



**Father's Day
celebrations**
COMMUNITY ❖ 6A

**PECS celebrates
10th anniversary**
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**Teams battle on court at
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SPORTS ❖ 2C



The Seminole Tribune

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

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'A great day for the Tribe' as bond, credit ratings upgraded

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

In a move that will save the Seminole Tribe a significant amount of money, Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Ratings both upgraded the Tribe's debt and bond credit ratings on June 16. The ratings reflect the Tribe's ability to pay its debts in a timely fashion.

Moody's upgraded the Tribe's existing term debt and bond to Baa2 from Baa3 and upgraded its Special Obligation Bonds to Baa3 from Ba1. Moody's also assigned a Baa2 rating to the Tribe's specific plans for future borrowing to repay outstanding loans and fund proposed expansions at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotels and Casinos in Tampa and Hollywood. Fitch Ratings also assigned a BBB rating to the Tribe's specific plans for future borrowing.

"The ratings upgrades, affirmations and strong new ratings are great news for the Seminole Tribe of Florida as we look toward a solid, stable future for the Tribe," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. in a press release. "It means our Tribal members, employees, customers, vendor partners and community residents can count on many good years ahead."

Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen said in the press release, "These improved and renewed investment-grade ratings will save millions of dollars by helping to keep borrowing costs low. They will help Seminole Gaming to continue as one of the world's most profitable gaming enterprises."

Moody's website stated the rationale for the upgrade was due in part to the Tribe's decision to continue to make revenue payments to the state despite a 2016 court ruling that entitles the Tribe to withhold payments. The court ruled that the State allowed other entities to conduct banked card games in violation of the existing gaming

♦ See RATING on page 4A

Seminoles prepare for NAIG

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

There's a reason why Preston Baker and his boys basketball team from the Brighton Reservation spent a good chunk of a June weekend playing USAAA tournament games in Broward County gyms. It's the same reason why they spent the prior weekend at an AAU showcase in Orlando, and why they've been practicing three days a week and traveling to tournaments on weekends for the past seven months.

It's all about preparing for the North American Indigenous Games, the largest such athletic gathering on this continent for ages 13-19. The Games will be held July 16-23 at a variety of venues in the Toronto area.

Baker's team, filled with middle schoolers, will be part of about 5,000 indigenous athletes from throughout Canada and the U.S. who will vie for gold, silver and bronze medals in the Olympic-style games that occur every three to four years. About 50 Seminole Tribe of Florida athletes will represent Team Florida in archery, track and field, basketball, riflery, swimming and wrestling. Four basketball teams from the Tribe are scheduled to compete. Plenty of other sports are on the agenda – although likely not to have Seminole representation -- including badminton, baseball, canoe/kayak, golf, lacrosse, soccer and volleyball.

Coaches for Team Florida are scheduled

♦ See NAIG on page 5C



Beverly Bidney

The Seminole Tribe's newly sworn-in Tribal Council and Board gather under the historic Council Oak on June 5 in Hollywood. From left, Trail Council Liaison Norman Huggins, Big Cypress Councilman Manuel Tiger, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., President Mitchell Cypress, Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon O. Wareham and Immokalee Board Liaison Delores Jumper.

Inauguration ceremony held for Council, Board

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The historic Council Oak tree's strong arms joined with the Seminole Tribe's backbone June 5 as hundreds of Tribal members witnessed the swearing in ceremony for the Tribal Council and Board.

Under a giant white tent at the corner of Stirling Road and U.S. 441 on the Hollywood Reservation, Johnna Blackhair, deputy regional director of BIA's Eastern Regional Office, officiated the oath of office to Big Cypress's Councilman Manuel Tiger and Board Rep. Joe Frank, Brighton's

Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Board Rep. Larry Howard and Hollywood's Councilman Chris Osceola and Board Rep. Gordon O. Wareham. The officials won seats in an election May 8.

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and President Mitchell Cypress also participated in the ceremony. President Cypress said he is confident that the Council and Board will keep moving forward and make positive changes.

"In a community, you have to be active and participate in all kinds of activities. You have to be a people person," President Cypress explained. "People picked the right guys to represent their communities...I think

we can all work together and accomplish the goals that lie ahead."

Like many Seminole gatherings, unity rang as a strong theme throughout the event, as leaders and other speakers encouraged the community to work as one to succeed in the future while remembering the roots of the Tribe. In emphasizing this ideology, Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School and Ahfachkee School students paid homage to Seminole ancestry by reciting the Seminole Pledge in Creek and Mikasuki, respectively. Additionally, members of Brighton's Native Voices and Hollywood's Chickee Church sang hymns in Creek and Mikasuki.

S.R. Tommie, a member of the Bird

Clan and emcee, said the inauguration is special because it took the Tribe many years to succeed. She described when Tribal elders discussed the future of the Seminole people, years ago, they decided the fate of generations to come with confidence, passion and the reverence of wanting to see the Tribe grow and prosper.

"The family tie that holds us is unbreakable. We have a culture that is very much intact...We appreciate those who allow us to do what we are able to for our future generations," she explained. "Their blood

♦ See INAUGURATION on page 4A

Paula Bowers-Sanchez makes grand entrance at Grand Ole Opry

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

Actress and award-winning singer Paula Bowers-Sanchez continues taking her talent beyond Seminole reservations.

To further her list of impressive accolades, Bowers-Sanchez performed alongside John McEuen from the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band at the Grand Ole Opry on June 2. Accompanying her were her agent Marilyn McEuen, who is John's wife, country singer Alison Krauss and Grammy Award-winning Native American musician Bill Miller.

Bowers-Sanchez and Marilyn McEuen performed backup for the band, singing classic songs like "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" and "Keep on the Sunny Side of Life." This was Bowers-Sanchez's first performance at the Opry, which she described as an enjoyable success. She and Marilyn said performing at the historical venue was an emotional experience.

"It's a big deal to get invited to perform," Marilyn explained. "It was an honor for John to have Paula on stage. We are true Native American lovers and we've worked with the Seminole Tribe for countless years now."

The Grand Ole Opry started as a radio station in 1925 in Nashville. Numerous country legends, including Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn and Bill Anderson, performed at the venue over the years, and still, artists throughout the world aspire to be on stage at the legendary Opry House. While Bowers-Sanchez said this was definitely a significant and memorable experience for her, it is certainly not the last of her ventures.

"I want to be an accomplished person,"

she explained. "I like to keep busy and I definitely don't just like sitting idly by."

Prior to this performance, she acted in "The Fast and the Furious," "Jag," "ER," "Without a Trace," and "Bad Boys II," during which time she provided celebrities Will Smith and Jada Pinkett-Smith with honorary Seminole jackets. She also has one album, self-titled with her traditional Native American name, Shima Fula. Her music is available on iTunes.

Aside from her creative career, Bowers-Sanchez also obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology from New York University, a master's degree in mental health counseling from Nova Southeastern University and started her own production company, Corn Dance Productions. As her range of interests demonstrates a full and occasionally hectic schedule, Bowers-Sanchez said having her family's support is what keeps her motivated to keep pushing forward.

"You can't do anything without your family," she said. "At the end of the day, you need that stability. No matter what you do, you always have that positive support system at home."

And for Bowers-Sanchez, family is not confined to those whom she lives with. As she is 100 percent Seminole, her Tribal family is just as important to her and she said that keeping the Native American story alive is a crucial part to her accomplishments.

The singer and actress lived on the Brighton Reservation until she was 5 years old, at which time she moved to Hollywood, where she remains today. She said that

♦ See GRAND OLE OPRY on page 4A



Courtesy photo

Paula Bowers-Sanchez stands on stage at the Grand Ole Opry, where she was part of a music performance in June.

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See page 8A for Native American WWII hero

Editorial

Story of a war against Natives is all too true

• Larry Wilson

When it comes to understanding the facts of our world, I've always sided with Emily Dickinson when she said, "Tell all the truth but tell it slant," and turned to literature.

"Success in Circuit lies," Emily continues, because the roundabout can give better views than the straightforward. And thus, when all my high school friends were taking AP history, I stuck with English. Most of my knowledge of Europe in World War II comes from reading a dozen Alan Furst spy novels, and of Napoleon and the character of Russians from "War and Peace."

But if the reading I have been doing this week in Daniel J. Sharfstein's new 500-page volume "Thunder in the Mountains: Chief Joseph, Oliver Otis Howard, and the Nez Perce War" is any indication, I have been missing a bet. The fantastic storytelling therein about a crucial and somewhat neglected part of our nation's tragic relations with the Native American nations in the 19th century is as riveting as any novelist could cook up.

Maybe I'll just pretend that other history tomes couldn't be as good, and stop with "Thunder." But I had a good reason to reckon that the research and writing would be good when the book arrived in the mail.

About 25 years ago, a resume arrived from a 22-year-old Harvard graduate just returning from a year's travel in West Africa, where he had been filing freelance stories published in The New York Times. Kid wrote like a dream, and wanted to come West. I hired him, sight unseen.

That kid was Dan Sharfstein. I knew he'd only report for us for a year, but it was a good one. He soon headed back to Yale Law School. Now Dan is a professor of both law and history at Vanderbilt University, with a special scholarly interest in American race relations.

When he wrote to ask if I'd read "Thunder," and if I'd agree to interview him as his book tour came to Vroman's in Pasadena last Tuesday, I happily plunged deeper into his story of this misguided American war.

Most of us have at least heard of Chief Joseph, if only for the quote from after his surrender that adorned 10,000 dorm room posters, along with his poignantly handsome face: "I will fight no more forever."

But I knew nothing of Gen. Oliver Otis Howard. If I had assumed that historically black Howard University in Washington, D.C., was named after anyone, it was after an African American. But it turns out that Howard, in the wake of a problematic Civil War career, had been such a champion of the economic and educational benefit of freed

slaves that he served as the president of the young school that would take his name.

A tolerant American turned close-minded and in a way insane when he came west to command troops in the Pacific Northwest. Nomadic Indians, he determined, should be Christianized and converted into stay-put farmers. Joseph's band resisted, and the Army chased the Nez Perce through Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Yellowstone National Park into Montana in fighting that was avidly chronicled in the newspapers. Exhausted and cold — "My people, some of them, have run away to the hills, and have no blankets, no food" — they gave up.

The tribe's strategy was really "a long, strategic retreat" heading toward Canada, Dan told me. Before the fighting, Joseph, a great negotiator, was having success in talks at all levels of government in keeping his people in their beloved Wallowa Valley, and President Ulysses Grant signed a proclamation giving them nomadic rights to hundreds of thousands of acres of salmon-rich land.

That grant was soon abrogated by locals with no interest in D.C.'s orders. That's the sad tale of how the West was won, movingly told in "Thunder."

Larry Wilson is a columnist and editorial writer for the San Gabriel Valley Tribune (Calif.), where this article appeared.

NICWA statement on proposed budget

The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) issued the following statement about President Donald Trump's proposed fiscal year 2018 budget.

On May 23, 2017, the White House released its fiscal year 2018 budget for federal agencies. This was the more detailed version of the budget blueprint, or "skinny budget," that was released in April of this year. As we reviewed the president's budget, it was hard to understand how the list of budget cuts being proposed for tribal human service programs under the Bureau of Indian Affairs was honoring the federal trust relationship between tribal nations and the United States.

Tribal nations relinquished millions of acres of land, and many of their rights to the resources contained within those lands, in exchange for the guarantee of protection of their continued existence and of the right of self-government within their own negotiated territories. This includes providing for Native people's health and well-being. This solemn contract with tribal nations does not contain caveats for changes in the political winds or new administrations coming into office. It is the bedrock of the relationship between the United States and the sovereign tribal nations within our lands, recognized in our United States Constitution and countless

federal laws and federal court decisions.

The president's FY 2018 Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs budget recommends significant cuts and even elimination of one program (Housing) for all six tribal human service programs. These programs are the core safety net that provides much-needed basic services to vulnerable tribal families, including protective services for children and elders, burial assistance for family members that have passed, housing for low-income families, and job training and income assistance for unemployed adults. In most cases, these programs only provide services and support after all other federal and state resources have been exhausted, so they truly serve the neediest of the needy in tribal communities.

The combined reduction in tribal human services programs under the president's budget is almost 16 percent, and the Human Services budget category is recommended for the largest reduction of any budget category within the overall Bureau of Indian Affairs budget.

This budget will not only hurt tribal nations, but also state governments, as they will be increasingly burdened with decreasing tribal support and resources to help them serve the large number of Native children and families living off of tribal lands.

Within the president's Department of Health and Human Services budget, while a number of child welfare programs that tribal nations operate are recommended for funding at FY 2017 levels, the administration has asked for significant cuts to other critical programs that serve vulnerable Native families living both on and off tribal lands. These include the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and Medicaid. The president's budget also proposes eliminating the Community Services Block Grant and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, both of which provide basic supports for low-income families.

While Congress will make the final decision regarding funding levels for these programs, the president's FY 2018 budget sets a tone that is unmistakably punitive for the most vulnerable in our tribal communities — our children, low-income and unemployed adults, and elders. We urge all advocates for Native children and families and federal lawmakers to stand with us as we seek a more just and equitable budget and pursue the promises of the trust relationship that were intended for our Native children and families. Please contact your Senate and House of Representatives members and tell them how these cuts will affect the Native children and families that we serve.

Congress, right this wrong against Virginia's tribes

• The News & Advance (Virginia) Editorial Board

Will the 115th session of Congress finally be when federal recognition of Virginia's Native American tribes passes? Will centuries of discrimination and cultural degradation finally be righted by federal action? We can only hope.

More than 500 years ago, the European invasion of the Americas began in the years following Christopher Columbus' discovery of the hitherto unknown continents of North and South America. And with the arrival, first, of the Spanish conquistadors and then the French and English, began almost overnight destruction of the Native American civilizations.

Virginia was the site of the first permanent English settlement in 1607. The natives who looked on as the Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery sailed into the Chesapeake Bay and up the James River likely had heard of such bearded, pale-skinned strangers settling on the shore from other tribes further south in what is now North Carolina more than 20 years earlier — what we now know as "The Lost Colony" of Manteo. Word of the fall of the Aztec empire in Mexico to the Spanish earlier in the 16th century may have even reached the tribes around Jamestown through trade connections.

All of which is to point to the rich history of the First Peoples in the Americas stretching back thousands of years, a history and a culture the invading Europeans had no history of whatsoever. Today, that history and those cultures are all but wiped out, clinging on with the remnants of the native tribes.

According to the American Congress of American Indians, there are 562 federally recognized tribes in the United States, the vast majority recognized through bureaucratic action by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. But six historic Virginia tribes — the Chickahominy, the Eastern Chickahominy, the Upper Mattaponi, the Rappahannock, the Monacan and the Nansemond — have failed to gain federal recognition because of a quirk of history. Their political interactions were with the English governments of the 17th century, not the United States. Because of that fact and the fact that so many local historical court records were lost or destroyed, there was no historical provenance as required by the BIA for recognition.

That's where the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017, with the bipartisan backing of members of Virginia's congressional delegation, comes into the picture. The legislation would grant congressional recognition to Virginia's historical tribes, bypassing the BIA process that the tribes would never be able to navigate successfully.

Earlier this month, Rep. Rob Wittman,

R-First District, successfully guided the bill out of the House of Representatives with the aid of Democrats Don Beyer, Don McEachin, Gerald Connolly and Bobby Scott — none of Virginia's other Republican representatives signed onto the bill, for some strange reason. It's now in the hands of the U.S. Senate with Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine as chief patrons.

In the 114th Congress, similar legislation made it out of Senate Indian Affairs Committee, failing to make it to the full Senate for consideration. Lobbying against the bill by the gaming industry and the opposition by a now-retired Oklahoma U.S. senator who was a foe of congressional tribal recognition were too much to overcome.

Virginia's tribes have forsworn any right federal recognition give for them to enter the gambling industry — they mainly are seeking access to federal health, small business development and educational resources that recognition would bring.

We have said many, many times over the past years that failure to federally recognize Virginia's historical tribes is a travesty. Even to say that recognition is "deserved" puts the process under a pall of colonialism — that the successor government to the political power that subdued and conquered Virginia's First Peoples should then turn around and deny recognition to the conquered is just not moral.

To the U.S. Senate we say only this: Right this wrong ... now.

Seminole Brighton Casino is 'Hero of the Year'

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Seminole Brighton Casino is not always fun and games. When it comes to giving back to the community, the casino makes it a mission to provide

assistance to organizations that need it most. The charitable gestures have not gone unnoticed.

Ridge Area Arc of Highlands County awarded Seminole Brighton Casino with the 2016 Arc Hero of the Year award for its continuous support to the organization. The award was designed to recognize an individual or group who has provided ongoing services and/or resources to promote Arc's mission. The casino has worked with Ridge

Area Arc, which is dedicated to serving and advocating for people who have developmental and other disabilities, for the past two years.

Brian Zappettini, the casino's director of marketing, said it is important for the casino, as well as other community organizations, to know neighbors and get involved with local initiatives.

"We want to be known as a good

community citizen while getting our employees involved with terrific causes, such as the Arc," he explained. "The history of this organization is long and deeply rooted in the community."

Since 2015, the casino has built floats for Ridge Area Arc participants to use during the annual Christmas parades in Sebring and Okeechobee — even building one float with blowing snow as part of a Winter Wonderland theme. Additionally, the casino continuously invites members of the Arc to attend the casino's private Christmas party, and has presented the organization with a \$5,000 check the past two years.

The Arc and the casino became acquainted through the casino's Christmas Wish promotional event. Through the event, the casino learns of Christmas wishes that casino players desire. With a little help from Santa Claus, the casino tries to grant as many wishes as

possible — from gifts to flying in a missed relative from out of town. The casino decided to help the Arc when it became aware that the organization would not be able to provide many of its members with gifts.

The casino intends to plan more events and collaborations with the Arc, as well as other charitable organizations.



Courtesy Photo

Tribes continue support of Paris Climate Accord

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

The U.S.'s commitment to the Paris Agreement on climate change may have ended, but the commitment in Indian Country is only growing stronger.

Despite President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from taking part in the international accord, some tribes and organizations did not follow suit. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) stated they will continue representing Native Americans in fighting climate change.

The U.S., along with 195 other countries — at least 55 of which account for more than half of the world's total greenhouse emissions — signed the Climate Accord. In doing so, each country vowed to utilize green energy, limit emissions that contribute to climate change and help relieve the impact of climate change as part of global cooperation. The primary purpose in taking part of this agreement is acknowledging that the current threat is "urgent and potentially irreversible" and move toward a goal of "holding the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels," according to the official agreement.

In a press release, NARF Executive Director John Echohawk stated, "We will work to ensure that all parties respect, promote and consider Indigenous peoples' rights in all climate change actions, as is required by the Paris Agreement."

A primary reason for this ongoing commitment is the direct impact climate change has on tribes. Along with thousands of feet of land diminishing as coastal erosion and flooding continue to increase, salmon populations are declining, causing hundreds

of people to go without the proper land and food needed for survival. According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, there are 184 Alaska Native Villages under serious threat and observation due to these climate changes. While they cannot regain that land, they are in the process of relocating their properties, as well as their efforts, to ensure that this climate impact is addressed.

