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The Seminole Tribune

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Voters make their picks for Board, Council

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal Council and the Board each have a new member as a result of the May 8 election. Mondo Tiger will take a seat as Councilman from Big Cypress and Gordon O. Wareham will represent Hollywood on the Board.

The rest of the ballot was a vote of confidence for incumbents. Big Cypress voters retained Joe Frank as their Board Representative; Brighton gave their stamp of approval to Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Board Rep. Larry Howard; Hollywood residents gave Councilman Christopher Osceola another term in office.

Tiger has a list of short term goals he hopes to achieve starting with putting Tribal members to work, exploring the possibility of bringing vocational education to Big Cypress and solving the housing problem. He also is ready to tackle some longer term issues.

"I want to bring in more non-gaming money so we don't have to rely on casinos," he said. "Culture should be brought to the forefront. I'd like to see a successful businessperson who is very rich in culture; I think you can do both."

Wareham's objective is to help improve the Board's financial health during his term. He would like to examine the existing businesses, determine what is successful and expand from there.

"I'm excited for this opportunity that my community has given me," he said. "At the end of the fiscal year, I want the Board to be in the black."

The purpose of the election was to elect Council and Board representatives, so only reservation residents in Big Cypress/Immokalee, Brighton/Tampa and Hollywood/Fort Pierce were eligible to vote.

The inauguration ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. June 5 under the Council Oak tree at the corner of 441 and Stirling Road in Hollywood.



Michael James

Officials, including the Seminole Tribal Council, celebrate completing an expansion phase at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa on May 23 by performing the traditional guitar smash. The Council was represented by Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola, Jr., Vice-chairman and Board President Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers, Jr. and Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola. At the far left is Joe Lupo, president of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, and at the far right is John Fontana, president of Seminole Hard Rock Support Services.

Celebration held for Tampa casino expansion

BY MICHAEL JAMES
Freelance Reporter

TAMPA — The completion of the phase one expansion of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa drew Tribal Leaders, Tribal members, officials from Hard Rock International, Hard Rock Tampa, and Seminole Gaming to a celebration May 23. The ceremony recognized the opening of a new poker room, the new mezzanine level casino, a smoke free gaming area and the new Orient Road parking garage.

The event began just outside of the smoke free casino with a full gallery of VIPs in attendance. Bobby Henry offered a blessing in his native language. Beyond

the roped VIP area a large group of casino patrons gathered out of curiosity to hear and see the fully regaled Henry open the ceremony.

Tribal Leaders took turns offering brief and meaningful thoughts on the celebration as well as the hope of a continued prosperous future. President Mitchell Cypress shared the story about how the Tampa Reservation and community came to be when Ruby Osceola and her family moved from Bradenton onto the original nine acres of land of the Tampa Reservation in 1980.

President Cypress explained how archaeologists uncovered human remains at the former site of Fort Brooke. Development of the Channel District of Tampa was

stopped at a cost of \$10,000 a day after the area was deemed a sacred site. The Seminole Tribe and then-Mayor Bob Martinez worked toward a solution. That solution was an 8.5-acre parcel of land and the junction of Interstate 4 and Orient Road, a place where the remains could be repatriated and a cultural site could be created.

"We are here because of a single strand of beads and because Ruby moved her family here," President Cypress said.

The beads discovered at the Fort Brooke site initiated closer scrutiny by archaeologists and the discovery of the remains.

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. thanked the over 5,000 employees who worked through the expansion.

Joe Lupo, President of Seminole Hard Rock Tampa, said, "This is certainly an exciting day for our property we're ecstatic that we now have these terrific venues to offer our guests which ultimately enhances their experience."

The ceremony concluded with the Hard Rock tradition of smashing guitars, which in this case featured the smashing of several guitars by Tribal VIPs. The Hard Rock tradition is to 'christen' every new café, hotel, and casino at the grand opening by smashing guitars.

"When Hard Rock Café New York opened in August of 2005, Hard Rock

♦ See CASINO on page 4A

Egmont Key named endangered historic site

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Egmont Key, the island where captured Seminoles were warehoused before being sent to Oklahoma during the Seminole Wars in the mid-1800s, was deemed by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the state's 11 most endangered historical sites. The designation came May 18 at the Florida Preservation Conference in St. Petersburg.

The tiny atoll near the mouth of Tampa Bay made the list because its existence is threatened by sea level rise. According to Clay Henderson, president of the Trust's board of trustees, it is the first time a site was chosen because of climate change.

"I think having Egmont Key on the list will elevate it to a level that people can see its importance and hopefully get behind preserving the island," said Paul Backhouse, director of the Seminole Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. "It is a very important story, a horrific one. The community wants it to be preserved so they can teach their children what happened out there. One severe storm and that island could be gone."

The Trust's Most Endangered Sites program is designed to increase the public's awareness of the urgent need to save Florida's neglected or threatened historic resources and empower local preservationist groups to preserve the state's rich history.

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office continues to scour the island for more proof

of Seminole activity and for site of the internment camp. A couple of important finds were recently made, including an officer's belt buckle and a bullet from the Seminole War period.

Two letters obtained from the National Archives written in 1857, presumably by an officer at the Egmont Key camp, mention two Seminole captives who did not survive.

"It is the first real evidence of Seminoles being taken and not making it off the island," Backhouse said.

Polly Parker was held at Egmont Key in 1856 and boarded the Grey Cloud, a ship destined for New Orleans, where its passengers would be forced to join the Trail of Tears and walk to Oklahoma. Luckily for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Parker escaped during a refueling stop south of Tallahassee and made her way south to Okeechobee. Her legacy includes generations of Tribal members who have her blood in their veins today.

Egmont Key, formed about 1,000 years ago, is a mere slip of land less than two miles long and half a mile wide. Like all barrier islands, it is on the front lines of climate change. Since it was first surveyed in 1877, about 60 percent of the land mass has been taken by the Gulf of Mexico.

The island's severe erosion is made worse by rising sea levels. Although the Army Corps of Engineers replenishes it with sand dredged from the shipping channel every seven years, erosion continues.

♦ See EGMONT KEY on page 4A

Conner Thomas ready for national archery competition

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — It came as no surprise to Moore Haven High School football coach Roudybush that his offensive lineman Conner Thomas qualified to compete in a national archery championship.

After all, Roudybush knows Thomas has excelled in football, track and field, and academics, so why not archery.

"It's awesome," Roudybush said. "He was an honorable mention in the district as a football player as a sophomore. It's great to see him compete in other things and excelling. He's figured out how to throw shot and disc, play football and excel at archery. He's doing a great job, and he's doing a great job in the classroom, which is the most important thing."

In March, Thomas, the son of Cecelia and Frank Thomas, finished third in compound archery at Florida's 4-H state competition in Gainesville. By finishing in the top four out of about 30 competitors, Thomas earned his way onto 4-H's Team Florida squad that will compete at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships June 25-30 in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Thomas, 16, enjoys blocking for Moore Haven running backs and battling opponents under the Friday night lights during the fall, but the 5-foot-10, 290-pound lineman also likes the competitive aspects of archery.

"I like the competition," said Thomas, who belongs to the Glades County 4-H. "It's a fun sport. I hunt, too. Besides hunting season, you can still go around shooting bows and win prizes. I like shooting the

whole year, and you get to meet new people."

Thomas and his Florida teammates — Hala Skelton (Alachua County), Seth Justus (Polk County) and Raif Prevatt (DeSoto County) — will vie for individual and team awards in compound archery against some of the top 4-H shooters from around the country.

"It's like an all-star team. We send the best four. It's very competitive, three full days of shooting," said Team Florida compound archery coach Tycee Prevatt, who is also Raif's mother.

The national championships feature nine different sports shooting disciplines. Coach Prevatt said last year's championships drew about 650 kids from 35 states. She said an Olympics-style opening ceremony greets the athletes, who enter an arena while representing their state. A total of 17 kids ages 14-18 on Team Florida will be in the competition. In addition to compound archery, other events include air rifle, air pistol, small bore rifle, small bore pistol, recurve archery, muzzleloading, hunting and shotgun.

For Thomas, the focus is squarely on compound archery.

"I want to do good," he said. "My expectations are high. I know there's going to be good competition, good shooters, which I like because that sets my game up. I just hope I shoot in top places. My team that I'm going with, we're looking like a good team."

At the state competition, Thomas was pleased with his performance.

"The first part of the morning was pretty windy," he said. "Once I got out of

♦ See ARCHERY on page 5C



Kevin Johnson

Conner Thomas, 16, will compete in compound archery at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships from June 25-30 in Nebraska. Conner recently completed his sophomore year at Moore Haven High School.

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Editorial

Karen Two Shoes - Keiser University valedictorian address

Good evening! I am Karen Two Shoes – Dietetics & Nutrition (the green scrubs!) - and I would first like to thank and welcome the VIPs here – the Deans, Trustees, Keiser faculty – everyone in the audience – and of course my fellow graduates!

So, this is graduation. I'm assuming we grads are all here today because we fulfilled our academic obligations, and our friends and families are here because they are so proud and so happy for us. And it all comes down to this – and I can say it in one word – success!

You know when they called upon me for this great honor, my first thought was, 'Wow! Really?' Of course, my second thought was Keiser just roped me in to one more assignment! And then of course I went back to my first thoughts and feelings... Then, I did what so many other honored speakers did before me: I Googled the word success. Whoa, talk about a humbling experience; so many definitions and so many meanings by so many great people. The first one that caught my eye was by Arthur Ashe:

SUCCESS IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION.

How true is that? Just because we've reached this pinnacle doesn't mean we stop; this is just the start of another journey to the next success. And like any other journey, this journey to this success is so very different and personal for each and every one of us – the reasons why we started this journey, the reasons why we came to class when we wanted to sleep in, the reasons why we stayed home and studied when we really wanted to spend time with our families and our friends, and the reasons why we're thankful for this success. I can personally think of three things that helped me achieve this success, three things I am most grateful for.

One: The professors in the Dietetics and Nutrition department – Professor Soares, Dr. Scripa, Professor Keil, Professor Riedel – without your knowledge, wisdom, passion and leadership I would not have the skills to go out and create more successes. I thank you.

Number 2: My classmates. Evelyn,

Elizabeth, Angelica, Mercedes, Diana and Big Bad John. You guys are the reason I am up here tonight and why I wish you were also up here with me. The support and motivation we gave each other and all the laughs we shared, I never, ever dreaded coming to class and that is why we are and always will be the best class ever!

And number 3: My family and friends. My husband, Nupa, my daughter and son, Helesi and Sam, my brother Clint, my dearest friend Sandy who helped me keep my household together, my sister-in-law Tate, thank you for all your understanding and patience, even when smoke was coming out of my ears and my hair was standing straight out. I know I could not have achieved this success without you. And my parents. My mother – an 81-year-old, one-woman powerhouse and my father who just passed seven weeks ago and who I wish I could hug just one more time. My parents are amazing people. My family is Native American – from the Seminole Tribe just up the street here – and both my parents were not born in hospitals but in camps in the middle of the Everglades. The poorest of the poor although they probably didn't even know that. Their successes not only elevated our family unit but all of Native America. When I was young, I admit I was intimidated by their success, but now? I am only inspired by it, and I aspire to instill in my children that family tradition of success. Thank you mom and thank you dad.

And those are just three of the brightest guiding lights on my journey to success. I have many more as I'm sure you do too, and I implore you to write them down and keep them close to you because in the not-too-distant future you will need to look upon them for inspiration because anyone worth their salt will tell you, success does not come easy.

The funny thing about success, when you're all wrapped up in its glory like we are tonight, it's kinda easy to forget the "bad" things we had to go through. I mean the word success is actually genius because it incorporates that very element into itself: success, like the face you get when you

suck on a lemon. Think about it – the late night freak out study sessions, the last week of every month cramming for the final exam (turns out we really didn't need that extra sleep, did we?). When it comes right down to it, those lemons are direct contributions to our success, you gotta have the bad to appreciate the good – you can't have success without the suck! It's the suck that makes our success all the more sweeter, turned those lemons into lemonade. Those challenges have made us stronger – and makes us ready to tackle the next set of challenges on the next journey to our next success.

Vidal Sassoon said it best:
THE ONLY PLACE SUCCESS COMES BEFORE WORK IS IN THE DICTIONARY

And we know that and we are ready to work, ready to start working on our next success and the ones after that and the ones after that. We got this, don't we? It's time graduates – whatever your major – this success is something to be proud of and a building block to all that lies ahead of us. Keiser University has gifted us with all the knowledge we can stand, our friends and families have given us their support and love throughout this journey. It is time to celebrate and realize our success and take it to the next level.

I'll close with this quote by American news journalist Robert Strauss, and then we can celebrate:

SUCCESS IS A LITTLE LIKE WRESTLING A GORILLA. YOU DON'T QUIT WHEN YOU'RE TIRED; YOU QUIT WHEN THE GORILLA IS TIRED.

Well grads, tonight – call the gorilla-sitter because that gorilla is exhausted, has put on his jammies and has been tucked into bed. Thank you all very much, and congratulations Class of 2016-2017.

Keiser University Pembroke Pines campus valedictorian Karen Two Shoes gave this address during the school's spring commencement ceremony May 12 at the Pembroke Pines City Center.



Photo courtesy Keiser University

2016-17 Keiser University graduate and valedictorian Karen Two Shoes, left, poses with state Sen. Lauren Book, the commencement speaker, and Pembroke Pines Campus President Cecil Kidd at the campus's graduation ceremony May 12.

Indigenous people's concerns about cultural appropriation are starting to be heard

• Jessica Deer

When a handful of editors and senior staff in Canadian media took to Twitter last week to seemingly mock Indigenous peoples' concerns with cultural appropriation, it was discouraging for many like myself who are a) Indigenous b) trying to make a living in the demanding media field and c) have seen the negative effects of appropriation through a variety of forms.

The group tweeted in support of an 'appropriation prize,' riffing off a facetious proposal made by the now-former editor of the Writers' Union of Canada magazine.

As a young Kanien'kehá:ka journalist, friends and family have often asked what my goals are for the future. I've worked in Kahnawake's local media for almost a decade – would I ever want to pursue a career in journalism outside of my community?

The thought of possibly being the only Indigenous person in a newsroom is daunting on its own. To know that editors or other reporters feel that it is okay to publicly joke about issues that are very real to Indigenous people would just be soul-crushing.

Defining cultural appropriation

Cultural appropriation occurs when elements of a marginalized culture are taken and used by another culture with a huge sense of entitlement attached. That unhealthy sense of entitlement is obvious when an individual cannot even accept criticism from members of the culture they're appropriating.

For example, how many times have Indigenous people expressed that headdresses are sacred items that need to be earned, rather than acceptable attire for Coachella? Yet there are still plenty of entitled music festivals-goers that continue to wear them 'because it's hella cute.'

This manifests itself in film, television, fashion, art, sports logos and boils down to

how Indigenous identities and cultures are represented: often without free, prior and informed consent. Indigenous people in Canada have endured a longstanding history of not being consulted on things that affect us. Whether it's about our land, our bodies, our culture, we ought to always be consulted.

So, have we figured out what cultural appropriation is yet? This might help: cultural appropriation happens when Ungava gin exploits Inuit culture for its branding; when a Grade Three teacher in Montreal wears a dollar-store headdress to welcome students on the first day of school, or Johnny Depp speaks broken English in an awful Disney remake.

On the other hand, inhaling a delicious plate of Indian tacos, wearing beautifully beaded jewelry or clothing made by an Indigenous fashion designer, or having people in government consult with Indigenous communities – as Montreal mayor Denis Coderre did with Kahnawake'kehrónon about putting an Indigenous symbol on the Montreal's flag – are great examples of cultural appreciation or sharing.

The anger over appropriation isn't about political correctness, censorship or free speech. It's about Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination. Even during a time of reconciliation, Indigenous people are still faced with having to defend their identities from being mocked or used as a form of entertainment every single day.

As a Kanien'kehá:ka kid growing up during the '90s in Kahnawake, the only Indigenous representations I saw on screen were of stereotypes in Disney movies such as Pocahontas and Tiger Lilly in Peter Pan. In the news, it was imagery of camo-clad warriors of the Oka Crisis.

These portrayals are highly inaccurate and dehumanizing, rooted in colonial ideology. Combine that with an audience that just doesn't know any better, and you get layers of misinformation that Indigenous people struggle to peel away from the Canadian consciousness.

Countering stereotypes

While we've come a long way since the '90s, cultural appropriation and inaccurate representations are still very much a concern. They will probably continue to be so for a long time, or as long as there are non-Indigenous people in Canada who, for example, openly deny the cultural genocide of the Indian Residential School System.

I, like many, want to see Indigenous voices across every medium. I want to read about Indigenous characters in literature without being drenched in stereotypes. I want to read news stories from Indigenous communities that aren't just about protests, feathers and tragedy.

Even those authors, scriptwriters and media makers that try their best to break down stereotypes – who do their best research, and visit communities – can get things wrong. Even "good intentions" can have negative multigenerational impacts on Indigenous people.

Indigenous voices in media

All media needs to work harder and be less lazy to ensure their work is accurate in representing marginalized communities. The past few days have demonstrated not only the need for more diverse newsrooms, but also the importance of supporting more Indigenous-centered media to give our people a voice and platform in literature, art, film or even journalism. That's exactly what Kenneth Deer, the founder of The Eastern Door newspaper, did 25 years ago in the aftermath of the Oka Crisis.

Racism has deep roots and the illustration offered by editors on Twitter with their shout-first, think-second, apologize-third display showed how those roots are tangled in Canadian media.

That's unfortunately not something that can be untangled by a handful of journalists resigning, apologies or even op-eds like this one.

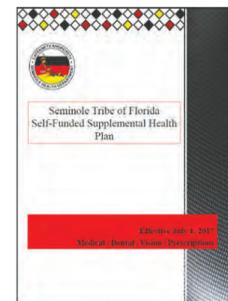
Indigenous people have voiced their

concerns about these issues for a long time, but non-Indigenous people are only now beginning to listen. Even that – something as simple as listening – seems like a tremendous task for some. If the upper echelons of Canadian media can't or refuse to realize that, how can the rest of Canada?

Jessica Deer is a 27-year-old Kanien'kehá:ka from Kahnawake. She is a staff reporter for The Eastern Door newspaper that is based in Quebec and serves the Kahnawake community. This column was published on Canada's CBC website as part of CBC's Opinion section.

New STOF Member Health Plan Card and Benefits Book

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Department is pleased to announce the delivery of your new STOF Member Health Plan Card and Benefits Book. Please be on the lookout for these documents in your mail and begin using your new card and benefits book effective July 1, 2017.



Health Plan Benefits Book



Health Plan Card

If you do not receive your new card and benefits book in the mail within the next few weeks, please contact one of the STOF Health Clinics so that we can ensure you receive these important documents.

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Community



SPD Sgt. Thomas Faherty retires after 25 years of service

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Sergeant Thomas “LT” Faherty’s retirement April 27 made him the first Seminole Police Department officer to retire after 25 years on the force.

During a celebratory party May 9 in Immokalee, surrounded by colleagues, seniors and friends he made during his career, Faherty bid farewell and welcomed retirement.



Sgt. Thomas “LT” Faherty poses with Seminole Police and Fire Rescue colleagues at his farewell party May 9 in Immokalee. Sgt. Faherty served 25 years on the police force.



Beverly Bidney

Sgt. Thomas “LT” Faherty cuts into his retirement cake at a celebration honoring his retirement after 25 years of service to the Seminole Police Department on May 9 in Immokalee.

“I knew I wanted to retire when I wasn’t too old to enjoy it,” said Faherty, 55. “I planned this for 25 years. I’m looking forward to the future and to see what God has planned for us.”

After a move to Citrus County to be closer to his parents, Faherty and his wife Doris plan to travel, purchase some rental homes in the Tampa area and start a business. First on their itinerary is a trip to Orlando to see their son Christian and then off to Iceland and New York over the summer.

“LT is the first person to retire after 25 years since SPD’s inception,” said SPD Chief Will Latchford. “He started in Big Cypress and moved to Immokalee two years later.”

Faherty, whose transfer to Immokalee coincided with the opening of the casino in 1994, reflected on his career. Some of the highlights were working with the youth and seniors on crime prevention and travelling with them for 10 years on youth and senior trips.

“We had a ton of laughs on those trips,” he said. “I will miss the people here.”

