figured it would be something different," Cypress said. "People get bored with the same thing and the best part is they get to hang out and socialize."

Dressed in blue for child abuse prevention month, 33 seniors from Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood, Immokalee and Tampa competed for bragging rights and medals. Friendship trumped competition at the good natured games.

"I came out to see everybody, visit and have fun," said Laura Clay, of Hollywood.

Fun was the theme of the day as laughter was heard on the field of competition and off. Cypress plans to hold the event annually.

"I used to play way back in the day," Shirley Clay said after she completed the softball throw. "It's been a while and I'm just rusty."

In the show barn, seniors cheered on their rivals as they fought to be the best bowler, putt putter or hoopster.

The preeminent event of the day was the musical chairs competition. First, it was woman against woman as the men competed against each other to be the last one sitting. Then there was a co-ed competition that pitted the final three of each gender against each other to see who would be seated as the grand champion.

Jack Smith, David Jumper and Mike Tiger took on Loretta Micco, Lawanna Osceola-Niles and Louise Osceola. As the music played, anxiety rose. When the music stopped, butts struggled for too few chairs. In the end, Osceola-Niles sat on her folding throne as the day's grand champion.

Field day, held at the Junior Cypress Arena grounds and show barn, got an early morning start and ended hours later with a communal lunch and award ceremony. Those who participated vowed to return next year.



Musical chairs was the penultimate event at the senior field day in Big Cypress April 22 and Louise Osceola, Linda Lee Henry and Lawanna Osceola-Niles are having a great time competing against their peers.



Beverly Bidney
Linda Henry, of Tampa, winds up as she prepares to throw the skillet at the tribalwide senior field day April 22 in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney
Bowling generates plenty of interest during senior field day April 22 in Big Cypress.

59TH ANNUAL 2016 Miss Florida SEMINOLE PRINCESS PAGEANT

Saturday, July 23, 2016 • 7:00 pm

Hollywood Executive Building Auditorium

Application Deadline is: Monday, July 18, 2016 • No Exceptions



Community Dinner - 4:00pm



Seniors enjoy Immokalee culture day

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE – The lilt of Creek and Elaponce were heard at Immokalee’s new culture camp April 13 as about 100 seniors from every reservation converged for a day of culture, fun and food at the first tribalwide senior culture day.

“Every reservation has their own culture day, but I thought having everyone together would be a good time,” said event organizer Nadine Bowers, Big Cypress Senior Center site manager. “We should keep our culture and language going strong. It’s nice to hear both languages in the same place.”

The new cooking chickee made its debut as women from Immokalee, Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood worked seamlessly to prepare a traditional Seminole feast. Sofkee, fry bread, lapalle, Indian stew, cabbage, fried chicken and pork chops were a few of the tasty treats on the buffet table.

“This village was recently finished and I’m glad to see all these people here today,” said Immokalee Board Liaison Gale Boone as she welcomed the crowd to Immokalee.

“We need more events like this,” said

Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank. “I like to see the culture passed on.”

Before lunch was served, Billie Swamp Safari sent over some animals and humans. When one of the men held up a snapping turtle, Carol Cypress said “the fire’s over there.” Laughter ensued and the turtle lived to see another day.

A peccary, or vampire pig, made an appearance followed by a baby crocodile and alligator, which were passed around for all to see, before an eight foot alligator was wrestled.

“This is a nice event, it is the first time in a long time that I’ve been to Immokalee,” said Susie Osceola Doctor, of Tampa. “I live in town and I always like the country.”

Bowers said this was the first of what she plans to be quarterly gatherings; the next one will be in Hollywood in September.

“It was good to share this with the rest of the reservations,” said Immokalee resident Elaine Aguilar. “This is brand new and is our first gathering. It’s important to have this and the food was delicious.”



Beverly Bidney

Terry and Mabel Tichenor, Maggie Garcia and Susie Osceola enjoy some shopping at the tribalwide senior culture day in Immokalee April 13.

EXHIBIT From page 3A

they often went out for drinks at a local bar.

“He used to draw horses on napkins,” he said. “He had the talent but not the training. He was a good friend, a chick magnet and I miss that smile.”

Willie Johns remembered one of Osceola’s consistent traits.

“Whatever Jimmie Scott did, he was very meticulous,” Johns said. “He always told us we needed to improve our work and do a better job.”

The seven drawings on display were given to the museum about two years ago by a couple in Fort Lauderdale, who found them at an estate sale.

“We recognized immediately how important they are,” said Paul Backhouse, director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. “These could have been lost to the world and suddenly they were back.”

Osceola passed away at age 68 in 2008. “There is a lot more of his stuff out there,” Johns said. “Maybe one day it will all come together.”



Beverly Bidney

Joe Dan Osceola presents Rebecca Fell, curator of exhibits at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, with a doll during the opening reception of the exhibit of Jimmie Scott Osceola’s drawings and prints May 20.

FIRE RESCUE From page 1A

police at first, but definitely fire was the right gear for me,” he said.

Borges and his fellow graduates passed a six-week training regimen under Battalion Commanders Art Bousquet and Stephen Zitnick.

“The six of us are close. We have a great bond and we have our own family amongst each other as well,” he said.

Ayers, part of that family, comes to the Tribe with paid and volunteer experience under his belt having served on fire rescue

departments in DeSoto County and Lauderdale-By-The Sea.

“You’ve got to love what you do, and I absolutely love what I do,” he said.

After the speeches and a rocking video tribute to Fire Rescue set to ACDC’s “Thunderstruck,” firefighters who earned promotions were recognized on stage before Class 16-01 was called up to receive their badges.

“It’s a big family,” Borges said. “It doesn’t matter what fire department you are from, if you are a firefighter, you’re family. I’m honored to be part of this family.”

Food, fun, families highlight Mother’s Day

Eileen Soler
Curtis Osceola, Moses Osceola, Blake Osceola and Mable Osceola honor Maggie Osceola, seated, during a Mother’s Day brunch at The Council Oak restaurant in Hollywood April 30.



Aaron Tommie
Below left, Mother and daughter duo Jane Stockton, left, and Bessie Tommie play bingo May 4 during a Mother’s Day celebration at Chupco’s Landing Community Center in Fort Pierce. Below right, Celeste Stockton, center, is joined by her daughter Ma’kiyah Stockton, left, and her niece Analysse Stockton at Chupco’s Landing Community Center.



Seminole Tribe of Florida Fire Rescue Class 16-01

- Marvin Ayers, firefighter/paramedic
- Alain Borges, firefighter/paramedic
- Enrique Ferreira, firefighter/paramedic
- Kevin Herrero, firefighter/paramedic
- Machir Marsh, firefighter/paramedic
- William Neunzig, firefighter/paramedic

Promotions

- Jason Camardese (Driver-Engineer)
- Tony Egues (Lieutenant)
- John Light (Driver-Engineer)
- Hans Melius (Driver-Engineer)
- Hassen Misset (Lieutenant)
- Kevin Pinkerton (Lieutenant)
- Anita Vaughn (Secretary II)
- Roberto Vega (Battalion Commander)
- Evan Weiner (Battalion Commander)



Kevin Johnson

Bagpipe players pass in front of Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue firefighters during a ceremony for the Class of 16-01.



Kevin Johnson

Six new firefighter/paramedics are sworn in by Fire Chief Donald DiPetrillo during a ceremony May 5 at Tribal Headquarters.

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI
 MUSEUM
 A PLACE TO LEARN. A PLACE TO REMEMBER.



Lock and load: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's firearms collection

**SUBMITTED BY THE COLLECTIONS DIVISION
 Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum**

While some museums feature only replica weapons, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's collection boasts 38 historic pistols, rifles, carbines, muskets, and revolvers that are safely kept in storage and can be seen on a behind-the-scenes tour. One of the Museum conservator's goals this year was to assess whether or not the weapons in our collection were safely housed and responsibly stored. We had to determine if they were still loaded with gunpowder or bullets, to remove harmful corrosion and dirt, and to complete an overall condition survey of the firearm collection. Once we determined that the firearms were safe to handle, each one was inspected and we discovered lots of interesting things.

The oldest firearm in the collection is a 1750s' French officer's musket. French-

designed weaponry was the inspiration for early 19th century American-made firearms at both armories in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia and Springfield, Massachusetts. Then there is the .56 caliber Colt Model 1855 revolving rifle, a type that would have been used during the latter years of the Seminole War and Civil War. Only 9,310 of these rifle models were created.

Lastly, there are the materials and intricate designs that make each firearm a work of art. Our 19th century Spanish smoothbore percussion rifle has a trigger guard with a floral printed design on the bottom, and the barrel has ornate gilded decorations. The head of the hammer is decorated with the head of an animal. This type of rifle was often used in Florida's Spanish settlements. Its ornate gold inlay and shell patchbox make this one of the most decorative weapons in the collection.

Our collection of weapons represents

not only the American-made examples that would have been used against Seminole people during the war-torn 19th century in Florida, but also one example of the lighter and more versatile Spanish-made weapons that Seminoles acquired through trade during the same period. Such Spanish guns, as well as the local knowledge and cunning resourcefulness of the Seminoles themselves, helped the Seminole people and their allies resist American soldiers and their guns in order to emerge The Unconquered!

You can look into these subjects at the Museum research library, where our research coordinator can help you find the information you need. Please call ahead for appointments, so that we are better prepared to help you. Call 863-902-1113 and ask for the library. To see the historic guns, ask for a behind-the-scenes tour during your next visit to the Museum. Hope we see you soon.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's firearms collection includes its oldest firearm, a 1750s' French officer's musket in the top of the photo, and below it, is the detail of gold inlay on a 19th century Spanish smoothbore percussion rifle.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Florida Gulf Coast University intern Silas Pacheco, left, removes dirt and corrosion from a pistol. Museum Conservator Marlene Gray, right, applies protective wax to a rifle.

USET honors President Cypress

STAFF REPORT

One of the first pieces of business at the United South and Eastern Tribes' semi-annual meeting May 16 was a presentation to Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. President Mitchell Cypress.

USET honored President Cypress for his service in the U.S. Army.

USET President Brian Patterson presided over the meeting that was hosted by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Atmore, Alabama. Twenty-six Tribes were represented.

The meeting featured the passing of the fire from Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian Chief Phylliss Anderson to Poarch Band of Creek Indians Chairwoman Stephanie Bryan.

Items on the three-day agenda included updates and reviews on Indian Health Service priorities, a discussion on the Indian Child Welfare Act, a new strategic alliance memorandum with the Small Business Administration and a segment on Native youth issues.



Photo courtesy USET, Inc.

President Mitchell Cypress addresses USET's semi-annual meeting May 16 in Atmore, Ala.

Betty Mae Jumper

Wisdom from the past

Asse Yahola

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the June 18, 1999 issue of The Seminole Tribune.

Over the years many people have asked me questions about our Tribe and what things were like in the old days. Why, just last week, I answered the telephone and a woman asked me what we Seminoles knew about Osceola. Not what was printed in books, but what we were told as children. Our oral history.

When I was about eight or nine years old, my great-uncle Jimmy Gopher called me and my brother Howard together. He said he had something important to tell us.

I was born April 27, 1923. Jimmy was my grandmother Mary Tiger's brother. They didn't keep records when he was born, but he was probably born around 1880. Jimmy had heard the stories passed on to him from elders when he was a child, and he felt it was his job to pass those stories on to my brother and I.