The announcement that Native American groups will go forward with the Paris Accord does not mean that tribes can officially sign the Paris Climate Accord, as per U.S. law; however, members can unofficially adapt the Accord's mission. Four tribes formally announced their plan to continue pursuing this mission: Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Quinault Indian Nation, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. In addition, the tribes asked the United Nations to encourage further Tribal participation.

NCAI President Brian Cladoosby explained that Native American knowledge is essential to understanding the effects of climate change. Because of the strong relationship between Tribal communities and the land, many organizations are gaining interest in Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), otherwise known as indigenous knowledge. With this knowledge, organizations can further understand and detect changing climate impacts.

"Through years of tireless effort, the link between traditional knowledge, sustainable development and cultural resilience is now reflected in the international conversations that take place around climate change policy," Cladoosby said. "Indigenous and local peoples often possess detailed knowledge of climate change that is derived from observations of environmental conditions over many generations."

Attend financial literacy seminars

HOLLYWOOD — The Office of Trust Management will host financial literacy seminars on July 20 and 21 at Hollywood's Native Learning Center, 6363 Taft Street, in room 204. The seminars are open to all Seminole Tribal members aged 17 or older.

Guests must attend both sessions to fulfill the minor trust financial literacy requirement. To register, visit semtribe.com/signmeup. For more information, call Lisa Estopinan at 954-966-6300 ext. 11442.

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Community



4-H coordinator Polly Hayes bids farewell to working world

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribe is going to have to get used to 4-H without Polly Hayes at the helm. After three decades of service to the Tribe, the revered 4-H coordinator kicked off her boots and retired.

More than 70 family members, friends and colleagues gave Hayes a fitting sendoff May 30 with a retirement party at the Hollywood Hard Rock. The evening was a lovefest as the crowd shared memories,

somebody. She stood her ground. That right there is an inspiration to me.”

According to those who worked with her, Hayes was always the first to arrive and the last to leave a 4-H event.

“I hung around with big, tough rodeo guys,” 4-H volunteer Kenny Descheene said. “The first time I saw Polly, they all just stopped what they were doing. You could hear a pin drop. That’s when I saw who she was; she was somebody.”

Florida Cooperative Extension Agent Aaron Stam worked closely with Hayes at



Beverly Bidney

Sharing a laugh at her retirement party are Polly Hayes and cousins Lottie Harrell and Edna McDuffie.



Beverly Bidney

Polly Hayes is accompanied by her sons Mitch and Steve Osceola at her retirement party May 30 at the Hollywood Hard Rock.

laughter and even a few tears.

“It was good to see the kids grow up and send their own kids through 4-H,” said Hayes as she reflected on her 21 years at 4-H. “I enjoyed every bit of it. I raised my children and grandchildren in 4-H, too. I did my duty as a grandmother.”

After showcasing a video that featured family, friends and Tribal leaders recalling stories about Hayes, additional memories filled the room as a microphone passed from hand to hand. The consensus was clear: Hayes is beloved and will be missed.

“I learned leadership in 4-H,” Hayes’ son Steve Osceola said in the video. “She was always pushing us to get involved in things. You’ve got to listen to your momma because she knows what’s right.”

Family was a recurring theme in the tributes to Hayes.

“It takes a lot of commitment to stay with something for so long,” said her son Mitch Osceola on camera. “As a mother, she’s always been loving and caring. She’s never been negative. I’ve done wrong and I’ve done good. She’s always been there to show me her love.”

In the video, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. recalled the times he spent with Hayes and her family during butchering and holiday time. He believes her goal was always to keep her family tight by making sure they spent time together.

“She made my father very happy and I thank her for that,” said stepson Max Osceola Jr. “She’s a strong family woman and gave children the skills to do things, complete projects and see them to the end.”

Stories about 4-H were freely shared. Michele Thomas said her aunt has always been a great advocate of Tribal youth.

“She started as the mother of our 4-H program and worked into the grandmother of the program,” Thomas said in the video.

Stories about the diminutive Hayes’ gumption were widespread.

“She may be short, she may be small, but in my eyes she’s real big,” Brighton small animal 4-H leader Emma Urbina said on camera. “She never backed down from

4-H and felt comfortable with her from day one.

“I had a vision of her as a gentle grandmother, but then she told me a story about a man who was bad to kids. She said she decided to punch him in the face,” Stam

said. “She’s a force of nature. There isn’t much that Polly wouldn’t do for kids.”

Retirement will be spent relaxing, travelling and enjoying life. Hayes recently took a trip with the Brighton seniors and has enjoyed time off at home. She may not be a teenager, but Hayes now sleeps until noon.

“I’m taking all the time I want to lay around and do nothing,” Hayes said. “But I want to keep in touch with everything that’s going on.”

As a cattlemaster, Hayes’ cows will keep her busy. She plans to allot some steers to 4-H’ers again. Her herd has produced a

grand champion and reserve grand champion in recent years.

“I’d say goodbye, but in Seminole language we don’t have goodbye,” President Mitchell Cypress said in the video. “So we’ll see you later.”



Beverly Bidney

Polly Hayes is lovingly surrounded by family at her retirement party May 30.

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Tribes may suffer from 2018 federal budget

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

Despite decades of turmoil in an attempt to obtain full sovereignty, Native American tribes are still at risk of losing necessary resources for survival. With the recent reveal that President Donald Trump's budget proposal will cut agencies and programs critical to Native American livelihood, the rights of Tribal members throughout the U.S. may be at risk.

President Trump's proposed 2018 fiscal budget, called "A New Foundation for American Greatness," calls to reduce millions of dollars dedicated toward Native Americans. This includes cutting the Department of Interior's budget by 11 percent, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' budget by more than \$300 million, reducing spending in the Department of Housing and Urban Development by 13.2 percent, decreasing the Environmental Protection Agency's budget by 31.4 percent, cutting the Department of Health and Human Services' budget by 16.2 percent, and reducing funding for the Department of Education by 13.5 percent.

The aforementioned departments contribute to the welfare of approximately 2.2 million Native Americans and their communities through programs, initiatives, funding and more, according to the Indian Health Service. This proposal aims to reallocate these funds elsewhere, increasing funding to the defense policy by 4.6 percent, the National Nuclear Security Administration by 11.4 percent, Veteran's Affairs by 5.8 percent, Program Integrity by 24.5 percent, and Homeland Security by 1.2 percent.

Department of Interior

While affordable Tribal housing is facing a major setback, some Native lands also face losing cultural preservation. As part of the cutbacks in the Department of Interior, the Budget plans to eliminate the Heritage Partnership Program, which provides "financial and technical assistance to congressional designated National Heritage Areas." Many Tribal lands are a part of the program, including the Yuma Crossing in Arizona, Blue Ridge in North Carolina, Champlain Valley in New York and Vermont, Northern Rio Grande in New Mexico, Great Basin in Utah and Nevada, and Niagara Falls in New York. Despite the \$19 million previously used to help preserve these areas, among others, the Administration claims they are better maintained with local funding.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

While the Bureau, which includes the Bureau of Indian Education, would still receive \$2.5 billion, the millions cut from this budget can drastically affect Tribal lands. This Bureau is in charge of the Advancing Indian Education program, elementary and secondary education programs, post-secondary programs, education management programs and more. Proposed program reductions include \$7.7 million from Early Childhood and Family Development, \$5.8 million from Education program enhancements, \$4.6 million from Johnson O'Malley Assistance Grants, \$2.4 million from ISEP Program Adjustments and \$1 million from Tribal Education Departments.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

According to the 2018 Major Savings

and Reforms official document, the defunding of the Department of Housing and Urban Development is "targeted to Native American Tribes and Alaskan Native villages." One of the most significant cuts is the \$108 million reduction in grants to Native American Tribes and Alaska Native Villages, which would only allocate a total of \$600 million. These grants provide affordable housing and related activities to Tribal communities, and the Trump Administration plans to reallocate the money to "higher priority areas," including national security and public safety. The budget would also eliminate the Indian Community Development Block Grant, which provides money to Tribes for affordable housing, community facilities and infrastructure.

Environmental Protection Agency

Part of the EPA's defunding is eliminating the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). While the proposal justifies the elimination by saying that states have regulations that prevent people from having utilities cut off in certain circumstances, many of these regulations do not apply to Tribal members. For many, LIHEAP provides heat during winter in the north and air conditioning during the summer in the south.

Department of Health and Human Services

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, Native Americans and Alaska Natives from more than 567 federally-recognized tribes receive health care and services from the Department. With the proposed budget, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Community Services Block Grant, Health Professions and Nursing Training programs and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program will all be cut.

Department of Education

Aside from reallocating millions of dollars into charter schools and eliminating the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, which helps students meet academic standards and provides enrichment activities, the proposal also seeks to eliminate Impact aid payments for federal property. This \$67 million program helps Native American reservations, military bases and other federal areas provide schools and educational programs to students.

Department of Justice

The Administration's proposed budget plans to completely eliminate funding to the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). Without this program, the federal government will no longer reimburse state, local and Tribal governments for arresting criminals who are illegal immigrants. The 2017 budget was \$210 million and Florida is one of four states that receive more than two-thirds of these funds.

Other programs receiving significant cuts are Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, student loans, Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax programs. This budget is not final and numerous reports believe that Congress will not approve many aspects of "A New Foundation for American Greatness." According to the White House website, Congress should have a finalized version of the fiscal budget by June 30. The 2018 fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

INAUGURATION From page 1A

runs deep in the veins of every Seminole Tribe member who is here today."

As demonstrated through Yvonne Osceola, this blood continues to run and

create life in the Tribe. As the daughter of the late Tribal leader Bill Osceola, who was a major proponent of Seminole Tribe sovereignty in the late 1950s, she explained during her invocation at the ceremony that the Council and Board members decide and create the future of the Tribe. She urged attendees to put differences aside and move

forward in working toward goals.

"Leadership means a lot. Even if you didn't vote for some of the people, they still represent you. It's time to drop whatever hatred or ill feelings there are and go on and help one another," she said. "We are the Seminole Tribe. The unconquered Seminole Tribe."



Beverly Bidney

From left, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Big Cypress Councilman Manuel Tiger take the oath of office during an inauguration ceremony June 5 in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard and Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon O. Wareham take the oath of office during an inauguration ceremony June 5 in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

Flanked by Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and President Mitchell Cypress, Jr. Miss Seminole Thomlynn Billie addresses the crowd at the inauguration.

RATINGS From page 1A

compact's exclusivity clause. Moody's also acknowledged the favorable gaming demand characteristics in Florida will likely continue.

"The one-notch upgrade of the Tribe's ratings reflect Moody's expectation of continued exceptionally strong credit metrics along with further and substantial investment in the Tribe's two largest casinos that will help the Tribe maintain its dominant market position over the long-term," stated Keith Foley, a senior vice president at Moody's.

Fitch Ratings favorably viewed the Tribe's expansion plans and underlying operating environment.

"STOF's gaming division continues to experience steady, positive operating trends compared to more flat growth seen in other US gaming markets," read a statement on its website. "STOF has a track record of instituting sound financial policies, including operating tribal government with a surplus. A new chairman was elected in December 2016, Marcellus Osceola Jr., who continues to support the Tribe's prudent fiscal policies."

The upgrades were announced by John Eder, Seminole Gaming chief financial officer, at the June 16 Council meeting. He said the upgrades will help the Tribe gain credibility and shows the agencies have complete confidence in the management team of the Tribe and Council. It will also mean lower interest rates as the Tribe borrows funds from the financial markets.

"We are a BBB staple, which is an investment grade well above any other gaming company in the U.S. and probably the world," Eder said. "So congratulations to the Tribe for having great financial discipline and being able to show the market that we are a real player and are absolutely deserving of the rating that we received. This is a great day for the Tribe."

The Osceola Brothers go on tour across the U.S.

HOLLYWOOD —The Osceola Brothers rock band, from the Hollywood Reservation, is on tour until mid-July. The tour started June 19 in Orlando. The band will play at several Hard Rock Café venues across the country.

The group consists of brothers Cameron, Sheldon and Tyson Osceola. Their final performance will be at the Hard Rock Café in Hollywood on July 18. A full list of tour dates is available at theosceolabrothers.com/shows.

GRAND OLE OPRY From page 1A

she wants to use her roots to encourage younger Tribal members to continue with higher education and pursue as many accomplishments as possible. She explained that pursuing success may not be easy, but it helps individuals grow.

"Anybody you ask who has been successful didn't get there without mistakes," she said.

Marilyn said she admires Bowers-Sanchez's dedication to the Tribe, as being a Tribal member is something to be proud of and to value.

"I've always valued her remarkable persistence to keep the story of the Seminoles alive. No matter the capacity, the Seminole Indian tribe is the core of her life. She wants to be the example to other members of the Tribe," Marilyn said. "It's so important to take your heritage and take it to the forefront...Paula lives an exemplary life."



Beverly Bidney

The Seminole Color Guard opens the inauguration ceremony under the tent adjacent to the Council Oak tree in Hollywood.



Courtesy photo

Native American singer/songwriter Bill Miller joins Paula Bowers-Sanchez for a photo at the Grand Ole Opry.



Courtesy photo

Paula Bowers-Sanchez appears on stage with the Nitty Gritty Band at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

Josh Camp marker unveiled in Brighton

BY MAUREEN MAHONEY
Tribal Archeologist

BRIGHTON — On June 19, approximately 80 people attended the unveiling of the plaque that marks the historic location of the Josh Camp. This camp was established in 1947 by John Josh, his wife Henley and their son Coleman.

Seventy years after the camp was established, members of the Josh family, Brighton Community members and staff from the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, watched Coleman Josh unveil the sign that stood a short distance from the camp's location.

At a luncheon following the sign's unveiling, Coleman and other speakers told the audience about the camp and about John Josh being elected as one of the first cattle trustees and as a member to the first Tribal Council. Coleman Josh also explained that his father helped establish and start the First Baptist Indian Church of Brighton, was ordained as a church deacon and drove the church bus.

It was because of the significant roles John Josh played in the formation of the Tribal government and the cattle industry that the Josh Camp was listed on the Tribal Register of Historic Places in 2012. This Tribal Register is a list of significant historic sites to the Tribe. Listing includes recording the makeup of the camp and the life and accomplishments of the camp's occupants. By marking this site with the bronze plaque, current and future generations can continue to remember the important achievements of past generations of Seminoles.



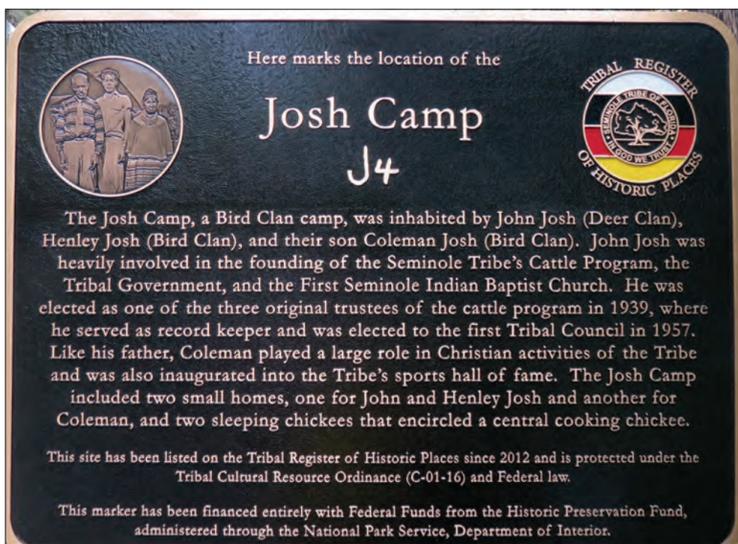
Members of the Josh family surround Coleman Josh for a photo after the unveiling of the Josh Camp marker June 19 in Brighton. A lunch and video presentation was held at the Seminole Veterans Building.

Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Coleman Josh, center, is joined by Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney during a luncheon at the Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton after the unveiling of the Josh Camp marker.



Courtesy photo

Amid rainy weather, Coleman Josh attends the unveiling of the Josh Camp marker June 19.

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Celebrating 2017 Father's Day



The Pichardo family gathers for the Hollywood Father's Day brunch June 17 at the Council Oak restaurant.

Maury Neipris



Maury Neipris

From left, Matthew Osceola, Sheldon Osceola, Tyson Osceola, Theron Osceola, Cameron Osceola, Jimmie H. Osceola, Terry Tartsah and Jimbo Osceola get ready to enjoy Father's Day brunch at Council Oak in Hollywood.



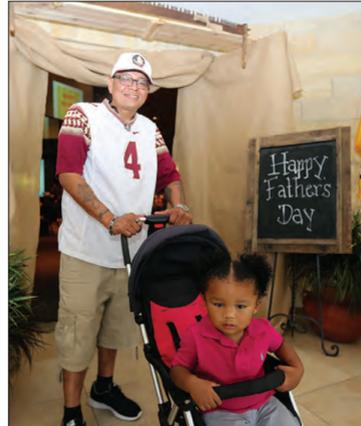
Kevin Johnson

Photographer Robert Kippenberger takes a family portrait of, from left, Melanie Jones, Sheila Jones, Danny Jones and Malcolm Jones during the Brighton Father's Day lunch at the Seminole Veterans Building.



Carlos Menendez

Remus Griffin, left, gazes at the fish he caught during the Fort Pierce Father's Day chartered fishing trip June 17 on the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Jupiter.



Kevin Johnson

Jeremy Smith and son Josiah Smith, 18 months, arrive at the Seminole Veterans Building for Brighton Father's Day lunch June 15.



Beverly Bidney

Immokalee council project manager Ray Garza is surrounded by grandchildren June 15 at the Immokalee Father's Day party.



Beverly Bidney (2)

At left, Allison, Franky, Franky'J and Ariel Conception cozy up for a family portrait at the Immokalee Father's Day dinner. Above, John Robbins enjoys the company of his daughters Thoya Robbins and Liberty Robbins at the Big Cypress Father's Day party.



Maury Neipris

From left, Kyla Billie David, Peter Billie Jr., Peter Billie Sr. and Caitlyn Billie are seated for Father's Day brunch at the Council Oak restaurant in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

Daniel and Peggy Nunez are joined by their daughters Dalayah, Cheyenne and Joleyne, and granddaughter Brooklynn at the Father's Day lunch in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Henry Jumper Jr., Claudia Doctor, Jon Ross Billie and Tia Jo Billie have some quality family time at the Big Cypress Father's Day event.



Carlos Menendez

Kevin Tommie Sr., right, and Marty Tommie, center, try to catch fish during the Fort Pierce Father's Day's chartered fishing trip off the coast of Jupiter.



Cattle owners Josh Jumper, Cory Wilcox and Paul Bowers Sr. were recognized for their contributions to 4-H at the annual banquet May 23 in Big Cypress.



Amanda Julian, center, surrounded by children Tiyanni Anderson, Hinton Anderson, Austin Thomas, Kulipa Julian and Mallorie Thomas as they look at their log books from the year at the 4-H banquet.

Amber Alerts may expand to reservations

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

Last month, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., introduced new legislation that can assist in solving kidnapping cases on Native American reservations.