Faherty’s work assignments with the Tribe included trips to Alaska, South Dakota, Niagara Falls and Camp Kulaqua in North Florida. Seeing kids grow up and have families of their own was one of the

many rewards of the job. As a law enforcement officer, he also witnessed difficult times among Tribal and community members.

“I want people to understand I wasn’t there just to take them to jail,” Faherty said. “I was there to help them with all the issues they had.”

Faherty has observed major changes within the Tribe and seeing it become successful was another reward of the job. He is thankful for the Tribe and said he has had some of the best co-workers over the years.

“I pray that none of my coworkers ever get hurt, that’s my one wish as I leave,” he said. “They are really good people.”



Beverly Bidney

Retiring SPD Sgt. Thomas “LT” Faherty with some of the seniors he served and protected in Immokalee over the years.



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Michael James

Susie Henry, of Tampa, joins Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and President Mitchell Cypress for a photo during the expansion ceremony at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa on May 23.

♦ **CASINO**
From page 1A

executives and celebrities smashed more than 100 Gibson guitars simultaneously outside the new home of the New York café in Times Square," said Tribe spokesman Gary Bitner.

The tradition was taken to the next level in December 2010 when 1,914 guitars were smashed at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Hollywood. When Hard Rock Anchorage was opened the ceremonial guitar smash came with an Alaskan twist — over blocks of ice.

The new poker room is state of the art. It features 46 tables and was designed with the sports fan in mind. Forty televisions, including six 75-inch screens and four 65-inch screens, ensure that no sporting event is missed.

High stakes players have a new high-limit lounge that features two VIP tables. Other amenities include a bar that seats up to 15 guests as well a snack bar that can accommodate up to 20 seated patrons. For smokers there is an outdoor area to accom-

modate their needs.

The glittering mezzanine level casino encompasses over 26,000 square feet and offers 500 slot machines that feature the latest technology. Offerings include 15 live-action table games including Blackjack, Double Deck Blackjack, Three Card Poker, Casino War, Ultimate Texas Hold'em, and Crazy 4 Poker. The new space contains 14,000 square feet of Italian marble which lends a luxurious atmosphere for guests to enjoy.

Located at the bottom level of the mezzanine level casino is the new smoke free gaming area. It features 850 of the newest and most popular slot machines. The smoke free gaming area features a smoke free entrance, smoke free bar with video poker, a

dedicated cage and Player's Club. In addition there is a dedicated Uber drop off area and direct access to and from the surface parking area. Twenty big screen televisions are featured throughout as well as memorabilia from rock 'n' roll greats such as Keith Richards and The Who's John Entwistle.

The new Orient Road garage has space for 700 vehicles and brings the total parking availability to over 5,000 spaces. Guests can enjoy a walkway and self-guided memorabilia 'Rock Walk' tour that showcases more than 100 of the Seminole Hard Rock Tampa's most prized pieces including items from Beyonce, Carrie Underwood, Stevie Nicks, Bon Jovi, Nicki Minaj and others.



Photo courtesy Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa

The mezzanine level casino covers 26,000 square feet and features 500 slot machines.



Michael James (2)

Above, Bobby Henry and his wife, Annie, attend the ceremony at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa on May 23. At right, the ceremony draws a big crowd.

♦ **EGMONT KEY**
From page 1A

Sea level rise due to climate change and global warming already adversely affects coastal communities, according to the 2013 National Climate Assessment Report that was researched by 60 scientists. It is projected to keep rising unless "society can make better decisions about how to reduce risk and protect people, places and ecosystems from extreme events and long-term changes. Some but not all of these changes are inevitable. Clearly, decisions made now and in the future will influence society's resilience to natural, social and economic impacts of future climate change," the report states.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, Florida International University's Global Indigenous Forum, the Florida Public Archaeology Network, Florida Atlantic University and the Native Learning Center will host the Tidally United Summit 2017 Aug. 4-5 to address sea level rise and its effect on cultural and historic sites. Backhouse said he looks forward to exploring the topic with Tribal members at the event at the NLC in Hollywood.



Tribune file photo

During a visit to Egmont Key in August 2013, Quenton Cypress, Juan Cancel, Paul Backhouse, Bobby Henry, Shannon Purvis and Willie Johns stand near the spot where Seminole Indians were imprisoned during the Third Seminole War.

Seminole beef burgers on the menu through June

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Seminole Pride Beef is on the menu at six Hard Rock Cafés in Florida through June. The Seminole Cattleman Burger is one of a dozen rolled out by Hard Rock International for its annual World Burger Tour.

The Seminole burger, which is topped with bacon-infused heart of palm, fresh tomato and Tupelo breaded gator tail smothered in Seminole wing sauce, can be found at the Hard Rock Café in Tampa, Tampa Airport, Hollywood, Miami, Orlando and Key West.

"This is a great opportunity for us to participate and see how people react," said Michael Saucedo, Seminole Pride Beef director of business development. "We hope to get feedback on sales."

World Burger Tour burgers capture the flavor of the cities in which they can be found.

This year they include Athens, Greece; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Barcelona, Spain; Cartagena, Colombia; London, England; Memphis, Tennessee; New Delhi, India; New Orleans, Louisiana; Nice, France; Rome, Italy; and Seoul, South Korea.

"We are producing more ground beef now," Saucedo said. "Supply is good and we are keeping up with the demand."

Saucedo is always looking for new markets to extend Seminole Pride Beef sales. The meat is currently sold in Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee, but he believes there are opportunities to expand further north and west.

For a list of restaurants, other than Hard Rock Café, that serve Seminole Pride Beef, visit www.sembeef.com or contact Saucedo at msauceda@semtribe.com.

Multiple departments tackle issues during busy fire season

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Since Florida's severe drought is expected to worsen, the Wildland and Forestry Department led a planning meeting April 26 with other Tribal departments to put a plan in place for the already active fire season.

"Once the el Nino ended, the faucet turned off," said Grant Steelman, Forester/Fire Management Officer. "That's great for tourism, but bad for water. The winds have already started bringing lightning and starting fires."

The dry season typically goes from November through April, but if the National Weather Service's predictions for below normal rainfall through July hold true, it will be the driest one since 2007.

"Everything out there wants to burn," Steelman said. "You have to hit a fire fast and hard to stop it."

Relative humidity can be an indicator of how fires will burn. Steelman said fires burn very well at 60 percent humidity, but in late April the humidity was 40 percent and forecast to remain there through fire season. Vegetation throughout the region is dry as tinder and includes large logs that can burn for 1,000 hours.

Steelman told the assembled group at the Big Cypress Emergency Operations Center there is a 90 to 100 percent chance of fires igniting. Departments represented in the meeting included Emergency Management, Police Department, Fire Rescue, Environmental Resource Management Department and Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

"We saw the first fire this season at the end of February and two 20,000-acre fires already this year," said Steelman, whose crew fought the Cowbell fire in Big Cypress Preserve from early March until early May.

The Wildland and Forestry Department created a simulated fire similar to one that could possibly occur on the Big Cypress Reservation in dry conditions, 50 percent humidity and five to 10 mph winds. Steelman shared the results of the simulation through data and a PowerPoint presentation. In the first six hours, the fire grew to 730 acres and jumped a canal. Six hours later it was 1,530 acres. At hour 18, the fire was 3,549 acres and threatened structures and after 24 hours it was a 4,000 acre fire.

"We wanted to have a picture of what can happen," Steelman said. "We don't want to start thinking about fire at 18 hours in."

Structure protection, mitigation measures and containment objectives need to be in place before a fire ignites.

"We may have 30 minutes or less to evacuate and get people moving," Steelman said. "It's not like a hurricane where we get seven days notice."

He asked each department how they can help in case of a fire and outlined some basic procedures to be followed. An example of action that could be taken is for ERMD to turn on pumps and flood ditches so firefighters can draw water from them.

The rest of the meeting was a brainstorming session on finding a central staging area from which fire, emergency management and police can operate, logistics and ways to engage departments in the effort.

"It takes an hour to traverse the canal in Big Cypress," Steelman said. "It's usually

a good fire break, but I've seen three fires jump I-75 this season so far."

Ideas that flowed included how field crews from ERMD and THPO can be great smoke spotters. ERMD has 186 fire hydrants that can produce a million gallons of water in 24 hours. Thanks to the work the department has done this year, all are in working order. Pressure can be increased to 900 gallons per minute if necessary. The department will provide a location map of the hydrants.

THPO offered to make maps of trails and roads so firefighters can access fires easier. SPD offered to help with staging, traffic and evacuation.

"We have 95 percent of peoples' contact information," said SPD Lt. Victor Madrid. "We can go door to door to Tribal members."

Emergency Management offered to get the word out through emails, Facebook and Code Red alerts.

"We need a pre-incident action plan to get the framework down," said SPD Lt. Scott Pardon, of the Emergency Management team. "Our main reason to be there is for Tribal members. We rely on information from Forestry from the front line."

"Seniors are more apt to respond to a Tribal member or someone in a uniform at their door," said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank.

Fire Rescue Chief Donald DiPetrillo agreed that partners in public safety need to talk to each other quickly. His experience has shown that during the first 24 hours, firefighters are usually on their own.

"Life safety is number one, number two is structural protection," DiPetrillo said. "Then we contain the fire. There are complex things going on and we need one unified command post."

The talk turned to a recent fire in Naples, during which 100-foot flames burned above the vegetation and even bulldozers couldn't reach the blaze. Residents were trying to leave as the heavy firefighting equipment was trying to get to the fire.

"It was a safety issue," DiPetrillo said. "We ran out of people, resources, everything. We were exhausted after 24 hours. We can't take these fires lightly; they move very quickly."

The discussion led to who is lead on a fire and who is a liaison. Communication was lacking in the Naples fire, which resulted in uncontrolled chaos and finger pointing afterward.

"We need to be pro-active before an event," said ERMD director Cherise Maples. "If the fire is someone else's jurisdiction we could be late to respond."

Steelman described the national incident command protocol, which is used during large fires such as the Cowbell.

"It takes years to qualify to lead it," he said. "It is a very structured system. Additional resources are pre-positioned here in Florida, including trucks and equipment. That's the beauty of the federal framework."

Since the 1970s the Tribe has had reciprocal relationships with other local fire departments; they help each other when necessary. Having a unified incident command post plus a staging area is critical to successfully managing wildfires.

"This meeting was meant to get people thinking and get a dialogue going so we aren't scrambling on the day we smell smoke," said Steelman. "This year we have a long road ahead of us with two months more of watching and waiting."



Beverly Bidney

A Seminole firefighter fights a blaze near the rodeo arena in Immokalee March 15. No one was hurt and no structures were burned by the 5-acre fire.

FSU nursing summit honors work of Betty Mae Jumper

BY ZACK BOEHM
Freelance Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — To cap off a two-day international indigenous health summit that convened indigenous, native and aboriginal nursing researchers from around the world, Florida State University's new Center for Indigenous Nursing Research and Health Equity (INRHE) invited Moses Jumper Jr. to speak about his mother, Betty Mae Jumper, and her abiding legacy as a visionary nurse and health educator.

The Summit for the Center for Indigenous Nursing Research and Health Equity was held May 18-19 on FSU's Tallahassee campus.

Before she was an elected Seminole Tribe chairwoman, a published author or a powerful national political figure, Betty Mae Jumper was a registered nurse whose tireless work on behalf of her people yielded considerable improvements in health outcomes among South Florida's marginalized and isolated native communities.

It was her decades of compassionate and transformative work as a nurse that made Betty Mae Jumper so worthy of recognition by the INRHE — the world's first and only center dedicated to indigenous nursing research. According to John Lowe, director of the center and McKenzie Professor in Health Disparities in FSU's College of Nursing, the summit would have felt incomplete without recognizing Betty Mae's dauntless service and lasting contributions.

"When I first moved to Florida from Oklahoma, I had the honor of sitting and talking with Betty Mae, and she was so inspiring," Lowe said. "In keeping with the theme of this gathering of honoring the past, present and future of indigenous nurses, it only seemed right, being what we are and who we are, that we would honor Betty Mae Jumper for all that she's done."

And so, after two days of presentations by researchers hailing from countries as far afield as New Zealand and Peru, it was Moses Jumper Jr.'s turn to man the lectern and tell the story of a woman whose ethic of service and selflessness continues to inspire nursing scholars the world over.

"I figured that if I'd fallen walking up the stairs, there would have been plenty of nurses in here ready to fix me up," Jumper quipped as he ascended the stage to address a ballroom brimming with health care professionals, certified nurses and academics.

Over the next hour, Jumper proceeded to ably trace the dramatic narrative of Betty Mae's life story, from the persecution visited upon her as a multiethnic Seminole child, to



Moses Jumper Jr. serves as a guest speaker at Florida State's Summit for the Center for Indigenous Nursing Research and Health Equity on May 19 in Tallahassee. Jumper spoke about the legacy of his mother, Betty Mae Jumper, whose work as a registered nurse was felt throughout Indian Country.

her experiences as a precocious and driven young student, to the challenges she faced as a nurse in communities that were wary of formalized western medicine.

He explained how, at an early age, Betty Mae became enchanted with reading and writing, and insisted on learning English despite protestations from her elders.

He discussed how, undeterred by local schools that refused to enroll Indian students, she found her way to a Cherokee boarding school in North Carolina, where she excelled in sports and academics.

And finally, Jumper described how, after graduating from a nursing program at the Kiowa Indian Hospital in Oklahoma, Betty Mae returned to South Florida, compelled by a sense of obligation to her community.

"My mother came back," Jumper said. "She came back and worked with her people because she saw that as the most important thing that she could do — to bring better health to her people."

As a practicing nurse among tribes with a justifiable suspicion of white institutions, Betty Mae had the difficult job of administering care while negotiating cultural strain and sensitivities. Jumper

explained that her services would often be rejected by tribal leaders who distrusted mainstream medicine and pharmacology.

But she refused to become dispirited.

"Every two weeks she would take her medicine and make her way around to the different tribes," Jumper said. "One day an elder asked her 'why do you keep coming, nobody wants you here,' and she said 'because these people need the medicine, they need our help.'"

Jumper illustrated his mother's bold approach to this difficult job through a story about a man who had threatened Betty Mae with a rifle, but who later came to treasure her as a nurse and friend after she secured life-saving emergency treatment for his ailing wife.

"My mother could always count on a meal when she went by his place, because he was so appreciative of what she had done for him and his family," Jumper said.

Stories like this demonstrate the profound potential of the effortful, culturally considered approaches to health care administration in native communities that Betty Mae helped pioneer.

Jim Henson, a former Keetowah

Cherokee Chief who has worked extensively on health care initiatives and research among disadvantaged native populations, insisted that research centers like the INRHE must make a point of learning from the life and work of trailblazers like Betty Mae.

"It's so important that universities and institutions recognize families like the Jumpers and build partnerships with native peoples," Henson said. "Only then will we be able to combine traditional and scientific medicines in a way that effectively combats the diseases that affect native and indigenous peoples around the world."

To conclude his speech, Jumper asserted his pride in his mother, and his hope that his audience of nurses and academics would carry on her legacy.

"I'm proud of my mother, and I'm proud of all of you for the work you do going back and bringing health to indigenous peoples," Jumper said. "I know that's a hard job, especially seeing what my mother went through and the barriers that she had to overcome. I'm glad that Florida State has brought you all together, and I hope you continue to succeed in the important work that you're doing."



Betty Mae Jumper

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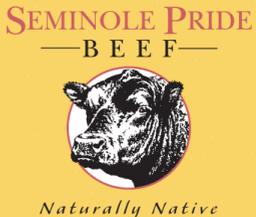
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Celebrating 2017 Mother's Day



Beverly Bidney
Matriarch Moleana Hall, her granddaughters Delilah Hall, 3, and Alizayah Alvarado, 4, and daughters Lily Hall and Liza Hall enjoy the day in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney
The Posada family, Kimi, Lexi, Lindsey, Lauren, Lorraine, Mario III and Brandon, enjoys the get-together at the Immokalee Mother's Day soiree at the Immokalee Casino May 11.



Beverly Bidney Photo
Nancy Motlow and Deloris Alvarez play a few games of bingo at the Big Cypress Mother's Day celebration May 12.



Beverly Bidney (2)
Above, the Smith family, including Toni Martinez, Curtis, Curtis, Chris, Carlos, Carlise and Curmya Smith, enjoy a festive Mother's Day in Immokalee. At right, Carla Cypress is surrounded by two of her children, Billie Cypress, 12, and Indigo Jumper, 3, at the Big Cypress Mother's Day party.



Beverly Bidney (left, below), Drew Osceola (above)
At left, Chelsey Ford and her mother Michelle Ford exude love at the Immokalee Mother's Day event. Above, Helene Buster celebrates in Brighton with granddaughter Timi Bearden and great granddaughter Cherie Bearden. Below, generations enjoy the celebratory evening in Immokalee. Pictured are Gale Boone, Louise Motlow, Jaime Yzaguirre, Nancy Motlow, Norita Yzaguirre and Jaila Yzaguirre.



Drew Osceola
In Hollywood, Marie Osceola and Tammy Osceola pose for portrait with family.



Drew Osceola
Louise Cypress, far right, with Arica Osceola, Ehricka Osceola and Kimberly Arledge enjoy the Brighton Mother's Day gathering.



Drew Osceola
Rosie Grant and her family pose for a portrait during Hollywood's Mother's Day celebration.



Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

Participants in The Bol's opening ceremony gather for a photo.



Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola speaks during the opening ceremony of The Bol restaurant May 26 at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek.

The Bol opens at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

COCONUT CREEK — When the Seminole casinos introduce something new, they go big or go home. After the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood introduced the Pan-Asian restaurant, The Bōl, to its customers in 2013, it proved a huge success. Now, the Asian legacy has made its way to the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek.

The Bōl opened its doors on May 26. At a private opening prior to the public reveal, Tribal and restaurant representatives offered kind words about the casino's new venture and honored guests watched a traditional dragon dance and live entertainment.

The new 50-seat restaurant is near the main valet entrance and the Player's Club Xperience. Eric Douglas, operating partner of The Bōl, said that this restaurant is more than a venue for Asian food — it's a unique and authentic dining experience.

"People can expect a lot of great service and a lot of great flavors," he said. "A lot of Asian restaurants have a modernized or American feel to them, but we didn't try to do that. We wanted to deliver an authentic flavor...It will stand out."

And stand out it does. Upon entrance, guests can smell the fragrant spices and bold aromas of Chinese and Vietnamese-inspired dishes. These aromatic muses, however, are only the beginning of a high-quality feng shui-ed outing, as the views of the restaurant are just as much a divine intervention in the dining experience. A crafted chandelier made of more than 15,000 chopsticks hangs as a flowing centerpiece from the ceiling and vivid reds, patterns and an eye-catching panda design make up the walls of The Bōl.

Steve Bonner, president of Seminole Casino Coconut



Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

From left, Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola, President Mitchell Cypress, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., and operating partners Eric Douglas and Ross Mamunur perform the honor of cutting the ribbon to open The Bol restaurant May 26 at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek.

Creek, said the restaurant is the perfect addition to bring Asian cuisine to the casino. "The restaurant is going to be fabulous," he explained. "Our philosophy has always been to add to the experience to make sure our guests have a great supply of different things, and this just adds to it...I hope [The Bōl] continues to level out guests' experiences so we can continue to build loyalty and continue to build long term growth and viability for the casino, and, therefore, the

Tribe." Unlike its counterpart in Hollywood, this venue offers an extended atmosphere. The design is open to the casino floor so people can easily flow in and out of the restaurant and the seating is more catered to Asian culture. The Bōl displays an open kitchen where visitors can watch chefs prepare food, as well as a community table, where customers can sit together to enjoy the authentic atmosphere with other guests who could become future friends.

For those looking to enjoy drinks with their cuisine, the restaurant also offers a full bar with signature cocktails, including Shanghai Mules.

The vibrant and unique decor, expanded menu and cozy community atmosphere are among the bold statements made by The Bōl.



Li Cohen

Steve Bonner, Seminole Casino Coconut Creek president, and Eric Douglas, operating partner of The Bol, stand in front of the restaurant's artsy wall design.



Li Cohen

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess Thomlynn Billie and sister Alice Billie watch the opening of the Bol.



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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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Oh the places we go!