He told us that Osceola was a great leader, but that his real name was not Osceola. His name was Asse Yahola. But, he was called Osceola because the soldier couldn't pronounce his real name so they cut it to Osceola.

Osceola was a half-breed. His mother was a full Creek, Indian speaking lady of the Alligator Clan. But Osceola's father was a white man.

Perhaps my uncle told me and brother that because we were half-breeds. When we were born, it was still against the Tribe's rules to allow half-breed children to live, and our lives were threatened because of our mixed blood. Knowing Osceola was like us helped me to feel better about myself.

Jimmy Gopher also said Osceola had two sisters, but they were in the group of Indians who had to walk to Oklahoma. He said that Osceola's mother couldn't let her only son stay behind, so she slipped away

from the Trail of Tears and stayed with her son in Florida.

By that time Osceola was leading the braves who were fighting white soldiers. Osceola could understand English well because of his late father.

Osceola would pick a few of his fighters and go and listen to the soldiers' plans from outside the fort. He would find out what plans they have and this is why he was able to be such a great leader. He knew where to make his stands and fight.



It was said that Osceola could run as swiftly as a deer and taught all the braves who were with him to do the same.

Osceola also used Indian medicine in his fight. He had a few good Medicine Men put medicine together and used it on soldiers. Sometimes he would pretend to smoke it with the soldiers, and they would get sick.

Jimmy said that another trick Osceola used was to lure the soldiers with campfires. He said that during the war, everyone would put out their fires so the soldiers couldn't locate their camps. But, Osceola would instruct his braves to start a fire. This would draw the soldiers into an ambush.

He said that Osceola was a very smart brave and led his braves well. Most all the leaders or chiefs depended on him and trusted his leadership. But, when he was captured, the war didn't go very well.

But, if it wasn't for him, the 250 Seminoles who ran to hide in the Everglades might not have survived at all. That was the reason my uncle and my mother and all of us were still in Florida.

That is what my great-uncle Jimmy Gopher passed on to me about Osceola. It may not be what educated people say in books. But, it was the way the story was passed down from one generation to the next.

Seminole Restaurant Review Tropical Acres Steakhouse: A recommendation by Pete Hahn

BY GORDON WAREHAM
 Contributing Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE – Tropical Acres Steakhouse in Fort Lauderdale is celebrating its 65th anniversary, claiming to be the oldest steakhouse in South Florida. On March 23, my dinner guest was Mr. Pete Hahn. His wife had taken their children to church that night, so it ended up being a boys' night out.

The feel of the restaurant hasn't change since I went there as a child with my parents. Despite a fire in part of the building in August 2011, the ambience of the restaurant still has a warm and comfortable feeling. With celebrations, wedding receptions, family gatherings, anniversaries and other events, Tropical Acres has become an icon of great service and great-tasting food.

My father used to say, "When you go to Tropical Acres, you must order their French onion soup. It's an incredible tasting soup." So to start my dinner – totally destroying my diet – for my appetizer I ordered the French onion soup and Pete ordered shrimp cocktail. I've had this soup many times at Tropical Acres and my father was right, it's a very great-tasting soup.

Pete was given five big jumbo shrimps for his appetizer and I could tell by the smile on his face that the shrimps were good because they vanished in a few moments.

A nice, small house salad was served with a mixture of warm rolls and flatbread that prepared us for the main course.

Pete ordered the lamb chops, medium rare. I ordered an eight-ounce filet mignon, medium.

My nephew has a saying, "If it ain't kicking, then it's not worth eating."

The lamb chops were beautifully displayed with a baked potato and mint jelly.



Gordon Wareham

Shrimp cocktail at Tropical Acres Steakhouse.

Pete, with a devilish grin, started his carnage of the lamb chops.

When my filet mignon arrived to the table my mouth watered with anticipation as I soaked in the aroma of the seasoning amid the sizzling sound of the steak. When I sliced into the steak, it was perfectly cooked to a nice, pink center. With no consideration to my diet, I had a fully-loaded baked potato smothered with butter and sour cream and a mountain of bacon as my sides.

I could tell by the silence at our table that our dinners met our satisfactions.

We ended our dinner with dessert. I could not resist a slice of their famous key lime pie made with a graham cracker crust. The slice was divine.

Pete had a slice of chocolate cake, and the only response I received from him was it was good as he devoured it.

I asked him why he recommended Tropical Acres Steak House for this review and he said that when he was first dating his

♦ See REVIEW on page 9A



Gordon Wareham

Pete Hahn gets ready to enjoy his main course at Tropical Acres Steakhouse in Fort Lauderdale.

Health



Youngsters in the Seminole Youth Chef Program get ready to bake during the session's graduation day May 10 in Hollywood.

Young chefs graduate from cooking program

BY AARON TOMMIE
Contributing Writer

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Youth Chef program has allowed Tribal and community youngsters to be part of a creative culinary experience aimed at promoting healthier lifestyles within the community. On May 10, a graduation was held to commemorate the end of the cooking program's successful inaugural session that featured eleven young chefs in the first graduating class.

"It's been a good experience," said Francine Osceola, Tribal member community advisor, who helped develop the program.

Osceola said the program was created to serve as an alternative to sports. Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola supported the idea of the community's youth cooking, and steps were taken to bring it to fruition with the collaboration of the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club and the community's Health and Culture departments.

"It's a whole different thing compared to how it was for us as kids," said Phil Bowers, the father of Alyssa Bowers, one of the chefs in the 7-to-11-years-old cooking class. "For them to have other options [besides sports] is good."

The session also featured cooking classes for ages 12 to 18.

Originally slated to only take place in March, the classes were extended into April because of positive reception from the Hollywood community. From March 8 to April 14, two-hour classes were held in the culture department's kitchen every Tuesday and Thursday.

With the assistance of nutritionists, and culinary school graduates, the young chefs were taught safety techniques, exposed to new foods, and learned healthier eating habits over the six-week program. They prepared and cooked meals such as frybread, Indian tacos, oatmeal pancakes, beef stew and chili.

For the graduation, which also served as the session's final class, cupcakes were on the menu. CHES educator Lauren Goas divided the chefs into groups as nutritionists Joel Palau and Jillian Guralski, Tatiana Barrios from the Boys & Girls Club, and Kristi Hinote and Tomasina Gilliam from the Health Department assisted the chefs

with measurements, baking, and other tasks needed to prepare the foods. Bryan Granie, Dawna Bell, and Suzanne Davis from the Boys & Girls Club and Health Departments, respectively, showed their support as well.

Donned in aprons, the young chefs prepared two versions of cupcakes (ultimate vanilla and classic vanilla) which were accompanied with a creamy chocolate frosting, all made on site. Smiles, laughs, and excitement filled the room as they meticulously prepared the cupcakes.

"I feel excited because I always wanted to be a chef, and now I am," Brian Billie Jr., 8, said. "They're really good," he said when asked about the cupcakes.

After the cupcakes finished baking, Goas directed the chefs to a DVD presentation that documented their experiences over the course of the program. They also received books with photographs that further shared other moments. Surveys and questionnaires based on healthy eating and the classes were given to the graduates.

"I feel excited because I always wanted to be a chef, and now I am."

—Brian Billie Jr., 8

Because of its success, the chef program will expand. Palau will work with the Senior Center to develop an equivalent program for the seniors. The chef program will be incorporated into the summer program for the youth at the Seminole Estates clubhouse. There is a desire to have the program return in the fall.

Francine Osceola said she would like the program to include cooking competitions and for the youth to cook meals for the community meetings and other events that could showcase their culinary skills and talents. She was pleased with the program's progression and the lessons the youth learned.

"If they can make something at home, they'll never go hungry," Osceola said.

Tribe hosts regional agricultural youth summit



Photo courtesy of Yolanda Gore

Students gather for a group photo at the Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center during the Southeastern Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Leadership Summit. From left, back row: David Anderson (Eastern Band of Cherokee), Trevor Thomas (Seminole), Xena Willis (Mississippi Choctaw), Cy McMillian (Mississippi Choctaw), Nick Billie (Msvkoke), Allen Sockey (Mississippi Choctaw), Heloha Hickman (Choctaw/Navajo), Terrell Bell (Mississippi Choctaw). Middle row: Courtney Gore (Seminole), Sarah Mills (Poarch Band of Creek Indians), Ciena Fedor (Lumbee), Veronica Britt (Lumbee), Mackenzie Martinez (Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb), Kelsey Ducheneaux (Cheyenne River Sioux), Lea Zeise (Oneida Nation of Wisconsin). Front Row: Eve Billie (Msvkoke), Erica Samples (Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb), Deeshaya Jefferson (Mississippi Choctaw), Madison Dixon (Mississippi Choctaw).

FROM PRESS RELEASE

LAKE PLACID, Fla. — The Seminole Tribe of Florida hosted the first Southeastern Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Leadership Summit at the Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center. The event is the result of a collaboration between the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Intertribal Agriculture Council. The purpose was to bring together Native youth, ages 15 to 18, representing Tribes from the Southeastern region of the U.S. to learn more about the food systems and agricultural production issues they may face as the next generation of food producers.

"This truly was a gathering of leaders among Indian Country," Kelsey Ducheneaux, youth program coordinator, said. "These youth have shifted gears. They did not dwell on the statistics which plague Indian Country, but joined forces in outlining how we can turn the tides and again be sovereign in our foods. I'm incredibly grateful to the Seminole Tribe for the key support in such an outstanding event."

During the event, 16 youth from nine Southeastern Tribes learned about how to improve their communities as they tackled discussions about the challenges facing Indian Country's food and agriculture systems. Students visited with leaders representing more than eight organizations working to address these issues, identify solutions, and collaborate in efforts to initiate change upon their return home.

Students witnessed modern food and agricultural practices during their tour of the Brighton Reservation's agricultural and food production operations, including their citrus grove, beef cooperative and sugarcane fields.

The regional summit was derived from the Native Youth in Food and Agriculture



Photo courtesy of Kelsey Ducheneaux

Students gather for a meal at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena on the Brighton Reservation following their tour of the Seminole beef cooperative, citrus groves, sugar cane fields, and a sightseeing stop at Lake Okeechobee. Back table: David Anderson (Eastern Band of Cherokee), Deeshaya Jefferson (Mississippi Choctaw), Madison Dixon (Mississippi Choctaw), Lea Zeise (Oneida Nation of Wisconsin). Front table: Heloha Hickman (Choctaw/Navajo), Terrell Bell (Mississippi Choctaw), Allen Sockey (Mississippi Choctaw), Erica Mills (Chaperone - Poarch Band of the Creek Indians).

Summer Leadership Summits hosted by the initiative and held annually at the University of Arkansas School of Law. This national summit draws nearly 100 Native youth from nearly 50 Tribes for a 10-day intensive workshop about food and agriculture history, practices and law in Indian Country. It

features speakers and presenters from across Indian Country, including representatives from Native food businesses, food producers, and tribal and federal governments.

◆ REVIEW From page 8A

wife, Rossana Hahn, this was one of the first places he took her on their courtship.

I also asked if there is an additional dish that he would recommend to Tribal citizens and he suggested the porterhouse steak. He said that most dinners will cost between \$25 and \$35 a person.

For me, the best memory I have of Tropical Acres is when my father brought me to celebrate my graduation for high school with some of the people who supported me.