If passed, the legislation, called the "Amber Alert in Indian Country Act of 2017," will expand the Amber Alert warning system to Tribal reservations. The Department of Justice would use this act to provide grants to tribes to help create the alert systems for Tribal law enforcement agencies.

Currently, Amber Alert training services are available through a DOJ pilot program, but with the Act, the initiative will be permanent. Along with establishing warning systems on reservations, the legislation would also create a communication plan between local and Tribal law enforcement to ensure alerts are shown to the public to aid in the search for missing children.

McCain explained in a press release that this legislation stems from a tragic kidnapping that occurred in 2016, during which someone abducted and murdered 11-year-old Ashlynnne Mike from the Navajo Tribe.

"In that high profile case, authorities did not issue an Amber Alert for Ashlynnne until the day after the family members reported her abduction," he explained in the release. "According to data produced by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, there are 7,724 Native American children listed as missing in the United States."

The Seminole Police Department has a relationship with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. As such, if there are any kidnapping cases, then SPD would communicate with FDLE, which sends alerts throughout the state.

William Latchford, Seminole Tribe Chief of Police, said that in the past few years, the Seminole Tribe has had a few reported kidnappings, but the department found the cases were not true child abductions.

"If we ever do have issues with a missing child or the endangerment of an elderly person, we have access with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement through our partnership," he added. "If there's a situation, we just call them and they put an Amber Alert out for us."

Even though the Seminole Tribe does not have many reported kidnappings, Latchford explained that this bill can be beneficial to other tribes. He explained that many other reservations do not have the resources and connections needed to properly prevent and handle child abductions.

"A lot of the problems that are out there, we don't really have them here in Florida," he explained. "Other places may not have the resources that we do here. For them to have access to Amber Alert is definitely a resource they should have."

The bill was introduced to the U.S. Senate in June and must pass through both chambers of Congress and be signed by President Trump to become official legislation.

4-H wraps up year with banquet

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The annual Seminole Indian 4-H banquet celebrates the accomplishments of its youth and livestock owners, but this year, the May 23 banquet in Big Cypress also served as a farewell to longtime 4-H coordinator Polly Hayes.

For 21 years, Hayes nurtured, mentored and taught scores of 4-H kids as they took on the responsibility of raising livestock. Her greatest joy was watching them grow up and send their own children through the program.

"I consider it a real honor and privilege to work with Miss Polly," said Aaron Stam, Florida Cooperative Extension agent. "This is the end of an era in 4-H. She has done a phenomenal job."

Bestowed with gifts, Hayes spoke briefly about her time as a 4-H'er. She recalled going to the 4-H Camp Cloverleaf in Lake Placid and being one of the first Native Americans to speak at the Tampa State Fair. She said they all thought the crowd was there to see them, not renowned cowboy and actor Roy Rogers. Once on stage, she could hardly speak, but she considered that childhood event a success.

The evening then highlighted the milestones the youth met. In a nutshell, 4-H youth, who may join at age 5, learn to care for and raise small animals, swine and steer while attending school. In the process, they learn the responsibility of early morning feedings, the business aspects of raising livestock and how to let go of the animals at the 4-H sale.

"She pushed us all and we all had fun in 4-H," said her son Steve Osceola, a business owner and former Hollywood Board representative. "I'm proud that we were able to share her with the rest of the Tribe. A lot of kids learned that 4-H is where mentors come from. I'm glad to recognize her for all the hard work and long hours she's done."

4-H has evolved over the years and includes other activities, some of which have nothing to do with animals.

"4-H is about giving kids opportunities," said Stam, who served as emcee of the banquet.

One such program is the Tropicana



4-H showmanship winners Ives Baker, Jalee Wilcox, Atley Driggers, Ce Ce Thomas and Conner Thomas with Aaron Stam at the 4-H banquet.

Public Speaking Program, which gives students public speaking experience. Tiyanni Anderson won the best in her grade level and the entire student body at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School for her speech, which qualified her to move on to the county-wide competition. She gave the speech in front of the crowd at the Herman Osceola Gym.

Stam recognized the cadre of 40 volunteers, who are the backbone of the program on every reservation. He also acknowledged cattle owners.

"That 4-H cows come from Tribal herds is something very special," Stam said.

Moses Jumper Jr., Josh Jumper, Paul Bowers Sr. and Cory Wilcox received awards for contributing the animals that earned Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion steer and heifers. Youth who earned showmanship and champion awards were also honored.



Sisters Cnaan and Ahnie Jumper, who earned grand champion and reserve grand champion with their steers this year, are delighted as they look through the 4-H yearbook.

Senate committee introduces Native American economic bill

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

The U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) introduced a new bill on May 17 whose backers say will improve capital access, encourage tribal community investment and advance opportunities for Native American businesses. SCIA Chairman John Hoeven, R-N.D., is sponsoring the Indian Economic Enhancement Act of 2017, which amends the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act and the Native American Programs Act

of 1974.

In a press release, Hoeven said that it is common for Native American businesses and communities to face economic barriers and the bill will help alleviate these issues.

"This bill will stimulate growth by improving access to capital, increasing opportunities for Native business and encouraging investment in our tribal communities," he said. "These updates are important for empowering Native entrepreneurs and creating good paying jobs in Indian Country. I am glad the committee acted expeditiously today to advance this measure."

If passed, the legislation will modify

interagency coordination between the Commerce, Interior and Treasury departments, elevate the Director for Indian programs to report to the Secretary of Commerce and promote consultation on Securities and Exchange Commission regulations to make Tribes accredited investors. Supporters say the bill would also enhance federal loan and economic development programs, improve and support Native CDFIs, increase Buy Indian Act procurements by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service, and reauthorize the Native American Programs Act.

Committee member and co-sponsor

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said he started advocating the bill because the issue hits close to home.

"Many Indian reservations across my home state of Arizona and the western United States continue to struggle with high unemployment rates and few business opportunities. We must do more to change this," he said in a press release. "This legislation addresses these serious challenges by expanding key economic development services for Native Americans who aspire to open a business on their own Tribal lands."

Congress re-established SCIA in 1977 to help identify and alleviate issues regarding

American Indian, Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native tribal members. According to the subcommittee, these issues may include, but are not limited to, Native American education, economic development, land management, trust responsibilities, health care and federal claims.

The bill is still under review and amendments are being processed. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives must pass the bill and President Donald Trump must sign the bill for it to be placed into law. The committee encourages tribal governments to urge more senators to co-sponsor the bill for further support.

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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.

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“Mr. Self-Determination”: The legacy of Howard Tommie

BY MARY BETH ROSEBROUGH
Research Coordinator,
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Known as “Mr. Self-Determination,” Howard Ernest Tommie was the third elected chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida after the signing of its constitution and corporate charter. Because, among other things, he attended Chillicothe Indian School and Okeechobee High School and worked for a rancher as a high school sophomore, Chairman Tommie brought knowledge to the job from many worlds. The benefit of his hard-earned experience was an insightful understanding of the importance of self-sufficiency and sovereignty and so began the initial foray into money-making enterprises: gaming and tax-free sales.

The Seminole Smoke Shops, created during the chairmanship of Howard Tommie, profited by offering tax-free cigarettes. They helped increase the annual budget to \$4.5 million along with paramutual industries, yet brought their own set of problems – mainly with the local and state governments. SMP’s book, “Celebrating 50th Years of the Signing of the Constitution and Corporate Charter,” says, “the economic battle for survival was so fierce that the late 20th century might be termed the fourth Seminole War.” Even so, the groundwork was laid for future Seminole bingo. And annual Tribal member dividends went up to \$600 per year.

Chairman Tommie pressed

on and served on committees and boards of organizations dedicated to helping all those in Indian Country. His work on the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975 and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act benefited the Seminole Tribe of Florida as federal dollars from the Great Society programs and the

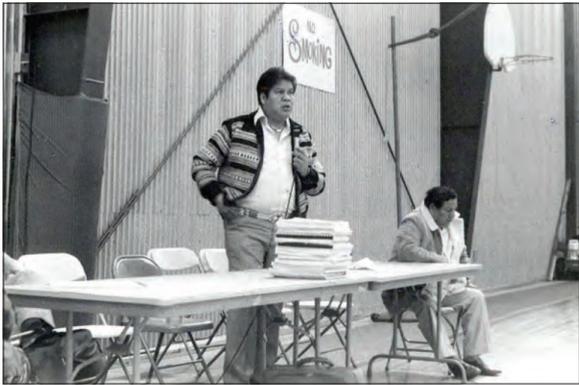


Photo courtesy Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
Chairman Howard Tommie speaks at the Indian Claims Settlement meeting.

War on Poverty under the Kennedy and Johnson administrations flowed in for increased social services on the reservations. He was president of USET from 1973 – 1975, still a powerful organization in the political fight for continued sovereignty. And he served on the Catholic Service Bureau.

Chairman Tommie was not above making the hard decisions leaders have to make. In Harry Kersey’s, “An Assumption of

Sovereignty,” he states that in a review of his chairmanship almost a decade after leaving the position, the former chairman “spoke of the difficulty in developing progressive policies and programs to benefit the Tribe, while preserving and honoring the traditional conservative values of his people.” Howard Tommie’s determination to lead is a testament to his integrity and fortitude. Under his leadership, adult and remedial education received new facilities and the health and social needs of Elders were addressed. Recreation programs were instituted and housing offices were set up. In a bold move, the BIA was relieved of some of its duties and Tribal members were given the jobs. Kersey concludes in his book that Howard

Tommie “exploited every facet of the Indian self-determination movement and delivered the Seminoles to the brink of economic and political independence while guaranteeing their sovereignty.” The determination it took to lay the foundation for sky-rocketing prosperity and ever-increasing independence is the legacy of Chairman Howard “Mr. Self-Determination” Tommie.



2017 Year of the
Seminole
Anniversaries

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

Climate change puts history at risk

BY MISTY SNYDER
Collections Assistant,
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
and
BY DAVE SCHEIDCKER
Archeologist,
Tribal Historic Preservation Office



Courtesy photo

Fort Dade, on the west side of the Egmont Key, being drowned by the rising sea.

The effects of climate change are being felt in Florida. In Miami, storm drains that were built to drain rain water off of roads and away from houses out into the ocean now need to remain closed during high tides to keep the ocean from coming in. The city of Hallandale Beach has been forced to abandon six of its eight drinking water wells due to the intrusion of saltwater from the sea into the once freshwater aquifers.

While many places around the world will be affected by sea level rise and climate change, Florida is at particular risk. Due to its low elevation, a few inches of sea level rise has the potential to drown large areas of land. Its subtropical latitude and peninsular shape make it a prime target for hurricanes and tropical storms which scientists predict will increase in number and severity because of warmer air and water temperatures.

Another less known reason why Florida is so vulnerable is right underneath our feet. Millions of years ago Florida was a tropical reef much like those found offshore today. What once was reef now is the porous limestone that makes up our bedrock. This poses yet another challenge to our state when it comes to managing sea level rise. Where cities like New Orleans use pumps and levees to keep back the ocean, simply constructing sea walls will not prevent the water from coming up through the holes in the limestone.

While political figures in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. continue to deny the scientific research and physical proof of the potentially devastating impacts to our state, local governments have no choice but to take action. Miami is using massive pumps to remove tide water and has started raising its streets. Hallandale Beach is now purchasing water from municipalities that are further inland. While these solutions may work for now for our city streets and buildings, what about our historic sites, structures, and landscapes? One such site has been the subject of recent study by the Tribal Historic Preservation Office. The island of Egmont Key at the mouth of Tampa Bay is known for its historic lighthouse, secluded beaches, and the ruins of the Spanish-American Naval Base, Fort Dade; but it also hides a dark history. Near the end of the Seminole Wars the Island became a prison for hundreds of captured Seminoles awaiting transport to Oklahoma. Now the small island’s history is at risk as the changing environment and climate slowly erode it away. Egmont Key has lost much of its mass since the Seminoles were imprisoned there and with the ruins of Fort Dade extending out into the Gulf of Mexico, its history is at risk of washing away with the tides.

In Florida, 16,015 cultural sites would be inundated by a 3-foot rise in sea level, but archaeological and cultural resources are often neglected when discussing resiliency planning.

To address these concerns the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum have partnered with the Florida Public Archeology Network, Florida Atlantic University, the National Park Service, the University of West Florida, the Florida Division of Historical Resources, and the Florida International University Global Indigenous Forum, to organize the 2017 Tidally United Summit. The Summit is dedicated to raising awareness about how climate change will impact archaeological and culturally important sites, as well as how the loss of these sites will affect communities. The summit will provide a venue for that discussion and highlight indigenous groups by inviting speakers from a diverse range of backgrounds who will speak on topics like climate science, planning, and the importance of cultural heritage. The summit will also present case studies from FPAN’s Heritage Monitoring Scouts (HMS Florida) program,

a public engagement program to observe archaeological sites at risk, especially those impacted by coastal erosion and sea level rise.

The conference will be held Aug. 4-5. The first day will take place at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood and consist of speakers and poster presentations. The second day will include two field trips. The first trip will be to an archeological site in Everglades National Park that is being affected by climate change and the second will be a tour of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Office are excited to facilitate this event and would like to welcome Tribal members to attend and join us in the dialog. For more information, or to register to attend, visit: <https://fpan.us/projects/tidally>. php or contact Sara Ayers-Rigsby at sayersrigsby@fau.edu or 954- 254-9657.

New memorial in France honors Native American D-Day sacrifice

AIR FORCE AIRMAN FIRST CLASS
ALEXIS SCHULTZ
American Forces Network Europe

ST-LAURENT-SUR-MER, France — One of the few surviving American Indian World War II combat veterans returned to the country he helped to liberate to attend the dedication of a memorial in his honor June 5.

“As one of the few surviving American Indian combat veterans who participated in the liberation of France, I speak here not only for myself but also on behalf of my comrades from Turtle Island,” retired Army Master Sgt. Charles Norman Shay said, citing the Native American name for North America. Shay, a Penobscot Indian from Maine, was only 19 years old when he struggled ashore Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, as a platoon medic serving in Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment. The 16th Infantry Regiment was one of three combat regiments in the 1st Infantry Division that spearheaded the assault on D-Day.

“On the evening of June 5, 1944, I was aboard the Henrico heading across the Channel, when I had a surprise visit from a Penobscot Indian warrior named Melvin Neptune,” Shay recalled. “He didn’t trouble me with his

combat experience, nor did he offer me advice. Instead, we talked about home because he knew I had never been in combat ... all hell was about to break loose on me.”

“Only two of us appear to have survived the war without being wounded,” Shay continued. “We were lucky. Call it what you want, fate, destiny, angels, spirits or God. All I know is that my mother prayed for me.”

He said his mother prayed fervently for his other three brothers serving in World War II as well -- two in the U.S. Navy and one in the Army Air Corps as a B-17 gunner.

“There were mothers across Turtle Island praying for their brave sons,” Shay said, citing the Native American name for North America. “My heart breaks for those women who were never able to welcome their sons home again.”

According to Dutch anthropologist Dr. Harald E.L. Prins, 175 Native Americans landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day, but only 55 have been identified. The memorial dedication to Shay and his Native American comrades is part of an ongoing effort to recognize the Native American contributions to WWII.

“This is the reason why we decided together with the Mayor of Saint Laurent sur Mer and city council to honor the Native Americans who landed on Omaha



Charles Shay

Beach on D-Day,” Shay said.

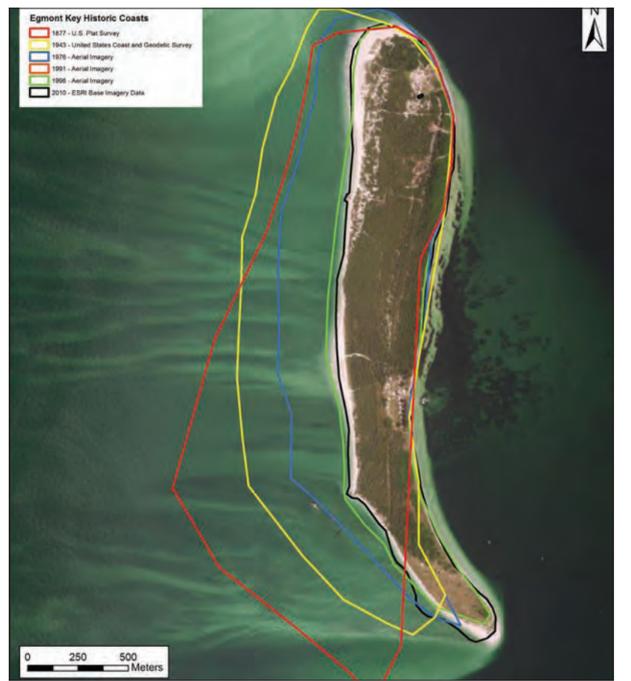
The memorial unveiled in the June 5 ceremony is aptly named the “Turtle Monument” after the ancestral home of Shay and his fellow Native Americans. It is the first time that this site has been recognized as part of a D-Day commemoration.

“Every soldier who landed on this beach was a hero,” said Shay, who also went on to serve in the Korean War. “There is now a plaque commemorating Indian soldiers who left Turtle Island to help liberate our ancient French allies. We will not forget their sacrifices.”



Air Force Airman 1st Class Alexis Schultz, American Forces Network Europe (2)

Major General Timothy McGuire, Deputy Commanding General for U.S. Army Europe, and Charles Shay, a Native American D-Day veteran who participated in the liberation of France, unveil the Turtle monument at the Charles Shay Memorial in Saint Laurent sur Mer, France, June 5. The ceremony commemorated the 73rd anniversary of D-Day, the largest multi-national amphibious landing and operational military airdrop in history.



Courtesy photo

GIS image illustrates the erosion of Egmont Key which is being accelerated by climate change and sea level rise.

TIDALLY UNITED

Understanding the effects of sea level rise on cultural resources from multiple perspectives

The Native Learning Center, Hollywood, FL
August 4-5, 2017

Egmont Key State Park, Hillsborough County, FL

Health

Summer food safety tips

SUBMITTED BY NICHOLAS PERSAUD
Environmental Health Specialist

Summer is here! Fun times such as pool parties and other social events can mean foodborne illnesses caused by disease-causing bacteria found in many foods. Most often, these bacteria spread when proper hand-washing techniques are not used; when uncooked foods are allowed to cross-contaminate foods that are ready to eat; when needed end-point temperatures are not met (hot foods are not kept hot and cold foods are not kept cold); and when proper sanitation methods are not used. Follow these tips from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ensure that your food stays safe to eat.

Handwashing

Washing hands is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of disease-causing bacteria. Hands should be washed with soap and water before handling food or before handling a different food. Be sure to include soap and paper towels. Hand sanitizers kill bacteria, but they do not remove dirt and dead bacteria.

Packing and Traveling

- Carry cold perishable food in an insulated cooler packed with several inches of ice, frozen gel packs or containers of ice.
- When packing the cooler, be sure raw meat and poultry are wrapped securely to prevent their juices from cross-contaminating ready-to-eat food.
- If bringing hot food, eat it within 2 hours of preparation (1 hour if the weather temperature is above 90°F).