BY REBECCA FELL
 Curator of Exhibits

Part of what I enjoy about this job is the opportunities I get to work with the Seminole community. As the curator of exhibits, my role in the Museum is to tell the Seminole story through the exhibits. As someone who is not affiliated with any tribe, that means talking with a lot of Tribal members about how they see the world and how Seminole culture and history works. Sure, I can read a bunch of books, and usually I do quite a bit of research. But I have long since learned that those books have been written mostly by white men and are, at best, a second-hand account of things. Why rely solely on them when I can hear about history, culture, and art of the Seminoles from the Seminole people.

In the museums I have worked at previously, there has been a lot of talk about working for the community or working for 'the people'. But invariably those jobs never took me or my co-workers into the community. A lot of other employees in other museums find this is true as well. But it has not been true here. In the four years of working here, my co-workers and I have been invited to Seminole events, community meetings, cattle meetings, into the schools, onto community members' properties, and even, sometimes, into homes. We have broken bread together, listened to stories, shared memories, and, in my case, helped to make better exhibits in the Museum.

Recently I have been out in the community learning about the cattle industry. About a year ago, we were asked to provide a large-scale photo of cattle in the Brighton Administration building. Along with Beverly Bidney, Tribune reporter/

photographer, Siobhan Millar, exhibits coordinator, and Eric Griffis, oral historian, we were escorted to meet the keeping heifers, so Beverly could get some close ups of these young female cows. Alex Johns had Reno Osceola and Erin Jones familiarize us with the Brighton cattlekeepers and their way of doing things. Later Alex sat down to give us a great interview about cattle and the Seminoles. We used Alex's interview in the mobile cattle cart display we travel to events around the reservations.

Next, Quenton Cypress and I took the Cattle Cart display to a Cattle and Range meeting on Big Cypress. While we coordinated with several Big Cypress cattlemen and cattlemen, when developing the cattle cart project, this was my first time attending a meeting. Going out in the field and listening in on meetings like this helps me understand, more than all the reading I do, what really matters to the Seminole cattlemen and cattlemen. Hopefully it shows up in the exhibits.

I won't say I have always gotten it right in creating these exhibits, but Tribal members have always been willing to tell us how we can do it better. While criticism is never easy to take it is better than hearing nothing at all. It means the Seminole community cares enough for us to get it right.

Our next exciting project involves working with different departments to learn what they do. We hope to inform the Tribal community of new and different things occurring in the government, while teaching non-Seminole visitors about how Seminole Tribal sovereignty works. If you want to learn more about this upcoming exhibit or have an idea for it, call Rebecca Fell, curator of exhibits, at 863-902-1113 x12251 or email rebeccafell@semtribe.com.



Brighton meets the Pathways Fitbit challenge

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
 Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Participants in the six-week Seminole Pathways Fitbit Challenge celebrated their weight loss success and fitness accomplishments at the end of the program in May.

In Brighton, a healthy lunch was shared May 4 along with stories about what the program meant to some of the 34 people who tracked their steps and food consumption since March. Some had experience in previous Pathways programs while others were first-timers who learned about the commitment it takes to reap the rewards that follow.

"I saw other Tribal members doing it, so I did it too," Martha Tommie said. "I didn't think I had the courage. I'm amazed at my results."

Tommie lost nearly 20 pounds, more than anyone else in the Brighton program. She also hoofed more than 364,000 steps. Although she doesn't have diabetes, she joined the program to prevent the disease. An added benefit was the stress relief it provided.

"I have five nieces in the group. I'm trying to be a role model," she said. "Eating healthy and staying away from greasy food was the biggest change. It's changed my life around."

Together, the group logged more than 13.5 million steps, a record number for Brighton. Individuals relished the competitive nature of the challenge and pushed each other to do more. Standings, number of steps and pounds lost were shared at the luncheon. Joe Osceola took first place with more than 994,000 steps, followed by Jewel Buck with 683,000 and Rita Gopher with 624,000.

"Our job is to put the program together and be the facilitators," said Barbara Boling, health education coordinator. "That people in the group challenged each other is a win. This has been a really active group."

Boling told the group even if they were in 34th place it was better than not having done it at all. She hopes to have another program in the fall.

"I learn something every time," said Laverne Thomas, who tries to participate in every Pathways challenge. "It makes me realize how it feels to exercise, and it does feel good. Seeing the results when you go to the clinic and seeing how everyone else is doing helps motivate you."

Camaraderie was another motivation for joining and staying in the program.

"At first the Fitbit was the motivation, but then to see Indians out there and the competitiveness was fun," said Kevin Holata. "I absolutely will do it again, I'm glad they have this program."



Beverly Bidney

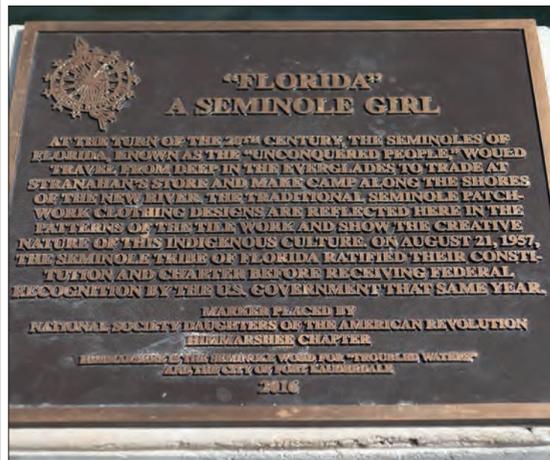
The Brighton Fitbit Challenge participants celebrate their success in the program May 4.

Plaque honors Seminoles, sculpture



Drew Osceola

Seminole artist Mike Osceola speaks at the dedication of a plaque next to the New River in downtown Fort Lauderdale on April 29. The plaque was placed by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Himmarshee Chapter in celebration of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, its history at the nearby Stranahan House and the "Florida's A Seminole Girl" sculpture.



Drew Osceola

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Himmarshee Chapter's "Florida's A Seminole Girl" plaque.



Drew Osceola

From left, project manager Brian Hill, Seminole artist Mike Osceola and "Florida's A Seminole Girl" sculptor Nilda Comas observe the plaque dedication.

Native American art sale to be held in Fort Lauderdale

FORT LAUDERDALE — The Great Native American Art Show and a closing reception for The Big Show exhibit will be held June 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, 219 SW 2nd Ave., Fort Lauderdale. The event will feature a talk from Elgin Jumper and others on contemporary

Native American art and the importance of collecting authentic work. For more information visit <http://www.fortlauderdalehistoricalsociety.org/event/great-native-american-art-sale>.

org/event/great-native-american-art-sale.



Courtesy photos

Gordon Oliver Wareham, left, and Erika Tommie stand in front of their work that is part of the Big Show at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society.



Courtesy photo

Native American artists involved in the Big Show at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society include, from left, Wayne Snellgrove, Elgin Jumper, Gordon Oliver Wareham and Erika Tommie (standing).

Health

Community walks to raise child abuse awareness

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD —While some wear the color blue as a fashion choice, last month tribal members wore blue as a way to raise awareness about child abuse.

On May 4, members of the Center for Behavioral Health hosted the annual Child Abuse Awareness Walk, sporting blue T-shirts and pin wheels as they joined arms with community members. Now, in its fifth year, the walk aims to make the community aware of the prevalence of child abuse as well as to educate people on how to prevent, spot and treat child abuse cases.

Shamika Beasley, tribal family and child advocacy compliance and quality assurance manager, said the Center for Behavioral Health wants to make sure the overall well-being of all children is up to standards. She said the awareness walk has grown over the past few years to educate the tribal community about what child abuse is and how to prevent and report it.

“Child abuse not only affects the tribal community, but it also affects everyone, everywhere,” she said. “The Tribe focuses on children as their most precious resource, and if we can do anything to protect the well-being and safety of children, then it should be a top priority for everyone.”

According to the National Children’s Alliance, in 2015 more than 1,500 children

in the U.S. alone died from abuse and neglect. This number is only a small fraction of the victims, as, on average, nearly 700,000 children are abused.

As a preschool teacher, Dorothy Williams said child abuse is a major concern and that keeping children safe is a primary priority. Williams and a few other teachers brought some students to the walk to help educate them about abuse.

“The children are what makes the community today and they are the future,” she said. “A lot of times, child abuse is staring us in the face. For somebody who isn’t knowledgeable about children, it can be difficult to tell that a child is being abused... It’s not always visible and you can’t always see it.”

Every April, anti-child abuse advocates in the U.S. wear blue—the official color that represents the fight against child abuse. The color is worn to commemorate the grandmother of a child abuse victim—killed by his mother’s boyfriend in 1989—who vowed to wear a blue ribbon in honor of her grandson. Now, nearly 30 years later, the color blue serves as a national symbol of protecting children.

Monique Young, tribal advocate for the Center for Behavioral Health, said people should know that child abuse can be prevented.

“[The walk] brings awareness and normalizes the prevalence of abuse,” Young said. “It allows people to feel comfortable

reporting it and to be held accountable for the kids in the community... We can save lives by knowing when someone is being abused and how to report it.”

Warning signs of child abuse include, but are not limited to: Unexplained bruises, welts, burns or fractures; unkempt and/or malnourished physical appearance; depression, anxiety or sudden mood swings; sleep disturbances; sudden behavioral changes, such as eating habits, attitude, or aggression; fear of a particular person and/or place; self-harm and/or suicidal tendencies; painful urination; sexually transmitted diseases and/or urinary tract infections; discoloration and/or scarring within genitals; unusual knowledge of anatomy or sex; and inappropriate sexual behavior with toys or other children.

“As long as you suspect it, you should report it,” Beasley said. “If tribal community members see something, they should say something.”

If someone is suspected of child abuse, call 911 or child protective services immediately. For more information on how to handle an abusive situation, contact the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD.



Drew Osceola

Youngsters participate in an awareness walk about the dangers of child abuse May 4 in Hollywood.

Project tackles early childhood tooth decay

BY CDR NATHAN MORK, DDS, MPH
Co-Chair IHS Early Childhood Caries Collaborative

Tooth decay is a significant problem for American Indian and Alaska Native preschool children. Half of all American Indian and Alaska Native preschool children have experienced tooth decay.

IHS focuses intensely on this issue by

- Visiting homes and calling new parents to educate them about tooth care for their children, and by funding tribally operated health programs to do the same.

- Presenting to community groups, teachers and daycare providers in Indian communities, so they are aware of the dental health needs of children and what they can do with nutrition and brushing to make a difference.

- Educating the public during National Children’s Dental Health Month.
- And, by using special health care initiatives to identify and share best practices in early childhood caries, or cavities, prevention, so that all IHS providers are working together to prevent dental decay in young children

The Early Childhood Caries Collaborative

One important project now drawing to a conclusion is the Early Childhood Caries Collaborative, which started in 2010. The project focused on reducing the proportion of children experiencing dental decay among American Indian and Alaska

Native children under the age of 71 months. Having benefited thousands of patients and many Indian health system dental clinics over the past seven years, the effort is now documenting best practices and ensuring those are thoroughly incorporated into our systems of care. I shared our results at a meeting of IHS dental health leaders in Albuquerque this week.

For example, in the IHS Portland Area, dental health providers at federal-government-operated clinics and tribally operated clinics adopted the slogan “Baby Teeth Matter.” Indian health care providers met face-to-face several times a year to review data from their programs and receive training and technical assistance, building a community for children’s dental health. They set a policy making dental visits the first step of every well-child visit. With this focused effort, they were able to nearly triple the number of kids being seen for dental care, over a 3-year period.

Because almost half of American Indian and Alaska Native preschool children have tooth decay by age 2, another key message has been to take children to the dentist as soon as the first tooth erupts. Previously, many pediatricians recommended that children first visit the dentist at age 2, but another key message of the collaborative is that “2 is too late.” Kids need dental care before 2 years of age.

This key message advised parents to:

- Lift the lip and look for chalky white or brown spots. Go to the dentist if you see these signs of cavities.

- Brush baby’s teeth twice daily with a thin layer of fluoride toothpaste beginning when the first tooth comes in.

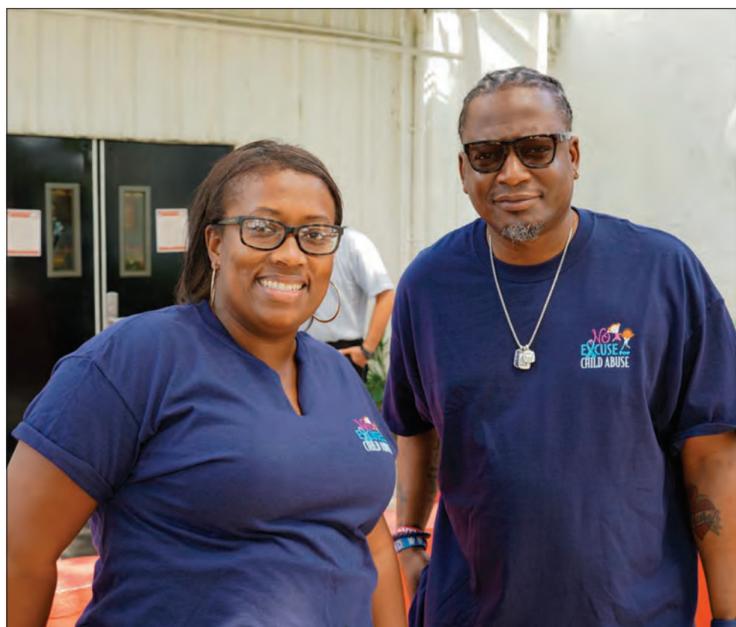
- Put baby to bed on his or her back without a bottle and wean from the bottle around 12 months of age.

- Feed your baby a healthy diet and limit sweets and sodas.

- Ask about fluoride varnish treatments to protect your baby’s teeth from cavities.

The Early Childhood Caries Collaborative national leadership team would like to congratulate those facilities and programs that participated in the project, particularly recognizing the 54 programs that participated in our virtual learning community. These programs were instrumental in identifying, testing and sharing best practices. IHS patients and providers benefit from the best practices that the virtual learning community identified, tested and shared. We encourage IHS, tribally operated clinics, and urban dental programs to continue to prioritize the oral health of children in future years.

CDR Nathan Mork, serves as the IHS Bemidji Area Dental Consultant as well as the Deputy Chief Dental Officer of the White Earth Health Center in Ogema, Minnesota. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry and the University of Washington School of Public Health.



Drew Osceola

Trecia Daley and Bernard Colman participate in the Child Abuse Awareness Walk in Hollywood.

NB3FIT Week to be held in November

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Notah Begay III (NB3) Foundation encourages all tribes, Native communities, businesses, organizations, faith groups, schools and allies across the country to

host physical activity and health-centered events in their communities during NB3FIT Week Nov. 5-11. All activities should directly engage Native youth with a one-hour minimum of physical activity.

Last year, 115 tribes and Native communities from 26 states

organized events that resulted in over 10,000 Native youth participating in physical activities such as runs, walks, stick games, basketball and more.

Register at www.nb3foundation.org.



NB3

Youngsters take part in the Notah Begay III Foundation’s NB3FIT Week.

Battle mosquitoes by draining, covering

BY ROBERT LAMENDOLA
Florida Department of Health

Rainy season is right around the corner and that means one thing – protect yourself and your family from mosquitoes.

The bug to watch for is the Aedes mosquito, a small biter that is black with white spots and lives right outside or inside your house. They specialize in biting humans, and stay active all day.

Aedes mosquitoes carry Zika virus and other tropical viruses

such as chikungunya and dengue fever. Zika generally causes mild symptoms in adults and children, but it can cause severe birth defects to the unborn child of a woman who contracts the virus.

Drain standing water in and around the house. Eliminate even puddles because Aedes can breed in containers as small as a bottle cap.

Get rid of water that collects in garbage cans, tires, buckets, roof gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots and plants with pockets, such as bromeliads. Discard items where rain or sprinkler water

collects.

Inside the home, Aedes can breed where water collects, such as refrigerator ice makers, electric toothbrush holders and drips under sinks.

Cover yourself and the openings in your home. If you go outdoors when mosquitoes are active, wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves. Spray your skin and clothing with repellent containing DEET or other approved ingredients (check the label). Keep windows and doors closed, and repair damaged screening.

IN LEGAL TROUBLE?

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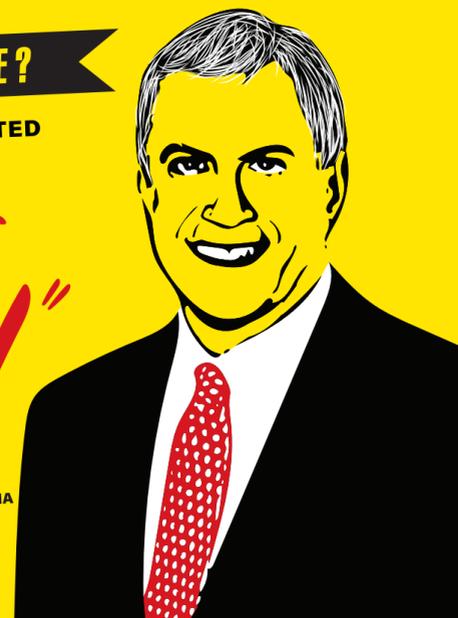
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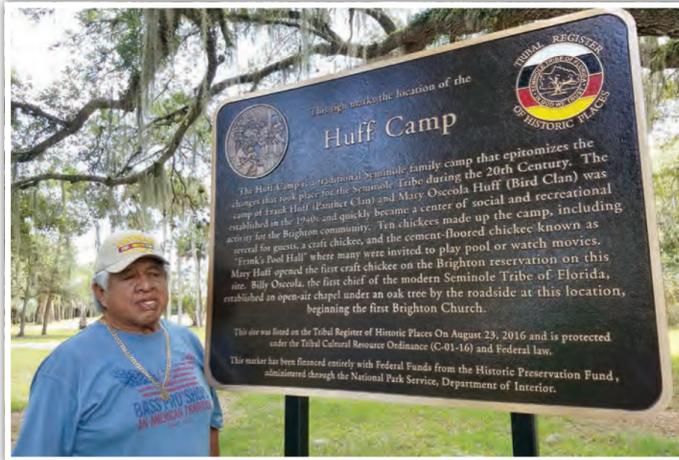
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SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

PHOTO-OP: As measured by the number of people using recording devices, it is clearly pre-school graduation season around the reservations. In Big Cypress May 17, a crowd of family and friends documented the moment their little loved ones passed this milestone.



Courtesy photo

HUFF'S CAMP: This new sign is now at the Huff's Old Camp in Brighton. The sign was donated by the STOF Preservation program about two years ago and recently was installed at the Huff's Camp. In the picture is John W. Huff Sr. As a child, John lived there with his parents Frank and Mary and his siblings Stanley, Roy, Frank Jr., Agnes and Josephine. His uncle Billy Osceola started the first church in Brighton as well as the first arts/crafts shop and Frank's Pool Hall.



Michael James

CEREMONIAL: Bobby Henry, of Tampa, rests his hands on the top of two guitars during a ceremony May 23 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa to commemorate the completion of the casino's phase one expansion.



Li Cohen

GOOD JOB: Student Winnie Gopher congratulates Alisha Pearce for winning the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Elementary Teacher of the Year award during a ceremony May 15 in Brighton



Photo courtesy Lauren Goas

WALK THIS WAY: Team Seminole drew about 25 participants as part of the Walk to Cure Arthritis on May 20 at Nova Southeastern University in Davie. The event was a benefit for the Arthritis Foundation. Walk to Cure Arthritis is the foundation's nationwide signature event that brings together communities and raises funds to conquer arthritis.



Kevin Johnson

SEMINOLE SOFTBALL: After facing each other in a high school district championship softball game April 27, Moore Haven High's Sydney Cypress, left, and Southwest Florida Christian Academy's Randeon Osceola, right, pose with their moms, Eileen Cypress and Geraldine Osceola, on the softball field at Moore Haven High School.



Beverly Bidney

SWAMP CABBAGE REBUFF: Amariah (Vtvsv) Lavatta reacts to the taste of uncooked swamp cabbage at the PEGS culture day May 23 in Brighton. Holding her in her lap, Marilyn Dunson is unfazed by her dissatisfaction.



Photos courtesy Taylor Seder

RAPIDO CINCO DE MAYO: The top runners in Brighton's Boys & Girls Club's Cinco de Mayo run pose for photos May 18. Above are the top three finishers in the 5-6-year-old category, from left, Josephine Snow (1st), Mattie Platt (2nd) and Zoie Foster (3rd). Below, the top finishers in the 7-and-older category are: Jeremy Urbina (1st), Javaris Johnson (2nd), Kind Calise (3rd) and Logan French (4th).