Great food, great memories and great friends, and if you try Tropical Acres hopefully you can have a great experience, too.

Tropical Acres Steakhouse is located at 2500 Griffin Road in Fort Lauderdale. For reservations call 954-989-2500. Their menu is on their website at www.tropicalacres.com.

This has been your Seminole Review on Restaurants. If a Seminole has a recommendation for a restaurant that he or she would love for their fellow Tribal citizens to know about, please message me through the Seminole Tribune. Rules to the review are: The Seminole Tribune does not pay for the meal, photographs will be taken but not while you are eating and questions will be asked.

Be prepared for hurricane season

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA
Florida Dept. of Health in Broward County

One of these years, South Florida will be visited by another hurricane. Count on it. The region is overdue since Wilma arrived as a Category 3 storm in October 2005.

As Hurricane Season starts on June 1 and ends November 30, now is the time to get ready. Nothing eases stress during an emergency like having many of the details and decisions resolved in advance. Here are some tips for getting prepared from the Florida Department of Health:

Make an emergency plan: It should include, a) All members of your household, b) Special medical conditions, c) When and to where you would evacuate, d) Special transportation needs, e) Emergency meeting place, f) An out-of-

town contact who everyone can call to stay in touch, and g) Pet plan.

Gather emergency supplies: a) A gallon of water per person for 7 days, b) Non-perishable foods such as canned meat, fish, veggies, fruits and nuts, c) Can opener, disposable plates and utensils, and d) Matches and cooking gel.

Stock up on medical needs: a) 30 day supply of prescription medications from your doctor, b) Over the counter pain reliever, antacids, anti-diarrheal medicine and children's medicine, c) List of all medications and essential medical devices, e) Physician contact number, and f) Blood type and allergies for all household members.



Assemble a first-aid kit with sterile bandages, cleansing agent, safety pins, gauze pads, scissors, sewing needle, moist towelettes and tape.

Collect essential data in a waterproof container. A) Contact information for property insurer, official emergency agencies, family and friends, b) Credit card and bank information, c) Portable computer storage device with electronic copies of mortgage, home deed, car title, etc. c) Instructions for shutting off utilities, and d) Pet health records.

List your major home belongings and back it up with photos.

2016 special consideration: Mosquito

◆ VIOLENCE From page 2A

former assistant secretary of Indian affairs for President Barack Obama, says a lack of resources, authority and finances for tribes to police themselves and a lack of community involvement in the criminal justice system contribute to crime on Indian reservations.

Recently, lack of funding closed down the only domestic violence shelter for women and children in the northern Navajo Nation. Perhaps this is an area that can be addressed with casino profits if it's not already.

In response to Ashlyne's death and to address an eight-hour delay in an Amber Alert being issued after her family reported her missing, Tribal President Russell Begaye announced that he has created a task force to establish a new tribal alert system to

notify Navajos of abductions and other emergencies.

San Juan Chapter President Rick Nez says he hopes the tragedy of Ashlyne's death will spur the community to action: "It's not a time to falter and look the other way. This is a time to straighten knees and stand up for our children."

There is no easy fix, but it is imperative that the Navajo Nation and surrounding communities make a serious attempt at

addressing this pervasive problem and the underlying factors that contribute to it.

It is time to end this circle of violence.

This editorial first appeared in the Albuquerque Journal. It was written by members of the editorial board and is unsigned as it represents the opinion of the newspaper rather than the writers.

SEMINOLE SCENES



Photo courtesy Joe Collins

FISHING CHAMPION: Brian Aldridge holds the Sam Nelson Big Bass Award he won for reeling in the most pounds of bass at the Take-A-Kid Fishing Tournament May 14 in Big Cypress. Brian also captured the overall Seminole Sportsman Triple Crown Fishing Series with 30.64 pounds. He edged Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, who finished runner-up with 28.10 pounds. On the kids side at the May 14 event, Maleah Smith finished first; Reilly Jumper was second.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

STORY DAYS: Carol Cypress speaks to visitors about growing up in her grandfather's camp on Big Cypress during Seminole Story Days at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress May 7. The event included a Seminole War hand-to-hand combat demonstration by Big Cypress Martial Arts, 17th and 18th century weapons demonstrations complete with a cracker horse, curated tours of the museum's Struggle for Survival and Oral History. More than 300 people attended.



Kevin Johnson

SOFTBALL LAUNCH: Andre Baker, from Seminole Elementary School, competes in the softball throw competition in the Okeechobee County track and field meet May 6 at Okeechobee High School.



Beverly Bidney

READY TO RIDE: Blevyns Jumper and Jobe Johns wait for their events at the EIRA Rodeo at the Chupco Youth Ranch April 23. The rodeo was a first for the Fort Pierce Reservation.



Photo courtesy of Seminole Hard Rock Casino & Hotel Hollywood

FLEET WEEK: Mary Anne Gray, president of Broward Navy Days, and Bill Wright, president of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, help start Fleet Week activities May 2 during the All Hands on Deck Welcoming ceremony at Paradise Live.



Photo courtesy of Melissa Sherman

MARCHING FOR A CAUSE: Seminole Pathways' Team Seminole won 5th place in the March for Babies April 2 at Flagler Park in Okeechobee. The March of Dimes event raised \$42,000.



Aaron Tommie

A ROCKIN' BURGER: Server Charleen Gonzalez poses with the Hard Rock Café's award-winning Hickory BBQ Bacon Cheeseburger on May 27 at the Hard Rock in Hollywood. The burger won Best Burger in the Bar and Grill category May 13 at the Riverwalk Burger Battle in Fort Lauderdale.



Beverly Bidney

SHADE SEEKERS: With warm conditions during the EIRA rodeo at Chupco Ranch in Fort Pierce April 23, spectators find respite in the shade of an umbrella as they watch the action.



Beverly Bidney

FLIGHT SCHOOL: A young osprey comes in for a landing in its nest near Lake Okeechobee as a sibling watches May 11. The young birds appeared ready to leave for good, but continued to return after a few minutes of flying in high circles above the nest.



Beverly Bidney

SAY CHEESE - Billie Swamp Safari employees brought critters to inform and entertain seniors at the tribalwide culture day in Immokalee April 13. Here, an alligator snapping turtle weighing 200-250 pounds, smiles for the crowd.



Beverly Bidney

GATHERING IN NEW MEXICO: Louise Osceola, Jon Ross Billie, Claudia Doctor and Henry Jumper Jr. wait in line to get into the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque April 30.



South Florida's ONLY PLACE TO ROCK!



June 3
PREMIER BOXING CHAMPIONS
MAYWEATHER PROMOTIONS
PRESENTS
**BARTHELEMY
VS. BEY**



June 8
**JASON BONHAM'S
LED ZEPPELIN EXPERIENCE**



July 16
**SILVESTRE
DANGOND**



July 22
HANNIBAL BURESS



August 18
SEAL



August 25
**THE AUSTRALIAN
PINK FLOYD SHOW**



September 14
**BRIAN WILSON
PRESENTS PET SOUNDS
50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR**



November 11
**CHRIS YOUNG
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
DUSTIN LYNCH & CASSADEE POPE**

GET TICKETS!



Ticketmaster.com or charge by phone:

1-800-745-3000



HOLLYWOOD, FL

Education



Education outside the classroom as students learn from Public Works

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Public Works Department welcomed Pemayevt Emahakv Charter School students and seniors to its Brighton facility May 19 for an insider's look at what the department does to ensure award-winning water flows through Brighton faucets.

The Brighton water treatment plant won first place in March in the Best Tasting Water Competition in Florida's District 8, which includes six counties in Central Florida. The tours of the facility were in conjunction with National Public Works Week, started in 1960 by the American Public Works Association to educate the public on the importance of public works in daily life.

One of the purposes for the school tour was to inform the students about the variety of employment opportunities in the public works field, including jobs for scientists, engineers, heavy equipment operators and more.

"Giving students this exposure gives them the idea they can make a decent living at this," said Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. "But they still need to know how to read, write and do a little math. For those who are going to college, I'd like to see a lot of engineers, accountants, school teachers and police officers."

As students from sixth, seventh and eighth grades toured the water treatment plant they learned bottled water isn't all it's cracked up to be.

You may think you are drinking water right from a spring, but all bottled water comes through a plant like this one," said plant operations manager Juan Mata. "It isn't regulated by the Food and Drug Administration so it can stay in a warehouse or outside for a long time. If you ever drank water that tasted like plastic it's because the plastic leeches into the water over time."

Mata explained the plant's micro filtration system, which clears the water of solids such as silt and clay as well as bacteria and viruses. The students learned about the computer program that monitors the water treatment process. They also toured the emergency shower and eye wash room and saw what water looks like when it comes into the facility and how it is measured for purity before it leaves.

"This is some of the best drinking water you can have," Joshua Niemann, water plant operator, told eighth-graders. "We are state-of-the-art and do thorough testing to ensure the high quality. I'd put it up against any water in the country."

Brighton has more than 60 miles of water main piping and pumps about 390,000 gallons per day of raw water from its wells. The plant produces about 120 million gallons of drinking water annually.



PECS student Kayven Emley, 12, lifts the rake of the front end loader with a little help from transfer station operator Erick McQueen during a tour at the Brighton Public Works Department May 19.

"We want the students to understand the importance of water and the environment," said Public Works director Derek Koger. "The Tribe has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure and we wanted to show the seniors what we invested in and what we do for them."

At a station simulating a water leak in a pipe, students received hands-on experience as they tried to stop the leak the same way employees do in underground pipes. The kids took turns turning the wrench to stop it, some more successfully than others.

Mata said the department is always looking for talented youth, that there is a lot of room for advancement and the starting salary is good. Blake Baker, 16, is already on board; he plans to work at the water treatment plant during the summer as part of the Education Department's Summer Work Experience Program.

"I think it's pretty cool," said the eighth-grader. "I like how they keep the reservation clean."

The solid waste division of the department is responsible for providing bulk trash pickup, recycling, hazardous waste disposal, hurricane preparedness and

♦ See PUBLIC WORKS on page 3B



PECS student Karey Gopher, 12, attempts to stop a leak the same way Public Works Department employees do with underground leaks during a tour of the facility May 19.

Living the ACD experience: Benefits from higher education

BY AARON TOMMIE
Contributing Writer

Graduation ceremonies are special. As the 2015-16 school year ends for millions of students, those moments will most assuredly create everlasting memories. To this day, one of the best days of my life was when I graduated from high school in North Carolina. My twin and I had a lot of family who showed support. Family from my mother's side came from throughout the Carolinas and throngs of my paternal family

drove from South Florida donned in Seminole regalia. Seeing my father beaming with pride and a huge smile on his face as my twin and I received our high school diplomas is a memory I'll forever cherish. After I graduated, I told myself, "This is the beginning of the beginning of your life."

There was so much more that I wanted to accomplish.

From a very early age, my mother stressed the importance of education and constant improvement, so going to college was a no-brainer for me. She always said, "When you have an education, no one can ever take that away from you." Over time, I surmised that she was stating that while jobs and money can flee, knowledge stays with you.

People have often asked me why I decided to work for the Tribe. My responses always reflect on my strong desire to express gratitude for the opportunities our ancestors have given us as Tribal citizens. Many of us do not have to worry about drowning in debt from student loans. That's a stark contrast compared to many others. This allows us to be able to accomplish goals quicker since we don't have to worry about debt looming above us.