Cooking and Serving

- Always marinate food in the refrigerator, not on the counter. If some of the marinade is to be used for basting during smoking or as a sauce on the cooked food, reserve a portion of the marinade. Transport marinated meat and any reserved marinade in a cooler and keep it cold until grilling.
- In addition to a grill and fuel for cooking food, be sure to pack a food thermometer. Meat and poultry cooked on a grill often browns very fast on the outside, but is not thoroughly cooked on the inside. With a thermometer, you can check to make sure the meat reaches a minimum of 155°F and poultry at least 165°F to destroy harmful bacteria. Clean the thermometer after each use to avoid cross-contamination.
- Do not partially cook meat or poultry ahead of time at home. Partial cooking food without cooking it to its safe temperature allows harmful bacteria to survive and multiply. Once meat or poultry starts cooking, continue cooking until it reaches a safe temperature as determined with a food thermometer.
- Include lots of clean utensils for preparing and serving the safely cooked food. Bring water for cleaning if none will be available at the site. Wash cutting boards, utensils and other surfaces with hot soapy water and rinse before preparing other foods with them.
- Use a clean platter when taking food off the grill. Don't put cooked food on the same platter that held raw meat or poultry. Any harmful bacteria present in the raw meat juices could contaminate safely cooked food. In hot weather (above 90°F), food should never sit out for more than 1 hour.
- Protect food from insects and other contaminants by using lids or covers. Make sure that garbage cans with plastic liners and lids are available.
- Discard any perishable foods that have been left out for more than 2 hours.

Night Crawlers capture Fitbit Challenge

BY DREW OSCEOLA
Tribune Intern
and
KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The abundance of frequent walker miles accumulated by Nina Frias and Hali Garcia in lengthy trips across southern Broward County helped their team capture Hollywood's Pathways Fitbit Challenge this spring.

With the Hollywood Reservation as a starting point, Frias and Garcia embarked on journeys that most people would only consider with a vehicle. For example, to the west, they walked about 15 miles to Benihana restaurant in Miramar. To the east, their steps and sweat took them 8 miles to Hollywood Beach.

"There were no treadmills involved," Garcia said after their team — the Night Crawlers — was honored during the Challenge's awards program May 26 at Tribal headquarters.

The Night Crawlers, which also included Anthony Billie, Tyler Harjocee and Pete



The Night Crawlers point to their winning score as the first place team in the Hollywood Fitbit Challenge on May 26 at Tribal headquarters. The champions are, from left, Anthony Billie, Tyler Harjocee, Pete Osceola III, team captain Nina Frias and Hali Garcia. Nini and Hali were the top overall female participants.

Osceola III, piled up more steps recorded by their Fitbit devices than any of the top 10 teams. Tea Sippers finished second followed by We Do Recover in third.

Shirley Clay, one of the individual winners, said her main motivation was to exercise and be part of a team, which was Team Seminole. She also liked seeing participants from younger generations being active.

Spencer Battiest said he loved being part of the challenge because it united the community with something constructive and it made the participants care more about their health.

"The challenge was awesome," he said.



Shirley Clay, left, and Bonnie Motlow proudly show their winning shirts for being the top female participants in their age category during Hollywood's Fitbit Challenge awards program May 26 at Tribal headquarters.



At right, Stanley Cypress and Kenny Tommie are the top scoring male participants in their age category in the Hollywood Fitbit Challenge.



Some of the Hollywood Fitbit Challenge participants gather for a photo at Tribal headquarters May 26.

Special needs shelters available as part of hurricane preparedness

SUBMITTED BY ROBERT LAMENDOLA
Florida Department of Health

Hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30, so don't wait until a hurricane is barreling down on South Florida before you make your preparations — especially if you have special medical needs.

Avoid delays and stress during severe weather by registering in advance for a special needs shelter. Those who are pre-registered will have transportation, paperwork and details arranged so they can be brought to a shelter quickly.

"The Florida Department of Health in Broward and Broward County Emergency Management are responsible for ensuring that clients with special medical needs are triaged and placed in special needs shelters during severe weather," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of DOH-Broward.

The shelters are recommended for those who have needs such as electricity or oxygen dependency. To be eligible, an adult or child must meet one or more of these criteria:

- Depends on a health care professional to perform daily assessment and administer care.
 - Requires minimal assistance.
 - Depends on oxygen therapy.
 - Is medically dependent on uninterrupted electricity.
 - Has mental or cognitive limitations requiring assistance and is accompanied by a full-time caregiver.
 - Needs care that exceeds aid provided at general shelters.
 - Has impairments or disabilities that are medically stable.
 - Is a hospice client and is accompanied by caregiver or hospice nurse.
 - Weights less than the safety weight restrictions of provided cots (after supply of hospital beds and bariatric cots are exhausted).
- Broward County estimates that several thousand people are eligible for special needs shelters but fewer than 400 are registered. The number has declined, likely due to complacency, lack of information or

plans to stay with others. Those who need a higher level of care can be scheduled to shelter in a hospital.

The adult and pediatric applications are available at: www.broward.org. The application should be completed and mailed to:

Adults
Special Needs Registry
Broward County Emergency Management Division
201 NW 84th Ave., Plantation, FL 33324

Children
Special Needs Registry
Florida Department of Health in Broward County
780 SW 24th St., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
or fax pediatric application to 954-767-5155.

For more information visit: www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/index.html.

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SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

WHAT'S COOKING: Juanita Martinez shows Liyah Billie Alvarado and Remy Rodriguez the finer points of cooking over an open fire at the Immokalee culture camp.



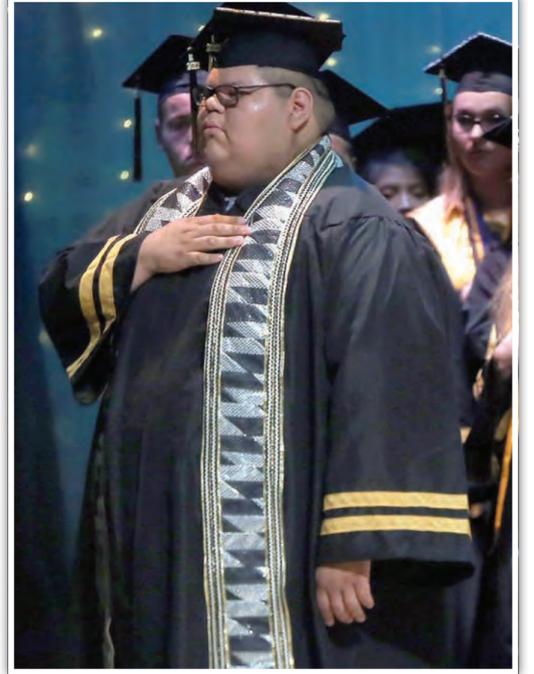
Beverly Bidney

CHAIRMAN TO CHAIRMAN: Heith Lawrence, chairman of the Pemaevtv Emahaky Charter School Student Council, meets Seminole Tribe Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. during the inauguration ceremony June 5 in Hollywood.



Courtesy photo

STOF IN PACIFIC: The Seminole Tribe of Florida's abbreviation is spelled out on a sandy beach in Hawaii during a visit by Tampa seniors in April.



Kevin Johnson

TASSEL TIME: Ruben Burgess Jr. stands for the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of Moore Haven High School's graduation ceremony June 2. Burgess was among five Tribal members in the school's Class of 2017 who received their diplomas.



Photo courtesy Melissa Sherman

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER: Pre-kindergarten students in Big Cypress enjoy a party with Mama Clown on the final day of school in early June.



Beverly Bidney

BOARD SHOOTER: Prior to being sworn in as the Hollywood Board representative, Gordon O. Wareham took photos of friends gathered for the inauguration June 5 in Hollywood. Wareham is rarely without his camera and enjoys taking photos.



Photos courtesy Wanda Bowers

COUNCIL ADDRESS: Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie addresses the Tribal Council during its meeting June 16 at the Immokalee Preschool Community Center. Afterwards, Thomlynn posed with, below from left, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Big Cypress Councilman Manuel Tiger.



Courtesy photo

WATER TALK: Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank gathers with other participants for a program and discussion about local water issues June 3 at History Miami Museum. Panelists included Rep. Frank, Miami-Dade Commissioner Daniella Levine-Cava and Tim Canova, who is running for a Congressional seat. The program featured "The Miami River" documentary that is part of the "American Rivers" series. Samuel Tommie opened the program with a prayer and playing of a flute. Another water issues event is scheduled to be held at History Miami in the fall. From left, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Robin Haines Merrill (organizer, Florida producer of the film), Dita Devi (poet), Michael Weiser (chair of the board of History Miami Museum), Tim Canova, Samuel Tommie and Miami Dade Commissioner Daniella Levine-Cava.



Beverly Bidney

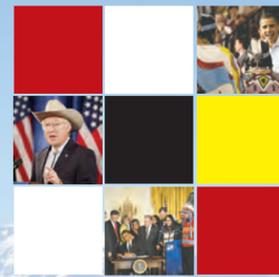
AFTER THE RAINS: After months of serious, fire-starting drought in Big Cypress, the rain came fast and heavily in June swamping pastures and other areas of the reservation. This normally dry landscaped area on Josie Billie Highway is now a swamp, at least for the time being.



Beverly Bidney

ON PATROL: The PECS safety patrol gathers for a photo on the last day of school with SPD officer Holly Ramsey, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and Lewis Gopher.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Bill would ban Native American mascots at Massachusetts schools

BOSTON, Mass. — Massachusetts lawmakers are weighing whether to ban the use of Native American mascots in public schools -- a proposal that drew strong opinions at a public hearing June 6.

The push comes after the town of Tewksbury rebuffed efforts to change the name of its high school mascot, the Redmen.

Linda Thomas has children in the first and fourth grades in Tewksbury and said she doesn't want to signal that "it's OK to use these images and memes and logos."

"The name has become so integrated and repeated that the meaning is lost," she said. "People using it don't intend to cause harm, but the impact is harmful and Native Americans have been saying this now for decades."

Thomas added it's hard to imagine any other racial group being used as a mascot.

State Rep. James Miceli, a Democrat who represents Tewksbury, said opinion in the town was overwhelmingly against changing the Redmen mascot. He urged fellow lawmakers to reject the bill outright or exempt communities that already have voted, as Tewksbury did at a town meeting.

"The Indians have been to that community many times," Miceli said after testifying. "We held powwows in that town. Never once when I have seen this did they mention anything in opposition" to the mascot.

There are even divisions among Native Americans.

Gloria Colon, outreach coordinator for the North American Indian Center of Boston, said she is troubled about the way some mascots are portrayed.

"Some of them depict large noses and some of them seem to be angry, so that's very offensive to me," said Colon, of Micmac heritage.

But Gene Weeden Williams, a Narragansett Indian who lives in Amesbury, saw nothing to be gained by going after Native American mascots.

"My people need help, but that's not the kind of help we need," said Williams, adding he does not take offense to sports teams using the names. "It could get worse for us by causing a division between my people and other people."

The bill defines a Native American mascot as a "name, symbol, or image that depicts or refers to an American Indian tribe, individual, custom, or tradition that is used by a public school as a mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, or team name."

The bill gives specific examples, including "Redskins," "Savages," "Indians," "Indianettes," "Chiefs," "Chieftains," "Braves," or "Redmen."

Republican Gov. Charlie Baker said June 5 he's waiting to see what action the Legislature takes, if any, but added, "I don't think anybody should use anything as a mascot in a derogatory sense."

Democratic Senate President Stan Rosenberg said he's heard mixed messages from residents.

In 2015, California Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation making the state the first to bar public schools from using the Redskins name for sports teams.

In Oregon, school districts with tribal mascots must do away with them by July 1. The state makes exceptions for districts that get the approval of one of Oregon's nine tribes. In Wisconsin, opponents of Native American mascots can file a complaint.

In 1993, the Washington State Board of Education passed a resolution encouraging schools to drop Native American mascots.

Some Massachusetts school districts have taken similar action. In 1988 Wellesley High dropped the word "red" from its Red Raiders nickname and adopted a pirate mascot.

Since then, Frontier Regional School in Deerfield changed its name from Redskins to Red Hawks. Natick switched from "Redmen" to Red Hawks. And the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee dropped Indians as the mascot for Turners Falls High School.

— *Sentinel & Enterprise*

Bourns College installs solar microgrid on Indian reservation

HABASU LAKE, Calif. — Engineers from University of California, Riverside's Bourns College of Engineering began work this week on a new solar energy microgrid intended for the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation near Havasu Lake, Calif. The team of experts from Bourns College's Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT), working with support from the California Energy Commission in the form of a \$2.6 million grant, finally realized their vision of an integrated energy system, complete with advanced energy collection, storage and performance analysis technology.

The new infrastructure investment, planned for the reservation's Chemehuevi Community Center, will provide an

important upgrade to the center's existing energy providing capabilities. The community center functions as a hub for the reservation's members, doubling as a designated emergency response center and a focal point for many of the community's members. Many families turn to the community center, and by extension its facilities, to provide food, shelter and medical attention. In addition, the community center is used for afterschool programs, various meetings and as a workout facility.

In an area affected by extreme weather conditions, including 120 degree temperatures and sudden flash floods during rains, the new microgrid system would, according to Chemehuevi Housing Director Laurie Ellsworth, replace aging infrastructure subject to frequent power outages and the general rural isolation of the area.

It is the isolation, Ellsworth said, that presents the greatest challenges. "The only road out of here is 17 miles from the nearest highway, and during strong rains that is flooded too," Ellsworth says. "Then, our only way to nearby towns is the ferry boat to Lake Havasu, which only runs in good conditions." The nearest high school is 40 miles away in Needles, and any bad weather could prevent children from attending school.

Installing a new energy system in the community center would keep this important meeting place and emergency location open year-round, regardless of weather. It would also lower costs — the current electricity bill is estimated to run around \$35,000 a year, according to Ellsworth. Turning to cleaner, more cost-effective energy sources would free up funds for further development, she said.

UCR scientists see this project as beneficial in multiple ways. Aside from its effect on a local community, the new solar system is being tested as an innovative way to meet California's rising energy demand. The Chemehuevi Community Center provides an opportunity for the energy industry and engineers to implement new ways of capturing, storing and distributing clean energy at lower environmental and financial costs to communities.

Of particular interest in this project is the introduction of advanced monitoring systems, which will allow scientists to manage strains on the system using different techniques. Among these are load shifting, for which, energy is stored during off-hours for use during peak times, and longer-term storage of energy using new battery technologies. By using such methods, engineers hope to reduce power failures and create a more efficient and effective energy source.

According to Ellsworth, UCR and the Chemehuevi Tribe share a close relationship. "Dr. Martinez-Morales and his team worked hard to get the grant and help us," she says, adding, "Hats off to them, they made it all possible."

The contract for installation and construction is due to be signed this week or next, with much of the work being carried out by a yet-to-be named contractor. Tribal officials hope to start work soon and complete the project before the end of the year. Ellsworth added, "I'm very excited to get the project up and running so we can better serve our community."

— *Highlander News*

Future of Dakota Access Pipeline in question again after judge orders review of permits

After years of heated debate, oil started flowing through the Dakota Access Pipeline for the first time this summer. But a recent ruling from a federal judge has put its future in question once again.

US District Court Judge James Boasberg has ruled permits for the controversial oil pipeline were issued without proper consideration of its environmental impacts, and must be reconsidered. He has yet to rule on whether oil transport will be shut down in the interim.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has long protested the construction of the 1,168-mile pipeline, which runs within a half-mile of their North Dakota reservation. The tribe argues the pipeline threatens cultural and historical sites, desecrates sacred waters, and poses an environmental threat to the reservation.

Former President Barack Obama halted construction on the pipeline in 2016, pending an environmental impact statement from outside analysts.

President Donald Trump, however, ordered the US Army Corps of Engineers to issue permits for its construction shortly after his inauguration.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said at the time that the president was "very, very keen" to maximize use of America's natural resources.

"It's good for economic growth, it's good for jobs, and it's good for American energy," he said.

Now, Mr. Boasberg says the permits

were issued without proper consideration of the environmental impact statement. In particular, the Corps failed to adequately review the pipeline's effect on fishing rights, hunting rights, environmental justice, or the controversial nature of its construction.

"To remedy those violations, the Corps will have to reconsider those sections of its environmental analysis upon remand by the Court," the judge wrote.

A later ruling will decide whether pipeline operations must cease in the interim.

This is the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's third attempt to block the pipeline through legal action. Last summer, thousands of people gathered near the construction site to try to shut down the pipeline through protest. The Army Corps shut down the protests in February.

Tribe Chairman Dave Archambault II called the judge's ruling a "significant victory."

"The previous administration painstakingly considered the impacts of this pipeline, and President Trump hastily dismissed these careful environmental considerations in favour of political and personal interests," he said in a statement.

The chairman added that he would ask the court shut down pipeline operations immediately.

Other members of the tribe, however, were hesitant to declare victory.

Chase Iron Eyes — an attorney for Lakota Law, which represents some of the tribe members — says he felt hopeful when Mr Obama halted the pipeline's construction in 2016. But now that Mr Trump has allowed it to be completed, he has little hope the tribe's circumstances will change.

"I live right here on Standing Rock, and when that pipeline breaks, it's my children who are going to suffer," he told *The Independent*. "Unless something gives me an objectively reasonable indication that circumstances could be changed then I'm going to take these things with a grain of salt."

The court victory, he added, rings hollow now that the pipeline is already in the ground.

"I can't pin down anything other than a good vibe coming from the fact that something went our way," he said. "Something probably should have gone our way before construction began."

The US Army Corps of Engineers did not respond to a request for comment.

— *The Independent (UK)*

Wonder Woman actor Eugene Brave Rock honored by Blood Tribe

STAND OFF, Alberta — The Blood Tribe in southern Alberta has honoured the success of one of its members, Eugene Brave Rock.

A ceremony held at the Tattikiisaapo Middle School on June 8 saw the 39-year-old actor bestowed with a headdress — the highest honour given in First Nations culture.

"Not just anybody can get a headdress," said his aunt, Ramona Bighead, who attended the ceremony.

"Only the most notable people get one. We felt that Eugene deserved that honour."

Brave Rock is making waves in entertainment circles for his recent role as "Chief" in *Wonder Woman*, the DC Comics superhero film distributed by Warner Bros.

Born and raised on the Blood reserve, Brave Rock was highly influenced by his Blackfoot culture.

Bighead believes her nephew has displayed leadership to the community while earning the headdress honour.

"For him being an actor, in my opinion, he's probably going to portray an Indigenous person on screen again," she said.

"Now he has the full right to wear a headdress. No one can ever say, 'Hey, you have no right to wear this.'"

Brave Rock's uncle and Blood council member, Marcel Weasel Head, said his nephew was stunned by the gesture.

"It was a really special ceremony. Gene wasn't expecting the headdress; he didn't know," said Weasel Head.

"The mere fact that he's a Blood Tribe member and has done very well for himself, and he's a role model for our children — it was just time that he came home and he was recognized by his own people."

It was emotional for family members and friends who came to support Brave Rock, said Weasel Head, who added that he held back tears as he embraced his nephew.

It had been a few years since Brave Rock returned home, but he's always stayed grounded to his roots, said Weasel Head.