Courtesy photo

DISPLAY OF TALENT: Nicole Slavik, 17, displays some of her acrylic paintings, photographs, traditional drawings and pottery at an art show at Camber Park in Naples on April 28. Five other Seacrest Country Day School students also exhibited their work at the one-day show.



Photo courtesy Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa

GRAND OPENING: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa officially opened its new Orient Road parking garage April 28 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. As part of a car giveaway promotion, property president Joe Lupo drove a 2018 Audi A5 through the ribbon to officially mark the debut of the 700-space parking garage. The casino also opened its new, 26,000-square-foot Art Deco inspired mezzanine level casino.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



National Native American veterans memorial to be erected in DC

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A memorial to Native American veterans will be erected on the outside grounds of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian at the Mall.

The anticipated dedication of the National Native American Veterans Memorial is Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2020, according to Rebecca Trautmann, project manager of the memorial.

Ben Nighthorse Campbell of the Northern Cheyenne nation and the Chickasaw Nation Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel are leading an advisory committee of tribal leaders and veterans in assisting with outreach to Native American nations and tribes and advising on plans for the memorial, Trautmann said.

Also, the advisory committee and the museum are conducting community consultations to seek input and support for the memorial, she added. "Regional events bring together tribal leaders, Native veterans, and community members to gather their insights and advice." There have been some 30 consultations to date with several more planned this summer.

Trautmann noted that the memorial has received congressional approval and that no federal funding will be used for the project. The project is expected to cost \$15 million and donations are being solicited.

Eileen Maxwell, public affairs director of the museum, said the memorial is fitting because "Native Americans have served in the armed forces in every major military conflict since the Revolutionary War and in greater numbers per capita than any other ethnic group."

She added that today, the Department of Defense estimates that some 24,000 American Indian and Alaska Native men and women are on active duty, and more than 150,000 veterans self-identify as American Indian or Alaska Native.

— U.S. Army News Service

Grant funds special project helps bring together Native American students

REDDING, Calif. — April Carmelo and Jeanne Forrest are teachers in the Shasta Union High School District. Hoping to launch a program aimed at Native American culture, they applied for an IFT grant with the California Teachers Association.

Carmelo said she hoped they would grant them \$5,000. CTA granted them \$20,000.

Carmelo and Forrest came up with the idea of creating a group for Native American students. Carmelo thought of the idea to call it "I Am My Ancestors Prayers."

"I knew when I heard [the name] we would get the grant," Forrest said. "There was a time when the Native Americans faced possible extinction, and these students are the answer to their prayers - the reason the ancestors fought to survive!"

Institute for Teaching, or IFT, funds programs through grants. The money is taken from the CTA union dues.

Throughout the year, 10 Native American students from various high schools in the district learned about American Indian history.

They learned drum making, storytelling, and tribal regalia.

The students also took field trips to different Native American influenced sites as well as the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. They also helped with community events like the Run for Salmon.

The grant money has also helped provide academic tutoring for the students.

Carmelo said these 10 students spent "hundreds of hours" together this year. She added with a laugh that most of them were quiet before the studies began, and are not now.

Shasta High School sophomore Cheyenne Cardiff said she's always wanted to learn more about her heritage and this group was what she had been looking for.

"I always knew that I wanted to learn more about my culture and I wanted it to be apart of my future and who I was going to be, but I never really had a way to do that," Cardiff said. "I was kinda afraid to ask and go looking for it, but it eventually found me like it was meant to happen."

Cheyenne was named "Stardust" by her native great aunt as a child. She said it's because her great aunt was "the elder closest to me."

She explains that when she was a child, she was spending the day with her aunt. When she slipped away at a grocery store distracted by something else, her aunt and mother turned around and couldn't find her.

"My aunt turns around and sees all the light coming in from the sun and all the dust in the air so that's where she got stardust from," Cardiff said. Now everyone calls her Star.

Cardiff expressed how much this group means to her. She said the teachers

are important to them.

"April always makes time for us," Cardiff said. "It's really important that I have her in my life and the rest of the students have her in their lives because we need her and it's so special she could be here for us."

Carmelo and Forrest hope to keep the group together and growing next year. They plan to start writing a curriculum for all California schools grades 9-12 in Native American studies, based on what they implemented this year.

— ABC 7 KRCR News

U.S. lawmakers seek looser energy development rules for tribal lands

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A bill to ease restrictions on energy development on U.S. tribal lands has a good chance of passing the Republican-controlled Congress this year, after several failed attempts since 2013, the chair of the Senate Indian affairs committee said.

Many Republican lawmakers, along with President Donald Trump, have expressed support for more oil drilling, coal mining and other energy projects on Native American reservations, which are overseen by the federal government. Several additional layers of regulatory bureaucracy have slowed those efforts.

"I think we will be able to get the bill through the House this go around," Republican Senator John Hoeven of North Dakota, who authored the bill with seven other Republican Senators, said in a recent interview with Reuters.

He said he believed the bill also had the support of "a broad spectrum of tribes across the country" and would "empower" Native Americans.

The bill, dubbed the Tribal Energy Development and Self Determination Act, would authorize tribes to conduct their own energy resource appraisals. It would streamline the permitting process for drilling and mining and provide incentives for tribes to enter into joint-venture agreements with private companies.

Former President Barack Obama had opposed a previous House version of the bill in 2015 because it would have exempted tribes from some federal environmental regulations. Other versions were blocked after being rolled into broader bills that were defeated.

Tribal lands cover just 2 percent of the nation's surface but by some estimates contain as much as a fifth of all remaining U.S. oil and gas reserves.

But clearing regulatory hurdles for a single project on tribal lands can take as many as 50 steps, compared to a half dozen on private property, according to Reuters interviews conducted in January with tribal leaders, lawyers, oil company executives and federal regulators.

Hoeven and Montana Republican Senator Steve Daines joined around a dozen representatives of mineral-rich tribes for a meeting with White House officials last week to discuss ways to reduce those barriers. Tribal participants at the meeting included representatives of the Crow Agency of Montana, the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota, the Navajo Nation and the Southern Ute Indian tribe of Colorado - all tribes that currently produce oil, gas or coal.

"We are just trying to amplify our opportunities, change the narrative of Indian country, and establish access to the administration," said C.J. Stewart, a representative of the Crow.

— Reuters

'New life' initiative to recruit Native American students

SIoux FALLS, S.D. — South Dakota State University President Barry Dunn says he can see a future in which reservation hospitals and health centers across South Dakota employ pharmacists and lab scientists educated at his school, with doctors and administrators also trained at institutions in the state.

The land-grant university is pursuing a new initiative to increase the number of students at the school from the nine tribal nations in South Dakota, Dunn said Friday. The Wokini Initiative, bearing a Lakota word that means "new life" or "a new beginning," is a top priority for Dunn, a Rosebud Sioux Tribe member who took over as president about a year ago.

He said the goal of the initiative, which is in its early stages, is to dramatically improve educational opportunities for Native American students from South Dakota. Dunn said the school aims to recruit high school students and tribal-college graduates and provide financial assistance to help them attend SDSU in Brookings.

The university had about 250 Native American students enrolled in fall 2016, a number Dunn would like to see climb to 1,000 or higher. It would be wonderful if

the enrollment of Native American students at South Dakota State reflected the state's population, he said.

"This is an intentional, very intentional effort to reach a population that has been underserved by public higher education in a state that has a long and dramatic and many times tragic history of relationships with American Indians," Dunn said. "It's morally and ethically the right thing to do."

Dunn said the initiative will offer tailored advising and counseling to help make sure that Native American students who are recruited are successful. Part of the initiative calls for the construction of a stand-alone Native American student center, which he said would serve as a "home away from home."

Other aspects could include a push to preserve the Dakota and Lakota languages and the funding of collaborative research projects with tribes or tribal colleges on topics important to Native American communities. A report to the state Board of Regents says Wokini Initiative programs will be developed by university staffers in collaboration with the tribes, their members and the four tribal colleges serving South Dakota.

The university plans to dedicate revenue from land-grant properties — roughly \$600,000 each year — to the initiative to give it a sustainable funding source. Officials will also seek gifts and grants for the project, though no specific funding goal exists yet, Dunn said.

"Wokini will provide that stability and long-term commitment that won't go away as leadership changes," he said. "My goal is to institutionalize this effort so that it's just part of who South Dakota State is in perpetuity."

The school hopes to hire a director to focus on the project within the next month, and Dunn expects activity to pick up significantly in the fall. He said students could be recruited for the 2018 school year.

Alaina Hanks, a member of the White Earth Chippewa of Minnesota, is pursuing a graduate degree in clinical mental health counseling at South Dakota State. She said the American Indian Student Center has lacked money in the past and that the new initiative is a "clear step forward."

"I think that putting resources into something that you care about is so different than just saying you care about something," she said.

Democratic state Sen. Troy Heinert, a Rosebud Sioux member, said that greater access to higher education for tribal members across the state is "how we're going to change the communities from within." When younger tribal members see their relatives and other Native Americans in professional positions, it makes that goal seem more attainable, Heinert said.

Dunn said he's pursuing the initiative in honor of his mother, who was born into poverty on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in 1921, before Native Americans were U.S. citizens. She eventually earned a degree from Iowa State University, which gave her success and Dunn a middle-class upbringing.

"I want the benefits that my mother received to flow to all of those young people that have a similar story," Dunn said.

— Rapid City Journal

Gaming gone bust, tribe turns to marijuana farming

A small Indian tribe in a remote stretch of San Diego County has traded in its failed dream of casino riches for what could be the next big payout — marijuana cultivation.

The Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel — which shuttered its 35,000-square-foot gaming hall in February 2014, buried under \$50 million in debt — has transformed the vacant space into a high-tech medical marijuana operation, and is leasing part of the property to growers who cultivate and distribute the drug to legal dispensaries throughout the state.

On the building's sprawling parking lot, more than a dozen greenhouses are in various stages of construction awaiting more tenants.

The tribe is the first in San Diego County to embrace the marijuana industry in the wake of a December 2014 memo by the U.S. Justice Department that declared sovereign nations would not be prosecuted for growing pot on tribal land in states that had already legalized the drug.

Indian tribes across the nation have been mostly wary of that decision, but at Santa Ysabel the timing of the Justice Department memo, 10 months after the casino failed, seemed also serendipitous.

In 2007, when the Santa Ysabel Resort and Casino opened on a hillside off state Route 79 overlooking Lake Henshaw, the tribe envisioned building a hotel to serve the hordes of gamblers who would surely flock there. That never happened — there were too many other casinos closer to San Diego and major transportation corridors like Interstate 15.

The 700-member Santa Ysabel tribe had watched its neighbors get rich, but saw its own prospects evaporating.

So in early 2015, tribal leaders quietly jumped at the opportunity for a new revenue source. They soon created laws regulating marijuana on the reservation and established the Santa Ysabel Cannabis Regulatory Agency and Cannabis Commission to oversee the fledgling venture.

For the past 18 months, marijuana cultivated at the site has been shipped to legal dispensaries across the state, said Dave Vialpando, who heads the tribe's regulatory agency.

Vialpando declined to identify the marijuana businesses that are leasing grow space, or the financial arrangement between those companies and the Santa Ysabel tribe.

He said the operation at the casino property is still "very, very small. It's two grow rooms, less than 1,000 plants. Mostly it's still empty space. It's still in development."

"The greenhouses are at various stages of construction," he added. "It won't be all cultivation. There will be processing rooms and trimming rooms and storage rooms. There's a lot of infrastructure that goes with the enterprise of medical cannabis."

Vialpando said the testing lab is about to open and there is the possibility that other cannabis products such as lotions could be produced in the future.

Meanwhile, law enforcement agencies across the region say they're aware of the tribe's marijuana operation and are taking a wait-and-see approach.

Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney Blair Perez released a statement to the San Diego Union-Tribune Tuesday saying that "Santa Ysabel was informed in September 2015 that a marijuana grow violated federal law. Since 2015, this office has enforced the federal drug laws in compliance with current Department of Justice guidance and will continue to do so."

— San Diego Union-Tribune

UMass Amherst dig uncovers ancient Native American remains in Brookfield

An archeological dig in Brookfield has yielded Native American burial mounds dating as far back as 1,000 BC, researchers said.

The remains, found at the Tobin Campground, belong to the Adena people, a group of Native Americans who mostly lived hundreds of miles away in the Ohio River valley. The Adena were among the first to bury their dead in elaborate burial mounds, according to Eric Johnson, director of Archeological Services at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Johnson called the site "historically significant" because it gives researchers a glimpse into Adenaculture and how they may have come to New England. "It was first believed that people may have migrated from elsewhere. But now we think that artifacts crossed across multiple cultural groups in trade," Johnson said. "The goal of this dig was not to remove anything from the campground, but rather to identify Adena remains so that the site could be registered and preserved under the National Register of Historic Places," he said.

"We didn't actually dig up that much dirt or any artifacts. Our aim was to dig long, but very shallow, trenches to remove the topsoil that had gathered over the site to look at what was underneath, but not disturb it. That way we maintain the integrity of the site," he said.

Johnson said that while the two-week dig found "intact features of Adena origin," the archeologists will have a difficult time distinguishing a grave from a refuse pile. "It's hard to find graves with discernible human remains that are that old. Things deteriorate, but we know there were people here and people bury their dead," he said.

According to Johnson, this dig is not the campground's first. In the 1960s, an amateur archeologist uncovered native graves with human remains and removed them, he said. It was in part because of that incident the town of Brookfield used a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to pay for the most recent dig, Johnson said.

He added that the members of the Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuck tribe worked with the archeologists to ensure that, should any human remains be found, they be treated carefully and with respect.

Johnson hopes that, once the campground is recognized as a historical site, it can become a place where people learn about history and Native American culture.

"This is a significant site," he said. "We're working to make sure that it becomes a place of education and remains undisturbed. There are people here and they need to be protected."

— Boston Globe

Native American advocates size up Trump administration

With President Donald Trump's first

100 days in office in the rearview mirror, lawmakers and advocates are uncertain but hopeful about the impact the new administration will have on the Native American community.

Trump's choice of Ryan Zinke to be secretary of the interior quelled the concerns of some; as a former congressman from Montana, Zinke has experience representing Native Americans in Washington, which is seen as a promising sign by many of the community's top advocates.

But some of the President's executive actions and controversial comments, including a recent reference to Democratic Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren as "Pocahontas," have raised some concerns. Lawmakers serving on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs have voiced trepidation about the impact the new administration may have on Native American health care, education funding and sovereignty, among other issues.

However, community stakeholders say they're trying to balance those concerns with optimism as the President's first term unfolds.

In interviews, lawmakers expressed trust in Zinke's demonstrated ability to understand the issues important to Native Americans across the nation. Hailing from a state with seven Indian reservations, Zinke possesses "a degree of knowledge" not typical of the interior secretary position, said Sen. John McCain, the current longest-serving member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

"Secretary Zinke has much more experience on Native American issues than his predecessor -- who had literally none," the Arizona Republican told CNN in an interview. "My initial impression is President Trump and the people around him support sovereignty and the Native American population. They can have a degree of knowledge and involvement in Native American issues that was not the case amongst their predecessors."

In 2015, then-Rep. Zinke sought to make tax breaks on coal mined from American Indian reservations permanent -- a move viewed as boosting the communities' revenue and creating jobs for tribal members. In a statement emailed to CNN, the National Congress of American Indians expressed their support for Zinke, citing "his approach to the (Bureau of Indian Affairs) as well as his commitment to giving tribal nations a seat at the table across the federal government."

— CNN

Native Americans want Trump to revive statue on Staten Island

NEW YORK CITY — Native Americans are urging President Trump to undo a century-old injustice: by making good on a broken promise made by President Howard Taft in 1913 to build a national Indian Memorial on Staten Island.

Taft joined 32 Indian chiefs at the Feb. 22, 1913 ground-breaking ceremony at Fort Wadsworth, near the foot of New York Harbor. Taft even dug up dirt with an ancient ax-head made from Buffalo bone as a sign of respect to the Indians.

The 165-foot bronze monument, slated to be taller than the Statue of Liberty, was abandoned during World War I. And forgotten.

But not by Native Americans. A Staten-Island based group called the Red Storm Drum & Dance Troupe sent a letter to Trump to revive the project, on a smaller scale.

It also has planned a fundraiser in September to finance the costs of erecting the monument.

"If you want to make America great, don't forget the great people who were here first," said Margaret Boldeagle, a Lenape Indian and executive director of Red Storm.

The land that was dedicated for the monument is now part of Fort Wadsworth National Park near the Verrazano Bridge.

"Staten Island has a rich native American history and our group wants to preserve that history for generations to come. The irony of America's great tapestry is that the Native Americans are the true minority. As years go by, our history is being forgotten," Boldeagle said in the April 28 letter to Trump.

"As a New Yorker and a visionary president, we hope you can help us secure this property so that this monument can be built," Boldeagle wrote Trump.

The original monument was the brainchild of department store magnate Rodman Wanamaker as part of the American Indian Policy Reform Movement. At the time, Wanamaker and others worried the American Indian was approaching extinction and he financed exhibitions to collect artifacts, film and photographs to preserve Native American history.

Boldeagle said the new statue, to be erected by renowned sculptor Gregory Perillo, would be 25 feet tall.

The White House declined to comment. Trump recently signed an executive order that would review millions of acres of land designated as national monuments.

— New York Post

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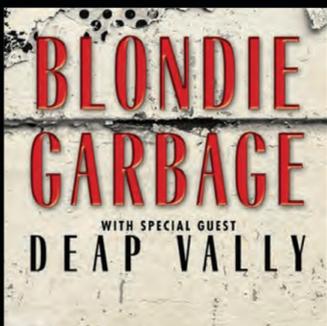
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HOLLYWOOD, FL

Education

B

Preparing for college testing

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

Getting ready for college is an exciting time. In the midst of all that excitement, however, there is a lot of tension circulating college placement and entrance exams. While these tests play an important role in determining which colleges and universities will accept an application, with the right resources, there is no need to worry about getting accepted into that dream school.

Colleges and universities use entrance and placement exams, such as the SAT, ACT and PERT, to test students' academic levels in various subjects, including, math, science and writing. The results of these exams help admissions officials decide if the student meets the skill requirement of the school, and, if so, what classes would meet that student's academic level. The results may also qualify some high-ranking students for academic scholarships.

Most universities require students to take the SAT and/or ACT prior to submitting their applications, and some schools will also require that students take the PERT test. Most academic officials highly recommend students take the SAT and ACT to better their chances of getting into a variety of schools and to measure one's understanding of essential academic material. The three main tests are different, but they all share similar characteristics.

The Tribe's Center for Student Success and Services recommends that students use the differentiation between the tests to their advantages. Alphonza Green, the center's assistant director, said the exams provide material students will need in the future and they should prepare to ensure their success.

"Every college institution has a variety of different standards that are required for [admission]," he explained. "So, by [students] allowing themselves the opportunity to prepare, they open themselves up to a variety of institutions."

SAT

College Board, a non-profit education corporation, issues SAT for high school juniors and seniors every year. All U.S. colleges and universities accept the exam, which contains three main sections — reading, writing and language and math. There is also an optional essay section for those applying to colleges which require it.

The test is offered seven times a year and is 3 hours long, with an additional 50 minutes for those writing the optional essay. The reading portion lasts 65 minutes and is 52 questions; the writing and language portion is 35 minutes and 44 questions; and the math portion is 80 minutes and 58 questions. Everyday math formulas are provided with the exam for reference.

In 2016, College Board restructured the exam so that students are more prepared to take it during their junior and senior years. Students now take the PSAT in eighth or ninth grade, as well as in 10th grade, so they are ready for the official test. PSAT scores are not submitted to colleges and/or universities. Free daily practice questions, comprehensive practice tests and downloadable practice tests are available. For more information, visit collegereadiness.collegeboard.org.

Green explained that the SAT and ACT are similar to interviews and that students should consider that when preparing for the exams.

"Just like in any interview, you want to put your best foot forward and always sell yourself," he said. "Admissions counselors are looking at who sells him- or herself the best."

ACT

This exam is issued by a separate organization, also called ACT. The majority of U.S. colleges accept the exam, which contains four sections — reading, English, math and science. There is an option essay, as well.