After I graduated, I told myself, "This is the beginning of the beginning of your life."

As a child, I remember many of my mother's co-workers being lawyers and educators. I know of many educators with doctorate degrees. That was not too common in the environment that I grew up in, so it was definitely eye-opening. The majority of the educators I knew were not wealthy and some had to use coupons to help make ends meet.

I recently heard of a story of a woman who graduated from a law school in North Carolina. She raised three children while she worked on her bachelor's degree. When she began law school, she was pregnant with her fourth child. The law school she attended was several hours away from her home. Despite the long commute, she still went to law school and was still able to have time to be a mother to her children. She graduated in the top five percent of her class.

With this being said, not everyone is meant to go to college. Many people have found success outside of the university setting, but that does not discredit the fact that having an education, in this case, a higher education, can open up doors and provide more options. Statistics have shown that those with degrees in higher education earn higher wages than those without them. Many Tribal citizens have gone on to become culinary school graduates, leaders within the Tribe, and even entrepreneurs due to a continuation of education after high school.

We have accomplished so many things within the Tribe despite the fact that many of our leaders did not have the same opportunities we have today. Private schools. College tours. These were not available for our parents and grandparents years ago. These programs are put in place to help continue to sustain us for future generations. I'm proud to see higher education graduates because it helps us move forward as a Tribe. Each time one of us succeeds, we all succeed. This could all end at the drop of a dime, so it's imperative that we continue to put ourselves in a position where we can sustain our longevity as a people.

Immokalee Boys & Girls Club honors law enforcement during National Police Week

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Boys & Girls Club showed its appreciation and respect for the Seminole Police Department on May 20 by presenting officers with a poster they created commemorating National Police Week.

"We want to thank the police for being there for us," said Denise Gonzales, 9.

The youth made the poster, added a poem that paid tribute to all law enforcement officers and signed it with heart-felt messages.

"Keep doing your job because you guys are great," wrote Antonio Billie, 11.

Capt. Victor Madrid and officers based in Immokalee attended the event. Lt. Doug Van Orman gave an overview of National Police Week, which began in 1962 when President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which it falls as Police Week.

Each year approximately 140 to 160 law enforcement officers perish in the line of duty, according to the Concerns of Police Survivors, an organization which helps families deal with their loss. Police Week, which is heavily attended by surviving family members and co-workers, honors those officers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

In 2015, 102 officers were killed in the

line of duty, and so far this year 37 have been lost in the U.S., Capt. Madrid said. Their average age is 37 and most are not shot, but die in accidents.

SPD lost one officer in the line of duty; Lt. John K. Healy was killed in an automobile accident in 1986 while driving from Tampa to Hollywood. During a severe storm, he lost control of the car and crashed into a canal where he drowned. Lt. Healy, 35, served with SPD for 14 years.

Lt. Van Orman read a proclamation from Tribal Council declaring May 15-21 Police Week in the Seminole Tribe.

"On behalf of SPD and Chief (William) Latchford, we thank you," Capt. Madrid told the kids. "It's good to see the future leaders of the Tribe take the time to commemorate Police Week and honor us."

Immokalee Council project manager Pete Aguilar agreed.

"Respect goes a long way," he said. "They do things that we don't see to protect us and keep the community safe. It's good to see the youth take the time to pay respect."

The officers were touched by the ceremony, in which seven kids each read a verse of the poem "Law Enforcement Officers" on the poster.

"Thank you to all Law Officers

It's a comfort to know you're there.

That you serve and protect the people

Brings a solace beyond compare," read Allyson Yzaguirre, 16.

Beverly Bidney

Mary Jane Martinez, 7, adds her thanks to the poster for SPD.



Above, Members of the Immokalee Boys & Girls Club hold the poster they made during Police Week to honor law enforcement officers, which they presented to SPD officers May 20. Also pictured in the photo are Johnny Boone, Immokalee liaison event coordinator; Patrick Shepard, B&G assistant manager; and Pete Aguilar, Immokalee Council project manager. Below, students read a poem to SPD officers.



Class of 2016's preschoolers graduate, celebrate

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Seminole preschoolers throughout the Tribe donned caps, gowns and smiles in May as they graduated from preschool and took another step in early their academic lives. Families and friends attended each graduation and cheered for their little loved ones.

Dressed in red caps and gowns embellished with patchwork on the sleeves, 21 proud Brighton 3- and 4-year-olds recited the pledge of allegiance in Creek, performed songs and marched down the aisle with their parents to receive their diplomas May 16.

"It's good to hear these young folks speak in their language," Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. said. "Thirteen years from now I want to see you all receive your high school diplomas."

Members of the Brighton class will attend Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School for prekindergarten in the fall.

In Big Cypress, the 15 youngsters in the class of 2016 performed songs and skits before putting on their bright yellow caps and gowns May 18 for the trek down the aisle. Each received a diploma and a handshake from Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola. The graduates will attend the Ahfachkee School's prekindergarten program in the fall.

"These children are leaving us for the big school, but they tell us they are ready to go," said Thommy Doud, preschool director. "They will learn to be part of a classroom and learn."

Before the ceremony began, Pastor Salaw Hummingbird gave the invocation along with a story.

"Our kids think different from us and it would be good if we could talk on their level every once in a while," he said. "They are innocents."

Hummingbird told a story about a young girl who sat on her grandfather's lap

and asked him if God made all of them. After the grandfather said yes, the girl rubbed his cheeks and then her own and said, "I know one thing for sure, God does a lot better these days than he used to."

"We are here to celebrate these children who are moving forward," said Councilman Osceola. "They have bright futures ahead of them."

Nineteen Hollywood youngsters received their diplomas – and plenty of praise – at Tribal Headquarters on May 25.

"These kids are the Tribe's number one resource," said Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.

"I encourage you kids to keep learning our culture and our language," Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Skyla Osceola said. "Keep learning."

Contributing writer Aaron Tommie contributed to this story.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, Big Cypress Preschool graduate Joe Don Billie II receives a hug from his mom Jocelyn Fernandez during graduation May 18. Below, Members of the Brighton Preschool graduating class performs a song for the audience during graduation May 16.



Aaron Tommie

Above, from left, Kenneth Tommie Jr., Avynn Holata, Jonathan McCoy Jr., Daryn Tommie-James, Evan Ruidiaz, Ahmaedrean Robinson and Sue Osceola-Forbes sing during their Hollywood Preschool graduation May 25.



Beverly Bidney

Naveh Gopher waves to one of her loved ones in the audience at the Brighton preschool graduation May 16.



Beverly Bidney

Milo Osceola and his son Storm Osceola examine his diploma after the Brighton preschool graduation May 16.



Aaron Tommie

Hollywood Preschool graduate Ava-Jae Cypress is at ease addressing the audience during the graduation ceremony May 25.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Tikara Hall, Hank Jumper and Kasyn Hannahs celebrate their graduation from Big Cypress Preschool on May 18.



Aaron Tommie

Hollywood Preschool's Class of 2016 includes Evan Ruidiaz.

Pemayetv Emahakv honors staff

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BRIGHTON – Before the final chapter of the 2015-16 academic year closed, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School honored some of its top employees.

Principal Brian Greseth hosted a staff appreciation banquet May 4 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building.

“What a fantastic job our teachers do,” Greseth told the audience.

The honorees included Cindy Ringstaff, Elementary Teacher of the Year; Tracie Mendez, Middle School Teacher of the Year; Mollie Jolly, Culture Employee of the Year; and Macy Randolph, Non-instructional Employee of the Year.

The teachers also received praise from students. Chaka Smith provided a glowing introduction for Ringstaff.

“Thank you for all that you do for our class every day to help us meet our goals,” Chaka said. “I can certainly not think of anyone else who is more deserving of this award.”

Unlike Chaka, eighth-grader Kamani Smith didn't have a speech prepared, but he still got his point across to show his appreciation during his introduction of Mendez. Eighth-grader Kaleb Doctor read a poem about teachers. After the ceremony, he said Jolly has impacted his life as he has learned the Creek language from her.

“I wasn't the best Creek speaker in the world, but last year I was the best Creek speaker in the seventh grade,” he said.

Kaleb plans to continue to use Creek when he gets to high school.

“I might be going to Okeechobee or Moore Haven, but wherever I go I'm going to try and speak Creek,” he said.

Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. provided closing remarks.

“We thank everyone one of you that come out here and teach our children and hopefully make them better citizens,” Councilman Bowers Jr. said. “Keep up the good work.”



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School honored its four teachers of the year May 4. From left, principal Brian Greseth, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Mollie Jolly, Tracie Mendez, Macy Randolph and Cindy Ringstaff.

◆ PUBLIC WORKS From page 1B

community maintenance. Students saw some of the division's tools of the trade and even had the opportunity to interact with some of the heavy equipment.

Since this was an educational field trip, the students were quizzed by John Holdman, computerized maintenance management system manager. “When is the best time to water your lawn?” he asked.

The students had been listening all day and knew the right answer was early morning or evening. Other facts they knew were five gallons per minute can be saved by using a bucket of water to rinse off outside instead

of letting the hose run; the average family of four uses about 400 gallons of water a day; taking a shower uses less water than a bath; and a leaky toilet is the biggest water waster in the home.

Before the students boarded the busses back to school, Councilman Bowers encouraged them to consider their future.

“If you don't go to college, you have to learn to do something,” he said. “If I had it to do over again, I'd be a heavy equipment operator today. Work like this is a job you can come to every day and get a paycheck; it's steady work.”

The Big Cypress Reservation opened its water plant to Ahfachkee students, who toured May 24.



Beverly Bidney

PECS students observe how clean the water becomes after it has been treated at the Brighton water plant during a tour of the Public Works facility May 19.



Kevin Johnson

After enjoying their dinner, from left, Ashley Gonzalez, Nashoba Gonzalez, Callie Joe, Ethan Ballentine and Eyanna Billie, spend time together during Ahfachkee's prom May 6 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Paris theme at Ahfachkee prom

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BIG CYPRESS -- About 4,500 miles separate Big Cypress and Paris, but for one evening the quiet rural reservation and the bustling French capital seemed much closer.

The theme for the Ahfachkee School's prom May 6 was all about Paris. Stepping into the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium was like taking a stroll along the café-lined sidewalks of Paris. Large white drapes and soft blue lights provided a relaxed ambiance far different from the gym's normal sounds of basketball and volleyball games and other athletic activities.

The décor included areas with small tables and chairs for chatting and snacking. Another area featured artists who drew

student portraits on computer screens. Two other stations featured photographers and various themed backdrops. The patisserie station that featured a table chocked full of sweets proved to be a popular stop for students and adults.

The evening's dinner, prepared by chef chef Yolanda James, adhered to the French theme with fare such as mini croquet monsieur and cassoulet. The main course was steak fritase and chicken francaise.

Ahfachkee teacher Shanae Joyce-Stringer and her event planning company B.L.A.Q. Events organized the Paris setup, which also included a DJ and a dance floor.

Attendance was sparse for dinner, but additional students showed up as the evening progressed.



Kevin Johnson

Freshman Katrina Huggins poses for a portrait during Ahfachkee's prom May 6



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee teachers take to the dance floor during the school's prom May 6 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium. From left, Rona Olukolu, Shanae Joyce-Stringer and Eneida Alvarez.

Even a fish wouldn't get caught if it kept its mouth shut

Protect yourself from making a mistake. Practice these simple phrases!