"I can remember when he was a kid that he was always pleasant and always there to greet you. He had a big smile — very down-to-earth, humble kid. He was friends with everyone and didn't get into any trouble," he said.

Weasel Head went on to share that one day, Brave Rock left the reserve to work in the big city in construction, and he caught the itch to get into acting after doing a couple of auditions for fun.

"Then he said, 'I'm going.... I'm going to Paris and going to explore what's out there,'" said Weasel Head.

He said Brave Rock encouraged children and youth at Thursday's gathering to get out and reach their goals, but also to keep their culture close to heart.

"The kids are star-struck," said Bighead.

"One mother was so thankful. Her little boy was talking to his mother about wanting to cut his braids. But after listening to Eugene tell them not to cut their hair, he told his mother he never, ever wants to cut his braids."

— *CBC News*

Massachusetts Senate candidate challenges Warren to prove Indian heritage

A candidate for the 2018 U.S. Senate race in Massachusetts tweeted out a video on May 21 challenging Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.) to prove her claims of having American Indian heritage.

V.A. Shiva, who is seeking the Republican nomination in 2018 and has claimed he invented email, filmed himself holding a "23andMe" DNA testing kit, which he claims requires only his saliva and a "few short days" to prove if he was a real Indian. Shiva was born in Bombay, India, while Warren's claim is about having American Indian, or Native American, heritage.

"I want to challenge Elizabeth Warren to do the same," he said. "I'm calling this now the Real Indian vs. Fake Indian challenge. Elizabeth, why don't you do this? It's really, really simple."

The Massachusetts Republican Party has also released a video slamming Warren for her claims of having Cherokee Indian heritage.

Warren's claims of Indian heritage from her early days as a professor dogged her during her 2012 run for the Senate against Scott Brown. She could only cite "family stories," according to the Washington Post, of having Delaware and Cherokee Indian heritage, at one point referencing a relative's "high cheekbones."

In the video tweeted out by Shiva, Cherokee Indians in Cherokee, North Carolina, question Warren's trustworthiness.

President Trump has seized on the controversy to hit back at Warren's criticisms of him, derisively calling her "Pocahontas."

— *The Washington Free Beacon*

Report: Farm Bill will impact Native Americans

A new report by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community concludes indigenous communities need to better prepare to advocate for their food security in response to the 2018 Farm Bill.

The report, "Regaining Our Future: An Assessment of Risks and Opportunities for Native Communities in the 2018 Farm Bill," says the farm bill could have significant consequences for the 5 million Native Americans and Alaskan Natives in the U.S., according to a news release.

SMSC Chairman Charles Vig issued a statement urging tribal governments, native producers, environmental stewards and indigenous community members to get involved in helping Congress shape the next Farm Bill.

"There has never been a more critical time for Native Americans to unite to defend our interests," Vig said in the statement.

The Farm Bill, considered by U.S. Congress every five years, is one of the largest pieces of domestic legislation. It focuses on developing federal policies for food and agriculture, including nutrition, crop insurance, conservation, commodity programs, research and education. The most recent version of the Farm Bill was passed in 2014.

"Without our involvement in the process and in understanding... complex programs and how they impact us, then our voices simply aren't heard," said Janie Simms Hipp, director of the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law and co-author of the report.

The Farm Bill also provides food programs for children, elders, people who are disabled and people living below the poverty line, according to Hipp.

Nearly 25 percent — and in many communities more than 50 percent — of Native American citizens participate in the food programs that comprise 80 percent of the Farm Bill, according to the report. Many native communities also have members who survive through these programs, Hipp said.

"We must be knowledgeable and engaged in the improvement and development of federal food policy because

it directly impacts our lands, our foods, our waters, our natural resources, and our economic development opportunities," Hipp said. "Regaining Our Future sets the groundwork for tribes to work together from a common understanding and advocate for that most basic of human needs, the ability to feed ourselves in our own food systems with our own foods."

The report was commissioned by Seeds of Native Health, the tribe's four-year, \$10 million philanthropic campaign. Launched in 2015, Seeds of Native Health seeks to improve Native nutrition and food access by providing grants to local indigenous communities and funding research and education.

— *Shakopee Valley News*

MGM bid to block tribal casino tossed by court

MGM Resorts International, which next year will open a massive casino in Springfield, Mass., suffered a legal defeat June 21 in its ongoing battle to ward off potential competition from Native American tribes in nearby Connecticut.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan ruled that a lower court judge was correct in tossing MGM's suit against the Nutmeg State last year.

In that lawsuit, MGM argued that lawmakers put it at a competitive disadvantage when the state passed a law in 2015 that allowed Connecticut's two federally recognized tribes to build casinos on nontribal land.

MGM lawyers said the casino giant was improperly disadvantaged by the law, but the appeals court said the argument was "too speculative."

Uri Clinton, senior vice president and legal counsel for MGM, said the litigation may not be over. The Connecticut legislature recently approved East Windsor, Conn., as the site for a third casino, and Gov. Dannel Malloy has voiced support for the legislation.

East Windsor is roughly 30 minutes from Springfield, and Clinton said, if Malloy signs off on the legislation, MGM will be ready to restart the legal fight.

"We view today's ruling as nothing more than a matter of timing," Clinton said in a statement, "and remain undeterred in our goal of having the opportunity to compete in Connecticut."

In a footnote, the appeals court acknowledged that MGM may have a legal leg to stand on in the future.

"Our conclusion does not rule out the possibility that MGM's alleged harm may at some future point become sufficiently imminent," U.S. Circuit Judge John Walker Jr. said, writing for a three-judge panel. "That possibility, though, is at this time only hypothetical and we therefore need not address it."

— *Boston Herald*

Native American festival celebrates veterans and first responders

CHIPLEY, Fla. — The North Bay Clan of the Lower Creek Muskogee Tribe hosted their annual Memorial Day Spring Festival the weekend of May 28.

The festival was held at the Tribal Grounds near Chipley and honored all veterans, past and present, as well as first responders.

"These are the people that keep us alive, that make our country better and they serve us all, all the time," Tribe member James Bush said.

Many members of the tribe say the festival is an opportunity to teach children about the Native American culture.

"Most kids don't get to learn the full thing about Indians in school, they just have history class and learn a little bit about what they do, but they don't get to learn about everything," 11-year-old's, Vince and James Clay said.

There were drummers, singers, dancers, and vendors. All of which showcased Native American arts.

"I've learned that they use cane poles as walking sticks and flutes, so whenever they get tired of walking, they can play the flute and whenever they get tired of playing the flute, they can walk. I learned that you don't have to dress up to dance, cause all you have to do is do it for God and talk like we're talking," Vince and James said.

Tribe member, James Bush, believes it's especially important to learn about the culture of the Native Americans who have served our country.

"Native Americans believe that this country is their country and will defend it 'til the death, and that's what we're celebrating, is that commitment to this nation," Bush said.

Tribe officials tell us they will host a similar event near Veterans Day in November.

— *NBC WJHG*

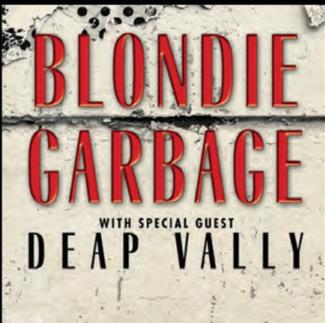
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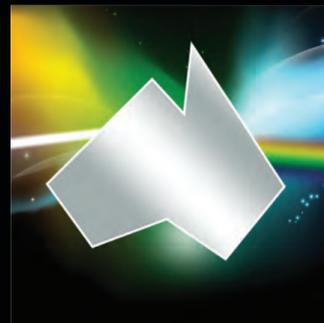
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STEVE MILLER BAND
WITH PETER FRAMPTON



July 22
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August 8
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RAGE AND RAPTURE TOUR
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
DEAP VALLY



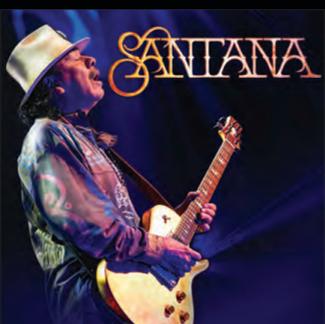
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THE AUSTRALIAN
PINK FLOYD SHOW



August 26
JO KOY AND
ANJELAH JOHNSON
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HOLLYWOOD, FL

Education



Ahfachkee, Moore Haven celebrate graduations

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

About 60 Tribal students earned their high school diplomas or GEDs recently, as family and friends celebrated their accomplishments at graduation ceremonies.

Ahfachkee graduates GraySun Billie and Nashoba Gonzalez and GED graduate Michelle Jimmie Garcia wore caps and gowns decorated with patchwork and beadwork as they walked down the aisle May 25 to receive diplomas from Principal Dorothy Cain.

Tribal officials welcomed the graduates to adulthood in Big Cypress's Herman Osceola Gym.

"Congratulations on completing this phase of being a young Tribal member and getting your education and diploma," said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank. "We want you to continue your education and take the path to self-realization."

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. recognized the 18 years of work parents did to get their children to this milestone and also addressed the students.

"There are a lot of people to congratulate today, but mostly yourselves," Chairman Osceola said. "Give yourselves a hand."

Principal Cain told them that graduation defines a new stage of their lives.

"The future is in your hands, no one else's," she said. "Seize this opportunity."

Cain then quoted a 2005

Stanford University commencement address given by the late Steve Jobs, founder of Apple Inc. "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma – which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition."

Former Ahfachkee teacher Jarrid Smith gave the commencement address. He conveyed to the students the importance of loving what they do for a living. He teaches because he has a passion for it and it brings him joy.

"We've all been given different gifts. You may not know exactly what they are right now, but there are great things in store for you," Smith said. "No matter what you do, there may be a time in your life you may doubt yourself. Just keep believing in yourself and in God and you will come out on top."

In Moore Haven, the Terriers bid adieu to 51 seniors. There was plenty of patchwork in the audience as five Tribal members – Ruben Burgess Jr., Sydnee Cypress, Logan Ortiz, River



Beverly Bidney

Beaming graduates GraySun Billie, Michelle Jimmie Garcia and Nashoba Gonzalez pose together during the Ahfachkee graduation ceremony.

Osceola and Eric Puente – received their diplomas.

The ceremony, held in the Glades County Auditorium next door to the high school, started on a sentimental note as all the seniors left their seats on stage and journeyed into the audience where they gave one rose to who meant a lot to them during their high school career. Hugs, kisses and some tears ensued. When the students returned to their seats, softball coach Clint

♦ See GRADUATION on page 6B



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven High School's Class of 2017 erupts in celebration at the end of their graduation ceremony June 2 at the Glades County Auditorium.



Beverly Bidney

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank and Cicerio Osceola, who was Big Cypress Councilman at the time, greet GED graduate Michelle Jimmie Garcia after the Ahfachkee graduation ceremony May 25.



Kevin Johnson

2017 graduate Sydnee Cypress, center, celebrates with her family June 2 at Moore Haven High School's graduation



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee graduate Nashoba Gonzalez is embraced after the graduation ceremony.



Kevin Johnson

2017 graduate River Osceola, center, celebrates with his family June 2 at Moore Haven High School's graduation

School year ends with activities galore at PECS

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON —The last day of school June 2 was an eventful one at the Pema yetv Emahakv Charter School. It began with more than 400 students, faculty and staff posing for a photo on an open field and ended with the proud class of eighth graders receiving cheers from the student body as they took the traditional final walk through the halls of the Brighton school.

The warm, overcast morning kept the sun out of everyone's eyes for the photo commemorating the 10th anniversary of the school. Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and the school's first principal Russ Brown, now a provost at Indian River State College, took

their place in the crowd to spell out PECS 10.

The idea for the school came from parents' desire for their children to continue language and culture classes after they left preschool. When students entered the public school system, they feared Seminole culture would be lost.

The late Louise Gopher, then the director of education, realized if the children lost their language, Seminole culture could be lost forever. She established a pull-out program for Tribal students which allowed them to remain on the reservation one day a week to learn language and culture from a group of elders, called the grandmothers.

The program was such a success that the concept was expanded to include a complete school on the reservation. When the school opened in 2007, PECS was the

first Native American Charter School east of the Mississippi River. Its charter outlines the school's focus on Seminole culture and language while adhering to the same educational standards as every other public school in the state.

The school opened with 123 elementary school students; at the end of the 2016-17 school year, it had 302 kindergarten through 8th grade students. In 2014, the Creek language was added to the Florida Course Code Directory of approved courses. PECS' students now earn foreign language credit toward high school graduation and college admission.

After the photo op, students in grades 3-8 celebrated the last day of school with luau dance parties in the gym. When the dancing finished, every K-7 student lined the school's hallways to greet and congratulate

the eighth grade graduating class. High fives and applause erupted as the proud, pink t-shirt clad eighth graders made their way through the school's halls for the last time.

The celebration continued for the grads in the media center with cake, gifts and a video marking their tenure at the school. Principal Brian Greseth addressed the group and told them he has complete confidence in them.

"You are definitely well prepared academically and socially for high school," Greseth said. "You're going to do great things, but it's up to you. It's your choice to enjoy high school, but you have to put some work into it. The choice is yours, it always is."

He told the students that he expects all of them to graduate high school and most to go to college.

"I would love for you to come back here, be the teachers and run the school," Greseth said. "I'd love to see you come back and give back to the community."

With that, they viewed the video, cut the cake and the students passed a milestone in their young lives.



Beverly Bidney

Pema yetv Emahakv Charter School students, faculty and staff pose for the final photo of the academic year.



Beverly Bidney

The gym turned into a dance party, complete with leis, as a final and fun goodbye to the graduating eighth-graders.

Congrats, 8th grade graduates

- Jahbahn Arnold
- Jaylen Baker
- Ramone Baker
- Laila Bennett
- Myron Billie
- Isaiah Bishop
- Davin Carrillo
- Shaela French
- Jagger Gaucin
- Nataly Solis
- Donovan Harris
- Caylie Huff
- Haylie Huff
- Heith Lawrence
- Hyatt Pearce
- Juan Rodriguez
- Aleah Turtle
- Jacey White
- Alyssa Gonzalez

Chairman Osceola tours immersion program

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. got an earful of high-pitched Creek on June 2 as he spent some time in the Pematv Emahakv Charter School language immersion program for babies and toddlers.

The sign on the door to the Creek Language Enrichment House reads "English Stops Here" and it does. The program is a Creek-only zone and even the youngest toddlers comply with the rules.

Language enrichment program manager Marcus Briggs-Cloud and PECS culture instructor Helene Buster explained the program to Chairman Osceola as he toured the facility.

The program began in 2015 with non-verbal babies who learned the language through conversation. Non-fluent adults on staff learn Creek as a second language along with the toddlers. Since real fluency depends on usage at home, parents are required to attend an adult class once a week.

"We want to revitalize the language," Briggs-Cloud said. "If we can turn out a few fluent speakers through this program, then that's a good thing."

When Chairman Osceola was young, he said the goal was to teach English. Now there are few fluent speakers in his generation, but



Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. engages in the Creek language immersion program June 2 at PECS.

some can still understand it. Creek is taught at PECS as part of the culture curriculum. Next year the immersion program will include PECS Pre-K students and Creek will be taught every day instead of just one semester during the school year.

According to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, young children have a natural curiosity about learning, which is apparent when they learn a new language.

Buster explained that children in the immersion program expressed this curiosity every day.

"These kids are talking circles around people who have studied the language for years," Buster said. "The toddlers can speak but the sixth graders can read and write."

Located in a portable building on the PECS campus, the program has a capacity of only 12. There is a waiting list and Briggs-Cloud and Buster both said more room is needed to expand. The ratio of Creek speakers to students is 2 to 1.

"What you've done with these children will preserve the language longer," Chairman Osceola said.



Children learn about Seminole culture from a young age.

Finishing the year with a bang: Final days at school



Students at Ahfachkee School chat about their summer plans on their last day of school.



The start of summer recess brings smiles at Ahfachkee on the last day of school.



PECS student Jayliegh Braswell stands next to her beaded necklace that is on display at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



PECS students pose with their art exhibit during an opening reception at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on May 25.



PECS student Angelie Melton poses with the Seminole doll she made that is on display at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



PECS staff celebrate winning awards for their outstanding accomplishments throughout the year.



PECS Principal Brian Greseth, along with Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, congratulate PECS teachers for their awards. (From left to right, Rep. Howard, Alisha Pearce, Amy Carr, Amber Summeralls, Kelly Palmisano, Councilman Bowers, and Greseth).



Amber Summeralls enjoys the traditional Tribal skirt she received at the PECS staff appreciation dinner in May.

Ahfachkee students celebrate the end of school at field day

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ahfachkee School celebrated the end of standardized testing season and the school year on May 12 with a

fun-filled day of activities and competition. Resurrected after a four-year hiatus, Field Day was just what the students needed at the end of the academic year.

“The kids enjoy it and the classrooms get to compete against each other,” said Principal Dorothy Cain. “It teaches teamwork and the value of competition. The stress of testing is over and now they have a way to have some fun. It’s a great end to the school year.”

Activities for elementary students included hula hoop and jump rope competitions, sack races, tug-o-war, water relay races, track and field races, and relays. Middle and high school students tested their skills at an egg toss, rob the nest, kickball, dodgeball and a relay race.

“Our goal is to have fun with no injuries,” said coach Matthew Beckham.

Students fulfilled that goal as they participated in each event. Even the water breaks were fun as kids listened to dance music and enjoyed a few good-natured water fights to round out the day.



Beverly Bidney

Billie Cypress gives as good as she gets as she dodges balls and throws them at the same time during a rousing game of dodge ball during Ahfachkee's field day.



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee students Jaylee Jimmie, Riley Hill and Emma DiCarlo go airborne during the sack race at field day on May 12. Students spent the day letting off steam and having a blast during the end of the year competition.

Students become chefs at summer camp

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS AND IMMOKALEE — Although the academic year ended, the opportunity to learn never ceases.

This summer, children in Big Cypress and Immokalee are getting together on Wednesday until Aug. 4 to learn about healthy cooking. The children, up to 17-years-old, are learning multiple food skills, including cooking, cleaning and safety tips.

Marianna Nikiforov, RD, LDN, a dietician on the Big Cypress reservation, said that having a cooking program available to children is beneficial in multiple facets of their lives.

“It’s important to incorporate new habits,” she explained. “The kids have to understand that everything sophisticated comes from simple stuff.”

During the June 14 class in Big Cypress, students from the Boys and Girls Club made ratatouille and fresh fruit smoothies. After learning some basic kitchen safety tips, the children put on hair nets, aprons and gloves to prepare themselves for culinary concoctions. Working together, the 15 students peeled, chopped, diced, seasoned and baked an assortment of vegetables for ratatouille. Afterwards, they divided into pairs to make fruit smoothies.

Nikiforov said that she uses various sources, as well as her imagination, to come up

with recipes for the children to make. She likes to focus each class on teaching basic cooking skills, like cracking eggs, measuring and seasoning, as well as good nutrition and healthy habits.