The test is offered six times a year and is 2 hours and 55 minutes long, with an additional 40 minutes for those writing the essay. The reading portion lasts 35 minutes and contains 40 questions; the English portion is 45 minutes and has 75 questions; the math portion is 1 hour and 60 questions; and the science portion is 35 minutes and has 40 questions.

While the SAT is more aptitude oriented (i.e. measures students' testing reasoning and verbal abilities), the ACT is curriculum-based. ACT also offers a free downloadable study guide, free daily practice questions and free section practice sessions. For more information, visit act.org.

Sarah-Joy Somarrriba, higher education academic and career adviser, advised that students start taking the SAT and ACT in their junior year of high school. She said the best plan is to spend the summer before junior year studying and preparing and take the exams two to three times throughout the academic year. Then, the summer before senior year, students can start applying to

Students get connected to Public Works with hands-on experience

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — When it rains, it pours, but no amount of rain can stop public service. The second annual Public Works Week celebration at Brighton Reservation on May 25 may have had a rough start due to a thunderstorm, but it ended on a bright note for the students who attended.

Despite the gloomy weather, more than 100 middle schoolers and teachers from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School visited Brighton's water treatment facility with smiles on their faces to learn about the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Public Works Department.

Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. said that young students need to know what careers are available to them. He explained that parents should take an interest in their children and help them identify opportunities they can take advantage of.

"Students have to know what is out there for them to take advantage of one day. Instead of sitting in a classroom and just reading about it and watching TV, they need to get involved with it," he explained. "They need to get away from their TVs and phones and expand their minds."

At the Public Works Week event, students received a hands-on experience. They divided into groups of 10 and visited numerous stations within the facility that focused on various aspects of water treatment, including water pressure and valves, power tools, construction tools and more.

Christina Abinawer, program assistant for CH2M Hill, works with the Public Works Department on various public works projects. She and other company representatives attended the event to provide the visiting children with a water experiment.

"I hope this event will make them more interested in science," she said. "It's good for them to know how basic water processes work."

Along with learning how the facility serves a large role in the community, students also had the chance to learn how different



Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students receive hands-on experience from Public Works staff May 25 in Brighton during Public Works Week.

tools and machines function in the process. With the help of Public Works officials, students used the controls on a Brush Hawg tractor and went inside fire trucks.

Derek Koger, director of Public Works, grew up in Okeechobee and spent a lot of time on the Brighton Reservation. He said that generally, students do not receive a lot of exposure to science, technology, math and engineering (STEM) based fields.

"The Public Works Department has set out to give the kids on the reservation an idea of some of the great opportunities they have right here on the Brighton Reservation," he explained. "Students can have great careers without going to college... This is a 24/7 operation. We can't stop. This facility has to run because people need water."

According to Koger, one of the greatest features of Public Works Week in the Tribe is that students get a hands-on experience in the field. He said that the best way for many kids

to learn is through hands-on experiences that classrooms can't usually provide.

"Science is important. The world is our most valuable commodity and if we don't protect that, then where are we going?" he said. "If we can bring [students] to the lab, what better experience could they have? Hands-on experiences are the only way to go."

The event is sponsored as part of National Public Works Week, which aims to educate the public about public works projects and help people understand the prevalence of this field in the community. The Brighton facility specifically works on water treatment, distribution and maintenance, as well as wastewater managements and treatment.

Koger encouraged community members to learn more about what the water treatment facility does and what opportunities are available in Public Works.



Students receive one-on-one instruction and learn how to use heavy equipment to better understand the avenues of Public Works.



A popular station teaches students that stopping pipe leaks is not as easy as it may seem.

Cooling off in Immokalee

Beverly Bidney (3)

Immokalee Preschool celebrated the Week of the Young Child on April 26 with a make your own sundae party. Children chose their toppings to customize the sundaes, which were gobbled down with gusto. At right, Alayna Rodriguez believes the spoon is optional as she enjoys her sundae. Below left, surrounded by friends, Natalie Shaffer is caught in the act of enjoying the afternoon treat. Below right, Dannie Gonzalez gets nearly as much ice cream into her mouth as on the rest of her.



Living the ACD experience: Opportunities abound in education, career development

BY AARON TOMMIE
Contributing Writer

Racism, substance abuse, and other major problems have permeated our communities, resulting in a cycle of recidivism, broken families, and despair. As minorities, we have to be extraordinary in order to receive recognition and respect in society. This is because as people of color, we usually have fewer opportunities to thrive because of the limited amount of resources in our communities.

As Tribal citizens, due to foresight from our ancestors and divine assistance, that is fortunately not our reality. We have created favorable circumstances to further strengthen the sustenance of our Tribe, most notably through education and employment.

The Advanced Career Development program currently has a total of four employees. Tomasina Gilliam, Anthony Frank, Michael Shaffer and I have been able to bring our experiences and individual passions to help bring a new wave of future leadership within the Tribe. Higher education has allowed us to work within the ACD program to gain even more experience while also giving us the opportunity to reinvest in our Tribe that has blessed us beyond measure.



Aaron Tommie

Tomasina Gilliam

Center for Student Success and Services

The ACD program has been beneficial because I am able to see the two worlds of being a Tribal member and an employee. Receiving a higher form of education has been helpful throughout this program. The studies I do in class, I am able to implement them into the projects I do for Center for Student Success and Services. I believe it's great to have more Tribal members working throughout our "family businesses" so to speak, because that input is truly valued. It's important to communicate the needs of the community directly to the department that "our people" decide to work in while also bringing ideas is a part of the process of bettering the areas we as Tribal members feel are lacking within our family business.

I highly recommend Tribal members of any age to receive experience working within any Tribal avenue from Tribal government, casino, and the departments in between. Whether it's in my program ACD, full-time employment or simply the summer work experience/work experience. It is truly needed because we need to take the future of our family business into our own hands and learn from those who are around us who are more knowledgeable.

Michael Shaffer

Elder Services

Well, [higher education] gave me a sense of importance. We are fortunate enough to not have to work, which, many of our people take advantage of. Yet, I still felt like I was being passed up and not going anywhere in life when looking at high school classmates and seen their chosen professions.

While attending school, it gave me some responsibility before having children. I had to wake up at a certain time to get to school on time. I also had to finish homework and other school-related projects in a timely manner and not when I felt like it. The guidelines were a bit hard, especially learning proper grammar. Yes, an essay can be simple enough to do, but when you have to correct comma splices, make sure your subject and verb agreement are precise, and predicates, that was the real game changer. I could not play by my rules.

School is like a boss. I relate a career and education by comparing them in the aforementioned statement about a professor's expectations with the expectations one would have at work. I have to be on the clock at a certain time. I have to make sure my foods are cooked and stored properly. I have to follow sanitation procedures to the T.

Anthony Frank

Accounting/Finance

Anthony's mother Ethel had a major influence in his life and heavily stressed education. Anthony spent some time in New Mexico, where he was able to experience success outside of the Tribe, which was pivotal in his life. His time in New Mexico and other experiences throughout his life molded him into the person he is today. His English professor during his undergraduate studies

Preschoolers celebrate graduation

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY AND LI COHEN
Staff Reporters

Seminole preschoolers donned caps and gowns last month and walked into their futures amid cheers from family and friends. Immokalee, Brighton, Big Cypress and Hollywood preschools gave the students a first-class send off to kindergarten with themes including Disney, school days, Dr. Seuss and superheroes.

Dressed in graduation garb embellished with patchwork, the youngsters took what might have been the longest walks of their young lives to introduce themselves in Mikasuki or Creek before receiving their diplomas and shaking hands of Tribal leaders.

Immokalee

On May 3, 10 Immokalee graduates performed the entire program in Mikasuki, coached by culture teacher Tammy Billie. She taught the students the language the way her great grandfather taught her. "Elaponke was my first language," Billie said. "We're a beautiful people with a beautiful culture. If we don't teach them now, how do we expect it to carry on?" Tribal leaders spoke before the graduates

received their diplomas. "In 13 years from now they'll be going through another graduation," said President Mitchell Cypress. "I'm glad to see these future leaders speaking Mikasuki and am proud to be here. They all have bright futures."

Brighton

In Brighton, 19 preschoolers dressed in angelic white patchwork adorned gowns earned their diplomas on May 10. The students will attend Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School for pre-kindergarten in the fall.

"Remember that your kids are our kids," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. to the parents and other family members. "We are all a family. One day one of these kids may be standing where I am today."

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard agreed that the day was special for the students and the families.

"Kids have great expectations for what they want to do in life and it starts here today," Rep. Howard said. "No one knows what God has in store for us, but we as parents have a say so for what we do for our kids."

"Parents, don't let up," added Brighton

Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. "Keep them off the 4-wheelers and dirt bikes and don't let them forget where they came from. It's a chore to live in two different worlds, but it's necessary; don't forget that."

With that, the students said the pledge and sang songs in Creek. Then Brighton parents escorted their youngsters down the aisle to the waiting line of elected officials all eager to shake the small hands.

Big Cypress

A record number of children, 20, graduated from the Big Cypress Preschool on May 17. Decked out in cheerful yellow gowns, the students confidently performed in Mikasuki before getting their diplomas. Graduates will attend Ahfachkee School's pre-kindergarten in the fall.

"The future is here," said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank. "What we put into it today will pay off in the future. If teachers and parents teach them everything they can and we give them the right tools now, they will be ready as adults to take over the Tribe."

Hollywood

Super powers are not just for fighting

crime and protecting cities; they are also for helping students soar to educational heights.

On May 24, 18 Hollywood students graduated preschool and showed off the super powers they learned during the past year. Among the students were Alizayah Alvarado, Aliviahna Aquino, Rhea Brown, Lakota Correa, Jordan Cypress, Peyton Cypress, Wahoo Jackson, Jakobe Jimmie-Rowe, Jakiyah Johns, Jeremiah Johns, McKenna Macias, Chaos Micco, Kenna Cohen-Osceola, Kendrick Osceola, Mitchell Primeaux, Russell Primeaux, Jaisley Stewart, and Elaynia Williams.

During the ceremony, the graduates demonstrated their powerful vocabularies and super singing and dancing before receiving their ceremonial preschool degrees. Between superhero capes and super graduate caps and gowns, the students told the world, in English and in Mikasuki, that their abilities are not limited.

In the midst of excitement for a bright future, some surprise guests appeared at the ceremony. Spiderman, Batman, Wonder Woman and Cat Woman flew through the doors, awing the children and getting them excited for the future ahead. Even with spidey senses and super strength, the surprise guests and community members made sure that the children know that real power comes

from an education.

"These kids really are superheroes. They come to school every day excited to learn using their super knowledge and their super brain power," Preschool Director Tommy Doud said. "We really do have a lot of resources available and we want to make sure we always take advantage of those resources."

In addition to traditional classroom subjects, the children also learn about Seminole culture and language, how to be safe regarding bicycles, fire and water, and more.

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola helped confer the preschool degrees and explained that the graduation is an exciting time to watch the children grow up. He encouraged parents to continuously push the children to grow and develop, work hard and strive to be the best versions of themselves.

"Another year has come and gone ... and these kids on the stage are our most valuable resource," he said. "These kids have the world at their fingertips. Not many kids can look forward to the bright future these kids have knowing that anything that they want to do is possible with the resources that the Seminole Tribe of Florida has."



Beverly Bidney

Isabella Quintanilla introduces herself in Mikasuki to the crowd at the Big Cypress Preschool graduation.



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress Preschool graduate Angellena Green joyfully tosses her cap in the air after graduation.



Beverly Bidney

Joseph Taylor Robbins proudly displays his diploma during the Immokalee Preschool graduation.



Beverly Bidney

The Big Cypress Preschool class of 2017 performs the Hip Hop Alphabet song at the graduation ceremony May 17.



Li Cohen

Spiderman joins graduates at the Hollywood Preschool graduation ceremony May 24.



Beverly Bidney

Slate Hipp leaves the spotlight on stage after introducing himself to the crowd during his graduation from the Brighton Preschool May 10.



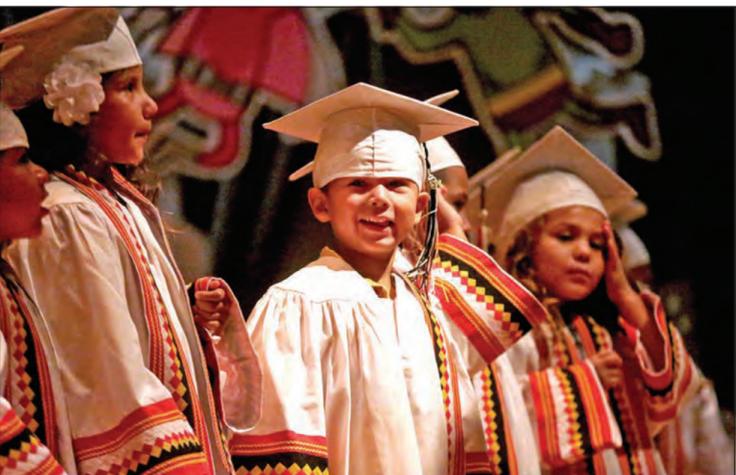
Beverly Bidney

Proud Brighton Preschool grads are jubilant in their caps and gowns as they pose for a group photo after receiving their diplomas.



Beverly Bidney

Every Brighton Preschool graduate shook hands with Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard and Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. after receiving their diplomas.



Li Cohen

Students at Hollywood Preschool show a range of emotion during their graduation ceremony May 24.



Beverly Bidney

Immokalee Board Liaison Gale Boone gives a loving squeeze to preschool graduate Raynaldo Yzaguirre IV as Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, President Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola and Preschool Director Tommy Doud look on.

PECS student Charlie Armstrong spells for sovereignty

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Language is a core component of culture. For some members of the Seminole Tribe, this particular component is the Creek language, and one student has dedicated a large part of his life to understanding its significance.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School sixth-grader Charlie Armstrong won first place in the school's Creek spelling bee May 15. The competitive spelling champion said learning how to speak Creek is not just for the accolades; it's to preserve the language.

"The Creek language is very vital to the Seminole Tribe of Florida," the 12-year-old said. "Without a language, you're not a tribe...The language is the heart of any tribe and we need to try to preserve it."

According to the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Creek is an endangered language, with only approximately 5,000 speakers as of 2011. In the Seminole Tribe of Florida, statistics from Open Language Archives show that less than 200 people fluently speak the language. Even though Armstrong is not Native American and is a native English speaker, he is learning Creek at PECS to help combat this statistic.

The charter school teaches Creek language

and culture to students from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. Culture instructors continuously speak to students in the language, with minimal English during class hours. Along with learning Creek sentence conjugation, reading and comprehension, students also learn cultural activities, including patchwork, beadwork, carving and cooking.

Armstrong did not deny that learning Creek is challenging. In fact, he openly admits to preferring English spelling bees because they are much easier and there are more opportunities on a national level. Unlike English, Creek contains 19 letters and there are specific ways to pronounce them individually and together. Armstrong said he studies throughout the academic year and prior to spelling bees to thoroughly understand the language. With consistent immersion and studying, he said he can now communicate and understand much of the language.

"It makes me sad to see that some kids don't try [to learn the language]," he explained. "Even though I'm not Native American, I want to try to teach others so we can try to save it."

Although the spelling bees are over for this year, Armstrong's dedication to learning an essential language of the Tribe is not. He plans to continue studying and learning the Creek language, as well as competing in more spelling bees in the future.



Li Cohen

PECS student Charlie Armstrong holds up his first place prize for winning the school's Creek spelling bee May 15. With Charlie is culture instructor Jade Osceola.

African village appreciates Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School contributions

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The \$500 award Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students earned in the state's "Literacy Changes Our World" contest in January paid off for the school, but more so for the beneficiaries of the students' project, a small library in Africa.

Here's a brief refresher on the winning service project: The students collected and sent more than 300 books, issues of The Seminole Tribune and other items to a newly built library in a small village in Zambia. PECS teacher Lydia Pell's daughter and son-in-law, Bonnie and Brent Moser, were Peace Corps volunteers in Africa who got a grant to build the library. The school's

donation helped to fill its shelves.

Instructional coach Vicki Paige recently received a thank you letter from the village chief, a member of the Kagunda Community Library committee, who wrote on behalf of the entire community. He said the community wanted a library for everyone to use and was thankful for the work that went into building it.

"This library has brought change to the community of Kagunda to young boys and girls and school-going children," wrote Village Chief Teddy Oaka. "Instead of going to the bars or doing bad things, they come to the library to read books and learn the computers. Not only school-going children but also farmers, they come to read agriculture books which are in the library. It is free for everyone."

The letter was shared with the students,

who were thrilled with the outcome of the project and were awestruck by the similarities they share with the African children.

"Their reaction was wonderful," Paige said. "When the African children opened the boxes they were so amazed; they didn't realize there were real Indians in the U.S. who also have a Tribe and a chief."

The current Peace Corps volunteers in the village – the Mosers have moved on – used The Seminole Tribune to teach about the Tribe. Paige plans to continue corresponding with the village and will send more newspapers.

The result of the aptly named "Literacy Changes Our World" service project is that for the residents of the community of Kagunda, the world has indeed changed.



Courtesy photo

Chief Teddy Oaka and his wife in the Kagunda village in Zambia, Africa.



Courtesy photo

Children in Kagunda stand with boxes sent from PECS to help stock their new library.

PECS Students of the Month

BRIGHTON

These students earned Student of the Month honors at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in April:

Elementary:

Jamelynn Anderson, Nathan Aviles, Neveah Gopher, Mikayle Summeralls, Augustice Jumper, Jaeue Weimann, Melaine Bonilla, Lindi Carter, Marley Jimmie, Timothy Urbina, Joleyne Nunez, Brody Riley, Kashyra Urbina, Malakai Garland, Steel Gopher, Keenan Jones, Maycee Holata, Madison Taylor, Eric Puente, Marcos Reyna, Taryn Osceola, Jaime Smith, Stanley Rodriguez.

Middle School:

Javale Anderson, Shyla Holata, Shaela French.



Photo courtesy PECS

PECS middle school Students of the Month for April.



Photo courtesy PECS

PECS elementary school Students of the Month for April.

FLORIDA INDIAN YOUTH PROGRAM 2017

- College Preparatory Program for Native American Youth (ages 14-17)
- Classes held daily from 9 am – 5 pm
- Activities during the evening and weekends! (Bowling, Mall Trips, Pool Parties and more!)
- Students live on campus at FSU to gain college experience
- Classes include STEM, Computer Literacy, and SAT/ACT Prep
- College and Career Fair to explore post-secondary education and technical careers!



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

- For students entering their senior year or recently graduated from high school
- Additional activities separate from Youth Program Participants
- On campus visits to FSU, TCC, and FAMU to tour different programs of study and career centers

* For those interested in being a Counselor or Training Assistant please call or email our office for an application. Counselors and Training Assistants are with the participants 24/7. **Must be 18 or older.**

For questions please call
FGCIA at (850) 487-1472
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Or email info@fgcia.org



Applications available
Feb. 13th, 2017
Deadline to turn in will be
May 26, 2017

High school seniors receive signing day ceremonies

BY STAFF REPORTS

College Signing Day, a national event that lets high school seniors publicly announce their choice of college, was celebrated tribal wide May 5 with festivities in Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee and Hollywood. Sponsored by the Center for Student Success and Services, the event was streamed live on Seminole Media Production's Livestream and Facebook pages.

Decked out in brand new college T-shirts and accompanied by proud family members, the students were applauded as they entered the parties.

"We want to recognize our seniors who are going to continue their education," said Alphonza Green, CSSS assistant director. "All across the country, parties are going on. Our seniors will reveal their college of choice to the entire community."

College Signing Day was created in 2014 by former First Lady Michelle Obama who believes students pursuing higher education should garner as much attention as student athletes, whose signings with colleges and university are big news.

Education Director Randall Budde wants the event to become an annual Seminole celebration.

"The students gain confidence from this," Budde said. "We want them to feel proud of themselves."

In Hollywood, students got into the spirit of the day. Ahnie Jumper announced she will attend Florida Gulf Coast University, Chloe Smith is going to Florida International University and Cameron Osceola will study at Broward College.

In Immokalee, Rande Osceola committed to Barry University and Nicholas Zepeda declared his choice of Southeastern University in Lakeland. Although Dennis Gonzales was unable to attend, his mother Susan Davis shared that he will attend Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers.