“No, you can't search my car.”
“No, you can't search my home.”
“No, I don't want to talk with you.”
“Call my lawyer!”

Call Guy Seligman
954-760-7600
24 hours a day

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should be based solely upon advertisement. Guy J. Seligman worked as a Certified Legal Intern in both the State Attorney and Public Defenders offices in Dade and Broward County; he has been in private practice for 16 years. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University Law School in 1987, and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1988.



Growing up can be hard.
Paying for mental health care doesn't have to be.

Insurance includes:

- Free depression screenings
- Free behavioral health assessments
- Mental health and substance abuse treatment

Your family may qualify for free or low-cost coverage through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Sign up at healthcare.gov/tribal or call 1-800-318-2596



PECS students tour historic St. Augustine



Photo courtesy Amber Summeralls

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School sixth-graders gather on a stairwell at Castillo de San Marcos National Monument during a field trip to St. Augustine on May 5.

ST. AUGUSTINE – Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School sixth-graders stepped back in time May 5 as they visited St. Augustine.

The trip was full of historic and architectural highlights. Students

visited Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, Flagler College, Ripley's Believe It or Not, St. Augustine Pirate and Treasure Museum, Old St. Johns County Jail, Fountain of Youth Archeological

Park, and other downtown venues. They also took a narrated trolley tour through the city and participated in a walking "ghost tour."



Photo courtesy Amber Summeralls

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School sixth-graders stand atop the gun deck at Castillo de San Marcos National Monument during a field trip to St. Augustine on May 5.

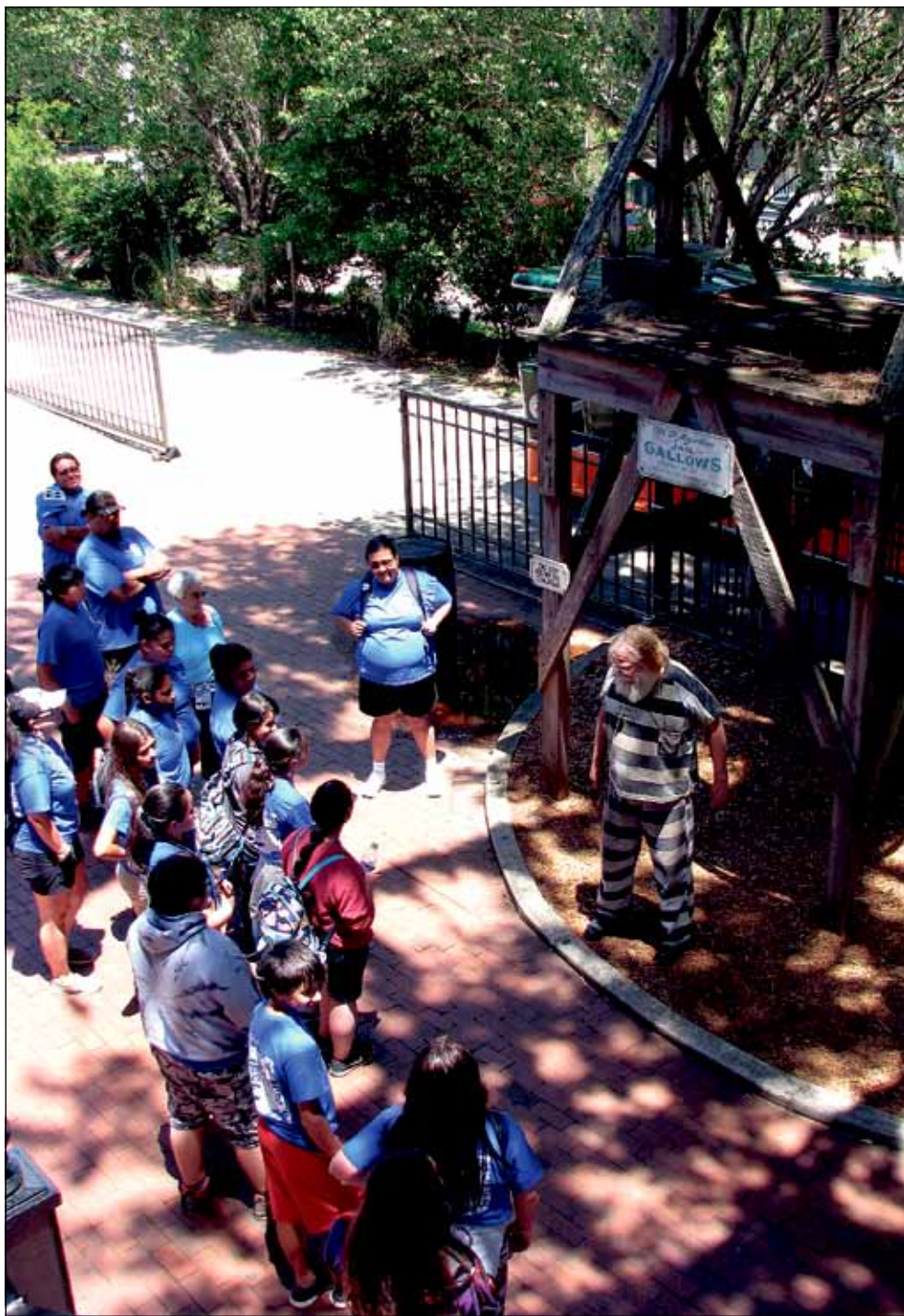


Photo courtesy Amber Summeralls

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School sixth-graders visit the Old St. Johns County Jail in St. Augustine.



Photo courtesy Amber Summeralls

A large branch at the Fountain of Youth Archeological Park provides a perfect resting spot for Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School sixth-graders during their field trip to St. Augustine on May 5.

FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
A49091	2000	FREIGHTLINER (FIRE AMBULANCE)	Rescue FL60	117,209	Poor	\$6,520.00
D19409	2006	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F250 SUPER DUTY (Gas) 4WD	183,969	Poor	\$4,550.00
430697	1995	REM ALUMINIUM CAN CRUSHER	CC5	N/A	Poor	\$3,540.00
B46196	2003	FORD PICKUP	F150 XL (2WD)	48,974	Fair	\$2,100.00
173629	2008	CHEVROLET SEDAN	IMPALA LS	191,881	Poor	\$1,480.00
436197	1997	REM PLASTIC PERFORATOR	Perf-5.48"	N/A	Poor	\$1,405.00
261458	2007	FORD SEDAN	FUSION SE	198,205	Poor	\$625.00
136848	2004	FORD SEDAN	TAURUS SE	184,150	Poor	\$525.00

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)



RICHARD CASTILLO
FLORIDA CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY
WWW.CASTILLOLAWOFFICES.COM

RICHARD CASTILLO

954.522.3500

HELPING THE SEMINOLE COMMUNITY FOR MANY YEARS

24 HOURS A DAY

Since 1990 I have protected rights like yours. My office defends DUIs, drug offenses, suspended licenses, domestic violence, and all felonies and misdemeanors throughout Florida and the United States.

The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Castillo worked as a Public Defender in Broward County from 1990-1996 and has been in private practice since 1996. In 1995, he was voted the Trial Attorney of the year. He graduated from Capital University in 1989 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1990, Federal Bar in 1992, and the Federal Trial Bar in 1994.

Hollywood Preschool celebrates end of school year with pool party



Kevin Johnson

Kru Gowen bounces his way down a fun-filled water slide as the Hollywood Preschool celebrated the end of the 2015-16 academic year with a pool party May 20 at Seminole Estates. The party featured swimming in the main pool, two water slides, a bounce house, train rides, cotton candy machine and lunch.



Kevin Johnson

Chance Bishop, left, and Alihas Billie make a splash on the bottom of a water slide.



Kevin Johnson

Destin Stewart and his mother, Amy Stewart, enjoy a train ride during the Hollywood Preschool's end of the year pool party May 20.



Kevin Johnson

Sue Osceola-Forbes, left, and Ella Osceola-Forbes cool off in the pool at Seminole Estates during the Hollywood Preschool end of the year pool party May 20.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

2017 SEMINOLE TRIBAL FAIR AND POW WOW
46th Annual Celebration of Native Arts and Culture

February 10-12, 2017

Seminole Hard Rock Live
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood
1 Seminole Way
Hollywood, FL 33314

For up to date info visit:
www.semtribefairandpowwow.com

*No alcohol or drugs allowed at this event.
*Primitive camping will be available for participants only.

Join us on

Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs, Inc.
36th Annual Summer Youth Program
July 9th-23rd

Applications go out
Feb. 14, 2016

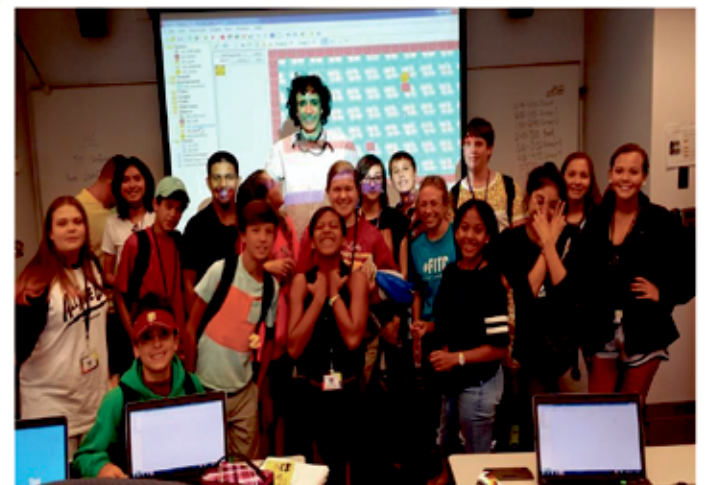
Deadline to return
Jun. 10, 2016

Mail in all
Applications.
No Fax

Florida Indian Youth Program

- College prep program for Native American youth, ages 14-17
- Classes daily including STEM, Indian law studies, & SAT ACT prep
- Evening and weekend activities (Skyzone trampoline world, bowling, swimming, shopping mall, etc.)

- 2 week academic enrichment programs
- No cost for students, just apply!
- College and Career fair, new this year!!



"Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs, Inc."



Leadership Academy

- Eligible for Native American students entering their senior year or recently graduated from high school
- Separate academic endeavors from the Youth Program
- Visit to the Career Center at FSU. Here students get a chance to choose a major and/or career path

For more information or to register give us a call at 1-(800) 322-9186
Or visit our website at www.fgcia.com
Email us at info@fgcia.com



Alan D. Mendelsohn, MD, FACS
David Goldberger, MD
Jackie Schwartz, OD



OPHTHALMOLOGY SERVICES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



WE USE THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND CUSTOMIZE OUR SERVICE TO YOUR EYES!

services

- Laser Assisted Cataract Surgery
- ReStor Multifocal Lens Implants
- Toric Lens Implants for Astigmatism
- Comprehensive Eye Exams
- Macular Degeneration
- Diabetic Eye Exams
- Glaucoma Exams
- Red Eye Evaluations
- Dry Eye
- Contact Lens Exams
- Botox, Juviderm, Restylane
- & Other Cosmetic Fillers

For your convenience, we also have a full service optical dispensary with the highest quality and huge selection of the latest styles of eyeglasses and sunglasses, including:

- Gucci • Kate Spade • Tory Burch
- Silhouette • Michael Kors • Tom Ford
- Bvlgari • Versace • Tiffany & Co.
- Fendi • Coach • Nike • Maui Jim
- Oakley • Ray Ban • And More.