“It’s hard to compete with fast food, but it only takes 21 times to enforce a habit and they’ll learn to enjoy real food versus fast food,” she explained. “When you start at a young age and introduce fresh fruits and spices, their tastes develop to recognize good food.”

Nikiforov recommends that parents bring their children into the kitchen more often to help them learn these skills. Aside from engaging in beneficial one-on-one time, the cooking lessons teach children and the whole family with a healthier outlook on life.



Li Cohen

Nolan Gopher learns how to chop bell peppers for a healthy meal in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Denise Gonzalez and Tony Billie enjoy crunchy rainbow wraps they made during the cooking class in Immokalee.



Li Cohen

Marianna Nikiforov, RD, LDN, shows students in Big Cypress how to season vegetables.



Beverly Bidney

Tribal member and chef Lorraine Posada helps students in Immokalee make Crunchy Rainbow Wraps with whole wheat tortillas, cream cheese and fresh vegetables.

AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM Seminole Discovery Days



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History comes to life at PECS culture days

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — For students at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School, culture days are more like living history than studying it. By participating in the traditional Seminole camp, students couldn't help but learn what their ancestors did on a daily basis just to survive.

Seventh- and eighth-graders stepped back in time May 23 as they prepared a communal meal, tried their hands at traditional games, listened to Seminole legends and practiced speaking Creek.

"The students are learning how their great grandparents used to get their meat and the hard work that goes into it," said Lewis Gopher, a parent volunteer. "Even though we all have differences we come together for a common purpose, just like our ancestors used to do."

A 200 pound hog was slaughtered, which the boys and girls butchered and prepared for the feast. They also cleaned and descaled fish and cut up swamp cabbage.

Those were the only activities the genders did together; after that their paths diverged into more traditional Seminole roles. Girls manned the cooking chickee, cooked lunch and prepared sofkee as boys carved wooden knives and did the heavy lifting around camp.

Girls roasted corn for sofkee in sand so it wouldn't burn. Once roasted, they ground and crushed it into a fine meal and cooked up the beloved hot drink. They also made the fry bread, fried pork, pork rinds, pork and gravy, rice and green beans and then served it to the elders and the boys.

"Cooking is the most important job," said Shyla Holata, 13. "Women make sure people are fed."

As the students get older, they are given more to do during culture days. Grades 4 through 6 had their culture day May 22. Younger students typically use plastic knives to carve soap, make the fry bread but don't get close to the fire for very long and don't use sharp knives.

"This is the first year I got to cut and cook the meat," said Angelie Melton, 12. "It makes me feel more responsible."

Three water turtles, roasted for three hours on hot coals, were added to the menu this year. A group gathered as the meat was retrieved from the shells. A bonus was the abundance of eggs inside, a delicacy shared by students and adults alike.

The day gave students a first-hand glimpse of history and had an impact on them.

"Learning about the past is hard, but we get to live the life of our ancestors," said Kobe Jimmie, 14. "They had to go through hard times, but I think I could do it if I had to."



Beverly Bidney

Shaela French and Haylie Huff finely grind corn for sofkee the traditional way at the PECS culture day.

"They had to do this every day," added Daven Buck, 13. "I don't know how they did it; modern life has taken hold of me."

Culture teachers spoke Creek throughout the day to enforce the language and the culture. The toddlers from the Immersion program attended and showed their fluency in the language as they conversed with their teachers.

After lunch, games took center stage. Boys threw tomahawks and honed their skills at archery while the girls tossed skillet and had fun rolling watermelons.

Thanks to all they learned, Leilani Burton, 12, and Ryanna Osceola, 14, were both confident they could live the primitive lifestyle of their ancestors if they had to.

"I want the kids to learn that this is where we came from," said culture teacher Jewel Buck. "Before McDonalds, this is what we had to live on and were grateful for it. I want them to be grateful that we still have our culture and that one day they will learn the language as well."



Beverly Bidney

Leilani Burton and Karey Gopher cook a traditional Seminole feast for a crowd at the PECS culture day.



Beverly Bidney

Trace Wilcox pulls off the outer layer of the swamp cabbage stalk to get to the tender heart, which will be simmered over an open fire. Seventh and eighth graders spent all day May 23 immersed in traditional culture.



Beverly Bidney

Students, teachers and community members gather around for a taste of slow roasted turtle, which spent hours on the coals.



Kids build better world at Immokalee library

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Three high-rise cities were built in Immokalee the week of June 5 as kids learned about architecture and city planning and put their knowledge to use at the Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library.

Three teams of young developers transformed cardboard boxes with scissors, markers and crayons into towering cities with all the amenities of the brick and mortar counterparts. Schools, banks, hotels, stores, streets with stoplights and vehicles, post offices, museums and, of course, libraries were represented in the cardboard models. One included a sports stadium, another had a jail and the third's hotel had a roof-top pool.

The idea for the Build a Better World project came from the Collaborative Summer Library Program, whose mission is to provide a unified summer reading theme along with professional art and materials for libraries to provide high-quality summer reading programs. Themes from previous years included athletics, heroes and science.

"We want to keep kids reading over the summer because they can lose part of what they've learned during the school year. It's as simple as that," said David Blackard, library

program supervisor. "We try to find things that will be of interest to them so they'll develop a love of reading and learning."

Immokalee library assistant Delores Lopez helped the children divide into three teams, supplied the materials and familiarized them with architecture using a few books including "The Future Architects Handbook" by Barbara Beck and "The Story of Buildings" by Patrick Dillon.

"They are very creative; this opens their minds," said Lopez. "It's a collaborative project, so they learned to work together."

The project took all week and when they were completed, the teams presented their cities to their peers. They named their cities, showed

off the buildings and told how many people lived there. OG City, built by an all boys team, had about 20,000 residents. Unicorn City, with its 50,000 residents, included a Seminole School. The third city, dubbed New York City, had somewhere between 1,526 and 99 million people, apparently a census had yet to be conducted.

"Kids are an enthusiastic, yet hard audience," Blackard said. "You hope you pick something they like, but you just never know."

Build a Better World appeared to be a good choice; through the process, the kids learned the value of teamwork and creativity. Now that they had designed a city, many of the kids said they would look at Immokalee a little bit differently from now on.

Beverly Bidney (2)

At left, Hayden Billie-Alvarado works on building her team's version of New York City at the Diane Yzaguirre Memorial in Immokalee as part of the Build a Better World project through the Collaborative Summer Library Program. At right, Immokalee boys explain features of their city, OG City.



Boys and Girls Club springs into fitness

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Boys and Girls Club embarked on a fun-filled fitness journey in May. From May 8-12, students from throughout the tribe participated in the Spring National Fitness Competition, sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and Nestlé.

The competition occurs twice per year — in the fall and in the spring — in an attempt to engage and inspire children to lead healthy and active lives. Participating Boys and Girls Clubs throughout the country host fitness competitions that incorporate fun activities that resemble field days held at schools, such as jump rope, hula hoop, potato sack races and relays. All activities are divided by age and gender and include three levels of competition: individual, with peers and against other clubs.

Valentina Arce, tribalwide youth events coordinator, said that participating club members "compete against themselves" by tracking their accomplishments and striving for improvement. "[It's] helping them build motivation,

confidence and physical competence," she said.

Many clubs say that the fitness competition is about more than just physical activity, as well.

"The group as a whole showed significant improvement, both mentally and physically," said Magen Clay, a staff member with the Oakland Boys and Girls Club. "Our kids' outlook on participating in daily fitness challenges and in the competition was incredible."

This is the event's third year. Approximately 76,000 kids and teenagers from almost 750 Boys and Girls Club participated.

BGCA President and CEO Jim Clark said the partnership between Boys and Girls Club and Nestlé makes a positive impact on the children's lives.

"This partnership has created an invaluable joint effort between our organizations to help inspire young people to learn the importance of health and fitness, while also cultivating their self-confidence and motivation that will carry them outside of our Clubs' walls."



Photos courtesy Valentina Arce

Participants take an active role in the National Fitness Competition at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club. The program is designed to boost mental, emotional and physical health.

Summer camp unites tribal youth in play, competition

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Seminole kids don't appear to have a case of the summertime blues. Many are attending Recreation departments' summer camp where the primary objective is fun. Camp is offered on every reservation. It kicked off June 12 with a Rez-to-Rez Fun Day in Brighton.

Rez-to-Rez, held every week on a different reservation, is a way for each Recreation department to feature an activity unique to their rez.

"Every rez offers something different," said Cathy Cypress, Recreation director. "It reminds me of Rez Rally but for the younger kids. They get to meet kids from other [reservations] and have a good time."

Ninety-seven campers from Big Cypress, Brighton, Fort Pierce, Hollywood and Immokalee packed the Brighton gym for dodge ball, basketball, kickball, foosball and video games. A few at a time were shuttled out to the nearby woods to try their hands at the rez's paintball course.

"This is a chance for kids to get together and interact with kids from other reservations," said Dallas Nunez, Brighton Recreation site manager. "By the end of the summer they get to know each other, which should have an impact in the long term. Once they are adults, they'll have these bonds and will be able to communicate with each other



Beverly Bidney

Competing teams of campers hustle for the balls at the start of a dodge ball game at camp.



Beverly Bidney

Tony Billie takes aim and shoots a paintball gun at a target during the Rez-to-Rez Fun Day in Brighton on June 12.

easier."

The paintball relay was a popular activity as teams of four kids competed in a timed relay. Each team member raced to one of four target stations which consisted of pumpkins, toys, household objects and wooden bullseye targets. Teams were judged on the time it took to hit five targets and then

race back to the starting line. By the end of the relay, the targets were covered in colorful splashes of paint.

"It was bouncy and scary at the same time," said Remy Rodriguez, 8. "I felt like the gun was going to come back and hit you, but it felt good to hit the targets. I was proud."



Beverly Bidney

After shooting paintballs at innocent toys in the Brighton woods, Antonio Billie races back to his team so the next person in the relay can speed to his targets on the course.



Beverly Bidney

Campers compete in a five-on-five basketball game during the Rez-to-Rez Fun Day.



Beverly Bidney

Foosball keeps the attention of these campers in Brighton.

Culture camp stresses importance of traditional clothes, meals, tasks

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — A group of Immokalee youth learned about living the traditional Seminole lifestyle by preparing a meal together at the Immokalee culture camp.

Although cellphone ringtones were occasionally heard, boys and girls adhered to traditional roles June 21 as they worked in the camp for about three hours. The different gender roles were clearly defined; the boys loaded into a van and a pickup truck to get wood for the fire while the girls stayed in the cooking chickee.

"The boys' job is to bring you stuff to cook, get the wood and lift heavy things," Juanita Martinez told the girls in the chickee.

A group of experienced Tribal women directed the girls as they shared valuable skills and interesting tidbits about Seminole culture. Wearing patchwork skirts isn't just for show; they serve an important purpose around the fire by protecting the legs.

"You need to have cooking skirts and going out skirts," Martinez said.

"If you have traditional clothing, you should be proud to wear it," added Tammy Billie.

As Billie taught the girls how to make pumpkin bread, she made sure they also knew the Mikasuki word for every ingredient.

The girls were told that cooking over an open fire should be a basic skill and were taught that some parts of the fire are hotter than others. Explanations of kitchen etiquette included it's rude to walk in front of someone facing the fire in the chickee.

They are likely cooking, but stepped away from the flames briefly.

Some girls had previous experience helping around the fire and others were new

at it, but all were excited to be helping. The boys were also glad to learn all they could. After unloading a load of wood and creating a large stack at the edge of the chickee, the

boys made themselves available to haul water to fill pots on the fire and do other laborious tasks.

"I love that we get to be outside and have freedom," said Tony Billie, 12.

"And you learn about your culture," added Kaden Grimaldo, 14.

As the chicken and yellow rice, spaghetti with meat sauce, pumpkin and plain fry bread, cabbage and other vegetables cooked over the fire, there was time for reflection.

"There is a lot more than just calling yourself Seminole," said James Hall, 18. "Most people don't know the history and don't follow traditional ways. Learning where you come from is wonderful. When I was growing up I didn't know anything, but ever since I started going to Corn Dance I fell in love with our Tribe. It opens your eyes."



Beverly Bidney

Angelo Colon hauls an armful of wood to the cooking chickee at the Immokalee camp June 21, where youth were preparing lunch.



Beverly Bidney

Covered with a fine layer of flour, Remy Rodriguez learns to make fry bread in the Immokalee culture camp.

Student conquers reading in Hollywood

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The end of the academic year is the perfect time to recognize student accomplishments. On June 7, students from Driftwood Middle School gathered with their families, friends and school faculty and staff to applaud past achievements, and for one student, this accolade was personally significant.

According to David DeHass, reading was not always an easy task for his son. Daniel, an eighth-grader at Driftwood Middle School, was not able to read until he was in third grade, but now this rising high school freshman proved that no obstacle is too large to overcome.

Despite difficulties reading when he was younger, Daniel, 14, won an award for his reading improvements. Along with a select few other students at the middle school, he received the Outstanding Reading Award, which is dedicated to the students who exceeded reading expectations throughout the year.

David DeHass said Daniel just needed someone to sit with him and teach him how to

read, and once someone took the time to do so, his reading flourished. This was the second

award he received since learning how to read and he plans to continue progressing.



Li Cohen

Daniel DeHass' father, brother and sister congratulate him on his reading award after the ceremony.



Li Cohen

The awards lined the stage for students to pick them up.

Tampa seniors visit Hawaii

STAFF REPORT

About 15 Seminole seniors from Tampa made a 4,500-mile journey to Hawaii in April. The group flew from Tampa to San Francisco and on to the Big Island for a nine-day trip that included a variety of culture activities and sightseeing. The seniors met

with Samoans and attended a traditional luau. They also visited Kona coffee crops and a volcano, took a boat tour of the island, spent time at a black sand beach and some even tried snorkeling.

The travelers included Anita Osceola, Nancy Frank, Peggy Cubis, Susie Doctor, Linda L. Henry, Trystyn Storm (chaperone),

Barbara Henry, Linda O. Henry, Clarence Motlow, Lisa Motlow (spouse), Colleen Henry, Richard Henry (staff), Herbert Jim (staff), Naomi Sherwood (spouse), Rosie Alanis (staff) and Joel Simmons (staff/EMT).



Courtesy photos

Above, the Tampa ladies enjoy a boat ride during their visit to Hawaii in April. In the photo at right, some members of the group stand in front of a statue of Kamehameha, the first ruler of Hawaii who is credited with uniting the islands into one kingdom in the early 1800s. From left, Herbert Jim, Susie Doctor, Linda O. Henry, Barbara Henry, Trystan Storm, Linda L. Henry and Rosie Alanis



Courtesy photo

The group gathers for a scenic photo at a volcano.



Courtesy photo

Tampa Seniors Site Coordinator Rosie Alanis, left, poses with Colleen Henry and Richard Henry during the trip to Hawaii.



Courtesy photo

Seminole Fire Rescue's Joel Simmons helps Barbara Henry with a crossword puzzle during the trip.



Courtesy photo

From left, Susie Doctor, Peggy Cubis, Barbara Henry, Nancy Frank and Linda O. Henry stand on the dark sands of a beach in Hawaii.

Training sessions at NLC focus on housing issues

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Housing issues in Indian Country know no boundaries as tribes from coast to coast can attest.

"It's a desperate need," said Shelly Tucciarelli, from Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and a consultant with Turtle Clan Development Services LLC. "Every reservation in Indian Country needs housing, whether its elder housing, veterans housing, supportive housing, employer-assisted housing; all types of housing is needed in Indian Country."

Tucciarelli was among the speakers at the two-day Eastern Woodlands Training & Regional Meeting in late April. Several topics that impact tribal housing and its officials — including federal funding programs, leadership, grant writing, tax credits, human resources and even solar energy — were discussed during training sessions at the Seminole Tribe's Native Learning Center in Hollywood. Speakers also included Vince Franco, compliance and resource development director for the NLC.

The training provided an opportunity for The Great Lakes Indian Housing Association and United South & Eastern Tribes Housing Committee to meet and hear from HUD's Eastern Woodlands Office of Native American officials.

"Education is key," Tucciarelli said. "Getting the information out there — like this program here has been phenomenal with all the programs that let tribes know what programs are available to apply for. Training programs like this are vital."

Tucciarelli said Native Americans interested in learning about low-income housing tax credits should contact their state housing finance agency.

The Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act of 2017 — a bipartisan bill — was introduced in March by U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell and Orrin Hatch. The bill calls for expansion and enhancement of the federal low-income housing tax credit with a goal of creating and preserving hundreds of thousands of affordable homes. The bill has been referred to committee.

According to a report issued by Sen. Cantwell, pivotal factors to affordable housing's problems include an increase of 9 million renters since 2005, the removal of 13 percent of existing affordable housing units and stagnant wages.

"The affordable housing crisis is exploding all across the country. We are facing pressures from all sides: demand for rental housing has increased by 21 percent, but we are building units at the lowest rate

since the 1970s," Sen. Cantwell said a press release. "If we do not act to increase the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit — our best way to build new affordable homes — by 2025 over 15 million Americans could be spending half their income on rent. This is unacceptable."

A similar bipartisan bill was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressmen Pat Tiberi and Richard Neal. A press release from Tiberi's office stated the bill "would give states additional flexibility, make the financing of affordable housing more predictable and streamlined, facilitate housing credit development in challenging markets like rural and Native American communities, increase the housing credit's ability to serve extremely low-income tenants, and support the preservation of existing affordable housing."

Affordable housing and lack of housing in some parts of Indian Country was outlined in an opinion piece in The Guardian newspaper, which used this example: "The 11,000 members of the Northern Arapaho in Wyoming, for example, share just 230 reservation homes. A staggering 55 percent are considered homeless because they're couch surfing. In the Navajo Nation, 18,000 homes or roughly 40 percent of total Navajo housing stock lack electricity or running water."

Training sessions, such as those at NLC, not only can help provide an environment to discuss current housing issues, but the face-to-face time is also a key component.

"Right now they are in the phase of learning on procurement and human resources to make sure that they're running successful operations that will make sure they never jeopardize any of their funding," Cheryl Causley said during a break from the Eastern Woodlands session. Causley is executive director of Housing for the Bay Mills Indian Community in Michigan and chairman of the Great Lakes Indian Housing Association. "And they're interacting with their overseers of the funding, and you can't beat that. It's a lot easier to call and ask for help when you know who the faces are on the other side of the line."

Thanks to renovations at its Taft Street location, the NLC is able to provide a professional training environment not only for Seminoles but for other tribes, too.

"They're able to meet the needs of all the tribes in one setting," Causley said. "The product they are putting forth through this mechanism and this building is invaluable not only to them, but all of Indian Country. They're not just serving their one tribe, they're serving — in my area — 31 tribes in all and then the other 30 or so in USET."



Photo courtesy Louis Porter Jr.

Tribal housing officials attend the Eastern Woodlands Training & Regional Meeting in April at the Seminole Tribe's Native Learning Center in Hollywood.



Photo courtesy Louis Porter Jr.

From left, Wilma Noah, training & development specialist; Jerome Mascaro, programmer; Krystal Cedeno, receptionist, and Vince Franco, compliance & resource development director, participate in the Eastern Woodlands Training & Regional Meeting in April at the Seminole Tribe's Native Learning Center in Hollywood.