At Big Cypress Reservation, of the eight graduating students, one stood out from the rest. Graysun Billie, an 18-year-old student loved by many, has yet to decide on a college. While the college he will attend next fall remains in question, one thing is for sure — he will become the next big game designer.

Among Billie's higher education choices are Broward College, University of Central Florida and Full Sail University. The Ahfachkee High School graduate is currently working with family members and members of the Education Services program to decide which path to take.

Billie said his teachers inspired and motivated him to keep working toward his goals. He has big plans for his career, part of which is working for Activision to troubleshoot and design games. Along with fixing errors he finds in the games he currently plays, he also has some exciting ideas for future games, which he is keeping secret until they come to fruition.

"I have a lot [of game ideas] I have thought of already," he said. "I have been studying how they work...And I've found some glitches in some parts that I want to fix."

Sandra Freeman, higher education academic and career advisor, said having a day to celebrate that students are attending college is important. According to Freeman, students need to know their communities support them in their endeavors and are there to say, "Hey, we've got your back."

"The choice to attend college after high school is something that should be celebrated," she explained. "As a tribal student, coming from a small community and deciding to venture out to college is exciting."

Once students have their high school diplomas and attend college, Freeman said they have their basis for success and are able to take on the world.

"Education broadens life; it opens up different avenues," she said. "Without it, you're confined. Once you have an education, the world is yours."

In Brighton, Alexis Osceola-James had the spotlight all to herself as the lone graduate to attend the party.

Osceola-James admitted that she has never really followed college football, but she realizes that's likely to change this fall when she steps onto the campus of the University of Alabama as a freshman.

Of course, becoming a fan of the powerful Crimson Tide football program will only be a minor slice of her experience in Tuscaloosa. Osceola-James has set lofty goals as she prepares to embark on a major in political science.

"I want to become a lawyer and then maybe get some work experience out in the world and then come back and help the Tribe," she said.

Osceola-James, who graduated from Montverde Academy near Orlando, attended the ceremony in Brighton's Administration building where an office door was filled with Alabama decorations as part of her sendoff. She also chatted with Chief Justice Willie Johns, who expressed his support for the potential future lawyer.

"I think it's great. I wish there was more. It's needed," Chief Justice Johns said. "A lot of times outside lawyers don't know our culture. But if you get a tribal lawyer that knows the culture and knows the law, then you got something. They can deal with you better."

Osceola-James selected Alabama over the University of Kentucky, Stetson and Nova Southeastern. As she eyes a career in the legal world, she realizes her academic studies will likely last more than four years.

"That's ok. It will be worth it," she said.

This story was written by Beverly Bidney, Li Cohen and Kevin Johnson.



Rande Osceola
Barry University



Alexis Osceola-James
University of Alabama



Nicholas Zepeda
Southeastern University



Chloe Smith
Florida International University



Cameron Osceola
Broward College



John Osceola
Nova Southeastern University



Ahnies Jumper
Florida Gulf Coast University



Graysun Billie
Undecided



Having some fun with one of the decorations in Big Cypress for College Signing Day.



Alexis Osceola-James cuts a congratulations cake in Brighton.



High school seniors, family members and staff gather for the College Day Signing ceremony May 5 in Hollywood.

Drew Osceola

Keiser valedictorian Karen Two Shoes wants to make healthy impact on community

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Karen Two Shoes is not your average college graduate. This daughter of the late former Chairman Howard Tommie did not only graduate May 12 as valedictorian with her bachelor of science in dietetics and nutrition from Keiser University in Pembroke Pines; she did so as a 50-year-old mom of two.

While Two Shoes said it was an honor to be selected as valedictorian, getting to that was not an easy task. Despite her good grades, she was never fond of going to school and dedicating a lot of time to classwork. Throughout middle and high school, Two Shoes said the only thing that motivated her to continuously get straight A's was that excellent grades meant she would not fall behind and have to deal with extra schooling. Giving education another chance, Two Shoes attempted to go to college after graduating from high school, however she said it just did not seem to fit well with her personality. Instead, she ventured out into the working world.

She originally did not have any interest in health as a career field. She spent years working in the media realm, but in the late 1990s, she started experiencing health problems that prompted her change in career interests. Shortly after getting married and learning that she developed diabetes and was obese, she decided to make a change in her lifestyle. At the time, Two Shoes wanted to have children and be a stay-at-home mom, but she knew that in order to take care of a family, she needed to take care of herself first.

"I wanted to have children, but I needed to get my health back in order...The best

way I found to do it was through diet and exercise," she explained. "I felt like I was healthier with the diabetes than without the diabetes because I was actually paying attention to my health."

After 10 years of dedicating herself to a healthy lifestyle and building her family, she wanted to get back into a career. This



Karen Two Shoes

time, however, she wanted to do something meaningful with her profession. When thinking about what she is passionate about and what she believed would make an impact, she realized that diet and exercise were a major part of her life that she could use to give back to the community. With

this revelation, she decided to give school another try, and, as luck would have it, the third time was the charm.

"Applying yourself, getting out there, learning more about the world and how you fit into it and make a difference is a fulfillment," she said. "It's never too late."

According to Two Shoes, obesity is a major problem in Native American tribes because of a lack of proper health education, and she felt like she had the passion and drive to help educate the community. After a little more than three years of classes, she finally received her dietetics and nutrition degree so that she can pursue a dietitian career and help herself, her family, and those around her.

"I don't want to be the food police, I just want to help people understand they have choices," she explained. "If you want to go to McDonald's, that's fine, but don't go every day. Make it something you do once a week or once a month."

The new graduate, who is also a member of the Panther Clan, is now in the process of becoming a registered dietician. Along with working at the Hollywood clinic, she is also planning on becoming a certified diabetes educator and possibly a certified personal trainer or group fitness instructor within the next five years. In the future, she hopes to return to school to earn her master's degree in public health and maybe pursue a career on the legislative side of dietetics.

"When people find something they want to do, they can make a difference," she said. "Even making a difference within your family, the people around you, or even yourself is great, and then it just makes you want to do more."

Heather Kippenberger graduates from University of Missouri

Heather Ann Kippenberger graduated from the University of Missouri (Mizzou) on May 14. The 2010 American Heritage School alumna received her bachelor of science degree in K-12 education with an emphasis in art education. She plans to continue her education in Florida.

Her mother, Cydney Reynolds, is a Seminole Tribe of Florida employee and her father, Joseph S. Kippenberger, is the manager of elder services in Hollywood.

Heather's family also includes sisters Kurya Kippenberger, Cheyenne Kippenberger and Cathlyn Jo Kippenberger Anderson; brothers Frank Reynolds and Dante Kippenberger; grandmother Lawanna Osceola-Niles, who is assistant to newly-elected Hollywood Board Rep. Gordon "Ollie" Wareham; aunt LaVonne Kippenberger Rose, who is Tribal Secretary; and uncles Robert Kippenberger and David Kippenberger.



Heather Kippenberger



Senators push for Native American education rights

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

Getting access to full educational benefits can be difficult for students who belong to minority cultures. To help combat this, U.S. Senators Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), James Lankford (R-OK) and Steve Daines (R-MT) are pushing legislation that ensures Native American students receive access to critical educational programs.

The legislation — called the Johnson O'Malley Supplemental Indian Education Program Modernization Act — focuses on helping students who are eligible for federal learning resources that address unique academic and cultural needs.

A core program of this legislation is the Johnson-O'Malley (JOM) program, a federal cultural educational support program that helps underserved Native American students succeed academically. Despite the program's prominence in helping these students, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has not collected data on its success in more than 20 years. They still use this outdated data in determining federal funding for JOM.

Heitkamp said in a press release that updating the data prevents Native American children from falling through the cracks.

"Native students are among America's most underserved youth," she said. "For years, the federal government has been neglecting its duty to help them access learning opportunities that can help them

thrive."

If passed, the new legislation will: direct the Secretary of the Interior to work with the BIE Director in taking practical steps to ensure full participation of all qualified students in the JOM program; require that the Secretary provides a count of eligible Native American students based on available data; enable the Secretary to identify potential sources of JOM funding; ensure a proactive and coordinated effort to increase participation in the JOM program by identifying tribal organizations and school districts with unserved students; call for a negotiated rulemaking to determine if the funding formula and eligibility definitions should be updated; and require an annual program assessment report to Congress and

call for a GAO report about the program.

"It is the tragic reality that American Indian students in some parts of the country most overcome many hardships as they seek a quality education," Lankford said in the press release. "[The legislation] ensures a program operates with an accurate count of Indian students attending public schools."

In 2016, new statistics showed that American Indian/Alaska Natives have the third lowest graduation rates in the country. This is the lowest rate of any racial or ethnic group in the U.S. Although the demographic has seen a 6.6 percent increase since 2010, only 71.6 percent of the population graduates high school.

More than 90 percent of Native American students attend public schools, and JOM aims

to provide these students with supplemental assistance through tribal organizations, schools and other organizations. The last set of data, gathered in 1995, showed that 271,884 Native American students were eligible for the program; however, the 2010 census found that there are at least 798,486 students eligible for assistance.

James Whitman, a member of the Three Affiliate Tribes and former National Johnson O'Malley Association Board of Directors member representing the state of North Dakota, has expressed support of the bill.

"Obtaining this eligible student count will drive the policy, program and funding discussions needed to make JOM more effective, meaningful and beneficial for all eligible Indian children," Whitman said.

Students spend summer with educational initiatives

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

Students wanting to get a head start in their education can do so this summer with educational summer programs in Broward County. Many local libraries, recreational centers and schools are hosting a variety of educational programs for K-12 students.

Alphonza Green, assistant director at the Center for Student Success and Services, said his department is working to find summer educational opportunities for students to increase educational experiences and decrease knowledge loss.

"Our brain is a muscle, and we must continuously work and massage that muscle," he said. "Keeping a student busy over the summer academically increases their willingness to learn, as well as their drive."

The University School, a local private K-12 institution, is hosting a summer scholars program for kindergarten students through high school juniors to enroll in academic and college prep courses. Depending on the child's age, he or she can participate in lower school, middle school or upper school courses.

Lower school students can participate in remedial education, a writing clinic, math workshop, science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) workshop, and/or a back to school refresher course. These courses are designed for students who are between kindergarten and fifth grade.

Middle school students can choose between a course focused on an introduction to middle school, math enrichment, financial workshop, science enrichment, strategic learning and/or reading and writing assistance.

Upper school students can choose between one credit courses in honors chemistry, honors algebra II, honors geometry and geometry I and a half-credit course in college preparatory learning strategies.

Green said that, generally, the first few weeks of an academic year are spent reviewing material from the previous year. By attending educational summer programs, students are able to enter a new school year prepared and focused."

"You want learning to be fun," he said. "Finding an opportunity that is fun and caters to the passion of the student will make summer learning easier."

The program also offers SAT/PSAT prep classes from June 13 to Aug. 3 on Tuesdays and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon; National Merit Live classes from July 10 to Aug. 3 Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Algebra I review classes from July 31 to Aug. 4 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon; and a college application boot camp from July 31 to Aug. 4 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Sarah-Joy Somarriba, higher education academic and career adviser, said attending educational summer camps is also great for students' curriculum vitae (CVs).

"Being able to put something there [during the summer] looks great for school. Even if it was harder than you thought, it doesn't matter... Whether [the camps] are honors geometry or dance, it shows that you're willing to put time and dedication into something that you're interested in."

While the primary focus of the camp is to provide a high-quality education based summer experience, there are other camps that students participate in. Such camps vary in subject and include, but are not limited to, counselor-in-training, sports, lifeguarding, marine science and theatre.

Somarriba said learning said that summer is the perfect time for rising upperclassmen to find their passions and narrow down their intended career path.

"Finding a college major at 18 is hard," she explained. "This is a great time to go out there, explore and be curious. See what's out there... And maybe hone in on what you might want to do for a career."

Advisers at the Center for Student Success have connections to multiple camps and educational programs in the area. To learn about additional campus, email highered@semtribe.com.

To register for a University School program or learn more information, visit uschool.nova.edu/summer or call Lara Bezanis at 954-262-4528.

TESTING From page 1B

college. She also recommended that students take the optional writing portions of the exams because it makes them stand out in college applications.

"When a school says it's 'optional,' it means they want you to do it," she said. "It's just showing that you're willing to put forth the extra effort."

PERT

The Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) is the most common placement test, particularly in Florida. The exam measures academic skills and college readiness to determine what courses students are prepared for. The test consists of three subjects — math, reading and writing. Florida students who take the FCAT may not need to

take all sections of the PERT exam, depending on FCAT, ACT and SAT scores.

Testing dates are administered by individual schools and are generally conducted anytime between November and March. The exam is required for all high school juniors in Florida and students should contact their schools for specific test dates. Each subject contains 30 questions and is untimed, but students usually finish the entire exam in approximately 45 minutes.

The test creators offer a free practice exam. For more information, visit perptest.com.

Tracey Walton, K-12 program manager, said students should start preparing their freshman year of high school. She explained that standardized testing is a great way for students to get exposed to college writing and fundamentals. Additionally, taking placement exams like PERT, can help students

take part in dual enrollment during high school and receive early college credits.

"It's not one of those tests where you get an A, B or C," she said. "I used to see students' confidence levels go up and the test results become a motivator to do better next time."

When preparing for taking the next step on the way to adulthood, it is always best to plan ahead. College testing can be stressful, but with a little background information and preparation, the process can be a smooth transition on the way to a dream school.

To learn more about taking these exams, find out about local tutoring or test-prep classes or seek educational guidance, contact 954-989-6840 or email highered@semtribe.com.

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Community Dinner - 4:00pm



Kids come to work with parents, learn about Tribe

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — As much as the humans tried to be educational, informative and entertaining with activities such as fire hose demonstrations and ice cream-making, they were no match in popularity against a creature with four legs and a vehicle with two wheels.

Asked what were the best parts of the Tribe's Take Your Child to Work Day, youngsters Michael Grant and Lanier Morgan each said watching an alligator demonstration and being able to climb aboard a Seminole Police motorcycle were their favorite highlights.

Michael is the son of Sandra Grant, an assistant property manager with Building & Grounds; Lanier is the son of Unethia Brown, an educational advisor assistant. They were among the approximately 50 Tribal employees and children who spent April 27 together in Hollywood while learning about Seminole culture and government.

Take Your Child to Work Day was organized by the Human Resources Department and featured participation from Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Okalee Village, Billie Swamp Safari, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Allied Health Department, Fire Rescue, Seminole Police, Human Resources and Seminole Media Productions.

"It turned out beautifully," said Katonya BienAime, Human Resources assistant director. "Everything came together. All the departments that participated we're willing to pitch in and we hope to do it again next year."

The alligator session featured the daring Trey Hinton, of Billie Swamp Safari, tempting and toying with an antsy alligator while Everett Osceola provided educational commentary as spectators, most with cell phone cameras pointed at the action, circled a ring on the front yard of headquarters.

Youngsters and their parents also received hands-on cooking tips from Allied Health, participated in culture activities from the Museum, and learned potentially life-saving CPR instruction from Fire Rescue.

"I learned how to do CPR," Lanier



Tribal employees, their kids and staff gather for a photo at the end of Take Your Child to Work Day on April 27 in Hollywood.

Kevin Johnson

Morgan said.

"He can save his mommy's life if something happens," his mother said.

The session wrapped up with a tour of the Tribe's emergency vehicles and apparatus in the back parking lot. Climbing onto SPD's shiny motorcycle proved to be a popular activity as did operating a fire hose with assistance from Fire Rescue.



Kevin Johnson

Fire Rescue provides hands-on activities for kids during Take Your Child to Work Day on April 27 in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

Trey Hinton, from Billie Swamp Safari, tickles an alligator during a demonstration at headquarters in Hollywood for participants in the Take Your Child to Work Day on April 27.

New Testament Baptist Church bluegrass gospel jam



Beverly Bidney

Musicians and worshippers gathered at the New Testament Baptist Church in Big Cypress April 22 for a bluegrass gospel jam. From left are Lana Payne, Pastor Arlen Payne and other musicians.



Beverly Bidney

A musical crowd makes beautiful music together at the New Testament Baptist Church's bluegrass gospel jam in Big Cypress April 22. Worshipers brought instruments that included nearly a dozen guitars, two fiddles, a stand-up bass, harmonica, banjo, mandolin and dobro for an afternoon of rousing bluegrass gospel songs.

ACD From page 1B

provided him with advice that he still uses today and helped gave him encouragement. He is interested in being a financial analyst or finance manager.

[My mother Ethel] was our main drive because she wanted to see [her children] being better than her. She instilled in me the values of who I am and where I came from. She is still living in me. Her love for me held me together. Even though we go through

storms and difficulties in life, it's all part of the journey. My ideal position is to be a role model for those who are coming up. You got to set your sights high and work to achieve that level. Learn to use your resources as tools and as ways to achieve more in life. An undergraduate English professor said this to me:

"Work to express and not to impress. If you can do that then you will have ease with what you're doing. You got to follow what you're being led to do."

Aaron Tommie
Seminole Media Productions

From as early as I could remember, my mother emphasized the importance of education to my brothers and me. Many interactions with my mother were educational experiences. Plates of food would be seen as pie charts. Sticks of gum were used to teach us fractions. She would constantly uplift and encourage us to be the best version of ourselves as possible. As a result, higher education was an expectation.

While in college, I spent a lot of time focused on my life after college. I had a work study job and was a tutor at an intermediate school. I had a strong desire for true work

experience since I was fortunate enough to not have to work unlike most of my college friends. I was always so scared that the new lifestyle I grew accustomed to would end quickly, so that fear became a motivation for me to want to go to school to create a lifestyle based on what I worked for.

College taught me discipline and forced me to be more self-motivated. The aspects of college that have helped me the most as a professional are patience and the importance of staying focused on tasks. My public speaking skills improved due to the many class presentations I had to do. Time management was something I started

developing in college although I have yet to master it.

It took me five years to finish college. I spent three years living off campus which helped me become more responsible. I encourage every one of us as Tribal citizens to take advantage of the opportunities and blessings we have been given. We are very blessed and fortunate.

Aaron Tommie is a participant in the Tribe's Advanced Career Development program. He is currently working for the Business Marketing Department in Seminole Media Productions.

Sports



Amya Baxley helps John Carroll win state title

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

VERO BEACH — The John Carroll High School softball team, which includes the Seminole Tribe's Amya Baxley, captured its first state championship since 1996 with a 4-1 win against Lakeland Christian in the Class 3A state final May 18 at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach.

The victory earned John Carroll some redemption after the Fort Pierce school lost to Lakeland Christian in last year's state final.

"We had a meeting at the beginning of the year, and [Amya] was one of the girls who stood up and said we don't only want to get to states; we want to win it," said John Carroll coach Rico Rosado, whose daughter Ashley delivered a complete game five-hitter with two strikeouts and no walks.

"I remember how much [last year's loss] hurt, so this year I wasn't going to let that happen again," said Baxley, a junior. "And we have seniors that are leaving. Ashley — I've played with her since I was 10 and this was our last game together — so I wanted to end it good."

Baxley, batting out of the No. 2 spot, had a single, walk and scored two runs in the team's 9-1 win against Maclay in Wednesday's semifinal. She reached base once in the final on an error. Defensively, she produced a flawless performance at shortstop for a squad that shined in the field in the final four. John Carroll committed no errors and allowed just two runs in the two games.

Rachel Thomas had three of John Carroll's seven hits to pace the offense in the championship. John Carroll scored three times in the top of the sixth to snap a 1-1 deadlock, including a run-scoring single from Cammeo Presutti that made it 2-1.

When the final out was caught in the outfield, John Carroll's infielders, outfielders and the bench players rushed together to form a joyous celebration.

"I was just hugging everybody and anybody that was around," Baxley said.

Baxley's family members in attendance included her dad Luke, brother Luke Jr., stepmother Jody Certain and grandfather Elton Baxley.

Amya Baxley said she hoped the opponent in the final would have been Moore Haven because she played youth softball with Terriers' Sydnee Cypress and Sunni Bearden, but Lakeland Christian spoiled the potential reunion by edging Moore Haven in the semifinals.

Coach Rosado, whose team compiled a 20-9 record, said Baxley was originally slated to play in the outfield this season, but the team needed her at shortstop. She ended up not only having an outstanding season in the infield, but also at the plate where she batted .349 with 30 hits, including five doubles and a team-tying high four doubles along with 13 RBIs.