We provide personalized, professional care using a state-of-the-art computerized in-house laboratory.

EXTENDED HOURS:
 MONDAY: 7:30AM - 8:00PM
 TUESDAY - FRIDAY: 7:30AM - 4:30PM
 SUNDAY: 7:30AM - 11:30AM

Alan D. Mendelsohn, MD, FACS
David Goldberger, MD
Jackie Schwartz, OD

4651 Sheridan Street, Suite 100
Hollywood, FL 33021
954.894.1500

myeyesurgeons.com

Sports



American Heritage softball wins state championship

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

VERO BEACH — As the American Heritage softball team gathered in right field before the start of the Class 6A state championship game, the players were about as loose as a team could be. They joked with each other, did little dances in a huddle and just appeared to have good 'ol time on a



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage centerfielder Kiauna Martin gets ready to make a catch in the Class 6A state championship game May 7 at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach.

sunny Saturday afternoon.

When the game started, Heritage showed no signs of nerves as they jumped out to a big lead early and cruised past Arnold High, 12-2, in five innings May 7 at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach.

After the final out, it was time for a major pile-on party near the pitcher's circle. The victory marked the culmination of a 26-2 season for the girls from Plantation who overwhelmed five opponents in the state tournament by the tune of a jaw-dropping 48-3.

This year's squad featured three players from the Tribe: starting catcher Ahnie Jumper, who won her third state title; starting centerfielder Kiauna Martin, who won title No. 2, and reserve player Budha Jumper (Analyse Jimenez), who was part of her first state title team.

A year ago, right after Heritage lost the 5A title game on the same field, Ahnie practically guaranteed the Patriots would be back in the championship this season.

She was right.

All Heritage did was tear through the regular season with barely a hiccup. As usual, the Patriots won district and regional titles, but in the eyes of a program that has won seven state titles -- it's state championships that determine the success of a season.

Needless to say, the team's relaxed atmosphere near game time proved to be the right approach.

In fact, by the time Ahnie came up to bat as the No. 8 hitter in the top of the first inning, Heritage already led 5-0 thanks in part to a three-run home run from Sydney Grobman.

"We were just more aggressive. We wanted it more. Last year we were nervous," said Ahnie, who drove a 1-2 pitch to right for an opposite field single in her first at-bat and took second base on the play.

"It felt like another game. There weren't nerves or anything," said Kiauna, whose diving catch on a shallow fly ball in the second inning turned out to be the defensive gem of a game.

While Kiauna flashed impressive leather in the outfield, it was her bat and legs that helped Heritage reach the title game. The previous day, Kiauna provided the spark Heritage needed in a 5-0 win against Land O'Lakes in the semifinals.

With two outs and nobody on in a scoreless game, Kiauna reached base on a bloop single in the third inning and then put her speed to use by stealing a base. A hit by Hanna Sipos brought home Kiauna with the game's first run.

"It was a game-changer," Ahnie said.

In the state title game, Kiauna led off the third inning with a single and scored to give Heritage an 8-0 lead. Later in the inning, Budha scored as a courtesy runner.

Heritage's victory marked the sixth state championship at Heritage won by Ahnie and her older siblings. Her brother Andre won back-to-back state titles as a lineman for the football team and Blevyns, a senior this year, played on the second of those championship teams as a long snapper.

"It's satisfying because we work hard for this and it's not something that's given," Ahnie said.

Although Heritage will lose star pitcher Madison Canby, nearly the entire rest of the team will be back. Ahnie and Kiauna have their senior seasons to look forward to next year. They understand keeping Heritage among the state's elite is key for those coming up through the program, including a handful of players from the Tribe.

"It's a good look for the younger ones," Kiauna said.

"There's a lot of young Native kids on JV and they see us winning and it's uplifting for them," Ahnie said.

Budha, one of those young players who split time between JV and varsity as an eighth-grader, said she learned a lot playing on a varsity championship squad.

"The experience moving from JV up to varsity was a lot harder and it's intense," she said.



Kevin Johnson

From left, Kiauna Martin, Ahnie Jumper and Budha Jumper hold the state championship after they helped American Heritage cruise past Arnold High School, 12-2, in the 6A title game May 7 at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage catcher Ahnie Jumper handles duties behind the plate for state champion American Heritage in the Class 6A title game.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage celebrates another state championship following its 12-2 win against Arnold High in the Class 6A championship May 12.



Kevin Johnson

Kiauna Martin is congratulated by her American Heritage outfielders after she made a diving catch.

Kevin Johnson
Members of the Jumper family, Josh, Ahnie and Moses Jumper Jr., celebrate another state championship with American Heritage after the Patriots won the 6A softball title. It was the sixth state championship by the family at Heritage, including two by Andre and one by Blevyns in football.



Julius Aquino wins county title

Finishes first in 100 meter sprint

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Fort Gibson Middle School seventh-grader Julius Aquino concluded an undefeated track season in Oklahoma by winning the 100 meter dash in the Verdigris Valley Conference championship April 23 in Catoosa, Oklahoma.

"He never lost the 100 in any track meet," said Fort Gibson track coach Greg Whiteley.

Julius, a Seminole, crossed the finish line in 12.32 seconds to win the boys seventh-grade race. His time was nearly one second faster than the runner-up. Not only was his time the fastest in his grade, but it would have been the fourth fastest in the ninth-grade race.

The 12.32 mark wasn't Julius's fastest time of the year. Whiteley clocked him at 11.7 seconds in the previous race.

"Being under 12 for a seventh grade kid is unbelievable," Whiteley said.

Similar to his uncles Jesse Sanchez and Sammy Micco Sanchez, who are football and wrestling standouts at Fort Gibson High School, Julius is carving his niche as a multiple-sport athlete at a young age.

"He's a really gifted running back and a really good wrestler," Whiteley said.

Julius also helped Fort Gibson win the conference championship in the 4x100 and 4x400 relays. He served as the team's anchor runner, which means he crossed the finish line in a familiar spot: first place.

"He's fast and he works hard at everything he does, and he's a great kid," Whiteley said.



Courtesy Photo

Fort Gibson Middle School seventh-grader Julius Aquino competes in track and field during the 2016 season. Julius won a county title in the 100 meter sprint.



Courtesy Photo

Julius Aquino wears some of the medals he's captured in track and field.

Seminole softball squad wraps up undefeated season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

CLEWISTON — The Seminole Lightning youth softball team completed a remarkable turnaround by winning their final game May 6 to finish the season undefeated.

It was only a year ago that the same group of girls with the same coaching staff encountered a winless season.

What a difference a year makes. "We went from a no-win season to a no-loss season," said assistant coach O'Bryan White, who coaches alongside head coach and fellow Big Cypress Seminole Recreation employee Kelvin Robinson.

The Lightning, whose players come from the Big Cypress Reservation, went 10-0-2 in Clewiston's coach-pitch league for ages 7 to 9.

Robinson said one of the team's strengths is that there isn't a weak bat in the entire lineup.

"All our girls can hit," he said. In the season finale, the team showed plenty of focus in the field for young girls.

"How many outs?" assistant coach Albert Graham asked the players.

"Two," they yelled.

"Where is the play?" the coach inquired.

"First," was the response.

During a break between innings, Leliah Ramirez proclaimed what the team's record shows:

"We're awesome," she told her teammates in the dugout.

The Lightning fell behind early in their season finale, but rallied to win. Tahnia Billie and Caidence Guzman-Billie each had two-run singles.

Finishing the season undefeated wasn't the only goal for the girls.

"At the end they started playing good because we told them if they went undefeated we would take them to Dave & Buster's," Robinson said.

Robinson noted that the coach-pitch



Kevin Johnson

The 2016 undefeated Seminole Lightning 7-9 coach-pitch team, from left, front row: Tahnia Billie, Mylly Chapa, Leliah Ramirez, Aalyiah Billie, Vanessa Osceola, Ina Robbins; middle row: Teena Covarruvias, Caidence Guzman-Billie, Aaliah Quintalla, Lucee Cypress, Laylah Billie; back row: assistant coach Albert Graham, assistant coach O'Bryan White, head coach Kelvin Robinson. (Not in photo: Adrianna Ramirez-Cypress)

season has helped the team prepare for the NAYO softball tournament that will be held in July in Mississippi.



Kevin Johnson

Mylly Chapa takes a big swing for the Seminole Lightning, which finished the season undefeated.



Kevin Johnson

Seminole Lightning first baseman Aalyiah Billie records an out during a game May 6 in Clewiston.

Strong finish for 10U Lady Seminoles volleyball

STAFF REPORT

The 10U Lady Seminole Volleyball team from Brighton wrapped up its season with a pair of top three finishes in tournaments.

In the Florida ASICS Volleyball Challenge, the Lady Seminoles went 2-1 in pool play with wins against OT Longwood Elite and Top Select 10 Elite. The Lady Semi-

noles advanced to the Gold Division where they split two games and finished third.

In the AAU Florida Regionals, the Lady Seminoles went 1-2 in pool play but still managed to make it into the Gold Division again and fought back to take second place thanks to wins against OT 10 National Bay and Gainesville 10 Elite.

2016 ASICS Florida Volleyball Challenge

Pool play

Lady Seminoles def. OT 10 Longwood Elite 16-25, 25-23, 15-13
Lady Seminoles def. Top Select 10 Elite 19-25, 25-17, 15-6
Lady Seminoles lost to Palm Beach Jr's 10 25-22, 25-23

Gold Division

Lady Seminoles def. Top Select 10's 25-16, 25-12
Lady Seminoles lost to OT 10 Longwood Elite 25-19, 19-25, 15-6

Florida AAU Regionals

Pool Play

Lady Seminoles lost to Gainesville 10 Elite 25-13, 25-13
Lady Seminoles lost to OT 10 North Elite 25-12, 23-25, 15-8
Lady Seminoles def. OT Molten Red 26-24, 19-25, 15-11

Gold Division

Lady Seminoles def. OT 10 National Bay 25-15, 17-25, 15-6
Lady Seminoles def. Gainesville 10 Elite 25-16, 25-21
Lady Seminoles lost to OT 10 ASICS Red 25-18, 25-20



Courtesy Photo

The 10U Lady Seminole volleyball team recently completed a successful season. From left, back row: coach Dallas Nunez, Saniya Rodriguez, Talena Holata, Jana Johnson, Naleah Billie, coach Kelly Smiley; front row: Preslynn Baker, Lexi Thomas, Kendra Thomas, Tiyanni Anderson. (Not pictured: Nena Youngblood, Taryn Osceola)

Young PECS track squad shines at county meet

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

OKEECHOBEE — A young contingent from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School excelled at the Okeechobee County track and field meet by throwing softballs farther, jumping longer and running faster than their opponents.

PECS students finished in first place in six events May 6 in a meet that drew elementary and middle school students from throughout the county to Okeechobee High School's football stadium.

With older kids from PECS unavailable to compete due to other activities, the Seminoles relied on students from younger grades to represent the Brighton Reservation, and they didn't disappoint.

Carlee Osceola and Kaiden Warrior each won their age groups in the softball throw on the football field. Carlee threw the ball 115 feet in the girls 9-10 competition while Kaiden heaved it 138 feet in the 11-12 boys group.