GRADUATION From page 1B

returned to their seats, softball coach Clint Raulerson told the audience that was about the best thing he's ever seen at a graduation

ceremony.

Class president and the softball team's star softball pitcher Olivia Everett delivered remarks for her classmates.

Senior Editor Kevin Johnson contributed to this story.

Sports



Ahnie Jumper earns major athletic awards

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

PLANTATION — Following the conclusion of her final high school softball season at American Heritage School, accolades have been rolling in for Ahnie Jumper of the Big Cypress Reservation.

In a span of a couple weeks, Jumper was named First Team All-Broward by the Miami Herald, Second Team All-Broward by the Sun-Sentinel and she captured American Heritage's top award for female athletes.

Jumper, daughter of Josh and Andrea Jumper, batted over .400 and had five multiple hit and five multiple RBI games during the regular season in her senior year.

Behind the plate, Jumper was the primary catcher for a pitching staff that racked up 12 shutouts and compiled a team ERA just a sliver above 1.00.

On the morning of May 25, Jumper was among the Broward County standouts recognized by the Herald during the newspaper's athletic awards ceremony at Signature Grand ballroom in Davie. Jumper's First Team All-Broward selection as a catcher came in the Class 2A-6A category. She was one of a half-dozen American Heritage

players who made First Team, proof of just how strong the Patriots were in 2017 as they compiled a 25-4 record and won district and regional titles and finished runner-up in 6A.

The 6A title game in Vero Beach conflicted with American Heritage's graduation ceremony, which was held at about the same time. Hence, the team's seniors missed walking and turning their tassels with the rest of their classmates, however, a special ceremony for those players was held in the evening of May 25.

After Jumper received her diploma, more good news came her way as the Florida Gulf Coast University-bound catcher was named Female Senior Outstanding Athlete, an honor which covers all sports at the school. Heritage quarterback Jason Brown, who is headed to Harvard University, won the award among male athletes.

Here are remarks from American Heritage Athletic Director Karen Stearns in announcing Ahnie Jumper as the school's Female Senior Outstanding Athlete during the ceremony:

During her nine years at American Heritage, this outstanding young lady has been a part of not one, not two but four different sports: volleyball, basketball,

bowling and softball supporting our school.

As a four-sport student-athlete, she is also a standout in our softball program participating since 6th grade, playing on the varsity team since 8th grade as a catcher and an outfielder.

She is an active leader on and off the field having helped lead her team to the state tournament last year and this year. Her teammates look up to her and her coaches respect and value her opinion and feedback.

Some of her accolades have been: leading her team for the inaugural bowling season this year; for softball was chosen as a Second Team All-County player in her junior year and a First-Team All-County player as a sophomore and senior. A solid academic student who also has over 130 community service hours and on top of all of this, also participates in several outside functions.

One of her softball coaches has said: "She is a Patriot in every way and strives for her team's success and does whatever it takes to help them be successful."

It is with great pride I introduce our Female Senior Outstanding Athlete: Ahnie Jumper.



Weston Photography Studio

During a special graduation ceremony for American Heritage School softball seniors May 25, catcher Ahnie Jumper receives the school's Female Senior Outstanding Athlete of the Year Award from Athletic Director Karen Stearns.



Kevin Johnson

Ahnie Jumper wears the medallion she earned for being named Miami Herald First Team All-Broward catcher for classes 2A-6A.

Brighton girls soar at FGCU Eagles volleyball clinic

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

FORT MYERS — Florida Gulf Coast University's Alico Arena is home to the Eagles, but on June 7, more than 50 Seminole girls from Brighton moved into the 'Nest' for an intense volleyball clinic.

The Tribe has had a long partnership with the university in Fort Myers, including sports camps and clinics. Stanley "Butch" Perchan, senior associate athletic director for External Affairs, welcomed the group to campus and urged them to do their best in school and commit to their education.

"This is a really good school and our athletics are just as good as our academics," said FGCU sophomore and Tribal member Lewis T. Gopher Jr. "Athletics and education are both part of our community in Brighton. It's all about finding a balance so you can excel in both. It's hard, but not impossible. Just stick to your guns."

Brighton's girls are familiar with volleyball. The reservation's Recreation Department has two travel teams that play teams from all around the state in 10U and 11U age divisions.

"We want them to get acclimated with the sport, see what it's about and where it can go," said Dallas Nunez, Brighton Recreation site manager, who helped to coordinate the clinic.

"There's a lot more to it than just playing the game; drills are important for footwork, serving and more," Nunez said.

Those drills took up a large portion of the day under the tutelage of FGCU head coach Matt Botsford and assistant coaches Kim Maroon and Danny Mahy.

"These drills may not be as much fun as serving and hitting," Botsford told the girls as he explained a passing drill they were about to start. "But the best passers are always the most vital members of a team."

In addition to passing, plenty of other drills filled the day's agenda, including jumping, hitting and kills. The moves were new for some of the girls, whose ages ranged from 5 to 17.

"I learned if you swing your arms as you approach the ball, you'll have more power to spike it," Krysta Burton said. "I don't have much power, so that's good to know."

The payoff for all the drills and sweat should come during the volleyball season.

"This helps us know what to do during the game," Lexi Thomas said. "The toss it up and hit it over the net was the best drill."

Camryn Thomas wants to try out for the Lake Placid High School team in the fall, so the clinic was helpful for her.

"I never jumped with both arms before," Camryn said. "But if I have the ability to jump higher it will make me a better player. It should improve my game."

There were more than a few veteran volleyball players in the group, either from school or the travel teams. Alicia Fudge and Caroline Sweat both played for Moore Haven High School and think the skills learned in clinic will improve their games.

"They have a different method of coaching," Alicia said. "They showed us what to do and then taught us how to perfect the moves."

"I liked the interaction," added Caroline. "They don't just watch; if they see something being done the wrong way they come over and help you fix it. And they don't yell at you, they talk to us."

Coach Botsford was pleased with what he saw on the courts. He didn't know what to expect.

"Whatever the girls are learning, they have a good foundation," Botsford said. "I'm



Beverly Bidney

Brighton girls pose with Florida Gulf Coast University volleyball coaches and others in the Alico Arena during a daylong volleyball clinic in Fort Myers.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, FGCU head coach Matt Botsford shows Samantha Ruiz and Madison Hargraves how to pass the ball June 7 where 56 Brighton girls participated in a volleyball clinic. Below, as an FGCU volleyball player demonstrates, Botsford explains receiving the ball.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, FGCU assistant volleyball coach Danny Mahy coaches girls as they participate in a passing drill during a clinic at the school's Alico Arena. Below, Alicia Fudge prepares to hit the ball over the net.



impressed with them."

Gopher, who is studying business management with an eye toward international business, was glad the Brighton group was

so large.

"Coming from the reservation, it's real comfortable here with all the trees around," Gopher said. "At the same time, there are



important people from Fort Myers and Naples involved with the school. My dad always told me it's good to be around those people so they can drive you to be better. I'm glad I get

to be here to help these kids understand the benefits of a college education."

Annual basketball tournament honors memory of Howard Tiger

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Mike Tiger sat at the scorer's table watching the basketball tournament that is annually played in his father's memory and for the past few years has been held in the building that bears his dad's name.

"Hollywood versus Lady Seminoles. Cheer for your team," Tiger said to the crowd as he held a microphone on a Friday evening during day one of the 49th annual Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament on the Hollywood Reservation.

Games in the Legends divisions for men and women ages 35 and up and the appropriately named Trailblazers coed division for the 50 and over crowd were held June 16. All three divisions featured two teams each. The younger adults competed the following day.

"This tournament is for the Tribe and the young people and seniors, everybody. You see a real mixing of people come to this tournament," Tiger said.

But basketball and the gymnasium are only some of the reasons that make Tiger smile when he talks about the Howard Tiger Recreation Center. The culture and educational components located in other sections are also vital, he said.

"It's a beautiful state-of-the-art facility," he said. "I'm very proud of it being a multi-purpose facility. I think that's the most important thing about the building itself, it serves the whole community, from seniors down to the very young of age. I think the education programs that are here are some of the best in the Tribe. It's more than just athletics. Kids can come here for academic reasons and study. People can come here and get careers. We have some people who are seamstresses, who learn how to sew here, learn how to make our designs. It's passing on tradition."

As for the basketball tournament, the tradition of honoring the memory of Howard Tiger continued as it has for a half-century. Howard Tiger excelled in several



Mike Tiger shakes hands with his nephew Clyde Howard Tiger Jr. at the 49th annual Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament on June 16 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood. Mike Tiger helped at the scorer's table and provided some announcing for the two-day tournament that is held in memory of his father. Clyde played in the tournament for the Seminole team that won the Legends men's division.

sports as an athlete — including baseball, basketball, football and boxing — and he was instrumental to Tribe's youth as a coach and founder of the Recreation Department. An inscription on Howard's Sports Hall of Fame plaque from the induction class of 1998 reads: "Warrior. Hunter. Athlete. Friend of Youth."

"Dad's been gone a long time," said Mike Tiger, a 2002 Hall of Fame inductee who used to play in the tournament but knee surgeries ended his playing days. Still, he was pleased that the Tiger family was represented on the court by his nephew

Clyde Howard Tiger Jr.

Clyde played for the champion Seminoles team in the men's Legends. He scored 17 points in the team's first of two games against the Hollywood Heat. The Seminoles swept the Heat with a comfortable win in the second game, although Clyde suited up for the opposition because the Heat didn't have enough players to field a full squad.

The Seminoles roster also included Elton Shore, Jess Heart, Milo Johnson and Howard Jimmie. Heart led the way with a game-high 26 points in the second game

while Shore drained 23 points.

On the women's side, the Lady Seminoles captured the Legends championship with two wins against the Hollywood Ladies. Elizabeth Huggins sparked the Lady Seminoles to a 35-21 win in the first game with a game-high 17 points. Teammate Carla Gopher added 10 points. Cassandra Jones led the Hollywood Ladies with nine points.

Some of the Legend women and men pulled double duty by competing in the Trailblazers division for ages 50 and up. Hot Mix and OG's squared off in two games that

featured coed rosters and 3-on-3 half-court games. Three-point star Vince Billie poured in 29 points for Hot Mix in the second game, but the OG squad used a deeper bench and received balanced scoring to sweep the series.

Hot Mix led 28-27 after three quarters, but a fast break — or somewhat speedy break since only a half-court was in play — was worked to perfection by Edwin Garcia and Kenny Tommie, who finished off a pass from his teammate with a layup that gave OG a 30-28 lead. Moments later, a 3-pointer from Charlie Tiger (13 points) put OG in front 35-30 and they withstood a flurry of late 3s from Billie for a 46-43 win.

In the clinching victory, Tiger, Garcia and Tommie each scored in double digits and Leslie Osceola scored four points.

On Saturday, Big Town proved to be a big obstacle for opponents as it won the men's title. Big Town clinched the championship with a wild 106-103 win against Native Soldiers. After starring for the Legends champions the previous day, Jess Heart did the same in the men's division as the tournament MVP poured in 40 points for Big Town.

Rob Givens had 23 points and Alonzo Wargolet contributed 15 points. Native Soldiers featured three players with 20-plus points: DeForest Carter 27, Nate Lane 26 and Hunter Osceola 22.

On the women's side, the Sharpshooters rolled to victory lane behind tournament MVP Skyla Osceola, who had 27 points in the 61-49 clinching victory against WCW. The Nova Southeastern-bound freshman notched 28 points in game one. Tournament director Courtney Osceola chipped in with 10 points for the champions.

Throughout the two days, Courtney presented champion and runner-up teams with prizes, including shirts, jackets and trophies.

Next year's games will no doubt carry additional significance as the tournament turns 50.

"I love this time of year," Mike Tiger said.



The Seminoles hold up jackets they won for being the Legends men's champions in the 49th annual Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament on June 16 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood. From left, Clyde Howard Tiger Jr., Howard Jimmie, Milo Johnson, Jess Heart and Elton Shore.



Courtney Osceola looks for an open teammate in the women's division.



Hunter Osceola drives toward the basket for Native Soldiers in the men's division.



The champion Big Town squad holds up their prizes after winning the men's division at the Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament on June 17. From left, Alonzo Wargolet, Shelby Osceola, Jess Heart, Darnell Osceola, Amos Huggins and Rob Givens. Not in photo: Taylor Osceola.



The men's runner-up Native Soldiers, from left, Chase Osceola, Nathan Lane, Hunter Osceola, DeForest Carter and Grant Osceola.



The Trailblazer 50 and over division champion Hot Mix show off their red hot T-shirts they won June 16 at the Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament. Standing from left, Charlie Tiger, Kevin Osceola, Virginia Osceola, Leslie Osceola, Edwin Garcia, and, kneeling, Kenny Tommie.

Kevin Johnson

Fun on the field as Tribe battles SPD



Maury Neipris

With Sunshine Frank catching for the Tribe team, Seminole Police Captain Mitchell Van Sant takes a powerful swing during a coed softball game that featured SPD against Tribal members and employees June 17 at Osceola Park on the Hollywood Reservation. The afternoon also featured food, music and bounce houses for kids.



Maury Neipris

The Sharpshooters have plenty of reasons to smile as they won the women's division at the Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament. From left, Elizabeth Osceola, Skyla Osceola, Jolie (last name not available), Anna Van Stippen, Courtney Osceola, Mercedes Osceola and Tasha Osceola.



Maury Neipris

Jason Grasshopper sprints home with a run for the Tribe's team.



Kevin Johnson

Above, Reisha Doctor, left, and Martha Tommie try to grab a rebound during a women's Legends game June 16. At left, Vince Billie and Charlie Tiger show the gifts their Hollywood Heat team received for its runner-up finish in the Legends men's division.



Maury Neipris

Leon Wilcox takes a big cut for the Tribe during an at-bat against the SPD team.



Kevin Johnson

Edwin Garcia goes airborne as Eric Osceola, Shane Buck and Vince Billie look on during a Trailblazers division game at the Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament.



Maury Neipris

Officer Johnny Narvaez delivers a pitch for the SPD team.



Courtesy photo
Sammy Micco Sanchez joins Florida State football coach Jimbo Fisher during the Jimbo Fisher Football Camp in Tallahassee in June. Sanchez, a linebacker who is entering his senior year at Fort Gibson High School in Oklahoma, attended the camp with his nephew, Fort Gibson incoming freshman running back Julius Aquino.

Sammy Micco Sanchez uses FSU, OSU camps to prepare for season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Sammy Micco Sanchez has been doing what needs to be done to increase his football profile.

The Fort Gibson (Okla.) High School standout, who is entering his senior year, attended football camps hosted by two colleges he would like to suit up for on autumn Saturdays. The first stop was Stillwater, Oklahoma for Oklahoma State University's camp. Next up for the Seminole was the Jimbo Fisher Camp at Florida State in Tallahassee.

"If they want to play college football, they need to go these camps. Sammy always performs well at these camps," Fort Gibson head football coach Greg Whiteley said.

In mid-June, Sanchez and his nephew, rising Fort Gibson freshman running back Julius Aquino, spent a few days on the Hollywood Reservation with Sanchez's mom Alicia Cabal and stepdad Frank Cabal. Before heading to Tallahassee, Sanchez said the OSU camp was a positive experience.

"That went good," Sanchez said. "We did [40-yard dashes], long jumps, lot of one-ones, running back and linebackers. Our 40 times were good. We both ran 4.6. I had the fastest time of linebackers; [Julius] had the fastest time of running backs."

No doubt Sanchez's performance should help boost the stock of the 6-foot-1 linebacker who expects to be around 220 pounds come Friday nights in Fort Gibson this fall.

"He's such an impact player," Whiteley said. "He's as good as I've had. He's an inside

linebacker, captain of our defense. He's our leader on that side of the ball."

Performing well at the college camps is a critical part of Sanchez's offseason, perhaps more so than other seniors because his junior season was hampered by an injury that limited his playing time.

"I've talked to a few colleges. I missed a lot of games last year. I haven't had the exposure I should have, but it will be better this year," Sanchez said.

That's why Sanchez, who also plays fullback on offense, takes these camps seriously and tries to learn as much as possible.

"I learned how to be more aggressive with man-on-man coverage. It helped me with pass coverage," he said.

In addition to the college camps and workouts at Fort Gibson, Sanchez said the weight room will be an important part of his summer.

"I've got to get bigger and my bones stronger," he said.

Football will take a back seat for Sanchez and Aquino for a week in July. That's when the speedy duo, who will be teammates on the football field and track in the upcoming school year, will compete for Team Florida at the North American Indigenous Games in Toronto, which is expected to draw 5,000 indigenous athletes from throughout Canada and the U.S. Sanchez is a defending gold medalist in wrestling, having won a championship at the last NAIG in 2014. After a successful middle school career on the track, Aquino will make his NAIG debut in sprint races.



Courtesy photo
Fort Gibson High School football players and Seminoles Julius Aquino, left, and Sammy Micco Sanchez, right, attend a football camp at Oklahoma State University with FGHS assistant football coach and head wrestling coach Sammy Johnson.

After blistering wins in middle school, Julius Aquino heads to Fort Gibson High

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Julius Aquino concluded his Fort Gibson Middle School track career in the same place — first place — where he started.

Aquino stamped an exclamation point to his eighth-grade track season by winning the Verdigris Valley Junior High Conference's boys ninth-grade 100-meter dash on April 25 in Catoosa, Oklahoma. He also anchored the relay squad to victories in the 4x100, 4x200 and 4x400.

In the 100 sprint, he overwhelmed a field of 25 runners, which included high school freshmen.

A year ago at the conference meet, Aquino, son of Alexandra Sanchez, sped his way to victory in the seventh grade 100-meter dash in 12.32 seconds. This year Aquino shifted into a higher gear as he generated an even more impressive sprint with a sizzling time of 11.37 seconds. Thirteen of the boys in the race finished in the 12-second frame, but Aquino was the only one to cross the finish line under 12 seconds.

Aquino, who is headed into his freshman year at Fort Gibson High School, never lost a 100-meter dash as a 7th or 8th grader.

"He's been timed at 11.3, which for an eighth-grader is extremely fast," said Fort Gibson track coach Greg Whiteley, who is now Aquino's football coach FGHS.

Aquino is expected to join a deep offensive backfield on the high school football team, which includes his uncle and fellow Seminole Sammy Micco Sanchez.

"We'll gradually bring Julius along,"



Courtesy photo
Julius Aquino holds and wears medals he's won in track. The speedster from Fort Gibson, Oklahoma will be entering his freshman year this fall at Fort Gibson High School, where he will run track and play football.

Whiteley said. "He'll definitely get some playing time on Friday nights."

Aquino has prepped for his first high school season by attending college camps, including one at Oklahoma State.

"As a running back, we learned which cuts to make and what directions, left and right," said Aquino, who also attended Florida State's camp.

In addition to attending camps, the 5-foot-9, 150-pound Aquino has been working out with the high school team in early morning sessions. The season kicks off in early September.

Whether it's carrying a football or sprinting across a finish line, Aquino enjoys competition.

"I like running," he said.