"She's an intuitive player," Rosado said. "She does things out of intuition. She loves to be sneaky on the bases, she loves to be sneaky when she plays the field, but she's one of those silent types that doesn't like to jump around and brag. When she gets up, she'll look at the field and find a hole and try to put the ball in the hole."

Wherever Baxley plays or bats or does anything else, she keeps her team upbeat.

"She's that type of player. She has that type of personality," Rosado said. "The other girls gravitate to her. She's the jokester, the comedian. She's one of the most positive kids on my team. She always keeps us loose, in the dugout, on the bus."



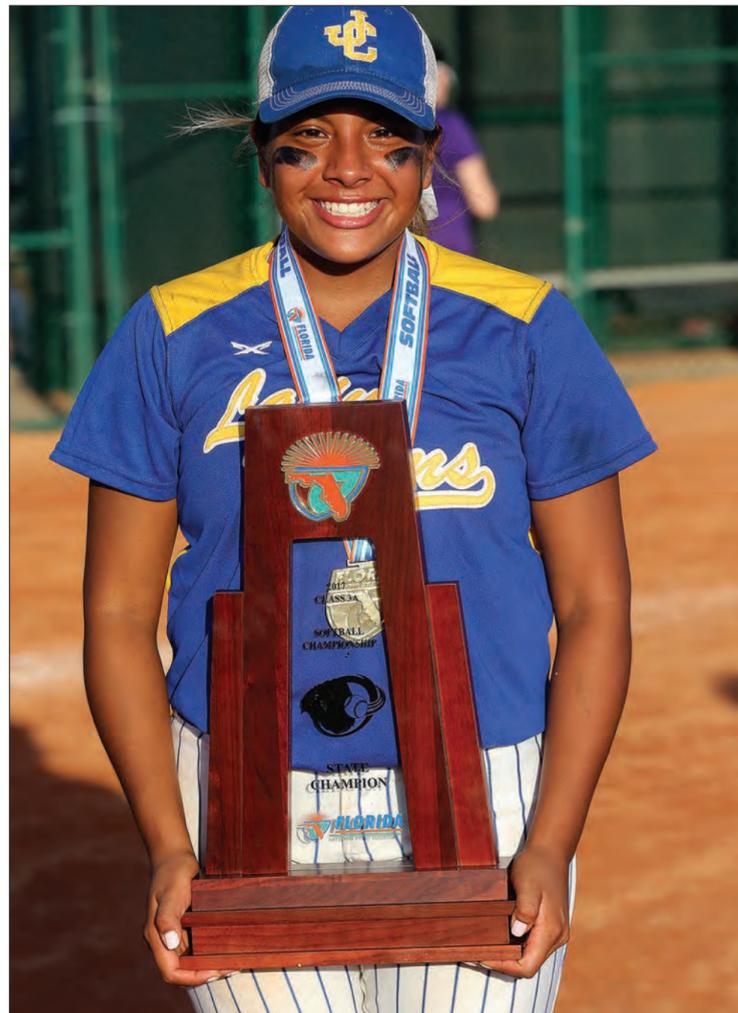
Kevin Johnson

The John Carroll High School softball team, including Amya Baxley on the far left, celebrates its first state championship since 1996 with a 4-1 win against Lakeland Christian in the Class 3A state championship May 18 at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach.



Kevin Johnson

Above, John Carroll shortstop Amya Baxley attempts to stop a Lakeland Christian grounder up the middle in the Class 3A state championship May 18 at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach. At right, Baxley is greeted by her teammates after she made a tough play at shortstop to end an inning.



Kevin Johnson

Seminole Amya Baxley proudly holds the Class 3A state championship trophy after John Carroll defeated Lakeland Christian, 4-1, in the final May 18 at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach.



Preparations continue for NAIG in Toronto

FROM PRESS RELEASE

TORONTO — The North American Indigenous Games, which includes several teams from the Seminole Tribe, will be held July 16-23 in Toronto.

Toronto Mayor John Tory officially proclaimed April 19, 2017 Team 88 Day in the City of Toronto in front of a crowd at Nathan Phillips Square as the Toronto 2017 NAIG marked the 88-day countdown to the Games.

Representatives from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous leadership were in attendance as students and other spectators were treated to live Indigenous performances and craft displays.

Basketball, soccer and lacrosse stations were run by pros of the sport including Toronto 2017 Ambassador Cody Jamieson, of the National Lacrosse League's Rochester Knighthawks, and Mekwan Tulpin, a member of the Canadian women's national lacrosse team.

An integral part of the Toronto 2017

legacy campaign, Team 88 represents the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action number 88, which calls on all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Indigenous athlete development and growth through continued support of the North American Indigenous Games.

On April 13, Debwe, the turtle, was revealed as the official mascot of the Toronto 2017 NAIG. The original design was created by contest winner Anton Meekis, a 14-year-old student from Deer Lake First Nation. Debwe made his debut before a crowd of local school children at the Aboriginal Education Centre in Toronto.

The Weather Network in Oakville, Ontario has been named the official weather partner for 2017 NAIG. The Weather Network is set to provide forecasts for the days leading up to and throughout the Games for the 16 competition venues and two cultural festival sites. The Weather Network will also broadcast live on location during the week of the Games, highlighting events, athletes and celebrating Indigenous cultures.



A celebration for the upcoming North American Indigenous Games draws a crowd in April in the host city Toronto.

NAIG Facebook

Heritage careers end for Jumper, Martin after four straight state championship appearances

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

VERO BEACH — The outstanding softball careers at American Heritage School for Ahnie Jumper and Kiauna Martin ended at Historic Dodgertown on a sunny, warm Saturday afternoon May 20 in Vero Beach.

The result of the final high school game for the two Seminole standouts — a 3-1 loss to Land O'Lakes in the Class 6A state championship — wasn't exactly how they wanted the final chapter to be written, but the sting eventually wore off.

"We're fine," Jumper said five days after the loss. "You always want to win your senior year. We just couldn't get it done."

Jumper, a catcher, and Martin, an outfielder, compiled a remarkable streak of playing in four consecutive state championship games together, winning titles as freshmen in 2014 and juniors in 2016. Jumper actually finished with three state titles thanks to making the varsity squad as a seventh-grader in 2012 when the Patriots beat Belleview in the 5A final.

Jumper's most memorable of the trio of titles came last season when American Heritage returned to the winner's circle with a 12-2 win against Baker County.

"Last year stuck out for me because the year before we lost. A big part of that for me was a learning experience," said Jumper, who will head to Fort Myers this fall as she joins Florida Gulf Coast University's team.

Jumper and Martin's days as teammates go back to youth softball when they first picked up bats and put on gloves.

"We started out together, and it's been great playing with her. We both developed as players," Jumper said.

"I'm going to miss my cousin," said Martin, who hasn't yet decided on a college. "I'm going to miss playing with her. Even when playing travel, I'm used to her being my catcher. When I'm out in the field and she's not back there, I feel like part of me is missing. It's not the same; it will never be the same."

Being part of a successful program — American Heritage has won seven state titles (all with current coach Marty Cooper) — has its benefits.

"It's developed me as a player. I've always had to play up against high caliber players," Jumper said.

"It's helped me grow a lot and learn a



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage catcher Ahnie Jumper eyes a foul popup in the Patriots' 3-0 Class 6A regional final win May 12 at American Heritage School in Plantation.

lot," Martin said. "In travel you don't really play with people three years older than you. I started as a ninth-grader playing with seniors and they were on me, so I learned fast."

Their final game together nearly didn't happen in the championship game. American

Heritage's graduation ceremony for its Class of 2017 just happened to coincide with the state title game nearly two hours away in Vero Beach, which meant a difficult decision for softball seniors: play with their team for a state title or walk with their class across

the stage.

For Ahnie, the starting catcher, it was softball all the way, but for Martin, whose playing time was limited this season in often a substitute role, the decision was tougher. In fact, even after the team's semifinal win against Ponte Vedra, she was undecided whether the next day she would put on a softball uniform or a cap and gown.

"At first I made a decision that I'm going to graduation, but then I'm all the way here already. I don't know yet," Martin said immediately after the semifinal.

The following day, Martin's decision became known as No. 2 emerged with the rest of the Patriots while they walked between 50 or so Heritage fans who lined up before the game to cheer for the team as it walked to the field.

"I'm glad she decided to play," Jumper said.

American Heritage's road to the championship game included, as it usually does for one of the state's most powerful programs, an impressive postseason run.

First, the Patriots walloped Archbishop McCarthy, 15-0, to win the 6A-District 15 title. Lopsided wins continued in regionals as American Heritage routed Goleman (15-0) and, behind Jumper's 2-for-2 performance with a double and one RBI, Miami Springs (12-0).

In the final home game, Heritage continued its shutout string with a 3-0 win against Rockledge in a regional final. Jumper caught all seven innings of sophomore Julia Grobman's no-hitter. Rockledge's best scoring chance came in the opening inning when the Raiders had runners in scoring position with one out. Jumper helped prevent the runners from advancing when she sprang up and corralled a high fastball that appeared destined for the backstop. Grobman fanned the final two batters to end the threat. She finished with seven strikeouts.

Jumper hit the ball hard on a line drive out to right field in her first at-bat and she advanced runners on a sacrifice bunt in the sixth. Martin did not have any plate appearances, but the speedy senior, also playing in her final home game, stole second base as a courtesy runner in the fifth.

In the 11-3 state semifinal win against Ponte Vedra, Jumper and Martin helped put

momentum on Heritage's side by igniting a seven-run outburst in the third inning. Jumper led off by slicing an opposite field single between first and second. Martin pinch ran for Jumper and immediately became a factor with alert base running. When Hannah Sipos reached on a bunt, Martin took second and kept on running to third, which was left uncovered. Before the play was over, Martin helped draw a rundown that allowed Sipos to reach second and perhaps rattled Ponte Vedra. The next batter — Brooke Langston — reached on an error that brought home Martin and Sipos to give American Heritage a 3-0 cushion. Two more errors and a double by Sydney Grobman helped pad the lead.

American Heritage's wealth of experience with four straight trips to state championship games and eight seniors figured to a huge advantage over Land O'Lakes, which was playing in its first state title game. However, Land O'Lakes sophomore lefty Callie Turner kept Patriot batters guessing and off balance all game on her way to tossing a five-hitter with eight strikeouts. Even in their second and third trips to the plate, American Heritage, which racked up a 25-4 record, struggled to make solid contact.

Despite a frustrating day at the plate, American Heritage took a 1-0 lead in the top of the sixth, but Land O'Lakes rallied with three runs in the bottom of the inning and went on to post a 3-1 victory.

Neither Jumper or Martin reached base in their final game. Jumper had a groundout and strikeout, and Martin, who pinch hit for Jumper in the fifth, was thrown out on a bunt attempt.

Final statistics for the season weren't immediately available, but through the regional final, Jumper had a .488 batting average with six doubles, one triple, one home run and 20 RBIs. Martin batted .481 with eight hits, including one double, and three RBIs.

Replacing Jumper, Martin and six other seniors while maintaining its perch among the state's elite will certainly be a challenge for next year's squad. The program won't be void of Seminoles, however. Budha Jumper was a substitute on this year's varsity and others from the Tribe, including Ahnie's sister Canaan, played for the junior varsity.



Kevin Johnson

With her fellow Tribal members at each end — Kiauna Martin at the right and Budha Jumper at the left — American Heritage catcher Ahnie Jumper goes through the line during player introductions prior to a Class 6A regional final against Rockledge on May 12 at American Heritage School in Plantation.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage senior Kiauna Martin steals second base as a courtesy runner during a Class 6A regional final against Rockledge on May 12 at American Heritage School in Plantation.



Kevin Johnson

Leading off the third inning, American Heritage's Ahnie Jumper belts a single that helped ignite a seven-run inning for the Patriots in their 11-3 win against Ponte Vedra in a Class 6A state semifinal May 19 at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage pinch runner Kiauna Martin heads toward home plate to give the Patriots a 2-0 lead in the third inning against Ponte Vedra in a Class 6A state semifinal May 19 at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage catcher Ahnie Jumper fires a throw to first base in the Class 6A state final against Land O'Lakes on May 20 at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach.

After winning 3A regional, Moore Haven's rallies run out at states

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

VERO BEACH — The postseason for the Moore Haven High School softball team was anything but dull.

The comeback kids rallied to win a regional semifinal and regional championship, but another huge comeback wasn't enough to get the Terriers past the state semifinals.

Moore Haven's season, and the high school career of Sydnee Cypress, ended in heart-breaking fashion May 19 when Lakeland Christian staged a rally of its own for a 9-7 win in a Class 3A state semifinal at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach.

Trailing 5-0 entering the bottom of the fifth inning, Moore Haven's season looked like it would end quietly. But the Terriers erupted for six runs in the inning to take a one-run lead.

Cypress played a big role in the rally. She sliced a first-pitch opposite field single to shallow right that brought home one run and trimmed the deficit to 5-3. Cypress scored the tying run on a two-run triple into the left field corner by Alexis Story. The Terriers took a 6-5 lead on an RBI groundout from pitcher Olivia Everett.

Still nursing the one-run lead in the top of the seventh, Moore Haven became unglued, more of a result of bad luck than anything else.

A single that hit Everett in the circle, a bloop single into shallow center and a slow squibbler off the end of the bat that didn't go more than 40 feet all handcuffed Moore Haven's defense as Lakeland Christian knotted the game at 6-6.

Lakeland Christian soon regained the lead on a sacrifice fly, but a diving catch by

Sunni Bearden, who was a defensive star throughout the season, prevented more than just one run from scoring on the play.

Lakeland Christian managed to tack on a couple more runs before the end of the inning for a 9-6 lead. Moore Haven scored once in its final at-bat, but couldn't muster another dramatic win as its season ended with an 18-8 record.

A week earlier Moore Haven rallied from a four-run deficit to edge St. Petersburg-Admiral Farragut, 5-4, in nine innings in the Class 3A-Region 3 championship.

Winning pitcher Everett sent the Terriers to their third trip to states in the past four years by drilling a two-out, opposite-field double into the right-center gap that scored Story from first base with the winning run and touched off a wild celebration as Terriers poured out of the dugout to mob both players.

"We've had to [play from behind] more this year than we did last year, but it's made these kids tough," said Moore Haven coach Clint Raulerson. "They never think they're out of a game. We were down 3-0 last game; we were down 4-0 this game and it doesn't look good, we're not hitting, but they never quit. They never back down from anything."

Moore Haven and Admiral Farragut battled for the third consecutive year in a regional final. The teams split the previous two meetings. All three were decided by one run.

Cypress (two hits) and Bearden (game-tying RBI) provided a boost at the plate as the Terriers sealed a trip to Vero Beach.

That trip looked in doubt as Admiral Farragut built an early 4-0 lead by flexing its power. Isabella Hamilton smacked a solo home run to center in the second inning and Krystina Hartley delivered a two-run blast in

the third.

But the Terriers were determined to make sure their season didn't end on their home field. After the homers, Everett allowed only two singles and one walk the rest of the game. She fanned nine batters.

Story ignited a three-run spurt when she was plunked by a pitch to start the bottom of the fourth inning, which also included an RBI double from Everett.

Moore Haven knotted the game at 4-4 in the sixth when Ariane Valdez, who led off with a walk, scored on a bases-loaded groundout to the pitcher by Bearden.

Moore Haven left runners in scoring position in the seventh and eighth before finally securing the victory on Everett's winning hit in the ninth.

Bearden produced the defensive gem of the game at the start of the eighth when she made a low backhanded catch on a full sprint in left-center before summersaulting.

"Those are game-changing plays," Raulerson said. "Those are plays that set the tone for everybody else. Sunni didn't hit well today — and she's usually our top hitter — but she picked it up with her defense. We preach that all the time about picking it up, and she did it today."

Moore Haven played in the state championship in 2014 when this year's seniors were freshmen. The Terriers reached the state semifinals in 2015 and came within two outs of getting to the state final this season.

"They're the toughest damn bunch of kids I've ever coached," Raulerson said after the Admiral Farragut game. "They never say die. They believe in each other. They never stop playing for one another...It's the greatest bunch of kids I've ever coached."

Sydnee Cypress powers Moore Haven to sixth consecutive district title



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Sydnee Cypress blasts a two-run home run in the Class 3A-District 6 championship April 27 against Southwest Florida Christian Academy, of Fort Myers, at Moore Haven High School. Moore Haven won its sixth consecutive district title, 8-1.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — After stranding a handful of baserunners during the first three innings, Moore Haven finally broke through in the fourth inning of the Class 3A-District 6 softball championship April 27 at Moore Haven High School.

Moore Haven captured its sixth consecutive district championship with an 8-1 win against Southwest Florida Christian Academy of Fort Myers.

The Terriers scored four times in the fourth frame, highlighted by a two-run home run from senior Sydnee Cypress, who drilled an outside pitch over the right-center fence for her second home run of the season which gave the hosts a 4-0 lead.

"I asked the kids all night to make some adjustments, and we've been working on some things in our swings, and Sydnee did exactly what she was taught," said Moore Haven coach Clint Raulerson.

"It was nice to hit a home run in a championship game. We needed like a boost because we were really flat on offense," said

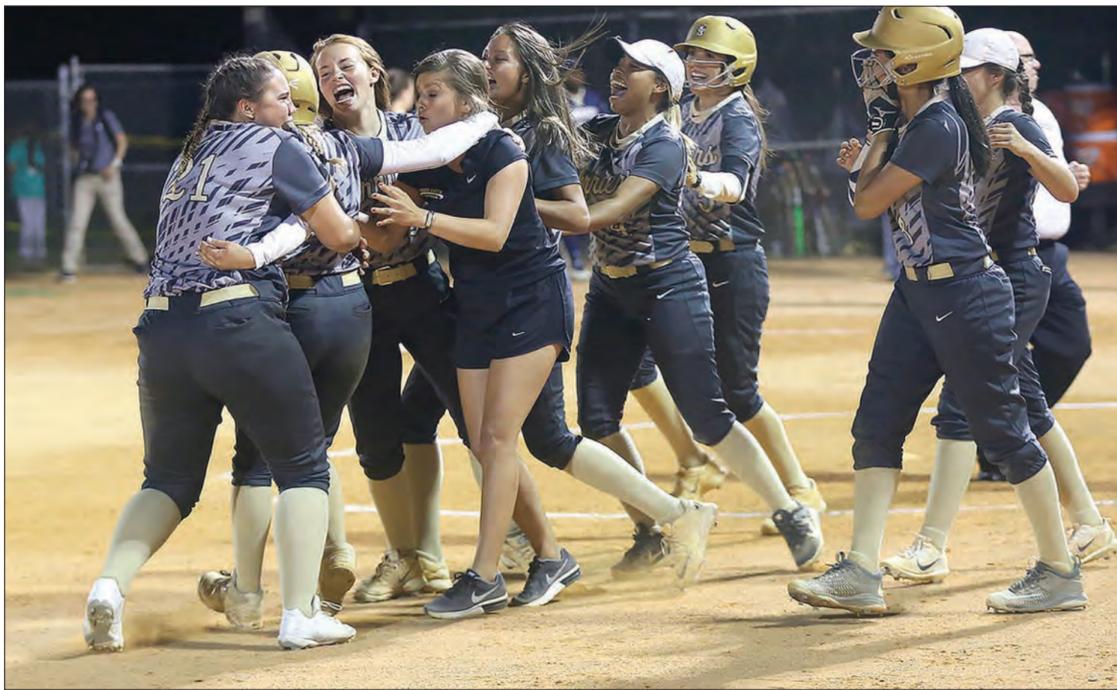
Cypress, who also reached base when she was hit by a pitch in the first and smacked a double to the right-center gap in the fourth.

Before Cypress's blast, Sunni Bearden helped ignite the fourth inning. With Monica Devine on third base, Bearden walked, but never stopped at first base. As she sprinted toward second, she drew a throw which allowed Devine to beat the return throw home with headfirst dive that snapped the scoreless tie.

Bearden scored on an infield single by Makayla Strenth to make it 2-0.

Moore Haven tacked on two more runs in both the fifth and sixth innings, which included a two-run triple by Darcie McRoy that brought home courtesy runner Morgan Yates and winning pitcher Olivia Everett, who tossed a complete game four-hitter with nine strikeouts.