Nena Youngblood won the standing broad jump in the 9-10 girls division.

On the track, PECS's future looks bright thanks to Bryce Baker, Lexi Thomas and

Carriss Johns. The trio notched one victory each in the 9-10 age division.

"I like running, and it makes me healthy," Lexi said as she chugged down a blue Gatorade after winning the 400 meters run.

Bryce trailed in his 400 meters race, but he surged past the leader on the backstretch and never relinquished the lead.

"He was ahead. I didn't think I would catch him," Bryce said.

Carriss showed plenty of speed by winning the 50 meter dash in his age group in 16.74 seconds.

PECS also notched a bevy of runner-up finishes, including: Preslynn Baker and Ysla Gopher (softball throw), Sydney Matthews and Bryce Ward (11-12, 200M), and Lexi Thomas and Bryce Baker (9-10, 200M).

"I hope that some of them will see that they are gifted in running and will pursue track and field when they get to high school," said PECS physical education teacher Pam Matthews. "There are some that I can see now in first grade or second grade that they would be fantastic track athletes if they stick with it."

Relay races that were slated to be the final events of the meet were cancelled because of time consideration.



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Preslynn Baker competes in the softball toss at the Okeechobee County track and field meet May 6.



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Carriss Johns, right, sprints to the finish line in the Okeechobee County track and field meet for May 6 at Okeechobee High School.



Kevin Johnson

Renee Ringer soars through the air for Pemayetv Emahakv in the standing long jump competition.



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv's Lexi Thomas, second from right, crosses the finish line in a sprint at the Okeechobee County track and field meet May 6.

Teams show support for Howard Tiger tournament

BY AARON TOMMIE
Contributing Writer

HOLLYWOOD — Sports have been an important part of Seminole life for decades and have allowed Tribal citizens to fellowship with other Native Americans from other parts of the country.

In April, that comradeship continued through the 48th annual Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament. The Native-only tournament was held at Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood. Twenty-one teams vied for a shot at championships while also honoring the legacy that Howard Tiger left behind.

"It's really a tribute to the whole Tribe. He placed an emphasis on the youth through sports," said Howard Tiger's son Mike Tiger. "[My father] believed [sports] is how we come together as a people. Sports helped bring respect [to the Tribe]."

Competition was fierce in the tournament.

In the 18 and under division, Chase

beat Ethan in the best-of-three, 103-81. In the boys 15 and under division, Trail beat Cedric, 71-62. Native Elite beat B.C Girls, 35-24, in the best-of-three in the 15 and under girls division. Nakai's Squad defeated Sharp Shooters, 47-37, in the 12 and under division.

The adult men's championship featured Eman's emerging with an 86-78 win against Rez Boyz. Sharp Shooters beat Cassandra in the adult women's championship, 47-37.

"Winning the championship felt pretty good since it was a physical and competitive game," said Hollywood Recreation aide Courtney Osceola, who played for the Sharp Shooters. "It's also great to see how much support this tournament gets from the communities and I love how the audience is a mix of youth all the way to the elders."

The men's legend games featured Hollywood Heat and Ol Skool playing the best-of-three. Hollywood Heat was crowned the champion of the legends. Outlaw Women won the women's legends championship as they cruised past Southern Smoke, 31-9.



Aaron Tommie

The Hollywood Heat pose with the winning trophy after they captured the men's legends division April 14 at the Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament in Hollywood. From left, Jason Don, Jay Liotta, Jess Heart, Bill, Jason Cypress, Eric Beatty, Vince Billie, Kenny Tommie, Charlie Tiger, Mike Tiger, Sean, and Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.



Aaron Tommie

The Outlaw Women and Southern Smoke battle for the legends women's championship April 14 in the Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament in Hollywood.

A member of the Snake Clan, Howard Tiger was born in Indiantown, Florida. Betty Mae Tiger Jumper was his sister. He was a well-rounded athlete and has even been referred to as the Jim Thorpe of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Tiger also was the first Seminole to join the Marines.

On the reservation, Tiger coached and instilled discipline within the youth. He would teach the youth, and some adults, the importance of sportsmanship.

Tiger collaborated with schools within the community to help Seminoles have an outlet through sports. This eventually led to the creation of the Seminole Recreation Department which began in a palmetto patch on the Hollywood Reservation.

"He helped a lot of young people have success and happiness in life," Mike Tiger said. "It's quite an honor to be a family member and Tribal member and to [be able] to impact the lives of young people."

Luke Baxley wins district track title

STAFF REPORT

Seminole track standout Luke Baxley turned in the fastest time in the longest race to become a high school district track champion.

Luke, a junior at John Carroll High School in Fort Pierce, won the Class 1A-District 11 title in the boys 3200 meter run April 14 in Melbourne. Luke completed the two miles in 11 minutes, 42 seconds. His time was 10 seconds faster than the runner-up.

Luke was a double-winner at the district meet thanks to being part of John Carroll's winning 4x800 relay team.

Luke finished second in the 800 meter run.

John Carroll won the overall boys team title.

Earlier in the season, Luke garnered a pair of top five finishes at the St. Lucie County Championships. He finished fourth in the 1600 meter run and fifth in the 3200 meter run.

Seminoles rack up rodeo honors

Courtney Gore named Miss Florida High School Rodeo Queen; Jobe Johns earns All-Around Cowboy; Blevyns Jumper signs with Ranger College

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The Seminole Tribe is assured of being well represented on the national rodeo scene this summer, and beyond.

Thanks to their achievements in the Florida High School Rodeo Association this season, Courtney Gore, Jobe Johns and Blevyns Jumper will compete at the National High School Finals Rodeo July 17-23 in Gillette, Wyoming. The 68th annual rodeo is expected to draw about 1,500 competitors from 41 states, Canada and Australia.

FHSRA's season wrapped up May 12-15 with the state finals at Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center.

Courtney, daughter of Lonnie and Donnie Gore, won the Miss Florida High School Rodeo Queen contest. She'll represent the association throughout the upcoming year and serve as an officer. She will compete at nationals against other champion queens from throughout the U.S., Canada and Australia for the national title.

Courtney, 18, will be heading into her senior year at Moore Haven High School this fall. She competes in breakaway roping and barrel racing.

Jobe won FHSRA's top honor by capturing the Boys All-Around Cowboy award. He generated 364 points throughout the season that ran September through May. The son of Tara and Billy Joe Johns also won the tie-down calf roping championship and the Top Hand award. He finished third in steer wrestling and cutting.

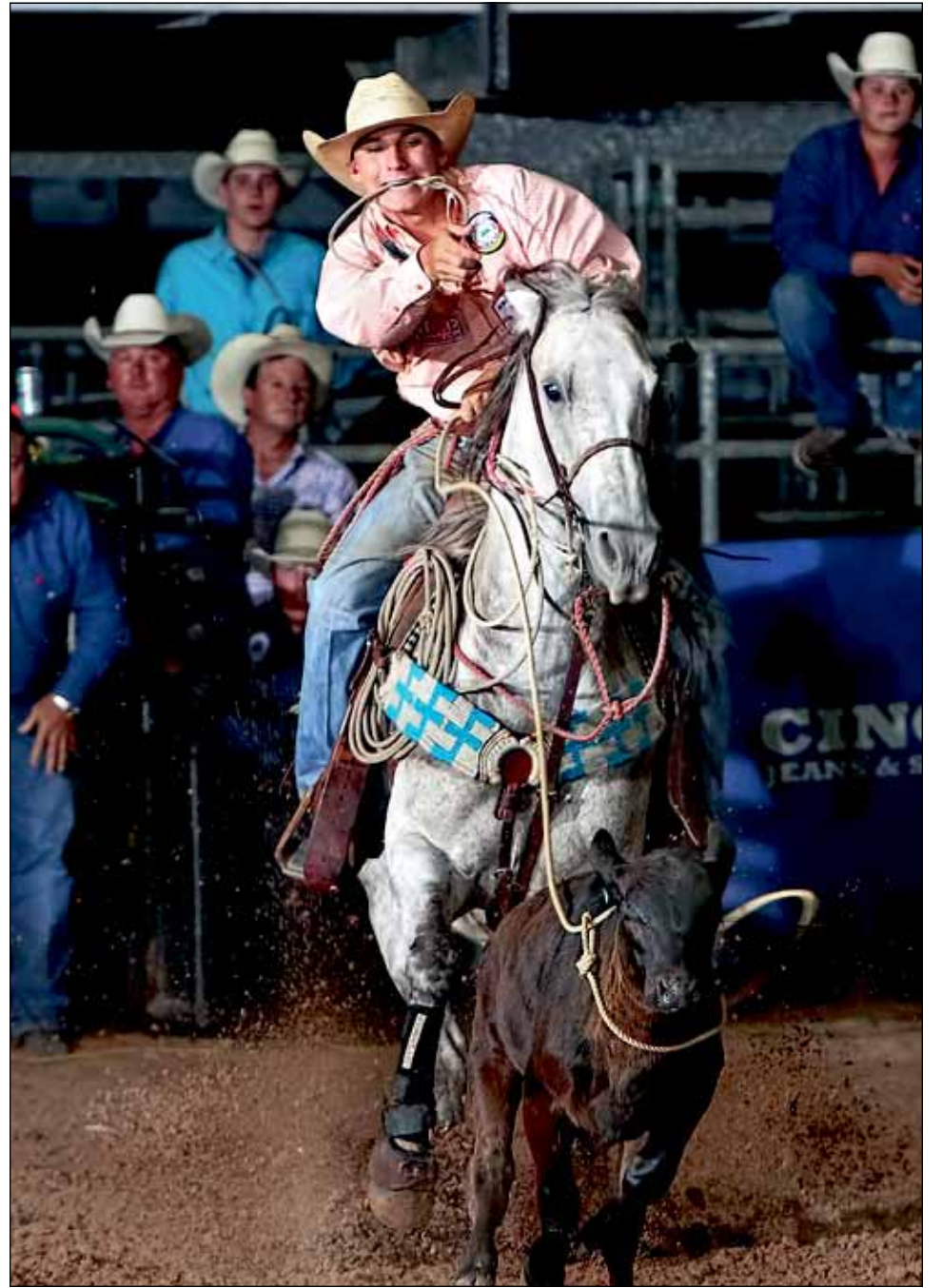
Jobe graduated from the Alpha Omega home school program. With a goal of becoming a horse dentist, Jobe, 17, plans to attend the Academy of Equine Dentistry in Idaho starting in January. He doesn't plan to college rodeo, but instead will rodeo professionally.

Jobe will compete in calf roping, cutting and steer wrestling at nationals.

Blevyns, son of Andrea and Josh Jumper, qualified for nationals in steer wrestling after finishing as the reserve champion. Blevyns has signed with Ranger College in Ranger, Texas. He plans to study ranch management. As for rodeo, Blevyns, 19, will compete for Ranger in the Southwest Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.

Blevyns recently graduated from American Heritage School in Plantation. He played for Heritage's football team and was a member of the 2015 state championship squad.

The Seminole trio will be joined at nationals by Logan Hyatt. Logan, a Muscogee (Creek) from Alabama lives with the Johns



Courtney Gore holds flowers after she was named Miss Florida High School Rodeo Queen in May during the Florida High School Rodeo Association state finals in Okeechobee.