Okeechobee teams advance to softball state tournament



Courtesy photo
The OCRA Angels pose with the runner-up trophy in June after they reached the district championship game at Dixie youth softball playoffs in Lake Placid.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Two Okeechobee Citizens Recreation Association youth softball teams with Seminole players will be vying for state championships in July.

Okeechobee's Darlings 8 and under team, which features Seminoles Serenity Billie, Waniya Fortner, Alyssa Madrigal, Joleyne Nunez and coach Daniel Nunez Sr., won their age division in June at the district tournament in Lake Placid.

Okeechobee used a big offense, strong pitching and solid defense as they went undefeated by beating Lake Placid 23-2, Fort Meade 22-0 and Sebring 14-1. The team will travel to the Panhandle to play in the state tournament July 6-10 in Bristol.

Meanwhile, the determined effort of the OCRA Angels paid off with an invitation to the state tournament. The Angels reached the district championship game, but lost 7-6 in eight innings. Still, their performance earned them a chance to battle for the state title as the squad tries to return for a second straight year to the World Series. Last year, many of the players on the team won a state tournament and played in the World Series in Petal, Mississippi.

The Angels have plenty of representation from the Tribe on its roster, including coaches coaches Preston and Mona Baker and players Lexi Thomas, Preslynn Baker and Summer Gopher.

The Darlings World Series will be held in South Carolina. The World Series for the Angels age group (9 and 10) will be held in Louisiana.



Courtesy photo
Serenity Billie, Waniya Fortner, Alyssa Madrigal and Joleyne Nunez celebrate after their Okeechobee Darlings 8 and under softball team won a Dixie Youth Softball district championship in June in Lake Placid.

◆ **NAIG**
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to be: Joe Collins and Dawna Bell (archery), Darren McPherson and Green Cummings (track and field), Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank and Darren Marlin (rifery), Jennie Busbin and Stephanie Becker (swimming), Sammy Johnson (wrestling), Eddie Redd and Dessie Thomas (girls U16 basketball), O'Bryan White (boys U16 basketball), Marvin Newkirk and Timothy Clark (boys U19 basketball) and Preston Baker and his wife Mona Baker (U14 boys basketball).

Preston Baker wants his hoops team – known as Chobee Nation in area tournaments -- to be as well prepared as possible.

"The more we play, the more they stay together, the more we get better," Baker said as he was getting his team ready for a tournament game in Coral Springs. "We've got to be ready to play."

The team has been practicing at the Brighton Recreation gym. Practice paid off in Orlando as the squad earned runner-up honors in its age division.

Baker knows from previous experience that competition at NAIG is serious stuff. In a previous NAIG, he coached a softball team, which included his daughter Jaryaca, that didn't fare too well in the win-loss column.

"It's very serious. I learned that in softball," Baker said. "We just got a team together within a month. This time we started as soon as we knew we were going to Indigenous. So we got like seven months in."

Baker isn't coaching softball, but the basketball team will include his sons Ramone and Pherian as well as Caleb Billie, Chanon Frye, Dathen Garcia, Dakoya Nunez and Nakai Alex, and Preston's wife Mona, who handles the scorebook. Chobee Nation started the tournament in Broward on a positive note when they rallied for a 61-47 win against Rock United behind 19 points from Donovan Harris, who will play for the U16 team at NAIG.

"They came back. I'm proud of them," said coach Baker, whose squad went on to finish the tournament with a 2-3 record.

Baker wants his team to have a good showing at NAIG and also enjoy perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play in Canada.

"I hope they get the experience of a lifetime, to go out there and have fun ... but be ready to win. Go in with a winning attitude and be ready to play," he said. "Bring something back home."

Three years ago, Sammy Micco Sanchez brought something back home that nobody else from the Seminole Tribe accomplished. Sanchez was the only Seminole to win gold at the 2014 NAIG in Regina, Saskatchewan. His performance in wrestling as a 14-year-old brought back fond memories for the football and wrestling standout who is heading into his senior year at Fort Gibson High School in Oklahoma.

Sanchez, who recently attended Florida

State University and Oklahoma State University football camps, was already a proven top notch wrestler when he arrived in Regina, but his accomplishments had come in a wrestling style different than the NAIG style, which is freestyle. He wasn't familiar with freestyle and only found out that was NAIG's style not long before he stepped onto the mat.

"I was new to everything. I didn't know freestyle," Sanchez said. "I teched (technical falls) everybody through, but it was still hard."

"Last time we weren't prepared at all. We had no clue it was freestyle," said Sanchez's high school and NAIG coach Sammy Johnson. "Sammy's an athletic kid; a real coachable kid. I figured we'd be successful, [but] I was surprised at winning it."

This time around the wrestler and coach will be prepared for freestyle. Sanchez won the 220-pound title three years ago at a lighter weight than his competitors. He'll still give up some weight in Toronto, but not as much because he expects to be close to 200 pounds when the competition starts.

"I'll be wrestling the same weight at 220. Last time I wrestled in it I was 175. Instead of giving up like 40 pounds, I'll be giving up like 25," said Sanchez, who will be the only Seminole wrestler at NAIG.

Sanchez is a two-time state placer at Oklahoma high school wrestling finals. International competition is not new to him. He has wrestled against Aussies and New Zealanders in Australia.

"Expectations from us are pretty high," Johnson said.

Some other top Seminole athletes include Conner Thomas in archery and Julius Aquino in track and field. This spring Thomas qualified to compete in a national 4-H archery competition in Nebraska. Aquino, a nephew of Sanchez, recently finished middle school track in Oklahoma by pretty much dominating every race he entered.

Although Marcia Trudeau-Bomberry and her team of organizers had only 12 months to get everything ready for the Games – including sponsors, venues, dormitories, officials, culture villages, broadcasting partners, advertising, entertainers and 1,500 volunteers -- the 2017 NAIG CEO said everything is right on track.

"We all came aboard in July 2016. Normally, with games like this there's three years to plan. We had one year to plan. We have a very committed team of professionals," Trudeau-Bomberry said in a phone interview with The Tribune on June 24.

The Games, which started in 1990 in Edmonton, Alberta, should shine right away thanks to an indigenous star from the music industry. Taboo, from the Black Eyed Peas, will perform at the opening ceremony in Aviva Stadium. The 12,000-seat venue is home to the Rogers Cup tennis tournament, but for NAIG opening night thousands of athletes will parade through it while



Kevin Johnson

Dathen Garcia handles the ball in front of his Chobee Nation coach Preston Baker, left, and teammates on the bench during a tournament in Coral Springs. Seminole from the team will play in the North American Indigenous Games in Toronto.

representing their home state, province or territory. The ceremony will be streamed online at cbcports.ca.

Trudeau-Bomberry said all 13 Canadian provinces and territories will be represented as well as nine U.S. states, including Florida, California and New York.

Other musical performances and two cultural villages – one at York University and the other at McMaster University – will be part of the Games throughout the week.

Athletes will be housed in dorms on the campuses of York, McMaster and two other colleges.

NAIG received \$3.5 million in funding from the province of Ontario. That amount was matched by the federal government. Trudeau-Bomberry said the event has been well received in the city and province. A ceremony was held in April that included Toronto Mayor John Tory.

"We've had tremendous support from the City and the various departments in the city as well as the province," Trudeau-Bomberry said.

Most of Team Florida is scheduled to fly to Toronto on July 15 in time to participate in the opening ceremonies the following day. Competition in most sports starts July 17.



Kevin Johnson

Donovan Harris battles in the paint during a tournament in Coral Springs in June. Harris will play for Team Florida's U16 team at NAIG.



NAIG Twitter

The 2017 NAIG medal.

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Announcements



Congratulations, Jenna Billie

"We want to congratulate our baby girl Jenna Isabelle Billie for graduating Kindergarten early and being promoted straight to second grade.

Being 5 years old entering second grade will be an exciting new challenge for you. Your principal, teachers and your family know it's something you will be able to handle with ease!

You're reading at a very high level, getting straight A's, passed your SAT's with flying colors, passed the primary enrichment level at IMACS, you have even mastered learning the game of Chess!

We know that you will continue to amaze us and the rest of your loved ones, not only this upcoming school year, but for the rest of your life.

The sky is the limit baby girl and we hope that you continue to excel in everything you

do and continue your passion for learning!"

Love, Dad & Momma, **Jonah 'Sonny' Billie and Jennifer Billie**



Courtesy photos
Jenna Billie, 5, is headed to second grade.

"The Painter: The Case of the Missing Sketchpad"

BY ELGIN JUMPER

It was Monday on the reservation. I was outside, painting in the brilliant sunlight. I was trying to endure the dreadful mosquitos, buzzing around like little tiny drones.

I was wearing blue jeans, with paint splatters, long sleeve shirt, black, with paint splatters, as well, black work boots, with white socks, the whole painter's uniform topped off with a black cabbie hat.

The Turnpike behind me was thundering, rumbling with all manner of traffic. I could smell landscape, paint, and medium. I was painting in a King's Blue sky, but then again, would the sun hold out against the assailing clouds.

Just then, a woman's voice from behind said, "I-I need your help, painter."

I turned around and I could tell she was a painter, too, by the painter's apron and wide-brimmed straw hat. I could tell she was in dire straits by her distraught expression.

"I'm Mary Chandler," she said, "and someone's stolen my sketchpad. I was painting and sketching last week in Fort Lauderdale, and now I can't find it anywhere. I put drawings, quick paintings, that kind of stuff in there. It's 18" x 24," the size of the paper and it has a blue cover, light blue. I poured my heart into that sketchpad."

I started painting in dark grey storm clouds and flashing lightning in the distance on the canvas. I had to do something for her. "Okay," I said. "I'll see what I can do."

"Painter, if you help me get my sketchpad back, I'll be so happy," she said. She acted like there was more to her story, like the picture needed to be painted in more, but she didn't say anything else.

So that was how the case of the missing sketchpad started. Simple and easy.

I drove downtown to History Fort Lauderdale, outside, near the red-brick sidewalk, where Mary had been working. I saw couples on benches, tourists strolling by, and a gang of tourists on Segways being led on by a talkative tour guide. There were some painters about, some drawing, some painting.

I went up to one painter, a man, using quick outdoor painting methods. He was working on a sidewalk scene so I inflicted questions on him, hoping to gain info on the sketchpad.

"Do you know Mary Chandler?" I asked him, even though he was clearly focused on his work. "She was here last week. Misplaced a blue sketchpad 'bout yay-big." I made like I was holding a big sketchpad.

"Oh, she's a wonderful painter, that one," he noted. "And no, can't say as I've seen any blue sketchpad. I like her work. You can really get a feel for the artist's struggle in her work, the conflicts, you know. She puts emotion, feeling in there. I hope she keeps it up. She's going places. But, if I may, she's constantly losing sketchpads, painting supplies, etc."

I watched some painters who were sketching marine scenes down by the river. There were some iguana nearby watching them as well.

I approached a woman using a small outdoor painter's sketchbox and bothered her as to the missing article.

"Well," she began, "I have seen the woman you're speaking of, come to think of it. I'm familiar with her, yes. She had her painting gear, and, ah, yes, a black leather portfolio for large pieces. It was leaning up against her table. And if mem'ry serves me correctly, sh's known for misplacing her work, darndest thing to behold." She said Mary might do well to tie a string around her finger.

I went further downriver by the tracks, where hardly anyone paints, save for the more eccentric painters.

There was a painter there with a long grey beard, looked sorta like Monet. He wore a dark ancient hat with a wide-brim.

"Okay, okay, okay." Monet's look-alike said, after I had scooped up his paintbrushes and some of his best colors, "Alright, I was here that day, but I didn't come across any left behind lost sketchpad. . . Oh, but wait, yes, there was a certain painter around in the area that day. He goes by the name of J.T. Rex. Yeah, he was lookin hard at her. He didn't like anyone coming on his turf, drawing and

painting. He paints at Lewis Landing. He knows something."

"Okay, I'll go check it out." On the way in to Lewis Landing I saw a bronze sculpture of a Tequestan Warrior. There was a painting contest going on there too, a plain air "Painter's Battle Royale" in the park. I had my gear in the car, but question was would I enter just to get info on a missing sketchpad?

I walked over to a table where they were signing painters up for the Plein Air Battle and signed on.

"Ya'll ever paint by the Fort Lauderdale History Center and the New River?" I asked a group of outdoor painters. "I was there the other day and would you know, crazy me I misplaced a blue sketchpad."

"A blue sketchpad!" One painter inquired rather forcefully, "Is it yours? Who sent you? . . . What you worried about a blue sketchpad for anyway?"

And that's when the man in charge called the combatants to order, gave the rules 'no rules' and commenced the contest. "Okay, painters, start your painting now!" he commanded.

Every painter had a certain amount of time to get a certain scene down on canvas. There were opening salvos and grand charges and lightning-like maneuvers. The Art of War. A well-dressed painter came over and said, "I've heard of you." And then he sneered.

It had been sunny when I arrived, but now it was clouding up- Florida weather. The windy smell of humid oncoming rain. Lovely day. I painted in big shapes in a dark color, real fast, and then painted in the whitest whites. That was both ends of the painting journey, darks and lights, so now I painted in the middle part of the work, the midtones. That's what connects everything.

It was like I was hovering around my easel. I was in midst of these master plein air painters and we were going at it in pitched battle, each strategizing to gain the upper-hand. The paint brushes in constant movement. I took hurried looks around me to discern where things stood. For a moment, I thought I even heard heroic music, like the kind you hear in the movies. It was the sounds of painters shuffling about in frenzied creativity and rain hitting leaves and grass.

In my peripheral vision, I could make out a woman's figure someone standing close to me. It was Mary's figure, I figured. The other painters were still working. If Sun Tzu had been a painter he would've been proud. One painter peered over at my painting, nervously and cried, "Is that the best you've got?" Another painter chimed in "Oh yeah, I think we got him. You're gonna sure enough need a sketchpad. Back to the old drawing board, sport." I was still working on fine tuning the thing and they were finishing up and the contest judge had already made his rounds. I heard hollering and found out it was me. Warm rain fell on my face making rainy tears. I walked away, stopped and hung my head. Mary followed.

"I-I'm sorry. . ." she sighed.

I smiled. I said: "Well, you can't draw without your sketchpad."

Then she walked away for a moment and came back with a small Styrofoam cup of coffee.

She asked, "So, what happened? You were--"

I quit smiling. She rubbed my shoulders and offered smiles and solace.

"No worries," she said in all kindness. "I know you fought like a warrior. I saw you."

All of a sudden a shady character was there, J.T. Rex, I presumed. He had paint on his fingers and brushes in hand. "Are you lookin for a blue sketchpad?"

I replied, with a question of my own, "What do you know about it?"

"You're slippin, painter, as evidenced by your poor painting performance today. I suggest you hide yourself away and paint for a while."

So, they were the faction. "T-Rex's crew." They had caught me unawares and unprepared, but, oh, it was on now. It was like the only sportsmanlike thing to do.

"I'm at loss for words," she said, "I got you into this."

"It's okay. After this is over, get you some more supplies and stay with drawing and painting. What do you say?"

"Okay." So at length we made our way to the casino and cups of joe and more talk. I wanted to find out from her what I'd found out from them.

"So why's everyone sayin you've been known to lose things?" I asked her. "That's what the painters tell me."

"I-I-I wanted to tell you. . ."

He leaned in and got close to her. He spoke in a deliberate monotone. "What are you workin on?" he said. "What're you scheming on?"

"Nothing, painter," she cried. "I promise I'm being straight with you-- you've got to believe me."

"Alright. So, blue sketchpad, right?" She stood up, came around the table, leaned in. She hugged me.

"So appreciate it!" she exclaimed. There was still daylight enough to get back over to Fort Lauderdale and the downtown plein air painters. So I drove back and snatched up a painters best art supplies.

J.T. Rex shuddered. This was it, the showdown. He stopped toning a canvas and winced. "Hey! Hey! Hey!" He yelled out. "Let's not get too carried away about this sketchpad business!"

So I started bending expensive-looking paint brushes. I said, "You couldn't abide Mary coming into your area so you snagged her sketchpad, didn't you?"

"It goes with the territory." I grinned and opened a tube of expensive looking paint, a fancy European brand, hesitated for a moment, and then opened up another tube. I motioned as if I were going to paint a Jackson Pollack drip and splatter and splash painting right then and there. I said, "Truth, we'll have us some Truth."

"So am I right about you taking the sketchpad, then?"

"E-Easy with those supplies."

He was going to say some more, but paused, thought better of it.

I glared at him, but seeing his peril with the prospect of losing his paint and brushes I relented. A patch of sunbeam fell on his face.

"Come on! E-Easy with those supplies. Everybody knows she misplaces her property," T Rex said. "Look, I don't know who took her sketchpad, okay. I paint, I try to sell my work, that's all."

"I know," I said.

"I'll try and find out though."

Later, on Friday at the same place, we caught T Rex with Mary's sketchpad. Yes, indeed. He was holding court with his crew in the broiling sun, going off about a painter's territory and even throwing in an unsolicited art critique or two.

On the way back to the reservation that day, I stopped at a neighborhood art store and purchased a big sketchpad. All this running around had made me want to draw and paint.

And, oh, I never did see Mary again after that.



Photo courtesy EM
From left, Office of Emergency Management staff include Assistant Chief Hector Pesquera, EM coordinators Chantell Mazo, Laurence Chauvet, Elyzabeth Estrada and Lt. Scott Pardon.

Meet your EM staff

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Office of Emergency Management is staffed by a group of highly trained professionals whose number one goal is to ensure the safety of the Tribal community. Emergency Management staff ensures the Tribe is able to prepare for, respond to, and recover from severe weather hazards and other public safety emergencies. Utilizing email, weather monitoring platforms, and social media, staff communicates up-to-date public safety information to the Tribal community and government employees.

In critical emergencies, the Code RED system is utilized to provide timely public safety notifications to the Tribal community and government employees.

During the past year, the Tribe adopted a Hazard Mitigation Plan which was approved by the Tribal Council and recognized by FEMA. This document is essential to qualifying for federal assistance following any declared disaster event.

If you have not yet registered to receive email notifications or Code RED telephone notifications, please call the disaster hotline at 1-800-671-7514

Roger Daltrey, Charlie Daniels Band and more to perform

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD AND IMMOKALEE, Fla.— The Who founding member Roger Daltrey performs with current band members Simon Townshend, Jon Button, Zak Starkey, Loren Gold, John Corey and Frank Simes at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Fla. on Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017, at 8 p.m. Tickets go on sale Friday, June 16, 2017, at 10 a.m. Fans will have access to presale tickets beginning Thursday, June 15, at 10 a.m. through Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Additionally, Jay Goldberg Events & Entertainment presents The Charlie Daniels

Band, The Marshall Tucker Band and the Jack Michael Band live in concert at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee on Veterans Day, November 11 at 8 p.m. Advance tickets for this outdoor performance are on sale now for \$55. A limited number of \$125 VIP tickets are available, with a private section directly in front of the stage with seating, private bar and two beverages.

Tickets for The Who cost \$155, \$95, \$75 and \$55.* All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets online at www.myhrl.com, www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone: 1-800-745-3000. Doors open one hour prior to show start time. *Additional fees may apply.

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