Southwest Florida Christian's Randine Osceola would have notched a single with a hard hit ball up the middle in the fifth, but a charging Bearden in centerfield scooped up the ball and fired a throw to second base to get a force out that ended the inning.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven mobs Olivia Everett after she delivered the winning hit as the Terriers edged Admiral Farragut, 5-4, in nine innings in a Class 3A regional final May 9 at Moore Haven High School.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven leadoff batter Sunni Bearden makes contact against Admiral Farragut in a Class 3A regional final May 9 at Moore Haven High School.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven celebrates its sixth straight district softball title after the Terriers beat Southwest Florida Christian Academy, 8-1, April 27 at Moore Haven High School.



Kevin Johnson

From left, the Seminole trio on the Moore Haven softball team: Sydnee Cypress, Sunni Bearden and Morgan Yates proudly hold the Class 3A-District 6 plaque that the Terriers won April 27.

Coach Mary Huff, Brahmans softball win district title

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

OKEECHOBEE — As a player at Okeechobee High School, Mary Huff enjoyed plenty of success on the softball field. That success has shifted to coaching.

Huff won her first district title as head coach of the Brahmans in April.

“We peaked at the right time,” said Huff, who is in her fourth year at the helm.

Okeechobee, which went 19-9 this season, blanked South Fork, 3-0, in the Class 7A-District 13 championship game.

Okeechobee made a brief run in the regional tournament. The Brahmans ousted Dwyer, 5-2, in a regional quarterfinal but were knocked out in a regional semifinal as South Fork exacted some revenge for the district setback a week earlier with a 7-0 win that ended Okeechobee’s season.

Despite the loss, Huff said there were plenty of positive parts to the team’s season.

“I think we definitely could have ended on a better game, but I’m happy with what they did,” Huff said. “They jelled well and the fact that they were a good team together helped them go a little further than in the past.”

No Tribal members were starters on Okeechobee’s varsity this season, but that will likely change in the near future as players such as Brianna Brockman, Jacee Jumper, Janessa Nunez, Mallorie Thomas and Julia Smith continue their ascension. Those players spent most of the year on the junior varsity, but some of them saw brief playing time with the big squad.

“I think they’re going to be key for us next year. We’re a young team. I hope they play key roles next year,” Huff said. “As long as they work over the summer and don’t take days off, I think they’ll be good to go next year.”

As for this year, the team’s first district championship since 2013 won’t be forgotten.

“We ended with a district title and nobody can take that away from us,” Huff said.

Seminoles wrap up season on the diamond for Okeechobee

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

OKEECHOBEE — Their uniform colors feature purple, gold and grey, but for Tribal members on the Okeechobee High baseball team it was sort of a black-and-blue season.

Injuries suffered from separate off-the-field mishaps sidelined junior pitcher Sean Osceola and his cousin Ozzy Osceola, a freshman outfielder, for a portion of the season.

During the season, Sean was injured in a car accident and Ozzy was hurt in a 4-wheeler wreck.

“We just can’t stay out of getting hurt,” Sean Osceola said as he prepared for the team’s final regular season game April 28 at Centennial High School in Fort Pierce. In fact, Osceola started on the mound in that game and was struck by a line drive. He was shaken up, but remained on the hill and pitched the three innings he was scheduled to throw.

This season Osceola also played first and third base and batted out of the Nos. 3 or 4 spot with an average around .270, but it’s on the mound where the right-hander is counted on most heavily. He registered 10 strikeouts in one game this season and nine in another.

“My velocity has been pretty good, around 86 or 88. My command, I’ve been having a little bit of issues spotting up, but it’s been all right for the most part,” he said.

“Sean has had some troubles with injuries this year on and off the field,” said Okeechobee coach Eric Kindell. “It’s important for him to do well for our program to succeed. He plays a big role pitching and playing third base. Great kid, hard worker.”

Kindell also applied those hard-working sentiments to Ozzy Osceola and the third Tribal member of the team, senior left fielder Trevor Thomas.

“Trevor is a sparkplug,” Kindell said. “He’s a guy who wears his emotions on his shoulders. He’s getting after it every day. I’ve enjoyed being his coach for four years. He’s a great kid. His parents should be very proud the way they raised him. He will be missed when he leaves. He’s a great guy to have around.”

After a fast start at the plate – he was batting about .500 through the first four games in the leadoff spot – Thomas said his bat cooled off a bit.

“It’s not the season I wanted to have, but it’s not a bad season,” he said, estimating that his average was about .250. “I’d like to be hitting a little higher, but defensively I’ve been doing all right.”

Thomas was among a half-dozen seniors



Kevin Johnson

Three Seminole players on the Okeechobee High School baseball team recently completed their season. From left, freshman Ozzy Osceola, junior Sean Osceola and senior Trevor Thomas.



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee High’s Sean Osceola delivers a pitch against Centennial in the Brahmans final regular season game April 28 in Fort Pierce.

on the team this season.

“Guys I played with, I love them to death. They’re like family,” he said.

While Thomas finished his final season with Okeechobee with hopes of playing college ball, the high school career of Ozzy Osceola is just getting underway. Thomas and Osceola played in the outfield at the same time for a handful of games.

“Before he got hurt, he was doing great,” Thomas said. “We lost Alex Lopez out in right field, and Ozzy filled in for him and was doing a great job. He was living up to his potential at the plate and was hitting the ball good, and then he had an accident.”

It took less than a season for Kindell to realize that Osceola has the character to bounce back.

“The guy has a lot of grit,” Kindell

said. “Great kid and very respectful to the coaches and to his teammates. He gives you everything he’s got. He’s a true bulldog. He’s got a little something you can’t teach. It’s been nice having him.”

Okeechobee defeated Martin County, 7-4, in a Class 7A-District 13 semifinal as Ozzy Osceola provided a glimpse of a bright future with a 2-for-3 day at the plate that included a double and two RBIs. Okeechobee fell to Jensen Beach, 2-1, in the district championship. Thomas had one of the team’s only two hits and Sean Osceola delivered the team’s lone RBI.

The Brahmans season ended with a loss to Dwyer in the 7A regional quarterfinals. Thomas and Sean Osceola accounted for two of the team’s five hits.

PECS students produce successful day at county track meet

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

OKEECHOBEE — Boys from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School dominated the annual Okeechobee County track and field meet May 11 at Okeechobee High School.

PECS boys swept all three 100 meter dashes in the three age categories (9-10, 11-12 and 13-14) and won two of the 200 and 400 meter races each.

JB Anderson, Bryce Ward and Trace Wilcox led the way as double winners. Anderson captured the 200 and 400 in the 9-10 age group, Ward won the 100 and 200 in the 11-12 group and Wilcox won the 100 in the 13-14 group. Wilcox also leapt the farthest to win the standing long jump.

Other winners for the boys were Raylen Smith (100 in 9-10) and Bryce Baker (400 in 11-12).

The PECS girls squad also produced championship runs with all three of its wins coming in the 9-10 age group. Tiyanni Anderson won the 100 dash, Lason Baker won the 400 and Maricella Garcia captured the standing long jump.

In the girls 4x100 relay for 11-12 year-olds, the PECS team of Carlee Osceola, Sydney Matthews, Lexi Thomas and Nena Youngblood finished runner-up in a close

race against South Elementary School.

Overall, PECS coach Pam Matthews said both the boys and girls surpassed her expectations.

“They did way better than I expected,” she said.

County champions from PECS on the boys side included:

- 9-10 Raylen Smith – 100 meter dash (17.40)
- 9-10 JB Anderson – 200 meter dash (31.75)
- 9-10 JB Anderson – 400 meter run (1:16.22)
- 11-12 Bryce Ward – 100 meter dash (15.28)
- 11-12 Bryce Ward – 200 meter dash (30.18)
- 11-12 Bryce Baker – 400 meter run (1:10.97)
- 13-14 Trace Wilcox – 100 meter dash (14.94)
- 13-14 Trace Wilcox – standing long jump (8.05)

On the girls side, PECS county champions included:

- 9-10 Tiyanni Anderson – 200 meter dash (32.03)
- 9-10 Lason Baker – 400 meter run (1:20.7)
- 9-10 Maricella Garcia – standing long jump (6.8)



Kevin Johnson

From left, the PECS relay team of Carris Johns, Bryce Baker, Zac Riley and Jayko Billie get ready to compete in the Okeechobee County track and field meet May 11 at Okeechobee High School.



Kevin Johnson

JB Anderson competes in the 9-10 boys relay.



Kevin Johnson

Elena Simmons sprints with the baton in a girls relay race.



Kevin Johnson

Sydney Matthews hands the baton to Lexi Thomas in the 11-12 girls 4x100 relay race at the Okeechobee County meet May 11.



Conner Thomas, center, retrieves his arrows during competition. Thomas will participate in the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships June 25-30 in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Courtesy photo

◆ **ARCHERY**
From page 1A

the wind and went into the woods, more of my scenario and 3D animals, I brought my points up. That helped me out a lot.”

Coach Prevatt said Thomas has stepped up his commitment to archery.

“He’s always been a great archer, but he’s upgraded his equipment and really concentrated on [archery] for the past six months to a year and elevated himself. He’s challenged himself and he’s really improved,” she said.

After the Nebraska competition is done, Thomas will shift his focus to competing in the North American Indigenous Games in July in Toronto. Thomas and the rest of Seminole NAIG archery team will be coached by Joe Collins from the Recreation Department. At the 2014 NAIG, Thomas opted to compete in rifle shooting rather than archery. This time around, it’s going to be archery.

“I really enjoy the sport of archery,” Thomas said. “It’s one of my passions. I’ve done it for a long time. I really like it.”



Conner Thomas sets his sights on a target during an archery competition.

Courtesy photo

First Nations’ Ethan Bear wins hockey honor

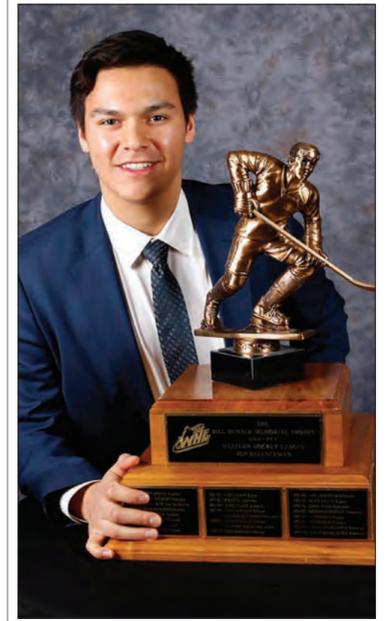
CALGARY, Alberta — The Western Hockey League announced May 3 that Seattle Thunderbirds defenseman Ethan Bear, 19, has been named the WHL Defenseman of the Year. The announcement was made at the WHL awards luncheon in Calgary, Alberta. Bear is from Ochapowace First Nation in Saskatchewan.

“I’m proud of who I am and where I come from and I get lots of support,” Bear told the Edmonton Journal in a 2015 article. “It’s really special. I really love my heritage.”

Bear had 12 points in six games to help Seattle top Regina in the WHL championship series.

Bear had 28 goals and 42 assists for 70 points in 67 games during the regular season. In 264 career games over four seasons Bear has 66 goals and 126 assists for 192 points.

Bear was selected by the Edmonton Oilers in the fifth round, 124th overall, in the 2015 NHL Draft. He signed a three-year entry level contract with the Oilers on July 2, 2016.



WHL photo

Seattle Thunderbirds defenseman Ethan Bear holds the Western Hockey League Defenseman of the Year trophy he won this season.

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Announcements



“The writings”

BY ELGIN JUMPER

“There is only one way: Go within. Search for the cause, find the impetus that bids you write. Put it to this test: Does it stretch out its roots in the deepest place of your heart? Can you avow that you would die if you were forbidden to write? Above all, in the most silent hour of your night, ask yourself this: ‘Must’ I write? Dig deep into yourself for a true answer. And if it should ring its assent, if you can confidently meet this serious question with a simple, ‘I must,’ then build your life upon it. It has become your necessity. Your life, in even the most mundane and least significant hour, must become a sign, a testimony to this urge.”

—Rainer Maria Rilke
“Letters to a Young Poet”
Paris 1903

Okay, here we go. It was 2017, on the Hollywood Seminole Reservation. The Seminole man read his friend the short story he had written, he showed her the MAC Tablet he had purchased recently, arranged together with other writing materials on his writing desk.

Here was a place for writing, he observed.

“It’s just what I need for now,” the Seminole man said. “Some short stories for starters and maybe a collection of poetry or two.”

“Ah, short stories!” his friend exclaimed. Let’s see. . . Your Steinbecks. Your King’s-oooh, wait, he is scary. Hmm. Oh, your Alexie’s-- he’s a Native American writer. Those are your favorites, right. What, you want to live forever?”

The Seminole man said, “Well, forever and a day, at least, maybe.”

He turned to his pen and notebook paper. He dashed off some quick ideas for stories, the thrill of fresh story ideas racing through him, his fingers clutching the pen. He had written his stories out in longhand, since he was young and then typed them out later.

Story ideas never failed to come to him. But he never wanted to know where they came from or anything like that. He didn’t want to lose the source. No, his job was to take notes and to follow-through on all or most of the ideas he did receive.

“Twain,” his friend said. “You’re a regular Mark Twain.”

The Seminole man smiled, shook his head no. He knew better. But God had given him a gift and he had wasted it for far too long. And now, he was prepared to take his

writing seriously. He wasn’t going to take it lightly, anymore.

The Seminole man jotted down more notes for stories, smiling and holding the paper down with one hand.

Back at his writing desk, the Seminole man reviewed the brief chapter notes he’d written down on index cards. He revised story outlines here and there and arranged and rearranged index cards.

He had carried the stories around with him for so long and the time was right for getting them out into the world. At long last. It had been a struggle all the thinking and all the planning.

The Seminole man got up and went over to his library of sorts and scanned for a particular title. He turned on a nearby lamp and gave thought to making the AC a bit cooler, but decided against it.

Hearing music coming from his friends iPad, he tried to discern whether it was Classical music or Classic Rock. She was a connoisseur of both.

Ah, he thought to himself, Mozart. It was Classical. He wasn’t sure which composition, some Symphony or Flute or other. She loves Classical, the dear. Isn’t she an angel?

In a gentle tone, he said, “You’re going to inspire good words, aren’t you?”

She hugged him. “Yes.”

He smiled and studied her face, her blue eyes, knowing her. . . and yet, not truly knowing.

“So you’re going to write then?” she asked.

He held up a finger. There was a big part on the Mozart and he turned to catch it. The big Mozart part played on.

His friend giggled and sighed. “Poems and stories?” Always there for him.

“Long overdo,” he said. “Been long overdo.”

She laughed, momentarily, unsure as to its timeliness or no. He didn’t seem to mind. “Just like the pros,” he said.

“Okay.”

The Seminole man closed his eyes but just for an instant. Sometimes the fears and apprehensions for success held more sway within him, then not succeeding.

He paced and uttered dialogue for an untold story and then he wrote. His friend held back and waited. She was the only one even remotely familiar with his creative processes, when he was in the storms of inspiration.

He paced, he paused, and wrote. It didn’t bother him if anyone was there or not. From the kitchen he smelled freshly brewed coffee and knew his friend was looking out for him.

His friend offered him a steaming cup. “There you go,” she said, “Just the way you like it.”

They sipped coffee and absorbed more of the Mozart. He said, “Yeah, we’ll go to the Miami Book Fair and Hemingway House and make a whole production out of it, okay.”

“Okay.”
The next day he texted his friend and told her he had emailed poems and a short story to the tribal paper and he hoped they’d be received with kindness.

His friend sent him a smiley face and a thumbs up. Emojis. He was grateful for the support.

In time, he would let the world know all the sparkling stories of his heart, the adventure stories, the hard-boiled detective stories, the modern myths of warriors and chieftains and native princesses and epic journeys to distant lands and all the stories that mean so much to us. A vast array of imaginative tales.

He held his head up, resolved to the task. He playfully imagined he was a warrior prior to a battle. He vowed to “Soldier on.” “Like a soldier.” He had always liked that phrase.

The Seminole man had already canceled his portfolio of other projects. He had already started sending out stories and poems to various publications. He was trying not to think of them as much as he could.

After all, he had recently initiated his own independent study of myths and legends, tall tales and adventure stories. He had read and read and had taken notes and could recall all the stories. He fantasized and wrote.

He wrote and wrote.

He studied and typed out stories.

He sent stories out.

The Seminole man would surely miss all the projects he’d been involved with, but, he knew he needed to follow-through with his writing. And he wasn’t thinking of self-publishing, either, how could he. No, he wanted to send out stories and find a real publisher. It was the romantic in him.

The Seminole man could explore storytelling now. He had the time. And he could read and write and absorb. Take it all in and let it come back through his pen-- in his own creative way. It was all there. He was now on the threshold of yet another journey, worthwhile, profound, intermingled with the great love of writing.

He felt a tear well up in his eye. He put pen to paper and patted his laptop, hopeful, optimistic for the future.

“Get your mind right”

Get your mind right fellow Tribal members and stand on your own two feet. Leave this evil dark world of steel and concrete behind when you return to the street.

This isn’t living this is a waste of life. Caged up with dopefiends and alcoholics that are full of misery and strife.

Most of those will die in here from overdose or couldn’t clean their face. It is what it is in the land of disgrace.

You brothers and sisters have so much to look forward to when you get back home, Family and “true friends” that have been there for you from childhood til full grown.

Take advantage of the opportunities presented to you in our Tribe, Don’t take freedom for granted, enjoy it right on the right side.

There isn’t a damn thing cool about sitting in a cage doing time, So stop playing with the court before you get a sentence like mine.

Eventually those lawyers you made rich won’t be able to get you free, For most of you that’s something I truly would hate to see.

Because you have too good a heart to be in a place like this, In here respect is everything it’s a must to walk with ironfist.

It’s a compliment to my people that good hearted and kind, You’re just better suited for society where the environment is bright with sunshine.

Get your mind right live long and die free of the chains, Be there for your family and “true friends” stop bringing them emotional pain.

Ike T. Harjo
Koowaathi

Village People to perform at Immokalee casino

FROM PRESS RELEASE

IMMOKALEE — An Evening with Village People, one of disco’s most recognizable and energetic hit-makers, will be held Oct. 21 at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee at 8 p.m., with doors opening at 7 p.m. Tickets are available now for \$55 and can be purchased at the casino, online at www.jaytv.com or by phone at 800-514-ETIX(3849).

Known as the “Kings of Disco,” Village People have sold more than 100 million records worldwide since the 1970s with such career defining hits as “Macho Man,” “Y.M.C.A.,” “In the Navy” and “Can’t Stop the Music.”

In 1979, the American Music Awards presented the group with the “Favorite Musical Group” award. They also won the American Guild of Variety Artist’s George Award, West Germany’s Gold Lion Award for Music Excellence, and Brazil’s Award for Best Act.

In 1980, Village People starred in their own major feature film, “Can’t Stop the Music,” co-starring Steve Guttenberg, Valerie Perrine and Bruce Jenner. It remains a popular cult film worldwide. Their music also can be heard in dozens of major motion pictures including “Down Periscope,” “Wayne’s World II,” “Addams Family Values” and “In and Out.” In 2008, Village People received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Most recently, the group released “Let’s Go Back to the Dance Floor,” its first worldwide single in 25 years. The song was written and produced by KC and the Sunshine Band’s Harry Wayne Casey.

Village People are Raymond Simpson (Cop and lead singer), Felipe Rose (Native American), Alexander Briley (GI/Military), Eric Anzalone (Biker), Bill Whitefield (Construction Worker) and Jim Newman (Cowboy).

Concert attendees must be 21 years of age or older.

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The 2017 Tidally United Summit raises awareness about how climate change will impact archaeological and culturally important sites, as well as how the loss of these sites will affect communities. In Florida, 16,015 cultural sites would be inundated by a 3 foot rise in sea level, but archaeological and cultural sites are often neglected when discussing resiliency planning. This summit highlights indigenous groups and speakers on climate science, planning, and the importance of cultural heritage. Co-sponsored by the Florida Public Archaeology Network, Seminole Ah-Tah-Th-Ki Museum, and the FIU Global Indigenous Forum. Free and open to the public.

Interested speakers and for more information contact Sara Ayers-Rigsby of the Florida Public Archaeology Network (sayersrigsby@fau.edu) by June 15th, 2017.