Jobe Johns quickly gains the upperhand in tie-down calf roping during the Florida High School Rodeo Association state finals. Jobe won the season championship in the event.

family. He will compete in steer wrestling at nationals. He won the steer wrestling championship at FHSRA.

Logan graduated from the online school James Madison High School. He will college rodeo in Texas.

Jobe, Blevyns and Logan earned full scholarships to their respective institutions.



Above, Jobe Johns and Blevyns Jumper compete in team roping at the FHSRA state finals in Okeechobee.

At left, state champion steer wrestler Logan Hyatt eyes his target during the state finals. At right, All-Around Cowboy state champion Jobe Johns is joined by his parents, Billy Joe and Tara Johns at the state finals.



Blevyns Jumper brings down a steer during the steer wrestling competition at the FHSRA state finals May 12-15 in Okeechobee. Blevyns finished as the reserve champion for the season.



Charity golf tournament benefits veterans

BY AARON TOMMIE
Contributing Writer

PEMBROKE PINES — With golf clubs swinging amid a friendly competition, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 23 hosted a golf tournament April 23 at the Hollybrook Golf and Tennis Club in Pembroke Pines.

The inaugural tournament drew 64 participants. Tribal veterans Max Osceola and Stephen Bowers were among the approximately 15 veterans who participated in the tournament which raised money for veterans. Teams were divided into groups of four.

The VVA Chapter 23 has held fundraisers to provide assistance and support to veterans in a variety of ways. Bowers was elected president of the chapter in 2014. He explained that in the past there have been barbecues conducted to raise funds, but this was the first event of this magnitude for the chapter. More than \$5,000 was raised to be distributed to charities in the future, said Roy Murry, social media director for the American Indian Veterans Memorial, Inc.

"We support vets who need support," said Paul Tomlinson, a member of the VVA Chapter 23 board of directors.

The scramble format which gave golfers of different skill sets a chance to be more competitive. Each team member hit from the tee, and the best shot was used as a place to hit the succeeding shot. This process continued until the hole was completed.

Vietnam Veterans of America, a not-for-profit organization, was founded in 1979 to help make the issues and needs of Vietnam-era veterans more of a priority. There are over 75,000 VVA members and more than

700 chapters. The VVA offers services such as financial readiness, legislative action, jobs for veterans, and claims assistance.

Marc McCabe, department service officer from the St. Petersburg Regional Benefit Office, has helped Tribal citizens recover more than \$5 million during his trips to the Brighton Reservation over the years.

VVA President Bowers said that a fair amount of veterans are unaware of the benefits and programs in place to assist them. As result, the VVA helps guide veterans to those resources.

Agent Orange and Hepatitis C have been major issues that have affected many veterans. Hepatitis C is a virus that attacks the liver and leads to inflammation. Over time, this can lead to liver cancer and liver failure. Over 19 million gallons of Agent Orange were sprayed during the Vietnam War to decrease the foliage the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops hid behind. It has led to cancer, birth defects such as spina bifida, and rashes.

"Some of those guys don't know what Agent Orange can do to you," Bowers said. "We try to educate veterans and educate the community. We try to recruit men and women who are interested in helping vets."

After the tournament, there was an awards luncheon at the VFW Post 1966 Fort Lauderdale. Three teams were victorious. The Charlie Cypress team was the overall champion, followed by the James Wade and Kenny Kolakowski teams being winners.

Due to the success of the tournament, organizers are planning another one with hopes of having an even larger turnout.



Aaron Tommie

Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter 23 President Stephen Bowers poses before competing in the VVA Chapter 23 Ft. Lauderdale inaugural golf tournament April 23.



Aaron Tommie

American Indian Veteran Indians Memorial, Inc. (AIVMI) social media director Roy Murry (left) and his teammate Paul Shoemaker are smiles April 23 during the golf tournament at the Hollybrook Golf and Tennis Club.

Seminoles meet in postseason rematch

STAFF REPORT

ST. PETERSBURG — For the second year in a row, a Class 3A regional softball final was filled with Seminoles.

Moore Haven's Sunni Bearden, Sydnee Cypress, Kalgary Johns and Diamond Shore faced Admiral Farragut's Martina Herrera and an injured Deliah Carrillo in St. Petersburg April 26 with a trip to the state final four up for grabs.

Last year, Moore Haven edged Farragut, 1-0, to advance to Vero Beach. However, this time Farragut moved on thanks to a two-run last at-bat rally that lifted the hosts to a 2-1 win.

Farragut's dreams of playing for a state title fell one game short with a 4-2 loss to University Christian in the state semifinals. Still, Farragut finished a successful season with an 18-3 record that included district and regional titles.

Farragut should be strong again next season considering most of the squad will be back. Martina and Deliah are juniors. Deliah did not play against Moore Haven due to an injury.

Moore Haven wrapped up its season with a 17-9 record. Sydnee led the Tribe's players in batting with a .346 average followed by Diamond (.333), Sunni (.308) and Kalgary (.250).

Moore Haven won its district championship game against Evangelical Christian on April 14. Sunni led the squad with a 3-for-4 night that included three runs scored and one RBI. Sydnee had two hits,



Peter B. Gallagher

Moore Haven's Sydnee Cypress gets ready to take a swing from the left side against Admiral Farragut on April 26.

two runs scored and one RBI. Moore Haven will lose Kalgary, a senior, but Sydnee, Sunni and Diamond will be back.



Peter B. Gallagher

Martina Herrera puts up the No. 1 after Admiral Farragut edged Moore Haven, 2-1, in a Class 3A regional final April 26 in St. Petersburg.



Peter B. Gallagher

Moore Haven senior first baseman Kalgary Johns gets set against Admiral Farragut during a Class 3A regional final in St. Petersburg.



Peter B. Gallagher

Moore Haven's Sunni Bearden waits for a pitch against Admiral Farragut in St. Petersburg.

Dr. Brian C. Rush
Chiropractic Physician
Successfully Treating...

- Neck Pain
- Lower Back Pain
- Headaches
- Leg & Arm Pain
- Joint Pain
- Muscle Pain
- Auto Accident Pain



FREE SPINAL EXAM
& CONSULTATION
TO ALL TRIBAL CITIZENS
AND EMPLOYEES
(\$150 Value)

Dr. Rush Can Help You!
Dr. Brian C. Rush
Chiropractic Physician
10830 Pines Blvd. • Pembroke Pines
(954) 432-5006
(Located next to YouFit Gym in the Bahama Breeze plaza.)

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.

Chupco Youth Ranch hosts EIRA rodeo

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

FORT PIERCE — For the first time, the Chupco Youth Ranch in Fort Pierce hosted an Eastern Indian Rodeo Association sanctioned event on April 23. A longtime dream of ranch director Shamy Tommie, the rodeo drew a crowd from Fort Pierce and beyond.

“We’ve been pushing for this for 14 or 15 years and it’s finally here,” Tommie said. “This is a big day and I thank God it’s finally here. This is a dream come true.”

About 30 cowboys and cowgirls competed in all the usual rodeo events: calf, lady’s breakaway, senior breakaway and team roping; steer wrestling, barrel racing and bull riding. Younger riders, ages 4 to 17, competed in junior rodeo events a few hours before the EIRA rodeo began.

Like Major League Baseball parks, not all rodeo arenas are the same size. The Chupco arena, at 128 by 180 feet, is considered small. But points earned at Chupco are the same as those earned in larger arenas, such as the Junior Cypress in Big Cypress or

the Fred Smith in Brighton.

“A smaller arena has quicker runs,” said Melissa Gopher, EIRA secretary.

The distance between barrels was about 15 feet less than at the other Seminole arenas, so barrel racers were challenged with getting their horses up to speed and around the barrels quicker. Ashley Parks, Boogie Jumper and Loretta Peterson were up to the task and took first, second and third place in the event, respectively.

Blevyns Jumper captured first place in steer wrestling, Naha Jumper prevailed in calf roping, Leanna Billie dominated in lady’s breakaway roping, and the team of Josh Jumper and Blaine Courson worked together successfully in team roping.

Tommie hopes the success of the rodeo will prompt the community to develop more ideas for the property. He would also like to see the rodeo become an annual event on the EIRA calendar.

“This is just the beginning of a dream,” said Wanda Tommie, Shamy’s wife. “This is the seed and he’s going to grow a grove.”

EIRA results, April 23, at Chupco Youth Ranch

Lady’s barrels- Ashley Parks 10, Boogie Jumper 9, Loretta Peterson 8
Team roping header- Justin Gopher 17, Josh Jumper 10, Jobe Johns 8
Team roping heeler- Blaine Courson 10, Naha Jumper 9, Hillard Gopher 8
Steer wrestling- Blevyns Jumper 10
Calf roping- Naha Jumper 10, Connor Osborn 9, Ivan Bruisedhead 8
Lady’s breakaway- Leanna Billie 10
Lady’s all around- Leanna Billie 11, Boogie Jumper 9, Ahnie Jumper 6
Men’s all around- Justin Gopher 24, Naha Jumper 19, Blevyns Jumper and Josh Jumper 10



Beverly Bidney

Josh Jumper races to rope a calf during the EIRA sanctioned rodeo at the Chupco Ranch in Fort Pierce April 23.



Beverly Bidney

Allegra Billie has her eye on the next barrel as she rounds this one during the EIRA rodeo in Fort Pierce April 23.



Beverly Bidney

Above, EIRA Jr. Rodeo Queen Madyson Osceola displays the flag as she opens the first rodeo held at the Chupco Youth Ranch in Fort Pierce on April 23.



Beverly Bidney

Ricky Ringer attempts to make the eight-second mark on the bull.

Announcements

Big Cypress church seeks old photos

In early October 2016, Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. The church is seeking old photographs of service or activities that took place at the church. The plans to publish a DVD with a photograph history of our church.

The church would love to have photos of church services, revivals and fellowship days. It would especially appreciate photos from the early years when the church was started.

If you have a photo you think we could use, please contact Pastor Payne at 863-983-9333 or by email at pastor@bigcypress.us. Photos can also be mailed to Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church, 30290 Josie Billie Hwy, Clewiston, FL 33440. All photos will be properly identified and returned to owner.

Poem: Stand 4 Something

Stand 4 something you’re a Seminole get in the paint, you can beat your addictions stop thinking you can’t.

You have that Unconquered spirit just look within, it doesn’t take a rehab, 12 steps or however meetings you can get in.

True all that is positive but it’s what is in your heart and mind, on your journey to recovery pick up and dust off your own kind.

A real Unconquered doesn’t leave another to battle alone, against all odds through the sawgrass we Seminoles still roam.

When you get back on your feet don’t forget where you been, share your story be an inspiration to your fellow Native American.

There will always be someone that hates to see you clean, they will offer you sweeter deals to kill your dreams.

You know who I refer to it’s in their nature to pull someone down, no morals, no principles just foolish, silly, clowns.

Stand 4 something yourself, your fellow Tribal member, your Tribal land, you are stronger than the struggle always represent your clan.

Ike T. Harjo
Koowaathi



Theodore Nelson Sr.

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

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

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

Office: (954) 965-4414; cell: (954) 317-8110; 6528 Osceola Circle, Hollywood, Florida 33024

THRIFTARELLA'S

Furniture-Home Goods-and More!
4300 Davie Road-across from Rodeo
Tuesday-Saturday 10-6 pm

www.thriftarellas.com

954.587.0818

Christine & Dominick

Signed sports memorabilia, jewelry & more!